



T-storm 88/73 • Tomorrow: T-storm 89/73 **B6**

Democracy Dies in Darkness

FRIDAY, JULY 7, 2023 • **\$3**

## FDA fully approves drug for Alzheimer's

Leqembi modestly slows decline, will have 'boxed warning' for side effects

BY LAURIE MCGINLEY

The Food and Drug Administration on Thursday gave full approval, for the first time, to a drug that modestly slows Alzheimer's disease — a development that offers a degree of hope for treating the memory-robbing disease but also raises difficult questions about safety, effectiveness and cost.

The agency had previously granted the drug, called Leqembi, accelerated approval based on its ability to reduce amyloid clumps in the brain, a hallmark of Alzheimer's. Thursday's action was based on later-stage data that showed the treatment slowed cognitive and functional decline by 27 percent over 18 months compared with placebo. That represented a five-month slowdown in progression, experts said.

"Today's action is the first verification that a drug targeting the underlying disease process of Alzheimer's disease has shown clinical benefit in this devastating disease," said Teresa Buracchio, acting director of the Office of Neuroscience in the FDA's Center for Drug Evaluation and Research. "This confirmatory study verified that it is a safe and effective treatment for patients with Alzheimer's disease."

The FDA action means the drug will be available to a broader swath of people, Medicare said

SEE ALZHEIMER'S ON A4

## Prosecutors in Trump papers case facing threats

BY PERRY STEIN AND DEVLIN BARRETT

Individual prosecutors involved in the classified documents case against former president Donald Trump are facing substantial harassment and threats online and elsewhere, according to extremism experts and a government official familiar with the matter.

At the same time, two officials said, federal agencies have not observed a general increase in threats against law enforcement in the weeks since Trump was indicted in South Florida — a sharp contrast from the surge of violent rhetoric in the days after FBI agents searched the former president's Florida property last August.

The officials spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss sensitive security issues. The FBI has called threats against law enforcement "reprensible and dangerous," and says it is working closely with other law enforcement agencies

SEE PROSECUTORS ON A2

**Trump aide:** Walt Nauta pleads not guilty in documents case. **A2**



JAMES ROH FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

## The Mormon Church's fight to save its promised land

The valley here was shades of brown, its vast saline lake shimmering, when Brigham Young first surveyed the landscape in 1847 and recognized a place he had seen in a vision: a spot to make the desert bloom, a promised land for the persecuted flock he led as president of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

Today, the valley is the headquarters of a faith with 17 million adherents worldwide and a tableau of verdant lawns, fertile farmland and booming growth. Yet the transformation is threatened: Because of overuse of water and climate change, the Great Salt Lake is drying up — and the

As Utah's Great Salt Lake dries up, the influential group takes on an unexpected role

BY KARIN BRULLIARD  
IN SALT LAKE CITY

Mormon Church is taking on an unusually public role to help save it.

Last summer, the church began urging conservation and touted its water-saving efforts in the American West. At its fall general conference, which Mormons everywhere follow for speeches considered direction from God, a senior bishop stressed using Earth's resources with restraint. This spring, another senior bishop delivered what was praised as a landmark address on Mormons' history with water in the valley and outlined an unprecedented move: permanently donating a small reservoir's worth of church-owned water, the

SEE GREAT SALT LAKE ON A10

**Farmington Bay, a critical habitat for wildlife, feeds into the Great Salt Lake. Record-low water levels are jeopardizing the lake's very existence, prompting the Mormon Church to take on an unusually public role to save it.**

## Unprecedented heat lies ahead, scientists warn

Highs already shattering records months ahead of El Niño's peak impact

BY SCOTT DANCE

A remarkable spate of historic heat is hitting the planet, raising alarm over looming extreme weather dangers — and an increasing likelihood that this year will be Earth's warmest on record.

New precedents have been set in recent weeks and months, surprising some scientists with their swift evolution: historically warm oceans, with North Atlantic temperatures already nearing their typical annual peak; unparalleled low sea ice levels around Antarctica, where global warming impacts had, until now, been slower to appear; and the planet experiencing its warmest June ever charted, according to new data.

SEE HEAT ON A13

**Fevered Florida:** State having its hottest year in modern history. **A7**



ANDY WONG/AP

**A woman fans herself in Beijing, which recently surpassed 40 degrees Celsius (104F) for the first time on record. Globally, warming is nearing a benchmark policymakers have sought to avoid.**

## Cluster bombs on way to Kyiv

BIDEN MOVE BYPASSES U.S. LAW

Excessive dud rate in munitions for Ukraine

BY KAREN DEYOUNG, ALEX HORTON AND MISSY RYAN

President Biden has approved the provision of U.S. cluster munitions for Ukraine, with drawdown of the weapons from Defense Department stocks due to be announced Friday.

The move, which will bypass U.S. law prohibiting the production, use or transfer of cluster munitions with a failure rate of more than 1 percent, comes amid concerns about Kyiv's lagging counteroffensive against entrenched Russian troops.

It follows months of internal administration debate over whether to supply the controversial munitions, which are banned by most countries in the world.

The principal weapon under consideration, an M864 artillery shell first produced in 1987, is fired from the 155mm howitzers the United States and other Western countries have provided Ukraine. In its last publicly available estimate, more than 20 years

SEE BOMBS ON A9

**Ukraine:** Russian missile strike on Lviv kills at least six civilians. **A12**

**Finland:** Russia expels diplomats, shuts St. Petersburg consulate. **A12**

## Wagner chief returns to Russia for money, guns

BY ROBYN DIXON AND CATHERINE BELTON

RIGA, LATVIA — Wagner mercenary leader Yevgeniy Prigozhin was in Russia on Thursday, according to Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko, raising further questions about the murky agreement under which Prigozhin avoided insurgency charges for a failed rebellion that posed a brazen challenge to Russian President Vladimir Putin's authority.

The Kremlin, in announcing the agreement on June 24, had said that Prigozhin and fighters loyal to him could avoid prosecution by leaving Russia for Belarus. Russian authorities then quickly began dismantling Wagner's operations and the rest of Prigozhin's sprawling business empire.

But on Thursday, 12 days after Prigozhin abruptly turned around columns of fighters that he had sent rolling toward Moscow, Lukashenko said the mercenary boss had been back in his home city of St. Petersburg and may have flown to Moscow on Thursday morning. Lukashenko said a final deal on the move by Prigozhin and his

SEE RUSSIA ON A12

## IN THE NEWS



TANYA HABJOUGA/NOOR/FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

**Pleasure and peril** As violence rises in the West Bank, Palestinian hikers such as Hanan Ramahi, above, face new risks. **A8**

**THE NATION** An Alaskan village of under 100 went to social media in a last-ditch effort to save its school and now has thousands of families interested in moving there. **A3**  
**Researchers found** that cells with unusual numbers of chromosomes are drivers of cancer, cracking a century-old mystery. **A4**  
**A man was sentenced** to life in prison after pleading guilty to raping a girl, 9, who later traveled from Ohio to Indiana for an abortion. **A5**

**THE WORLD** A Princeton student with Israeli-Russian citizenship who went missing in Baghdad is being held by a Shiite militia group, Israel said. **A13**  
**THE ECONOMY** Manufacturers have agreed to a California plan that bans sales of new diesel big rigs by 2036, averting litigation and maintaining a single national standard for

truck pollution rules. **A14**  
**JetBlue** will not appeal a judge's decision to end its alliance with American Airlines, a move Jet-Blue hopes will prompt reconsideration of its proposed merger with Spirit Airlines. **A14**  
**Meta's Twitter clone,** Threads, builds on the billions-strong Instagram but is saddled with Meta's baggage, Post tech writers say. **A15**  
**THE REGION** In Virginia, the Youngkin administration quietly pulled resources for LGBTQ+ youths from

the state health department's website. **B1**  
**Victims** of D.C.'s deadly start to July include an Afghan refugee, a high school teacher from Kentucky and a college student on break. **B1**  
**Legislation may allow** D.C. to build a Washington Commanders stadium at the decrepit RFK Stadium site. **B1**  
**A judge ruled** that a Montgomery County woman accused of letting her child waste away and die can be released from jail ahead of her trial, which is set to start in March. **B1**

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Recent James Beard Award nominees and winners whet appetites.  
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POLITICS & THE NATION

Thousands hear Alaskan village’s plea to save its school

Social media pitch to get enough students for funding goes viral

BY MAHAM JAVAID

When leaders in the shrinking Alaskan fishing village of Karluk made a plea on social media asking two families with three to four children each to move to the Last Frontier state to save their cherished school, they did not expect thousands of responses to pour in. “We have been bombarded with phone calls, and overwhelmed with emails,” Alicia Andrews, the president of the Karluk Tribal Council, told The Washington Post. “For years, we have been trying to save our school and our community, and now it seems we have a solution.”

The advertisement that quickly spread on social media promises families willing to relocate a year with all their expenses paid, a picturesque landscape, a three- or four-bedroom home, and fishing, kayaking and camping adventures. The new residents will also be presented with employment opportunities in the village of 37 people living along the western shore of Kodiak Island, which is reachable by a nearly 10-hour ferry ride from mainland Alaska — or two airplane rides from Anchorage.

If the village succeeds in increasing its student population to 10, it will qualify for state funding by clearing a head count mandated by law in Alaska since 1998. This will allow the two students currently there, a brother and a sister who are 11 and 10 years old, to have peers and certified teachers, and it will prevent the Kodiak Island Borough from boarding up the school building or passing financial responsibility of keeping the facility open to the tribal council.

School buildings in rural Alaska serve as more than classrooms; they are gathering places for

birthday parties, a space where travelers and locals can spend the night when homes can’t be heated, computer and internet hubs, and community centers.

The Karluk school building, which lost its state funding in 2018, lost funding from the borough last month, leaving the critical community structure’s fate in the hands of the tribal council.

For the council, it is economically more viable to support two families until they become self-sufficient than to run the school building on its own in the long term. The council received roughly 5,000 responses from families across the United States and other countries. These families will now receive application forms that the council hopes to process in the coming months.

If no families are up to the task of relocating to Karluk, the school building will be one more casualty in a state facing a crisis in education funding. Schools — both as education centers and cultural hubs — permanently shutting down are often the first signs of a struggling village in Alaska, education advocates said, adding that a school shutdown encourages those remaining in the village to leave.

Karluk was not always struggling to keep its school building open; it was once a salmon boom town. In 1890, Karluk was inhabited by 1,123 people, half of whom were Chinese, brought to the community as cannery workers to help process salmon. In the past 50 years, the population has not risen beyond 99 people.

State Sen. Lōki Tobin (D) said rural communities in Alaska, like Karluk, are disappearing because of climate change, the rising cost of energy and the changing nature of work. That is why, she told The Post, she is “delighted” that Karluk’s advertisement has generated so much interest.

Karluk’s school stopped receiving state funding in 2018 when its student population fell to eight students; however, the borough kept paying the building fees, keeping the space open for com-



ALISTAIR GARDINER/KODIAK DAILY MIRROR

An aerial shot of Karluk, Alaska. The school in Karluk stopped receiving state funding in 2018 when its student population dropped too low. The borough had been paying the building fees until last month.

“The school is a big part of the community in Karluk. It’s important for the morale of the village, for the two students who deserve to have peers and fully functional school, and it’s where we meet and gather.”

Kathryn Reft, secretary and treasurer for the Karluk Tribal Council

munity purposes and informal schooling.

“It’s common that even after a school loses funding, the school building is not boarded up,” said Andrews, the president of the Karluk Tribal Council. “They keep the building in the hope that the population will rise again. It’s very expensive to reinstate a school once the building is boarded up.”

Previously, villages struggling to meet the 10-student minimum have sought families with children at homeless and women’s shelters, but a viral ad on social media appears to be the first of its kind, say Karluk residents and officials.

“I can’t fault anyone for trying an outside-the-box approach to improve outcomes for their kids,” said Dave Johnson, president of the Kodiak Island Borough School District Board of Education. “Our

people are desperate for people to come up with creative solutions.”

Johnson said Alaska Gov. Mike Dunleavy (R) appears “downright hostile to public education.” Dunleavy did not return a request for comment.

“The governor just vetoed over half of the increase in student funding that the legislature approved, which has cut our budget to the absolute bare minimum,” Johnson said. This contributed to the borough deciding to shut down the school building, he added.

Dunleavy vetoed \$87.5 million from the state’s public school funding in June, according to Alaska Public Media. School districts in the state have faced flat funding for six years while also dealing with inflation, leaving Alaskan educators lobbying for more resources.

Johnson acknowledged that re-instating a rural school is not an easy task, but said the school district is committed and will do everything in its power to be ready for the next school term.

The biggest hurdle, however, will be in finding teachers willing and able to live and work in Karluk, which rests on the largest island in an archipelago stretching out from Alaska proper.

“That is what keeps me up at night, finding the teacher,” he said. “Educators may agree to come, but many don’t even last the school year in a remote, rural setting.”

The tribal council told The Post that some of those who have responded to their call have been teachers with families. Johnson said that would be an ideal solution, but he can’t bet on it working out.

The teacher shortage that’s gripping the nation is heightened in Alaska because of a lack of a pension program and “criminally low salaries,” Johnson said.

Still, there are those who have stayed committed.

Since the Karluk school was shut down in 2018, teaching aide Joyce Jones has stayed on, teaching eight students at first, and now only two. When the school was shut down for seven years in the early 2000s because the student population dwindled below 10, it was Jones who taught the students by herself until the school reopened and the certified teachers returned, said Kathryn Reft, the secretary and treasurer for the council.

“The school is a big part of the community in Karluk,” Reft said. “It’s important for the morale of the village, for the two students who deserve to have peers and fully functional school, and it’s where we meet and gather.”

Johnson agrees that a village’s school serves as a symbol for the social health of the village itself.

“Once the school goes, it feels like the village is kind of on the brink,” he said. “Look at how much effort Karluk is putting in getting their school back. They don’t want to see their community fall apart.”

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# FDA fully approves drug that modestly slows Alzheimer’s

ALZHEIMER’S FROM A1

Thursday. The health program for older Americans declined to pay for the drug outside of clinical trials after it received accelerated approval. But Medicare said the treatment would be covered once it received full FDA approval — as long as prescribers participate in registries that collect evidence about how Leqembi works in the real world.

Leqembi, which is given intravenously every other week, is for early-stage patients with mild cognitive impairment or early dementia caused by Alzheimer’s, and a confirmed buildup of amyloid in their brains.

The FDA said the drug’s label will include a “boxed warning” highlighting safety issues. That warning, sometimes called a “black box,” says that Leqembi, and other members of a new class of anti-amyloid drugs, can cause brain swelling and bleeding. The side effect, called ARIA — amyloid-related imaging abnormalities — usually is asymptomatic and managed safely. But life-threatening incidents can occur in rare cases, the FDA said.

Three patient deaths in an extended portion of Leqembi’s main trial were thought to be linked to the drug. About 21 percent of trial participants who received the drug experienced ARIA, but only a small percentage had symptoms. About 9 percent of those who received the placebo had the side effect.

The boxed warning also says that patients with two copies of a genetic variant that increases the risk of developing Alzheimer’s — called APOE4 — appear to be at considerably higher risk of complications from Leqembi. The FDA recommended, but did not require, that genetic testing occur before a patient receives the drug.

The FDA in other instructions urges physicians to use caution in prescribing Leqembi to people on blood thinners. Some clinics have said they don’t plan to give the drug to people on blood thinners because of concerns about possible bleeding in the brain.

Leqembi, from the pharmaceutical company Eisai in Tokyo and Biogen in Cambridge, Mass., is a monoclonal antibody, or lab-made protein, that targets amyloid beta in the brain. It is not a cure and does not restore memories ravaged by the fatal neurodegenerative disease. But many neurologists say having a drug that slows Alzheimer’s, even modestly, is a milestone after years of failed drug trials.

Nevertheless, the drug’s side effects, and its \$26,500-a-year price tag, have generated controversy about the medication, also called lecanemab. Some doctors are skeptical, saying the drug is not effective enough. Others doubt amyloid is the root cause of Alzheimer’s.

Jerry Avorn, professor of medicine at Harvard Medical School, worries patients will wrongly expect the medication to im-

prove their memory and thinking skills. “That’s untrue,” he said. “It will just make Grandma forget a tiny bit less.” And he noted that patients who get the drug will have to undergo multiple brain scans and make frequent trips to infusion centers, which could be a burden.

Some skeptics have said patients might not notice the effects of the drug. In an editorial last December, after the results from the pivotal trial were released, the British medical journal Lancet said the drug’s impact might “not be clinically meaningful” and urged physicians to highlight reducing risk factors for dementia such as hypertension, smoking, diabetes and obesity.

But Ivan Cheung, chairman and CEO of Eisai in the United States, said in an interview Thursday that the data clearly shows the drug is “clinically meaningful” for patients and also provides “societal value” to caregivers and families. He said the approval Thursday was a “triumph” for patients, families and those who treat Alzheimer’s after decades of hard work and dashed hopes.

Keith Vossel, director of the Alzheimer’s center at UCLA, said he was excited about Leqembi, calling it “a breakthrough scientifically.”

But he added that dementia experts would have to carefully explain the medication’s benefits and risks. Usually, initial visits with patients last about an hour, but “just a discussion on Leqembi could take 30 minutes because it requires a lengthy discussion of how the drug works, and what that means,” he said.

*“This gives people more months of recognizing their spouse, children and grandchildren. This also means more time for a person to drive safely, accurately and promptly take care of family finances, and participate fully in hobbies and interests.”*

**Joanne Pike**, president and CEO of the Alzheimer’s Association

Vossel said the clinic would have an “amyloid infusion core” of experts to review patients who meet the initial screening requirements to ensure the drug is appropriate. He said the group would operate like a “tumor board” does for cancer cases.

Two years ago, the FDA granted accelerated approval to another antibody drug called Aduhelm. Some of the trial data



MICHAEL ROBINSON CHÁVEZ/THE WASHINGTON POST

**Jay Reinstein, who was diagnosed with early-onset Alzheimer’s disease five years ago, hopes to be eligible for Leqembi. The drug’s \$26,500-a-year price tag and its side effects, which can include brain bleeds and swelling, have generated controversy.**

indicated that medication slowed Alzheimer’s, but the information was so confusing and contradictory that Aduhelm failed in the marketplace and never received traditional approval.

More than 6.5 million Americans are living with Alzheimer’s — and that number does not include many people with mild cognitive impairment who often are not diagnosed.

Pamela Spicer, therapy area director at Citeline, a company that tracks global drug development, predicted the initial demand for Leqembi would be subdued. “The rollout is not going to be immediate,” she said. Even at academic medical centers, where the drug is likely to be offered, it might take months for doctors to establish safety protocols and learn how to secure Medicare coverage for patients.

The Medicare requirement that patients and providers enroll in registries has been harshly criticized by some advocacy groups, including the Alzheimer’s Association. They say some doctors might not want to take part in a registry, curbing access for patients. In the past, such registries have mostly been used for complex medical devices, not drugs.

But many physicians say gathering data about how Leqembi affects patients could prove helpful in answering questions and is not a significant burden.

In a statement Thursday, Chiquita Brooks-LaSure, administrator of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, said, “With FDA’s decision, CMS will cover this medication broadly

while continuing to gather data that will help us understand how the drug works.”

Even with Medicare coverage, patients could face thousands of dollars in drug bills; typically patients are responsible for 20 percent of the cost of infused drugs.

And it is not clear whether other tests, including genetic ones, will be covered.

Most patients who are likely to get the drug are expected to be in Medicare because of their age or, if they are younger than 65, because they are receiving Social Security disability benefits.

The Department of Veterans Affairs already covers the drug, although not for people who have two copies of the APOE4 gene. Private insurers often follow Medicare’s lead.

John Driscoll, 80, who lives in Manhattan Beach, Calif., has been getting Leqembi for three years as part of the trial, called Clarity AD.

At first, he received infusions but now injects himself in the thigh as part of a study to test self-administration, a formulation not yet approved by the FDA.

Driscoll, who is being treated at UCLA, said he believes the drug, along with the support of a large and loving family, is slowing his decline, though he does not know by how much. “My memory loss now is not overwhelming,” he said.

But he acknowledges the drug will not keep him from getting worse.

“I’m choosing not to pout or cry about it,” he said. “I just keep going forward.”

Laurie Scherrer of Albertville, Ala., who was diagnosed with early-onset Alzheimer’s a decade ago at age 55, said she had a bad experience with Aricept, which treats symptoms such as confusion, and is not interested in Leqembi.

“I have found that having a purpose and a positive attitude and mind-set, and getting exercise and fresh air, has worked better than any drug could,” said Scherrer, who is on the board of an organization called Dementia Action Alliance that runs support groups and activities for people with dementia. “A drug does not get you up out of the recliner.”

Another anti-amyloid drug, by Eli Lilly, is on the horizon. The company is expected to release details of the data from its main clinical trial for donanemab this month, and may get FDA approval at the end of the year or early next year.

The arrival of two anti-amyloid drugs could mean billions of dollars in additional Medicare spending, analysts say, but the exact cost depends on how many patients receive them, which is not known.

Eisai has forecast that 100,000 people will be eligible to receive Leqembi or a similar drug after three years, but many analysts say the estimate is too low.

