

**MUSIC:** Female country singers finally get heard **Page 36**

**BOOKS:** Anti-war classic gets graphic novel **Page 38**

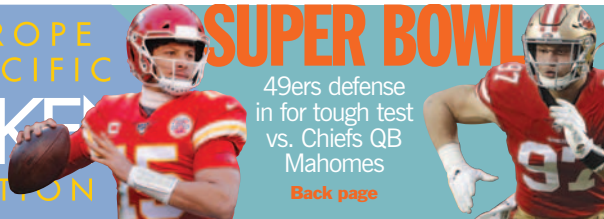
**TRAVEL:** Seoul Sky's glass floor not for the timid **Page 34**

EUROPE & PACIFIC  
**WEEKLY**  
EDITION

**SUPER BOWL**

49ers defense in for tough test vs. Chiefs QB Mahomes

**Back page**



# STARS AND STRIPES®

stripes.com

Volume 78, No. 205 ©SS 2020

FRIDAY, JANUARY 31, 2020

平成32年4月5日 第三種郵便物認可 日刊(土日除く)  
発行所 星島新聞社 〒106-0032 東京都港区六本木7丁目23番17号 定価 ¥100

\$1.00

## KENYA ATTACK

### AFRICOM general: US troops weren't prepared, orders security review

By COREY DICKSTEIN  
*Stars and Stripes*

WASHINGTON — The top commander of American forces in Africa said Thursday that he has launched a security review of all bases housing U.S. troops on the continent in the wake of an attack on a Kenyan military post that left three Americans dead.

"We were not as prepared there at Manda Bay [Airfield] as we needed to be," Army Gen.



Townsend

Stephen Townsend of U.S. Africa Command said of the attack on the coastal military installations just south of Kenya's border with Somalia. "Al-Shabab managed to penetrate onto that airfield. They were able to get access, kill three Americans and destroy six aircraft. We are digging into that to find out why that is the case."

The surprise attack Jan. 5 by the al-Qaida-aligned Somali terrorist group left Army Spc. Henry Mayfield Jr. and U.S. contractors Dustin Harrison and Bruce Triplett dead. Townsend told the Senate Armed Services Committee on Thursday that an investigation into the incident was ongoing, but it was clear that the base, in a resort town considered safe from potential attack, should have been better protected.

Townsend vowed AFRICOM would do better to safeguard the roughly 5,100 U.S. troops and 1,000 U.S. contractors working in Africa, warning of a growing threat across the continent from terrorists — including groups aligned with al-Qaida and Islamic State.

"Al-Shabab has shown their reach, and the danger that they pose," Townsend said. "I think we need to take that seriously. I am looking with a clear eye at every location in Africa now."

SEE AFRICOM ON PAGE 5



MICHAEL CHARLES/U.S. Air Force

A U.S. Air Force F-15E Strike Eagle pilot prepares to take off at Prince Sultan Air Base, Saudi Arabia, on Jan. 8. The U.S. is again beefing up its presence at the base, which was once a major military hub.

# Serious about security

Amid tensions with Tehran, US expands troop, fighter jet presence at Saudi base

By LOLITA C. BALDOR  
*Associated Press*

PRINCE SULTAN AIR BASE, Saudi Arabia — Across the vast expanse of this desert air base, hundreds of tents have popped up and a newly arrived squadron of U.S. Air Force F-15E fighters is lined up on the tarmac, flying daily missions over Iraq and Syria. Off in the distance, two American Patriot missile batteries are scanning the skies, prepared to knock down any Iranian attack against the Saudi kingdom.

The U.S. troop presence here has grown

**“I think this is an important part of our architecture right now and we will continue to evaluate that as we go forward.”**

Marine Gen. Frank McKenzie  
Top U.S. commander in the Middle East

to roughly 2,500 since last summer, when the U.S. announced it had begun deploying forces to what once was a major U.S. military hub. The return of U.S. forces to Prince Sultan Air Base is one of the more dramatic signs of America's decision to beef up troops in the Middle East in response to threats from Iran.

On Wednesday, the top U.S. commander in the Middle East spent a few hours meeting with his commanders and troops here, assessing what he called a "sweet spot" of U.S. force projection in the region.

SEE SECURITY ON PAGE 7

# BUSINESS/WEATHER

## EUROPE GAS PRICES

Country	Super E10	Super unleaded	Super plus	Diesel	Azores	Belgium	Turkey
Germany	\$2.769	\$3.174	\$3.426	\$3.273	--	--	\$3.417
Change in price	-3.1 cents	-2.8 cents	-2.0 cents	-2.7 cents	--	--	-2.0 cents
Netherlands	--	\$3.841	\$4.046	\$4.041	--	\$2.878	\$3.196
Change in price	--	-5.3 cents	-5.3 cents	-5.4 cents	--	No change	No change
U.K.	--	\$3.084	\$3.336	\$3.183	--	\$3.227	\$3.074
Change in price	--	-2.8 cents	-2.0 cents	-2.7 cents	--	-2.0 cents	-2.7 cents

## PACIFIC GAS PRICES

Country	Unleaded	Super unleaded	Super plus	Diesel	South Korea	Guam	South Korea (Won)
Japan	--	\$3.219	--	\$3.059	\$2.589	--	\$3.249
Change in price	--	-2.0 cents	--	-3.0 cents	-3.0 cents	--	-2.0 cents
Okinawa	\$2.559	--	--	\$3.059	\$2.569**	\$2.979	\$3.229
Change in price	-6.0 cents	--	--	-3.0 cents	-3.0 cents	-2.0 cents	-2.0 cents

\* Diesel EFF #2 Midgrade  
For the week of Jan. 31 - Feb. 6

## EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates	Commercial rates	Switzerland (Franc)
Euro costs (Jan. 31)	\$1.1311	0.9701
Dollar buys (Jan. 31)	60.8841	117
British pound (Jan. 31)	\$1.34	5.9827
Japanese yen (Jan. 31)	105.00	(Military exchange rates are those available to customers at military banking facilities in the country of issuance for Japan, South Korea, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. For nonlocal currency exchange rates (i.e., purchasing British pounds in Germany), check with your local military banking facility. Commercial rates are interbank rates provided for reference when buying currency. All figures are foreign currencies to one dollar, except for the British pound, which is represented in dollars-to-pound, and the euro, which is dollars-to-euro.)
South Korean won (Jan. 31)	1152.00	
Bahrain (Dinar)	0.3770	
British pound	\$1.3081	
Canada (Dollar)	1.3215	
China (Yuan)	6.9367	
Denmark (Krone)	6.7772	
Egypt (Pound)	15.8054	
Euro	\$1.1027/0.9069	
Hong Kong (Dollar)	7.7679	
Hungary (Forint)	306.61	
Israel (Shekel)	3.4529	
Japan (Yen)	105.31	
Kuwait (Dinar)	0.3039	
Norway (Krone)	9.2212	
Philippines (Peso)	50.97	
Poland (Zloty)	3.89	
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.7523	
Singapore (Dollar)	1.3628	
South Korea (Won)	1,199.57	

## INTEREST RATES

Prime rate	4.75
Discount rate	2.25
Federal funds market rate	1.55
3-month bill	1.33
30-year bond	2.05

## WEATHER OUTLOOK

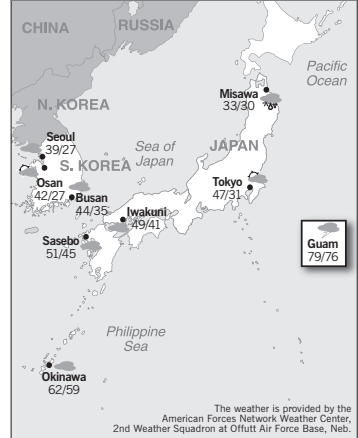
### FRIDAY IN THE MIDDLE EAST



### FRIDAY IN EUROPE



### SATURDAY IN THE PACIFIC



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

## TODAY IN STRIPES

- American Roundup ..... 19
- Classified ..... 48, 50
- Comics/Crossword ..... 42, 46-47
- Faces ..... 43
- Opinion ..... 44-45
- Science and Medicine ..... 16
- Sports ..... 53-64
- Weekend ..... 21-42

## STARS AND STRIPES

However you read us, wherever you need us.

Mobile • Online • Print

### EUROPE

KRISTI KIMMEL

CustomerService@stripes.com

+49 (0) 0631.3615.9111  
DSN: 314.583.9111

### MIDDLE EAST

KRISTI KIMMEL

CustomerService@stripes.com

+49 (0) 0631.3615.9111  
DSN: 314.583.9111

### PACIFIC

ICHIRO KATAYANAGI

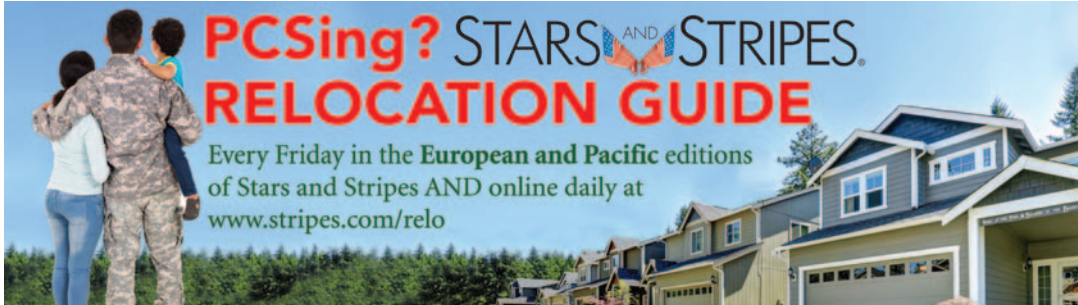
PacificAdvertising@stripes.com

### ADVERTISING

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

# PCSing? STARS AND STRIPES RELOCATION GUIDE

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



## MILITARY

**\$15M judgment against hospital awarded to teen**

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — A federal judge in Tennessee has awarded a \$15 million judgment to a 15-year-old boy who suffered a brain injury at a hospital on the Fort Campbell Army post.

The parents of the boy filed a medical malpractice lawsuit in 2015 alleging that he suffered injuries during his birth at Blanchfield Army Community Hospital at Fort Campbell. He was born at the hospital in 2005.

U.S. District Judge Aleta Trauger issued a ruling Tuesday, finding that the hospital failed to inform the mother, Kelly Wilson, of her choices of delivery and didn't properly monitor the fetus during labor.

"My son has waited so long for justice," Wilson said in a release from the Baltimore law firm, Janet, Janet and Suggs, that brought the case. The boy suffers from cerebral palsy and other neurological deficiencies as a result of his brain being deprived of oxygen during labor.

Trauger said in the ruling that if the boy would have been delivered by cesarean section earlier during labor, his injuries might have been avoided.

The U.S. attorney's office in Nashville defended the hospital. A spokesman for the office declined comment on the verdict Wednesday.

**Navy settles lawsuit, won't scrape ship hulls**

TACOMA, Wash. — The U.S. Navy on Wednesday agreed to a 10-year moratorium on scraping the hulls of decommissioned vessels in Puget Sound.

The deal, filed in U.S. District Court in Tacoma, settles a lawsuit filed by the Suquamish Tribe and two environmental groups, Washington Environmental Council and Puget Soundkeeper Alliance, Washington Attorney General Bob Ferguson joined the lawsuit.

The lawsuit alleged that when the Navy cleaned the hulls of the decommissioned aircraft carrier Independence at the Puget Sound Naval Shipyard in 2017, they used abrasive scrubbers and blasted the hull with powerful jets of water. That sent bits of paint, the metals zinc and copper, and other contaminants into Sinclair Inlet. The Navy disputed that it caused pollution and said it was cleaning the hull so that as the aircraft carrier was towed to Texas for dismantling, it wouldn't bring any invasive species with it.

In a Tacoma court agreement, the Navy said it would not conduct further hull cleaning in Sinclair Inlet except to the extent it is required for hull integrity tests or to prepare the vessel to be put in dry-dock. It agreed the preferred method for cleaning vessel hulls is in a dry-dock where the pollution can be contained.

The Navy also agreed that by 2022 it will place a 10-centimeter-thick layer of clean sand over the area where it scrubbed the Independence.

Among the six decommissioned ships covered by the agreement are the former aircraft carrier Kitty Hawk.

From The Associated Press

# Aviators in Afghanistan crash identified

By **WYATT OLSON**  
Stars and Stripes

One of two aviators killed Monday when their Bombardier E-11A crashed in Afghanistan was a grass-to-brass lieutenant colonel in his 25th year of Air Force service. The captain he flew beside was an experienced B-1 bomber pilot.

The Pentagon on Wednesday identified the pair as Lt. Col. Paul K. Voss, 46, of Yigo, Guam, and Capt. Ryan S. Phaneuf, 30, of Hudson, N.H. Voss was assigned to Headquarters Air Combat Command at Joint Base Langley-Eustis, Va., and Phaneuf was with the 37th Bomb Squadron at Ellsworth Air Force Base, S.D.

The cause of the crash, which happened in Ghazni province, about 80 miles southwest of Kabul in a Taliban-controlled area of Afghanistan, is under investigation, the Pentagon said in a statement.

Voss and Phaneuf, who were flying in support of Operation Freedom's Sentinel, were the only people aboard the plane, a U.S. defense official said Tuesday on condition of anonymity.

Voss had served 25 years in active duty with the Air Force and was stationed at Joint Base Langley-Eustis for about the past four years, the Air Combat Command said in a statement Wednesday.

Voss began his career as an enlisted airman and was commissioned in 2001 through attendance at the USAF Officer Training School.

He was the chief of the exercises with the combat command's directorate of operations. "Lt. Col. Paul Voss was our brother and teammate," Gen Mike Holmes, commander of Air Combat Command, said in the statement. "The men and women of our Air Force knowingly put themselves in harm's way, and I'm thankful for great Americans like them."



Jenilyn Photography

"It's really hard to describe how sad we are at the loss of two great Airmen."

Phaneuf was a B-1 heavy bomber pilot, the 28th Bomb Wing said in a statement Wednesday.

He dreamed of becoming an Air Force pilot and wrote about that goal in his high school yearbook, according to a Wednesday report by ABC affiliate WMUR in Manchester, N.H.

A Hudson police procession carrying Phaneuf's body will pause in front of Alvirne High School, where he was a member of JROTC before graduating in 2007, at 1 p.m. Thursday.

His awards and decorations include the Air Force Commendation Medal, Meritori-



U.S. Air Force

**Above:** Lt. Col. Paul K. Voss, a 25-year Air Force veteran, died when a Bombardier E-11A crashed in Afghanistan on Monday. **Left:** Capt. Ryan Phaneuf, seen with his wife, Megan, was a B-1 heavy bomber pilot who also perished in the crash.

ous Unit Award, Air Force Outstanding Unit Award, National Defense Service Medal and Global War on Terrorism Service Medal.

"This is a tragic loss to the Air Force and our Ellsworth Family," Col. David Doss, 28th Bomb Wing commander, said in the statement.

U.S. forces arrived at the crash site overnight Monday and no insurgents were then present, Afriz Noori, a spokesman for the provincial governor, said Tuesday.

U.S. officials said the plane's flight recorder was recovered from the crash scene.

The Taliban claimed responsibility for bringing down the aircraft, which is used as a communications platform. However, the Pentagon said there are no indications that the crash was caused by enemy fire.

olson.wyatt@stripes.com

# Navy SEAL promoted after Green Beret's death

By **COREY DICKSTEIN**  
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — A Navy SEAL charged with murder and other crimes in the 2017 hazing death of a Green Beret in Mali was promoted to chief petty officer even after investigators suspected he was involved in the killing, according to officials and documents.

The Navy promoted SEAL Team 6 member Tony DeDolph from petty officer 1st class just weeks after Army Staff Sgt. Logan Melgar died June 4, 2017, during an incident in which fellow service members said DeDolph placed the Green Beret in a choke hold. Navy records show DeDolph was officially selected for promotion to E-7 in August 2017.

DeDolph is scheduled to appear in court for a pre-trial hearing Thursday at Naval Station Norfolk in Virginia. His court-martial is scheduled to begin March 23. He faces charges including assault, felony murder and obstruction of justice for his role in the death of Melgar, a member of the Army's 3rd Special Forces group. Three other special operators were charged in Melgar's death, including two who have received prison sentences in exchange for guilty pleas.

The Navy had previously acknowledged — including during

court proceedings for the other service members involved in the case — DeDolph had been promoted since Melgar's death, but the timing and some details about that advancement were first reported Wednesday by The Daily Beast.

An announcement from the chief of naval operations' office dated August 2017 identified selectees at that time for promotion to E-7, including DeDolph, who was named the 15th best qualified petty officer



Melgar

1st class for promotion among Naval Special Warfare personnel. More than 70 of those individuals were chosen for advancement, according to the announcement.

DeDolph was serving in Mali on a counterterrorism mission. But he was removed from the troubled West African nation just days after Melgar's death and returned to the Virginia Beach headquarters of SEAL Team 6, officially the Naval Special Warfare Development Group. In September, he was allowed to wear E-7 rank insignia, and he began receiving chief petty officer pay in December, The Daily Beast re-

ported, citing unnamed officials.

DeDolph's promotion came after a military autopsy ruled Melgar's death a homicide, a defense official said Wednesday, but his advancement was not flagged for further consideration because he had not been charged or named a suspect through "official channels." DeDolph and the others charged in the case — Navy SEAL Team 6's Chief Petty Officer Adam Matthews and Marine Raiders Gunnery Sgt. Mario Madera-Rodriguez and Staff Sgt. Kevin Maxwell Jr. — were charged with Melgar's death in November 2018.

Matthews and Maxwell pleaded guilty last year in exchange for sentences that included one- and four-year prison terms, respectively. They testified at their trials that DeDolph placed Melgar in a choke hold after the four — and other non-American individuals — broke into the Green Beret's room in a hazing effort meant to embarrass him for perceived slights.

Maxwell described DeDolph as the instigator of the hazing plan, launched over a night of binge drinking in Mali's capital Bamako. The Marine said the plan was to culminate in a "sexual molestation" of Melgar captured on video. He said the soldier's death was purely accidental, and occurred after DeDolph placed Melgar in a

choke hold for a second time in an attempt to get him to temporarily lose consciousness. The group performed CPR and, eventually, an emergency tracheotomy before rushing Melgar to a local clinic where he was pronounced dead, Maxwell said.

Maxwell and Matthews agreed to testify at trials for the other service members charged in the case, as part of their plea agreements.

DeDolph and Madera-Rodriguez are expected to go to trial for their roles in the death in the spring. They could face up to life in prison, if convicted of the most serious charges. DeDolph's lawyer, Phillip Stackhouse, did not return a request for comment Wednesday.

DeDolph first enlisted in the Navy in 2003 and had been assigned to SEAL Team 6 since 2008, according to Navy records. He has served multiple combat and ship deployments, including service in Afghanistan. His awards include the Bronze Star with combat "V" for valor, a Purple Heart, a Joint Service Commendation Medal with combat "M" for valor and a Navy-Marine Corps Commendation Medal with combat "V" for valor, according to the Navy.

dickstein.corey@stripes.com  
Twitter: @ODicksteinDC



MILITARY

# Marines honored for saving mom, daughters

By CHAD GARLAND  
Stars and Stripes

Four Marines who saved a woman and her two daughters from a dangerous riptide over Father's Day weekend in 2018 were recognized Tuesday for their heroism.

Cpl. Austin McMullen, Cpl. Timothy R. Watson, Sgt. Anders K. Larson and Staff Sgt. Leary K. Reichartwarfel each received the Navy and Marine Corps Medal in a ceremony at Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point, N.C., for putting their own lives in danger to save Ali Joy and her twin girls.

The Marines had been enjoying a day at North Carolina's Atlantic Beach on June 15, 2018, when a woman came up and "told us that she thought that there was somebody out in the water that needed help," recalled McMullen in a Marine Corps video. "I just remember the only thing that I said was, 'Where?'"

McMullen swam 150 yards through dangerous surf to reach Ali Joy and her two 7-year-old daughters, said a citation read during the ceremony. Two Marines stabilized the mother and girls on a surfboard, saving them from drowning, another citation said.

The rescuers also pulled the father of the family, Charles Joy Jr., 48, out of the water but he later died in a hospital, the Carteret



WILLIAM L. HOLDAWAY/U.S. Marine Corps

Staff Sgt. Leary Reichartwarfel, left, Sgt. Anders Larson, Cpl. Austin McMullen, and Cpl. Timothy Watson pose for a photo with the family they saved after receiving the Navy and Marine Corps Medal aboard Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point, N.C., on Jan. 28, 2019.

County News-Times reported. Ali Joy and her husband had run into the water after noticing the girls were being pulled too far out into the ocean, the mother said in a Marine Corps statement about a month after the incident.

"I got out to the girls and I couldn't touch (the bottom), the waves were breaking over us," she said. "My girls were panicking and I was having trouble staying afloat."

When the Marines reached them, one of them shouted to "float

on our back," Ali Joy recalled. After the incident, she started a foundation called Float Don't Fight, aimed at educating people on how to survive rip currents and tides or help someone caught in them.

"The human instinct is to fight, to struggle, but you need to float," she was quoted saying in the 2018 Marine statement.

Weeks later, the family still didn't know who the Marines were who saved them, but they contacted Camp Lejeune, which

posted a message on Facebook seeking those involved.

Ali Joy was able to thank her rescuers last August during a national lifeguard competition in Virginia Beach, Va., where three of them were recognized for their heroism. "They did not think twice about risking their lives," she said on local TV.

The military award pinned they received this week is the Navy's "highest peacetime decoration for heroism," Maj. Gen. Karsten Heckl, commander of the Cherry

Point-based 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing, said during the ceremony.

While it isn't solely awarded for actions that involve saving a life, when it is, "the action must have been performed at the risk of one's own life," eligibility requirements state.

The award "means more than the individual receiving it," McMullen said. "I'm humbly honored to be a part of something that can reach the eyes and the ears of other people and maybe serve as an inspiration."

garland.chad@stripes.com  
Twitter: @chadgarland

## Guardsmen to help Puerto Rico as long as needed

By ROSE L. THAYER  
Stars and Stripes

Asleep in his home near San Juan, Puerto Rico, the earth shook. Jean Paul Diaz Ortiz awoke at 4:25 a.m. Jan. 7.

"It was so shocking," he said. "Never in my life have I wanted to see the sun so badly than on that day."

Diaz ran outside with his dogs and found his neighbors panicking, as they had just endured a 6.4-magnitude earthquake, the strongest in a series of tremors to shake the island during the past month. That quake caused one death and more than \$200 million in damage. It triggered Gov. Wanda Vázquez to activate the island's National Guard, and about 1,100 troops from Puerto Rico, Ohio and New Mexico remain on the job.

A few days after the earthquake, Diaz, a 26-year-old Puerto Rico National Guard soldier and graduate student, got a call to report for duty Jan. 12. Having joined the Guard two years ago, it was his first official assignment. "I definitely do feel that I'm contributing right now to what's going on," said Diaz, who serves as a sustainment liaison officer for a joint task force, coordinating the distribution of resources to where they need to go.

Most of that coordination relates to the five base camps built at the request of the Puerto Rico Housing Administration along the southern portion of the island where the earthquake caused the most damage. Guard troops provide security at these camps, as well as medical services and three hot meals a day to the more than 1,000 people living in the five shelters, said Brig. Gen. Miguel Mendez, the commander of the military's earthquake response mission.

"We continue to improve the facilities in the



Staff Sgt. Marimar Rivera-Medina

Brig. Gen. Miguel Mendez, the commander of the military's earthquake response mission, visits with Puerto Rico National Guard at a shelter built by Puerto Rico residents at the

camp," Mendez said. "Especially since we have had some rainy days that have affected us, we've installed wooden floors using pallets where residents are living and sleeping." Members from a Puerto Rico Army Reserve unit brought shower and laundry facilities to the camps, but in the next week or two, those services will transition to a private company, he said. Otherwise, the Guard is "prepared to provide support as long as they need us."

As the island continues to feel earthquake aftershocks, Mendez said their timeline for support is being reassessed to meet the situation.

Aftershocks from the Jan. 7 earthquake

will persist for years to decades, though with decreasing frequency, according to a U.S. Geological Survey report released Wednesday. Earthquakes will likely be felt on a daily basis for several more months.

Because of the fear and anxiety, this ongoing threat causes for some people, a National Guard chaplain is available to speak with residents of each of the five camps.

"Residents at the camps fall into two groups," Mendez said. "One group had some of significant damage to their houses. The other group, even though there is no visible damage, they are afraid to go back to their houses."

Two years ago, Mendez said he was doing similar work following Hurricane Maria, which ravaged the entire island in September 2017. That disaster, which kept the National Guard activated for nine months, called for more engineer work of clearing roads and creating safe transportation routes.

"Puerto Ricans are helping Puerto Ricans no questions asked, no excuses made. They follow in the mission and look forward to being an asset toward giving all citizens and populations a better way of living," Mendez said. As for Diaz, though he's only had one day off to allow him to catch up with his school work, he said it is all worth it to know he is helping out his community.

"My people are currently suffering. My family members are suffering. My loved ones are suffering. I have to make sure that all the help that can be provided them from the National Guard of Puerto Rico gets to them and that is my purpose right here, right now," he said.

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

**MILITARY DISCOUNTS**  
SPECIAL FARES WITH OUR PARTNERS

in partnership with

**MILITARY FLIGHTS**  
For all Military active, Reservist, Veterans and their family members.

Detroit	➔ from € 797
New York	➔ from € 696
Tampa	➔ from € 816
Washington	➔ from € 836

Other special prices possible from all other airports.

**Hotline: +49 (0) 621-72920**  
**internet@abctravel.de**  
**www.abctravel.de**

Flights from Jul. 24, 20 to Aug. 5, 20. RT to all german airports. Prices starting from, including all taxes, based on availability. Get Military discount fares all year! ABC Travel Service GmbH, Gorkheimstr. 9, 68309 Mannheim



## MILITARY

# Allies add brigades close to US troops based near Russia

By JOHN VANDIVER

Stars and Stripes

STUTTGART, Germany — Poland and Lithuania each have agreed to send brigades to a swath of land where U.S. troops also have been dispatched to strengthen allied defenses near Russia.

On Wednesday, the two neighbors held their first bilateral defense council meeting to address joint concerns about air defenses, military mobility and the reinforcement of Poland's Suwalki Gap, the Lithuanian Defense

Ministry said in a statement.

Lithuania's Iron Wolf brigade and Poland's 15th Mechanized Brigade will be linked with NATO's Multinational Division North-East as a way to "act together in order to protect the Suwalki Gap," the statement said.

"The affiliation will also facilitate a concrete and force-based NATO planning for our region at military and political levels," it said.

The Suwalki Gap is roughly a 40-mile corridor that abuts Lithuania, Russia-allied Belarus and

the Russian military exclave of Kaliningrad, where thousands of troops and sophisticated weaponry are based.

Although the brigades will be attached to NATO's northeast headquarters, they will remain under national command.

Reinforcing the area has been a focal point for NATO, which set up multinational brigades in 2017 to deter potential Russian aggression.

U.S. troops with the Vilseck, Germany-based 2nd Cavalry Regiment are currently leading

an allied contingent in Poland some 50 miles from Kaliningrad.

Lithuanian Defense Minister Raimundas Karoblis said closer military ties with Poland are intended to showcase unity among allies to would-be aggressors.

"We will be able to ensure the security of our countries and the entire region only if we are sure how we would defend ourselves, in all — national, bilateral, regional and NATO formats — while it's still peacetime," he said.

The two sides also discussed at the meeting "the shared need of

Lithuania and Poland to see longer deployment of the U.S. forces in our region," the Lithuanian Defense Ministry statement said.

The push for more U.S. troops by Poland and the Baltic states has been a priority for countries in the region, which see a larger American presence as key to deterring Russia. But while the U.S. has stepped up troop rotations in Poland and the Baltics, there is no plan to add large numbers of permanently based troops there.

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

## AFRICOM: Esper dispels worries of withdrawal from Africa, says more troops likely

FROM FRONT PAGE

The safety assessment comes as the Pentagon considers its force posture globally. Defense Secretary Mark Esper launched a review last year of U.S. missions and troop strength in Africa. He will soon make similar assessments of the other geographic combatant commands, including U.S. Southern Command, which is assigned less than 10,000 troops like AFRICOM. U.S. Central Command, by comparison, boasts some 80,000 troops, according to the Pentagon.

The review is aimed at aligning global missions with the 2018 National Defense Strategy, which places great-power competition with China and Russia above other national security threats, in-

cluding international terrorism. Townsend warned senators of Russia's and China's growing influence throughout Africa, where both countries have worked with local nations to gain influence through military and economic means meant to counter American interests.

Africa is "key terrain" for challenging those nations, the general said.

"I believe Africa offers America a competitive edge over China and Russia and we should take advantage of it," Townsend said, lobbying to keep the bulk of his forces on the continent.

Nonetheless, Townsend said he expected the review to result in at least some change in tasks assigned to AFRICOM. The com-

mand carries out separate missions in two main parts of the continent — a training and assisting mission for local forces in support of the French military in the West African area known as the Sahel, which includes Mali, Niger and Burkina Faso, and a train and advise mission in East Africa largely focused on counterterrorism operations aimed at al-Shabab.

Esper said Thursday during a Pentagon news briefing that his review was ongoing, but it would result in AFRICOM being placed in a better position to counter terrorists and challenge Chinese and Russian influence.

Despite the concerns of several senators who worried the review likely meant pulling troops out of Africa to move into the Pacific

region, Esper said it could potentially result in adding forces to Africa.

"We're not going to totally withdraw forces from Africa," the defense chief told reporters. "Economy of force does not mean complete withdrawal."

The top Democrat on the Senate Armed Services Committee, Sen. Jack Reed of Rhode Island said it would be "strategically unwise to disengage" militarily from Africa or South America, where China and Russia are also increasing their economic and military activity. SOUTHCOM's chief, Adm. Craig Faller, testified alongside Townsend on Thursday.

"Given the relatively small number of forces under consideration, such a move would not

generate the type of savings necessary for meaningful National Defense Strategy investments and would likely come at a much higher cost in terms of increased long-term security risks," Reed said.

Sen. James Inhofe, R-Okla., chairman of the Senate committee, agreed with Reed, saying AFRICOM and SOUTHCOM are often overlooked when it comes to repositioning.

"If the object here that people are talking about is to reduce and to reposition people, you're talking about the two areas where there aren't enough people to reposition," Inhofe said. "That's a narrow view, but it's mine."

clckstein.cory@stripes.com  
Twitter: @CDicksteinDC

## Milley: Brain injuries from Iran attack are 'mild' cases

By STEVE BEYNON

Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The traumatic brain injuries that U.S. troops suffered as a result of the Iranian missile strikes on two military bases in Iraq have all been diagnosed as mild cases, Army Gen. Mark Milley, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said Thursday.

"The diagnosis we have so far to date is mild traumatic brain injury," Milley told reporters at the Pentagon, noting the conditions of the injuries could change over time. "Your brain is a very fragile part of your body, the unseen wounds of war can be serious and not serious. It depends on the individual and their proximity to the blast."

On Tuesday, the Pentagon said 50 service members have been diagnosed with traumatic brain injury caused by the Iranian missile attack on Jan. 8. The number of troops injured has fluctuated since the attack, which came in retaliation for a U.S. drone strike in Iraq that killed Qassem Soleimani, Iran's top military general. The number of injured troops increased from the 34 reported last week and the 11 reported on Jan.

17. The total could still rise, according to Milley, because TBIs sometimes take time to manifest.

The injuries undercut President Donald Trump's initial statement hours after Iran's missile barrage that no Americans were harmed in the attack. But Defense Secretary Mark Esper on Thursday defended Trump's original assertion as not being wrong.

"The reporting [of no injuries] was accurate, at that time," Esper said at the Pentagon news briefing. "I think we did our best to report the casualties."

Milley said initial assessments of casualties focus on easily identifiable flesh wounds and loss of life, meaning a brain trauma injury could slip through the cracks at first.

"The very first thing to focus on is life and limb," the general said.

Of the 50 troops diagnosed with TBI, 31 troops were treated in Iraq and returned to duty, 18 troops have been taken to Germany for further treatment and evaluation. One service member was treated in Kuwait and returned to duty.

Beynon.Steven@Stripes.com  
@StevenBeynon

## BECOME A SUBJECT MATTER EXPERT

Warrant Officer

VISIT [GOWARRANTNOW.COM](http://GOWARRANTNOW.COM)  
OR TEXT STRIPES TO 462-769

## MILITARY

# Soldier convicted of sexual assault in retrial

By NANCY MONTGOMERY  
Stars and Stripes

VICENZA, Italy — A soldier apologized to his mother-in-law Thursday after he was found guilty in a court-martial retrial of sexually assaulting her as she slept.

"It probably doesn't mean very much but I want to say I'm sorry and I hope you can find peace in your life," Spc. Brian Hollenbeck said in court before being sentenced to 36 months in prison.

Hollenbeck had already served 27 months of his original 42-month sentence. With credit for good behavior, he will soon be released. He was also sentenced to a dishonorable discharge.

He assured the military judge that prison had taught him to "never commit a crime" and that he longed to be with the wife and toddler daughter he barely knew.

Hollenbeck, named "Best Warrior" at U.S. Army Africa six years ago, was convicted in 2017 of sexually assaulting his mother-in-law during a visit to her daughter and son-in-law's new home in Italy.

Evidence included her testimony and DNA evidence on her pillowcase, which she kept and gave to law enforcement.

Hollenbeck was granted a retrial last year after an appellate court determined the verdict was flawed because of a possibly biased juror.

Hollenbeck, of Erie, Pa., was

on his first enlistment and newly married to his 19-year-old wife when his mother-in-law visited in 2014.

The mother-in-law testified at the retrial that she awoke from sedative-enhanced sleep to forced oral sex. When she opened her eyes, she saw Hollenbeck nearby, buttoning his pants, she said.

The mother-in-law felt "fear, confusion, shock," she testified, as she laid there unmoving until after she heard Hollenbeck leave and drive away.

She wondered whether and how to tell her daughter.

"I didn't want to break up their marriage but then I thought what kind of marriage is it?" the woman testified. She told her daughter and other family members about the assault two weeks later. Her daughter took her husband's side and no longer speaks to her.

Investigators found Hollenbeck's and the mother-in-law's DNA on a pillowcase, which she had given to the FBI as evidence.

The defense argued in both trials that Hollenbeck's DNA was on the pillowcase because he had previously had sex with his wife on the same bedding. The wife, testifying for the defense, said that she had not washed the pillowcase before her mother slept on it.

The wife and her mother took center stage in lawyers' arguments at the retrial.

The mother-in-law was described by the defense as mentally disturbed and desperate to bring her daughter back home.

"She is a liar and a manipulator," Capt. Andrew Rosati said in his closing argument.

At Hollenbeck's first trial, the defense said the mother-in-law

had hallucinated the assault because of medications she was on.

Meanwhile, the wife, who gave birth to the couple's daughter while Hollenbeck was in prison, was described by Maj. John Olson for the prosecution as "a desperate spouse" who "wants her husband home."

The mother-in-law told the court she has had recurring nightmares since the assault. Both she and her daughter said the incident and legal tussle had destroyed their once-close relationship. The mother-in-law's husband of 29 years said it had robbed their marriage of its intimacy, and that he had been considering divorce despite his love for her.

"I want a little intimacy and a companion. I don't have that anymore," he said.

montgomery.nancy@stripes.com  
Twitter: @montgomerynancy



Hollenbeck



Theron Godbold/Stars and Stripes

Master Sgt. Brent Fallon of the 374th Civil Engineer Squadron speaks beside a bulldozer displayed inside Nina Circle at Yokota Air Base, Japan, on Jan. 24

## Yellow bulldozer honors Air Force civil engineers at Yokota Air Base

By SETH ROBSON  
Stars and Stripes

YOKOTA AIR BASE, Japan — Air Force engineers at the home of U.S. Forces Japan in western Tokyo marked their territory recently by parking a 6.4-ton bulldozer in the middle of a prominent on-base roundabout.

"This is a statement to showcase civil engineers and let everybody know where we are," said Master Sgt. Brent Fallon, a heavy equipment operator and section chief for Yokota's 374th Civil Engineer Squadron.

The yellow John Deere 850J bulldozer was placed on the roundabout in December to help

guide people to the engineer compound across the street.

"If you're looking for us you can find us next to the big bulldozer," he said.

Nina Circle, as the roundabout is known, was previously home to the Nina II, an F-86F Sabre aircraft gifted to the base by the Japan Air Self-Defense Force to honor 5th Air Force pilots who flew the fighters in the Korean War. The jet was relocated to the front of USFJ headquarters in 2012.

The bulldozer that took its place has a maximum speed of 5 miles per hour and is one of four operated by the squadron, said Fallon, 30, of Wichita, Kan. The machine

is standard equipment for the engineers, whose mission involves making sure Yokota's runways are in working order.

"Our main contingency mission is to keep the airfield operational if there is any damage to it," he said.

A closeup look at the massive yellow beast reveals that the gasmask-wearing airman in the driver's seat is just a mannequin. The engineers train to restore the airfield wearing the sort of protective equipment that they'd need to operate after an attack with weapons of mass destruction, Fallon said.

robson.seth@stripes.com  
Twitter: @SethRobson1

## Philippines retires ship used by US in Korean War

By THERON GODBOLD  
Stars and Stripes

The Philippine Navy has de-commissioned a former U.S. minesweeper that was built during World War II and earned five battle stars in the Korean War.

The corvette BRP Rizal was retired Wednesday by the Philippines as part of a move to save money on maintenance costs and to make way for new ships, according to the Philippine Daily Inquirer newspaper. It is among several "aging vessels" that Philippine Vice Adm. Robert Empedrad said are being removed from service.

"It's the only way to move forward," he was quoted as saying. "We have to retire [these] ships so we can man our new ships."

The Rizal began life in August 1944 at the Savannah Machine and Foundry Co. in Georgia. Commissioned the USS Murrelet one year later, it arrived at Sasebo Naval Base, Japan, in January 1946, according to Naval History and Heritage Command.

After operating around Japan and Korea, the Auk-class minesweeper was mothballed in the Pacific Reserve Fleet at San Diego for several years before returning to service in October 1950 after the Korean War began.

For the next three years, the Murrelet shuttled between Yokosuka Naval Base in Japan and Korea, where it resumed its former duties as a minesweeper and a patrol craft. It earned its battle stars by destroying shore-based artillery batteries and capturing or destroying enemy sampans, small wooden vessels converted to wartime use for laying mines and other tasks.

After the war, it returned to the West Coast, where it was again assigned to the Pacific Reserve Fleet. The Murrelet was retired



U.S. Navy

The USS Murrelet earned five battle stars during the Korean War.

from the Navy for good in 1964.

However, the ship still had life left. In June 1965, it was sent to the Philippines under the U.S. Foreign Military Assistance Program and renamed the BRP Rizal.

During its nearly 55 years with the Philippine Navy, the Rizal and its crew sometimes paired up in naval exercises with the ship's previous owner. It took part in Cooperation Afloat Readiness and Training, or CARAT, in 2005 and again in 2011.

The Rizal also had run-ins with the Chinese in the South China Sea, where the Philippines and China sometimes clash over conflicting territorial claims.

In May 1999, it collided with a Chinese fishing vessel off the Scarborough Shoal, drawing a protest from Beijing, which lays claim to the shoal.

In 2011, the Rizal again collided with a Chinese-flagged vessel towing 25 sampans near the Recto Bank within the Philippine exclusive economic zone. The Chinese vessel retreated, leaving behind the sampans, which the Rizal then towed back to Palawan province.

godbold.theron@stripes.com  
Twitter: @GodboldTheron

MIDEAST

# Security: Permanent structures possible

FROM FRONT PAGE

Prince Sultan Air Base, said Marine Gen. Frank McKenzie, presents a complicated target for Iran to hit and provides a remote location for U.S. troops, fighter jets and other assets. It also provides greater security for Saudi Arabia, which asked for U.S. help in the wake of an Iranian drone and missile attack on oil facilities in the kingdom last September.

Right now, the large white tents that flap in the stiff winds give a temporary feel to the mission. But according to Air Force Col. Jason King, vice commander of the 378th Air Expeditionary Wing here, there is "prudent planning" underway that could lead to the tents being replaced with trailers and other more permanent structures.

Saudi Arabia is a decades-long American ally, a relationship initially built on America's dependence on Middle East oil. The military connection has been strong, even during periods of stress in the broader relationship, including in the aftermath of the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks in which most of the hijackers were Saudis. The kingdom also has been harshly criticized in Congress for the 2018 killing of Saudi dissident and Washington Post columnist Jamal Khashoggi and for its role

in errant airstrikes in Yemen that have killed or injured many civilians.

McKenzie is careful when asked how long the U.S. will stay.

"I think this is an important part of our architecture right now and we will continue to evaluate that as we go forward," he said. "It's a well defended place and we can put a lot of combat power here."

The base's future, he told reporters traveling with him, is part of a discussion with Defense Secretary Mark Esper about how many forces are needed in the region. That calculation is being made against the backdrop of President Donald Trump's push to get U.S. forces out of the Middle East and end what he calls America's "endless wars."

Speaking to troops inside one of the large tents, McKenzie acknowledged the less-than-ideal living conditions. But he said their presence sends a signal to Iran that the U.S. is serious, and it also gives him more options for any military action in the region.

The base is a vivid representation of the struggle to balance the escalating threats in the Middle East against the Pentagon's insistence that the U.S. military shift more of its focus to Asia and the risks from China and Russia.

U.S. tensions with Iran have

been roiling for months but spiked after the U.S. carried out a drone strike in Iraq that killed Qassem Soleimani, Iran's top general. In response, Iran on Jan. 8 fired as many as two dozen ballistic missiles at two Iraqi bases where U.S. troops were stationed. The U.S. had no Patriot defenses at those bases because it judged other locations, in Saudi Arabia and elsewhere in the Gulf, to be more likely Iranian targets.

U.S. officials contend that both sides do not seek war and have moved to de-escalate, but threats from Iranian-backed militias in Iraq and Syria still pose a worrisome threat.

Wednesday's stop at Prince Sultan Air Base was the second time in a week that McKenzie has visited a military site in the Middle East where the U.S. recently set up Patriot batteries to protect against missiles fired by Iran and Iranian-backed militias in Syria and Iraq. Reporters accompanied McKenzie to the first site on the condition they not disclose its location for security reasons.

Any possible future conflict with Iran, McKenzie said, "is not going to be a ground maneuver war, it's going to be a war of fires, it's going to be a war of ballistic missiles, a war of unmanned aerial systems and cruise missiles. So the ability of nations in the region



LOLITA BALDOR/AP

Marine Gen. Frank McKenzie, the top U.S. commander for the Middle East, meets with troops at Prince Sultan Air Base in Saudi Arabia on Wednesday.

to provide for their air defense is going to be important."

It was a little more than a year ago when then-Defense Secretary Jim Mattis pulled four Patriot batteries out of Jordan, Bahrain and Kuwait. It was all part of the Pentagon's new national defense strategy that pointed to China and Russia as key adversaries and the top priorities for the future.

But the rapidly escalating threat from Iran — which includes attacks against tankers and other commercial ships in the Gulf region as well as the strikes against Saudi facilities and U.S. troops — has forced the U.S. to reverse those moves and send

even more of the high-tech systems to the region. In addition to the Patriots, the U.S. has also sent a THAAD anti-ballistic missile defense system, which complements the Patriots by providing a defense against ballistic missiles traveling outside the Earth's atmosphere.

According to Army Lt. Col. Tom Noble, there are four Patriot batteries in Saudi Arabia, including the two at Prince Sultan Air Base. Noble, the commander of the Air Defense Artillery Battalion, said each battery has from six to nine truck-based missile launchers that routinely scour the air for threats.

Oh! The Places You'll See with

STARS AND STRIPES®



Visit before you go!

Stripes.com/travel Japan.Stripes.com  
Europe.Stripes.com Korea.Stripes.com  
Guam.Stripes.com Okinawa.Stripes.com



NATION

# Dershowitz: Impeachment defense distorted

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump's defense lawyer Alan Dershowitz now says his headline-dominating argument against impeaching the president has been distorted.

Meanwhile, Trump's Senate trial headed into a final day of questions and answers before a vote on whether or not to call witnesses — a decision that could send the proceedings to weeks of further action or a relatively abrupt acquittal.

In a day-after tweet, Dershowitz complained Thursday about the portrayal of his testimony Wednesday night that a president, if he believes his re-election is in the "national interest," is essentially immune from impeachment for actions in support of that idea.

That argument left even some of Trump's top allies backing away from the criminal attorney's claim, though Dershowitz was testifying on Trump's behalf at the Senate trial.

"They characterized my argument as if I had said that if a president believes that his re-election is in the national interest, he can do anything," the retired professor said Thursday. "I said nothing like that, as anyone who actually heard what I said can attest."

Dershowitz testified to the Senate jurors late Wednesday that the president pro charge at the heart of Trump's impeachment — a trade of U.S. military aid for political favors — even if proven could not be grounds for his impeachment.

"Every public official that I know believes that his election is in the public interest," he said Wednesday night. "And if a president does something, which he believes will help him get elected in the public interest, that cannot be the kind of quid pro quo that results in impeachment."

That argument was an abrupt turnaround from Trump's own claim of "perfect" dealings with Ukraine.

One key Republican, Sen. Susan Collins of Maine, said only: "Yes, that's very interesting. That's all I'm going to say."

Meanwhile, Democrats are pressing hard to force the Senate to call more witnesses to testify, but Republicans appear intensely focused on bringing the impeachment trial to a vote of acquittal, possibly in a very late day. New revelations from former national security adviser John Bolton are being countered by the president's lawyers, who used Wednesday's unusual question-and-answer session to warn off prolonging the proceeding.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi warned Trump on Thursday that a sham trial is not acquittal of the impeachment charges against him. "You can't be acquitted if you don't have a trial," said Pelosi, arguing anew that Trump will be "impeached forever."

