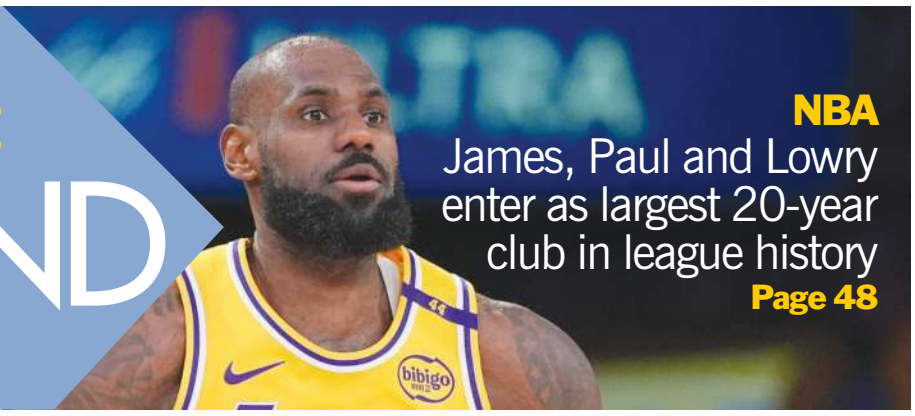
GAMES: Civilization VII stirs up title's usual format **Page 15**

MUSIC: Neko Case adds powerful friends **Page 28**

TRAVEL: Legos tell history at Polish museum **Page 22**

EUROPE & PACIFIC WEEKEND EDITION



NBA
James, Paul and Lowry enter as largest 20-year club in league history
Page 48

STARS AND STRIPES®
stripes.com

Volume 84 Edition 131 ©SS 2025 FRIDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2025

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

$1.00

Army has doubled its recruits on entry delay

By Rose L. Thayer
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The Army not only beat its recruiting goal last fiscal year by 1,000 enlistees, but it entered this year with double the number of recruits on its delayed entry roster than the year before.

With 22,000 recruits waiting to ship out, the Army now has predictability in sending soldiers to boot camp and the cushion to build on the changes it made to recruiting over the past four years to modernize how it fills its ranks, said Brig. Gen. Sara Dudley, commander of Army Recruiting Division at Fort Knox, Ky.

The Army's goal for fiscal 2026, which began Oct. 1, is to recruit 60,000 soldiers. Last year it aimed for 61,000 new soldiers and signed on 62,050.

Division staff members are revisiting where the Army assigns recruiters, how and where to point them to find prospective soldiers, and restructuring the headquarters personnel to better serve the mission, Dudley said during an interview Tuesday alongside Command Sgt. Maj. Danny Basham, the senior noncommissioned officer in the division.

"That has just not been able to happen because we've just been in a firefight trying to get people into the Army," Dudley said. "We have a lot of transformation that's still left to happen because we want to be good stewards with the amount of NCOs that we're asking to bring to us from the Army."

The Army, like the Navy and Air Force, struggled to find enough people willing to fill its ranks coming out of the coronavirus pandemic.

SEE RECRUITS ON PAGE 3



Alejandro Pena/Alaska National Guard

An Alaska Air National Guard C-17 Globemaster III arrives at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Alaska, with approximately 300 evacuated residents from western Alaska, on Wednesday. Military officials blurred the faces of the evacuees for privacy purposes.

Guard evacuates Alaskans

Mass airlift after storm swamps rural villages in typhoon's wake

By Leo Sands, Ben Noll and Joshua Partlow
The Washington Post

Officials are evacuating hundreds of Alaskans after a powerful storm system hammered the state's western coast this week, in what the National Guard described as one of the largest airlifts in the state's recent history.

In the aftermath of Typhoon Halong, extreme winds toppled homes, and a storm surge flooded villages, triggering a sprawling multiagency rescue effort. The isolated villages of Kipnuk and Kwigillingok were the worst hit.

Overnight, officials said, they evacuated 300 displaced people from a regional shelter that had reached capacity in Bethel, in western Alaska, about 400 miles to Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson in Anchorage.

Typhoon Halong was one of the strongest storms the region has experienced on record, picking up extra fuel from a record-breaking marine heat wave spanning the North Pacific Ocean as it raced to-

SEE EVACUATES ON PAGE 6



Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities/AP

The city of Kotzebue, Alaska, experienced flooding Oct. 8.

BUSINESS/WEATHER

EUROPE GAS PRICES

Country	Super E10	Super unleaded	Super plus	Diesel
Germany	$3.491	$4.095	$4.456	$4.095
Change in price	-6.3 cents	-4.6 cents	-4.3 cents	-4.6 cents
Netherlands	..	$5.013	$5.596	$5.269
Change in price	..	+1.6 cents	+1.9 cents	+1.7 cents
U.K.	..	$5.373	$5.737	$5.608
Change in price	..	No change	No change	No change
Azores	..	..	$4.319	..
Change in price	..	..	-4.3 cents	..
Turkey	..	..	$4.111	$3.750*
Change in price	..	..	-4.3 cents	-4.6 cents

Fuel prices are updated daily. These prices are effective Oct. 17. The change in price is from Oct. 10.

PACIFIC GAS PRICES

Country	Super E10	Super unleaded	Super plus	Diesel
Japan	..	$4.079	..	$3.719
Change in price	..	-5.0 cents	..	-5.0 cents
Okinawa	$3.259	..	..	$3.719
Change in price	No change	..	..	-5.0 cents
South Korea	$3.149	..	$4.109	$3.749
Change in price	-6.0 cents	..	-5.0 cents	-5.0 cents
Guam	$3.179**	$3.779	$4.139	..
Change in price	-6.0 cents	-5.0 cents	-5.0 cents	..

*DieselEFD **Midgrade
Pacific prices for the week of Oct. 17-23

EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates	
Euro costs (Oct. 17)	0.84
British pound (Oct. 17)	$1.31
Japanese yen (Oct. 17)	147.00
South Korean won (Oct. 17)	1,382.00

Commercial rates	
Bahrain (Dinar)	0.3743
Britain (Pound)	1.3420
Canada (Dollar)	1.4047
China (Yuan)	7.1262
Denmark (Krone)	6.4064
Egypt (Pound)	47.5024
Euro	0.8577
Hong Kong (Dollar)	7.7715
Hungary (Forint)	334.39
Israel (Shekel)	3.2973
Japan (Yen)	151.10
Kuwait (Dinar)	0.3053
Norway (Krone)	10.0726
Philippines (Peso)	58.02
Poland (Zloty)	3.64
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.7461
Singapore (Dollar)	1.2955
South Korea (Won)	1416.47
Switzerland (Franc)	0.7967
Thailand (Baht)	32.50
Turkey (NewLira)	41.8482

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

INTEREST RATES

Prime rate	7.25
Interest Rates Discount rate	0.25
Federal funds market rate	4.12
3-month bill	3.96
30-year bond	4.62

WEATHER OUTLOOK

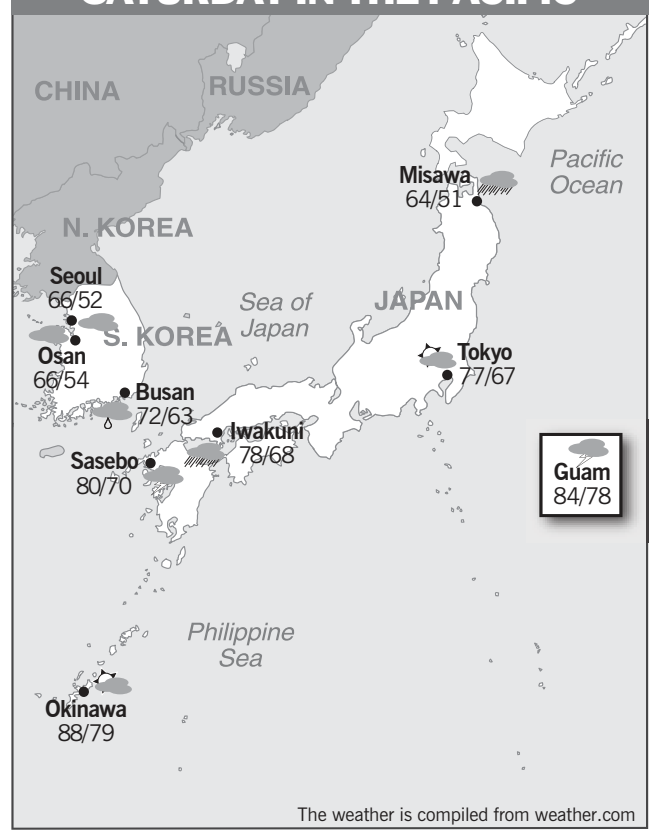
FRIDAY IN THE MIDDLE EAST



FRIDAY IN EUROPE



SATURDAY IN THE PACIFIC



The weather is compiled from weather.com

TODAY IN STRIPES

American Roundup 36
Classified 46
Comics 34,38-39
Crossword 34,38-39
Opinion 40
Sports 41-48

STARS AND STRIPES
However you read us, wherever you need us.

Mobile • Online • Print

EUROPE | ADVERTISING | CustomerService@stripes.com | +49 (0) 0631.3615.9111 DSN: 314.583.9111

MIDDLE EAST | ADVERTISING | CustomerService@stripes.com | +49 (0) 0631.3615.9111 DSN: 314.583.9111

PACIFIC | ADVERTISING | PacificAdvertising@stripes.com | +81 (42) 552.2511 DSN: 315.227.7310

Round-the-world news for America's military.

Stripes.com supplies constant updates, on news of interest — including reports from our overseas military bases in Europe, Pacific, Southwest Asia and the Mideast, and coverage of the Pentagon and Capitol Hill.
Also available on mobile apps for Android and iOS.

STARS AND STRIPES®
Mobile • Online • Print

MILITARY

Guidance on rent during shutdown posted

Army legal officials discuss protections, advise Americans to talk with German landlords

BY JENNIFER H. SVAN
Stars and Stripes

KAISERSLAUTERN, Germany — Defense Department personnel living in Germany are receiving reassurance that an inability to pay November's rent due to the ongoing partial government shutdown is not grounds for eviction.

But U.S. Army legal officials are advising American tenants to notify their German landlords of any potential problems with on-time payments to prevent any misunderstandings.

"Unless there have already been prior furlough unrelated financial problems, no landlord will be able to terminate a lease if the November rent is not paid in part or full," a statement posted Wednesday on U.S. Army Garrison Ansbach's Facebook page said.

The statement is based on guidance written earlier this month by the Kaiserslautern Legal Services Center, officials confirmed. Located on Kleber Kaserne, the office advises U.S. personnel on legal issues, including German landlord-tenant law.

Termination of a rental contract for late payment under German law can proceed only when a tenant falls behind by the equivalent of one month's worth of rent plus at least 1 cent, according to the Army legal guidance.

That extra cent means tenants have a reprieve from paying rent for at least another month if they are not already behind on payments, according to the guidance, which recommends that tenants at least try to pay partial rent.

The partial government shutdown began on Oct. 1 after Congress reached an impasse on an appropriations bill. While service members were paid this week, government civilians who work for appropriated funds agencies went without pay and benefits.

There are more than 12,000 appropriated-fund civilians working at U.S. military bases in Germany, according to a DOD workforce report from June.

Also, according to German rental laws, landlords are permitted to use a rental security deposit to pay off debts or a mortgage in place of rent if the tenant defaults on a payment. That deposit must later be replenished by the tenant.

Although giving landlords advance notice of an inability to pay rent in full due to the shutdown isn't required, it's good practice so tenants stay in good standing with the landlord, Army officials said.

Some German landlords may be unaware of the law and send an invalid termination notice, the Army statement said.

"The tenants should neither be tricked [n]or scared by such action but contact their legal office," it added.

Some agencies of the U.S. military are making it easier for their employees to inform their landlords of their situation.

The Department of Defense Education Activity on Wednesday issued a letter that employees who are currently working without pay can provide to creditors, lenders and landlords when asking to reduce or defer payments, according to guidance shared with Stars and Stripes.

The letter explains that the recipient is considered an "excepted employee" and will receive retroactive pay for the specified work period when the shutdown ends.

A similar letter was sent Oct. 6 by human resource officials from Navy Region Europe, Africa, Central for Navy commands to distribute to their civilian employees.

"Pending a prompt resolution of this unforeseeable circumstance, landlords and all those who may indirectly be affected, should anticipate potential delays in the payment of the monthly rents as stipulated in the lease agreements signed with U.S. civilian personnel," the letter states.

Army lifts PCS freeze for soldiers who don't need long-term storage

BY WYATT OLSON
Stars and Stripes

FORT SHAFTER, Hawaii — The Army has reversed a directive issued last week that suspended most permanent change of station moves that began before the federal shutdown, though with one major exception.

The reversal does not cover moves that require long-term storage of household goods, which includes many moves overseas.

The reversal comes five days after the service postponed in-progress moves, leaving many families in limbo. The order did not pertain to civilian Army employees.

Moves had been permitted to continue for PCS orders issued before Oct. 1, the date the shutdown commenced.



STEPHANIE HENRY/U.S. Air Force

The Army stopped cutting orders for permanent change of station moves on Oct. 1, with the exception of specific sets of personnel.

On Monday, the Army dropped the suspension, Col. Rachel Sullivan, commander of U.S. Army Garrison Hawaii, said in a Facebook video posted Tuesday evening.

"This means anyone who has already received PCS orders prior to Oct. 1 can continue those moves with one exception," she said. "We believe this change comes in recognition of the significant hardship that suspending families in the middle of a PCS move creates."

The suspension vexed the hundreds of soldiers and their families who were already in the process of packing, storing and shipping household goods.

"We know that these changes have already caused a significant amount of stress, and we are very sorry for that," Sullivan said.

Still suspended, however, are PCS moves ordered before Oct. 1 that require long-term storage of household goods, Sullivan said.

So-called "non-temporary" storage is typically used by service members moving from the continental United States to overseas stations, such as Japan, South Korea or Germany, she said. Such moves often limit the amount of household goods that can be shipped, necessitating storage.

Sullivan directed soldiers to scrutinize their PCS orders to determine whether they are authorized for non-temporary storage.

As of Oct. 1, the Army stopped cutting orders for PCS moves, with the exception of specific sets of personnel, Sullivan said.

Exceptions include those attending transition or reclassification training; Officer Candidate School at Fort Benning, Ga.; Warrant Officer Candidate School at Fort Rucker, Ala.; special operations training pipelines and drill instructor and recruiting schools, Sullivan said.

Recruits: Division will put emphasis toward meeting goal for the Army Reserve

FROM PAGE 1

The service missed its goal in 2022 and 2023 but has since rebounded, in part due to the measures it took to overhaul how it recruits.

The Army also launched the Future Soldier Prep Course to help people interested in enlisting but unable to qualify because they don't meet academic or fitness standards.

Army Secretary Dan Driscoll said Monday in his opening remarks to the Association of the U.S. Army's annual conference that 2025 was the Army's best recruiting year in 13 years.

"The future of the Army is lining up. Americans are courageously stepping forward to serve, and our Army should reflect the greatness of that choice," he said.

Now, the Army is scheduling recruits out through March to attend boot camp, which has allowed it to modify the number of people it sends to the prep course, Dudley said.

In the past, prospects could attend for both fitness and education. Now they can only need improvement in one area, Dudley said.

The Army also tightened the standards people must meet to qualify for the prep course. The amount of body fat the potential recruit needs to lose dropped from 8% to 6% and test scores must be closer to passing, she said.

Recruiting Division will also put a strong emphasis toward meeting its goal for the Army Reserve. Last year it only enlisted 75% of the recruits needed for the part-time service, Dudley said. It can be challenging because Reserve units can require specialized skills of people residing within a certain geographic radius of the unit's home station.

It's a great opportunity for people who are happy in their civilian job but still feel compelled to serve, Basham said.

"It gives them the opportunity to serve still, maintain their family life and all that where they're at," he said. "I think it's maybe it's under-advertised because everybody thinks Army and they're like let's go 100% all of the time."



ROBIN HICKS/U.S. Army

U.S. Army recruits participate in Basic Combat Training at Fort Jackson, S.C. With 22,000 recruits waiting to ship out, the Army says it now has predictability in sending soldiers to boot camp.

MILITARY

Journalists leave Pentagon over new rules

By David Bauder
Associated Press

NEW YORK — Dozens of reporters turned in access badges and exited the Pentagon on Wednesday rather than agree to government-imposed restrictions on their work, pushing journalists who cover the American military further from the seat of its power. The nation's leadership called the new rules "common sense" to help regulate a "very disruptive" press.

News outlets were nearly unanimous in rejecting new rules imposed by Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth that would leave journalists vulnerable to expulsion if they sought to report on information — classified or otherwise — that had not been approved by Hegseth for release.



Kevin Wolf/AP

Members of the Pentagon press corp carry their belongings out of the Pentagon after turning in their press credentials, Wednesday.

Many of the reporters waited to leave together at a 4 p.m. deadline set by the Defense Department to get out of the building. As the hour approached, boxes of documents lined a Pentagon corridor and reporters carried chairs, a copying machine, books and old photos to the parking lot from suddenly abandoned workspaces. Shortly after 4, about 40 to 50 journalists left together after handing in badges.

"It's sad, but I'm also really proud of the press corps that we stuck together," said Nancy Youssef, a reporter for The Atlantic who has had a desk at the Pentagon since 2007. She took a map of the Middle East out to her car.

It is unclear what practical impact the new rules will have, though news organizations vowed they'd continue robust coverage of the military no matter the vantage point.

Stars and Stripes joined the walkout, though the new rules were not presented to the organization, Editor in Chief Erik Slavin said.

"Stars and Stripes operates according to the same journalistic principles of an independent media entity," Slavin said. "While the Pentagon's media in-brief guidelines are required for non-government entities and have not been presented to us, some provisions would compromise our congressionally mandated function as a First Amendment news organization. Our organization will maintain its commitment to journalistic independence and continue reporting on issues vital to members of the U.S. armed forces and the military community across the globe."

Images of reporters effectively demonstrating against barriers to their work are unlikely to move supporters of President Donald Trump, many of whom resent journalists and cheer his efforts to make their jobs harder. Trump has been involved in court fights against The New York Times, CBS News, ABC News, the Wall Street Journal and The Associated Press in the past year.

Speaking to reporters at the White House on Tuesday, Trump backed his defense secretary's new rules. "I think he finds the press to be very disruptive in terms of world peace," Trump said. "The press is very dishonest."

Even before issuing his new press policy, Hegseth, a former Fox News Channel host, has systematically choked off the flow of information. He's held only two formal press briefings, banned reporters from accessing many parts of the sprawling Pentagon without an escort and launched investigations into leaks to the media.

"What they're really doing, they want to spoon-feed information to the journalist, and that would be their story. That's not journalism," said Jack Keane, a retired U.S. Army general and Fox News analyst, said on Hegseth's former network.

When he served, Keane said he required new brigadier generals to take a class on the role of the media in a democracy so they wouldn't be intimidated and also see reporters as a conduit to the American public. "There were times when stories were done that made me flinch a little bit," he said. "But that's usually because we had done something that wasn't as good as we should have done it."

In an essay, NPR reporter Tom Bowman noted the many times he'd been tipped off by people he knew from the Pentagon and while embedded in the military about what was happening, even if it contradicted official lines put out by leadership. Many understand the media's role.

"They knew the American public deserved to know what's going on," Bowman wrote. "With no reporters able to ask questions, it seems the Pentagon leadership will continue to rely on slick social media posts, carefully orchestrated short videos and interviews with partisan commentators and podcasters. No one should think that's good enough."

The Pentagon Press Association, whose 101 members represent 56 news outlets, has spoken out against the rules. Organizations from across the media spectrum, from legacy organizations like The Associated Press and The New York Times to outlets like Fox and the conservative Newsmax, told their reporters to leave instead of signing the new rules.

Only the conservative One America News Network signed on. Its management likely believes it will have greater access to Trump administration officials by showing its support, Gabrielle Cuccia, a former Pentagon reporter who was fired by OANN earlier this year for writing an online column criticizing Hegseth's media policies, told the AP in an interview.

Rival sides to join US special ops exercise in Libya

By John Vandiver
Stars and Stripes

STUTTGART, Germany — Libya will be incorporated into U.S. Africa Command's flagship special operations exercise next year, the latest American military overture to the war-torn country whose strongman leader lost power in 2011 after NATO bombing.

Libyan involvement in Flintlock 26 was announced Tuesday by AFRICOM deputy commander Lt. Gen. John Brennan, who has made recent visits to Tripoli and Sirte to meet with rival groups vying for leadership of the country.

"This exercise isn't just about military training," Brennan said in an AFRICOM statement. "It's about overcoming divisions, building capacity and supporting Libya's sovereign right to determine its own future."

The training site for the exercise next spring will be near the central Libyan city of Sirte, the Stuttgart-based command said.



Zachary Wright/U.S. Air Force

British and Ivorian special operations soldiers demonstrate an assault during exercise Flintlock on April 22 in Jacqueville, Ivory Coast.

Flintlock involves numerous countries across Africa and is largely focused on developing counterterrorism capabilities of their respective militaries.

Control of Libya is being contested by two opposing factions, an internationally recognized government in Tripoli and the Libyan National Army, which dominates much of the eastern part of the country and is backed by Russia.

"By working alongside Libyans from the west and the east, we're directly contributing to Libyan efforts to unify their military institutions," AFRICOM said.

It added that the participation of western and eastern Libyan forces "marks a significant step forward in ... enabling strong U.S.-Libya security cooperation."

Libya has been in disarray since a NATO-backed popular uprising in 2011 overthrew longtime dictator Moammar Gadhafi, who died in subsequent fighting that turned into a civil war.

Over the past year, the U.S. has stepped up efforts to forge closer ties with military officials in the north African country.

That outreach included visits to Tripoli and Benghazi by U.S. 6th Fleet flagship USS Mount Whitney in April, marking the first port calls by a Navy ship to the country in 56 years.

At the time, experts said the naval engagement likely was intended to send a message to China and Russia about U.S. resolve across the Mediterranean Sea, a region vital to trade and power projection.

The AFRICOM announcement comes amid political deadlock in Libya. Progress has stalled on a road map proposed in August by the United Nations for general elections over the course of the next year that would select a new unified government.

The political body in the east that is challenging the central government is backed by former warlord Khalifa Haftar, who leads the Libyan National Army.

Haftar was accused by Gadhafi's regime of being a CIA asset. He returned to Libya in 2011 to lead rebel forces.

Top U.S. military commanders and diplomats have met directly with Haftar on numerous occasions seeking to boost cooperation between rival factions.

"Flintlock 26 will be a tangible demonstration of our growing partnership with Libyan military officers in both the west and east," Brennan said.

MILITARY

1st HIMARS launch near Mount Fuji

Marines training to 'maintain a lethal and credible' stance at Japan range

BY BRIAN MCELHINEY AND KEISHI KOJA
Stars and Stripes

The Marine Corps plans to fire the High Mobility Artillery Rocket System, or HIMARS, for the first time at a training range near Mount Fuji, according to U.S. Forces Japan.

Members of 3rd Battalion, 12th Marine Regiment, 3rd Marine Division, based at Camp Hansen on Okinawa, will fire nonexplosive training missiles at Higashi-Fuji Maneuver Area on Oct. 27, USFJ spokesman Col. John Severns said Thursday.

It will be the first HIMARS firing by Marines at the range in Shizuoka prefecture, he said. Backup dates are slated for Oct. 28 and 29 in case of bad weather.

"The training is enabling us to maintain a lethal and credible defense posture with our Japanese allies," Severns said. "That is an essential part of deterring aggression and preserving stability in the region."

Severns did not know how many Marines or HIMARS launchers would deploy. The division acknowledged follow-up questions but did not provide responses Thursday.

The Marines last fired HIMARS at the Yausubetsu Maneuver Area on Hokkaido, Sept. 14-24, according to a Japanese Ministry of Defense document posted by Betsukai town's website. That training was part of the Resolute Dragon exercise, held Sept. 11-25 across Japan, and also involved Japan's Multiple Launch Rocket System.

The 3rd Marine Division first fired HIMARS in Japan at Yausubetsu during the Northern Viper joint training exercise in 2017, according to U.S. Indo-Pacific Command.



PETER EILEN/U.S. Marine Corps

U.S. Marines fire an M142 High Mobility Artillery Rocket System, or HIMARS, at the Yausubetsu Maneuver Area in Hokkaido, Japan, on Sept. 22.

Higashi-Fuji was chosen for the upcoming HIMARS training because of its accessibility, realistic terrain and ample space, as well as the need to train in multiple environments, Severns said.

"It's essential that we have the ability to conduct HIMARS training at more than one area in Japan," he said.

HIMARS training has typically taken place about once a year at Yausubetsu, Japanese Defense Minister Gen Nakatani said during his regular news conference Tuesday in Tokyo.

"However, given the security environment in the Indo-Pacific region, it is important to further strengthen the deterrence and response capabilities of the Japan-U.S. alliance," he said.

On Oct. 7, the Japan Ground Self-Defense Force trained with its Multiple Launch Rocket System at Higashi-Fuji for the first time, a Gotemba city spokesman said Thursday.

Nakatani and other Defense Ministry officials met with representatives from Oyama town and Gotemba and Susuno cities to discuss the upcoming exercise, a South Kanto Defense Bureau spokesman said Wednesday.

The three municipalities submitted questions to the defense bureau and are expected to meet again Saturday, the Gotemba city spokesman said. He declined to specify what was discussed. The range lies within their jurisdictions.

The municipalities will decide their position on the exercise "based on the responses from the Ministry of Defense," the spokesman said.

Some Japanese government officials speak to the media only on condition of anonymity.

Cracked windshield forces Hegseth to land in the UK

BY MATTHEW ADAMS
Stars and Stripes

Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth made an unexpected landing due to a cracked aircraft windshield while traveling back from NATO defense ministers meeting in Brussels, the Pentagon said Wednesday.

"On the way back to the United States from NATO's Defense Ministers meeting, Secretary of War Hegseth's plane made an unscheduled landing in the United Kingdom due to a crack in the aircraft windshield," Pentagon spokesman Sean Parnell said in a post on X. "The plane landed based on standard procedures and everyone onboard, including Secretary Hegseth, is safe."

On his personal X account, Hegseth said, "All good. Thank God. Continue mission!"

About 30 minutes after Hegseth left Brussels, open source flight trackers spotted his Air Force C-32 losing altitude and beginning to broadcast an emergency signal.

The C-32 is a specially configured version of the Boeing 757-200 commercial intercontinental airliner; the body is identical, but it has different interior furnishings and 21st century avionics, according to the Air Force. It is used to transport U.S. leaders, including the vice president, first lady and members of the Cabinet and Congress.

Ninth blaze of year burns Marine range on Okinawa

BY BRIAN MCELHINEY AND KEISHI KOJA
Stars and Stripes

A fire last week scorched about 400,000 square feet at a Marine Corps rifle range in northern Okinawa, according to the prefectural government.

The blaze broke out at 5:32 p.m. Oct. 10 on Range 2 at Camp Hansen during routine training, a spokeswoman with the Military Base Affairs Division said by phone Thursday. No injuries or structural damage were reported.

The fire burned for about two hours before going out on its own, the spokeswoman said. It was the ninth reported fire on a rifle range at Hansen this year, she added.

Some Japanese government officials speak to the media only on condition of anonymity.

Marine Corps Installations Pacific spokeswoman 1st Lt. Kelsey Enlow confirmed the fire in an email Thursday but declined to answer other questions due to the ongoing government shutdown.

The incident follows two other fires at the same range this year.

On the morning of May 23, a blaze burned more than 215,000 square feet before going out on its own within 90 minutes, the command said at the time. On April 4, a fire scorched a similarly sized area before being extinguished the following morning.

ICE takes Marine's dad after base visit

Associated Press

SAN DIEGO — Parents of a U.S. Marine were detained by federal immigration officials and one of them was later deported after visiting family members at a California military base, a case that has drawn attention to how the government's immigration crackdown is touching military families.

Steve Rios, a Marine from Oceanside, Calif., told NBC 7 San Diego that his parents, Esteban Rios and Luisa Rodriguez, were taken into custody late last month while picking up his pregnant sister, Ashley Rios, and her husband, who is also a Marine, at Camp Pendleton.

The couple, who came to the United States from Mexico three decades ago and had pending green card applications, were stopped by immigration agents and later released with ankle monitors, Steve Rios said.

At a later check-in with federal immigration officials, they were detained and taken into custody, he said.

Esteban Rios, who had been wearing a hat and shirt that read "Proud Dad of a U.S. Marine," was deported Oct. 10, his son said.

"He said, 'Yeah, this is my lucky shirt, so we'll be fine,'" Rios recalled his father saying.

Marine Corps recruiters have long promoted enlistment as a path to stability for families without legal immigration status, but experts say those assurances have eroded as federal authorities have moved to enforce existing laws more strictly.

The Marine Corps previously told The Associated Press that recruiters have been informed they are "not the proper authority" to "imply that the Marine Corps can secure immigration relief for applicants or their families."

A spokesperson for the Department of Homeland Security, Tricia McLaughlin, said in a statement that people who break the law would face consequences.

Requests for additional information on Wednesday were not immediately returned. Messages seeking additional comment were sent to the contact addresses and telephone numbers listed for the Rios family.

The episode comes as the Trump administration pursues an aggressive immigration enforcement campaign, which has at times ensnared the relatives of military members and veterans.

NATION

Evacuates: About 500 leave 2 Alaskan villages

FROM PAGE 1

ward Alaska. Winds gusted up to 107 mph as the storm pushed into western Alaska, causing water to pile up and push inland as a devastating storm surge —reaching 6.6 feet in Kipnuk, nearly two feet above the previous record.

Coastal communities such as Kipnuk, located on a riverbank a few miles inland from the Bering Sea, have grown more vulnerable to these storms as the climate has warmed and sea ice has dwindled, according to Alaska climate experts. Melting permafrost that has contributed to widespread erosion and repeated floods have damaged infrastructure.

A 67-year-old woman was found dead, and two men, ages 71 and 41, were missing, the state's Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management said Wednesday, as it shifted from a search and rescue mission to a recovery effort. The agency said it was now focused on sheltering evacuees and restoring water, power and sanitation services to the devastated communities.

In a social media post overnight, Republican Gov. Mike Dunleavy said "we will do everything we can" to assist those affected. He said President Donald Trump "asked me to let Alaskans know he is monitoring the situation and more help is on the way."

Beginning Tuesday, the Alaska Army National Guard deployed helicopters to evacuate residents from Kipnuk to Bethel, some 90 miles inland. On Wednesday, as Bethel's shelter reached capacity, the Guard said it began airlifting those in Bethel to Anchorage using a C-17 carrier, capable of holding 300 people.

According to the Alaska Beacon, Lt. Col. Brendan Holbrook, commander of the Alaska Army National Guard's 207th Aviation Troop Command, said the remaining residents of Kipnuk and Kwigillingok would be evacuated from Bethel to Anchorage by Friday.

In total, he said, 500 had been evacuated from the two villages.

No significant storms are expected to hamper recovery efforts through the weekend, although occasional showers and blustery winds are forecast. Temperatures will be in the 30s and 40s.

By Wednesday, as many as 2,000 people had been forced to leave after the storm left their homes in ruins, the American Red Cross said.

"Homes have been flooded, pushed off their foundations and, in some cases, swept entirely out to sea. The typhoon's remnants also damaged critical infrastructure including roads, communication lines and air and seaport facilities," it said. "This could be a prolonged relief operation lasting months as villages have been left inaccessible or unlivable as winter sets in."

The U.S. Coast Guard was also involved in rescue efforts. It said that crews from Air Station Kodiak rescued 18 people in Kwigillingok and 16 in Kipnuk, and that teams were responding to any marine pollution that may have resulted from the storm system.

In a news conference Monday, the Coast Guard commander for Western Alaska, Capt. Christopher Culpepper, recounted some of the devastation. "This took people into peril, where folks were swimming, floating, trying to find debris to hold onto in the cover of darkness," he said.



JOSEPH MOON/Alaska National Guard

Alaskans crowd into an Air National Guard C-17 Globemaster III during the evacuation of Bethel, Alaska, on Wednesday. Military officials blurred the faces of the evacuees for privacy reasons.



ERIN HOOLEY/AP

Cook County Sheriff's deputies and federal agents talk outside the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement building Wednesday in Broadview, Ill.

Judge says immigration officers in Chicago must wear cameras

Associated Press

CHICAGO — Federal immigration officers in the Chicago area will be required to wear body cameras, a judge said Thursday after seeing tear gas and other aggressive steps used against protesters.

U.S. District Judge Sara Ellis said she was a "little startled" after seeing TV images of clashes between agents and the public during President Donald Trump's administration's immigration crackdown.

"I live in Chicago if folks haven't noticed," she said. "And I'm not blind, right?"

Community efforts to oppose U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement have ramped up in the nation's third-largest city, where neighborhood groups have assembled to monitor ICE activity and film incidents involving agents.

Ellis last week said agents in the area must wear badges, and she banned them from using certain riot control techniques against peaceful protesters and journalists.

"I'm getting images and seeing images on the news, in the paper, reading reports where I'm having concerns about my order being followed," the judge said.

Sean Skedzielewski, an attorney representing the government, laid blame with "one-sided and selectively edited media reports."

On Wednesday, Cook County's top judge signed an order barring ICE from arresting people at courthouses. Cook County includes Chicago, which has seen a federal immigration crackdown in recent months.

Detaining residents outside court has been a common tactic for federal agents, who have been stationed outside county courthouses for weeks, making arrests and drawing crowds of protesters.

The order, which was signed Tuesday night and took effect Wednesday, bars the civil arrest of any "party, witness, or potential witness" while going to court proceedings. It includes arrests made inside courthouses and in parking lots, surrounding sidewalks and entryways.

"The fair administration of justice requires that courts remain open and accessible, and that litigants and witnesses may appear without fear of civil arrest," the order states.

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security defended the practice of making arrests at courthouses, calling it "common sense."

"We aren't some medieval kingdom; there are no legal sanctuaries where you can hide and avoid the consequences for breaking the law," DHS said in a statement. "Nothing in the constitution prohibits arresting a lawbreaker where you find them."

Local immigration and legal advocates, including the county's public defender's office, have called for an order like this, saying clients were avoiding court out of fear of being detained. The office has confirmed at least a dozen immigration arrests at or near county courthouses since the end of July. Representatives said they've seen U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement's presence outside courthouses increase.

"I have had numerous conversations with clients who are presented with a difficult decision of either missing court and receiving an arrest warrant or coming to court and risk being arrested by ICE," Cruz Rodriguez, an assistant public defender with the office's immigration division, said at a news conference earlier this month.

Domestic violence advocacy organizations also signed a petition this month calling for Cook County Circuit Chief Judge Timothy Evans to issue the order. This comes after advocates said a woman was arrested by ICE last month while entering the domestic violence courthouse.

Alexa Van Brunt, director of MacArthur Justice Center's Illinois office, which filed the petition, said she was "gratified" by Evans' order.

"This is a necessary and overdue action to ensure that the people of Cook County can access the courts without fear," she said in a statement to The Associated Press.

Evans said justice "depends on every individual's ability to appear in court without fear or obstruction."

The tactic of detaining people at courthouses in the Chicago area is part of a larger jump in courthouse immigration arrests across the country. The flurry of immigration operations at courthouses has been condemned by judicial officials and legal organizations. It also has drawn lawsuits from some states and the adoption of bills seeking to block the practice.

NATION



DEMETRIUS MUNNERLYN/Special Operations Command

An MH-6 helicopter flies over Tampa Bay, Fla., during a capabilities demonstration in 2024.

Special op helos near Venezuela expand US Caribbean mission

BY ALEX HORTON AND SAMUEL OAKFORD
The Washington Post

The U.S. military's elite special operations aviation unit appears to have flown in Caribbean waters less than 90 miles from the coast of Venezuela in recent days, according to a visual analysis by The Washington Post.

The helicopters were engaged in training exercises, according to a U.S. official, that could serve as preparation for expanded conflict against alleged drug traffickers, including potentially missions inside Venezuela.

The U.S. military has struck at least five boats allegedly carrying illegal narcotics in international waters, killing at least 27 people, according to U.S. officials, the last one occurring on Tuesday. President Donald Trump said Wednesday he had authorized the Central Intelligence Agency to conduct missions inside the country.

The U.S. has declared it is in "armed conflict" with drug traffickers, though lawmakers and legal experts have said the strikes are unlawful killings of people who are suspected criminals and not battlefield combatants.

Visuals that circulated on social media in early October appeared to show MH-6 Little Bird attack helicopters and MH-60 Black Hawks over open water near oil and gas platforms. A visual analysis of the platforms and visible terrain indicates the helicopters were flying off Trinidad's northeast coast, bringing them within 90 miles of several points along Venezuela's coastline.

The aircraft are likely operated by the 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment, said Mark Cancian, a senior adviser with the Center for Strategic and International Studies. The unit flies missions for commandos like Navy SEALs, Green Berets and Delta Force, and has gained renown for undertaking complex and dangerous operations such as the raid to kill Osama bin Laden in Pakistan.

The inclusion of Little Birds —small attack aircraft designed to insert operators onto the ground and provide close air support — suggests preparations for potential missions that could see U.S. boots on the ground, Cancian said.