Amyloid is thought to be one factor — although not the only one — that contributes to Alzheimer’s. Clinical trials also are testing drugs that target inflammation and tau tangles, another characteristic signature of Alzheimer’s.

To be eligible for Leqembi,

patients will need evidence they have a buildup of amyloid in their brains — as determined by lumbar punctures, also known as spinal taps, or by costly PET scans generally not covered by Medicare.

Joanne Pike, president and CEO of the Alzheimer’s Association, which has been pressing Medicare to provide unfettered coverage of Leqembi, said people should not underestimate the value of even a few months of slower decline.

“This gives people more months of recognizing their spouse, children and grandchildren,” Pike said in a statement. “This also means more time for a person to drive safely, accurately and promptly take care of family finances, and participate fully in hobbies and interests.”

Avorn, of Harvard, views it differently and plans a “demarketing” campaign to highlight the drawbacks of Leqembi. He hopes to discourage primary-care doctors from referring patients to memory clinics to get Leqembi.

“If this were an improvement, I would say, ‘Hooray, let’s do it,’” Avorn added. “But once people see it is a modest slowing of decline, people will weigh it more carefully.”

University of Kansas neurologist Jeffrey M. Burns acknowledged that doctors need more information about how the drug works.

“It may be an incremental change or a huge step forward,” he said. “But it is a whole new era. Finding patients who might respond is a whole new way of going after the disease.”

# Gene editing helps crack a 100-year-old mystery about drivers of cancer

Study puts attention on an old-fashioned idea — extra chromosomes

BY CAROLYN Y. JOHNSON

Researchers using modern gene-editing tools have discovered that the intuition of scientists from more than a century ago was right: Cells with unusual numbers of chromosomes are drivers of cancer.

The study, published Thursday in the journal Science, renews scientific attention on an old-fashioned idea, one that could point toward new ways to target cancer cells with drugs.

Scientists first noticed the phenomenon when examining cancer cells under a microscope in the early 1900s. They observed that, as cancer cells multiplied, some ended up with too many chromosomes, structures that we now know carry genes. Others wound up with too few.

The jarring observation led a German embryologist to propose that aberrant numbers of chromosomes weren’t just a hallmark of cancer — perhaps they were causing it. The idea largely fell out of favor as scientists began to discover dozens of individual genes that caused cancer and developed drugs to target them.

But cancer cells’ chromosomal disorder remained an in-your-face oddity — a common thread in 90 percent of cancers. Everyone knew it was there; no one was

sure why or what it meant.

“It was indeed overlooked to some extent, and the reason for that is it was just really challenging to study,” said Uri Ben-David, an associate professor of human molecular genetics and biochemistry at Tel Aviv University who was not involved in the new study. “For many decades, it was kind of ignored. It was like an elephant in the cancer research room.”

In the new study, scientists have figured out how to tackle the mystery using a clever CRISPR hack. Their work showed that without extra chromosomes, certain cancer cells can no longer seed tumors in animals.

**Cause or downstream effect?**

Humans have 23 pairs of chromosomes, long threadlike structures made up of DNA and protein that carry our genes. Normally when cells divide, chromosomes make copies of themselves and then separate tidily and symmetrically into new cells. But in cancer, this choreography goes helter-skelter, and cells end up with abnormal numbers of chromosomes.

For decades, a classic conundrum in science stymied research into this phenomenon: Were the aberrations the cause of cancer, or simply a sign that things had already gone haywire in the cell? Back then, chromosomes weren’t easy to add or remove, so scientists searching for answers had to rely largely on intriguing correlations.

One study exposed melanoma cells to a chemical that further disrupted their chromosomes;



MATT BRADBURY/YALE UNIVERSITY

**In the study, scientists figured out how to tackle the issue using a clever CRISPR hack. Their work showed that without extra chromosomes, certain cancer cells can no longer seed tumors in animals.**

those cells were faster to develop resistance to a targeted drug, suggesting that chromosomal abnormalities might play a role in cancer’s ability to thwart drugs. Another study found that the more chromosomally unstable a patient’s tumor cells were, the more likely their cancer was aggressive and their prognosis poor.

Again, the question of cause and effect loomed: Could it be that chromosomal disruption was playing a role in those cancers, or was it only a downstream effect?

With the invention of CRISPR gene editing technology a decade ago, scientists gained the ability to add, delete or tweak genes. But deleting a whole chromosome is a different matter.

To do full-scale chromosome engineering, Jason Sheltzer, a cancer biologist at Yale School of Medicine, and his team had to deploy a CRISPR hack. First, they inserted a gene from the herpes virus onto a cancer cell’s extra chromosomes. Initially, they chose chromosome 1q, which is

one of the first to gain or lose extra copies during the development of breast cancer.

They then used a herpes treatment, ganciclovir, to target the modified chromosomes. The technique killed the cells with extra copies, leaving behind cancer cells with normal numbers of chromosomes.

When they tried to grow tumors from this subpopulation of cancer cells, they found that the cells were no longer capable of seeding tumors in a petri dish or

in live mice.

To Sheltzer, this was clear evidence that extra chromosomes weren’t just an effect, but a driver of the disease.

“It has a central role,” Sheltzer said.

**New ways to attack**

For now, the technique is a tool, not a therapy. It’s not yet feasible to think about restoring normal numbers of chromosomes in cancer cells as a way of staving off the disease.

But it may point toward a different way to target cancer in the future. Genetic understanding of cancer has led to therapies that target specific mutations that drive its progression. But cancer is a wily foe and often develops resistance to any one therapeutic approach.

The recognition that extra chromosomes are crucial to driving cancer means researchers can attack from a new direction: finding and killing cells that contain extra chromosomes.

Because chromosomes contain hundreds or thousands of genes, such an approach could expand the number of targets. Even if the cancer eventually became “resistant” to such a drug by losing its extra chromosomes, the study suggests that doing so might also squash its cancer-causing ability.

In essence, the extra chromosome becomes a new therapeutic vulnerability, Sheltzer said. Because the cells have all this other genetic material, such cells may “become sensitive to drugs targeting a gene, even if it has nothing to do with cancer.”



# Hudson tunnel project will receive largest U.S. transit grant ever awarded

Crucial commuter rail link between N.Y., N.J. is set to get \$6.9 billion

BY LUZ LAZO

The Biden administration is awarding a \$6.9 billion grant to help build a long-planned passenger rail tunnel between New York and New Jersey, federal transportation officials announced Thursday, part of a critical connection to the rest of the Northeast Corridor.

The tunnel is part of a \$16.1 billion overhaul of a section of rail that carries Amtrak and commuter lines into and out of Manhattan, the nation's busiest transit corridor. The plan also calls for the revitalization of the 112-year-old tunnel, which was severely damaged by Superstorm Sandy in 2012.

"This is a giant leap forward," Senate Majority Leader Charles E. Schumer (D-N.Y.) tweeted while marking the grant from the Federal Transit Administration — the largest federal transit grant ever awarded.

The funding provides a path to construction for the new tunnel and rehabilitation of the existing tunnel to create a four-track system between New Jersey and Manhattan's Penn Station, project officials say. That expansion

is critical to eliminating one of the biggest bottlenecks in Amtrak's Washington-to-New York corridor — the only crossing for passenger trains from New Jersey into the nation's largest city.

Brian Fritsch, of the Regional Plan Association, a nonprofit that promotes projects in the New York metro area, said the federal funding guarantees construction will begin this year on both sides of the river. It also brings the project closer to being fully funded, Fritsch said.

"By advancing into the Engineering Phase, the project moves from planning to reality, ensuring we will build the 21st-century transportation system that our environment needs, that our nation's economy relies on, and that trans-Hudson riders deserve," he said in a statement.

Despite upgrades in recent decades, the crossing — used by more than 400 passenger trains each weekday — has not kept up with modern rail technology. At more than a century old, it is showing its age.

The concrete lining of the two single-track tunnels is worn. Water saturation has undermined the ground beneath the track ballast. The tunnel size creates a tight squeeze for modern train operations. Saltwater from Superstorm Sandy ravaged the electrical system, leading to signal problems that delay hundreds of thousands of passengers on com-

muter and intercity trains.

In January, the project was awarded a \$292 million federal grant, which project officials said would be used to build an extension of the concrete tunnel casing on the New York side.

The 2.4-mile Hudson River Tunnel will be built by boring a trench and lowering preconstructed, sealed segments of concrete into the water. Some sections could be as much as 250 feet deep. After the new tunnel is built, officials will close the old tunnel for rehabilitation. Once both are open, commuter and passenger rail capacity will greatly increase.

Work on the new tunnel and overhaul of the existing tunnel are expected to take about a decade. Early construction work is expected this year with major construction beginning in 2024, officials said.

The Federal Transit Administration said it expects a funding commitment to the project of \$6.88 billion, subject to annual congressional appropriations.

The project — one of the largest in American history — will create 72,000 jobs in the New York region and eventually improve more than 200,000 commuter trips daily, the FTA said. In 2020, commuters were delayed more than 210 hours in the tunnel because of maintenance issues, according to a Northeast Corridor Commission study.



JOHN MINCHILLO/AP

**President Biden arrives at the construction site of the Hudson River Tunnel in New York on Jan. 31. A new tunnel is being built, and the existing one is being rehabilitated.**

The Gateway Development Commission, which coordinates the project, said last year that it would seek more federal grants to reduce the reliance on other financing and ultimately bring down costs. Stephen Sigmund, spokesman for the commission, said Thursday that the group was "thrilled" by the injection of federal money.

The commission on Thursday said it had received a letter from the FTA upgrading the project to the engineering phase of its Capital Investment Grants program. The move clears the way for the project to receive the vast majority of the federal funding needed for construction, the commission said.

Amtrak, which owns the exist-

ing tunnel, welcomed the news as an "important milestone" for the long-delayed project and applauded federal and regional commitments to the plan.

"We are thrilled to be even closer to the start of major construction on this critical Gateway Program project," said Laura Mason, Amtrak's executive vice president for capital delivery.

# Man gets life sentence for raping 9-year-old who sought abortion in Indiana

BY BEN BRASCH

A man who pleaded guilty to raping a 9-year-old girl — who traveled from Ohio to Indiana for an abortion, stirring national attention — was sentenced Wednesday to life in prison.

Gerson Fuentes, 28, took a plea deal for a sentence of life in prison with the chance of seeking parole in 25 years. The hearing was live-streamed from court by the Columbus Dispatch.

Common Pleas Court Judge Julie Lynch held up her index finger at Fuentes as she stated there was no guarantee he would

see a parole board in a quarter century.

"If that family hadn't begged me to take this to a recommendation, this would never be happening," she said.

The young girl's rape and abortion drew national interest last summer, creating a political flash point weeks after the Supreme Court struck down *Roe v. Wade* in June. The child was taken to Indiana for the procedure because Ohio, where she lived, had a trigger law that implemented a ban on abortions after the sixth week of pregnancy as soon as *Roe* was struck down.

The case was first brought to public attention when Caitlin Bernard, an Indiana doctor who provides abortions, told the Indianapolis Star about a 10-year-old patient who was six weeks and three days pregnant, and had to cross state lines because of Ohio's trigger law. (The girl was 9 when she was raped and turned 10 before having the abortion, according to the Associated Press.)

Bernard confirmed in the story that she had performed an abortion for the young girl, thrusting the case — and Bernard's name and face — into the

national political debate.

Bernard received threats and harassment, as well as official scrutiny.

Indiana's medical license board deemed that she violated state and federal privacy laws by discussing the girl's case publicly and fined her \$3,000. Indiana's attorney general opened an inquiry of her actions. At one point, she said, she considered filing a defamation suit in response.

President Biden spoke out about the case, saying the child should not have had to cross state lines for an abortion. Some

right-wing commentators and news outlets cast doubt on Bernard's story or called it a hoax. But reporters at the Indianapolis Star and Columbus Dispatch proved the story was true.

Franklin County Children Services notified Columbus police of a pregnant 10-year-old in late June 2022, the reporters found. About a week later, on June 30, the girl had a medical abortion in Indianapolis. The girl identified Fuentes in a police interview and investigators arrested him July 12 — the same day Ohio Attorney General Dave Yost (R) told Gannett's Ohio bureau that "I know

the cops and prosecutors in this state" and "there is not a damn scintilla of evidence" the investigation existed.

Dispatch reporter Bethany Bruner was the sole journalist to attend Fuentes's arraignment after she found a local court docket entry showing a man would be charged for the rape of a 10-year-old.

Indiana's legislature became the first in the post-*Roe v. Wade* era to pass a ban effectively on all abortions, according to the Associated Press, and the Indiana Supreme Court upheld the law Friday.

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ANALYSIS

# A ruling concerning misinformation ... that includes some of its own

BY PHILIP BUMP

There is theoretical poetry to the whole thing, a federal judge ruling on Independence Day that the government had engaged in an “Orwellian” suppression of speech. One envisions fictional President Bill Pullman using the moment to reassert the government’s commitment to the foundational freedom embodied in the First Amendment.

But only in theory. The reality of the injunction — the immediate effect of which is to curtail government interactions with social media companies, among other things — is that a right-wing argument about “censorship” on platforms like Facebook and Twitter found a remarkably credulous ally. Little encompasses that reality better than the fact that U.S. District Judge Terry A. Doughty used inaccurate information in his argument that the government shouldn’t actively seek to limit the spread of inaccurate information.

In broad strokes, Doughty’s reasoning is that the government relentlessly pressured Facebook and Twitter to tamp down what the government insisted was false information, an effort that spread throughout the administration. (That the focus is explicitly only the Biden administration is telling in its own right.) While the First Amendment stipulates only that no law limiting speech can be introduced, Doughty points to other precedents, suggesting that broad efforts to suppress speech also can trigger First Amendment concerns.

His articulation of the ways the White House engaged in this sort of behavior includes a list of 22 occasions on which staffers pressured the companies. Most of the examples appear to be complaints from former White House staffer Rob Flaherty about the speed at which the removal of false information was taking place. But there’s also the 22nd example, one of the few in which

there is an actual purported threat issued by the White House.

Doughty points to “White House Communications Director Kate Bedingfield’s announcement that ‘the White House is assessing whether social-media platforms are legally liable for misinformation spread on their platforms, and examining how misinformation fits into the liability protection process by Section 230 of The Communication Decency Act.’” This is mentioned earlier in the ruling, referencing a “July 20, 2021 ... White House Press Conference” in which Bedingfield “stated that the White House would be announcing whether social-media platforms are legally liable for misinformation spread on their platforms.”

There does not appear to have been any such news conference. There are reports of Bedingfield’s saying that social media companies “should be held accountable” if they share misinformation — but that was during an interview on MSNBC’s “Morning Joe.” Bedingfield was asked whether there might be a review of the companies’ protections under Section 230 of the Communications Decency Act, and she said the White House was “reviewing that.”

This is an important distinction! Doughty’s presentation suggests that the White House was proactively considering retribution for social media activity — one of the only such instances in his ruling. The quote included in the list of 22 times the White House applied pressure seems to be invented out of whole cloth.

In the abstract, this is a shocking mistake. In the context of the ruling overall, though, it makes sense.

After all, this is a document that takes seriously the complaints of defendant Jim Hoft of the conspiracy website Gateway Pundit. Like all Americans, Hoft has the right to say what he wants. But he and his



JUSTIN SULLIVAN/GETTY IMAGES

A federal judge ruled in a case about censorship that the government shouldn’t actively seek to limit the spread of inaccurate information on social media platforms such as Facebook (owned by Meta) and Twitter.

website offer numerous examples of careless, dishonest claims that might be good for engagement but hardly reflect well on platforms that carry them.

The lawsuit notes that Hoft’s Twitter account was permanently banned in February 2021 after it posted “video footage from security cameras in Detroit, Michigan from election night 2020, which showed two delivery vans driving to a building at 3:30 a.m. with boxes, which were alleged to contain election ballots.”

The issue wasn’t that Hoft shared the video. It’s that his site claimed, without evidence and inaccurately, that this was evidence of fraud. It was not.

Another example of Doughty’s willingness to assume the worst comes in his summary of the treatment of Alex Berenson, a writer identified justifiably by the Atlantic in early April 2021 as “the pandemic’s wrongest man.” A few weeks later, during a meeting with Twitter on April 21, White House officials asked why Berenson was still allowed to share false information on the

platform.

“Berenson was suspended thereafter,” Doughty writes, “on July 16, 2021, and was permanently de-platformed on August 28, 2021.”

The government’s pressure was so severe that Twitter waited three months before booting Berenson.

The defendants in the case include a wide, wide array of government actors, a galaxy of actors that allows the plaintiffs to accrue a great mountain of examples of “pressure” being applied. It worked on Doughty, with sporadic incidents across months being presented as an unwavering effort across government.

He says as much: “They flagged posts and provided information on the type of posts they wanted suppressed. They also followed up with directives to the social-media companies to provide them with information as to action the company had taken with regard to the flagged post,” the ruling reads. “This seemingly unrelenting pressure by

Defendants had the intended result of suppressing millions of protected free speech postings by American citizens.”

This assumes not only that these anecdotes (which, of course, Doughty writes might only be “a representative sample of more extensive suppressions”) constituted something consistent but also that they constituted coercion. He rejects the idea that social media companies, spooked by the backlash after their platforms were used for rampant abuse and misinformation during the 2016 presidential election might sincerely want to protect their reputations by uprooting false claims. Or that they might sincerely desire not to be vectors for false claims about a disease that was killing thousands of people a day.

There is no question that government suppression of speech that conflicts with its preferred line of argument is dangerous. But while Doughty writes “the present case” — really a number of cases conflated into one — “arguably involves the most massive attack against free

speech in United States’ history,” he admits only in passing that freedom of speech is subject to “well-known exceptions” — exceptions that include incitement and, in certain contexts, the making of false statements. Even with most of the examples presented in the ruling, what’s at issue are instances of the latter.

But, again, that’s centered on actions being taken by the government. In this case, the purported suppression is one step removed, manifested through things like asking that accounts parodying Anthony S. Fauci be removed or by Bedingfield’s being interviewed on “Morning Joe.”

The ruling opens with the famous quote from Evelyn Beatrice Hall: “I may disapprove of what you say, but I would defend to the death your right to say it.”

Except that, as my colleague Aaron Blake pointed out, the quote is instead attributed to Evelyn Beatrice “Hill.” But what’s the harm of a little false information when you’re making a political point?

The Washington Post

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# Record-busting heat blasts Florida, with no end in sight

# High humidity adds to pain, even as state's west coast faces drought

BY IAN LIVINGSTON

Florida is in the midst of its hottest year in modern history, and there's little sign of meaningful relief. Even in a state known for its warm weather, the prolonged siege of heat and humidity is extreme.

Day after day, records for heat and humidity are being broken, particularly in the central and southern parts of the state. And there's no clear end to this pattern.

Additional heat records are predicted across South Florida over the coming days, while the entire state will remain hotter than normal from Key West to Pensacola.

So far this year, temperatures have averaged 3 to 5 degrees above normal in the Sunshine State. Some of the warmth is attributable to a very warm Gulf of Mexico, linked to record-warm oceans worldwide. And in recent weeks, a sprawling heat dome over the state has regularly produced heat indexes — a measure of how hot it feels factoring in humidity — of 100 to 110 degrees or even higher.

On The Washington Post's heat tracker, Jacksonville's predicted 107-degree heat index was the highest of any city in the nation on Wednesday. On Thursday, the forecast heat index of 105 is tied for second highest.

Rain has also been hit-or-miss in a state known for its summer wet season. The western side of the peninsula, including Tampa, is experiencing drought, which is only worsening the heat.

## Miami heat

In Miami, heat records began to fall at the beginning of the year and have yet to stop. Fourteen record highs have already occurred, including four in June. Another could occur as soon as Friday, when mid-90s are forecast.

The city so far is having its warmest year on record, running



GIORGIO VIERA/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

**A view of a hot and humid Miami late last month. Fourteen record highs have occurred in the city this year, including four in June.**

0.3 degrees above 2020, the next-warmest year. Miami's seven warmest years to date have all occurred since 2008. Six of the seven have come since 2015.

Punishing humidity levels have joined the extreme heat to make the air particularly sultry. "Miami has broken eight daily heat index records just since the middle of June, some by several degrees," Brian McNoldy, a tropical weather researcher at the University of Miami, said in a message.

McNoldy said the peak daily heat index has reached 100 or higher for 25 straight days with no end in sight. He added that dew points — a measure of humidity — have been running in the 78-to-80-degree range, compared with the usual 75 to 76

degrees. Any dew point above 70 degrees indicates uncomfortably high humidity.

## Statewide swelter

It's not just Miami that's baking. It's a record-hot year in Florida from the Panhandle to the Keys:

The average temperature in Tallahassee, the state's capital, is 0.3 degrees above that for 1927, the next-warmest year.

The tourist hot spot of Orlando is also a weather hot spot. Its 74.2-degree average is a notch higher than the one in 2020, the next-warmest year. Five of Orlando's 10 warmest years have occurred since 2015.

This year's average temperature in Key West so far is 79.2 degrees, about a degree and a half

ahead of 1975, the next-warmest year.

Fort Myers has registered high temperatures of at least 90 degrees on a record 78 days to date, and on 31 more days than average.