Meanwhile, Pelosi just pray that the senators will have the cour-



SENATE TELEVISION/AP

Alan Dershowitz, an attorney for President Donald Trump, answers a question during the impeachment trial against Trump in the Senate at the U.S. Capitol in Washington on Wednesday.

## 3 Senate Dems from red states waver on impeachment votes

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — As the Senate impeachment trial grinds toward a climax, it remains unclear how three Democrats will vote on whether to toss President Donald Trump from office.

Sens. Doug Jones of Alabama, Joe Manchin of West Virginia and Kyrsten Sinema of Arizona are all question marks, though they're widely regarded as likely to vote for at least one of the two impeachment articles.

Unlike a quartet of wavering Republicans who could put Trump in peril as lawmakers decide whether to call witnesses and extend the proceedings, the three Democrats' votes on whether to acquit him won't likely affect the trial's outcome. It seems certain that the GOP-run Senate will lack the 67 votes needed to remove Trump from office, no matter what the trio does.

But the Democrats' decisions will color their political careers and this year's presidential campaign. If one or more of them votes to ac-

quit Trump — even voting against one article of impeachment while supporting the other, which many consider likely — it could alienate some Democratic voters, mark their legacies and let Trump spend his reelection campaign asserting that he was cleared by a bipartisan vote.

On the other hand, with Republicans now controlling the Senate 53-47, many Democrats aren't willing to criticize moderates from swing states for voting in ways that will protect their political futures. All three wavering Democrats come from states Trump won in 2016 and where Democrats struggle to win elections.

"They have reputations for being independent actors," said Democratic pollster Mark Mellman. "I think that's what they'll do here."

"That's very tough terrain," Democratic pollster Celinda Lake said of their states. "They're all people who'll need Republican or independent votes to win, so I'm sure they're thinking about that."

age and the ability to handle the truth — rather than blocking the truth."

Democrats argued Bolton's forthcoming book cannot be ignored. It contends he personally heard Trump say he wanted military aid withheld from Ukraine until it agreed to investigate Joe Biden and his son, Hunter Biden — the abuse of power charge that is the first article of impeachment. Trump denies saying such a thing.

The vote on calling witnesses is expected by Friday.

Senate Democratic Leader Chuck Schumer acknowledged it's "an uphill battle" to bring four GOP senators to vote for witnesses but said, "we're still hopeful."

At one point Wednesday night, as Chief Justice John Roberts fielded queries, Texas Republican Ted Cruz asked if it mattered whether there was a quid pro quo?

Simply, no, declared Dershowitz, who said noted that politicians often quote their reelection with the public good. "That's why it's so dangerous to try to psychoanalyze a president," he said.

Rep. Adam Schiff, the Democrat leading the House prosecutors, appeared stunned.

"All I did pro quos are not the same," he retorted. Some might be acceptable, some not. "And you don't need to be a mind reader to figure out which is which. For one thing, you can ask John Bolton."

With voting on witnesses later this week, Democrats amid the backdrop of protesters swarming the Capitol, are making a last-ditch push to sway Republicans to call Bolton and others to appear for testimony and ensure a "fair trial."

Trump faces charges from the House that he abused his power like no other president, jeopardizing Ukraine and U.S.-Ukraine re-

"Don't wait for the book. Don't wait 'til March 17, when it is in black and white to find out the answer to your question," Schiff told the Senate.

That publication date is now in doubt. The White House on Wednesday released a letter to Bolton's attorney objecting to "significant amounts of classified information" in the manuscript, including at the top secret level. Bolton and his attorney have insisted the book does not contain any classified information.

The White House action could delay the book's publication if Bolton, who resigned last September — Trump says he was fired — is forced to revise his draft.

GOP senators are straining to balance the new revelations with pressure for quick acquittal. They have been sternly warned by party leaders that calling Bolton as a witness could entangle the trial in lengthy legal battles and delay Trump's expected acquittal.

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell huddled privately with senators for a third consecutive day, acknowledging he didn't yet have the votes to brush back Democratic demands for witnesses now that revelations from Bolton have roiled the trial. But Republicans said they were making progress.

In a Senate split 53-47 in favor of Republicans, at least four GOP senators must join all Democrats to reach the 51 votes required to call witnesses and subpoena to call or do nearly anything else in the trial.

Schiff's response to Dershowitz focused on one particular senator: He asked his audience to imagine what would have happened if then-President Barack Obama asked the Russians to dig up dirt on then-candidate Romney, the GOP's 2012 presidential nominee? Romney, standing at the back of the chamber, smiled occasionally at mention of his name.

Far from voiding the last election, Schiff said, impeachment is protecting the next one, in 2020, from an future Trump efforts to ask foreign governments to intervene.

Republicans tried to engage the president's defense, at times raising the profile of the still anonymous government whistleblower whose complaint about Trump's July 25 call with Ukraine sparked the impeachment inquiry. Democrats kept focus on the case for Trump's conviction and removal, which would require 67 votes in the Senate and seems unlikely.

At times, there were telling exchanges. In one, the White House team could not fully respond when Collins and Murkowski asked if Trump had ever pursued Biden investigations before the former vice president announced his presidential bid in 2019.

Philbin argued that relying on foreign information in a U.S. campaign isn't necessarily a violation of longstanding objections later from Democrats.

## NATION

# Poll: GOP more fired up for 2020, Dems anxious

By NICHOLAS RICCARDI  
AND EMILY SWANSON  
Associated Press

When it comes to the 2020 presidential election, Democrats are nervous wrecks and Republican excitement has grown.

That's according to a new poll by The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research as Americans look ahead to a high-stakes election that is 10 months away but still very much top of mind. While emotions could change in the coming months, the findings give Democrats one more worry to add to the list: Will anxiety or enthusiasm be a bigger motivator to come November?

On the verge of the first votes being cast in a primary contest with no clear leader, 66% of Democrats report anxiety about the election, compared with 46% of Republicans. Democrats are also more likely to feel frustration. Republicans, meanwhile, are more likely than Democrats to declare excitement about the race, and the share of enthusiastic Republicans appears to be rising.

The findings aren't surprising as the authors talk to an

undecided Democrat about the crowded primary field. Behind an intense desire to oust President Donald Trump, Democrats often describe deep uncertainty about what sort of candidate has the best chance and whether the party will be able to win the votes. There's also hard division over policy and whispers about a contested convention. It can all feel a bit too much for some.

"I'm anxious and not really in a good way," said James Horinek, 32, a Democrat in Lawton, Okla., who works in marketing. "There's division across the board — there's too much on the Democratic side and too little on the Republican one."

Republicans, meanwhile, appear to share less of that angst, while their party hangs together on impeachment, the economy and other major issues on Trump's agenda.

"I am not nervous at all. I think Donald Trump will win it in a landslide," said Clinton Adams, 39, a custodian in the Florida Panhandle.

The poll found that 43% of Republicans say they're excited

about the election, up 10 percentage points from October. Meanwhile, 33% of Democrats reported excitement.

About three-quarters of both Democrats and Republicans say they are highly motivated to cast ballots this year. But that only raises the question of which emotion will be stronger in turning out the vote around the margins.

A party usually wants its voters excited rather than anxious, said George Marcus, a political scientist at Williams College who has studied the role of emotion in politics and polling. Marcus found that voters who report fear and anxiety are more likely to be confused and split their vote.

"It creates the possibility for persuasion," Marcus said of voter worry. "If I'm an anxious Democrat, I may stay home, I may vote Republican. ... You want your base to be either really angry at the other side or really enthusiastic."

Still, Marcus noted Democrats have a long way to go before Election Day. The selection of a nominee could calm jitters and stir up excitement for a candidate.



MEL EVANS/AP

**A supporter reacts before President Donald Trump speaks at a campaign rally Tuesday in Wildwood, N.J.**

## Biden faces onslaught of attacks from GOP

Associated Press

SIoux CITY, Iowa — With five days until the Iowa caucuses, Joe Biden is fending off a new onslaught of GOP attacks over his son's business overseas and facing piling pressure to show Democratic voters he can handle the incoming.

As Republicans amplified their allegations against the former vice president, accusing him of nepotism and worse in a series of charges stemming from the impeachment trial of President Donald Trump, Biden mounted an aggressive counterattack ahead of Monday's first nominating contest.

"Character is on the ballot. America's character," Biden says in remarks prepared for an event Thursday in Waukee. "I don't believe we're the dark, angry nation we see in Donald Trump's tweets."

Trump himself plans a nighttime rally in Des Moines, offering something of a preview of the election ahead should Biden be the Democratic nominee.

Biden made his case Wednesday by openly mocking Florida Sen. Rick Scott, a Republican,



NAT HARRIN/AP

**Presidential candidate and former Vice President Joe Biden speaks during a campaign stop Wednesday in Council Bluffs, Iowa.**

for running a digital ad in Iowa that repeats Trump's discredited theories about Biden's work in Ukraine as vice president and his son's private business dealings there. The ad came a day after Trump's impeachment defense team repeatedly framed Hunter Biden's tenure on an energy firm's governing board as the real corruption in need of investigation.

"A senator from Florida, sitting in Washington, has decided to start running negative ads against Joe Biden just days before the Iowa caucus," the elder Biden told several hundred Iowa voters in Sioux City. "What do you think that's about? Look, it's simple," he said, returning to an oft-used line: "They're smearing me. ... because they know if I'm the nominee, I'm going to beat Donald Trump like a drum."

Biden adviser Anita Dunn was even more pointed, saying of the Scott ad: "We'll pay him to keep it up." Biden campaign manager Greg Schultz said, "This is all a help to us" because it validates Trump's fear.

That's quite a turn from October, when the Biden campaign sent letters to Facebook, Google and Twitter pressuring the online platforms to block ads from Trump's reelection campaign that contained similar debunked allegations against the Bidens. But Dunn and Schultz suggest that their new posture could be the better path to turning a potentially damaging story line into an electoral asset.

"We are going to call out the lies. We are going to confront him," Dunn said of how Biden will handle Trump going forward.

## Trump steps up early state effort despite lack of rival

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Move over, 2020 Democrats. President Donald Trump would like to remind voters that he, too, is on the ballot next week.

With no serious challenger and money to burn, Trump's reelection team hopes to use voting in early states on the campaign calendar as a test run for its organizing prowess and to boost excitement for the president's candidacy come November.

Trump's team is pouring money into the contests, dispatching dozens of surrogates and staging presidential rallies — both to put Democrats on notice and to demonstrate that Republicans are eager to support the president.

"Even though it's a foregone conclusion that the president will win the Republican primary, we still want them to go out and vote," said Chris Ager, one of New Hampshire's three representatives on the Republican National Committee. "We don't want to cede the ground to the Democrats just because they have more enthusiasm."

Trump's campaign views Monday's leadoff caucuses in Iowa and the Feb. 11 New Hampshire primary as presenting both a challenge to meet sky-high expectations and an opportunity to flex political strength.

The campaign will launch an all-out surrogate offensive in Iowa following a presidential rally Thursday in Des Moines. In New Hampshire, the campaign is conducting a monthlong test of its voter turnout operation, including 10,000 volunteer phone calls and dozens of volunteer training sessions. It will culminate in a Trump rally in Manchester on the eve of the vote.

South Carolina and Nevada canceled their nominating contests to show their allegiance to the president, but the campaign has been in discussions about holding a Trump rally in Nevada ahead of Democratic voting.

The Trump campaign views the deployment as a supercharged version of traditional "bracketing," bringing the president and other heavy hitters to stop on Democrats' messages at a pivotal juncture in the campaign.

It's an "incredible opportunity" to contrast Trump's agenda with the Democrats' in states that they believe Trump has a chance of carrying in November, said RNC and Trump campaign spokesman Rick Gorra.

While Trump is among the least popular presidents in modern history, he has maintained wide support among Republicans, with 83% approving of his job performance in a January poll from the AP-NORC Center.

NATION

# Weinstein excused lewd acts as showbiz norm

By Tom Hays  
and Michael R. Sisak  
Associated Press

**NEW YORK** — Two women who say they met Harvey Weinstein when they were aspiring actresses in their 20s testified at his rape trial on Wednesday that the one-time Hollywood titan preyed on their dreams of stardom to sexually assault them.

Dawn Dunning told jurors that Weinstein put his hand up her skirt and fondled her genitals during what was supposed to be a 2004 meeting about her fledgling career and later tried trading movie roles for three-way sex with him and his assistant.

She said that Weinstein claimed the lewd offer was the kind of thing that happened all the time in the film business, and that he mentioned the names of several big stars in hopes of convincing her to do it.

Tarale Wulff testified that Weinstein raped her at his New York City apartment after luring her there in 2005 with promises of an audition for a film role.

Wulff choked back tears as she described the much larger Weinstein grabbing her by the arm, pushing her onto a bed and spinning her pleas to stop with reassurances that she shouldn't worry because he'd had a vasectomy.

Wulff, now 43 and a model, said she froze as he continued, thinking that would make it "easier to get through, to get past it."

Their allegations against Weinstein are not part of the criminal charges against him, but their testimony could be a factor in whether he goes to jail at the end of his #MeToo-era trial.

Prosecutors called them as witnesses under a state law that allows testimony about so-called "prior bad acts," enabling them to explore things like motive, opportunity, intent and a common scheme or plan. In this case, prosecutors allege that Weinstein has long used the promise of career advancement as the advantage of young, vulnerable women.

Weinstein, 67, is charged with forcibly performing oral sex on



Harvey Weinstein, center, leaves Manhattan's Criminal Court on Wednesday with his lawyer Arthur Aidala, left, where he is on trial for rape and sexual assault.

BERETO MATTHEWS/AP

Mimi Haley, at the time a "Project Runway" production assistant, in 2006 and raping another aspiring actress in 2013. That woman could testify later this week.

Weinstein has insisted that any sexual encounters were consensual.

His lawyers raised doubts about Wulff's recollection after she disclosed that she had worked with a therapist for a year to fill gaps in her memory. Speaking to reporters later, Wulff's lawyer called that line of questioning a "red herring" and said that her memory of being raped has never altered.

Weinstein's lawyers also questioned why Dunning waited until last summer to tell prosecutors that Weinstein had fondled her after she had gone public with the jobs-for-sex allegation, first in an article in *The New York Times* in October 2017.



RICHARD DREW/AP

Witness Tarale Wulff leaves the Harvey Weinstein rape trial during a break Wednesday.

Weinstein, who was subdued in his interactions with reporters during the trial's first week, seemed looser as he left the courthouse, proclaiming that "it

went great today. The lawyers killed it." He likened a portion of Dunning's testimony to bull excrement.

Wulff testified that on an occasion before the alleged rape, Weinstein grabbed her arm as she served cocktails at one of his usual Manhattan haunts, led her toward a darkened terrace and started masturbating.

Wulff, who'd met Weinstein at the members-only club, said she froze and scooted around him to go back to the bar.

Dunning told jurors that she met Weinstein while waiting tables at a different Manhattan night spot. Weinstein immediately appeared to take an interest in her acting career, she said, and invited her to a lunch meeting where, noting his infamous temper, she said he was "on the phone a lot yelling at people."

Several meetings followed,

Dunning said, including one at a hotel where Weinstein was using a suite as a temporary office. At one point, she testified, Weinstein led her into a bedroom and put his hand up her skirt.

"I stood up. I was in shock," Dunning said, fighting back tears as she described the alleged incident when she was 24. "He just started talking really fast. He said, 'Don't make a big deal about this. It will never happen again.'"

Dunning said she "just kind of gave him the benefit of the doubt" and didn't scream or tell anyone because she was embarrassed and didn't want to be a victim.

Dunning said that she later agreed to meet Weinstein at a cigar bar, but an assistant took her to a suite where the producer was standing in a bathtub. There, she said Weinstein showed her a contract for three movie roles she would get on the condition that she had "a threesome with his assistant."

Dunning testified that she laughed when Weinstein floated the idea, thinking he was kidding and had a "crass sense of humor."

"But when I started laughing, he got really angry and started screaming at me," Dunning testified. "He said, 'You'll never make it in this business, this is how this industry works.'"

Dunning, now 40, said that Weinstein went on to namedrop actresses Salma Hayek and Charlize Theron, implying that they had done similar things to achieve success, something both women have strongly denied.

Hayek has said she did to fight off Weinstein's constant harassment and bullying. Theron was upset when some accusers said he implied that they had slept together.

Dunning said she didn't know what Weinstein would do after she laughed off the offer, so she ran for the door and down the hall to the elevator.

"He was a big guy. He was towering over me," she testified. "I was really scared."

# Kansas abortion measure advances in Tennessee plan's shadow

By John Hanna  
Associated Press

**TOPEKA, Kan.** — Republican lawmakers in Kansas pushed a proposed anti-abortion amendment to the state constitution through the state Senate on Wednesday, even as abortion rights advocates argued that it would lead to a ban on most abortions like a measure being pursued in Tennessee.

The Kansas proposal, aimed at overturning a state Supreme Court decision last year protecting abortion rights, is modeled on a change that Tennessee voters approved in their state constitution in 2014. Like Tennessee's amendment, the Kansas proposal

would declare that the state constitution does not "secure" a right to abortion and that legislators decide how it is regulated.

The Senate's 28-12 vote on Wednesday evening gave the measure's backers one vote more than the two-thirds majority needed for passage, even with only Republicans voting yes. The measure goes next to the House, where the measure also needs a two-thirds majority before the question could go on the ballot for potential approval by a simple majority of voters in the state's August primary.

Abortion opponents pitch the proposed amendment as an attempt to restore state lawmakers' long-assumed authority to regulate

late abortion, not ban it.

"I don't think anything radical is going to happen," said Senate President Susan Wagle, a Wichita Republican who led anti-abortion lawmakers during a debate that lasted nearly five hours.

But the Kansas vote came five days after Tennessee's Republican governor, Bill Lee, announced that he would introduce legislation to ban abortion once a fetal heartbeat is detected. That can occur about six weeks into pregnancy and before many women even know that they're pregnant.

"We are the canary in the mine, so Kansas can just look at us," said Francie Hunt, executive director of Tennessee Advocates for Planned Parenthood. "It has

everything to do with outlawing access to safe, legal abortion altogether."

In Kansas, Democrats failed twice to add language to the proposed amendment to ensure lawmakers couldn't ban abortion in cases of rape, incest or when a woman's life is endangered by continuing a pregnancy. Wagle argued that such language could block health and safety standards for women in those situations.

Kansas elected abortion-rights Democrat Laura Kelly as governor in 2018, but the GOP-controlled Legislature has had solid anti-abortion majorities in both chambers for more than two decades. It's not clear that abortion opponents have a two-thirds ma-

ajority for the proposed amendment in the House.

For years, Kansas abortion opponents have avoided pursuing laws representing a direct challenge to the U.S. Supreme Court's historic Roe v. Wade decision in 1973, which legalized abortion nationwide. They've instead concentrated on enacting a raft of restrictions expected to withstand court challenges.

Wagle called the argument that the new measure could lead to an abortion ban a "scare tactic."

The Kansas proposal differs from Tennessee's constitutional provision by saying that legislators' ability to regulate abortion would be "to the extent permitted" by the U.S. Constitution.



## NATION

# Life expectancy in US rises 1st time in 4 years

By **MIKE STOBBE**  
Associated Press

**NEW YORK** — Life expectancy in the United States is up for the first time in four years.

The increase is small — just a month — but marks at least a temporary halt to a downward trend. The rise is due to lower death rates for cancer and drug overdoses.

“Let’s just hope it continues,” said Robert Anderson, who oversees the report released Thursday by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The latest calculation is for 2018 and factors in current death trends and other issues. On average, an infant born that year is expected to live about 78 years and 8 months, the CDC said.

For males, it’s about 76 years and 2 months; for females 81 years and 1 month.

For decades, U.S. life expectancy was on the upswing, rising a few months nearly every year. But from 2014 to 2017, it fell slightly or held steady. That was blamed largely on surges in overdose deaths and suicides.

Suicides continued to increase in 2018, as did deaths from the flu and pneumonia during what turned out to be an unusually bad

flu year. But declines in some other causes of death — most notably cancer and drug overdoses — were enough to overcome all that, according to the report.

Cancer is the nation’s No. 2 killer, blamed for about 600,000 deaths a year, so even slight changes in the cancer death rate can have a big impact. The rate fell more than 2%, matching the drop in 2017.

“I’m a little surprised that rapid pace is continuing,” said Rebecca Siegel, a researcher for the American Cancer Society.

Most of the improvement is in lung cancer because of fewer smokers and better treatments, she said.

Also striking was the drop in drug overdose deaths that had skyrocketed through 2017. The death rate fell 4% in 2018 and the number of deaths dropped to about 67,400.

Deaths from heroin and prescription painkillers went down, however, deaths from other drugs — fentanyl, cocaine and meth — continued to go up. And preliminary data for the first half of 2019 suggest the overall decline in overdose deaths is already slowing down.

It’s still a crisis, said Katherine Keyes, a Columbia University



TODD BERKEY, THE TRIBUNE-DEMOCRAT/AP

**Joggers run through Grandview Cemetery in Johnstown, Pa., on Jan. 24. Data released on Thursday shows that U.S. life expectancy has improved for the first time in four years.**

researcher. “But the fact that we have seen the first year where there’s not an additional increase is encouraging.”

The national decline was driven by dips in 14 states; the CDC’s Anderson said. Those include states where overdose deaths have been most common, like Ohio, Pennsylvania, Kentucky, and West Virginia.

In Ohio’s Hamilton County, which includes Cincinnati, overdose deaths fell in 2018 and preliminary data indicates another drop last year. County health commissioner Tim Ingram credited efforts to try to expand access to treatment and to widely distribute the overdose reversal drug Narcan.

“We almost saturated our com-

munity with Narcan,” he said.

Nationally, for all causes of death, more than 2.8 million Americans died in 2018. That’s about 26,000 more than the year before, the CDC report found. The number went up even as the death rate went down because the population is growing and a large group is retirement-age baby boomers.

Other findings: ■ The 10 leading causes of death remained the same, with heart disease at No. 1. The death rate for heart disease declined slightly, by less than 1%.

■ Deaths also dropped for stroke, Alzheimer’s disease, chronic lower respiratory diseases and unintentional injuries, which includes drug overdoses.

■ Americans who were 65 in 2018 are expected to live another 19 years and six months, on average.

■ The infant mortality rate fell more than 2%, to 1 in 177 births.

■ The suicide death rate hit its highest level since 1941 — about 14 per 100,000. The rate peaked during the Depression in 1932 then mostly declined until 2000. It’s been rising most years since then.

The U.S. has the highest suicide rate of 11 wealthy nations studied, according to a separate report released Thursday by the private Commonwealth Fund. That report also found U.S. life expectancy is two years lower than the average for the 10 other wealthy nations.

## Los Angeles apartment that caught fire lacked sprinklers

Associated Press

**LOS ANGELES** — A 25-story West Los Angeles apartment tower that caught fire, forcing firefighters to pluck stranded people from the rooftop and a ledge, had no sprinklers even though the same building burned seven years ago, authorities said.

Flames swept through apartments on the seventh floor of the Barrington Plaza on Wednesday morning.

Eleven people were treated, mostly for smoke inhalation. Seven of them, including a 3-month-old child, were sent to hospitals, mostly with smoke inhalation.

In addition, two firefighters received minor burns as, using bottled oxygen, they scrambled to reach the apartment where the blaze began.

“These firefighters were literally driven to their bellies halfway through that hallway,” fire Capt. Erik Scott said.

Tenants described trying to move down crowded, smoky stairwells.

Cecile Mathieson tried to push past in her rush from her 25th-floor penthouse. When she reached the floor on fire, she could see the orange glow under the door. “I really thought I was going to die

today,” Mathieson said hours later.

Some turned back and went to the roof instead, where helicopters moved in to rescue 15 people. Rescuers lowered themselves on cables to haul them to safety because the 1961 building had no rooftop helicopter landing site.

A ladder was used to rescue a man who clung to the outside of the building as flames raged in nearby apartments.

Scott said the 30-year-old man was “hanging out of the window on the ledge due to the intense heat inside of that building unit.” At first, Scott said, it appeared to firefighters that the man was threatening to jump but by using loudspeakers they “were able to calm that individual down” and rescue him, although he was hospitalized in critical condition.

Firefighters gave CPR to another 30-year-old man who was taken to the hospital in grave condition. There was no immediate update on his condition.

Hundreds of firefighters doused the fire but the entire building was red-tagged leaving 339 tenants displaced until at least Thursday morning when inspectors could check its safety.



STAFANIE DAZIO/AP

**A Los Angeles Fire Department ladder stands at the side of an apartment building where a fire broke out in West Los Angeles on Wednesday.**

The building passed a fire inspection in June but it lacked internal fire sprinklers, which weren’t required when it was built, Scott said.

## Priest apologizes for Muslim slight

Associated Press

**LONSDALE, Minn.** — A Minnesota Roman Catholic priest apologized Wednesday for saying in a sermon that Islam was “the greatest threat in the world” to the United States and Christianity.

The Rev. Nick VanDenBroeke apologized in a statement issued by the St. Paul-Minnesota Catholic archdiocese.

He had made the comments in a Jan. 5 sermon at the Lonsdale, Minn., church where he serves as pastor.

The Minnesota chapter of the Council on American-Islamic Relations, a civil rights group, had called earlier Wednesday on Minnesota’s Roman Catholic church leaders to repudiate the sermon.

CAIR’s request came after the newspaper City Pages published an article Wednesday about the sermon.

In his statement Wednesday, VanDenBroeke said his homily “contained words that were hurtful to Muslims. I’m sorry for that. I realize that my comments were not fully reflective of the Catholic Church’s teaching on Islam.”

NATION

# Vocal parents alter schools' desegregation plans

By REGINA GARCIA CANO AND SARAH RANKIN  
Associated Press

ELLCOTT CITY, Md. — As they try to address stubborn school segregation, many of the nation's school districts confront a familiar obstacle: resistance from affluent, well-organized and mostly white parents to changes affecting their children's classrooms.

From New York City to Richmond, Va., sweeping proposals to ease inequities have been scaled back or canceled after encountering a backlash. The debates have been charged with emotion and veiled rhetoric reminiscent of the aftermath of Brown vs. Board of Education, the U.S. Supreme Court decision that threw out state laws establishing segregated schools.

While the federal government has largely stepped back from the aggressive role it played decades ago in school desegregation, some local districts have acted in recognition of increasingly apparent racial divides and the long-established educational benefits of integration.

In Howard County, Md., a suburban community between Washington and Baltimore, a parent who supports reforms lamented the presence of "concentrated poverty in certain schools and concentrated wealth in other schools."

"When we have concentrated poverty, those students are not getting that same quality of education," said Dawn Popp, a white mother of two students in local schools.

The Supreme Court has ruled that race cannot be used as the driving factor in assigning students to public schools. But more than 100 school districts have implemented voluntary desegregation plans that work around that ruling by mixing students from families with different incomes or educational levels, factors often associated with race, according to Richard Kahlenberg, a senior fellow at the Century Foundation in Washington.

The success of such efforts can depend on the size of the coalition seeking change and how well the goals are communicated. The most important task for school officials is "to explain to the public why integrated schools are good for everyone," Kahlenberg said.

Race and class divisions were on display for months last year after the Howard County school board directed the superintendent to start a comprehensive redistricting process. The Howard County Council in August requested that the blueprint address socioeconomic and racial segregation across the school system, which serves about 59,000 children, the majority of whom are minorities. Most low-income students are black and Hispanic.

The superintendent originally proposed moving some 7,400 students to different schools. The overwhelming opposition was led by white and Asian families, who



Protesters stand outside the Howard County government building in Ellicott City, Md., on Sept. 26.

protested near an area mall and flooded public meetings.

They carried signs that read "Kids before politics," "Swapping kids creates new inequities" and "No forced busing." Speakers at public meetings said the changes would cause stress and anxiety for their children. One suggested the transfers could lead students to consider suicide.

Opponents insisted the issue was not about race and sought to distance themselves from racist feedback submitted in writing.

George Henry, a retiree living in Ellicott City, wrote in a newspaper op-ed that his children, now in their 30s, received good educations in the local schools with highly diverse classmates. He said the "artificial and forced mixing" is unnecessary. He told The Associated Press the "fundamental factor" to closing the achievement gap is the support

students have at home, which is not up to the county.

In November, the Howard County Board of Education approved reassigning some 5,400 students, not including two particular high schools — River Hill High and Wilde Lake High, where less than 5% and more than 45% of students, respectively, are from low-income families. Parents of students at River Hill High had been among the most outspoken protesters.

Some parents are now challenging the plan in court. Others would have preferred to see more ambitious changes.

Popp said the scaled-back redistricting sends a message that "people who can afford the matching T-shirts and the fancy signs" and have time to organize can get their way.

Cynthia Fikes, whose son attends Wilde Lake High, said the

redistricting debate revealed the "level of fear and disdain" that much of the community had for people unlike themselves. She said racist and classist statements were "allowed to pass as conversations" at meetings and on social media.

"When you look at what was said, it's so hurtful," said Fikes, who is black.

In Virginia's capital city, the school board approved a plan that reassigned some students but rejected more sweeping proposals that would have diversified Richmond's whitest elementary schools.

The former capital of the Confederacy is about 47% white, but only about 14% of its public school students are. And of those white students, many are concentrated in just a handful of schools.

The push to integrate some of those most segregated schools

was included in last year's rezoning process, which also aimed to ease overcrowding and fill new school buildings. The most controversial proposals involved pairing, a process in which students from the whitest elementary schools would have been pooled together with students from majority-black schools and then split up by grade level.

In an emotional public debate that stretched for months, supporters called pairing a bold way to help disadvantaged students and create more unified and diverse communities.

But those supporters were often outnumbered by opponents, with parents and property owners raising concerns about home values. Some said that it would strain families with children split between multiple schools, limiting what time parents could spend volunteering with a PTA or complicating pickups and drop-offs. Others threatened that it would trigger another exodus to the suburbs or to private schools.

At one forum, Taikien Cooper said that the coded racist language was "so loud I had to pinch myself."

"We can all agree that the schools are not equal right now," said Cooper, the executive director of an education advocacy organization. "They're not the same. That's why some people behind me are fighting so adamantly to protect their own privilege."

Superintendent Jason Kamras, who was hired in 2017 and pledged to reform the district with the state's lowest graduation rate, supported pairing. In a tweet, he likened the criticism of one option to "Massive Resistance 2.0," a reference to the anti-segregation movement that followed the Supreme Court's landmark Brown decision.

Heard a lot of things said during these meetings which sounded almost verbatim like the things that were said in the '50s, '60s and '70s to prevent the integration of schools in Richmond and around the country," he said in an interview.

But pairing was also unpopular among many black families. School board member Kenya Gibson addressed the crowd at a community forum where a diverse group of parents overwhelmingly opposed the plan, saying she recognized that "many of the people of color in this room have a lot of the same concerns as the white people have in this room."

In December, the board enacted a plan that did not include pairing, although it redrew lines in parts of the city in ways that will make some schools more diverse.

Theresa Kennedy, a white mother of two elementary school students who served on the advisory committee that created the rezoning options, was a vocal advocate of pairing. She was disappointed.

"These votes don't come along often," Kennedy said. "And every vote like this has the opportunity to shift a generation."



Attendees hold signs during the Richmond School Board's last public hearing on redistricting at Ginter Park Elementary School in Richmond, Va., on Dec. 16.



## VETERANS

# 'I have a sense of purpose'

## How service dogs help veterans cope with PTSD

By STEVE BEYNON  
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Damian Jungermann knows what it's like to experience severely dark moments after multiple combat tours overseas. But he said Shai — a mixed-breed Plott Hound — has been a critical part of his recovery from post-traumatic stress disorder since they met last year.

"When I returned from Afghanistan, I was diagnosed with PTSD and traumatic brain injuries. I wanted to stay in my apartment away from everyone, but now with Shai I'm engaging in the world more. I'm going to the park and sleeping better. Shai has given me a quality of life that I had lost."

Jungermann, 45, was a Naval Explosive Ordnance Disposal Technician and served three deployments to Afghanistan, sometimes working with special operations units such as SEAL Team 3 and 5 and the Third and Seventh Special Forces groups. EOD troops are responsible for disarming and safely removing improvised explosive devices, which are responsible for the majority of combat deaths since 9/11.

"I had issues, but I didn't really know I had issues," he said. "I had huge rage problems, I picked up a grocery cart and threw it and thought it was OK. I wasn't a drinker, but I was super impulsive."

Jungermann medically retired from the military due to his PTSD and TBI as a chief petty officer. While he was still serving, he said he was initially afraid of seeking counseling because of the stigma that can come with it. A 2015 study from the Defense Department, the most recent data, found 35% of service members indicated that seeking mental health treatment is damaging to their military career, which makes it a top reason for not seeking care. However, there's little evidence backing those concerns.

But Jungermann finally sought treatment after being inspired to do so by a fellow veteran who also sought mental health care.

"There was an officer in my last platoon that did the same number of deployments I had and lost a few partners, and he acknowledged that he had some problems and started going to counseling. He told me I really had to go. The psychologist has been life changing."

During Jungermann's treatment, a friend recommended a service dog, touting the benefits they can provide veterans.

"He said it helped him sleep for the first time and that was something I was having a hard time with," Jungermann said.

Jungermann got Shai, now almost 2 years old, through K9s For Warriors, one of several groups that train and provide service dogs to veterans. According to a spokeswoman for the nonprofit, all the dogs are rescues and tend to be mixed breeds. However,



Photos by K9s For Warriors

**Damian Jungermann, 45, kneels with his service dog, Shai, a mixed-breed Plott Hound rescue who turns 2 years old in March.**



**Shai gets a pet from Jungermann.**

they occasionally train purebred poodles or doodles for allergy-sensitive veterans.

"We always say that the dogs and warriors rescue each other," said Alana Dole, a spokeswoman for K9s For Warriors, which has provided more than 600 dogs to veterans. "There are literally thousands of perfect service dog candidates sitting in shelters across the country, hoping for a chance at a better life. Part of our mission is to rescue them to give both the veteran and dog a new 'leash' on life. Furthermore, our veterans are able to bond with shelter dogs more, knowing they

both share a painful or trauma-filled past."

Recent studies have found dogs can be a critical coping tool for veterans. A 2018 Purdue University study found veterans with service dogs produced significantly higher levels of cortisol, a hormone involved in processing stress.

"Having a service dog was also associated with less anger, less anxiety, and better sleep," said Kerri Rodriguez, the lead author of the research paper, noting dogs are still not the only solution to combating a mental health crisis. "These findings present exciting

initial data regarding the physiological response to living with a service dog. However, the study did not establish a direct correlation, on an individual level, between cortisol levels and levels of PTSD symptoms, and further study is needed. It is important to keep in mind that service dogs do not appear to be a cure for PTSD."

Nonprofits are one of the only avenues for veterans to adopt service dogs. The Department of Veterans Affairs doesn't provide any funds for service or emotional-support animals but concluded a congressionally mandated study on the benefits of dogs for PTSD care in July, according to Christina Mandreucci, a spokeswoman for the department. The results of one part of the study on whether service or emotional-support dogs can help veterans with PTSD is expected to be released in the summer, and the results on whether dogs can lead to overall health care savings with fewer hospital stays and less reliance on medication is expected by the end of the year.

K9s For Warriors trains the dogs and the veterans are responsible for the costs of raising the dogs after adoption. However, the nonprofit has emergency funds available for costly emergency veterinary care. The time between a veteran applying for a dog and finally bringing a four-

legged friend home varies, but in Jungermann's case, the entire process took about 14 months, including a three-week training session in Ponte Vedra, Fla.

"Our warriors stay at our campus for three weeks, where we match them with their service dogs upon arrival," Dole said. "The program allows the warriors to learn the commands, bond with their service dogs and benefit from peer support from other warriors in their group."

What helped Jungermann most was Shai gave him something to care about and the dog helped him get out more. He said the two walk 10 miles every day.

"I also have to maintain his training. I have a sense of purpose," Jungermann said. "I'm able to focus on him more than the other variables that would normally bother me. What he's done for me, I sleep better. I'm on almost no sleep meds whatsoever. Better attention span, less irritability and most of all he gets me up and out of the apartment."

K9s For Warriors recommends veterans suffering from PTSD investigate get a service dog.

"Most of our veterans tell us a service dog was the last resort, but it ends up being the only tool that helped them recover from PTSD and suicidal thoughts," Dole said.

beynon.steve@stripes.com  
Twitter: @SteveBeynon



NATION

# Mink sinks as American attitudes change

By CHRIS HUBBUCH  
Wisconsin State Journal

STOUGHTON, Wis. — Under the harsh light of fluorescent bulbs in an unadorned warehouse, Claudia Manzanilla picks up a stiff mink pelt and runs her fingers along the silvery fur.

In less than a second, she assesses the length of the fur, sorts it and grabs another seemingly identical pelt from a pile of stiffened animal skins.

The evaluation is one step in an elaborate process to grade the furs provided by American mink farmers before they're sold — a step that almost didn't happen this year.

Last fall North American Fur Auctions, a 350-year-old Canadian company with offices in Stoughton, entered court-supervised restructuring, closing one of the primary market portals just as Wisconsin mink ranchers were beginning their harvest.

But a Finnish competitor has stepped in, breathing new life into the state's oldest industry: NAFA, a corporate descendant of the Hudson Bay Co. and the largest fur auction house in North America, was the primary outlet for American fur farmers.

NAFA worked out a deal to sell its American business to Saga Furs, a publicly traded fur auction house based in Vantaa, Finland.

Charles Ross, general manager of Saga Furs North America, said the company's strong financial standing allowed it to provide a "soft landing" for NAFA and a seamless transition for farmers, who will be able to work with many of the same buyers and graders.

Saga buys furs from across the Northwest — including Washington, Oregon and Idaho — as well as Canada and as far away as South America. But it's not by chance the grading operations are in Wisconsin, which for years has been the nation's top producer of farm-raised mink and where Saga had a ready workforce of skilled graders.

Nearly half of the nearly 3 million U.S. pelts produced in 2018 came from Wisconsin farms, according to data from the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The state Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection estimates fur exports that year were worth nearly \$227 million.

Saga takes in pelts — dried and stretched to about three-feet long — that will be sold at auctions in Helsinki before being passed on to dressers and dyers who turn them into "raw" hides into the staple material stitched into coats and other fashion accessories.

Pelts are sorted by size, nap length and quality of fur — gold, silver or VSL (very slight damage). Each is handled by multiple graders, some who've spent decades honing their skills.

Manzanilla, 27, has been working with fur since she was 18. "My first job," she said. "It's very interesting."

Each pelt is tagged with a unique ID number and barcode that allows buyers and fashion



designers to know what farm it came from and farmers to evaluate their breeding stock.

Ross said traceability is essential in an industry trying to defend its image.

"Designers want to know, how was the animal treated?" he said. The price will be determined by factors like quality and size as well as market conditions. U.S. mink farmers last year received an average \$26.60 per pelt, according to the USDA.

Pelts are sorted into more than a dozen natural color variations, from black and mahogany to white. Ross expects pastel — actually a dark beige — will be especially hot this year.

"It's a balance between supply and demand and what's in fashion this year," Ross said. "What color is popular — that's a moving target."

Fur, a globally traded commodity, has taken a hit in recent years. U.S. production last year was down 17% since 2014. Wisconsin's output has fallen more than 25% since its peak in 2015, and exports through August were down more than \$21 million, or 15%, from the same period last year, according to data from the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection.

In court documents, NAFA CEO Doug Lawson said dramatic declines in prices contributed to the company's financial woes.

"The entire industry is still facing an unprecedented market correction," Lawson said.

The number of farms in Wisconsin has been steadily declining, to about 67 as of the 2017 USDA census of agriculture. Production fell by about a third over the previous decade.

Animal rights advocates have



Top: Steve Sniees prepares "show samples" with a group of mink pelts at Saga Furs in Stoughton, Wis., on Jan. 7.

Left: Claudia Manzanilla handles mink that will be graded for nap length.

Bottom: Brian Balaam shows "show samples" of mink.

PHOTOS BY STEVE APPEL, WISCONSIN STATE JOURNAL/AP

cheered NAFA's financial woes, which they attribute to falling demand and the impact of California's ban on fur products, which was enacted this year and takes effect in 2023.

"It's one more sign the fur industry is struggling," said Nick Atwood, an activist from Minneapolis.

But with most of the world's fur clothing sold in Russia, China and South Korea, industry representatives say domestic bans don't have much impact.

"Fur bans are mostly symbolic," said Michael Whelan, executive director of Fur Commission USA, the fur farmer's trade association. "There are so many exemptions, they're really not effective."

Still, he's optimistic that the millennial generation will embrace fur as sustainable and climate-friendly apparel.



## NATION

## New laws could protect drivers from 'ice missiles'

By JENNI BERGAL

Stateline.org

WASHINGTON — Bill Taylor was driving home from work in New Hampshire last January when a chunk of ice the size of a shoebox broke off the top of a storage container hauled by a truck ahead of him, crashed through his windshield and hit him squarely in the forehead.

A good Samaritan stopped and called 911. An ambulance took Taylor to the emergency room. He had a 3-inch gash on his forehead and broken glass embedded in his hands and face. He received about a dozen stitches.

"It could have been worse," said Taylor, 42, a road and bridge construction inspector for the New Hampshire Department of Transportation. "I could have died if it had hit me in the neck and throat."

Taylor was the victim of an "ice missile" incident, in which sheets or blocks of snow and ice fly off of roofs or windshields of cars and trucks, endangering those in vehicles behind them. Ice missiles can distract drivers and cause them to swerve into other cars. And they can crack windshields, and sometimes cause injuries

— even deaths.

"They don't call them missiles for nothing," said Maureen Vogel, spokeswoman for the National Safety Council, an Itasca, Ill.-based organization focused on eliminating preventable deaths. "They create significant hazards. Even if they don't result in an injury, it's terrifying, especially if you're going down the highway at 65 miles an hour and you see something flying toward your windshield."

Police and safety officials encourage drivers to keep their vehicles' roofs and windshields clear of snow and ice, but not everyone takes heed. A year ago, for example, state troopers in Connecticut warned of an "alarmingly high" number of missiles flying off of vehicles after a late January snow and ice storm.

In many states, it's not illegal to leave the snow there, though some legislators are trying to change that. Many in the trucking industry oppose the efforts, worrying about the dangers of requiring operators to remove snow and ice from the tops of large rigs.

"It's very difficult to get on top of the trailer and remove that snow and ice," said Abigail Potter, a safety policy manager at



NEW HAMPSHIRE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION/TNS

An "ice missile" flew through Bill Taylor's pickup truck in New Hampshire last year.

the American Trucking Association, a trade group. "It can result in workplace injuries."

At least four states — Delaware, New York, Pennsylvania and Vermont — have bills pending that would require drivers to clear off excessive ice and snow and would impose fines for violators, said Samantha Bloch, a policy associ-

ate at the National Conference of State Legislatures.

Some states allow police to ticket motorists if their vehicle is considered a danger or the driver can't see through the windshield, Bloch said. But only a handful have laws specific to ice missiles.

But police and transportation safety advocates say that the in-

cidents are not uncommon in northern states and others that get heavy snow and sleet.

In the past few years, several states, including Maryland, Massachusetts and Virginia, have considered bills requiring motorists to clear off ice and snow and allowing police to ticket those who don't. None have passed.

## Saudi Arabia accused of helping citizens charged with crimes flee US

By RICHARD READ

Los Angeles Times

SEATTLE — When traffic slowed his gold Lexus in Portland, Ore., Abdulrahman Sameer Noorah swerved into a center turn lane and accelerated to about 70 mph, according to a county prosecutor, almost triple the speed limit.

Fallon Smart, a 15-year-old high school student, was crossing the street to meet her mother that hot August afternoon in 2016. Noorah — a college student from Saudi Arabia — hit and killed her, said Shawn Overstreet, a Multnomah County deputy district attorney. Indicted for manslaughter, the Portland Community College student, then 20, had to surrender his passport and wear a GPS tracking device while under house arrest after the Saudi Consulate in Los Angeles posted his \$100,000 bail.

But two weeks before his trial where a sheriff's deputy found Noorah's severed ankle monitor.

Six days later, U.S. law enforcement officials would learn, Noorah turned up in Saudi Arabia, beyond their reach.

Saudi Arabia has long denied involvement in Noorah's case and others that appear to be extractions, as clandestine removals are called. But in a document declassi-



REBECCA BAGDOIMO/Los Angeles Times

Abdulrahman Sameer Noorah, left, appears during his arraignment in Portland, Ore., on Aug. 22, 2016.

sified and released this month, the FBI said that officials of the Persian Gulf nation "almost certainly" help their citizens accused of committing crimes — including manslaughter, rape and possession of child pornography — to flee the United States.

"The FBI based this assessment on the key assumption (that) Kingdom of Saudi Arabia officials perceive the embarrassment of Saudi citizens enduring the U.S. judicial process is greater than the embarrassment of the United States learning the KSA surreptitiously removes citizens with legal problems from the United States," the FBI intelligence bulletin said.

The FBI heavily redacted the seven-page document, which the agency was made to declassify

under a requirement that Sen. Ron Wyden, D-Ore., inserted in an appropriations bill signed by President Donald Trump on Dec. 20. Wyden said in an interview that the findings "make it clear that the Saudis have been lying," adding that, "if these are our friends, who needs enemies?"

Wyden said that as a member of the Senate Intelligence Committee, he saw the classified, complete version of the FBI document months ago and resolved to force the agency to make it public. He said that unless the Trump administration pressures Saudi Arabia to end the practice of extraction, "it's going to happen again and again."

The FBI reached much the same conclusion. Its bulletin said that Saudi Arabian officials are

"unlikely to alter their practice of assisting the flight of Saudi citizens in legal trouble from the United States" anytime soon, unless the U.S. government directly addresses the issue with its ally. The two nations do not have an extradition treaty.