The Black Hawks could be used in support, he added, carrying additional troops, combat search-and-rescue or other capabilities.

The helicopters were conducting training flights to keep proficient and provide options for Trump and the Pentagon in the ongoing missions in the region, a U.S. official said. The flights should not be taken as evidence of drills for a land assault into Venezuela, the official cautioned, speaking on the condition of anonymity.

The Pentagon did not address questions about the operations. "The Department will not respond to speculation about military operations based on analysis by 'experts,'" Pentagon press secretary Kingsley Wilson said.

Trinidad and Tobago's Minister of Homeland Security Roger Alexander did not respond to a request for comment.

The MV Ocean Trader, a commercial vessel reconfigured into a stealthy floating special operations base, appears to have recently operated in the Caribbean and may have some relationship to the aircraft, experts said.

The ship can carry about 200 personnel, about 150 of whom are dedicated to special missions, said Bradley Martin, a senior policy researcher at the Rand Corporation and former Navy surface warfare captain. It can hold multiple aircraft, Martin said, including potentially the numerous helicopters shown in the video. It also can provide refueling and maintenance services, he said.

Satellite imagery from Sept. 25 showed a ship matching the length and visual composition of the MV Ocean Trader docked at St. Croix in the U.S. Virgin Islands. On Oct. 6, satellite imagery appeared to show the same ship operating in the Caribbean just over 40 miles east of Trinidad — within a few dozen miles from where the helicopters were filmed.

About a tenth of all deployed U.S. naval power is in the region, a "seismic" reordering of assets, analysts have said, including a submarine, a fleet of destroyers and F-35 fighters mobilized in Puerto Rico.

Venezuela has robust air-defense systems, which could pose a threat to U.S. aircraft.

Caracas uses Russian-made systems, including long-range S-300 missile launchers and other weapons that are difficult to track because they can be easily moved, Cancian said. Such systems do not pose much of a threat to U.S. helicopters when they are operating in the sea, he said. But short-range shoulder-launched weapons like the SA-24 — which can detect heat signatures from helicopter turbine engines — and the country's fleet of antiaircraft guns are particularly vexing should the aircraft cross into Venezuelan overland territory.

"These are arguably the most dangerous because they are so hard to find and could ambush helicopters passing overhead," Cancian said.

Trump says he OK'd CIA action in Venezuela

BY WARREN P. STROBEL, JOHN HUDSON AND KAREN DEYOUNG
The Washington Post

President Donald Trump said Wednesday that he had authorized the Central Intelligence Agency to conduct operations in Venezuela, markedly escalating U.S. pressure on President Nicolás Maduro amid a string of lethal strikes against alleged drug trafficking boats in Caribbean waters off that country's coast.

Trump declined to say whether he had authorized the CIA to overthrow Maduro, a step some of his top national security aides have urged. "I think Venezuela's feeling the heat," he said at a White House news conference.

The president was asked about reports that he signed a highly classified document, known as a "finding," that allows the CIA to conduct covert operations in foreign countries, ranging from clandestine information operations to training guerrilla opposition forces and conducting lethal strikes. The details of the new authorities now available to the CIA remain unclear.

But people familiar with the matter said the spy agency has surged personnel to the Caribbean and Central America as part of the Trump administration's move against Western Hemisphere drug cartels.

They are there to collect intelligence, not conduct armed operations, said the people, who like some others spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss sensitive matters.

CIA surveillance drones are also prowling the skies above Mexico, searching for labs that make the deadly drug fentanyl, they said.

Trump's top national security advisers have feuded bitterly over Venezuela policy, and whether to seek the overthrow of Maduro, whom Washington accuses of stealing last year's Venezuelan presidential election. That course is favored by Secretary of State Marco Rubio and CIA Director John Ratcliffe, one of the people said. In August, Attorney General Pam Bondi doubled a bounty for information leading to the arrest of Maduro to $50 million, calling him a "threat to our national security."

Trump has made no final decision on using force to overthrow the Venezuelan leader, one person familiar with the matter said.



DEMETRIUS FREEMAN/The Washington Post

President Donald Trump speaks during a news conference in the Oval Office on Wednesday.

But Trump acknowledged he is considering military strikes against land-based targets in Venezuela. "We are certainly looking at land now because we've got the sea under control," he said.

The White House and the CIA declined to comment on the agency's new authorities. Trump's decision to confirm, even in general terms, his instructions to the CIA was highly unusual.

Trump said he authorized CIA involvement because Venezuelan authorities "have emptied their prisons into the United States of America" and because "we have a lot of drugs coming in from Venezuela."

The CIA is not playing a direct role in the lethal strikes against what the White House has described as drug trafficking boats in the Caribbean, current and former U.S. officials said.

The five known attacks, which the administration says have killed 27 people, are conducted by Special Operations units under Defense Department command, armed primarily with tactical military intelligence, they said.

CIA personnel are part of a Pentagon-led group tracking drug boats in the Caribbean but are not involved in decisions about which targets are to be struck, one of the former officials said. Agency officials are leery of being too closely involved with the strikes, which some lawmakers have said may violate U.S. and international laws, this person said.

NATION

Judge blocks firing of workers amid shutdown

By Janie Har
Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — A federal judge on Wednesday temporarily blocked President Donald Trump's administration from firing workers during the government shutdown, saying the cuts appeared to be politically motivated and were being carried out without much thought.

U.S. District Judge Susan Illston in San Francisco repeatedly pressed the assistant U.S. attorney to explain the administration's rationale for the more than 4,100 layoff notices that started going out Friday even though furloughed workers can not access their work emails and there are no human resources specialists to assist with next steps.

"It's very much ready, fire, aim on most of these programs, and it has a human cost," she said. "It's a human cost that cannot be tolerated."

She granted a temporary restraining order blocking the job cuts, saying she believed the evidence would ultimately show the cuts were illegal and in excess of authority.

Asked for comment, the White House referred The Associated Press to the Office of Management and Budget. The budget office did not immediately respond to a request for comment.



J. Scott Applewhite/AP

Students from Columbus, Ohio, wait outside a barrier as Capitol Police watch over the East Plaza at the Capitol in Washington on Wednesday.

The American Federation of Government Employees and other federal labor unions had asked Illston to block the administration from issuing new layoff notices and implementing those that were already sent out. The unions said the firings were an abuse of power designed to punish workers and pressure Congress.

"The president seems to think his government shutdown is distracting people from the harmful and lawlessness actions of his administration, but the American people are holding him accountable, including in the courts," said Skye Perryman, president and CEO of legal organization Democracy Forward. "Our civil servants do the work of the people, and playing games with their livelihoods is cruel and unlawful and a threat to everyone in our nation."

Illston's order came as the shutdown, which started Oct. 1, entered its third week.

The Trump administration has been paying the military and pursuing its crackdown on immigration while slashing jobs in health and education, including in special education and after-school programs.

Trump said programs favored by Democrats are being targeted and "they're never going to come back, in many cases."

In a court filing, the administration said it planned to fire more than 4,100 employees across eight agencies.

In a related case, Illston had blocked the administration from carrying out much of its plans to reduce the size of the federal workforce. But the Supreme Court said the administration could continue firing workers while the lawsuit is pending.

The unions say the layoff notices are an illegal attempt at political pressure and retribution and are based on the false premise that a temporary funding lapse eliminates Congress' authorization of agency programs.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Elizabeth Hedges said in court Wednesday that the district court lacks jurisdiction to hear employment decisions made by federal agencies. Under prodding by the judge, Hedges said she was not prepared to discuss the merits of the case, only reasons why a temporary restraining order should not be issued.

Illston was nominated to the bench by former President Bill Clinton, a Democrat.

Trump to meet with Putin after talks with Zelenskyy

By Aamer Madhani and Seung Min Kim
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump said Thursday he will meet again with Russia's Vladimir Putin in an effort to end the war in Ukraine. A date has not been set, but Trump wrote on social media that the meeting would take place in Budapest, Hungary.

"I believe great progress was made with today's telephone conversation," Trump wrote after talking to Putin. They previously met in Alaska in August, which did not produce a diplomatic breakthrough.

Before Trump and Putin meet, U.S. officials led by Secretary of State Marco Rubio will sit down with Russian representatives next week. It's unclear where that meeting will take place.

The call came ahead of Trump's meeting on Friday at the White House with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, who has been pressing Trump to sell Kyiv Tomahawk missiles that would allow Ukrainian forces to strike deeper into Russian territory. Zelenskyy has argued such strikes would help compel Putin to take Trump's calls for direct negotiations between Russia and Ukraine to end the war more seriously.



Jae C. Hong/AP

President Donald Trump, right, shakes the hand of Russia's President Vladimir Putin during a joint press conference in Alaska in August.

Trump had told reporters traveling with him to Israel on Sunday that he had planned to discuss the Tomahawks with Putin as a way to pressure him to end Russia's war in Ukraine. "Do they want to have Tomahawks going in that direction? I don't think so," Trump said on Sunday. "I think I might speak to Russia about that."

With a fragile Israel-Hamas ceasefire and hostage deal holding, Trump has said he's now turning his attention to bringing the war in Ukraine to an end and is weighing providing Kyiv long-range weaponry as he looks to prod Moscow to the negotiating table.

Ending the wars in Ukraine and Gaza was central to Trump's 2024 reelection pitch, in which he persistently pilloried President Joe Biden for his handling of the conflicts. Yet, like his predecessor, Trump also has been stymied by Putin as he's unsuccessfully pressed the Russian leader to hold direct talks with Zelenskyy to end the war, which is nearing its fourth year.

But fresh off the Gaza ceasefire, Trump is showing new confidence that he can finally make headway on ending the Russian invasion. He's also signaling that he's ready to step up pressure on Putin if he doesn't come to the table soon.

"Interestingly we made progress today, because of what's happened in the Middle East," Trump said of the Russia-Ukraine war on Wednesday evening as he welcomed supporters of his White House ballroom project to a glitzy dinner.

Earlier this week in Jerusalem, in a speech to the Knesset, Trump predicted the truce in Gaza would lay the groundwork for the U.S. to help Israel and many of its Middle East neighbors normalize relations. But Trump also made clear his top foreign policy priority now is ending the largest armed conflict in Europe since World War II.

"First we have to get Russia done," Trump said, turning to his special envoy Steve Witkoff, who has also served as his administration's chief interlocutor with Putin. "We gotta get that one done. If you don't mind, Steve, let's focus on Russia first. All right?"

Trump is set to host Zelenskyy for talks Friday, their fourth face-to-face meeting this year.

Zelenskyy is expected to reiterate his plea to Trump to hit Russia's economy with further sanctions, something the Republican, to date, has appeared reluctant to do.

Congress has weighed legislation that would lead to tougher sanctions on Moscow, but Trump has largely focused his attention on pressuring NATO members and other allies to cut off their purchases of Russian oil, the engine fueling Moscow's war machine. To that end, Trump said Wednesday that India, which became one of Russia's biggest crude buyers after the Ukraine invasion, had agreed to stop buying oil from Moscow.

Waiting for Trump's blessing is legislation in the Senate that would impose steep tariffs on countries that purchase Russia's oil, gas, uranium and other exports in an attempt to cripple Moscow economically.

NATION

Police: Probe into shooting at bar in SC stalls with no witness help

By Jeffrey Collins
Associated Press

COLUMBIA, S.C. — A sheriff said his deputies are methodically investigating a weekend mass shooting that killed four people and injured 16 more at a bar on a South Carolina island but haven't gotten the kind of help they need from the hundreds of people partying before the shooting.

No arrests have been made yet as investigators test DNA, analyze weapons and bullets, and enhance video from the crime scene of the early Sunday shooting at Willie's Bar and Grill on St. Helena Island, Beaufort County Sheriff P.J. Tanner said Wednesday.

Investigators think the shooting started as a dispute between two or three people who grew up together in Beaufort County and started firing at each other.

"We had 700 people at this party. And we have yet to get a witness that can tell us who the shooters are. It's ridiculous," Tanner said.

The sheriff said he thinks people want to cooperate but fear retribution. He said they can report what they know anonymously through Crimestoppers.

Tanner took questions from reporters and the community Wednesday about the shooting that happened near last call for drinks at a party celebrating the 25th anniversary of the class of 2000 at Battery Creek High School in Beaufort.

Tanner called the scene horrific but not surprising considering the shots were fired indiscriminately in such a large crowd of about 300 people inside the bar itself and 400 outside.

"When that many shots are fired in a crowd with the volume of people we had — multiple people get injured. Multiple people died," Tanner said at Wednesday's briefing.



LEWIS M. LEVINE/AP

People stand outside of Willie's Bar and Grill in St. Helena Island, S.C., after a fatal shooting occurred early Sunday.

Shell casing and bullets, some taken from inside the victims, were being sent to state agents on Wednesday. The FBI was trying to enhance and analyze video from inside and outside the bar. And Beaufort County deputies were testing DNA, Tanner said.

Kashawn Glaze, 22; Chiraad Smalls, 33; Amos Gary, 54; and A'shan'tek Milledge, 22, were killed in the shooting.

Willie's Bar serves Gullah-inspired cuisine and describes itself on its website as "not just a restaurant but a community pillar committed to giving back, especially to our youth."

An estimated 5,000 or more Gullah people living on St. Helena Island trace their ancestry back to enslaved West Africans who once worked rice plantations in the area before being eventually freed by the Civil War.

Faulty engineering led to implosion of Titan submersible, NTSB finds

Associated Press

PORTLAND, Maine — Faulty engineering led to the implosion of an experimental submersible that killed five people on the way to the wreck of the Titanic, the National Transportation Safety Board concluded in a report Wednesday.

The NTSB made the statement in its final report on the hull failure and implosion of the Titan submersible in June 2023. Everyone on board the submersible died instantly in the North Atlantic when Titan suffered a catastrophic implosion as it descended to the wreck.

The NTSB report states that the faulty engineering of the Titan "resulted in the construction of a carbon fiber composite pressure vessel that contained multiple anomalies and failed to meet necessary strength and durability requirements." It also stated that OceanGate, the owner of the Titan, failed to adequately test the Titan and was unaware of its true durability.

The report also said the wreckage of the Titan likely would have been found sooner had OceanGate followed standard guidance for emergency response.

The NTSB report dovetails with a Coast Guard report released in August that described the Titan implosion as preventable. The Coast Guard determined that safety procedures at OceanGate, a private company based in Washington state, were "critically flawed" and found "glaring disparities" between safety protocols and actual practices.



PAUL DALY, THE CANADIAN PRESS/AP

Debris from the Titan submersible, recovered from the ocean floor near the wreck of the Titanic, is unloaded from the ship Horizon Arctic at a Canadian Coast Guard pier in St. John's, Newfoundland, in 2023.

OceanGate suspended operations in July 2023 and wound down. A spokesperson for the company declined to comment on Wednesday.

In August, after the Coast Guard report was released, a company spokesperson offered condolences to the families of those who died.

The Titan's implosion killed OceanGate CEO Stockton Rush and four other people, and led to lawsuits and calls for tighter regulation of private deep sea expeditions.

The NTSB report recommends the Coast Guard commission a panel of experts to study submersibles and other pressure vehicles for human occupancy. It also recommends that the Coast Guard implement regulations for the vehicles that are informed by that study.

Judge dismisses energy policy suit as 'unworkable'

Associated Press

BILLINGS, Mont. — A federal judge on Wednesday dismissed a lawsuit from young climate activists seeking to block President Donald Trump's executive orders promoting fossil fuels and discouraging renewable energy.

U.S. District Judge Dana Christensen said the plaintiffs showed overwhelming evidence climate change affects them and that it will worsen as a result of Trump's orders.

But Christensen concluded their request for the courts to intervene was "unworkable" because it was beyond the power of the judiciary to create environmental policies.

The 22 plaintiffs included youths who prevailed in a landmark climate trial against the state of Montana in 2023. During a two-day hearing last month in Missoula, the activists and experts who testified on their behalf described Trump's actions to boost drilling and mining and discourage renewable energy as a growing danger to children and the planet.

A United Nations agency said on Wednesday that heat-trapping carbon dioxide levels in the atmosphere jumped by the highest amount on record last year, "turbo-charging" the climate and making weather more extreme.

Legal experts said the young activists and their lawyers from the environmental group Our Children's Trust faced long odds in the federal case. The Montana state constitution declares that people have a "right to a clean and healthful environment," but that language is absent from the U.S. Constitution.

White House spokeswoman Taylor Rogers said Wednesday's ruling marked a victory for the administration and voters who supported its agenda to create American "energy dominance" by producing more fossil fuels.

"President Trump saved our country from Joe Biden's wildly unpopular Green Energy Scam and he will continue to 'DRILL, BABY, DRILL'," Rogers said in an e-mailed statement.

Christensen said in a 31-page ruling that an injunction sought by the activists would have effectively meant reverting to the environmental policies of the Biden administration. Enforcing it would have required scrutiny of every climate-related action taken since Trump took office in January, the judge added.

That would mean monitoring "an untold number of federal agency actions to determine whether they contravene its injunction," Christensen wrote. "This is, quite simply, an unworkable request."

The climate activists will appeal Wednesday's ruling, said Julia Olson, chief legal counsel at Our Children's Trust.

"Every day these executive orders remain in effect, these 22 young Americans suffer irreparable harm to their health, safety, and future," Olson said. "The judge recognized that the government's fossil fuel directives are injuring these youth, but said his hands were tied."

A previous federal climate lawsuit in Oregon from Our Children's Trust went on for a decade before the U.S. Supreme Court declined to consider their final appeal this year. Christensen cited that case in concluding that the plaintiffs in Montana lacked standing to sue the government.

"This Court is certainly troubled by the very real harms presented by climate change," he wrote. "This concern does not automatically confer upon it the power to act."

Attorneys for the U.S. Department of Justice and more than a dozen states led by Montana had urged Christensen to dismiss the case.

Acting Assistant Attorney General Adam Gustafson said in a statement that the lawsuit was a sweeping and baseless challenge to Trump's energy agenda that the court correctly threw out.

Montana Attorney General Austin Knudsen said the rule of law had prevailed.

"Our suspicions were confirmed — this was just another show trial contrived by climate activists who wasted the taxpayer's money," he said.

Only a few states, including Montana, Illinois, Pennsylvania, Massachusetts and New York, have environmental protections enshrined in their constitutions.

Montana's Supreme Court upheld the 2023 trial outcome last year, requiring officials to more closely analyze climate-warming emissions. To date, that has yielded few meaningful changes in a state dominated by Republicans.

WORLD

Israel receives remains of 2 more hostages

By Sam Metz, Samy Magdy and Wafaa Shurafa
Associated Press

JERUSALEM — Israel received the remains of two more hostages Wednesday, hours after the Israeli military said that one of the bodies previously turned over was not that of a hostage. The confusion added to tensions over the fragile truce that has paused the two-year war.

The coffins carrying the remains were transferred by the Red Cross from Hamas. Upon returning to Israel, they were sent to a forensic lab in Tel Aviv. The military in a statement cautioned that the hostages' identities had yet to be verified.

Meanwhile, the Gaza Health Ministry said it received 45 more bodies of Palestinians from Israel, another step in implementation of the ceasefire agreement. That brought to 90 the total number of bodies returned to Gaza for burial. The forensics team examining the remains said they showed signs of mistreatment.

As part of the deal, four bodies of hostages were handed over by Hamas on Tuesday, following four on Monday that were returned hours after the last 20 living hostages were released from Gaza. In all, Israel has been awaiting the return of the bodies of 28 hostages.

The Israeli military said forensic testing showed that "the fourth body handed over to Israel by Hamas does not match any of the hostages." There was no immediate word on whose body it was.



Emilio Morenatti/AP

Mourners walk near the car carrying the coffin of slain hostage Guy Illouz during his funeral procession in Rishon Lezion, Israel, on Wednesday. Illouz's remains were returned from Gaza as part of a ceasefire agreement between Israel and Hamas.

In exchange for the release of the hostages, Israel freed around 2,000 Palestinian prisoners and detainees Monday.

Israel is expected to turn over more bodies, though officials have not said how many are in its custody or how many will be returned. It is unclear whether the remains belong to Palestinians who died in Israeli custody or were taken from Gaza by Israeli troops. Throughout the war, Israel's military has exhumed bodies as part of its search for the remains of hostages.

As forensic teams examined the first remains returned, the Health Ministry on Wednesday released images of 32 unidentified bodies to help families recognize missing relatives.

Many appeared decomposed or burned. Some were missing limbs or teeth, while others were coated in sand and dust. Health officials have said Israeli restrictions on allowing DNA testing equipment into Gaza have often forced morgues to rely on physical features and clothing for identification.

The forensics team that received the bodies said some arrived still shackled or bearing signs of physical abuse.

Sameh Hamad, a member of a commission tasked with receiving the bodies at Khan Younis' Nasser Hospital, said the Red Cross provided names for only three of the dead, leaving many families uncertain of their relatives' fate. The fighting has killed nearly 68,000 Palestin

ians, according to the Health Ministry, which is part of the Hamas-run government in Gaza. The ministry maintains detailed casualty records that are seen as generally reliable by U.N. agencies and independent experts.

The ceasefire plan introduced by U.S. President Donald Trump had called for all hostages — living and dead — to be handed over by a deadline that expired Monday. But under the deal, if that didn't happen, Hamas was to share information about deceased hostages and try to hand them over as soon as possible.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Wednesday that Israel "will not compromise" and demanded that Hamas fulfill the requirements laid out in the ceasefire deal about the return of hostages' bodies.

Trump, in an interview with CNN, warned that Israel could resume the war if he feels Hamas isn't upholding its end of the agreement.

Hamas reasserts control on streets of Gaza, turning guns on rivals

By Gerry Shih, Ari Flanzraich and Hazem Balousha
The Washington Post

JERUSALEM — They blindfolded eight men accused of collaborating with Israel, made them kneel and executed them at point-blank range on a busy street in Gaza City. They sent jeeps filled with fighters to pursue the Astal militia, whose leader said it coordinates with Israel and had recently taken up arms alongside other gangs.

They hunted the Mujaida clan until the family, decimated after a gun battle, announced that it would pledge fealty to the "government" of Gaza: Hamas.

Hamas may have stopped fighting Israel, but it has launched a new, violent campaign to reassert control over local families and militias that had challenged its power during the past two years of war. That includes those who, according to the leaders of two clans, had received support from Israel.

Whether by carrying out armed raids in Deir al-Balah in the central Gaza Strip or holding public executions farther north in Gaza City, Hamas is trying to send a clear message that, after months of hiding from Israeli fire, the militant group is back as the only visible authority inside the Gaza Strip, according to rival militia leaders, Palestinian officials and political analysts.

Hamas' enduring grip has significant implications for the future of Gaza and President Donald Trump's peace plan. With Israel largely restrained from attacking Hamas under the ceasefire sponsored by Trump, the group is again ruling the streets, controlling what is left of civil administration and gaining leverage in the upcoming negotiations over whether and how it will disarm and who will rule Gaza.

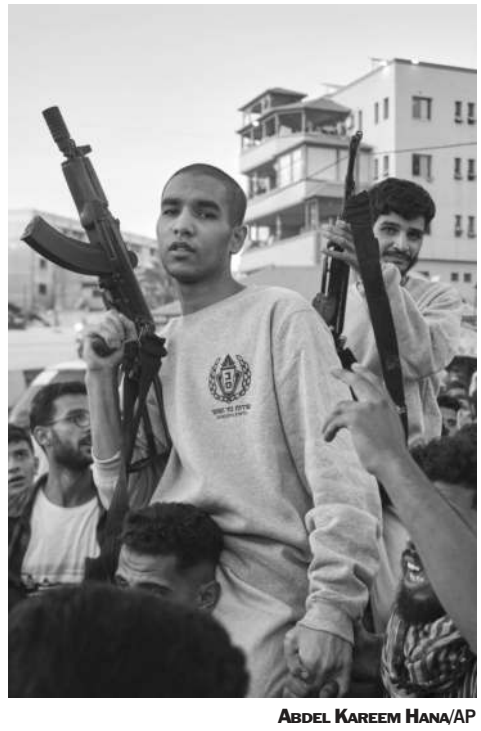
According to Trump's 20-point plan, Hamas will eventually be required to "decommission" its weapons and "not have any role" in governing Gaza. But the plan lacks details, and Hamas is expected to bargain hard as the Phase 2 talks unfold in the coming weeks.

"Are they obtaining new cards for bargaining after the hostages are handed over? Perhaps," said Mustafa Ibrahim, a Gaza-based political analyst. "Hamas could maneuver on this issue and say, 'We are present, we are indispensable for imposing control.' "

For months, Hamas leaders have pointed to the proliferation of rival clans and gangs — including those quietly armed by Israel as part of what Israeli security analysts and media say was a divide-and-conquer strategy during the war — to argue that Hamas should be allowed to keep some light weapons for personal protection, according to Arab mediators.

Hamas is comfortable with the guarantees provided by mediators that Israel will not restart the war, but the "gangs are an issue in Gaza," said Rashid al-Mohanadi, a fellow at the Middle East Council on Global Affairs in Qatar. Hamas' argument, al-Mohanadi said, is that negotiators "should differentiate between weapons that can still be held for personal protection, while heavier weapons should be given up."

Publicly, Hamas officials have said they are willing to relinquish governance of Gaza. In private, however, they have argued that they are part of the Gazan social and administrative fabric and should continue to play a role, possibly as a rebranded political party merged with other Palestinian factions, according to Palestinian and other Arab officials familiar with the talks.



Abdel Kareem Hana/AP

Freed Palestinian prisoners carry rifles as they arrive in the Gaza Strip following their release from Israeli jails, following a ceasefire agreement between Hamas and Israel, in Khan Younis, on Monday.

The details regarding disarmament and governance will have to be ironed out in negotiations with Israel that could last several months, if not longer. On Monday, Trump told reporters on Air Force One that he would allow Hamas to govern in the interim and said Tuesday that he was "not bothered" by the group's reprisal attacks.

"They did take out a couple of gangs that were very bad," Trump told reporters in the Oval Office. "... They did take them out and they killed a number of gang members. And that didn't bother me much, to be honest with you."

For its part, Hamas has touted its crackdown as one of the many ways in which normalcy -- and the group's leadership -- has returned to Gaza.

After the ceasefire with Israel took effect, Hamas announced the appointment of five new governors who will administer Gaza's devastated urban centers and circulated videos on social media showing its gunmen directing traffic.

Hamas-run social media accounts have described the clashes with rebel clans as an effort to bring criminals to justice. Many of the clans that rebelled against Hamas during the power vacuum created by the Israeli campaign were widely accused by Gazans of engaging in smuggling, gunrunning, extortion and the looting of humanitarian aid trucks. Several factions, including a leading tribal council, have voiced their support for Hamas' efforts to enforce the law and condemned those who collaborated with Israel.

"Our merciful hand is extended to anyone who repents," the Radea security forces, one of Hamas' internal security units, said in a statement Tuesday. "Returning to the national fold is still possible at this stage."

WORLD

Russian attack causes blackouts as Zelenskyy seeks Trump's help

By Illia Novikov
Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine — Russia battered Ukraine's energy facilities with hundreds of drones and dozens of missiles in its latest heavy bombardment of the country's power grid, authorities said Thursday, as Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy prepared to ask President Donald Trump at a White House meeting for more American-made air defenses and long-range missiles.

Eight Ukrainian regions experienced blackouts after the barrage, Ukraine's national energy operator, Ukrenergo, said. DTEK, the country's largest private energy company, reported outages in the capital, Kyiv, and said it had to stop its natural gas extraction in the central Poltava region due to the strikes. Natural gas infrastructure was damaged for the sixth time this month, Naftogaz, Ukraine's state-owned oil and gas company, said.

Zelenskyy said Russia fired more than 300 drones and 37 missiles at Ukraine overnight. He accused Russia of using cluster munitions and conducting repeated strikes on the same target to hit emergency crews and engineers working to repair the grid.

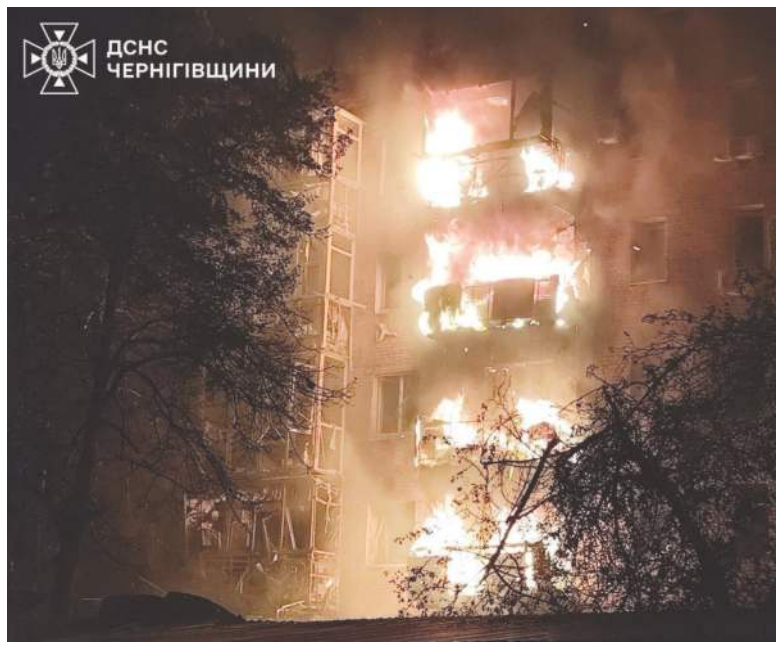
"This fall, the Russians are using every single day to strike our energy infrastructure," Zelenskyy said on Telegram.

The Ukrainian power grid been one of Russia's main targets since its invasion of its neighbor more than three years ago. Attacks increase as the bitterly cold months approach in a Russian strategy that Ukrainian officials call "weaponizing winter." Russia says it aims only at targets of military value.

Ukrainian forces have resisted Russia's bigger and better equipped army, limiting it to a grinding war of attrition along the roughly 600-mile front line snaking through eastern and southern regions.

But Ukraine, which is almost the size of Texas, is hard to defend from the air in its entirety, and Kyiv officials are seeking more Western help to fend against aerial attacks and strike back at Russia.

Zelenskyy was expected to arrive in the United States on Thursday, ahead of his Oval Office meeting with Trump on Friday.



UKRAINIAN EMERGENCY SERVICE/AP

A residential building is seen on fire after a Russian strike Thursday in Nizhyn, Chernihiv region, Ukraine.

Former US Embassy guard convicted of espionage

Associated Press

OSLO, Norway — A former security guard at the U.S. Embassy in Norway was convicted of espionage Wednesday after a court in Oslo found that he spied for Russia and Iran.

The 28-year-old Norwegian man, whose name has not been made public, was sentenced to three years and seven months behind bars. He had acknowledged the indictment's facts but denied any criminal guilt.

Prosecutors said he handed over details about the embassy's diplomats, its floor plans and security routines, among other things, broadcaster NRK reported.

The broadcaster reported that American ties to Israel and the war in Gaza prompted the man to contact Russia and Iran.

The man's defense attorneys, in a statement Thursday, said the verdict raises questions about what is considered espionage under Norwegian law.

"He lied about having security clearance to agents from other countries and exaggerated his own role," attorney Inger Zadig of Elden Law Firm said in the statement. "He had roughly the same level of access as a janitor at the embassy. The information he shared was worthless and neither separately nor collectively capable of harming individuals or the security interests of any state."

The defendant was found guilty of five espionage-related charges and acquitted of gross corruption. Prosecutor Carl Fredrik Fari said his team is considering appealing the sentence because the state had asked for more than six years in prison.

At the time of his arrest last November, the man had been studying for a bachelor's degree in security and preparedness at Norway's Arctic University, UiT.

It is a second such case at UiT in recent years, according to NRK.

One of the people the West swapped with Russia in a major prisoner exchange last year was a UiT guest researcher who claimed to be a Brazilian named José Assis Giammaria, arrested on espionage allegations in 2022. The police revealed him to be a Russian national by the name of Mikhail Valeryevich Mikushin.

Norway has a 123-mile long border with Russia in the Arctic. Since Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine in February 2022, Norway has heavily restricted entry for Russian nationals.

Last year, the Norwegian government said it was considering a plan to build a fence along all or part of its border with Russia.





TURN YOUR MILITARY RANK INTO COLLEGE CREDIT

SUCCEED AGAIN

Learn on base, virtual, & online

The appearance of U.S. Department of Defense visual information does not imply or constitute DOD endorsement.

UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND GLOBAL CAMPUS in Europe

europe.umgc.edu

WORLD



H. ACHAKZAI/AP

Local residents, who fled their homes following border clashes between Pakistan and Afghan forces, wait for transportation in Chaman, a town on the Pakistan Afghanistan border, Wednesday.

Pakistan blamed for Kabul drone strikes

Associated Press

ISLAMABAD — Afghanistan's Taliban government said on Thursday that Pakistan carried out two drone strikes on Kabul the day before, even as the United Nations welcomed a critical ceasefire between the two neighbors after days of fighting killed dozens in both countries and injured hundreds more.

The attacks on Wednesday came just before the two countries declared a truce following the deadliest violence between them in years.

Khalid Zadran, a spokesman for the Kabul police chief, told The Associated Press that the strikes hit the city on Wednesday afternoon. The first target was a civilian house, while the second was a market. Zadran did not give casualty figures, but doctors at a hospital said earlier that five people were killed and dozens were injured.

The surgical center run by Emergency, a nongovernmental organization, said the wounded had shrapnel wounds, blunt force trauma and burns.

Zabihullah Mujahid, the Taliban government's chief spokesman, initially said there had been an oil tanker explosion.

Meanwhile, the U.N. urged Pakistan and Afghanistan to bring "a lasting end to hostilities" to protect civilians.

The days of clashes amount to the deadliest crisis between the neighbors since 2021, when the Taliban seized power in Afghanistan following the collapse of the Western-backed government as the U.S. and NATO forces were withdrawing after 20 years of war.

Cross-border violence has escalated since Oct. 10, with both Islamabad and Kabul saying they were retaliating to armed provocations from the other. On Wednesday, the two sides agreed to a ceasefire.

The truce followed appeals from major regional powers, as the violence threatened to destabilize a region where groups, including the Islamic State group and al-Qaida, are trying to resurface. There were no reports of overnight fighting. Key border crossings remained closed on Thursday.

The U.N. Assistance Mission in Afghanistan welcomed the ceasefire and said it was still assessing the number of casualties. It said the heaviest toll was in the south on Wednesday.

"Current information indicates that at least 17 civilians were killed and 346 were injured in Spin Boldak on the Afghan side of the border," the U.N. mission said.

It said it had also documented at least 16 civilian casualties in several Afghan provinces during earlier clashes between the two countries.

"UNAMA calls on all parties to bring a lasting end to hostilities to protect civilians and prevent further loss of life," the mission added.

Pakistan has not provided figures for civilian casualties suffered on its side of the border.

It has repeatedly accused Afghanistan of harboring militants, a charge rejected by the Taliban. Pakistan is grappling with attacks that have increased since 2021.

Pakistani officials said security forces had shot and killed dozens of militants who crossed over from Afghanistan on Thursday. They were spotted in Mohmand district, northwest Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, according to the officials who spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to talk to the media.

The two countries share a 1,622-mile long border known as the Durand Line, which Afghanistan has never recognized.

