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# STARS AND STRIPES®

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EBRAHIM NOROOZI/AP

A man stands amid the destruction after an earthquake in Gayan village, in Paktika province, Afghanistan, on Thursday.

## Afghans dig for survivors

### Victims from destructive quake buried as groups work to deliver aid

By EBRAHIM NOROOZI  
Associated Press

GAYAN, Afghanistan — Villagers rushed to bury the dead Thursday and dug by hand through the rubble of their homes in search of survivors of a powerful earthquake in eastern Afghanistan that state media reported killed 1,000 people. The Taliban and the international community that fled their takeover struggled to bring help to the disaster's victims.

Under a leaden sky in Paktika province, which was the epicenter of Wednesday's magnitude 6 earthquake, men dug a line of graves

in one village, as they tried to lay the dead to rest quickly in line with Muslim tradition. In one courtyard, bodies lay wrapped in plastic to protect them from the rains that are hampering relief efforts for the living.

The state-run Bakhtar News Agency reported the death toll and said an estimated 1,500 more were injured. In the first independent count, the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs said around 770 people had been killed in Paktika and neighboring Khost province.

It's not clear how the totals were arrived at,

given the difficulties of accessing and communicating with the affected villages tucked into remote mountainsides. Either grim toll would make the quake Afghanistan's deadliest in two decades, and officials continued to warn the number could still rise.

"They don't have anything to eat, they are wondering what they can have to eat, and it is also raining," a Bakhtar reporter said in footage from the quake zone. "Their houses are destroyed. Please help them, don't leave them

SEE DIG ON PAGE 11

## Army offers \$35K bonus to fill recruit vacancies

By ROSE L. THAYER  
Stars and Stripes

The Army is offering a \$35,000 bonus to new recruits willing to sign a four-year contract and ship out to boot camp within 45 days as it struggles to quickly fill open training slots.

It is the first time that the service has offered an amount this large for a bonus to any career field, according to Army Recruiting Command.

"Recruiting in the current environment is a challenge, and we have positions we need to fill right now," said Maj. Gen. Kevin Veen, who leads the Recruiting Command. "Our Army is counting on us to fill these training vacancies quickly, so we are able to offer incentives to gain interest in critical career fields."

As of June 14, all career fields had vacancies that qualified for the quick-ship bonus, the Army said. Recruits who joined under the delayed entry program, meaning they've enlisted but have delayed their boot camp arrival to July, August or September can renegotiate their contract to receive the bonus and leave sooner.

The Navy and Air Force announced similar quick-ship bonuses in April, as all the services grapple with recruiting in the post coronavirus pandemic job market that has employers in stiff competition for workers.

The Army did not immediately respond to questions Wednesday about how many vacancies it has in basic training or the specific challenges in getting new recruits. However, military officials told Congress in April that the Army, in particular, was behind in recruiting goals, citing the pandemic and tight labor market.

SEE BONUS ON PAGE 5



BUSINESS/WEATHER

Trains canceled in UK as unions stage 2nd walkout

*Associated Press*

LONDON — Millions of people in Britain faced disruption Thursday as railway staff staged their second national walkout this week.

The 24-hour strike by 40,000 cleaners, signalers, maintenance workers and station staff canceled about four-fifths of passenger services across the country. A third walkout is planned for Saturday as part of Britain's biggest and most disruptive railway strike in 30 years.

Train stations were largely deserted Thursday. Highways also were less busy than expected, and many people appeared to heed advice to avoid travel. Internet provider Virgin Media O2 said its data suggested "millions more people" than usual were working from home.

The dispute centers on pay, working conditions and job security as Britain's train companies aim to cut costs and staffing after two years in which emergency government funding kept them

afloat.

The strike pits the Rail, Maritime and Transport Union against 13 privately owned train-operating companies and the government-owned National Rail.

**Gas prices**

The Army and Air Force Exchange Service did not provide gas prices for facilities in Europe or the Pacific.

EXCHANGE RATES		
Military rates		
Euro costs (June 24)	\$1.03	
Dollar buys (June 24)	0.9275	
British pound (June 24)	\$1.19	
Japanese yen (June 24)	133.00	
South Korean won (June 24)	1268.00	
Commercial rates		
Bahrain (Dinar)	0.3770	
Britain (Pound)	1.2290	
Canada (Dollar)	1.2949	
China (Yuan)	6.7015	
Denmark (Krone)	7.0536	
Egypt (Pound)	18.7392	
Euro	0.9482	
Hong Kong (Dollar)	7.8493	
Hungary (Forint)	379.29	
Israel (Shekel)	3.4471	
Japan (Yen)	134.35	
Kuwait (Dinar)	0.3066	
Norway (Krone)	9.9457	
Philippines (Peso)	54.61	
Poland (Zloty)	4.47	
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.7521	
Singapore (Dollar)	1.3885	
South Korea (Won)	1298.70	
Switzerland (Franc)	0.9584	
Thailand (Baht)	35.45	
Turkey (NewLira)	17.3566	
(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	4.75	
Interest Rates Discount rate	2.25	
Federal funds market rate	0.08	
3-month bill	1.69	
30-year bond	3.23	

WEATHER OUTLOOK



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## MILITARY

# Appropriations committee approves \$762B bill

By COREY DICKSTEIN  
*Stars and Stripes*

House appropriators on Wednesday adopted a \$762 billion Pentagon funding bill for fiscal 2023, sending the measure to the full House for consideration despite Republican calls to increase defense spending amid high inflation.

The House Appropriations Committee voted 32 to 26 along party lines to advance its version of the Fiscal Year 2023 Defense Appropriations Act, which fell largely in line with President Joe Biden's budget request for the Pentagon. The full House will consider the bill later this year, as lawmakers seek to complete Pentagon funding legislation — and the separate defense authorization bill — before the beginning of the fiscal year, which is Oct. 1.

The appropriations bill would provide troops and Defense Department civilian workers a 4.6% raise, pours billions into efforts to check China's military ambitions in the Indo-Pacific region, invests about \$1 billion into sexual assault prevention and another \$193 million into suicide prevention, and provides \$300 million to support Ukraine in its fight against Russian invaders. It would also provide nearly \$132 billion for research, development, testing and evaluation, which would be the largest Pentagon investment ever toward developing new technologies.

In passing the bill, Democrats



SGT. CALEB MINOR/7th Army Training Command

**Rep. Betty McCollum, D-Minn., meets with 3rd Infantry Division soldiers at Grafenwoehr Training Center in Germany in April.**

rejected calls from Republicans on the committee to increase Pentagon funding for next year, pointing to the bill's roughly \$32 billion boost to fiscal 2022 military spending. Republicans argued Wednesday that the proposed bill failed to keep up with more than 8% inflation, labelling it a cut to Pentagon funding.

The bill, said Rep. Ken Calvert, R-Calif., would "directly result in

the loss of combat capabilities and readiness."

The bill's passage out of committee will set up a spending fight on Capitol Hill in the months ahead. Already, the Senate Armed Services Committee adopted an \$847 billion version of the Fiscal Year 2023 National Defense Authorization Act, which sets Congress' policy and spending priorities for the Pentagon. On Wednes-

day, the House Armed Services Committee also appeared poised to increase defense spending over President Joe Biden's budget request, adopting an amendment to add \$37 billion to the White House's overall request during a hearing to discuss its version of the NDAA.

Republicans also warned Wednesday that measures included by Democrats such as provisions aimed at closing the controversial detention facility at Naval Station Guantanamo Bay in Cuba and language meant to ensure service members could have time off for abortions would inevitably slow the bill. Lawmakers must ultimately reconcile the House- and Senate-passed versions of the Pentagon appropriations bills and their versions of the annual NDAs to fund the Pentagon each year. The fiscal 2022 funding bill was not passed until March as part of an omnibus package. Biden signed the 2022 NDAA into law in December, about three months into the fiscal year.

The appropriations bill would stop the Pentagon from using funds to operate the Guantanamo detention center beyond September 2023, effectively closing the controversial facility built in 2002 to house law-of-war combatants captured on the battlefield. Its closure has long been a Democratic priority, including for Biden. Democrats have long argued the facility is too expensive and serves as a recruiting tool for terrorists who oppose America's detention

of the inmates there.

Republicans argue the remaining 37 detainees held at Guantanamo cannot be transferred safely to detention facilities on U.S. soil or returned to their home countries. Rep. Mario Diaz-Balart, R-Fla., labeled them among "the most dangerous terrorists on the planet," in arguing the Guantanamo facility remain open in perpetuity.

Calvert warned another measure included in the bill by Rep. Betty McCollum, D-Minn., the chairwoman of the House Appropriations Committee's defense subpanel, would also slow its progress on the House floor — language meant to ensure service women are guaranteed time off to seek certain health care, including abortions.

McCollum argued it was necessary to protect women who might need to travel to receive an abortion, should the Supreme Court strike down Roe v. Wade, which they said would likely lead to 26 states quickly moving to ban abortions.

Calvert and the panels other Republicans opposed the policy, objecting to its protections for abortion and calling it an attempt at "Congress micromanaging the [military] services."

"Let's remember that we're trying to craft a bill that has a chance of becoming law," Calvert said. "And provisions like this are the surest way to prevent us from passing such a bill."

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## House panel votes for \$37B boost to defense budget

By SVETLANA SHKOLNIKOVA  
*Stars and Stripes*

WASHINGTON — The House Armed Services Committee agreed Wednesday to exceed the Biden administration's fiscal 2023 defense spending plan by \$37 billion, setting up a potential clash with senators who want to increase the budget even more.

Committee members, led by a monthslong push by Republicans, voted 42-17 in support of the overall increase, citing record inflation, the immediate threat of Russian aggression and China's rising military power. The increase is \$8 billion less than the \$847 billion bill approved last week by the Senate Armed Services Committee.

"In our current threat environment ... it's time to grow out military, not shrink our military," said Rep. Elaine Luria, D-Va.

She said she hoped the ultimate agreement for the 2023 National Defense Authorization Act, which sets policy and funding levels for the military, will be "somewhat north" of the \$37 billion boost.

The White House requested \$813 billion for national defense next fiscal year, including \$773 billion for the Pentagon. The House panel's adopted amendment authorizes extra money for military construction, fuel, bonuses and other support to offset inflation as well as additional ships and aircraft and more aid for Ukraine.

Rep. Adam Smith, D-Wash., the committee's chairman, argued against bumping up the budget he had proposed — \$802.4 billion — and said lawmakers need to focus on quality rather than quantity.

"I care as much about how the money is spent as I do about how much is spent," he said. "I think making sure the Pentagon has some fiscal discipline and is forced to make tough decisions and not just always rely on another pot of money coming along is crucial for modernization."

Rep. Jackie Speier, D-Calif., took issue with the amendment's plan to save five Freedom-class littoral combat ships that the Navy

wanted to retire. She described the ships as "lemons" that are plagued with functionality problems and cost \$59 million a year each to maintain.

"This is ridiculous and it's shameful that we are restoring five of these decommissioned ships into service when all we're going to do is spend money towing them back to port," Speier said before voting against the overall budget increase.

The amendment authorizes \$318 million for the cost of restoring the ships. It also earmarks \$660 million for eight additional F/A-18s jets, \$1.3 billion for nine more Navy and U.S. Marine Corps aircraft than requested, \$1.2 billion for additional air and missile defense systems as well as other weapons and systems procurements. Provisions in the amendment specifically target the effect of inflation on service members and the Defense Department, authorizing \$3.5 billion to keep pace with military construction costs, \$2.5 billion to offset the rising cost

of fuel and \$1.4 billion for bonuses, commissary subsidies and other financial support for personnel. The amendment also authorizes \$1 billion for the Ukraine Security Assistance Initiative and supports costs for planning troop presence in Europe on NATO's eastern flank. House lawmakers also voted Wednesday to add another amendment requiring TRICARE, the military's health insurance, to provide free contraceptives to service members, their spouses and dependents. The Affordable Care Act eliminated copays and deductibles for contraception under most commercial health plans for civilians in 2012.

Another approved amendment called for the secretary of the Army to establish gender-neutral fitness standards that are higher for soldiers likely to see combat than those with less physical jobs. The Senate panel approved a similar proposal last week.

"It is obvious that a 100-pound artillery shell or a 150-pound rucksack or a 200-pound soldier that

has to be moved to the top of a hill is different than using a keyboard," said Rep. Mike Waltz, R-Fla., the amendment's sponsor. "... The jobs are different, and therefore they should have different standards."

Other amendments adopted Wednesday pave the way for the creation of a Space National Guard and authorize \$45 million to continue the development of a sea-launched cruise missile program that President Joe Biden's administration had wanted to scrap.

As the House Armed Services Committee continued deliberations Wednesday, the House Appropriations Committee voted to approve \$761 billion for defense spending that is in line with the White House's budget request. Congress will spend the next few months reconciling the differences in priorities and funding before bringing a final bill to a floor vote.

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MILITARY

# Funded morale flights on Okinawa to end

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

CAMP FOSTER, Okinawa — Members of the U.S. military population on Okinawa have slightly more than a month to squeeze in a government-funded morale flight to the U.S. mainland.

The Funded Environmental and Morale Leave program, or FEML, is set to expire Aug. 1, according to an announcement Tuesday by III Marine Expeditionary Force. Approved trips scheduled until July 31 are unaffected, including return travel after that date, according to the email from III MEF

spokesman Capt. Gabriel Adibe. He said eligible travelers may still apply for morale leave but individuals intending to use FEML should contact the officials approving their leave to make reservations and seek further guidance.

Japan ended its post-travel quarantine requirements for anyone under the status of forces agreement on June 1, according to Adibe's email. That removed the reason FEML was approved in November. Travelers entering Japan must still pass a molecular test for COVID-19, usually a PCR test, 72 hours before starting their

international travel, according to III MEF.

The Pentagon approved funded morale leave from Okinawa to alleviate the cost of quarantining in Tokyo during the COVID-19 pandemic. Foreign travelers, including SOFA members, had to enter the country through Tokyo and complete 10 days quarantine in the metro area before heading to their destinations. SOFA outlines the rights and responsibilities of the U.S. military population in Japan.

The costs for quarantine lodging and for the travel leg to Okina-

wa added up for military travelers already coping with nearly two years of pandemic life on the island prefecture.

FEML opened up the Patriot Express for service members, Defense Department civilians and their families with flights between Seattle and Kadena Air Base on Okinawa. The Patriot Express is a regularly scheduled, government-contracted flight between the U.S. and overseas military bases. Returning travelers were able to quarantine at their homes on Okinawa.

Restrictions apply to the funded

leave program. Eligible travelers may take one morale leave and must be on orders to Okinawa for at least two years, including back-to-back one-year assignments.

Morale leave falls under a provision in the Pentagon's leave and liberty policy that permits government-funded travel from duty locations "that are truly isolated, austere or unhealthy ..."

More than 6,000 service members and civilians used the program through May, according to Adibe's email. The flights, which are listed online, were often fully booked.

## China's new carrier for regional domination, not contesting the US

**By ALEX WILSON**  
*Stars and Stripes*

China's newest aircraft carrier boasts some advanced technology and presents a growing challenge to the U.S. and its Indo-Pacific allies, but it falls short of matching U.S. carrier prowess, experts told Stars and Stripes.

The Fujian, a Type 003 carrier launched Friday in Shanghai, features a variety of improvements over China's first two carriers. Most significantly it features an electromagnetic catapult system for launching aircraft that's similar to one on the U.S. Navy's newest carrier, the USS Gerald R. Ford.

The transition from "ski-jump" launches off a deck ramp on the first Chinese carriers to an electromagnetic catapult represents a "symbolic and technological leapfrog" for Chinese naval forces, according to Brian Hart, a fellow at the Center for Strategic and International Studies' China Power Project. He said the catapult allows Beijing to field heavier and larger fixed-wing aircraft.

"The transition away from a ski-jump style system puts China in the elite group of countries field-

ing modern 'flat-top' carriers. Adding to that, China skipped the traditional steam-powered catapult system and jumped straight to the more modern electromagnetic catapults," Hart said. "That's a major technological achievement — assuming it works as intended."

Despite that, the Fujian relies on conventional power for propulsion rather than nuclear power, which severely limits its range. Conventional carriers burn oil or gas for propulsion, according to NavalPost.com. In contrast, the U.S. Navy's 11 aircraft carriers rely on nuclear reactors.

"In terms of size and propulsion, the Fujian is comparable to the U.S. Kitty Hawk class carriers that first when into service in the U.S. Navy in the early 1960s," Hart said. "I expect China to continue growing its fleet of aircraft carriers, but the [Chinese navy] is decades away from matching the U.S. carrier fleet in number or sophistication."

China may not try to match the U.S. Navy carrier-for-carrier, according to Sam Roggeveen, director of the Australian think-tank Lowy Institute's International Se-

curity Program. He suggested that Beijing has longer-term plans.

"I don't think the Chinese carrier project is about matching the U.S.," Roggeveen told Stars and Stripes by email Thursday. "It is more about building a post-American navy, a fleet that can be used for coercion or punishment against smaller states as U.S. influence in Asia diminishes."

China is aware that large, slow ships like aircraft carriers likely wouldn't survive in a prolonged war with a peer, he said.

"Since the end of the Cold War, carriers have proven useful to the US in conflicts against states with minimal maritime capacity — Iraq, Libya, Yugoslavia — and I suspect China sees them in a similar role," Roggeveen said.

Beijing's investments in technology and naval expansion, despite yielding a capability short of U.S. carrier power, are having significant effects in the Indo-Pacific region, Roggeveen said.

U.S. commitments in the area are getting "harder and harder to sustain," he said, and cited Taiwan as an example. The self-governing island is considered by China a



LI GANG, XINHUA/AP

**Coloured smoke mark the launch ceremony for China's third aircraft carrier christened Fujian at a dry dock in Shanghai on June 17.**

breakaway province that must be reunited with the mainland, by force, if necessary. President Joe Biden in late May said the U.S. would help defend Taiwan militarily against attack from China.

"China's military modernization has now reached the point where, even if the US could prevail in a conflict over Taiwan, the costs would be enormous," he said.

China has modernized and increased the size of its military forces, and last year its navy became the world's largest. The Chinese navy has a battle force of 355 vessels, a number expected to reach 460 by 2030, according to a U.S. Department of Defense report in November.

In comparison, the U.S. Navy has a battle force of 298 ships, according to an April 20 report from the Congressional Research Service. Congress has yet to enact a concrete plan for a future U.S. fleet, but one option calls for 367 ships by 2052.

"China's military buildup is dramatically shifting the balance of power in the Indo-Pacific. In 2021, China spent more on its military than the next 13 Indo-Pacific countries combined, excluding the United States," Hart said. "I don't think Washington has yet taken the necessary steps to adequately prepare itself or its allies and partners in the region to respond to China's growing military challenge."

## Pilot 'raised in tactical airlift' to lead US airlift hub in Tokyo

**By SETH ROBSON**  
*Stars and Stripes*

YOKOTA AIR BASE, Japan — A C-130J Super Hercules pilot who led a tactical airlift squadron in Afghanistan is the new commander of the Air Force's home in western Tokyo.

Col. Andrew Roddan took command of the 374th Airlift Wing at Yokota from Col. Andrew Campbell during a ceremony presided over Thursday by U.S. Forces Japan and 5th Air Force commander Lt. Gen. Ricky Rupp.

A graduate of Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, Roddan has over 3,850 hours flying C-130E Hercules and C-130J Super Hercules aircraft, according to his official biography.

"I'm a proud member of the U.S. Air Force, raised in the C-130... raised in tactical airlift" he told airmen, civilians, family members and Japanese guests gathered for the ceremony in a hangar near Yokota's runway.

The crowd saw Roddan's name unveiled on the side of a Super

Hercules parked in front of the hangar alongside a CV-22 Osprey aircraft, UH-1N Huey helicopter and C-12J Huron plane.

The father of two previously served at Ramstein Air Base, Germany, and commanded the 774th Expeditionary Airlift Squadron at Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan, from January to May 2017, the biography states.

His last assignment was as commander of the 19th Operations Group at Little Rock Air Force Base, Ark. where he was respon-

sible for four squadrons, including two airlift squadrons operating 29 C-130Js, the biography states.

During Campbell's two-year tenure, Yokota's airlifters excelled amid the challenges of the pandemic and increased volatility in the region, Rupp told those gathered for the command change.

"This ironclad (U.S.-Japan) alliance is critical to deterring China, Russia and North Korea," he said.

Campbell, along with other American base commanders in

Japan, imposed restrictions on members of the military community to slow the spread of the coronavirus. Most of those curbs were lifted earlier this year as the pandemic receded in Japan.

Under Campbell's watch the base reported a comparatively modest 1,000 cases of COVID-19, although it certainly experienced more than that.

Campbell is headed to Scott Air Force Base, Ill., to become Air Mobility Command deputy director of operations, Rupp said.



MILITARY

Chief recalls military experience as gay man during Pride

By JENNIFER H. SVAN  
*Stars and Stripes*

RAMSTEIN AIR BASE, Germany — Chief Master Sgt. Jeremiah Grisham walks through base housing every evening with his husband and his dog.

But 15 years ago, Grisham never imagined he'd be where he is today: the top enlisted leader for the 521st Air Mobility Operations Wing at Ramstein. As far as he knows, he's the only openly gay command chief in the Air Force.

Until 2011, when the repeal of the military's "don't ask, don't tell" policy took effect, openly gay and lesbian people were barred from serving in the U.S. armed forces.

"I didn't really have a plan to make chief, let alone command chief," Grisham told Stars and Stripes. He shared his story during Pride Month, which is observed in June.

Grisham, 42, came out to his military friends in explosive ordnance disposal and to his supervisors when he was a senior airman about 20 years ago.

His sexual orientation "became a little bit of a joke" among the rough-and-tumble EOD crowd, but nobody "really cared," Grish-

am said. The tight-knit EOD community was "willing to close ranks and protect," he added.

"I never felt in danger of being outed to somebody who could impact my career," Grisham said.

Nor did being gay hinder his advancement opportunities in his 20-plus years in the Air Force. Gay and lesbian service members have largely found acceptance in the military, he said.

However, that's not the case for bisexual, transgender and queer armed forces personnel, Grisham said.

"There's still some fear of those communities because there's not a clear understanding of who they are, and so we don't appreciate fully what they can bring to the fight," he said.

Grisham offered a message of hope to those who still feel marginalized.

"I have experienced change in my lifetime," he said. "I have been in the Air Force from the time when it was impermissible to say who you are and love who you



Grisham

need to love in this life, and I have landed in a place in life where I can do all of those things."

But he acknowledges that there's work to be done, and he feels compelled to speak out to counter messages that he regards as hateful.

The rhetoric surrounding the cancellation of a drag queen story hour for children at the Ramstein library earlier this month is one such example for him.

After the planned event was chronicled by a right-wing news magazine based in Canada, base leaders hastily announced that it would not happen because organizers publicized it before official approval had been granted.

U.S. Sen. Marco Rubio, a Florida Republican, sent a letter calling for an Air Force investigation and discipline for the event planners. His office issued a press release touting the cancellation following his "demands."

Lt. Col. Will Powell, a spokesman for the 86th Airlift Wing at Ramstein, subsequently said the reason the base canceled the drag queen reading was that leaders wanted a Pride Month event that was more inclusive for LGBTQ personnel and families.

He added that the decision "was not based on individuals speaking out against the event."

In Grisham's opinion, though, the controversy did lead to something positive. He said a planning committee at Ramstein is developing "a road map where we can continue to have (Pride) events, and maybe partner with other special observance months throughout the year," with the goal "to educate and celebrate."

Pride Month events still to come include the 86th Airlift Wing Dental Squadron's 5K color run Satur-

day on base and a "Proud Voices" question-and-answer panel put on by the KMC Pride Committee, a base official said. Details of the latter are still being worked out.

"All of us have a responsibility to let an airman junior to us see themselves through us," Grisham said.

And he encouraged all airmen to embrace who they are.

"For some people that's a taller mountain," he said. "But don't shy away from it."

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Bonus: Offer highest ever for Army

FROM PAGE 1

Army Gen. Mark Milley, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, also spoke at the House hearing and said all services except the Army would likely meet their recruiting goals this year.

The Army's new quick-ship bonus can be added to other bonuses that are career-field dependent, the service said. Financial incentives are capped at \$50,000.

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MILITARY

Army weighs 13 bases as sites for new units

**BY WYATT OLSON**  
*Stars and Stripes*

The Army is seeking public comment on proposed sites for its new multidomain task forces — field artillery brigades with beefed-up capabilities for long-range fire and air-missile defense.

Public comment is open for the next month on an environmental assessment that found the units pose no “significant” impacts on the installations being considered, the service said in a news release Wednesday.

The Army is evaluating 13 sites at Fort Bliss or Fort Hood in Texas; Fort Bragg, N.C.; Fort Campbell or Fort Knox in Kentucky; Fort Carson, Colo.; Fort Drum, N.Y.; Fort Riley, Kan.; Fort Stewart, Ga.; Joint Base Lewis-

McChord, Wash.; Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson or Fort Wainwright in Alaska; and U.S. Army Garrison-Hawaii at Schofield Barracks and Healemano Military Reservation.

The Army plans to establish five Multi-Doman Task Force units, with two aligned to the Indo-Pacific, one in Europe, one in the Arctic and the fifth “aligned for global response,” according to a May 31 report by the Congressional Research Service.

Siting the units is key to the Army’s modernization strategy announced in 2019 under which it intends to transform into a multidomain force by 2035.

The Army “needs to transform from its current state into a multi-domain force that can project

power across all domains of warfare (land, sea, air, space, and cyberspace) throughout the world,” the environmental assessment states.

“A multi-domain operations-capable force would allow the Army, as part of an integrated Joint Force, to expand the options available to the President and Secretary of Defense short of armed conflict, or to allow for timely response to any armed attacks against the Joint Force,” the assessment states.

The Army plans to position the task forces at garrisons and joint bases from which they can quickly deploy to any theater where they are needed, according to the assessment.

The Army has experimented

with the multi-domain task force concept in recent years in Hawaii, units were activated last year at Joint Base Lewis-McChord and in Germany.

The Multi-Domain Task Force unit is a reorganized field artillery brigade but with additional capabilities for long-range weapons fire and air-missile defense, the assessment states.

It combines intelligence, information, cyber, electronic warfare and space capabilities into a single battalion, the assessment states.

The environmental assessment considers two alternate configurations for the Multi-Domain Task Force unit.

The full configuration would comprise about 3,000 soldiers and

require roughly 93 acres of space.

The smaller “base” configuration would employ about 400 soldiers and use 18 acres.

Hawaii is being considered solely for the base configuration due to land restrictions, the assessment states.

Infrastructure for either option includes headquarters, maintenance facilities, cantonment and space suitable for a detachment devoted to intelligence, cyber, electronic warfare and space, the assessment states.

The full configuration includes an additional requirement for air-space, firing range and airfield.

Input from the public is being solicited until July 22.

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Okinawans mark 77th anniversary of WWII battle

**BY MATTHEW M. BURKE AND MARI HIGA**  
*Stars and Stripes*

OKINAWA PEACE MEMORIAL PARK, Itoman — Matsujin Wakugawa beamed as four generations of his family huddled around him amid a sea of names carved in black granite.

The 92-year-old from Motobu town — hard of hearing, with a wry sense of humor — said he spent World War II as a teenager working on Saipan. He survived a massacre by American troops after a Japanese soldier tossed a grenade into their marching column by playing dead, he said.

When he returned to Okinawa, he found many of his relatives had perished during the Battle of Okinawa, which began on April 1, 1945, and lasted for 82 days. Their names are carved into the Cornerstone of Peace memorial at Okinawa Peace Memorial Park.

Wakugawa was one of approximately 400 attendees at Thursday’s annual Irei no Hi ceremony commemorating the 77th anniversary of the Battle of Okinawa. The scaled-back ceremony was the largest in three years as the island prefecture rebounds from the COVID-19 pandemic. Only 36 people were allowed at last year’s event.

Kiku Wakugawa, 90, his wife of 70 years, had stayed on the island, she said.

“I could not continue studying because of the war,” she said from her wheelchair. “I hid in the mountain with my family during the battle.”

More than 14,000 Americans,

about 110,000 Japanese troops and at least 140,000 Okinawans were killed during or after the fighting.

The battle, from April 1 to June 22, 1945, scorched large swaths of Okinawa. The war ended the following August with the dropping of atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

Thursday’s ceremony took place under an unrelenting sun.

The U.S. military sent a small contingent; Ambassador Rahm Emanuel was invited but chose instead to send a message, a spokesman for Okinawa prefecture’s Public Relations Division told Stars and Stripes by phone Wednesday.

Attendees packed a large white tent for the ceremony. At 12 p.m., a moment of silence was observed.

Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida was greeted with boos and people shouting “liar” and “go back.” He acknowledged the heavy burden that Okinawa’s population endures due to the large U.S. military presence on the island.

“The government takes this seriously and will continue to do its utmost to reduce the burden,” he said.

He pledged to “make a continuous effort to realize a world where everyone can live in peace and affluence” and “never repeat the tragedy of war.”

Okinawa Gov. Denny Tamaki, speaking at the ceremony, urged Tokyo to reduce the U.S. military presence on Okinawa.

“Okinawa prefecture strongly demands ... consolidation and re-



MARI HIGA/Stars and Stripes

Attendees observe a moment of silence during the island’s annual Irei no Hi ceremony at Okinawa Peace Memorial Park in Itoman on Thursday.

duction of U.S. military bases in Okinawa,” along with changes in the Japan-U.S. status of forces agreement, suspension of flight operations at Marine Corps Air Station Futenma and a halt to new airfield construction at Camp Schwab, Tamaki said.

The next generation of Okinawans must learn from the World War II generation before it passes on, he said. Nearby, the Wakugawas’ first grandchild, Tomoe Tamashiro, 47, from Yomitan village, nodded in agreement.

“I think peace education is important,” she said. “Humans are stupid. We keep repeating the same mistakes. Okinawa’s history must be taught to children so that they know what is right and what is wrong.”



MATTHEW M. BURKE/Stars and Stripes

A visitor leaves an offering in front of the Cornerstone of Peace monument at Okinawa Peace Memorial Park during Thursday’s annual Irei no Hi ceremony.

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EUROPE

# US readies more aid as Russians advance

Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine — The Russian military extended its grip Thursday on territory in eastern Ukraine, capturing two villages and vying for control of a key highway as it seeks to cut supply lines and encircle some frontline Ukrainian forces, British and Ukrainian military officials said.

Also Thursday, the U.S. will send another \$450 million in military aid to Ukraine, including additional medium-range rocket systems, U.S. officials said.

The latest package will include a number of High Mobility Artillery Rocket Systems. The initial four

that the U.S. sent have already gone into Ukraine and are in the hand of troops there. The package will also include ammunition and other supplies.

Ukrainian forces withdrew from some areas near the city of Lysychansk to avoid being surrounded as Russians sent in reinforcements and concentrated their firepower in the area, Britain's Defense Ministry said. The city is located in Luhansk province, a major battlefield in Russian President Vladimir Putin's war against Ukraine.

Ukraine's General Staff said Russian forces took control of the villages of Loskutivka and Rai-Oleksan-

drivka, and were trying to capture Syrotyne, a settlement outside the province's urban administrative center, Sievierodonetsk.

Luhansk Gov. Serhiy Haidai told The Associated Press that the Russians were "burning everything out" in their offensive to encircle Ukraine's fighters.

"The Russians are advancing without trying to spare the ammunition or troops, and they aren't running out of either," Haidai said. "They have an edge in heavy artillery and the number of troops."

"Part of the Luhansk region still remains under Ukrainian control, defying the Russians and causing

their fury and desire to burn it to the ground," he added.

For weeks, Russian forces have pummeled Sievierodonetsk with artillery and air raids, and fought the Ukrainian army house-to-house. Ukrainian forces remain holed up with about 500 civilians at the Azot chemical plant, the only part of the city still under Ukrainian control.

Haidai said the Ukrainian soldiers ward off the city's seizure from the plant's sprawling underground structures, but he noted that "the shelling has intensified, and even concrete shelters can't withstand the bombardment." The Rus-

sians were using their entire arsenal — heavy artillery, tanks, aircraft," he said.

Haidai said that Lysychansk, which is on a steep river bank facing Sievierodonetsk, also faced a relentless barrage. At least one civilian died and three others were wounded in 24 hours as the Russians concentrated over 100 multiple rocket launchers to "pummel entire blocks," the governor said.

"The Russian army is 'liberating' Sievierodonetsk from life and workplaces," he said in a sarcastic reference to Russia's stated goal of the "liberation" of eastern Ukraine's entire Donbas region.