A State Department spokesperson had no comment when asked to respond to calls by Wyden and fellow Oregon Democratic Sen. Jeff Merkley for the agency to act. In an interview, Merkley criticized the department and Trump for failing to confront Saudi Arabia concerning extractions, and regarding the 2018 murder of journalist Jamal Khashoggi in Riyadh's Istanbul consulate.

The two senators have worked for more than a year to expose Saudi Arabian involvement in the disappearance of its citizens, at times employing legislative guerrilla tactics. In the same appropriations bill that Wyden used as a vehicle, Merkley added a requirement that Secretary of State Mike Pompeo report to Congress by March 20 on his agency's communications with Saudi Arabia concerning the practice of extractions.

"It's very frustrating that there's no sign our government is acting aggressively with the Saudi government to put an end to it," Merkley said.

The senators have filed legislation that would urge the administration to expel any Saudi diplomat involved in the removal of Noorah or Ali Hussain Alhamoud, another Saudi citizen who fled to his homeland, after being

indicted in Oregon on multiple sex-crime charges, from the U.S. The bill would require the State Department and U.S. attorney general to investigate any involvement of the Saudi consulate in Los Angeles in the two men's disappearances.

An investigation by the Oregonian/OregonLive found criminal cases involving at least seven Saudi nationals who disappeared from Oregon before facing trial or completing jail sentences on charges including manslaughter and rape. The Portland-based news organization described similar cases in at least seven other states and Canada, concluding that over two dozen Saudi suspects, many of them college students, were known to have fled.

Escaping a country undetected without presenting a passport was difficult even for a man of means such as Carlos Ghosn, the former auto executive smuggled through Japanese airport security last month inside an audio equipment box. An elite extraction team led by a U.S. Army Special Forces veteran reportedly orchestrated the daring escape in a private jet by Ghosn to his native Lebanon, eluding criminal charges.

But for Noorah, a young man on a Saudi government scholarship, the prospect of slipping a monitor and fleeing the United States without a passport would be daunting without state-backed support. U.S. Marshals Service investigators suspect that Saudi officials whisked him out of the country on a private flight.

SCIENCE AND MEDICINE

# Kratom helps some with pain, but feds may ban supplement



JOE RADELE, TNS/Getty Images

**As the country tries to stop a deadly epidemic of opioid abuse, more Americans — an estimated 15 million now — are turning to kratom to ease pain, quell anxiety and lift themselves out of depression.**

By LISA GUTIERREZ  
The Kansas City (Mo.) Star

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — The first time she used kratom, Ashley McCaughan was scared.

Someone had suggested she try the controversial herbal supplement to fend off the aches and pains of her job managing a personal watercraft company in Florida. Showing those heavy machines from the dock all day left her tired all the time.

But with the first drink, she "noticed a positive effect on not only pain relief, but my mood," said McCaughan, who is 27 and now lives in Blue Springs. "I was like a better version of myself."

As the country tries to stop a deadly epidemic of opioid abuse, more Americans — an estimated 15 million now — are turning to kratom to ease pain, quell anxiety and lift themselves out of depression.

But federal health officials want to ban it, warning that kratom, like opioids, can be addictive and lead to abuse. Three kratom-related deaths in the St. Louis area last year led local governments to consider prohibiting the product.

Now one of its most vocal proponents is fighting to get states to pass regulations for kratom instead of banning it outright.

The Virginia-based American Kratom Association is taking its case from statehouse to statehouse. It wants states to adopt its Kratom Consumer Protection Act, which would regulate the preparation, distribution and sale of kratom products.

The group's lobbyists met with Kansas legislators last year and pitched the regulations in Missouri this month. Kratom is legal to use in both states.

Four states — Utah, Georgia, Arizona and Nevada — have adopted versions of the proposal that would also ban the sale of adulterated kratom products, blamed for recent deaths, said C. McClain Haddow, the group's senior fellow on public policy.

"Today, we have 21 states that are considering it. Missouri is one of them," Haddow said. "We're seeing real progress going forward. We're encouraged by the response from the state legislators. We wish the FDA would align itself with the right public policy."

You can buy kratom and kratom products on the internet and in mom-and-pop vitamin and health food stores, vape shops, head shops and convenience stores. Still, many people have never heard of it.

"At first glance, kratom doesn't seem like anything special: a light-green plant with red veins, about two meters tall," Vice, a culture and news website, wrote

in July.

Its botanical name is *Mitragyna speciosa*, a member of the coffee family that is native to Southeast Asia, "with leaves that contain compounds that can have psychotropic (mind-altering) effects," according to the National Institute on Drug Abuse.

Most people, users say, take kratom in a pill or capsule, or brew it to make tea. Hardcore users mix the powder into water, but McCaughan said that it doesn't dissolve, and instead just floats on the top like cinnamon oil.

"There are no historical records indicating when humans began consuming kratom, but the plant's benefits have been widely known for ages," wrote Vice, calling kratom "a calming leaf of sorts, having a magical and painkilling effect."

"The only downside? It's extremely bitter," wrote Vice. "That's why a lot of people take it in the pill form," McCaughan said.

She didn't feel comfortable taking kratom pills because both of her parents battled addiction. So she brews kratom tea, but it's no ordinary cup of tea. The brew relieves her physical pains and helps her relax without making her feel depressed, she said.

People with fibromyalgia, back pain, PTSD, arthritis, carpal tunnel syndrome, debilitating headaches and depression use kratom as a substitute for prescription drugs. But is it safe?

The Food and Drug Administration has repeatedly warned that kratom offers no medical benefits but could become addictive or even kill you. It says that people who are using it to self-treat pain, anxiety, depression and other medical conditions should instead be seen by licensed health care providers.

An FDA spokesman directed The Kansas City Star to an official statement on its website: "There are no FDA-approved uses for kratom, and the agency has received concerning reports about the safety of kratom."

"We continue to evaluate the available safety information about the effects of kratom and continue to work with the Department of Justice to enforce regulations that pertain to kratom."

"Selling unapproved kratom products with claims that they can treat opioid withdrawal and addiction and other serious medical conditions is a violation of federal law."

In 2017, "the FDA identified at least 44 deaths related to kratom, with at least one case investigated as possible use of pure kratom," the National Institute of Drug Abuse says on its website, noting that "most have involved other substances."

Many of the kratom-associated

deaths "appeared to have resulted from adulterated products or taking kratom with other potent substances, including illicit drugs, opioids, benzodiazepines, alcohol, gabapentin and over-the-counter medications, such as cough syrup," the drug abuse agency noted.

A medical expert hired by the American Kratom Association to examine those deaths found that "every one, with the exception of one — for which there was no blood sample available, so no one knows — were adulterated kratom products where you had fentanyl, morphine, heroin, spiked into the kratom," Haddow said.

"It's not surprising there would be kratom detected in an autopsy

if that patient were in the process of using kratom to try to wean off or reduce their opioid use. So the question is, what really killed the person?"

Six states banned kratom between 2012 and 2016. Between 2016 and 2018, 14 states considered banning it, and his group successfully lobbied against those proposals.

"But we realized this is a fool's errand because we keep playing whack-a-mole," Haddow said. "So we developed this concept of the Kratom Consumer Protection Act."

The act asks states to register all kratom products and require that they not be adulterated with any substance that could harm

consumers.

"So they have to sell the pure kratom product," said Haddow. "It cannot be spiked with anything, it has to be labeled with all ingredients and include a specific identification of the manufacturer so if there is an adverse event that happens, it can be tracked back and we can check the status of that product and whether it was formulated and manufactured properly."

Another requirement: independent, third-party certification of what the product contains.

With good labeling and restrictions to ensure that the product is pure, "then I think that the consumer is protected," Haddow said.



**PRESIDENTS DAY SPECIAL**  
**HUGE INCENTIVES TO ALL NEW MEMBERS**

**Starting February 1**

See your local Post for more details



*make your Valentine*  
**SMILE**

**with a Petals & Blooms  
floral arrangement today!**

**Valentine's Day ♥ Feb. 14**



Petals  Blooms

WORLD

# Death toll climbs as virus hits more nations

By KEN MORITSUO  
Associated Press

BEIJING — China raised the death toll to 170 on Thursday, and more countries reported infections from a new virus, including some spread locally, as foreign evacuees from China's worst-hit region returned home to medical tests and even isolation.

India and the Philippines reported their first cases, a traveler and a student who had both been in Wuhan, the central Chinese city where the first illnesses appeared in December. South Korea confirmed a case that was locally spread, as a man who had contact with a patient diagnosed the new type of coronavirus earlier.

In Geneva, the World Health Organization convened its coronavirus expert committee to assess whether the outbreak warrants being declared a global emergency. The committee had advised the U.N. health agency last week that it was too early to make that pronouncement.

Locally spread cases outside of China are a worrying concern as potential signs of the virus spreading more easily and the difficulty of containing it.

The new virus has now infected more people in China than were sickened there during the 2002-2003 outbreak of SARS, another type of coronavirus.

The latest figures for mainland China show an increase of 38 deaths and 1,737 cases for a total of 7,711 confirmed cases. Of the new deaths, 31 were in Hubei province, of which Wuhan is the capital, and one was in the southwestern province of Sichuan.

India's health ministry said that a student who had been studying in Wuhan was confirmed to have the virus after returning home to Kerala state during the Lunar New Year break. Philippine health officials say that a woman who traveled there from Wuhan via Hong Kong tested positive.



A doctor attends to a patient in an isolation ward at a hospital in Wuhan in central China's Hubei Province on Thursday.

A second Japanese flight carrying 210 evacuees landed in Tokyo. Reports said that nine of those aboard the flight showed signs of cough and fever. Three of Japan's confirmed cases were among a group of evacuees who had returned on a government-chartered flight the previous day. A flight arranged between the European Union and China departed Portugal en route to China to bring back 350 Europeans. The U.S. said that additional flights were being planned for around Monday after it evacuated 195 Americans from Wuhan on Wednesday. They are being tested and monitored at a Southern California military base.

South Korea, Britain, New Zealand, Australia, Singapore and other countries are also trying to get their citizens out. Taiwan, the self-governing republic China considers its own territory, has also asked to be able to repatriate its passport holders from Wuhan, but it was awaiting approval from

Beijing. Israel's El Al, Spain's Iberia, Scandinavian Airlines, Egypt Air and Korean Air joined the growing list of airlines suspending or reducing service to China.

In South Korea, residents in two cities where quarantine facilities are being prepared threw eggs and water bottles at government officials to protest plans to isolate 700 South Koreans in their neighborhoods that the government plans to evacuate from China.

Amid reports of shortages in food and daily necessities in hotspot areas, Chinese authorities are "stepping up efforts to ensure continuous supply and stable prices," the official Xinhua News Agency reported.

It cited Ministry of Commerce data, showing that current reserves in Wuhan can ensure a secure supply of rice and cooking oil for more than 15 days, pork and eggs for more than 10 days and vegetables for about five days.

China's highly developed on-

line shopping and home delivery businesses were important in ensuring those confined to home by choice or by order could get food and other essentials.

"I'd just like to ask that folks don't order anything other than the daily necessities," Hou Yanbo, deputy director of market supervision from the National Post Administration, told reporters at a daily briefing.

China extended its Lunar New Year holiday to Sunday to try to keep people home, but the wave of returning travelers could potentially cause the virus to spread further.

Transport ministry spokesman Wu Chengung outlined a series of rigorous temperature checks and other "severe measures" to detect possibly infectious passengers. Transport restrictions, such as those isolating Wuhan and suspending inter-provincial bus services, would remain in place, Wu said.

"It's definitely very challeng-

## 1st person-to-person case reported in US

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Health officials Thursday reported the first U.S. case of person-to-person spread of the new virus from China.

The man is married to the Chicago woman who got sick from the virus after she returned from a trip to Wuhan, China, the epicenter of the outbreak. There have been cases reported of the infectious virus spreading to others in a household or workplace in China and elsewhere.

The new case is the sixth reported in the United States. The other five were travelers who developed the illness after returning to the U.S. from China.

ing, but we're confident we can get effective control," Wu told reporters at the briefing.

To date, about 99% of the cases are in China. Ryan estimated the death rate of the new virus at 2%, but said that the figure was very preliminary. With fluctuating numbers of cases and deaths, scientists are only able to produce a rough estimate of the fatality rate, and it's likely that many milder cases of the virus are being missed.

In comparison, the SARS virus killed about 10% of people who caught it. The new virus is from the coronavirus family, which includes those that can cause the common cold as well as more serious illnesses such as SARS and MERS.

Scientists say there are many questions to be answered about the new virus, including just how easily it spreads and how severe it is.

# European Parliament prepared to approve Brexit

By RAF CASERT  
Associated Press

BRUSSELS — European Union leaders and legislators approved the departure of the United Kingdom on Wednesday, mixing warm words of love with hard-headed warnings to the country not to seek too many advantages during upcoming trade talks on a future relationship.

The European Parliament was poised to overwhelmingly approve the departure of the UK from the EU later on Wednesday — the final major decision in the four-year Brexit saga.

Yet at the same time, EU nations are already preparing for the possibility that talks on a new trade deal with Britain could collapse by the end of the year, and no-deal contingency planning for a chaotic end to the transition pe-

riod is necessary. After Britain's departure on Friday, the U.K. will remain within the EU's economic arrangements until the end of the year, though it won't have a say in policy as it will not be a member of the EU anymore.

"We will always love you and you will never be far," said EU Commission President Ursula von der Leyen on a day when some legislators were moved to tears.

Britain is the first country to leave the EU, and for many in Europe, its official departure at 11 p.m. London time on Friday, Jan. 31 is a moment of enormous sadness and reduces the number in the bloc to 27.

The parliament's chief Brexit official, Guy Verhofstadt, said "this vote is not an adieu," adding that it is "only an au revoir." With only two days to spare,

legislators will vote to approve the withdrawal agreement that will end the 47-year membership of Britain. At the same time, the vote will cut the 73 U.K. parliamentarians from the 751-seat legislature where die-hard Brexiters have been a disruptive force for years.

"That's it. It's all over," said Nigel Farage, who has campaigned for Brexit for two decades. On departing the scene, the man who arguably did more than anyone else to move the country to vote for Brexit waved Britain's Union Jack.

Now, negotiations move on how to cooperate in the future. Britain is seeking to thrash out a comprehensive trade deal within 11 months.

That timetable is viewed as ambitious by many observers of trade discussions, which can

often drag on for years.

"We will not yield to any pressure," French President Emmanuel Macron said. "The priority is to define, in the short, medium and long term, the interests of the European Union and to preserve them."

The EU has said such a timespan is far too short, and fears remain that a chaotic exit, averted this week, might still happen at the end of the year if the transition ends without any agreement in place.

"The urgency of the 11 months of the calendar should in no way lead us to rush, to accept compromises that would hurt our interests," said Macron's Europe minister, Amelie de Montchalin. "A trade accord is an agreement that lasts for several decades, and we should ensure that we always put fundamental issues of content

before calendar issues."

Even though the European Commission's task force, led by Michel Barnier, is negotiating on the EU's behalf, the impact of major nations like France and Germany on those talks is important.

Montchalin said that unless Britain asks to extend the transition period before the summer, both sides will be facing a cliff-edge scenario by the end of the year where borders could be closed, tariffs imposed and rules changed overnight, to the detriment of smooth trade.

"That's why we had long discussions this morning on the need to prepare for such a scenario, through contingency measures that we have to keep active to be ready for all eventual scenarios," de Montchalin said in Paris.

# AMERICAN ROUNDUP

## Sheriff: Man stirs pot by lighting joint in court

**TN** LEBANON — The rapper Afronam famously sang about how getting high on marijuana prevented him from going to court. A Tennessee man decided to combine the two when he lit a marijuana cigarette in a courtroom, authorities said.

Spencer Alan Boston, 20, was arrested Monday and charged with disorderly conduct and simple possession after sparking up in court, news outlets reported.

Wilson County Sheriff Robert Bryan said Boston was in court Monday on a simple drug possession charge. Boston approached the bench to discuss his sentence but instead expressed his views on legalizing marijuana. Boston reached in his pocket, pulled out a marijuana cigarette, lit it, smoked it and was immediately taken into custody, Bryan said.

## Residents find boa constrictor in couch

**KS** ROSE HILL — Firefighters are looking for anyone who might be missing a boa constrictor after some Kansas residents found the 6-foot snake in their living room couch.

Police officers responding to a 911 call Monday found a resident in Rose Hill, about 20 miles southeast of Wichita, requested assistance from Butler County firefighters. The Wichita Eagle reported deputy Fire Chief Melvin Linot, the department's "snake charmer," wrangled the nonvenomous snake from the couch with the help of another firefighter.

## 11 arrested in vast recycling scheme

**CA** SAN FRANCISCO — Authorities have arrested 11 suspects they say ran a multi-state recycling fraud operation that smuggled empty cans and bottles into California in a scheme that cost the state recycling fund more than \$2 million, state officials said Monday.

The suspects allegedly brought cans and bottles from Arizona and Nevada into Los Angeles-area recycling centers to illegally redeem deposits. It's illegal because consumers in Nevada and Arizona do not pay the 5- or 10-cent California redemption value deposit, so those containers are not eligible for refunds.

The suspects were charged with felony recycling fraud, conspiracy and grand theft after a four-month investigation by the California Department of Justice and CalRecycle.

## Mother sues hotel after bottle strikes son

**TX** SAN ANTONIO — A mother who said her 2-year-old son was seriously injured when a glass ketchup bottle fell on his head from a fifth floor balcony of a San Antonio hotel is suing the establishment for at least \$1 million.

Cassandra DeLa Cruz's lawsuit said her son, Jacob Francisco, suf-



CHARLES REX ARBOGAST/AP

## Bovine by design

Patrons to the Art Institute of Chicago look around at an exhibit of Andy Warhol on Saturday. The exhibit "From A To B And Back Again," in a room of cow wallpaper, was the first in a series of wallpaper designs Warhol created from the 1960s to the 1980s.

fered serious injuries to his neck, brain and other parts of his body on Aug. 18, 2018, when he was struck by the bottle as she pushed him past the Omni La Mansion Del Rio hotel in a stroller.

The lawsuit says Jacob has received medical treatment since the bottle fell on him and that his "injuries may be permanent in nature."

The San Antonio Police Department said the mother and a witness reported the incident to two hotel managers. A police officer interviewed two people in a hotel room who said they had been eating burgers on the balcony, and one of them said he may have accidentally knocked the 2.25-ounce Heinz ketchup bottle over the edge, according to the SAPD.

## Riding mower trespass arrest nabs fugitive

**LA** BAYOU BLUE — A man accused of riding a mower on someone else's land turned out to be a fugitive from Utah who had lived in Louisiana for more than a decade, living without an ID and working only for cash.

Lafourche Parish deputies stopped Richard Schleining, 49, in Bayou Blue — where residents had recently complained about trespassers — after seeing him ride his mower past several "no trespassing" signs, Sheriff Craig Webre said in a news release Tuesday. He said Schleining had lived in Bayou Blue for about 11 years.

"This man was hiding in plain sight," the sheriff said. "Other than an animal complaint he made in 2014, we had no other interaction with him until his arrest. He also only worked odd jobs for

## THE CENSUS

# 96M

2019, but many trees there are still recovering from the effects of last year's Hurricane Michael. For 2019, the value of the nation's pecan crop totaled \$469 million (\$170 million of that total from New Mexico), up 14% from the previous season.

cash, and by avoiding traditional employment, he was never forced to verify his identity."

He carried no ID and gave a false name when arrested Jan. 8 but fingerprints identified him as Schleining, wanted in Bountiful, Utah, on aggravated assault and felony theft charges from 2003 and 2004, the statement said.

## Church no longer hosts 'Largest Block Party'

**IL** CHICAGO — Chicago's Old St. Patrick's Roman Catholic Church will no longer host its World's Largest Block Party, the church announced on its website Tuesday.

The 35-year-old, two-day festival of music and food drew thousands of people to the street west of Chicago's business district on which Old St. Patrick's Church sits.

Old St. Patrick's pastor, the Rev. Tom Hurley, says in the letter the summer event environment in Chicago is more competitive than it was 35 years ago and more difficult for the 175-year-old church to navigate. In the block party's place, the church on March 14 will host what Hurley calls a "Shamrock'n the Block" party to celebrate St. Patrick's Day.

The amount of pecans, in pounds, that New Mexico produced last year, making it No. 1 among the states in that category, according to the National Agricultural Statistics Service. New Mexico's total is up 6% from its 2018 total. Georgia followed with 69 million pounds in 2018.

## Suit: Winter wonderland is a spring nightmare

**NH** NORTH WOODSTOCK — A New Hampshire woman said the operators of a seasonal attraction of ice structures failed to control runoff and flooded her basement with over 15,000 gallons of water — and she worries it will happen again this spring.

Kely Trinkle alleges in a lawsuit against Ice Castles that last April, snow and ice melt from the attraction pooled in her backyard in North Woodstock and flooded her basement with 16 inches of water, New Hampshire Public Radio reported Tuesday.

Trinkle is seeking \$100,000 in damages but said her largest concern is not the lawsuit or the flooding, but what will happen this spring.

A lawyer for Ice Castles denied that the structures flooded Trinkle's basement.

"Due to the topography of the land, the water that flooded the Trinkles' basement came from a large watershed," the lawyer wrote to NHPR.

Trinkle claims to have a video showing her walking the path of the water from her yard to the eastern edge of the Ice Castles property. She said she plans to submit it as evidence.

## Wienermobile pulled over for not giving room

**WI** WAUKESHA — Oscar Mayer's iconic Wienermobile got a grilling from a Wisconsin sheriff's deputy because the driver failed to give enough room to another car on the road with emergency lights.

The deputy pulled over the Wienermobile and gave the driver a verbal warning for not following the law, the Waukesha Sheriff's Office said in a tweet posted Monday. It showed a picture of the sheriff's deputy's SUV parked behind the Wienermobile with the hashtags #MoveOver #SlowDown #Wienermobile. Traffic laws require vehicles to move out of the lane closest to another car that is on the side of the road with emergency lights flashing.

The first Wienermobile was created in 1936.

## Groups to remove, help stray dogs from village

**AK** BETHEL — Two animal groups plan to help a southwestern Alaska village clear out all its stray dogs, officials said.

Bethel Friends of Canines and Alaskan Animal Rescue Friends hope to catch and remove the wandering animals from Tunutiuliak on Friday, Alaska's Energy Desk reported. After volunteers vaccinated the dogs, some will be given to homes in Bethel while most will be transported to Anchorage, officials said.

Tunutiuliak residents should keep their pets inside during the sweep so they are not mistaken for strays, coordinator Jesslyn Elliott said.

From wire reports



# Welcome to the Neighborhood.



You rely on your military community when you're far from home.

*We get that.*

USE OUR COMMUNITY SITES TO CONNECT AND SHARE DURING YOUR TIME OVERSEAS.

WITH BASE INFORMATION, TRAVEL TIPS, RESTAURANT REVIEWS AND EVEN THE SCORE OF YOUR CHILD'S HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL GAME, WE'VE GOT YOU COVERED.

VISIT ONE OF OUR COMMUNITY SITES TODAY!

STARS AND STRIPES. **KOREA**

STARS AND STRIPES. **GUAM**

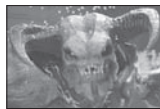
STARS AND STRIPES. **OKINAWA**

STARS AND STRIPES. **JAPAN**

STARS AND STRIPES. **EUROPE**

Stay connected and hey, welcome to the neighborhood.

# WEEKEND



Doom plans step forward with Eternal  
Video games, Page 26



## WOMEN IN CHARGE

A spy movie with a female gaze? Director Reed Morano helmed that with 'The Rhythm Section'

Pages 23-24

Country radio stations that play (gasp) consecutive songs by female artists? An equal play initiative is making that a reality

Page 36



## WEEKEND: GADGETS &amp; CHARTS

## A welcome diversion

Kind Words is a bright spot in a dark world

BY ELISE FAVIS

The Washington Post

For many, video games are an escape or respite from day-to-day problems, a way to send yourself in a virtual world. Kind Words, a game about sending positive messages to strangers, isn't just a safe haven for players, but also an escape for its creators.

"This game may not feel overly political, but it is," Kind Words developer Ziba Scott said in an interview with The Washington Post. "It's in a lot of ways our reaction to the Trump administration."

After finishing an exhausting four-year project in 2018 called Make Sail, a game about building sailboats, Scott and his longtime creative partner Luigi Guatteri wanted to pivot to something smaller in scope. As they did so, they couldn't ignore what was happening in the real world.

"It is a response to Trump's politics of fear and exclusion," Scott said. "And there's a lot of rising xenophobia around the world."

Scott said he noticed a politically divided country and wanted to help bring people back together through the power of words. His game "gives people a chance to think about what is scaring them, and to hear other people's stories."

Both Scott and Guatteri are American, though Guatteri also holds citizenship in New Zealand and Greece.

Released in 2019, Kind Words has a simple premise: Players send out anonymous requests (virtual letters) to vent, ask questions or talk about a problem.

These words are circulated to a global inbox where they are read by different users. Then, a hand-full respond. Communication, outside of sending stickers to signal appreciation for someone's answer, ends there. Though the game may have been inspired by a response to present-day politics, and it is a talking point, most of the discussions center on other topics. Players talk about all sorts of subjects: mental health, sexuality, relationships and more. They talk about bad days and good days, like buying a house or expressing grief from a breakup. Some just want to talk or be heard, despite limited back-and-forth communication.

It's a therapeutic experience that counters loneliness. And it aims to help in a country that faces a nationwide mental health epidemic. According to data from the 2017 National Survey on Drug Use and Health, 17.3 million American adults, which is 7.1% of the country, experienced a major depressive episode that year.

Scott compares Kind Words to social media, but without the ability to like, subscribe or go viral. It gives players a virtual shelter where you can tell a group of strangers your secrets, worries and desires without fear of judgment. It's like a modern PostSecret, an art project kick-started in 2005 that asked

people to anonymously mail their secrets on a postcard. But this time, you get a response.

"[Kind Words isn't] without any of the pressures to be consistent with yourself or to worry that, you know, your mom is going to see this post or your friends are going to overreact when you talk about how upset you are," Scott said.

Anonymity, especially in the gaming world, can often foster toxicity with users spouting off fearless of repercussions. About 74% of adult gamers have faced harassment while playing online, according to a study published last year by the Anti-Defamation League. But with Kind Words, keeping identities hidden is part of its private and secure nature. Players identify themselves only with a single letter, and the only other information stored by the game is a user's IP address and their messages. It has been surprisingly effective: to date, 60,000 people have played Kind Words, and more than a million messages have been exchanged between players.

A several-hour exploration of the game showed a community bursting with kindness, and only occasionally revealing gibberish posts or content that seemed dubious, like a post discussing drug use. Scott and Guatteri make on-the-fly decisions with that kind of content. If they can pinpoint that it's likely a sincere concern that isn't harmful to the user or others, they leave the content alone.

"We thought that this would be something that in a small, small way would make the world a tiny bit better," Scott said. "Something seemed to be missing from people's lives: the ability to be honest about yourself, share the scary parts of yourself, spend time meditating on what's bothering you and be part of a community that does that."

ILLUSTRATION BY NOGA AMIR-RAV  
Stars and Stripes

## GADGET WATCH



CAPSTONE COMPANIES/TNS

The Capstone Connected Smart Mirror performs and functions just like a tablet, with both touchscreen and voice interfaces for internet access.

## Smart mirror does everything but brush teeth for its users

BY GREGG ELLMAN  
Tribune News Service

Capstone Connected brings efficiency to a new level with the launch of the magical Capstone Connected smart mirror, designed to bridge the gap between technology and everyday life.

While brushing your teeth, you can simultaneously have the mirror give you your local news, get your coffee brewing, check the traffic and then turn the lights off as you head out.

The smart mirror looks like a regular mirror, with a modern design making it perfect for a bathroom, bedroom, entryway or hallway. It hangs like a traditional mirror or can be used on the included stand on any flat surface.



MOSHI/TNS

Moshi SnapTo smartphone cases connect to the charger for the boost of power.

But what makes the mirror so smart is that it performs and functions just like a tablet with both touchscreen and voice interfaces for internet access. The Android operating system is built in to download apps and use Google Voice Assistant for hands-free tasks and browse social media.

According to Capstone, the mirror's functionality is driven by the Capstone Connected Control Hub, which is integrated into the mirror through its proprietary docking feature to access anything you would access through your smartphone or tablet. The Hub can be used to set up music playlists, messaging apps, social media profiles and much more when connected to your home Wi-Fi.

A 19-by-22-inch smart mirror sells for \$599. More size options will be available later. Online: capstoneconnected.com

And if you choose, you can hang the Moshi SnapTo magnetic wireless charger right next to the smart mirror. The SnapTo is a Qi-certified wireless charger, but also one of the most versatile charging systems you can own.

It's designed to work exclusively with Moshi SnapTo smartphone cases, which connect to the charger for the boost of power. The case includes a 3M wall mount kit to hang wherever your charging is done, while also giving you full access to the screen of the smartphone.

Once the wall mount kit is in place, just drop in the SnapTo-cased phone for viewing and charging. The charger can also be used on a flat surface as a horizontal viewing stand to watch videos and play games.

Moshi SnapTo smartphone cases are available individually or in bundled packages.

Online: moshi.com; \$49.95

The Catalyst premium slim case for AirPods Pro will give your wireless earbuds a bit of colorful style, but also a layer of protection.

The protective case covers your AirPods case like a glove, built with military-grade impact protection to withstand drops and rolling around in bags or backpacks. The case is also fully compatible with wireless charging.

A pass-through port on the bottom allows you to connect your charging cable to keep it charged up, and it comes in seven bright colors.

Online: catalystcase.com; \$19.99, available for pre-order with an early February delivery expected.

Catalyst case for AirPods Pro

CATALYST/TNS



ON THE COVER: Photo of director Reed Morano from Eon Productions Limited; photos of country singers Kacey Musgraves, Miranda Lambert, Maren Morris and Carrie Underwood by AP



## WEEKEND: MOVIES



Eon Productions Limited

Director Reed Morano works on the set of her new film "The Rhythm Section," starring Blake Lively, right.

# Female-centric action

## Director Reed Morano on her spy film 'The Rhythm Section'

By RAFER GUZMAN  
Newsday

With plenty of guns, fistfights and bloodshed, "The Rhythm Section" has all the hallmarks of a classic revenge-thriller — the story of an ordinary person who becomes a highly skilled assassin to track down a murderer. Trailers and posters for the R-rated film promise exactly the kind of violent, action-driven entertainment you might expect from a midwinter release: Think "Taken," starring Liam Neeson, or "Edge of Darkness," with Mel Gibson.

There's one difference, however: The hero of "The Rhythm Section" is a woman.

Blake Lively in the lead as Stephanie Patrick, a Londoner whose parents perished in a downed plane, "The Rhythm Section" offers a rarity: a realistic, female action-heroine who is neither an invincible superhero nor a high-heeled seductress. The film's producer, Barbara Broccoli, is the woman behind EON Productions, of James Bond fame; the director, a Long Islander named Reed Morano, is also a woman. (Mark Bunnell adapted the screenplay from his novel.) As "The Rhythm Section" arrives in theaters this weekend, it marks only the third non-Bond film from EON — not quite "Jane Bond," perhaps, but a female spy film nonetheless. "We thought it would be empowering to women," Morano said of her film. "It also didn't have to abide by all these unwritten rules that female protagonists have to abide by."

Morano, 42, had a peripatetic childhood: Though born in Nebraska, she spent most of her younger years on Long Island. Even within Long Island, Morano and her family moved around some — there was also a brief stint in New Mexico — but the place

she remembers most fondly is Fire Island, where she grew up with four siblings. Her father, Casey Morano, ran Matthew's Seafood House, a dockside eatery that is still owned and operated by members of the family.



Morano

"It was magical — we had the roof of the whole island," Morano said. "It was kind of a 'Goonies' type of experience. There were five of us, we would play manhunt all over the island. There was no real car traffic and we could walk everywhere and we knew everyone. So,

in second grade we were allowed to roam free, which you can't do anywhere else."

Luckily, Morano said, the family moved before island fever set in — to West Islip, N.Y., where she attended Beach Street Middle School and West Islip High School. By then she had developed a creative streak, writing stories on her mother's Commodore 64 computer and using an old video camera to make short films starring her siblings. When it came time for college, though, she set her sights on studying journalism at Boston University. It was her father, a cinephile with creative goals of his own who encouraged her to apply to film school at New York University.

"I was like, 'What?'" she recalled. "And he was like, 'Yeah, and we can make movies together.'"

That part of the dream never happened; Casey Morano died of a heart attack when Reed was just 18, not long after he and her mother dropped her off at the NYU dorms. After graduating, Morano gravitated toward cinematography and worked

on a number of films, including "Winter's Bone," the 2010 drama that provided a young Jennifer Lawrence with her breakout role, and "Kill Your Darlings," a 2013 Beat Generation biopic featuring Daniel Radcliffe as a young Allen Ginsberg.

Soon after, Morano turned to directing, winning an Emmy for her work on Hulu's "The Handmaid's Tale" and making a name for herself on the indie circuit with such movies as "Meadowland," starring Olivia Wilde as the mother of a missing son, and "I Think We're Alone Now," with Peter Dinklage and Elle Fanning as survivors in a post-pandemic world. Meanwhile, Morano had heard that EON was looking for a director for a female-led action film and decided to give it a shot.

"I thought, 'They were the Bond producers; why would they hire me?'" Morano said. But she persisted and eventually secured a meeting with Barbara Broccoli, the daughter of EON co-founder Albert "Cubby" Broccoli, in Los Angeles.

"I had wanted to work with a female director, and I thought Reed was extremely talented," Broccoli said. "She's able to convey intimacy with the characters, and we felt it was really important with the character of Stephanie Patrick." It was also Morano's idea to bring in Lively, who had played a stranded surfer in "The Shallows," an economic little thriller from 2016 whose only other lead role went to a shark. "I was really excited about the

combination of these two women," Broccoli said.

The result is a globe-hopping espionage thriller that aims for a real-world feel. Morano delivers at least two single-take action sequences: One a hand-to-hand combat scene involving Lively and Jude Law (as a rogue intelligence operative), the other a gear-crunching car chase through the streets of Tangier. Only once does Lively's character play the sexy femme fatale. And as Morano points out, the character almost never smiles — typical for macho male stars, but not for female heroines.

"There's this whole thing with women where they get less leeway to be who they really are," Morano said. "It would be nice to see a woman in a movie in the kind of role I could fantasize about. And walk out of the movie feeling that you're the main character."

SEE A REVIEW OF "THE RHYTHM SECTION" ON PAGE 24



Paramount Pictures photos

## WEEKEND: MOVIES



PARAMOUNT PICTURES/AP photos

In "The Rhythm Section," a woman (Blake Lively, above right with Sterling K. Brown) seeks revenge on those who orchestrated the plane crash that killed her family. Co-starring Jude Law, below.

# A spy film with spirit

'The Rhythm Section' brings imperfect but fresh cadence to the action/thriller genre

By KATIE WALSH

Tribune News Service

**A**ward-winning director and cinematographer Reed Morano has tackled dystopian futures in TV's "The Handmaid's Tale," the end of the world in "I Think We're Alone Now" and devastating grief in "Meadowland." Her third feature film, "The Rhythm Section," combines a bit of all these themes, though it has a bit more kick to it than her prior indie. Starring Blake Lively as Stephanie Patrick, "The Rhythm Section" is adapted from the series of thriller novels by Mark Burnell, with a screenplay by Burnell himself. If Jason Bourne were a grieving trauma survivor, you'd end up with Stephanie, and the film serves as her gritty origin story.

Lively has severely de-glammored herself in this edgy role, and when we first meet Stephanie, she's a heroin-smoking London sex worker with a shaggy bowl cut. When a reporter (Raza Jaffrey) contracts her services to talk about the plane crash that killed her family, Stephanie's rock-bottom existence is thrown into chaos. With the knowledge that a bomb on board caused the crash, she sets out to attain revenge. She just has to kick the smack first.

There's something rather enjoyable about watching such a wastoid try and turn herself into "La Femme Nikita," with the help (or harm) of a former MI-6 agent, B (Jude Law), who has valuable intel about the terrorist organization Stephanie's seeking. He whips her into shape, and the first half of "The Rhythm Section" is essentially an exercise in body horror as Lively subjects her battered body to opiate detox, freezing lake water, clumsy fisticuffs and lots and lots of jogging.

When B sends Stephanie into the field on a few wild goose chases, posing as a dead assassin



named Petra, wow, is she ever bad, and it's honestly refreshing. Enough with the "Black Widow" super spies. For something really original, let's see a green wannabe hit woman try to navigate a small car through Tangier while in a full panic. The willingness to let Stephanie be human and react as such brings a sense of reality and authenticity back to the action-spy genre, which has in many ways gotten too slick.

Morano focuses intensely on Stephanie's subjective experience, using many hazy and handheld extreme close-ups on her face in the fight and action scenes, placing us inside Stephanie's head, or at least as close as possible to her experience. It's a fascinating exercise in shooting action and combat as something experiential and subjective. While it works sometimes, there are times when it doesn't.

While Morano brings a gritty neorealism style with the help of cinematographer Sean Bobbitt, and Lively dirties herself up for cred, writer Burnell brings his story to the screen, though the adaptation is a bit rickety. We all know why Stephanie does what she does, but why does anyone else? Why does B recruit her, and what is his goal? Why does Keith, the reporter, need her? Why does she enter into a dalliance with intended mark/reckless ally Marc Serra (Sterling K. Brown)? The storytelling here is a bit too economical, and the vague aphorisms Lively mutters in a serviceable British accent don't clarify anything. "The Rhythm Section" launches Morano into a new world of action/thriller filmmaking, and her unique style is a welcome refresh for the genre. But while it certainly has a spirit, it often loses the beat.

"The Rhythm Section" is rated R for violence, sexual content, language throughout and some drug use. Running time: 109 minutes.



ORION PICTURES/AP

A teenage girl (Sophia Lillis, above) and her little brother find terror in the deep woods in "Gretel & Hansel."

# 'Gretel & Hansel' an unfortunate reimagining of classic fairy tale

By MARK KENNEDY

Associated Press

**T**here's a scene early on in the new film "Gretel & Hansel" when the two title characters accidentally scarf down psychedelic mushrooms in a forest and it produces one very strong feeling in the audience: jealousy.

Oh, if only we could all also be high for the rest of this. If only there was something that could make bearable another hour or so of this art-film horror. Forget the popcorn, just give us 'shrooms, man.

"Gretel & Hansel" is as visually arresting as it is tedious, a 90-minute movie that really should have been a 3-minute music video for Marilyn Manson or Ozzy Osbourne. It's in the horror genre only loosely. It's more eerie, if that's a genre. Actually, it's like dread for 90 minutes. It's dreadful.

The Brothers Grimm should really be outraged that their simple story about child abuse, malnutrition, cannibalism and witchcraft has been so twisted. Rob Hayes' script centers on Gretel — hence the title's name swap — and turns her into a woke, coming-of-age super-heroine who outsmarth a witch. Why this dusty, 19th-century ditty needed to be refashioned this way is unclear. What's next? Will "The Three Little Pigs" soon be resurrected to become vigilante slayers of corporate greed? Pigs versus porks?

Sophia Lillis, who made her mark in "It," plays 16-year-old Gretel, while newcomer Samuel Leakey stars as her 8-year-old brother. Boosting Gretel's age puts her on the cusp of womanhood and gives her dominion over her younger brother. She soon realizes that — gasp! — she has powers herself. "When often know things they're not supposed to," the witch tells her. (If that was true, poor Lillis wouldn't have wasted her considerable talent in this dreck.)

The original tale is about starving siblings who come across a house made of bread and cake — a lure built by a wicked witch who wants to cook

and eat them. She is outsmarted, and the kids get home safely. The morals: Strangers suck, and don't get off the path.

This retelling seems to be a lesson about corruption, or maybe environmentalism — "nothing is given without something taken away," Gretel intones — but it's all muddled by heavily stylized sets and intended-to-be-creepy set-pieces that are visually fascinating but add up to little, all set to a knockoff "Stranger Things" soundtrack. The one lesson that the filmmakers didn't tell us is that carbs are clearly the devil.

Director Osgood Perkins — son of Anthony — knows a well-framed shot when he sees it — mysterious cloaked figures in the distance with odd hats in misty forests — but connecting hundreds of arty images isn't making a coherent film. Everyone is clearly very proud of turning the fairy tale's yummy cottage into the film's post-modern example of Deconstructivism architecture. Bravo! Congrats on the cool, asymmetrical roof, but you forgot that the story makes no sense. Lots of candles and denuded Irish trees isn't a plot.

Alice Krige plays the scary witch with an endless buffet and her's perfectly cast, using her precise, quiet menace to excellent use, like when she ominously smells Hansel's head. She tempts Gretel with eternal life — for a price. "There's something wrong here," Gretel wonders. "What hides behind this pleasantness?"

There's also Charles Babalola as a fleeting nice guy who kills a demon with an arrow in a man's head shot, an entire sequence that seems from another movie. But that's the most real action in the film until the end when there are bloody corpses on autopsy tables, human entrails moving about and someone gets graphically burned alive. Why this is rated PG-13, we have no idea. Why it was even made in the first place is also beyond us. At the multiplex this weekend, kids, stay on the path.

"Gretel & Hansel" is rated PG-13 for disturbing images/thematic content and brief drug material. Running time: 87 minutes.

## WEEKEND: MOVIES

## 'The Last Full Measure'

## Star-studded cast elevates war drama

By KATIE WALSH  
Tribune News Service

In the Gettysburg address, President Abraham Lincoln paid tribute to those who fought and died for their cause, to which they "gave the last full measure of devotion." Lincoln's description of the ultimate sacrifice provides the title for Todd Robinson's "The Last Full Measure," which depicts the long quest to award Air Force pararescue medic William Pitsenberger the Medal of Honor 34 years after he perished in the Vietnam War.

The Medal of Honor, the military's highest distinction, has been awarded to just over 3,500 service members who have distinguished themselves with extraordinary acts of valor in combat since the Civil War. "The Last Full Measure" is about the significance of the decoration, but as the story unfolds, it's clear it's as much about the journey as it is the destination.

It's so important to his surviving Air Force buddies and the Army soldiers he rescued that Pitsenberger receive this Medal of Honor, an upgrade from the Air Force Cross he had previously received, that they spend three decades in pursuit of the distinction. By 1999, they eventually get the file on the desk of D.C. bureaucrat Scott Huffman (Sebastian Stan), who is saddled with the task of pushing through the Medal of Honor request be-

fore Pitsenberger's dying father (Christopher Plummer) passes away. What at first seems like an onerous task to the ambitious (and a bit snarky) Scott soon becomes a cathartic emotional exploration and bonding experience for the veterans who remain prisoners to their own painful memories of war.

The process of putting together the Medal of Honor file becomes a way to clean out the emotional wounds, as Scott bears witness to the men reckoning with their past. At the behest of Tulley (William Hurt), Scott sets off to interview Army vet Billy (Samuel L. Jackson), Jimmie (the late Peter Fonda), Ray (Ed Harris) and Kopper (John Savage), whom Pitsenberger helped to save in Vietnam during the bloody Operation Abilene.

In a series of flashbacks, the story of Pitsenberger's heroism unfolds: sent to rescue a battalion of men pinned down in the jungle by the Viet Cong, the 21-year-old Air Force medic lowered himself to the ground to treat the wounded and fight off the enemy, waving away the helicopter as it tried to pick him up, fighting alongside soldiers he didn't know because he was killed in the night.

It's a shame the flashbacks are so harried, as the gravity of Pitsenberger's actions could have landed more fully with the audience. It's also sidetracked by an underdeveloped storyline about the misguided nature of Operation Abilene and the reasons for



Roadside Attractions

Starring, from left, Cody Walker, Jeremy Irvine and SerDarius Blain, "The Last Full Measure" retraces the journey to obtain the Medal of Honor for Vietnam veteran William Pitsenberger, 34 years after his death.

that. But fundamentally, "The Last Full Measure" is about the healing process for the veterans and Pitsenberger's parents as they pursue recognition for their friend, son and hero. Although the script and aesthetic are rather melodramatic and oftentimes overly sentimental, the star-studded cast elevates the material with nuanced performances.

What one walks away with from "The Last Full Measure" isn't necessarily the heroism of Pitsenberger, though his personal sacrifice was immense. What the film reveals is the deep shame and trauma vets contend with, as survivors who made it out alive, as men who are fallible and flawed who did their best under extreme violence and du-

ress and have to live with those choices for the rest of their lives. What "The Last Full Measure" demonstrates is how powerful it can be to shed light on these experiences, through testimony, bearing witness and yes, ceremonial recognition.

"The Last Full Measure" is rated R for war violence and language. Running time: 110 minutes.

## 'The Assistant' masterfully shows abuse, complicity in entertainment industry

By KATIE WALSH  
Tribune News Service

It's the specificity that devastates in Kitty Green's starkly damning quotidian drama "The Assistant." It's in the quiet efficiency with which our unnamed protagonist (credited as "Jane," played by Julia Garner) speaks and moves as she performs her menial yet seemingly crucial duties in a job we will come to discover is both harrowing and highly prized.

Jane's routine starts with a chauffeured black car to a Tribeca office in the pre-dawn hours. Under the industrial pallor of fluorescent lights, she performs her daily tasks, and a sense of dread starts to creep in. She restocks water bottles; she finds a gold earring on the carpet. She delivers lunch orders; she silently absorbs the shouts of an angry woman on the phone. Jane is the third assistant, essentially the physical support system, of a high-powered Hollywood executive, an unseen and unnamed man who is a notorious abuser of his staff and a parade of striving young actresses. "The Assistant" is the first post-Weinstein film explicitly about Harvey Weinstein, and it is a potent fable that both unearths and indicts the systems that kept Weinstein, and men like him, in power for so long.