Houthi official dies of wounds suffered in strike

Associated Press

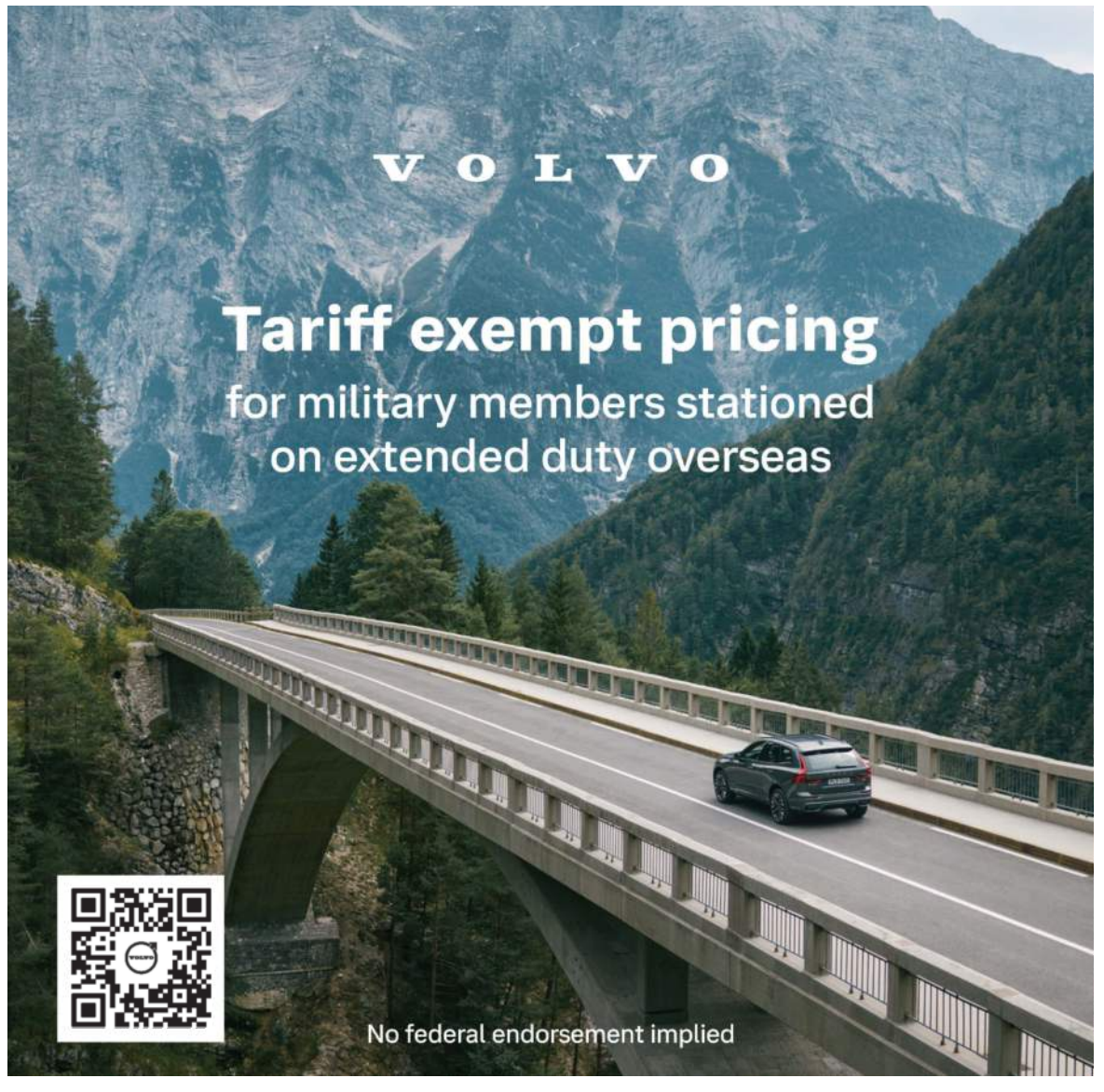
DUBAI, United Arab Emirates — An Israeli airstrike targeting top leaders in Yemen's Houthi rebels in August killed the chief of staff of its military, officials said Thursday, further escalating the tensions between the group and Israel even as a ceasefire holds.

The Houthis first acknowledged the killing of Maj. Gen. Muhammad Abdul Karim al-Ghamari, who had been sanctioned by the United Nations.

Israeli Defense Minister Israel Katz a short time later claimed the killing, saying that al-Ghamari had died of wounds he suffered in the attack.

The United Nations described him as playing "the leading role in orchestrating the Houthis' military efforts that are directly threatening the peace, security and stability of Yemen, as well as cross-border attacks against Saudi Arabia."





WEEKEND



A career-spanning D'Angelo playlist

Music, Page 29



Andrew Garfield, left, and Julia Roberts star in "After the Hunt."

Amazon MGM Studios

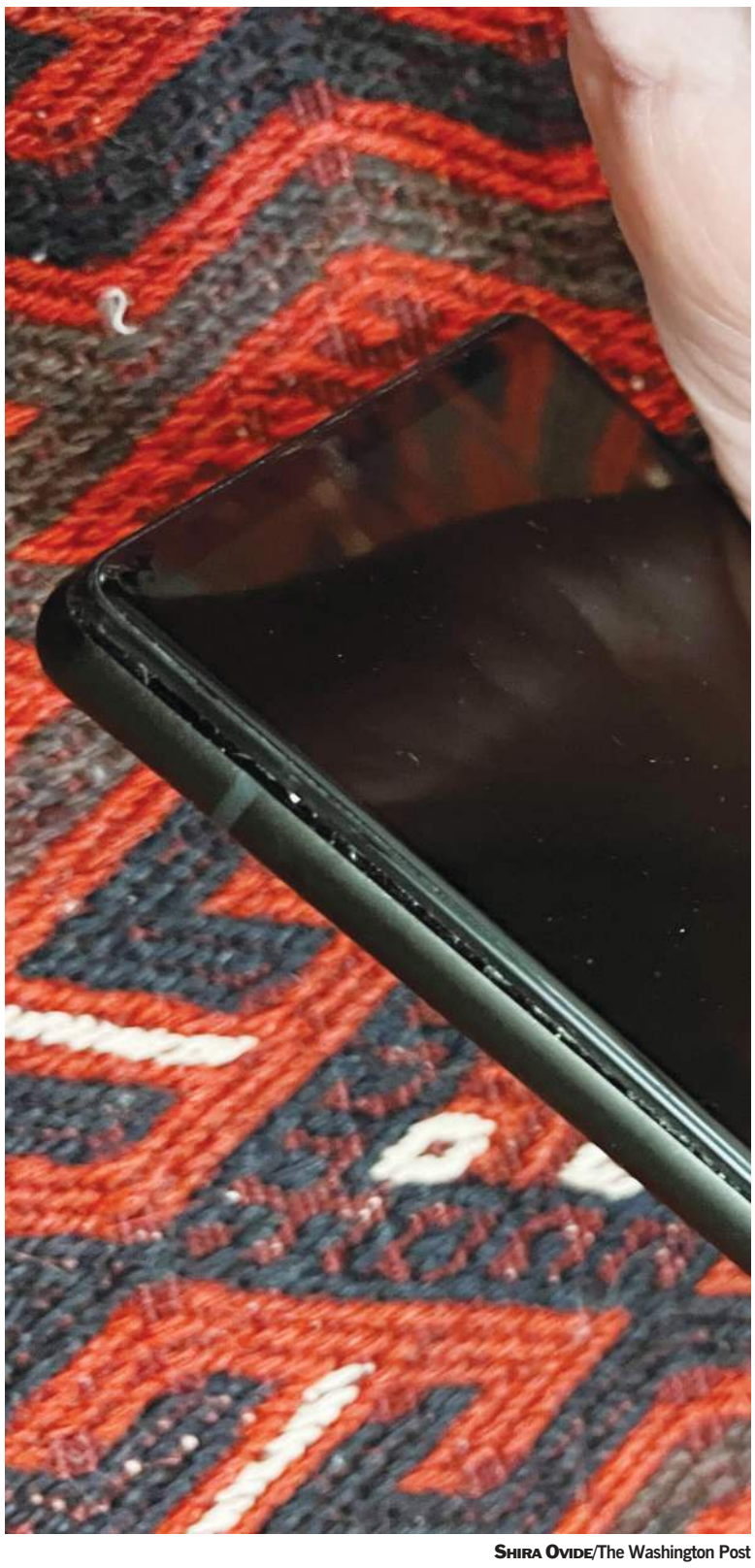
The questions are the point

'After the Hunt' doesn't solve the world's post-#MeToo social perplexities, but it does provide a ripe acting playground for Andrew Garfield and Julia Roberts

Movies, Pages 16-17

Video games — 15 Travel & Food — 19-25 TV — 30-31 Health — 32 Crossword — 34

WEEKEND: GADGETS & TECHNOLOGY



SHIRA OVIDE/The Washington Post

My Google Pixel screen suddenly started to push up and split from the body of the phone because its battery was swelling.

Swollen but not swell

How to deal with your phone when its battery makes it a fire risk

BY SHIRA OVIDE
The Washington Post

Last Wednesday afternoon, I noticed that my phone was no longer sitting flush in its case.

It took me a few minutes to realize that this was a big, honking sign of danger.

The battery in my smartphone had probably started to swell — a possibility with any rechargeable electronic device. In the tight confines of my phone's innards, the swelling battery was pushing the screen away from the body of the phone. That's why the case no longer fit.

Swelling batteries in electronics can, in rare cases, spark a fire or explosion. Billions of products with rechargeable batteries are used every day, which means you might someday have a swollen battery in your phone, laptop, smart ring, wireless headphones or other device.

I'll describe the signs of a swollen battery in electronics, what to do if this happens to you and how to safely repair or dispose of your device afterward.

The more our devices and our world are powered with helpful but flawed, chemical-packed batteries, the more we should take seriously what happens when they die or fail in potentially catastrophic ways.

Warning signs of a swollen battery

It's normal for rechargeable batteries to slowly decompose and emit gases as they age, but it's not typical for them to swell during the aging process, said Judy Jeevarajan, who specializes in battery chemistry safety at the UL Research Institutes.

Still, Chad Johansen, who runs CPR Cell Phone Repair stores in New Hampshire, said that customers commonly come in with electronics that have enlarged batteries. What I noticed with my four-year-old Google Pixel is a typical symptom: The screen or the backing material starts to pry off.

You might also notice bulging in your device or a dramatic drop-off in battery life.

Johansen said that good quality batteries are typically designed to limit the chance of a fire or explosion if they swell, but that they can still be dangerous, particularly if the device is put under pressure or punctured.

If you notice signs of a swelling battery in your phone or other electronics, stop using your device as soon as possible. Do not plug in your device. Keep it away from heat and don't poke at it.

Some experts recommended turning off the device. Jeevarajan suggested leaving it on until the battery runs out of juice. A battery without a charge is unlikely to smoke, burn or explode. (If the device does start to smoke or burn, dumping your phone in a bucket filled with water is the best way to cool it off completely, Jeevarajan said.)

Battery experts said that you want to isolate the device in a container that won't melt or burn, away from flammable materials and outside your home if possible. The electronics repair organization iFixit recommends putting a device with a swollen battery into a metal bucket containing sand or cat litter.

I had none of those things at home. I put my phone into a metal mixing bowl, covered it with a metal sheet pan and parked it on my fire escape.

Alex Hausfeld, a franchise consultant for the gadget repair chain uBreakiFix, approved of my unconventional approach. Jeevarajan suggested adding sand or packing peanuts to avoid the chance of a short circuit.

Repair or disposal?

Hausfeld recommended taking a device with a swollen battery to a trained technician as soon as you can.

If you're giving up on a gadget with a swollen battery, don't toss it into your trash or recycling. (Do not dispose of *any* rechargeable device this way, whether the battery is swollen or not.) Trash and recycling centers have big problems with fires or explosions sparked by rechargeable batteries.

But it's not easy for people to figure out what to do with devices that have swollen batteries, said Leo Raudys, CEO of the battery recycling organization Call2Recycle. He advised contacting the device manufacturer first for safe disposal options — a Google spokesman said the same thing — and next finding a local hazardous waste facility.

A spokesman for the department of sanitation in New York, where I live, recommended taking devices to one of the agency's specialized waste disposal sites. To find similar options near you, try a web search for the name of your city or area and "municipal household hazardous waste recycling center."

Make your coffee vision a reality with Melitta 12-cup maker

BY GREGG ELLMAN
Tribune News Service

If you're a regular coffee drinker, you understand the importance of a great cup to start your morning. Melitta's Vision 12-Cup Luxe Drip Coffee Maker ($259.99 but on sale for $207.95) delivers that exceptional brew while serving as a stunning piece of kitchen art.

There are many great features in the Vision, and once you get past the brewed coffee, the 180-degree swivel dashboard is a unique feature that helps with the placement of the machine. It is larger than a standard coffee maker, but you'll quickly discover that it is worth the extra counter space.

The swivel dashboard, located at the bottom of the brewing coffee carafe, can be moved to either side or to the end, allowing for flexible placement of the machine. The adjustment also makes it convenient for right-handed and left-handed users.

The dashboard has touch controls displayed on an LCD screen. Controls include start, stop, temperature settings and a timer for how long you want it to remain on after brewing, up to two hours.

The Melitta Vision features side-by-side towers. On one side is a water tank with a 64-ounce capacity. There are measuring marks on the water tank, and a water boiling light indicator in the hot water riser tube that glows orange when the brewing process begins.



MELITTA/TNS

The Melitta Vision 12-Cup Luxe Drip Coffee Maker not only brews great coffee but its design also makes it a conversation piece.

On the other side is the tower with a dual heating system to brew and keep the coffee warm. On top is a cone-shaped coffee filter basket using No. 4 paper filters that brews down into a 12-cup borosilicate glass carafe. My first question after my initial brewing was to wonder if the glass handle on the glass carafe was hot to the touch, and it was not.

While the features are great, and it's a conversational appliance with its attractive appearance, what's essential is the quality of the brewed coffee. With my fresh-ground French roast, I brewed a five-star cup of morning java. Like many others, I've switched to easy-to-use coffee pods, which are fine. But having a morning brew with its aroma filling the air when I walk into the kitchen puts this coffee maker in a different class.

It takes about 10 minutes to brew a whole pot. There is also a pause-and-serve feature; you can remove the carafe while it's brewing, pour a cup and then put the carafe back on to finish brewing, without spilling. Cleaning is easy; many of the main parts are dishwasher safe.

Online: tinyurl.com/4tchxy59; available in copper/white or black

WEEKEND: VIDEO GAMES



2K GAMES/TNS

Players' buildings change during each era based on the civilization they pick in Civilization VII. Each empire will go through three eras: the Antiquity, Exploration and Modern Ages.

Civilization VII incomplete despite changes

While city building, combat get useful updates, the new concept of ages feels disjointed at times and not fully fleshed out

BY GIESON CACHO
The Mercury News

Every entry in Sid Meier's Civilization series has a learning curve. The first time players take on a campaign, it will be full of blunders. They'll dig through the new mechanics and discover they built a city wrong or that they didn't account for a pivotal resource. Success in these strategy games relies on knowing the nuances, but that's hard without diving in and making mistakes.

With the latest entry, Sid Meier's Civilization VII, Firaxis Games makes radical changes to the formula, and that means players will make several missteps as they figure out the sequel's new contours. This time around, leaders are separated from their civilizations. Players choose a historical figure, who has his or her own perks and abilities, and pair the leader with a civilization, which also has its distinct traits.

Major changes

Although the leader remains the same, evolving with earned attribute points, the empire progresses through three eras, creating a layering effect. That means players not only have to learn the traits of one society through a campaign, but they must also figure out two others'. It's an update that other games such as Humankind have introduced, and it's a sensible one, making the progression across history feel more balanced.

In the age of antiquity, Greeks will be challenging Egyptians, while the Exploration Age can pit the Spanish against the Abbasids. In the Modern Age, players can command the Mexican civilization and fight over historic relics or other end-game goals with the Russians. It adds another level of depth as players have to figure out which civilizations accentuate the strengths of others through the three phases.

The ages concept also divides Civilization VII into three distinct chapters. Antiquity is all about establishing a strong foundation for the player's small corner of the world, while exploration is about finding out more about the wider world and creating colonies. The modern era is where players solidify how they intend to achieve victory.

Uneven ages

In concept, it's a way to keep campaigns manageable with a distinct beginning, middle and end, but it makes a run feel predictable as players check boxes of what they should do. The transition between each era also feels disjointed: It becomes a soft reset, in which players are rewarded for the goals they achieved in the previous age, but drastic changes are also made such as shifting a capital, throwing parts of an empire in disarray.

In addition, not all eras feel as fleshed out as the others. The Antiquity Age is the best and echoes the classic Civilization-style, while the later eras are less engaging. The Modern Age is the worst, especially with the lack of a World Congress and other elements, such as climate change, impacting the cities. This section of Civilization VII feels incomplete compared to that of past entries.

Updated city building and combat

Another major change comes in the form of city building. It's better in Civilization VII, but it has more of a learning curve as players figure out how towns and cities work. Firaxis limits how many settlements players have by creating a cap that leads to a happiness penalty if they go above it. They also have to manage districts and the ratios of towns to cities. In towns, players can't make units or structures unless they purchase them, while in cities, they have the freedom to build anything. This offers more depth and even stronger rewards for players who can maximize the yields in each settlement.

The last major change arrives in combat. Civilization VII puts an emphasis on commanders. These are hero units that can gather other troops and deploy them. It's also the only military force that earns promotions, and players can use the experience points they earn to upgrade perks that are given to their armies.

It makes these generals mandatory in combat, because without them, players' armies won't grow more powerful. The commanders are also the key to turning the tide of battle with the power to move troops around the map. There are commanders for air and naval units, too.

PC vs Nintendo Switch 2

When it comes to the best platform for Civilization VII, PC is still king, but right behind it is the Nintendo Switch 2. What's excellent about the experience on both is that the game supports cross-saves, so players can enjoy a campaign on their desk but then move that run to the portable system and pick up where they left off.

What's even better is that the Switch 2 version supports all manner of controls. Players can use the touch screen, which feels natural. The controller works fine but has its drawbacks when players want to pick certain aspects out on a crowded screen. Using the Joy-Con 2 controller as a mouse works surprisingly well on a couch arm, and the experience is close to that on a PC except for the responsiveness of the controllers, which is awful at times. Otherwise, Civilization VII on the Nintendo Switch 2 works like a dream as long as players use it docked.

Although Civilization VII falls short now, it has room to grow. That's the MO of the series: The initial entries feel limited, but the downloadable content and expansions fine-tune elements and turn each entry into a fantastic experience. Fans will have to wait on them for an experience commensurate with the reputation of the series.

Platforms: PC, Nintendo Switch 2, Nintendo Switch, Mac, Xbox One, Xbox Series X and Series S, PlayStation 5, PlayStation 4

Online: civilization.2k.com/civ-vii

WEEKEND: MOVIES



AMAZON MGM STUDIOS/AP photos

Julia Roberts plays revered philosophy professor Alma, who is up for tenure, in Luca Guadagnino's "After the Hunt." Like other characters in the film, Alma is harboring secrets.

Sex, lies & academics

'After the Hunt' director Guadagnino, and stars Garfield, Roberts, Edebiri discuss the film and its reception





A college student (Ayo Edebiri) accuses a professor (Andrew Garfield) of sexual misconduct in "After the Hunt."

BY LINDSEY BAHR
Associated Press

Andrew Garfield would like everyone to know about his gesticulating. Not in his performance as a Yale philosophy professor accused of sexual misconduct in "After the Hunt," but while discussing an actor's responsibility to comment on the work they're putting out in the world.



Guadagnino

It's a blue-sky day outside the luxurious Hotel Cipriani and Garfield is seated alongside his co-stars Julia Roberts and Ayo Edebiri discussing a film that has, for better or worse, become the topic of some spirited debates. Just a few days prior at the Venice Film Festival, journalists asked Roberts and filmmaker Luca Guadagnino if the film undermines the feminist movement.

"I don't think it's the actor's responsibility at all to express anything in public. Ever," Garfield said, using his hands for extra emphasis. "Please, tell them about the gesticulation."

Roberts chimed in: "The hair as well." (It was bouncing).

With "After the Hunt," in select theaters Friday, Guadagnino and his actors knew they were making something thorny, something challenging, about messy, imperfect people whose lives, and lies, are upended with the accusation. They were ready to own the decision to use a typeface in the opening credits made famous by Woody Allen. But they had not anticipated the anti-feminist question, which was perhaps less a question than an accusation.

"This question was so tone deaf to the movie itself," Guadagnino said. "Like, you've mistaken the subject with the object."

Trouble in the philosophy department

The film is an ensemble piece about a few characters in and around Yale whose heady philosophical chats about agency and power become less theoretical under the glare of sticky real-life dramas. Roberts plays Alma, a revered professor up for tenure alongside her colleague and flirty drinking buddy Hank (Garfield). Edebiri is a student named Maggie, a child of billionaires who everyone says is brilliant and who is a little obsessed with Alma.

After a boozy party at Alma's, Maggie comes to Alma first to tell her that Hank crossed the line. Hank denies anything happened and claims that Maggie is retaliating because he accused her of plagiarizing her thesis. No one knows quite who to believe. Alma, too, is harboring her own secrets. And everything in their world unravels in spectacularly melodramatic fashion.

Roberts digs into a meaty role

The screenplay comes from Nora Garrett, who was working as a data analyst at Meta before her script caught the attention of Guadagnino and Roberts, in quick succession.

"The story really started with the character of Alma," Garrett said. "I was really interested in this idea of a woman who had a lie or something that she was deeply ashamed of at the core of her being."

But Alma's controlled compartmentalization of her past starts to unspool with Maggie's accusation. The part allows Roberts to do some of her best work in years.

"I'm saying something that might sound obvious, but she's one of the greatest stars and one of the great ac-

SEE ACADEMICS ON PAGE 17

WEEKEND: MOVIE REVIEW

Optics vs. substance

‘After the Hunt’ offers lots of #MeToo-era fallout, but very few satisfying solutions

By Jake Coyle
Associated Press



AMAZON MGM STUDIOS/AP

At first, professor Alma Imhoff (Julia Roberts), right, is a mentor to Ph.D. student Maggie Resnick (Ayo Edebiri), left, in “After the Hunt.” But after Maggie accuses another teacher of sexual assault, she becomes more of a foe.

It’s not so often that the font of a movie’s opening credits is, itself, a provocation.

But in Luca Guadagnino’s muddled but darkly absorbing “After the Hunt,” the white Windsor Light Condensed lettering against a black background, with cast in alphabetical order and soft jazz playing, is immediately recognizable as the style of a Woody Allen movie opening.

In the juggling act to follow in “After the Hunt,” where Guadagnino will playfully twirl a twisting narrative of alleged sexual assault, cancel culture, privilege in academia and Generation Z victimization, the credits are not so much an opening salvo than they are an introductory wink.

Like many an Allen film, “After the Hunt” is set among a well-educated, self-involved class. It takes place around Yale University. But unlike Allen’s anxious, existential, chattering characters, Guadagnino’s cocktail party collection of professors and students is a more scheming and unpleasant lot.

That includes a philosophy professor, Alma Imhoff (Julia Roberts), on the precipice of tenure, her friend and department colleague, Hank Gibson (Andrew Garfield), and Imhoff’s star pupil, a Ph.D. student named Maggie Resnick (Ayo Edebiri), who after a party at Alma’s house accuses Hank of sexual assault.

Guadagnino’s film, shot by Malik Hassan Sayeed, is somberly and flatly lit and rife with reflections. Under these drab surfaces, the central characters of “After the Hunt” — an ensemble of singularly charming actors who here have drained away much of their natural charisma — go at each other on everything from Foucault to feminism in a psychological battle set across a #MeToo minefield.

That, at least, is the promise of “After the Hunt.” But Guadagnino’s dour and languid film, scripted by Nora Garrett, only fitfully coheres as the conversation piece it aspires to be. Its plot turns can be rash or implausible, and the movie increasingly feels like ideas and set pieces strung tenuously together.

Yet I also enjoyed the prickliness of “After the Hunt.” Though there’s a strong anti-woke vein to it, Guadagnino’s film is more about how seemingly quite different generations have much more in common than they might appear. Everyone is kind of rotten in “After the Hunt.”

That’s especially unusual for Roberts, whose Alma is far more complicated a character than she normally tackles. Alma is esteemed, fiercely intelligent, ambitious and hard to read. Her husband, a psychiatrist named Frederik (a fabulous Michael Stuhlbarg as combustible cocktail of cuckold and cook) worships her, but her affection is less evident.

Shorn of her natural ebullience, Roberts’ restraint of the role comes off more like weariness. That adds to some of the off-kilter tenor of “After the Hunt,” but it’s hard not to imagine someone like Cate Blanchett in the part.

“When did offending someone become a cardinal sin?” Hank asks at the party that opens the movie.

A sign of what Guadagnino might be up to comes not long after, after Maggie has alleged the assault. Alma goes to meet a distraught Hank at a local restaurant. While they hash out what’s true and what’s fiction in Maggie’s account, it’s hard not to notice the mirrors that surround Hank.

The real mirror of “After the Hunt” is Alma and Maggie. Edebiri is here a kind of stand-in for Gen Z, and her case expands to include a wider range of issues of inclusivity and othering.

As things spiral and Maggie’s case leads to increasing intensity on campus and in Alma’s personal life, Alma shifts from Maggie’s mentor to something more like a foe. But Alma’s own past begins to play a role in the fallout, adding a new frame to “After the Hunt” that casts Alma and Maggie’s plights in a different light.

Is this a good time? Not especially, though Garfield is great in a rage. Glib insertions don’t help. In one scene, when Alma meets a fellow faculty member (Chloë Sevigny) in a bar, a Smiths song plays and she seems surprised a Morrissey tune isn’t outlawed.

I’m not sure “After the Hunt” has too much more to say than that shrug-of-the-shoulders scene. But the film deserves credit for trying to find its own way through these hot-button topics. It’s not a #MeToo procedural but more like a tragedy. When “optics over substance” governs all, as one character laments, no one lives happily ever after.

“After the Hunt” is rated R for language and some sexual content. Running time: 139 minutes. Now playing in select on-base theaters.

Academics: Point of film is the moral questions it poses, not the answers

FROM PAGE 16

tresses,” Guadagnino said. “The symbol, the beauty of the symbol, and at the same time the truth of the performance. She’s so three-dimensional.”

Roberts was particularly fascinated by Alma’s relationship with her husband, Frederik, a shrink played by Guadagnino regular Michael Stuhlbarg, whose unexpected choices had her in awe.

“I did catch myself watching him a couple of times instead of being in the scene and I was just like, ‘Wow, that’s so (expletive) good,’” Roberts said. “And then I think, ‘Oh, I have a line.’”

She added: “The big fortune of getting older is having more life experience and intellectual resources to bring into something like this.”

The Guadagnino way

Guadagnino likes to shoot things quickly, which can be destabilizing for first-timers. Garfield, whom Guadagnino has been trying to work with for almost 20 years, had to do one of his most emotional scenes on his first day. He’d come straight from a very different kind of film where he was playing “a very goofy dad” and was panicked.

“I was really struggling to transition,” Garfield said. “I wanted to make sure I came in as full and hot as possible. Before we had shot any takes I was just kind of pacing around just staying in (character). And then Luca comes up to me and I think he’s going to give me some nugget and he’s like ‘Are you always going to be like this?’”

Garfield quickly came to understand that the combination of speed and lightness is part of Guadagnino’s magic with actors.

“He wants urgency; he wants you to be a little bit on the balls of your feet,” Garfield said. “So when it comes time to shoot, it’s like the train has left the station and you just hold on for dear life or you get taken by it in a way. That’s really exciting.”

Roberts didn’t even remember a heated scene where she grabs Maggie by the face until she was watching the movie in Venice.

“I was so stunned,” Roberts said. “I did not see that coming.”

Nods to the classics

From the Allen typeface to the mannered collegiate settings and intellectual conversations, the film is in many ways a throwback to classic films — not just Allen’s but those of Mike Nichols and Joseph L. Mankiewicz’s “All About Eve” as well.

“I thought a lot about films that have been able to resist the pressure of time and to become some insightful classics,” Guadagnino said.

Perhaps the most inscrutable of the bunch is Maggie. Even Edebiri said she had some trouble wrapping her head around her motivations and actions.

“She’s a tricky girl,” Edebiri said. “A word Luca kept using a lot in conversations was displacement. Maggie’s such a displaced person psychologically, but also as a transracial adoptee, and occupying this space full of these professors who are performing.”

But the point for all are the questions, not the answers, and “After the Hunt” is not a film that wraps anything up in a tidy morality. Those conversations are for the audience to have.

“There are very few filmmakers who are alive for whom the priority is radical, vulnerable, unbridled self-expression and exploration and curiosity rather than something didactic,” Garfield said. “The conversation is the thing, I think, that’s the most we can ever dream of, that people will be confronted by their own response. The film hopefully is a mirror for every person watching, and then they can compare reflections with each other.”

WEEKEND: MOVIE REVIEWS

Providential 'Good Fortune' too earthly

Ansari's guardian angel, gig economy comedy not very funny or impactful

By Lindsey Bahr
Associated Press

Aziz Ansari tries to meld social commentary and comedy in his new film "Good Fortune," about wealth disparity and the shackles of the gig economy. It's populist territory that is ripe for a big-screen skewering and Ansari, who wrote, directed and stars, is attempting something sincere, noble and broadly entertaining. But a modern-day "Sullivan's Travels," this is not.

"Good Fortune," in select theaters Friday, gets a little lost in the logistics of its familiar high-concept premise, involving a guardian angel (Keanu Reeves) who makes the poor guy (Ansari) switch with the wealthy guy (Seth Rogen). In its attempts to be empathetic toward everyone, it ambles around between absurdity, social realism and Apatow-esque antics trying to find its groove. And yet nothing is ever quite laugh-out-loud funny, which is shocking considering the people involved, and its messages are essentially toothless.

Workers unite? Find joy in the small things?

Perhaps the idea that no matter how bad life gets, there are always cheap tacos and dancing and laughter, should be life-affirming. And yet it feels hollow, like fodder for an embroidered throw pillow in the discount bin, instead of what it should be: Frank Capra for the billionaire age.



Lionsgate

From left, Keanu Reeves plays a guardian angel who swaps the life circumstances of characters played by Seth Rogen and Aziz Ansari in "Good Fortune." Rogen plays a wealthy venture capitalist and Ansari a poor gig worker.

Still, "Good Fortune" is the rare mainstream comedy that doesn't turn its lens away from the tents and recreational vehicles all over Los Angeles and the plight of the omnipresent gig worker, toting food all around town and facing the wrath of a rating system that blames the driver for everything.

Arj (Ansari) is a kind of perfect victim, a college-educated film editor who has found himself at the mercy of 'round-the-clock freelance work and still unable to afford a place to live. We see how unfair the app-based-for-hire system is in comedic situations: He stands in line for two hours for a viral cinnamon bun. When the shop runs out and the client cancels the transaction, he loses that money and that time.

Then there are all those parking and traffic tickets that keep coming, and one night while trying to charge his phone at a Denny's, his car gets towed. It's yet another bill he can't afford to pay, and it gets more expensive every day.

He gets a sliver of hope when a wealthy venture capitalist named Jeff (Rogen) hires him to be his assistant on a one-week trial basis. Jeff lives a life of leisure and excess, in a Bel Air mansion where his biggest concerns are finding a disco floor for his birthday party and a shaman for an ayahuasca trip. He's a caricature of a VC bro and also basically a decent guy. But when Arj uses the company card to cover a personal expense that he promises to pay back, he's sacked. That's when Reeves' guardian angel Gabriel decides to intervene.

Gabriel is a junior angel looking for more to do (because job dissatisfaction exists among celestial beings as well) and decides to save Arj though this little switcheroo. But it ends up backfiring because for Arj, things really are better with immense wealth, and the movie never quite figures its way out of that puzzle. There is no joy in watching Jeff live like a common person for a week either, or Gabriel have his own crisis of self as a chain-smoking, hard-drinking dishwasher at an all-you-can-eat restaurant. Reeves is particularly underserved by the script, which basically only asks him to be a beautiful, well-meaning idiot.

The only character I wanted more of is Keke Palmer's Elena, one of Arj's coworkers at a hardware store who is mostly there as a plot device to show Arj that it is possible to love your minimum wage life, but somehow rises above as the most human of the bunch.

"Good Fortune" has its heart in the right place, but it lacks a spark and internal engine that might have made it more entertaining, and ultimately impactful.

"Good Fortune" is rated R for language and some drug use. Running time: 98 minutes. Now playing at select on-base theaters.

Hang up on boring 'Black Phone 2'

By Katie Walsh
Tribune News Service

It's clear from the existence and execution of "Black Phone 2" that Universal and Blumhouse never expected 2021's "The Black Phone" to be a hit. If there was an inkling this might have been more than a quick and dirty '70s-style riff on a boogeyman tale, there's no way those in charge would have let their big baddie, the Grabber, be killed off at the end of the movie.

But a hit it was, and so for a sequel, the supernatural elements must be spun out, and '80s slasher classics consulted, especially since it's now four years later, in 1982. Masked serial killer the Grabber, played by Ethan Hawke, continues to haunt, torment and maim children, despite the inconvenience of death.

Scott Derrickson and C. Robert Cargill co-wrote both films, with Derrickson behind the camera as director. The first was based on a short story by Joe Hill (the son of Stephen King), and is set in 1978 Denver, where plucky Finney Blake (Mason Thames) had to escape from the clutches of kidnapper the Grabber while fielding phone calls from the ghosts of the killer's previous victims, offering tips and tricks. What distinguished "The Black Phone" was its shocking approach to violence with its young characters, who all sported entertainingly profane potty mouths. While it was daring in its hard R material, and played on our basest, most basic fears, it didn't reinvent the wheel, or even try to. However, the film's supernatural phone conceit played well enough, and young star Thames was outstanding.

In "Black Phone 2," Finney's a high school student, drowning his trauma in weed and schoolyard fights, now the bully himself. He's protective over his sister Gwen (Madeleine McGraw), who has the gift of psychic sight, but mostly he just wants to check out from his own brain. But the sequel is primarily Gwen's movie. She starts sleepwalking and lucid dreaming about phone calls from beyond — way beyond, like from their dead mother when she was a teenager, beyond.

The messages bring Gwen, Finney and her crush Ernesto (Miguel Mora) to a winter camp for Christian youth, Camp Alpine, now run by Mando (Demián Bichir) and his niece Mustang (Arianna Rivas). As it turns out, this camp is lousy with the ghosts of young dead boys.

If "The Black Phone" dabbles in crimes that are taboo, even unforgivable in its depiction of brutality against innocent children, "Black Phone 2" commits its own unforgivable crime of being dreadfully boring. This movie is a snooze — and not just because all of the action takes place entirely during Gwen's dreams.

The film can't shake its lingering scent of "Stranger Things," but for the sequel, the filmmakers turn for inspiration to another '80s icon: Freddy Krueger. The whole film is a "Nightmare on Elm Street" rip-off, with a disfigured killer stalking his prey through their subconscious. Those sequences are fine, action-packed if not entirely scary, but at least it's something more rousing than the awake scenes, where the characters stand in one place and make speeches to each other about their trauma and character backstories. But the entire affair is monotonously one-note and dour, with only a few pops of wholly unintentional humor.

You realize almost immediately what the deal is with these ghost boys, but the film takes its sweet time explaining it all. It's a fairly simple story, so you do understand why Derrickson gussies it up with grainy dream sequences and shaky 8mm flashbacks, and a pretty terrific electronic score composed by his son, Atticus Derrickson.



Universal Pictures/TNS

Mason Thames, left, and Ethan Hawke as the Grabber, in "Black Phone 2," directed by Scott Derrickson.

It's also a bit surprising the film turns out to be so pious and deeply Christian, which is a bit of an odd mix. For a film that's this much about Jesus and the power of prayer, it also features a scene in which a kid's face gets sliced in half with a windowpane. But horror's trend toward faith-based isn't a surprise when you take a look at the success of the Bible-thumping "The Conjuring" franchise.

However, it seems like this might be the Grabber's last hurrah. You'll root for the characters to vanquish him only because then the drudgery might finally end. Who knows, maybe it'll be a hit and they'll figure out another way to reanimate this utterly uninspiring horror villain. Personally, I've had my fill of the Grabber's grabbing.

"Black Phone 2" is rated R for strong violent content, gore, teen drug use and language. Running time: 114 minutes. Now playing at select on-base theaters.

Digging Europe's wondrous caves



DOMINIC ARIZONA BONUCCELLI /Rick Steves' Europe

Slovenia's ancient and remarkable Škocjan caves delight tourists and spelunkers alike.

Europe is rich in history, but its splendid castles, antique churches and age-old ruins tell only part of the story. To dig even deeper in time — much deeper — visit a cave. Some of my favorites, in France and Slovenia, showcase 17-foot-long bulls drawn by our ancient forebears and 100-foot-high stalagmites sculpted by nature.

The world's most famous cave paintings are at Lascaux, in southwest France. From 18,000 to 10,000 BC, long before Stonehenge, before the pyramids, before metalworking and before farming — back when mammoths and saber-toothed cats still roamed the earth — prehistoric people painted deep inside these limestone caverns. These aren't crude doodles with a charcoal-tipped stick. They're sophisticated, costly and time-consuming engineering projects.

Discovered in 1940, the caves were closed to visitors in 1963 to prevent further deterioration of the artwork. But two "copy caves" — Lascaux II and Lascaux IV, at the International Center for Cave Art — replicate the original with exacting accuracy. The prehistoric reindeer, horses and bulls of the original cave have been painstakingly reproduced by talented artists using the same dyes, tools and techniques their predecessors did 15,000 years ago.



Rick Steves

Lascaux IV, designed with the latest technology, is a slightly more exact copy, and its state-of-the-art center gives a thorough and thought-provoking overview of the original cave and its role in prehistory and modern art. In high season, however, it has groups of 35 people ushered in every six minutes. The older Lascaux II, in the woods a half mile away, offers a more intimate, quiet and intensive look.

To see actual original prehistoric art, head to the Grotte de Font-de-Gaume, the last one in France with prehistoric multicolored (polychrome) paintings still open to the public.

Font-de-Gaume contains 15,000-year-old paintings of 230 animals. But getting in is tricky — access is extremely restricted, with only 78 spaces available each day. Book as far ahead as far you can, as spots fill up months in advance.

In Slovenia, the ancient story found below ground relates to geology, not human culture. About an hour south of Ljubljana, the country's Karst region is honeycombed with a vast network of caves and underground rivers. Spelunkers agree that this region has some of the most remarkable caves on the planet, including my favorite, the Škocjan caves.

At Škocjan, visitors begin by seeing a multitude of formations in a series of large caverns. Guides tell the story as, drip by drip, stalactites grow from spaghetti-thin strands to mighty sequoia-like stone pillars. The experience builds and builds as you go into ever-more impressive grottoes. Then you get to the truly colossal final cavern — the "Murmuring Water Cave" — with a mighty river crashing through the mist. Crossing a breathtaking footbridge 150 feet above the torrent gives you faith in Slovenian engineering. Finally, the cave widens, sunlight pours in, and you emerge — like lost creatures seeking daylight — into a lush canyon.