## US, NATO seen in more favorable light abroad as world sours on Putin, poll finds

By JOHN VANDIVER  
Stars and Stripes

Russian President Vladimir Putin's international favorability ratings have plummeted in the wake of his war on Ukraine, while attitudes toward the U.S. and NATO have improved, according to a new Pew Research Center global opinion survey.

A median of 65% of those polled across 11 alliance member countries held favorable views of NATO, compared with 26% having negative views, Pew said.

Meanwhile, ratings for the U.S. were generally positive, with 61% across 17 nations expressing a favorable view of the country.

Since Russia's full-fledged invasion of Ukraine, NATO's role in defending member states from potential aggression has been brought into sharper focus and likely contributed to its rising favorability.

"Russia's invasion of Ukraine has brought war to Europe at a scale unseen since the 1940s," Pew noted.

Poland, which has been among the most vocal supporters of Ukraine in its battle against Russia, had the highest view of NATO, with 89% looking positively on the alliance, Pew found.

But there were exceptions to NATO's popularity. In Italy, ratings dropped from 72% in 2021 to 64% now. And in Greece, where the population has historically been ambivalent about NATO, 64% report-

ed negative views, Pew said.

The survey findings show a contrast between public opinion in Greece and the enthusiasm of the Greek government, which in October 2021 signed a deal to increase the American military footprint in the country.

Meanwhile, Russia's credibility has nose-dived following the unprovoked invasion of Ukraine, with 85% of those polled across 18 countries expressing unfavorable views of Russia. Majorities in most nations also say they have a very unfavorable opinions, Pew said.

"In almost every country surveyed, at least seven-in-ten have an unfavorable opinion of Russia. Malaysia is the only country where this is not true," Pew said.

Anti-Russian feelings were strongest in Poland, with 97% holding negative views. In the U.S., 92% of those polled look unfavorably on Russia.

Confidence in Putin to do the right thing in world affairs also reached a 20-year low in most countries with, 90% across 18 countries saying Putin could not be relied on, Pew said.

Generally, the small minorities in Europe who had confidence in Putin were aligned with right-wing populist parties, such as the Alternative for Germany party.

Although the overseas popularity of Putin's U.S. counterpart, Joe Biden, has dipped, 60% of respondents expressed confidence that he

would do the right thing in world affairs.

Biden's 82% approval rating in Poland was tops in the poll, whereas only 41% of Greeks surveyed approve of Biden, the lowest rating among the countries involved.

One possible factor in Biden's decline, Pew reported, was his handling of the messy U.S. withdrawal from Afghanistan, which resulted in a chaotic evacuation and the Taliban's return to power after two decades of NATO military presence in the country.

Still, while Biden got low marks for his handling of the U.S. departure, a slight majority said the decision to leave Afghanistan was the right one, with 51% across 17 countries saying it was time to go.

The Pew survey included data



WILLIAM TANNER/U.S. Army

**A Polish high school student takes a selfie with her friends and U.S. Army 1st Lt. Logan Gearhart in Lobe, Poland, in 2016.**

from 18 nations: the U.S., Canada, Belgium, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, the Netherlands, Poland, Spain, Sweden, the United Kingdom, Israel, Australia, Japan, Malaysia, Singapore and South Ko-

rea.

Interviews were conducted from Feb. 14 to May 11.

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## NATION

# Court strikes NY law, expands gun rights

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court said Thursday that Americans have a right to carry guns in public, a major expansion of gun rights.

The justices' 6-3 decision follows a series of recent mass shootings and is expected to ultimately allow more people to legally carry guns on the streets of the nation's largest cities — including New York, Los Angeles and Boston — and elsewhere.

About a quarter of the U.S. population lives in states expected to be affected by the ruling, the high court's first major gun decision in

more than a decade.

The ruling comes as Congress is actively working on gun legislation following recent mass shootings in Texas, New York and California.

Justice Clarence Thomas wrote for the majority that the Constitution protects "an individual's right to carry a handgun for self-defense outside the home."

In their decision, the justices struck down a New York law requiring people to demonstrate a particular need for carrying a gun in order to get a license to carry one in public.

The justices said the require-

ment violates the Second Amendment right to "keep and bear arms."

California, Hawaii, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Jersey and Rhode Island all have similar laws. The Biden administration had urged the justices to uphold New York's law.

In a dissent joined by his liberal colleagues, Justice Stephen Breyer focused on the toll taken by gun violence. "Since the start of this year alone (2022), there have already been 277 reported mass shootings — an average of more than one per day," Breyer wrote.

Backers of New York's law had

argued that striking it down would ultimately lead to more guns on the streets and higher rates of violent crime. The decision comes at a time when gun violence already on the rise during the coronavirus pandemic has spiked anew.

In most of the country gun owners have little difficulty legally carrying their weapons in public. But that had been harder to do in New York and the handful of states with similar laws. New York's law, which has been in place since 1913, says that to carry a concealed handgun in public, a person applying for a license has to show "proper cause," a specific

need to carry the weapon.

The state issues unrestricted licenses where a person can carry their gun anywhere and restricted licenses that allow a person to carry the weapon but just for specific purposes such as hunting and target shooting or to and from their place of business.

The Supreme Court last issued a major gun decision in 2010. In that decision and a ruling from 2008 the justices established a nationwide right to keep a gun at home for self-defense.

The question for the court this time was about carrying one outside the home.



SUSAN WALSH/AP

**President Joe Biden talks to riders at the White House in Washington during an event to welcome wounded warriors, their caregivers and families to the White House on Thursday as part of the annual Soldier Ride.**

## Wounded Warriors praised by president as 'spine of America'

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Joe Biden on Thursday welcomed members of Wounded Warriors Project to the White House for the annual soldier ride, praising the current and former military service members as the "spine of America."

More than two dozen veteran and active duty troops rode two laps around the South Lawn as part of the multi-day cycling event.

The tradition of the soldier ride at the White House began back in

2008.

"You are the best that America has to offer," Biden said. "You embody the soul and spirit of the nation."

The Wounded Warrior Project was founded in 2003 and assists veterans as well as families and caregivers of service members who suffered a physical or mental injury or illness while serving in the military on or after Sept. 11, 2001.

First lady Jill Biden as well as Vice President Kamala Harris and her husband, Doug Emhoff,

also attended Thursday's ride that went on as planned in a light rain.

The first lady thanked the veterans for their service and acknowledged that the path of "healing is not a straight line" for many of those who suffered catastrophic injuries during their service.

"There's a saying in the cycling community that some of you may know: It never gets easier, it just gets faster," she said. "I think there's a truth about recovery in that saying as well."

## Biden administration moves to increase Title IX protections

Associated Press

The Biden administration proposed a dramatic overhaul of campus sexual assault rules on Thursday, acting to expand protections for LGBTQ students, bolster the rights of victims and widen colleges' responsibilities in addressing sexual misconduct.

The proposal, announced on the 50th anniversary of the Title IX women's rights law, is intended to replace a set of controversial rules issued during the Trump administration by Education Secretary Betsy DeVos.

President Joe Biden's education secretary, Miguel Cardona, said Title IX has been "instrumental" in fighting sexual assault and violence in education.

"As we celebrate the 50th anniversary of this landmark law, our proposed changes will allow us to continue that progress and ensure all our nation's students — no matter where they live, who they are, or whom they love — can learn, grow, and thrive in school," he said.

The proposal is almost certain to be challenged by conservatives, and it is expected to lead to new legal battles over the rights of transgender students in schools, especially in sports.

It now faces a public feedback period before the Biden administration can finalize any changes, meaning the earliest that the policy is likely to take effect is next year.

The step meets a demand from victims rights advocates who wanted Biden to release new rules no later than the anniversary of Title IX, which outlaws discrimination based on sex in schools and colleges. Ad-

vocates say DeVos' rules have gone too far in protecting students accused of sexual misconduct, at the expense of victims.

As a presidential candidate, Biden had promised a quick end to DeVos' rules, saying they would "shame and silence survivors."

In announcing its proposal, Biden's Education Department said DeVos' rules "weakened protections for survivors of sexual assault and diminished the promise of an education free from discrimination."

For the first time, the rules would formally protect LGBTQ students under Title IX. Nothing in the 1972 law explicitly addresses the topic, but the new proposal would clarify that the law applies to discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity.

It would make clear that "preventing someone from participating in school programs and activities consistent with their gender identity would cause harm in violation of Title IX," according to the department. More specific rules dealing with the rights of transgender students in school sports will be released later, the department said.

Biden marked the anniversary of Title IX by acknowledging the impact the law has had in advancing equity but acknowledging there was more to do.

"As we look to the next 50 years, I am committed to protecting this progress and working to achieve full equality, inclusion, and dignity for women and girls, LGBTQI+ Americans, all students, and all Americans," he said in a statement.



NATION

# US importing baby formula to ease shortage

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Biden administration announced Wednesday that it is providing logistical support to import the equivalent of about 16 million 8-ounce baby formula bottles from Mexico starting this weekend, as part of its efforts to ease nationwide supply shortages caused by the closure of the largest U.S. manufacturing plant.

The Department of Health and Human Services is expediting the travel of trucks that will drive about 1 million pounds of Gerber Good Start Gentle infant formula from a Nestlé plant to U.S. retailers, the White House said, nearly doubling the amount imported to the U.S. to date. Cargo flights from Europe and Australia already have brought baby formula into the U.S., including two new

rounds of air shipments that begin this weekend.

The White House has been working to make supply more available as it has faced pressure from parents over supply issues after regulators in February shuttered a Michigan plant run by Abbott that is the largest domestic manufacturer of baby formula over safety concerns.

The plant reopened on June 4 after the company committed to additional sanitizing and safety protocols, but shuttered again more than a week ago after severe weather caused damage to the plant.

The company said it needs time to assess damage and re-sanitize the factory after severe thunderstorms and heavy rains swept through southwestern Michigan on June 13.



WILFREDO LEE/AP

A can of Toddler Nutritional Drink is shown on a shelf in a grocery store, Friday in Surfside, Fla.

Last month, the Food and Drug Administration moved to ease federal import regulations to allow baby formula to be shipped to the U.S., and Biden authorized the use of the Defense Production Act to provide federal support to move formula from overseas into the

United States.

Wednesday's announcement also includes air shipments of 1.65 million 8-ounce bottle equivalents of Nestlé NAN Supremepro 2 infant formula from Germany to Texas this weekend, and 5.5 million 8-ounce bottle equivalents of

Bubs infant formula in two shipments on June 26 and July 5.

The White House says that by June 26, its efforts, dubbed "Operation Fly Formula," will have brought 32 flights and almost 19 million 8-ounce bottle equivalents of infant formula into the U.S.

## Former Florida governor candidate indicted

Associated Press

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. — Andrew Gillum, the 2018 Democratic nominee for Florida governor, has been indicted on 21 federal charges including conspiracy and wire fraud for funneling donations through third parties back to himself for personal use, prosecutors said Wednesday.

The U.S. Attorney for the Northern District of Florida said Gillum, 42, is also charged with making false statements to the Federal Bureau of Investigation for claiming he didn't receive or ask for anything from two undercover agents posing as developers. The undercover agents offered gifts and money in exchange for support for projects.

Sharon Janet Lettman-Hicks, 53 and the owner of a communications company, is a codefendant on the wire fraud charges for funneling money to Gillum in the form of paychecks, U.S. Attorney Jason R. Coody said in a statement.

Prosecutors said the pair "conspired to commit wire fraud, by unlawfully soliciting and obtaining funds from various entities and individuals through false and fraudulent promises and representations that the funds would be used for a legitimate purpose."

Gillum, in a statement released through his lawyers, denied the charges.



STEVE CANNON/AP

Tallahassee Mayor Andrew Gillum speaks at a campaign stop in his bid for governor in 2018 in Crawfordville, Fla.

"Make no mistake that this case is not legal, it is political. Throughout my career I have always stood up for the people of Florida and have spoken truth to power," the statement said. "There's been a target on my back ever since I was the mayor of Tallahassee. They found nothing then, and I have full confidence that my legal team will prove my innocence now."

He made his first appearance in federal court Wednesday afternoon, entering the courtroom shackled at the ankles and wrists. He and Lettman-Hicks pleaded

not guilty to all charges. A trial date was set for Aug. 16. Both were released without bail with instructions not to leave the Northern District of Florida without permission.

Gillum met with undercover FBI agents posing as developers while he was mayor and during his campaign for governor.

His associates sought donations from the agents, and suggested ways to provide money without listing them as political contributions, including paying for a fundraising dinner, according to the indictment.

The agents were asked to contribute \$100,000 to Gillum's campaign and said the money could be given to a private company in order to keep the agents' names out of campaign finance documents.

The agents said they would want favorable consideration on development projects and were told that wouldn't be a problem, according to the indictment.

The agents also met with Gillum in New York City and paid for his hotel, food and drink, a boat ride and a ticket to see "Hamilton," according to the indictment.

## Number of jobless aid claims down

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Fewer Americans applied for jobless benefits last week as the U.S. job market remains robust despite four-decade high inflation and a myriad of other economic pressures.

Applications for jobless aid for the week ending June 18 fell to 229,000, a decline of 2,000 from the previous week, the Labor Department reported Thursday. First-time applications generally mirror the number of layoffs.

The four-week average for claims, which smooths out some of the week-to-week volatility, rose by 4,500 from the previous week, to 223,500.

The total number of Americans collecting jobless benefits for the week ending June 11 was 1,315,000, up by 5,000 from the previous week. That figure has hovered near 50-year lows for months. Much of the recent job security and wage gains that Americans have enjoyed recently has been offset by inflation levels not seen in four decades.

Earlier in June, the Labor Department reported that consumer prices surged 8.6% last month by three-quarters of a point.



NATION

# Bloodhound takes top spot at Westminster

*Associated Press*  
TARRYTOWN, N.Y. — Now this hound has something to toot his horn about.  
A bloodhound named Trumpet won the Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show on Wednesday night, marking the first time the breed has ever snared U.S. dogdom’s most coveted best in show prize.  
Rounding the finalists’ ring with a poised and powerful stride, Trumpet beat a French bulldog, a German shepherd, a Maltese, an English setter, a Samoyed and a Lakeland terrier to take the trophy.  
“I was shocked,” said handler, co-breeder and co-owner Heather Helmer, who also goes by Heather Buehner. The competition was stiff, “and sometimes I feel the

bloodhound is a bit of an under-dog.”  
After making dog show history, does Trumpet have a sense of how special he is?  
“I think he does,” his Berlin Center, Ohio-based handler said.  
After his victory, Trumpet posed patiently for countless photos, eventually starting to do what bloodhounds do best — sniff around. He examined some decorative flowers that had been set up for the pictures, not appearing to find anything of note.  
Winston, a French bulldog co-owned by NFL defensive lineman Morgan Fox, took second in the nation’s most prestigious dog show.  
“I’m just so proud of him and the whole team,” Fox said by text afterward.



FRANK FRANKLIN II/AP  
Heather Helmer poses for photographs with a bloodhound named Trumpet, who won best in show at the 146th Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show on Wednesday in Tarrytown, N.Y.

## Feds: Ghislaine Maxwell deserves to spend at least 30 years in prison

*Associated Press*  
NEW YORK — British socialite Ghislaine Maxwell should spend at least 30 years in prison for her role in the sexual abuse of teenage girls over a 10-year period by her onetime boyfriend, financier Jeffrey Epstein, prosecutors said Wednesday in written arguments.  
Prosecutors said she should serve between 30 years and 55 years in prison, reflecting the federal sentencing guidelines. They made their recommendations to the judge who will preside over a sentencing hearing on Tuesday in Manhattan federal court.  
The 60-year-old Maxwell was convicted in December of sex trafficking and other crimes after a month-long trial that featured testimony from four women who said they were abused in their teens.  
Defense lawyers said in a sentencing submission last week that she should spend no more than

five years in prison and shouldn’t pay for Epstein’s crimes, since he was the mastermind and principal abuser and “orchestrated the crimes for his personal gratification.” Epstein took his own life in 2019 in jail as he awaited a Manhattan federal sex trafficking trial.  
But prosecutors said Maxwell played an “instrumental role in the horrific sexual abuse of multiple young teenage girls” between 1994 and 2004 at some of Epstein’s palatial residences. They called her crimes “monstrous.”  
“As part of a disturbing agreement with Jeffrey Epstein, Maxwell identified, groomed, and abused multiple victims, while she enjoyed a life of extraordinary luxury and privilege. In her wake,



Maxwell

Maxwell left her victims permanently scarred with emotional and psychological injuries,” prosecutors wrote.  
“That damage can never be undone, but it can be accounted for in crafting a just sentence for Maxwell’s crimes,” they added.  
Prosecutors also urged the judge to reject Maxwell’s pleas for leniency on the grounds that she has suffered in extraordinary ways in jail while awaiting trial and afterward. Defense lawyers said she has faced death threats and harsh conditions that have caused her to lose hair and weight.  
Maxwell’s appearance at trial proved those claims were wrong, prosecutors said, adding: “The defendant is perfectly healthy, with a full head of hair.”  
They said Maxwell “has enjoyed remarkable privileges as a high-profile inmate that vastly exceed the benefits accorded to the average inmate.”

## Seniors told to get souped-up flu vaccines

*Associated Press*  
NEW YORK — Americans 65 and older should get newer, souped-up flu vaccines because regular shots don’t provide them enough protection, a federal advisory panel said Wednesday.  
The panel unanimously recommended certain flu vaccines that might offer more or longer protection for seniors, whose weakened immune systems don’t respond as well to traditional shots.  
Options include: Fluzone High-Dose, Fluad with an immune booster, or Flublok which is made with insect cells instead of chicken eggs.

The panel’s recommendations usually are adopted by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and become the government’s guidance for U.S. doctors and their patients. This would be the first time the government has stated a flu vaccine preference for older adults.  
U.S. officials currently say that all Americans 6 months and older should get a flu vaccine every season.  
Flu shots tend to be less effective than other common vaccinations, but they have often been particularly disappointing in seniors. Health officials say there is

persuasive research indicating some of the new shots work better in older adults, especially at preventing flu-related hospitalizations. Studies are limited, though, and there’s little research comparing the three new versions.  
“These influenza vaccines are better but are not yet the home run that we would love to have,” said panel member Dr. Helen Keipp Talbot of Vanderbilt University.  
The new shots have caught on. About 80% of Medicare beneficiaries get the souped-up vaccines each year, mostly the high-dose one, officials said.

## Many decades later, ‘Torso Killer’ charged in killing at NY mall

*Associated Press*  
MINEOLA, N.Y. — More than five decades after Diane Cusick’s lifeless body was discovered in the parking lot of a mall on New York’s Long Island, authorities have linked her death to the so-called “Torso Killer,” a serial killer already convicted in 11 other killings.  
The suspect, Richard Cottingham — believed to be one of America’s most prolific serial killers — was arraigned Wednesday on a second-degree murder charge in connection with Cusick’s 1968 killing. From a hospital bed in New Jersey, where he’s already serving a life sentence for other killings, Cottingham pleaded not guilty.  
While he has claimed he was responsible for up to 100 homicides, authorities in New York and New Jersey have officially linked him to only a dozen so far, including Cusick’s death. He has been imprisoned since 1980, when he was arrested after a motel maid heard a woman screaming inside his room. Authorities found her alive but bound with handcuffs and suffering from bite marks and knife wounds.  
Cottingham asked to be arraigned Wednesday by video feed from the New Jersey hospital because he was in poor health, bedridden and not ambulatory, Judge Caryn Fink said. He needed his lawyer, Jeff Groder, to repeat the judge’s questions several times because he has difficulty hearing, Groder said.  
“He is a violent predator and no matter how he looks today in a hospital bed he was not always a fee-

ble older man,” Nassau County District Attorney Anne Donnelly said in an interview with The Associated Press. “He was a young 22-year-old when he committed the murder of Ms. Cusick. He was strong, stronger than these women were, and he was violent.”  
Authorities believe Cusick, 23, left her job at a children’s dance school and then stopped at the Green Acres Mall in Nassau County to buy a pair of shoes when Cottingham followed her out. Detectives believe he pretended to be a security guard or police officer, accused her of stealing and then overpowered the 98-pound Cusick, Nassau County Police Detective Capt. Stephen Fitzpatrick said.  
She was “brutally beaten, murdered and raped in that car,” Fitzpatrick said. The medical examiner concluded that Cusick had been beaten in the face and head and was suffocated until she died. She had defensive wounds on her hands and police were able to collect DNA evidence at the scene. But at the time, there was no DNA testing.  
Police interviewed dozens of people, retraced her steps and never stopped hunting for her killer. But the trail went cold.  
“The police did a great job looking for any leads they could find. They spoke to hundreds of people at the Green Acres Mall to see if anyone had seen Diane,” Donnelly said. “Unfortunately, the trail went cold and the case went cold.”  
Cottingham was working as a computer programmer for a health insurance company in New York at the time of Cusick’s death.



WORLD

Dig: Devastating earthquake centered in Paktika province

FROM PAGE 1

alone.”

The disaster heaps more misery on a country where millions already faced increasing hunger and poverty and the health system has crumbled since the Taliban retook power nearly 10 months ago amid the U.S. and NATO withdrawal.

How the international humanitarian community, which has pulled back significant resources from the country, will be able to offer aid and to what extent the Taliban government will allow it to remain in question. The Taliban’s takeover led to a cutoff of vital international financing, and most governments remain wary of dealing directly with them.

U.N. agencies and other organi-

zations still operating in Afghanistan said they sent supplies to the area, including medical kits, tents and plastic tarps, but the needs appeared immense as whole villages sustained massive damage.

“We ask from the Islamic Emirate and the whole country to come forward and help us,” said a survivor who gave his name as Hakimullah. “We are with nothing and have nothing, not even a tent to live in.”

Search and rescue remained a priority. In hard-hit Gayan District, much of the rubble was too large for people to move with their hands or shovels. They said they hoped large excavators would make it out to their remote homes. For now, there was only one bulldozer in the area.

On Wednesday, a U.N. official said the government had not requested that the world body mobilize international search-and-rescue teams or obtain equipment from neighboring countries, despite a rare plea from the Taliban’s supreme leader, Haibatullah Akhundzadah, for help from the world.

U.N. agencies are facing a \$3 billion funding shortfall for Afghanistan this year, and Peter Kessler, a spokesman for the United Nations’ refugee agency, said that means there will be difficult decisions about who gets aid.

In addition to the political and financial concerns, there were also logistical challenges to getting aid to remote villages. The roads, which are rutted and difficult to

travel in the best of circumstances, may have been badly damaged in the quake, and landslides from recent rains have made some impassable. Though just 110 miles south of the capital, Kabul, some villages in Gayan District took a full day’s drive to reach.

Rescuers rushed in by helicopter — and Associated Press journalists also saw ambulances in the quake zone on Thursday — but heavier equipment will be difficult to deliver.

Walls and roofs of dozens of homes in Gayan collapsed in the quake, and villagers said whole families were buried under the rubble. Associated Press journalists counted some 50 bodies in the area alone, as people laid out their dead in front of their houses and in

their courtyards.

While modern buildings withstand magnitude 6 earthquakes elsewhere, Afghanistan’s mud-brick homes and landslide-prone mountains make such quakes more dangerous. Shallow earthquakes also tend to cause more damage, and experts put the depth of Wednesday’s at just 6 miles.

Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid wrote on Twitter that eight trucks of food and other necessities from Pakistan arrived in Paktika. He also said Thursday that two planes of humanitarian aid from Iran and another from Qatar had arrived in the country.

Wednesday’s quake was centered in Paktika province, about 31 miles southwest of the city of Khost.

WHO considers declaring monkeypox health emergency

Associated Press

LONDON — The World Health Organization convened its emergency committee Thursday to consider if the spiraling outbreak of monkeypox warrants being declared a global emergency.

Declaring monkeypox to be a global emergency would mean the U.N. health agency considers the outbreak to be an “extraordinary event” and that the disease is at risk of spreading across even more borders, possibly requiring a global response.

The WHO said it did not expect to announce any decisions made by the committee before Friday.

Many scientists doubt any such declaration would help curb the epidemic, since the developed countries recording the most recent cases are already moving quickly to shut it down.

Last week, WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus described the recent monkeypox epidemic identified in more than 40 countries, mostly in Europe, as “unusual and concerning.” Monkeypox has sickened people for decades in central and west Africa, where one version of the disease kills up to 10% of people infected. In the epidemic beyond Africa so far, no deaths have been reported.



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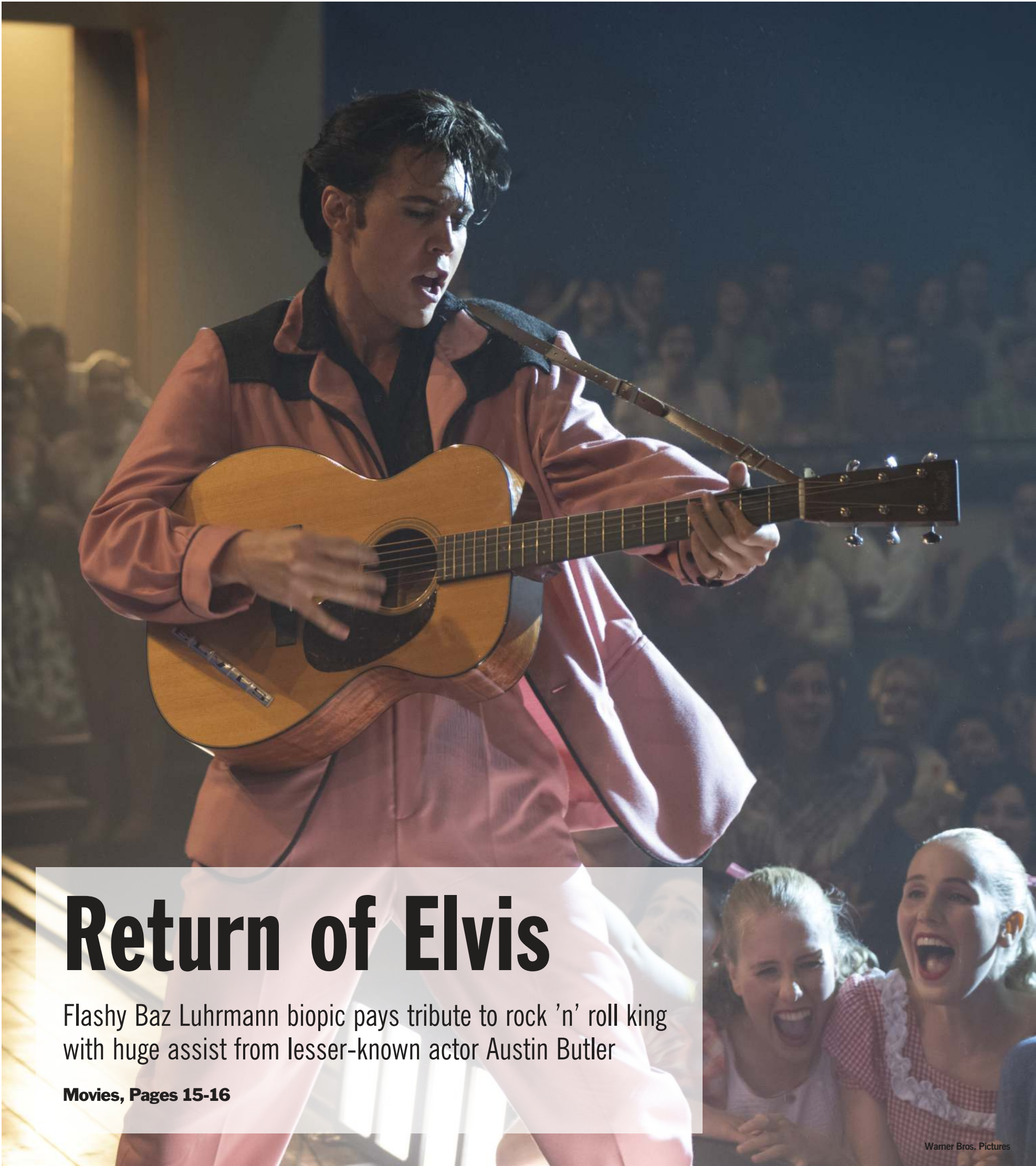
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# WEEKEND



Angel Olsen grows through ‘Big Time’  
**Music, Page 28**



## Return of Elvis

Flashy Baz Luhrmann biopic pays tribute to rock ‘n’ roll king with huge assist from lesser-known actor Austin Butler

**Movies, Pages 15-16**

Warner Bros. Pictures



# WEEKEND: GADGETS & TECHNOLOGY



GERALD HERBERT/AP

Trash that was captured by a Litter Gitter, a contraption designed by Osprey Initiatives, floats behind a containment boom May 27 in New Orleans. The device is one of a handful designed to collect trash from waterways before it has a chance to reach the ocean.

## Chewing away at a problem

River trash traps gobble up plastic in the water before it reaches the ocean

By JANET MCCONNAUGHEY  
*Associated Press*

Floating fences in India. Whimsical water- and solar-driven conveyor belts with googly eyes in Baltimore. Rechargeable aquatic drones and a bubble barrier in The Netherlands.

These are some of the sophisticated and at times low-tech inventions being deployed to capture plastic trash in rivers and streams before it can pollute the world's oceans.

The devices are fledgling attempts to dent an estimated 8.8 million tons of plastic that gets into the ocean every year. Once there, it maims or kills marine plants and animals including whales, dolphins and seabirds and accumulates in the Great Pacific Garbage Patch and other vast swirls of currents.

Trash-gobbling traps on rivers and other waterways won't eliminate ocean plastic but can help reduce it, say officials with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Marine Debris Program.

"It's just hard to get out to our big open oceans and collect the trash there," said Director Nancy Wallace. "We'd much rather collect that trash closer to shore, which is easier. It's less costly, and we can have that impact before it gets into the ocean."

Trash is blown, washed or thrown into waterways nearly everywhere. Storm drains funnel in litter tossed onto streets. In places without refuse collection, people use convenient waters to carry trash away.

D.C. Sekhar of Bengaluru, India, designed a low-tech trap for rivers in his country after he left a career in commercial ship-ping.

As an oil tanker captain, "I had traveled around the world and seen water bodies that were fairly clean," while trash fouled India's, he said.

Wanting something modular, inexpensive, easy to maintain and able to withstand monsoons, he designed stainless steel mesh fences that extend above and below aluminum floats 3.9 feet long.

Sekhar's AlphaMERS Ltd. has installed big floating barriers across rivers at eight southern cities from Hyderabad to Tut-icorin. Each is angled to guide trash to a riverbank where excava-tors pile it into dump trucks.

Eight traps on India's Cooum River at Chennai, costing about \$120,000 total, corralled about 2,400 tons of plastics and 21,800 tons of other trash and floating plants in 2018, their first year in position, said Sekhar.

The system with the biggest fan base may be the anthropo-

morphized Trash Wheels at the mouths of four Baltimore water-sheds. "We've got 100,000 followers across major social media platforms," said Adam Lindquist, vice president of programs and environmental initiatives for the Waterfront Partnership of Balti-more, which owns three devices.

Lindquist said Mr. Trash Wheel has inspired fans to begin recycling or join trash cleanups, and its trash collection data helped convince the Baltimore City Council to ban foam food containers, effective October 2019.

The devices use ancient and modern technology to run rakes and a conveyor belt that move floating trash into barge-mounted dumpsters. Usually, the current carrying bottles and cigarette butts also turns a water wheel for power. When the current slows, a solar-powered water pump spins the wheel.

Together, Mr. Trash Wheel, Professor Trash Wheel, Captain Trash Wheel and Gwynnda the Good Wheel of the West, named for Gwynns Falls, have taken in more than 2,000 tons of trash, including 12.6 million cigarette butts and nearly 1.5 million plas-tic bottles. They are turned on only during and after rainstorms, when large amounts of trash show up.

Mr. Trash Wheel and his younger "relatives" have curved sailcloth shells above their workings, a water wheel on one side, and sport 5-foot googly eyes. Each has a personality profile on the web, and Mr. Trash Wheel has an active Twitter account.

In The Netherlands, Bubble Barrier Amsterdam pumps com-pressed air through a perforated tube set across the River IJ at Westerdok, where several canals flow into the river. The tube is set diagonally to direct trash to a rectangular collecting device near the shore.

The WasteShark, a boxy 5-foot-2-inch-long aquatic drone, was developed about 35 miles away in Rotterdam. A drone's hold can accommodate 42 gallons of trash, floating plants and algae, ac-cording to RanMarine Technology. They can operate up to eight hours on a charge.

Osprey Initiative LLC, of Mobile, Ala., works on an even small-er scale, setting up floating traps on creeks, canals and rivers in the U.S. Southeast and training local crews to empty the traps, then sort, analyze and dispose of trash.