For those who spent time in the Hollywood assistant trenches, "The Assistant" might hit like an arrow to the heart. There's a deep sense of familiarity to be



Bleecker Street

A junior assistant to a executive gets a crash course in the indignities and abuses within a Harvey Weinstein-inspired power structure in "The Assistant," starring Julia Garner.

found in the rhythms and language of this world, as well as an understanding that Jane has had the word "no" groomed out of her vocabulary. Her boss calls to verbally abuse her and she immediately drafts an apology email, thanking him for the career opportunity, guided by her male peers, the first (Jon Orsini) and second (Noah Robbins) assistants.

Those who never lived this culture might be frustrated by the ambivalence

that cloaks Jane's action, or inaction. But the ambivalence is the point. Every action and every inaction, every hand-delivered meal, car booked, script printed, meeting finished, joke cracked at the young women in and out of his office, props the system up. Every participant in the web of the office could be seen as a collaborator, just another cog in the banal and evil machine crafted by one man's intimidation and bullying.

Jane has a moment of rebellion, quickly tamped down by a human resources exec played by Matthew Macfadyen in a short but powerful performance of weaponized smirking. The truly dark thing? His argument makes sense. And so the day progresses, the assistant continues her tasks, trying to assert herself in the smallest of ways within this system in which she has no control, discarding trash the way her boss discards people.

Garner is simply astonishing in a role that asks her to communicate her character's emotional journey while the character herself masks her emotions in this volatile environment. She is at once tormented, guilty and intensely vulnerable, and the film anchors itself around this complex and confused character. It's a bold choice for Green, making her narrative directorial debut writing and directing "The Assistant" after directing several lauded documentaries, including "Casting JonBenet" and "Ukraine Is Not a Brothel."

The utterly spare style with which she approaches the story speaks to her skill marrying form and content, and her script does its talking in the moments of silence, the glances and knowing looks.

At once austere and daring, "The Assistant" may be the first cinematic shot across the bow at Weinstein, taking the structures that supported his crimes down with him.

"The Assistant" is rated R for some language. Running time: 85 minutes.



## WEEKEND: VIDEO GAMES

# Doom Slayer's got new moves

## Changes to traversal, game mechanics in Doom sequel strengthen franchise's identity

By GIESON CACHO  
The Mercury News

After reinventing a legendary franchise, what do you do for an encore? That was a question facing director Hugo Martin when creating *Doom Eternal*.

The answer wasn't to make the same game all over again. That would have been repetitive; instead, he and his team looked at the flaws in their first game and expanded the abilities of the protagonist Doom Slayer. The result is a game that appears vastly improved from the original.

Martin compares the difference between *Eternal* and *Doom* (2016) as the divide between "The Evil Dead" and "Evil Dead 2." The original film introduced players to Ash and the concept of the Necronomicon while the sequel refined those ideas and pioneered the horror-slapstick genre.

In the same way, Martin said the team stripped out everything that didn't work in *Doom* (2016) and pushed players toward a certain style of play.

"We're OK with frustrating the players as long as they learn something entertaining and engaging," he said. The problem with the original is that it let players deviate too much from how the developers intended the game to be played. Martin said that led to harsh reviews, in which critics called *Doom* (2016) repetitive.

When played correctly, *Doom Eternal* is a ballet of bullets and violence. Players must constantly move. They shoot an enemy in the face, jump over to the next victim, perform a glory kill, switch weapons, disembowel another and finish by collecting the dropped supplies. Players can deviate somewhat from this formula, but Martin said the game nudged players toward the intended style.

After three hours of playing a build of the game, *Doom Eternal* hits the familiar notes of the original. Players will encounter arenas, where they'll have to run and gun. To survive, they'll have to manage their ammo, health and armor. Players will perform glory kills to restore health and run around to find ammo for their weapons.

The game's depth comes in how players handle enemies. They could concentrate fire on big foes such as Arachnotrons and hit its weak spot — a gun on its rear — so they can wear it down. Afterward, they can cut down the fodder by popping them open like pinatas with the chainsaw and collect ammo power-ups afterward. That's how players keep their stocks healthy. How they manage enemies adds a strategy element.

Further on, other confronta-



PHOTOS BY BETHESDA SOFTWAREWORKS/TNS

**Doom Eternal has some epic vistas that tell a story about hell's invasion of earth.**



**The Cyber Mancubus, left, and the Fire Baron, right, are two of the enemies players will face in Doom Eternal.**



tions will require players to use the flame belch to set enemies ablaze. This will generate armor in order to keep players alive during tougher confrontations, when they're battling numerous heavy adversaries and an empowered demon. Those special creatures are stronger monsters that have killed a fellow player in another game and are tougher but also boast more power-ups.

One of the bigger changes in *Doom Eternal* is the focus on traversal. The developers give the Doom Slayer more moves and tools to whip around a level. Players have a double jump, dash and a wall climb. When these moves are layered with objects such as monkey bars, players can reach seemingly out-of-the-way

locales.

Some of the harder Secret Encounter missions will ask players to weave double jumping, dashing, shooting and glory kills in order to defeat enemies within 25 seconds. At first glance, it can appear impossible, but as players learn the systems and master them, they can link these moves together seamlessly. The Slayer Gates, which require a key, are tougher tests of endurance and more unforgiving, but they also give players a reward that upgrades the Doom Slayer.

Martin compares the way players learn skills to the belt system in martial arts. He said by the time players finish the game they'll be black belts at running and gunning.

Although players will spend plenty of time slaughtering demons, *Doom Eternal* also uses traversal for puzzles and exploration. The new moves let id Software expand the level design. Stages are more open and have different paths and shortcuts. Players will be tasked with jumping on platforms that drop in lava and leaping between electric circuits that block their passage. Other areas encourage players to wander off the beaten path to find a secret collectible or power-up.

As for the structure, *Doom Eternal* has a hub called the Fortress of Doom. It's a ship that resembles a cathedral and hovers in orbit over Earth. It's large, and players can explore its depth as they earn upgrades for the vessel and the player. They'll also find extras such as Riptorium, which lets them practice defeating demons without fear of dying.

The id Software team reworked some mechanics tied to weapon mods, runes and suit upgrades. It's more flexible this time around as players can switch weapon modifications on the fly and tweak their overall setup between runes and armor upgrades. Players have to make some tough choices with some boosts tied to increased ammo or health. Players have to choose between one or the other — they can't have both when bumping up the power for grenades or the

flame belch.

If it isn't obvious, the goal of *Doom Eternal* is to stop hell's invasion of Earth, and that requires the Doom Slayer to kill three hell priests to make it possible. They're scattered around the globe, and finding them is part of the mission. Once located, the ship creates a portal to the destination, and that kicks off the stage.

Buttressing this quest is an expanded lore for the franchise; players will uncover more details about the origin of the Doom Slayer and his purpose in this apocalyptic tale. The lore is fascinating, and it will keep fans engaged as they try to save what's left of humanity.

Judging by how *Doom Eternal* manages to sink its teeth into players with its challenging but fair game systems, the campaign won't have trouble holding fans' attention. The game rewards skillful players with power-ups and better gear. Completing encounters is how they can earn gun mod points.

If the original pointed to a new direction for the franchise, the sequel takes the series' headlong down that road. It fleshes out and refines the systems that *Doom* hinted at in 2016 and establishes a firm identity for the future of the franchise.

*Doom Eternal is scheduled for release March 20 on PlayStation 4, Xbox One, PC, Nintendo Switch and Stadia.*

## WEEKEND: QUICK TRIPS

## Europe

# Close encounters

## Visitors to Hanau's Wildpark Alte Fasanerie mingle with the wildlife

By GREGORY BROOME  
Stars and Stripes

What's the difference between a zoo and a wildpark? This has been one of many questions that have come up more than once in my seven or so years in Germany, and after a recent visit to Wildpark Alte Fasanerie in Hanau, I believe I've arrived at an answer: I still don't know for sure.

Perhaps the best answer I could arrive at after some leisurely Googling and Google Translating is that zoos cage animals for the sake of exhibition, while wildparks provide a more natural habitat for them and allow people to wander around it. But many zoos that I've been to have expansive, authentic-looking habitats for their animals, and in some wildparks, I haven't wanted to wander around because they contain animals no rational visitor would want to mingle with.

Take the adrenaline-inducing highlight of my family's visit to Alte Fasanerie, for instance. There we were, watching a wolf pace back and forth along the sturdy metal fence bordering its spacious habitat when my daughter noticed something interesting. A few feet inside the enclosure was a smaller electrified fence, apparently intended to keep the wolf away from the exterior barrier. But the wolf was on the other side of it — our side of it — and so close to us that we could have stuck our fingers

through the larger fence and scratched the majestic beast's head. A closer look revealed a nearby ditch the wolf had carved out to access its forbidden trail between the two fences. Though the wolf seemed content strutting down its hard-won path, we didn't stick around long enough to see if its ambitions would extend to a foray onto the walkway we were standing on, suddenly feeling very vulnerable.

The rest of our day at Alte Fasanerie was not quite as thrilling as that moment, but was immensely enjoyable. Much of the wildpark is populated by familiar animals like wild boar, buffalo and deer. Seeing even those animals in close proximity was fascinating. I spent some time trying to coax a shy deer into accepting a handful of park-approved animal food until the endeavor started to feel predatory and we both turned and walked away.

I never fully figured out the difference between a wildpark and a zoo, but it ultimately didn't matter that much. After our visit to Wildpark Alte Fasanerie, I realized that the up-close-and-personal interactions with animals — like the jolt of terror when you think a wolf might be plotting an escape and the exchange with a skittish deer that devolves into awkwardness — are perhaps what makes a wildpark a wildpark. I still don't know for sure, but I know I had a good time.

broome.gregory@stripes.com  
Twitter: @broomestripes



Photos by Jackie Broom

Wildcats and wolves are among the more interesting animals at Wildpark Alte Fasanerie.



A snowy owl perches in its enclosure at Wildpark Alte Fasanerie in Hanau, Germany. While much of the park is turned over to deer, buffalo and wild pigs, exhibits near the front entrance display birds, foxes and other smaller animals.

## ON THE QT

### DIRECTIONS

Hanau Fasaneriestrasse 106, 63456 Hanau. The park is at the southern end of Hanau, a mid-sized city near Frankfurt.

### TIMES

Open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily from November to February with the exception of Wednesdays, when it opens at 10 a.m. Open daily from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. from March to October.

### COSTS

A day ticket costs 7 euros for adults and 3.50 euros for children 17 and under. A family ticket for two adults and two children costs 19 euros.

### INFORMATION

Find the park's German-language website at [www.hessen-forst.de/altw-fasanerie](http://www.hessen-forst.de/altw-fasanerie).

— Gregory Broome



Above, Wildpark Alte Fasanerie is populated largely by non-exotic animals like bulls, buffalo, wild boar and deer, but the proximity to the animals makes up for the lack of variety. Even a visit on a cold, rainy day in January is a day well spent. Far right, an enormous enclosure teeming with wild boar is one of the more raucous areas.



WEEKEND: TRAVEL

Europe

# Spain's sparkling spectacle: Seville in spring

Spring fair enliven towns throughout Spain, but I've found that nobody does it bigger or better than Seville, the capital of Spain's Andalusia region. If you come in April, you'll find one of the most exuberant and colorful festivals in a country known for fiestas — the gigantic Feria de Abril (April Fair).

The fair is a vibrant and secular indulgence that comes two weeks after Holy Week, which is also an epic event — especially in Seville — that stirs the soul and captivates all who participate. After catching their communal breaths, cities like Seville use the fair to greet spring. For seven days, Sevillians gather at a huge fairground for a round-the-clock party that would leave the rest of Europe exhausted — and travelers are more than welcome to join in.

People parade in their finery, and springtime flirtations fill the air. It seems everyone knows everyone in what feels like a thousand wedding receptions being celebrated all at once. It's also a celebration of Andalusian heritage. That means fiery flamenco music, fine horses, artful bullfights and flamboyant clothes.

Any time of year, Seville pulses with Italian passion. In spring, the weather is ideal. The trees are covered with white and purple blossoms, and the air is heavy with the scent of orange and jasmine. It's a short window of time when southern Spain is at its peak.

The fair is also Seville's peak social event of the year. Women sport outstandingly bright and colorful dresses that would look clownish elsewhere, but are somehow brilliant here. A matching, folding fan completes the look — it's not merely to cool off; it's also a crucial part of flamenco dancing, and can be used to flash coded messages in the flirtation ritual.

Men wear the traditional caballero outfit — a short jacket and wide-brimmed hat (though nowadays, many wear business suits and ties or formal wear).

More than a thousand tents, called casetas, pop up in a large fairground across the Guadalquivir River from downtown Seville. Each colorfully striped tent hosts a private party for a family, club or association. Though it's supposed to be a private affair, casual tourists can have a fun and memorable evening by simply crashing the party.

It's not unheard of to strike up an impromptu friendship and be invited in. Inside, the sherry spritzers flow freely. Each caseta is well stocked with a bar and buffet at the back filled with tapas — hors d'oeuvres speared with a toothpick, or atop a piece of bread — and traditional gazpacho (zesty cold tomato soup), among other regional delicacies. The most treasured is jamon — cured ham that's artfully sliced and savored with religious zeal.

Some of the larger tents are sponsored by the city and open to the public, but I find that the best action is in the streets, where partygoers from the livelier casetas spill out. Festival mornings are sleepy and relaxed. Around noon, the promenading starts. You can enjoy the parades of horses (also dressed up), the locals in colorful costumes and amusement park rides. The parading tradition has been part of the fair since it began in 1848. Back then, the festival was basically a county fair where livestock breeders showcased their animals. In keeping with the tradition,



Rick Steves

April Fair is a time for Seville's men and women to show off their traditional clothing.

today's riders continue on to the bullring, where they meet up with other breeders.

As the sun sets, the bullfights end. The horse-and-fashion parade winds down, the streets are cleared of horses and two-legged party animals take over. By midnight, the fino is flowing freely, and the casetas are rocking. Music is everywhere. Most casetas have their own soundtrack, whether a stereo, a live band or just a friend who plays guitar. People take turns dancing flamenco. Bystanders clap along, play castanets and cheer on the dancers with whoops and shouts. It's not unusual for entire families — adults, grandparents and little kids — to stay up feasting, singing and dancing until sunrise.

It all builds up to the weekend. As the fair reaches its close, the skies are lit up with a dazzling fireworks show, a tradition that dates back more than a century. For the kids, the whole scene creates memories that will be replayed in the next generation.

Travelers love Spain. While filled with history, high art and culture, Spain also knows how to celebrate, and Sevillians in particular do it with gusto. Festivals like April Fair help Spaniards maintain their cultural identity, with pageantry stoking local, regional and national pride.

Rick Steves (ricksteves.com) writes European travel guidebooks and on public television and public radio. Email him at rick@ricksteves.com and follow his blog on Facebook.

Rick Steves

## TOP TRAVEL PICKS

### Bruges celebrates Belgian beer

No excuse is ever needed to take a trip to beautiful Bruges, Belgium, but here's one anyway: it's home to one of Europe's first beer festivals of the new year.

The Brugs Bierfestival promises lovers of Belgian beer the chance to sample around 600 beers made by the 90 brewers participating in this year's edition. Many brewers choose to raise their most creative efforts on this occasion, meaning that among the more traditional Dubbels and Tripels, true connoisseurs might enjoy sampling a speuloos stout, apple-pear white or absinthe-infused specimen from a Greek brewery.

Among the Belgians do fantastically well is chocolate. A VIP tasting pairs five of the festival's beers with five matching pralines from Bruges chocolatier Jan Spegeleers. Following the tasting, participants will receive a bag of the chocolates they've tasted. Register in advance to take part.

Festival hours are noon-10 p.m. Feb. 1 and 11 a.m.-8 p.m. Feb. 2. Entry is free. Sampling takes place by means of a token system. A starter package consisting of the mandatory tasting glass, tokens and a beer guide goes for 20 euros, and additional



Karen Bradbury

Read more about things to do in the Europe Traveler blog: [stripes.com/blogs/europe-traveler](https://stripes.com/blogs/europe-traveler)

tokens are available on site for 2 euros each. Online: [brugsbierfestival.be](https://brugsbierfestival.be)

Beer lovers who are runners too might wish to sign up for an event combining both interests. The Beer Lovers' Marathon in Liege, Belgium, on May 17 offers athletes the chance to taste 15 different Belgian beers at the refreshment stands set up at 5-km intervals along the standard-length route. Each stop also offers a form of live musical entertainment. Runners are urged to appear in costume; this year's theme: Registrations remained open at the time of this writing, but organizers note that spaces are going fast. Online: [beerlovermarathon.be](https://beerlovermarathon.be)

### Celebrate Sami culture in Scandinavia

At a time of year when many travelers flock south in search of scraps of warmer weather, others head north to embrace the frigid beauty of winter. As Scandinavia's farthest northern reaches embrace the return of daylight following weeks of dark polar nights, indigenous Sami people celebrate their unique culture based on the herding of reindeer with a pair of festivals. Both outings coincide with Sami National Day on Feb. 6, a date that commemorates the coming together of members of the ethnic group across country borders in Trondheim, Norway, in 1917.

Sami Week in Tromsø, Norway, takes place Feb. 3-9. A charismatic city of pretty wooden houses with a population of around 70,000 inhabitants, Tromsø is considered one of the major cultural hubs above the Arctic Circle. The Sami Week program is made up of cultural programming including exhibitions of Sami art and handicrafts, lectures, seminars and concerts, along with an Arctic market at which Sami vendors sell items such as traditional garments, hats, knives and food products. On Feb. 8, lasso-throwing championships take place, and on Feb. 9, the sight of reindeer sprinting



Tiller foto

Sami Week in Tromsø, Norway, includes reindeer races, as well as cultural exhibitions, seminars, concerts and lasso-throwing contests. The festival takes place Feb. 3-9.

through the city center as they're driven by their coachmen will thrill locals and tourists alike. Online: [msm.no/en/arrangement/samisk-uke](https://msm.no/en/arrangement/samisk-uke)

In contrast to Sami Week's more urban setting, the Jokkmokk Winter Market, on Feb. 6-8, takes place in a small town in Swedish Lapland. A market that can look back on 400 years of history offers wares of leather, clothing and handicrafts. Diversions include storytelling in a Sami tent, a fashion show of attire made from natural materials, an expo of locally

produced delicacies and a reindeer caravan. Bookable side activities include sled dog tours, moose-scouting tours, snowmobile safaris, and visits to Sami settlements to help feed the reindeer. A race of reindeer-pulled sleds takes place Feb. 8 on a nearby lake. Online: [jokkmokkmarknad.se](https://jokkmokkmarknad.se)

Not a fan of the cold? Riddu Riddu is a music and culture festival promoting both Sami culture and that of other indigenous peoples. The gathering takes place July 8-12 in Kafjord, Norway. Online: [riddu.no/en](https://riddu.no/en)



## WEEKEND: FOOD &amp; DINING

## Europe



The Italiano Sapori Veri restaurant on Eisenbahnstrasse in Kaiserslautern, Germany, offers homemade Italian specialties and a warm welcome, even when it's almost closing time.



PHOTOS BY KARIN ZEITVOGEL/Stars and Stripes

Homemade pasta mixed in a wheel of Parmesan cheese is one of the specialties at Italiano Sapori Veri.

# Exceeding expectations

From perfectly prepared octopus to pasta tossed in a cheese wheel, Italiano Sapori Veri is a delight

BY KARIN ZEITVOGEL  
Stars and Stripes



**AFTER HOURS  
GERMANY**

## ITALIANO SAVORI VERI

**Location:** Eisenbahnstrasse 1, 67655

Kaiserslautern

**Parking:** free on Eisenbahnstrasse

after 7 p.m. and the underground lot by

the Stiftsplatz is a short walk from the

restaurant. The main train station is

roughly a 10-minute walk away.

**Hours:** The website says they're open

Monday to Saturday, 10 a.m. to 11 p.m.

except for German holidays, when

they're open from noon until 9 p.m.

But when we went in mid-December,

the information on the door said they

close at 10 p.m. The kitchen closes at

9:30 p.m., according to the website, but

we got there after 9:30 p.m. and were

served a great meal. Closed Sundays

during the winter, the website says.

**Information:** The menu changes regularly

to reflect what fresh ingredients are

available. In the summer, they do

lighter fare and homemade gelati. Res-

ervations aren't necessary, but can be

made by calling +49 (0)631 637 940 67.

— Karin Zeitvogel

I was late on a Monday in winter and many restaurants in Kaiserslautern were closed. By the time my guests would've just arrived from America and I found a place that was open, it was 9:45 p.m. but it said on the door they were closing in 15 minutes. When it gets that close to the chef clocking off, many eateries limit their menu options and want you in and out faster than you can say "zabaglione."

But not Italiano Sapori Veri. After being shown to a table, we perused the chalkboard menu that the waitress brought over to us, and opted for risotto with jumbo shrimp, penne with mushrooms, and a dish that intrigued us: pasta prepared in a hollowed-out wheel of Parmesan cheese.

There was no shrimp left, so the chef offered octopus instead, and I accepted. Done well, octopus is melt-in-the-mouth delicious. Done badly, it's like eating the rubber seal from an old pressure cooker. This would be a good test of the freshness of the food and the skill of the chef, I thought.

Several minutes later, a gentleman placed a side table and wheel of parmesan measuring about two feet across by our table. After serving our risotto and penne, the waitress returned to the kitchen and emerged with homemade linguini, which she deposited in the middle of the cheese wheel. The pasta was scooped and swirled around, allowing Parmesan to melt onto the noodles, smothering them in deliciousness.

I silently wished that I'd ordered that instead of the risotto, although my arborio rice and octopus were cooked to perfection. My guest kindly offered me a forkful of the pasta-prepared-in-a-wheel-of-Parmesan, probably because he's my son and I'd have grounded him if he hadn't. It was every bit of melt-in-the-mouth scrumptiousness that I'd imagined it would be.

The main courses were 16 euros each, and, we had a bottle of red wine and a bottle of mineral water to wash them down.

It was close to midnight when we left. At no time did we feel we were being pressured to leave—not even when the waitress went



Pasta is scooped into a bowl after being mixed in a hollowed-out wheel of Parmesan.



In the foreground, risotto with octopus, and in the background, a diner tucks into pasta.



Candles in wine bottles add to the restaurant's ambiance.

# Jackfruit a meaty substitute

BY KATIE WORKMAN  
Associated Press

If you've never heard of jackfruit, keep your eyes open: You'll start noticing it everywhere.

Jackfruit is a very large tropical fruit often used as a meat substitute. It packs some nutritional wallop, and the fact that you can cook, chunk or shred it like chicken or pork makes it a go-to main ingredient in many vegetarian and vegan dishes.

Its flavor is neutral, and it tastes to all kinds of seasonings. Jackfruit is native to India, and also grows in Southeast Asia, Mexico, the Caribbean and South America.

For cooking, freshly picked, non-ripe jackfruit generally is used. Once ripe, jackfruit can be used in sweeter dessert dishes.

It's available whole or sliced into more manageable pieces.

Unripe, it's green and unyielding, as it ripens, it softens, turns yellow, gets some brown spots and starts to smell fruity.

Robert Schueller, head of marketing at Melissa's Produce, a specialty produce company, has noted that upward trend.

"It was about five years ago that the fruit started to really take off," he says. "Vegetarians and vegans found out how this fruit could be used as a meat substitute for pulled pork sandwiches and as a taco meat."

As word spread in the U.S. about jackfruit's versatility, Schueller says, Melissa's went from selling a few cases a week to thousands a week. Melissa's also offers plastic containers of jackfruit pods containing just one or two servings.

Jackfruit also is popping up on menus across the country, at vegan and vegetarian restaurants, yes, but also in dishes at more mainstream establishments. Tomatillo, a Mexican restaurant in Dobbs Ferry, N.Y., has a quesadilla and taco made with jackfruit nestled in alongside other meaty and vegetarian offerings.

Angela Means, owner of the vegan Jackfruit Cafe in Los Angeles, says people are turning to a vegan diet for many reasons, including environmental, health and animal-rights concerns.

"We eat meat because of the texture and the spices. Jackfruit is a great substitute," Means says. "It's one of the best choices for us because we can mimic meat, jackfruit grows in abundance, and it has potassium, fiber, magnesium; lots of nutrients. We put it in tacos, and we make sandwiches, like a barbecue pulled 'pork.'"

Jackfruit Cafe tries to educate people in its community about jackfruit and alternatives to a meat-eating diet, she says, predicting, "in seven to 10 years, jackfruit will be as popular as beef."

home well before we did.

Everything about Sapori Veri exceeded my expectations, and I fully intend to go back for pasta prepared in a hollowed-out wheel of Parmesan or more of their succulent octopus risotto if they're out of shrimp — which I'm quietly hoping they will be.

zeitvogel.karin@stripes.com  
Twitter: @StripesZeit

WEEKEND: TRAVEL

Europe

# Booze traveler

## Tour the United Kingdom one distillery at a time

By LOUISE DIXON  
Associated Press

Many people these days are thirsting not just for a drink, but for knowledge about where it comes from. "Spirit tourism" is booming across the United Kingdom, with artisanal brands and micro distilleries popping up and many global brands distilled here.

Bombay Sapphire distillery, for example, produces its iconic blue bottles of gin in a former paper mill in Hampshire, England. Gin has been enjoying a renaissance, according to the Wine and Spirit Trade Association, and even well-established global brands have been trying to up their game.

"When Bombay Sapphire came out 30 years ago, in 1986, there was probably a handful of different gins. Now we're seeing about 200 new gins on the market every single year in the U.K. alone," says spokesman Sam Carter.

More than 100,000 people a year come through the distillery, he says. Along with tours, Bombay Sapphire offers cocktail master classes, botanical supper clubs and horticultural tours through the surrounding conservation area.

Bombay's master distiller, Anne Brock, sees the rise of spirit tourism as a response to public desire to "go and meet the makers."

"People are finding their local distillery. They're enjoying that

spirit and they're going on from there and exploring," she says.

The classic gin and tonic is in decline, Carter says, replaced by cocktails like the Negroni, French 75, or gin and ginger.

"One of the most important things for us is to get people to come down, create cocktails themselves, feel really comfortable about making cocktails and then be able to replicate them at home," he says.

Brock hopes visitors also get a better understanding of what to look for in a gin.

"You're looking for a balance. You're looking for an overall sort of flavor story in the mouth," she says. "So, you don't want to be left short and you don't want to have it burning down too long, but you want to have a sort of development of flavors."

For a different kind of experience, visitors can travel to The Black Cow Distillery on an organic farm in West Dorset, England, where dairy farmer Jason Barber and his friend Paul "Archie" Archard started a vodka brand in 2012.

Barber's family has been making cheese for more than two centuries, and the pair make vodka from what is left over from that process.

"Premium brand drinks, especially, talk about the quality of their materials and where it comes from, and traditionally, spirits always were made out of what's left over from the table," Archie explains.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 31



BLACK COW DISTILLERY/AP

Copper shines inside the brewing room at the Black Cow Distillery in Beaminster, south England.

**'I think that provenance, sustainability and telling a story behind the liquid are just becoming increasingly important.'**

Simon Robinson  
Dewar's Aberfeldy Distillery



BACARDI LIMITED/AP

Visitors take a cellar tour of the Dewar's Distillery in Aberfeldy in the Scottish Highlands, where Scotch whisky has been produced since 1898. Dewar's offers traditional whisky tastings, a luxury blender's tour and a whisky and chocolate tasting tour.



EAST LONDON LIQUOR COMPANY/AP

Distiller Sam Garbutt checks distillery controls in the East London Liquor Company in London.



## FROM PAGE 30

He and Barber, he says, have taken something from the dairy process of "a low material value and turned it into, we think, the smoothest vodka in the world."

As well as a distillery tour, they offer cocktail-making classes, and serve fresh local food in their bar and kitchen.

Barber hopes visitors to Black Cow will see "we're doing something new, we're pushing things along a bit. We're considering how we're farming, considering how we're making things ... And it's lovely to get people to relook at the countryside and view it in a different way."

Don't expect to see production at city speed.

"From can to bottle, it's probably a fortnight," says Barber. "And if I want to take longer, I take longer, basically. But there's no hurry. And the same when you're drinking it."

Back in the bustling capital, East London Liquor company produces British wheat vodka, three London Dry-style gins and whisky. Based in a historic glue factory in Bow Wharf, the distillery has a bar attached where guests can enjoy a drink while watching production through a glass wall.

"What beats sitting here having a martini, watching it being made?" says founder and ex-bar-tender Alex Wolpert.

Wolpert says he founded East London Liquor several years ago to democratize booze, producing something local, independent and affordable. The company offers a whisky, a gin and a mixed distillery tour, and Wolpert says everyone leaves with a bottle.

"When they've had that kind of sensuous, tactile involvement in the process, they've been behind (the scenes), they've picked up the juniper berries ... there's a relationship there," Wolpert says. "So, you're kind of almost by default building advocates of what we do by having them in the production space."

Carter advises spirit enthusiasts to sit at the bar and talk to the bartenders.

"If you can find your favorite watering holes where you can trust the bar team to recommend stuff, that's always a great starting point," he says.

Finally, no spirit tourism trip is complete without a visit to Scotland.

Dewar's Aberfeldy Distillery in the Scottish Highlands has been producing Scotch whisky since 1898, and offers traditional whisky tastings, a luxury blenders tour and a whisky and chocolate tasting tour.

"We're seeing people really want to get in depth. They want to get under the skin of how the whisky is produced, and they want to taste different ones," says in-house whisky expert Simon Robinson.

"I think that provenance, sustainability and telling a story behind the liquid are just becoming increasingly important," he adds.

He hopes visitors "take away an appreciation of Scotch whisky first and foremost, and ... the confidence to enjoy not just our whisky, although that is the ideal situation, but also other Scotch whisky and other things in this area."

# Germany DIRECTORY

## Restaurants

KAISERSLAUTERN	BAVARIA	STUTTGART	RHEIN MAIN
 <p><b>Zimtblüte</b> asian food</p> <p>Call 0631-58047 for Pick Up Orders Tue-Sun 11am-10pm Mon-Closed Wolfsbacher Str. 110 67661 Kaiserslautern</p>	 <p><b>BOHM</b></p> <p>Neue Amberger Straße 39 92655 Grafenwöhr 09641 9369-0 • www.hotelboehm.de</p>	 <p><b>Kashmir</b></p> <p>100% Vegetarian Kashmir Restaurant Eichendorfer Platz 10, 70372 Stuttgart Tel: +49 (0)7143 38 38 38 LEONBERG Leinfelder Str. 11 • Phone: 07143 90 21 31 Hours: 10:00 - 10:00 and 12:00 - 10:00</p>	 <p>Come Experience Germany's Finest Beer and Authentic German Cuisine</p> <p>www.kraeusl-castle.de Otto Saly Ring 27 55253 Mainz-Kastell Tel. 06134-20999 Open daily from 12:00 - 10:00</p>
 <p><b>ENCHILADA</b></p> <p>COCKTAIL CASINO RAFFY Hour ENCHI Hour</p> <p>Schillerplatz 3-5 67655 Kaiserslautern 0631 3702 7570 www.enchilada-kaiserslautern.de</p>	 <p><b>Caribbean Grill</b></p> <p>Savor the Flavor of the Islands</p> <p>Dießfurter Str. 18   92655 Grafenwöhr Tel: +49 (0) 9265 5288 0152-58861759</p>	 <p><b>TRIPLE B</b></p> <p>Two Locations: Hohenloherstraße 8 70435 Stuttgart and Marienstraße 28 70178 Stuttgart</p> <p>TRIPLE B - High Quality Burgers www.beeffurger-brothers.de</p>	 <p><b>Mayflower</b></p> <p>Open daily 11:30 - 15:00 &amp; 17:30 - 23:30 USD accepted - Master Card/Visa Tel. 06134-258928 Uthmann Strasse 8, Mainz-Koestheim</p>
 <p><b>CANTINA MEXICANA</b></p> <p>Kaiserstr. 117 67661 Kaiserslautern-Emselderhof 0631-99328 www.cantina-mexicana.com</p>		 <p><b>olio e pane</b></p> <p>CAFETERIA MITTERRAN Lindlerd. 5, 72555 Metzingen +49 (0)7123 38 11 61</p> <p>Opening Hours: Mon - Sat 11:30am - 10pm</p>	 <p><b>BULLS</b></p> <p>OPEN Monday - Friday 06:00 - 20:00 Weekends 08:00 - 20:00</p> <p>Located in the Wiesbaden Main Train Station directly after entering the main entrance.</p>
		 <p><b>SPATI</b></p> <p>Breakfast-Lunch Daily Special Coffee &amp; Cake Homemade Ice Cream Sunday Breakfast</p> <p>Turnstr. 6 71080 Holzgerlingen 07031 414777 www.destadcafe.de</p> <p>Opening Times Mo-Fr 8:30am to 7pm Sa 9am to 6pm Sun 9am to 7pm</p>	 <p><b>Chillers</b></p> <p>BÄHNHOFPLATZ 1 55189 Wiesbaden OPEN EVERYDAY FROM 12PM</p> <p>WIND HOLE AND BEERALS ON WE NOW HAVE A BEERALS ON WE NOW HAVE A BEERALS ON</p> <p>RESERVING AVAILABLE HERE!</p>
		 <p><b>EHRBAR</b></p> <p>BEST BURGER IN TOWN</p> <p>Leuchtturmstr. 1 • 71032 Böblingen +49 (0)7143 98 96 96 www.ehrbar.de Leuchtturmstr. 1 • Böblingen</p>	

## Hotels

 <p><b>BOHM</b></p> <p>Neue Amberger Straße 39 92655 Grafenwöhr • 09641 9369-0 www.hotelboehm.de</p>	 <p><b>Hotel Forsthaus by Garmisch</b></p> <p>Free breakfast, Family Apartments, Hot Tub, Sauna, Dogs Welcome, American/German Owned, 36 EUR/Person, Double Occupancy, Per Night. Tel: 0824-9120 • Email: hotel@forsthaus-oberau.de VAT Forms accepted! www.forsthaus-oberau.de</p>	 <p><b>pullman</b></p> <p>HOTELS AND RESORTS</p> <p>WITTENBERG FORSTHAUS</p> <p>Vollmoellerstrasse 5 • 70563 VAHINGEN - STUTTGART +49 7143 200-1 • +49 7143 200-1 • 1445000000 BOOK TODAY 0711 720 2300</p>	 <p><b>EDELWEISS</b></p> <p>LODGE and RESORT</p>
		 <p><b>Hotel Villa</b></p> <p>Just 3 Minutes from Rose Barracks Amberg Str. 9 • 92249 Wuerck E-Mail: hotel-villa@gmail.de Tel.: +49 (0) 966242070 www.hotel-villa-vibeck.de</p>	





## WEEKEND: TRAVEL

## Food and flying

It's OK to bring snacks and drinks aboard, but be mindful of others when selecting them

BY NATALIE B. COMPTON  
The Washington Post

Before a recent flight across the country, I bought a shawarma wrap at the airport to take into the cabin. The minute I rolled the shawarma out in the plane, I realized my huge mistake. I hadn't accounted for my wrap's fiercely potent aroma. It hadn't smelled particularly fragrant on the ground, but now, things were different. A lesson was learned that day: One must choose one's plane food wisely. "It's not only food you need to take into consideration. There are also issues with drinking, cutlery and trash. To get everyone on the same page about the do's and don'ts of eating and drinking on a plane, we're putting the rules in writing.

We consulted Shanie Peralta, an Association of Flight Attendants-CWA member and flight attendant for a regional carrier that serves destinations in the southeast United States, the Caribbean and chartered routes. Some of this stuff is common sense, "but common sense is not always common," says Peralta.

According to Peralta, the majority of passengers aren't traveling with their own snacks.

"It is a small minority of people who bring food onboard, but you do get offenders who like to bring egg salad or tuna sandwiches," Peralta says. "In their mind, they don't think they've done anything wrong. They're just like, 'Hey, I want to eat my tuna sandwich. I'm hungry.'"

Don't be that offender. Peralta has other tips:

### Bring wipes to clean your eating surface

Peralta strongly recommends that passengers bring disinfecting wipes on these tray tables for tray tables. Give that thing a good wipe-down, because it doesn't get cleaned every day. "There's a lot of things that happen on these tray tables," Peralta says. "People change diapers on these tray tables. That happens a lot more than people think."

Other potential contaminants include previous passengers' food remnants, or their drool, or their sneezes. Grab some Lysol sheets before setting up an in-flight picnic.

### Avoid pungent items

This should really be rule No. 1, but the tray-table thing was so unnerveing, we had to start there. Anyway, the First Commandment of plane eating is: Thou shalt not bring strong-smelling food on a plane. Flying is already

stressful and uncomfortable.

There's no policy about bringing on aromatic food; however, that doesn't mean on your flight to Phoenix, you should crack into fermented shark.

"You can bring whatever snacks you want, but be mindful that other people don't want to smell what you're eating," Peralta says.

You're not just offending the people in your own row.

"It smells up the cabin immediately, and you can smell it from the back, from the front, wherever you're at in the aircraft," Peralta says.

### Avoid 'loud' foods

Before you start chomping into that perfectly crisp Fuji apple, consider the traveler with misophonia, a disorder that triggers physical and emotional responses to sounds like chewing, tapping and gum-snapping. But beyond them, the sound of gnawing on that fruit, or on corn nuts or carrots, can be just plain obnoxious to everyone. Consider the auditory stimuli of eating your in-flight food, and avoid items that are noisier than most.

### Avoid messy foods and fizzy drinks

Eat clean, and we don't mean a plant-based, minimally processed diet. We mean: Don't go crazy with foods or drinks that run the risk of getting all over while you're smashed next to strangers in a small space. That means Nature Valley granola bars, big bowls of soup, chips and salsa. Beware of exploding carbonated beverages like kombucha or sparkling water.

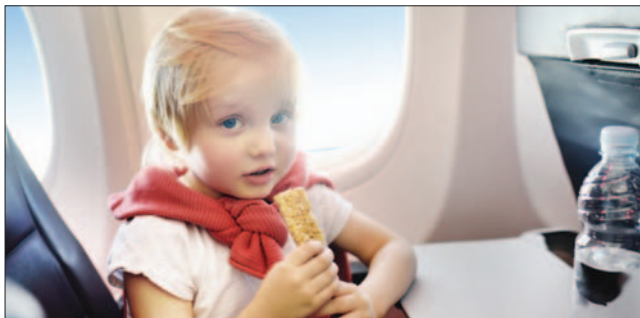
Your crumbs and spills aren't only affecting the people near you. Flight attendants become de facto janitors. You're making their job, and that of the cleaning crew who comes on later, harder. Traveling with a toddler? They're the worst — in terms of messes.

"Toddlers are the biggest offenders," Peralta says. "They fuss and throw, and you find all sorts of interesting things under the seat. You have crushed chocolate chip cookies on the ground, and chocolate smeared on the seat. It's a mess."

Be mindful of your kid's ways when packing snacks for the ride.

### Enjoy a minimalist approach to dining

Flying in economy requires some spatial awareness. Your seat is small. Your tray table is small. Your legroom is small. Clutter catches up with you fast. You're going to be eating your



iStock

Particularly aromatic foods as well as messy, crumbly items can be a nuisance for others on board.

meal while trying not to elbow your neighbors, like you're playing the board game Operation.

Don't bring a bunch of condiments, an array of cutlery or a cornucopia of containers and expect the eating experience to go smoothly.

### Avoid drinking alcohol you brought

According to Transportation Security Administration regulations, you can bring a small bag of miniature alcohol bottles. But there's a catch. Although you can bring on less than 3.4 ounces, or 100 milliliters, of alcohol (below 140 proof), it's illegal to drink it in-flight. FAA regulations ban drinking "any alcoholic beverage aboard an aircraft unless the certificate holder operating the aircraft has served that beverage

to him."

In other words: "If we didn't serve it to you, you can't have it," Peralta says.

Even though you're trying to save money by BYOB, it's against the law to crack open your own cold one.

### Enjoy a few cocktails, but don't get drunk

Get drunk before you cross the jet bridge, and you could be denied the opportunity to board. Get drunk on the flight and cause problems, and you could end up getting the plane grounded, facing legal ramifications and paying fines in the tens of thousands of dollars.

"If it's affecting the security and the safety of other passengers, or they're causing harm to themselves, then yes, we inter-

vene and call the captain, and we have procedures for that," Peralta says.

### Avoid bringing common allergens on a flight

People can get sick from coming into contact with ingredients like peanuts and shellfish. Do vulnerable passengers a solid, and leave those foods for another occasion.

### Avoid leaving trash in seat pocket or on floor

You'll have to dispose of your food waste somewhere. Don't be one of the many, many people who tucks their trash under the seat and leaves.

Leaving litter behind slows down the cleaning process and could delay the next flight.



## Who deserves a thank you?

Join us in giving Navy Exchange Regional Food Service kudos for donating copies of Stars and Stripes to members of our military community on bases at Yokosuka, Yokota, Zama, Atsugi, Sasebo, Iwakuni and Misawa. We appreciate the support!

To subscribe to Stars and Stripes, please visit [subscribe.stripes.com](https://subscribe.stripes.com) or email [MemberServices@stripes.com](mailto:MemberServices@stripes.com) today.



## WEEKEND: QUICK TRIPS

Pacific



Lotte World Tower in Seoul, South Korea, holds the world record for the highest glass-floor observation deck at 1,568 feet, 2.8 inches.

PHOTOS BY MATTHEW KEELER/Stars and Stripes

# A bird's-eye view

Visitors get sky-high perspective of city from Seoul Sky Observatory

By MATTHEW KEELER  
Stars and Stripes

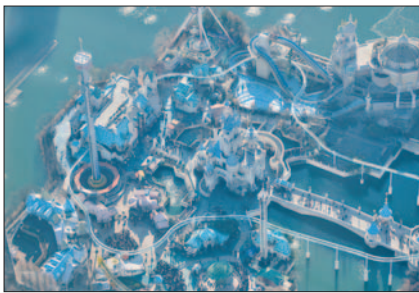
**S**outh Korea's Lotte World Tower in Seoul is a 750,000-ton marvel of a building that features an enormous shopping mall, aquarium, cinema, concert hall and so many restaurants it would be a daunting task to pick one.

As the tallest structure in Korea, and the fifth tallest building in the world (it will fall a notch once China's Goldin Finance 117 building is completed), the tower holds two Guinness World Records that you can experience firsthand when you visit the Seoul Sky Observatory.

The observatory is at the top of the Lotte World Tower. At more than 1,820 feet high, this is the best place to take in a 360-degree view of Seoul, the Han River, Olympic Park, Gangnam, Gimpo International Airport and more.

Your experience begins at ground level after purchasing a ticket to be shuttled to the 117th floor. For 27,000 won (about \$23), you can spend all the time you want viewing Seoul from seven floors that offer full panoramic views.

One of the records the tower holds is having the tallest double-



The Lotte World theme park looks like a child's playset from Lotte World Tower's Seoul Sky observation deck.

deck elevator in the world. Named the Sky Shuttle, this elevator travels over 1,627 feet at better than 30 feet per second. You will reach the observation deck in roughly a minute.

As your ears pop and adjust to the rapid change in elevation, you are entertained with a virtual reality presentation on 15 monitors across all four walls and the ceiling of the elevator.

You will have access to the top seven floors of the tower, which

features cafes, a souvenir shop, an outdoor terrace, an elegant lounge and a glass-floor sky deck that is not for the faint hearted.

Stepping out on the deck gives you a view straight down to the world below.

Seoul Sky's sky deck holds the Guinness record for the highest glass-floor observation deck at 1,568 feet, 2.8 inches high. The floor is made of glass measuring 1.7 inches thick. The walls are also made of glass, creating



Visitors can get the sensation that they are floating as they look through the glass floor of the observation deck.

a "floating" panoramic viewing experience.

The cafes and other refreshments are reasonably priced, comparable to what you pay down on street level. A blue latte at the coffee shop caught my attention with its blue-colored base, coffee in the middle and cream on top. This boost of caffeine cost 6,500 won (about \$5.50).

Take your time on all the floors to appreciate the many views. Everything below you looks as if it's a miniature playset. Lotte's popular theme park, Lotte World, is directly below and the amusement rides and visitors walking across a bridge look like kids' toys.

Cellphone service works just fine along with data services, but the tower also offers free Wi-Fi if you prefer to piggyback on Korea's fast broadband or want to use a laptop in a quiet, relaxing corner away from the hustle of other visitors.

Experiencing the new Lotte World Tower alone was worth the trip to Seoul, but the observatory was a special reminder of just how much this country has prospered since the signing of the armistice in 1953.

keeler.matthew@stripes.com  
Twitter: @MattKeeler121

## ON THE QT

### DIRECTIONS

Address: 300 Olympic-ro, Jamsil 6(yuk)-dong, Songpa-gu, Seoul. Take subway Line 2 to Jamsil Station, exits 1 and 2, or Line 8 to Jamsil Station, exits 10 and 11.

### TIMES

10 a.m.-10 p.m. Sunday-Thursday, 10 a.m.-11 p.m. Friday and Saturday

### COSTS

27,000 won (about \$23); save 10% by using Visa or Mastercard

### FOOD

Multiple cafes, candy store and 123 Lounge on the 123rd floor

### INFORMATION

Book your visit at [seoulsky.lotteworld.com/en/main/index.do](http://seoulsky.lotteworld.com/en/main/index.do)

— Matthew Keeler



## WEEKEND: FOOD &amp; DINING

Pacific

# The coffee shop that feels like home

## Cafe D-13 near Yokota in former US military housing

By **Theron Godbold**  
Stars and Stripes

Just a five-minute walk from the bustle of Route 16, a major thoroughfare that parallels the base. With an almost bohemian air, the cafe atmosphere will lull you into a comfortable state of mind.

Keep an eye open for the small wooden sign on the side of Waratsuke Avenue just off Route 16 that dead-ends into Route 16 and Yokota's main gate. The sign directs you to the vine-covered building that is Cafe D-13.