The nearby Postojna caves are Slovenia's single most popular tourist attraction. Postojna lacks Škocjan's spectacular, massive-cavern finale, but the formations at Postojna are slightly more abundant, varied and colorful, with stalagmites and stalactites as tall as 100 feet.

This article is used with the permission of Rick Steves' Europe (www.ricksteves.com). Rick Steves writes European guidebooks, hosts travel shows on public TV and radio, and organizes European tours.

Seasonal thrills and chills await at various spooky locales

On the hunt for Halloween fun in Europe? Amusement parks, medieval castles and towns with connections to witches plan events connected with the scary season.

Germany

Königstein Castle: The legendary Halloween party started by American soldiers in the Frankenstein Castle ruins in 1976 delighted horror-seekers for decades, but in 2024, the present-day organizers of the beloved bash were forced to find a new venue as the old premises continue to undergo extensive renovations. The party now takes place at Burg Königstein, ruins nestled high in the hills of the Taunus region just north of Frankfurt. Heart-stopping scare zones, spectacular shows and monsters galore are promised to all those who dare enter. The scary adult version of the event is offered on Oct. 17-18, Oct. 24-25 and Oct. 31-Nov. 1. Entry costs 47 to 52 euros for adults, depending on the date. A gentler version of the event geared toward younger children is offered on the Sundays of Oct. 19, Oct. 26 and Nov. 2; admission to this event is 25 euros for all ages. Online: frankenstein-halloween.de/en



Karen Bradbury

Satzvey Castle: Mechernich, a town about 30 miles southwest of Bonn, is home to Burg Satzvey, a 15th century moated castle that hosts a variety of historical-themed events throughout the year. On Oct. 25, the castle has its annual Halloween party, billed as a family-friendly affair. The gates open at 3 p.m. with only the gentlest of frights. From 5 p.m. on, things grow a little scarier, as monsters and otherworldly figures emerge. After 7 p.m., the spooks will be out in force. The Bourbon Hall offers the chance to cap off the evening with dancing. Visitors are encouraged to show up in costume. Entry at the gate costs 27 euros for adults, 22 euros for students and 15 euros for ages 4-12. Online: tinyurl.com/3s46tn9p



iStock

For those looking for mature thrills, Europa-Park serves up a "Traumatica – Festival of Fear" in which a large section of the park is converted into a zone of horrors.

Plopsaland: The amusement park formerly known as Holiday Park now has a new name and ownership. This fun park in Hassloch, a few miles south of Mannheim, has long hosted Halloween-themed outings. This year's version of "Halloween Fright Nights" offers a combination of nine horror attractions, three scary shows, DJ sets and fireworks. The event is recommended for those ages 16 and up, but costumes are not allowed. The event takes place Oct. 17-18, Oct. 24-25 and Oct. 31. Basic entry costs 39 euros per person; entry to any one of five Houses of Horror costs 3 euros more. Online: tinyurl.com/3y967u6v

Europa-Park: Germany's largest fun park, near the French border in the town of Rust, celebrates Halloween with a mix of tame and scary. On the days running up to Halloween, visitors can enjoy its seasonal décor and a daily parade of costumed figures. Much braver souls will be attracted to the show "Traumatica – Festival of Fear," in which a large section of the park is converted into a zone of horrors including a fun house filled with bloodthirsty clowns, spacecraft infected by a mutation-causing virus and other macabre sites populated by zombie-like figures and hideous beasts. Admission is restricted to those ages 16 and over only. Entry costs 44 or 49 euros, depending on the night. The event runs Oct. 17-19, Oct. 24-26 and Oct. 30-31. Online: traumatica.com/en

Pullman City: This adventure park in Eging am See brings the feeling of the USA's Wild West to the edge of the Bavarian Forest. This Friday-Sunday, the park enters into the Halloween spirit with prowling ghosts and ghouls, Halloween-themed shows and trick-or-treating. Children dressed in costume enter for free; those 15 and older pay 31 euros. Online: tinyurl.com/2ywfbswu

Italy

Gardaland: Through Nov. 2, this theme park in Castelnuovo del Garda near Lake Garda offers a "Magic Halloween" event with seasonal decor, bewitched pumpkins and creepy creatures from other realms. Tickets go for 29 or 39 euros, depending on the date. Children under 90 cm (about 3 ft.) enter for free. Online: tinyurl.com/far4w6u6

Corinaldo: This hilltop village in the Marche region of central Italy makes the most of its medieval charms during its "Festa delle Streghe," or Witches Festival. Spooky decor, haunted houses, live shows and hands-on activities make for a family-friendly day out. Dates include Oct. 25-26 and on Oct. 31. Online: corinaldoturismo.it/ama

England

Warwick Castle: One of England's most magnificent castles gets into the Halloween spirit Oct. 25-Nov. 2. Warwick Castle's "Haunted Castle" event promises eerie entertainment in the form of live shows, mazes and costumed figures. Tickets to this family-friendly event go for 22 UK pounds (about $29.50) for all visitors more than 2 years old. Online: tinyurl.com/7wkacner

WEEKEND: TRAVEL



PHOTOS BY CARA ANNA/AP

A memorial to James Bond stands near a lighthouse on Kalsoy Island at the Faroe Islands. The character died on the island in his last film, "No Time to Die."

Take a 'stormcation' on Faroe Islands

Authorities both trying to encourage tourism to the self-governing territory, protect its dramatic landscapes from it

BY CARA ANNA
Associated Press

The tiny Faroe Islands in the north Atlantic could be a poor choice for travelers with vertigo, seasickness or a fear of enclosed spaces. There are crumbling cliffs, sudden gale-force winds and hillsides so steep that even the sheep can tumble.

Three tourists disappeared over two days in September. Police told the media their last locations were near a well-known waterfall that drops into the sea. Be careful, a shaken staffer at the site's entrance said days later. "Come back."

The risks come with landscapes so dramatic that one became the site for James Bond's end in "No Time to Die." Now the Faroe Islands, a self-governing territory under Denmark, like Greenland, are trying to handle a growing number of travelers also drawn by bird-watching, adventurous eating and "coolcations" as global temperatures rise.

Its sure-footed residents once hiked over mountain passes and maneuvered wooden boats onto rocky shores just to visit church or each other. Unlike tourists, they know when to stay away from hiking trails alongside unprotected cliffs, and how disorienting sudden fogs can be.

"When you make a mistake here, nature usually wins," a food truck vendor at one popular site said.



A sign warns tourists in Gjógv on the Faroe Islands.



A tourist entry ticket warns of cliffside dangers near Midvagur on the Faroe Islands, Sept. 12.

It's easier than ever to learn that lesson while exploring the Faroe Islands, which for now are largely free of the zip-lined commercialization of one of its nearest neighbors, Iceland.

A growing network of undersea tunnels, including what's called the world's first undersea roundabout, are helping to link the 18 islands. Rugged isolation is giving way to smooth highways, and Airbnb has hundreds of listings among a population of more than 50,000 people.

A new co-chairmanship of the Arctic Council is bringing more global visibility, along with a stunning run toward its first soccer World Cup.

'Closed for maintenance'

Authorities are trying to both encourage tourism and protect the Faroe Islands from it. A yearly "closed for maintenance" program began in 2019, with volunteers from around the world chosen to help with antierosion efforts, path upkeep and other work. The national museum later launched a project to protect lands and biodiversity.

And this year, the tourism office introduced self-navigating tours that steer visitors from the churned-mud

SEE DRAMATIC ON PAGE 21

WEEKEND: TRAVEL



PHOTOS BY CARA ANNA/AP

Tourists enjoy a view on Kalsoy Island at the Faroe Islands, Sept. 4. The 18 islands have crumbling cliffs, sudden gale-force winds and hillsides so steep that even the sheep can tumble.

Dramatic: Officials also balancing responsibility of warning travelers

FROM PAGE 20

trails of the most popular spots to lesser-known areas.

Tour routes are revealed online as you go along. One sends users to a seaside village that hosts a popular music festival, followed by a tiny botanical garden, a fjord-side memorial to a deadly shipwreck and a small forest plantation enjoyed by Faroese on the otherwise treeless islands.

The last leg was along a one-lane road that at times had no guardrail between its lack of shoulder and the drop to the sea. Sheep walked along one stretch, another reason for visitors to stay alert in the stunning surroundings. (There's a police number to call if a driver hits one.)

Visitors who love the outdoors can easily spend a week in the Faroe Islands cycling, fishing, trying an emerging sauna scene, eating sushi from locally farmed salmon and shopping for newly knitted wool sweaters. In the summer, boat tours include music concerts inside a sea cave or puffin-watching.

Winters are fierce — a ferryman said a storm two years ago ripped the roof from an old house next to the AP's seaside rental cottage in Sydradalur — but interest in the islands is starting to extend the peak tourist season into October.

Ferocious winds and bewildered sheep

Villages, especially in the wilder northern region, can have just a handful of residents. There are few tourist-focused businesses outside the capital, Tórshavn, but the village of Gjógv has a welcoming guesthouse and café, and the village of Fuglafjordur has a charming main street and visitors' center. English is widely spoken and displayed.

Just be prepared for rain in the often-shifting weather, with webcams available from popular locations.

And mind the guidance, even scolding, that some Faroese have posted for tourists who overstep.

"Due to unmannerly behavior and lack of quietness on the graves, the cemetery is closed," said a sign on the church in the village of Saksun.

> **"When you make a mistake here, nature usually wins."**
>
> **Food truck vendor at one popular site**

"Do not wash your shoes in the sink!" said a sign at the ferry stop on Kalsoy Island. A worker at the island's unexpected Thai restaurant — a sign of the small but growing migrant population — estimated that about 200 tourists a day came to a much-photographed lighthouse there this summer.

The official Visit Faroe Islands doesn't hold back, either, as it balances the appeal of growing tourism with the responsibility of warning travelers. Finding equilibrium is a long practice in the nation whose fishing-dominated economy requires cordial ties with a range of countries including Russia and China.

"Stormcation," the Visit Faroe Islands site declares, but adds: "Ferocious wind can overturn cars, fling bicycles, wheelbarrows — and sheep — or anything else that's not anchored down."



A Faroe Islands flag flies in Fuglafjordur on the Faroe Islands, Sept. 8.



The image of a puffin decorates a home in Trøllanes on the Faroe Islands, Sept. 4. Puffins are one of the many birds you can find on the islands.



A sheep-printed pillow lies in a guesthouse in Gjógv on the Faroe Islands, Sept. 8. Ferocious winds on the islands can overturn even the sheep.

What to know about visiting the Faroe Islands

While the Faroe Islands might have once slipped under the radar, more tourists than ever are arriving on the remote archipelago in the north Atlantic. According to Statistics Faroe Islands, a record 94,954 check-ins occurred last year at hotels, hostels and guesthouses.

Here's what to know about visiting:

The weather above all: Be ready for anything, especially when hiking. At some point, it will rain. Strong winds can pick up quickly, and fog can be disorienting.

The Landsverk local authority has weather cameras on its site, and so does FaroeIslandsLive. The official Visit Faroe Islands site has detailed advice on safe travel, as locals are aware that people can slip off trails into the sea — and sometimes do.

"I will take photos to die for, without dying for them," says a tourist-focused flier called "The Faroese Pledge" on the library door in the village of Fuglafjordur.

Trails marked as suitable for children may not be. Keep in mind that hiking times and difficulty levels have been estimated by locals. A few of the most heavily traveled routes ask for a fee. The popular hike to the Kallur lighthouse on Kalsoy Island is about $30. Do not miss it.

Undersea tunnels, upper-tier fees: It's best to explore with a rental car for more flexibility. Public buses are available to many locations, but timetables are limited. They are available at the Strandfaraskip site. Multiday travel passes can be purchased at the airport's visitor center.

The Faroe Islands now have four undersea tunnels linking a few of the most visited islands, but prepare to pay. Fees range from over $15 for a round trip to over $27 one way. Plan day trips accordingly. Fees are paid to the rental car company at the end of a visit.

On land, some of the older tunnels are single lanes with designated passing areas. Some of the scenic "buttercup" routes are single lanes as well. Guardrails are not always present.

On one stretch of road leaving the community of Tjørnuvík, a signal has been installed to limit traffic to one direction at a time along the well-battered guardrail above the sea. Tourists don't know how to reverse, residents said.

Mind the sheep, and other details:

- The need for cash is almost nonexistent. The Associated Press used it once, for a coin-operated shower in one of the public restrooms often found at camping locations or tourist-frequented villages. Pay with cards and phones.
- Food is expensive, as most of it is imported.
- English is widely enough spoken and displayed.
- Drone use is restricted. The Visit Faroe Islands site has details.
- Don't bother the sheep. Call the police if you hit one.

— Associated Press

WEEKEND: QUICK TRIPS

HistoryLand: Playful panoply of Polish past

Exhibition in Poznan uses Legos to build mock-ups of important places and events

BY SHATYRA COX
Stars and Stripes

Finding interesting ways to dive into Poland's past has been on my wish list ever since I arrived in Poznan last month for my latest duty assignment.

But I didn't want to be behind museum ropes or in front of centuries-old art, which ruled out, for example, a trip to Warsaw to see the dozen Jan Matejko paintings collectively titled "History of Civilization in Poland."

Luckily, I found just the sort of presentation I was looking for right in Poznan in the form of creations made from Lego bricks — 1.5 million of them, to be precise.

Dubbed HistoryLand, the place is just across the street from the Sheraton with the life-size statue of a Polish soldier outside. The hotel is well-known to U.S. personnel, as most new arrivals have their temporary living quarters there.

HistoryLand is housed in one of the exhibition halls of the sprawling MTP Poznan Expo complex and offers mock-ups of 10 events or places of great significance from Poland's past.

When I walked in, I wasn't sure what to expect beyond a lot of Lego pieces. It turned out to be a surprisingly engaging way to fulfill my wish.

The elaborate and colorful details of each scene made me lean in close just to take it all in. I was quickly immersed in sights and sounds that brought to life Polish cities from Gdansk to Krakow, holy places and storied medieval battlefields.

Among the latter is the Battle of Grunwald, an epic 1410 victory for the forces of Poland-Lithuania over the Teutonic Order of German crusader knights. A Matejko canvas at the National Museum in Warsaw that depicts the battle extends across an entire wall.

HistoryLand's version takes a different approach, transforming the clash into a miniature battlefield filled with thousands of Lego knights, colorful banners and warhorses frozen midcharge.

Once the lights on the scene went dim and the sound of battle rose from the accompanying speakers, it was easy to forget I was looking at plastic bricks. I instantly decided that the Battle of Grunwald exhibit was my favorite.

The display on the defense of Westerplatte at the start of World War II took me straight back to high school history class.

On Sept. 1, 1939, German forces launched the war with an assault on the peninsula north of Gdansk. They expected a quick victory but faced a heroic stand by a 182-man garrison, which held out for seven days and became a symbol of Polish resistance.

In the HistoryLand recounting of the events, flashes of red and orange illuminate a tiny Polish outpost surrounded by trees and sand-colored bricks. The sound of gunfire filled the room, creating a combination of light, sound and motion that made a powerful impression on me.



PHOTOS BY SHATYRA COX/Stars and Stripes

The Lego re-creation of St. Mary's Church in Krakow on display at HistoryLand in Poznan, Poland, captures the iconic Gothic landmark in vivid detail, including its twin towers and ornate facade overlooking the city's main square.



The portrayal of the Battle of Grunwald at HistoryLand in Poznan has thousands of Lego knights charging into battle beneath a fiery sky. Sounds of battle accompany the scene.



Lego ships clash on a stormy sea in an exhibit at HistoryLand that portrays the Polish navy's role in historic conflicts.

On the QT

Address: Ulica Glogowska 14, Hall 3A
Hours: Wednesday through Friday, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Last entrance, 5:15 p.m.
Prices: 40 zlotys ($11) for adults, 30 zlotys ($8) for 18 and under. Discounts available for families and groups.
Information: Online: historyland.pl/en

ShaTyra Cox

Another standout was the display on the ancient settlement at Biskupin, a place I'd never heard of. Located in the region that birthed the Polish state, the settlement was built on an island in Lake Biskupinskie some 2,500 years ago and inhabited by the Lusatian people for well over a century.

The real Biskupin was made entirely of wood. HistoryLand's version captures that essence with thousands of tan and brown Lego bricks forming a ring of huts, watchtowers and bridges. Soft blue lighting mimics the lake, while subtle sounds of rushing water and birdsong make the scene feel alive.

I lingered here longer than I expected. The Biskupin exhibit also made me want to visit the actual place, which conveniently is just over an hour's drive from Poznan.

Poland's deep-rooted Catholic faith, another major feature of the country's history, is represented by displays introducing the Wawel Cathedral and St. Mary's Church in Krakow, as well as the monastery of Jasna Gora, the greatest place of pilgrimage for Poles.

Before leaving, I stopped by the on-site Lego gift shop, which offered everything from small souvenir sets to in-depth models for serious builders. There's also a coffee shop, which wasn't open during my visit but would have provided a nice post-tour break.

What I enjoyed most was the way HistoryLand blended fun with learning. Audio guides are available in multiple languages for those who want more context, and I found it easy to get drawn into the storytelling.

The whole experience took me about 45 minutes, and the roughly 27,000-square-foot space is compact enough to fit into a morning or afternoon outing. I had ample "wow" moments that made the trip feel worth it.

cox.shatyra@stripes.com
@oh.that.tyra

That's Amore steakhouse is tough to chew

Stuttgart eatery with Italian American theme falls short of expectations set for predecessor

BY JOHN VANDIVER
Stars and Stripes

Downtown Stuttgart's new steakhouse That's Amore occupies what used to be hallowed beef ground for me.

Its predecessor in the space on Kronprinzstrasse was the Meatery, an all-time favorite and my go-to spot for the best steaks in town until it shut down in 2024 after an 11-year run.

When my family and I ventured to That's Amore recently, our expectations were high. We hoped that the substitution of a place with a different name and decor didn't mean a turn for the worse when it comes to the meat locker.

The restaurant plays on Italian American themes, with classic pictures of Frank Sinatra and his fellow Rat Pack members on the wall.

It also has a much more diverse menu than its predecessor did. While steaks are still the centerpiece, with dry-aged meat hanging prominently in a glass display case, there's also lots of other stuff. Gourmet burgers, seafood and pasta dishes are among the options.

The steak menu was enticing, albeit expensive, with prices for most varieties costing more than 50 euros. You can select meat sourced from the U.S., Argentina or Germany in cuts that include T-bones, New York strips, rib-eyes, fillets and more.

I went with the Germany-sourced New York strip from the dry-aged chamber. For an appetizer I selected the steak tartare, which had always been a favorite at the trusty old Meatery.

The latter was served on a bed of thin, slightly foamy cream and was attractively garnished. It tasted great too, although the serving was quite small.

Then came the 21-ounce streak with a couple of dipping sauces on the side. Sadly, it fell well short of expectations.

The meat was quite chewy and didn't deliver the kind of flavor I had taken for granted at the Meatery.

Also, the hefty steak knife was as dull as a butter knife, forcing me to saw and saw only to chew and chew through each morsel. I think I enjoyed my side of steamed wild broccoli more.

Perhaps it was just bad luck with the cut, but given the prices, I would be unlikely to select from the steak menu again.

My dining partners seemed to fare better with their choices. The grilled octopus was a hit. It was slightly charred but still moist inside.

So was the Italian burger, served with pesto and mozzarella. The beef patty was thick and juicy and the pesto gave it a unique savory punch.

The wine menu was extensive and I was especially pleased with my selection, a cabernet sauvignon from Austria's Tyrol region. Everyone around the table had an approving whiff of it.

The service was also quite exceptional, at least by German standards.

The waitstaff had a friendly demeanor, in contrast to the typically standoffish German norm, and we were impressed with their attentiveness.

Given the prices, That's Amore might be best for special occasions only, unless the family budget for dining out is generous.

If I decide to return, the menu has lots of other things that I would try, including the truffle pizza and whole lobster.

But when it comes to first impressions on the steak, That's Amore's got nothing on my old friend the Meatery.

vandiver.john@stripes.com
@john_vandiver

AFTER HOURS GERMANY

That's Amore

Address: Kronprinzstrasse 24, Stuttgart
Hours: Monday through Friday, 12-3 p.m. and 6-10 p.m.; Saturday, 1-10 p.m.; Sunday, 5:30-9 p.m.
Prices: Most main courses between 25 euros and 40 euros. Steak prices vary, but most cost 50 euros or more.
Info: www.thatsamore-restaurant.de

John Vandiver



PHOTOS BY JOHN VANDIVER/Stars and Stripes

That's Amore steakhouse in Stuttgart, Germany, has an Italian American theme. It offers a wide variety of cuts, such as this New York strip, as well as T-bones, rib-eyes and fillets.

Total clearance sale - everything must go!
Only now at Sweet Home
Landstuhl • Kaiserstr. 69
phone 0 63 71 / 4 98 91 85
You save up to 75%!

Just a few days:
Fri, Oct 17th 10 am - 6 pm
Sat, Oct 18th 10 am - 6 pm
Sun, Oct 19th 11 am - 5 pm*
Mon, Oct 20th 10 am - 6 pm
and on other days; *on sundays no consultation or sale
Carpets, furniture, accessories and more!

WEEKEND: QUICK TRIPS



PHOTOS BY KEISHI KOJA/Stars and Stripes

More than 450 lenses are displayed at the Nikon Museum in Tokyo. The museum holds more than 1,300 items related to the company's history and technological advances.

Focused on quality

Nikon Museum offers deep dive into the camera maker's history





Left: A 51-inch synthetic quartz glass ingot. Right: More than 500 cameras are displayed along one museum wall.

BY KEISHI KOJA
Stars and Stripes

As a Stars and Stripes reporter, whenever I need to cover an event, I grab my mirrorless Nikon Z50 and rush out of the office.

Nikon cameras are simply excellent — stylish, sharp and clinical. You'll never regret owning one.

I often wondered how this camera was made and where it came from. I finally found the answers at the Nikon Museum in Tokyo.

Inside the Nikon Global Headquarters in the city's Shinagawa ward, the museum is just a 12-minute walk from Oi-machi Station.

Nikon has been in business for 108 years creating not just cameras for the consumer market but advanced precision optics for industry, too. The museum, which holds more than 1,300 items related to the company's history and technological advances, marks its 10th anniversary on Friday.

Once you arrive, the staff welcomes you to a space divided into sections for industry, consumer and theater.

Industry showcases sophisticated equipment that teaches you that Nikon is not just about cameras.

Starting with a huge 51-inch synthetic quartz glass ingot, which is the symbol of the museum, you'll find exhibitions of astronomical telescopes, health care products, measurement instruments and more.

There's also a chance to see how the NEXIC, a measuring system, works.

The exciting part will come in the Consumer section — a wall displaying more than 500 cameras and 450 lenses that will pull you into the Nikon universe.

From the Nikon I, released in 1948, to the latest models, every camera has its color and story.

The museum also provides augmented reality content, or AR, provided you have a device capable of reading QR codes. Guided tours of the museum are also available for free on a first-come, first-served basis. Make a tour request on the guided tour request form on the museum website at least three days in advance.

Scholarly types can be amazed by how Nikon cameras have evolved through the years. Or you can simply enjoy the fun of spotting your own camera among the collection.

You can also learn more about Nikon's legacy on a 140-inch screen in the theater.

At the end of the tour, there's a gift shop where you can pick up cool souvenirs. I bought coasters featuring the cameras we use in the office as gifts for my colleagues.

The museum is cozy — you could finish the tour in just 10 minutes, but I stayed for over an hour. It's a must-visit not only for Nikon enthusiasts but for every camera lover.

koja.keishi@stripes.com
@KeishiRKoja

On the QT

Directions: 1-5-20, Nishioi, Shinagawa-ku, Tokyo, Innovation Center 1F, Nikom Global Headquarters. About a 12-minute walk from Oi-machi Station.
Times: Open 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday
Cost: Free
Information: Online: nikon.com/company/corporate/museum or @NIKONMUSEUM on Instagram.

Keishi Koja

Sauce, spices and freshness

Flavorful tuna adorns poke bowls at Fisherman's Poke Jun Tsuna in Okinawa's American Village

By Brian McElhiney
Stars and Stripes

The secret to authentic poke is in the sauce, said Okinawa fisherman Yasutsuna Tanaka.

The owner of Fisherman's Poke Jun Tsuna in American Village, Tanaka used to visit his aunt in Kaneohe, Hawaii, for Thanksgiving every year, he said at the restaurant in early October. That's where he developed a taste for the dish, which consists of cubed raw fish, marinated soy sauce and sesame oil and other toppings over rice.

What separates poke from a traditional Japanese sushi bowl is the spice factor, Tanaka said. The soy sauce is mixed with Hawaiian salt and spices and can have quite a kick depending on what you order.

I discovered Tanaka's restaurant when he was based in Kitanakagusuku village, where I live. He opened the restaurant there five years ago and made the move to heavily trafficked Chatan town in February.

"It was good timing," he said. "I was looking for a place in Chatan and just found this; it was pretty quick."

As a fan of poke from numerous visits to Hawaii, the experience at Tsuna scratches that itch. The portions may not be as generous here, but they deliver in flavor and freshness.

Tanaka and his father catch all the tuna they serve, he said. Photos on the wall show him posing with some of his catches, including some bigger than him.

On my recent visit for lunch, I ordered a regular size tuna-salmon combo topped with spicy mayonnaise, and it was enough to satisfy. You can order up to two proteins — options also include Okinawan octopus, shrimp or tofu — for an additional 100 yen, or about 70 cents. With additional toppings including avocado, edamame, garlic and wasabi, plus an iced tea, the price came to about 2,400 yen, or about $16.50.

The spicy mayo packed a punch, but wasn't painful to eat (I'll sometimes get jalapeño for a bigger kick, but felt like taking it easy this day). The generous-sized fish portions lived up to the fresh-caught hype, and were complemented by the perfectly ripe avocado and edamame.

My dining partner, a Hawaii native, was also impressed by the freshness. The seaweed and sesame flakes, or furikake, had a nice crunch, and the topping ratios were well proportioned.

For now, Tsuna is open daily for lunch and dinner, although that may change, according to its website. Parking can be tricky at American Village, but it's worth a drive.

mcelhiney.brian@stripes.com
@BrianMcElhiney



Photos by Brian McElhiney/Stars and Stripes

Yasutsuna Tanaka poses outside his eatery, Fisherman's Poke Jun Tsuna, in Okinawa's American Village.



A poke bowl featuring tuna and salmon, spicy mayo, garlic, wasabi, avocado and edamame from Fisherman's Poke Jun Tsuna.

AFTER HOURS OKINAWA

Fisherman's Poke Jun Tsuna

Location: Depot Building C 1st floor, 9-12 Mihama, Chatan-cho, Okinawa
Directions: Less than two miles from Camp Foster.
Hours: Open daily, 11 a.m. to 8:30 p.m.
Prices: Starting at 1,380 yen for a regular size or 2,080 yen for a large size. Additional toppings are extra.
Dress: Casual
Information: Online: poke.tanka.okinawa; Instagram: @fishermans.poke_tsuna

Brian McIlhiney

How to cook, freeze or pickle plant scraps instead of tossing them

By Jessica Damiano
Associated Press

My beets were slow to grow this year, so I bought a bunch at the farmers' market. I was taken aback when the seller chopped off the vegetable's foliage and attempted to discard it.

"Wait! I'll take those, please," I blurted, catching him just before they hit the trash bin, and explaining that they're edible. He knew, of course, but said that most customers don't want them.

There are a lot of tasty and nutritious uses for secondary plant parts that would otherwise be discarded or, at best, added to compost. Waste not, want not!

When I roast beets, I saute their greens with olive oil, salt, pepper and garlic for a tasty and nutritious second side dish from the same plant.

Likewise, I have a gallon-size, zipper-top "scraps" bag in the freezer to which I add (washed) carrot nubs and peels, onion skins, celery leaves and parsley stems. When the bag is full, I empty its contents into a stockpot with chicken and water, simmer it for a couple of hours and then strain it for a flavorful and nutrient-rich soup base or broth.

Young zucchini leaves are also edible. It's OK to take a few from each plant (cut stems at their base), but take care not to remove too many, as they're needed to produce energy for the growing crop. Scrape each leaf's surface with a sharp knife to remove any bristles, then rinse, slice and saute with the peeled, chopped stems. Mature leaves are too thick and prickly, but can be used to flavor soups and stews, then removed before serving.

You can also stuff the zucchini leaves with rice and Mediterranean seasonings in place of grape leaves. Go ahead and add chopped meat, too, if you like.

Fig leaves make a delicious tea-like beverage. Harvest them at the end of the season, just before they turn yellow. Rinse, pat dry, then place them in a food dehydrator, air fryer or oven set to 200 degrees Fahrenheit for several hours, until crispy. Crumble them up, then store them in a glass jar.

Steep a heaping tablespoon in boiling water for 10 minutes, then strain. You'll swear you're drinking a sweetened coconut-vanilla infusion.

And if you're growing untreated, chemical-free nasturtiums, pansies, violets, roses or borage, you can garnish salads with the edible flowers (nasturtiums have a peppery bite; borage is similar to cucumber) or use them to decorate desserts.

And don't toss those watermelon rinds. They can be pickled. Slice them up, then boil for 5 minutes, drain and set aside. When they've cooled, add them to a jar with a boiled (but cooled) solution of water, cider or white vinegar, kosher salt, sugar and allspice (or pickling spices for a savory snack). They'll be ready to enjoy in a couple of hours and will keep in the refrigerator for a couple of weeks.

WEEKEND: LIFESTYLE



Henry Saint

The 2025 October's Child event, an annual Halloween costume giveaway, was held on Sept. 27 in Austin, Texas. Host Christophe Waggoner has been collecting thousands of costumes for kids, adults and dogs at Texas thrift stores since 2017.



Nathan Richardson

A child in a SpongeBob costume. There were more than 2,000 costumes available at the most recent October's Child event.

Gathering costumes and smiles

Texas man thrifts all year for annual giveaway so people can dress up for Halloween

BY SYDNEY PAGE
The Washington Post

Christophe Waggoner has what he calls a "shopping problem." Not for himself, though. All year long, he scours Texas thrift stores for children's Halloween costumes.

"I'm looking for anything shiny, sparkly or furry," he said. "I'm always keeping an eye out."

For the past nine years, Waggoner has collected thousands of Halloween costumes, and every fall, he hosts an event in Austin where children — plus adults and dogs — can pick out Halloween costumes for free.

"Seeing the kids there, that's amazing," Waggoner said. "That's the whole point."



Waggoner

Waggoner doesn't just collect the costumes. He washes, repairs and sometimes redesigns the garments, figuring out ways to make them feel brand-new.

"I get them, I'll wash them, if they need to be restitched, I'll do that, and sometimes I'll just change them outright," he said.

The annual giveaway, which Waggoner calls "October's Child," began in 2017. A year earlier, he had moved from an apartment into a house — his first time having trick-or-treaters at the door.

"I was so excited that I was going to have trick-or-treaters because I've always loved Halloween," he said.

That night, he noticed a disparity in costumes. Some children arrived in brand-new "Star Wars" attire, while others were not as well-outfitted.

"You just know they don't have access to the same things," Waggoner said. "I was looking at kids that were looking at other kids. They were just wishing and admiring."

At the time, Waggoner, 62, was working as a "mystery shopper," visiting stores as a research customer. He started to use his work shopping trips as an opportunity to buy Halloween costumes.



Christophe Waggoner

Waggoner spends about $5,000 a year to store the thousands of costumes he has.

"I just made it a point that all my purchases would be Halloween stuff," Waggoner said.

He also started stopping by secondhand stores in search of old costumes several times a week, paying out of pocket to build a collection. By the following September, Waggoner had gathered more than 100 costumes and accessories. He hosted the first event in his garage, spreading the word informally and on social media.

A group came with six children from a foster home, and they each gave Waggoner thank-you cards. He decided then it would be an annual effort.

"I thought it went so well," he said.

Nearly a decade later, October's Child has grown into a major community event. At this year's event, held Sept. 27, hundreds of families from in and around Austin showed up.

There were more than 2,000 costumes available, organized by category — from princesses to superheroes. There was even a section for dogs.

"There were times I had to carry boxes over my head because it got so crowded," Waggoner said, adding that a school gave him permission to host the event on campus.

Nothing makes him happier, he said, than listening to a child when they pick out a costume.

"I love when you hear a kid go 'whoa!' You know they're truly excited," Waggoner said.

People often bring their old costumes to the event, but Waggoner insists on washing and repairing them himself before giving them out the following year.

"I don't want them to feel like they just got hand-me-downs," he said. "I want them to be as close to new as possible."

Waggoner uses a dog brush to comb out costumes with fake fur, and he soaks wigs in fabric softener, which he said makes the fibers relax for easier detangling. He spends nearly $5,000 a year on storage for the costumes.

While restoring thousands of costumes can be tedious, Waggoner said it's worth it. He often dyes costumes to give them a different look.

Local families have made October's Child part of their yearly Halloween tradition. For the past four years, Brenda Guitierrez-Hodgkin and her daughters have volunteered to help run it.

She and her daughters, Kalista, 14, and Christina, 8, help manage the hats and masks.

"There's so much merchandise," she said.

Guitierrez-Hodgkin said Halloween costumes can be pricey, and parents often express their relief at avoiding the expense.

Guitierrez-Hodgkin praised Waggoner's dedication.

"He doesn't care who you are and where you come from, all he sees are the smiles, and he wants to create more smiles," she said. "This man has such a big heart."

His commitment goes back to his childhood, he said. The oldest of six siblings, Waggoner grew up in handmade costumes and learned how to sew at age 12.

"It's doing something for people, but it's also helping save the planet," he said. "So many people will get a costume and will never wear it again."

Waggoner recently established October's Child as a nonprofit and has started receiving donations. Good News ATX was the first publication to cover the effort.

Next year will be the 10th October's Child, and Waggoner said there are still thousands of costumes out there waiting for him to find and collect.

"I can't imagine not doing it," he said.



Christophe Waggoner

Waggoner washes, repairs and sometimes redesigns the costumes to make them feel brand-new. He dyed this white dress black to give it a Halloween feel.



Nathan Richardson

A young girl searches for a wig to wear. Besides costumes, Waggoner also gathers accessories.



Christophe Waggoner

A child trying on a costume at Waggoner's first event in 2017, which was hosted in his garage. The most recent event, however, was held at a school.

Q&A

My character was ‘living in my head’

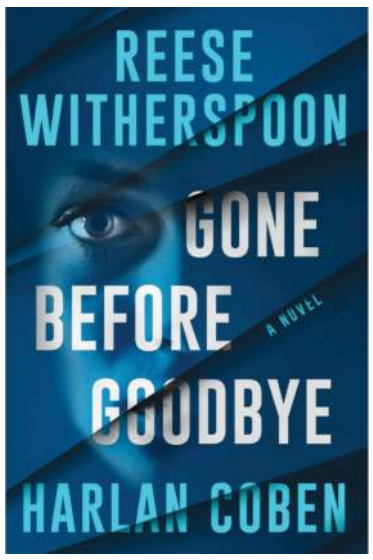
Co-authors Witherspoon, Coben discuss their collaboration on the actor’s first novel for adults, ‘Gone Before Goodbye’

By Hillel Italie
Associated Press

Reese Witherspoon’s first novel for adults began with the kind of inspiration veteran fiction writers know well — a character who wouldn’t leave her alone.

A military doctor who ends up performing plastic surgery for mysterious clients.

“I had never had an idea for a character in my whole life. She was sort of living in my head, and once that happens I knew I was going to have to do something about it,” Witherspoon said this week as she and co-author Harlan Coben spoke in a conference room at the Apple SoHo store in downtown Manhattan, shortly before their interview for a podcast, Bookmarked by Reese’s Book Club.



The novel, which has just been published, is called “Gone Before Goodbye.” The woman in Witherspoon’s mind became Maggie McCabe, an Army combat surgeon whose professional setbacks lead her to accept a lucrative but suspicious plastic surgery job that will bring her everywhere from Russia to Dubai and ensnare her in a puzzle of murder, multiple identities and jarring coincidences. “Gone Before Goodbye” began with Witherspoon but has the kind of layered plot lines and haunting back stories known to Coben’s many readers.

The careers of the 49-year-old Witherspoon and 63-year-old Coben have run parallel for decades — she’s the Oscar-winning actor and producer whose credits include “Walk the Line,” “Legally Blonde” and “The Morning Show” and he’s the million-selling author of such crime stories as “Tell No One,” “Fool Me Once” and “No Second Chance.” But their interests have also overlapped. Witherspoon oversees an influential book club and is one of Hollywood’s most prominent champions of reading and literacy, while Coben has seen many of his books adapted for film and television.

Witherspoon says the two met at a conference about nine years ago and that she has long been a fan of his work. Once she decided to take on a novel, she contacted Coben, who had never worked with a co-author.