In the end, said MaryLee Haughwout, former acting director of NOAA's Marine Debris Program, reducing marine plastic will require fundamental changes such as making and using less, particularly single-use plastics such as straws or cutlery; recy-cling; reusing what you can; and choosing reusable items over disposable ones.

### GADGETS

## Microphones anyone can use

By GREGG ELLMAN  
*Tribune News Service*

Joby, maker of the industry-leading GorillaPod flexible tripod, has a new focus on both audio and video with the recent release of five microphones to their Wavo audio line.

Joby created the mics for various users, including streamers, content creators on the go and work-from-home Zoomers. The affordable Wavo Pod (\$99.95) for desktop users is designed for podcasters, gamers or anyone who needs a plug-and-play USB-C connection.

The 3.9-by-3.9-by-9.4-inch microphone has a 3.5 mm jack for plugging in your headphones and a multifunction button for monitoring gain, volume and mute. It's mounted in a removable U-bracket with a thumbscrew knob on each side. Just loo-sen them to swivel the Wavo Pod in dif-ferent directions for precise audio pickup, or completely loosen them to remove it from the bracket. Joby built the mic with a variety of built-in mounting options.

Specifics supplied by Joby list the fre-quency response as 20Hz-20kHz, the gain adjustment as 0~42dB, and the maximum SPL of 110dB. A pattern selector button on the microphones lets you choose be-tween the two polar pattern choices of cardioid and omnidirectional.

A red Joby metal pop filter accessory is included to remove voice plosives. It mounts to the top of the mic and floats in front.

Using the microphone is as easy, no proprietary software required. Even for simple video calls, callers on the receiv-ing end commented (on request) on my call's precise clarity and commented several times on how cool the microphone looked.

The Wavo Pod isn't designed for por-table wireless functionality, but walking around my office while on test calls, it still did a great job of picking up my voice with the omnidirectional pattern. It's not a microphone for high-end professionals, but for most of us, it's a winner.

For those wanting freedom with their audio, the Joby Wavo Air kit (\$245.95), which Joby calls the most complete and flexible wireless lavalier kit microphone, is simple to use. The Wavo Air system is compatible with smartphones and cam-eras right out of the box.

It has a lightweight form factor with a 2.4GHz wireless audio capture technology in a pocket size (1.65-by-0.74-by-2.5 inch-es). The kit is everything a content cre-ator needs to record one or two people as lavalier clip-on mic or in a shotgun micro-phone mount.

It features a frequency response of 50Hz to 18KHz, has a sensitivity with the built-in microphone of -42dB, and -30dB for the lavalier microphone. Lithium bat-teries will last for about six hours. They are constructed with a red/black poly-carbonate PC, ABS plastic shell and have power, pairing and gain LEDs.

The kit includes a pair of transmitters with built-in microphones, one receiver, cameras, smartphone connection cables, USB charging cables and various mounts.

Online: joby.com



## WEEKEND: MOVIES

BY JAKE COYLE

Associated Press

On the day of Austin Butler's final screen test for "Elvis," director Baz Luhrmann threw everything at him.

Butler had spent five months building up to that moment, workshoping the role with Luhrmann, doing hair and make-up tests, rehearsing the songs. Against the odds, Butler had emerged as the unlikely favorite to land the role over more established names like Harry Styles, Miles Teller and Ansel Elgort. But it wasn't official yet.

And during the screen test, Luhrmann flipped the script. Some of the scenes Butler had prepped went out the window. In others, Luhrmann fed him lines from behind the camera. The one minute of "Suspicious Minds" that Butler was to perform in a Presley jumpsuit stretched to six.

"I got home and I really thought: 'I don't think I got that. I felt like my hands were tied behind my back,'" Butler said in a recent interview.

A week later in Los Angeles, the 30-year-old actor's phone rang. Luhrmann was calling from Australia.

"I look at the phone and go, 'OK, this is the moment,'" says Butler. "I pick up the phone and he was very dramatic and downcast. He goes, 'Austin, I just wanted to be the first one to call you and say ... Are you ready to fly, Mr. Presley?'"

As "Elvis" opens in theaters this weekend, it will resurrect one of the most iconic figures in American music in the biggest, most bedazzled film to ever try to capture the King of Rock 'n' Roll. And it will propel Butler, an Orange County, Calif., native best known to this point for playing Tex Watson in Quentin Tarantino's "Once Upon a Time ... in Hollywood," onto a far bigger stage.

"It all feels sort of like this wonderful dream," Butler said the morning after the film's Cannes Film Festival premiere. "I have to take moments to take a deep breath and say, 'This is real life.'"

What's real and what's fake in the exaggerated land of the much-imitated Elvis hasn't always been easy to discern. "Elvis," which Luhrmann co-scripted, doesn't take a standard biopic view of Presley but tells his story through Presley's infamous manager, Col. Tom Parker (Tom Hanks), a former carnival barker who guided Presley to stardom but exploited and manipulated him until Presley's death in 1977.

Parker narrates the tale, adding a dimension about the nature of show business and performance.

"Baz in the very first meeting said, 'Look, this is a story about two people. There would have never been an Elvis without a

# Channeling the King

Actor Austin Butler felt the temperature rising while working to capture spirit of icon in 'Elvis'



Austin Butler plays Elvis Presley in "Elvis."

HUGH STEWART/Warner Bros. Pictures

Col. Tom Parker, and, in his own mind, there would have never been a Col. Tom Parker without Elvis," says Hanks.

"As soon as he said that, I thought, 'Well, this is going to be new turf, and worthy of the Baz-maximalist-confetti-strewn style of moviemaking.'"

And, like "The Great Gatsby" and "Moulin Rouge," "Elvis" is indeed an extravagant, maximalist Baz-styled blowout. As you'd expect, it breezes through pivotal moments in the Mississippi-born Memphis singer's life and a jukebox of songs.

But "Elvis" also offers a more youthful, rebellious portrait of Presley as a product of Black gospel music, a hip-shaking sex symbol in eyeliner and a progressive-minded nonconformist whose closely controlled career reflected cultural battles of then and now. Butler's is an electric Elvis, not campy nostalgia act, with more Bowie in him than you might expect.

"I'm not here to tell the world that Elvis is a great person. I'll tell you what he is for me," says Luhrmann. "Everyone has their Elvis."

"My job generally is to take things that are considered either boring or old-fashioned or not relevant and shake off the rust, and recode them," says Luhrmann, maker of the modern-day "Romeo + Juliet." "Not to change them, just to retranslate them so their value is once again present."

Presley's value to contemporary audiences, while still beyond most of his contemporaries, has faded somewhat. To many, he represents the appropriation of Black music.

Some relatively recent productions — the 2005 Broadway musical "All Shook Up," Cirque du Soleil's Viva Elvis show in Las Vegas — failed to catch on substantially.

All of which meant that Butler had a lot riding on his shoulders. For him, it was essential to find ways to make Presley more human than superhuman.

One resonant connection for the actor was learning that Presley's mother died when he was 23, the same age Butler was when he lost his mom. And like Presley, an initially timid performer, Butler grew up shy.

"I could then go: 'When I feel afraid and I feel like all the pressure's on me and I'm terrified of falling on my face, he felt those things,'" says Butler. "So then I could go: 'It's OK to feel the fear. It's how you channel it.'"

"Elvis" is most moving in its second half, in the Vegas section of the film, when Presley was often reaching artistic highs on stage during his 1969-1976 run at the International Hotel but was increasingly trapped by Parker (who refused to tour Presley

SEE 'ELVIS' ON PAGE 16



# WEEKEND: MOVIE REVIEW

## ‘Elvis’: Butler devoted 2 years of his life to film

### FROM PAGE 15

internationally) and drug use. Priscilla Presley, who has enthusiastically supported the film, is played by Olivia DeJonge.

“A lot of the characters in this film are larger than life, and authentically larger than life,” says DeJonge. “With Priscilla, I wanted to make sure she felt grounded and more like Elvis’ breath so that whenever he’s with her, he’s relaxed.”

Before “Elvis” began shooting in Memphis, Hanks had dinner with Priscilla Presley, who then described her ex-husband as “an artist as unique as Picasso and as popular as Charlie Chaplin that really only felt truly himself and at home when he was singing.”

While a more villainous role represents a rare departure for Hanks — who tested positive for coronavirus during the film’s Australia shoot, an indelible early pandemic moment — “Elvis” is also typical for the actor in that it grapples with American history and exists as a standalone drama. “Elvis” will be competing primarily with franchise installments in theaters this summer.

“The concept of franchise now is so much a part of the entertainment industrial complex that for me, I just don’t think it’s very fun,” says Hanks.

“Everybody knows that I’ve been doing this for an awfully long time so I think they’re going to have just as much faith that they’ll get all three acts out of me, and then they’ll decide if it was worth seeing or not.”

Reviews have been largely positive for “Elvis,” but they’ve been glowing for Butler. (In the film, he sings some songs while Presley’s voice is used in others.) The actor reckons he devoted two years of his life to the film, obsessively researching Presley and gradually transforming into him. Butler went through daily routines wondering how Presley did them.

When the movie wrapped, Butler struggled to let go.

“Suddenly it was me brushing my teeth, now it’s me doing these mundane things. It was a real existential crisis when I finished,” says Butler. “The next morning, I woke up and I couldn’t walk. I thought my appendix burst. It was the most excruciating pain in my stomach, so they took me to the emergency room.

“It’s wild how your body can kind of hold on for the duration of doing something.”

The first big scene Butler shot, on the second day of production, was Presley taping his momentous comeback special. The scene put a leather-clad Butler isolated on stage, with little to rely on beside his own ability to thrill a crowd. His nerves nearly overwhelmed him.

“But that terror of my whole career feeling like it was riding on this film, that’s exactly what Elvis was feeling,” says Butler. “His musical career was on the line. It was make or break for him. So I could rest in that.

“Then I went out there and it was like having an out-of-body experience.”



Warner Bros. Pictures photos

Austin Butler plays Elvis in the flashy Baz Luhrmann biopic about the King of Rock ‘n’ Roll.

# Resurrection of the King

## Baz Luhrmann’s dazzling biopic makes Elvis relevant again

By Katie Walsh  
Tribune News Service

Why hasn’t there been a great Elvis biopic yet? Well, Austin Butler wasn’t around to star as the King of Rock ‘n’ Roll.

At the center of Baz Luhrmann’s sprawling pop epic “Elvis,” a film as opulent and outsize as the King’s talent and taste, Butler delivers a fully transformed, fully committed and star-making turn as Elvis Presley. The rumors are true: Elvis lives, in Austin Butler.

Swirling around Butler’s bravura performance is a manic, maximalist music biopic, in which Luhrmann locates Elvis as the earth-shaking inflection point between the ancient and the modern, the carnival and the TV screen, a figure of pure spectacle who obliterated the status quo. Luhrmann takes Elvis Presley’s legacy, relegated to a Las Vegas gag, and reminds us just how dangerous, sexy and downright revolutionary he once was. He makes Elvis relevant again.

Butler leaves it all on the screen embodying the raw, unbridled sexual charisma of Elvis onstage. He is jaw-dropping, nearly feral in his portrayal of Elvis’ most memorable musical performances, from his early days to his 1968 comeback special, to his Vegas shows, and Luhrmann shoots and edits these scenes to capture not just Butler’s performance up close, but also the powerful impact Elvis had on his fans.

Written by Luhrmann, Jeremy Doner, Sam Bromell and Craig Pearce, the film crams Elvis’ entire career into two hours and 39 minutes of breathless filmmaking, focusing on the energy and emotional beats of Elvis’ journey, as well as his exploitation at the hands of his manager, Col. Tom Parker (Tom Hanks, heavily made-up in prosthetics). Luhrmann editorializes on top of that, using a heavy hand in the edit to continually remind us of Elvis’

roots and motivations, and the cultural importance of his ground-breaking career. Contemporary music links his performance of Black music to the popularity of modern hip-hop; snippets of Backstreet Boys and Britney Spears hits remind us that Elvis paved the way for teen idols, and that his story is also a cautionary tale.

The first part of the film, focusing on his breakout as a pretty white boy from Memphis who sang the blues, is fast, loose and dynamic, a whirlwind of honky tonks, tent revivals, Beale Street blues and country music shows. The pace is frantic, it can’t sit still, in the same way that Elvis can’t keep still when he’s singing, overcome by the music. Cinematographer Mandy Walker’s camera never stops moving, pulling us into this whirlwind of newfound fame, the wheels of the machine turning faster than Elvis can keep up.

The speed and overstimulation is heady and intoxicating, a stark aesthetic and emotional contrast to the following chapters in Elvis’ career. The Hollywood days are a montage of color and costume, an inauthentic facade, as he sells out to corporations and the bottom line, and in the last section, Elvis is stultified and oppressed, sapped of color and life, isolated in his “golden cage” at the International Hotel in Vegas.

The story is told from the perspective of Col. Parker, a curious choice, though it serves a greater narrative purpose. From his perspective, we understand the spectacle that is Elvis; The Colonel nearly licks his chops at the sight of this newest carnival attraction: a handsome, erotic, racial-boundary-crossing young man with a rough croon and a jet-black forelock who can make teenage girls scream. With visions of merchandise dancing in his head, The Colonel turns Elvis into a global icon, but as “Elvis” argues, at every turn, the Colonel tamed the singer’s unruliness and artfulness, forcing him into cheesy movie



Tom Hanks plays the somewhat villainous Col. Tom Parker, who narrates “Elvis.”

musicals and relentless touring.

He is the architect of Elvis’ downfall, extracting everything he can, clipping his wings, sanding down this culture-shifting force and offering him up as a titillating morsel of entertainment, the soul behind the talent tossed into the money-making machine and ground to dust. The Colonel’s narration and Hanks’ cartoonishly evil performance serve as a signed confession of guilt, as Luhrmann gives us Elvis as a Christlike figure, a sainted martyr of rock ‘n’ roll crucified on the cross of capitalism and greed.

While Butler humanizes him, Luhrmann deifies Elvis, and argues that he possessed far more radical potential, both musically and politically, than he was allowed. His swiveling hips and jiggling knees weren’t just a portent of boy bands and pop icons to come — “Elvis the Pelvis” threatened to usher in the sexual revolution and desegregate the South all at once, ushering rock ‘n’ roll into the mainstream while starting the very first “culture war.”

“Elvis” isn’t just a reinvigoration of the Elvis myth, it’s a resurrection of the King himself. Left the building? Not if Baz Luhrmann has anything to say about it.

“Elvis” is rated PG-13 for substance abuse, strong language, suggestive material and smoking. Running time: 159 minutes. Now playing in select AAFES theaters.



WEEKEND: MOVIE REVIEWS

Old-fashioned horror theme

Ethan Hawke stars as The Grabber in the shockingly violent ‘The Black Phone’ that seems like a throwback to simpler times

By KATIE WALSH  
*Tribune News Service*

There’s been a flood of throwback tween terror on movie screens and streaming services for the past few years: From “Stranger Things” to the newer “It” iterations, it’s been a banner era for floppy-haired pubescents in ringer tees. Scott Derrickson’s “The Black Phone” fits neatly into the subgenre, but this incredibly dark kiddie kidnap horror film just hits different with a hard-R rating, going for the jugular with a surprising extremity of violence, plus a tone that wobbles between the bleak and the buffoonish.

Adapted from a short story by Joe Hill (the son of Stephen King), “The Black Phone” sees “Doctor Strange” director Derrickson reunite with his “Sinister” co-writer C. Robert Cargill, and star Ethan Hawke, under the Blumhouse production banner, known for their low-budget, high-return horror flicks. “Sinister” co-star (and “It Chapter Two” star) James Ransone also joins up with the gang for a film that’s nostalgic not just in setting, but with regard to our fears as well. Perhaps it’s trying to show the dark side of nostalgia —

things weren’t just classic rock tunes and absentee parenting back in the ’70s, there were also real threats, not just supernatural ones.

Mason Thames stars as Finney Blake, a kid just trying to make it through middle school in 1978 Denver. His dad (Jeremy Davies) is a drunk, and the bullies are brutal (the beatdowns on screen are astonishingly bloody). Plus, all of his friends keep disappearing at the hands of a kidnapper known as The Grabber, an amateur magician with a van full of black balloons who leaves one at the scene of each crime. It’s only a matter of time before the vulnerable loner Finney gets snatched too, and considering neighborhood stud Bruce (Tristan Pravong), and tough kid Robin (Miguel Cazarez Mora) didn’t escape The Grabber, Finney figures he’s a goner.

Much of “The Black Phone” takes place in the drab basement where Finney is kept by The Grabber (Hawke), who occasionally shows up to thoroughly creep him out and make vaguely menacing threats. The Grabber’s standout quality is a very good collection of creepy masks. (Halloween will be super nuts this year if this movie takes off.)



Universal Pictures

Ethan Hawke, left, and Mason Thames play the characters who face off at the heart of “The Black Phone.”

On the wall is a black rotary phone with a cut cord, but it keeps ringing, and Finney keeps answering. Through the static, voices come through, and Finney realizes these are the voices of the boys who have disappeared before him, coaching him through this experience, giving him tips and tricks and guidance to survive The Grabber’s clutches — if not for him, for them.

Thames delivers a searingly authentic performance as the young Finney, and when it’s just him alone in the basement with ghosts, “The Black Phone” is at its best: suspenseful, emotional and filled with jump scares. Above ground, things are a bit

shakier, the characters more two-dimensional, the performances much, much bigger. Davies plays the drunk, abusive dad to the hilt, and Madeleine McGraw is a bit over-the-top as Finney’s overly precocious, potty-mouthed psychic sister Gwen. Ransone, as a coke-addled armchair detective, brings a level of humor that is at odds with Finney’s rather heroic journey in the basement.

Desaturated color and grainy, dreamlike sections bring a vintage feel to the film’s style, and even the fear of a child kidnapper feels appropriately retro. But the period setting doesn’t seem to be trying to comment on current

events — it’s almost as if the film is nostalgic for simpler times when the greatest worry for a child was a creepy guy with a van and a sound-proofed basement, not the larger existential threats of climate change and mass shootings.

At least it seems like there’s a way out of The Grabber’s clutches, and the larger message of “The Black Phone” is that of perseverance, standing up to the biggest bully of them all. It’s a positively quaint moral at the center of a shockingly violent and scary movie.

“The Black Phone” is rated R for violence, bloody images, language and some drug use. Running time: 102 minutes. Now playing in select AAFES theaters.

‘Jerry & Marge Go Large’ a funny, low-stakes caper film

By MICHAEL ORDOÑA  
*Los Angeles Times*

“Jerry & Marge Go Large” is a charmer. It’s a low-key, fact-based caper movie that overcomes some broad comedy leanings to settle into the sweet stuff in the soft center. It’s bolstered by a funny script and dependably sharp performances by Bryan Cranston and Annette Bening.

Jerry (Cranston) and Marge Selbee (Bening) live quietly in one of those Michigan factory towns so small, everybody knows each other. It’s an appealing vibe, à la a Midwestern “Doc Hollywood.” Jerry is closing out a respected but unremarkable career to join Marge in retirement. They have friends; their family loves them. But Jerry is restless. He’s no good at this retirement thing, and Marge feels it: “I’ve waited 40 years for it to be just us,” she says, “and we kind of suck at it.”

He has a mathematical gift that has

rarely gained expression beyond making his work as efficient as it could be. His idea of a fun activity when his son was younger was searching through rolls of coins to find rare ones. (His calculations of the odds were right; they made some money, but the boy was bored.) Now there’s little for his active mind to do — until he peruses an odds chart for a local lottery game and discovers a flaw that can be exploited for reliable winnings.

What follows is the joy of math (seriously — an exchange about “binomial distribution” will get some smiles), the joy of newfound purpose and, yes, the joy of a bit of sex.

This is all based on the true story of the Selbees (as reported in a Huffington Post article by Jason Fagone), who racked up eight figures in winnings. Perhaps even more remarkable is where that path takes them — in the movie, anyway.

It’s an uplifting story, though the film-

makers have taken some liberties to make it more so.

Playing Jerry, Cranston’s retirement ennui is relatable and touching. The lively 66-year-old actor undertakes a subtle physical transformation into the older-seeming, humble Jerry. He’s sympathetic without maudlin touches. You see him coming to life as his scheme takes flight.

It takes about 15 minutes to see why Bening took the role. At first, Marge seems a bit generic, the quietly supportive wife. Then the storied actress’ performance takes off as Marge does, as the thrill of the enterprise gets into her blood. From then on, Bening gets most of the laugh lines, and she knows just what to do with them. She knows where to gently squeeze to make Jerry spill the beans: “You’re going to have to tell me what’s going on. I’m too old to wait it out.” Later, her pupils practically dilate as she incorporates gambling lingo into her excited endorsement of the scheme.

The rest of the cast is well-selected, with Larry Wilmore (“The Nightly Show”) amusing as the couple’s lonely friend and accountant and Rainn Wilson (“The Office”) riding high in a free-wheeling role as their eventual partner.

The scheme and how it plays out get the headline. But what buoys the film is the rekindling of Jerry and Marge’s romance and discovery of their spark.

The direction by David Frankel (“The Devil Wears Prada”) skews broad, especially in the “this part is funny” score deployment and a couple of out-of-place physical gags. But that’s overcome by the central performances and a quite-funny script by Brad Copeland (“Arrested Development”). Though he works in some good gags, he doesn’t let the jokes get in the way of the story. Because, in this case, the story is enough.

“Jerry & Marge Go Large” is rated PG-13 for some language and suggestive references. Running time: 96 minutes. Now streaming on Paramount+.



## WEEKEND: MOVIES

# Playing the odds for a big payout

‘Jerry & Marge Go Large’ tells the story of retired couple who figured out how to beat lottery

By JOSH ROTTENBERG

*Los Angeles Times*

**S**ome people spend their whole lives fantasizing about winning the lottery. Jerry Selbee figured out how to actually do it in less time than it takes to make a cup of coffee.

In 2003, Selbee had recently retired and settled down with his wife, Marge, in the sleepy, one-stoplight town of Evart, Mich. (population 1,900) when one morning he came across a brochure in a convenience store for a state lottery game called Winfall. Reading the fine print, Selbee — a math whiz who had spent much of his career as a materials analyst at a Kellogg’s cereal factory — quickly realized that the lottery had a mathematical flaw that would mean guaranteed winnings if he bought enough tickets.

“I looked at the odds, I looked at what the payoff would be and I did a risk-reward analysis,” the plain-spoken, pragmatic Selbee, who is now in his 80s, says by phone from his Michigan home. “It took me less than two minutes to figure out that that game could be profitable.”

After Jerry tested out his theory, winning nearly \$16,000, he and Marge began to spend countless hours buying and poring over thousands of tickets in the Winfall game and, later, a similarly structured lottery in Massachusetts. As their winnings started to accumulate, they set up a corporation called GS Investment Strategies LLC and invited a couple dozen family members and friends in Evart to join. By the time both lotteries had been shut down in 2012, the Selbees and their partners had grossed more than \$26 million from the venture.

Then life for the Selbees grew quiet again, just the way they like it. Until Hollywood came calling.

The Selbees’ story, as chronicled in a 2018 Huffington Post article by Jason Fagone, has become the inspiration for the new movie “Jerry & Marge Go Large,” now streaming on Paramount+. Oscar nominees Bryan Cranston and Annette Bening star as the couple in the gently comic feel-good film, which is intended to provide a soothing, cynicism-free balm for audiences in these troubled times.

“‘Jerry & Marge Go Large’ is not a story that is going to change anyone’s life, but you know what? It could change your day,” Cranston says. “Coming out of COVID, it feels like the time is right for this. We need a little breath-mint kind of entertainment just to feel better and connect again.”

For Hollywood, a heartwarming, too-good-to-be-true story that happens to be true can be as precious as a winning lottery ticket. After the publication of the Huffington Post article, the Selbees’ story quickly became a hot commodity, with at least 17 bidders vying for the rights.

“It just exploded,” says “Jerry & Marge” screenwriter Brad Copeland, who set about chasing the rights with “The Blind Side” producer Gil Netter. “There were different directors, there was Scarlett Johansson calling the family — there was a lot of interest because it is a great story.”

Reading Copeland’s script amid the grim headlines of 2020, director David Frankel, whose credits include “The Devil Wears Prada” and “Marley & Me,” immediately sparked to it. What the story might have lacked in thrills — no FBI agents kicking down doors, no over-the-top greed and extravagance a la “The Wolf of Wall Street” — it more than made up for in homespun charm. (The film does take a few small liberties with the real story, shifting the action to the present and amping up the conflict between the Selbees and a group of college students who also discovered the lottery’s loophole.)

“The idea of two people over 60 finding a new adventure that reinvigorated their romance and their town



Paramount+

Annette Bening, left, as Marge Selbee and Bryan Cranston as Jerry Selbee in “Jerry & Marge Go Large.”

seemed like the perfect antidote to the pandemic,” Frankel says. “That earnestness was important. They’re making money, which in many other contexts is the root of all evil. But here, it’s doing a lot of good.”

After spending a few days with the Selbees before shooting began, Cranston and Bening were even more determined to do justice to their salt-of-the-earth values and more than 60-year marriage.

“Marge didn’t have stars in her eyes or anything, which

**“‘Jerry & Marge Go Large’ is not a story that is going to change anyone’s life, but you know what? It could change your day. Coming out of COVID, it feels like the time is right for this. We need a little breath-mint kind of entertainment just to feel better and connect again.”**

Bryan Cranston

Jerry Selbee in “Jerry & Marge Go Large”

I just loved about her,” Bening says. “She’s tough — she raised six kids and her family called her Marge the Sarge. But with Jerry there’s a little twinkle there, and she genuinely enjoyed their adventure.”

For Cranston, Selbee represented the moral antithesis of his turn as drug kingpin Walter White in “Breaking Bad,” who employed a similarly exacting intellect to become a criminal mastermind.

“When you’re doing research like this, you just want to be open to receiving the essence of people that you’re looking at,” Cranston says. “There was a lot of time when

we were just sitting with Jerry and Marge on the back porch rocking away or going for a drive or having a meal with them somewhere. It was just really sweet.”

Sweet as they may be, folksy Midwestern retirees are not generally considered the sexiest subject matter for Hollywood — or the most desirable moviegoing demo. Going against that youth-obsessed grain, “Jerry & Marge” is directly pitched at a segment of the public that the industry often neglects. The film is the fledgling release from producer Amy Baer’s Landline Pictures, a label that launched last year under independent studio MRC Film to develop film and TV projects for an over-50 audience.

“It keeps happening over and over that people don’t realize this audience exists and goes to the movies or watches them on streaming,” Copeland says. “The first movie I wrote was [the 2007 comedy] ‘Wild Hogs,’ which was about a bunch of 60-year-old guys on Harley-Davidsons. People weren’t sure there was any audience for it, and then the movie came out and made hundreds of millions of dollars. Everyone went, ‘Oh there’s a huge audience for this!’ Then they just forgot.”

For the Selbees, whose town doesn’t have a movie theater, seeing their story turned into a film has been hard to wrap their heads around.

“We’re just a retired couple living in northern Michigan with nothing special about us,” says Jerry, who knew Cranston from the sitcom “Malcolm in the Middle” but wasn’t familiar with Bening’s work. “Marge would rather not be in the public too much. I don’t mind it myself, but she is far more reserved about that.”

For the Selbees, who kept careful records of everything they did for the IRS and never broke a single law, exploiting a loophole in the lottery was never about getting famous — or even about getting rich. As the winnings piled up, Jerry bought a new truck and a camping trailer. The couple renovated their home and helped put money toward their grandchildren’s and great-grandchildren’s educations. But there were no fancy sports cars, no new hot tub, no lavish vacations.

“It really did not affect our lives in any way other than give us more financial security for our future,” Jerry says. “Other members [of the corporation] bought a time-share or took cruises. Marge and I didn’t do any of that. We just enjoyed life as it was.”



## WEEKEND: TRAVEL

## Munich, where thirst feels worse than homesickness

Heading for the Hofbräuhaus in Munich, I mention to my Bavarian friend, Friedrich, that I'd love to give this venerable beer hall some significance in my guidebook description. Unconvinced that "significance" is worth seeking at a beer hall, he quotes Freud: "Sometimes a cigar is just a cigar." Stepping through its stubby stone arcade, we wade through the commotion of a thousand people — eating, drinking, yelling and laughing — to the center of the cavernous hall.

The smoke-stained ceiling painting, repaired after World War II bomb damage, is an evocative mesh of 1950s German mod: Bavarian colors and old-time food, drink and music. A slogan written across the ceiling above the oompah band reads, *Durst ist schlimmer als Heimweh* ("Thirst is worse than homesickness"). Friedrich explains: "Drink a beer, and you worry no more."

Many of my most vivid, if still a bit fuzzy, Munich memories are set in beer halls. Locals always

seem up for a visit. And for traditional Bavarian fun, nothing beats this scene, complete with rivers of beer, cheap food, noisy fun and oompah music.



Rick Steves

The music is loud. The musicians' shiny lederhosen accentuate huge bellies, which in turn accentuate bird-like legs. With knowing smirks, they conduct a musical liturgy from the stage. The boisterous crowd rises to its feet in well-practiced unison for the beer hall anthem, "Eins, zwei, zuffa." ("One, two, drink.") This is followed by a ritual of clinking and drinking. The hefty glass mugs clink solidly, encouraging that very Teutonic sport of toasting.

Friedrich and I settle in at a long table and survey the chaos. Apart from the "under 35" party tour groups, it's a three-generations-together scene. Kids build houses out of beer coasters while moms sip Radlers (a mix of beer and sparkling lemonade), and

old-timers sport felt hats festooned with pins and feathers. Beer bellies, framed by leather lederhosen straps, seem to brag of a life joyfully lived.

Beer halls always seem filled with slice-of-life scenes. I notice one guy trying doggedly to hold his head up. His neighbor peers down at his spiral-carved radish as if he dropped a thought into it. Another man really seems to believe that the band is following his dramatic conducting.

When I ask Friedrich if they sell half-liters here, he says, "This is a Biergarten, not a kindergarten." Soon a busy beer maid brings us each the standard full Mass, or liter glass (about a quart, nearly what we'd call "ein pitcher"). She scurries between tables, plopping down dinners and garnishing them with mustard packets pulled from her cleavage. I look over at Friedrich. Finishing a giant swig from his giant beer and licking the foam from his upper lip, he says, "Only in Bavaria."

Beer halls are craziest during Oktoberfest, but you can dance to raucous bands, munch massive



DOMINIC ARIZONA BONUCCELLI/Rick Steves' Europe

In Bavaria, beer tastes better if you're wearing lederhosen.

pretzels and hone your stein-hoisting skills any time of year. Munich has half a dozen beer gardens and beer halls — each featuring the lager of a local brewery and each with its own committed following. I enjoy an arrival ritual of always taking a slow exploratory stroll of any new beer hall or garden. You'll find children's play areas, band stands, racks of personal mugs for regulars, a peek into the bustling kitchen and historic posters and photos on the walls.

Watching the legions of happy beer-drinkers, it occurs to me that, unlike with wine, more

money doesn't get you a better beer. Beer is truly a people's drink — and you'll get the very best here in Munich. Each connoisseur has a favorite brew and doesn't have to pay more to get it — they simply go to the beer hall that serves it.

Spend an evening clinking mugs at a beer hall with new friends, immersed in a boisterous and belching Bavarian atmosphere. The warm, frothy memories are yours for the taking.

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.

## These European festivals, events put children first

School's out for the summer! The closing of the books on another academic year gives us ample reason to celebrate. A variety of festivals and events in which children feature front and center, and their need to play in order to learn and grow is nurtured, go far to reassure us that society's youngest members are seen and heard in many parts of Europe.



Karen Bradbury

## Austria

**Stadt der Kinder, Bregenz:** This pretty town on Lake Constance encourages younger children to let loose their inner pirate or princess with activities laid out at six stations in the town's core. Things to do on July 2 might include creating massive soap bubbles, having one's face painted or learning a new trick or two. Entry is free. Online: [tinyurl.com/2p8uufam](http://tinyurl.com/2p8uufam)

## Germany

**Stuttgarter Kinder und Familien Festival, Stuttgart:** One of Germany's best and largest festivals aimed at children plays out across the Schlossplatz, Eckensee and Königstrasse. The town's clubs and institutions set up hundreds of activity stations centered around the themes of sport, science and technology, games, healthy eating, action and adventure and creativity. Things to do June 25-26 might include taking a lesson in Taekwondo, learning about recycling, preparing something simple to eat or making a pretty floral wreath. Entry is free. Online: [kinder-und-jugendfestival.de](http://kinder-und-jugendfestival.de)

**Kinderzeche, Dinkelsbühl:** This delightful Franconian town is considered one of the pearls along the touristic route known as the Romantic Road. Each July, many children get busy with the reenactment of an event that makes up an integral part of their town's history.