In rain-deprived Tampa, it's the second-warmest year on record to date, just a hair behind last year. The city had its warmest July Fourth on record, soaring to 97 degrees. That was only 2 degrees above the city's highest temperature on any date of the year.

## Drought exacerbating the heat

Drought conditions along the western coast of Florida are intensifying the hot weather.

The same area heavily impacted by Hurricane Ian last year hasn't seen a lot of rain since. Moderate drought currently runs from near Tampa to Fort Myers, according to the U.S. Drought Monitor.

Year-to-date rainfall totals of 12.07 inches in Tampa, 10.06 inches in Sarasota and 8.70 inches in Naples are roughly 10 to 12 inches below average through early July, and among the five to 10 driest (to date) on record.

The lack of rain dries out soil, which allows the ground to heat more quickly than if it were rain-soaked.

With a rainy season that runs from mid-May to mid-October, there is still time to put a dent in these precipitation deficits. In Tampa, most of the two wettest months of the year, July and August, still lie ahead.

## More record heat probable

The pattern that has delivered record warmth is unlikely to fully abate any time soon. Much of Florida is poised to spend the next week or two with temperatures averaging several degrees above normal.

Beyond that time, it's possible that the heat dome affecting the region will migrate westward. This could at least temporarily shift the hottest conditions toward the southwestern United States.

Jason Samenow contributed to this report.

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# THE WORLD

## For Palestinians, hiking holds pleasure and peril

BY SHIRA RUBIN

BEITILLU, WEST BANK — Five years ago, Majdi Abu Zaid was invited by a friend to join a recreational hiking group in the West Bank, a chance for Palestinians to rediscover their ancestral landscapes. From the first outing, he was hooked.

Now, Abu Zaid is wondering if the terraced fields, babbling creeks and deep desert valleys less than an hour's drive from his home are too dangerous to traverse.

Last month, there were prolonged firefights in the city of Jenin and a deadly Hamas shooting near an Israeli settlement. This week, some 1,000 Israeli soldiers backed by drone strikes stormed Jenin in the largest West Bank military operation in 20 years, evoking memories of the second intifada, or Palestinian uprising.

Armed Israeli settlers, emboldened by their far-right government, have mounted days-long rampages across occupied land, torching Palestinian properties and shooting live rounds at civilians. They are on the lookout, Abu Zaid said, for Palestinians in their villages or on surrounding trails, hoping to intimidate them into leaving.

"I'm not a coward, but I stand helpless in the face of this pathological madness of the settler thugs," said Abu Zaid, who works as an anti-corruption adviser with the U.N. Development Program in Ramallah.

He has been hiking for the past five years with the organization Sarha — which means "roaming," or "wandering" in Arabic — one of many such groups to gain a following here during covid-era travel bans. They are giving West Bank urbanites a chance to connect with the land, even as it is rapidly cordoned off by expanding Israeli settlements.

Hiking provides Palestinians with group fitness, social connections and direct contact with the diverse, starkly picturesque topography of the West Bank. But living under Israeli military rule also energizes this outwardly simple activity with national defiance.

"We are starting to discover how hiking is beautiful, as something distinct from normal life — work, occupation," Abu Zaid said, "but we also know that wherever we go there will be settlers."

This month, he and his friends set out with Sarha, equipped with trekking poles and provisions from their fruit gardens, to explore a rugged seven-mile stretch

As settler violence surges in the West Bank, what would be a relaxing activity takes on new risks



PHOTOS BY TANYA HABJOUQA/NOOR FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

**Palestinians hike near Beitillu, a West Bank village close to archaeological ruins, sheep farms, olive groves, natural springs and, as of last month, a new Israeli outpost. A rising cycle of attacks by Palestinian fighters and Israeli settlers has put the West Bank on edge.**

of terrain surrounding Beitillu, a sleepy Palestinian village close to archaeological ruins, sheep farms, olive groves, natural springs and, as of last month, a new Israeli outpost.

Hanan Ramahi, director of the American School of Palestine in Ramallah, has been a regular participant for the past six years, since returning from a PhD program at Cambridge University. The activity allows her a rare respite from the stresses of the city and the restrictions on movement imposed by Israel.

Hiking is "psychologically therapeutic, literally, and, on another level, also enabled me to get to know Palestine, and make my connection to the land stronger," she said.

On recent hikes, she has also formulated a vision for her Palestinian homeland: not necessarily in the form of statehood, but of institutions that would make the place more "livable" for young Palestinians, like fellow hiker Mah-

moud Jallad.

Jallad, 18, hopes to attend business school in Barcelona in the fall. He is spending his last summer here hiking in the mornings and hanging out with friends until late at night. Gathering wild sage, mulberries and citrus fruits, he said he worried for his people, who "are forgetting that they should all belong to one thing, and that's Palestine."

"These days, everyone's following a different national faction rather than a national goal," he said, referring to the Palestinian Authority's aging, deeply unpopular leadership and an increasingly decentralized armed resistance movement. If he could, he added, he would join the young people regularly clashing with Israeli soldiers, but his parents don't allow it, having "invested a lot in my education."

Simon Jaser, Sarha's guide, frets about the "huge possibility" that hikers could be killed or injured on West Bank trails. Security

concerns prompted him to reroute last week's hike.

Two days earlier, 400 armed settlers had rampaged through the Palestinian village of Turmus Ayya, north of Ramallah, torching cars and homes, some with children inside, and shooting at civilians — retaliation for a terrorist shooting a day earlier in which two Hamas gunmen killed four Israelis and wounded four others near the settlement of Eli.

Smaller settler attacks followed. On June 24, a mob of settlers, some masked, and accompanied by at least one furloughed Israeli soldier, according to an Israeli military statement, descended on the Palestinian village of Umm Safa, shooting at civilians and setting fire to an electricity generator, which cut power to homes in the area. At least eight outposts, considered illegal under Israeli and international law, were set up on the windswept hills nearby, according to Yesh Din, an Israeli human rights group moni-

toring the West Bank.

Hiking groups have long had to navigate settler violence. In October, a settler perched atop a hillside rained stones down on Sarha members as they walked, exposed, through the deep valleys of Muarajat. They were forced to dart out of the line of fire for nearly two miles before finding cover on another trail.

Since then, they have made what many members describe as a painful decision to stay away from the area, knowing their absence will be seen by settlers as a victory.

In January, the same Israeli settler who attacked the Sarha group in Muarajat was filmed attacking a group called Let's Hike — composed of Palestinian students and activists from Italy, France and the United States — with clubs, batons and pepper spray. Several of the hikers ended up in the hospital, including an Italian national who was treated for a fractured arm.

"The assault constitutes a practical translation of the threats

which was promised by the extremists who rose to power in Israel," Palestinian Prime Minister Mohammad Shtayyeh said at the time.

Israel's government is the most far-right, pro-settler administration in the country's history, composed of ultranationalists, religious conservatives and ardent advocates of annexing the West Bank, which is home to more than 3 million Palestinians.

Before the most recent burst of violence, Israel had announced plans to expedite the construction of more than 4,000 additional settlement units. The new, streamlined process, altered for the first time since the 1990s, will be partly controlled by Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich, a radical settler who has called for a Palestinian village to be "wiped out" by the Israeli army.

The U.S. State Department condemned the move, saying that the newly announced settlements "make a two-state solution more difficult to achieve and are an obstacle to peace."

The Israeli government reacted to the American condemnation by doubling down.

"Run to the hilltops and settle yourselves there; we support you!" firebrand National Security Minister Itamar Ben Gvir said Friday on a visit to the West Bank outpost of Evyatar.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu boasted during a cabinet meeting Sunday that he had "doubled settlement" in the West Bank "despite great and unprecedented international pressure."

On June 26, Israel's Higher Planning Council approved construction of some 5,600 West Bank settler housing units, including 1,000 near the West Bank settlement of Eli, announced last week after the Hamas shooting there.

A State Department official said the U.S. administration was "deeply troubled."

Palestinian hikers are keeping a close eye on the news, but say they are dedicated to continuing their treks, even if it means bypassing newly built outposts or other hot spots.

Jaser, the guide, said most members valued the workout as much as the social gathering, which recently involved a post-hike feast of musakhan, a beloved Palestinian dish of sumac-spiced chicken and onions on flatbread, as the hikers traded jokes and sang folk songs under the shade of an olive tree.

"Walking connects us to the land, and to each other," Jaser said. "We're not going anywhere."



**Majdi Abu Zaid, who began hiking five years ago, finds maramia, a popular herb for tea, near Beitillu. "We are starting to discover how hiking is beautiful, as something distinct from normal life," he said.**



**Mahmoud Jallad, 18, rests with a tortoise on his chest that he found near Beitillu. He hopes to attend business school in Barcelona in the fall and is filling his final summer in the West Bank with hiking.**

### DIGEST

#### SOUTH AFRICA

##### Death toll from toxic gas leak rises to 17

The death toll from a toxic gas leak that authorities blame on an illegal gold processing operation in South Africa has risen to 17, including three children, police said Thursday.

The leak of what authorities said was a deadly nitrate gas happened Wednesday night in the informal Angelo settlement in Boksburg, on the eastern outskirts of Johannesburg.

The three children who died were ages 1, 6 and 15, police said. At least 10 people were hospitalized, Panyaza Lesufi, the premier of Gauteng province, said Thursday.

A statement from South African President Cyril Ramaphosa's office called the death toll a "devastating and tragic loss of innocent lives."

Emergency services spokesman William Ntladi said the deaths were caused by the inhalation of nitrate gas that seeped from a gas cylinder being kept in a shack where illegal miners were separating gold from rock and dirt.

— Associated Press

#### ENGLAND

##### Tube workers prepare for strike this month

London Underground rail staff will go on strike from July 23-28 in a long-running dispute

over pensions, job cuts and working conditions, trade union RMT said Thursday.

Over 10,000 workers are eligible to strike, which will affect different sections of the Tube network and grades of workers on different days, an RMT spokesperson said.

"This week of action will shut down the London Underground and show just how important the work of our members is," RMT General Secretary Mick Lynch said in a statement.

Rail workers across Britain have staged several strikes since last summer, like thousands of employees in other industries and professions, as high inflation spurs demands for better pay.

"We are disappointed that the RMT has announced strike

action on this range of issues that we have been attempting to discuss with them openly," said Transport for London chief operating officer Glynn Barton.

— Reuters

#### AZERBAIJAN

##### Iran, Sudan say they'll restore diplomatic ties

Iran and Sudan said Thursday they were planning to restore ties after the countries' foreign ministers met for the first time since diplomatic relations between the two nations were severed seven years ago.

Sudan's foreign ministry said in a statement that the meeting, on the sidelines of a Non-Aligned Movement meeting in

Azerbaijan's capital Baku, had discussed restoring relations "as soon as possible."

Acting foreign minister Ali Sadeq thanked Iran for supplying humanitarian aid in the conflict between Sudan's army and the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces.

According to Iran's official IRNA news agency, Foreign Minister Hossein Amirabdollahian said that the "talks were directed at resolving misunderstandings between the two countries and strengthening the political and economic relations between Tehran and Khartoum."

Sudan cut diplomatic ties with Iran in 2016 after the storming of the Saudi Embassy in Tehran.

— Reuters

#### At least 43 dead in monsoon rains in Pakistan:

The death toll from two weeks of monsoon rains rose to at least 43 on Thursday after four people died in weather-related incidents in Pakistan's eastern city of Lahore, authorities said. Lahore saw a record-breaking downpour the previous day, flooding many streets and disrupting normal life. Since Wednesday, 11 people have died in the city due to collapsing roofs and electrocution, officials said. Heavy rain also continued to lash the rest of the nation, overflowing the main rivers in the Punjab province, Jhelum and Chenab.

— From wire reports



WAR IN UKRAINE

Biden waives dud limit for Kyiv-bound cluster bombs

BOMBS FROM A1

ago, the Pentagon assessed that artillery shell to have a “dud” rate of 6 percent, meaning that at least four of each of the 72 submunitions each shell carries would remain unexploded across an area of approximately 22,500 square meters — roughly the size of 4½ football fields.

“We are aware of reports from several decades ago that indicate certain 155mm DPICMs have higher dud rates,” said a defense official, one of seven Pentagon, White House and military officials who spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss the sensitive decision. The defense official used the acronym for Dual Purpose Improved Conventional Munitions.

The Pentagon now says it has new assessments, based on testing as recent as 2020, with failure rates no higher than 2.35 percent. While that exceeds the limit of 1 percent mandated by Congress every year since 2017, officials are “carefully selecting” munitions with the 2.35 percent dud rate or below for transfer to Ukraine, Pentagon spokesperson Brig. Gen. Patrick Ryder said Thursday.

The defense official said details of the new assessments were “not releasable,” including how, when and where the tests were done, and whether they included actual firing exercises or virtual simulations. Military manuals say these weapons cannot be fired in training because they are part of war reserve stockpiles.

There is no waiver provision in the 1 percent limit Congress has placed on cluster munition dud rates, written into Defense Department appropriations for the last seven years. Biden would bypass it and Congress, according to a White House official, drawing down the munitions from existing defense stocks under a rarely used provision of the Foreign Assistance Act, which allows the president to provide aid, regardless of appropriations or arms export restrictions, as long as he determines that it is in the vital U.S. national security interest.

Although the United States has used cluster munitions in every major war since Korea, no new ones are believed to have been produced for years. But as many as 4.7 million cluster shells, rockets, missiles and bombs, containing more than 500 million submunitions, or bomblets, remain in military inventories, according to estimates by Human Rights Watch drawn from Defense Department reports.

A 2022 Congressional Research Service report to lawmakers noted “significant discrepancies among failure rate estimates” of cluster weapons in the U.S. arsenal, with some manufacturers claiming 2 to 5 percent, while mine clearance specialists have reported rates of 10 to 30 percent.

Nonproliferation experts said that the Pentagon’s assessed 2.35 percent dud rate most likely refers to aging shells with updated fuses designed to improve their



HEIDI LEVINE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

Wounded soldiers of the Ukrainian Airborne unit are treated outside the embattled city of Lysychansk, Ukraine, last month after being hit by a Russian cluster bomb. Cluster bombs tend to have high failure rates that litter areas with unexploded submunitions, or duds.

ability to self-destruct, but that it was impossible to know without access to the testing data.

Advocates who have warned against using cluster munitions say the claimed lower dud rates are the result of testing in idealized and unrealistic conditions that don’t account for real-world scenarios. The Army’s artillery manuals have said even the military’s own dud rates can increase depending on the angle of impact and type of terrain in which they fall.

Cluster weapons explode in the air over a target, releasing dozens to hundreds of smaller submunitions across a wide area.

More than 120 countries have joined a convention banning their use as inhumane and indiscriminate, in large part because of high failure rates that litter the landscape with unexploded submunitions that endanger both friendly troops and civilians, often for decades after the end of a conflict. The United States, Ukraine and Russia — which is alleged to have used them extensively in Ukraine — are not parties to the convention. Eight of NATO’s 31 members, including the United States, have not ratified the convention.

“It’s dismaying to see the long-established 1 percent unexploded ordnance standard for cluster munitions rolled back as this will result in more duds, which means an even greater threat to civilians, including de-miners,” said Mary Wareham, advocacy director of the arms division of Human Rights Watch.

“The lack of transparency on how this number was reached is disappointing and seems unprec-

edented,” Wareham said.

While Russia has used cluster munitions far more extensively, Ukraine has also allegedly deployed these weapons during the war, using its own Soviet-era stocks or shells obtained from other countries. A new HRW report released Thursday said Ukrainian use “caused numerous deaths and serious injuries to civilians” in attacks in the city of Izyum and other locations in 2022. Ukraine has denied using cluster munitions.

The dud rate is both morally and legally key to supplying the weapons. In 2008, then-Defense Secretary Robert Gates issued a directive banning the production, use or transfer of cluster munitions with a failure rate of more than 1 percent and imposed a 10-year deadline for destroying existing weapons that exceeded that limit. Numerous nongovernmental and media reports have documented one subsequent use — against an al-Qaeda training camp in 2009 — although the United States has never confirmed nor denied the attack.

The Trump administration in 2017 reversed both the dud limit and the timeline for destroying any munitions that exceeded it, after which Congress adopted the legislative language banning any funding for the use, production or transfer of cluster munitions with a failure rate of more than 1 percent, even as major defense manufacturers canceled production contracts under pressure from shareholders and public opinion.

In an interview this week, Ukrainian Defense Minister Oleksii Reznikov said obtaining a significant supply of the weapons

has become crucial to Kyiv’s ongoing counteroffensive.

The United States and other Western donors have sent millions of non-cluster howitzer shells to Ukraine, but stockpiles are running low and manufacturing cannot keep up with demand. It “is not enough,” Reznikov said. “The Russians use three or four times more artillery shells of different calibers than we do. And we must conserve because we can’t shell as intensively,” he added.

“Since these projectiles are effective,” Reznikov said of cluster munitions, “they will allow us to make up this difference.” The Russians “are using them against us, so for our self-defense we have full right to use the same munition.”

“This is just for where there are fields, because it’s very important not to bring harm to the civilian population,” Reznikov said. “We won’t use them before the de-occupation of a city.”

As Ukraine’s pleas for the weapons have increased in recent months, they have been met with both agreement and disapproval by U.S. lawmakers. In late March, a group of senior Republicans, including the chairmen of the House Armed Services and Foreign Affairs committees, and the ranking members of the counterpart Senate committees, said they were “deeply disappointed” in the administration’s “reluctance” to provide the weapons.

“Providing DPCIM,” they wrote in a letter to Biden, “will allow Ukraine to compensate for Russia’s quantitative advantage in both personnel and artillery rounds, and will allow the Ukrainian armed forces to concentrate

their use of unitary warheads against higher-value Russian targets.”

Others, including many Democrats, are less enthusiastic. Rep. Adam Smith (D-Wash.), the ranking member of the House Armed Services Committee, said that he was open to supplying the munitions to Ukraine but that he still had not been provided additional information about what is being sent and how it will be used.

The administration is “trying to send the ones with the lowest possible dud rate, which makes sense,” Smith said in an interview Monday. “The question is: Are there munitions that have that low dud rate? I’ve been told repeatedly that . . . yes, there are.”

“The Russians have been dropping these things with dud rates that are a hell of a lot higher than 8 percent all across Ukraine for a year and a half now,” he said.

The administration began to soften its position on providing cluster munitions this past spring as the shortage of standard artillery munitions became more acute. Biden said in May that cluster weapons “may” be considered, and Secretary of State Antony Blinken is said to have recently dropped his opposition.

NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg denounced Russia’s reported use of cluster weapons early in the war, saying, “This is brutality, this is inhumane, and this is violating international law.”

The administration has worked in recent weeks to allay allied concern over the transfer of the weapons to Kyiv, according to a second White House official.

“The president’s top priority is maintaining unity among our allies and partners in support of Ukraine, and we would not take any actions that would undermine that priority,” the official said. As a result of allied consultations, “if we were to move forward” with cluster munitions, “we are confident that would not be an issue.”

The U.S. military has long considered cluster munitions a useful battlefield weapon. That position was reaffirmed in March testimony before the House Armed Services Committee by Army Gen. Christopher Cavoli, head of the U.S. European Command and supreme allied commander of NATO. “We call it dual-purpose, because it releases bomblets, some of which are anti-personnel fragmentation grenades and some of which are shaped charges that attack vehicles from above,” Cavoli said. “It’s a very effective weapon.”

The munitions can be an attractive option for commanders to destroy troops or equipment in big groups, or when a target can’t be pinpointed by precision artillery. But they also come with drawbacks for the forces using them.

Army artillery doctrine warns that DPICM submunition duds “can pose significant risks to friendly personnel and equipment.” A 2017 manual puts the overall dud rate for cluster rounds at 2 to 3 percent, while warning the rate could increase if procedures aren’t followed or if uneven terrain disturbs the angle required for detonation.

In addition to the risk of civilians picking up unexploded duds long after a battle, they can also pose more immediate danger to the forces deploying them. “There’s definitely a lot of tactical risks in employing these types of munitions. It limits your ability to maneuver, and limits your ability to maneuver quickly, because you have to be clearing a bunch of UXO,” or unexploded ordnance, said a former U.S. Army artillery officer, who spoke on the condition of anonymity to avoid conflicts with his current employer. “It’s gonna slow you down, it’s gonna limit the ways in which you can exploit success.”

The U.S. history of what are considered “friendly fire” incidents is a concern: Several U.S. service members were killed during and after the Gulf War by unexploded munitions, according to a 1993 Government Accountability Office report, which said the Army did not hold force-wide training to recognize submunitions on the ground before the invasion.

“Someone within DOD knows the actual dud rate,” the former officer said, “and I hope that would be communicated honestly and accurately to any Ukrainian unit receiving these types of munitions.”

Isabelle Khurshudyan in Kyiv and Abigail Hauslohner contributed to this report.

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WAR IN UKRAINE

# Russian missiles kill at least 6 civilians in Lviv, far from front line

More than 40 injured in attack on a residential area in western Ukraine

BY FRANCESCA EBEL

KYIV, UKRAINE — A barrage of Russian cruise missiles killed at least six civilians and injured dozens just before dawn on Thursday in the western Ukrainian city of Lviv, far from the front lines of the war.