The cafe smells like coffee and patchouli and feels more like a cozy reading nook than a business. It boasts a relaxed vibe with soft jazz in the background, but not the kind you hear at your dentist's office.

For three years, Cafe D-13 has been serving an assortment of coffees, baked goods and curries. The prices are modest in comparison to some chain coffee houses and range from about \$3 for an Americano to about \$5 for a honey lemonade. The three drinks — an Americano, latte and espresso — chocolate chip cookie and banana bread that my co-worker and I had set us back 1,850 yen, or about \$17.

The espresso (300 yen for a



### CAFE D-13

**Location:** 2219-4 Fussa, Tokyo, 197-0011  
**Hours:** Open daily, except Thursdays, 8:30 a.m.-6 p.m.  
**Prices:** Drinks about \$3 to \$5, food about \$3 to \$8  
**Dress:** Casual  
**Directions:** From Yokota Air Base's main gate, cross Route 16 and continue straight to the first light. Turn right and look for a small wooden sign marking the entrance to the cafe. Limited parking is available.

— Theron Godbold

single; 400 yen for a double) had an almost citrus taste to it and wasn't as strong as those you'll find in Europe. Unfortunately, it resembled Japanese vending-machine espresso in a can.

The 400-yen Americano, on the other hand, had a subtle taste that wasn't overpowering and made for a good cup of joe.

My colleague called his iced latte with a double shot of espresso

so "standard but good," and was happy it wasn't too milky like many other lattes served in the area.

Other drinks on the menu include filter coffee, latte macchiato and chai latte.

Non-coffee drinkers can choose from homemade ginger ale, honey lemonade, honey lemonade squash and organic orange juice.

The banana bread — moist and firm with a hint of cinnamon — proved to be a dense and flavorful complement to my morning coffee. Hungry folks may want to order multiple slices because the portions are kind of small.

The chocolate chip cookie had a consistency more like a biscotti, toasted and crunchy, but I imagine dipping it in a latte would loosen it up and add a lot to this tasty treat.

The small food menu lists two curries for 800 yen — one varies daily while the other is a set dish of keema curry. Another 100 yen will get you an extra-large serving. The baked goods also vary daily with a variety of pricing and flavors.

Cafe D-13 reminded me of my misspent youth in Austin, Texas, talking into the early morning hyped up on caffeine with friends about the most important of youthful subjects. Because of that, I look forward to visiting again and trying to reclaim some of those memories in a new time and place.

godbold@starsandstripes.com  
Twitter: @GodboldTheron



PHOTOS BY THERON GODBOLD/Stars and Stripes

The barista at Cafe D-13 mixes a double shot of espresso into milk.



The quaint Cafe D-13 opened about three years ago inside a former U.S. military house near Yokota Air Base, Japan, and offers a small variety of coffees, baked goods and curries.



Cafe D-13 serves baked goods like chocolate chip cookies and banana bread.

# Does Coke's new seasonal flavor in Japan fizz, or fall flat?



Theron Godbold/Stars and Stripes

Strawberry Coca-Cola became the soft drink giant's newest seasonal flavor when it was released on Jan. 20. It's available only in Japan, and only for a limited time.

By **Theron Godbold**  
Stars and Stripes

Japan's food and beverage industry boasts many seasonal, novelty flavors, whether it's a cherry pie-flavored drink from Starbucks or chocolate fries from McDonald's, and some can be better than others.

The current fad is strawberry Coca-Cola. This seasonal flavor has an unclear end date, but likely won't be on shelves for long.

This "world's first," according to a Coca-Cola Co. press release, is targeted at teens and women in their 20s and 30s or anyone who can't drink normal Coke.

The company describes the drink as a "match between the deliciousness of Coca-Cola and the popular fruits and strawberry berries that reach the season in winter."

As a kid, I mixed sodas — Coke and Sprite, for example, for a citrusy flavor, or Fanta and Coke for a berry taste. When I saw this new Coke in my local convenience store, the aforementioned memories flooded back, so I bought a few for the office. Read on to see what my Stars and Stripes coworkers thought.

As a former employee of the Coca-Cola bottling plant in Hamburg, Pa., I know my candy water. This beverage offered a nose of antiseptic strawberry. The first sip, moreover, evinced a hint of artificial flavoring with a Twizzler finish. I was most disappointed in the lack of carbonation. The bottle was refrigerated two days prior to opening so I expected effervescence. But this sample was flabby, clearly past its prime. If you're desperate for a thirst-quencher during a five-mile, round-trip run to the South Overrun at Yokota Air Base in July, this is your soda, or "pop," if you prefer. Otherwise, reach for the electrolyte replenishers.

— Joseph Ditzler, Pacific editor

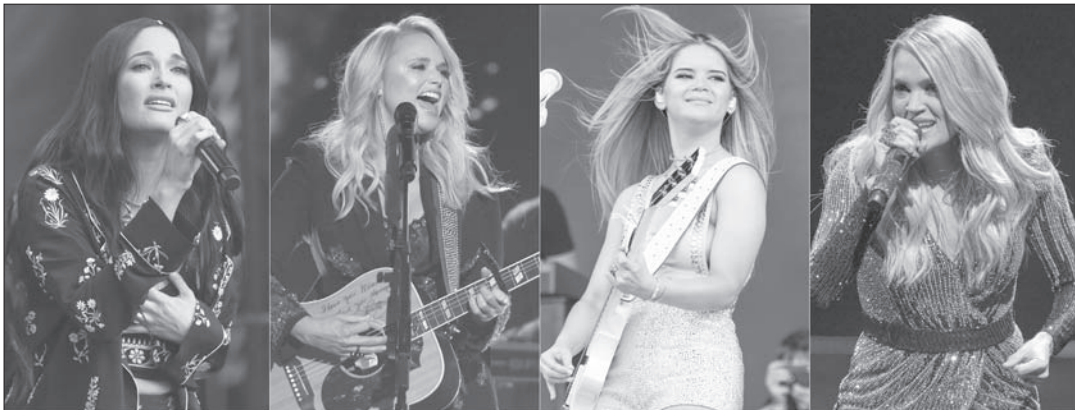
I like sugar and this is pretty sugary. The thing is, I am mainly thinking of what I could mix it with alcohol-wise. But also, if I were to mix it with the Vanilla Float Coke, would it taste like a strawberry Coke milkshake? Also, is this one of those strawberry items flavored with castoreum, aka beaver butt? Still tasty, I guess.

— Chrissy Yates, web editor

After seeing the reactions from my co-workers, it was my turn to try this new concoction from Coke. With a twist of the cap and the sound of fizz escaping, I brought the bottle to my lips. The flavor is strong and reminds me of strawberry syrup poured directly into a Coke. Hints of artificial sweeteners crept my tongue. It's sweet, robust and generally pleasant tasting. With a cost of a little under \$1.25, it won't be my go-to soda, but with the limited run and the hype I will definitely buy one or two more in the near future.

— Seth Robson, reporter

## WEEKEND: MUSIC



AP photos

Kacey Musgraves, Miranda Lambert, Maren Morris and Carrie Underwood are a few of the highly successful female country artists who many feel have been underrepresented.

# Their time has finally come

A tweetstorm leads stations to pledge equal airtime for female country artists

By KRISTIN M. HALL  
Associated Press

What started as a joke on Twitter about an unwritten rule among country radio stations not to play two female artists in a row prompted outrage by country music stars, but also pledges to give women equal airtime.

A now-deleted tweet by a Michigan radio station, 98 WKQC-FM, claimed “we cannot play two females back to back” in response to a writer for *Variety* magazine. The station’s parent company later denied that was ever a rule, but the fire that had been steadily smoldering for years over the perceived barriers to women in country music had already been reignited.

Grammy-winning country singer Kacey Musgraves snapped back on Twitter to the station, “And yet, they can play 18 dudes who sound exactly the same back to back.”

Kelsea Ballerini chimed in to say, “I’m really sorry that in 2020, after YEARS of conversation of equal play, there are still some companies that make their stations play by these rules.”

But others took immediate action.

CMT announced Jan. 21 that they would institute equal airplay for female artists across their two channels. And a country radio station in Ontario, Canada, started an equal play initiative for one week, pledging to split the airplay time 50-50 between male and female voices.

The so-called rule against playing two women back to back

is a familiar excuse heard by country singer Mickey Guyton, who was one of several female country stars tweeting about the controversy.

“I have also heard them say that women need to write better songs,” said Guyton, in an email interview with *The Associated Press*.

Guyton said the industry is more concerned with finding reasons why women aren’t succeeding than finding solutions. “For the longest time, I was so scared to speak up because I was taught to fear losing the support of the industry, but you can’t lose what you don’t have,” said Guyton, who has a new single called “Sister.” “The people who have felt underrepresented are thanking me for standing up for something that they have seen go on for a long time.”

“No women back to back” might not be a rule, but statistics show that overall country radio has put it in practice for the past two decades.

Jada Watson, a professor at the University of Ottawa who studies country music and gender, found that country radio has been severely lopsided for several years in how many female artists are played.



EVAN AGOSTINI, INVISION/AP

Singer-actress Jennifer Nettles wears an outfit with wording asking radio stations to play more songs by women at the CMA Awards in Nashville on Nov. 13.

Her report, in consultation with WOMAN Nashville, found that between 2000 and 2018, there was a 66% decline in the number of songs by female art-

ists on country radio.

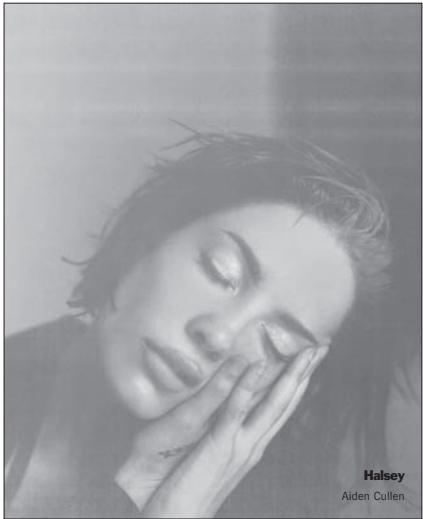
“Ultimately what they’re doing with these 50/50 and equal play campaigns is retraining an audience to be familiar with female

voices, who they’ve not heard for the last decade,” Watson said.

Still this is not surprising

CONTINUED ON PAGE 37

## WEEKEND: MUSIC REVIEWS



Halsey  
Aiden Cullen

## Halsey

Manic (Capitol Records)

On May 1, Halsey wore a shiny suit jacket to join BTS for a televised rendition of their euphoric disco-pop collaboration, “Boy With Luv,” at the Billboard Music Awards. Less than three weeks later, the singer was back on screens with a bloody nose in the video for her song “Nightmare,” in which she sings about the “wreckage of my life” over a thrashing electro-metal beat.

The two performances demonstrated the uncommon stylistic and emotional range that’s made Halsey — whose aptly titled new album, “Manic,” dropped Jan. 17 — such a durable presence in the streaming age. If pop once required an easily branded persona, it now requires flexibility in its biggest stars; the narrative through line can be pieced together by the kids paying close attention on TikTok and Instagram.

To anyone watching from a distance, though, it’s not always been clear who precisely Halsey is — a blurriness that’s cost her among old-guard gatekeepers like those at the Recording Academy, which iced her out in nominations for last weekend’s Grammy Awards even as her trap-goth “Without Me” finished last year with well over a billion streams on YouTube and Spotify.

You can tell the establishment’s disregard has stung; Halsey’s written about it on Twitter, and she used a win at November’s fan-voted American Music Awards to defensively shout out to “the people who really ... [care] about music.” And though “Manic,” her third LP, maintains her signature all-over-the-place approach, songs like “Clementine” and “I Hate Everybody” find her craving a kind of



approval she suspects will never come.

“I should be living the dream,” she sings in “Still Learning.” “But I go home and I got no self-esteem.”

Yet the surprisingly refined roots-and-rock stuff is just one part of what Halsey’s doing on

an album that never settles on a distinct mood or point of view. Opens “Ashley” — a nod to Halsey’s real first name — ponders the prison of fame amid spooky synth squiggles; “Killing Boys” is a pounding revenge jam about keying some guy’s Ferrari. “Forever ... (Is a Long Time)” and “I Hate Everybody” — the former gloomy, the latter aggrieved — both surround Halsey’s voice with swirling psych-delic textures that make it only easier to hear whatever you want to hear.

Then there are the album’s so-called interludes — one with Suga of BTS, who raps over a slick K-pop groove; one with Dominic Fike, who does his dirtbag-Jack Johnson thing; and one with Alanis Morissette, who evidently took Halsey’s decision to leave “Nightmare” off the record as an opportunity to indulge her love of industrial music.

As on her earlier records, Halsey can feel like something of a phantom on “Manic,” even when her writing is as vivid as it is in “Graveyard,” which deploys an appealingly creepy metaphor about following a lover way too deep. If you’re still not sure where she wants to go, you can tell how badly she wants to get there.

— Mikael Wood  
Los Angeles Times

## ALA.NI

ACCA (A+HSO)

Paris-based, London-born ALA.NI’s second album, “ACCA,” astounds with its artistry, an adventurous, almost-all-a-capella recording whose intricate arrangements and instantly-familiar melodies prove irresistible.

The self-produced “ACCA” expands on the promise ALA.NI showed on “You & I,” her 2017 debut — a timeless album featuring her crystalline singing and songs set during the four seasons of a year-long affair — and opens a wide horizon for her musical future.

While the songs are dominated by her layered vocals, ALA.NI gets some assistance on several tunes from beat boxer Dave Crowe, while Iggy Pop recites in French in a possible Leonard Cohen homage on “Le Diplomate” and also has a much more typical cameo on “Bitch.”

There’s also some bass guitar, cello and accordion, while a discreet string quartet performs on the gentle, lullaby-like “In the Land,” and on “Hide,” which sounds the most like a “You & I” bonus track. Lakeith Stanfield’s rap on “Van P” provides a bit of contrasting frenzy.



Stylistically, ALA.NI proves to be resourceful, taking the songs in traditional and more modern directions. “ShalLaLa,” as you may have guessed, is in a doo-wop mode, while “Papa” and “Van P” are stripped-down contemporary.

“Papa” is ripe for a smart, respectful remix, its beats and chants practically dance floor-ready.

opener “Differently” sounds like an ode to diversity or romantic skills, but, a bit like The Police’s “Every Breath You Take,” it can also have a more ominous interpretation, a sentiment that also fits the dense and intense “Wales.”

“Away Go” ends “ACCA” on a purely vocal note, as ALA.NI bares her heartbreak and makes it impossible to listen without being affected by her emotional plea for separation.

ALA.NI again shows herself to be an extraordinarily skilled musician, and “ACCA” is an emotionally piercing, timeless album.

— Pablo Gorondi  
Associated Press

## Ethan Gruska

En Garde (Warner Bros. Records)

Ethan Gruska has a well-earned reputation for dreamy experimentation. From his work with the Fleetwood Mac-adjacent Belle Brigade to his 2017 solo debut, “Slowmatory,” the songwriter and multi-instrumentalist has long demonstrated an adventurous musical spirit.

Sometimes the experiments succeed, sometimes they don’t. That pattern continues on Gruska’s latest solo offering, “En Garde,” but the wins are more.

The release is at its best when Gruska anchors the dreamy atmospherics he’s known for in a sturdy foundation of melody.

That’s a big step forward from “Slowmatory,” his occasionally ponderous first album. More direction, focus and structure have helped to elevate the sound-



scapes. That pays off nicely on the album’s better cuts, delivering tunes

that will find their way onto many a mellow playlist. The best of these, “On the Outside,” allows a gentle but slightly serrated electric guitar to lead the way through a soulful pop. “Maybe I’ll Go Nowhere” and “Enough for Now,” with Phoebe Bridgers contributing background vocals, are both well-served by melody.

The album’s best songs show that Gruska’s an artist to keep watching with enough promise to hint that better things lie ahead.

— Scott Stroud  
Associated Press

## FROM PAGE 36

information to anyone in country music. In 2015, a radio consultant who compared women to tomatoes in a salad and encouraged stations to remove female voices from their playlists prompted a similar call for changes in the industry.

Brittany Thompson, program director for CKLX-FM, a country radio station in Kingston, Ontario, said everyone in country music points fingers elsewhere when these gender discussions come up, whether it’s at radio, labels or concert promoters.

“We will use our platform to hopefully at least not only start a discussion, but show that you don’t have to be scared of women on country radio,” said Thompson.

Thompson said that prior to their equal pay initiative, the station was playing about 40% women to 60% male artists for songs that are current. For recurrent and gold playlists, which are songs that have been released months or years prior, the disparity was much larger for women, Thompson said.

“We had a minuscule amount of women. There might have been a couple of Carrie Underwood songs. I don’t think we had any Miranda Lambert songs,” Thompson said. Leslie Fram, senior vice president of music and talent at CMT, has been behind a number of initia-

tives meant to support new and existing female acts in country music, including a popular CMT Next Women of Country tour. She dismissed the critics of equality pledges who say songs should be chosen based on merit, not gender.

“We are basing it on merit,” said Fram. “We’re saying the best song should win, but women should have an equal playing field.”

Other initiatives some stations have taken include playing women for an entire hour, or having programming that is dedicated to playing women. These initiatives are a little frustrating, but it’s better than no action at all, said Brandon Clark, who will be part of CMT’s Next Women of Country tour this year. She applauded CMT for its equality pledge.

“I hate that for women to get played we have to turn ourselves into even more of a minority,” Clark said. “But it has to start somewhere. People can’t like what they don’t hear.”

Guyton wants to see more stations and companies pledge to play more women and stop adhering to false notions about what country listeners want to hear:

“I have a hard time believing that 50 percent of the population doesn’t want to hear songs that represent them,” Guyton said.



WILLY SANJUAN, INVISION/AP

“I have a hard time believing that 50 percent of the population doesn’t want to hear songs that represent them,” country singer Mickey Guyton, shown in 2017, says about giving female country singers’ songs equal play on the radio.





## WEEKEND: TELEVISION &amp; DVD

## NEW ON DVD

**"Doctor Sleep":** Years after the "redrum" in "The Shining," a traumatized adult Dan Torrance (Ewan McGregor) meets a teenage girl (Kyliegh Curran) who shares his gift, and together they must stop a group of vampires called the True Knot that tortures and kills children. While prolific horror writer Stephen King disliked director Stanley Kubrick's "The Shining," he loved director Mike Flanagan's take on his 2013 sequel to the *Overlook Hotel* saga.

**"The Good Liar":** This isn't the first movie wherein Ian McKellen and Helen Mirren have worked together, but "The Good Liar," directed by Bill Condon, is the first one featuring both in costarring roles. In the film, a longtime con artist (McKellen) plans to scam a wealthy widow (Mirren) out of her fortune but has second thoughts after developing feelings from her. And from there, things keep twisting and twisting and twisting.

Also available on DVD: **"Last Christmas":** A disillusioned woman (Emilia Clarke) who works in a year-round New York Christmas store meets a charming man (Henry Golding). **"Playing with Fire":** Firefighters run into trouble while babysitting three kids they rescued. **John Cena** stars.

**"Arctic Dogs":** A team of Arctic animals must work together to thwart a plot by an evil walrus to destroy their habitat in this computer-animated family film.

**"Waves":** A suburban family works to heal after a devastating loss.

**"The House That Jack Built":** A Pacific Northwest serial killer (Matt Dillon) revisits his murders.

**"Dragonheart: Vengeance":** A farmer (Jack Kane) sets off with a dragon and a mercenary to seek revenge against his family's killers.

**"Grand Isle":** A man (Luke Benward) must convince a detective (Kelsey Grammer) he's not a murderer after sinister events unfold at a couple's (Nicolas Cage and KaDee Strickland) home.

**"Keeping Faith - Series 2":** A lawyer (Cec Myles) searches for her missing husband in this BBC thriller series.

**"Mon Mon Monsters!":** A group of teenagers discover a zombie-like creature in this horror comedy. In Mandarin with English subtitles.

**"Rat":** After a medical procedure, an aspiring fashion designer (Laura Vandervoort) wakes up hungry for human blood.

**"The Nightingale":** In colonial Australia, an Irish convict (Aisling Franciosi) recruits an Aboriginal tracker (Baykahl Ganambarr) to help find a British officer (Sam Claflin) who has raped her and killed her family.

**"Trauma Center":** A young woman with a bullet lodged in her leg must escape from the hospital as two killers pursue her. Nicky Whelan and Bruce Willis star.

— Katie Foran-McHale/TNS

# Mirror image

## NBC's 'This Is Us' characters reflect life at its various ages and stages

BY LUAINE LEE  
Tribune News Service

**T**he television series can often become a comfy habit with shows like "Friends," "The Big Bang Theory" or "Roseanne." But TV shows can be more than that, as proved by NBC's popular "This Is Us."

In its fourth season, the show ranks as TV's top-rated drama, which is interesting because it's not a comfy habit but a hardy commitment. Creator Dan Fogelman and his writers weave timelines in and out of the narrative. The tale is about the Pearson family at various ages and stages, so characters transform from dewy teens to confused seniors.

Justin Hartley says playing the son, Kevin, simulates real life.

"It's remarkable how they can keep it so



Mandy Moore plays the family matriarch, Rebecca, on the television series "This Is Us."

consistent with who the characters are, but at the same time, introducing all of these new things that happened to all these guys," he says. "It's like life. It's crazy. You just never know what's going to happen." Chrissy Metz portrays Kevin's sibling, whose weight has plagued her most of her life. The role marked a pivotal point for her, says Metz.

"It provided incredible opportunities and an ability to connect with people I never would have before," she says. "And to portray a character that is so important to not only a television network, but just life, that we've never seen a plus-size

woman in her highs and lows and all the in-betweens and fertility issues and trying to conceive. It's all of those things I never thought I would ever have the ability to do."

"And I get to do this in a really raw, scary, sometimes 'What am I doing?' 'Can I do this?' way ... It's changed me as a person and as a sister, as a daughter, as a friend," she added. "And then, of course, it's provided opportunities that I never ever thought I would have. So I can't even begin to talk about how much it's changed my life."

Chris Sullivan, who costars as Metz's love, agrees.

"This has taught me what it means to love another person and what it means to be vulnerable, what it means to be honest, just by getting to live in this character," he says.



Chris Sullivan plays Toby, the love interest of Chrissy Metz's Kate Pearson, above.



NBC/TNS photos

"And so that's the biggest thing I've learned from this show."

Mandy Moore plays the matriarch, Rebecca. At 35, Moore must transmogrify from an earnest 16-year-old to a senior citizen who's beginning to exhibit signs of senility.

Fogelman says he's amazed at her ability to transform herself.

"Rebecca is in a Chinese restaurant and getting kind of confused as to where she is," he says. "And Ken Olin, our director who's been doing this for about 200 years — I was watching it in my office, and I called him in because he had directed the episode. And I pulled up the scene. I was, like,

"What? How is she doing this? And he said, 'Dan, I honestly, I don't know ... I don't know how she's doing it.' And we sat and tried to analyze, looking at the little things she was doing. It's really, really extraordinary."

"I'm looking at the performance when I'm in the edit bay and going, 'Oh, did I like that take of older Rebecca or that take?'" he adds. "And I'm no longer even contemplating the fact that it's a 35-year-old woman playing the part. I'm looking at it as an actor. I think it's really extraordinary work."

Moore says she's grateful for the opportunity.

"I continue to feel like the luckiest person on the planet to be a part of this show, with this cast, with this family," says Moore, who's planning a musical tour. "And the fact that I'm able to sort of revisit music and have all this other stuff happening in life, I mean, it's pretty fantastic. The show keeps us all so emotionally and creatively fulfilled that there's really no need to have anything on the outside happening beyond what we get to do for eight months of the year. But I feel incredibly lucky."

The complex format, however, can be difficult for new viewers, admits Fogelman.

"A lot of them are watching it on Hulu or streaming devices or in other ways," he says. "I think that's a complicated thing. It adjusts how we're making the series, sometimes, where you can't just count that everybody is going to be watching it live, and then they're going to be watching the next episode a week later, biting their nails, wondering what's going to happen."

"A lot of people are going to wait four weeks and then watch them all together," he adds. "Or a lot of people are going to be watching it in a year and a half. So it's a challenge for all people who are doing our job."

**'It's like life. It's crazy. You just never know what's going to happen.'**

Justin Hartley  
Kevin Pearson on "This Is Us"

## WEEKEND: HEALTH &amp; FITNESS

## NO BEEF

Vegan hip-hop stars using their influence to inspire healthy choices

By LAURA REILEY  
The Washington Post

Rapper Stic.man was a 20-year-old in Brooklyn trying to get a record deal, deep in what his wife calls the original hip-hop lifestyle: burgers, blunts and booze. “I had picked up some bad habits, smoking herb all the time, drinking every day in the urban obstacle course,” says Stic.man, aka Khnum Muata Ibomu but born Clayton Gavin. “I woke up one morning and my ankle was giganticly swollen, and I found out I had gout. That was my wake-up call. It was a blessing that revealed my path.”

Stic, one-half of the political duo Dead Prez, has been a vegan for two decades since then. Like several of hip-hop’s titans — think Jay-Z and members of Wu-Tang Clan — Stic has parlayed his passion into a business that allows him to preach the lifestyle benefits of going meatless, and make a little extra green on the side.

It seems to be working. A 2016 Pew Research Center survey found 3 percent of American adults overall identified as vegan and only 1 percent of Hispanic Americans. That number jumps to a startling 8 percent among African American adults. In Gallup’s latest findings on consumers’ meat-eating changes, whites reported eating 10 percent less meat in the past 12 months while people of color reported eating 31 percent less.

The intertwining of African American performers and veganism is tight and intricate, with threads running through lifestyle choices and business decisions of some of music’s titans. Eight out of 10 of the Wu-Tang Clan identify as vegan or vegetarian. Jay-Z and Beyoncé famously offered free tickets to fans if they went vegan. Rapper Jaden Smith, son of Will Smith and Jada Pinkett Smith, launched a vegan food truck for the homeless; rapper Cardi B started a vegan fashion line. ASAP Rocky rapped about veganism on his recent single “Babushka Boy.”

Jay-Z was listed as a hip-hop’s first billionaire by Forbes in 2019. Much of his portfolio is glamorous food and beverage businesses that add lustre to his brand. A purported \$310 million of his fortune comes from Armand de Brignac Champagne and another \$100 million from D’Usse cognac.

But the star also has begun investing in companies that align with his enthusiasm for a meatless lifestyle. In 2015,

he and Beyoncé partnered with her trainer Marco Borges to launch 22 Days Nutrition, a high-end vegan meal planning and delivery service with an estimated annual revenue of \$2.7 million.

And last year Jay-Z’s venture capital firm Marcy Venture Partners invested \$1 million in Partake Foods, a black-owned startup that makes allergen-free vegan cookies.

**“Hip-hop is the biggest influence on planet Earth when it comes to young people. It’s the CNN for the black community. If we can move it in a green direction, the world will move in a green direction.”**

Keith Tucker  
Seattle-based health activist

He’s also invested in Impossible Foods, the company responsible for the popular plant-based Impossible Burger.

Jay-Z joined fellow celebrities Katy Perry, Serena Williams, Jaden Smith, Trevor Noah and Zedd in a \$300 million investment that brought the company past \$750 million in funding. Jay-Z did not respond to requests for comment. RZA, Ghostface and GZA of Wu-Tang Clan have promoted Impossible Sliders at White Castle. Snopp Dogg is an ambassador for Beyond Meat.

Of course, the investment from such hip-hop legends is a drop in the bucket: Investors have poured more than \$16 billion into American plant-based and cell-based meat companies in the past 10 years, \$13 billion of that just in 2017-18. Hip-hop legends also are turning to plant-based ventures as career Plan B’s that allow for high visibility as they give back to their communities.

Jadakiss and Styles P of the hip-hop group the Lox, which had its heyday in the late 1990s, have launched juice bars called Juices for Life, with four locations in the Bronx, Yonkers and Brooklyn,

and Stic.man runs RBG Fit Club in Atlanta with his wife, Ayia Ibomu, offering cooking demonstrations, live performances and merchandise. Although four out of the top 10 “most trusted” brands are food companies, food brands and restaurant concepts have been politically fraught, as well as notoriously risky investments with high failure rates. For this growing number of celebrities, plant-based investments may make ideological sense as well as dollars and cents.

Data from the Good Food Institute and the trade group Plant Based Food Association shows that while the U.S. retail food market grew overall by only 2 percent from April 2018 to April 2019, plant-based products grew an impressive 11 percent.

Burger-oriented fast-food restaurants, overrepresented in low-income “food swamps,” are seen as opportunities to introduce plant-based options. Although market research firm NPD Group found almost 90 percent of the people eating non-meat burgers are not vegetarian or vegan, a 2018 Gallup poll found that Americans who earn less than \$30,000 are almost twice as likely to be vegan or vegetarian than those who earn more than \$75,000.

And the market is likely to keep growing. According to research firm PitchBook, more than 47 companies that make meat and dairy products from plants have raised \$2.29 billion from venture capitalists in the past decade, a quarter of it in 2019 alone. Acumen Research and Consulting predicts plant-based meat sales will reach \$6.5 billion by 2026,

this popular food category Googled three times more frequently than gluten-free and vegetarian products. And it predicts that the global vegan food market will grow at an annual rate of 9.1 percent to reach a value of \$24.3 billion by that same year.

There were nine elements of hip-hop, as codified in a KR5-One song of that name in 2003, which included things like DJing and beatboxing. The 10th element of hip-hop, added in 2016, is health and wellness. A bit of a departure from components like break-dancing and street fashion, its elements include plant-based eating, organic gardening, fitness, sobriety, food justice and animal rights activism. But like the other nine elements, health and wellness has proved to be a source of livelihood for practitioners.

According to Rolling Stone, hip-hop dominates music streaming, accounting for 24.7 percent of songs consumed in 2018. Its dominance is predicted to continue, with performers such as Drake, Kendrick Lamar, the Weeknd, Migos and Cardi B at the top. Black listeners are the largest user group of streaming services, and the role of streaming itself is forecast by Goldman Sachs to more than double to about \$131 billion by 2030.

“Hip-hop is the biggest influence on planet Earth when it comes to young people,” said Keith Tucker, a Seattle-based health activist. “It’s the CNN for the black community. If we can move it in a green direction, the world will move in a green direction. It’s going viral right now.”

“We did drugs and gangbanging and sex over and over again and saw that these things aren’t conducive to a healthy world.”





## WEEKEND: FAMILY

## Music to parents' ears

Streaming audio content for kids is on the rise

By LEANNE ITALIE  
Associated Press

Melanie Musson in Belgrade, Mont., does a lot of driving with her four girls. Juggling a broad age range, 1 to 9, she's forever searching for ways to keep them all entertained without relying entirely on video.

While she still addresses paper and tablet books for her kids, Musson said, "I think when they hear without seeing, they have to make up visuals in their heads. That's so good. They have to be engaged and get more out of it."

There are plenty of quality audiobooks, podcasts and music for the young, she noted, but weeding through thousands of selections and jumping from platform to platform is a challenge since audio content has exploded over the past few years.

Dad blogger Balint Horvath in Zurich, Mont., agreed after trying to make sense of kid options for his 14-month-old daughter.

"I couldn't find any resource that would organize podcasts according to different criteria. Information without proper searchability is like looking for a needle in a haystack," said Horvath, who works as a productivity coach for research and development teams.

Audiobooks and music for kids have been around awhile, but podcasts made for the 3-to-12 set are relatively new, driving more parents to choose one-stop platforms that include all formats.

Demand is "primarily driven by parents who are podcast listeners or audiobook fans," said Frannie Ucciferri, associate managing editor for the nonprofit Common Sense Media.

With a huge bump in podcasts overall, the vast majority of audio content for kids hasn't been lost on companies large and small.

Spotify recently launched a new ad-free app, Spotify Kids, as a free extension for premium family subscribers. Not yet available in the U.S., it's packed with singalongs, soundtracks and stories for children as young as 3. Platform called Pinna is among the latest to launch ad-free with a variety of content and ages in mind, at \$7.99 a month or \$79.99 a year. Others stick to podcasts alone, while Amazon's FreeTime Unlimited allows parents to customize a child's experience to provide the most relevant books, videos, apps and more without ads, starting at \$2.99 a month.

Old-school broadcasters are also getting into the act. Boston's WGBH, for instance, widely shares free of cost two of its top podcasts for young people: "Molly of Denali," based on the TV series about a girl in Alaska, and "The Creeping Hour," for ages 8 to 12. More are planned as part of the public affiliate's "ongoing exploration of audio storytelling," said WGBH spokeswoman Jeanne Hopkins. "Young Way of Vancouver, British Columbia, has five kids, ranging



The Pinna app is displayed on a computer, mobile phone and tablet. The on-demand streaming service offers podcast, audiobook and music compilations for kids.

from 2 to 12, and like Musson, she pulls a lot of travel time with her brood. She reaches for audiobooks to keep them happy, even on short trips, and relies a lot on her local library for free selections.

"Yes, it can be challenging to find books that everyone is happy listening to. My 4-year-old is probably exposed to things that her older sisters wouldn't have heard at that age. We started with short stories like Robert Munsch and 'Curious George,' and moved to longer stories like the 'Chronicles of Narnia,'" she said.

**'There's a real desire now to figure out how the media diet in a kid's day, in a kid's week, can include things that aren't wholly screen-based.'**

Maggie McGuire  
CEO of Pinna

Some of her kids are prone to motion sickness, and listening rather than reading helps, Way said. She sees other benefits as well.

"Audiobooks create a shared experience. We're able to discuss the books after we've listened to them, which has been a lot of fun," she said.

Maggie McGuire is a former teacher who has been in children's media for more than 20 years. She's now CEO of Pinna, which both curates and creates for kids ages 3 to 12. It offers more than 2,000 audiobooks, podcasts and songs while also producing original podcasts, all ad-free and in compliance with federal standards aimed at protecting children's privacy and safety online, McGuire said. It's available as an app and usable off the Pinna. fm website.

Podcasts, McGuire said, are a "fresh new format that everyone's very excited about."

The company worked with

parents and teachers to understand what they were looking for in audio content. Among their priorities were a "one-stop solution" and a high level of curation to ensure quality and that all content was tucked into a safe platform exclusively for kids. "There's a real desire now to figure out how the media diet in a kid's day, in a kid's week, can include things that aren't wholly screen-based," McGuire said.

Last year, Pinna produced 25 podcasts of its own, and plans to grow that number this year. Its slate of originals accounts for half the listening among its consumers, McGuire said. The Amazon-owned Audible.com, a dominant force in audiobooks, is also reaping benefits from the increased interest in kid content. In 2019, the company said, Audible listeners downloaded 40 percent more such content than they had in 2018. The company offers more than 30,000 titles for kids among more than 475,000 overall.

"Parents and families are excited about listening together before bedtime. They're listening on road trips. They're listening while they're making dinner," said Diana Dapipo, a senior vice president of content at Audible.

Audible worked with R.L. Stine on its original "Camp Red Moon," with Pteromorph Publishing on Wizarding World audiobooks and has produced more than 100 audiobooks of the "Baby-Sitters Club" series, including some narrated by Elle Fanning. In September, Audible released an original of Jessica Khoury's middle-grade "The Mystwick School of Musicraft" with music performed by the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra Youth Orchestra.

Parents' nostalgia has played a role in kids' listening, Dapipo said, but so has the emergence of home speakers such as Alexa.

"It's easier than ever for kids to have access," she said. "And for everybody to come together."

## THE MEAT AND POTATOES OF LIFE

Lisa Smith Molinari



## Attention-seeking, #MeToo and TV

On Monday nights, my 19-year-old daughter, Lilly, and I commandeer the television to watch a show that admittedly has no cultural value. Though billed as a reality show, it's not based on reality at all. It's a carefully contrived dating competition in which 30 women compete for the affections of one man in the midst of sprawling hilltop villas, sequined gowns, helicopter dates, tropical resorts, champagne-fueled cocktail parties, rose ceremonies and ginormous diamond engagement rings.

That show is, of course, "The Bachelor." When it first aired in 2002, ABC had no idea that "The Bachelor" would become so popular that it's now in its 24th season and has spawned several spinoffs — "The Bachelorette," "Bachelor Pad," "Bachelor in Paradise," "Bachelor in Paradise: After Paradise" and "Bachelor Winter Games." No one could predict that millions of loyal viewers would be known as #BachelorNation, throwing weekly parties, forming fan clubs and betting on contestants in "Bachelor" fantasy leagues.

Lilly and I aren't fanatics, but we've played Bachelor Bingo during a few shows, marking squares on cards we printed from the internet with common Bachelor phrases — "my journey," "not here to make friends," "can I steal you for a sec?" and common Bachelor scenes — "make-out session" or "Bump and Grind" and "saddle hug."

It's all in good fun, I tell myself. But sometimes I wonder, do contestants' attention-seeking behaviors negatively impact stereotypes of women in the #MeToo generation?

Producers ramp up the drama to satisfy fans who expect host Chris Harrison to make good on his promise that every season participants must "open up" and "be vulnerable." Contestants engage in more and more outrageous antics to win the Bachelor's heart, or at least to be considered for one of the spinoff shows. If they play their cards right, they might even be invited to compete on another reality show, "Dancing with the Stars."

In early seasons of "The Bachelor," good looks and stunning formalwear were enough to get viewers to notice them. But 23 seasons later, contestants willingly humiliate themselves for attention. "Hmm," they ponder, "perhaps I'll get more airtime if I step out of the limo with a humongous windmill strapped on my back, wear a giant paper airplane around my knees, or escort a dairy cow into the mansion on a leash?"

Although coyness was an advantage in earlier seasons, today's Bachelor contestants must "open up" and "be vulnerable." Women must take the Bachelor aside, force crocodile tears and reveal debilitating insecurities, shocking family dysfunction, incarcerated relatives or childhood trauma involving amusement park rides.

If a contender is disadvantaged by good mental health, she can still employ the oldest trick in the book — sex. In the irony that is "The Bachelor," ladies must maintain an air of chastity and virtue while throwing themselves at the Bachelor every chance they get. In the early years, participants didn't smooch until halfway through the season. But in 2020, competitors lock lips with the Bachelor within hours of entering Villa de la Vina, profess the "L-word" soon thereafter, and willingly have sex in the Fantasy Suites, in the ocean or in a windmill. A contestant on the current season surprised the Bachelor during her introduction with a blindfold and a steamy kiss. Smooch.

What does the future hold for this pop-culture phenomenon? What will contestants do to win five years from now? Dispense with sequin gowns and foreplay altogether, and beckon the Bachelor into the limo for an introductory shag? Will producers add a Pregnancy Testing Group Date for a suspenseful new twist? Would viewers tune in to find out: Will the Bachelor propose to his baby mama?

I'm not sure if "The Bachelor" is irreparably damaging human culture or if it's just mindless fun, but one thing is for certain — on Monday nights, Lilly and I will be there, pencils poised over our bingo cards.

Read more of Lisa Smith Molinari's columns at: [the.meatandpotatoesoflife.com](http://the.meatandpotatoesoflife.com)  
Email: [meatandpotatoesoflife@googlemail.com](mailto:meatandpotatoesoflife@googlemail.com)

WEEKEND: CROSSWORD AND COMICS

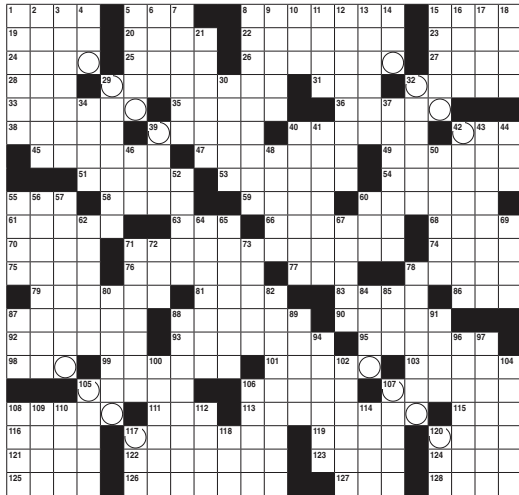
NEW YORK TIMES CROSSWORD

BIOTECHNOLOGY

BY VICTOR BAROCCAS / EDITED BY WILL SHORTZ

Victor Barocas is a professor of biomedical engineering at the University of Minnesota with more than 100 published works in the field. Given his profession, the genesis of this puzzle (specified out at 71-Across) is probably obvious. Besides the theme, Victor included colorful fill like 8- and 29-Across and 8-, 43-, 56-, 82- and 100-Down—all of which help make for enjoyable solving. This is Victor's 14th crossword for The Times and his fifth Sunday in the past year.—W.S.

- ACROSS
1 Homeowner's action, for short
5 Things blockers block
8 1979 film inspired by Janis Joplin's life
15 Indistinct shape
19 Receptionist on "The Office"
20 Be bothered by
22 Island nation west of Fiji
23 Possible consequence of default, in brief
24 Wildflower with spiky, purplish blooms
25 Secure
26 Ruling family of Edward I
27 Finished
28 Adam's \_\_\_ (water)
29 Hole in one's head
31 Humpty Dumpty, e.g.
32 "Dallas" family name
33 The Anne of "Anne of the Thousand Days"
35 Feverish
36 Put back on
38 Intimating
39 \_\_\_
40 James who won an Emmy two years in a row for the same role on different shows
42 \_\_\_
43 Ignorant person, in slang
47 Security-system array
49 Total
51 Angered by
53 Ancient monuments
54 Gaston — "The Phantom of the Opera" novelist
55 Latte choice, informally
58 The "she" in the lyric "She would merengue and do the cha-cha"
59 W.W. I French biplane
60 Capital of Albania
61 Like much of Iowa
63 1980 Olympic hockey champs
66 Up
68 Shark fighters
70 "Believe \_\_\_ not!"
71 Biological manipulation suggested four times by this puzzle
74 First African-American Davis Cup player
75 Beethoven's birthplace
76 Comprehension
77 Tender spot?
78 Like the sun god Inti
79 Some liturgical vestments
81 \_\_\_ de Triomphe
83 It's down in the dumps
86 First National Leaguer to hit 500 home runs
87 Fall color providers
88 Some instant coffees
90 Cheyenne Mountain org.
92 Stays out of
93 Closes in a thin membrane
95 Disappointing response to an application
98 Remarkable ability of a starfish
99 Use a rototiller on, say
101 Lack of variation
103 "ER" actress Laura
105 Turn out
106 Service with more than 1.5 billion users
107 Home of the Latino Walk of Fame, informally
108 Composer of the "London" symphonies
111 Big e-cigarette brand
113 Athlete's foot brand
115 Good for leaving handprints in
116 State without reservations
117 \_\_\_
119 Provider of child support?
120 \_\_\_
121 Polynesian carving
122 Dreamer
123 Half in advance?
124 Unique individual
125 Starting point
126 Broadway's "\_\_\_ Todd"
127 "Hamilton" Tony nominee
128 Loch \_\_\_ site of Urquhart Castle
DOWN
1 Goes through physical therapy
2 Anon
3 Beethoven's only opera
4 As a rule
5 City that ancient Greeks called Philadelphia
6 Christian with a big house
7 Winter vehicle
8 Mike and Carol Brady, e.g.
9 Berry receiving much attention in the 2000s
10 Bambi's aunt
11 Bit of ancient script
12 Ingredient in some health-food supplements
13 Not occurring naturally
14 Romanian-born writer once in the French Academy
15 Cook on the outside
16 Tribe of Moses and Aaron
17 Available to the public
18 Wimbledon champ, 1976-80
21 First takes
22 Gag item floating in Halloween punch
30 Brother on "Frasier"
32 Breadwinner
34 Ancient Dead Sea land
37 Woody
39 \_\_\_
40 Rooms with views
41 Forecast
42 \_\_\_
43 Phrase of agreement
44 Subject for Kinsey
46 Olden Tokyo
48 Flower part
49 Total
50 Roman emperor before Hadrian
52 "Nyah, nyah!" e.g.
55 Nursery sight
56 Insurance for the crash-prone
57 Big story
60 Start of a countdown
62 Composer
64 Repair material
65 Skeptically
67 Aposide called "the Zealot"
69 Launched
71 Didn't know but said something anyway
72 Midlength records, for short
73 Full of spirit
78 From Shiraz or Tabriz
80 Country star Womack
82 Greenbacks
84 1990s-2000s compact car
85 Smelter's supply
87 Locale for an capitalist
88 It doesn't need land to land
89 Sometimes-white animal
91 Rackets
94 Smiles smugly
96 Twist together
97 X's
100 Chafe
102 QB protection
104 Companions of Dionysus
105 John Wilkes Booth's actor brother
106 Wikipedia's logo
107 Refrain from nursery singing
108 "In time we \_\_\_ that which we often fear": Shuk
109 Devoted
110 Make into a couple
112 Magazine with the motto "Cure ignorance"
114 Staff note
117 \_\_\_
118 First name in spy literature
120 \_\_\_

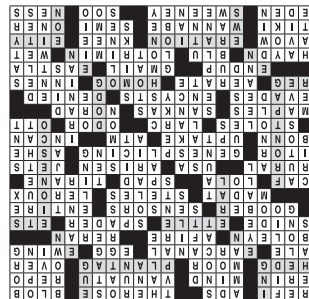


GUNSTON STREET



"Gunston Street" is drawn by Basil Zaviski. Email him at gunstonstreet@yahoo.com, and visit gunstonstreet.com.

RESULTS FOR ABOVE PUZZLE



STARS AND STRIPES 15 YEARS IN AFGHANISTAN. Includes images of soldiers in Afghanistan.

The story of the U.S. military's role in Afghanistan, as seen through the eyes of Stars and Stripes journalists covering America's longest war. Only \$14.99 with Free Shipping. ORDER NOW at www.stripesstore.com. Includes an image of the book cover.