In 1632, Swedish troops laid siege to the town as part of



iStock

Face painting is a popular and common activity at children's festivals across Europe.

the 30 Years' War. According to popular legend, a group of children approached the Swedish commander with a plea to spare their hometown. He acquiesced, and since 1897, Dinkelsbühl has been recalling this act of mercy by means of a festival play.

The Kinderzeche festival play runs July 15-22. Entry to the festival grounds costs 6 euros; tickets to the performances cost 9 or 13 euros and can be reserved in advance through the town's tourist office.

The event marks its 125th anniversary in 2022 with additional activities, including a photo exhibition of the play throughout the years at the Spitalhof July 29-Sept. 11 and an evening of food and drink at the temporarily erected Swedish Camp on July 23. Online: [kinderzeche.de](http://kinderzeche.de)

**Kinderfest, Memmingen:** As part of a tradition that dates back over 440 years, the town's schoolchildren are feted on the second Thursday before the start of their summer vacations with parades and various traditional activities. Two days after the July 21 Kinderfest, the

town's residents celebrate "Fischertag" by hauling out their nets in hopes of catching the largest trout and being crowned king of the day. The July 23 event is accompanied by numerous other traditional activities. Online: [memmingen.de](http://memmingen.de)

**Lindauer Kinderfest, Lindau:** On July 27, this festival will reward the town's schoolchildren for their hard work during the academic year. Events in this town alongside Lake Constance kick off at 6 a.m., when festively dressed children cross the pier leading to the city's island. Drummers, minstrels, flags and wreaths of flowers add to the scene upon the Bismarckplatz. In the afternoon, the children return to the sections of town in which they reside for more games and festivities. Entry is free. Online: [tinyurl.com/2p8uxa8p](http://tinyurl.com/2p8uxa8p)

**Leipziger Kinderfestival:** For two days, Augustusplatz becomes a massive playground with about 80 possible activities. From climbing over boxes to experiencing a roller coaster ride in virtual reality, the Aug. 27-28 event will offer fun for all ages. Entry is free. Online: [leipziger-kinderfestival.de](http://leipziger-kinderfestival.de)

**Trier spielt, Trier:** What's arguably Germany's oldest city hosts its annual one-day fest for kids on Sept. 10. Hands-on stations will be set up throughout the city. Admission is free. Online: [treffpunkt-trier.de](http://treffpunkt-trier.de)

## Italy

**Tocati, Verona:** The beloved festival whose name translates roughly to "you're it!" makes its post-pandemic comeback on Sept. 15-18. From Friday to Sunday, traffic will be sealed off to create a vast playground in which children can take part in traditional street games or activities such as shooting a slingshot or playing "s-cianco," a forerunner to baseball. Each year sees a new country participate as an invited guest to introduce its own traditional games, adding an international element to the scene. Online: [tocati.it](http://tocati.it)



## WEEKEND: TRAVEL

# Alps, spas, art and chocolate

From sweet treats to spectacular views, Switzerland will put a smile on your face

BY CAROL ANN DAVIDSON  
Tribune News Service

A few weeks before Swiss Air flew me to Zurich, I read that Switzerland had been anointed “fourth happiest country in the world” by the World Happiness Report. That, and two clever and humorous Switzerland Tourism videos featuring Swiss-born tennis legend Roger Federer, contributed to my decision to spend 10 days there this past May.

The fact that the Swiss are, per capita, the largest consumers of chocolate in the world, at just under 20 pounds per year, certainly helps to generate a lot of happiness — dark chocolate releases the same chemical as does the brain in inducing feelings of love.

Well, I ate a great deal of Swiss chocolate — in no particular order of preference, Lindt, Maison Cailler, Sprungli, Laderach and Oro — and fell in love with Switzerland.

With my first-class Swiss Travel Pass embedded in my cell phone, I embarked on the Grand Train Tour that ferried me to four distinctly different cantons of the 26 that make up the member states of the Swiss Confederation.

Switzerland is an amalgam of four official languages and cultures: French, German, Italian and Romansh. Despite benign rivalry among them, the country works harmoniously. The people are united by the indisputable beauty of the country’s geography as well as the high standard of living and the quality of their famous products.

I arrived in Zurich at the crack of dawn, checked into the modern, vibrant Ameron Hotel overlooking Lake Zurich and walked out to my balcony for my first, truly stunning view of the lake with the Alps in high relief in the distance. Even at that hour swimmers and boaters braced the cool lake, while walkers and bikers paraded along the promenade.

Ameron is centrally located; a short walk from the hotel and you’re at the Opera House and Circus. Then you can go up a winding street to the Kunsthau Zurich, where about 1,000 artworks, of their 40,000, are on permanent display. One gallery is filled with Alberto Giacometti’s black, elongated sculptures.

Zurich existed as a small settlement before the Romans came in the 3rd century B.C. Their invaders called it Turicum. Three riverboats named Regula, Felix and Turicum ply the waters daily, a reminder of its ancient history. Great stone houses, whose foundations were built in the 13th century, and winding cobbled streets characterize the old part of the city. Stroll-

ing along, I couldn’t resist browsing in many of the unique artisanal shops. OK, I also purchased a few things: irresistible chocolates and dried fruits at the venerable Schwarzenbach shop and a petite smoked salmon sandwich at Confiserie Honold, established in 1905. For a panoramic view of the lake and the Alps, the vast terrace of Lindenhof is a perfect perch on which to picnic.

On the opposite side of the lake, in Zurich West, a trendy area has taken over older industrial buildings, creating an atmosphere of relaxed bohemianism where local galleries and designers have brought renewed life to the area.

That afternoon, I was off to Lindt Home of Chocolate, a 30-minute boat ride to Kilchberg. Even if you don’t like chocolate, the building itself is an architectural marvel, designed by the Basel-based architects Christ & Gantenbein, a confection of gleaming white concrete with a swirling, conch shell-shaped staircase and massive circular windows. Rising almost 30 feet into the middle of this airy and light-filled space is a chocolate fountain. Honest-to-goodness chocolate streams down from a huge golden whisk. I could have happily bathed in it.

On the upper level, an imaginative interactive multimedia exhibition housed the history of chocolate and showcased Swiss Chocolate Pioneers. Enormous multicolored treat dispensaries filled our eager hands with a vast variety of Lindt treats. Another layer of sweetness was added when I, and a small group, created our own chocolate under the strict ministrations of the Master Chocolatier in the Chocateria. Two lollipops and one custom dark chocolate bar were my proud issue.

The ground floor offers the Lindt Cafe and the largest Lindt chocolate shop in the world. To say the least, my load was heavier on the ferry ride back to Zurich. Who could resist yet more chocolate to take home?

Next stop on my Grand Train journey was Lucerne, or Luzern. Although only 41 minutes away, it seemed as if I had entered a completely different world. The city slopes from the high forests down to Lucerne Lake. With the snow-capped Alps in the distance, the city’s emblematic Mount Pilatus stands sentinel as if it left its Alpine buddies just to make a more accessible hiking experience for the citizens and tourists. I marveled at the outstanding architecture both old and new, from the 19th century entrance of the Railway Station to the turn-of-the-17th-century Rathaus, Town Hall. The city felt like a living museum.



CAROL ANN DAVIDSON/TNS

**There’s a huge chocolate fountain at Lindt Home of Chocolate in Kilchberg, Switzerland.**

Straddling the Ruess River is Chapel Bridge, the oldest covered bridge in Europe, dated 1333. The distinctive water tower, also built around 1300, was once a prison and torture chamber. Speaking of torture, the History Museum houses the very same guillotine whose menacing blade beheaded the last criminal in Switzerland to die in this manner in 1940.

On a lighter note, I was thrilled to have a private tour of the modern KKL Luzern, a culture and conference center whose massive cantilevered roof extends toward the lake. The world-renowned Concert Hall is a work of art created by celebrated French architect Jean Nouvel and equally revered American acoustician Russell Johnson. Besides being beautiful to behold, the intricate system of opening and closing a series of motorized concrete doors on each side of the shoebox-shaped hall creates optimal acoustic reverberations for both large ensembles and more intimate performances. The superb Kunstmuseum, in the same complex, showcased contemporary European artists, each creating a visual representation of his or her personal universe.

A lake boat whisked me away from the

busy but fulfilling day in Lucerne to a sanctuary of incomparable serenity and beauty at the five-star Park Hotel Vitznau, situated between the lake and the Rigi Mountains. Its storied history, dating to the 19th century, includes a roll call of the rich, famous and throned, from Queen Victoria to Bela Bartok to Meryl Streep. The masterwork of renovation completed in 2013 draws you into the lobby with an unobstructed view of the crystal-clear lake and white clouds lounging over the Henry Moore-shaped mountains in the near distance. The original facade of stonework and turrets are in bold contrast to the light-filled modern interior. Even the shaft of the glass elevator is artfully playful with its murals of lakeside activities.

Three different balconies of my incredible suite beckoned me to rest and dream. Quiet is the sound most respected at Park Hotel Vitznau, other than the echoed tolling of church bells from the nearby village.

After a restorative session in the infinity pool that seemed to stretch across the lake to the very edge of the mountains, I lounged in the adjacent spa area where

**SEE SWITZERLAND ON PAGE 21**



# WEEKEND: TRAVEL

## Switzerland: The chocolate is reason enough for a visit

FROM PAGE 20

young swimmers were gliding along in an aquarium stretching the entire length of a wall.

The wine cellar, suitable for Dionysius, filled the crystal glasses of Michelin Star restaurant and the Lakeside Grill, where I had breakfast just after sunrise and dinner as the sun made its dramatic exit.

And so, too early, did I. Leaving this idyllic setting was difficult, but I went straight up a vertiginous funicular climb to Burgenstock, a nearby mountain 3,652 feet above sea level with stunning panoramic views of Lucerne and its surroundings. The mountain village has three hotels, stand-alone restaurants, private residences, a nine-hole golf course and tennis courts, trendy shops and even a medical center — it’s like a modern-day Machu Picchu without the llamas. Audrey Hepburn and Mel Ferrer were married in a chapel here in 1954, and Sofia Loren’s modern home is now the site of the restaurant Sharq. Photos of that era abound in the current star of the mountain top, the five-star Burgenstock Hotel and Alpine Spa.

With only a few hours there, it was suggested I explore the massive, 107,639-square-foot spa (no exaggeration!). My second favorite experience there was being immersed in the warm salt water of the darkened serenity room. Even better than that was swimming to the edge of the cantilevered, heated infinity pool that seemed to dangle precipitously over the mountainside with a view of belled cows on green carpets of grass, Lucerne and those marvelous snow-capped Alps.

Although I didn’t stay overnight, the front desk allowed me to peek at one of the suites with the stand-alone bathtub next to the fireplace and adjacent to the floor-to-ceiling windows. Next time, perhaps.

The only time it rained during my trip was during the 2½-hour train ride from Lucerne to Vevey in the canton of Vaud. The dark cloudscape and rain-smudged windows created a romantic picture as the scenery whizzed by.

The sun returned to its full splendor as I arrived at the Grand Hotel du Lac. It is one of those gracious, quietly luxurious hotels with such character and relaxed old world charm that, in every way, creates a welcoming, homey ambiance. Coincidentally, my room was next to 307 where the fictional character Edith Hope vacationed in Anita Brookner’s Booker Award-winning “Hotel du Lac,” the book I

was reading at the time. Like Edith’s, my room opened up to two petite balconies facing Lake Geneva and mountainscapes.

The service in the plant-infused dining room or in the adjacent garden was impeccable. Servers proudly presented the most exquisitely plated and innovative culinary choices. Indulge me in but one: elderflower-flavored whisked egg whites with rhubarb poached Valais raspberries and white beer ice cream!

After strolling along the lake-side promenade adjacent to the hotel, I spotted a statue of Charlie Chaplin near the food museum, Musee de l’alimentation. Chaplin, an honored resident of Vevey, lived on an estate now maintained as the Charlie Chaplin Museum. Dazzling in its embrace of his genius, the museum includes rooms that pay homage to various aspects of his life, from his family of eight with wife Oona O’Neill Chaplin, to Madame Tussauds-like wax figures, to viewings of his immortal films such as the heartbreaking “The Kid.” At the museum store next door, all things Chaplin were on sale including replicas of his iconic bowler hat and cane. I purchased a CD set of the film music he composed himself.

Not far from Vevey is Tolochenaz, the village where Hepburn created her peaceful home, La Paisible, and where, in 1963, at age 63, she died. With her dear friend Pierluigi Orunesco, I visited her modest gravesite in a tiny cemetery surrounded by fields filled with flowers. She adored her village and the village loved her, as was evident by the homage paid to her in a square dedicated to this incomparable woman — a bust of the actress takes center stage and a street is named in her honor. Because Pierluigi grew up in La Paisible and refers to Hepburn as his “second mom,” the villagers came out to greet him and to reminisce about their beloved Audrey. A short walk away from the square is her estate, which is privately owned.

The next morning, off to Montreux, home to the summer Jazz Festival and site of Queen’s beloved music studio. My mission, however, was otherwise; the 1930’s style Belle-Epoque Train, also known as the Chocolate Train, awaited to transport its guests on their way to savor the cheese in La Maison du Gruyere and taste the chocolate at Maison Cailler in Broc. Through a charming audio tour, a talking cow narrated the story of cheese production from the grass she grazed on to the finished product. While at Cailler, the story of



PHOTOS BY CAROL ANN DAVIDSON/TNS

**View from the pool at Park Hotel Vitznau. Dating to the 19th century, the history of the hotel includes a roll call of the rich, famous and throned, from Queen Victoria to Bela Bartok to Meryl Streep.**

chocolate was told throughout several rooms, each creating a different lifelike experience as the history of chocolate unfolded. Again, a tasting provided the grand finale.

As if that were not enough, I indulged in a traditional cheese fondue at the Chalet restaurant in the delightful village of Gruyere. The town boasts a medieval castle and two rather unusual museums: the spellbinding Tibet Museum, and Museum HR Giger, home of the macabre art created by the Swiss artist.

Another grand finale awaited in the city of Basel, a gem bracketing the Rhine River and bordering Germany and France. Basel’s population is 175,000, and its museums number 40. They include architect Renzo Piano’s gorgeous art museum and the Foundation Beyeler and Frank Gehry’s Vitra Design Museum, one of the world’s leading museums of industrial design and architecture.

This bountiful modernity harmonizes seamlessly with architectural diversity of the old town or Altstadt, an engagingly walkable area both quaint and cosmopolitan with its shops and cafes, world-class opera house and concert hall. Nourishing my aesthetic demands led to satisfying my taste buds. Enter Jakob’s Basler-Leckerly’s historic cookie company, the oldest in Switzerland. Four varieties of ginger cookies based on recipes from three centuries are the pride of Basel and cannot be purchased outside of Switzerland. Pity. So, I purchased far more than I could eat, to take home. Subtle flavors, soft and chewy at the same time. A Proustian memory.

Finally I came to my last home away from home. What can I say



**The suite at Grand Hotel Les Trois Rois, one of the oldest hotels in Europe, in Basel, Switzerland, had a majestic view of the Rhine.**

about Grand Hotel Les Trois Rois that hasn’t already been written about in superlatives? It is one of the oldest city hotels in Europe (dating to the 17th century) renovated to perfection and carrying an atmosphere of grace and grandeur. On arrival I was presented with a single rose, a foreshadowing of a most exquisite selection of flowers in my suite — fit for a queen, let alone Three Kings, overlooking the fast-flowing, busy Rhine River.

My last two nights in Switzerland presented two different

but equally enjoyable dining experiences. The first was at Le Rhin Bleu. A friend and I boarded a Rhine ferry to reach this outdoor Mediterranean restaurant perched high above the river and offering excellent seafood and superb views. The next restaurant was the art-filled Trois Rois Brasserie, with its classic Swiss and French cuisine.

The next morning I flew home to Canada, which ranks as the 10th happiest country, but cherishing the happiest of 10 days in the fourth.



WEEKEND: QUICK TRIPS

Sitting in quiet contemplation

Discover the thousand faces of Buddha at a meditative Moselle village museum

By Alexander Riedel  
Stars and Stripes

Sitting cross-legged in meditation with a serene smile, the Buddha is one of the most recognizable figures in the world.

But one doesn't have to travel the banks of the Ganges River to dive into the Siddhartha story. Traben-Trarbach, a small wine-producing village along another river, is awash in fulfillment thanks to the Buddha Museum.

After learning about the museum, I was intrigued. Having visited temple sites in China, Japan and Vietnam, I wondered how impressive a Buddha attraction in Germany could really be. Turns out I was in for a surprise.

The museum is in a castle-like building at the edge of the tranquil town on the Moselle. As one might more readily expect from its surroundings, the building was once a winery, a thought-provoking home for an ascetic sage, I mused.

In the main exhibit room, Buddha statues, pictures and pagodas from around the globe stretch across 43,000 square feet of exhibition floors as calming monk chants play softly from the speakers.

The museum offers more than 2,400 statues, sculptures and pieces of art depicting the three main Buddhist branches: Theravada, Mahayana and Vajrayana. The items come from China, Japan and elsewhere in South-east Asia.

Much as is the case with Jesus, nobody really knows what Siddhartha really looked like. The first renderings of him, the museum reminds visitors, were created 500 years after his death.

What is striking, however, is the large variety in size, color and design features artists chose in their renderings of this iconic figure through the ages.

The oldest displays on site are exhibits of four Gandhara Buddhas, from the border region of what today are Afghanistan and Pakistan. It was where artists first created statues of the Buddha in human form, in a mix of Hellenic and Eastern style elements.

The museum does a good job explaining the stylistic features. Every hand gesture, or mudra, has a deeper meaning, for instance. Some symbolize fearless-

On the QT

**Address:** Bruno Moehring Platz 1, Traben-Trarbach, Germany  
**Hours:** During summer, Tuesday through Sunday, 10 a.m.-6 p.m., except on German holidays. Closed on Mondays.  
**Cost:** Admission is 15 euros for adults, 7.50 euros for children 6-14, 8 euros for students with identification and 13 euros per person for groups of 10 or more. Guided tours in English are available by appointment for groups of 10 or more for an additional fee of 5 euros per person.  
**Information:** Email [info@buddha-museum.de](mailto:info@buddha-museum.de) or call +49 (0) 6541-816-5180. While currently down for maintenance and redesign, the museum website is [buddha-museum.de](http://buddha-museum.de)

Alexander Riedel

ness, while others stand for wisdom or the moment of enlightenment.

One of the standout exhibits is what the museum bills as the world's smallest Buddha statue. It's as tall as a matchhead and made it into the Guinness Book of World Records, according to museum staff.

One character visitors will not find among the exhibits is the grinning, rotund personage seen in restaurants and on T-shirts. A museum display explains that this isn't actually a Buddha, even if many people mistake him for one.

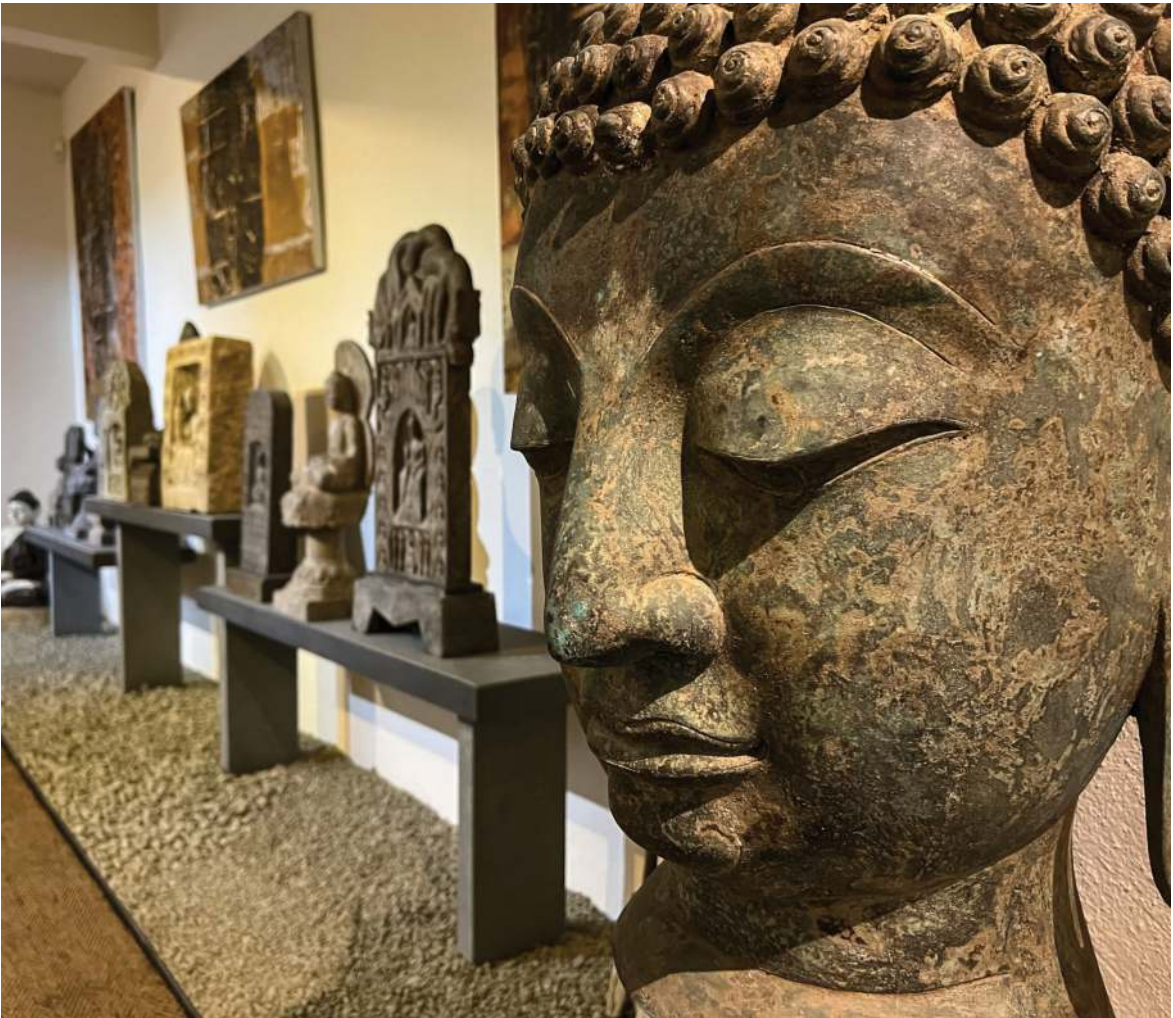
He was a Buddhist monk and is called Budai in China and Hotei in Japan. Depending on the legend, he wandered around with a cotton sack collecting and removing ailments or bringing joy and good fortune.

For those inspired by their surroundings, the museum features a small nook set aside as a meditation room, where visitors can test their lotus position abilities and practice meditation.

As a final treat, my wife and I climbed a narrow set of stairs to arrive on the rooftop garden, complete with fountain, outdoor seating and yes, even more meditating Buddhas. The open space offers further relaxation along with views of the winding Moselle River and surrounding town.

Founded in 2009 by husband-and-wife team Brigitte and Wolfgang Preuss, the museum grew from a personal collection to the vast display today.

Casual visitors may be overwhelmed by the single-minded



PHOTOS BY ALEXANDER RIEDEL/Stars and Stripes

A Buddha bust in the basement at the Buddha Museum in Traben-Trarbach, Germany. The large open basement offers Buddha steles and statues from Thailand, Cambodia, China and Japan and shows off the building's wine-cellar origins, with large intake spouts once used for wine production still visible.



A Buddha sculpture from Gandhara, today's border region between Pakistan and Afghanistan, on display at the Buddha Museum.

concentration on a lone subject. My wife and I, however, enjoyed the peacefulness and spent nearly three hours there.

We concluded our visit with a pick-me-up at the nearby Namaste Shiva restaurant, which offers affordable vegetarian treats from the Buddha's home of India.

Adherents of Buddhism believe that Siddhartha achieved what was considered unattainable: a way of life that fosters calmness and freedom from suffering. In Traben-Trarbach, some of that tranquility rubbed off on us.

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Hundreds of Buddhas of all sizes from Southeast Asia are on display in the main exhibition hall at the Buddha Museum.



The world's smallest Buddha figure, according to the Guinness Book of World Records, on display at the Buddha Museum. The tiny seated Buddha is about the size of a large kernel of rice.



# WEEKEND: FOOD & DINING

## A meal that's full of dramatic flair

The sushi burrito is 'Insta-ready' at Viet Phap in Ramstein-Miesenbach

By J.P. LAWRENCE  
Stars and Stripes

**S**ushi burrito. Those two words sold me on a visit to Viet Phap.

For years, I had been dreaming of a burrito filled with tasty fish and well-vinegared sushi rice. Now the dream was a reality, courtesy of Germany.

The restaurant offers an eclectic assortment including sushi in burrito, bowl and regular forms as well as Vietnamese specialties and European steakhouse fare.

The eatery is next to the Broadway Kino movie theater and the McDonald's in Ramstein-Miesenbach, within walking distance of the train station in Landstuhl.

Viet Phap's burritos are about the same size as those found at



**AFTER  
HOURS  
GERMANY**

places like Chipotle or Qdoba.

The nori seaweed wrappers contain rice, lettuce and fillings such as raw tuna or salmon. One version, the California burrito, had imitation crab meat, corn and avocado.

The results were delicious, although I wished, as I often do after eating sushi, that there had been more fish.

After the sushi burrito, I sampled other items from the menu, a tome so voluminous that one could get lost flipping through the many pages. My dining part-



J.P. LAWRENCE/Stars and Stripes

The sushi burritos at Viet Phap, a restaurant in Ramstein-Miesenbach, arrive in a haze due to the dramatic effects of dry ice.

ner and I pointed out locations in the menu, like tourists navigating a map of a new place.

I ordered a sushi bowl, which had cubes of tuna sashimi, draped in mayonnaise, on top of delicious rice and greens. The lettuce in my sushi bowl, however, was a bit pale and reddish on the edges.

The pho bo proved hearty, and the broth was flavorful. But I wished there were more types of pho to choose from, like tendons or tripe.

The Thai basil lemonade

proved refreshing. It has cranberry juice, lime juice, cane sugar and basil leaves. But it wasn't too sweet.

Viet Phap also has alcoholic drinks, with wine, cocktails, beers and shots.

The owner was friendly, as were the staff. He told me that delivery to Ramstein Air Base locations is available, but only when the restaurant is not busy. The preferred method for eating at home is calling ahead and picking up the order, which I saw a few people do during my meal.

### Viet Phap

**Location:** Bruchwiesenstrasse 17, Ramstein-Miesenbach. The most popular parking is along the street.  
**Hours:** Monday through Friday, lunch is 11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m., and dinner is 4:30 p.m. to 10 p.m. Weekend hours are noon to 10 p.m.

**Cost:** Main dishes range from 10 euros for a sushi combo or a bowl, up to 35 euros for steak dinners and sashimi platters. Appetizers, salads, desserts, drinks and small orders of sushi are around 3 to 4 euros.

**Information:** Email: hello.vietphaprestaurant@gmail.com; Phone: 06371-918-8155. Online: vietphap-restaurant.de

J. P. Lawrence

The restaurant's interior looked modern and sleek, with long benches for big groups. A few of the tables were filled with families, although there were also a few Americans who seemed to be on dates.

Viet Phap's food also comes with a bit of dramatic flair. When my order arrived, the waiter poured water into a cup of dry ice, to summon tendrils of photogenic fog.

You can't eat fog, of course. But the dramatic smoky effect made for a good photo for social media.

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# WEEKEND: QUICK TRIPS



PHOTOS BY DENISSE RAUDA/Stars and Stripes

Converted railroad cars provide comfortable rooms, and provide a great escape from the summertime heat, at the Earth Hostel along the Kuro River near Nikko, Japan.

## A cool destination for a summer getaway

### Riverside rail cars offer escape from the heat at the Earth Hostel in Nikko

BY CHRISSY YATES  
*Stars and Stripes*

The temperatures are rising in the Tokyo area so if you're looking to escape, try cooling off at Nikko in the mountains north of the metropolis.

But get beyond the shrines and temples and enjoy the region's natural beauty along the relaxing Kuro River.

I'm a gl camper, not a camper, so I recommend the Earth Hostel, specifically the old railroad cars converted to cozy private rooms. Our group picked the hostel for a weekend celebration of a friend's birthday. Reluctant at first to stay somewhere akin to roughing it, I was happy to find that each railroad car is outfitted with plumbing that takes the edge off the outdoors.

The railroad car rooms — there are two available — lack air conditioning but do have fans to circulate the cool evening air. Each room was also equipped with heaters for use in spring or fall.

To get clean you'll find two shower areas in the former onsen of the main guesthouse. Inside, there's a river view, and high ceilings with acoustics that are shower tune-friendly.

The main guesthouse has a spacious upstairs lounge and three rooms that can accommodate up to eight guests.

The owner and groundskeeper, Scout, is very hospitable and speaks fluent English. He introduced us to some of the flora and fauna (such as a praying mantis that was creeping around) and knew the best near-by hiking trails. If you'd rather

### On the QT

**Location:** 2254-7 Minamiokorogawa, Nikko, Tochigi 321-1353

**Directions:** About two hours by car from Yokota Air Base, three to four hours by train. Shuttle available to pick you up from select train stations. Free parking on-site.

**Cost:** Private railroad car: 1 person: 9,000 yen (\$66), 2 persons: 10,000 yen (\$73), 3 persons: 10,500 yen (\$77), 4 persons: 14,000 yen (\$120); 3,500 yen (\$26) for single bed in shared room; open mid-March to mid-November

**Food:** Breakfast, lunch and dinner can be served if you call ahead and are staying multiple nights. Vegan, vegetarian and gluten-free meals available with advance notice. A limited menu can be found online at [earthcafe.jp/menu](http://earthcafe.jp/menu)

**Information:** Phone: 080-1215-4018; online: [earthhostel.com](http://earthhostel.com)

Chrissy Yates

not hike, bikes are available to rent for 500 yen, less than \$4.

We had the whole place to ourselves, thanks to Japan's pandemic ban on tourists. After spending most of the day lounging on floaties in the crystal-clear river, we took a break from our secluded surroundings to drive the 25 minutes for lunch near Nikko Station.

That said, my friends and I came to celebrate. The patio next to the guesthouse is outfitted with picnic tables, a dance floor, free Wi-Fi and large Bluetooth speakers.

We fired up the provided barbecue grill, took turns playing DJ and danced the night away under a string of pretty patio lights and a disco ball. We brought our own charcoal, but the website says the hostel can provide some for 1,000



The Earth Hostel along the Kuro River in Tochigi prefecture provides a cool destination for a hot summer getaway in Japan. The hostel offers rooms in the main house and two rail cars to accommodate guests.

yen, or \$7.39, per 6.6-pound box.

Obviously, this place is great for groups, but it also works for couples and solo travelers. The hostel offers discounts for infants and children younger than 6, according to its website, but families with young children should proceed with caution.

There are a lot of steps to navigate to the river area and inside the guesthouse to showers, shared bedrooms and the lounge, not to mention the presence of a large body of rushing water just yards away.

Dogs are allowed if you're staying in a private railcar room, but please call or text ahead to ask.

[yates.christina@stripes.com](mailto:yates.christina@stripes.com)



Steps lead from the main guesthouse down to the Kuro River at the Earth Hostel, a perfect alternative for those not wanting to rough it.



WEEKEND: FOOD & DINING

Tasty, cheap ramen awaits in back alley

Soba House Konjiki Hototogisu sells Michelin-star ramen for 1,000 yen in unassuming location in central Tokyo

BY CLAIRE JENQ  
Stars and Stripes

Right in the heart of Tokyo, you'll find some of the most prestigious ramen you'll ever try. The soba restaurant that earned a Michelin star in 2018 isn't operating in one of the many impressive and glitzy skyscrapers that line the main street in Shinjuku. Rather, it's housed at an unassuming building in a dark alley off the main road, and the food is dirt cheap.

My friend and I took the train to Tokyo one Tuesday night to try Soba House Konjiki Hototogisu's Michelin-star ramen that sells for 1,000 yen, about \$7.40 at the current exchange rate.

Even though we arrived 30 minutes before opening time, a few other people were already lined up — a fashionable young couple giggling over their phones and a man in a suit who looked like he'd just left work.

My friend and I were the only Americans, and likely the only moms who had left their husbands and toddlers on their own for dinner.