The attack, which local authorities called the worst in Lviv since the start of Russia's invasion in February 2022, was another demonstration of how civilians are dying every day in Ukraine, despite the Kremlin's repeated denials that it strikes nonmilitary targets.

Last week, at least 13 people, including an acclaimed writer, were killed when a missile hit a popular restaurant in Kramatorsk, in the eastern Donetsk region.

On Thursday, the Ukrainian Air Force said it had shot down seven of 10 Kaliber cruise missiles that were fired from the Black Sea early that morning. Several missiles hit a residential area in Lviv, damaging at least 30 houses and 50 cars. At least 40 people were wounded in the attack, authorities said.

Maksym Kozytskyi, head of Lviv's regional administration, confirmed that a 32-year-old woman named Anastasia and her 60-year-old mother, Myrosla-

va, were killed.

Local media later identified the daughter as Anastasia Seniv, who worked for Ukrposhta, Ukraine's postal service, and was soon to be married.

"Eternal memory to those we lost," Kozytskyi wrote in a statement posted on Telegram. "Let's take revenge!"

Ukraine's defense ministry called the overnight attack "the most devastating one on the city since the beginning of the full-scale war," which was echoed in a video posted on Twitter by Lviv Mayor Andriy Sadovyi.

Lviv, close to the border with Poland, is often regarded as a cosmopolitan safe haven, though the region has come under fire numerous times, particularly in attacks on civilian infrastructure.

Ukrainian academic Sasha Dovzhyk, posting on Twitter, said that Russia had hit "one of the safest places in Ukraine."

"I was 2 km away from the site," Dovzhyk wrote. "The walls in the bathroom where I was hiding shook from the explosion."

Rescuers worked for more than 17 hours Thursday to clear debris and scoured the rubble for survivors, according to Ukraine's emergency services and Lviv's mayor. Drone footage from the scene showed workers combing the top floors of a shattered apartment block in the early morning, working amid smashed concrete and broken glass.

"Psychologists also work on-site. Mobile police stations have been deployed, where they ac-



PHOTOS BY ROMAN BALUK/REUTERS

**Rescuers in Lviv, Ukraine, above, work among debris and burned-out cars after a Russian missile attack hit the city, located in the western part of the country, far from the front lines. Paramedics, left, carry a person away from a residential building hit by one of the missiles. The Ukrainian Air Force said it shot down seven of the 10 missiles fired at the city from the Black Sea early Thursday morning.**



cept applications from victims and provide the necessary assistance. Everyone works without rest," read the statement from the emergency services.

By 6 p.m. Thursday, 43 percent of the rubble had been cleared, local media reported, but a spokesman for the local emergency services said there could still be victims trapped in the debris.

## Belarusian leader says final deal on Prigozhin and his fighters still not settled

RUSSIA FROM AI

fighters to Belarus was still not settled.

Prigozhin's continued presence in Russia was confirmed by a St. Petersburg businessman, who said the Wagner boss had returned home to reclaim money and weapons seized by the Russian security services.

"It's not the end of Prigozhin," the businessman said, speaking Wednesday on the condition of anonymity for fear of reprisal. "They returned all his money to him. More than this, today they even gave back to him his honorary pistol, the Glock, and another weapon. He came to take it himself."

Prigozhin, however, could still be vulnerable to new criminal cases if Putin fears he looks weak amid a barrage of criticism in Russia for dropping the insurgency charges. Putin, while refusing to say Prigozhin's name, has publicly raised a question of financial crimes in connection with numerous contracts that Prigozhin's businesses had with the government.

The president said last week that authorities would carefully investigate the \$2 billion paid to Wagner and Prigozhin's Concord group, and a reporter for the state-controlled Channel One television channel declared Wednesday that the investigation was ongoing.

But Prigozhin still appears to have sufficient leverage in Russia, after Wagner earned a reputation as arguably Russia's most effective assault force in Ukraine. That

stature, and his many connections in high places, seemed to at least partly explain why he was allowed to walk around St. Petersburg and potentially Moscow, apparently with no fear of arrest, even after he was called a traitor and supposedly exiled.

Officials in Moscow appear to be wrestling with the difficult question of how Wagner can be replaced, both in Ukraine and in its operations in Africa, where it has extended Russia's reach through its security contracts with several governments.

Even top Russian officials were in the dark about the deal and what it means for Russia, Putin's authority, Prigozhin's fate and Wagner's future.

"We still don't know exactly what happened," said a member of top Russian diplomatic circles, speaking on the condition of anonymity to discuss a sensitive matter. This person said that the crisis appeared to have passed and that Moscow was "calm," adding: "If we see this situation as a crisis, at least the most immediate consequences have been minimized. We see there are no clear consequences noticeable so far."

In a sign of how deeply the crisis disrupted lines of military authority in Russia, he said questions about Wagner's future relations with the Defense Ministry "remain open."

Lukashenko, speaking at a news conference Thursday, said that Prigozhin was "a free man" but that he did not know what might happen later. He said that the deal allowing Prigozhin and

Wagner to relocate to Belarus was "being observed" but that details had not been fully resolved.

At the same time, Lukashenko hinted that Putin could overturn the deal, the Belarusian state news agency BelTA reported, adding that Wagner's relocation to Belarus "will depend on what decision the leadership of Wagner and Russia make."

The Belarusian leader said he had been in phone contact with Prigozhin "more than once," including on Wednesday afternoon to discuss Wagner's "further actions."

"He told me one thing: 'We will work in the name of Russia, for the good of Russia, and we will fulfill our duty to the end, as we have agreed and as decided by the relevant authorities,'" Lukashenko said.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov deflected questions about Prigozhin's whereabouts. "We don't follow his movements," Peskov said. "We have neither the ability nor the desire to do so."

Tatiana Stanovaya, founder of the Paris-based political consultancy R.Politik, said it appeared that the Kremlin was giving Prigozhin time in Russia to deal with his complex web of business operations, many of which directly served Russian state interests.

"On the one hand, we see that Prigozhin continues to be criticized in the media and they have closed down his media holding," Stanovaya said. "He is being destroyed politically, but physically he is being allowed to continue his business, which can be seen as an

attempt to give him time to finish up." He would not be in Russia without Putin's permission, she added.

"Putin is acting like this not because he fears Prigozhin or because he has no other choice, but because he decided that this will be simpler," she said. "It means that he does not see Prigozhin anymore as a person who represents any danger to him."

Until Prigozhin's rebellion, Russian elites, notoriously timid, made no signs of confronting Putin. But many now see his decision to drop insurgency charges against Prigozhin as showing weakness.

Alexandra Prokopenko, a former adviser to a senior official at Russia's Central Bank, said many were still shocked at how Putin handled the rebellion.

"Everyone expected there to be repressions as a consequence, but it seems like this hasn't happened," Prokopenko said. "And now it seems you can [gather] thousands of armed men and you can go with them to Moscow, which violates every written and unwritten law of the Russian Federation. And what are you getting after that? You just need to go to Belarus. And they just give you back all your cash, all your guns."

In a sign of Prigozhin's potential vulnerability, pro-Kremlin media mounted an apparently coordinated campaign to discredit him and undermine his popularity, which had surged before his rebellion. They aired video and photos of his luxury home, showing bundles of cash, weapons, fake

passports, and wigs used for disguises.

Other video showed gold, an indoor pool, a personal helicopter, and a corner with a Wagner flag and a mannequin in a black suit, draped in more than a dozen military awards, including Russia's highest honor, the Hero of Russia medal, awarded in June 2022.

Grey Zone, a Wagner-affiliated Telegram channel, and other Wagner channels aired images purporting to show Prigozhin wearing wigs and a series of disguises.

Lukashenko said that Belarus had offered Wagner the use of any one of dozens of former military bases but that "they have a different vision," without spelling out what that was. He said Wagner fighters were currently at their permanent bases, without specifying locations, although Wagner is known to have bases in southern Russia and Ukraine.

The questions about Prigozhin's whereabouts and the continued negotiations over the deal follow widespread dismay in the mainstream pro-Kremlin press about the agreement that allowed Prigozhin to go free.

During their short-lived rebellion, Prigozhin and his fighters shot down seven Russian aircraft, and a Wagner convoy got within 125 miles of Moscow.

On Tuesday, Prigozhin managed to recover some of the items seized from his home and office by Russian Interior Ministry special operations police, including 10 billion rubles — about \$110 million — in cash and personal weapons, including a Glock pistol

awarded to him by Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu, according to Fontanka, a St. Petersburg media outlet.

Since the rebellion, Kremlin propagandists have portrayed Putin as a wise leader who averted a civil war. But the deal to drop insurgency charges roiled members of Russia's elite. News that the mercenary leader was back in Russia only deepened the sense of disquiet.

Lukashenko said Putin's relations with Prigozhin went back decades and were "maybe even more than kind." Wagner, he added, is "a very powerful fighting unit, and there is hardly a unit in the world equal to the Wagner [Private Military Company]." Lukashenko claimed that Wagner would not be used to attack Ukraine from Belarus, but could act in the defense of his country.

Lukashenko said on June 27 that Prigozhin had arrived in Belarus, but no images of his presence there emerged. Flight tracking data from Flightradar24 reported that two jets associated with Prigozhin arrived in Belarus that morning, one from southern Russia and one from St. Petersburg. A group that tracks military and flight movements in Belarus, the Belarusian Hajun Project, reported that the two Prigozhin jets flew to St. Petersburg later that day.

Early Thursday, Prigozhin's jet was tracked flying to Moscow from St. Petersburg, the Reuters news agency reported. But there was no confirmation that he was on board.

## Russia to close Finnish Consulate in St. Petersburg, expels nine diplomats

BY EMILY RAUHALA AND NATALIA ABBAKUMOVA

Russia has withdrawn consent for Finland to operate its consulate in St. Petersburg and expelled nine Finnish diplomats, the Russian Foreign Ministry said Thursday.

The decision was announced just days before NATO heads of state and government gather in Vilnius, Lithuania, for the alliance's annual summit, which is to be followed by a visit to Finland by President Biden. Moscow's decision also comes about a month after Finland announced

that it would expel nine Russian diplomats on suspicion of spying.

Although the expulsion of diplomats — nine for nine — appears to be a tit-for-tat move, the closing of the Finnish Consulate in St. Petersburg, not far from the Russia-Finland border, suggests an escalation designed to get the attention of Helsinki — and Washington.

Announcing the news, Russia's Foreign Ministry cast the apparently imminent closure of the consulate by Oct. 1 as a response to the Finnish expulsion of the Russian diplomats

and Finland's recently joining NATO.

"The parameters of Finland's accession to NATO that are being discussed now pose a threat to security of the Russian Federation, and encouragement of the Kyiv regime to go to war and pumping it with Western weapons means obviously hostile actions against our country," the Russian statement said.

Finnish President Sauli Niinistö tweeted that the measures are "a harsh and unsymmetrical response to Finland's expulsion decisions." He said Finland was preparing similar measures, not-

ing that the counterpart to Finland's consulate in St. Petersburg is the Russian Consulate in the Finnish city of Turku.

After Russia launched its invasion of Ukraine, the previously nonaligned Finland sought NATO membership. It officially joined the alliance in the spring and will be participating in the meeting in Vilnius as a full-fledged member.

Although Russia condemned Finland's membership, diplomats and security officials say its response to the country's accession has been muted, with rhetoric and vague threats but no

immediate change in its military posture. Thursday's moves also seem to be a bit of a show.

The Russian Foreign Ministry summoned Finnish Ambassador Antti Helantera on Thursday to present him with a note of protest, ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova said in a briefing. "He was presented with a resolute protest over the confrontational anti-Russian policy pursued by the Finnish authorities," she said.

Helsinki's policy, she said, "is aimed at dismantling Russian-Finnish relations of mutually beneficial cooperation, which

have been formed over decades, and rupturing multifaceted trade-related and economic and inter-regional interaction and direct contacts between citizens," adding that "a lot was said to the Finnish ambassador."

St. Petersburg is Russia's second-largest city, the closest major one to Finland, and has roughly the same population as the Nordic country at over 5 million people. With the high volume of trade and contacts between the two nations before the war in Ukraine, the consulate in St. Petersburg had been one of Finland's busiest.



# Earth is flirting with a long-feared warming benchmark

HEAT FROM AI

And then, on Monday, came Earth's hottest day in at least 125,000 years. Tuesday was hotter.

"We have never seen anything like this before," said Carlo Buontempo, director of Europe's Copernicus Climate Change Service. He said any number of charts and graphs on Earth's climate are showing, quite literally, that "we are in uncharted territory."

It is no shock that global warming is accelerating — scientists were anticipating that would come with the onset of El Niño, the infamous climate pattern that reemerged last month. It is known for unleashing surges of heat and moisture that trigger extreme floods and storms in some places, and droughts and fires in others.

But the hot conditions are developing too quickly, and across more of the planet, to be explained solely by El Niño. Records are falling around the globe many months ahead of El Niño's peak impact, which typically hits in December and sends global temperatures soaring for months to follow.

"We have been seeing unprecedented extremes in the recent past even without being in this phase," said Claudia Tebaldi, an earth scientist at the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory in Richland, Wash. With El Niño's influence, "the likelihood of seeing something unprecedented is even higher," she said.

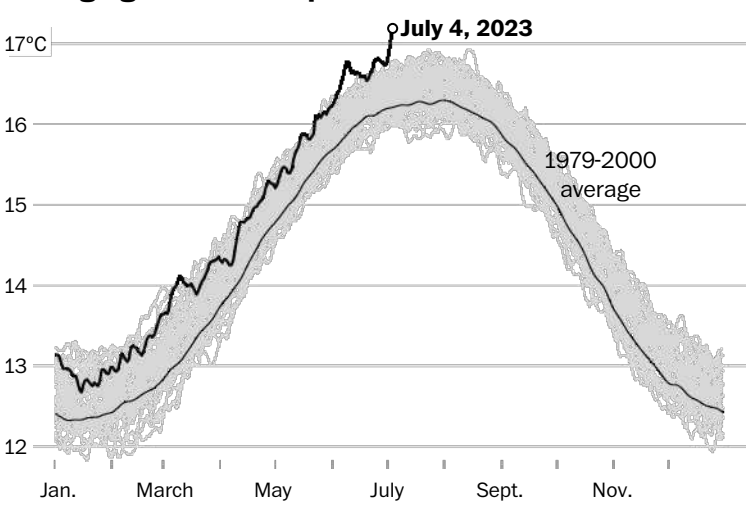
In recent weeks, weather extremes have included record-breaking heat waves in China, where Beijing surpassed 40 degrees Celsius (104 degrees Fahrenheit) for the first time, and in



SPENCER PLATT/GETTY IMAGES

**Children cool off in a fountain in a Lower Manhattan park on Thursday. Monday was believed to be Earth's hottest day in at least 125,000 years, and Tuesday was even hotter.**

Average global air temperatures since 1979



Note: The temperatures shown include data from 90°S to 90°N across all longitudes.

Source: NOAA Climate Forecast System Version 2, via ClimateReanalyzer.org, Climate Change Institute, University of Maine.

SCOTT DANCE / THE WASHINGTON POST

Mexico and Texas, where officials were once again struggling to keep the electricity grid up and running.

Wildfire smoke that has repeatedly choked parts of the United States this summer is a visible reminder of abnormal spring heat and unusually dry weather that have fueled an unprecedented wildfire season in Canada, which saw both its hottest May and June.

Ocean heat is to be expected during El Niño — it is marked by unusually warm sea surface temperatures along the equatorial Pacific. But shocking warmth has developed far beyond that zone, including in the North Pacific, around New Zealand and across most of the Atlantic.

Marine heat wave conditions covered about 40 percent of the world's oceans in June, the greatest area on record, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration reported. That footprint is only expected to grow, forecast to reach 50 percent of ocean waters by September.

## Records broken by wide margins

It's not just that records are being broken — but the massive margins with which conditions are surpassing previous extremes, scientists note. In parts of the North Atlantic, temperatures are running as high as 9 degrees Fahrenheit above normal, the warmest observed there in more than 170 years. The warm waters helped northwestern Europe, including the United Kingdom, clinch its warmest June on record.

New data the Copernicus center published Thursday showed global surface air temperatures

were 0.53 degrees Celsius (0.95 degrees Fahrenheit) above the 1991-2020 average in June. That was more than a tenth of a degree Celsius above the previous record, "a substantial margin," the center said.

Antarctic sea ice, meanwhile, reached its lowest June extent since the dawn of the satellite era, at 17 percent below the 1991-2020 average, Copernicus said. The previous record, set a year earlier, was about 9 percent below average.

The planet is increasingly flirting with a global warming benchmark that policymakers have sought to avoid — 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 degrees Fahrenheit) above preindustrial levels. It has, at times, been surpassed already this year, including in early June, though the full month averaged 1.36 degrees above an 1850-1900 reference temperature, according to Copernicus. The concern is when long-term averages creep closer to that threshold, Buontempo said.

"The average will get there at some point," he said. "It will become easier and easier, given the warming of the climate system, to exceed that threshold."

Halfway through 2023, the year to date ranks as the third warmest on record, according to Copernicus.

## Odds of a record-warm year, once considered slim, are rising

At the start of 2023, it appeared possible, if only narrowly, that the year would end up Earth's warmest on record. For now, 2016 holds that benchmark, heavily influenced by a major El Niño episode that arrived the

previous year.

But as El Niño has rapidly developed — and as signs of extreme warmth have spread across the planet — the odds of a new global temperature record have increased. Robert Rohde, lead scientist at Berkeley Earth, estimates the probability has climbed to at least 54 percent — more likely than not.

"The warmth thus far in 2023 and the development of El Niño has definitely progressed faster than initially expected," Rohde said in a message.

Climate scientists diverge over whether a new global temperature record should be a focus of concern. Flavio Lehner, an assistant professor at Cornell University, likened it to tracking sports scores.

"It's not necessarily meaningful," Lehner said. What matters, he said, is that "we have a long-term trend that is a warming climate."

For others, though, records are a sign of trouble, nearly as hard for people to ignore as the incessant waves of wildfire smoke.

"It just raises everybody's awareness that this is not getting better; it's getting worse," said Jennifer Francis, senior scientist at the Woodwell Climate Research Center in Massachusetts. "My hope is that we'll raise alarm bells by breaking a new record and that will help motivate people to do the right thing and stop ignoring this crisis."

For Tebaldi, records underscore a need to both reduce greenhouse gas emissions and prepare communities for new weather extremes. After all, she said: What was once unprecedented will one day become the norm.

# Fast-melting Norway glaciers are triggering methane release, scientists say

BY CHRIS MOONEY

Scientists working in one of the world's fastest-warming places found that rapidly retreating glaciers are triggering the release into the atmosphere of methane, a potent greenhouse gas that causes global temperatures to rise.

The releases are triggered as glaciers across the archipelago of Svalbard, Norway, rapidly retreat and leave behind newly exposed land, scientists said. If the phenomenon is found to be more widespread across the Arctic — where temperatures are quickly rising and glaciers melting — the emissions could have global implications.

As the Svalbard glaciers move and land is left behind, groundwater beneath the Earth seeps upward and forms springs. In 122 out of 123 of them, the scientists found, the water is filled with apparently ancient methane gas at very high concentrations that bubble upward under pressure. The amount of emissions these springs are emitting are not well-quantified.

"This is a feedback loop that's caused by climate change," said Gabrielle Kleber, the study's lead author and a scientist based at the University of Cambridge and the University Centre in Svalbard. "Glaciers are retreating due to climate warming, and they are leaving these exposed forefields behind, which are encouraging methane gas to be released."

Most concerning is the apparent age of the methane — the fact that it appears to be ancient suggests it could be coming from very large underground reservoirs with the potential to unleash a lot of gas. The researchers found that

the most intense gas flows occurred in regions with underground shale layers that are millions of years old.

"It's not methane being produced contemporarily by microbes, it's methane that was created when the rocks were formed," said Kleber.

This implies that the gas has been sequestered for long periods in ancient deposits of fossil fuels, principally natural gas and coal — but that something has recently removed what scientists call a "cryospheric cap," once provided by glaciers or permafrost. It kept a lid on the methane, and its removal allowed the once stable gas to escape upward. Svalbard is widely known to be rich in fossil fuels — the largest settlement, Longyearbyen, was originally established as a coal-mining town.

Scientists said the current phenomenon could certainly be happening in many places other than Svalbard, potentially adding another accelerator of warming in the Arctic.

"Shale is Earth's most abundant sedimentary rock, and there's plenty of it in the Arctic (or rocks like it)," Andy Hodson, a co-author of the study and also a scientist at Norway's University Center in Svalbard, said in an email.

The study was published on Thursday in Nature Geoscience by Kleber, Hodson and colleagues based at universities in Norway, Canada and the United Kingdom. The scientists studied 78 Svalbard glaciers that are based on land and several additional glaciers that stretch all the way into the ocean.

If the methane releases represent a new phenomenon tied to

the warming of the planet, Svalbard is an appropriate place for it. The string of islands has seen extraordinary warming, causing the strong retreat of glaciers. Svalbard has warmed dramatically since 1976, based on temperature measurements taken at the Svalbard airport near Longyearbyen.