“I was wary of the idea of collaborating. I’m just not that guy,” he said. “But she told me the idea and started talking about private doctors illegally going over and doing surgeries for very wealthy people and then something going wrong. And that’s kind of in my alley — but not. And I loved it. It’s like when you have an idea, there’s like hooks in your brain, you know, and all these ideas kind of rushed through.”

“Gone Before Goodbye” has clear cinematic scope, with its mix of exotic locales, narrow escapes and deadly confrontations. But no rights have been sold and the authors both say they want the book to be enjoyed as a book for now. Coben explained that they worked under a few ground rules — no other writers, and no thinking beyond the project at hand.

“The biggest kiss of death, despite how many adaptations I’ve had of my own books, is to write a novel thinking, ‘Ooh, this is going to make a really good movie,’” he said.

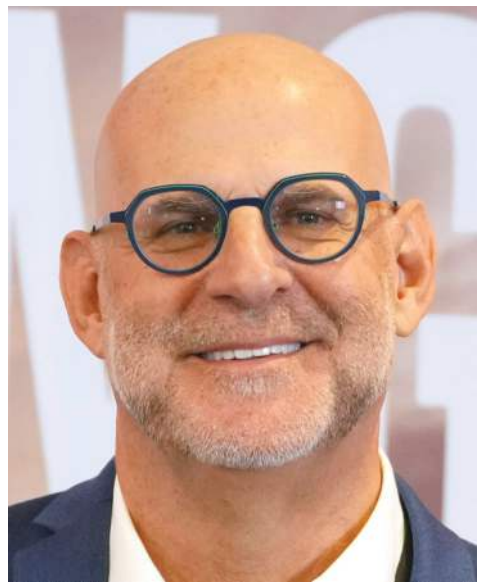
During their recent interview, Witherspoon and Coben also talked about their collaborative process, Witherspoon’s family background and what they learned from each other.

Questions and answers have been edited for brevity and clarity:



AP photos

Reese Witherspoon, above, collaborated with Harlan Coben, below, to write a novel.



Associated Press: How did the writing process for this work? You were sending each other drafts?

Witherspoon: Constant communication. Text messages.

Coben: Emails. We met in person once every two or three weeks, I guess.

Witherspoon: We’d sit for hours, kind of just beating out the story, making sure we understood each character’s backstory so that we could mine it for future plot lines. It was really interesting, the construction process.

Coben: I warned her that a novel’s like a sausage. You might like the final taste. You probably don’t want to see how it was made. So we really got into the weeds with that.

Do you (Witherspoon) feel like you could now write a novel yourself?

Witherspoon: I know what I don’t know. And I think, you know, partnering with a master who’s done it for more than 10,000 hours and has 37 or 38 books, there’s a reason I wanted to work with somebody who is so incredibly skilled at it because he actually had the patience to let me into his process.

I felt very confident in my mastery of building a character. I felt as confident about this character as I do Tracy Flick (from “Election”), or Elle Woods (from “Legally Blonde”). To me, this character is so clear and the fact that we built this together and he showed me how you can construct a world around a character, it really was an education for me.

What was the biggest adjustment for you (Coben) about working with another writer?

Coben: Reese took over part of, the part of my brain that sometimes talks to myself. I would talk to Reese instead. I would tease her because sometimes when we were speaking, because of her acting background, her ability to create character, I could almost see her becoming Maggie. Her voice would change a little. I would think to myself, “I’ve really got to mine her now because it’s like I’m talking to the actual character and she is in the room.”

What inspired the book?

Witherspoon: I got a lot of inspiration from my dad, who was a military surgeon; my mom’s a military nurse. So they would talk about their surgeries at night. And my dad worked right after Vietnam. So he was seeing soldiers coming back from Vietnam. He was, you know, seeing patients after a lot of conflicts. And he would come home and tell us really vivid stories about surgeries, trauma surgeries and things he had seen. I have a real reverence for people who serve in the military and who are also in the medical community. And, I’m also really fascinated by what drives a person to want to be that person.

Coben: She’s a novelist (now), like it or not.

Is it going to be lonely for you (Coben) the next time you write a book by yourself?

Coben: Yes it is. It’s going to be strange.

Witherspoon: Aww, I’ll be here. Just call a friend.

Coben: I’ll just call Reese. ‘Honey, I need help.’



Power in numbers

Neko Case's 'formidable' new album invites multiple musicians for a big sound

AP

By David Bauder
Associated Press

If Neko Case had just one word to describe her first solo album in seven years, she would settle on "formidable."

Fair enough. Writers have twisted themselves into knots trying to describe Case's sound — "gothic Americana" is one iteration — yet it's generally a thrill ride through shifting tones and tempos, anchored by her vivid imagery and titanic voice.

On the "Neon Grey Midnight Green" album, released Sept. 26, Case was intent on inviting a large number of musicians to join her, and their power is evident. She employs a 16-piece orchestra. Add in 10 other listed players (including herself) and that makes for 26 musicians on the album-ending song "Match-Lit" alone.

"I wanted to remind people of what it sounded like to have a large group of people playing together," Case said. "That doesn't mean I have anything against synthesizer string sections or horn sections, because those things sound cool when you use them in the right way. And having a whole orchestra is cost prohibitive, especially now. I really wanted to do it because I didn't think I'd have the chance to do it again."

Maybe it's not a wall of sound, but the swirling strings on "Wreck," for example, take her music to a joyful place. Listen carefully for the harp.

It wasn't writer's block that kept Case out of the picture for a few years. The pandemic was an interruption for everybody. The Vermont-based singer also records and tours with the band The New Pornographers. She has written the music for an upcoming stage adaptation of "Thelma & Louise." And she also wrote a memoir, "The Harder I Fight the More I Love You," published this year.

The book describes a harrowing upbringing, mostly in the Pacific Northwest by parents who conceived her as teenagers and were unprepared and uninterested in raising her. Case says at one point, she was told her mother had died, only to have her show up again a year and a half later with no explanation.

"I wanted to remind people of what it sounded like to have a large group of people playing together."

Neko Case

Case was essentially on her own by the time she was a teenager. Music, to a great extent, saved her. The on-again, off-again relationship with her mother is off. "I don't even know anything about my mother anymore," Case said.

Pain doesn't disappear, though. "From her I learned to be cruel," Case sings in new song "An Ice Age." "I learned the look that goes right past the ones who love you as if there's no one standing there."

What will be interesting in coming months, as she prepares to take new songs on the road, is whether opening her life to the world with the memoir will draw more people to her music. Her management has seen preliminary signs that it has, but Case isn't sure.

Two of Case's new songs honor friends, both musicians, who died recently. One is for Dexter Romweber of the Flat Duo Jets, whose songs inspired her to make music before he later became a friend and collaborator. Dallas Good, late singer of The Sadies, who played with Case early in her career, is the inspiration for "Match-Lit."

The latter illustrates Case's often intriguing pathways to songs; she memorably once wrote from the point of view of a tornado. "I don't do it purposely to try and be weird," she said. "I'm just a noticer, a chronic noticer."

Sometimes it's up to the listener to determine what a song means to them, rather than try to figure out what Case specifically meant.

"There's a bit of, not withholding, but leaving space for people to come into the song and wear it like it's theirs and for them to make associations about their own lives, to make it about themselves," she said. "Those are the songs that meant a lot to me, or did when I was younger. I want the listener to feel invited into it."

On "Rusty Mountain," Case sings about how writing love songs is mostly "an exercise in futility for me." Slowly it dawns on you that you're listening to a love song. Similarly, "Wreck" — with the memorable line "I'm a meteor shattering around you" — suggests Case protests a bit too much.

"There's all different kinds of love on there," she said. "I think pretty much every song, save maybe one, is a love song — about music or musicians or specific people here or there. There are love songs about other things, rather than just heterosexual love, which is the thing people write about most of all.

"It's difficult to avoid cliches when you're writing love songs," she said, "and the people who are good at it are so good at it that you're like, 'why bother?' I always think about Louis Armstrong singing, 'If I Could Be With You,' and I think, 'is there a better love song than that?' I don't think so. Or his version of 'I Can't Give You Anything But Love.' The bar of people who write love songs is so high that I kind of feel daunted by it."

WEEKEND: MUSIC

APPRECIATION

Pointing us to the future

R&B artist D'Angelo's 'Voodoo' in 2000 showed the 21st century held potential

BY CHRIS RICHARDS
The Washington Post

On Jan. 1, 2000, the sun decided to come up. Everyone's computers blinked on, and the end times hadn't come. But we still couldn't shake the question mark hanging over America, if not earthly existence: *What happens to us now?* Twenty-four days later, D'Angelo proposed some kind of answer with "Voodoo," a star map of an R&B album that felt ancient and futuristic, capacious and intimate, immaculate and filthy, fragile and full of desire — music that, even 25 years later, still fulfills our busted nation's collective idea of musical greatness.

Like masterpieces do, "Voodoo" made him and wrecked him in quick succession, and it wasn't until the materialization of his third record, "Black Messiah," in 2014 that we dared to hope D'Angelo was ever coming back. But he did, and he was glorious. Now, a decade later, D'Angelo is dead at 51, from cancer, his torqued arc of come-ups, flameouts, down-bads and comebacks finally cinching itself in a grim knot: For Black artists in America — in the century after the civil rights movement — a life of true greatness still involves being made to feel that you'll never be good enough. "As Black folk, we gotta always be three, four, five steps ahead of everybody else in order just to break even," D'Angelo said in "Sly Lives!," a recent documentary about his haunted predecessor Sly Stone. "It's just always been that way."

Born in 1974, D'Angelo grew up in Richmond, Va., singing Pentecostal hymns on weekends, keeping the sleek funk of Prince's "Dirty Mind" locked in a separate compartment of his consciousness. In time, "Dirty Mind" became his gateway to James Brown and George Clinton, and by listening to all of those succulent vintage funk songs alongside the crispy contemporary boom-bap of Marley Marl and DJ Premier, he learned that old things could sound new, just as new things could sound old.

When he released his debut album, "Brown Sugar," in 1995, his falsetto was singular enough to make you wonder whether "higher" might be a different direction from the one we've always known. Despite merciless comparisons, his high notes weren't quite like those of Al Green or Marvin Gaye. Those guys did legendary skywriting — the kind of singing that levitated out of the grit and grunt of church-forged soul, off in the direction of the great hereafter. When D'Angelo went up, his falsetto was existential. He didn't sound higher. He sounded alive and alone. When "Voodoo" arrived five years later, the critic Greg Tate thought the singer's sound had become "so raw, so naked and exposed, you'll be tempted to throw a blanket over its brittle, shivering bones." It was a new kind of singing, delivered with a vulnerability that felt almost impolite to try to relate to.

In the music video for "Untitled (How Does It Feel)," D'Angelo is literally naked, and from there he became one of the most reluctant sex symbols in pop history. Feeling objectified and frightened, he retreated from the acclaim of "Voodoo" and into a shadow life that involved disappearances, addictions, arrests, a car crash and worse. Then, after a 14-year absence, he reappeared during the crescendo of the Black Lives Matter movement with "Black Messiah," an album "about people rising up in Ferguson, [Mo.,] and in Egypt and in Occupy Wall Street and in every place where a community has had enough and decides to make change happen," as he wrote in the record's liner notes.

Maybe the only way for D'Angelo to imagine a future for himself was to imagine a future for us. Yet, for all the album's political heft, its final track is an exquisite wink: "Another Life." Here, he sings across the room, across the centuries, "I bet you were my girl." And so his songbook ends with a flicker of something new, something eternal, something to assure us that forever goes in both directions.



AP

D'Angelo, shown in 2015, rewrote the rules of R&B with his album "Voodoo" in 2000. He died Tuesday.

D'Angelo's career-spanning playlist: Hits and hidden gems

BY JONATHAN LANDRUM JR.
Associated Press

Few artists of his era blurred the lines between sacred and sensual quite like D'Angelo.

With his unmistakable voice, deep-rooted musicianship and devotion to craft over commerce, he helped define the sound of modern R&B.

This playlist, mixing celebrated hits and lesser-known gems, serves as a career-spanning reflection from the smooth grooves of "Brown Sugar" to the urgency of his "Black Messiah" album.

1994: "U Will Know," Black Men United ("Jason's Lyric" soundtrack): Before superstardom, D'Angelo united a generation of R&B voices for this empowering ballad.

1995: "Brown Sugar": The song that started it all. With its warm groove and smoky vocals, "Brown Sugar" introduced D'Angelo as the face of neo-soul, bridging hip-hop rhythms with Marvin Gaye sensuality and Donny Hathaway depth.

1995: "Lady": A smooth, confident follow-up that cemented D'Angelo's sound: lush, live and unbothered by trends. "Lady" became one of his biggest radio hits and a hallmark of 1990s R&B sophistication.

1995: "Cruisin'": His reimagining of the Smokey Robinson classic delivered pure soul nostalgia, proving early on that D'Angelo could honor tradition while making it unmistakably his own.

1995: "Me and Those Dreamin' Eyes of Mine": A fan favorite that captured the youthful, romantic side of D'Angelo's songwriting.

1996: "I Found My Smile Again": This joyful anthem showcased D'Angelo's optimism and musical looseness.

1998: "Nothing Even Matters," featuring Lauryn Hill and D'Angelo: A duet for the ages. Paired with Hill's velvet tone, D'Angelo helped craft one of the most enduring love songs of the era.

1998: "Devil's Pie": The track revealed his darker, more cynical reflections on fame, greed and the industry's moral trade-offs. A gritty gem.

1999: "Everyday," featuring Angie Stone and D'Angelo: Their real-life chemistry translated perfectly in song. Written for Stone's debut album "Black Diamond," the track glows with church-born soul and unfiltered sincerity.

2000: "Untitled (How Does It Feel)": The song, and video, that became legend. With minimalist instrumentation and raw vocal power, "Untitled" made vulnerability sound and look revolutionary.

2000: "Send It On": An understated masterpiece. Over soft horns and rhythm, D'Angelo channels faith and forgiveness, reaffirming his spiritual side amid the "Voodoo" era's intensity.

2006: "Imagine," featuring Snoop Dogg, D'Angelo and Dr. Dre: A rare, star-powered collaboration that reinterprets Lennon's anthem through a West Coast lens, proving D'Angelo's voice still carries spiritual weight in any setting.

2006: "So Far to Go," featuring J Dilla, Common and D'Angelo: Soul meets spoken word. Over J Dilla's hypnotic beat, D'Angelo and Common merge love and reflection.

2008: "Believe," featuring Q-Tip and D'Angelo: Two creative minds converse, with D'Angelo's smoky chords and Q-Tip's reflective lyricism.

2014: "Really Love," featuring D'Angelo and The Vanguard: Lush strings, Spanish guitar and slow-burn sensuality. "Really Love" became the centerpiece of "Black Messiah." It's romantic yet restless, earning a Grammy and a late-career triumph.

2014: "Back to the Future," Part I and II featuring D'Angelo and The Vanguard: D'Angelo wrestles with time, temptation and truth. A meditative track that feels like he's talking to both his past and future self.

2014: "Prayer," featuring D'Angelo and The Vanguard: A spiritual plea wrapped in funk and distortion. "Prayer" feels both haunted and redemptive. It was a confessional moment in his most mysterious era.

2014: "Another Life," featuring D'Angelo and The Vanguard: A tender closer to "Black Messiah," the song feels like a love letter from a man who's lived, lost, and learned. Intimate, dreamy and devastatingly beautiful.

2024: "I Want You Forever," featuring D'Angelo, Jay-Z and Jeymes Samuel ("The Book of Clarence" soundtrack): A cinematic finale to a storied career. Blending gospel grandeur with modern swagger, it's D'Angelo's voice — warm, weary and wise — that anchors the message of devotion and destiny.

WEEKEND: TELEVISION

‘It’s about time’ for a show about reading

Reboot of famed PBS series brings nostalgia as well as discovery

BY MAGGIE PENMAN
The Washington Post



Embassy Row photos

Librarian Mychal Threets is the new host of “Reading Rainbow,” a reboot of the longtime PBS show that starred LeVar Burton. The show has a similar format to that of its predecessor, including in its use of celebrity guests like Ebon Moss-Bachrach of “The Bear,” below.

Mychal Threets still remembers the voices his grandmother used to come up with when she read him children’s books.

“She just went all in,” he said.

Threets was homeschooled for most of his childhood, and he went to the local public library in Solano County, Calif., with his mother almost every day. He got his first library card when he was 5 years old, and after he became a librarian, he got a tattoo of the PBS cartoon aardvark Arthur Read’s library card on his arm.

In recent years, he shot to fame on social media, where he shares his love of libraries, but he never dreamed that someday he would be hosting a reboot of “Reading Rainbow,” the famed children’s television program that ran on PBS for more than two decades.

“So many people are like, this must be a dream come true,” Threets said, but “it was never something that I even thought to consider.”

He didn’t even set out to be a librarian.

As a young adult, he was back in his hometown trying to figure out a career path and he started going to the library again, looking for jobs on the computer and reading books. Finally one day he asked a library worker how to become a librarian.

“I was, like, ‘Hey, I love this place. Maybe I can work here,’” Threets, 35, said.

They helped him apply for a job as a shelver while he studied to become a librarian, eventually becoming supervising librarian at the same library he went to as a kid.

Like most kids who grew up in the 1990s, he remembers the original “Reading Rainbow,” and its legendary host LeVar Burton. Since the new series was announced, he’s been asked if he’s met Burton.

“I’m like, I guarantee you, minutes after I meet LeVar Burton, everybody will know that I have met my hero,” Threets said, laughing.

“Reading Rainbow” launched on PBS in 1983 as a way to combat “summer loss,” the phenomenon in which children lose some of their reading skills when they’re not in school. It ran for 26 years and became a staple in classrooms. Each 30-minute episode featured a children’s book, and like Sesame Street, the show often featured cameos from celebrities.

The new series has a similar format, including celebrity guests like Ebon Moss-Bachrach of “The Bear.” Children’s books are narrated by Jamie Chung, Gabrielle Union, Adam Devine, John Legend and Chrissy Teigen.

“I just remember watching Reading Rainbow and not even knowing who all those various guests were,” Threets said. “I think that was more so for my parents. My parents were probably like, ‘Run DMC, whoa!’ And I’m just like, ‘people reading books, whoa!’”

As a kid, Threets said the show made him feel like he was part of a reading community. In the run-up to the new series, Threets said that just hearing the “Reading Rainbow” theme song again filled him with nostalgia.

“That song and that show were always there for me,” Threets said.

The series has been met with more enthusiasm than he expected — he says he’s heard from nostalgic millennials like him, many of whom now have kids themselves.



“I definitely didn’t expect the trailer to get 2 million views on Instagram,” Threets said. “So many people are just so happy. They’re very happy for themselves, but they’re also happy for their kids.”

New episodes are being released every Saturday in October at 10 a.m. on YouTube.

“That it’s on YouTube is really important,” said Nancy Jennings, a professor of film and media at the University of Cincinnati, who studies children’s entertainment and education. “They’re reaching kids where they are.”

Pew Research Center found that 85% of parents with a child 12 or younger say their child watches YouTube, with more than half of kids watching it every day.

She added that “Reading Rainbow” uses many of the techniques that make educational programming effective: giving children opportunities to interact with the show by asking the audience questions and pausing for them to think about their answers; and having kids review books on the show and recommend them to each other, because kids are more likely to listen to their peers.

“A show about reading, a show that makes reading fun? It’s about time,” Threets said.

Over the past decade or so there’s been a decline in children’s test scores in reading and math in the United States, a problem that was exacerbated by the pandemic when education was interrupted.

“Programs like the Reading Rainbow, we think, can really help inspire kids to want to learn to read, and over time could help move the needle on reading proficiency,” said Kimberly Perry, executive director of DC Action, the District of Columbia’s child and youth advocacy organization.

Perry added that it’s important for parents to have access to educational children’s programming.

“It’s easy to take pride in ‘no screen time,’” she said. But that might not be realistic for busy parents who are working multiple jobs or trying to get things done around the house. “There can be positive screen time. And so knowing what that is and being able to access it without a subscription can be a very positive thing.”

The first episode of the new series features a book called “No Cats In The Library” by Lauren Emmons. Threets hopes it gets kids excited to go check out their local libraries and find books that they want to read.

“This is fun; this is something that you can do,” Threets said of reading. “You don’t have to have all these degrees, all this knowledge. It’s a book. It’s waiting to be your friend.”

“That it’s on YouTube is really important. They’re reaching kids where they are.”

Nancy Jennings
professor of film and media at the University of Cincinnati

WEEKEND: TELEVISION



APPLE TV/AP

Haley Bennett, left, and Jason Clarke in a scene from "The Last Frontier." Bennett plays a CIA officer asked to help manage a jailbreak after a plane carrying federal inmates crash-lands in rural Alaska; Clarke plays the U.S. Marshal in charge of the inmates.

'Last Frontier': 'Con Air' meets 'Fugitive'

Frenetic Apple TV series featuring a plane crash and a jailbreak explores themes of community, survival in rural America

BY MARK KENNEDY
Associated Press

The new Apple TV series "The Last Frontier" begins with a plane crash in remote Alaska and a scramble for survivors. We learn the plane was carrying a nasty bunch of federal inmates. Then we find out that the nastiest of them is part of a vast CIA conspiracy.

The action hardly lets up in what's being called a cross between "Con Air" and "The Fugitive." Showrunner Jon Bokenkamp piles crisis after crisis in a nifty bit of hyper-aggressive storytelling.

"I am just super self-conscious about not wanting to bore the audience," he says. "I really like something that has a kinetic energy. Sometimes I have to remind myself to slow down."

Jason Clarke stars

The series stars Jason Clarke as the U.S. Marshal in charge when the inmates stage a jailbreak at 30,000 feet, littering his region with desperate criminals. Of 52 inmates on the flight, 23 die, 11 are captured and 18 are missing. Asked by the feds if he has secured the perimeter, he responds: "This is Alaska. There is no perimeter."

One of those missing inmates is a real piece of work: A lethal, intelligent CIA-trained killer who has a secret so dangerous that the agency sends one of its best to Alaska to help manage the situation, even if her allegiances are cloudy at best.

Bokenkamp, who created "The Blacklist," has a cinematic scope and a twisted sense of humor. Like when the prisoner plane goes down after a mysterious explosion, the inmates float in zero gravity like in a midair ballet as Elvis' "Unchained Melody" plays.

"From the very opening, this isn't going to be just straight-up action. It's going to a little different, a little fun, a little bit of a wink," he says. Each episode uses music cleverly and is named after a song used in that show — "Blue Skies" by Willie Nelson, "Wind of Change" by Scorpions and Hayes Carll's "American Dream."

There's more than just nonstop action; there's also quiet moments of family and community coming together:

"At the end of it, you find it's filled you up with more than just action and cliff-hangers. And that's a good feeling, I think," says Clarke, whose credits include "Zero Dark Thirty" and "Oppenheimer."

'A full meal'

The action is set against a small family drama as the marshal and his wife and son deal with old issues. A nurse in Fairbanks, his wife is also on the front lines as the inmates are hospitalized.

"I think that's incredibly important in 2025 to show women who are incredibly strong and who can do anything," says Simone Kessell, who plays the marshal's wife.

Bokenkamp and co-creator Richard D'Ovidio had originally been intrigued by the story idea of a planeload of inmates crash-landing in Manhattan during Labor Day weekend but eventually moved it to a rural location and made it freezing. The show was filmed in Quebec, with input by U.S. Marshals from Fairbanks.

Clarke, who grew up in rural Australia, said he relished the eight-week shoot in the snow, preferring being outdoors to being in a studio even though the cold was punishing.

"It sets a mindset that you've got to be switched on right from the beginning because you've got to wear the right gear, you've got to protect yourself, you've got to get ready for these action sequences," he says. "It sharpened the sword rather than dulled it for me."

"The Last Frontier" works on two levels, taking a weekly look at a different inmate on the run in the frozen tundra while also feeding the overall arc of the main secretive CIA asset story.

"We tend to take an episode and focus on a specific inmate, which gives it a little more of a procedural feel, and you get a beginning and a middle and an end," Bokenkamp says. "I didn't want each episode to sort of end on some cliff-hanger that felt like you didn't get an answer. I wanted it to be a full meal."

Urban-rural divide

An intriguing urban-rural divide emerges as soon as the CIA officer (played by an enigmatic Haley Bennett) arrives in Yukon Flats, clearly looking down her nose at rural folk she calls cowpokes. The locals, in turn, think she's out of touch.

Bokenkamp has spent his life between rural Nebraska and Los Angeles and has seen how each stereotypes city life and rural life.

"Both places misunderstood the other," he says. "I kind of wanted to talk about that."

The show celebrates the close bonds and the we're-in-it-together spirit of rural America. In places like Alaska, he says, you depend on your community. Even if you have a beef with your neighbor, that's put aside for an emergency.

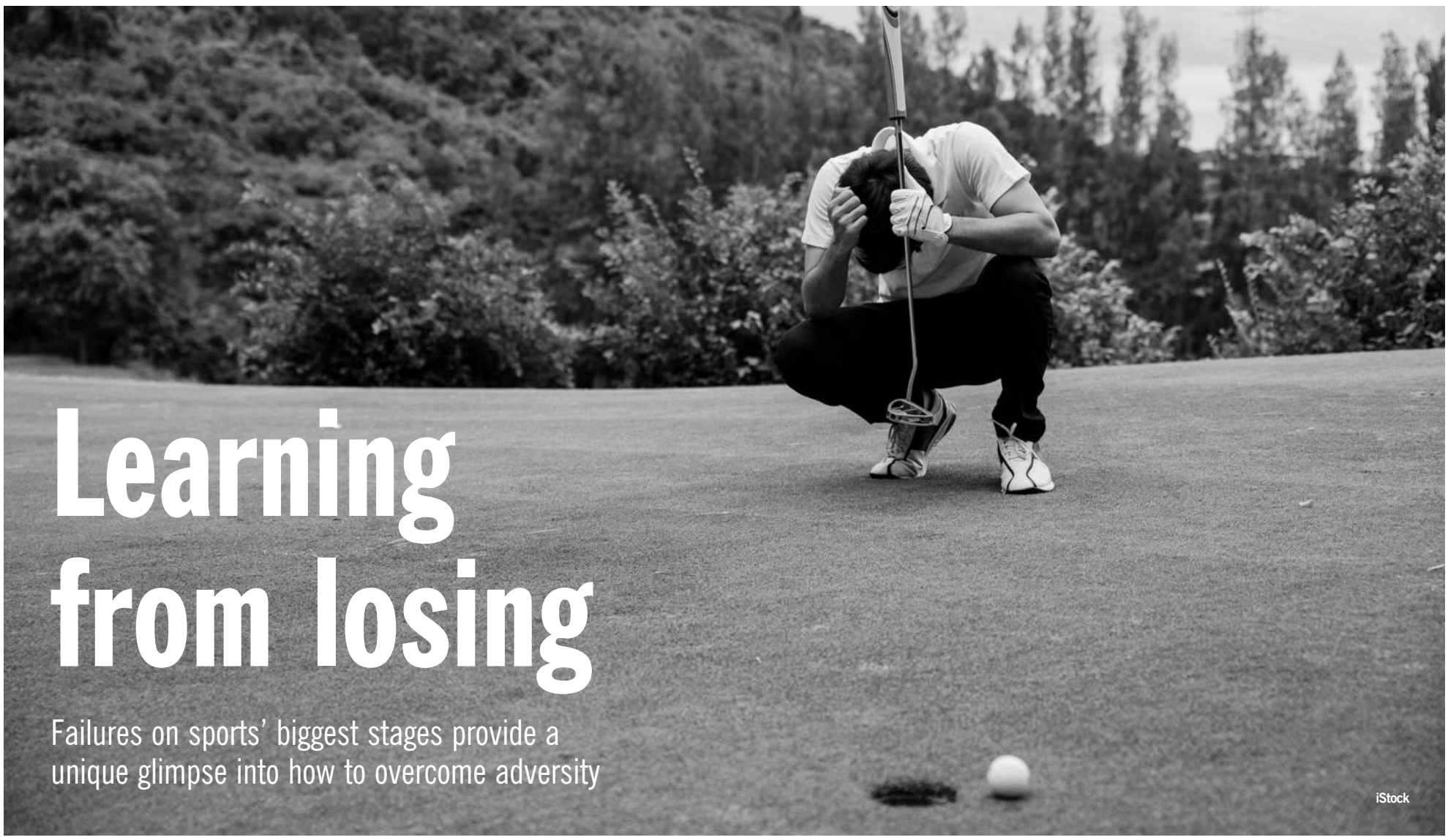
"You really can't buy your way out of problems there. You really have to depend on one another in a way that I think is a little bit of a time capsule," he says. "It's a throwback for what community means. And I'm just really interested in that."

Kessell, who lives in Australia and whose credits include "Yellowjackets," also was moved by the idea of portraying a small town coming together to help one another.

"I think we need to see that right now on our screens," she says. "I think we need to have hope and knowing that our neighbors will take care of us. I personally want to see that because, yes, we are in a divided time."

She called filming in weather that was minus 25 degrees Fahrenheit definitely an experience.

"Would I have preferred Hawaii or Sicily? Yes," she says, laughing.



Learning from losing

Failures on sports' biggest stages provide a unique glimpse into how to overcome adversity

iStock

By Kyle Hightower
Associated Press

Athletes confront failure as often as success during competition. For professional and Olympic athletes, those shortcomings can play out in singular and devastating fashion in front of worldwide audiences.

From seven-time Olympic gymnast Simone Biles' bout with "the twisties" during the 2020 Tokyo Games, to former Boston Red Sox first baseman Bill Buckner's infamous error in the 1986 World Series, fan bases never cease to dwell upon these painstaking moments.

Philadelphia Phillies pitcher Orion Kerkering joined that club last week when he mishandled a bases-loaded comebacker that led to his team's elimination from the MLB playoffs.

"Just kind of keep going with it. It's hopefully starting a long career," the third-year pitcher said through blurry eyes when asked how he was coping after the Oct. 9 game. "Just keep in the back of my head. ... Get over this hump. Keep pushing."

Moving past that kind of failure isn't easy. It's a subject even Pope Leo XIV addressed in a social media post earlier this year.

"In our competitive society, where it seems that only the strong and winners deserve to live, sport also teaches us how to lose," the post said. "It forces us, in learning the art of losing, to confront our fragility, our limitations and our imperfections."

Sports psychologists who work with amateur and professional athletes say it requires not only acceptance of the failure but coping tools to return to performing at a high level.

Here are some of the strategies used by athletes, who are in many ways great people for the general public to learn from as it pertains to overcoming adversity:

Prior preparation

While no one can predict future events, getting into the headspace for what could happen can be rehearsed.

Robert Andrews, the founder and director of The Institute of Sports Performance, has 30 years of experience in private practice as a mental training consultant and licensed therapist. During that time he's worked with Biles and others Olympians in the last five Summer Games, as well as players from the NBA, NFL and MLB.

One of the components in the set of techniques Andrews uses to build confidence and belief is preparation.

"(Kerkering) got highly reactive on that play," Andrews said. "The key playoff situation he found himself in, made him more vulnerable to rushing things and throwing off balance and all the things that he did that he'll sadly remember for the rest of his life. But mental preparation is a huge part of that. ... I call it being mentally and emotionally centered in a situation like that. So we would have done a lot of mental preparation work to prepare him for a situation like that."

"In our competitive society, where it seems that only the strong and winners deserve to live, sport also teaches us how to lose. It forces us, in learning the art of losing, to confront our fragility, our limitations and our imperfections."

Pope Leo XIV

Alex Auerbach is a performance psychologist who currently works with the NFL's Jacksonville Jaguars. He's also worked with Olympians, NBA and MLB players, as well as elite military units and Fortune 500 companies.

He said the "release, reset, refocus" routine is one that athletes can practice "to quickly let go of mistakes in the games or during performance."

"The biggest thing is learning to redirect your attention to the task at hand," Auerbach said via email. "When we make a mistake and dwell on it, that rumination interferes with efficient motor execution. ... If they can bring attention back to the present and the task at hand, they can minimize disruption to their performance."

Adversity strikes. Now what?

When the inevitable does strike and the game or competition is over, the work to repair mentally is just beginning.

Step one, Andrews said, is to avoid social media, where hateful messages — and in extreme cases, even death threats — can often be waiting after failures in these situations.

"I've worked with a lot of baseball players and softball players who have missed the throw down to third base that cost them the game, and that catcher couldn't throw the ball back to the pitcher," Andrews said. "Their brain freaks out. They get the baseball version of 'the twisties.' So he's going to need some days to do some work around this. ... Get loved up, surround yourself with people that are going to support you through this."

Andrews uses a protocol called EMDR — eye movement, desensitization and reprocessing — which teaches the part of the brain that gets engaged in an event like that how to calm down and process the experience.

"It helps them work through it to where they don't have the yips, so they're not afraid to go out and field a ground ball again," Andrews said. "They work, but you got to calm that part of the brain down significantly well before next season."

That also can't happen too soon, however. The brain, like anything in the human body, needs time to heal after trauma.

Andrews' advice? Give it a month or so and then start teaching the nervous system "how to process the shock of that event."

An open mind helps

The good news, Auerbach said, is that people are becoming more receptive to employing mental strategies following setbacks.

"Especially in baseball, athletes are more receptive than ever to mindset work. There's an increasing appreciation for the role mental health and performance play in facilitating top performance for these athletes," he said.

WEEKEND: FAMILY



BRYNN ANDERSON/AP

Meaghan Marr looks at photographs of her family's former pets Sept. 25 in Cartersville, Ga.

Lessons in death, grieving

Losing a family pet gives parents a teaching opportunity

BY CHEYANNE MUMPHREY
Associated Press

Losing a pet is the first time many children encounter death. The experience can become an opportunity for profound emotional learning and influence how young people understand and process grief when they are adults, according to psychologists and pet bereavement specialists.

Parents and guardians therefore have important roles to play when a family pet dies. Along with helping children accept the painful permanence of death, caregivers can guide kids through a healthy and healing mourning process that provides a foundation for coping with an inevitable part of life.

"People are so averse to talking about death and grief, but it is the one thing that is guaranteed: We are all going to die. We need to be open to talking about that," said Deirdra Flavin, CEO of the National Alliance for Children's Grief.

Consider these points when talking with children about death and supporting them through pet loss:

Children respond to death differently

Depending on how old they are and their individual circumstances, children vary in their ability to comprehend the concept of death. The way they process grief, how long they mourn and the impact of the loss is also unique to each child, just as it is for adults. Experts say sadness, anger and other overwhelming emotions associated with grief may be more difficult for younger children to navigate, so having support is crucial.

Psychologists and bereavement counselors say some people feel the heartbreak from a pet's death as intensely as the loss of any other loved one, reflecting the potential depths of human-animal bonds. In the case of children, their relationship with a pet, and whether the death was sudden or not, are other factors that may shape individual responses.

Colleen Rolland, president of the Association for Pet Loss and Bereavement, says parents usually know how intellectually and emotionally capable their children are of processing death.

Children as young as 4 years old might have been exposed to death through fairy tales and other stories but may struggle to understand its finality, Rolland said. Older children, who will know their loss is forever, may need more emotional support from friends and family, she said.

Use clear language, avoid euphemisms

Experts say it's important to be honest and use clear language when discussing death. Adults often are inclined to protect children with euphemisms, such as a pet went to sleep, got lost or was put down.

"That can be alarming for children and cause a lot of confusion and fear. So, saying 'The fish went to sleep' might create concerns for the child when they are going to sleep," Flavin said. "Particularly with younger kids because they are so literal in terms of the way that things are expressed to them."

When Leah Motz's daughter was 2 years old, she told her their 15-year-old dog, Izzy, had a "good life but his body is broken and it won't be able to fix itself." Motz recalled that before taking him to be euthanized near their home in Renton, Wash., she further explained they were going to "help Izzy die."

It's OK for adults to grieve with children

Much like they do in other situations or developmental stages, children often learn how to handle grief by watching their caregivers. The way adults respond to loss is likely to set an example for their children.

"Parents, or caregivers, must be confident in how they deal with pet loss," Rolland said, adding that parents who display unhealthy behaviors might teach children to act in the same manner.

Raquel Halfond, a licensed clinical psychologist with the American Psychological Association, advises parents not to hide their feelings from their children.

"If you're feeling sad, it's OK for the child to see you feeling sad. In fact, it could be confusing if something sad happened and they don't see that emotion reflected in their parents," she said.

Leave room for closure and memories

One way to help children come to terms with the death of a pet is by memorializing the lives of the late companions through activities such as raising money for animals in need, drawing pictures, holding funerals or doing the things their pets loved to do.

Before their dog Sadie died, Meaghan Marr said many of the conversations with her kids centered around how dogs don't live forever. The difficult part for her was explaining that was true of every pet.

"We talked about if they still wanted animals even though they are not going to last as long as we do," she said. "It hurts to lose them, but they make your life so much better while they are here."

THE MEAT AND POTATOES OF LIFE

Lisa Smith Molinari



Perils of climbing the social ladder

The first weeks in the Kelley Barracks hotel waiting for base housing to open up after our move to Germany were surprisingly enjoyable. I cooked creative cuisine using the room's tiny microwave and foodstuffs pilfered from the hotel breakfast bar. The kids made forts in the room. I watched home improvement shows on AFN.