As we stood in line, discussing which ramen we would try, a warm, wet, dirty-sock smell wafted out of the vent hood next to the queue. It's a smell I associate with truffles.

Having grown up in the U.S. when truffles became trendy, I remembered — with a slight feeling of disgust — when truffle flavoring was added to everything, from mac and cheese to french fries. Since truffles are notoriously expensive, most of the truffle flavoring used was likely synthetic. I didn't care for the overpowering taste then, so I felt a bit anxious because Soba House Konjiki Hototogisu uses black truffles in many of its dishes.

Once the restaurant opened, the line moved quickly. Ramen is like fast food in America: You pay, you eat, you leave. The whole process was expedited by a vending machine just within the entrance. Next to the vending machine was a helpful diagram with English translations, but my friend and I, self-conscious about how much extra time we were taking by matching the diagram's translations to the vending machine buttons, felt some pressure to quickly make a selection.

Soba House Konjiki Hototogisu offers a salt-based soup (shio), a soy sauce-based soup (shoyu), or a combination of the two. We both decided to order the combination, a tsuke soba with a shio and shoyu-based broth. I also added a marinated egg (ajitama) and pork char siu.

We sat at the counter in front of the chefs, and our food was ready in less than 10 minutes. I took a moment to admire the steaming, aromatic bowl in front of me, snapped a few pictures and then the race was on. I hurriedly slurped my noodles, trying to keep pace with the young couple that was doing the same at a nearby table.

Typically, ramen is served with ramen noodles. Soba House Konjiki Hototogisu specializes in tsuke soba, a ramen with soba noodles freshly made in-house. They had a great, chewy texture and were brown speckled with buckwheat flour.



CLAIRE JENQ/Stars ad Stripes

The ramen at Soba House Konjiki Hototogisu earned a Michelin star in 2018.

Soba House Konjiki Hototogisu

**Location:** 2-4-1 Shinjuku, Shinjyuku-ku, Tokyo, 160-0022, Japan  
**Directions:** A 2-minute walk from Marunouchi Line  
**Hours:** Open 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. for lunch and 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. for dinner. Closed every Sunday.  
**Prices:** Noodle dishes start at 1,000 yen and top at 1,500, with toppings extra. It's cash only.  
**Dress:** Casual  
**Information:** Online: sobahousekonjikihototogisu.com; Phone: +81 03-5315-4733.

Claire Jenq

The soup's familiar taste camouflaged its layers of complex flavors. Shiny bubbles of liquid fat floated on the surface of a broth just salty enough to season each mouthful of noodles but too saline to swallow alone. I sampled a few spoonfuls anyway, just to figure out its ingredients.

On its website, Soba House Konjiki Hototogisu says its chefs use a combination of "animal-based soup, duck soup, and Japanese-style dashi." I detected the piquant taste of poultry and the funky dashi, but I'm certain an element of pork lent a rich thickness to the soup.

And to my relief, there was no overpowering fake truffle flavor. Instead, black truffle had been carefully grated on top and was the perfect, earthy ingredient to cap the layered flavors in the bowl.

As soon as we finished our ramen, we put our bowls on the counter, said, "Gochisousama deshita!" to the chef, and freed our seats for the next waiting customers. We paid, we ate and we left, but I'll be back.

jenq.claire@stripes.com  
Twitter: @claire\_jenq



Look for Soba House Konjiki Hototogisu behind this doorway in the backstreets of Shinjuku.



WEEKEND: FOOD

# Move over, dairy

Plant-based milks may be substituted for traditional cow’s milk in many recipes

By BECKY KRystal  
The Washington Post

Though they’ve been around for thousands of years, plant-based milks have an ever-increasing presence in grocery stores and home kitchens. The wide range is a boon to cooks, though it can be intimidating, too. Here’s a guide to what to consider when choosing a plant-based milk for your recipe, as well as an overview of some options.



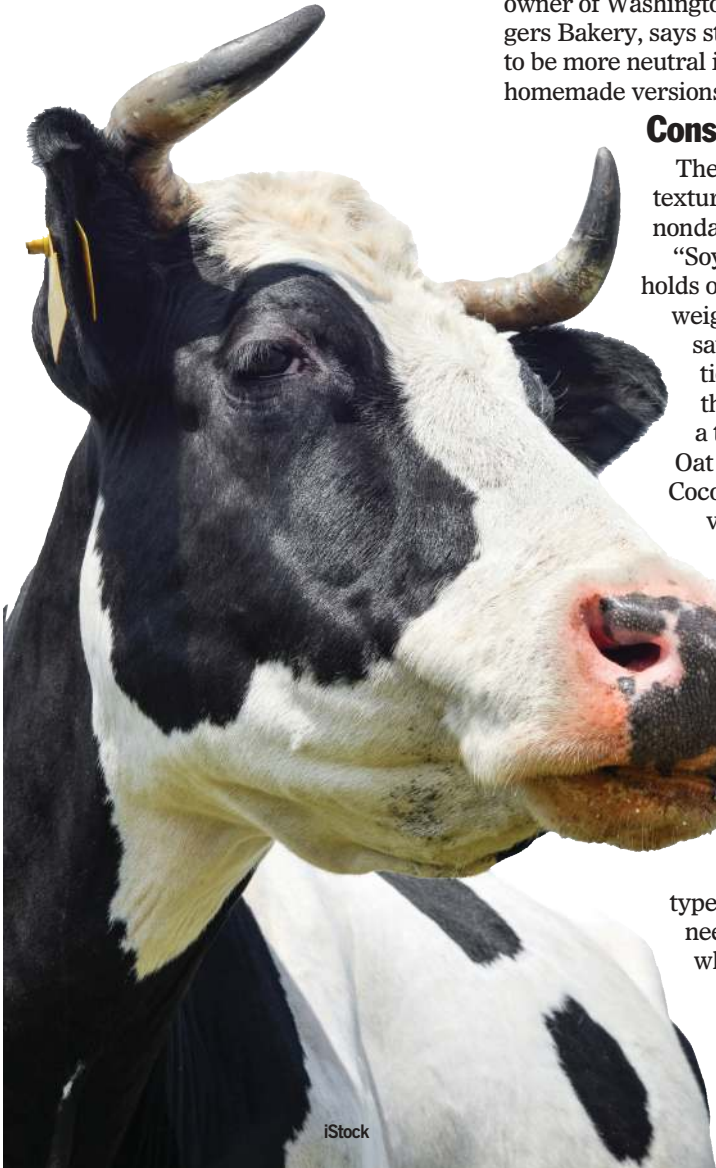
REY LOPEZ/For The Washington Post

Left to right: Rice milk, oat milk, soy milk, coconut milk, hemp milk and almond milk.

### Dairy substitute

When it comes to using plant-based milks for traditional dairy, “You can pretty much do it 1-to-1,” says recipe developer and blogger Jessica Hylton Leckie of Jessica in the Kitchen.

In a piece about oat milk on Serious Eats, Elazar Sontag shares insight from pastry expert and cookbook author Stella Parks. Parks says that often dairy is used primarily for hydration, but it also helps with browning (from its natural sugars) and body (it’s thicker than water). Plant-based milks can serve many of the same purposes. Parks only cautions against plant milks in recipes where the main flavor is that of dairy, such as vanilla custards.



### Flavor

“People assume they will taste bad,” Hylton Leckie says of nondairy milks. With so many more options and improvements, that’s increasingly unlikely.

Gan Chin Lin, a vegan recipe developer and writer, says soy and oat milks are among the most neutral in flavor. Certain people may be sensitive to some of the bitter compounds in almonds. Keep in mind that flavors may dissipate once baked, though you should use a milk whose flavor you like.

Rice is neutral, while you’re more likely to get stronger flavors with nut or hemp milks. If you’re leaning into a nut-based dessert, Gan says, an almond or cashew milk might be perfect.

Doron Petersan, cookbook author and owner of Washington’s vegan Sticky Fingers Bakery, says store-bought milks tend to be more neutral in flavor than fresh or homemade versions.

### Consistency

There’s a spectrum of textures when it comes to nondairy milk.

“Soy is magical in that it holds onto 100 times its weight in water,” Petersan says of her favorite option. It is full of starches that gelatinize and lend a thick, creamy texture. Oat is similar in that way. Coconut milk (the canned version, not the refrigerated beverage) is thick due to its high fat content.

You’ll find rice, flax, hemp and almond milks on the thinner side.

Consistency and flavor can vary across brands even among a single type of milk, so you may need to try a few to see what you like.

### Additives

Plant-based milks may be fortified with vitamins and minerals such as calcium, vitamin D or vitamin B12 to help those on a vegan diet.

Other additives “are there to keep the milk from separating and to give it a better mouthfeel,” Petersan says. Examples include gellan gum, locust bean gum, soy lecithin and, in the case of oat milk, vegetable oil. Even with the additives, it’s important to shake plant-based milk well before you use it, Gan says.

Avoid baking or cooking with flavored milks (i.e. vanilla). Milks labeled “original” may include added sugar. Hylton Leckie says these have a better texture and color, “more akin to the creaminess and texture of dairy milk,” ideal for cereal and recipes. “It is not necessarily ‘sweet’ but matches that milk you could drink by the glass kind of vibe.” If you want lower calories or reduced sugar, use unsweetened milks, though they will be thinner with a different flavor.

### Swapping

If a recipe calls for a particular type of plant-based milk, use it if possible. The consensus, however, of everyone I talked to was that plant-based options are largely interchangeable. While you may have some variations in results based on fat content or thickness, generally “it will work,” Petersan says. Muffins, pancakes, waffles and cookies are examples of forgiving recipes where the type of milk is not too consequential. Similarly, with an oil-based chocolate cake, where cocoa is the predominant flavor and oil the predominant fat, don’t fret too much about the type of milk.

### Comparing

Let’s take a quick side-by-side look at cow’s milk and some plant-based options. I’ll touch on flavor, consistency, where they’re good substitutes (King Arthur Baking provides helpful guidance, though these are not ironclad rules) and nutritional information per cup, unless otherwise noted, in some common store brands. Some offer blends with multiple types.

**Cow’s milk (whole generic):**  
Nutrition: Calories: 150; Total Fat: 8 g; Saturated Fat: 4.5 g; Sodium: 95 mg; Carbohydrates: 12 g; Dietary Fiber: 0 g; Sugar: 12 g; Protein: 8 g

**Almond:** Stronger flavor. Thin. Substitute for skim, reduced- or low-fat milk.  
Nutrition (Almond Breeze original): Calories: 60; Total Fat: 2.5 g; Saturated Fat: 0 g; Sodium: 150 mg; Carbohydrates: 8 g; Dietary Fiber: 0 g; Sugar: 7 g; Protein: 1 g

**Coconut:** Stronger flavor. Substitute canned for whole milk (may curdle if cooked too long at high temperature); coconut milk beverages are fine for drinking or as a substitute for skim, reduced- or low-fat milk.  
Nutrition (Thai Kitchen unsweetened canned, per ½ cup): Calories: 120; Total Fat: 12 g; Saturated Fat: 11 g; Sodium: 30 mg; Carbohydrates: 2 g; Dietary Fiber: 0 g; Sugar: 1 g; Protein: 1 g

**Nutrition (SO Delicious organic original beverage):** Calories: 70; Total Fat: 4.5 g; Saturated Fat: 4 g; Sodium: 30 mg; Carbohydrates: 8 g; Dietary Fiber: 0 g; Sugar: 7 g; Protein: 0 g

**Hemp:** Stronger flavor. Thin. Substitute for skim, reduced- or low-fat milk.  
Nutrition (Pacific Foods original): Calories: 140; Total Fat: 6 g; Saturated Fat: 1 g; Sodium: 130 mg; Carbohydrates: 19 g; Dietary Fiber: 0 g; Sugar: 12 g; Protein: 4 g

**Oat:** Neutral. Thick. Substitute for whole milk.  
Nutrition (Oatly original): Calories: 120; Total Fat: 5 g; Saturated Fat: 0.5 g; Sodium: 100 mg; Carbohydrates: 16 g; Dietary Fiber: 0 g; Sugar: 7 g; Protein: 3 g

**Rice:** Neutral. Thin. Substitute for skim, reduced- or low-fat milk.  
Nutrition (Rice Dream original): Calories: 130; Total Fat: 2.5 g; Saturated Fat: 0 g; Sodium: 95 mg; Carbohydrates: 27 g; Dietary Fiber: 0 g; Sugar: 12 g; Protein: 0 g

**Soy:** Neutral. Thick. Substitute for whole milk (cashew also works well here).  
Nutrition (Silk original): Calories: 80; Total Fat: 4 g; Saturated Fat: 0.5 g; Sodium: 75 mg; Carbohydrates: 3 g; Dietary Fiber: 2 g; Sugar: 1 g; Protein: 7 g

“You can pretty much [substitute] 1-to-1.”

Jessica Hylton Leckie  
recipe developer and blogger



## WEEKEND: BOOKS

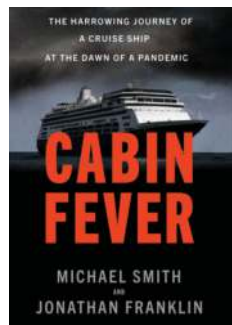
## ‘Cabin Fever’ retells horror of COVID cruise

By **ROB MERRILL**  
Associated Press

Imagine stepping off a dock in Buenos Aires in early March 2020 to board a ship with 1,242 fellow passengers and 586 crew members for a cruise around the tip of South America. You’ve heard about a virus making people sick in China and Italy and Spain, but it’s thousands of miles away. The prospect of touring the Falkland Islands, climbing Machu Picchu and getting up close to a penguin colony in Chile far outweigh whatever dread you feel about global news.

That’s the starting point for a new non-fiction book called “Cabin Fever: The Harrowing Journey of a Cruise Ship at the Dawn of a Pandemic” by investigative journalists Michael Smith and Jonathan Franklin. They tell the story chronologically, starting March 6, 2020, just two

days before the Holland America cruise ship the MS Zaandam leaves port in Argentina. Days later, the World Health



Organization formally classifies COVID-19 as a pandemic and for the next 25 days, the Zaandam is adrift in international waters, denied safe harbor in every port as COVID breaks out across the world.

It’s not until April 2, 2020, that the ship finally docks in Port Everglades, Fla., with three bodies in its morgue and hundreds of other sick passengers on board.

The book opens with a cast of charac-

ters — brief bios of the people on board with whom the journalists talked to reconstruct the narrative. In addition to Dutch Captain Ane Smit and a few other officers, there’s a pair of retirees from Missouri hoping to cross Machu Picchu off their bucket list, two men from Nashville celebrating their 40th wedding anniversary and the manager of the ship’s massive laundry operation, Wiwit Widarto, who has spent 30 years working on cruise ships to provide for his family in Indonesia.

Over the course of the book’s 250 pages we learn their stories, with a focus on their experience aboard the Zaandam.

Smith and Franklin write in the omniscient third person, not trying to re-create dialogue. Each dispatch is dated and time-stamped as we read about the characters’ journey from “everything’s going to be all right out here in our adult playground on

the ocean” to knocks on doors as trays of food are dropped outside cabins by crew members in hazmat suits. The result reads like the longest newspaper story ever written mixed with the dramatic flourishes required to keep readers turning pages.

The Zaandam’s journey, of course, was well covered by the media. It was one of more than 100 cruise ships at sea when COVID broke out. Thanks to social media and Wi-Fi, passengers shared their misery in real time. But putting it all together in a format like this gives it proper context.

Smith and Franklin’s riveting recount of the cruise recalls a time many would like to forget — when fear trumped everything and nobody knew what the future looked like. It’s an impressive example of narrative journalism. Perhaps too soon for some, but a worthy addition to the historical record.



**‘The Lies I Tell’**  
Julie Clark

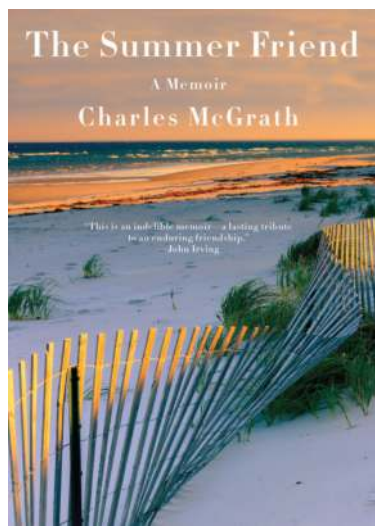
This highly addictive novel begins from the perspective of Kat Roberts, an unsatisfied journalist, who has waited 10 years to expose the many grifts of Meg Williams, a con artist whom she blames for altering the course of her own life. She spots Meg at a crowded political fundraiser and finally feels her revenge fantasy is within reach.

The story then shifts to Meg’s first-person narrative. On the surface, she’s attending the fundraiser at the invitation of a new friend to mingle and network. In reality, she’s been plotting for weeks to get invited. Meg is skilled at putting herself in the path of all the right people to open doors and gain access to others. She’s got her own plan for retribution in the works against the candidate for state senator whom the fundraiser is for.

Kat and Meg meet, each thinking they’re playing the other, but they soon form a sincere bond.

The book shifts perspectives between Kat and Meg so the reader is in on their true intentions from the start. These revelations lead to questions about doing what’s “wrong” in order to make things right.

— Alicia Rancilio/AP



**‘The Summer Friend’**  
Charles McGrath

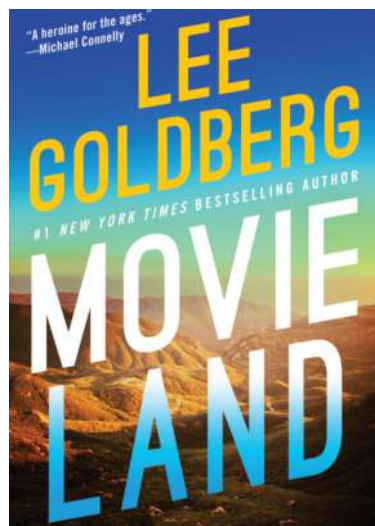
Is there still a place for an older white guy recalling golden summers of golf and boating? I think there is, when it’s written as tenderly as this ode to friendship and nostalgia.

The friend in the title is Chip Gillespie, a guy McGrath (also known as Chip) meets one summer when their kids are still young. The McGrath family rents a beach house in the Massachusetts town where Gillespie and his wife live. The two couples meet at a square dance and find they have a lot in common — not just the same nickname, but a love of sailing, sons named Ben, daughters the same age. From there springs a lifelong friendship that plays out mostly over the months of summer.

McGrath’s memoir bounces seamlessly between second person (for the general) and first person (for the specific). That shift keeps the tone intimate but not overwhelmingly self-centered. These things I’m writing about, McGrath seems to say, are things we all understand.

Chip’s death, which prompted the memoir, hangs over the happy sun-drenched chapters, giving them weight.

— Laurie Hertzler/Star Tribune



**‘Movieland’**  
Lee Goldberg

Eve Ronin, a young Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department deputy, is passionate about finding justice for crime victims, but her inexperience, ambition and willingness to defy authority have gotten her into trouble.

Her colleagues resent her for landing the job by jumping over more experienced and deserving candidates. Some of them hate her for exposing widespread corruption in the department. Two have even tried to kill her.

Meanwhile, the family of an officer who committed suicide after she accused him of rape is suing her for wrongful death. She’s annoyed that a TV network is developing a show based on her life. And her relationships with the father who abandoned her and the mother who tries to control her are a constant source of tension.

As if that weren’t enough, her partner, Duncan “Donuts” Pavone, just weeks from retirement, is convinced that a would-be serial killer is behind several non-fatal shotgun shootings in Malibu Creek State Park.

“Movieland,” Goldberg’s fourth novel featuring Ronin, is just as good as the first three.

— Bruce DeSilva/AP



**‘And There He Kept Her’**  
Joshua Moehling

Jesse, 17, is breaking into a house in Sandy Lake, Minn. Jenny, his girlfriend, shows up to stop him. But what neither of them anticipated was for the owner, Emmett, to catch them.

Author Moehling’s gripping debut “And There He Kept Her” gains speed steadily after Jesse and Jenny are reported missing. The book speeds up as it switches between Emmett, who is holding Jenny captive, and Packard, the acting sheriff trying to find the two missing teens. When the story smashes to its conclusion, the dust cloud left in its violent wake promises a sequel.

While Packard is consumed with the case, he’s also juggling the woes of the town — feuding neighbors and petty drug crimes — and the ghosts of his own past.

Emmett, on the other hand, is completely flying under the radar of the law and the small Midwestern town. The garish, make-shift dungeon in his basement reveals he’s not simply an innocent old man fallen victim to break-ins. Jenny has to unearth some kind of humanity in Emmett if she wants to survive, and the clock is ticking as her insulin supply runs dry.

— Donna Edwards/AP



**‘Vacationland’**  
Meg Mitchell Moore

Don’t read this the wrong way, but “Vacationland” is a Lifetime movie on the page. There’s the college professor from Brooklyn whose marriage is teetering, three precocious kids, a gorgeous summer home on the coast of Maine, even a dog named Otis. Throw in a grieving love child, a patriarch with Alzheimer’s and a first kiss, and the recipe is there for a breezy summer read.

Author Moore’s sentences are simple and to the point. Here’s the love child, named Kristie, who has moved to town after the death of her mother, to meet the father she never knew: “She’s working as hard as she can at Archer’s, and the tips are good, but she’s not sure how she’ll ever get ahead. She doesn’t understand how anybody gets ahead who didn’t start out ahead.”

Kristie’s various interactions with the family are what mostly drives the plot.

Kristie’s stepsister, Louisa, is at her family’s place in Owls Head, Maine, ostensibly to write a book, but really trying to navigate her own midlife crisis.

All is exposed at a climactic family dinner, and the drama is tidily wrapped up.

— Rob Merrill/AP



## WEEKEND: MUSIC

# ‘When she howled, you could feel it’

How singer-songwriter Angel Olsen turned grief and longing into triumph

BY MIKAEL WOOD  
*Los Angeles Times*

**T**he most emotionally committed music of Angel Olsen’s career grew out of the possibility that she might quit making it at any minute.

A singer and songwriter known for her impassioned melancholy, Olsen, who’s 35 and lives in Asheville, N.C., arrived at producer Jonathan Wilson’s Topanga Canyon studio last year amid a stretch of serious personal upheaval. Three weeks before she began recording what would become her sixth album, “Big Time,” her mother died at age 78 of heart failure; two months before that, her 89-year-old father died in his sleep, mere days after she’d told her parents she was gay.

“I’d already planned to come here and make the record before all that happened,” she recalled during a recent return visit to Topanga. “So I was just kind of like, ‘F— it, I’m gonna go and see if I can get through this, and if it’s weird then I’ll stop and pick it up another time.’ And it was honestly the best decision I could’ve made, because it was so much better than sitting around feeling disassociated.” The rustic location — “being able to take a break and go on a hike or go to the beach,” as she put it — was another balm, Olsen said.

Is she a beach person?

“Not really,” she replied with a laugh. “But in the morning, when no one’s there and it’s not too hot — when you can kind of have a reflective moment — that’s my kind of beach.”

“I’m not trying to get a suntan,” she added. “I’m just there to, like, look at the waves.”

Olsen’s contemplations on grief, family, memory and the loneliness of the pandemic come through vividly on the deep and moving “Big Time,” which puts her powerful vocals at the center of arrangements rooted in the sounds and textures of classic mid-20th century country music. “I don’t know how it’s happened / That we’ve both abandoned the reason we used to believe,” she sings over a slow-building groove studded with

SEE OLSEN ON PAGE 29

**Angel Olsen’s contemplations on grief, family, memory and the loneliness of the pandemic come through vividly on her new album, the deep and moving “Big Time.”**

Angela Ricciardi





WEEKEND: MUSIC

Olsen: Despite talk of big breakout, singer isn't interested in pop stardom

FROM PAGE 28

brass in “All the Good Times,” a philosophical breakup tune she considered offering to Sturgill Simpson before deciding to cut it herself.

In “This Is How It Works,” against the pleading tones of a pedal steel, Olsen longs for someone to call — “someone who knows where I am,” she clarifies, her voice on the edge of breaking, “someone who knows how it’s been.” “Through the Fires,” about learning to “let go of the pain that obstructs you from higher, higher, higher,” climaxes with the singer reaching up into a breathy falsetto as lush strings swirl around her. Throughout the album, Olsen explores the extremes of her voice — the dreamy upper register, the sultry low end, the “midrange that just smacks you over the head,” as Wilson described it — to embody the overwhelming fullness of loss.

Yet “Big Time” also takes in the healing promise of fresh romance; Olsen co-wrote the lightheaded title track with her partner of over a year, Beau Thibodeaux, who met the singer’s family for the first time at Olsen’s father’s funeral — and whom Olsen introduced in an Instagram post in April 2021 captioned, “My beau, I’m gay.” “We’re always busy, baby, not this time,” Olsen sings over rippling barrelhouse piano in “Big Time,” “Lay in the tall grass, talking with your eyes.” The result finds a place in a queer country-soul lineage that encompasses Dusty Springfield’s “Dusty in Memphis,” k.d. lang’s “Ingenue” and Shelby Lynne’s “I Am Shelby Lynne” — exquisitely rendered albums by women who broadened ideas about what stories roots music can tell and to whom its traditions belong.

The LP’s much-discussed excellence — not to mention widespread curiosity about the recent dramatic events in Olsen’s life — has established big breakthrough energy around the singer a decade after she got her start in the scrappy indie-folk underground. “Big Time” has earned rave reviews in Rolling Stone and Pitchfork; she performed the title track on Jimmy Kimmel’s late-night show; Wilco’s Jeff Tweedy posted an admiring cover of the title track on the day the album came out. Some of Olsen’s moves lately have suggested a growing interest in pop: She sang a few bars of Harry Styles’ “Boyfriends” on TikTok (which Styles appeared to have seen when Apple Music’s Zane Lowe mentioned it in an interview), and she made a short film based on “Big Time” with director Kimberly Stuckwisch, who previously oversaw Olivia Rodrigo’s “Sour Prom” concert movie.

“Angel’s making a lot of new fans right now,” said Jon Coombs, vice president of A&R at Secretly Group, which includes her label, Jagjaguwar. Said Wilson, who’s also worked with Father John Misty and Lana Del Rey: “I think about her peers, folks in the scene, and I think Angel’s kind of the one.”

Olsen insists pop stardom isn’t her goal. “I don’t aspire to be there. I like where I am,” she said. That’s partly to do with lifestyle — an aversion to “the personal trainer and the nutritionist and the insane schedule,” as she put it — and partly to do with snobbish old reflexes.

“You know, when a book is blowing up and everyone’s telling you to read it, and you’re like, ‘I’m not reading that book’? That’s kind of how new music is for me.” She laughed. “But then every now and then, you’ve got friends who are piano teachers, and they’re telling you all the kids are learning Olivia Rodrigo, and you can’t get the songs out of your head.”

Olsen said she’s unfamiliar with modern Nashville acts like Carrie Underwood and Jason Aldean but digs country (or country-ish) music from the ’70s and ’80s: Lucinda Williams and J.J. Cale and Dolly Parton, whose personal

“You know, when a book is blowing up and everyone’s telling you to read it, and you’re like, ‘I’m not reading that book’? That’s kind of how new music is for me.”

Angel Olsen

style she seemed to borrow for an afternoon gig this month at Topanga’s open-air Theatricum Botanicum, where she played tunes from “Big Time” wearing a powder-blue pantsuit and platform heels.

Asked whether the notion of a queer country tradition resonates with her, she pondered the question briefly, a slightly skeptical look on her face. “Here’s what I’ll say: I’ve always written songs about love and heartache and all those things, and I don’t feel like I’m a different person now,” she said. “I mean, I am different, but I don’t feel like I was hiding myself or that my writing before was a lie. So I’m hesitant to call this a queer love album, only because I might end up with a cis man — though I’d still be queer, you know what I mean?”

Olsen grew up in St. Louis, the youngest adopted child in a religiously observant family that included eight other kids. After high school she moved to Chicago, where she befriended Will Oldham, the enigmatic singer-songwriter also known as Bonnie “Prince” Billy, who invited her to go on tour as his backing vocalist. She released her debut, “Half Way Home,” in 2012; more records followed, to increasing acclaim and each with a slightly different framing of her voice: jumpy rock, fuzzy psychedelia, icy synth-pop. In 2019, producer Mark Ronson drafted her for a cameo on his “Late Night Feelings” album, which also featured Miley Cyrus and Camila Cabello.

For “Big Time,” Olsen said she wasn’t trying to “be experimental about what an Americana band should do. I’m sure many of these chord structures have been done before. But my experience has been different, and my voice is different. It was more about spotlighting the lyrics than anything.” She showed up at Wilson’s place without having rehearsed the material as well as she’d have liked; the producer recalled her being “kind of apologetic when she got here.”

“But,” Olsen said, “I think the sound of the record — the focus that I’ve got on it — had everything to do with me not feeling afraid to lose anything because I was just so exhausted — so pummeled by everything that had happened” with her parents, whose deaths made her consider “my own mortality and who the people are that I want to spend my time with.” Wilson, who called in players including guitarist Gus Seyffert and the horn section from Burt Bacharach’s band, said he “witnessed the catharsis of the process. It was palpable. When she howled, you could feel it.”

Olsen said talking about the album in interviews — talking about the intensity of its circumstances — has been therapeutic, though she’ll occasionally get caught off guard in a call with one of her siblings. “It’ll bring everything back up that I’ve tried to work through,” she said.

When we met in Topanga, Olsen had been hitting the promotional trail hard — playing shows, doing photo shoots, attending film screenings, including one at downtown’s Grammy Museum. (Jagjaguwar, which has had significant awards success with Bon Iver, is “absolutely” thinking about the Grammys for “Big Time,” according to Coombs.) Now she was looking forward to going home to Asheville, where she moved in 2014, for some downtime ahead of a summer tour with fellow singer-songwriters Sharon Van Etten and Julien Baker.

In Asheville, Olsen said, she tends not to talk much about her music. “I take all the makeup off and I don’t see people except for my very, very close friends,” she said. “I’m hanging out with my cat, going on aimless drives, checking on my house to make sure it’s not falling apart. Just normal-people s—.

“I really like that,” she added. “Sometimes I need to forget what I do.”

REVIEWS

Foals

Life Is Yours (Warner Records)

Indie-pop art rockers Foals gave us more than enough to process with their last offering. Now they seem to want us to dance. And dance we must.

The upbeat, very funky and always brilliantly layered, 11-track “Life Is Yours” captures a band between clouds, the perfect slice of summer fun. Look no further than “2001,” an infectious track of disco-smeared funk, and “2AM,” a propulsive ode to not going home alone.

In 2019, the British band gave us not one but two albums in its “Everything Not Saved Will Be Lost” double album, separated by seven months. It was complex, socially conscious stuff, with exits buried underground, dead foxes, burning hedges and rain. Now the sun is out. “I’ve packed my bags / I’ve found new ground,” frontman Yannis Philippakis sings.

Escapism may be the word as Foals look back on parties and recreational drug-fueled gatherings, a clear reaction to lockdowns and isolation. “I’ve been waiting all day inside / Waiting for a summer sky / When we run wild,” Philippakis sings.

Having shed two members, Foals — now a three-piece with multi-instrumentalist Philippakis, drummer Jack Bevan and guitarist and keyboardist Jimmy Smith — oddly don’t sound like they’ve lost 40% of their sound. They’ve tapped several different producers this time and a varied, addictive take on the upbeat has been achieved.

The second half is positively dance hall psychedelic, with “Wild Green” a synth-led ode to spring, and “The Sound” almost veering into dubstep. “Under the Radar” has Philippakis’ voice heavily synthesized in an ’80s New Wave song skeleton and ends with his falsetto soaring.

The shimmering “Crest of the Waves” sounds like it was birthed in a ray of sunshine. Philippakis says he’s waiting in the warm waves of the Caribbean, and isn’t it time we paddled out to meet him?

— Mark Kennedy  
Associated Press



Iconic

Second Skin (Frontiers)

Like all good cooks from their country, the folks at Italian record label Frontiers know that the secret to great cooking lies in experimenting: Tossing a pinch of this with a spoon of that and adding a shake of something else. The label specializes in one-off project albums mixing and matching heavy-metal artists from disparate backgrounds to write and record new music together.

Sometimes, like a bad risotto, the whole thing needs to be tossed in the trash. Other times, however, they hit on a tasty combination, and they’ve put together a good one in Iconic.

Iconic features Stryper singer and guitarist Michael Sweet; guitarist Joel Hoekstra (Whitesnake, Trans-Siberian Orchestra); legendary metal drummer Tommy Aldridge (Whitesnake and Ozzy Osbourne, among many others) and bassist Marco Mendoza (Black Star Riders, Ted Nugent, Dead Daisies).