There's no official quantification of how large methane emissions from retreating glaciers around the world could be. The phenomenon would add an additional source of methane emissions in the Arctic. Scientists have found that thawing permafrost also releases the gas into the atmosphere, but the phenomenon is not well understood. An official scientific assessment puts those at between zero and 1 million tons of methane per year, underscoring the uncertainty about the scope of the problem.

The emissions from retreating glaciers would count as a different source — there is usually no permafrost beneath the glaciers, Kleber said. Rather, the glacier ice itself, which crushes the ground downward, is serving as the apparent cap holding the methane in.

Kleber and colleagues estimate that 2,310 tons of methane could be emitted in Svalbard each year due to the process they've uncovered. By comparison, Norway reported 105,940 tons of methane emissions from its agricultural sector, the largest source of emissions for this gas, in 2021 (the most recent year of reporting).

Overall, the emissions tied to retreating glaciers in Svalbard would constitute a little over 1 percent of all of Norway's methane emissions for 2021. Among nations, Norway is itself a rela-



PHOTO BY GABRIELLE KLEBER

**A glacier in Svalbard, Norway, one of the fastest-warming places in the world. The melt is uncovering apparently ancient methane.**

tively small methane emitter.

The real fear is not what is happening in Svalbard, but rather, what it would mean if the phenomenon is more widespread — or, if it is poised to worsen due to further glacial retreat. Kleber notes, for instance, that glaciers that currently spill into the ocean are also retreating, in many cases backing up onto land and thus once again exposing land surfaces that could have methane beneath them.

"As more land is exposed, we have more springs that will pop up," said Kleber.

The new results bump up our understanding of how much older methane could be leaking into the atmosphere in the Arctic as the planet warms, said Katey Walter Anthony, a researcher at the University of Alaska at Fairbanks, who studies these emissions

across the less-and-less frozen north.

In one case, Walter Anthony documented a bubbling lake in Alaska that was also emitting ancient, geologic methane at the alarming rate of nearly 11 tons of gas per day.

The latest study "is important because it shows how ubiquitous [methane] seeps, of various origins, are in the environment of retreating glaciers," Walter Anthony said in an email. "Similar methane rich seeps have been found in Alaska and Greenland along margins of glaciers and the ice sheet."

In a 2012 study, Walter Anthony and a team of scientists estimated that 2 million tons per year of ancient methane gas, stored deep beneath the earth, could be seeping into the air across the Arctic as permafrost thaws, new lakes form

# Israeli graduate student is held captive in Iraq by militia group linked to Iran

Kidnapped in March while doing research for Princeton studies

BY MIKHAIL KLIMENTOV

Elizabeth Tsurkov, an Israeli-Russian dual citizen and a graduate student at Princeton University, is being held captive by a Shiite militia, the office of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu announced Wednesday. Tsurkov was conducting doctoral research in Baghdad when she went missing in March.

"Elizabeth Tsurkov is still alive," the prime minister's office said, "and we hold Iraq responsible for her safety and well-being."

Though close confidants — including Tsurkov's family and some of her co-workers — learned of the researcher's abduction in late March, Israel's statement is

among the first public acknowledgments of her capture. The D.C.-based New Lines Institute for Strategy and Policy, where Tsurkov is a fellow, said in a statement that Tsurkov's family requested that the news not be publicized in hopes of quickly and quietly negotiating a release.

"Our sister is an academic, a world-renowned expert on the Middle East in general and Syria and Iraq in particular," her family said in a statement. "She was kidnapped in the middle of Baghdad, and we see the Iraqi government as directly responsible for her safety. We ask for her immediate release from this unlawful detention."

Israel's statement came after foreign media began to report on Tsurkov's kidnapping, according to Israeli officials cited in reports by local media.

Israeli media reports said Russian and Israeli officials were cooperating in efforts to secure the researcher's release.

Russian spokesman Dmitry Peskov, however, said Thursday the Kremlin had no information about Tsurkov being taken hostage. "We'll definitely inquire about this case at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs."

Tsurkov was kidnapped from the Baghdad neighborhood of Karrada, a busy district filled with cafes and restaurants, where she had been conducting interviews, officials say. She had undergone back surgery in an Iraqi hospital days earlier.

Israel identified Tsurkov's captors as the Shiite militia Kataib Hezbollah, a group closely affiliated with Iran that has been linked in other kidnap attempts involving foreigners.

"There are parts of the Middle East where [Tsurkov's] very identity places her at grave risk," wrote New Lines Magazine, which is published by the New Lines Institute, in a statement on Wednesday. "But Liz is committed to a specific style of granular, hyperlo-



AHMAD MOHAMAD/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

**Elizabeth Tsurkov in 2017. Israeli media reports say that Russian and Israeli officials are working to secure her release.**

cal research that requires fieldwork, and she never seems frightened of anything. She stayed in Iraq."

Gisha, an Israeli nongovern-

mental organization at which Tsurkov previously worked, characterized the academic on Twitter as an advocate "for the human rights and the well being of Palestinians in Gaza."

Tsurkov entered Iraq with her Russian passport to conduct research for her doctoral studies at Princeton, according to the Israeli prime minister's office. Iraq's parliament has criminalized relations with Israel or Israeli citizens, citing its support for the Palestinian cause.

Her family said in its statement that she had been in Iraq to conduct research for her degree at Princeton's comparative politics department.

When asked about its role and knowledge of Tsurkov's trip, a spokesman for the university said they could not share information concerning student records, citing school policy.

"Elizabeth is a valued member of the Princeton University community," said Michael Hotchkiss,

assistant vice president for communications at Princeton. "We are deeply concerned for her safety and well-being, and we are eager for her to be able to rejoin her family and resume her studies."

In November 2021, another Princeton doctoral candidate, Xi-yue Wang, filed a lawsuit against the university, alleging "reckless, willful, wanton, and grossly negligent acts" during a three-year period in which he was imprisoned in Tehran on charges of espionage. The student was conducting academic research there, something he said his faculty had encouraged, despite the risks.

"The Princeton community should be asking a lot of questions about the university's research & travel & protection policies," said Dani Gibert, an academic whose work focuses on hostage-taking practices, in a tweet.

Robyn Dixon in Riga, Latvia, contributed to this report.



# ECONOMY & BUSINESS

## Truckmakers reach deal to phase out polluting big rigs

Agreement with California could speed industry’s transition to electric and helps avoid court fight

BY TIMOTHY PUKO

Some of the largest manufacturers of heavy trucks and engines in the country have agreed to accept a California plan to ban sales of new diesel big rigs by 2036 under a deal aimed in part at thwarting potential litigation and maintaining a single national standard for truck pollution rules.

The deal averts a costly court battle with the biggest industry players and eases the transition to clean electric commercial trucks in California, the largest market in the country, and potentially other states. The agreement covers manufacturers including Ford, Daimler and General Motors, as well as the Truck and Engine Manufacturers Association. All are agreeing to implement the California plan regardless of how it may fare in the courts.

The coalition, the Clean Truck Partnership, was born out of more than three months of negotiations between the industry and the California Air Resources Board, which has been pushing new rules to lead the country on cleaning up heavy trucks. California Gov. Gavin Newsom (D) heralded the deal as a major step toward reducing air pollution and emissions that warm the planet.

“California has shown the world what real climate action looks like, and we are raising the bar yet again,” Newsom said in a statement. “Today, truck manufacturers join our urgent efforts to slash air pollution, showing the rest of the country that we can both cut dangerous pollution and build the economy of the future.”

Diesel-powered commercial trucks are a major source of air pollution nationwide, in particular affecting people living near ports, warehouses and other facilities involved in intensive shipments of goods. In California, heavy-duty trucks account for nearly a third of nitrogen oxide pollution and more than a quarter of fine particle pollution in the

state, according to the California Air Resources Board.

Both of these pollutants are linked to asthma, other respiratory illnesses and premature death. Black and Latino people constitute a notable proportion of California residents living near the state’s ports — which are among the busiest in the country — and are vulnerable, state officials said. The deal could have broader implications. Several other states often follow the clean air rules of California, and because of its size, automakers often produce cars for sale nationwide to meet California standards. That has helped make California a trendsetter in reducing the air pollution emitted by cars and trucks for decades.

Eight states have adopted a precursor to the California plan, accounting for about 25 percent of the American truck market. The states that regularly adopt California regulations were briefed on the new deal at the end of the negotiations. The manufacturers said they are committed to switching to big rigs that produce no emissions, and they touted provisions to harmonize California rules with a recent proposal by the Environmental Protection Agency to limit nitrogen oxide emissions.

The industry for years has tried to make the rules set in Washington and Sacramento as near-identical as possible. That includes a 2019 deal the California Air Resources Board struck with several makers of passenger cars to meet stricter state rules, undercutting a Trump administration plan to relax federal gas-mileage standards.

Recently, however, the industry had been fighting attempts by California to reduce pollution from and ultimately phase out diesel-powered trucks. As part of the deal, California will adopt some of the less stringent federal rules the EPA enacted in December, including standards that would make it easier for trucks to comply at slightly lower pollution rates.

“Automakers need harmoniza-



MELINA MARA/THE WASHINGTON POST

Some major manufacturers accepted a plan to ban sales of new diesel big rigs by 2036. Above, trucks enter the Port of Los Angeles in 2021.

tion between programs to help meet our shared goal of lowering emissions,” Cynthia Williams, global director of sustainability at Ford, said in a statement. That “will help us get more clean trucks on the road across the country.”

The association and Ford began negotiations with California regulators earlier this year, when it became clear that the EPA intended to grant California “waivers” to enforce environmental rules that are significantly tougher than federal regulations. Sacramento and Washington had never before diverged on their standards for diesel big rigs, said Jed Mandel, president of the Truck and Engine Manufacturers Association.

California officials led by Steven Cliff, who until last summer

was head of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, began using that divergence to create pressure for tougher nationwide standards. The California Air Resources Board proposed stricter pollution limits for heavy-duty vehicles, such as delivery vans, garbage trucks and 18-wheelers, to begin with the 2024 model year, three years ahead of the administration’s latest regulations.

Mandel said manufacturers are investing billions of dollars to develop zero-emission vehicles for the American trucking industry. Volvo and Daimler are among them, with battery-powered trucks for sale in the United States and plans to develop hydrogen fuel-cell trucks that can travel longer distances over the next several years. Some electric

semi-tractors are coming out with more than 250 miles of range, with Tesla promoting a video of one of theirs pulling a load over a mountain.

With those manufacturers now saying they can deliver zero emissions by the next decade, the EPA should be factoring in that recent progress to justify ratcheting up federal mandates, said Craig Segall, who oversees policy at Evergreen Action. Segall worked at the California Air Resources Board helping to negotiate this deal until this spring. “Now that trucks are moving to zero” emissions, there is “no reason to set” a weaker standard for them, he said. “The manufacturers themselves are ahead of where the administration is.”

The Biden administration did, at the U.N. Climate Change Con-

ference last year, join a group with 26 other countries committed to working toward 100 percent zero-emissions new truck and bus sales by 2040. But administration officials declined to say how the new deal might affect their plans for fulfilling that commitment. “EPA welcomes this positive development and looks forward to reviewing the details of this agreement,” agency spokesman Tim Carroll said in an email.

Truckmakers said they are committed to a zero-emissions fleet and their technology already supports it. But to support a nationwide mandate, manufacturers need to see more federal support for electric charging stations and hydrogen systems to build out an alternative to the existing diesel network, Mandel said.

## JetBlue won’t appeal ruling that blocked partnership with American Airlines

Carrier hopes move leads DOJ to drop opposition to merger with Spirit

BY LORI ARATANI

JetBlue Airways announced Wednesday it won’t appeal a judge’s decision to dismantle a partnership with American Airlines that allowed the two carriers to coordinate operations on certain routes in the Northeast United States and share the profits.

The carrier said it hopes its move to end the Northeast Alliance would prompt the U.S. Department of Justice to reconsider its opposition to JetBlue’s bid to merge with Spirit Airlines.

“Despite our deep conviction in the procompetitive benefits of the NEA, after much consideration, JetBlue has made the difficult decision not to appeal the court’s determination that the NEA cannot continue as currently crafted, and has instead initiat-

ed the termination of the NEA, beginning a wind-down process that will take place over the coming months,” the carrier said in a statement.

American Airlines said that although it respected JetBlue’s decision, it would still pursue an appeal in the Northeast Alliance case.

“JetBlue’s decision and reasoning confirm our belief that the NEA has been highly pro-competitive and that an erroneous judicial decision disregarding the NEA’s consumer benefits has led to an anticompetitive outcome,” the carrier said in a statement. “The importance of the legal issues presented and the burdens of the restrictions on our business should easily justify an accelerated appeal.”

American and JetBlue announced the creation of the Northeast Alliance in July 2020. The U.S. Department of Transportation gave the carriers approval to form the alliance in the waning days of the Trump administration as long as certain conditions were met. By joining forces on certain

routes between New York and Boston, the carriers hoped to compete more effectively against United Airlines and Delta Air Lines, the major players in those markets.

The alliance included flights at Boston Logan International, John F. Kennedy International, LaGuardia and Newark Liberty International airports.

The DOJ, joined by attorneys general in Arizona, California, Florida, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, Virginia and D.C., challenged the agreement in 2021, and the case was heard last fall in U.S. District Court in Massachusetts. A federal judge in Boston ruled in May that the alliance diminished competition and ordered the partnership be dissolved.

Judge Leo T. Sorokin’s 94-page decision came two months after the Justice Department moved to block JetBlue’s attempt to merge with Spirit, saying the deal would reduce competition and could lead to higher fares. DOJ attorneys said the loss of Spirit would be particularly harmful for price-

sensitive consumers who depend on Spirit’s low fares.

In an interview with The Washington Post, Robin Hayes, JetBlue’s chief executive, pushed back on the notion that the merger would mean less competition in an industry in which four airlines account for about 80 percent of the market.

Hayes said combining operations would create an airline that can be “a disruptive presence able to appeal to a broader set of customers.” He added: “We’re doing this to grow. We’re not doing this to consolidate. We’re doing this to try and get bigger so we can better compete with the Big Four airlines.”

A combined JetBlue-Spirit airline would be the nation’s fifth-largest carrier.

Given its decision not to pursue an appeal in the Northeast Alliance case, JetBlue on Wednesday urged the DOJ to take another look at its \$3.8 billion merger with Spirit, noting that the DOJ itself has recognized “the benefits of JetBlue’s disruptive impact on the industry.”

“As it relates to the Spirit combination, terminating the NEA renders the U.S. Department of Justice’s (DOJ) concerns about our partnership with a legacy carrier entirely moot,” JetBlue said. “With that, the DOJ should reconsider and support our plan to bring a national low-fare competitor to the Big Four; the flying public deserves better than the status quo.”

The Justice Department declined to comment on the matter.

Bill Baer, who led the Justice Department’s antitrust division from 2013 to 2016, said JetBlue’s decision is unlikely to hold much sway with regulators.

“With an adverse decision on the Northeast Alliance weighing down their prospects to buy Spirit, [JetBlue] made a cynical but strategically reasonable choice,” said Baer, now a visiting fellow in governance studies at the Brookings Institution. “I’m pretty confident that this will not do anything to change the strict scrutiny the antitrust division is applying to the Spirit transaction.”

The Biden administration has

increased scrutiny of deals in industries in which it thinks there is too little competition to the detriment of consumers. The Justice Department’s victory in the Northeast Alliance case was seen as a huge boost to that effort.

“We need more, not less, competition in the airline industry, so I welcome JetBlue’s decision to end its participation in the Northeast Alliance,” said Rob Bonta (D), the attorney general of California, one of the states that joined the DOJ’s challenge to the American-JetBlue partnership.

JetBlue has taken other steps to allay regulators’ concerns about overlaps in service between the two carriers in the Northeast. Hayes previously pledged to divest Spirit’s holdings in Boston and New York and said it would offer five gates and “related assets at Fort Lauderdale” — a Spirit hub — to be allocated to other ultra-low-cost carriers.

Hayes also said concerns about a loss of seats could be addressed by operating more frequent flights and from growth that would occur as part of the merger.

### DIGEST

#### EMPLOYMENT

##### Labor market reports show signs of strength

The U.S. labor market showed fresh signs of resilience Thursday, as private hiring surged, layoffs slowed and filings for unemployment benefits stayed relatively low.

U.S. companies added almost half a million jobs in June, the most in over a year, according to data from the ADP Research Institute in collaboration with the Stanford Digital Economy Lab.

A separate report from Challenger, Gray & Christmas showed announced job cuts by U.S. employers fell last month to an eight-month low.

The latest report on job openings shows that vacancies declined in May — unwinding much of an April surge and

indicating labor demand and supply are coming more into balance. The quits rate, however, rose by the most in nine months, indicating workers still feel confident in their ability to secure another job.

Weekly filings for jobless benefits rose by 12,000 to 248,000, according to the Labor Department. While that was more than forecast, the figure is still below June’s peak of 265,000, which was the highest since 2021. Continuing claims, from people who have already received an initial week of aid, fell to the lowest level since February.

Treasury yields surged and the S&P 500 slumped following the reports, which probably will further solidify the case for the Federal Reserve to raise interest rates at its meeting this month, following its June decision to pause after 10 straight increases.

— Bloomberg News

#### AUTO INDUSTRY

##### VW to test self-driving vehicles in Austin

Volkswagen said Thursday that it plans to launch autonomous, or self-driving, vehicles for ride-hailing and goods delivery services in Austin by 2026.

This year, the German automaker plans to test 10 ID Buzz electric vehicles, retrofitted with an autonomous driving platform from Mobileye, in limited areas of Austin, including downtown. Safety drivers will be on board.

“The big aim is that we bring fully autonomous vehicles to the market as a commercial, scalable product,” said Christian Senger, a Volkswagen board member who oversees development of autonomous driving.

Volkswagen joins GM’s Cruise

and Alphabet’s Waymo in testing autonomous vehicles in Austin, the capital of Texas, which is known for the least restrictive regulations on self-driving cars.

— Reuters

#### ALSO IN BUSINESS

**OceanGate said it has halted** all exploration and business operations, just a few weeks after five people were killed in a company-owned submersible on an expedition to see the wreck of the Titanic. The submersible suffered a “catastrophic implosion,” according to the U.S. Coast Guard, and was found after a days-long multinational search. A banner on the company’s website announcing the news Thursday offered no further details, and OceanGate did not immediately respond to news organizations’ requests for comment.

**The U.S. trade deficit shrank** in May as the value of imported merchandise declined to the lowest level since October 2021. The shortfall in goods and services trade declined by \$5.5 billion, or 7.3 percent, from a month earlier to \$69 billion, Commerce Department data showed Thursday. The figures aren’t adjusted for inflation. The value of goods and services imports declined 2.3 percent, while total exports fell 0.8 percent. Demand for foreign goods is easing as American consumers temper their spending on goods in favor of services and experiences.

**Ford Motor Co. on Thursday followed rivals** in reporting a rise in second-quarter U.S. auto sales, driven by easing supply chain snags and pent-up demand. The U.S. automaker’s quarterly sales rose about

10 percent to 531,662 vehicles, the company said. Ford’s quarter was powered by a 26 percent jump in truck sales. Sales of the electric version of the F-150 truck more than doubled from last year. However, Ford’s overall EV sales fell 2.8 percent amid lingering supply snags.

**Amazon’s \$1.65 billion bid** to buy vacuum cleaner maker iRobot faces an in-depth European Union investigation amid concerns the takeover could hurt competition. The European Commission, the E.U.’s merger watchdog, set a deadline of Nov. 15 to vet the potential impact of the deal, which has sparked a backlash from privacy activists. The Washington Post is owned by Amazon founder Jeff Bezos, and interim Post chief executive Patty Stonesifer sits on Amazon’s board.

— From news services



WHAT'S NEW

# Threads is built on Instagram’s base and Meta’s baggage

BY GEOFFREY A. FOWLER  
AND NAOMI NIX

Mark Zuckerberg has unveiled Threads, a clone of Twitter designed to lure people turned off by the social network's changes under owner Elon Musk.

And in its first 24 hours, more than 30 million people signed up for the free app. The billionaire social media smackdown is about to get real.

What does Threads mean for you — and should you join in the rain on Musk’s parade?

On the one hand, Threads has a decent chance of becoming a — maybe even the — major new hub for text-based online conversations. Unlike other would-be Twitter rivals Bluesky and Mastodon, Threads arrives with a potential audience of billions who already use Meta’s photo and video-oriented Instagram, which Threads is built on top of. Meta says it’s taking moderation seriously to make Threads a safer place for us (and eventually advertisers). Zuckerberg, too, is less inclined than Musk to put his foot in his mouth.

But Threads also comes with a whole host of Meta baggage, including questionable privacy practices, opaque algorithms and Big Tech monopoly power. Many of those issues have turned people off Zuckerberg’s other social networks such as Facebook. And those issues are all still present in Threads. For example, from the moment you first log in to Threads, it starts showing you recommended posts from accounts and brands you don’t necessarily follow — or necessarily even care to see.

What’s to like — and dislike — in Threads? And how do you give it a try?

### Getting on Threads is simple

You’ll need to have an Instagram account to sign up for Threads. Then you can download the Threads app for iOS or Android to set up your account. You’ll use the same name for your Threads account as you do on Instagram.