## FACES



# Anything for family

Redford returns to acting — sort of — at grandson's request

By JAKE COYLE  
Associated Press

Midway through the film festival he founded more than four decades ago, Robert Redford hopped out of a car and hollered to his grandson. The 28-year-old Dylan Redford was later that evening to premiere at Sundance a film he co-directed.

"OK, Dylan. This is your moment," Redford said with a grin. "Don't blow it."

Redford, 83, created the Sundance Institute, which puts on the annual Park City festival, to give young filmmakers their moment — a platform to showcase something different. Occasionally, that's included the work of his own family. Redford's generosity extends far enough that he'll say yes even when his grandson asks if he'll take a momentary break from retirement to appear in an unconventional Miami mosaic titled "Omniboat: A Fast Boat Fantasia." And voice a dolphin named Lokka.

"He broached the idea to me in California. When they put the idea forward, I said, 'That sounds like a really interesting idea. Go do it and I'll play whatever role you want me to play.'" Redford recalled in an interview alongside Dylan. "And they said, 'OK, you be the voice of the dolphin.'"

Redford smiled. "At least I'm not a whale."

"Omniboat" premiered Sunday at Sundance. Dylan is one of 15 directors of the film, a surreal Miami travelogue through the lens of a variety of filmmakers with the only proviso that their chapter include the movie's central speedboat. It's a product of a Miami-based nonprofit collective called the Borscht Corporation that Dylan has worked with. He hopes it's the start of a filmmaking career.

"It almost feels like I didn't really have a choice," says Dylan, who has the auburn hair and warm demeanor of a Redford. "I was born into it. I've always felt so supported by my grandfather, my dad, my mom. This is where I want to be. This is the type of work I wanted to be making: fresh, forward-looking."

Dylan is just starting out while his famous grandfather is easing into retirement. Redford's last film as an actor (not counting "Omniboat") was 2018's "The Old Man & the Gun," a poignant finale for an actor who has always considered himself an outlaw.

Redford has now stepped back to produce. The last of his projects, he says, is "1909 East Palace," about J. Robert Oppenheimer and the creation of the atomic bomb. Word has gotten out that Redford isn't available. Scripts, he says, "don't come to me so much anymore." And he's happy with that.

"I'm enjoying it a lot. I'm going back to the way I started before I became a filmmaker which was to be an artist, a painter and a sketch artist. I missed that," says Redford. "That's how I observe the world around me."

Dylan's father, James Redford, is a filmmaker, too, working mainly in documentaries. He also helps run the Redford Center, a nonprofit focused on environmental filmmaking.

"It kind of runs in my family that we're not just satisfied by making a movie. It's a broader ecosystem that we're all really invested in," says Dylan. "I grew up seeing how my grandpa was always invested in not just the movie itself but incubating the infrastructure to make sure unheard voices were being platformed."

This year's Sundance was the first in decades that wasn't kicked off with a press conference with Redford. He has been content to recede as the face of the festival.

"When you think you've achieved something, you get to the point where you say: 'What can I put back? For me, putting back was giving new filmmakers the chance to have their voices heard,'" Redford says. "What can I do to support that? It just felt good. Putting something back means that you're making something continue. You hope."

## Sotomayor plans kids' book on civics, heroes

Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor wants young children to think of citizenship in a different way.

The justice sat down with Grammy Award-winning singer Gloria Estefan in Miami and told a crowd of hundreds about the idea for her next children's book, which will be about civic participation.

Sotomayor said her preferred title would be "How To Be a Hero," and the book will portray acts of civic participation as heroic.

"People think of citizenship as a formal title of belonging to a country," she said. "Citizenship with a small 'c' is what we are in every community that we choose to live in: whether it's your building, your block, the community of the church, the community of your school."

Appointed to the court by President Barack Obama in 2009, Sotomayor said she wants to use her platform as a justice to inspire children through books, this time by helping "kids understand what it takes to change the world."

"Everyone of us has a responsibility to make that community better. And that's what makes heroes — it's those people who see something wrong in their community and say 'I will work to change that,'" she said.

## 'Days of Our Lives' gets a 56th season

There's more life ahead for the NBC daytime serial "Days of Our Lives," renewed for a 56th season.

It will continue to air on NBC, the network said Wednesday, despite speculation it might move to the Peacock streaming service set to arrive this year.

Executive producer Ken Corday said in a statement that "we are excited to continue delivering compelling stories to our loyal family of fans into this new decade."

"Days of our Lives," NBC's longest-running series, is set in the fictional Midwestern city of Salem and revolves around the Brady, Horton and DiMera families. The serial debuted in 1965 and has collected 57 Emmy Awards including, in 2018, its most recent best daytime drama trophy.

The cast includes Deirdre Hall and John Ashton.

From The Associated Press

Robert Redford, right, voices a dolphin in grandson and director Dylan Redford's "Omniboat: A Fast Boat Fantasia."

CHARLES SYKES, INVISION/AP

## Author tour for controversial Oprah pick 'American Dirt' is canceled

Associated Press

The publisher of Jeanine Cummins' controversial novel "American Dirt" has canceled the remainder of her promotional tour, citing concerns for her safety.

The novel about a Mexican mother and her young son fleeing to the U.S. border had been praised widely before its Jan. 21 release and was chosen by Oprah Winfrey for her book club. But Mexican American writers have been among those strongly criticizing "American Dirt" for stereo-

typical depictions of Mexicans. Cummins is of Irish and Puerto Rican background and had herself raised questions about the narrative. Writing in an author's note at the end of the book that she had wondered if "someone slightly browner than me" should have done it.

"Jeanine Cummins spent five years of her life writing this book with the intent to shine a spotlight on tragedies facing immigrants," Bob Miller, president and publisher of Flatiron Books, said in a statement Wednesday. "We are saddened that a work

of fiction that was well-intentioned has led to such vitriolic rancor.

"Unfortunately, our concerns about safety have led us to the difficult decision to cancel the book tour."

Flatiron Books is instead hoping to organize a series of town hall discussions.

Cummins, 45, had made a handful of promotional appearances since her book was released, but over the past few days the St. Louis-based Left Bank Books had called off an event and Flatiron had canceled interviews in California. The tour for

her heavily promoted book had been scheduled to last at least through mid-February.

Earlier Wednesday, dozens of authors, including Valeria Luiselli, Viet Thanh Nguyen and Anthony Browne, published an open letter to Winfrey that urged her to reconsider her selection of Cummins' novel.

Despite the criticism, Cummins' novel was easily the top-selling work of fiction last week, according to NPJ BookScan, which tracks around 85 percent of the print market. "American Dirt" sold more than 48,000 copies during its first week.



STARS AND STRIPES

Max D. Lederer Jr., Publisher  
 Lt. Col. Sean Kirmec, Europe commander  
 Lt. Col. Richard McClinton, Pacific commander  
 Caroline E. Miller, Europe Business Operations  
 Joshua M. Lashbrook, Pacific Chief of Staff

EDITORIAL

Terry Leonard, Editor  
 tleonard@stripes.com  
 Robert H. Reid, Senior Managing Editor  
 rhreid@stripes.com  
 Tina Croley, Managing Editor for Content  
 tcroley@stripes.com  
 Sean Moores, Managing Editor for Presentation  
 smoores@stripes.com  
 Joe Gromelski, Managing Editor for Digital  
 jgromelski@stripes.com

BUREAU STAFF

**Europe/Mideast**  
 Erik Slavin, Europe & Mideast Bureau Chief  
 erik.slavin@stripes.com  
 +149(0)31.3615.9350, DSN (314)583.9350

**Pacific**  
 Aaron Kidd, Pacific Bureau Chief  
 kidd.aaron@stripes.com  
 +1.812.552.2511 ext. 88380, DSN (315)277.380

**Washington**  
 Joseph Caccioli, Washington Bureau Chief  
 caccioli@stripes.com  
 +1(202)886-0023  
 Brian Bowers, Assistant Managing Editor, News  
 bowers.brian@stripes.com

CIRCULATION

**Mideast**  
 Robert Reismann, Mideast Circulation Manager  
 robert.reismann@stripes.com  
 xsscirculation@stripes.com  
 DSN (314)583-9111

**Europe**  
 Karen Lewis, Community Engagement Manager  
 lewis.karen@stripes.com  
 +149(0)31.3615.9090, DSN (314)583.9090

**Pacific**  
 Mari Mori, CustomerHelp@stripes.com  
 +1.851.6385.3171; DSN (315)227.7333

CONTACT US

**Washington**  
 Dept. (+1)202.886.0003  
 633 3rd St. NW, Suite 116, Washington, DC 20001-3050

**Reader letters**  
 letters@stripes.com

**Additional contacts**  
 stripes.com/contactus

OMBSMAN

Ernie Gates

The Stars and Stripes ombudsman protects the free flow of news and information, reporting any attempts by the military or other authorities to undermine the newspaper's independence. The ombudsman also responds to concerns and questions from readers, and monitors coverage for fairness, objectivity, timeliness and balance. The ombudsman welcomes comments from readers, and can be contacted by email at ombudsman@stripes.com, or by phone at (202) 886-0003.

Stars and Stripes (USPS 0417900) is published weekdays (except Dec. 25 and Jan. 1) for 50 cents Monday through Thursday and for \$1 on Friday by Pacific Stars and Stripes, Unit 45002, APO AP 96502-0150. Periodicals postage paid at San Francisco, CA. Postmaster: Send address changes to Pacific Stars and Stripes, Unit 45002, APO AP 96502-0150.

This newspaper is authorized by the Department of Defense for members of the military services overseas. However, the contents of Stars and Stripes are unofficial, and are not to be considered as the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. government. As a DOD newspaper, Stars and Stripes may be distributed through official channels and use appropriated funds for distribution to remote locations where overseas DOD personnel are located.

The appearance of advertising in this publication does not constitute endorsement by the Department of Defense or Stars and Stripes of the products or services advertised. Products or services advertised shall be made available for purchase, use or patronage without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, marital status, physical handicap, political affiliation or any other nonmilitary factor of the purchaser, user or patron.

© Stars and Stripes 2020

stripes.com

OPINION

We're not prepared for the next pandemic

By TOM FRIEDEN  
*Special to The Washington Post*

**A**s the coronavirus spreads beyond China, the world is asking, "Are we on the verge of our next global pandemic?" We can be sure the virus will continue to spread, but we can't predict how far for how long or how bad the impact will be.

Here's what we know for certain: We are living the consequences of being under-prepared for the next big global epidemic. If we act now, we can prevent or blunt future epidemics and save millions of lives. The question isn't if another pandemic will emerge, but when.

We have successfully addressed serious public-health challenges. After the United States realized it was falling behind in biomedical research in 1998, we doubled the budget of the National Institutes of Health. When the world faced the unprecedented devastation of HIV, we created the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief and helped to fund the title of the disease, building bridges with governments and communities around the world.

But when it comes to avoidable health crises such as severe acute respiratory syndrome, Ebola and drug-resistant organisms, the U.S. and global response has been slow, haphazard and far too limited.

This coronavirus outbreak reminds us that humanity shares a common enemy: dangerous microbes. When Ebola struck between 2014 and 2016, Congress ultimately allocated \$5.4 billion to control an epidemic — but the epidemic could have been nipped in the bud at almost no cost had basic systems been in place. The world needs a massive investment to protect against the next health threat. Where billions of dollars are needed to protect against future health threats, just a small fraction has been provided. Where thousands of staff are needed, far too few are deployed. And where long-term invest-

By TOBY GORDON  
*Special to The Baltimore Sun*

**M**y son lives in China, where he teaches at an international school in Shenzhen, so I have been on my guard daily reports about the coronavirus outbreak in the region. Early last week, he was preparing for a long-planned hiking trip in a mountainous area in southwestern China to visit Tiger Leaping Gorge. His trip was paid for, and he was packed and ready to leave Jan. 22 for his 10-day New Year school holiday.

As the coronavirus news broke last Monday, he called and said he was thinking about canceling his trip. It would entail many hours of travel on crowded trains and he might contract the virus in such close quarters. Like any mother would do, I took a moment to go — without hesitation. He was over 3,000 miles away and there wasn't much I could do except talk to him by phone and report news that he might not have access to in China.

Despite being in the midst of a fast-growing viral epidemic, he wasn't convinced of the risk that day.

I tried, or at least hoped, that he would come around, but his lifelong pattern of independence was not in my favor in this debate. At a young age, he put himself to bed with no assistance. After college, he took a job teaching high school on a tropical French island, Reunion, that is surrounded by shark-infested waters and a volcanic Africa. He moved on after that to a teach-

**We're all connected by the air we breathe, the food we eat and the planes we fly in. When other countries are stronger, we'll be safer.**

ments in new tools to diagnose, treat and prevent diseases, called for, investments are short-term and too small.

Investing in outbreak preparedness should be a no-brainer. China's economy has already taken a big hit, with global ramifications, and its government has already committed billions of dollars to fight the outbreak. A global influenza pandemic could tens of millions of people and devastate the global economy.

Countries with the least resources are most at risk. Places without systems to detect and respond to outbreaks are like rooms that lack smoke alarms and sprinkler systems. We're all connected by the air we breathe, the food we eat and the planes we fly in. When other countries are stronger, we'll be safer.

After I stepped down as CDC director in 2017, I helped launch Resolve to Save Lives, which has a core goal of helping make the world safer from epidemics. The good news is that the world is making some progress. More than 110 countries have responded and independently assessed their epidemic preparedness. However, of the nearly 10,000 life-threatening gaps these assessments have identified, few have been closed.

Stepping up capacity will not be quick or easy. But a bipartisan coalition should invest for the long term in making the United States and the world much safer from epidemic threats. We're nickel-and-dimeing a problem with solutions that could save tens of billions of dollars. It costs approximately an additional \$1 a year per person to step

up core preparedness in lower-income countries — or about \$3 billion to \$4 billion globally.

Focused research also needs to be funded, and U.S. preparedness needs to be strengthened, bringing the total need to approximately \$5 billion to \$10 billion a year, including funds from the World Bank, other multilateral organizations, bilateral donors and the United States. That may seem like a lot of money, but it could save many lives and many times that amount of money in years to come.

The United States and other countries are more prepared today than in the past, but we're not where we should be. Globally, we need accurate, timely and far-reaching laboratory networks, skilled epidemiologists who track and control diseases, early warning systems and rapid-response teams. And we need research to develop more rapid diagnostics, new treatments and vaccines, and improved health care delivery.

We need to further support the World Health Organization's work on the global response to pandemics. But we also need to hold it accountable for technical rigor, operational speed and excellence. We need to increase funding going to preparedness, including World Bank-funded projects. And we need all governments — donor countries and low- and middle-income countries — to invest in public health systems that can save lives today and prevent a disaster tomorrow.

We don't know at this moment how severe the coronavirus outbreak will be and whether it could have been prevented. But we do know that we are not doing what's needed to prevent the next health disaster. Outbreaks are inevitable. If we don't prepare for them, shame on us.

Tom Frieden is former director of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the former commissioner of the New York City Health Department. He is currently president and chief executive officer of Save the Children, a nonprofit housed at the nonprofit Vital Strategies.

Coronavirus threat led my son to leave China

ing gig at a college in Ecuador before the latest gig in China teaching kindergarten and first grade. During school holidays, he visits as many countries as he can, which my collection of postcards can attest. He has traveled so much he had to add extra pages to his passport.

So he was determined to go on this trip and was showing up to get face masks, hand sanitizer, bottled water and food. The usually busy streets were not too crowded. Many stores and restaurants were closing, and hand sanitizer and soap were nowhere to be found — sold out everywhere. To think, he used to laugh at my husband's carefully stocked emergency supply kit of water, flashlights, peanut butter and powdered milk that lives in the laundry room, perched on top of a spare refrigerator.

We video chatted as he shopped, and since face masks are de rigueur, his face was mostly covered during the call. I sent him an online photo that showed a man in a face mask with a lit cigarette poking through a hole in the middle. The real public health issue that needs to be addressed, he contended, is spitting, a nasty habit in Hong Kong but not where he lives in mainland China. That, and the sale of bushmeat in the markets, has fueled the spread of this virus, my son was convinced. (Spitting was outlawed in Baltimore in the late 1800s to help prevent the spread of tuberculosis.)

Later that day, the news broke about the quarantining of Wuhan, ground zero for the virus. My son finally came to his sens-

es. This worried mother breathed a sigh of relief. Wisely, he canceled his trip. A few days later, more Chinese cities were closed to travel, and Hong Kong canceled schools for a month. My son's school did the same. A friend sent him a photo of Corona beers with a message that said his refrigerator was infected with the coronavirus.

As more and more case reports emerged about the spread of the virus to other cities and countries, we talked by phone multiple times a day. I was a nervous wreck, a worried mom. How long would it be before the epidemic peaked? How far and how fast would it spread? Was it advisable for him to stay in Shenzhen for a month until schools opened, and would he even be able to get out of China now?

Lucky for my anxious heart, my son decided to decamp as quickly as he could. It took two days of an "apocalyptic nightmare," as he described it, to get a visa to Sri Lanka and a flight out of China. He was pulled aside in the boarding line for the ferry to the airport for a "high temperature." After a consultation in a cramped room that included a checklist of his temperature, he was cleared for boarding. He safely made it to Sri Lanka.

I am just glad he got out of China, and so far, avoided the potentially deadly coronavirus.

Toby Gordon is an associate professor at The Johns Hopkins Carey Business School and deputy director of the Institute for Clinical Translational Research.

## OPINION

### What newspapers are saying at home

The following editorial excerpts are selected from a cross section of newspapers throughout the United States. The editorials are by the editors or associated press and other statewide syndicates.

#### Bryant's business acumen, creative vision were also lost

The (Waterloo-Cedar Falls, Iowa) Courier

Kobe Bryant was a unicorn — one of those people recognized worldwide by a first name — driven to succeed in sports, business and the arts — until his shockingly ended Sunday.

Bryant, 41, and his daughter, Gianna (‘Big Girl’), 3, were being basketball stars, were among nine victims as his leased helicopter crashed in dense fog west of Los Angeles en route to a game at his Mamba Academy.

He was named after a steak served at a Japanese restaurant. His father, Joe “Jellybean” Bryant, was an NBA journeyman. His father, Joe Chubby Cox, played briefly in the NBA. From age 6, he grew up in Italy while his father played in Europe. He learned Italian. He did a grade-school book report in Latin.

He returned home as a basketball prodigy at Lower Merion High near Philadelphia. He then became a young star to play in the NBA. In 20 years with the Los Angeles Lakers, Bryant scored 33,643 points — fourth all-time after being passed by LeBron James on Saturday night. He won five titles, made 18 All-Star teams, won a regular-season MVP award and two Olympic gold medals. He averaged 25.3 points a game, 40 points or more in nine straight, and 50 or more in four straight.

He was brilliant and divisive. Coach Phil Jackson called him “uncoachable.”

After bowing out with a record 60 points in his final game, Bryant embellished his résumé in business and the arts. He was a \$10-million-a-year executive in financial acumen and the likes of author J.K. Rowling to hone his storytelling.

Bryant Stibel & Co., a venture capital firm, had assets exceeding \$2 billion with stakes in sports drink maker BodyArmor; eBay Games; Swiss e-commerce giant Alibaba and Dell. Forbes put his net worth at \$680 million in 2016.

“The Mamba Mentality: How I Play,” was a best-selling book. His children’s series featured Legacy, a tenacious 12-year-old female tennis player in the magical kingdom of Nova. “For Legacy,” it’s the only thing getting through the long days taking care of the other kids at the orphanage.”

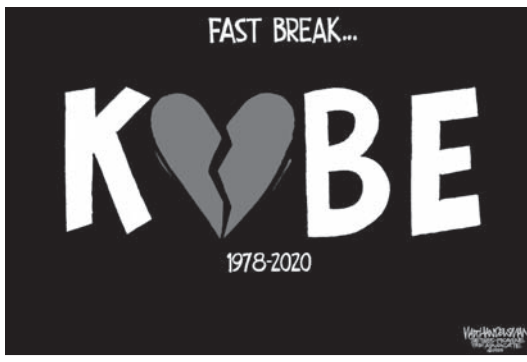
In 2018, he was the first pro athlete to win an Oscar, turning his poem, “Dear Basketball,” into an animated short film, which he wrote and narrated.

His parents and the Picture Arts and Sciences denied him membership because of a 2003 incident at a Colorado resort when he was accused of raping a 19-year-old employee. His legal team and social media vilified her as a gold digger, although her family was wealthy.

His parents and the Picture Arts and Sciences denied him membership because he thought it was a consensual act. She dropped criminal charges. A civil suit was settled for a rumored \$2.5 million.

Then Bryant transformed himself. On the court, he adopted the Black Mamba persona, after an assassin in Quentin Tarantino’s Bill “Bill” movies. Off the court, he saw himself as the angry Hulk changing into mild-mannered David Banner, devoted to his wife, Vanessa, and daughters, Natalia, 16, Gianna, 13, Bianka, 3, and Capri, 7 months.

Other lives lost Sunday also were filed in his promise or achievement. Gianna’s teammate Alyssa Altobelli and parents, Keri



and John, a legendary junior college basketball coach with five state titles and more than 700 wins; teammate Payton Chester and her mother, Sarah; Christina Mauser, an assistant coach and mother of three. Phil Ara Zobayan had ferried Bryant constantly above the traffic-congested LA area. So many people tragically taken before their time, including one constantly evolving unicorn destined for the basketball Hall of Fame this year with so many other gifts waiting to be unwrapped.

#### Auschwitz was a microcosm of Nazis' template for evil

Chicago Tribune

“Why did Auschwitz happen? Why? I don’t have an answer to that. How, I know.”

— Elie Wiesel, Nobel Peace Prize recipient and Holocaust survivor

Fay Waldman survived Auschwitz. She survived because Josef Mengele, the depraved Nazi doctor, decided on her arrival at the concentration camp that she shouldn’t die. “I will never forget his lifting his black-leather gloved hand and pointing which way we should go, to the labor camp or to the death camp,” Waldman said at a Chicago-area Holocaust remembrance in 1985. “I was healthy and went to the labor camp while the rest of my family went the other way.”

The terror at Auschwitz was both systematic and indiscriminate. The Germans murdered 1.1 million people at the extermination camp in Nazi-occupied Poland. Most of the victims were Jewish. They were gassed, shot or beaten to death. Thousands of inmates survived, though barely, as slave laborers.

There were children at Auschwitz, too. Among the murdered and brutalized were sets of twins who became the subject of Mengele’s sadistic medical experiments. Most were killed afterward so their bodies could be dissected. One pair was sewn together as if to create a conjoined set. They died of gangrene. Eva Kor remembered being tied down and stuck with a needle. “They wanted to know how much blood a person can lose and still live,” she said years later.

On Jan. 27, 1945, the madness ended. With Germany in retreat, Soviet soldiers liberated the Auschwitz complex. The Soviet troops found approximately 7,000 inmates. The Nazis had fled, taking 60,000 prisoners with them. Those who could not keep up were shot.

Waldman, of Lincolnwood, Ill., died in 2015. Konrad Ferrate, Ind., died last summer. Soon all the survivors of the extermination camps will be gone, no longer bearing witness. Their testimonies will live on, though, via museums like the Illinois Holocaust Museum in Skokie, documentaries like “Shoah,” books and archives. As long as those stories are shared, the lessons of the Holocaust won’t be forgotten.

This is what makes anniversaries crucial to commemorate: They’re opportunities — excuses, if you will — to remember. The year 2020 marks the 75th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz, the largest Nazi death complex, and the end of World War II. It’s a year filled with reflections.

On the 40th anniversary in 1985, ABC News anchor Peter Jennings visited Auschwitz with Wiesel, the Nobel laureate and Auschwitz survivor, to consider the horror of Nazi genocide. Jennings asked a logical question: How could the Jews of Europe have become victims in their own countries? How did they not recognize the German intention to exterminate the Jews? Why did they seemingly submit so easily? Wiesel had taken up this same question in his acclaimed memoir “Night,” in which he described the horrors of the death camp. He was a villager after he survived a far-off Nazi massacre. No one believed him. His tale was too fantastical. The Jews put trust in a society that reviled them. Many Jews did flee before the war, but many did not.

Wiesel told Jennings that the Nazis’ Final Solution was all well-conceived to fulfill. “We came from one world into another,” Wiesel said. “The killers killed and the victims died and the sky was blue and bread was bread. It worked. The Germans managed to create, beside creation, another creation. Beside human society another society, a parallel society, and that society was efficient. There were those who were in the fire, those who threw the children in the fire and it worked day after day and we had the feeling that it would never end.”

Why Auschwitz? There is no logical explanation, so there cannot be a satisfying answer. But the more we reflect on the Holocaust the more we ask “Why to warn the closer we may come to understanding hate and recognizing inhumanity. Then maybe one day we can eradicate it.”

#### Calls for more tax cuts ignore a worsening federal deficit

Los Angeles Times

The nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office issued yet another warning Tuesday that the federal government is heading down a dangerous fiscal path, racking up debt at an alarming rate. The CBO projects that deficits will average \$1.3 trillion a year over the coming decade, with the economy settling into steady but sluggish growth. That’s the most disturbing thing about the report: the expectation that giant deficits will be allowed to continue even when there’s no recession driving up spending and slowing the tax programs and causing tax revenue to plummet.

It’s not inherently bad for the federal government to borrow money; extra spending by the government can help stimulate the economy during a downturn. But sustained and heavy deficit spending can have the opposite effect, raising borrowing costs and slowing the GDP growth. The CBO

projects that the fastest growing part of the federal budget will be interest payments on the rising debt — spending that delivers no tangible benefit for taxpayers while leaving less money for programs that do.

Rising health care costs and an aging population are contributing to the budget mess. But the problem has been exacerbated by the large and responsible tax cuts Republicans pushed through in 2017. The cuts were sold as a way to trigger a sustained surge in economic growth; instead, GDP bumped up only briefly, held back in part by the tariffs President Donald Trump slapped on a broad array of imports.

We’ve seen this movie before. Some supporter of fiscal conservatives will demand more tax cuts to try to jump-start faster growth (in fact, Trump and House Republicans floated just such an idea before the 2018 election and again last year). Others will blame the problem on federal spending and demand cuts — not to the military but to social programs. Trump has vastly expanded, not to the vast tax giveaways and subsidies, but to the safety net programs the administration is already trying to restrain.

Slashing programs such as Medicaid and food stamps to help pay for the GOP tax cuts will be contributing to the worst way — from the impoverished to the well-to-do. The right answer starts with lawmakers rolling back the tax-cut and spending excesses of the Trump administration. They can then work on a longer-term plan to bring spending and revenue back into line.

#### Va. embracing unions despite success of right-to-work law

The Wall Street Journal

Democrats in Virginia aren’t wasting time with their first statehouse majority in 2020. They’re already debating whether to repeal the right-to-work law that has helped the commonwealth thrive.

Twenty-seven states including Virginia have right-to-work laws that give workers a choice of whether to belong to a union. According to the National Institute for Labor Relations Research, the state’s job growth was two times higher in right-to-work states between 2008 and 2018 than in states where workers can be compelled to join unions or pay dues as a condition of employment.

This disparity is the result of a confluence of pro-growth policies including low taxes, but employers often cite right-to-work laws when deciding where to locate a new plant. Foreign automakers built factories in southern states largely because their right-to-work laws make it more difficult to conscript workers into unions.

Virginia’s success has made it the 10th Virginia more attractive to businesses, compared to Maryland’s Washington, D.C., suburbs. North Virginia last year accounted for 70% of new jobs in the D.C. metro area. Only 4% of Virginia workers belong to unions compared to 11.3% in Maryland. The share of construction workers in the state’s workforce is 15% higher in Maryland than Virginia.

Progressives elected in last year’s statehouse sweep now hope to reward their labor supporters. Senate Majority Leader Richard Siaslaw is driving legislation that would allow unions to require non-members to contribute to the state’s unemployment costs for collective bargaining, organization and other “representation” activities.

The Supreme Court’s Janus decision (2018) forbids governments from requiring public workers to pay such union fees but said nothing about private workers. Labor unions are pushing for laws that require to subsidize unions regardless of whether they join. This would repeat right-to-work in all but name.

Meantime, Democrats in the U.S. House are moving legislation to prohibit right-to-work laws nationwide. Liberals can’t abide laws that promote and grow to states that make Illinois and New York look bad.

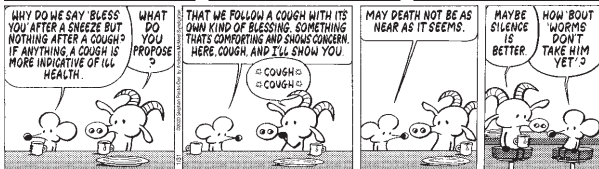
Frazz



Dilbert



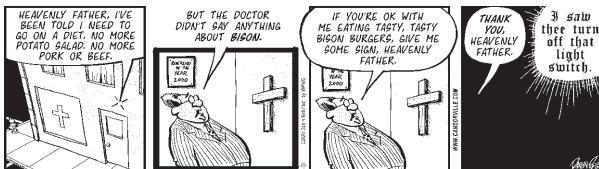
Pearls Before Swine



Non Sequitur



Candorville



Carpe Diem



Beetle Bailey



Bizarro



Eugene Sheffer Crossword

1	2	3		4	5	6	7		8	9	10	11		
12					13					14				
15					16					17				
		18							19					
20	21						22	23						
24							25				26	27	28	
29							30					31		
32							33					34		
							35					36		
37	38	39							40					
41									42	43			44	45
46									47				48	
49									50				51	

ACROSS

- 1 Napkin's place
- 4 Lacked originality
- 8 Roundish 'do
- 12 Previously
- 13 Suitor
- 14 Conked out
- 15 Relaxing soak
- 17 — the Impaler
- 18 New Mexico resort
- 19 Cads
- 20 Divert, as a train
- 22 — gum (thickener)
- 24 Swine
- 25 Gridiron formation
- 29 Red — beet
- 30 They hang around the house?
- 31 Swindle
- 32 Having good manners
- 34 Doc's "Now!"
- 35 Fortas and Lincoln
- 36 Memorable mission
- 37 Takes to the pool
- 40 Male deer
- 41 Give a hoot
- 42 Bathroom basin
- 46 — incline (tilted)
- 47 Part of A.D.

DOWN

- 1 Attorney's field
- 2 Khan title
- 3 Part of Iberia
- 4 Monastery head
- 5 Stew veggies
- 6 "Dig in!"
- 7 "Gee, ya think?"
- 8 Modifying word
- 9 Dossier
- 10 Authentic
- 11 Probability
- 16 Supplies with staff
- 19 Scoffing laughs
- 20 "Pygmalion" writer
- 21 Nozzle site
- 22 Donates
- 23 Secondhand
- 25 Bit of merchandise
- 26 Stop signs, e.g.
- 27 Linguist
- 28 Within (Pref.)
- 30 Recedes
- 33 Mourn
- 34 Thick chunk
- 36 A Musketeer
- 37 Highlander
- 38 Fade away
- 39 Persia, today
- 40 Taxpayer IDs
- 42 Pallid
- 43 Chemical suffix
- 44 Teeny
- 45 Allow

Answer to Previous Puzzle

C	U	F	F	B	A	R	S	C	A	M
O	P	A	L	A	A	H	L	A	L	A
E	D	N	A	D	A	Y	E	L	L	E
D	O	G	T	A	G	T	R	E	E	
P	A	P	E	R	U	M	P	D	T	E
A	L	A	N	M	D	S	M	A	N	E
N	O	N	C	E	O	W	O	R	K	S
G	E	T	M	A	R	R	I	E	D	
B	L	E	U	A	O	L	S	O	U	L
M	O	O	D	I	R	A	T	U	N	A
W	A	N	E	D	E	W	O	R	A	L

1-31

CRYPTOQUIP

UTPG DYKTG XAF VFN P  
 JMIQAC UTA YQ GTM LMIX  
 NMQG PG QMGHGYCK VMNGQ?  
 GTM DAQG LPHPNHM JPXMI.  
 Yesterday's Cryptoquip: ODDBALL CARTOON  
 FELINE OF OLD FILMS WITH AN EXTREMELY  
 WEIRD SPIRAL-SHAPED BODY: HELIX THE CAT.  
 Today's Cryptoquip Clue: F equals U



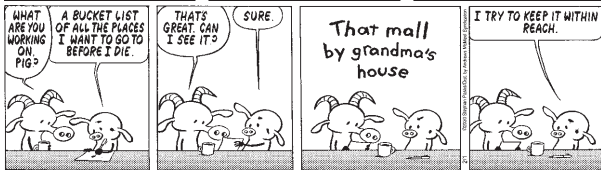
Frazz



Dilbert



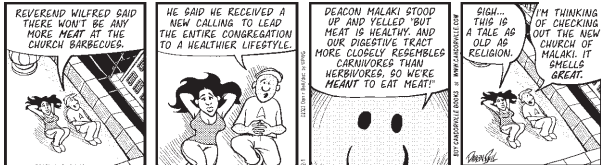
Pearls Before Swine



Non Sequitur



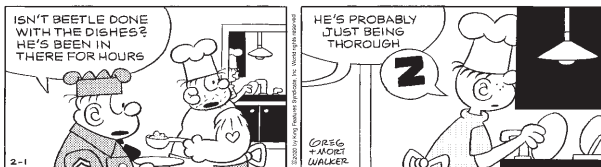
Candorville



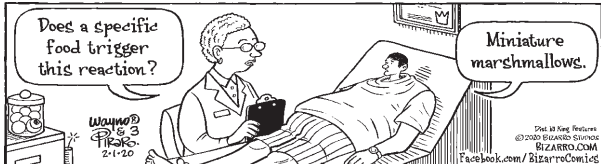
Carpe Diem



Beetle Bailey



Bizarro



Eugene Sheffer Crossword

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8		9	10	11		
12					13					14				
15					16					17				
18					19					20				
				21	22			23	24					
25	26	27						28		29	30	31		
32										33				
34						35				36				
						37				38				
39	40	41						42	43		44	45	46	47
48								49						50
51										52				53
54														55

ACROSS

- 1 Pole, e.g.
- 5 With skill
- 9 "For shame!"
- 12 Pocket bread
- 13 Twosome
- 14 Multipurpose truck
- 15 One-named supermodel
- 16 Drones
- 17 Actor Danson
- 19 Little rascal
- 20 Totals
- 21 TV type
- 23 "Nasty!"
- 25 Opera legend
- 28 Theatrical fog source
- 32 Diva's solos
- 33 Ruhr Valley city
- 34 Magician's word
- 36 Withdraw a statement
- 37 Crucial
- 38 Earth Day mo.
- 39 Physique
- 42 "Cheers" bartender
- 44 Dumbstruck
- 48 Bond rating
- 49 Teeny bit
- 50 Brazilian rubber
- 51 Stanley Cup org.
- 52 Actress Russo

DOWN

- 1 Skewer
- 2 Wheels of fortune?
- 3 — impasse
- 4 2001 Tom
- 5 Cruise/Penelope Cruz film
- 5 Orchard pests
- 6 "The Wizard of Oz" author
- 7 Transparent
- 8 Decade parts (Abbr.)
- 9 Ballet wear
- 10 Globe feature
- 11 Sneakers brand
- 20 Chrysler Building, for one
- 22 Social group
- 24 Lowlife
- 25 Bottle top
- 26 Schedule abbr.
- 27 Fib
- 29 "This — recording"
- 30 100 yrs.
- 31 Tolkien creature
- 35 Pearl producer
- 36 Crashed into
- 39 Combo
- 40 Honolulu's isle
- 41 Valley
- 43 Top-of-the-line
- 45 Hourly pay
- 46 Thus
- 47 Calendar squares
- 49 "Bow-wow!"

Answer to Previous Puzzle

L	A	P	A	P	E	D	A	F	R	O		
A	G	O	B	E	A	U	D	I	E	D		
W	A	R	M	B	A	T	H	V	L	A	D	
T	A	O	S					H	E	E	L	S
S	H	U	N	T		G	U	A	R			
H	O	G	S		W	I	S	H	B	O	N	E
A	S	A		E	A	V	E	S		C	O	N
W	E	L	L	B	R	E	D		S	T	A	T
S	W	I	M	S		S	T	A	G			
C	A	R	E		W	A	S	H	B	O	W	L
O	N	A	N		A	N	N	O		N	E	E
T	E	N		N	E	S		S	E	T		

2-1

CRYPTOQUIP

CHVK WL VSNFGQ-YOBDNFVI

OWEHD YSUUOF IRBI'T

GBTHDBOOX B CVWDCWLL WL

IRF WQHEHVBO: YTFKWC.S.

Yesterday's Cryptquip: WHAT MIGHT YOU DUB A PERSON WHO IS THE VERY BEST AT SETTLING DEBTS? THE MOST VALUABLE PAYER.

Today's Cryptquip Clue: V equals N

# Stripes SERVICE DIRECTORY

The Daily Guide to Navigating the European Business Market



Transportation

944

## VEHICLE SHIPPING SERVICES

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

For Further Information Please Contact

GERMANY  
+49 (0)6134-2592730  
0800-CARSHIP (Germany only)  
info@transglobal-logistics.de  
www.transglobal-logistics.de

UNITED KINGDOM  
+44 (0)1638-515714  
enquiries@carshipuk.co.uk  
www.carshipuk.co.uk

U.S.A.  
+1-972-602-1670 Ext. 1701  
+1-800-264-8167 (US only)  
info@tgal.us  
www.tgal.us

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

**Trans Global**  
LOGISTICS EUROPE GMBH

Are you in the picture?



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

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

STARS AND STRIPES

Transportation

944

Transportation

944

### Vehicle Transport We can help



We move your world

Contact: Mr. Heiko Twachtmann  
htwachtmann@neuekirch.de

+49 (0) 421 48 94-225

www.interglobalshipping.de

Ship Cars and Containers to and from the USA



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

for a free rate request, please email: info@worldwide-ship.de

Visit our Website: www.worldwide-ship.de

### Off Duty? Amuse Yourself!

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

Get entertained with...

STARS AND STRIPES

Be the one who really knows what's going on!



Never miss a **Stars and Stripes**. We report on issues that affect you the most, covering military news from *Capitol Hill to Europe, Pacific, the Middle East and the Pentagon*. No one covers the bases the way we do. Wherever you need us, however you read us: **Stars and Stripes is always for you.**

STARS AND STRIPES

In print • Online at stripes.com • Mobile for Android, iPhone & iPad

# BIG GAME SUPER COMBO



**EXCHANGE**  
ARMY & AIR FORCE EXCHANGE SERVICE

Any **3** Large Pizzas **\$27<sup>97</sup>**

**ALL TOPPINGS NO EXTRA CHARGE®**



FREE AD Guidelines:

- Free ads are available only DOD ID Card holders selling personal merchandise.
- Ads may contain up to 32 words. All Ads must contain price and contact information. No websites will be accepted in Free ads.
- Stars and Stripes reserves the right to re-classify, rewrite and reject any ads.

# STARS AND STRIPES CLASSIFIED

Go to [stripes.com](http://stripes.com) to place your free ad. *Sell fast! Buy fast!*

When you see this camera icon go to [stripes.com](http://stripes.com) to view the uploaded photo.

	EUROPE	MIDDLE EAST	PACIFIC
Advertising:	Kristi Kimmel <a href="mailto:kimmel.kristi@stripes.com">kimmel.kristi@stripes.com</a> +49(0)631-3615-9013 DSN 314.583.9013	Kristi Kimmel <a href="mailto:kimmel.kristi@stripes.com">kimmel.kristi@stripes.com</a> +49(0)631-3615-9013 DSN 314.583.9013	Ichiro Katayanagi <a href="mailto:PacificAdvertising@stripes.com">PacificAdvertising@stripes.com</a> DSN 227-7313 CMC #81 (42) 552-2511 ext. 77313
Circulation:	Karen Lewis <a href="mailto:lewis.karen@stripes.com">lewis.karen@stripes.com</a> +49(0)631.3615.9090 DSN 314.583.9090	Robert Reismann <a href="mailto:reismann.robert@stripes.com">reismann.robert@stripes.com</a> +49(0)631.3615.9150 DSN 314.583.9150	Mari Mori <a href="mailto:CustomerHelp@stripes.com">CustomerHelp@stripes.com</a> +81(3) 6385.7333 DSN 315.227.7333
Reader Letters:	<a href="mailto:letters@stripes.com">letters@stripes.com</a>	<a href="mailto:letters@stripes.com">letters@stripes.com</a>	<a href="mailto:letters@stripes.com">letters@stripes.com</a>

## Classifieds EUROPE

For information on Commercial Rates: CIV: 0631-3615-9012 or DSN: 583-9012

Announcements 040

Automotive 140

Autos for Sale 141

Tax Assistance 940

Miscellaneous 1040

Sell Your Stuff!

### SCAM FADS

Classifieds scams can target both sellers and buyers with classified advertisements.

Be aware of the common red flags.

Some of the latest Scam fads are:

- Vehicle buyers wanting to buy sight unseen and have the vehicle shipped through an agent using paypal.
- People saying Free Dog different breeds for adoption.

### SELLER BEWARE

Individuals placing classified advertising should use discretion in concluding the sale of their property. Not all potential buyers are reputable or honest. Stars and Stripes suggests that you take precautions to ensure that potential buyers are reputable and will be able to fulfill the terms of the sale. Stars and Stripes is not liable for the contractual relationship between sellers and buyers of merchandise advertised in the newspaper or on the web site.

2005 Toyota Wish. Practically give away. JCI til Mar 2020. Multigrade. Nav. w/c. New battery. plugs etc. ASKING \$1,000. Call 090-1666-1046. [curthunter\\_200@yahoo.com](mailto:curthunter_200@yahoo.com)

2016 MINI T CAMPERVAN TRAVELER CONNECT 440,400.00 - Small Campervan with big features by DLR Distribution 2000W off grid electrical power. Navigation system, heated leather front seats, overhead storage bin, microwave, stereo, mp3, bluetooth. 651-285-7089 or 507-382-9448

2020 MINI T CAMPER VAN 530,000.00 - TRANSIT CONNECT CAMPERVAN TV-VC NAVIGATION \$47,000.00 - New Mini T Campervan Conversion on 2000 Ford Transit Connect Solar, Refrigerator, Roof mounts, fan, camping stove kit, 2000W off grid electrical power, cooler box, storage, WiFi hotspot. 651-285-7089 or 507-382-9448 E-mail: [dave@dlr-distribution.com](mailto:dave@dlr-distribution.com)

Auto Parts 180

CLK 350 Tailights for sale -\$300.00. sellin due to conversion to 2000. Will help you new from dealer \$350 each. Asking \$200 for both. Email: [ahill8@hotmail.com](mailto:ahill8@hotmail.com)

## H&R BLOCK®

Germany H&R Block Tax Offices  
Get face-to-face tax help.

Ramstein 06371-8020410	Wiesbaden 06134-256963	Vilseck 01735-736112
---------------------------	---------------------------	-------------------------

Email: [eclemons@hrblock.com](mailto:eclemons@hrblock.com)

Off Duty?  
Amuse Yourself!

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

Get entertained with...

STARS AND STRIPES

Sell Your Stuff!

Take the fuss out of packing up for your next PCS—sell everything with Stars and Stripes *free classified!*

STARS AND STRIPES

## Career CENTER



ValidaTek provides mission-focused IT and professional services solutions to Federal clients world-wide. We are one of only six U.S. companies appraised at both CMMI-SVC/5 and CMMI-DEV/5. We are seeking qualified staff to support current and future USAFE requirements for the European Theater.

If you currently support USAFE or qualify in any of the listed areas, we would like to hear from you! Our employees enjoy strong career growth, excellent benefits, and a competitive total compensation plan.

If you have at least a Secret Clearance and qualifications in any of these positions, forward your resume to [Careers@validatek.com](mailto:Careers@validatek.com) for priority consideration.

- Project and Program Managers with European Theater experience
- ISR Tech Support
- AF Operations Support
- Pilot Augmentation Support
- C4ISR Technical Support
- Military Planner
- Military Analyst
- SIGINIT and GEOINT Intelligence Analyst
- ISR Technical Services
- Training Specialist
- Force Protection Analyst
- Arms Control Advisor
- Modeling and Simulation Trainer
- Modeling and Simulation Engineer
- Infrastructure Technician
- VTC Technician
- Network Engineer
- Database Administrator
- Systems Administrator
- Systems Engineer
- Software Engineer

# STARS AND STRIPES®

## Unlimited Digital Access

### INTRO OFFER!

FOUR WEEKS Web + Mobile

ONE MONTH  
FREE TRIAL

#### When you subscribe to Stripes Digital Access...

Get exclusive access to innovative digital features, interactive articles, award-winning photography and more. Enjoy unlimited access to the Stripes.com website and our Stars and Stripes mobile apps, all for a low monthly or annual subscription.



#### Stars and Stripes content features

- Access to Stars and Stripes mobile apps
- Exclusive reports on military matters
- Coverage of all military branches
- Special features on current issues
- Veterans topics
- Retrospectives such as Vietnam at 50
- Archive Photo of the Day
- Unbiased, First Amendment protected reporting from U.S. military bases around the world.

**Subscribe Today!**



**[stripes.com/subscribe](https://www.stripes.com/subscribe)**

# Mobile



Mobile apps with constantly updating news, featuring breaking news and stories from reporters at overseas bases. Unique galleries of images available nowhere else presented in an uncluttered interface and a responsive, intuitive design. One iOS app serves both phone and tablet devices.

In print, we serve military stationed overseas in contingency areas, Europe and Pacific. Daily editions focus on military news and include sports, comics and opinion. Available by mail delivery to any U.S. address.



# Newspaper

# Web



Discover unique stories from reporters at bases around the world and embedded with downrange forces at Stripes.com, along with military news from every part of the country and photo galleries you'll see nowhere else. DoDDs sports also gets good coverage online. If it concerns our U.S. forces, you'll find it on our website.



# STARS AND STRIPES<sup>®</sup>

UNBIASED NEWS WHATEVER WAY YOU WANT IT.