The one drawback to this project is its failure to make more use of Sweet’s one-of-a-kind voice, which is instantly recognizable, and still as strong and soaring as it was in the early ’80s when Stryper were MTV darlings.

The band was assembled to showcase up-and-coming vocalist Nathan James, a husky, blues-influenced vocalist who sounds more than a bit like Jeff Scott Soto, guitar legend Yngwie Malmsteen’s singer in the early ’80s. And while songs like “Fast As You Can,” in which he trades lead vocals with Sweet, and “Nowhere To Run” are solid old-school metal tracks, I could do with more Sweet vocals, at least a 50-50 split.

— Wayne Parry  
Associated Press





## WEEKEND: TELEVISION

# Rough and ready to handle the stress

Bridges, 72, prepared for new role as ex-CIA operative by doing body-weight exercises, learning about stoicism

BY LUAINÉ LEE

*Tribune News Service*

Actor Jeff Bridges has been nominated for an Oscar seven times and won once, but he has avoided television series like the plague. Bridges has surrendered at last, as he's starring in the miniseries "The Old Man," now streaming on Hulu.

He plays an ex-renegade CIA operative who has retired in obscurity until an assassin shows up to take him out.

"I have a lot of resistance, man," says Bridges of his reluctance to undertake the series challenge.

"Sometimes it's a lot of fun, but I think the difficulty comes in the challenge to do justice to all the opportunities you've been given. And hopefully you can do that. And there's a lot of apprehension and anxiety about that," he says. "I guess you get better. I watch a movie I'm in, it's like I have red-light-green-light. It says, 'Yes, yes, no, no,' like that. One interesting thing about (performing) — it's a communal art form like a huge magic trick. Everybody is involved. They can improve it and make you look better."

"One thing which is a sign to me, when I know it's working, is when I get lost in a film myself. Usually when I see a film I was involved in, there is a home-movie aspect. I can remember what we had for lunch, all the other takes, the conversations, and everything. But when I get swept away into it myself, and it's like I'm looking at some guy — not myself — that's a good sign."

But he still resists commitments.

"Because I know what engagement costs. I got a lot of other stuff that I'd be doing too. I've got a family, all kinds of stuff. I resist everything. Resist, resist. And each assignment has a unique quality. This one was going to have a lot of physicality to it," he says.

At 72, Bridges knew he had to prepare for the rough stuff. He just didn't know how rough. Filming had barely begun when Bridges was diagnosed with lymphoma. After suffering through chemotherapy, he was stricken with COVID-19.

"I went through about a year and a half of this bizarre dream and then came



KURT ISWARIENKO, FX/TNS

Jeff Bridges as ex-renegade CIA operative Dan Chase in "The Old Man."

back," he says, shaking his head. "And what added to the dream effect was that there were all the people who I had just left a year and a half ago, and I said, 'What happened? This is bizarre.'"

Recovered from COVID-19 and his cancer in remission, Bridges says today, "I'm feeling terrific, and it's great to be back with the gang."

"That year-and-a-half bout with my mortality — you know, in times like that, it seemed that all your philosophies and spirituality and everything that kind of comes to you, it tests you. So, all of that has been made more mature by that experience. I haven't felt any different, really. I have always approached life the same way. But this kind of made things sharper; in a sharper image to me."

Bridges was forced to resurrect his energy and determination for the role of the retired agent on the lam. He did that with a little help from his friends, he confesses.

One source was a physical regimen called Foundation Training, which is a series of body-weight exercises related to gravity, and what Bridges describes as an "eight-point plank."

"This plank, it is calling upon yourself to be very stressed out in a very short period of time, and it is a fabulous thing," he says. "In life we try to avoid stress as much as we can, but life is stressful. So, it's a good idea to practice stress, practice stressing yourself so you develop some skill in that, and the eight-point plank certainly does that for me."

Another resource has been the philosophy of stoicism, which began in ancient Rome and stresses calm in the face of adversity and trust in strength of character.

"I kind of bathed in that in preparation for our show," he says. "And I'm reading a book called 'The Obstacle is the Way.' And that has to do, again, with distress that comes at us. Rather than regret it, we can face it and practice being stressed and how are we going to figure that out?"

Though he's made classics like "The Last Picture Show," "Starman," "Crazy Heart" and "The Big Lebowski," Bridges says he's never quite sure he's nailed it.

"Each person who witnesses your work has an opinion about it, and it varies even within myself," he says.

"With myself there'll be a performance — I'll see it and not like it. The next day I see it and like it. The observer is as much a part of the equation as what the observer is observing. You have to put him into the mix," he says.

Technically speaking, this is really not Bridges' first rodeo with TV series. His father, actor Lloyd Bridges, starred in the TV classic "Sea Hunt," which aired 155 episodes in syndication from 1958 to 1961.

"If you ever watched 'Sea Hunt' and saw an 8-year-old kid, that was probably me," he says, grinning.

"I am a product of nepotism. My dad set this whole thing in motion. And I remember being an 8-year-old kid, him sitting me on his bed and teaching me all the basics of acting. The big thing I learned from him was the joy in which he approached his work — or his play," Bridges says. "I got to work with him twice as an adult in 'Tucker' and 'Blown Away.' And it was so great to see him come on the set, and everybody was like, 'Oh, this is kind of fun. We can relax and have fun and play.'"

"The word that pops into my mind is joy. He approached his life and work with such joy, and it was kind of contagious. Even as a kid I remember working with him when he came on set, he was so well loved by everyone, and this joy was contagious. And everybody rose up a little. I don't know what it was about the guy. He was a one-of-a-kind guy."

## 'Old Man' a deliciously twisty, character-focused thriller

BY ROBERT LLOYD

*Los Angeles Times*

"The Old Man" gives up its secrets slowly. For a good while, we might be watching the story of a small-town Vermont widower playing with his dogs, talking with or exchanging phone messages with a daughter, remote and unseen, worrying about the possibility of cognitive decline. His dead wife visits him in a dream. Old man, indeed. But suddenly, there are tin cans strung together to make an alarm, a gun and a fight. Eventually, we learn that Dan Chase (Jeff Bridges) is a man with a past and that the whole point of this story is that the past, buried for decades, is about to catch up with him — to the past's peril.

Chase will leave Vermont, which brings

him to the door of Zoe McDonald (Amy Brenneman), a divorced woman from whom he rents a room and who will be in this story for a while longer, possibly for keeps. It is clear that Chase is some sort of master agent, who will not be pulled back into wherever he has got out from. ("Any more you send at me," he announces, "I'm sending back in bags; anyone you send at my kid, I'm sending back in pieces.") Monitoring his flight are Harold Harper (an admirably contained John Lithgow), an assistant FBI director with whom he has history (the series might plausibly be titled "The Old Men"); Lithgow's assistant, agent Angela Adams (Alia Shawkat) who seems a force for good; and agent Raymond Waters (E.J. Bonilla), who might be a force for less good.

Developed by Jonathan E. Steinberg and Robert Levine from, but not limited to, the book by Thomas Perry, the series shifts some of the novel's ancient history from Libya to Afghanistan, back when it was a Russian headache. (Both Bridges and Lithgow have well-cast younger counterparts, Bill Heck and Christopher Redman, respectively.)

But such particulars, although impressively realized and a driver of the present-day plot, are also less important than whatever is happening to Chase, or whatever Chase is making happen, at the moment.

Although there are at least a couple of delicious twists, what promises to be a complicated plot is necessary above all to create an ebb and flow of danger, to pro-

vide the hero something to kick against.

"The Old Man" succeeds by concentrating on character and character relationships — this is a thriller with a richer than usual emotional foundation — and making sure that everything is done to perfection.

The performances are all impeccable, but it's Bridges' show. When the story leaves him for too long, you itch for his return. His authority is undimmed by time; if anything, it glows brighter. He's an actor who would have succeeded in any era of filmmaking — he's lived through a few, for that matter — a movie star with real chops, comfortable in art films and popular entertainment alike, leading-man handsome still and entirely plausible as the action hero into which circumstances convert him.



## WEEKEND: TELEVISION



PRIME VIDEO/TNS

Gavin Casalegno (Jeremiah) and Lola Trung (Isabel “Belly”) star in “The Summer I Turned Pretty.” Belly catches the attention of both Jeremiah and his brother Conrad, whom she’s had a crush on for as long as she can remember.

# For teens, love is ‘life or death’

Stars of ‘Summer I Turned Pretty’ stress seriousness of characters’ relationships

BY KATE FELDMAN  
New York Daily News

What happens in the summer on Cousins Beach stays there.

The idyllic setting for Jenny Han’s young adult trilogy, turned into the “The Summer I Turned Pretty” series now streaming on Prime Video, is at once an escape and the keeper of teenage secrets. It’s where four kids — Isabel “Belly” Conklin (Lola Trung) and her older brother Steven (Sean Kaufman) and brothers Conrad (Christopher Briney) and Jeremiah (Gavin Casalegno) Fisher — have grown up under the watchful eyes of their mothers, college best friends who won’t let go.

“At the end of the day, they have an escape from the real world,” said Kaufman, who plays graduating senior Steven, faced with the prospect of college and all its costs. “They can come together and just be together, isolated, and escape whatever troubles them.”

This summer is different though. Belly, on the verge of turning 16 — her hair straightened and her body tanned — both looks and feels different with the awkward preteen years behind her.

“It’s not just about outward appearances, despite the title. It’s about that internal shift and that shift in how Belly is feeling about herself, about people around her, how she’s approaching every different situation and every decision she has to make and that confidence boost and newfound independence,” said

Trung, 19. “All of that is this feeling of ‘prettiness.’”

Belly is also drawing attention from both Conrad — whom she’s had a crush on for as long as she can remember though he’s never given her a second look — and Jeremiah, who’s always been just a second brother to her.

**“When you’re in high school, you really see everything as being the end of the world. It’s so serious. It’s life or death in your mind.”**

Gavin Casalegno  
Jeremiah Fisher in series

“It’s not like she’s trying to run around and break people’s hearts. It’s a lot of self-discovery and exploring,” Trung said. “And she really does have feelings for each of these boys and you really got to see these really special, specific relationships between all of them. She likes and loves different things about each one.”

Casalegno, who described Jeremiah as

a “very likable, life-of-the-party, golden retriever happy-go-lucky guy,” stressed the earnestness of the love triangle at the heart of “The Summer I Turned Pretty.”

“When you’re in high school, you really see everything as being the end of the world. It’s so serious. It’s life or death in your mind. It’s so important to do that justice with the characters and especially with their relationship with Belly.

There’s no time for games,” he said. “I don’t think there was anything malicious in anyone’s flirting or kissing or whatever happens in the series. It comes straight from the heart.”

The secrets of the summer aren’t just crushes. The real world gets in the way, too, as their parents squirrel away their own skeletons in the closet. All of it just piles on top of the general unease of being 16 and feeling out of place in your body and the world.

“At that age, you simultaneously feel invincible but that everything is the end of the world,” Kaufman said.

Already renewed for a second season, “The Summer I Turned Pretty” doesn’t find the answers — at 16, there are no answers.

“So much of life is just being emotional and acting on that before you understand what you’re doing and then reconciling with your actions after the fact,” said Briney, who plays the sullen Conrad. “What it’s like to be young and making mistakes. What it’s like to be young and acting on your emotions and not thinking about the consequences.”

## Author not into writing dystopian teen novels

BY KATE FELDMAN  
New York Daily News

Two months before Jenny Han’s young adult novel “The Summer I Turned Pretty” hit bookshelves in 2009, the film adaptation of “The Hunger Games” went into development — generating almost \$700 million at the global box office three years later.

But Han doesn’t want to write another “Hunger Games” or “Divergent” or even “Twilight,” despite the massive success of all three.

“You didn’t often see a trilogy that was a realistic, contemporary story. Either it was dystopian or fantasy, like vampires. Really life-or-death stakes,” Han, who also wrote the bestselling trilogy “To All The Boys,” said. “I like to tell stories that feel both real but also ... hopeful and warm-hearted.”

Han’s young adult novels, typically aimed at readers between 12 and 18, don’t have dragons or vampires. But they have the same teenage problems of love, loss and growth.

The TV adaptation of “The Summer I Turned Pretty,” which premiered last week on Prime Video, came at a good time for Han after stops and starts. Now, she gets to make her own show about teenage love and summers that exist out of time and reality.

Like “To All The Boys,” the teens of “The Summer I Turned Pretty” are consumed by their lives. Every furtive glance across the beach is the most important eye contact in the world. Every brush of shoulders at the ice cream parlor is the most electric touch in history. For the history of young adult content, those feelings have been dismissed as childish and inconsequential. YA novels, shows and movies are for silly girls.

Not for Han.

“Everything that they’re feeling is just as important and relevant as something an adult person is feeling. It’s just all in the context on the scale of experience,” she said. “When you’re in high school, being dumped or losing your best friend really is high stakes; that’s how big your world is in that moment. As an adult, going through a divorce or being fired at work, those are the same emotions. One isn’t more relevant than the other one. It’s just about the scope of a person’s life and how much bigger things get as you get older.”

For Han, there’s no insult in her work being categorized as a beach read. She wants you to sit on a deck chair in a big comfy T-shirt with a pizza and sink into her fictional world. There doesn’t need to be a vampire who sparkles in the sun and creeps through your bedroom window at night. There doesn’t need to be a death match in which teens kill or get killed.

Han said should people ask why one girl’s life justifies three books, she’d answer: “We should value those stories. We should value one girl’s life at a moment in time where she’s just growing up.”



# WEEKEND: HEALTH & FITNESS



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Experts say testing negative for COVID-19 may reduce troubling symptoms, due to the connection between the mind and body.

# Feeling positive about a negative

Experts say our mental and emotional response to COVID test result can influence how we feel physically

By ALLYSON CHIU  
*The Washington Post*

After more than two years of pandemic life, many people are familiar with the worry and fear that can be triggered by a sore throat, snuffle or fatigue: Do I have COVID-19? That thought often prompts a rush to grab the nearest home coronavirus test kit or find a testing site. But sometimes when the test comes back negative, the result can have a seemingly miraculous effect.

“This morning I felt tired, maybe a sore throat, was that a hint of a headache??” tweeted Vice senior staff writer Shayla Love, who noted that her boyfriend had recently tested positive. “Took test, it was negative, immediately felt 100% fine.”

“It’s funny how you start feeling better once that COVID test comes back negative,” another person tweeted.

To some experts, this experience reflects the link between body and mind.

“We have learned that social, emotional and behavioral factors influence health,” said Kaz Nelson, an associate professor of psychiatry and behavioral sciences at the University of Minnesota Medical School. “This mind-body connection is not to be underestimated. It’s real and it’s very powerful.”

But before we explore the mind-body connection as it relates to coronavirus tests, Nelson and other experts want us to emphasize that testing methods aren’t 100% reliable, and that widely used at-home rapid antigen tests, in particular, can produce false negatives that lead people to mistakenly believe they aren’t infectious.

Additionally, it’s important to remember that COVID-19 symptoms, whether from acute infections or “long COVID,” are not “imagined symptoms that we can simply imagine away,” Nelson said. “There’s an actual real health issue at hand, a real consequence to the neurological system and other organ systems of the body.”

The key question, she said, is: “How do we understand this powerful mind-body connection” in the context of all other sources of information we have?

To have a “nuanced understanding” of the various ways people might react to testing and other realities of living with COVID-19, it’s critical to acknowledge the

effects the pandemic has had on our lives, Lekeisha Sumner, a clinical psychologist, wrote in an email.

“The public has had to grapple with the effects of considerable uncertainty, mixed public health messages, the stigma and fears associated with infection, shifts in our social and economic circumstances, prolonged fears of contagion, changes in daily habits, and grief associated with staggering rates of illness and death — all while being expected to function at pre-pandemic levels,” she wrote. “We are living with extraordinarily high levels of prolonged stress levels with fragmented social networks.”

Worrying about contracting COVID-19, in particular, is

**“This mind-body connection is not to be underestimated. It’s real and it’s very powerful.”**

Kaz Nelson

associate professor of psychiatry and behavioral sciences

often a significant source of stress for many people — and the human body can react to certain stressors with physiological responses, said Rosalind Dorlen, a clinical psychologist and member of the department of psychiatry at Overlook Medical Center in Summit, N.J.

“The whole climate of COVID-19 has activated stress responses,” Dorlen said, because of the ramifications of becoming infected. After all, a positive or negative result could be the difference between continuing to go about life or needing to isolate — and potentially developing more severe outcomes from infection, such as long COVID.

“Any time our brain is anticipating the consequences of something and then evaluating the threat and then attending to or focusing on that threat, that can actually influence the experience of the [physical] symptoms,” Nelson said. “When that threat is eliminated, then that actually leads to relief and a decrease in the sensitivity to the body and the symptoms.”

Certain regions of the brain are responsible for detect-

ing unpleasant stimuli, such as pain, while other areas are involved in the emotional response to those sensations and how much attention you pay them, according to Nelson. This emotional response, she said, can increase or reduce a person’s sensitivity to physical feelings. She added that a negative coronavirus test is a “social-emotional behavioral cue that prompts relief” and could change someone’s emotional response to their symptoms.

For example, Dorlen said, if you take several deep breaths or tell yourself, “Oh, I’m OK,” after receiving a negative result, you may feel your stress and anxiety beginning to abate.

Another possible explanation for why you might feel better after testing negative could have to do with the nature of the symptoms, said Albert Ko, chair of the department of epidemiology of microbial diseases at the Yale School of Public Health. Common mild symptoms, such as a sore throat, a congested or runny nose or feeling tired, can have a variety of causes — many of which “are very transient,” he said.

“You wake up in the morning, you probably have a stuffy nose because of allergies. You get some postnasal drip. You get a sore throat,” he said. “Then you get tested and then the symptoms probably would go away because most sore throats and postnasal drip get better during the day.”

Still, Ko said, just because you test negative and feel better doesn’t mean you can be absolutely certain you don’t have COVID-19. “If you have one negative test, but you have a strong suspicion that you’ve been exposed, you should get another test” one or two days later, he said.

Among those using rapid antigen tests, “there’s a lot of people coming up with false negatives even when they have COVID-19,” Nelson said. “If your symptoms decrease and it’s a false negative test, then of course that is working against our goals of infection mitigation and control.”

Actions, she said, should be informed by multiple sources of information other than testing, including physical symptoms, exposure risk and community rates of spread. “Those are all the sources of information that you want to consider in how you make choices about your behavior.”



# WEEKEND: FAMILY



SARAH STEWART HOLLAND/AP

**Sarah Stewart Holland, left, and Beth Silvers are co-hosts of the popular podcast *Pantsuit Politics* and co-authors of the book “Now What? How to Move Forward When We’re Divided (About Basically Everything).” The two have been speaking about hot-button issues as summer heralds another season of politically divisive fatigue.**

## Too hot for their blood

Families divided by politics entering a summer beset by polarizing issues

BY LEANNE ITALIE  
*Associated Press*

**K**ristia Leyendecker has navigated a range of opposing views from her two siblings and other loved ones since 2016, when Donald Trump’s election put a sharp, painful point on their political divisions as she drifted from the Republican Party of today and they didn’t.

Then came the pandemic, the chaotic 2020 election and more conflict over masks and vaccinations. Yet she hung in there to keep relationships intact. That all changed in February 2021 during the devastating freeze in the Dallas area where they all live, she with her husband and two of their three children. Leyendecker’s middle child began a gender transition, and Leyendecker’s brother, his wife and her sister cut off contact with her family. Their mother was caught in the middle.

“I was devastated. If you had told me 10 years ago, even five years ago, that I would now be estranged from my family, I would have told you you were lying. We were a very close family. We did all holidays together. I’ve been through all of the stages of grief multiple times,” says the 49-year-old Leyendecker, a high school teacher.

Since, there have been no family picnics or group vacations. There were no mass gatherings for Thanksgiving and Christmas. Heading into summer, nothing has changed.

For families fractured along red house-blue house lines, summer’s slate of reunions, trips and weddings poses another exhausting round of tension at a time of heavy fatigue. Pandemic restrictions have melted away but gun control, the fight for reproductive rights, the Jan. 6 insurrection hearings, who’s to blame for soaring inflation and a range of other issues continue to simmer.

Sarah Stewart Holland and Beth Silvers, co-hosts of the popular *Pantsuit Politics* podcast, have been hosting small group conversations with listeners about family, friendships, church, community, work and partners as they’ve launched their second book, “Now What? How to Move Forward When We’re Divided (About Basically Everything).” What they’ve heard is relatively consistent.

“Everyone is still really hurt by some of the fallout in their relationships over COVID,” Stewart Holland

says. “People are still brokenhearted about some friendships that fell apart, partnerships that are now strained, family relationships that are estranged. As people start to come back together again, that pain is right on the surface, about the last fight or the last disagreement or the last blowup.”

She called this moment in a nation still greatly polarized as a “bingo card of political conflict for certain families right now.”

Daryl Van Tongeren, an associate professor of psychology at Hope College in Holland, Mich., is out with a new book on the quiet power of restraint, “Humble: Free Yourself from the Traps of a Narcissistic World.” In his eyes, cultural humility is a big ask for some divided families.

“Cultural humility is when we realize that our cultural perspective is not superior, and we demonstrate curiosity to learn from others, seeing the multitude of diverse approaches as a strength,” Van Tongeren says. “This humility does not come at the cost of fighting for the oppressed nor does it require that people shy away from upholding their personal values. But how we engage with people with whom we disagree matters.”

Van Tongeren is an optimist: “Humility,” he says, “has the potential to change our relationships, our communities and nations. It helps bridge divides, and it centers the humanity of each of us. And it is what we desperately need right now.”

In the humility camp, he’s not alone. Thomas Plante, who teaches psychology at California’s Santa Clara University, a liberal Jesuit school, urges the same.

“Having a heated conversation during a picnic or over the barbecue isn’t going to change anyone’s mind. It only creates tensions and hurt feelings as a rule,” Plante says.

Carla Bevins, an assistant teaching professor of communication at Carnegie Mellon’s Tepper School of Business, focuses on interpersonal communication, etiquette and conflict management. The wells of emotional reserves have fallen even lower at the start of summer’s closeness, she says, compared to the stressful family times of, say, Thanksgiving and Christmas.

“We’re so worn out,” she says. “And so often we’re framing our own response before we really even hear what the other person is trying to say. It needs to be about finding that commonality.”

### THE MEAT AND POTATOES OF LIFE

Lisa Smith Molinari



## Summer pleasures are a matter of perspective

Summer has arrived. This season of sunshine and warm weather is a favorite for many; however, the emotions, associations and experiences conjured by the onset of summer are different for children and their parents.

The first thing that summertime brings to a child’s mind is, “School’s out!” Almost three whole months of summer break stretches out before kids like an eternity, with no scratchy clothes, no buses, no homework, no lunch trays, no scary vice principals. Only comfy shorts and shirts, worn with flip-flops. Popsicles and sno-cones. Sticky fingers.

Sunny days at the community pool. Swim lessons. Whistling lifeguards that are scary, but also kinda cool. Double dares on the diving board. Floating Band-Aids and dead bugs. Blue lips and goggle marks. Concession stands. Not being able to swim for a half hour after lunch because Mom doesn’t want you to get cramps. Seeing rainbows around lights on the way home.

Special trips. Long car rides. “Are we there yet?” Lunch at Cracker Barrel. Crayons and paper place mats. Too many French fries. Motel pools and mouse ears. Hot dogs and pizza slices. Blue raspberry slushes with whipped cream on top. Roller coasters and log rides.

Hot, lazy afternoons back home with nothing to do. Fans whirring. Dogs panting. Bees buzzing. Dandelion bouquets for Mom. Lying in the hammock with Dad.

Goofing off in line at local soft serve joints. Rainbow sprinkles. Chasing moths that circle the lights. Dropped napkins and dripping ice cream. Wondering, “Why would anyone order a cup when they can get a cone?”

Scooters and bikes in the cul-de-sac at dusk. Stubbed toes, scraped knees and salty tears. Fireflies, fire pits and flaming marshmallows. Dirty fingernails. Warm baths. Soft pajamas. The feeling of being carried to bed, eyes closed, draped over a parent’s shoulder. Dreaming of peg-legged pirates and mermaid princesses.

For parents, summer is a welcome change from the school year grind too, but it’s not necessarily a break from responsibilities. Camp registration forms must be filled out. Summer leagues must be joined. Car pools must be arranged. Grass must be cut. Vacation weeks must be planned. New bathing suits must be tried on in harshly-lit department store dressing rooms with unforgiving fun-house mirrors. Dog sitters must be arranged. Sunscreen must be applied, and re-applied, then re-applied again.

Summertime is also the season of packing. Packing towels, sunglasses, hats, swim shirts, water bottles, goggles, floaties, toys and a book just in case you get a break while the kids are swimming. Packing clean clothing for sleepaway camp — labeled clearly with kids’ names — along with bug spray, first aid kits, asthma inhalers and a dozen pages of signed release forms and emergency contact paperwork, knowing it will all come back in a week needing to be washed. Packing the car with kids, suitcases, board games, boogie boards, coolers, fishing poles, favorite blankets and Dramamine.

Parents work hard throughout the year, and summertime is no exception. However, summer offers its special brand of joys to those parents willing to carve out time to enjoy them.

Sneaking a nap in the sun while Dad watches the kids swim. Ripe watermelon slices. The glint of sea glass along the shore. Dandelions in a cup on the kitchen windowsill. The aroma of freshly-cut lawns, blooming jasmine, smoky barbecues. The bursting sweetness of hot, buttered corn on the cob. The feeling of sand between your toes. Finding a shell in your pocket. Lawn chairs in the backyard with neighbors. The crisp bite of cold beer. Watching your children’s upturned faces flash with color and wonder at fireworks.

Carrying your sleeping child, warm and fulfilled, off to bed, to dream of peg-legged pirates and mermaid princesses.

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)



## NEW YORK TIMES CROSSWORD

BY WILL NEDIGER / EDITED BY WILL SHORTZ

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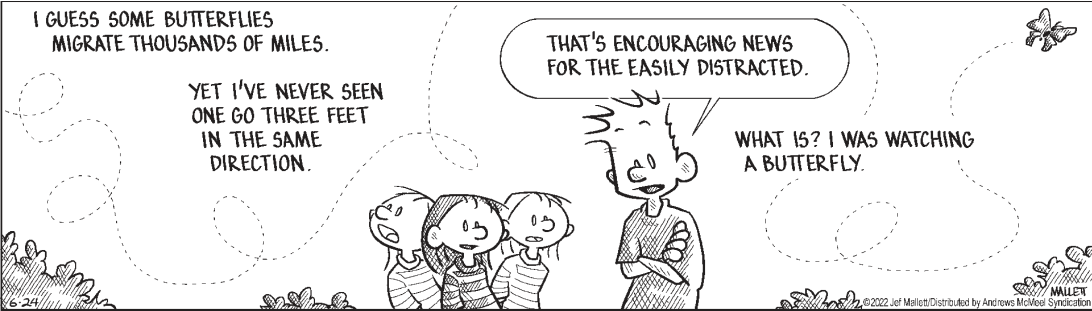
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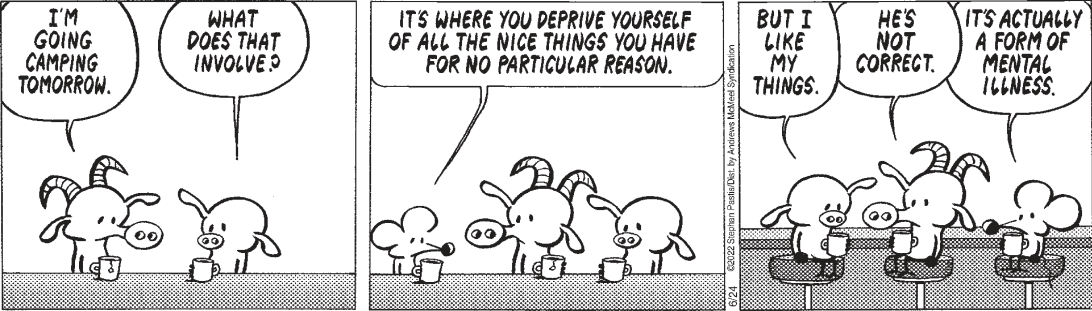
Frazz



Dilbert



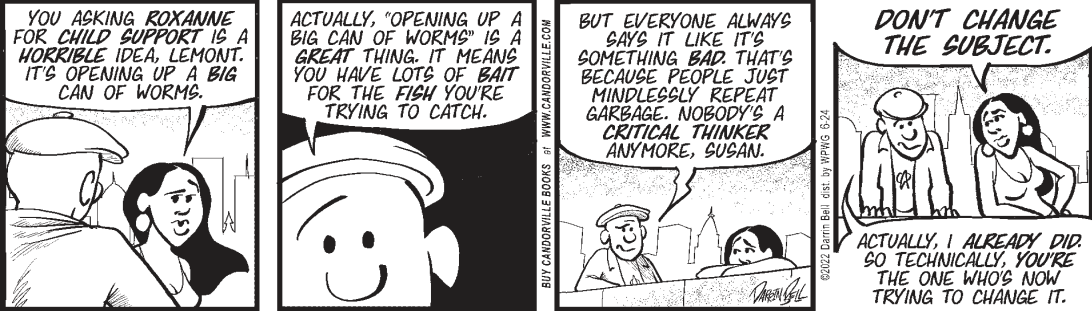
Pearls Before Swine



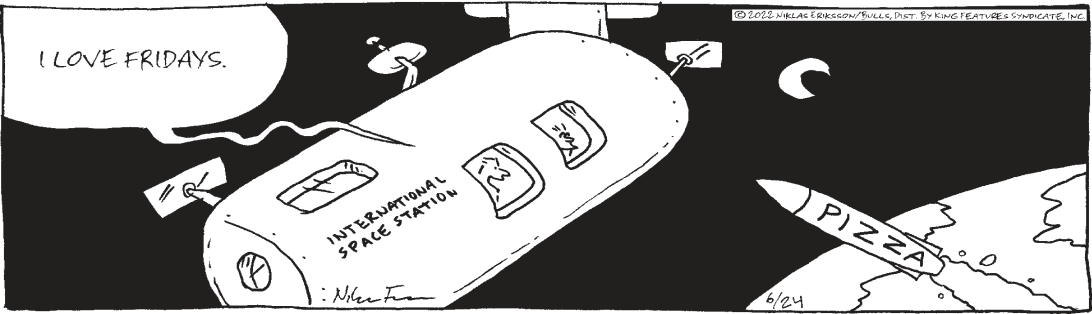
Non Sequitur



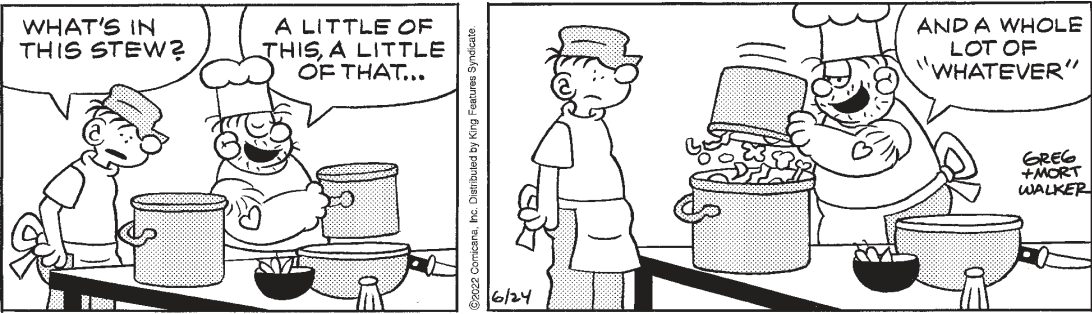
Candorville



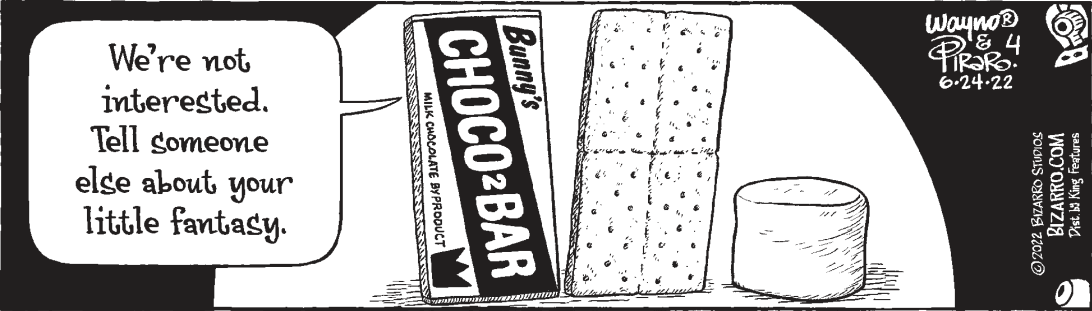
Carpe Diem



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
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31	32	33							34				
35						36			37				
38						39	40			41	42	43	44
					45				46		47		
48	49	50	51								52		
53							54				55		
56							57				58		

- ACROSS
- DOWN
- 58 Vegas lead-in
- 25 Cacophony
- 1 LAPD alert
- 26 Hot temper
- 4 Roast VIPs
- 28 Sushi fish
- 7 Valleys
- 30 — Claire, WI
- 12 Season opener?
- 31 Plato's P
- 13 "Caught ya!"
- 32 "Yuck!"
- 14 More bizarre
- 33 Three, in Rome
- 15 Cartoonist Chast
- 36 Grime
- 16 Easy wins
- 37 Aromatic herb
- 18 Olympic skater
- 40 Stop
- Midori
- 42 Spreading fast
- 19 Golf great Sam
- on TikTok
- 20 Missing
- 43 Island off
- 22 Curvy letter
- Venezuela
- 23 BMW rival
- 44 Tibetan monks
- 27 Seminary subj.
- 45 Now, on a memo
- 29 Boot camp reply
- 46 Comic Sandler
- 31 Knot again
- 48 IRS employee
- 34 Expiate
- 49 Curved line
- 35 Harbinger
- 50 Tool set
- 37 Cat's coat
- 51 Ostrich's kin
- 38 Unpaid

Answer to Previous Puzzle

R	I	G		C	H	A	D		M	E	L	D	
A	L	L		O	A	H	U		A	L	E	E	
G	L	O	B	U	L	E	S		T	A	N	S	
		A	I	R		M	T	S	I	N	A	I	
C	A	T	N	I	P		Y	E	N				
A	V	E		C	A	D		L	E	G	I	T	
P	E	R	T		Z	I	N		E	L	M	O	
O	R	S	O	N		N	I	B		O	D	E	
			O	I	L		N	A	B	O	B	S	
R	A	S	S	L	E	S		S	U	M			
A	R	L	O			G	L	O	S	S	I	E	S
C	I	A	O			O	I	S	E		L	V	I
Y	A	W	N			S	M	U	T		Y	E	A

6-24 CRYPTOQUIP

Z T Z Q R W M W C O P W Y T M E S T

SWZZLCLI YT VL AMWUB WVTQY

Y M O Z R L - Y O P L V W R R M T T P

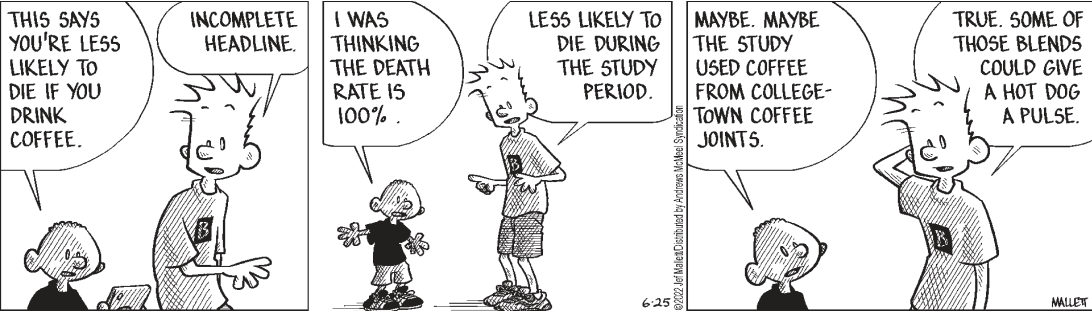
I W C A L G : E W R Y U I O G C L B .