But soon, the novelty of camping out in the barracks hotel wore off, and I found myself chatting with the hotel clerk, commissary baggers and anyone at the dog park to combat loneliness.

After five weeks, a stairwell apartment finally opened up on Patch Barracks. I couldn't wait to start bonding with the other wives in the building, but strangely, no welcoming party arrived at my door.

I pathetically scanned the neighborhood for potential friends while walking the dog, schlepping the kids to school and throwing trash in the communal dumpsters. I made eye contact with those that looked approachable, but women averted their eyes when I glanced at them.

In desperation, I made rash choices. I joined the Army Ladies Bowling League, a sport I'd never liked. I volunteered in my daughter's classroom despite my general exasperation with other people's kids. I subbed for a bunco group.

It took months, but I eventually made inroads with the other women in our building. I wasn't high on their social ladder, but they'd made room for me on a bottom rung. It was during that precarious time that something happened to test my moral compass as a military spouse.

"Lisa, didn't you see the email about brunch?" a ringleader called one morning to ask. "We're meeting in my apartment in 10 minutes. I made quiche. Come over so we can make a decision." I had no idea what decision she was talking about, but I was too junior to miss a spouse get-together.

I arrived last, and joined at least 10 other wives seated in the cramped apartment's living-dining area.

"She's crossed the line," I heard.

"It's got to stop," one wife said.

"She needs to respect our rules," another said.

As the chatter raged, I realized they were talking about a new wife who'd recently moved in. I hadn't been introduced to her yet, but I'd heard others complain on walks to and from school. Something about her two young boys running amok in the stairwell, her funny decor and weird demeanor.

"OK everyone," the ringleader said, "Let's all sign the letter, and we'll give it to her with this basket of brownies."

"What letter?" I asked.

"Lisa, you weren't around when we all discussed this," she handed the page over, and I read the typed words, outlining behaviors that the wives found objectionable, couched in passive-aggressive false courtesy.

I was presented with a dilemma. Sign the letter, thereby preserving my dubious hold on the lowly rung of the social ladder I'd fought so hard to grasp. Or, take a stand, and run the risk of being friendless again.

"I'm not signing this letter," I spoke up, quickly getting the wives' attention. "If I received this as a brand new wife in this building, I'd cry myself to sleep every night for two weeks. This letter basically says, nobody likes you. That's mean. If each of you has a problem with her behavior in this building, then you should go to her individually."

I left the brunch that day knowing that eyes were rolling behind me, and I couldn't have cared less. I identified more with the new "weird" wife struggling to make friends than the established group of "cool" spouses who seemed to have all the fun. By rejecting the new wife, I'd be rejecting myself.

That day, I realized that the only way to make good friends is to be one.

Read more at themeatandpotatoesoflife.com and in Lisa's book, "The Meat and Potatoes of Life: My True Lit Com." Email: meatandpotatoesoflife@gmail.com

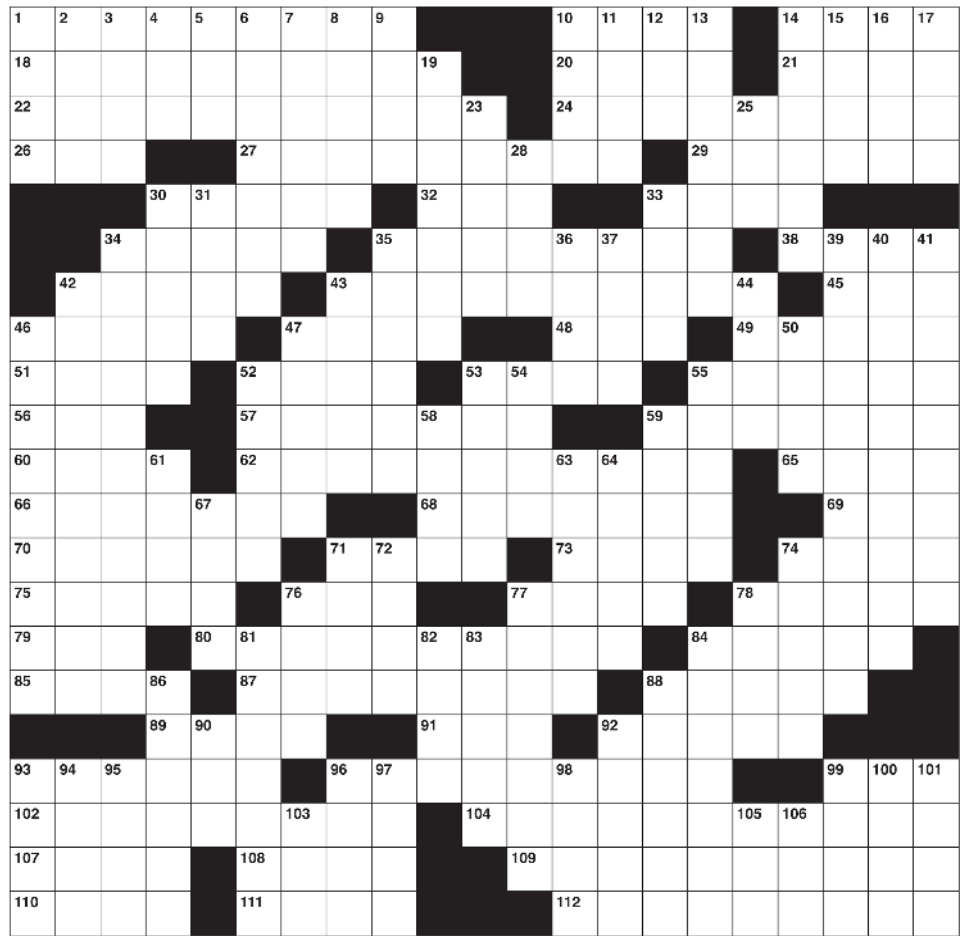
WEEKEND: CROSSWORD AND COMICS

NEW YORK TIMES CROSSWORD

ALL TOO WISE

BY JOHN KUGELMAN / EDITED BY WILL SHORTZ

John Kugelman, of Gainesville, Va., is a software engineer specializing in cybersecurity. This is his 14th crossword for The Times since 2023. One of the things I like about John's puzzles is the time and effort he puts into his clues. They're lively, varied, carefully worded, sometimes playful and always on target. Some of my favorites here are 43A, 51A (interesting fact), 112A and 39D. — W.S.



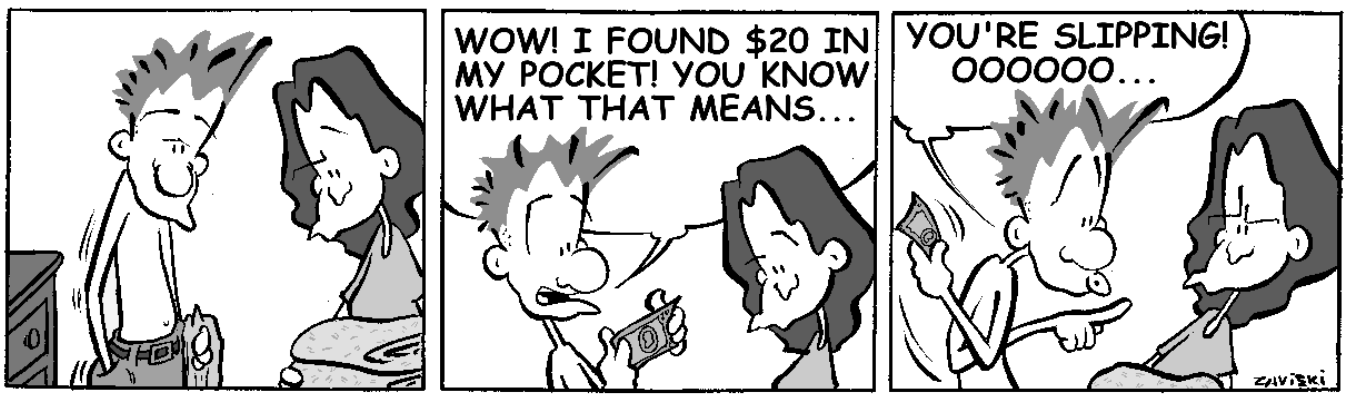
ACROSS

1 Classic target of a troll
10 Prized steed
14 Little hellions
18 Hard to understand
20 Latvian capital
21 Kindle competitor
22 Sailor who drinks only the finest grog?
24 Knockoff version of a sweet treat?
26 ID on a credit check
27 End-of-level showdown
29 ''When in the ____ of human events ...''
30 Bridges
32 Vote for
33 Paint carelessly
34 Alternative to kale
35 Projectionist's item
38 ''If you ask me nicely …''
42 Game with players known as ''shooters''
43 Convenient spot for a cat nap?
45 Singer Rita
46 Official hand gesture of Hawaii
47 ''Darn it!''
48 1950s political nickname
49 Wild
51 The 4,765-year-old ''Methuselah'' is one
52 Zilch
53 Prominent feature of dubstep music
55 Wrap up tight
56 Press coverage
57 Scorching
59 Agent's good news
60 Cryptographers' needs
62 Suitable for the middle-aged?
65 ''Oh, dear!''
66 Flies the coop
68 Pain-relieving drug
69 The Chiffons' ''____ So Fine''
70 Knitted cap
71 Pop icon with a Best Actress award
73 Huff and puff?
74 ''Look what I did!''
75 Bewildered
76 Polynesian staple
77 Twisted do
78 Global currency market, for short
79 Martial artist Bruce
80 Suspicious absence from school?
84 Taps on the snoot
85 Places
87 Snuggle
88 Stooge who said ''Soitenly!''
89 Poses
91 ''What's up, ____?''
92 Wise guys
93 Crudely built shack
96 Purple fruit with a distinctive inner shape
99 Barista or barrister
102 ''How sad. You actually think you can win,'' e.g.?
104 A locksmith getting stuck in bedroom handcuffs, say?
107 Present opener?
108 Unlike a cover: Abbr.
109 Something parents may try to limit for their kids
110 See 95-Down
111 Creole staple
112 In which actors barely go through the motions?

DOWN

1 Surreptitiously loops in, for short
2 Troubles
3 Low-fat
4 ____ Américas
5 Many, many mos.
6 Venues like New York City's Stonewall Inn
7 Donny or Marie
8 Stockpile
9 Light rebukes
10 ''For crying out loud!''
11 Hoot
12 Before
13 Referee's mistake
14 Nighttime demons
15 ''Wuthering Heights'' setting
16 Is visually striking
17 Portree is the capital of this isle
19 Death-____
23 Triangular sign
25 Whom Uncle Sam wants for the U.S. Army
28 Like wild meat, sometimes
30 Manage to lose, as a tail
31 He was a ''rollin' stone,'' in a Motown classic
33 Proofreader's mark
34 Actor Affleck when he needs a nap?
35 Some nonlicensed tributes
36 Sluggers' stats
37 Startled cries
39 Half-woman, half-bird, all attitude?
40 ''Eureka!'' shouter
41 Benny Hill theme song
42 Oolong or lapsang souchong
43 Actor Bill of ''Barry''
44 Twists side to side
46 Hybrid sport played with a trampoline-like net
47 Swiss locale of the annual meeting of the World Economic Forum
50 Old-fashioned term of address
52 Gratis
53 Garden shelter
54 Discovery of chemist John Dalton
55 'You're cramping my ____''
58 Evil alter ego of literature
59 Waffle House alternatives
61 Sound
63 Not follow suit, in bridge
64 Frequent on-screen partner of Hepburn
67 ''La Vie en Rose'' singer
71 Sports journalist Linda
72 ''____, Silver!''
74 Gimlets and screwdrivers
76 Ad Council spots, for short
77 Some memes of the 2000s
78 Driver's warning
81 Disgusting, in totspeak
82 TV journalist Kotb
83 What wavy lines in comic strips represent
84 ''I can't believe what I'm seeing!'' facial reaction
86 Became real, as bad news
88 Southwestern culinary fusion
90 Pigpen
92 Extra
93 Macbeth or Macduff
94 Bygone iPhone button
95 Common 110-Across stressor
96 Move around and around
97 Rapper with a feline-sounding name
98 Chest muscles, for short
99 Knit
100 ''This round's ____''
101 Effortless ways to advance
103 Vex
105 Close of business?
106 66, for example: Abbr.

GUNSTON STREET



"Gunston Street" is drawn by Basil Zaviski. Email him at gunstonstreet@yahoo.com, and online at gunstonstreet.com.

RESULTS FOR ABOVE PUZZLE





WORLD

Tiny Cyprus deals with a cat-astrophe

Country estimates 1 million ferals live on the island

By Menelaos Hadjicostis
Associated Press

NICOSIA, Cyprus — The island of cats has a cat problem.

Officials in Cyprus, the small island nation in the eastern corner of the Mediterranean, estimate there is roughly one feral cat for every one of its 1 million inhabitants — though activists contend the actual feral cat population is hundreds of thousands higher.

In late September, the island's parliamentary committee on the environment was told that an existing sterilization program is too limited to contain the burgeoning cat population.

"It's a good program, but it needs to expand," said Environment Commissioner Antonia Theodosiou, noting that the program conducts only about 2,000 sterilizations annually on a budget of just 100,000 euros ($117,000). While there is no official comparative data, Theodosiou said Cyprus has gained a reputation for having a cat population that is exceptionally large relative to its human inhabitants.



PHOTOS BY PETROS KARADJIAS/AP

A woman holds a cat at a park in the Strovolos area of Cyprus' capital, Nicosia, on Oct. 6. Officials in Cyprus, the small island nation in the eastern corner of the Mediterranean, estimate there is roughly one feral cat for every one of its 1 million inhabitants.

'There has to be a plan'

Change might be on the way, but funding alone won't solve Cyprus' cat problem.

Appearing to heed calls for more funding, Environment Minister Maria Panayiotou announced on Oct. 4 — World Animal Day — that the government would raise cat sterilization funding to 300,000 euros annually. The decision was hailed as a significant step forward.

However, Charalambos Theopemptou, chairman of the Parliamentary Environment Committee, warned against relying on money alone. "There has to be a plan," he said. "We can't just go ahead with sterilizations without having a plan," he said.

Given cats' predatory nature, a large population not only has the potential to wreak havoc with the island's ecosystem, but it could cause undue suffering for feral felines roaming car-choked streets in search of food and shelter.

Cyprus' historic cats

Cyprus has a long history as a cat-loving nation where cat food dispensaries and clusters of tiny houses are a regular sight along popular footpaths.

Two decades ago, French archaeologists unearthed what they believed to be the earliest evidence of a domesticated cat in a 9,500-year-old neolithic village. They found the bones of a cat close to the skeletal remains of a human, suggesting that they were buried together.



A cat is seen in Nicosia on Sept. 26. Environment Minister Maria Panayiotou announced on Oct. 4 that the government would raise cat sterilization funding to 300,000 euros annually.



A cat sits by customers dining al fresco at a restaurant in Nicosia on Sept. 26.

Adding to this long history of human-feline connection is the fourth century legend of Saint Helen who, after finding the True Cross in the Holy Lands, brought over a couple of boatloads of cats to deal with a snake infestation. A monastery that serves as a feline safe haven, St. Nicholas of the Cats, still exists today.

With tourism a key economic driver for Cyprus, the island's cats have become a major attraction for the millions of vacationers who descend on the island every year.

Felines galore

Demetris Epaminondas, president of the Veterinary Association, attributes the exploding population to unchecked breeding, particularly in high-concentration urban areas, and to more kittens surviving birth, thanks to ordinary folks offering care.

The current government-run program disburses its budget to municipalities that, in turn, fund private veterinarians to sterilize cats brought in by animal conservation groups.

Authorities acknowledge the program is ineffective. The country's state-run Veterinary Services, which is in charge of sterilizations, conceded that the program's capabilities are "lesser than the real need." To reassess where available funding could be redistributed, it has asked local government authorities to submit reports on locations with large feral cat concentrations.

Elias Demetriou, who runs the private sanctuary Friends of Larnaca Cats, said tripling sterilization funds won't have the desired effect unless conservationist groups who have the know-how are recruited to round up cats for sterilization.

'There are solutions'

Epaminondas said Cyprus' cat population can be brought under control in as few as four years. This would be possible, he said, if authorities cobble together a unified sterilization plan that would put private clinics at the forefront of the effort by offering free-of-charge neutering without all the red tape that complicates the process.

"People will be more motivated to get cats neutered if we make it easier for them to do so," he said.

His association has proposed a plan that would identify major cat concentration centers where authorities can round them up and take them for sterilization at designated vets. The initiative includes the creation of a smartphone application that would allow anyone to help authorities locate such large cat concentrations.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Officials confirm case of chikungunya virus

NY MINEOLA — A person living in New York has tested positive for the chikungunya virus in what state health officials say is the first reported transmission of the mosquito-borne illness within the United States in six years

The state Department of Health said Tuesday that the virus, which has been spreading in China and elsewhere, was identified in a person living in Nassau County on Long Island.

The county's health department, in a separate statement, said the person began experiencing symptoms in August after having traveled outside of the region, but not out of the country.

It's not clear how exactly the person, whom authorities have not named, contracted the virus.

The type of mosquito known to carry chikungunya is present in parts of the New York City metropolitan area, including suburban Long Island. The disease cannot be spread directly from one person to another.

The illness is rarely fatal and most patients recover within a week, though newborns, older adults and people with chronic health conditions such as high blood pressure and diabetes are at higher risk, the agency said.

State carries out record 14th execution this year

FL STARKE — A man convicted of the 1996 killings of two women whose bodies were left in a rural pond was put to death Tuesday evening in a record 14th execution in Florida this year.

Samuel Lee Smithers, 72, was pronounced dead at 6:15 p.m. following a lethal injection at Florida State Prison near Starke. Smithers was convicted in 1999 of two counts of first-degree murder and sentenced to death.

The curtain to the death chamber went up promptly at the scheduled 6 p.m. execution time, with Smithers already strapped to a table and an IV in his arm. When asked if he had a final statement, he responded, "No sir."

The administration of the lethal drugs began almost immediately. Initially, Smithers' breathing was heavy and he underwent slight convulsions before all movements eventually stopped. A warden shook Smithers and shouted his name, but there was no response.

A medic entered the chamber at 6:14 p.m. to check his vital signs and Smithers was declared dead a minute later.

The lethal injection extended Florida's record for total executions in a single year, with the state planning to carry out two more executions later this month and next under death warrants signed by Republican Gov. Ron DeSantis.

Court records indicate Smithers met Christy Cowan and Denise Roach on different dates in May 1996 at a Tampa motel to pay them for sex. At the time, he was doing landscape maintenance on a 27-acre property that included three ponds in rural Plant City, Fla.

On May 28, 1996, the property owner — who had met Smithers in church where he was a Baptist deacon — stopped by to find Smithers cleaning an ax in the carport, which he claimed to be using to trim tree limbs. The property owner noticed a pool of blood in the carport, according to court records.

The woman contacted law enforcement, and a sheriff's deputy met her later that day at the property. The blood had been cleaned up, but the deputy noticed drag marks leading to one of the ponds, according to court records. That's where authorities found the bodies of Cowan and Roach. Both women had been beaten, strangled and left in the pond to die.

Federal adviser charged in classified records case

DC WASHINGTON — A senior adviser at the State Department and expert on Indian and South Asian Affairs is accused by the Justice Department of printing out classified documents and storing more than 1,000 pages of highly sensitive government records in filing cabinets and trash bags at home.

Ashley Tellis, who has also worked as a contractor in the Defense Department's Office of Net Assessment, was charged in federal court in Virginia with the unlawful retention of national defense information after FBI agents who searched his home over the weekend found what they said was a trove of records marked as classified at the secret and top secret levels.

He was ordered detained Tuesday pending a detention hearing next week.

An FBI affidavit cites several instances over the last month in which Tellis is alleged to have printed on government computers, or asked a colleague to print, classified documents on topics including U.S. military aircraft capabilities. Surveillance video shows him on several occasions exiting the State Department and a Defense Department facility with a briefcase in which he was believed to have stashed the printed-out papers, according to court documents.

Court backs school in 'Let's Go Brandon' ban

MI SAND LAKE — A federal appeals court on Tuesday ruled in favor of a Michigan school district in a dispute over free speech and "Let's Go Brandon" shirts, clothing that took a jab at then-President Joe Biden.

The mother of two boys, who got the shirts as Christmas gifts, said her sons' First Amendment rights were violated when they were told to take off the shirts at Tri County Middle School in 2022. The 6th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals disagreed in 2-1 opinion.

"In the schoolhouse, vulgarity trumps politics. And the protection for political speech doesn't give a student carte blanche to use vulgarity at school — even when that vulgarity is cloaked in innuendo or euphemism," said judges John Nalbandian and Karen Nelson Moore.

In 2021, an obscenity directed at Biden was being chanted at a NASCAR race, though a TV sports reporter said it was "Let's Go, Brandon." The line suddenly became popular among Biden's conservative critics.

Prosecutor says murder suspect tried to steal

NY NEW YORK — The New York City man charged with killing an elderly couple and then setting their house on fire during a horrific home invasion last month had also attempted to drain their bank accounts before using their credit cards to go on a shopping spree, prosecutors said Tuesday.

Jamel McGriff, a serial robbery suspect on parole, pleaded not guilty Tuesday to multiple counts of murder, kidnapping and arson, according to Queens District Attorney Melinda Katz's office.

The 42-year-old Bronx resident is charged in the Sept. 8 killings of Frank Olton, 76, and Maureen Olton, 77, in their home in the New York City borough of Queens.

Prosecutors say McGriff had been going door-to-door asking residents if he could come in to charge his cellphone. They say he spoke with Frank Olton, who had offered to help, before McGriff forced his way into the couple's home, where he remained for nearly five hours.

Firefighters responding to a report of a house fire found Frank Olton's body in the basement tied to a pole and with multiple stab wounds to his neck and chest. Maureen Olton's badly burned body was found in the living room.

Prosecutors in court Tuesday said McGriff unsuccessfully attempted to transfer more than $10,000 from the couple's accounts to his own.

31K nurses, other health care workers go on strike

CA SAN FRANCISCO — An estimated 31,000 registered nurses and other frontline Kaiser Permanente health care workers went on strike Tuesday to demand better wages and staffing from the California-based health care giant.

Organizers say the five-day strike across 500 medical centers and offices in California, Hawaii and Oregon is the largest in the 50-year history of the United Nurses Associations of California/Union of Health Care Professionals. The strike could grow to include 46,000 people.

Those on strike, including pharmacists, midwives and rehab therapists, say wages have not kept pace with inflation and there is not enough staffing to keep up with patient demand.

They are asking for a 25% wage increase over four years to make up for wages they say are at least 7% behind their peers.

Kaiser Permanente has countered with a 21.5% increase over four years. The company says that represented employees earn, on average, 16% more than their peers, and it would have to charge customers more to meet strikers' pay demand.

From The Associated Press



SUE OGROCKI/AP

The water horses

Jennifer Jellison, front, a veterinarian from Canton, Ohio, rides her horse I Believe in Magic at Cleveland Metroparks Edgewater Beach on Oct. 10, during a Ride the Beach event in Cleveland.

EXCHANGE

SALUTE TO SERVICE

One day is not enough! The Exchange is honoring active-duty service members, retirees and disabled Veterans with special in-store giveaways in November.

If you are serving on active duty or a Veteran with in-store shopping privileges at your PX or BX, join us on these dates to receive your keepsakes:

Nov. 1 and Nov. 29: Collectible penny POG

★

Nov. 11: Challenge coin

★

Nov. 15: Veteran for Life decal

★

Nov. 22: Veteran for Life patch

Scan to learn more about our Veterans giveaways or visit us at
SHOPMYEXCHANGE.COM/SALUTETOSERVICE

LEARN MORE ABOUT SHOPPING BENEFITS AT
SHOPMYEXCHANGE.COM/VETS

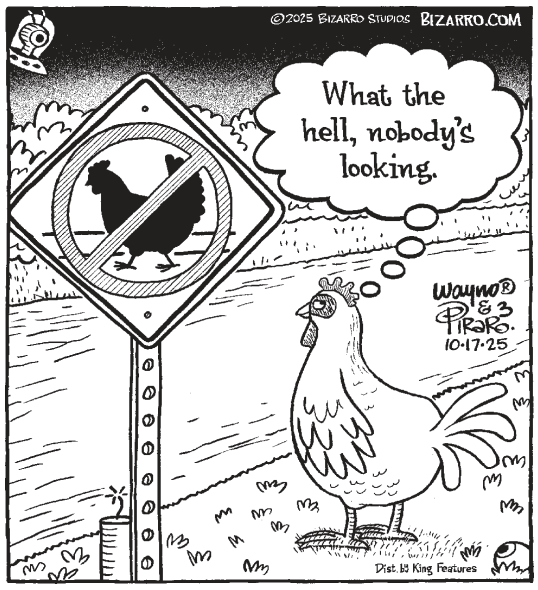








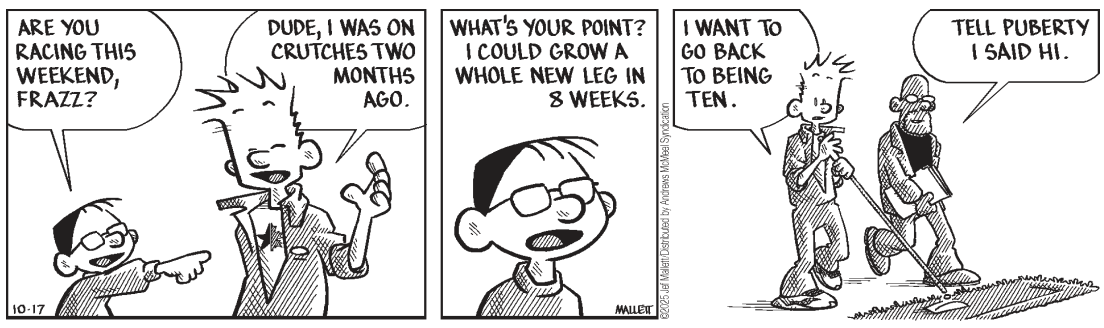
Bizarro



Loose Parts



Frazz



Pearls Before Swine



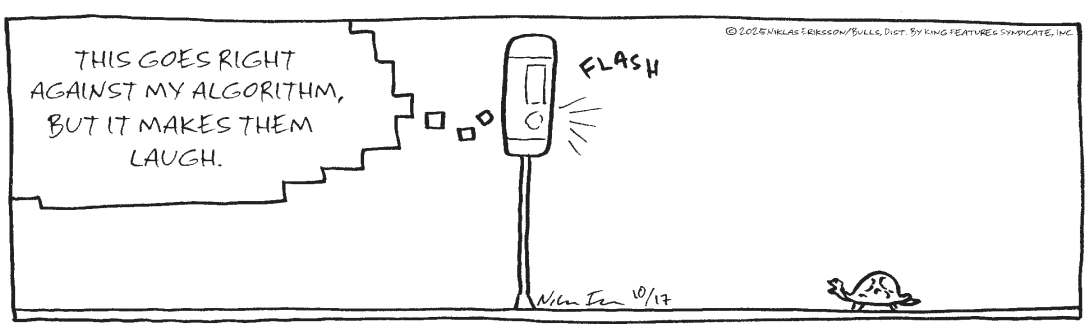
Non Sequitur



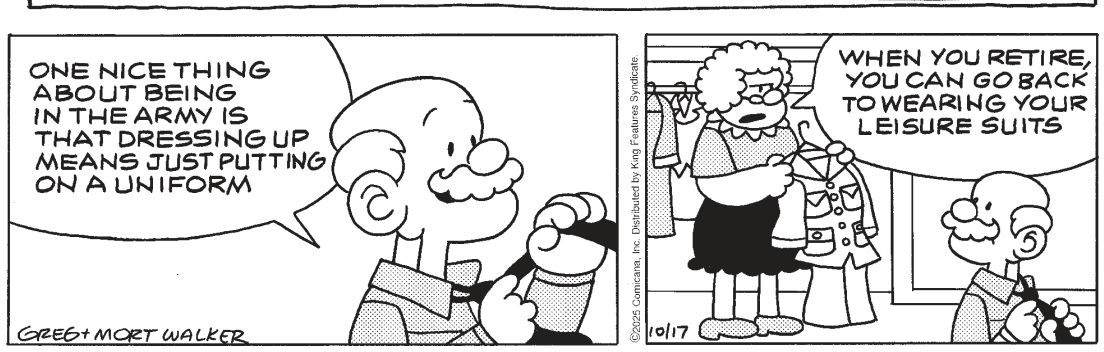
Wumo



Carpe Diem



Beetle Bailey



Eugene Sheffer Crossword

1	2	3	4	5	■	6	7	8	■	9	10	11
12					■	13			■	14		
15					■	16			17			
■	■	18			19			■	20			
21	22		■	23			■	24				
25			26	■	27		28			■	■	■
29				30		■	31			32	33	34
■	■	■	35			36		■	37			
38	39	40			■	41		42	■	43		
44				■	45				46		■	■
47				48			■	49			50	51
52			■	53			■	54				
55			■	56			■	57				

ACROSS

1 HMO fee
6 Massachusetts cape
9 Financial pro
12 Mistreat
13 Bedazzle
14 That guy
15 Formal decrees
16 Brunch cocktail
18 Sportscaster Bob
20 Snake eyes, in Vegas
21 Arles buddy
23 Heavy weight
24 "Crikey!"
25 Eric of "Munich"
27 Water pipes
29 Evening party
31 Scalding, as soup
35 Zodiac ram
37 Zilch
38 Action words
41 Texting format, for short
43 Multipurpose truck
44 Mine, to Marcel
45 Unlocked
47 Mushroom for a risotto dish
49 Fibber's admission
52 Summer in Arles
53 Basketball star Bird
54 Penalized
55 LBJ's party
56 "Acid"
57 Goes belly up

DOWN

1 Scoundrel
2 Kimono sash
3 "Turandot" composer
4 Regarding
5 You'll get a rise out of it
6 Poolside structure
7 Is in debt
8 Costa — Sol
9 Porcelain
10 Yearned
11 Out of whack
17 Accesses the Web
19 Actress Marisa
21 Tummy muscles
22 — Zedong
24 Rock's Brian
26 Language of Egypt
28 Reply to "Who's there?"
30 Hosp. areas
32 Famed escape artist
33 Toronto's prov.
34 Casual shirt
36 Spotted
38 Smoked an e-cig
39 Ham it up on stage
40 Composer Ned
42 Test a perfume
45 Burden
46 Hollywood's Kazan
48 Oahu or Kauai (Abbr.)
50 Snaky fish
51 Driller's deg.

Answer to Previous Puzzle

B	E	L	L	■	P	A	L	■	S	P	A	S
O	R	E	O	■	O	D	E	■	T	O	R	T
D	I	E	U	■	S	E	A	■	E	S	T	A
S	C	R	I	P	T	■	P	O	R	T	E	R
■	■	■	S	O	U	■	■	P	E	I	■	■
N	A	P	A	■	R	A	P	S	O	N	G	S
I	D	O	■	■	E	C	O	■	■	G	O	O
A	S	S	E	S	S	E	S	■	A	S	A	P
■	■	T	R	U	■	■	T	R	I	■	■	■
I	M	D	O	N	E	■	P	A	R	A	D	E
B	E	A	D	■	B	O	O	■	B	U	R	L
A	N	T	E	■	A	W	N	■	E	T	A	S
R	U	E	D	■	Y	E	E	■	D	O	T	E

10-17

CRYPTOQUIP

W O S X D F H X K M Q P Q S C U E W Q S U M P Y H S D K W V C K C Q S D R P U D Y P Y H , P V C R S H D P Y H E P S X D F S K P Q Q P Y H W R O C W S .

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: HOW MIGHT A PERSON DESCRIBE SOME COLD DESSERT DRINKS THAT WEREN'T PALATABLE? NO GREAT SHAKES.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: Q equals S

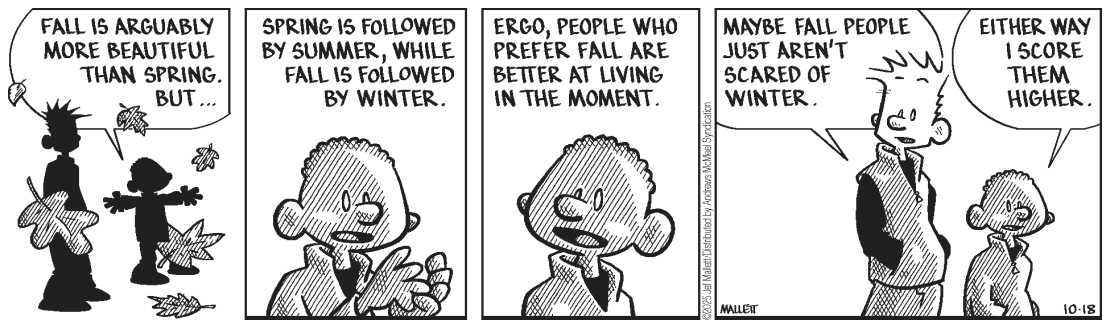
Bizarro



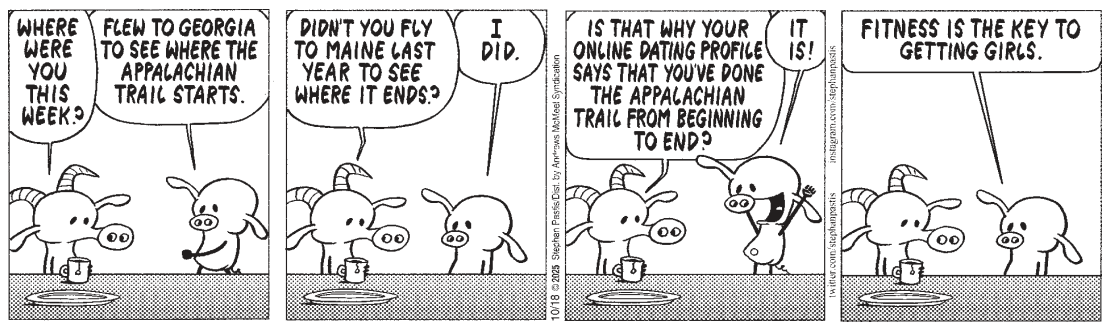
Loose Parts



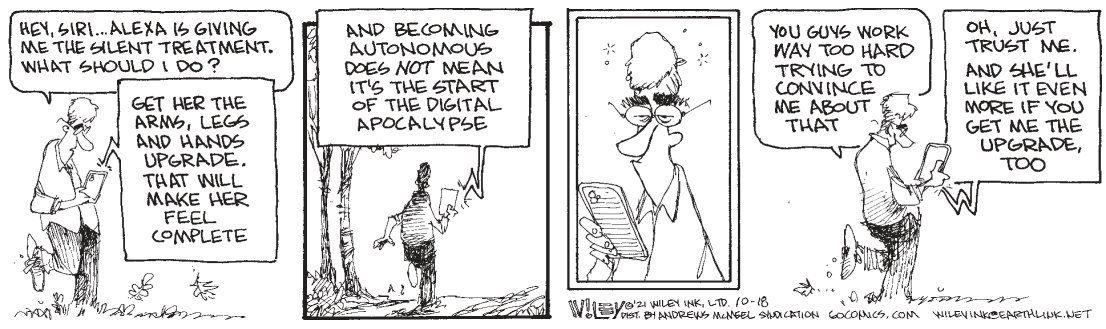
Frazz



Pearls Before Swine



Non Sequitur



Wumo



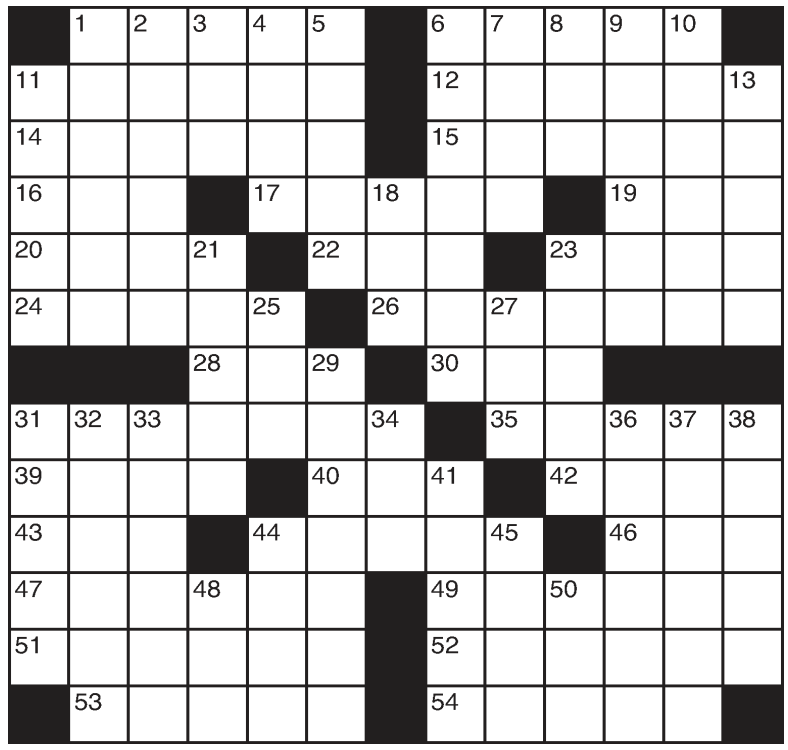
Carpe Diem



Beetle Bailey



Eugene Sheffer Crossword



ACROSS

1 Mexican cheese
6 A lot
11 Recipe amount
12 University of Illinois city
14 Radiator sounds
15 Look over again
16 French article
17 Husband of Pocahontas
19 GI's address
20 Campus mil. group
22 Museum-funding org.
23 Heroic verse
24 Twangy
26 Paint solvent
28 Long of "Soul Food"
30 "Xanadu" band
31 "Sex and the City" author Bushnell
35 Shoelace woes
39 Langston Hughes poem
40 Takeoff stat
42 Daytime drama
43 Dijon denial
44 Ambition
46 School book fair org.
47 "CSI" workplace
49 2001 Penn/Pfeiffer film
51 Saudi neighbor
52 Elevator alternative
53 Cul- —
54 Affirmatives

DOWN

1 Protein-rich grain
2 Overturns
3 Awful grades
4 Litigant
5 TV show announcer Johnny
6 Come up for air
7 Manitoba tribe
8 Tummy muscles
9 From the start, in music
10 Easily attachable
11 Make butter
13 Win by —
18 Grazing tract
21 Positive, as an attitude
23 Short jackets
25 — Fail (sacred Irish stone)
27 Wapiti
29 Biting
31 Model Crawford
32 Was penitent
33 Generic
34 Summer in Arles
36 "Clumsy me!"
37 Golden Horde people
38 Sends junk email to
41 Symbol of freshness
44 CNN's Bash
45 Partner
48 Guitar great Paul
50 Pas' mates

Answer to Previous Puzzle

C	O	P	A	Y	■	C	O	D	■	C	P	A
A	B	U	S	E	■	A	W	E	■	H	I	M
D	I	C	T	A	■	B	E	L	L	I	N	I
■	■	C	O	S	T	A	S	■	O	N	E	S
A	M	I	■	T	O	N	■	E	G	A	D	S
B	A	N	A	■	M	A	I	N	S	■	■	■
S	O	I	R	E	E	■	T	O	O	H	O	T
■	■	■	A	R	I	E	S	■	N	O	N	E
V	E	R	B	S	■	S	M	S	■	U	T	E
A	M	O	I	■	O	P	E	N	E	D	■	■
P	O	R	C	I	N	I	■	I	L	I	E	D
E	T	E	■	S	U	E	■	F	I	N	E	D
D	E	M	■	L	S	D	■	F	A	I	L	S

10-18

CRYPTOQUIP

HBR-TR UNJRI RC GLRBL BNUOXPIS OSNDSVUH VSI XHIY PN DNJISC PLI GNSAY: "OAVCIP NT PLI VOOH."