When you first use the app, you’ll be given the option to automatically follow all of the same accounts you follow on Instagram — or just select some of them. We’re curious to see how this plays out: How much overlap is there between accounts you follow on Instagram for their epic photographs with accounts you want to read for their text or hot takes on politics and TV?

That system also means your existing Instagram friends and followers don’t automatically follow you on Threads. You’ll have to build up that audience all over again.

And one other thing to note: At launch, Threads isn’t available in Europe, where the Irish Data Protection Commission recently hit Meta with a record \$1.3 billion fine for breaking its privacy rules. The region’s new Digital Markets Act also puts some of the Meta’s data-sharing and privacy practices into question.

### It works a lot like Twitter

Meta bent over backward to tell us Threads is not a Twitter clone. “Threads is a new app that’s focused on text and dialogue. And the way that we think about this is we’re modeling it after what Instagram has done for photo and video,” said Connor Hayes, a Meta product vice president.

But in many ways, Threads works exactly like Twitter. It’s primarily oriented around text conversations, and your posts — called “threads” — are limited to 500 characters each. You mention other people in threads by using the @ symbol in front of their username, and can reply to someone else’s posts. You can also quote or retweet — erm, “repost” — someone else’s threads by clicking a button. (So should we call a thread of threads ... a knit?)

You can include photos and videos in Threads, but they don’t show up as Instagram posts or Reels. You can also share Instagram photos and videos on Reels, but they show up just as regular links. There aren’t native integrations between the two apps.

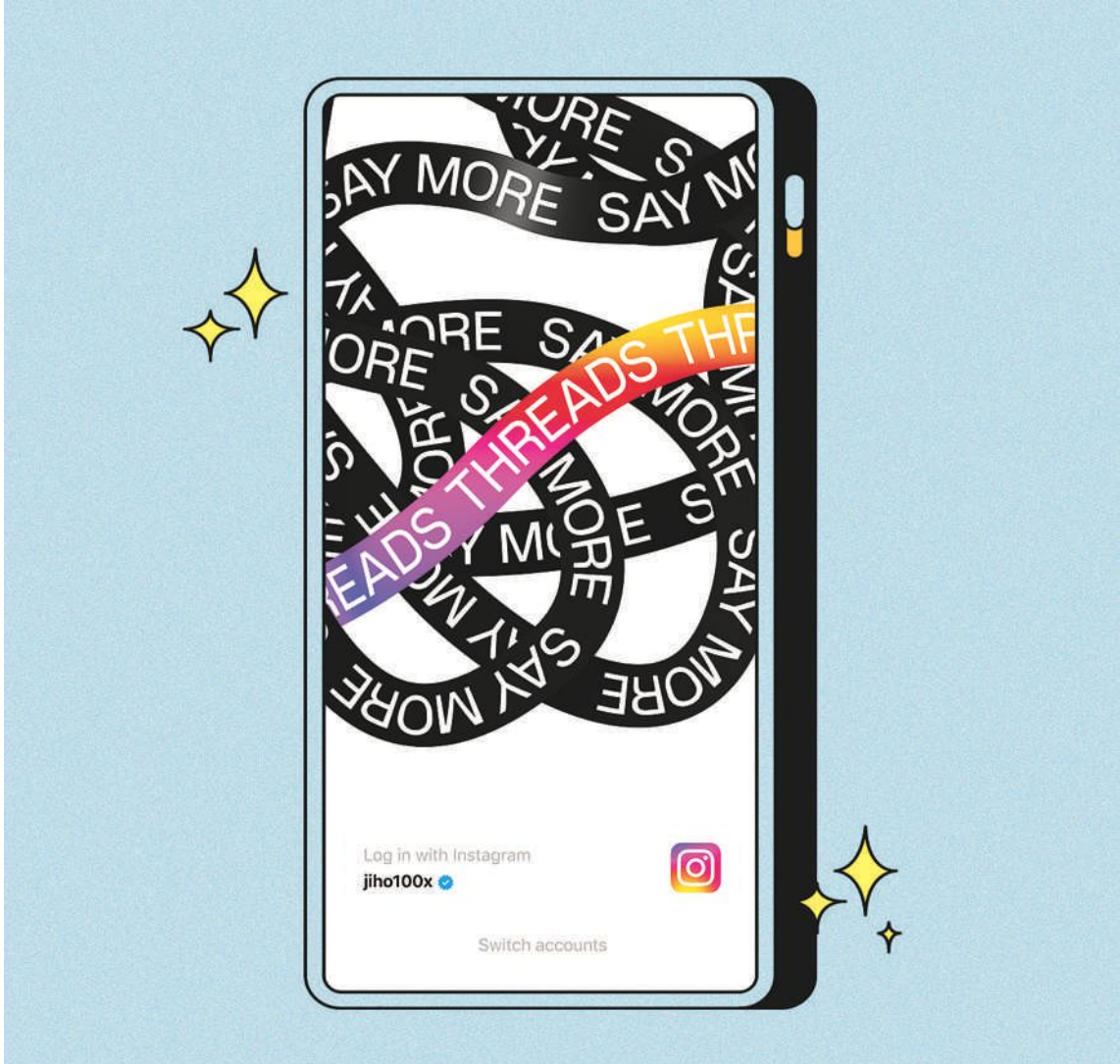
What’s different from Twitter? There’s no separate direct messaging function at launch. And you have a bit more control over the audience who can see what you post.

And unlike Twitter, Threads also has no hashtag or trending-topics function, and there’s no way to edit threads once you’ve posted them.

### You can’t take your Twitter friends with you

Many Twitter users spent years curating the list of accounts to follow over on the bird app. But so far there’s no easy way to port that list into Threads.

Blame a lack of interoperability. Despite the complaints of consumer advocates and some lawmakers, Big Tech companies have largely resisted calls to make their products work easily with each



WASHINGTON POST ILLUSTRATION; META

other. (Example No. 1: Apple’s iPhone.) The companies have little incentive to make it easy for you to quit.

It’s possible that someone will figure out a hack that makes this possible. Or hopefully Meta will open up technology on its side that allows you to import follower lists.

### Your feed is chosen by an algorithm, not you

When you open the Threads app, you’re thrown into a feed of threads that’s a mix of accounts you’ve chosen to follow and algorithmically generated suggestions. Some of the people who are already on Threads include singer and actress Jennifer Lopez, celebrity chef Gordon Ramsay and social activist Malala Yousafzai, along with entertainment brands such as Netflix and Bravo TV.

But there’s no way to make Threads show you only the posts from accounts you’ve chosen to follow and no way to clear the home screen of Threads from people you didn’t select. In a thread,

Instagram’s head Adam Mosseri said a follower-only list was on the company’s to-do list.

There’s also no way to make your feed ordered chronologically — instead, it’s organized by what the Threads algorithm thinks you might find most interesting.

### It’s just as bad for your privacy as Facebook

Like Twitter, Threads accounts can be either public or private. On a public post, you can also adjust the groups who can reply to everyone, only the accounts you follow or just the ones you mention in the post.

Having said that, Threads is just as hungry for your personal data as Facebook and Instagram are. Patrick Jackson of privacy tech company Disconnect says he’s found the Threads app gobbling data you might not expect, including details of your phone (model number, screen resolution and time zone) and identifiers such as a timestamp for when you installed the app.

You should also assume that

when you sign up for a Threads account, Meta has access to everything Facebook and Instagram have learned about you over the years — on and off its apps — to target ads and tailor your experience.

### There are no ads (so far)

At launch, Threads has no ads. But don’t expect it to stay that way. Meta, which makes the vast majority of its revenue from tracking what users do online and using it to target them with ads, says it may open the door to ads in the future.

### Meta says it takes safety seriously, but time will tell

Meta says safety is an advantage it has vs. Twitter. Threads will apply the same content rules that exist on Instagram. That means users on Threads aren’t supposed to be able to praise terrorist or hate groups, buy firearms or make threats against people or groups.

That said, even in the first few hours of Threads, users reported examples to us of anti-LGBTQ+

rhetoric on the network — with mixed success at getting it taken down.

And keep in mind: Any user who is allowed to be on Instagram will be allowed to be on Threads. Earlier this year, Meta reinstated Donald Trump’s Facebook and Instagram accounts following a two-year suspension, so he’d be welcome on Threads.

There are some protections for children. Users under 16 are automatically defaulted into a private account. And Threads will allow users to limit replies to their threads to only people that they follow or mentioned in the thread.

### Threads wants to make life easier for creators

Meta says that Threads will lower the risk for creators who want to try a new text-based social media app but don’t want to have to put in all the work it takes to build a new following from scratch. Instead, they can encourage their fan base on Instagram to join Threads to start. But users will still have to opt in to follow their favorite creators on Threads, and there is no guarantee that every creator’s followers will be interested in the new app.

“My guess is that there’s going to be a bunch of people that end up being very successful on Threads who you wouldn’t really expect,” Meta’s Hayes said. “You might look at them now as a visual content creator, but they have a lot of great things to say they just haven’t had the place to say them. And our hope is that Threads can be that place.”

### There’s hope Threads will join the open fediverse

Meta says that it has plans to make Threads compatible with the so-called fediverse, meaning it would work along with other decentralized social networks such as Mastodon. (To do this, Meta has committed to an industry protocol called ActivityPub.) That could be revolutionary for the industry, but Silicon Valley doesn’t have a great track record with actually making things work together.

### Be careful before you delete it

You can only delete and deactivate your Threads account by deleting your entire Instagram account.

In its privacy policy, Meta states: “You may deactivate your Threads profile at any time, but your Threads profile can only be deleted by deleting your Instagram account.”

TECH IN YOUR LIFE

# TikTok, Mastodon and other alternatives for those looking to leave Twitter

BY HEATHER KELLY

Twitter has been through some big changes. For many loyal users of the 17-year-old site, Elon Musk’s takeover and subsequent management decisions are a sign that it’s time to use Twitter less or leave it altogether.

The fast-moving feed of news, commentary and arguments has already experienced issues, including a rise in hate speech, unwanted feature changes, a limit on the number of tweets you can read, and the ongoing fumbled rollout of a new verification system. Massive job cuts and Musk’s own position on free speech could lead to more widespread harassment, misinformation and technical issues.

A number of companies have tried to fill the void. After the sale closed, a surge of people said they were moving to Mastodon, an open-source alternative that has tried to catch on as a less toxic Twitter for years. Other smaller start-ups have pushed their own untested apps as the next alternative to Twitter, including Spill, Hive, CounterSocial, T2 and Post.

An app called Bluesky has taken off with some of Twitter’s big-name users. It is backed by Twitter founder Jack Dorsey and started as a Twitter-funded side project in 2019, but it is now independent and has launched a bare-bones beta app. And most recently, Facebook and Instagram parent company Meta has decided to make its own version of Twitter called Threads.

There is no exact copy or one app that will hit all the same spots. Even if an option looks and acts similar to Twitter, it won’t take off unless it can replicate the same sprawling networks of people that Twitter spent over a decade creating. As with Facebook, ditching Twitter can mean scattering your online presence across multiple other apps. Leaving Twitter could also mean cutting things out of your

online life permanently, like late-night doomscrolling or arguing with strangers online for sport. And maybe, just maybe, that’s okay.

Here are the options you can consider.

### Before you start: Be smart about trying new apps

When choosing new social networks or apps to test out, don’t blindly trust smaller companies with your data or personal information. Remember that larger alternatives from Meta and TikTok come with their own ethical and privacy issues. To stay safe, avoid giving apps access to sensitive information like your contacts (they will ask repeatedly). Check all of your privacy settings, both in the app and on your smartphone’s settings. Sign up with an alias email address and use a strong password and multifactor authentication when you can.

Because there are so many clones, here is a breakdown of some of the more serious competitors.

**Threads:** This is a brand-new competitor from Meta, which is calling Threads a text version of Instagram. It also looks pretty identical to Twitter with a feed of short posts you can repost or reply to. While still untested, it does have a leg up on all the other competitors because it’s coming from a company with billions of users, existing moderation and security infrastructure, and a long history of successfully cloning other apps.

**Mastodon:** Mastodon is a seven-year-old social media network that can be accessed on the web or through its mobile app on iOS and Android. It’s decentralized, meaning there are thousands of individual communities it calls servers instead of just one site. While its longer track record and similarities to Twitter have drawn in many people, it can seem a bit more technical to new people.

**Bluesky:** A surprise hit, Bluesky drew a ton of Twitter’s biggest-name posters when it launched this year. It’s also very similar to a bare-bones Twitter — you sign up with your email, choose a handle, and then you can scroll through a timeline and write your own posts. Like Mastodon, it’s based on a decentralized system, but it’s easier to hop right in without worrying about the underlying tech.

### Find apps to read the news

For many users, Twitter is the place they see the news happening in real time. Instead, put a news aggregation app on the homepage of your phone, like Apple’s News app or Google News. Both include a wide selection of outlets and local news sources, which can be the first to report on events in their areas like shootings or disasters. Switching to traditional news outlets or tools that curate them like Flipboard has the added bonus of decreasing the risk of misinformation, which can spread on Twitter during breaking news events.

If you prefer to make your own list of outlets, like you do on Twitter, try an RSS reader. Use an app like Feedly, Newsify or Inoreader.

If you specifically enjoy the messy arguments over news stories between regular Twitter users, any news publication’s comment section should fill that void.

### Get insight and entertainment from experts

One of the delights of Twitter is that you can read the thoughts of fascinating people free. Academics, law experts, reporters, comics and people who have devoted their life to niche topics have all shared their brilliance in an accessible way. Luckily, many are posting those same thoughts, more in-depth, other places.

Sign up for newsletters. Many big Twitter personalities have

longer-form offerings, published through their employers or independently on Substack or Medium.

You can also support creators on sites like Patreon and Ko-fi, which let you pay different amounts for access to their content. Follow them on the other big social media sites, like Instagram, TikTok, YouTube and LinkedIn. Finally, subscribe to podcasts featuring the same kind of smart, funny and informative people you find on Twitter.

### Forge personal relationships

People have found lasting friendships, even fallen in love and met their spouse, over Twitter. If you already established relationships with other Twitter users, make sure you have another way to reach them, like WhatsApp, Signal or Instagram. If you have a group of friends, it was probably time to fire up a group chat anyway.

As for making more of these connections, that’s harder. Send emails or direct messages to people whose posts you like on other sites.

When you join other sites like Reddit, look for communities of people with similar interests and use direct messages or replies to strike up friendly conversations. Some dating sites have launched platonic versions of their apps specifically for meeting friends, including Bumble BFF, Meetup and Friender.

### Be part of a community

To find larger groups of people with similar interests, check out Facebook groups, join subreddits about the topics you’re most interested in, find relevant Discord groups or see if there’s a similar group on Mastodon.

If you were active on Tumblr, you could try revisiting the site.

You can test out one of the smaller apps like CounterSocial that have a similar feel to Twitter, but be careful with your data and security. There’s a high

chance all of your interests already have a thriving community on TikTok and YouTube, where you can participate in comments if you’re not into posting videos yourself.

If you are trying to find a specific community, look at their last tweets and see if prominent members have said where they’ll be next.

If you don’t see the group you want thriving anywhere yet, go ahead and start it yourself.

### Get updates in an emergency

Federal and local agencies use Twitter to post updates about emergencies, like road closings from floods, shelter-in-place orders during shootings and evacuation updates for wildfires. You can follow the agencies on Facebook instead, but your best bet is to make sure you are getting alerts pushed directly to you on your phone.

Check your phone settings to see what wireless emergency alerts you’re getting, like Amber Alerts. Subscribe to your school or workplace alert systems, and find local alerts by looking up your state, city or county agencies.

A number of them use the text-based emergency alert system Nixle (to sign up, text your Zip code to 888777).

Finally, you can dive into the controversial world of neighborhood crime apps, like Citizen and Amazon’s Neighbors app. They let you follow events as they happen in your area with updates from people on the scene, and many local agencies are already on them. (Amazon founder Jeff Bezos owns The Washington Post.)

### Do some networking

It seems that for as long as job hunting and corporate jargon exist, LinkedIn will thrive. You’re probably already on LinkedIn, so just give your profile a polish and start posting or sharing what you’re working on there.

### Listen to live audio

An exodus from Twitter could be the best thing to happen to Clubhouse, the audio chatroom app that had a moment during the pandemic. Twitter copied Clubhouse with its Twitter Spaces feature, which has been a hit with many users. If you’re leaving Twitter, Clubhouse is still around and hosting round-the-clock chatrooms.

### Unwind with nonstop scrolling

TikTok has elevated mindless scrolling to an art form. If you use Twitter as a way to kill time or unwind, TikTok is the best replacement. You can see similar addictive video content on Instagram Reels, albeit a couple of days or weeks later.

If your Twitter scrolling is more of a problem than an enjoyable way to pass time, consider checking out e-books from your local library to read on your phone instead. You get the same feel of flipping through nonstop text on your screen free and with less anxiety.

### Stick around but protect your data

If you want to wait and see what happens, you can do it while minimizing any potential privacy risks posed by new Twitter management or a drop in moderation. You can even make yourself a ghost on the app without having to fully leave it.

If you use Twitter anonymously to communicate sensitive information, or worry about online harassment, do these things immediately: Back up all your tweets and follow lists, delete sensitive DMs (both sides have to delete it), delete old tweets, and lock down privacy and anti-harassment settings.

Even if you aren’t worried about your Twitter presence, you should export a copy of your Twitter data now so that you have a list of people you follow before they leave.



# FRIDAY OPINION

JOSH ROGIN

## Biden tells Syrian activists he still thinks Assad must go

Now that he's campaigning in earnest, President Biden more often finds himself talking with regular Americans who in turn get a rare opportunity to bend the ear of the leader of the free world. These exchanges offer a window into what the president is thinking and saying when he's outside the view of cameras (and beyond his handlers' reach).

Three Syrian American activists took advantage of their audience with Biden at a private fundraiser on June 27 in Maryland to implore him to do more to oppose Syrian dictator Bashar al-Assad and protect innocent Syrian civilians. Encouragingly, these activists told me, Biden not only seemed to care deeply about the plight of Syrians but also seemed to want to do more about it. Yet they also noted that the president's statements on Syria don't match his own administration's current policies. They are right on both counts.

Alaa Tello, a Syrian American from Massachusetts, said she told Biden, "Assad must go." Biden then responded, according to Tello, "I agree." That contrasts sharply with his administration's own recent actions, which include telling Arab countries in the Persian Gulf that the United States won't oppose their normalization of Assad and failing to implement U.S. sanctions against Assad's enablers.

Biden was vice president when the Obama administration first declared in 2011 that "Assad must go." Current administration officials don't say that anymore, in part because Assad doesn't seem to be going anywhere. But the activists' conversations with the president were a sign that Biden still believes it, Tello told me afterward.

Tello pressed the president to help the Syrian people free themselves from the grip of Assad and his Russian and Iranian partners, whose campaign of mass atrocities is now in its 13th year.

"He said, 'I can't promise you, but I will do the best I can,'" Tello told me. "He cared. He engaged in the conversation with a high level of empathy, and I felt a lot of hope that the United States and the president will help the Syrian people."

A National Security Council spokesperson told me: "We will not normalize relations with the Assad regime without authentic progress toward a political solution to the conflict, and we are aligned with our Arab partners on the ultimate objectives."

*'We really need to push the political process, and the U.S. needs to lead on that front.'*

Muhammad Bakr Ghbeis

Tello's husband, Muhammad Bakr Ghbeis, a physician, told me he implored Biden to pay more attention to Syria's northwest Idlib province, where more than 3 million internally displaced civilians are living in squalor, cut off from the world, and enduring constant attacks from Syrian and Russian forces.

"We have to save Idlib," Ghbeis told me he told Biden. "Please save Idlib, Mr. President." Biden responded: "I hear you, but I can't send U.S. soldiers to Syria." Ghbeis answered, "Mr. President, no need to, we can do it, we can protect ourselves, we just need more support from the U.S."

Ghbeis spelled out the specific asks of the Syrian American activists in an op-ed on Wednesday in the Hill that he co-wrote with former House Foreign Affairs Committee chairman Eliot Engel (D-N.Y.). Ghbeis and Engel want the Biden administration to actively oppose Assad's further diplomatic rehabilitation, including his possible attendance at an international climate conference later this year in the United Arab Emirates. The Arab League welcomed Assad back as a member this year.

Syrian activists also want the administration to publicly support a bipartisan bill called the Assad Regime Anti-Normalization Act, which would stiffen penalties on any entity that aids the Assad regime, until or unless the Syrian government ceases its atrocities. Lastly, they want Biden to give Syrians living outside Assad's rule more humanitarian aid and economic support.

Ghbeis is active in a nonprofit organization called Citizens for a Secure and Safe America, which advocates on behalf of the Syrian opposition. The group's spokesperson, George Stifo, also a Massachusetts resident, was also at the event, where he had his own interaction with Biden.

"Mr. President, if we had stopped the Russians in Syria, we would not have seen the war in Ukraine," Stifo told me he told Biden, arguing that Russian President Vladimir Putin became emboldened after getting away with atrocities in Syria. Stifo says that the president responded by saying he would not permit the Russians to succeed again.

One might think that Biden was just telling the Syrian activists what they want to hear. But Syrian Americans know from experience that these quick chats with the commander in chief can have real influence. In 2018, after a different Syrian activist met with President Donald Trump at a fundraiser, he took her story to heart. Trump ended up changing U.S. policy, directing his officials to use diplomatic tools to prevent a Syrian attack on Idlib at the time — which they did with some success.