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHEN THE CARTOON ROAD RUNNER WAS VOTED VICE PRESIDENT, IT RACED AROUND GOING "VEEP VEEP!"

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: Z equals P



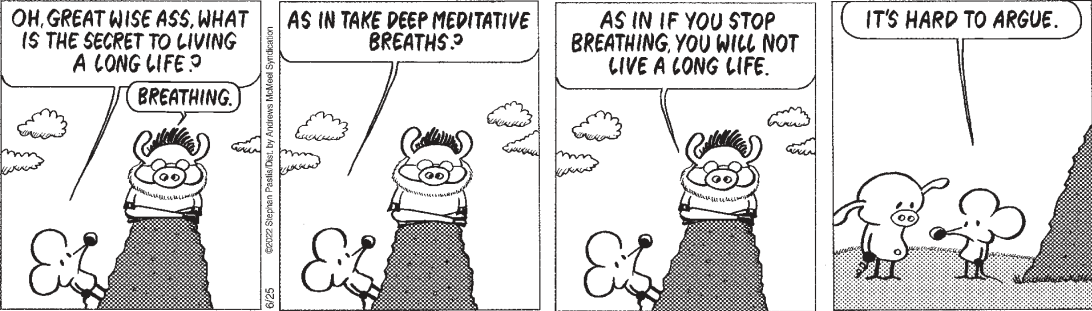
Frazz



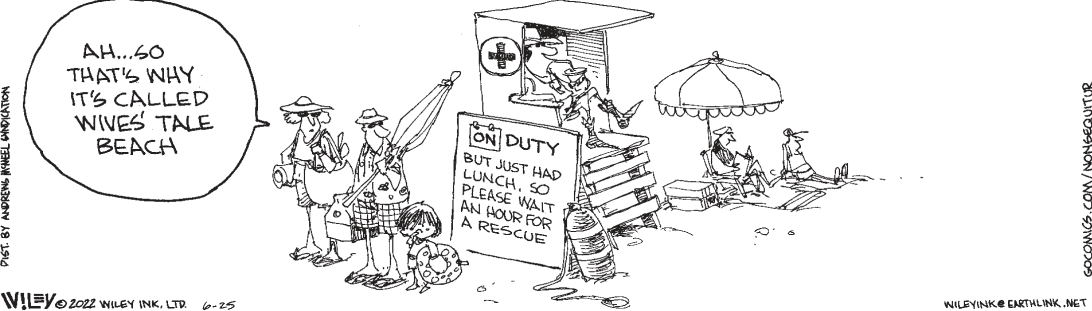
Dilbert



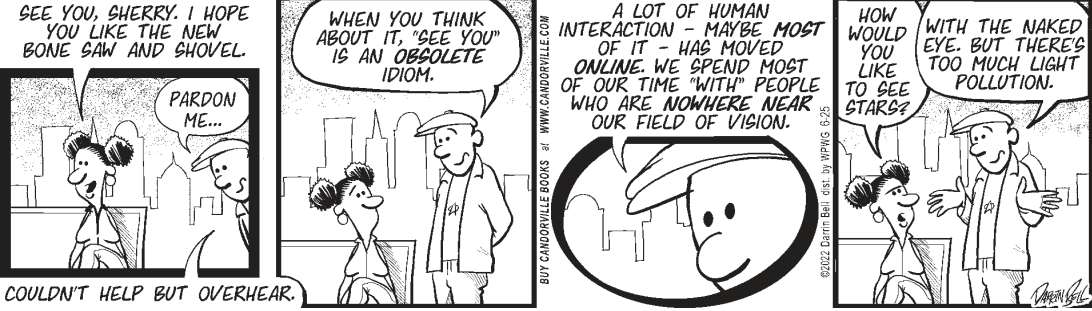
Pearls Before Swine



Non Sequitur



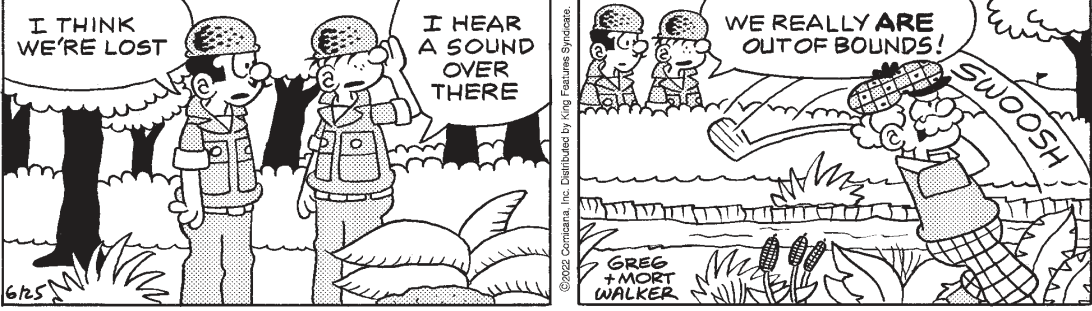
Candorville



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		

- ACROSS
- 52 Law firm aide, for short
- 53 Tax form ID
- 24 — polloi
- 25 City area, for short
- 26 Contented sound
- 27 Knightly address
- 28 Peculiar
- 29 "Of course"
- 31 Camera accessory
- 32 Circle dance
- 34 Blemish
- 35 Tex-Mex treat
- 36 Soft fabrics
- 37 Big name in racing
- 38 Overdue
- 39 They can take a yoke
- 40 Peddle
- 41 Illinois neighbor
- 42 Golf standards
- 43 Sacred chests
- 44 Very bright
- DOWN
- 1 Striped fish
- 2 Artist Ono
- 3 Flair
- 4 Author Susan
- 5 Map dots
- 6 LummoX
- 7 Sledder's starting point
- 8 Tropical fruit
- 9 Not busy
- 10 Dutch word for "farmer"
- 11 Letter extras (Abbr.)
- 19 "Ditto"
- 20 Mork's planet
- 23 "Elementary" ailer
- 1 "Adios!"
- 4 Craving
- 8 Taunt
- 12 Gmail alternative
- 13 Songs for one
- 14 Japanese noodle
- 15 Reggae relative
- 16 Military no-show
- 17 Actor Guinness classic
- 18 D.H. Lawrence
- 21 Condo coolers
- 22 — -la-la
- 23 Pals
- 26 Fine, to NASA
- 27 Tofu source
- 30 Drill
- 31 Napkin's perch
- 32 Conceal
- 33 Bro or sis
- 34 "Whatevs"
- 35 Mustang and Taurus, for two
- 36 Enthusiast
- 37 Eg. and Syr., once
- 38 2008 Coldplay single
- 45 Skater's leap
- 46 Mozart's "— fan tutte"
- 47 Exist
- 48 Circus structure
- 49 Mad as — hen
- 50 "King Kong" studio
- 51 Termini

Answer to Previous Puzzle

A	P	B		M	C	S		D	A	L	E	S
P	R	E		A	H	A		O	D	D	E	R
R	O	Z		C	A	K	E	W	A	L	K	S
I	T	O		S	N	E	A	D				
L	O	S	T		E	S	S		A	U	D	I
				R	E	L		Y	E	S	S	I
R	E	T	I	E				A	T	O	N	E
H	E	R	A	L	D		F	U	R			
O	W	E	D		I	C	E		O	V	A	L
				A	R	E	N	A		I	R	A
C	A	K	E	S	T	A	N	D		R	U	M
P	R	I	M	A		S	E	A		A	B	A
A	C	T	U	P		E	L	M		L	A	S

6-25 CRYPTOQUIP

KZ KZL KV BML DZGKZLIDPZ

DIXPZGI, D IYWWKIL BML

VDXA SYIDZLII TKYXG SL

ZPALG "SPXD-TKKG."

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: POPULAR ANIMATOR WHO HAPPENED TO BE CRAZY ABOUT TRIPLE-TIME BALLROOM DANCES: WALTZ DISNEY.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: K equals O



The foreign policy DNA of Sweden and Finland emphasizes collective action and solidarity with those who respect a rule-



# SCOREBOARD/NFL

## PRO SOCCER

### MLS

#### EASTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
NYCFC	8	3	3	27	26	11
New York	7	4	5	26	26	17
Philadelphia	6	1	8	26	20	11
Orlando City	7	5	4	25	20	22
CF Montréal	7	6	2	23	28	27
New England	6	5	5	23	27	26
Charlotte FC	6	8	2	20	16	19
Cincinnati	6	7	2	20	22	26
Atlanta	5	5	4	19	22	20
Inter Miami CF	5	7	3	18	15	24
Columbus	4	5	5	17	18	17
Toronto FC	4	8	3	15	21	29
D.C. United	4	8	2	14	17	24
Chicago	3	7	5	14	14	20

#### WESTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
LAFC	9	3	3	30	30	17
Real Salt Lake	8	4	4	28	20	19
Austin FC	8	4	3	27	29	18
FC Dallas	7	4	4	25	24	15
LA Galaxy	7	5	3	24	18	16
Nashville	6	5	5	23	19	18
Seattle	6	6	2	20	20	17
Vancouver	6	8	2	20	18	28
Colorado	5	6	4	19	17	18
Houston	5	7	3	18	18	19
Minnesota	5	7	3	18	16	17
Sporting KC	4	9	4	16	16	29
Portland	3	6	7	16	22	26
San Jose	3	7	6	15	25	34

**Note:** Three points for victory, one point for tie.

#### Friday's game

Orlando City at Cincinnati

#### Saturday's games

Sporting Kansas City at Seattle  
Nashville at D.C. United  
Charlotte FC at CF Montréal  
Atlanta at Toronto FC  
Chicago at Houston  
Minnesota at Miami  
FC Dallas at Austin FC  
Columbus at Real Salt Lake  
LA Galaxy at San Jose  
Colorado at Portland

#### Sunday's games

New York at Los Angeles FC  
New York City FC at Philadelphia  
New England at Vancouver

#### Wednesday, June 29

New York City FC at Cincinnati  
Columbus at Toronto FC  
Philadelphia at Chicago  
CF Montréal at Seattle  
FC Dallas at Los Angeles FC  
Houston at Portland  
Minnesota at LA Galaxy

#### Thursday, June 30

Austin FC at Charlotte FC  
Atlanta at New York

#### Saturday, July 2

Seattle at Toronto FC  
Los Angeles FC at Vancouver

#### Sunday, July 3

Atlanta at New York City FC  
Philadelphia at Columbus  
Cincinnati at New England  
Real Salt Lake at Minnesota  
New York at Sporting Kansas City  
Charlotte FC at Houston  
Portland at Nashville  
Chicago at San Jose

## NWSL

	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
SD Wave FC	5	2	3	18	16	8
Portland	4	1	4	16	21	7
Chicago	4	1	4	16	14	10
Houston	4	2	3	15	15	10
OL Reign	3	2	4	13	7	6
Angel City FC	4	4	1	13	7	9
Washington	1	3	6	9	10	12
Louisville	2	4	3	9	10	14
Gotham FC	3	4	0	9	5	9
Kansas City	2	4	3	9	8	13
Orlando	2	5	2	8	9	24
North Carolina	2	4	1	7	12	12

**Note:** Three points for victory, one point for tie.

#### Saturday, June 18

Chicago 2, Kansas City 2, tie  
OL Reign 1, Angel City FC 0

#### Sunday, June 19

Portland 6, Orlando 0  
San Diego Wave FC 3, Gotham FC 0  
Houston 4, North Carolina 3

#### Friday, July 1

Kansas City at Houston  
North Carolina at OL Reign  
Portland at Angel City FC

#### Saturday, July 2

Chicago at Gotham FC

#### Sunday, July 3

Washington at San Diego Wave FC  
Louisville at Orlando

## PRO BASKETBALL

### WNBA

#### EASTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	Pct	GB
Chicago	11	5	.688	—
Connecticut	12	6	.667	—
Washington	11	8	.579	1½
Atlanta	8	8	.500	3
New York	7	10	.412	4½
Indiana	5	13	.278	7

#### WESTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	Pct	GB
Las Vegas	13	3	.813	—
Seattle	10	6	.625	3
Dallas	8	9	.471	5½
Los Angeles	6	9	.400	6½
Phoenix	6	11	.353	7½
Minnesota	4	13	.235	9½

#### Tuesday's games

Atlanta 80, Dallas 75  
Chicago 104, Las Vegas 95  
Minnesota 84, Phoenix 71  
Los Angeles 84, Washington 82

#### Wednesday's games

New York 81, Connecticut 77

#### Thursday's games

Indiana at Dallas  
Phoenix at Minnesota  
Washington at Seattle  
Chicago at Los Angeles

#### Friday's games

New York at Atlanta

#### Saturday's games

Phoenix at Dallas  
Los Angeles at Seattle  
Washington at Las Vegas

## DEALS

### Wednesday's transactions

#### BASEBALL

##### Major League Baseball

##### American League

**BALTIMORE ORIOLES** — Announced LHP Zac Lowther cleared outright waivers and assigned him to Norfolk (IL).

**CHICAGO WHITE SOX** — Optioned RHP Davis Martin to Charlotte (IL). Reinstated RHP Matt Foster from the bereavement list.

**HOUSTON ASTROS** — Sent RHP Forrest Whitley to Fayetteville (CRL) on a rehab assignment.

**LOS ANGELES ANGELS** — Recalled RHPs Elvis Peguero and Oliver Ortega from Salt Lake (PCL). Optioned LHP Reid Detmers to Salt Lake. Placed RHP Jimmy Herget on the 15-day IL.

##### National League

**LOS ANGELES DODGERS** — Selected the contract of OF Stefan Romero from Oklahoma City (PCL). Placed INF Hanser Albera on the paternity list. Transferred INF Edwin Rios to the 60-day IL.

**PITTSBURGH PIRATES** — Selected the contract of RHP Jared Eickhoff from Indianapolis (IL). Designated RHP Heath Hembrée for assignment. Transferred OF Jake Marisnick from the COVID-19 list to the 60-day IL.

#### FOOTBALL

##### National Football League

**MINNESOTA VIKINGS** — Signed CB Akayleb Evans to a rookie contract.

**SEATTLE SEAHAWKS** — Waived G Pier-Olivier Lestage. Signed DT Bryan Mone to a contract extension.

#### HOCKEY

##### National Hockey League

**FLORIDA PANTHERS** — Named Paul Maurice head coach.

**MINNESOTA WILD** — Signed F Connor Dewar to a two-year, one-way contract.

#### SOCCER

##### Major League Soccer

**MLS** — Fined Real Salt Lake assistant coach Brett Jacobs an undisclosed amount for exhibiting irresponsible behavior and using inappropriate language towards officials in a match against on June 18, against San Jose.

**NASHVILLE SC** — Traded an international roster slot to Atlanta United in exchange for \$175,000 general allocation money (GAM) and a third-round pick in the 2023 MLS SuperDraft.

**NEW YORK RED BULLS** — Signed M Steven Sserwadda and D Juan Castillo to short-term loans.

**SEATTLE SOUNDERS SC** — Acquired \$175,000 in general allocation money (GAM) from Atlanta United in exchange for a 2022 international roster slot.

#### COLLEGE

**GEORGETOWN** — Named Pat Baldwin assistant men's basketball coach and Vernon Hamilton director of player development.

**N. MICHIGAN** — Named Adam Kelemet assistant men's soccer coach.

**SOUTH ALABAMA** — Named Cori Scherbring assistant athletic director of fan engagement.

## GOLF

### World rankings

#### Through June 20

1.	Scottie Scheffler	USA	10.95
2.	Rory McIlroy	NIR	7.78
3.	Jon Rahm	ESP	7.76
4.	Collin Morikawa	USA	7.20
5.	Justin Thomas	USA	7.13

## TENNIS

### Rothsay International Eastbourne

#### Wednesday

At Devonshire Park Lawn Tennis Club  
Eastbourne, Great Britain

Purse: 697,405

Surface: Grass

Men's Singles

#### Round of 16

Cameron Norrie (1), Britain, def. Brandon Nakashima, United States, 6-4, 6-2.

Alex de Minaur (6), Australia, def. Lorenzo Sonego, Italy, 7-6 (3), 6-2.

Taylor Fritz (3), United States, def. Thiago Monteiro, Brazil, 7-5, 6-3.

Maxime Cressy, United States, def. Daniel Evans, Britain, 7-6 (2), 6-4.

Tommy Paul, United States, def. Jannik Sinner (2), Italy, 6-3, 3-6, 6-3.

Alexander Bublik, Kazakhstan, def. John Millman, Australia, 6-4, 6-2.

Jack Draper, Britain, def. Diego Schwartzman (4), Argentina, 7-5, 7-6 (3).

#### Women's Singles

#### Round of 16

Camila Giorgi (12), Italy, def. Garbine Muguruza (5), Spain, 7-5, 6-3.

Viktoriya Tomova, Bulgaria, def. Kirsten Flipkens, Belgium, 3-6, 6-3, 6-4.

Petra Kvitová (14), Czech Republic, def. Katie Boulter, Britain, 5-7, 6-0, 7-5.

Lesia Tsurenko, Ukraine, def. Magda Linette, Poland, 7-5, 3-6, 7-5.

Beatriz Haddad Maia (15), Brazil, def. Jodie Anna Burrage, Britain, 6-1, 6-2.

Harriet Dart, Britain, def. Marta Kostyuk, Ukraine, 6-4, 2-6, 6-4.

Jelena Ostapenko (8), Latvia, def. Madison Keys (11), United States, 6-3, ret.

Anhelina Kalinina, Ukraine, def. Yulia Putintseva (16), Kazakhstan, 6-3, 2-6, 6-3.

#### Men's Doubles

#### Quarterfinals

Ivan Dodig, Croatia, and Austin Krajicek (4), United States, def. Nicolas Mahut and Edouard Roger-Vasselin, France, 7-5, 6-2.

Matwe Middelkoop, Netherlands, and Luke Saville, Australia, def. Aisam-ul-Haq Qureshi, Pakistan, and Aleksandr Nedovyesov, Kazakhstan, 4-6, 6-4, 10-3.

Bruno Soares, Brazil, and Jamie Murray, Britain, def. Harri Heliövaara, Finland, and Lloyd Glasspool, Britain, 6-4, 7-5.

Nikola Mektić and Mate Pavić (1), Croatia, def. Ugo Humbert, France, and Maxime Cressy, United States, 7-6 (9), 6-1.

#### Women's Doubles

#### Quarterfinals

Aleksandra Krunic, Serbia, and Magda Linette, Poland, def. Gabriela Dabrowski, Canada, and Giuliana Olmos (2), Mexico, 6-1, 6-3.

Serena Williams, United States, and Ons Jabeur, Tunisia, def. Shuko Aoyama, Japan, and Hao-Ching Chan, Taiwan, 6-2, 6-4.

### Mallorca Championships

#### Wednesday

At Santa Ponca  
Mallorca, Spain

Purse: Euro 886,500

Surface: Grass

Men's Singles

#### Round of 16

Antoine Bellier, Switzerland, def. Pablo Carreno Busta (4), Spain, 6-3, 6-4.

Tallon Griekspoor, Netherlands, def. Alex Molcan, Slovakia, 0-6, 6-3, 7-6 (3).

Marcos Giron, United States, def. Mackenzie McDonald, United States, 4-6, 7-6 (5), 6-4.

Roberto Bautista Agut (5), Spain, def. Nick Kyrgios, Australia, walkover.

Stefanos Tsitsipas (2), Greece, def. Ilya Ivashka, Belarus, 6-4, 6-4.

Benjamin Bonzi, France, def. Denis Shapovalov (3), Canada, 6-4, 6-1.

Daniel Altmaier, Germany, def. Sebastian Baez (8), Argentina, 6-2, 2-6, 6-4.

Daniil Medvedev (1), Russia, def. Aslan Karatsev, Russia, 4-6, 6-3, 6-2.

#### Men's Doubles

#### Quarterfinals

Matthew Ebden, Australia, and Philipp Oswald, Austria, def. Pablo Carreno Busta and Jaume Munar, Spain, 6-3, 2-6, 18-16.

Gonzalo Escobar, Ecuador, and Ariel Behar, Uruguay, def. Kevin Krawietz and Andreas Mies (2), Germany, 7-6 (3), 7-6 (11).

### Bad Homburg Open

#### Wednesday

At Bad Homburg Tennis Club  
Hamburg, Germany

Purse: \$239,477

Surface: Grass

Women's Singles

#### Round of 16

Alize Cornet (9), France, def. Tatjana Maria, Germany, 7-6 (4), 6-4.

Sabine Lisicki, Germany, def. Greet Minnen, Belgium, 6-3, 2-6, 6-2.

Amanda Anisimova (6), United States, def. Ann Li, United States, 6-0, 6-2.

Bianca Andreescu, Canada, def. Katie Swan, Britain, 6-4, 6-4.

Angelique Kerber (3), Germany, def. Lucia Bronzetti, Italy, 6-2, 6-3.

Simona Halep (4), Romania, def. Tamara Zidansek, Slovenia, 6-0, 6-3.

#### Women's Doubles

#### Quarterfinals

Makoto Ninomiya and Eri Hozumi (1), Japan, def. Yana Sizikova and Anastasia Potapova, Russia, 1-6, 6-4, 10-7.



JEFF ZELEVANSKY/AP

**Tony Siragusa played seven seasons with the Indianapolis Colts and five seasons with the Baltimore Ravens, winning the Super Bowl with the Ravens in 2000. He died Wednesday at the age of 55.**

# Former Ravens DT Siragusa, 55, dies

BY NOAH TRISTER

Associated Press

Tony Siragusa, the charismatic defensive tackle who was part of one of the most celebrated defenses in NFL history with the Baltimore Ravens, died Wednesday. He was 55.

Siragusa's broadcast agent, Jim Ornstein, confirmed the death. The cause of death was not immediately available.

"This is a really sad day," he said. "Tony was way more than my client, he was family. My heart goes out to Tony's loved ones."

Siragusa, known as "Goose," played seven seasons with the Indianapolis Colts and five with the Ravens. Baltimore's 2000 team won the Super Bowl behind a stout defense that included Siragusa, Ray Lewis and Sam Adams.

Siragusa was popular with fans because of his fun-loving attitude, which also helped him transition quickly to broadcasting after his playing career.

"There was no one like Goose — a warrior on the field and a team unifier with a giving, generous heart who helped teammates and the community more than most people know," said Brian Billick, the coach of that 2000 team. "We would not have won the Super Bowl without him. This is such stunning, sad news."

Siragusa came to Baltimore as a free agent in 1997 and teamed up with Adams to form an imposing defensive tackle tandem. He finished his career with 22 sacks.

"I love Goose like a brother. From the first day we met, I knew that life was different. I knew he was someone who would change my life forever," Lewis said. "He was a one-of-a-kind person who made you feel important and special. You can never replace a man like that."

The news of Siragusa's death came on what was already a tragic

day for the Ravens. The death of Jaylon Ferguson, a linebacker for Baltimore, at age 26 was announced earlier in the day.

"This is a tremendously sad day for the Baltimore Ravens," owner Steve Bisciotti said. "We appreciate everyone who has expressed an outpouring of support for our players, coaches and staff."

Siragusa was a star football player and wrestler at David Brearley High School in New Jersey. He then played collegiately at Pittsburgh, where he had a reputation for wisecracks well before his NFL career.

"If I wanted to learn a school song, I would've gone to Notre Dame or Penn State," he once said. "I want to kill people on the football field. That's why I came to Pitt."

Siragusa went undrafted before signing with Indianapolis, but he turned out to be a championship-winning force in the NFL. Then he took his personality to the airwaves, working for Fox's NFL coverage.

"His incomparable passion for football established him as one of the most charismatic personalities ever to set foot on the gridiron or in front of a camera," Fox Sports said in a statement. "Goose was a natural in his ability to relate the sport and its players to fans everywhere."

Siragusa also had a role on HBO's "The Sopranos" and hosted shows on the Discovery Channel and DIY Network.

"Tony truly was bigger than life, on and off the field," said Pat Narduzzi, Pitt's current football coach. "He played the game passionately and relentlessly. Despite not being drafted, he thrived in the NFL for 12 years. His post-football life took him so many places but he never forgot Pitt. We could always count on him to send the best recorded pep talks to our guys before our biggest games."



INTERNATIONAL SPORTS

Will other sports follow FINA lead?

Ban on transgender women in swimming opened the door for track and others to consider following suit

By Eddie Pells  
Associated Press

Bans on transgender women in international swimming and rugby this week opened the door for track and field to consider following suit in what could turn into a wave of policy changes in Olympic sports.

The announcement Sunday by swimming’s governing body, FINA, was followed quickly by a show of support from World Athletics President Sebastian Coe, who was in Hungary for the swimming world championships. He said FINA’s decision was in the best interest of swimming and that his own federation, which oversees track and field and other running sports, would review its policies on transgender athletes and intersex athletes at the end of the year.

“If we ever get pushed into a corner to that point where we’re making a judgment about fairness or inclusion, I will always fall down on the side of fairness,” Coe said.

Experts viewed that as a signal that World Athletics officials could use the FINA precedent to block all transgender and intersex athletes — the latter referred to by clinical terminology as having differences in sex development — from competing in women’s events.

FINA’s new policy bans all transgender women from elite competitions if they didn’t begin medical treatment to suppress testosterone production before either the onset of puberty or by age 12, whichever comes later. USA Swimming put its own policy in place earlier this year, with the idea that it would eventually follow FINA’s lead, but this week said it would need time to see how FINA’s policy affects its own.

Should track and field adopt a similar rule to FINA, Caster Semenya, an athlete with differences in sex development, still would be kept out of races at her chosen distance, 800 meters.

It also could bar 200-meter silver medalist Christine Mboma of Namibia, who also is an athlete with differences in sex development and expected to contend for the title at world championships in Oregon next month. Currently, World Athletics rules governing such athletes don’t apply to the 200-meter race.

“By later this year, I think (World Athletics) will have announced a policy that is very similar to swimming,” said Ross Tucker, a

“By later this year, I think (track) will have announced a policy that is very similar to swimming.”

Ross Tucker

World Rugby science and research consultant

science and research consultant for World Rugby. “And they will say that if ever a person has gone through male puberty and has obtained the advantages associated with testosterone, they can’t compete in women’s sports.”

The International Rugby League also barred transgender women from women’s matches until more studies allow for the sport’s regulators to come up with a cohesive inclusion policy.

FIFA, which runs soccer, said it is “currently reviewing its gender eligibility regulations in consultation with expert stakeholders.”

Individual sports are taking the lead because of the International Olympic Committee framework that was introduced last November and went into effect in March placed all sports in charge of their own rules regarding testosterone. It replaced an IOC policy that had allowed transgender women who had been on hormone replacement therapy for at least 12 months to compete in the Olympics against other women.

The new guidance, which is not binding, recommends that testosterone levels should not determine whether someone is eligible to compete — a stance that World Athletics has not adopted.

Tucker said he expected maybe the “big four or five” international sports federations to follow FINA’s suit, but not all the others — in part because many are smaller operations that don’t have science and legal teams to do the research for thorough policies. FINA had assigned three groups, athletes, science and medicine and legal and human rights, to work on its policy.

FINA’s decisions and those of other organizations are likely to be challenged either



MARY SCHWALM/AP

University of Pennsylvania transgender swimmer Lia Thomas swims in the first leg of the 800-yard freestyle relay at the Ivy League championships in February. The NCAA had sought clarity from USA Swimming because of Thomas competing.

in court or at the Court of Arbitration for Sport, meaning federations that adopt a rule will need scientific studies and legal funding to back up the policy.

“What swimming did was not easy, and it certainly wasn’t cheap,” Tucker said.

Coe said FINA “spent \$1,000,000 (on legal fees). We’re not FIFA but we’re not bereft. But there are other sports that are genuinely fearful that, if they go down that road, they’ll bankrupt themselves defending this.”

Athletes at the world swimming championships in Hungary mostly steered clear of commenting on the new transgender policy this week.

“I think the question is, if you’re a woman out there and you’re racing someone else, like, how would you feel doing that? It’s just about fairness in sport,” said Australia’s Moesha Johnson, who finished fourth in the 1500 meters.

The FINA decision also sent national swim federations scrambling.

Swimming Australia said it endorses fair and equitable competition for all athletes, adding in a statement: “We also firmly believe in inclusivity and the opportunity for all athletes to experience the sport of swimming in a manner that is consistent with their gender identity and expression.”

In the U.S., the NCAA, which governs college sports, had sought clarity from USA Swimming because of transgender swim-

mer Lia Thomas, who competed on Penn’s women’s team.

USA Swimming created a policy requiring evidence that an athlete had maintained a testosterone level less than 5 nanomoles per liter for a minimum period of 36 months. But the NCAA decided against immediately adopting that rule, which would have made Thomas ineligible for the national championships in March, where she won the 500-yard individual title.

When it released its policy, USA Swimming said it would remain in place until FINA adopted its own policy. In a statement Wednesday, USA Swimming said it would “now take our time to understand the impact of this international standard on our existing policy.”