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: ALTHOUGH MY SISTER WAS TRYING TO MAKE ME STOP IRONING, I KEPT GOING WITHOUT MISSING A PLEAT.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: R equals I

STARS AND STRIPES

Max D. Lederer Jr., Publisher
Laura Law, Chief Operating Officer
Lt. Col. Daniel "DQ" Quinlan, Europe commander
John Rodriguez, Europe chief of staff
Lt. Col. Lucas Crouch, Pacific commander
John Albaugh, Pacific chief of staff

EDITORIAL

Erik Slavin, Editor in Chief
slavin.erik@stripes.com

Sean Moores, Managing Editor for Presentation
moores.sean@stripes.com

Ann Pinson, Digital Managing Editor
pinson.ann@stripes.com

BUREAU STAFF

Europe/Mideast

+49(0)631.3615.9324; DSN (314)583.9324

Pacific

Aaron Kidd, Pacific Bureau Chief
kidd.aaron@stripes.com
+81.42.552.2511 ext. 88380; DSN (315)227.7380

Washington

Joseph Cacchioli, Washington Bureau Chief
cacchioli.joseph@stripes.com
(+1)(202)886-0033

Brian Bowers, Assistant Managing Editor, News
bowers.brian@stripes.com

CIRCULATION

Mideast

David Schultz, District Manager
schultz.david@stripes.com
xsscirculation@stripes.com
+49(0)152.5672.5036; DSN (314)583-9111

Europe

Carlo Aquino, Circulation Manager
aquino.carlo@stripes.com
memberservices@stripes.com
+49(0)631.3615.9136; DSN (314)583.9136

Pacific

Mari Mori, customerhelp@stripes.com
+81-3 6385.3171; DSN (315)227.7333

CONTACT US

Washington

tel: (+1)202.886.0003
633 3rd St. NW, Suite 500, Washington, DC 20001-3050

Reader letters

letters@stripes.com

Additional contacts

stripes.com/contactus

OMBUDSMAN

Jacqueline Smith

The Stars and Stripes ombudsman protects the free flow of news and information, reporting any attempts by the military or other authorities to undermine the newspaper's independence. The ombudsman also responds to concerns and questions from readers, and monitors coverage for fairness, accuracy, timeliness and balance. The ombudsman welcomes comments from readers, and can be contacted by email at ombudsman@stripes.com, or by phone at 202.886.0003.

Stars and Stripes (USPS 0417900) published daily (except Saturday, Sunday, 25 December and 1 January) for 50 cents (Monday through Thursday) and one dollar on Friday by Stars and Stripes Pacific, OPC 706 BOX 7, APO AP 96301-9001. Periodicals postage paid at San Francisco, CA Postmaster: Send address changes to Pacific Stars and Stripes, OPC 706 BOX 7, AP 96301-9001.

The Stars and Stripes newspaper is authorized by the Department of Defense (DoD) for the overseas U.S. military community. As an authorized newspaper, Stars and Stripes publications may be distributed through official channels and use appropriated funds for distribution to remote locations where overseas DoD personnel are located. The content printed in this newspaper is not classified as command information and is neither endorsed by nor represents the official views of the U.S. government.

The appearance of advertising in this publication does not constitute endorsement by the Department of Defense, Stars and Stripes, and or services advertised. Products or services advertised shall be made available for purchase, use or patronage without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, marital status, physical handicap, political affiliation or any other nonmerit factor of the purchaser, user or patron.

© Stars and Stripes 2025

stripes.com

OPINION

True peace requires accepting Israel's right to exist

By Jonah Goldberg
Tribune Content Agency

President Donald Trump took a rhetorical victory lap in front of the Israeli parliament Monday. Ignoring his patented departures from the teleprompter, which violated all sorts of valuable norms, it was a speech Trump deserved to give. The ending of the war — even if it's just a ceasefire — and the release of Israel's last living hostages is, by itself, a monumental diplomatic accomplishment, and Trump deserves to take a bow.

Much of Trump's prepared text was forward-looking, calling for a new "golden age" for the Middle East to mirror the one allegedly unfolding here in America. I'm generally skeptical about "golden ages," here or abroad, and especially leery about any talk about "everlasting peace" in a region that has known "peace" for only a handful of years since the fall of the Ottoman Empire.

So, by all means, let's be forward-looking about building peace.

But that project requires some honesty about how we got here.

Where to begin that story chronologically is the subject of Ph.D. dissertations. But conceptually it begins with a very basic observation. From its founding, Israel and its enemies have had irreconcilable positions. Israel insists that it has a right to exist. Its enemies take the opposite position.

For clarity's sake at least, I think it is fair to distinguish between critics or opponents of Israel and its enemies. Many critics merely want a two-state solution or more autonomy and security for Palestinians. Israel's enemies, meanwhile, want the "Zionist entity" to be erased. "From the river to the sea," as the saying goes, they want the Israeli "colonizers" to die or be expelled from the region. That is the stated position of Iran and its various proxies, including Hamas, Hezbollah and the Houthis. It is also by extension the position of their supporters, whether they fully realize it or not.

In such a zero-sum conflict, these positions are axiomatically non-negotiable. One side has to lose for the other to win. But here's where things get messy conceptually: Many of Israel's enemies are treated as mere opponents and critics, and vice versa. The distinction gets blurred by friends and foes alike.

The linguistic legerdemain of "anti-Zionism" is treated as a legitimate, respectable perspective, as if anti-Zionism somehow means something other than a desire to end Israel's existence as a sovereign Jewish nation-state. But that's literally what anti-Zionism means. Zionism is simply the idea that Jews should have their own country in their historic homeland.

Under the umbrella of the United Nations, there is an alphabet soup of organizations, programs and committees that are dedicated to a one-sided effort to combat the Zionist project and rectify the problem of Israel's existence. The U.N. Relief Works Agency (UNRWA) bequeaths to Palestinians a unique "hereditary" refugee status, not accorded to any of the hundreds of millions of refugee populations since the end of World War II.

UNRWA school teachers — some of whom are, or were, members of Hamas — indoctrinate children into hatred of, and "resistance" to, Israelis. The Human Rights Council has a long history of having an obsessive, institutionalized, structurally antisemitic double standard for Israel alone.

Western media outlets rely on these agencies to frame the discussion of Israel, keeping the idea alive that the only real solution is to do something about Zionism, as if Israel's survival remains provisional, even though modern Israel is older than dozens of other nations.

Throughout the Gaza war, claims from the Hamas-controlled Gaza health ministry were greeted with reflexive credulity, as were charges of "genocide" — against Israel. Claims that Gaza was enduring mass starvation were not subjected to the journalistic skepticism reserved for Israel or the Trump White House, but rather treated with enthusiastic credulity. Watching the celebrations in Gaza this week, did you see a lot of emaciated Palestinians? Will the press search for them now?

Over the last two years, campus protesters and social media influencers lionized Hamas terrorists as freedom fighters. The protesters were often treated in the press and by school administrators as noble and heroic champions of free speech or human rights, despite the fact they were providing cover for an Islamist organization that murders Palestinian political dissenters and homosexuals, persecutes Christians, and repeatedly affirms its commitment to the genocidal destruction of Israel. Would pro-KKK groups get the same treatment?

I think many of the accusations that Israel is committed to genocide can best be understood as a mix of projection of — and distraction from — its enemies' open support for genocide.

If a lasting, never mind everlasting, peace is possible, it will only be when Israel's existence is accepted as an everlasting non-negotiable fact. Once that happens, disputes about borders, Palestinian rights, and autonomy can be negotiated on a non-zero-sum basis.

Jonah Goldberg is editor-in-chief of The Dispatch and the host of The Remnant podcast.

A path to bridge the Red-Blue Divide on climate issues

By Ken Silverstein
InsideSources.com

Heather Reams, the president of Citizens for Responsible Energy Solutions (CRES), stepped onto the stage at Breckenridge's Mountain Towns 2030 summit — a room full of progressives accustomed to negotiating with Republicans on climate policy. She faced an audience from Idaho, Wyoming, Utah and Colorado — areas that often depend on Republican-controlled legislatures to achieve local sustainability goals.

Reams suggested that the instinct of these communities shouldn't be to lecture or shame. It should be to listen and find common ground. "Democrats can't do it alone," she said. "Republicans care deeply about their land. They hunt, they fish, they ski. They love the outdoors as much as anyone. So, of course, they care about clean air and water. The question is: How do we talk about it?"

A lifelong Republican, Reams has made it her mission to answer that question. CRES collaborates with GOP lawmakers to promote clean energy, arguing that the conservative case for renewables is grounded in innovation, competitiveness and energy independence — not ideology.

At the conference, she stressed that the key to climate progress isn't confrontation, but compromise. One side might favor solar projects while the other insists on traditional fuel sources. By recognizing shared interests — for example, expanding solar energy while permitting additional natural gas pipelines or transmission lines — both sides can advance without ideological conflict. It's not about surrender; it's practical problem-solving.

Reams highlighted Sen. John Curtis of Utah, founder of the Conservative Climate Caucus, as a conservative champion of the environment. He has argued that the GOP should help shape, not resist, climate policy, emphasizing that sound stewardship and strong markets go hand in hand. Not all conservatives are on board. Reams wryly notes Utah's other senator, Mike Lee, who, as she puts it, "just pats me on the head" when renewables come up.

Polls suggest that finding common ground reflects more than strategy — it meets voter demand. Pew Research Center data from 2024 show that 72% of Americans — including 56% of Republicans under 40 — support expanding solar and wind energy. A Yale Climate Communications poll reinforces this enthusiasm, showing that clean energy incentives can generate local jobs and economic growth.

Beyond politics, Reams emphasized the economic benefits of renewables. Solar, wind, battery storage, advanced nuclear, and geothermal are increasingly cost-competitive. Emerging energy industries can create high-paying local jobs, keeping residents in their hometowns rather than forcing talent to cities. She believes free-market forces are increasingly backing the case for clean energy.

That resonates with Republican leaders, who tend to prioritize economic and local issues and often find that sustained dialogue is more effective than public confrontation. "Renewables are winning on price," Reams said. "You don't have to love climate policy to love cheaper energy and American jobs. We can win this on free-market principles."

Geography and lifestyle naturally align. Western Republicans often share goals with progressives for preserving air, water and open space — and honoring the outdoorsy lifestyle. Coastal communities have similar motivations, whether it's a clean Chesapeake Bay or a healthy Tampa Bay. For Americans who hunt, ski or hike, the outdoors can be a shared starting point — even across party lines.

For communities pursuing ambitious climate goals, the lesson is clear: engage people where they are, identify shared priorities, and focus on solutions that deliver economic and lifestyle benefits. Extreme views will always exist, but the broad middle can drive policy forward. Pragmatic collaboration, not ideological purity, is the path to progress.

By turning shared values into practical policies — whether through permitting reform or renewable energy initiatives — communities can make net-zero goals achievable. The enemy isn't political disagreement; it's obstinacy. When both sides operate from common interests, compromise becomes not just possible but also the most effective way forward.

Ken Silverstein has covered energy and international affairs for years. He wrote this for InsideSources.com.

SCOREBOARD

PRO HOCKEY

NHL

EASTERN CONFERENCE
Atlantic Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Detroit	4	3	1	0	6	14	11
Boston	4	3	1	0	6	13	9
Montreal	4	3	1	0	6	15	12
Florida	5	3	2	0	6	14	14
Toronto	4	2	2	0	4	17	15
Tampa Bay	4	1	2	1	3	13	16
Buffalo	4	1	3	0	2	10	14
Ottawa	4	1	3	0	2	12	22

Metropolitan Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Carolina	3	3	0	0	6	15	7
Washington	4	3	1	0	6	9	7
New Jersey	3	2	1	0	4	11	11
Pittsburgh	4	2	2	0	4	11	13
N.Y. Rangers	5	2	3	0	4	10	7
Philadelphia	3	1	1	1	3	9	8
Columbus	3	1	2	0	2	10	9
N.Y. Islanders	3	0	3	0	0	7	13

WESTERN CONFERENCE
Central Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Colorado	4	3	0	1	7	13	8
Dallas	3	3	0	0	6	15	10
Nashville	4	2	1	1	5	12	12
Chicago	5	2	2	1	5	18	14
Winnipeg	3	2	1	0	4	12	9
St. Louis	4	2	2	0	4	12	17
Utah	4	2	2	0	4	8	8
Minnesota	4	2	2	0	4	15	15

Pacific Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Vegas	4	2	0	2	6	14	13
Edmonton	3	2	0	1	5	8	5
Seattle	3	2	0	1	5	9	7
Anaheim	3	2	1	0	4	12	12
Los Angeles	4	1	2	1	3	12	16
Vancouver	3	1	2	0	2	8	9
San Jose	3	0	1	2	2	10	16
Calgary	5	1	4	0	2	10	19

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

Detroit 4, Florida 1
Buffalo 8, Ottawa 4
Utah 3, Calgary 1
Chicago 8, St. Louis 3

Thursday's games

Colorado at Columbus
Florida at New Jersey
N.Y. Rangers at Toronto
Nashville at Montreal
Seattle at Ottawa
Winnipeg at Philadelphia
Edmonton at N.Y. Islanders
Vancouver at Dallas
Boston at Vegas
Carolina at Anaheim
Pittsburgh at Los Angeles

Friday's games

Minnesota at Washington
Tampa Bay at Detroit
Vancouver at Chicago
San Jose at Utah

Saturday's games

Florida at Buffalo
N.Y. Islanders at Ottawa
Edmonton at New Jersey
Dallas at St. Louis
Minnesota at Philadelphia
N.Y. Rangers at Montreal
Nashville at Winnipeg
Seattle at Toronto
Tampa Bay at Columbus
Boston at Colorado
Carolina at Los Angeles
Calgary at Vegas
Pittsburgh at San Jose

PRO SOCCER

MLS

Eastern Conference

	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Philadelphia	20	7	6	66	57	33
Cincinnati	19	9	5	62	49	40
Inter Miami CF	18	7	8	62	76	53
Charlotte FC	18	13	2	56	53	46
NYC FC	17	11	5	56	49	42
Nashville	16	11	6	54	56	40
Orlando City	14	8	11	53	61	47
Chicago	15	11	7	52	66	58
Columbus	13	8	12	51	52	50
New York	12	14	7	43	47	44
New England	9	16	8	35	42	49
Toronto FC	5	14	14	29	33	42
CF Montréal	6	17	10	28	34	57
Atlanta	5	16	12	27	37	62
D.C. United	5	18	10	25	29	65

Western Conference

	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Vancouver	18	6	9	63	65	36
San Diego FC	18	9	6	60	60	41
LAFC	17	8	8	59	63	38
Minn. United	16	7	10	58	55	37
Seattle	14	9	10	52	56	47
Austin FC	13	12	8	47	36	43
Portland	11	11	11	44	41	44
FC Dallas	10	12	11	41	50	54
Real Salt Lake	12	17	4	40	36	47
Colorado	11	15	7	40	42	54
San Jose	10	15	8	38	58	62
Houston	9	15	9	36	43	56
St Louis City	8	18	7	31	42	56
Sporting KC	7	20	6	27	46	70
LA Galaxy	6	18	9	27	44	65

Note: Three points for victory, one point for tie.

Saturday's games

D.C. United at Atlanta
Philadelphia at Charlotte FC
CF Montréal at Cincinnati
New York at Columbus
Miami at Nashville
Chicago at New England
Seattle at New York City FC
Orlando City at Toronto FC
Los Angeles FC at Colorado
Houston at Sporting Kansas City
Minnesota at LA Galaxy
San Diego FC at Portland
Austin FC at San Jose
Real Salt Lake at St Louis City
FC Dallas at Vancouver

NWSL

	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Kansas City	20	2	2	62	47	11
Washington	12	4	8	44	40	29
Orlando	10	8	6	36	29	24
Gotham FC	9	7	8	35	31	20
Seattle	9	7	8	35	29	27
San Diego	9	8	7	34	34	31
Portland	9	8	7	34	32	29
Louisville	9	9	6	33	32	36
North Carolina	7	9	8	29	30	36
Angel City	7	11	6	27	30	37
Houston	7	11	6	27	26	37
Utah Royals FC	5	12	7	22	26	40
Bay FC	4	12	8	20	25	36
Chicago	2	11	11	17	29	47

Note: Three points for victory, one point for tie.

Friday's games

North Carolina at Bay FC
Utah Royals FC at Seattle

Saturday's games

Orlando at Washington
Kansas City at Houston
Chicago at San Diego

Sunday's games

Louisville at Gotham FC
Portland at Angel City

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

Scores

Wednesday
SOUTH

Jacksonville St. 38, Delaware 25

SOUTHWEST

UTEP 35, Sam Houston St. 17

Schedule

Thursday
SOUTH

Tulsa (2-4) at East Carolina (3-3)

Friday
SOUTH

Louisville (4-1) at Miami (5-0)

MIDWEST

Nebraska (5-1) at Minnesota (4-2)

FAR WEST

San Jose St. (2-4) at Utah St. (3-3)
North Carolina (2-3) at California (4-2)

Saturday
EAST

Merrimack (3-4) at Harvard (4-0)
Robert Morris (1-5) at LIU Brooklyn (1-5)
Uconn (4-2) at Boston College (1-5)
Stonehill (2-4) at Yale (2-2)
Princeton (2-2) at Brown (3-1)
Colgate (2-4) at Georgetown (3-3)
Dartmouth (3-1) at Fordham (1-5)
Bucknell (4-3) at Cornell (0-4)
Hampton (2-5) at Villanova (4-2)
Stony Brook (3-3) at Monmouth (NJ) (5-1)
Penn (3-1) at Columbia (1-3)
Buffalo (3-3) at Umass (0-6)
Texas State (3-3) at Marshall (3-3)
Rhode Island (5-2) at Albany (NY) (1-5)
CCSU (4-3) at Wagner (1-5)
Duquesne (4-3) at Mercyhurst (3-4)
Oregon (5-1) at Rutgers (3-3)
Pittsburgh (4-2) at Syracuse (3-3)

SOUTH

Georgia Tech (6-0) at Duke (4-2)
Furman (4-2) at Wofford (1-5)
LSU (5-1) at Vanderbilt (5-1)
Army (3-3) at Tulane (5-1)
Oklahoma (5-1) at South Carolina (3-3)
Stetson (3-4) at Presbyterian (6-0)
West Virginia (2-4) at UCF (3-3)
UT Martin (2-5) at Gardner-Webb (4-2)
ETSU (3-4) at Chattanooga (2-4)
Samford (0-6) at VMI (1-5)
Holy Cross (0-6) at Richmond (4-3)
Marist (3-3) at Morehead St. (2-5)
W. Carolina (4-3) at The Citadel (3-3)
Troy (4-2) at Louisiana-Monroe (3-3)
Lincoln University (CA) (0-3) at MVSU (0-5)
Coastal Carolina (3-3) at Appalachian St. (4-2)
New Hampshire (3-4) at Campbell (2-5)
Temple (3-3) at Charlotte (1-5)
Elon (4-3) at William & Mary (3-3)
Mississippi (6-0) at Georgia (5-1)
SMU (4-2) at Clemson (3-3)
Old Dominion (4-2) at James Madison (5-1)
Memphis (6-0) at UAB (2-4)
Alcorn St. (1-5) at Florida A&M (1-4)
Mississippi St. (4-2) at Florida (2-4)
Southern Miss. (4-2) at Louisiana (2-4)
Prairie View (4-2) at Southern U. (1-5)
Northwestern St. (1-5) at SE Louisiana (4-2)
Howard (3-3) at Tennessee St. (1-5)
Washington St. (3-3) at Virginia (5-1)
S. Dakota St. (6-0) at Murray St. (0-6)
E. Kentucky (3-3) at North Alabama (1-5)
Houston Christian (2-4) at McNeese St. (1-5)
Texas (4-2) at Kentucky (2-3)
Georgia St. (1-5) at Georgia Southern (2-4)
FAU (3-3) at South Florida (5-1)
Tennessee (5-1) at Alabama (5-1)
Missouri (5-1) at Auburn (3-3)

MIDWEST

Butler (4-3) at Dayton (5-1)
Cent. Michigan (3-3) at Bowling Green (3-3)
Washington (5-1) at Michigan (4-2)
E. Michigan (2-5) at Miami (Ohio) (3-3)
Davidson (1-5) at Drake (3-2)
N. Dakota St. (6-0) at Indiana St. (2-4)
Valparaiso (1-5) at St. Thomas (Minn.) (3-3)
Tenn. Tech (6-0) at Lindenwood (Mo.) (3-3)
Kent St. (2-4) at Toledo (3-3)
South Dakota (4-3) at N. Iowa (2-4)
Purdue (2-4) at Northwestern (4-2)
North Dakota (4-2) at S. Illinois (4-2)
E. Illinois (3-3) at SE Missouri (2-4)
Youngstown St. (3-3) at Illinois St. (4-2)
Michigan St. (3-3) at Indiana (6-0)
Ohio St. (6-0) at Wisconsin (2-4)
Akron (2-5) at Ball St. (2-4)
N. Illinois (1-5) at Ohio (3-3)
Charleston Southern (1-6) at W. Illinois (1-6)
Penn St. (3-3) at Iowa (4-2)
Southern Cal (5-1) at Notre Dame (4-2)

SOUTHWEST

Baylor (4-2) at TCU (4-2)
Arizona (4-2) at Houston (5-1)
Lynchburg (0-2) at Texas Southern (3-3)
Grambling St. (3-3) at Ark.-Pine Bluff (3-3)
Texas A&M (6-0) at Arkansas (2-4)
UTSA (3-3) at North Texas (5-1)
UT Rio Grande Valley (5-1) at Lamar (5-1)
E. Texas A&M (1-5) at Incarnate Word (2-4)
West Georgia (5-2) at Tarleton St. (7-0)
Nicholls (1-5) at Stephen F. Austin (4-2)
Cincinnati (5-1) at Oklahoma St. (1-5)

FAR WEST

Sacred Heart (5-2) at Montana (6-0)
Wyoming (3-3) at Air Force (1-5)
UNLV (6-0) at Boise St. (4-2)
Texas Tech (6-0) at Arizona St. (4-2)
Weber St. (2-4) at Portland St. (0-6)
Hawaii (5-2) at Colorado St. (2-4)
Idaho (2-4) at E. Washington (2-4)
Maryland (4-2) at UCLA (2-4)
Utah (5-1) at BYU (6-0)
Abilene Christian (4-3) at S. Utah (1-5)
N. Colorado (3-3) at Sacramento St. (3-3)
Nevada (1-5) at New Mexico (3-3),
Lafayette (5-2) at Oregon St. (0-7),
Florida St. (3-3) at Stanford (2-4)

TENNIS

Japan Open

At Osaka
Purse: $275,094
Seedings in parentheses
Women's Singles
Round of 16
Thursday

Leylah Annie Fernandez (4), Canada, def. Dalma Galfi, Hungary, 6-1, 6-4
Rebecca Sramkova, Slovakia, def. Ann Li (7), United States, 6-2, 3-6, 6-3
Tereza Valentova, Czechia, def. Elise Mertens (3), Belgium, 6-4, 6-1
Viktorija Golubic, Switzerland, def. Marie Bouzkova (5), Czechia, 1-6, 6-2, 7-6 (3)

Ningbo Open

At Ningbo, China
Purse: $1,064,510
Seedings in parentheses
Women's Singles
Round of 16
Thursday

McCartney Kessler, United States, def. Liudmila Samsonova (8), Russia, 7-6 (5), 6-1
Jasmine Paolini (2), Italy, def. Veronika Kudermetova, Russia, 6-2, 7-5
Ekaterina Alexandrova (4), Russia, def. Yuan Yue, China, 6-3, 6-3
Elena Rybakina (3), Kazakhstan, def. Dayana Yastremska, Ukraine, 6-4, 6-7 (6), 6-3

Nordic Open

Thursday
At Stockholm
Purse: Euro706,850
Seedings in parentheses
Men's Singles
Round of 16

Lorenzo Sonego, Italy, def. Aleksandar Kovacevic, United States, 7-6 (3), 6-1
Tomas Martin Etcheverry, Argentina, def. Miomir Kecmanovic, Serbia, 6-4, 4-6, 6-3

Men's Doubles
Quarterfinals

Alexander Erler, Austria, and Robert Galloway, United States, def. David Pichler and Neil Oberleitner, Austria, 6-3, 7-5

PRO FOOTBALL

NFL

American Conference
East

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Buffalo	4	2	0	.667	167	137
New England	4	2	0	.667	150	120
Miami	1	5	0	.167	134	174
N.Y. Jets	0	6	0	.000	123	170

South

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Indianapolis	5	1	0	.833	194	116
Jacksonville	4	2	0	.667	139	120
Houston	2	3	0	.400	108	61
Tennessee	1	5	0	.167	83	161

North

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Pittsburgh	4	1	0	.800	119	107
Cincinnati	2	4	0	.333	103	183
Baltimore	1	5	0	.167	144	194
Cleveland	1	5	0	.167	82	146

West

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Denver	4	2	0	.667	130	95
L.A. Chargers	4	2	0	.667	127	125
Kansas City	3	3	0	.500	155	124
Las Vegas	2	4	0	.333	103	149

National Conference
East

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Philadelphia	4	2	0	.667	142	143
Washington	3	3	0	.500	158	126
Dallas	2	3	1	.417	178	184
N.Y. Giants	2	4	0	.333	121	144

South

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Tampa Bay	5	1	0	.833	165	151
Atlanta	3	2	0	.600	100	100
Carolina	3	3	0	.500	132	146
New Orleans	1	5	0	.167	111	160

North

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Green Bay	3	1	1	.700	131	102
Detroit	4	2	0	.667	191	142
Chicago	3	2	0	.600	126	141
Minnesota	3	2	0	.600	123	97

West

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
L.A. Rams	4	2	0	.667	140	110
San Francisco	4	2	0	.667	125	128
Seattle	4	2	0	.667	166	117
Arizona	2	4	0	.333	130	127

Thursday's game

Pittsburgh at Cincinnati

Sunday's games

L.A. Rams vs Jacksonville at London
Carolina at N.Y. Jets
Las Vegas at Kansas City
Miami at Cleveland
New England at Tennessee
New Orleans at Chicago
Philadelphia at Minnesota
Indianapolis at L.A. Chargers
N.Y. Giants at Denver
Green Bay at Arizona
Washington at Dallas
Atlanta at San Francisco

Monday's games

Tampa Bay at Detroit
Houston at Seattle
Open: Baltimore, Buffalo

Thursday, Oct. 23

Minnesota at L.A. Chargers

Sunday, Oct. 26

Chicago at Baltimore
Buffalo at Carolina
Cleveland at New England
Miami at Atlanta
N.Y Giants at Philadelphia
N.Y Jets at Cincinnati
San Francisco at Houston
Tampa Bay at New Orleans
Dallas at Denver
Tennessee at Indianapolis
Green Bay at Pittsburgh

Monday, Oct. 27

Washington at Kansas City
Open: Arizona, Detroit, Jacksonville, Las Vegas, L.A. Rams, Seattle

Thursday, Oct. 30

Baltimore at Miami

Sunday, Nov. 2

Carolina at Green Bay
Atlanta at New England
Chicago at Cincinnati
Denver at Houston
Indianapolis at Pittsburgh
L.A. Chargers at Tennessee
Minnesota at Detroit
San Francisco at N.Y. Giants
Jacksonville at Las Vegas
New Orleans at L.A. Rams
Kansas City at Buffalo
Seattle at Washington

Monday, Nov. 3

Arizona at Dallas
Open: Cleveland, N.Y. Jets, Philadelphia, Tampa Bay

DEALS

Wednesday's transactions

BASEBALL
Major League Baseball
American League

CLEVELAND GUARDIANS — Agreed to terms with C Austin Hedges on a one-year contract.
MINNESOTA TWINS — Claimed INF Ryan Kreidler off waivers from Pittsburgh.

BASKETBALL
National Basketball Association

ATLANTA HAWKS — Waived G Deivon Smith.
BOSTON CELTICS — Waived F RJ Luis Jr.
BROOKLYN NETS — Waived G Malachi Smith and F Fanbo Zeng.
CLEVELAND CAVALIERS — Waived G Kilian Hayes and Fs Tristan Enaruna and Norchad Omier.
DENVER NUGGETS — Waived G James Akinjo.
GOLDEN STATE WARRIORS — Waived C Marques Bolden and G Taevion Kinsey.
OKLAHOMA CITY THUNDER — Waived F Buddy Boeheim.
PHOENIX SUNS — Waived G Damion Baugh and F Tyrese Samuel.

FOOTBALL
National Football League

ARIZONA CARDINALS — Signed TE Josiah Deguara from the practice squad to the active roster. Placed TE Travis Vokolek on injured reserve. Signed TE Pharaoh Brown and WR Bryson Green to the practice squad.
CAROLINA PANTHERS — Designated C Austin Corbett to return from injured reserve.
CINCINNATI BENGALS — Placed TE Mike Gesicki on the reserve/injured list. Signed T Thayer Munford Jr. to the practice squad.
CLEVELAND BROWNS — Placed WR David Bell on the reserve/retired list. Signed T Thayer Munford Jr. to the practice squad.
DENVER BRONCOS — Designated LB Dre Greenlaw to return from injured reserve.
INDIANAPOLIS COLTS — Waived LB Joe Bachie from injured reserve.
JACKSONVILLE JAGUARS — Signed OL Kilian Zierer to the practice squad.
KANSAS CITY CHIEFS — Signed WR Jason Brownlee to the practice squad.
LOS ANGELES CHARGERS — Signed WR Dalevon Campbell and DB Myles Purchase to the practice squad. Released C Josh Kaltenberger from the practice squad.
NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS — Signed S Richie Grant to the practice squad.
PHILADELPHIA EAGLES — Signed DT Titus Leo and TE Jaheim Bell to the practice squad.
SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS — Signed OL Isaac Alarcon to the practice squad.
SEATTLE SEAHAWKS — Signed WR Tyler Scott to the practice squad.
TENNESSEE TITANS — Designated NT T'Vondre Sweat to return from injured reserve. Signed CB Alex Johnson to the practice squad.
WASHINGTON COMMANDERS — Signed DE Drake Jackson as a free agent. Placed WR Noah Brown on the reserve/injured list. Signed G Julian Good-Jones to the practice squad.

HOCKEY
National Hockey League

CHICAGO BLACKHAWKS — Announced LW Nick Foligno is taking a brief leave of absence.
FLORIDA PANTHERS — Claimed D Donovan Sebrango off waivers from Ottawa.
LOS ANGELES KINGS — Recalled G Erik Portillo from Ontario (AHL).
NEW JERSEY DEVILS — Placed F Zack MacEwen on injured reserve. Recalled G Nico Daws from Utica (AHL).
NEW YORK RANGERS — Placed F Vincent Trocheck on long-term injured reserve. Recalled D Scott Morrow from Hartford (AHL).
TAMPA BAY LIGHTNING — Traded G Pheonix Copley to the Los Angeles Kings in exchange for future considerations.
WASHINGTON CAPITALS — Placed D Vincent Iorio on waivers.



FRANK GUNN, THE CANADIAN PRESS/AP

The Toronto Blue Jays' George Springer celebrates with Vladimir Guerrero Jr. after hitting a solo home run against the Mariners during the fourth inning of Game 3 of the ALCS in Seattle on Wednesday.

Springer, Guerrero spark Blue Jays' rout of Mariners

BY ANDREW DESTIN
Associated Press

SEATTLE — Tired in Toronto, the Blue Jays slugged in Seattle.

Vladimir Guerrero Jr. and George Springer woke up Toronto as the Blue Jays hit five home runs to rebound from an early deficit, routing the Mariners 13-4 Wednesday night and closing to 2-1 in the AL Championship Series.

Toronto had 18 hits — all within the first three pitches of each at-bat.

"If they give us a first pitch, the pitch that we're looking for, we're going to attack and we're going to be aggressive," Guerrero said.

Seattle starter George Kirby gave up eight of the hits.

"I wasn't really executing when they got the guys on base," Kirby said. "And they're really aggressive when that happens. They made some good swings."

Julio Rodríguez's two-run, first-inning homer off former Cy Young Award winner Shane Bieber put the Mariners ahead and stirred thoughts of a possible sweep in the best-of-seven matchup by a team seeking its first World Series appearance.

Andrés Giménez then sparked the comeback with a tying, two-run homer in a five-run third against Kirby.

Springer, Guerrero, Alejandro Kirk and Addison Barger also went deep as the Blue Jays totaled 2,004 feet of homers.

Guerrero had four hits, falling a triple short of the cycle, after going 0 for 7 as Toronto lost the first two games at home.

"No one expected us to win the division, no one expected us to be here, and I think the guys take that to heart," Blue Jays manager John Schneider said. "I said it when we left Toronto: I hope we find some slug in the air out here. Maybe we did."

In the 2-3-2 format, teams that lost the first two games at home and won Game 3 on the road have captured the series three of 11 times.

A crowd of 46,471 at T-Mobile Park for Seattle's first home ALCS game since 2001 saw the teams combine to match the postseason record of eight combined home runs, set by the Chicago Cubs and St. Louis Cardinals in Game 3 of the 2015 NL Division Series and matched by the Los Angeles Dodgers and Houston Astros in Game 2 of the 2017 World Series.

Giménez hadn't homered since Aug. 27 before his drive off a Kirby fastball.

"Definitely something changed for our offense," Giménez said. "We come tonight with a mentality to attack."

Kirby allowed eight runs, eight hits and two walks, taking the loss.

"The first couple innings I thought he was dynamite," Mariners manager Dan Wilson said. "This is a team that's going to hurt you if you make mistakes on the plate. It looked like there were a couple that they were able to get to."

Kirby's run-scoring wild pitch put the Blue Jays ahead 3-2 and Daulton Varsho followed with a two-run double.

Springer homered in the fourth, tying Bernie Williams for fourth on the career list with his 22nd postseason homer. Guerrero hit his fourth of the postseason for a 7-2 lead on the first pitch of the fifth.

Kirk added a three-run homer in the sixth and is hitting .413 (19 for 46) with eight RBIs in 14 games at T-Mobile Park.

Bieber, who got the win, pitched shutout ball after the first and wound up allowing four hits in six innings — the longest outing by a Toronto starter in seven postseason games.

"Obviously didn't start the way he would have wanted to, but that's pretty much who he is," Springer said. "He can battle back from anything."