Biden officials like to think they run a tighter ship and that the president won't change U.S. policy after a few conversations. But you never know.

What comes out of this particular exchange remains to be seen. But all the Syrians' specific policy asks are part of a broader, valid concern about the Biden administration's Syria policy. They see the administration as lacking initiative and willingness to get deeply involved in the diplomacy needed to negotiate a just end to the war.

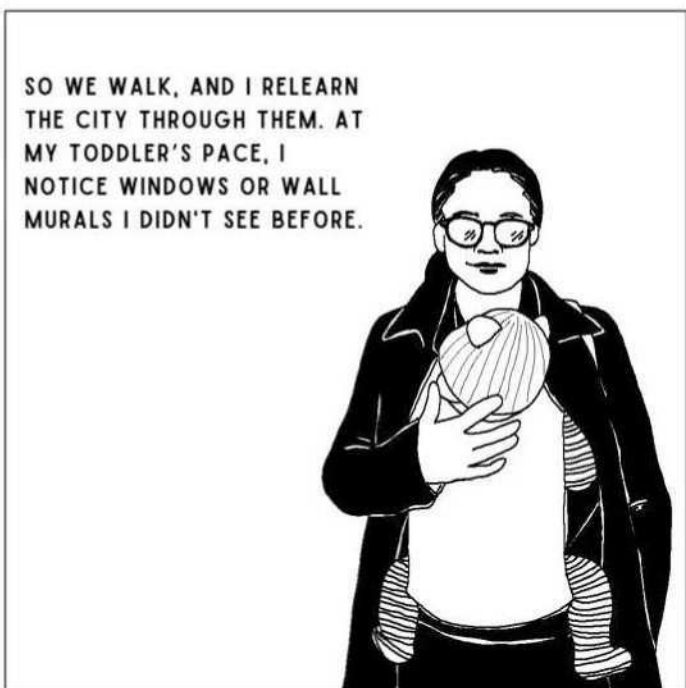
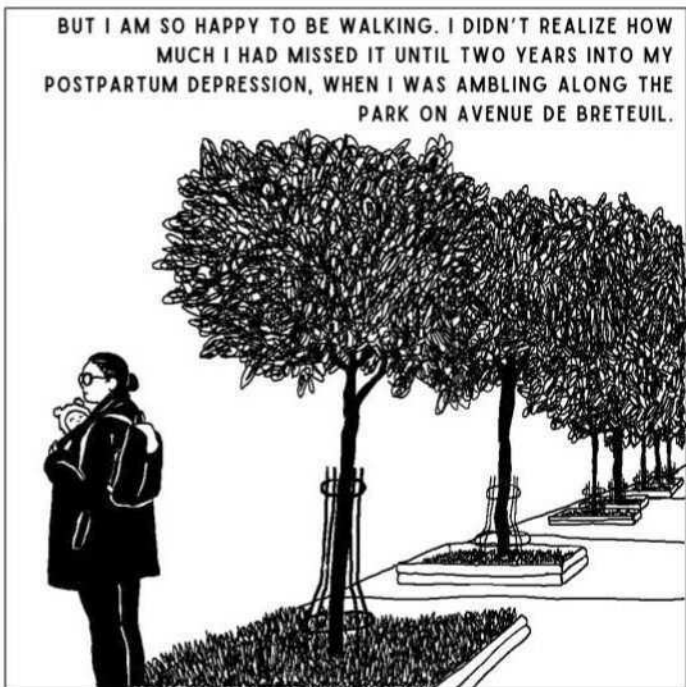
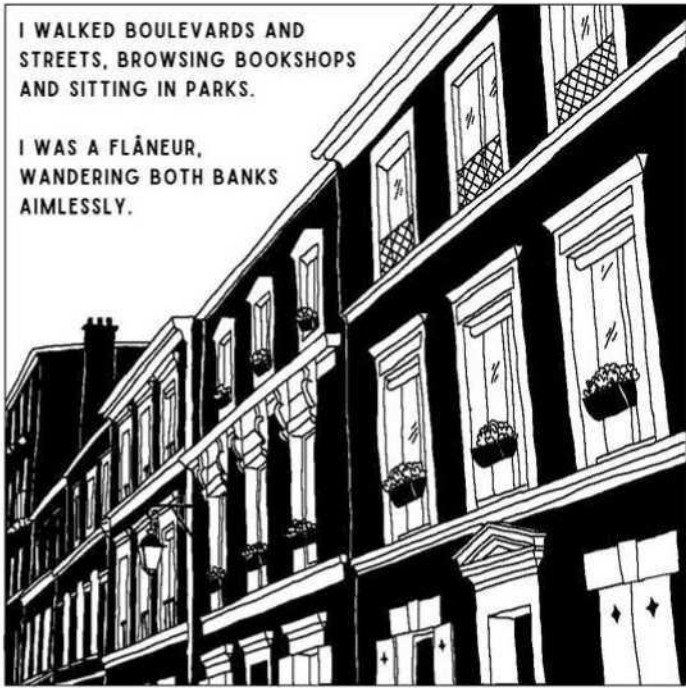
"We really need to push the political process, and the U.S. needs to lead on that front," Ghbeis told me. "That has not been the case for the last six years."

In the past, Biden has expressed the view that the United States should lead the international diplomacy on Syria and use pressure to stop Assad from slaughtering civilians with impunity. Perhaps his encounter with the activists will lead him back to this position. Even after all this time, it's still the right thing to do.

POST PANDEMIC

## How covid — and two babies — changed the way I walk my city ➞

BY KATE GAVINO





FRIDAY OPINION

MY DAUGHTER WAS BORN IN 2020,  
UNDER THE STRICTEST COVID  
SAFETY MEASURES ...



... WHILE MY SON WAS BORN IN 2022,  
UNDER SLIGHTLY MORE LAX BUT  
STILL RIGID RESTRICTIONS.


WE LIVE IN PARIS, WHERE PUBLIC LIFE SEEMS TO  
HAVE RETURNED TO ITS MOSTLY MASK-FREE, AIR-  
KISSING, PROTESTING-THE-GOVERNMENT EXISTENCE.



METRO  
BOULOT  
CAVEAU

LA RETRAITE  
~ avant ~  
L'ARTHRITE

I HAD MY FAVORITE  
BENCHES, MY FAVORITE  
HEADSTONES IN MY  
FAVORITE CEMETERIES, MY  
FAVORITE SIDE OF THE  
SEINE TO STROLL DOWN.



FEW THINGS MADE ME  
HAPPIER THAN A LONG  
WALK THROUGH THE CITY.

THEN CAME MARCH  
2020, AND PARIS WENT  
INTO A STRICT  
LOCKDOWN. I WAS TWO  
MONTHS PREGNANT. WE  
COULDN'T GO  
ANYWHERE WITHOUT A  
WRITTEN PERMISSION  
FORM, AND ONLY FOR  
AN HOUR AT A TIME.



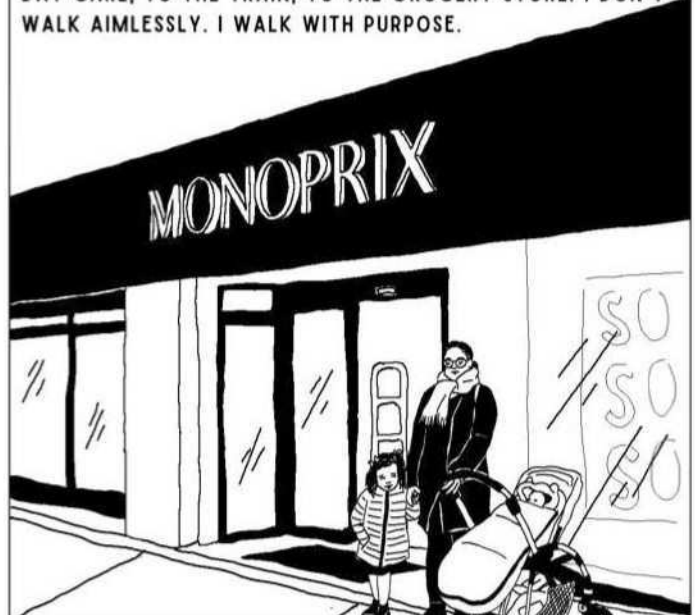
DURING MY HOUR OF  
OUTDOOR RECREATION,  
I'D WALK IN CIRCLES IN  
OUR BUILDING'S SMALL  
COURTYARD, PEEKING  
OUT THE GATE  
OCCASIONALLY FOR  
SIGNS OF LIFE.

AS AN EXHAUSTED MOTHER, I CRAVE  
ALONE TIME, BUT THAT'S JUST NOT  
POSSIBLE NOW. INSTEAD, I TAKE MY  
CHILDREN ON WALKS.



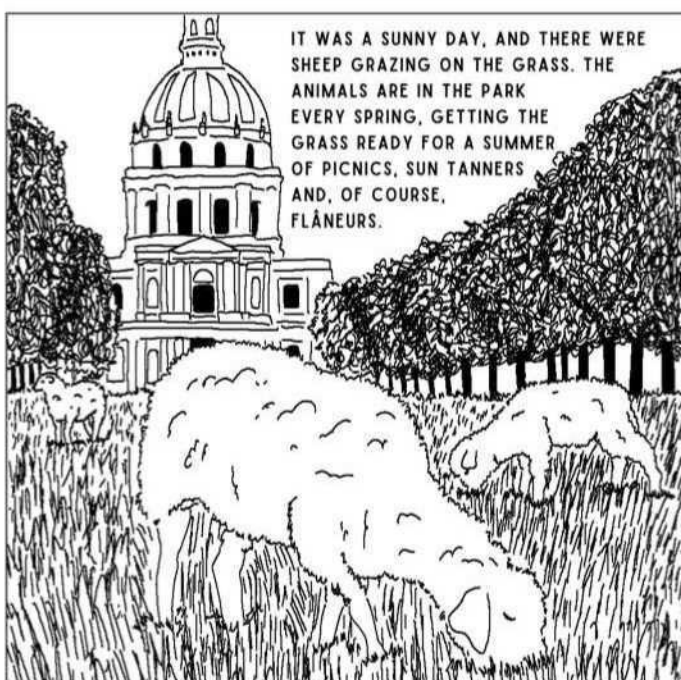
THESE AREN'T THE  
HOURS-LONG WALKS OF  
MY PRE-MOTHERHOOD  
LIFE. THEY'RE NOT  
WHAT YOU WOULD  
CALL 'CAREFREE.'

MOST OF THE WALKS I GO ON ARE SHORT AND DIRECT: TO  
DAY CARE, TO THE TRAIN, TO THE GROCERY STORE. I DON'T  
WALK AIMLESSLY. I WALK WITH PURPOSE.



MONOPRIX

IT WAS A SUNNY DAY, AND THERE WERE  
SHEEP GRAZING ON THE GRASS. THE  
ANIMALS ARE IN THE PARK  
EVERY SPRING, GETTING THE  
GRASS READY FOR A SUMMER  
OF PICNICS, SUN TANNERS  
AND, OF COURSE,  
FLÂNEURS.



I HADN'T SEEN THE SHEEP IN YEARS, EVEN  
THOUGH THEY HAD BEEN ONLY A FEW BLOCKS  
AWAY FROM OUR APARTMENT.



THEY MADE ME SO ... PEACEFUL.

THOSE ARE  
SHEEP.

COOL, HUH?

WE ARE NOT AIMLESS FLÂNEURS, BUT MAYBE WE'LL GET THERE  
SOMEDAY. WE'RE ADJUSTING, LEARNING, DISCOVERING OUR  
SURROUNDINGS. WITH MY CHILDREN, IT'S AS IF I'M DOING  
EVERYTHING FOR THE FIRST TIME.



ARTISAN  
BOULANGER  
PÂTISSIER

Kate Gavino, a writer and illustrator, is the creator of the website and book "Last Night's Reading." Her most recent book is "A Career in Books: A Novel About Friends, Money, and the Occasional Duck Bun."

D.C.'s broken promises to small businesses

BY ROBERT KOTCHENREUTHER, NAOD EJIGU AND MARK ROSENMAN

Last fall, a majority of then-newly elected ANC 3C advisory neighborhood commissioners posed for an infamous picture giving the finger to a Cleveland Park business's storefront window poster that opposed the planned Connecticut Avenue bike lanes because of concerns about street parking. The reporting of their offensively dismissive bravado led to apologies from most of these commissioners. But now it seems that the D.C. Department of Transportation is rewarding them with the last word.

D.C. is failing diversely owned and operated independent small businesses in Cleveland Park and, quite likely, across the city. One small-business owner closed his shop, and others now feel forced to consider moving from the neighborhood because of planned governmental actions.

After years of DDOT seeking local support to close the one-lane Connecticut Avenue service road that borders Cleveland Park businesses and provides parking for customers (and was the site of the ANC middle-finger photo), DDOT agreed to a compromise with the community. The service road would be redesigned to accommodate a shared vehicle, parking and pedestrian space. Its vehicle exit would be relocated for increased safety and efficiency.

Now, following years of planning and months and months of very costly disruption to businesses — and after very significant taxpayer expense — DDOT is nearing completion of that shared roadway. But ANC 3C, at its last meeting, approved a resolution sponsored by one of the commissioners in that offensive picture asking DDOT to permanently close the service road to vehicles and parking.

Just one month later, DDOT — despite earlier having received a petition from about 75 percent of Cleveland Park's small businesses (more than 45 of us) asking exactly the opposite — announced in a news release that the service road reconstruction would be altered to bar all vehicle traffic. That new design wasn't even tested. To try to partially compensate for that loss of customer parking, DDOT said it would install 30-minute meters on neighboring residential side streets, per the ANC request.

*One small-business owner closed his shop, and others now feel forced to consider moving from the neighborhood because of planned governmental actions.*

A group of business owners — including two of the authors and Jay Morris, owner of Brothers Sew & Vac; Ranjit Kaur, owner of Cleveland Park Liquor; Christopher Stadnyk, owner of Frame Mart Gallery; Salim Adimi, owner of Fresh Med; John Yucel, owner of ImaJ Salon; Jane Treacy and Phillip Eagleburger, owners of Treacy & Eagleburger Architects; Andrew Shin, owner of Uptown Cleaners; Diana Calcagno, owner of Vace Italian Deli; and Suprabha Beckjord, owner of Transcendence-Perfection-Bliss of the Beyond — agree with customer surveys and government findings that parking is the most important factor in their success. Given years of pleas from this business community not to reduce parking, how could a single ANC resolution undo the carefully considered DDOT compromise for the service road? It seems that small, local businesses have no clout with D.C. government. It also seems the community's interests can be easily subverted with a flawed and misinformed ANC resolution.

We know our neighborhood, and we know our customers. We know our own experience.

We know that parking is critical to our success, as shown in prior DDOT studies and an analysis by the deputy mayor for planning and economic development. We know that when construction disrupts parking on the service road and on Connecticut Avenue, our businesses suffer — up to 40 percent of gross revenue lost, as documented internally by some of us recently. We know that the service road was safe, and that its new design and reconstruction were approved by DDOT as safe for all users. And we know that aging residents, those with mobility issues and those with bulky purchases absolutely need parking.

We know that our customers, especially those visiting restaurants and bars, need more than 30 minutes to park. When our customers were asked, a preponderance said they would patronize us more if there were more parking. More than 85 percent of Cleveland Park's small-business respondents reported to the deputy mayor in a previous market study that the lack of available parking was the biggest challenge to our businesses.

DDOT knows from its own studies that there is no unused parking midday or evenings during the week or on Saturdays on Connecticut Avenue or on the adjacent side streets. Its intent to install 30-minute meters and move traffic onto residential streets will infuriate the neighborhood residents, as would its plans for moving deliveries and truck traffic there. A 30-minute parking limit would mean shoppers would not be able to visit more than one business on each trip.

The confluence of the removal of parking for bike lanes on Connecticut Avenue, the introduction of 30-minute meters and the removal of parking on the service road demonstrate that DDOT doesn't care about our survival.

We worked with Cleveland Park residents, civic organizations and local businesses to come up with a safe plan that served all of our interests. Years and hundreds of thousands of taxpayer dollars were spent on constructing the compromise shared-roadway design. And now that it's about to be opened, we're sandbagged by ANC 3C and DDOT, and who knows which other officials.

That DDOT could reverse years of planning and commitment, even after we have made business decisions based on it, is devastating.

Robert Kotchenreuther is the owner of Cleveland Park Valet. Naod Ejigu is the owner of a 7-Eleven in Cleveland Park. Mark Rosenman is a neighborhood activist helping Cleveland Park businesses and residents.



# The Washington Post

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

EDITORIALS



YURI CORTEZ/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

**María Corina Machado speaks during a news conference in Caracas, Venezuela, on Tuesday to address her disqualification to hold public office.**

## Mr. Biden needs a Plan B for democracy in Venezuela

The regime continues its repressive moves against the opposition.

MARÍA CORINA MACHADO, a former elected member of Venezuela’s National Assembly, has been gaining traction as the potential standard-bearer for that autocratic country’s democratic opposition in elections scheduled for next year. Credible polls project her to lead in this year’s Oct. 22 primary through which opponents of President Nicolás Maduro plan to select a single candidate to run against him.

But now it seems Ms. Machado might never get the chance. The Maduro regime announced June 30 that she is disqualified from holding public office — for 15 years — purportedly because of her past support for U.S. sanctions on Caracas. Ms. Machado vowed to continue her campaign, arguing, plausibly, that the attempt to ban her is a sign of weakness by an unpopular government that “knows it is already defeated.”

The fact remains that Mr. Maduro can probably force her to the sidelines if he is determined to do so, just as Nicaragua’s dictator, Daniel Ortega, barred his principal opponents from running in 2021. Two other leading opposition candidates in Venezuela face bans already. And the Maduro regime recently announced a complete replacement of the 15-member National Electoral Council, which will supervise the general elections in 2024. In charge of the hiring process: Mr. Maduro’s wife, Cilia Flores.

All of the above threatens the already slim chances of a peaceful democratic transition in Venezuela, which desperately needs one after a decade of economic collapse, political repression and systematic corruption under Mr. Maduro.

U.S. policy failed to promote such change under President Donald Trump, who tried “maximum pressure” in the form of stepped-up economic sanctions and global diplomatic recognition of an interim government headed by opposition politician Juan Guaidó. President Biden abandoned that course in favor of a new one built around negotiations between the opposition and Mr. Maduro and the mobilization of frozen Venezuelan assets for a humanitarian aid fund. Caracas has been offered selective sanctions relief as an inducement to engage in good faith with its internal foes. The most important U.S. concession so far has been allowing Chevron to resume limited production in the oil-rich country.

Even before the regime’s latest repressive moves, the Biden approach seemed to be yielding diminishing returns. The regime has refused to resume formal negotiations with the opposition since November and demanded the lifting of all remaining sanctions as a condition for any agreement. Left-leaning governments in Colombia and Brazil have not fulfilled the administration’s hopes to facilitate a settlement; especially disappointing has been the posture of Brazilian President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, who recently dismissed evidence of human rights violations in Venezuela as “a constructed narrative of authoritarianism.” And Mr. Lula declined to condemn Ms. Machado’s disqualification, protesting that he did not know all the “details.”

The time is fast approaching for the Biden administration to develop a Plan B, in coordination with like-minded governments, both within Latin America and beyond it. In that respect, unified rejection of the regime’s attempt to bar Ms. Machado from running — by the United States, Canada, the European Union, the Organization of American States, Britain, Chile, Uruguay, Colombia and Paraguay — was a good first step. The administration should demand that Mr. Lula join the chorus.

Yet Mr. Maduro, who has embraced Vladimir Putin’s Russia as an ally, has openly declared he is indifferent to international criticism. The Biden administration has no choice but to back up the promise that it made from the beginning of its new policy — and that the State Department reiterated June 30 in response to the crack-down on Ms. Machado: “to hold accountable those who seek to thwart the will of the Venezuelan people.” At a minimum, that should mean ruling out any more sanctions relief until all opposition candidates have their political rights restored, the regime has taken verifiable steps toward the establishment of a new, credible National Electoral Council and good-faith talks with the opposition have resumed.

Mr. Biden was right that his predecessor’s policy did not restore democracy and prosperity to Venezuela, whose desperate plight, along with the mass migration it triggered, has turned into a source of instability for the whole Western Hemisphere. Now, he has to adjust his own strategy, urgently, lest another such failure occur on his watch.

## A brake on civil asset forfeiture

Congress agrees: It should be easier to get governments to return seized property.

THE HOUSE Judiciary Committee is a forum for some of the most divisive political fights in Washington, including around social media moderation and investigations into Donald Trump and Hunter Biden. But with little fanfare, the committee last month posted a rare unanimous vote, advancing by 26-0 a bill to limit civil asset forfeiture. The legislation, introduced by Rep. Tim Walberg (R-Mich.) and cosponsored by Rep. Jamie B. Raskin (D-Md.), among others, deserves to be considered by the full House before Congress leaves for its August recess.