# SCOREBOARD/ALB/OLYMPICS

## Sports on AFB

Go to the Internet Forces Network website for the most up-to-date TV schedules. [myafn.net](http://myafn.net)

## Pro football

### NFL playoffs

**Wild-card playoffs**  
 Sunday, Jan. 26  
 Houston 22, Buffalo 10  
 Tennessee 20, New England 13

**Sunday, Jan. 27**  
 Minnesota 26, New Orleans 20, OT  
 Philadelphia 33, Pittsburgh 20

**Divisional playoffs**  
 Sunday, Jan. 27  
 San Francisco 27, Minnesota 10  
 Tennessee 28, Baltimore 12

**NFL Super Bowl**  
 Sunday, Feb. 2  
 At Miami Gardens, Fla.  
 Kansas City vs. San Francisco

## Deals

### Wednesday's transactions

**BASEBALL**  
**American League**  
**BALTIMORE ORIOLES** — Signed RHP Brady Rodgers and CS Taylor Davis and Bryan Holiday to minor league contracts.

**HOUSTON ASTROS** — Assigned Dusty Baker manager.  
**KANSAS CITY ROYALS** — Named Steve Sanders hitting coach and Phil Greg Holland on a minor league contract.

**ST. LOUIS CARDINALS** — Signed SS Calten Daal and RHPs Austin Adams, Alec Rawley, Jason Grubbs, Joey Krueger, Steve Lawrence, Juan Minaya and Chris Rowley to minor league contracts.

**National League**  
**COLORADO ROCKIES** — Named Andy Gonzalez hitting coach and fundamental drills coordinator; Steve Merriman minor league pitching coordinator; Doug Chadwick director/mental skills development; Daniel Kleiter minor league clubhouse and equipment manager; Bob Apodaca special assistant/player development; Jerry Weinstein special assistant/player development and scouting; Warren Schaeffer manager; Blaine Boats pitching coach and Phil Bailey physical performance coach of Albuquerque (PCL); Chris Benorita manager; Frank Gonzalez pitching coach; Tomi Sutaris hitting coach and Mason Rook physical performance coach of Hartford (FL); Steve Stivers supervisor of development.

**Arizona** — Signed SS Calten Daal and RHPs Austin Adams, Alec Rawley, Jason Grubbs, Joey Krueger, Steve Lawrence, Juan Minaya and Chris Rowley to minor league contracts.

**Colorado Rockies** — Named Andy Gonzalez hitting coach and fundamental drills coordinator; Steve Merriman minor league pitching coordinator; Doug Chadwick director/mental skills development; Daniel Kleiter minor league clubhouse and equipment manager; Bob Apodaca special assistant/player development; Jerry Weinstein special assistant/player development and scouting; Warren Schaeffer manager; Blaine Boats pitching coach and Phil Bailey physical performance coach of Albuquerque (PCL); Chris Benorita manager; Frank Gonzalez pitching coach; Tomi Sutaris hitting coach and Mason Rook physical performance coach of Hartford (FL); Steve Stivers supervisor of development.

**Los Angeles Dodgers** — Signed SS Calten Daal and RHPs Austin Adams, Alec Rawley, Jason Grubbs, Joey Krueger, Steve Lawrence, Juan Minaya and Chris Rowley to minor league contracts.

**San Francisco Giants** — Named Rich Hill hitting coach and Tyler Grigorian physical performance coach of Lancaster (Cal); Zach Osborne hitting coach of Nashville (Cal); Cesar Galvez manager; Dave Burba pitching coach; Nick Wilson minor league hitting coach and John Gantner physical performance coach of Boise (NW); Mike Anderson hitting coach of Reno (PCL); Travis Hoge manager; Jose Manuella manager of the DSL Rockies.

**Washington Nationals** — Named Samia Mahjub vice president/business/operations and strategic support.

**Washington Nationals** — Traded infielder Hunter McMahon to Minnesota for RHP Ryan Howard.

**Football**  
**NFL** — Reinstated WR Rodney Adams to the Tampa Bay Buccaneers' roster on the Reserve/Retired list.

**Chicago Bears** — Signed QB Tom Brainerd.  
**Denver Broncos** — Named Rich Hill hitting coach and Tyler Grigorian physical performance coach of Lancaster (Cal); Zach Osborne hitting coach of Nashville (Cal); Cesar Galvez manager; Dave Burba pitching coach; Nick Wilson minor league hitting coach and John Gantner physical performance coach of Boise (NW); Mike Anderson hitting coach of Reno (PCL); Travis Hoge manager; Jose Manuella manager of the DSL Rockies.

**Hockey**  
**USA Hockey** — Named N.Y. Rangers assistant general manager Chris Drury director of operations. Colt Renwick named National Team manager.

**National Women's Soccer League**  
**SKY BLUE** — Agreed to terms with D. Gray Loveland on a one-year contract.

**College**  
**EAST CAROLINA** — Named Blake Harrill defensive coordinator.

## College basketball

### Wednesday's men's scores

**EAST**  
 Albany (NY) 67, UMB-C 63  
 Army 58, Bucknell 52  
 Boston U. 92, Loyola (Md.) 77  
 Cornell Hill 84, Georgetown Court 76  
 Dayton 73, Duquesne 69  
 Dominican 78, Felician 70  
 George Washington 107, Davidson 104  
 40 Hartford 73, Binghamton 57  
 Lafayette 80, Colgate 78  
 Navy 81, Holy Cross 66  
 Saint Louis 77, La Salle 76, OT  
 Seton Hall 64, DePaul 57  
 St. Bonaventure 62, Fordham 55, OT  
 St. John's 61, Marquette 62  
 Stony Brook 84, Mass.-Lowell 76  
 UConn 78, Temple 63  
 50 Villanova 91, Saint Joseph's 76  
 Vermont 56, New Hampshire 43

**SOUTH**  
 Chattanooga 92, Samford 74  
 Furman 74, VM-I 77  
 Houston 99, East Carolina 59  
 Kentucky 71, Vanderbilt 62  
 LSU 90, Alabama 76  
 Missouri State 60, Nicholls 74, OT  
 Memphis 59, UIC 59  
 Mercer 71, ETSU 55  
 50 North Carolina 66, Tulane 52  
 UNC Greensboro 72, W. Carolina 58  
 Wake Forest 79, The Citadel 56

**MIDWEST**  
 Bradley 80, Valparaiso 69  
 Illinois St. 77, Evansville 66  
 Indiana St. 58, Drake 56  
 Kansas St. 61, Oklahoma 53  
 Michigan St. 62, North Western 50  
 N. Iowa 95, Missouri 51, 65  
 Notre Dame 90, Wake Forest 80  
 50 Ohio St. 76, Oral Roberts 73

**SOUTHWEST**  
 Arkansas 88, SE Louisiana 68  
 Sam Houston St. 80, Texas A&M-CC 61  
 Texas 62, TCU 61

### Wednesday's women's scores

**EAST**  
 Albany (NY) 56, UMB-C 51  
 American U. 64, Lehigh 56  
 Binghamton 80, Hartford 44  
 Boston U. 41, Loyola (Md.) 39  
 Bucknell 77, Army 46  
 Cent. Michigan 98, Buffalo 50  
 Davidson 77, Rhode Island 67  
 George Washington 56, Saint Joseph's 50  
 Lehigh Court 75, Westminster Hill 68  
 Holy Cross 57, Navy 43  
 Holy Family 71, Wilmington (Del.) 63  
 La Salle 77, 23, 23  
 Lafayette 55, Colgate 39  
 Marquette 65, Saint Joseph's 51  
 Post (Conn.) 65, Bloomfield 59  
 Stony Brook 60, Mass.-Lowell 41  
 Temple 67, UCF 65  
 UMass 64, Richmond 50

**SOUTH**  
 New Orleans 77, Northwestern St. 63  
 Hill 79, McNeese 53  
 SC-Aiken 54, Augusta 47  
 Alabama 63, Cent. Arkansas 42  
 VCU 42, Florida 74, Houston 45  
 VCU 42, Florida 74, Houston 45

**MIDWEST**  
 Adrian 76, Calvin 59  
 E. Michigan 77, Toledo 62  
 Kent St. 69, Ball St. 59  
 Miami (Ohio) 46, W. Michigan, p.p.d.  
 Ohio 70, Akron 57  
 South Dakota 73, Omaha 42

**SOUTHWEST**  
 Houston Baptist 60, Incarnate Word 55  
 SMU 64, Wichita 54  
 Stephen F. Austin 69, Abilene Christian 59  
 Texas Tech 65, Oklahoma St. 61  
 Texas A&M-CC 57, Sam Houston St. 54  
 Tulsa 60, Tulsa 49

### AP Men's Top 25 schedule

**Friday's games**  
 No. 2 Baylor at Texas  
 No. 6 Stanford at Washington  
 No. 15 UCLA at No. 15 Arizona  
 No. 11 Duke vs. Creighton  
 No. 19 Arizona at No. 23 Auburn  
 No. 14 Missouri State vs. Bradley

**Saturday's games**  
 No. 3 Oregon at Colorado  
 No. 10 Oregon State at Utah  
 No. 12 Gonzaga vs. Creighton at the Wells Fargo Center  
 No. 9 Duke at Syracuse  
 No. 10 Seton Hall vs. Xavier  
 No. 11 Stanford at Washington State  
 No. 12 West Virginia vs. Kansas State  
 No. 13 Kentucky at No. 10 UNC  
 No. 14 Michigan State at Wisconsin  
 No. 16 Butler vs. Providence  
 No. 17 Louisville at Southern Cal  
 No. 21 Houston at Cincinnati  
 No. 22 Memphis at Mississippi  
 No. 23 Wichita State at Tulsa  
 No. 24 Penn State at Nebraska  
 No. 25 Rutgers vs. Michigan at Madison Square Garden

**Sunday's game**  
 No. 18 Iowa vs. No. 19 Illinois

## Pro basketball

### NBA Eastern Conference

Atlantic Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Toronto	23	14	70%	0
Brooklyn	21	17	56%	2 1/2
Brooklyn	20	26	43%	12 1/2
New York	18	28	39%	26 1/2

Southeast Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Miami	32	15	68%	0
Orlando	27	21	56%	5 1/2
Charlotte	16	34	32%	16
Atlanta	15	35	30%	17

Central Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Milwaukee	26	6	87%	0
Indiana	31	17	64%	10 1/2
Chicago	19	29	39%	23 1/2
Detroit	17	32	34%	25
Cleveland	17	32	34%	25 1/2

### Western Conference

Southwest Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Dallas	29	18	61%	0
LA Clippers	29	18	61%	0
Memphis	24	24	50%	7 1/2
San Antonio	20	28	42%	14
New Orleans	19	29	39%	16 1/2

Northwest Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Denver	31	15	68%	0
Utah	32	15	68%	0
Oklahoma City	27	19	59%	4 1/2
Portland	21	27	43%	11 1/2
Minnesota	22	29	43%	12 1/2

### Pacific Division

W	L	Pct	GB	
LA Lakers	36	10	78%	0
LA Clippers	31	15	67%	5 1/2
Phoenix	20	27	42%	16 1/2
Oklahoma City	19	28	40%	18
Golden State	18	30	38%	20 1/2

### Wednesday's games

Indiana 115, Chicago 106  
 Brooklyn 125, Detroit 115  
 Minnesota 127, New York 106  
 San Antonio 127, Utah 120  
 Houston 125, Houston 112  
 Oklahoma City 120, Sacramento 100  
**Thursday's games**  
 Charlotte at Washington  
 Toronto at Cleveland  
 Philadelphia at Atlanta  
 Golden State at Boston  
 Oklahoma City at LA Clippers  
 Utah at Denver  
**Friday's games**  
 Toronto at Detroit  
 Chicago at Brooklyn  
 Dallas at Houston

Memphis at New Orleans  
 Denver at Milwaukee  
 Sacramento at Phoenix  
 Portland at LA Lakers

**Saturday's games**  
 Minnesota at LA Clippers  
 Miami at Orlando  
 New York at Indiana  
 Brooklyn at Washington  
 LA Lakers at Cleveland  
 Atlanta at Dallas  
 Philadelphia at Boston  
 Sacramento at Phoenix  
 LA Lakers at Sacramento  
 Utah at Portland

**Sunday's games**  
 Denver at Detroit  
 New York at Houston  
 Phoenix at Milwaukee  
 Chicago at Toronto

### NBA leaders

Player	FG	FT	PTS	AVG
Harden, HOU	44	452	663	15.69
Curry, GSW	44	399	709	15.0
Young, ATL	43	398	312	25.6
LeBron, LAL	42	424	279	29.2
Doncic, DAL	43	408	296	123.8
Beal, WAS	39	382	253	111.4
Donovan, LAC	38	346	223	98.7
Booker, PHX	44	409	281	191.1
LeBron, LAL	42	357	424	27.9
Westbrook, OKC	40	403	207	105.3
James, LAL	37	371	171	25.3

### Rebounds

Player	FG	FT	PTS	AVG
Drummond, DET	45	167	891	65.8
Goertzel, TOR	45	167	891	65.8
White, TOR	45	167	891	65.8
Capela, HOU	39	168	369	53.7
Antetokounmpo, MIL	43	100	456	55.6
Drummond, DET	45	167	891	65.8
Vucetic, ORL	37	308	408	11.0
Williams, MIA	36	369	488	10.4
Thompson, CLE	46	196	286	10.3
Vlasicunas, MEK	32	457	10.3	

### Assists

Player	FG	FT	PTS	AVG
James, LAL	43	388	9.0	
Young, ATL	46	359	10.7	
Doncic, DAL	43	373	8.7	
Curry, GSW	46	359	10.7	
Lillard, POR	46	359	10.7	
Graham, CHA	46	359	10.7	
Dowry, TOR	46	359	10.7	
Westbrook, OKC	40	299	7.4	
Brogdon, IND	34	250	7.4	

# Astros tap Baker as new manager

By KRISTIE RIEKEN  
 Associated Press

HOUSTON — Dusty Baker has been hired to replace AJ Hinch as the manager of the Houston Astros.

The team announced the hiring on Wednesday.

The 70-year-old becomes the oldest manager in the big leagues.

Hinch was fired Jan. 13 just an hour after he was suspended for the season by Major League Baseball for his role in Houston's sign-stealing scandal.

Baker will be a manager with a team that returns the bulk of its roster from last year that reached the World Series for the second time in three years before losing to the Nationals.

Hinch served since 2018 as a special advisor to Giants CEO Larry Baer, working in both the baseball and business operations of the club. He regularly attended son Darren's college games at the University of California in Berkeley.

Baker will get a chance to chase his first title as a manager with a team that returns the bulk of its roster from last year that reached the World Series for the second time in three years before losing to the Nationals.

Hinch served since 2018 as a special advisor to Giants CEO Larry Baer, working in both the baseball and business operations of the club. He regularly attended son Darren's college games at the University of California in Berkeley.

Baker will get a chance to chase his first title as a manager with a team that returns the bulk of its roster from last year that reached the World Series for the second time in three years before losing to the Nationals.

Hinch served since 2018 as a special advisor to Giants CEO Larry Baer, working in both the baseball and business operations of the club. He regularly attended son Darren's college games at the University of California in Berkeley.

Baker will get a chance to chase his first title as a manager with a team that returns the bulk of its roster from last year that reached the World Series for the second time in three years before losing to the Nationals.

Hinch served since 2018 as a special advisor to Giants CEO Larry Baer, working in both the baseball and business operations of the club. He regularly attended son Darren's college games at the University of California in Berkeley.

Baker will get a chance to chase his first title as a manager with a team that returns the bulk of its roster from last year that reached the World Series for the second time in three years before losing to the Nationals.

Hinch served since 2018 as a special advisor to Giants CEO Larry Baer, working in both the baseball and business operations of the club. He regularly attended son Darren's college games at the University of California in Berkeley.

Baker will get a chance to chase his first title as a manager with a team that returns the bulk of its roster from last year that reached the World Series for the second time in three years before losing to the Nationals.

Hinch served since 2018 as a special advisor to Giants CEO Larry Baer, working in both the baseball and business operations of the club. He regularly attended son Darren's college games at the University of California in Berkeley.

Baker will get a chance to chase his first title as a manager with a team that returns the bulk of its roster from last year that reached the World Series for the second time in three years before losing to the Nationals.

Hinch served since 2018 as a special advisor to Giants CEO Larry Baer, working in both the baseball and business operations of the club. He regularly attended son Darren's college games at the University of California in Berkeley.

Baker will get a chance to chase his first title as a manager with a team that returns the bulk of its roster from last year that reached the World Series for the second time in three years before losing to the Nationals.

Hinch served since 2018 as a special advisor to Giants CEO Larry Baer, working in both the baseball and business operations of the club. He regularly attended son Darren's college games at the University of California in Berkeley.

Baker will get a chance to chase his first title as a manager with a team that returns the bulk of its roster from last year that reached the World Series for the second time in three years before losing to the Nationals.

standing players that know how to win. I applaud Jim Crane for the leadership he has shown in recent weeks and look forward to working with him and the players to bring a championship to the city of Houston."

Baker has served since 2018 as a special advisor to Giants CEO Larry Baer, working in both the baseball and business operations of the club. He regularly attended son Darren's college games at the University of California in Berkeley.

Baker will get a chance to chase his first title as a manager with a team that returns the bulk of its roster from last year that reached the World Series for the second time in three years before losing to the Nationals.

Hinch served since 2018 as a special advisor to Giants CEO Larry Baer, working in both the baseball and business operations of the club. He regularly attended son Darren's college games at the University of California in Berkeley.

Baker will get a chance to chase his first title as a manager with a team that returns the bulk of its roster from last year that reached the World Series for the second time in three years before losing to the Nationals.

Hinch served since 2018 as a special advisor to Giants CEO Larry Baer, working in both the baseball and business operations of the club. He regularly attended son Darren's college games at the University of California in Berkeley.

Baker will get a chance to chase his first title as a manager with a team that returns the bulk of its roster from last year that reached the World Series for the second time in three years before losing to the Nationals.

Hinch served since 2018 as a special advisor to Giants CEO Larry Baer, working in both the baseball and business operations of the club. He regularly attended son Darren's college games at the University of California in Berkeley.

Baker will get a chance to chase his first title as a manager with a team that returns the bulk of its roster from last year that reached the World Series for the second time in three years before losing to the Nationals.

Hinch served since 2018 as a special advisor to Giants CEO Larry Baer, working in both the baseball and business operations of the club. He regularly attended son Darren's college games at the University of California in Berkeley.

Baker will get a chance to chase his first title as a manager with a team that returns the bulk of its roster from last year that reached the World Series for the second time in three years before losing to the Nationals.

Hinch served since 2018 as a special advisor to Giants CEO Larry Baer, working in both the baseball and business operations of the club. He regularly attended son Darren's college games at the University of California in Berkeley.

Baker will get a chance to chase his first title as a manager with a team that returns the bulk of its roster from last year that reached the World Series for the second time in three years before losing to the Nationals.

Hinch served since 2018 as a special advisor to Giants CEO Larry Baer, working in both the baseball and business operations of the club. He regularly attended son Darren's college games at the University of California in Berkeley.

Baker will get a chance to chase his first title as a manager with a team that returns the bulk of its roster from last year that reached the World Series for the second time in three years before losing to the Nationals.

Hinch served since 2018 as a special advisor to Giants CEO Larry Baer, working in both the baseball and business operations of the club. He regularly attended son Darren's college games at the University of California in Berkeley.

Baker will get a chance to chase his first title as a manager with a team that returns the bulk of its roster from last year that reached the World Series for the second time in three years before losing to the Nationals.

Hinch served since 2018 as a special advisor to Giants CEO Larry Baer, working in both the baseball and business operations of the club. He regularly attended son Darren's college games at the University of California in Berkeley.

Baker will get a chance to chase his first title as a manager with a team that returns the bulk of its roster from last year that reached the World Series for the second time in three years before losing to the Nationals.

Hinch served since 2018 as a special advisor to Giants CEO Larry Baer, working in both the baseball and business operations of the club. He regularly attended son Darren's college games at the University of California in Berkeley.

# Sapporo first to file bid

## HIGH SCHOOL



Stars and Stripes

Competitors prepare to fire at the 2019 European Marksmanship Championships.

# Stuttgart looks on target

By GREGORY BROOME  
Stars and Stripes

There are two championships at stake at the DODEA Europe marksmanship finals, set for Saturday at Kaiserslautern High School. One outcome is all but assured, while the other is very much in doubt.

The Stuttgart Panthers are heavy favorites to claim their seventh straight European team championship. DODEA Europe's longest dynasty has continued to rule the sport this winter, winning all five regular-season meets by comfortable margins.

But while the Panthers' overall dominance is secure, the internal battle within the program is raging on, producing a rather remarkable statistic: a different Stuttgart shooter has claimed first place in each of the season's five meets.

That variety of winners is a by-product of the program's fascinating culture of simultaneous support and competition. More established shooters are expected to share their knowledge with less experienced teammates while defending their status on the team from those same challengers. And rising prospects must respect their superiors even as they strive to supplant them.

It's hard to argue with the results. "It pushes each person to do their best each week," Stuttgart coach Raul Pinon said in December.

Defending European individual champion Maria Tortorelli took her turn atop the

standings on Dec. 14. Returning runner-up Salome Cook won the regular-season finale with 294 points. Teammates Kayla Boudreaux, Kate Swett and Teresa Roark also claimed regular-season wins.

Regardless of who claims individual honors, the Panthers' combined efforts project to be plenty to extend Stuttgart's dynasty into a new decade. But the event's five other competing schools — Stuttgart's eastern conference rivals Ansbach and Wilsack and western conference entries Kaiserslautern, Wiesbaden and Baumholder — have plenty to shoot for on Saturday.

The Cougars are looking to cap a successful rebuilding season with a strong showing. While the team has just four returning shooters, head coach Christopher Buchanan said the program has around a quarter of the small school's students in grades nine through 12 participating, including Eliana Vales, who finished fourth at last year's European finals.

Eric San Pedro, the new coach of host Kaiserslautern, has benefited from a core of senior leaders who "have been taking care of business" for the program. Former Panthers star Isabelle Ploechinger has been the team's centerpiece throughout and produced a score of 292 for a runaway western conference win in last weekend's regular-season finale.

The Panthers might be unreachable, but "if every single one of the shooters shoot their best, that's victory to me," San Pedro said.

Saturday as Wiesbaden hosts its half of the home-and-home series.

Defending Division III champion Baumholder, meanwhile, returns to its small-school schedule after spending last weekend battling Division I powers Kaiserslautern and Ramstein. Returning runner-up Ansbach and contenders Alconbury and Hohenfels are in town for the four-school, two-day event.

While the DODEA Europe basketball regular season heats up, the wrestling regular season draws to an anticlimactic close this weekend. Reigning champion Stuttgart and archrival Ramstein retire to separate corners of Germany on Saturday. Stuttgart joins a seven-school meet at Wilsack, while Ramstein takes part in a six-team event at Spangdahlem. A typical four-school Italian meet in Vicenza rounds out the schedule.

The final three meets allow teams the chance to make final preparations for the Feb. 8 sectionals, set for Brussels, Stuttgart and Aviano, which will determine the bulk of the field for the Feb. 14-15 European championship meet.

broome.gregory@stripes.com  
Twitter: @broomestripes

# Korea league events called off due to coronavirus

By DAVE ORNAUER  
Stars and Stripes

For the first time in its 48-year history, the Korean-American Interscholastic Activities Conference has canceled basketball tournaments due to health concerns brought on by the new coronavirus, league officials announced Wednesday.

Instead, KAIAC's three DODEA member schools, Osan, Daegu and Humphreys, will play what some coaches are calling the DODEA Korea Cup, a six-game, three-team jamboree on Saturday starting at 9 a.m. Osan athletic director and KAIAC president Linda Concepcion said.

"Full day of basketball. Bring your seat cushions," Concepcion said in an email to the DODEA Korea coaches.

Multiple media reports as of early Thursday afternoon showed at least 170 dead and more than 7,700 cases of coronavirus in China. Nearly 60 million people are under full or partial lockdown in Chinese cities. At least 91 cases have been reported outside China, five in the U.S.

"Thankfully, we do not have any cases of the virus in any of our schools," DODEA Pacific spokesman Dave Allison said.

For the moment, Far East tournaments are being run as team and girls basketball at Humphreys and girls at Kadena are still a go, according to DODEA Pacific athletics coordinator Tom McKinney.

But DODEA Pacific is eyeing the coronavirus situation closely, according to a letter sent to parents by DODEA Pacific director Lois J. Rapp, a copy of which was obtained by Stripes.

"We will continue to monitor the situation, coordinate with our military health partners and provide updates to our community should further steps become necessary," the letter said in part.

Of KAIAC's 17 schools, 14 stated they were opting out of any out-of-school activities over the next two weeks, including the KAIAC tournaments, due to the spread of the virus and fears students might contract it, Concepcion said.

"It just doesn't seem to be the wise thing to do right now," said Paul Rader, boys basketball coach and athletics director at Seoul Foreign.

Seoul Foreign was scheduled to play KAIAC Blue Division's final regular-season games at Osan on Wednesday, but opted to forfeit those contests, Rader and Concepcion said.

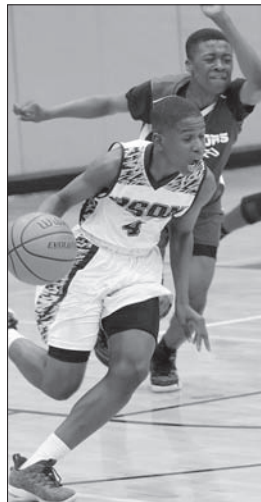
The KAIAC tournaments being canceled elicited disappointment on the part of several coaches.

"We really need the games," Osan boys coach Robert Penry said. His Cougars, Osan's girls and Humphreys' and Daegu's girls teams each played 10 regular-season KAIAC games and will each get four more games on Saturday.

Humphreys' teams also played at last weekend's American School In Japan Kanto Classic, the boys playing six games and the girls five, giving them something of an advantage over Osan and Daegu.

Penry and other coaches said the DODEA Korea teams were counting on the KAIAC tournament games in preparation for Far East tournaments, scheduled for Feb. 20-22. The boys Divisions I and II tournaments are at Humphreys and the girls D-I and D-II at Kadena.

Had the games at Osan not been scheduled this weekend, "there would be a month



JESSICA McCOLLUM/Stars and Stripes

Gavin Lunn and Osan will host what coaches are calling the DODEA Korea Cup this weekend. Daegu and Humphreys will participate as other tournament have been canceled.

between our last games (Jan. 18 against Osan) and the time Far East starts," Daegu boys coach and athletics director Blake Sims said.

"We're hoping to keep sharp. But I totally understand the concern. We couldn't have predicted this. I understand the safety precaution."

Daegu's girls had much at stake; they were seeking redemption for losing the finals of both the KAIAC Cup and Far East D-II tournaments last season, coach Jonathan Van said.

"It was part of our preseason goals, to go back to the Cup tournament and Far East," Van said, adding, however, that "I understand the concern (about coronavirus) because this is a serious matter."

## New coach for Humphreys girls

Humphreys girls will play its games at Osan on Saturday with a new coach. Steve Boyd, in his second season coaching the team, stepped down for personal reasons following the Kanto Classic, Allison said.

Humphreys' JV coach Eddie Rozzi and varsity assistant Michelle Gaurucci will take over. The Blackhaws are 9-1 in KAIAC Blue Division play and 10-5 overall, including a 1-4 ledger at the ASIJ Kanto Classic.

"We'll be ready," Rozzi said of the Blackhaws' chances at Far East D-I on Okinawa, their next major competition. "Some tough teams, but I feel like the field is more level this year. It should be a good Far East."

## What's left this weekend

Aside from the DODEA Korea Cup, one major in-season basketball tournament also remains a go this weekend: the 14th Okinawa-American Friendship Tournament, being held again at the Foster Field House on Saturday and Sunday.

The two-day tournament keeps its same format as in past years, pool play the first day and bracket play the second day, 24 games to be played on two courts, according to tournament director Fred Bales of Kubasaki.

# AUTO RACING/BASKETBALL

## Penske shakes up his NASCAR teams

By JENNA FRYER  
Associated Press

CONCORD, N.C. — Team Penske won the championship last year in every series it competes in except NASCAR. That doesn't mean it was a bad year: the team won six races and placed all three of its drivers in the playoffs.

It just wasn't good enough, not when Roger Penske's IndyCar, sports car and V8 SuperCar teams won titles.

So he made a sweeping offseason change by swapping the crew chiefs for Ryan Blaney, Brad Keselowski and Joey Logano

— a massive personal upheaval for each driver. “We just felt you can't have the same guy running your business forever, it gets time to change it,” Penske said. “For me, it was the perfect time and when we got into the discussions with them, all the guys were like, ‘Let's try it.’”

“But it isn't like we took an A and gave him a B with any of the guys. All of them can win.”

The move was jarring considering Logano had won the 2018 championship with Todd Gordon. Paul Wolfe had also made Keselowski the winningest driver in Penske history; the duo gave “The Captain” his first Cup Series title in 2012.

But Wolfe will now be paired with Logano, Gordon goes to Blaney and Keselowski gets Jeremy Bullins from Blaney.

Keselowski won a team-high three races last season but had a dropoff in the playoffs and his early elimination led to an eighth-place finish in the standings.

He called the personnel changes “brave and courageous” and said the goal is to put four cars — Penske has an alliance with The Wood Brothers and driver Matt DiBenedetto — in the final four. The Ford team was shut out of last season's title-deciding race, which Kyle Busch won by beating two of his Toyota teammates at Joe Gibbs Racing and Kevin Harvick in a Ford.

“I personally needed to be challenged and so I think it's a good challenge for me,” Keselowski said. “A lot of us were pretty comfortable and this certainly removes any feeling of comfort. So if it's the kick in the (butt) I need to be the best I can be, then so be it.”

The moves come ahead of contract years for Blaney and Keselowski.

Keselowski is entering his 11th season with the team and 29 of his 30 Cup wins have come with Penske. Blaney has been in the Penske system since 2013 but has just two Cup victories.

“I haven't won as many races

as these guys have over the years; I don't want to be the bottom of the totem pole,” Blaney said. “Joey and Brad are great, they are both champions. I want to be better than those guys. I need to get better.”

“That's something I've wanted to change really bad. I think we could have it done it without the change, but this will hopefully pick things up. You never want to be the last guy. That can put your job in your jeopardy.”

Penske insisted his drivers' jobs aren't on the line. But Blaney and Keselowski are in contract years.

“There's nothing sinister here, it was just time for change,” Penske said. “All three drivers see opportunities. We are moving people all the time, I think you have to, but all three guys are performing. We're not as good as Gibbs. For sure, we've got to be better.”

Joe Gibbs Racing won 19 of 36 Cup races last year, took three of the four spots in the championship finale and won the title. Logano just missed advancing to the final four and finished fifth in the final standings, while Blaney was seventh.

All three drivers will start fresh and try to accomplish the Penske goals of getting into the championship race and winning a Cup title.

“It's obviously a very big change. It's hard to really explain to our fans the significance,” Keselowski said. “It's like getting divorced and re-married all in one day. It's a big change for the drivers but internally at Penske it's not a big change because the day-to-day remains the same.”

### By the numbers

# 6

NASCAR Cup races won last year by Team Penske drivers, three of them by Brad Keselowski.

# 19

NASCAR Cup races won last year by Joe Gibbs Racing, out of 36 races.

# 3

Series titles won last year by Team Penske drivers in IndyCar, sports car and V8 SuperCar series.

SOURCE: Associated Press



PHOTOS BY JESSICA HILL/AP

Above: Connecticut players and U.S. national team players stand for a 24 second stop-clock violation to honor Kobe Bryant during an exhibition game Monday in Hartford, Conn. Below: A seat with a jersey and flowers is reserved in memory of Gianna Bryant before the game.

## As a mentor and fan, Bryant left mark on women's hoops

His interest in the sport began before daughter Gianna excelled in it

By DOUG FEINBERG  
Associated Press

HARTFORD, Conn. — Kobe Bryant always had an interest in women's basketball, one that he shared with many in the sport even before his daughter Gianna started excelling at the game.

Whether it was mentoring players such as Diana Taurasi, Jewell Loyd and Sabrina Ionescu or working out with Gabby Williams and Katie Lou Samuelson, Bryant routinely gave of himself to help them improve their games.

But he had only scratched the surface.

UConn coach Geno Auriemma believes that Bryant's biggest contributions to women's basketball were in front of him before the NBA great and his daughter were killed in a helicopter crash Sunday.

“I don't think he got a chance to really establish (a legacy) in our game,” Auriemma said. “The next 30 years, he might have. The next generation of kids who knew his daughter and played with Gigi. He gets involved at a whole 'nother level. He was just getting started.”

Taurasi was one of the first WNBA players that Bryant worked with, even dubbing her the White Mamba — a take on his nickname the Black Mamba.

“He came to L.A. when I was a freshman in high school and we grew up together in many ways,” Taurasi said. “He worked with me and others because he wanted to see us succeed since we had similar obsessions to the game of basketball.”

Once he retired from the NBA, Bryant became more of a presence at college games with Gianna, who was enamored with UConn. Bryant spent time coaching Gianna's youth team and Loyd was impressed with what he had done with them.

“A lot of the resources are for men's basketball and there was not a lot of access for a lot of females. Kobe wanted to change that,” said Loyd. “They were so fundamentally sound and played so well together, it was fun to watch.”

Loyd remembered first meeting Bryant when she was in high school. She grew up in Chicago and went to one of his Lakers games. She started following him on Twitter and messaged him. He messaged back and answered her questions.

“Once a week, I'd hit him up and ask him questions about the game. Ever since that, we've been



really close. It was my senior year of high school,” she said. “Officially meeting him when I went to the Wooden Awards in L.A. They had a game the same day as the ceremony. We sat there and talked for the whole halftime. ... We've been texting back and forth after that.”

Bryant was at the women's Final Four in Columbus, Ohio, in 2018 and saw the thrilling game where Arike Ogunbowale hit a shot to beat UConn and eventually lift Notre Dame to the national championship.

Sue Bird got to know Bryant at the 2008 and 2012 Olympics. She is well aware there are people who didn't believe Bryant should have been involved with the women's game, a sentiment that dates back to charges in 2003 of him attacking a 19-year-old employee at a Colorado resort.

Bryant had said the two had consensual sex, and the charge was eventually dropped when the woman declined to testify in a trial. The woman later filed a civil suit against Bryant that was settled out of court.

“We live in a rough time where a lot of hard lines are drawn about a lot of things that make it tough to navigate. The thing with Kobe, I think, is that he truly respected the women's game,” Bird said. “Yes, his daughter started playing and he was able to teach her. That was really special, but he respected our game before that.”

“I understand his past. He's gone out of his way to mentor people I know well. I know he's had a positive impact on them. It's the world we live in right now. It's difficult. He's made a lot of positive impact on a lot of people.”



NHL/TENNIS

# Logjam in Pacific makes for prime postseason potential

JOE HARRIS  
Associated Press

ST. LOUIS — The Pacific Division is proving to be the wild, wild west of the NHL this season.

Vancouver beat defending champion St. Louis on Monday night to move to 60 points in 50 games.

Calgary beat Edmonton Wednesday night in a shootout to move into second with 60 points. The Oilers (58 points in 50 games), and Arizona and Vegas (both with 57 points in 52 games) follow right behind.

"It's pretty surreal," Calgary defenseman Mark Giordano said. "I've never seen anything like that with this amount of time left in the season. It's going to be a great finish, we're right there in the mix, we're in a good spot."

The logjam at the top is creating a 30-plus game sprint to the finish. The stakes will get higher as the NHL's scheduling goes heavy on inter-divisional games late in the season.

"I don't know if I was alive when it has been this close in the division," Vancouver goalie Jacob Markstrom said. "It's great. It's great for everybody. Obviously you want a 10- or 20-point cushion at this point, but that's not the case and it's pretty much every team is right there inside a couple of points. It's going to be fun hockey and going to match playoff heat and get to start here after the break."

The tight race places a premium on regulation wins, allowing a team to grab two points without allowing its rival to get one.

While Vancouver and Edmonton appear to have the edge in games played, there is no margin for error.

"You can go from first to last, from last to first the next night and we're all going to play each other coming up right at the end of the year," Vegas forward Max Pacioretty said. "It's going to be a fight to the end and we're expecting these last 30 games to be really intense. But on the bright side, if you're able to get in and you're able to get through these games, that should prepare you for the playoffs and we're looking forward to that challenge."

Some of the teams can find inspiration from the Blues' run last season. The Blues were last in the entire league on Jan. 3 only to catch fire and ride that momentum to the Stanley Cup.

Like those Blues, the Golden Knights made a midseason coaching change, replacing Gerard Gallant, who led the team to the finals in their first season, with former Sharks coach Peter DeBoer.

Pacioretty said the All-Star break came at a good time for Vegas. He said it will allow him and his teammates to emotionally and come back ready to perform for their new coach.

"That's kind of like a fresh wound right now and you kind of take responsibility whenever a coach gets fired," Pacioretty said. "You look at yourself in the mirror and say what could I have done better?"

Arizona finds itself in a different position after sitting at or near the top of the division for most of the season.

"We were always the hunters," Coyotes coach Rick Tocchet said. "We were always, 'Hey, how are we going to get back into this thing?' Now teams are below us and they're the hunters on us. The old day of playing the backup goal against the Coyotes, they're not doing that anymore. They're playing their starters. That's what guys have to understand now. You're going to get the best."

The race doesn't allow Tocchet and the other coaches the luxury of managing workload. Tocchet, who isn't a big morning skate fan, believes it's all about consistency.

He doesn't remember a race this tight in his 18 years as a player or in his five years as a coach.

"You have to embrace the pain and all that stuff because if you look at those standings there, five teams right in there," Tocchet said. "One week you're either in first place or fifth place. Everything the coach does now is for the players and for their psyche and to make them feel comfortable."

Raising the stakes higher is that not all five teams are guaranteed to make the postseason as wild cards. Winnipeg, Chicago and Nashville from the Central Division are in the mix for those two spots as well.

"We have great players and it's just about putting it together at the right time," Giordano said. "I feel like last year we had a great start and an unbelievable first half and sort of lost that confidence we had down the stretch and it carried over for us in the playoffs. Hopefully this year is the complete opposite."

## Scoreboard

### Eastern Conference

Atlantic Division						
GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
17	29	12	7	109	169	125
50	30	15	5	65	181	142
50	29	16	5	61	183	162
51	27	17	7	61	186	170
50	22	21	7	51	147	157
50	22	21	7	51	147	157
50	22	21	7	51	147	157
50	18	23	9	45	138	169
50	18	23	9	45	138	169

### Metropolitan Division

GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
50	34	12	5	73	185	151
50	34	12	5	67	188	136
50	29	15	5	63	143	132
50	27	18	5	62	138	130
50	29	18	3	61	159	132
50	27	17	6	60	158	150
48	23	21	4	50	158	159
49	18	24	7	43	130	176

### Western Conference

Central Division						
GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
51	31	12	8	64	164	141
49	28	15	6	62	179	143
50	28	16	4	60	131	127
51	24	21	6	54	155	161
50	23	22	5	54	152	161
49	23	19	7	53	163	163
50	23	21	6	52	159	168

### Pacific Division

GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
51	27	18	4	62	170	152
52	27	19	6	60	143	155
50	26	18	6	58	158	157
50	25	20	5	57	161	158
52	25	21	5	57	148	142
50	22	25	3	48	136	174
50	20	25	5	45	128	156
48	18	28	4	41	127	162

**Note:** Two points for a win, one point for overtime loss. Top three teams in each division and two wild cards per conference advance to playoffs.

**Wednesday's games**

Toronto 5, Dallas 3  
Nashville 5, Washington 4  
Anaheim 4, Arizona 2  
Calgary 4, Edmonton 3, 3O  
Tampa Bay 4, Los Angeles 2  
Vancouver 5, San Jose 2

**Thursday's games**

Montreal at Buffalo  
Nashville at New Jersey  
Los Angeles at Arizona

**Friday's games**

Detroit at N.Y. Rangers  
Philadelphia at Pittsburgh  
Vegas at Carolina  
Washington at Ottawa  
Boston at Winnipeg  
St. Louis at Edmonton  
Tampa Bay at Anaheim

**Saturday's games**

Columbus at Buffalo  
Edmonton at N.Y. Rangers  
Florida at Montreal  
Colorado at Philadelphia  
Dallas at New Jersey  
N.Y. Rangers at Detroit  
Tampa Bay at San Jose  
St. Louis at Winnipeg  
Boston at Minnesota  
Chicago at Arizona  
Vegas at Nashville  
Edmonton at Calgary  
Anaheim at Los Angeles  
Tampa Bay at San Jose

**Sunday's games**

Pittsburgh at Washington  
Columbus at Montreal  
Vancouver at Carolina



ANDY BROWN/IL/PA

Sofia Kenin of the U.S. throws her towel into the crowd after defeating Australia's Ashleigh Barty in their semifinal match at the Australian Open tennis championship in Melbourne on Thursday. Kenin plays Garbine Muguruzza of Spain in Saturday's final.

# Kenin eyes bright lights of her first Grand Slam final

Associated Press

MELBOURNE, Australia — Sofia Kenin enjoys the bright lights and the big city, which is why she aspires to reside in Manhattan one day and perhaps explains why she is thriving on the Grand Slam stage right now.

"Maybe because of 'Gossip Girl'... I love New York. I just love it there," the 21-year-old American said. "Central Park. All of Fifth Avenue. All those shops. I'm a fancy girl. I like those shops, living the life."

Kenin sure is at the center of it all at the Australian Open, where she will face two-time major champion and former No. 1 Garbine Muguruzza in the final Saturday.

"I don't want to be (on) defense against her. She can really put the ball away. She's really aggressive," Kenin said. "So I feel like it's going to be who's controlling the points more, who is dictating. Of course, defense is obviously going to help."

This will be the 14th-seeded Kenin's debut in a Slam title match; she never had been past the fourth round until now.

But her gritty and varied style carried her past 15-year-old star-in-the-making Coco Gauff and the top-seeded Ash Barty in Week 2 at Melbourne Park.

"You don't experience this so often. Of course, I'm going to enjoy it. This is so exciting. Literally, butterflies," said Kenin, whose words tumble out of her mouth as speedily as her legs carry her around a court. "I'm just going to also focus on what I need to do, focus on my game. I got here. It's time to shine."

She's still just as precocious and self-believing as she was at age 7, when she told a TV interviewer in a video clip making the rounds on social media that she could return a serve from 2003 U.S. Open champion Andy Roddick.

That sort of attitude was on

## Scoreboard

### Thursday

**Melbourne Park, Australia**  
Purse: AUD71,000,000  
Surface: Hardcourt outdoor  
Seedings in parentheses:  
**Men's Singles**  
Novak Djokovic (2), Serbia, def. Roger Federer (3), Switzerland, 7-6 (1), 6-4, 6-3.  
**Women's Singles**  
Sofia Kenin (14), United States, def. Ashleigh Barty (1), Australia, 7-6 (5), 7-5.  
Garbine Muguruzza, Spain, def. Simona Halep (4), Romania, 7-6 (8), 7-5.

**Men's Doubles**  
Rajeev Ram, United States, and Joe Salisbury (1), Britain, def. Mikhail Kukhnik and Alexander Bublik, Kazakhstan, 4-6, 6-3, 6-4.  
Lyle Saville and Max Purcell, Australia, def. Ivan Dodig, Croatia, and Filip Polasek (4), Slovakia, 6-7 (7), 6-3, 6-4.

**Mixed Doubles**  
John-Patrick Smith and Astra Sharma, Australia, def. Lukas Kubot and Iga Swiatek, Poland, 3-6, 7-6 (4), 10-3.  
Nikola Pietrangeli, Croatia, and Barbora Krejickova (5), Czech Republic, def. Rohan Bopanna, India, and Nadia Kichenok, Ukraine, 6-0, 6-2.  
Henri Kontinen, Finland, and Gabriela Babroski (3), Canada, def. Ivan Dodig, Croatia, and Latisha Chan (6), Taiwan, 7-5, 7-6 (2).

display in her semifinal against Barty on Thursday, when Kenin twice was a point from losing the first set and then twice a point from losing the second before closing out the 7-6 (6), 7-5 victory.

"She has the ability to adapt. She has the ability to try different things, control the center of the court," said Barty, the reigning French Open champion.

"She's extremely confident at the moment, as well," Barty said. On the men's side, Novak Djokovic struck his Grand Slam winning streak against Roger Federer to six in a row with a 7-6 (1), 6-4, 6-3 victory Thursday night that earned the defending champion a record eighth trip to the final at Melbourne Park.

Djokovic awaits the winner of Friday's semifinal between 53 Dominic Thiem and No. 7 Alexander Zverev.



JASON FRANSON/AP

Calgary Flames left wing Sam Bennett, left, and Edmonton Oilers' center Riley Sheahan collide during Calgary's 4-3 shootout win Wednesday. Little separates the top teams in the Pacific Division.

## SUPER BOWL

## Something rotten with the Rooney rule?

## Goodell: Diversity in coach/executive hirings must improve

By BARRY WILNER  
Associated Press

MIAMI — Stopping short of saying the Rooney Rule is not working, NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell noted Wednesday the league needs change to its minority hiring policy.

Though the league requires teams to interview minority candidates, only two African-Americans have been hired for 19 open head coaching spots over the past three years. The league has only two minority general managers among the 32 teams.

"Clearly we are not where we want to be on this level," Goodell said at his annual Super Bowl news conference. "We have a lot of work that has gone into not only the Rooney Rule but our policy overall. It's clear we need to change and do something different.

"There's no reason to expect we're going to have a different outcome next year

without those kinds of changes and we've already begun engaging in those changes. Not just with our diversity committee, not just with the Fritz Pollard Alliance, but others. And trying to figure out what steps we could take next that would lead to better outcomes. It's clear we're all committed to doing that, and we have to make those changes.