MLB scoreboard

League Championship Series

Best-of-seven
x-if necessary
American League
Seattle 2, Toronto 1

Seattle 3, Toronto 1
Seattle 10, Toronto 3
Wednesday: Toronto 13, Seattle 4
Thursday: Toronto at Seattle
Friday: Toronto at Seattle
x-Sunday: Seattle at Toronto
x-Monday: Seattle at Toronto

National League
Los Angeles 2, Milwaukee 0

Los Angeles 2, Milwaukee 1
Los Angeles 5, Milwaukee 1
Thursday: Milwaukee at Los Angeles
Friday: Milwaukee (TBD) at Los Angeles (Ohtani 1-1)
x-Saturday: Milwaukee at Los Angeles
x-Monday: Los Angeles at Milwaukee
x-Tuesday: Los Angeles at Milwaukee

Memo reminds teams to address unruly fan behavior proactively

BY TIM REYNOLDS
Associated Press

The NBA has reminded teams to prioritize addressing inappropriate fan behavior at games this season.

In a memo sent to all 30 clubs, the league told teams that it wants "consistent and vigilant enforcement of the NBA Fan Code of Conduct ... to deter and address fan misconduct at NBA games and events."

A copy of the memo was obtained Wednesday by The Associated Press.

Fan behavior has been a hot topic across sports for some time. Among the notable incidents in the NBA last season: some fans in Dallas were ejected for their reactions in the days following the team's decision to trade longtime Mavericks star Luka Doncic to the Los Angeles Lakers, and the Minnesota Timberwolves ejected a fan from a playoff game for racially charged comments directed toward Golden State's Draymond Green.

Golf's Ryder Cup was marred this year by hateful chants from some fans toward Rory McIlroy and other members of the European team, which defeated the United States to retain that trophy. In baseball, Jarren Duran of the Boston Red Sox was heckled by a fan about his mental health struggles which were chronicled in a Netflix series — the fan was ejected — and two other fans at Yankee Stadium were ejected from a World Series game last year after one pried a foul ball out of the glove of Los Angeles Dodgers right fielder Mookie Betts.

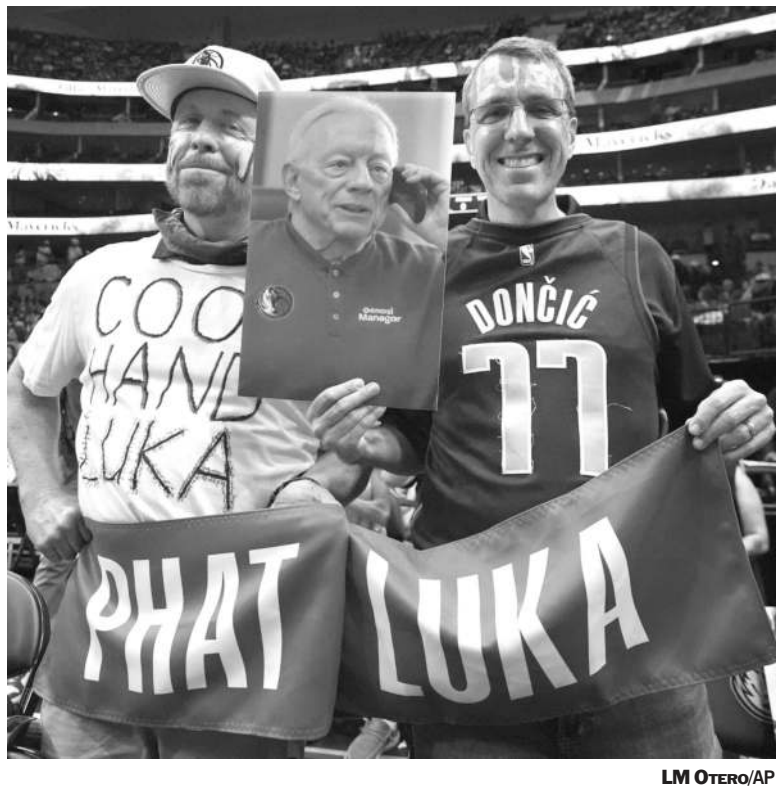
"It is critical that teams and arenas vigorously enforce the Code of Conduct and not tolerate any misconduct that impacts our players, fans, or otherwise disrupts the game."

NBA memo

The NBA, in the memo, told teams that arena staff "must be trained to identify behavior that violates NBA rules and to respond proactively." The NBA, like many leagues, also has a video detailing a code of conduct for fans played in every arena before each game.

"It is critical that teams and arenas vigorously enforce the Code of Conduct and not tolerate any misconduct that impacts our players, fans, or otherwise disrupts the game," the league said.

The NBA season opens Tuesday with a pair of games: Houston at defending champion Oklahoma City, then Golden State visiting the Lakers.



LM OTERO/AP

Two fans protest the Mavericks' trade of Luke Doncic to the Los Angeles Lakers during a game in Dallas on Feb. 8.

NBA

Edwards pursues greatness in 'boring' way

Wolves seek more complete player amid title pursuit

BY DAVE CAMPBELL
Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS — Anthony Edwards devoted much of his previous two offseasons to the U.S. national team for the World Cup and the Olympics, coming off intense runs through the NBA playoffs with the Minnesota Timberwolves.

As valuable as those experiences were for his flourishing career, the time Edwards had for his own training this past summer was instrumental toward his desired development into a true MVP candidate on a legitimate title contender.

"I feel like I was able to actually work on my game," he said.

For all he's done on the court in his first five seasons in the league, Edwards is still a 24-year-old with plenty of room to improve. As Timberwolves player development coach Chris Hines has told him often, "Greatness is boring," a maxim seemingly tailor-made for Edwards.

"There was a lot of boring days in the gym, just working on one-dribble pull-ups," he said. "But I think it benefits me."

In the annual preseason survey of NBA general managers, Edwards was the runaway winner in voting for the best shooting guard in the league with a 70% share. But that doesn't mean he's the most complete player at that star-studded position.

"I think he became really addicted to the film room this offseason. His work ethic has always been great, but this summer has been a whole other level," Minnesota president of basketball operations Tim Connelly said. "I think he's really focused on how to be more effective late in games, not just for himself but for others. His body is in unbelievable shape. It's pretty impressive to see how quickly he has matured, not just as a player, but as a professional with his approach. He's going to have another great year."



FRANK FRANKLIN II/AP

Though Anthony Edwards, right, is already a star and the best player on his team, the Minnesota Timberwolves still want him to improve his overall game as they seek to break through in their pursuit of a championship.

The first part of his game the T-wolves want advanced is on defense, where Jaden McDaniels typically plays the primary role of guarding the opponent's top scorer. Edwards, never lacking for confidence, believes he can give McDaniels a break here and there by doing the same.

"As the head of the snake, sometimes you've just got to take those matchups, just to show people I can play defense too," Edwards said. "We can't make Jaden guard the best player every night. Some nights he's got to get the 'B' player, let me get the 'A' player. And like I said, it's going to get me in better shape, man. It's about trying to push myself so I can get in better shape around February and March, heading into the playoffs."

Edwards looks leaner than he did last season, evidence of his summer conditioning in renewed pursuit of two-way stardom. He committed to getting more sleep, too, the key to physical recovery and refreshment.

"We're trying to get back to the number one defense in the league, and I know it starts with me, especially my pressure on the ball. I can't guard one game and not guard the next game because we're playing, you know, somebody who's not up to par," Edwards said. "I've got to be ready every night, and I'm going to take pride in that. I told my teammates to hold me accountable, coaches included."

At the team dinner the night before the first official practice, point guard Mike Conley led a discussion of what steps Minnesota players must take on the floor and in their minds to get over the conference-final hump.

"What's our goal? Are we coming here to put on a show, perform? Or are we trying to win a championship? What are we doing? And the consensus is, we're trying to win a championship," Conley said. "Ant, if you want to win a championship, we expect you to guard like you're a top-five perimeter defender in the league, which we believe you are."

Coach Chris Finch, asked on Tuesday for an assessment of Edwards' buy-in to the goal of even better defense than the Wolves displayed last season, said he has "no doubt" that his best player is serious about it.

"We've talked a lot about consistency and the consistency of habit as one of the areas of improvement no matter what it pertains to. Ant has got to measure up here. We might do different things with matchups that put him in more high-leverage situations, which we know he can do and he enjoys," Finch said. "It's an NBA mantra that if you do so much on offense, you're allowed to not play defense. The best teams don't do that. They do what's necessary as much as they possibly can."

There are plenty of finer points of playing offense that Edwards can elevate, too. He worked hard on ballhandling during the summer, a skill he acknowledged has often been skipped because of the discomfort certain drills can create on his lower back. That ought to help improve his performance in the clutch-time situations that frequently hampered Minnesota last season.

However he does stay more engaged, it doesn't matter much to the Timberwolves.

"Just continue to be that every-night player at a high level that we know he can be, which is what you need to do if you want to be an MVP in this league," Finch said. "I certainly think he's got the DNA for it, and he just has to really fully embrace it."

Game: Advancements in technology, medicine make longer careers possible

FROM PAGE 48

Milwaukee Bucks forward Giannis Antetokounmpo, who is entering his 13th season, pointed out that constant innovation in medicine, recovery, technology and more has made it possible for players to extend their careers if they choose to put in the effort.

"At this point, if you don't follow the blueprint that guys like Vince Carter, Dirk, LeBron … if you don't follow that blueprint, I don't know what blueprint you should follow," Antetokounmpo said. "Those guys have been playing at a high level for so many years, they've been taking such good care of their body. They have their own physio, they have their chef. You know how you sit down with your financial advisor four times a year and you go through your finances? I think you should sit down with your doctors and your physios four times a year, minimum, to talk about what you want from your body."

Lowry is back with the Philadelphia 76ers this season, though he has signed with another team as well — Amazon Prime, which he's joining as an analyst this season, even while still playing. It's a multiyear deal with one of the NBA's new broadcast partners, with the assumption that when he stops playing he'll simply slide into a bigger analysis role.

He'll debut on Amazon next week. But his mind is fully on Year 20 as a player, not Year 1 of TV.

"I love the game of basketball and I have had the ability to play professional basketball for 20 years and basketball my whole life," Lowry said. "When you wake up every day you should still be motivated to play basketball. … And I have some unbelievable teammates, unbelievable teammates. That's my motivation. I just want to continue to give what I've learned for as long as I can."



MATT SLOCUM/AP

Kyle Lowry's 20th NBA season will also be his first as an analyst for Amazon Prime, a position he will manage to hold while still playing.

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

Transfer Aguilar has been everything Vols hoped for

By Al Lesar
Associated Press

KNOXVILLE, Tenn. — Joey Aguilar stayed on the ground after a long run and the Tennessee fans held their breath until he sat up.

Then they started chanting "Joey! Joey!"

The quarterback who came through the transfer portal from Appalachian State via a short detour to UCLA has been everything they could have wanted. Aguilar quickly picked up the offense, which is humming at coach Josh Heupel's up-tempo pace as the No. 11 Vols go into Saturday's showdown at sixth-ranked Alabama.

Heupel, who won a national title and was runner-up for the Heisman Trophy playing quarterback for Oklahoma in 2000, said Wednesday that Aguilar came in humble and ready to compete and worked to earn the trust of his new teammates after arriving in mid-May. Aguilar's experience helped.

"He's handled it at a really high level," Heupel said. "Certainly, a lot more comfortable than when we first started."

Heupel likes Aguilar's work ethic, aggressiveness and how the quarterback remains even-keeled from series to series.

"What I love about him, whether it's a good play, bad play, good series, bad series — same demeanor coming off on the sideline," Heupel said.

Aguilar threw for 221 yards and a touchdown and ran for 59 yards in last week's 34-31 win over Arkansas. But it was the way he ran that had Heupel and more than 100,000 fans on the edge of their seats.

On one run, Aguilar crashed into the communication system on the Razorbacks' sideline, cutting off headset communications for the rest of the game. Late in the game, Aguilar finished a 28-yard sprint up the middle of the field and came down with the football stuck in his midsection.

"That ball was deep in my stomach," said Aguilar, who was able to smile recalling the moment an hour later. "That took the air out of me, for sure."

Heupel appreciated the run to help seal the win: "I want him to get down once the play is over."

That isn't how the 6-foot-3, 225-pound quarterback is wired. This is the same person who thought about leaving football behind and becoming a firefighter. In 2020, his junior college season was canceled because of the COVID-19 pandemic and he had no Division I offers.

He started at City College of San Francisco, Diablo Valley College and then Appalachian State for two years before trying to use his last year of eligibility at UCLA. When Nico Iamaleava left the Vols for the Bruins in April, Aguilar completed the "trade" by signing with Tennessee as a graduate transfer.

Aguilar is off to a strong start. He has completed 64.8% of his passes (118 of 182) for 1,680 yards and 14 touchdowns. He has been intercepted five times, an area of concern coming into the season after he was picked off 14 times last season. He also has run for 117 yards and two more scores.

He ranks 12th in the country averaging 280 yards passing per game, just ahead of Alabama's Ty Simpson (279.67). Tennessee also leads the nation in scoring with 48.2 points a game.

Tennessee (5-1, 2-1 Southeastern Conference) goes to Tuscaloosa having won two of the last three against Alabama (5-1, 3-0) in the rivalry nicknamed the Third Saturday in October.

This game will impact the College Football Playoff path for both teams and the Heisman Trophy odds.

On paper, Aguilar faces a stingy Alabama defense with the Crimson Tide allowing only 136.5 yards passing per game, which ranks third in the country. Simpson will be throwing against a Tennessee defense giving up 257.8 yards passing per game — last in the Southeastern Conference and 121st nationally.

"Joey's path was Joey's path," Heupel said. "He's continued to grow, get better and is doing a great job for us."



WADE PAYNE/AP

Tennessee quarterback Joey Aguilar warms up before playing Arkansas on Oct. 11 in Knoxville, Tenn. Aguilar is ranked 12th in the country, averaging 280 yards passing per game.



MICHAEL CATERINA / AP

Notre Dame offensive tackle Aamail Wagner should help the Irish maintain strong line play even after losing their starting center.

No. 13 Notre Dame confident in OL with Otting filling in at C

By Curt Rallo
Associated Press

SOUTH BEND, Ind. — No. 13 Notre Dame has seen its offense grow up quickly with redshirt freshman quarterback C.J. Carr at the controls, but a switch in the player snapping the ball to him will literally be the center of attention for the Fighting Irish when they host No. 20 USC on Saturday.

Ashton Craig, one of the top centers in the nation, suffered a season-ending right knee injury in Notre Dame's 36-7 victory against N.C. State.

Sophomore Joe Otting will start at center for the Fighting Irish (4-2), who rack up 40.0 points a game (14th in the nation) and average 465.5 yards a game total offense (No. 21 in the nation).

Craig also suffered an injury last season and Pat Coogan stepped in, playing a key role in Notre Dame's run to the national championship game. Coogan is suiting up for No. 3 Indiana now, transferring after the 2024 season.

Otting will be surrounded by plenty of experience. Left guard Billy Schrauth, right tackle Aamil Wagner and left tackle Anthonie Knapp were all key to the Irish playoff run last season. Cam Herron and Chris Terek are listed as back-ups at center, and Knapp has limited experience at the position.

Craig's injury happened on a touchdown pass that pushed Notre Dame to a 24-7 lead late in the third quarter. Otting helped Notre Dame reach the end zone again, handling the center duties on a 10-play, 72-yard drive.

Carr has been prolific thanks to the protection of the line. He has passed for 1,622 yards and 13 touchdowns and is second in the nation in passing yards per completion (15.45), third in yards per pass attempt (10.27) and seventh in passing efficiency (176.0).

Notre Dame's 1-2 punch of Jeremiyah Love and Jadarian Price has benefitted from a line that has made the Fighting Irish the only FBS team with two running backs who have gained more than 420 yards this season. Love has run for 530 yards and eight TDs, Price for 422 yards and seven TDs.

Enter Otting, a 6-foot-4, 308-pounder, who will be expected to help the Fighting Irish continue the productivity against USC (5-1).

"Otting has been practicing well and in his opportunities up to this game, has done a really good job," Notre Dame coach Marcus Freeman said. "I probably had more confidence watching and evaluating this last game, when he had to step up and go in there and get his job done,. And he did a really good job. So there's a lot of confidence in Joe Otting."

Schrauth said the switch to Otting at center in the N.C. State game was seamless.

"He did well," Schrauth said of Otting. "He didn't blink an eye. That's kind of his, his personality. He's kind of a cool cat."

Schrauth said that Otting is a leader and a strong communicator. He has the selfless attitude that is paramount to a lineman's mentality.

Craig will help Otting prepare for Saturday's showdown with USC.

"(Ashton Craig) loves Notre Dame," Schrauth said. "He loves Notre Dame a ton. He'll continue to prepare. He'll prepare like he's out there. He'll help (Otting) get ready. He's special in that way and he'll take a lot of pride in it."

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

Texas A&M faces tough road stretch to stay undefeated

By Kristie Rieken
Associated Press

COLLEGE STATION, Texas — No. 4 Texas A&M has played only one game away from home in its undefeated start to the season.

This week the Aggies will travel to Arkansas for the first of three straight road games where a win will give them their first 7-0 start since 1994.

It will be a stark change for Texas A&M, which had a crowd of 105,086 for its 34-17 win over Florida on Saturday for its 10th straight game with at least 100,000 fans at home dating back to last season.

"It's a big-time challenge when you leave Kyle Field," linebacker Taurean York said. "We know it's a matchup nightmare for opposing quarterbacks (at home). But it's all good, though. We're going to take our talents on the road."

The matchup with the Razorbacks, who have lost four in row, is the Aggies' first road game since a last-minute 41-40 victory against then-No. 8 Notre Dame on Sept. 13. The schedule only gets more challenging after this week with games at 10th-ranked LSU and No. 16 Missouri coming up next.

"We've got to become road warriors and go on the road for three straight, starting with a really talented Arkansas team," coach Mike Elko said. "And I'm sure they'll be fired up for the return of coach (Bobby) Petrino back into Fayetteville. That's a tough place to play. So we have to get ready and go out and try to be 1-0 again."

The Razorbacks lost to Tennessee on the road last week, and Saturday will be Petrino's first game at home since he was named interim coach after the firing of Sam Pittman late last month.

Elko knows better than to underestimate Arkansas (2-4, 0-2 Southeastern Conference) despite its struggles this season.

"There's no easy environments," he said. "There's no easy team. There are no 'good' opportunities ... you're going to face adversity, so you better be ready for it."

It will be Texas A&M's first visit to Fayetteville since 2013, when Johnny Manziel led the team to a 45-33 win. These teams have played 10 of their 11 matchups since then at AT&T Stadium in Arlington, Texas, with the lone exception coming in a 42-31 Texas A&M win at home in 2020.

Marcel Reed, who has 12 touchdown passes and has run for three more scores this season, said the key to road success will be staying consistent.

"Just sticking to our character as a football team, not really letting anything change us," he said. "Obviously, the environment is going to be different, but when the ball is spotted, we play football. That's what it is, and it doesn't matter where it is."

But the second-year starter knows the longer they stay undefeated and rise in the AP Top 25 poll, the more teams will be gunning for them. The Aggies ended the 2020 season ranked No. 4 in the final poll after a win in the Orange Bowl over North Carolina, but this is their highest in-season ranking since they were third for the first five weeks of the 1995 season.

"The target on our back is definitely getting bigger," Reed said. "We're just focused on going 1-0 each and every week. So whatever it is next week, we've got to try to prepare for the best type of game on Saturday again."



MEREDITH SEAVER, COLLEGE STATION EAGLE/AP

From left, Texas A&M wide receivers KC Concepcion, Mario Craver and quarterback Marcel Reed celebrate a touchdown against Florida on Oct. 11 in College Station, Texas.



TIMOTHY D. EASLEY/AP

Louisville linebacker Antonio Watts sacks Virginia quarterback Chandler Morris during the second half on Oct. 4. The Cardinals' defense is holding opponents to just 262 yards per game this season.

Louisville brings top defense to Miami for ACC showdown

By Steve Bittenbender
Associated Press

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — Louisville has a long history of high-powered offense. Coach Jeff Brohm has a much more balanced group of Cardinals these days.

Sure, Louisville can still light up the scoreboard in Brohm's third season at his alma mater. While the Cardinals have averaged 36 points per game this season, it's their defense that has led the way and helped pull out victories when the offense has struggled.

Louisville's defense is holding opponents to just 262 yards per game. That's stingiest in the Atlantic Coast Conference and 12th nationally, just ahead of No. 2 Miami, which ranks second in the league and 16th in the country giving up 276.4 yards a game.

Both defenses will be on display Friday night when the Cardinals (4-1, 1-1) visit the Hurricanes (5-0, 1-0).

"They have done just an excellent job forcing negative plays, disrupting the schedule of the offense," Miami coach Mario Cristobal said about Louisville's defense. "They just play really hard, really fast. They communicate really well."

Although the Cardinals have played some Football Championship Subdivision and lower-tier Football Bowl Subdivision programs, their defense has shown their ability against two of the conference's better offenses.

In an overtime loss to Virginia on Oct. 4, Louisville held the Cavaliers to 237 yards — more than 300 fewer than what they was averaging coming into the game. At Pittsburgh, the Cardinals forced five turnovers with three second-half interceptions as they shut out the Panthers after halftime to rally to a 34-27 win after trailing by 17.

A big key to transforming a defense ranked 64th last season giving up 368.7 yards a game into one of the nation's best this season has been senior linebacker TJ Quinn. He's one of the four returning starters from last season.

Quinn ranks second on the team with 31 tackles and is tied for the lead with two interceptions. Off the field, Quinn likes to watch the "Fast & Furious" movies, words that can also be used to describe Louisville's defense.

Both of Quinn's picks came against Pittsburgh, earning him ACC Linebacker of the Week honors for a second time this season. Quinn's value goes beyond just his production.

A fifth-year player who has started all 32 games under Brohm, Quinn came into 2025 as the leading tackler the past two seasons. He also serves as "the quarterback on defense," according to Brohm, who said Quinn has handled the role well.

"When we know exactly what to do, when we're all on the same page … I think he's the one who controls that and has to be the vocal leader," Brohm added.

That leadership has also extended to integrating players from the transfer portal, a key resource for Brohm's roster building.

Kalib Perry, a senior linebacker who transferred to Louisville after three seasons at Tennessee, said Quinn's vocal leadership has been crucial.

"I know that's been an area for him, to be able to communicate with the defense," Perry said. "Not just on the field, but off the field, whatever we're trying to accomplish. He's been a huge part, not only in the linebacker room, but just the heart of our defense as well."

Even with the loss to Virginia, the Cardinals continue working to reach the ACC championship game in Charlotte in December. If that happens, credit will likely go to their defense.

Quinn believes their best performance has yet to come.

"Me personally, I just want this team to continue to get better every week," he said. "Hopefully by the end of the season, we've played our best ball."

NFL

Jags want Hunter more involved on offense

By Mark Long
Associated Press

The Jacksonville Jaguars have a plan that could reduce Brian Thomas Jr.'s drops: throw more to two-way rookie Travis Hunter.

Coach Liam Coen said Wednesday the Jaguars (4-2) would like to get Hunter more involved beginning Sunday against the Los Angeles Rams (4-2) at Wembley Stadium in London.

"Our job as an offensive staff is to make sure we're putting him in the progression and putting him in the position to be (target) No. 1 a little bit more often in some ways," Coen said.



GARY MCCULLOUGH/AP

Jaguars wide receiver Travis Hunter has 20 receptions for 197 yards while playing 63% of the team's offensive snaps.

Jacksonville's passing attack was designed to play through Thomas, who caught 87 passes for 1,282 yards and 10 touchdowns as a rookie last season. But the former LSU standout has dropped six passes this season and short-armed at least three more attempts thrown over the middle.

Hunter, meanwhile, has played primarily in the slot in three-receiver sets. The 2024 Heisman Trophy winner from Colorado, the second overall draft pick in the NFL draft, has a knack for making tough catches and making defenders miss when he has the ball in his hands.

"I've just got to continue to be consistent for the quarterback and for the coaches so they can trust me more," said Hunter, who is making his first visit to London.

He has 20 receptions for 197 yards while playing 63% of the team's offensive snaps. He made a leaping catch between two defenders against Kansas City and an equally impressive one against Houston two weeks earlier. He was targeted twice more on plays that looked as if they would be touchdowns before defenders turned them into interceptions.

"When he is the primary, we've got to throw and catch," Coen said. "We've got to make sure that we identify it, find him, be able to be at the right spot at the right time. … I think it's a combination of a lot of those things that ultimately can all be controlled."

Finding the right usage for Hunter has been a challenge all season, especially with him splitting time between offense and defense.

But the Jaguars agree that getting him more chances on offense is a much-needed next step.

"Sometimes we might not give him as many touches as we wanted to or we planned to, and the game just unfolds a little bit differently," quarterback Trevor Lawrence said. "That's just football.

"But it's definitely something that we are consistently trying to do because I think we've all seen how special he is when he gets the opportunities downfield or just catches the ball underneath and can make people miss and turn those 5-yard passes into 25-yard gains because he's so good with the ball in his hands."

Broncos' No. 1 defense set to get even better with Greenlaw's return

By Arnie Stapleton
Associated Press

ENGLEWOOD, Colo. — Statistically, the Denver Broncos have the best defense in the NFL, and it could be getting even better this weekend.

Linebacker Dre Greenlaw is eligible to come off IR against the New York Giants (2-4) on Sunday after recovering from a quadriceps injury that has sidelined him since summertime.

Greenlaw practiced Wednesday for the first time since Sept. 12.

"Dre looked good out there," star cornerback Patrick Surtain II said. "Obviously, his first day back out there on the field in a minute. It seems like he's very sharp on everything, the game plan, so I'm very excited for him."

And for how much better the Broncos (4-2) can be with their prized free-agent acquisition's Denver debut.

"I think it's awesome," edge rusher Jonathon Cooper said. "Obviously, we know the type of player Dre Greenlaw is, you watch the film. And you add that type of dynamic to this defense with him being right, it's just going to take us even to another level.

"I'm excited for him to return."

Denver's defense leads the NFL in several categories, including red zone defense (28.6%) and third-down defense (27.1%). Their 254.2 yards per game yield is just behind Atlanta's 253.4. Their league-best 30 sacks are 10 more than second-place Pittsburgh and Nik Bonitto leads the NFL with eight sacks, putting him on pace for 23.

Cooper was named the AFC's Defensive Player of the Week on Wednesday, a week after Bonitto earned the honor.

"It's just motivating me to do more," Cooper said.

Cooper and Bonitto are the first Broncos to win the league's weekly defensive award back-to-back.



SCOT TUCKER/AP

Denver Broncos linebacker Dre Greenlaw is now eligible to return after four weels on IR.

"I'm just trying to beat him. I can't let him take over me. I should be out there with sacks with him right now," said Cooper, who has 4½ sacks. "But no, I think it's really cool. That's my brother. I shout him out every time I get a chance to. Yeah, he's one of the best football players I've ever played with."

The Broncos held the Jets to minus-10 yards passing Sunday in a gritty 13-11 win in London, where they allowed QB Justin Fields to complete just nine passes and sacked him nine times, the second-highest one-game total in franchise history.

STARS AND STRIPES
SERVICE DIRECTORY
The Daily Guide to Navigating The Military 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	UNITED KINGDOM	U.S.A
Phone:	+49-(0)6134-2592730	+44-(0)1638-515714	+1-972-602-1670 Ext. 1701
Toll-free:	0800-CARSHIP (Germany only)		+1-800-264-8167 (US only)
E-Mail:	info@transglobal-logistics.de	enquiries@carshipuk.co.uk	info@tgal.us
WEB:	www.transglobal-logistics.de	www.carshipuk.co.uk	www.tgal.us

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

TransGlobal
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
However you read us, wherever you need us.

NFL



DANIEL KUCIN JR./AP

Washington Commanders quarterback Jayden Daniels fumbles the ball during the fourth quarter against the Chicago Bears on Monday.

Commanders' Daniels looks to rebound after late, costly mistake

BY NOAH TRISTER
Associated Press

ASHBURN, Va. — This week has been a bit of a novelty for Jayden Daniels. For perhaps the first time in his NFL career, the Washington Commanders lost and a big part of it was his fault.

Daniels has had off days before, but this last defeat was different. Facing third-and-1 late in the fourth quarter Monday night, Washington was a couple first downs away from potentially running out the clock when Daniels fumbled on a handoff. That gave the Chicago Bears the ball near midfield, they drove for the winning field goal, and Daniels has had to face one of the less enjoyable aspects of playing quarterback — taking ownership in defeat.

"I mean, that's what a quarterback does," he said. "But it was on me. So I take accountability."

After a dazzling rookie season in which Daniels led the Commanders to their first NFC championship game in over 30 years, there were plenty of questions about whether he would regress a bit in year two. There hasn't been much evidence of that. In the four games he's been healthy enough to play, Daniels has a 98.7 passer rating — awfully similar to last season's 100.1 — and he also continues to impact the game with his legs.

The interception he threw early in Monday's game was his first of the season. The key fumble at the end? It was the first he'd lost in his NFL career. Still, you don't have to look too far to find someone suggesting Drake Maye has passed him as the top quarterback from that draft class. And with Washington sporting a 3-3 record, there will be some scrutiny on Daniels in Dallas this weekend, when the Commanders may need to score a lot to win.

"We feel we can put up points, but we just got to be better with the details and execution," Daniels said. "So we don't have slow starts."

Washington has been outscored 36-14 in the first quarter this season.

Daniels has maintained good production despite a lot of upheaval in the receiving corps, which continued Wednesday when the Commanders put Noah Brown (knee, groin) on injured reserve after he'd missed the past four games.

"Last week we worked Noah Brown back into practice, and unfortunately his groin didn't respond," coach Dan Quinn said. "The aim is to get Noah fully right. He's such a tough competitor, and it's the right call right now to get him into that spot. Let's get him all the way back and ready."

On a more optimistic note for Washington, receiver Terry McLaurin could potentially return this weekend after missing the last three games. He was listed as limited at practice Wednesday.

"He'll practice this week," Quinn said. "Today is going to be more at a jog-through pace where we're not fully speed, up and going. That'll be more as we get into tomorrow. I'll have a better assessment after we go through some full-speed routes and movements to see where he's at. But I'm excited where he's trending."

With McLaurin and Brown out against Chicago, and Deebo Samuel limited to 15 yards on four catches, Daniels was still able to spread the ball around. He threw a 22-yard touchdown pass to Chris Moore, a 33-yarder to Luke McCaffrey and a 6-yarder to Zach Ertz.

That still wasn't enough to halt the trend in which the Commanders have alternated wins and losses since the beginning of the season.

"We understand it's a roller coaster of a season so far," Ertz said. "We've got to be more consistent as a team — offense, defense, special teams."

Chiefs' offense goes full force with Rice's return

BY DAVE SKRETTA
Associated Press

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — The Kansas City Chiefs will finally get to see what their offense looks like when Rashee Rice joins fellow wide receivers Xavier Worthy and Marquise Brown on the field for Sunday's game against the Las Vegas Raiders.

Rice returned to practice Wednesday after his six-game suspension for violating the NFL's personal conduct policy, a punishment that was handed down for causing a high-speed wreck on a Dallas highway in March 2024 that injured several people.

He rejoins an offense that just scored 30 points on the Detroit Lions last week and is starting to find its swagger again.

"He's going to want to be out there every single play. That's the mentality he has," Kansas City quarterback Patrick Mahomes said. "It's going to be our job as coaches and teammates to build him back the right way, but it's going to be hard to keep him off the field."

That's a good problem given how long the Chiefs have waited to get their top three wide receivers on the field together.

It was the vision of Kansas City general manager Brett Veach and coach Andy Reid going back more than a year, when they signed Brown in free agency and drafted Worthy in the first round. But the plan went amiss almost from the start when Brown hurt his shoulder on the first play of preseason — last preseason — and it kept him out until December.

By that time, Rice had torn ligaments in his knee, sidelining him the rest of the season. The freak injury occurred when Mahomes threw an interception and was trying to make a tackle, and instead collided with his wide receiver's right knee. After undergoing surgery, Rice managed to get back on the field for the Chiefs' offseason program, and he was able to take part in training camp. But then the NFL handed down its suspension, keeping him away from the team for the first six weeks.

Worthy hurt his shoulder in the season opener, causing him to miss a couple of games as well.

All three of the wide receivers are now healthy and available, and it seems the biggest question is whether there are enough opportunities to go around. Kansas City has also gotten good production from JuJu Smith-Schuster, and tight end Travis Kelce has had a resurgent season after spending the past eight months getting into better shape.

"Everybody eats," Worthy said with a smile, pointing out that Rice's return also means "more eyes going to somebody else."

"I feel like everybody in this offense can make a play or go win one on one. It's another explosive guy," Worthy added.

Rice brings a different look to the offense than Brown or Worthy. He has the size and physicality to catch passes near the line of scrimmage and make yards after contact. It's a similar set of skills to Smith-Schuster, though Rice is younger and faster.

"Listen, I think he's excited to be back in and going," said Chiefs coach Andy Reid, who declined to say whether he'd have any snap count on Rice in his first game back. "You know, I think getting through practices here will be good for him to get back in the swing of things. We'll see how everything goes from there. He's been working hard. He's in good shape."

While Kansas City expects to have its full complement of wide receivers, it could be without left tackle Josh Simmons for the second consecutive game. He was a late scratch from last week's win over Detroit with what the team called "personal reasons," and Reid declined to address his status when asked about it multiple times Wednesday.

"Veach is handling everything there," Reid said. "We'll leave it at that."

Simmons' absence means Jaylon Moore is expected to start again at left tackle. He signed a two-year, $30 million deal in free agency with the expectation of starting before the Chiefs drafted Simmons in the first round. Now he is getting his chance.

"He's a competitive kid," Reid said. "He did come here to step in, and he's always ready. He practices a third of the practices because (offensive line coach) Andy (Heck) rotates him in there. I thought he did a nice job the other night. He played well. We have a lot of trust in him. Most of all, the guys around him have a lot of trust in him."



REED HOFFMANN/AP

From left, Kansas City Chiefs wide receivers Hollywood Brown, Rashee Rice and Xavier Worthy observe from the sidelines during the first half of a preseason game against the Chicago Bears on Aug. 22.

SPORTS

Bats wake up

Blue Jays come alive in Seattle, rout Mariners to trim deficit in ALCS ›› MLB Playoffs, Page 42



MARK J. TERRILL, LEFT, SCOTT MARSHALL, CENTER, AND FRANK FRANKLIN II/AP

From left: The Lakers' Lebron James, the Clippers' Chris Paul and the 76ers' Kyle Lowry enter the 2025-26 NBA season with a combined 61 years of service time.

For long love of the game

James, Paul, Lowry enter season as largest 20-year club in league history

BY TIM REYNOLDS
Associated Press

LeBron James' beard has quite a bit of gray in it these days. Chris Paul has been hearing questions for years about how much longer he wants to play. Kyle Lowry already has his retirement job lined up, for whenever that day comes.

Meet the NBA's current 20-year club. It's bigger than ever before.

There are no players currently in the league — and very few in the league's 80-season history — with more seniority than the trio of James, Paul and Lowry. For the first time, the NBA has three players simultaneously entering their 20th season. James, when he makes his 2025-26 debut, will be the first 23-year player in league history, while Paul is going into his 21st season and Lowry is entering his 20th.

"The love of the game is still high. The love of the process is even higher," James said. "So,] that's what continues to push me to play this game. I mean, it is really that simple."

There's nothing simple about it. To still be contributing at this level, at this point in their careers, is practically unheard of.

All three invest plenty of their own money (they've made a combined $1.2 billion in NBA salaries) in their own individualized programs that have helped them survive the rigors of pro life this long.

James' workout regimen is legendary, yet still not invincible — he'll miss the start of this season while dealing with sciatica and there's no firm timetable for when he'll actually take the floor with the Los Angeles Lakers to start Year 23.

Lowry, at least since the NBA began tracking such stats, is the NBA's all-time leader in charges taken, which means he's probably taken more hard falls than anybody. And last season with San Antonio, Paul became the first player in NBA history to play 82 games in a 20th year of a career — and he started all of them, too.

"I've always believed in 'keep stacking days' and that you just have to show up every single day, every single day," said Paul, who rejoined the Los Angeles Clippers this summer. "So that's what I plan on bringing to this team. … My role on this team is obviously different than it's been the past 20 years of being in the NBA, but showing up every day, if I can show some of the guys what it looks like every day to clock in and clock out, I'm excited for it."

Kareem Abdul-Jabbar was the first player in the 20-season club, getting there in 1988-89. Robert Parish followed in 1995-96 (and played a 21st season as well). Kevin Willis played 21 seasons, his career ending in 2006-07.

The rest of the entrants into the club have all come in the last decade: Kevin Garnett, Kobe Bryant, Dirk Nowitzki, Vince Carter (the league's first 22-year player before James tied that mark last year), Jamal Crawford, Udonis Haslem, James, Paul and soon, Lowry.

What the likes of James, Paul and Lowry have done, and how they've done it, has been noticed by everyone — veteran and younger players alike.

"I'm asking and taking advice from these guys and I want to take even more advice from them in the future," said Spurs center Victor Wembanyama, who is going into his third season. "They're definitely examples."

SEE GAME ON PAGE 43

Chiefs' offense back in full force with Rice ›› NFL, Page 47

027664 520705