Thomas has said she would like to pursue the Olympics; if she does, her times would likely put her in the mix to at least earn a spot at Olympic trials for the 2024 Games in Paris.

The Thomas case might ultimately be viewed as the tipping point in international competition, given the relative lack of transgender athletes in elite sports, Tucker said.

“People aren’t really very good at understanding an issue until it’s right in front of them as a physical thing,” Tucker said. “They almost have to be punched in the nose before they think something is real. And Lia Thomas made this real.”

German soccer: transgender players can decide team

Associated Press

BERLIN — German soccer is bucking the recent trend of banning transgender women from women’s competition by allowing all transgender, intersex and non-binary players to decide for themselves whether to play in men’s or women’s teams.

The German soccer federation passed a new regulation for gender-nonconforming players with the civil status “diverse” or “unspecified” on Thursday.

“It also applies to transgender players who can now switch at a self-determined time or remain initially in the team in which they’d been playing previously,” the DFB said in a statement. “As long as the sporting activity

does not affect the health of the person while they are taking medication, the person can take part in the game, which is why the new regulation excludes doping relevance.”

The new rules take effect in the coming season and will be incorporated into the DFB’s game regulations, its youth regulations and futsal regulations for amateur soccer.

Sabine Mammitzsch, who oversees women’s and girls’ soccer at the DFB, says there has long been a need for clarification.

“The state and regional associations, but also relevant people at grassroots level, have been signaling for a long time that there are uncertainties with how to accommodate transgender, intersex and non-binary

players,” Mammitzsch said. “Therefore, they very much welcome the introduction of a national, comprehensive rule on the right to play.”

It follows world swimming’s ban of transgender women from women’s competitions.

“With the regulation of the right to play, we are creating further important prerequisites to enable players of different gender identities to play,” DFB diversity officer Thomas Hitzlsperger said.

German soccer’s new rules have already been tested at local level by the Berlin federation since 2019.

“Experience has shown that this does not jeopardize the integrity of the competition,”

the DFB said. “After all, all people have different physical strengths and abilities that only lead to success together in a team, regardless of gender.”

The German soccer federation is the world’s largest with more than seven million members, more than 24,000 clubs, nearly 130,000 teams, and more than 2.2 million players across all of its leagues, divisions and competitions.

It says its state and regional associations will appoint trusted people to help any gender-nonconforming players in granting their right to play, working closely with local anti-violence and anti-discrimination officers to support them.



TITLE IX

What is it; what is it's impact?

By COLLIN BINKLEY AND ERICA HUNZINGER  
Associated Press

Title IX, the law best known for its role in gender equity in athletics and preventing sexual harassment on campuses, is turning 50.

It was signed into law by President Richard Nixon on June 23, 1972, after being shepherded through Congress in part by Rep. Patsy Mink, a Democrat from Hawaii who was the first woman of color elected to the U.S. House.

The law forbids discrimination based on sex in education, and despite its age remains a vital piece in the ongoing push for equality, including in the LGBTQ community.

What does Title IX say?

The statute itself is one sentence long, language that was put together by then-Sen. Birch Bayh of Indiana, who died in 2019.

“No person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance.”

Translation: The law is meant to ensure equity between men and women in education, and it's broad, covering most K-12 schools and colleges and universities, as well as vocational schools, libraries and museums. That means it applies to tens of millions of students, as well as educators.

What does it cover?

The law applies to several areas of education: athletics, the classroom, sexual assault and violence on campus, employment, discrimination, admissions, retaliation and even financial assistance with tuition.

It also has been extended to other forms of gender and sex discrimination; Title IX was invoked when the Obama administration advised that transgender people should be allowed to use the bathroom of their choice in schools.

How does it affect athletics?

In so many ways, and at the K-12 and powerful collegiate levels. Women's and men's teams are to be treated equally under the law, and schools should look to expand the opportunities for women to play sports.



BRAD HERRIGAN, HARTFORD COURANT/AP

Members of the UConn women's rowing team rally about being cut by the university after the 2021 season in Storrs, Conn., in April 2021.

This doesn't necessarily mean that each sport will have exactly the same budget for equipment, facilities, travel or meals. For example, the women's tennis team might have more money put toward racquets than the men's tennis team. Athletic departments work under what is known as "equal in effect," meaning a benefit for a men's or women's team in one area can be offset in another area as long as "the overall effects of any differences is negligible."

In the hopes of ensuring compliance with Title IX, each athletic department at a college or university must provide annual Equity in Athletics Data Analysis reports. These track participation, coaching staff and salaries, revenues and expenses, including recruiting and game-day expenses.

Many Title IX athletics disputes deal with what's known as the participation gap. Athletic departments must make sure the ratio of men's athletic participation opportunities to women's participation opportunities are "substantially proportionate" to a school's undergrad enrollment.

For example, the University of Connecticut settled a lawsuit after its women's rowing team won a temporary restraining order against being shut down. UConn was accused of putting inflated women's rowing roster numbers (about 20 more than would compete) on its equity report, meaning the actual participation gap was "well above a viable team size."

How does it affect sexual harassment allegations?

Title IX's protections extend to sexual harassment on campus, including dating violence, domestic violence and stalking.

The bottom line is that all students are supposed to have a learning environment free from sexual harassment. When violations occur, the law is meant to help students get the problem resolved, which can mean moving to a different dorm, for example, or getting an alleged attacker re-

moved from the school entirely.

Under new Title IX regulations that were finalized in 2020, students who come forward with abuse allegations may now face an in-person hearing and cross-examination by a person chosen by the alleged attacker. These rules have been criticized by Democrats and others for not fully protecting victims and for discouraging complaints, and the Biden administration is expected to propose new regulations soon.

The Associated Press reported that some universities saw a decrease in the number of complaints brought to Title IX offices.

What about discrimination?

Under Title IX, there's a broad definition of discrimination that could involve students, faculty, administrators or staff. It also covers discrimination against pregnant people. The law has also been invoked to outlaw discrimination of LGBTQ students and educators.

Nothing in Title IX or its federal regulations explicitly protects LGBTQ people, but the Biden administration said last year that the law should be interpreted to protect against discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity. It was based on a 2020 Supreme Court decision ruling that LGBTQ people are protected from discrimination in employment.

As a result, the Education Department said it can launch a civil rights investigation if students are blocked from things like using bathrooms or joining sports teams that match their gender identities.

Tennessee and several other Republican-led states filed a federal lawsuit challenging that guidance; it has yet to be decided.

The Biden administration has signaled that its upcoming regulation will explicitly expand Title IX to protect LGBTQ students from discrimination. If finalized as a federal regulation, it would carry the force of law.

Hoops icons warn of complacency

By TERESA M. WALKER  
Associated Press

KNOXVILLE, Tenn. Some of the giants of women's basketball say if not for Title IX, doors would not have been open for them to blaze trails to Hall of Fame careers on and off the court, but sound complacency alarms when it comes to the future of the law.

Coach Marsha Sharp takes it a step farther when talking about the significance of Title IX.

"I think the Title IX legislation, you could say is the most impactful piece of information in the 20th century," said Sharp, who guided Sheryl Swoopes and Texas Tech to the 1993 national championship. "And I know the Civil Rights piece was really huge, but you impacted half our population."

"With Title IX, you gave opportunities across the board to women. And it was really an amazing time to watch the growth in sports."

A 2003 inductee, Sharp joined 2008 Hall of Famer Debbie Ryan and a pair of recent inductees — Debbie Antonelli and Carol Stiff — in speaking with The Associated Press about the 50th anniversary of the landmark legislation. Stiff, a basketball player/coach turned TV executive, called Title IX priceless.

"I don't know where we would be today without Title IX," Stiff said.

The icons of the game also agree more work remains even after 50 years.

"There's a lot of battles, but we're not fighting them," said Ryan, who coached Virginia to three straight Final Fours. "And that's one of the problems. I think because of the money that's come into the game, it becomes harder for a coach to kind of put themselves out there. And I think even though they know who's going to win, they just don't do it as much."

At least one of Ryan's former players has been outspoken. Dawn Staley, now the highest-paid coach in the Southeastern Conference, is front and center helping fight for equity while leading South Carolina to two national championships.

For Sharp and Ryan, they worked their way through the nascent days of Title IX to the heights of women's basketball.

Sharp played at Wayland Baptist, a Texas program giving scholarships in the 1950s with a local company flying the team to games. So while most women's programs could only dream of flying to road games, it was nothing new for Sharp when she became coach at Texas Tech in 1982. Sharp's Red Raiders played a national schedule with flights to Tennessee and



TERESA WALKER/AP

Women's Basketball Hall of Famer Marsha Sharp says Title IX is the most impactful legislation of the 20th century.

Stanford.

At Virginia, Ryan had to stay awake to drive the van home from road games. Virginia started with one scholarship for basketball with the first player leaving after a year to care for her sick father. In 1978, Dori Gamble shared that scholarship with Hall of Famer Val Ackerman, currently commissioner of the Big East and the first president of the WNBA.

Using Title IX meant picking battles to get more athletic gear, equipment and facilities for female athletes.

One of Ryan's biggest battles was for athletic bras.

Virginia cited a price of \$32 apiece to avoid buying them for all women's sports until Ryan pushed back with studies about women's health along with a petition backed by all coaches, including football coach George Welsh. After she won, Pat Summitt, Kay Yow, Jody Conradt and Tara VanDerveer all called for guidance to help wage their own fights.

And probably surprising to many, the fight for athletic bras continues.

"Still today women athletes are not provided in their regular gear athletic bras," Ryan said. "They're not provided it at all, which is ridiculous. And it's crazy that they're not provided enough funding to be able to buy them."

Antonelli, who played basketball for Yow at North Carolina State, started the first TV broadcasts of women's games at Ohio State as director of marketing in the 1990s that boosted her own 30-plus year career as a broadcaster. She sees plenty of room for women's sports to grow — as long as the money for diversity, equity and inclusion is used appropriately.

"It should go to women's sports," Antonelli said. "There's more opportunities for girls to play now than they've ever played then there's ever been now. They're not all playing my sport, but they are playing. And that's important because we know what value sport brings, what it teaches."



# COLLEGE WORLD SERIES/GOLF

## CWS ROUNDUP

# Sooners move into title series

## OU awaits Arkansas-Ole Miss winner

Associated Press

OMAHA, Neb. — Oklahoma’s baseball players came to the College World Series calling themselves “a bunch of Davids,” a nod to their embrace of the underdog identity they adopted after an underwhelming start to the season.

It was one David — David Sandlin — who got most of the credit Wednesday for taking down Texas A&M, the last of the national seeds in the NCAA Tournament.

Sandlin held the Aggies to one run and struck out a career-high 12 in seven innings, Jimmy Crooks’ three-run homer in the first held up and Oklahoma advanced to the CWS finals with a 5-1 victory.

Trying to complete a softball-baseball title sweep, the Sooners (45-22) have won three straight games at Charles Schwab Field by no fewer than four runs and will play for their first national championship since 1994.

Oklahoma’s opponent in the best-of-three finals starting Saturday will be either Arkansas or Mississippi.

As Sooners fans chanted “O-U! O-U!” closer Trevin Michael struck out Brett Minnich to end the game against the Aggies. The celebration was subdued.

## CWS scoreboard

<b>World Series</b>	
<b>At Omaha, Neb.</b>	
<b>(Double Elimination; x-if necessary)</b>	
<b>Bracket 1</b>	
<b>Friday, June 17</b>	
<b>Game 1</b>	Oklahoma 13, Texas A&M 8
<b>Game 2</b>	Notre Dame 7, Texas 3
<b>Sunday, June 19</b>	
<b>Game 3</b>	Texas A&M 10, Texas 2, Texas eliminated
<b>Game 4</b>	Oklahoma 6, Notre Dame 2
<b>Tuesday, June 21</b>	
<b>Game 5</b>	Texas A&M 5, Notre Dame 1, Notre Dame eliminated
<b>Wednesday, June 22</b>	
<b>Game 6</b>	Oklahoma 5, Texas A&M 1, Oklahoma advances
<b>Bracket 2</b>	
<b>Saturday, June 18</b>	
<b>Game 1</b>	Arkansas 17, Stanford 2
<b>Game 2</b>	Mississippi 5, Auburn 1
<b>Monday, June 20</b>	
<b>Game 3</b>	Auburn 6, Stanford 2, Stanford eliminated
<b>Game 4</b>	Mississippi 13, Arkansas 5
<b>Tuesday, June 21</b>	
<b>Game 5</b>	Arkansas 11, Auburn 1, Auburn eliminated
<b>Wednesday, June 22</b>	
<b>Game 6</b>	Arkansas 3, Mississippi 2
<b>Thursday, June 23</b>	
<b>Game 7</b>	Arkansas vs. Mississippi
<b>Championship Series (Best-of-three)</b>	
<b>Saturday, June 25:</b> Oklahoma vs. TBD	
<b>Sunday, June 26:</b> Oklahoma vs. TBD	
<b>x-Monday, June 27:</b> Oklahoma vs. TBD	

“I think those kids are focused,” coach Skip Johnson said. “I don’t know if it’s dog-piling or whatever it is... It’s kind of weird sometimes. I don’t tell them not to dog-pile, I can tell you that.”

Texas A&M (44-20) finished 2-2



Oklahoma starting pitcher David Sandlin delivers Wednesday against Texas A&M during the first inning of their College World Series game in Omaha, Neb. Sandlin struck out 12 in seven innings.

in the CWS under first-year coach Jim Schlossnagle after going 29-27, winning only nine Southeastern Conference games and not even qualifying for the league tournament in 2021.

The Sooners didn’t look like an NCAA Tournament team after losing two of their first three Big 12 series and starting 18-12. They’ve won 27 of 37, including 12 of 14 since the end of the regular season.

Sandlin (9-4), who allowed five hits and walked one in his 100-pitch outing, effectively worked the outside half of the plate with a sharp slider and elevated fastball.

er (1-4) allowed four runs, three earned, in 2⅓ innings. Jacob Palisch went the rest of the way, gave up three hits and a run and struck out eight.

**Arkansas 3, Mississippi 2:** At Omaha, Neb., Brady Slavens’ home run to the deepest part of the park gave the Razorbacks the lead and they held on to beat the Rebels, who loaded the bases with no outs in the bottom of the ninth inning.

Arkansas (46-20) forced a second bracket final against Ole Miss (39-23) on Thursday, with the winner advancing to play Oklahoma in the best-of-three championship round starting Saturday.

For eight innings, Arkansas all but shut down an offense that had produced 64 runs in its first seven NCAA Tournament games. Kemp Alderman, who hit a tying homer in the second inning, was the only Ole Miss runner to advance past first base to that point.

The Rebels loaded the bases in the ninth after closer Brady Tygart hit two straight batters.

Zack Morris, who had given up two runs in two-thirds of an inning in the Hogs’ 13-5 loss to Ole Miss on Monday, came on and struck out pinch-hitter Hayden Leatherwood and got TJ McCants and Jacob Gonzalez to fly out to end the game.

# PGA Tour leaning on loyalty to keep players

By Doug Ferguson

Associated Press

CROMWELL, Conn. — Commissioner Jay Monahan says the PGA Tour can’t win an “arms race” against Saudi-funded LIV Golf when the weapon is money. His response Wednesday was to boost prize money in eight elite events and rely on loyalty and legacy among his players.

Monahan delivered another round of stinging criticism against Greg Norman and his rival league. LIV Golf has snagged players who have combined to win nine majors in the last five years, including Dustin Johnson, Brooks Koepka and Bryson DeChambeau.

The latest to sign was Koepka, whose deal with LIV Golf was announced just as Monahan began his first press conference in three months at the Travelers Championship.

“I am not naive,” Monahan said. “If this is an arms race and if the only weapons here are dollar bills, the PGA Tour can’t compete. The PGA Tour, an American institution, can’t compete with a foreign monarchy that is spending billions of dollars in attempt to buy the game of golf.



SETH WENIG/AP

**PGA Tour Commissioner Jay Monahan speaks during a news conference Wednesday before the Travelers Championship in Cromwell, Conn.**

“We welcome good, healthy competition. The LIV Saudi golf league is not that,” he said. “It’s an irrational threat, one not concerned with the return on investment or true growth of the game.”

The tour, however, appears to be trying to keep up. Monahan said an increase in prize money was in the works from its latest media rights deal it signed in 2020, noting the threat of LIV Golf accelerated some of

those plans.

He announced a streamlined schedule — January to August starting in 2024 — with seven tournaments worth \$20 million or more and fewer spots available for its post-season. The top 125 qualify for the FedEx Cup playoffs. Next year, only the top 70 will be eligible.

The fall would be for the players who finished outside the top 70 to secure cards for the following year, and to give them a chance to move into the top 50 — or try to stay there — to secure spots in some of the elite \$20 million tournaments.

Also planned are three international events in the fall for only the top 50 in FedEx Cup points from the previous season.

Monahan cited Masters champion Scottie Scheffler, who earlier Wednesday was unusually vocal in his support of the PGA Tour. Scheffler had not won on the PGA Tour until February, and then he won four times in two months to reach No. 1 in the world.

He already has set a PGA Tour record for season earnings at nearly \$12.9 million.

“If you’re good enough, you will rise to the top,” Monahan said. “And if you don’t

continue to earn that top spot, someone else as hungry and as talented is right there to take your place. Again, that’s the unique beauty of what the tour has and always will offer to fans.

“It’s damn good and it’s worth fighting for.”

The tour will nearly double the prize money for the winner-only Sentry Tournament of Champions at Kapalua to \$15 million. The invitation events at Riviera, Bay Hill and Muirfield Village increase by \$8 million to \$20 million. The two FedEx Cup playoff events increase by \$5 million to \$20 million. And The Players Championship goes up \$5 million to \$25 million.

That’s an increase of just over \$50 million in prize money, or roughly what Johnson reportedly received annually as a signing fee for the LIV Golf series, and that’s before he and others compete for \$25 million prize funds at each event.

That’s the arms race Monahan and the PGA Tour are facing, though they still have the top 15 players in the world ranking on their side, a core group which is speaking out more forcefully.

Still, some may have a price.



# STANLEY CUP FINAL/SOCCER



JOHN BAZEMORE/AP

Colorado Avalanche center Nazem Kadri shoots the puck into the top of the goal past Lightning goaltender Andrei Vasilevski for the game-winning goal in overtime of Game 4 of the Stanley Cup Final on Wednesday in Tampa, Fla. The victory gives the Avalanche a 3-1 lead in the best-of-seven series.

## Avs on the brink

### Colorado wins Game 4 in OT, takes 3-1 series lead

By FRED GOODALL  
Associated Press

TAMPA, Fla. — The Colorado Avalanche are on the brink of their first Stanley Cup title since 2001, thanks to Nazem Kadri's overtime goal.

Even if the two-time defending champion Tampa Bay Lightning don't believe it should have counted.

Kadri scored at 12:02 of the extra period to give Colorado a 3-2 victory in Game 4 of the Stanley Cup Final and move the Avalanche within a win of their first championship in over two decades.

Without specifically saying Tampa Bay felt Colorado had too many men on the ice for the winning goal, Lightning coach Jon Cooper suggested the goal should not have been allowed.

"We're all in this together. Players, coaches, refs, everybody. But this one is going to sting much more than others," Cooper said.

"It's going to be hard for me to speak. ... I'll speak with you (Thursday). You're going to see what I mean when you see the winning goal," Cooper added. "And my heart breaks for the players. Because we probably still should be playing."

The NHL released a statement saying the penalty is a judgement call that can be made by the on-ice officials. Each of the four officials said they did not see a too-many-men-on-the-ice situation on the winning play. The call is not subject to video review.

### NHL scoreboard

**Stanley Cup Final**  
Best-of-seven; x-if necessary  
Colorado 3, Tampa Bay 1  
Colorado 4, Tampa Bay 3, OT  
Colorado 7, Tampa Bay 0  
Tampa Bay 6, Colorado 2  
Wednesday: Colorado 3, Tampa Bay 2, OT  
Friday: at Colorado, AFN-Sports2, 2 a.m. Saturday CET; 9 a.m. Saturday JKT  
x-Sunday, June 26: at Tampa Bay, AFN-Sports2, 2 a.m. Monday CET; 9 a.m. Monday JKT  
x-Tuesday, June 28: at Colorado, AFN-Sports2, 2 a.m. Wednesday CET; 9 a.m. Wednesday JKT

Back in the lineup after being sidelined since June 4 with a thumb injury, Kadri skated in on Andrei Vasilevski and slipped a shot under the goaltender's right arm to give Colorado a 3-1 series lead.

"That was a huge win. A resilient win," said Kadri, who had been sidelined since being injured during Game 3 of the Western Conference finals against Edmonton.

"I've been waiting for this my whole life," the Colorado center added. "I figured it was time to join the party."

The Avalanche outshot the Lightning 11-3 in the extra period. Vasilevski stopped Logan O'Connor on a breakaway, and Colorado had a shot clang off the post and another hit the crossbar before Kadri ended it.

Game 5 is Friday night in Denver, where Colorado won the first two games of the series and is 7-2 this postseason.

Anthony Cirelli scored 36 seconds

into the game and Victor Hedman also scored in regulation for the Lightning. They took a 2-1 lead into the third period.

Nathan MacKinnon scored on a second-period power play for Colorado, and Andrew Cogliano tied it early in the third.

Darcy Kuemper, pulled from Game 3 after giving up five goals in a 6-2 loss, stopped 37 shots and had an assist on the winning goal for the Avalanche.

Vasilevski finished with 35 saves. He has rebounded from allowing 11 goals in Games 1 and 2 to limit the high-scoring Avalanche to five the past two games.

The Lightning are trying to become the first team to win at least three straight Stanley Cup titles since the New York Islanders won four in a row from 1980-83. The Avalanche last hoisted the Cup in 2001.

### Injuries

Kadri returned to the lineup after missing four games. He had been out since injuring his thumb when he was boarded by Evander Kane in Game 3 of Colorado's sweep of Edmonton in the Western Conference finals.

Kane received a major penalty and was suspended a game.

### Helping hands

Mikko Rantanen and Cale Makker assisted on MacKinnon's goal, giving both of them 20 this postseason — a franchise record for a single playoff year. Peter Stastny had 19 with Quebec in 1985.

## Sports court sets July dates to hear Russian appeals

By GRAHAM DUNBAR  
Associated Press

GENEVA — Russian appeals against bans from international soccer because of the country's war in Ukraine are set to be heard at the Court of Arbitration for Sport in July.

The court on July 5 will hear the Russian soccer federation's appeal against FIFA and UEFA's joint decision to suspend its national and club teams days after Russia invaded Ukraine in February.

A second CAS hearing on July 11 will consider an appeal by four Russian clubs, including national champion Zenit St. Petersburg, against exclusion from the next UEFA club competitions.

UEFA's executive committee made that separate ruling on May 2 among decisions affecting more than 15 European competitions. The Russian women's team was also removed from the European Championship that kicks off next month in England.

Lawyers and officials involved in the cases confirmed the CAS hearing dates which have yet to be listed formally by the court.

Urgent verdicts could be requested by the clubs ahead of scheduled games in qualifying rounds of the Champions League and other UEFA competitions.

The high-profile soccer cases could set the tone for similar appeals cases pending at CAS between Russia and governing bodies of Olympic sports.

The IOC has said suspending Russian athletes and teams is intended not to punish them but to protect the safety and integrity of events at a time of "deep anti-Russian" feelings.

UEFA and FIFA in imposing their bans said on Feb. 28 that "football is fully united here and in full solidarity with all the people affected in Ukraine."

Russian soccer officials tried to freeze the FIFA ban ahead of a World Cup qualifying playoff on March 24, but that was rejected by a CAS judge. Russia's scheduled opponent Poland had refused to play the game citing the invasion of Ukraine.

FIFA lawyers supported Poland's move and later cited the risk of "irreparable and chaotic" consequences for the World Cup in Qatar if Russia was cleared to play and then advanced to the final tournament in November.

"Having considered all these factors, FIFA must act to guarantee the efficient organization and smooth running of its competitions," soccer's governing body argued to the court in March.

Lawyers for the Russian soccer federation argued the ban was "a disguised disciplinary sanction" where the right to be heard at the FIFA Council was denied.

Even if the Russian soccer federation wins its appeal at CAS, it seems unlikely the men's and women's teams could be reinstated in the World Cup or Women's Euro 2022.

Victory for the Russian clubs in their July 11 appeal should lead to reinstatement in the 2022-23 UEFA club competitions which is worth tens of millions of dollars in prize money.

Zenit would have had direct entry to the Champions League group stage starting in September.

League runner-up Sochi would be due on July 18 to play in the Champions League third qualifying round draw. First-leg games are scheduled Aug. 2-3.

CSKA Moscow and Dynamo Moscow also joined the appeal filed in mid-May before the season ended. Dynamo, Krasnodar and Spartak Moscow later finished in European qualifying places.



DMITRY LOVETSKY/AP

A man walks past Gazprom Arena, the stadium that was supposed to host the Champions League 2022 final in St. Petersburg, Russia.



**July 17-19** — Amateur draft, Los Angeles.  
**July 19** — All-Star Game, Los Angeles.



## BASEBALL

# Banana: It's all about entertaining the fans

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sented to the crowd like Simba in the “The Lion King,” lifted toward the sky by a parent while the entire team kneels in reverence around home plate.

There’s the Banana ‘Nanas, the senior citizen dance team.

There’s Maceo, a choreographer who doubles as the team’s breakdancing coach (his tortured convulsions in the first-base box to Miley Cyrus’ “Wrecking Ball” were a personal favorite).

There’s strutting, preening walks to the plate by the Savannah hitters, a breach of baseball etiquette that would draw an immediate beaming in the big leagues but is an accepted part of the show in Banana Land.

There’s the players strolling through the stands between almost every half-inning — doling out roses, tossing T-shirts and hopping on top of the dugout to lead the crowd in song.

Oh yeah, there’s also a real-life baseball game amid all the shenanigans. (The Bananas, for what it’s worth, went into the weekend with the league’s best record at 16-5).

“I am so excited,” said Frances Squyres, who traveled from Los Angeles to attend her first Bananas game. “It looks like just one big party — that also has baseball going on.”

With apologies to Shohei Ohtani, Bryce Harper and the World Series-winning Atlanta Braves, the Bananas might just be baseball’s most compelling story.

That’s no laughing matter.

Sure, some of the more over-the-top skits might be a bit much for the big leagues, and it’s hard to envision a way for stars such as Ohtani or Harper to have the sort of up-close interactions that are possible in a college summer league.

But there are surely some lessons to be gleaned from a team that is bucking the trend of baseball struggling to attract new fans and having so many young people view it as an out-of-touch relic favored by their grandparents.



PHOTOS BY STEPHEN B. MORTON/AP

**Above: Molly Knutson holds her baby James Knutson high above the players as the Savannah Bananas present the Banana Baby to the crowd while playing the theme song from the movie “The Lion King” over the public address system on June 11 in Savannah, Ga. Below: A batter’s helmet with the Savannah Bananas logo sits on top of catcher’s gear before a game against the Florioce Flamings on June 7.**

“I definitely think if this was put on in MLB, it would help the game grow,” said Jestin Jones, a right-handed pitcher who plays collegiately at St. Leo. “This little town of Savannah, there’s more people coming here almost than to MLB games.”

Indeed, Savannah has sold out every game at ancient Grayson Stadium since its founding in 2016, when it joined a league that essentially allows college players to stay in shape during their offseason.

The Bananas’ antics have brought nationwide attention, fans pouring in from more than 30 states (and even other countries) on any given night, and a waiting list for tickets that Cole claims has reached 50,000.

“We’re not in the baseball business. We’re in the entertainment business,” Cole said from beneath his yellow bowler hat, which goes well with his yellow tuxedo. “We can never be the best baseball



team in the world. We’re not major league. But could we be the most fun team in the world? That’s what I wanted to attack.”

He attacks it with a fast-talking gusto befitting a natural-born salesman-slash-carnival barker who counts P.T. Barnum, Walt Disney, Blue Man Group and Cirque du Soleil among his inspirations.

Every nook of Grayson Stadium’s aging walls provide an opportunity to bemuse — and move merchandise.

A nondescript closet on the concourse was turned into the “World’s Smallest Bookstore” (Occupancy: 1), selling titles written by Cole and his wife, Emily.

A storage room off the home clubhouse was transformed into a prop closet, where a collection of toilet seats hangs on the wall, bins are filled with wigs of all shapes, sizes and colors, and Cole shuffles quickly through a row of costumes that have no rhyme or reason, eve-

rything from French maids to sharks.

When he recruits players to the Bananas, their personalities are just as important as their skills.

“It’s not for everybody,” said pitcher Blake McGehee, who recently transferred from Ole Miss to Louisiana-Lafayette. “But once you get here, you kind of adapt to it. It’s just the culture around here. If you come in and you’re not that outgoing, you’re not a performer, you change quickly.”

When Cole runs into a player before the game, he advises the youngster on some moves he should try in his walkup to the plate, all in a bid to acquire more views on TikTok.

Social media is a big part of Cole’s marketing skills, and he could surely teach a thing or two to the big boys.

The Bananas have 2.8 million followers on TikTok — more than four times as many as that team in Atlanta. You know, the one that

captured a World Series title.

Cole has even bigger plans, also launching a pro team that is essentially baseball’s version of the Harlem Globetrotters. “Banana Ball,” as he dubbed it, includes rules such as a two-hour time limit on games (hmm, that sounds rather appealing.) and outs being recorded when a pop fly is caught in the stands by a fan.

The pro team went on a completely sold-out tour of seven minor league ballparks before the regular season. Cole said he’s gotten inquiries from several big league teams that want to bring Banana Ball to their stadiums in 2023.

“I believe Banana Ball is the future of what we’re doing,” Cole said, “because it’s completely breaking down the rules and barriers of the way the game used to be.”

When minor league baseball abandoned Savannah after the 2015 season, largely over the city’s unwillingness to build a new stadium, the Bananas stepped in to fill the void.

Turns out, the rickety, 4,000-seat ballpark — which opened in 1926 and hosted both Hank Aaron (as a minor leaguer) and Babe Ruth (in an exhibition during his final season in the big leagues) — wasn’t a hindrance at all.

(That’s another lesson for the major leagues: You don’t necessarily need the newest stadium to bring in the crowds.)

Cole, his wife and a threadbare staff of 20-somethings pulled an old picnic table into the abandoned stadium and set up shop, calling potential ticket-buyers and plotting ways to make a night at the Bananas more than just a game.

From those humble beginnings, they quickly became a rousing success.

One room of the stadium is now dedicated to the social media staff, another to taking a steady stream of orders that come in from around the world for shirts, caps and other merch.

The formula, in Cole’s mind, is obvious.

“Every decision we make has the fans first,” he said.

The Bananas are a perfect fit for Savannah, a city on Georgia’s coast that gained renewed prominence in the 1990s with the book “Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil.”

These days, Savannah is overrun most every weekend with tourists, party-goers and bachelorette parties. The Bananas have quickly become a star attraction amid the quirky revelry.

“Positive vibes. Make everybody laugh,” Maceo, the dancing coach, said of his role. “Banana Land is about weirdness — and I’m here for all of it.”



**Savannah Bananas first-base coach Maceo Harrison, foreground, teaches a dance routine to members of the team.**



# SPORTS



## Into the championship series

Oklahoma eliminates Texas A&M to move into final » **CWS, Page 44**

COMMENTARY

# Welcome to Banana Land

## Can Savannah's amateur team provide the cure for baseball ills?

By PAUL NEWBERRY  
*Associated Press*

**M**ore than 90 minutes before the first pitch, it's already clear this isn't just any ol' baseball game. The crowd queued up outside the main gate slowly begins to part, clearing the way for a pep band to guide the home team — adorned in bright yellow uniforms — through a rollicking, high-fiving gauntlet.

Once the players reach the concourse outside historic Grayson Stadium, they break into a hasti-

ly choreographed dance routine accompanied by the tune "Hey! Baby."

Welcome to Banana Land, home to baseball's most outrageous — and entertaining — team.

The Savannah Bananas.

When you're done chuckling about that nickname, we'll get to a more serious issue: This amateur team in the little-known Coastal Plain League could be at least part of the cure for what ails the national pastime.

"You guys ready to have some fun?" Bananas owner Jesse Cole, decked out in yellow from head to toe, asked a group of fans on their way into the ballpark for a recent game. "Enjoy the show."

What a show it is!

There's the Banana Baby, an infant who is pre-

Savannah Bananas owner Jesse Cole emcees a performance with the fans from atop a dugout before a game on June 7 in Savannah, Ga.

STEPHEN B. MORTON/AP

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## Former Ravens DT Siragusa dies at age 55 » NFL Page 41