Goodell

"We will have a series of meetings which we've already scheduled over the next month to get that kind of dialogue going, to continue the dialogue to try to determine what are the solutions so we can have those better outcomes," he added.

The Rooney Rule, which has been adopted by other leagues and businesses, calls for a minority candidate to be interviewed for head coaching and executive openings such as general managers. Critics have said those interviews are often simply token responses to the rule and that the minority candidates are not seriously considered.

Goodell also addressed negotiations between the NFL Players Association and the league on a new labor deal. The current 10-year contract runs out in March 2021 and there is optimism on both fronts that a new deal would be finalized before this March when the 2020 league year begins.

"We've been having incredibly productive dialogue," Goodell said. "I think we've made a lot of progress at now seven or eight months since we began those discussions more formally.

"I think we've addressed difficult issues that face our league going forward and looking forward. I think both the players and management and everyone at the negotiations have worked to try to find creative solutions to make the NFL better, and that's what you want."

As for putting a timetable on a potential agreement, Goodell wouldn't speculate.

"The process will close when the process closes, when all of us feel comfortable that we've reached an agreement that we want to go forward with," he said.



CHARLIE RIEDEL, ABOVE, AND JOHN HEFTI, BELOW/AP

Kansas City Chiefs offensive coordinator Eric Bieniemy, above, leads perhaps the most dynamic offense in the NFL and San Francisco 49ers defensive coordinator Robert Saleh, below, leads one of the stingiest defenses in the league. Both got interviews for head coaching positions but were passed over.

## Success didn't equal head coaching jobs for Super Bowl assistants

By ROB MAADDI  
Associated Press

MIAMI — It's common for coordinators in the Super Bowl to have a head coaching position with a new team waiting for them after the game.

Not this year.

The Kansas City Chiefs have perhaps the most dynamic offense in the NFL and the San Francisco 49ers feature one of the stingiest defenses in the league. The men in charge of both units got interviews but were passed over.

Chiefs offensive coordinator Eric Bieniemy interviewed with the Panthers, Browns and Giants during the team's bye before the playoffs. Niners defensive coordinator Robert Saleh also interviewed with the Browns.

Cleveland hired Kevin Stefanski, who was Minnesota's offensive coordinator, after Saleh's defense shut down the Vikings in a 27-10 win in the divisional round.

So when two minority candidates with obvious qualifications miss out on coaching jobs, many people question whether the NFL has a diversity issue.

There are just three African-American head coaches in the league and only one minority — Ron Rivera — was hired to fill one of the five vacancies this offseason.

"Clearly, we are not where we want to be on this level," NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell said Wednesday about the Rooney Rule. "It's clear we need to change and do something different. There's no reason to expect we're going to have a different outcome next year without those kinds of changes and we've already begun engaging in those changes."

Bieniemy and Saleh aren't complaining, though others are outraged for them.

"I had an opportunity to interview for three jobs," Bieniemy said. "One thing I



can say, I had a great process, a great discussion. Each and every interview is different. ... It's a blessing and it's always great to be mentioned. It's always great to have that opportunity to be considered in those roles. But when it's all said and done with, I work for a great organization. I work for a great boss. I work for a great owner. On top of that, we have some great people in this building."

Chiefs coach Andy Reid called Bieniemy a "leader of men" and praised his intellect.

"They also know and respect his mind," Reid said. "Every week, he and I sit down, and we put together this game-plan sheet with 200-plus plays on it. He memorizes every play, every formation. Just BA-oom, on recall, just like that. Every week, I go, 'Listen, are you good with this?' He goes, 'No problem, got it.' A lot of hard work goes into it. Plus, he is a brilliant dude."

Saleh inherited the worst defense in the league in 2017 and turned it into the No. 2-ranked defense this season.

"I just go about my business best I can," said Saleh, who is Lebanese-American. "Judge me for who I am, not for my ethnicity."

Hall of Fame running back Marshall Faulk put all the blame on the owners for the lack of diversity.

"This may be the first time you have a defensive coordinator who could be a head coach and an offensive coordinator who could be a head coach and there's not a team waiting for them," Faulk said. "It is sad. But they don't care. Nothing will be done about it. When the owners meet, none of us are in there to pound the table and say this is wrong. Let's be real."

Niners cornerback Richard Sherman blamed the media.

"I put more of the responsibility on you — on the media because you're asking people who have no say in it," Sherman said. "You're asking players. We literally have no say in who gets hired, who gets fired. But the people who have say, we don't pressure. The owners, we don't call, we don't push to get them; when you have them in the media, nobody asks them the hard questions because you don't want to rub them the wrong way, you don't want to get on their bad side.

"So I almost say it's your fault that we don't have these answers, because none of you are asking the hard questions. Everybody feels comfortable asking a player a hard question about, 'Man, why aren't these black coaches getting jobs?' Ask the dudes who hire them. Ask the dudes who have all the power in the world to hire and fire these men. Then you'll get the answers. Or maybe we're not looking for the answers in those dudes, because we kinda know what they are."

# SUPER BOWL

How they were built

# Trades played big role among 49ers' starters

By Josh Dubow  
Associated Press

**M**SANTA CLARA, Calif. — San Francisco 49ers executives preach the importance of building through the draft. Splashy free-agent signings each March generate lots of headlines.

When it came to building the San Francisco 49ers into a Super Bowl team, coach Kyle Shanahan and general manager John Lynch used a tactic that's not nearly as common in the NFL with a series of trades that have put key starters in place.

"John and his staff have been unbelievable," Shanahan said. "When we came here, we knew we had to get some. There were a lot here to start with that have worked out very well, but we also knew we had a lot of hard work in front of us. John and his staff have presented all this stuff and got us a ton of guys, and it's been great because even the big key ones that everyone knows about have made a difference."

The biggest one of those of course came midway through the 2017 season when the team was eight games into an 0-9 start when New England coach Bill Belichick called to offer quarterback Jimmy Garoppolo for a second-round pick.

The Niners leaped at the chance and got the most important piece of the rebuilding process. But that wasn't the only key trade.

Just before the start of that season, San Francisco sent a fifth-round pick to Detroit for former first-round guard Laken Tomlinson, who almost immediately stepped in as a starter and has been a key part of the line ever since.



Tony Avelar/AP

The 49ers acquired wide receiver Emmanuel Sanders from Denver for third- and fourth-round draft picks.

## DID YOU KNOW?

San Francisco hasn't had a quarterback, running back, tight end or wide receiver who was drafted in the first round play a single snap in three years under head coach Kyle Shanahan.

SOURCE: Associated Press

Two more big trades came this past year starting in March when the 49ers dealt a 2020 second-round pick to Kansas City for pass rusher Dee Ford.

Ford has teamed with rookie Nick Bosa as a formidable edge-rushing duo that has transformed a defense that lacked playmakers into one of the most feared units in the league.

"His take-off, his get-off is one of a kind," defensive tackle DeForest Buckner said about Ford. "Probably the best first step I've ever seen. Just to see him, it's like a track meet. You hear the gun and he's taking off. It's pretty impressive to see."

Then perhaps the final piece was put into place during the season when San Francisco dealt third and fourth-round picks to Denver for receiver Emmanuel Sanders and a fifth-round pick.

That filled the void of a No. 1 receiver that the Niners lacked, allowing the offense to step up its production in the second half of the season, when the defense was hampered by injuries.

"It gave us a big pickup when we needed it," Shanahan said. "Emmanuel came in and allowed our other receivers to grow. I don't know how ready all those other guys were, quite yet and Emmanuel came in and took a lot of pressure off the guys right

away."

Perhaps the second-biggest move to the one that brought Garoppolo to town was the season-ending knee injury to Garoppolo in 2018. That led to a 4-12 finish that gave the Niners the No. 2 pick in the draft and the chance to draft Bosa.

"Things have a way of working out," Garoppolo said. "I always told myself it was a blessing in disguise, the ACL and everything, and, yeah, we got Bosa out of it. That's a pretty good trade-off, I guess. Things have a way of working out, I guess. This ride is crazy. You've just got to roll with the punches."

Bosa was the fourth defensive lineman taken by San Francisco in the past five drafts, joining Buckner, Arik Armstead and Solomon Thomas.

Using high picks on the line has been a philosophy in San Francisco that predates the Shanahan-Lynch regime with left tackle Joe Staley being drafted 28th overall in 2007. He teams with 2018 first-round right tackle Mike McGlinchey to anchor the line.

The skilled position players on offense have been found with lower-value picks. The Niners haven't had a quarterback, running back, tight end or receiver who was drafted in the first round play a single snap in three years under Shanahan.

In fact, the Niners have gotten more offensive production out of undrafted players than first-rounders with 24 TDs this season from players who weren't drafted, 11 more than any other team this season.

"It's just one of those things that shows you how hungry guys are," running back Raheem Mostert said. "It doesn't necessarily mean guys have to be first- or second-rounders in order to get the ball. All you have to do is produce and that's something that guys who have been in the lower tier of the draft or undrafted have been capable of doing."

Mostert led the undrafted group with 10 touchdowns after arriving late in 2016 after he was cut by his sixth team. He's the only skill position player on the roster who predated Shanahan's arrival.

The Niners have also made key additions in the later rounds of the draft with All-Pro tight end George Kittle coming as a fifth-rounder in 2017 and middle linebacker and defensive leader Fred Warner arriving the following year as a third-rounder.

Finally, free agency has played a big role with additions such as cornerback Richard Sherman and linebacker Kwion Alexander the past two years.



MARCIO JOSÉ SANCHEZ/AP

Running back Raheem Mostert was cut by six different teams before finally latching on with the 49ers and becoming a key component.

## San Francisco roster

Head coach: Kyle Shanahan						
	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Exp.	College	
3	C	5-11	215	3	Iowa	
4	Nick Mullens	QB	6-2	215	3	Southern Mississippi
6	Mitch Wishnowsky	P	6-2	220	19	Utah
9	Robbie Gould	K	6-0	190	15	Penn State
10	Jimmy Garoppolo	QB	6-2	225	6	Eastern Illinois
13	Richie James Jr.	WR	5-9	185	2	Middle Tennessee
17	Emmanuel Sanders	WR	5-11	180	10	Southern Methodist
18	Dante Pettis	WR	6-1	195	2	Washington
19	Deebo Samuel	WR	5-11	214	1	South Carolina
20	Jimmy Ward	DB	5-11	193	6	Northern Illinois
22	Matt Breida	RB	5-10	190	3	Georgia Southern
23	Ankelo Witherspoon	CB	6-2	195	3	Colorado
24	K'Waun Williams	CB	5-9	185	5	Pittsburgh
25	Richard Sherman	CB	6-3	195	9	Stanford
26	Tevin Coleman	RB	6-1	210	5	Indiana
29	Jaquari Tartt	S	6-1	215	5	Samford
30	Jeff Wilson Jr.	RB	6-0	194	2	North Texas
31	Raheem Mostert	RB	5-10	197	5	Purdue
32	D.J. Reed Jr.	DB	5-9	188	2	Kansas State
33	Tarvarius Moore	DB	6-2	200	2	Southern Miss
34	Frede Warner	LB	6-2	240	8	NC State
36	Marcell Harris	S	6-0	208	2	Florida
41	Emmanuel Moseley	CB	5-11	184	2	Tennessee
43	Daniel Helm	TE	6-4	248	1	Duke
44	Kyle Juszczyk	TE	6-1	240	7	Harvard
47	Elijah Lee	LB	6-2	229	3	Kansas State
51	Azeez Al-Shaair	LB	6-2	228	1	Florida Atlantic
53	Mark Nzeocha	LB	6-3	240	5	Wyoming
54	Fred Warner	LB	6-2	240	8	NC State
55	De Ford	DL	6-2	252	6	Auburn
56	Kwon Alexander	LB	6-1	227	5	LSU
57	Dre Greenlaw	LB	6-0	227	1	Air Force
60	Daniel Brunsell	OL	6-5	300	1	San Diego State
63	Ben Garland	OL	6-5	308	6	Air Force
67	Justin Skule	OT	6-6	318	1	Vanderbilt
68	Mike Person	OL	6-4	300	9	Montana State
69	Mike McGlinchey	OT	6-8	315	6	Notre Dame
74	Joe Staley	OT	6-5	295	13	Central Michigan
75	Laken Tomlinson	OL	6-3	312	5	Duke
81	Jordan Matthews	WR	6-3	215	6	Vanderbilt
82	Ross Dwelley	TE	6-5	240	7	Stanford
83	Levine Toilolo	TE	6-8	268	7	Stanford
84	Kendrick Bourne	WR	6-1	203	3	Eastern Washington
85	George Kittle	TE	6-4	250	3	Iowa
86	Kyle Nelson	OL	6-2	310	10	Arizona
90	Kevin Givens	DL	6-1	285	1	Penn State
91	Arik Armstead	DL	6-7	292	5	Oregon
92	Anthony Zettel	DL	6-4	275	1	Penn State
93	Earl Mitchell	DL	6-3	310	10	Arizona
94	Solomon Thomas	DL	6-2	280	3	Stanford
96	Sheldon Day	DL	6-1	294	4	Notre Dame
97	Nick Bosa	DL	6-4	266	1	Ohio State
99	DeForest Buckner	DL	6-7	300	4	Oregon



# SUPER BOWL



BYRNN ANDERSON/AP

The fact that quarterback Patrick Mahomes is still on his rookie contract allowed the Chiefs some flexibility under the salary cap to go after some big-name free agents to shore up other areas.

## Chiefs roster

Head Coach: Andy Reid

	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Exp.	College
2 Dustin Colquhoun	P	6-3	210	15	Tennessee
4 Chad Henne	QB	6-3	222	12	Michigan
7 Harrison Butker	K	6-4	205	3	Georgia Tech
8 Matt Moore	QB	6-3	219	12	Oregon State
10 Tyreek Hill	WR	5-10	185	4	West Alabama
11 Demarcus Robinson	WR	6-1	203	4	Florida
13 Byron Pringle	WR	6-1	203	2	Kansas State
14 Sammy Watkins	WR	6-1	211	6	Clemson
15 Patrick Mahomes	QB	6-3	230	3	Texas Tech
17 Mecole Hardman	WR	5-10	187	8	Georgia
20 Morris Claiborne	CB	5-11	192	8	LSU
21 Bashaud Breeland	CB	5-11	195	6	Clemson
23 Armani Watts	S	5-11	205	2	Texas A&M
24 Jordan Lucas	S	6-1	190	4	Penn State
25 LeSean McCoy	RB	5-11	210	11	Pittsburgh
26 Damien Williams	RB	5-11	224	6	Oklahoma
27 Rashad Fenton	CB	5-11	188	8	South Carolina
29 Kendall Fuller	CB	5-11	198	4	Virginia Tech
30 Alex Brown	DB	5-11	170	8	SC State
32 Tyrann Mathieu	S	5-9	190	7	LSU
34 Darwin Thompson	RB	5-8	200	6	Utah State
35 Charvarius Ward	CB	6-1	196	2	Middle Tennessee
41 James Winchester	LS	6-3	240	5	Oklahoma
42 Anthony Sherman	FB	5-10	242	9	Connecticut
44 Dorian O'Daniel	CB	6-2	220	2	Oklahoma
49 Daniel Sorensen	S	6-2	208	6	Brigham Young
50 Darron Lee	LB	6-1	232	4	Ohio State
52 Demone Harris	LB	6-4	272	1	Buffalo
53 Anthony Hitchens	LB	6-4	320	8	Iowa
54 Damien Wilson	LB	6-0	245	5	Minnesota
55 Frank Clark	DE	6-3	260	5	Michigan
56 Ben Niemann	LB	6-2	335	2	Iowa
59 Reggie Ragland	LB	6-2	252	4	Alabama
60 Ryan Hunter	G	6-3	316	1	Bowling Green
61 Stefan Wisniewski	G	6-3	305	9	Penn State
62 Austin Reiter	C	6-3	300	4	South Florida
64 Blake Bell	TE	6-4	232	6	CS Pueblo
68 Jackson Barton	OT	6-7	302	8	Utah
71 Mitchell Schwartz	T	6-5	320	8	California
72 Eric Fisher	T	6-7	315	7	Central Michigan
73 Nick Allegretti	G	6-4	320	8	Illinois
75 Cam Erving	DE	6-5	313	5	Florida State
76 Laurent Duvernay-Tardif	G	6-5	321	6	McGill (Canada)
77 Andrew Wylie	G	6-6	309	2	Eastern Michigan
81 Blake Bell	TE	6-4	289	3	Oklahoma
82 Deon Yelder	TE	6-4	255	2	Western Kentucky
87 Travis Kelce	TE	6-5	260	7	Cincinnati
91 Derrick Nnadi	DT	6-1	312	2	Florida State
92 Tanoh Kpassagnon	DE	6-7	289	3	Villanova
94 Terrell Suggs	DE	6-3	265	17	Arizona State
95 Chris Jones	DT	6-6	310	4	Mississippi State
98 Xavier Williams	DT	6-2	309	5	Northern Iowa
99 Khalen Saunders	DT	6-0	324	8	Western Illinois

## How they were built

# Mahomes cornerstone of Chiefs' construction

By DAVE SKRETTA  
Associated Press

**T**KANSAS CITY, Mo. — The team that would eventually take the Kansas City Chiefs back to the Super Bowl for the first time in 50 years was under construction long before general manager Brett Veach and coach Andy Reid finally laid the cornerstone.

Patrick Mahomes simply allowed them to erect the walls faster and higher than anyone thought possible.

The story of how the Chiefs were built doesn't begin or end with the record-setting quarterback, but everything certainly revolves around him. The reigning league MVP's uncanny ability to make every throw imaginable, his competitive drive and willingness to tuck and run, and his leadership in the locker room have all been instrumental in helping the Chiefs advance to the championship game against the San Francisco 49ers on Sunday.

"People thought I was crazy back at the combine, before he took a start, when I said he is the best player I've ever seen," Veach said. "He is the best player in the game. I think that's not just me saying it now, it's the whole league. He is the best player in the game so whatever he does, it doesn't really surprise you. He is that good."

Mahomes threw for more than 4,000 yards with 26 touchdown passes and only five interceptions, even though he missed most of three games because of a knee injury, and was hobbled in a handful of others with a sore ankle.

His value doesn't end there, either. Mahomes remains on his rookie contract — at least for now — and that allowed the Chiefs the financial flexibility to rebuild an inept defense into one that was among the NFL's best late in the season.

The Chiefs knew after they failed to stop the New England Patriots in overtime in last year's AFC championship game that they needed to make changes, and coach Andy Reid made the difficult decision to relieve Bob Sutton of his duties as their defensive coordinator. He brought in Steve Spagnuolo, who in turn implemented an aggressive 4-3 defense, and Veach did his part by overhauling the personnel on that side of the ball to better fit the new scheme.

There were pieces already in place thanks to a couple of successful drafts, including Pro Bowl defensive tackle Chris Jones, and a couple of free-agent signings last year helped line backer group. But it was Veach's pursuit

### DID YOU KNOW?

After last season's overtime loss to the Patriots in the AFC championship game, Chiefs head coach Andy Reid relieved defensive coordinator Bob Sutton of his duties and brought in Steve Spagnuolo, who implemented an aggressive 4-3 scheme.

SOURCE: Associated Press

of defensive end Frank Clark and safety Tyrann Mathieu that ultimately put the Chiefs defense over the top.

The Chiefs traded a load of draft picks to Seattle for Clark, then gave him a massive \$105.5 million contract, and he lived up to the investment by giving them a fearsome pass rush. Mathieu arrived in free agency thanks to a \$42 million deal, and he not only brought playmaking ability to the back of the defense but an unmistakable swagger to the whole team.

"Last year when the season ended, we knew we had work to do. We put a plan together," Veach said. "We believed in the guys we went after. We knew we had to field a defense to complement our offense, and we did that."

Those were the big names that shored up the defense, but other pieces came along, too. The Chiefs brought in veteran cornerback Bashaud Breeland and linebacker Damien Wilson, and they drafted safety Juan Thornhill and defensive tackle Khalen Saunders, and all four of them have played an integral role this season.

"Spags has done a great job with that group," Reid said. "He has guys with him on the defensive side that he was familiar with.

He'll be the first to tell you, that is such a big part of it. He didn't have to teach the coaches — the coaches just hit the ground running and already knew what was expected of them. So the players go, 'Man, all these guys believe this, they can teach it, they're all tied in.' With that, there was a confidence that was built in. Even when things start off slow, the guys are going, 'We're this close to turning things around again to the way we want it.' And they just keep at it."

While the Chiefs overhauled their defense from last season, the offense merely needed a few finishing touches. They had added wide receivers Tyreek Hill and Demarcus Robinson along with tight end Travis Kelce through the draft, and they had added running back Damien Williams and wide receiver Sammy Watkins through free agency in previous years.

The offensive line returned from last season largely intact, and the Chiefs merely added a couple of reinforcements — Stefan Wisniewski even worked his way into the starting lineup, proving to be much more than just a depth piece.

They also added wide receiver Mecole Hardman, who was voted to the Pro Bowl as a return specialist, along with running back Darwin Thompson and offensive lineman Nick Allegretti through the draft. All have had a role this season.

Now, with a vastly improved defense to match the Chiefs' already proven offense, they have finally taken the franchise back to the Super Bowl for the first time since beating the Minnesota Vikings for their only championship in 1970.



CHARLIE REEDE/AP

Safety Tyrann Mathieu was added via free agency courtesy of a \$42 million contract, and brought playmaking ability and swagger.

# SUPER BOWL

## No excuses: Both teams healthy as final prep begins

By Dave Skretta  
Associated Press

DAVIE, Fla. — Running back Tevin Coleman returned to practice Wednesday as the San Francisco 49ers began final preparations for the Super Bowl, while the Kansas City Chiefs had everyone on the field as they put the finishing touches on their game plan.

Coleman, who dislocated his shoulder in the NFC championship game, took handoffs during team drills during the 1-hour, 40-min workout at the University of Miami's practice facility. He looked to be in good spirits, too, slapping hands with his teammates and leaping after one play in particular.

"We'll see as the week goes how much the pain tolerance is for his shoulder," said 49ers coach Kyle Shanahan, who also has Matt Breida and breakout star Raheem Mostert at his disposal in the backfield.

Coleman was listed as limited on the injury list along with linebacker Kwon Alexander, who returned from a torn pectoral muscle in the playoffs, and safety Jaquiski Tarrt, who has been dealing with sore ribs.

"They all got to go," Shanahan said. "I'm expecting them to be good by Sunday."

The 49ers practiced in helmets and shells on the freshly resurfaced grass practice fields as they worked on first- and second-down installations, just as they would do during a normal Wednesday workout. The session included 11-on-11 team periods in which the offense and defense worked

against scout team looks.

Meanwhile, the only injury concerns heading into the week for the Chiefs were defensive tackle Chris Jones, who was hobbled by a calf strain in the AFC title game, and tight end Travis Kelce, who has been dealing with a sore knee.

Chiefs coach Andy Reid said that Kelce was fine and that Jones was "good to go" after a 90-minute workout Wednesday.

Reid wanted to keep the week before the game relatively light, so the Chiefs installed virtually the entire game plan for Sunday night's game before they departed Kansas City. That allowed them to deal with the circus of opening night Monday and more media responsibilities Tuesday without worrying about putting things in place for the game.

"They loved it," Reid told a pool reporter after the workout, which took place at the Miami Dolphins' practice facility under sunny skies and with temperatures hitting 80 degrees. "They got a little sunshine, so they loved it."

There were several visitors to practice, including the Fox Sports crew that will broadcast the game Sunday night. Joe Buck and color analyst Troy Aikman were joined by sideline reporters Chris Myers and Erin Andrews, while the pregame crew of Curt Menefee, Michael Strahan and Jimmie Johnson watched the workout.

At the end of practice, Reid asked Johnson — recently voted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame — to speak to the team.

"I competed against him and always respected him," Reid said.



CHARLIE RIEDEL/AP

**Kansas City quarterback Patrick Mahomes scrambles during the first half of the AFC Championship game against the Tennessee Titans in Kansas City, Mo. Mahomes has scrambled 10 times this postseason for 112 yards, and his ability to escape the pocket and extend plays will be crucial for the Chiefs against an aggressive San Francisco 49ers defense that has 57 sacks so far this season.**

## Test: Mahomes' mobility could frustrate 49ers

### FROM BACK PAGE

Sherman's coverage skills and Ward's ability as a free safety to cover ground deep downfield.

The 49ers had to deal with Mahomes already in his brief but brilliant career. Back in Week 3 of the 2018 season in Mahomes' first year as starter in Kansas City, he threw for 314 yards and three TDs and led touchdown drives on all five possessions in the first half of the Chiefs' 38-27 win.

That marked the only time in the past 20 seasons that the Niners allowed five straight TD drives to open a game. They had no answer for Mahomes' play-making ability.

In the rematch next Sunday in the Super Bowl in Miami, San Francisco should be better equipped at least to try to slow Mahomes down.

It added a dynamic edge rushing duo in the offense, acquiring Dee Ford in a trade with the Chiefs and drafting Nick Bosa second overall. That led to the team allowing the fewest yards in a season since the 2009 New York Jets.

"When you have edge rushers it speeds up the process of the quarterback, and, not that he needs speeding up, he already gets rid of it pretty quick. But it changes the game," Saleh said. "It unlocks the offensive line so it creates a little bit more space and it gives the guys inside more space to operate. So having those guys out there, having them at full speed, will do nothing but help."

Bosa and Ford transformed the



**Super Bowl LIV**  
**Kansas City Chiefs (14-4)**  
**vs. San Francisco 49ers (15-3)**  
AFN Sports  
12:30 a.m. Monday CET  
8:30 a.m. Monday JKT

entire defense as the added pressure helped San Francisco create more turnovers after having a record-low seven takeaways in 2018.

The Niners have 57 sacks including the playoffs, with Ford, Bosa, Arik Armstead and DeForest Buckner all recording at least 7½, making it difficult for offenses to key on one spot.

"If we're covering and that guy takes two or three hitches most likely he'll be laying on his back," safety Jimmie Ward said. "But Patrick Mahomes is a mover in the pocket. I'm pretty sure he'll make some guys miss and he'll make some plays. We just have to make more plays than he does."

San Francisco got a league-best 40 of those sacks without bringing in extra pass rushers, which will be especially important against Mahomes, who has 22 TD passes, zero interceptions and a 118.3 passer rating in his career when defenses rush five or more players.

But not getting pressure with four creates its own problems,

giving Mahomes the extra time he needs to generate big plays downfield to speedsters like Tyreek Hill, Mecole Hardman and Sammy Watkins.

"We believe in each other," Sherman said. "We believe in the scheme. We believe in what we've done all year, and we plan on going out there and putting a good product on tape and seeing how it goes."

When San Francisco has struggled defensively this season it has often come against more mobile quarterbacks, with Tyler Murray, Russell Wilson and Lamar Jackson all having more success than QBs less apt to run like Aaron Rodgers and Kirk Cousins.

That's just another reason why Mahomes is so tough. He has scrambled 10 times this postseason for 112 yards, taking advantage of undisciplined rush lanes and defensive backs who drop too deep into coverage.

The quarterback who exploited that the most against the Niners this season was Wilson, who scrambled 12 times for 79 yards in two games, compared with just 20 scrambles for 82 yards against San Francisco in the other 16 games.

"Every week, whether you're playing a guy like Mahomes or a statue, it doesn't matter," Saleh said. "You have to have respect for where he is in the pocket. And your pass rush has to tie in with one another so that way you're just not carelessly rushing the passer to where even a statue can buy time and escape the pocket and create an explosive play through an off-schedule play. But that goes every single week."



TONY AVELAR/AP

**San Francisco 49ers running back Tevin Coleman, center, reacts after dislocating his shoulder against the Green Bay Packers during the first half of the AFC Championship game. Coleman returned to practice Wednesday as the San Francisco 49ers began final preparations for Sunday's Super Bowl.**

## SUPER BOWL

# Kelce, Kittle the life of Super Bowl party

## Fun-loving TEs among the most entertaining personalities in NFL

By DENNIS WASZAK JR.  
Associated Press

MIAMI  
They've got swagger, style and lots and lots of catches. Kansas City's Travis Kelce and San Francisco's George Kittle are talkative tight ends at this year's Super Bowl and among the most entertaining personalities in the NFL — Rob Gronkowski who could play big roles in who wins the big game Sunday.

"I just love to live life, man," Kelce said with a big smile. "And I like to enjoy happiness along the way."

That comes from a guy whose silly, entertaining, ridiculous, hilarious — or, all of the above — dances to celebrate his touchdowns instantly go viral moments after he gets into the end zone.

The 6-foot-5, 260-pound Kelce has "Hit the Q" and done "The Chicken Head" and everything in between. He's the life of a football party that has moved to the NFL's biggest stage — and with a worldwide audience watching.

"I just think any time he gets the ball in the end zone, I ask him all the time, 'How do you come up with these dances, man? Just how do you come up with all this stuff?'" said Chiefs offensive tackle Eric Fisher, who was fined \$14,037 for dumping two beers on himself while celebrating a touchdown in Kansas City's divisional round win over Houston.

"I don't know, man," Fisher added. "I think his touchdown celebrations are one of a kind and will go down in history."

Kelce is also doing a pretty good job of getting himself into the record books with his play.

He holds the NFL record for the most seasons by a tight end with 1,000 or more yards receiving with four, and counting. Kelce is a favorite target of Patrick Mahomes and established himself as possibly the best all-around tight end in the game.

"Kelce's a beast," Chiefs wide receiver Tyreek Hill said. "He's special. I've never seen a guy that size to have that much ability or to carry that kind of swagger. He's definitely a leader."

The 49ers say the same of the playmaking Kittle, who was selected a first-team All-Pro this season. The third-year tight end has had 85 catches or more and 1,000 yards receiving in each of his past two years.

Kittle is a fun-loving character whose approach to the game mimics that of a playful professional wrestler. After all, his nickname is "Stone Cold Kittle" — after "Stone Cold" Steve Austin.

He even uses a gesture to celebrate first downs that he borrowed from Pentagon Jr., a Mexican wrestler. He makes a circle with his thumb and forefinger to form a "0" and then flicks his wrist so his other fingers form an "M" for Pentagon Jr.'s catch phrase: "Cero miedo," which means, "zero fear."

"I think we're all a little different, but he's unique and you see it on the field," 49ers coach Kyle Shanahan said. "He has a personality where he goes 100 mph in whatever he does. That's probably why he's going to have a WWE career after this. What's cool is that's kind of who he is and then you see it on the field. That's why



Ed Zurga/AP

Chiefs tight end Travis Kelce celebrates after the AFC championship game win over Tennessee. Kelce holds the record for the most seasons by a tight end with 1,000 or more yards receiving with four, but is likely more well known for his TD celebration dances.

whether he does perfect or not, he always makes plays with his attitude when the ball is in his hands."

That all started when Kittle was in college at Iowa, where then-tight ends coach Levar Woods gave him homework. The assignment: Watch videos of the best players at the position and take anything he can use to add to his game.

Kittle couldn't stop looking at film of

Kelce, filling his iPad with film of the Chiefs star.

Every play, every game.

"Whether it's what he does in the red zone when he runs his routes, his mindset every time he steps on the football field, I think the thing that really kind of stands out the most is you see his personality when he plays and how much fun he has," Kittle said. "Very similar to Gronk and his

personality, the way it shows. I think they just kind of opened the door for tight ends like me to be able to express ourselves on the football field."

Or, off it.

Kittle is an affable guy who's always smiling and cracking jokes. After the 49ers' victory over Green Bay in the NFC championship game, the tight end walked around doing TV interviews while wearing a T-shirt of a bare-chested quarterback Jimmy Garoppolo that a fan sent to him.

Of course, photos and video went viral. Just like his first-down celebrations.

"I think we both have a really good time playing football," Kittle said. "You can see that on the tape. We both just enjoy being out there with our teammates. We both make plays when we're asked to, and I think we both make plays when we're not asked to."

They've also been able to make plays when they aren't there.

Last season, Kittle had the most yards after catch since the stat began being tracked in 2010 with 870. He ranked first this season among non-running backs with 602.

"One guy shouldn't bring us down," the 6-4, 245-pound Kittle said. "And if you have that mindset, where you're going to run through someone's face, it definitely makes the YAC a lot easier."

Kelce isn't too shabby, either, ranking third among tight ends with 410 yards after catch.

"I do believe the run after catch is something I've been able to have a knack since I have been in the league," Kelce said. "Obviously, since Kittle has been in the league, he's taken that to a whole other level."

The two tight ends are far from one-dimensional. They do more than their fair share of blocking, too, while contributing to their teams' running games.

They'll hit defenders with a smile. And, then show off some dance moves.

"I think we're both positive guys," Kelce said with a big smile. "We both love to play the game and, at the same time, we both love life."

**4 He has a personality where he goes 100 mph in whatever he does. That's probably why he's going to have a WWE career after this. What's cool is that's kind of who he is and then you see it on the field.**

Kyle Shanahan

49ers coach, on All-Pro TE George Kittle



BEN MARCOT/AP

49ers quarterback Jimmy Garoppolo, left, and tight end George Kittle celebrate after the NFC championship game. The All-Pro tight end's nickname "Stone Cold Kittle" after pro wrestler "Stone Cold" Steve Austin, reflects his fun-loving personality.

AP Pro Football Writers Josh Dubow and Barry Wilner, and AP Sports Writer Dave Skretta contributed.



# SUPER BOWL MATCHUPS



## When the Chiefs have the ball

It's not difficult to figure out how the Chiefs will approach any game. Quarterback **Patrick Mahomes** will test defenses with his arm and skill for reading schemes. He has game-breakers in wide receivers **Tyreek Hill** and **Sammy Watkins**, which means single coverage on either is a gamble. Tight end **Travis Kelce** is a first-down machine and a clutch performer all around.

**Damien Williams** keys the backfield and comes off two exceptional postseason showings, even though Mahomes has often been the leading rusher by creating the way he did in the AFC championship game with a brilliant tap dance down the sideline for a go-ahead score.

That puts a huge onus on the Niners to get an effective pass rush, something they have done virtually every week. They will harass Mahomes with a front seven led by rookie **Nick Bosa**, a force on the outside. Defensive tackle **DeForest Buckner** has had a strong impact, and linebackers **Fred Warner** and **Kwon Alexander**, who is finally healthy, are formidable. Having edge rusher **Dee Ford**, who was a Chief last season, bolsters the unit.

They will challenge a good Kansas City offensive line anchored by right tackle

**Mitchell Schwartz** and left tackle **Eric Fisher**. But if the O-line holds true, San Francisco could struggle in coverage against the speedy Chiefs wideouts.

Cornerback **Richard Sherman** remains outstanding, even if the rest of the secondary isn't at his level.



From top: Chiefs wide receiver **Tyreek Hill**, tight end **George Kittle** and running back **Damien Williams**; 49ers defensive ends **Nick Bosa** and **Dee Ford**.

Right: Chiefs quarterback **Patrick Mahomes**

All photos from The Associated Press



## When the 49ers have the ball

After seeing the star turn by running back **Raheem Mostert** against Green Bay, the Chiefs must be wary of what usually is a three-pronged rushing attack. **Tevin Coleman**, if healthy, and **Matt Breida** give quarterback **Jimmy Garoppolo** options in the backfield, although Mostert is certain to be the main man. They operate behind a veteran line led by left tackle **Joe Staley** and second-year right tackle **Mike McGlinchey**, and **Kyle Juszczyk** is the NFL's top fullback — as a blocker and receiver.

If the Niners run the ball effectively, it could open some wide spaces for All-Pro tight end **George Kittle**, the most dynamic offensive player they have. Kittle is a difference-maker who will force the Chiefs to use double coverage at times. Safety **Tyrann Mathieu** will see a lot of Kittle, and safety **Daniel Sorenson**, who has had a monstrous playoffs, will be in the mix.

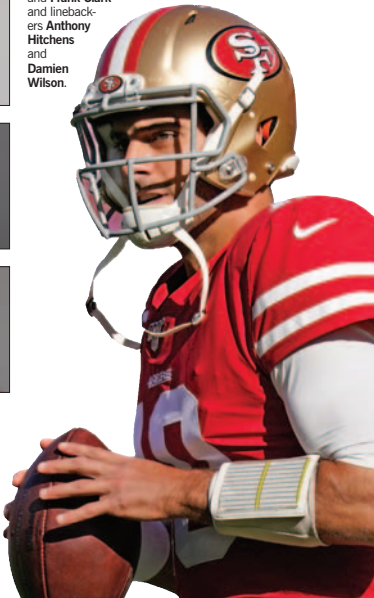
Covering wide receivers **Emmanuel Sanders**, **Kendrick Bourne** and emerging rookie **Deebo Samuel**, who is fearless going over the middle, is another chore the Chiefs must handle well. That will require big-time contributions up front from **Chris Jones**

and **Frank Clark** and linebackers **Anthony Hitchens** and **Damien Wilson**.



From top: 49ers running back **Raheem Mostert**, tight end **George Kittle** and wide receiver **Emmanuel Sanders**; Chiefs safety **Tyrann Mathieu** and linebacker **Anthony Hitchens**.

Right: 49ers quarterback



## Special teams

Kansas City has a dangerous kick returner in **Mecole Hardman**, right, one of the NFL's fastest players. The rookie does get antsy to return the ball, though, and that can lead to bad decisions.

**Harrison Butker** is a reliable placekicker with good range. He did miss three extra points, one fewer than his misses on field goals.

Veteran punter **Dustin Colquhoun** had a kick blocked by the Texans for a touchdown, but he's generally reliable.

So is San Francisco placekicker **Robbie Gould**, in his 15th pro season. He kicked in a Super Bowl for the Bears in 2007, so this stage won't unnerve him.

Punter **Mitch Wishnowsky** is a mere pup in comparison, finishing off his first NFL season.

**Richie James** ranked fifth in overall kick and punt returns for the 49ers, but isn't a game breaker like Kansas City has available.



## Coaching

**Kyle Shanahan**, left, in his third year at the helm, took the 49ers from choosing second in the 2019 draft (Bosa was the prize) to their seventh Super Bowl. His versatile offense has been solid, and the defense under coordinator **Robert Saleh** has looked immovable at times. The front line is superb, and Saleh, like Shanahan, stays aggressive all game. That showed particularly in the past two weeks.

**Andy Reid**, right, lost in the Super Bowl with Philadelphia in 2005, and he has a better team now. He has been masterful in his handling of Mahomes and the schemes that make KC's offense as dangerous as any. He was wise enough to bring in an aggressive defensive coordinator after last year's debacle on that side of the ball cost the Chiefs a shot at the NFL title. It took a while before **Steve Spagnuolo**'s system took hold, but it has looked strong in the second half of both playoff games. Kansas City must beware of falling behind again, though.



## Intangibles

Reid seeks his first Super Bowl title as a head coach, which could be the catalyst to eventual Hall of Fame selection. The Chiefs haven't won it all in 50 years, and this is the best team they've had in that span. They are more balanced than in past years, have a nice mixture of youth and experience and plenty of confidence.

Shanahan has something to prove after the super debacle of the second half of the big game against New England when he was the Falcons' offensive coordinator in the 2016 season. San Francisco seeks its sixth overall crown in the Super Bowl era, which would tie for the most. And after romping over Minnesota and Green Bay, there is no shortage of confidence with the Niners.

Capsules by Barry Wilner, The Associated Press

## SUPER BOWL

## Speed thrills: NFL's fastest offenses square off

Super Bowl features RBs, WRs worthy of Olympic relay team

By JOSH DUBOW  
Associated Press

MIAMI — Tyreek Hill has plans for the speedy Kansas City receiving group after the Super Bowl.

"If I'm healthy and my mind is in the right place, I'd go try out for the Olympics, put together a relay," Hill said. "We'd show these track guys, 'Hey, we football players can do that, too.'"

Hill might only have been half-kidding but he'd sure have a speedy crew. Hill said he'd race with fellow receivers Mecole Hardman and Sammy Watkins, and cornerback Charvarius Ward on a relay team.

While that group might not be able to win a gold medal in Tokyo, it's enough to strike fear in opposing coaches.

"It almost looks like they got their roster from the Olympic relay team and threw them all on the football field," 49ers defensive coordinator Robert Saleh said. "Not to say they can't run routes and catch, either, because they can do that. They're a special group and you can see why they're there."

The Chiefs bring the NFL's fastest group of wide receivers, led by Hill and Hardman, into the Super Bowl against a 49ers team featuring plenty of speedsters as well.

It's no accident that the league's two fastest offenses are playing for the championship on Sunday as offenses seek more and more to get playmakers the ball in space rather than just run it up the middle with brute force.

The Chiefs were the NFL's fastest team this season, with ball carriers averaging a top speed of 13.34 mph, according to NextGen Stats compiled by SportRadar. The Niners were only a tick behind at 13.32 mph.

With so much speed on both sides maybe they could hold a 400-meter relay race in place of the opening coin toss.

"If we do line up for a relay, they'd probably win," Niners safety Jimmie Ward. "But one thing about it, this is football. There's such a thing as a helmet and shoulder pads. And we hit. We are very physical with how we hit."

The Niners have plenty of speed of their own, led by running back Raheem Mostert, who was clocked with the fastest time of the season for the 49ers at 22.85 mph.

Mostert said if he was putting together a relay team he'd use the running back room with himself, Tevin Coleman, Matt Breida and Jeff Wilson Jr. Mostert, Breida and Coleman all ran the 40-yard dash leading up to their drafts under a second.

San Francisco's running backs



CHARLIE RIEDEL/AP

The Chiefs' Tyreek Hill catches a touchdown in front of the Tennessee Titans' Logan Ryan during the AFC championship game in Kansas City, Mo. Hill leads the NFL's fastest group of receivers into the Super Bowl against a 49ers team featuring plenty of speed as well.



JEFF CHU/AP

San Francisco 49ers running backs Tevin Coleman, left, Matt Breida, center, and Raheem Mostert are part of the league's fastest backfield. Breida's 22.3 mph on an 83-yard TD run against the Cleveland Browns is the fastest time this season for a ball carrier. Mostert wasn't far behind when he hit 21.87 mph on a 36-yard touchdown run in the NFC championship game against the Green Bay Packers.

led the league in average top speed with the ball with Breida's 22.3 mph on an 83-yard TD run against Cleveland the fastest time all season for a ball carrier. Mostert wasn't far behind when he

hit 21.87 mph on a 36-yard TD run in the NFC title game against Green Bay.

Injured receiver Marquise Goodwin is faster than all of them, with a combine 40 time of

4.27 seconds. Goodwin competed in the 2012 Olympics as a long jumper and also is an accomplished sprinter.

The Chiefs' speed is mostly at receiver, where they led the

league in average top speed with Hill posting the top mark of 22.81 mph when he chased down teammate Damien Williams after a long run to celebrate in the end zone.

Hardman is right there with Hill when it comes to speed, giving coach Andy Reid the deep threats he covets for his offense.

"I've only gone that fast, like, in a car, so I don't know how it feels other than that, but both those two are real fast guys," Reid said. "It gives you an opportunity to obviously stretch the field."

With so much speed on the field, it will put added pressure on the defenses to try to keep up.

That's not something that overly concerns Niners cornerback Richard Sherman, who has been one of the NFL's top cover cornerbacks since entering the league in 2011 despite a not-so-impressive 40 time at the combine of 4.56 seconds.

"This is a fast football league," Sherman said. "There's a lot of teams with speed. There's a lot of teams that have a tremendous amount of speed on the outside, on the inside. At the end of the day, you've got to go out there and execute your scheme regardless. You can go out there and face five receivers that run a 4.6, and if you don't execute your scheme, you can get run out of the building. So at the end of the day, we expect to go out there and do what we've done."



## SPORTS



**Houston picks Baker**  
Astros replace Hinch with 3-time NL Manager of the Year » **Page 53**

SUPER BOWL

# Up to the test?

## 49ers stingy pass 'D' faces tough challenge in Chiefs QB Mahomes

By **JOSH DUBOW**  
Associated Press

**W**ITH A fearsome front four capable of pressuring quarterbacks without blitzes, a lockdown cornerback in Richard Sherman and the speed at linebacker and safety to limit big plays, the San Francisco 49ers had the league's stingiest pass defense in a decade.

Shutting down Patrick Mahomes and the Kansas City Chiefs' passing game in the Super Bowl will be a far tougher challenge than anything the Niners have faced this season.

"His mobility is unique. His arm strength is ridiculous. He's very, very accurate," defensive coordinator Robert Saleh said. "But what I don't think people give him enough credit for is that he actually plays quarterback."

"There's a lot of people, there's a lot of quarterbacks in this league that will say no to number one and then it just becomes street ball," Saleh continued. "He gets rid of the ball on time. He puts it where it needs to be. He hits a lot of throws in rhythm. And when he needs to take his shot, he knows how to buy time in the pocket and do it. So he is a superstar in every way you can possibly imagine and he's going to be tough to deal with."

Mahomes leads the NFL with 76 completions the past two seasons on throws at least 20 yards downfield, an aspect San Francisco's defense is designed to stop.

It allowed the second fewest deep completions in the regular season, with only eight on 48 attempts, thanks in large part to

SEE TEST ON PAGE 60



### Better the second time around?

The San Francisco 49ers have faced off with Kansas City Chiefs QB Patrick Mahomes, pictured, just once — in Week 3 of the 2018 season. In Mahomes' first year as Chiefs starter, he threw for 314 yards and three TDs and led touchdown drives on all five possessions in the first half of Kansas City's 38-27 win over San Francisco. It is the only time in the past 20 seasons the 49ers have allowed five consecutive TD drives to open a game.

SOURCE: Associated Press; Photo by Brynn Anderson/AP

**'He is a superstar in every way you can possibly imagine and he's going to be tough to deal with.'**

**Robert Saleh**  
49ers defensive coordinator, on Chiefs quarterback Mahomes



**49ers DE Nick Bosa, front, and CB Richard Sherman.**  
TNS photos

**Health concerns cancel hoops tournaments** » **Page 54**