The law enforcement practice of seizing money or property that officers suspect was involved in a crime has produced a train of high-profile controversies over the past decade. The Flatwater Free Press recently described the way officers in Nebraska’s Seward County have apparently made a habit of confiscating large amounts of cash from motorists under the threat of arrest on drug charges. Under civil — as opposed to criminal — forfeiture, property owners lack many traditional due-process protections.

The House bill, known as the Fifth Amendment Integrity Restoration Act, or FAIR, would put sensible controls on the practice. It would end “equitable sharing,” which allows state and local police to skirt state-law limits on civil forfeiture when they work with federal agencies such as the FBI. Local cops in joint operations with the FBI benefit from laxer federal forfeiture rules when they confiscate property and share the proceeds with the feds.

According to the Institute for Justice, 37 states have curbed civil forfeiture since 2014, but equitable sharing

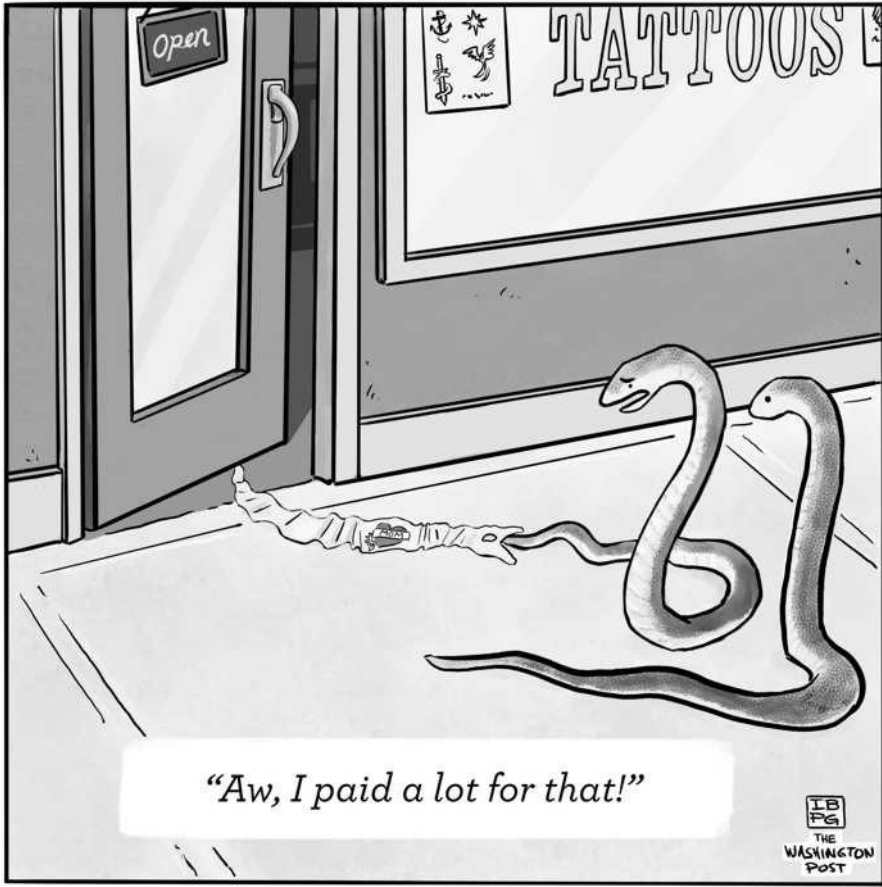
has blunted the effect of that broad-based reform effort. The FAIR Act would respect state legislatures’ decisions — a rare win for federalism in criminal justice policy.

The legislation would change the burden of proof the federal government must meet to hold seized property to “clear and convincing” evidence, up from the relaxed “preponderance of the evidence” standard. It would ensure that courts have a say in the resolution of asset forfeiture cases and allow federal judges to appoint a lawyer for property owners who can’t afford one. And it would redirect forfeited funds so Congress, rather than law enforcement, has more control over their use.

These and other changes would help limit abuses. But it’s possible not all of the results of the legislation will be to criminal justice reformers’ liking. Civil forfeiture can be a less punitive alternative to prosecution in certain drug cases, for example, and raising the threshold to seize property might lead law enforcement to make more arrests instead. Police forces will need more officers to fully investigate suspected crimes, instead of merely seizing what they suspect are the proceeds.

The risk of unexpected consequences is worth it to vindicate the principle that the government should not be able to seize Americans’ property without due process. The Supreme Court imposed some limits on civil forfeiture in a 2019 decision, and it will hear another case involving the practice next term. The Obama and Trump Justice Departments each changed federal policies on property seizures. But unlike state legislatures, Congress has been mostly quiescent over the past decade as civil forfeiture has emerged as a major national debate. Let’s hope that’s about to change.

PIA GUERRA AND IAN BOOTHBY



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

letters@washpost.com

### Baltimore deserved better

Baltimore Mayor Brandon Scott (D), speaking after a shooting in South Baltimore left two dead and nearly 30 people wounded, said, “We want this mass shooting to be treated just as [if] it happened in rural America” [“2 killed, 28 wounded in shooting in Baltimore,” Metro, July 3].

Ironically, The Post, which has given front-page coverage to many mass shootings across the country, relegated this one to the Metro section. What message do you imagine that sends to readers?

**W. Luther Jett, Washington Grove, Md.**

### Restructure student loans

Regarding the July 2 news article “Big Tech, student loans and other decisions by the Supreme Court”:

Could student loans be restructured to roll back high interest rates, eliminate compounding interest, extend the payoff dates, allow options for working off the debt with community service opportunities, offer flexible grace periods for emergency situations, create reasonable insurance policies to guarantee repayment, reduce the amount owed to the original principal amount borrowed, or eliminate interest and charge simple service fees?

Should prospective student borrowers be required to attend an online course covering basic financial information and the benefits and risks of taking on a student loan before signing on the dotted line? Should financial institutions supervise the use of student loan funds to ensure that the money is used for legitimate educational expenses and not to refresh a wardrobe or go on a spring break trip?

Students are inexperienced and vulnerable and deserve guidance, not entrapment in a usurious situation that threatens their future and our economy. Students past and present are looking for a break, not a trap. Let’s rethink the student loan process to make it fair and equitable to allow them to proceed and succeed in school and in life.

**Susan McFalls, Reston**

### Admissions complexities

Though many of us would have liked the Supreme Court to uphold the use of race as a factor in college admissions, this ruling does not mean colleges are done with diversity. Rather, I’d argue the opposite.

I am the coordinator of the Advancement Via Individual Determination program at a diverse public high school in Northern Virginia. My students are exactly the kind of students who benefited from the affirmative action admissions policies argued at the Supreme Court. Though there is concern about the changes, I am seeing colleges be even more committed to providing opportunities to students historically and currently marginalized and creating the diversity we need in our educational institutions. Immediately after the ruling, I received statements from universities reaffirming their commitment to advancing diversity.

Articles and columns promulgating a narrative that colleges are now going to stop accepting Black and Brown students in favor of White and Asian students only scare the very students we want to help into thinking they no longer can go to college. I’ve already had students contact me concerned because of these misleading messages.

The only way students will not go to college is if they give up, and these messages are encouraging students to think they should.

Will the Supreme Court’s ruling create challenges? Yes. But I am confident the higher education community and the many educators, businesses and government leaders who support diversity will

find ways to keep providing educational opportunities to all students.

**Eric Wolf Welch, Arlington**

I am confused by the recent Supreme Court decision that using race for college admissions is unconstitutional. The 13th, 14th and 15th amendments were about race because slavery was about race; Jim Crow was about race; lynching was about race; employment, banking and housing discrimination was about race; and doors of higher education being closed to Black people was about race.

We didn’t get the 40 acres and a mule after the Civil War. That would have at least helped get us started on a path to equality and equity, so affirmative action was seen as a small IOU compensation, or a kind of reparations for the hundreds of years of owning people’s bodies, labor, etc., which enriched many White people and their companies, North and South, which then became inheritances for their children, while the descendants of the enslaved got nothing. But the Supreme Court doesn’t think Black people are owed anything.

The situation would be comparable to a government breaking all the legs of Black people and then making those whom they crippled run the same race for survival as those with healthy legs. Some would say the government should at least give crutches or walkers to those whose legs the government broke, but the Supreme Court said no crutches or walkers allowed for Black people, because that would be race-based.

**Brenda Shelton, Alexandria**

In his June 30 op-ed, “The court did not ‘end’ affirmative action,” George F. Will claimed the decision “usefully affirms the principle of racial neutrality at a moment when public- and private-sector institutions are rejecting it.”

It did no such thing. According to the decision, the 14th Amendment prohibits the consideration of race in admissions at state and private universities, but military academies controlled and operated by the federal government are somehow immune from that provision of the Constitution.

By including an exception for military academies, the only thing that the decision did was expose the inconsistencies and contorted reasoning underlying the conservative justices’ opposition to affirmative action.

**Greg Hillson, Alexandria**

### Ukraine needs time

The July 1 editorial “Don’t retreat from Ukraine’s slow advance” correctly urged patience and resolve as Ukrainian forces pursue their difficult counteroffensive against Russia’s invasion. Is President Biden listening? Throughout the more than year-long war, he has dithered and hesitated in providing Ukraine the kinds of weapons that could prove decisive against the onslaught, and then did so only after public and congressional pressure forced him to. This is much the way he reacted to the Chinese espionage aircraft that he allowed to drift over strategic sites in the United States before shooting it down.

Equally important, Mr. Biden has never provided the American public a thorough, cogent explanation of the stakes in Ukraine and the urgent need to turn back Russia’s wanton aggression, as columnist Marc A. Thiessen offered a month ago [“This is the ‘America First’ case for supporting Ukraine,” June 4]. Does the commander in chief even understand?

Even without sending regular troops, the United States and NATO have thrown in their lot with Ukraine. A failure to defeat Russia now, with its shaky leadership and seemingly incompetent military, would be a devastating blow to the remarkably courageous and resilient Ukrainian people and to the West’s credibility.

**Patrick Louis Knudsen, Fredericksburg, Va.**

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CATHERINE RAMPELL

# America can exploit China’s brain drain

My fellow Americans, it’s time to set aside our xenophobia. For the good of our country, let’s help drain China’s brains. As China has lifted its pandemic lockdowns, many residents have grown more footloose. Maybe high youth unemployment has left younger workers restless. Maybe the mysterious disappearances of several Chinese billionaires and business leaders have spooked other upwardly mobile citizens. Or maybe people are just tired of living in an authoritarian country with arbitrary restrictions on freedom of ideas, capital and movement.

Whatever the specific motivations, the number of people leaving China and seeking to make (or invest) their fortunes abroad is rising again, according to data from the U.N. Population Division and recently highlighted by the Wall Street Journal’s Nathaniel Taplin.

Every year over the past several decades, China has experienced a net migration outflow. The years after the global financial crisis, however, saw a slightly slower trickle of people leaving, perhaps because the United States and other richer countries faced a weak recovery.

But in recent years (with a brief exception during covid-era lockdowns), that trickle has again come to resemble more of a gusher. On net, more than 300,000 people left China in 2022, with another net loss of 300,000 projected this year. For context, that’s roughly double the annual net outflow from 2010 to 2017.

Other privately sourced data suggests that among those choosing to pack up and go are a growing number of China’s millionaires.

This is a problem for China — on a number of fronts.

Decreasing fertility rates and rising out-migration recently led China to lose its status as the world’s most populous country. More important than the superlative, these demographic trends will drag on Chinese living standards in the years ahead. This is especially true if those leaving the country are disproportionately higher-skilled, deeper-pocketed and younger, as appears to be the case. However impressive Beijing’s economic and scientific ambitions might appear, it will struggle to achieve them if the country’s top talent is always eyeing the exits.

China’s loss presents a huge opportunity for the United States, though.

Immigrants have long been the lifeblood of the U.S. economy and innovation. For more than a century, we have benefited from waves of people leaving difficult conditions in their home countries. In fact, the U.S. government has often worked hard to poach the top talent of our geopolitical adversaries. During the mid-20th century, for instance, we took in scientists from Germany (both those who worked for the Nazis and those persecuted by them); and part of our Cold War policy included siphoning off Soviet superstars.

These and other immigrants turned out to be productive workers, who in turn made our own homegrown workers more productive. This served our interests economically, militarily and geopolitically. It’s great marketing for Western democratic values, after all, to be a desirable destination for your rivals’ top talent.

Plus, bringing this coveted talent *here* means that same talent is not available *there*.

For all these reasons, I’ve previously argued for exploiting Russia’s brain drain. The same arguments apply to China, too. Perhaps especially to China, given that U.S. political leaders openly fear being surpassed by Chinese innovation or getting locked out of global supply chains that intersect with China. U.S. lawmakers from both parties often justify expensive new industrial policies and protectionist measures on such grounds.

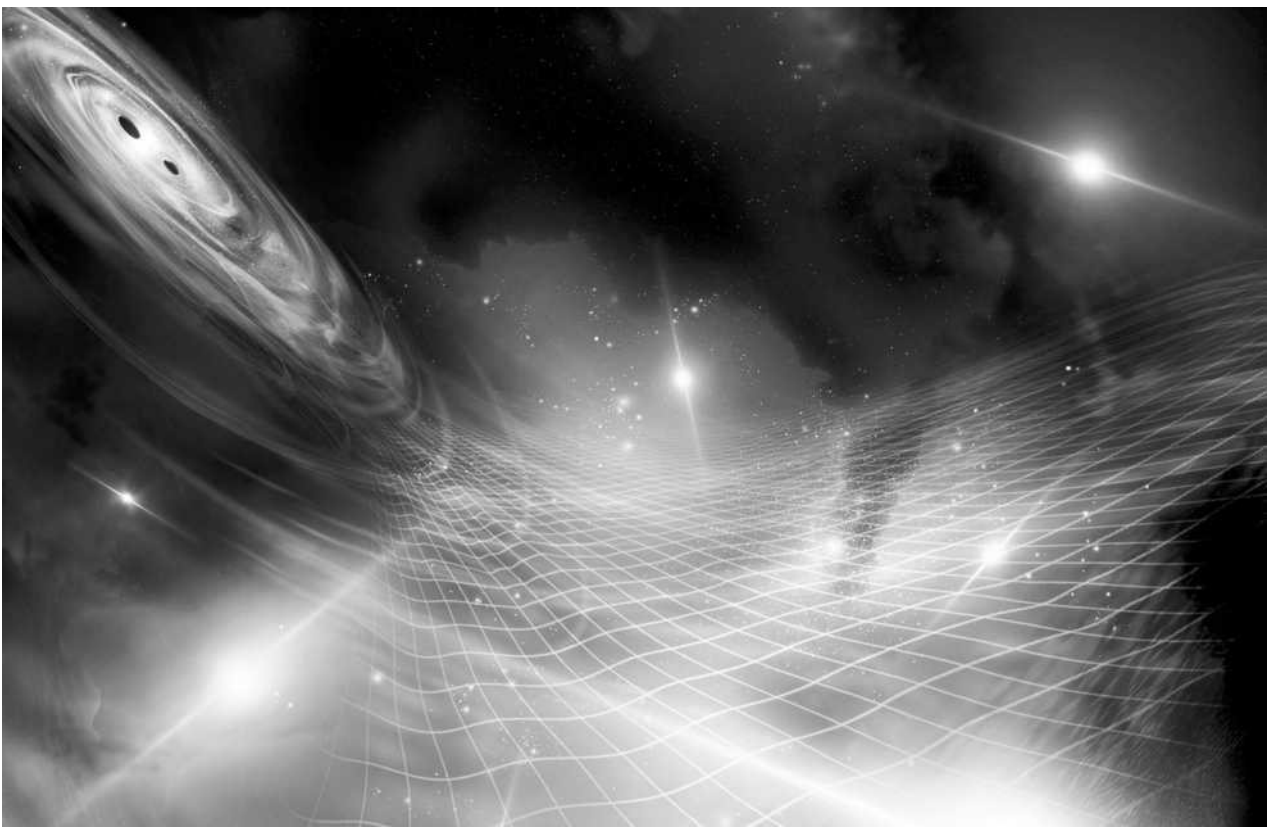
But however much money we throw at semiconductor or battery manufacturing, we will struggle to achieve our own ambitions if we lack the talent to build and operate those high-tech facilities, as we now clearly do. As Cato Institute scholar Scott Lincincome put it: You can be a China hawk or you can be an immigration hawk, but you can’t really be both.

Right now, nervous Chinese professionals and entrepreneurs are streaming to Singapore and other countries. The United States should be encouraging them to bring their talents here instead. Unfortunately, we’ve mostly done the opposite.

Some U.S. senators, for instance, have pushed to deny visas to Chinese citizens who want to come to the United States to study science, citing supposedly unmanageable national security risks (even though no one is suggesting visiting foreign nationals, from any country, go unvetted). Scholars of Chinese descent already here are reportedly choosing to leave tenured jobs at U.S. institutions, citing a hostile political and cultural environment, not to mention occasional threats of violence.

Even some state governments are getting in on the red-baiting. Florida recently passed a law banning Chinese nationals from buying property, with several other states following suit.

The United States is a nation of immigrants; China is increasingly looking like a nation of emigrants. There’s an obviously play to be made here, if only we can get out of our own way.



AUORE SIMONNET/NANOGRAV COLLABORATION/REUTERS

An artist’s interpretation of pulsars being affected by gravitational ripples produced by a supermassive black hole.

# Physics learns to surf the gravitational wave

BY KATIE MACK

When, eight years ago, I learned that gravitational waves had been detected, I felt seasick. But this past month’s report of evidence that the cosmos is churning with low-frequency gravitational waves sent me reeling.

As a physicist, I’m used to knowing that an invisible world of particles and waves moves through the universe. I’ve made peace with being constantly skewered by neutrinos and cosmic rays. I blithely submit to X-rays at the dentist and to radio waves everywhere.

But a gravitational wave? That’s a distortion of space-time itself — a stretching and squeezing of the fabric of reality, a wave of deformation tearing through the cosmos, warping everything in its path. The monstrous denizens of the intergalactic deep reveal themselves not through the light they emit but by how they stir the space-time we share. When a gravitational wave moves through you, you are, for a moment, a different shape.

It’s a tiny effect, of course. The first gravitational waves detected in 2015 — by the Laser Interferometer Gravitational-Wave Observatory (LIGO) facilities in Livingston, La., and Hanford, Wash. — were triggered by black holes colliding a billion light-years from Earth and changed the length of the four-kilometer-long detectors by less than one-thousandth the width of a single proton.

Lying in bed on the night I heard about this breakthrough, I thought about the inescapable ripples in space altering me on a subatomic level. I thought I would never again feel I was on truly solid ground.

Now, with the latest news from the North American Nanohertz Observatory for Gravitational Waves (NANO-Grav), astronomers have a completely new and audacious way to make vivid

those choppy cosmic waters.

Like light, gravitational waves come in different frequencies, depending on their source. Pairs of black holes around the mass of the sun produce short bursts of high-frequency gravitational waves as they wheel around each other hundreds of times a second. That’s what the LIGO experiment picks up.

Supermassive black holes are a different story. Millions or billions of times as massive as the sun, they lurk at the hearts of galaxies. The one at the center of our own Milky Way, called Sagittarius A\*, is 4 million solar masses. Our neighbor the Andromeda galaxy has a central black hole believed to be 30 to 50 times that.

It is still something of a mystery exactly how supermassive black holes come to be such behemoths. But it’s clear that when their host galaxies collide, they eventually eat each other, too.

Gravitational-wave detectors on Earth, such as LIGO, are of no use here. The final orbits of paired supermassive black holes can take years or decades while their gravitational waves stretch out across light-years. It’s not possible with current technology to build a detector that large, sensitive to waves with such low frequencies.

That’s why astronomers had to use the Milky Way itself as a makeshift observatory.

In June, for the first time, astronomers revealed they had picked up traces of a background hum of low-frequency gravitational waves. It was embedded in 15 years of data from naturally occurring cosmic metronomes across the galaxy.

These metronomes, called millisecond pulsars, are the spinning remnants of dead massive stars. They sweep beams of radio waves with every rotation, hundreds per second — and keep near-perfect time. Tiny discrepancies might be because of individual

stellar idiosyncrasies or could be a sign that gravitational waves have changed the distance each pulse travels on its way to us. By monitoring dozens of pulsars, astronomers hunt for *correlations* in timing errors that are a smoking gun of passing gravitational waves.

And that’s just what they found.

The discovery is not going to revolutionize science in one fell swoop. For one thing, it is not entirely clear where the hum comes from, though it looks very much like what we expect from the combination of gravitational waves generated by all the supermassive black hole collisions across the cosmos. If it is, it’s a first step toward a whole new way of seeing the universe that will give us fantastic insights into the formation and growth of galaxies.

Already, for instance, there are hints in the data that supermassive black hole pairs might be heavier or more common than we thought. A few more years of data might reveal individual supermassive black hole collisions, alongside any burst of light they also produce.

The hum could yet be something else entirely. It might be the quake from a violent event in the early universe, such as cosmic inflation — the spectacular expansion of space we think happened during the Big Bang. Another possible source is the vibrations of cosmic strings, hypothetical webs of energy that stretch across the cosmos.

There’s so much to discover. We’ve been bobbing around blindly on this cosmic sea, occasionally hit by an errant wave. Now we have our first glimpse of the entire ocean.

Katie Mack is the Hawking chair in cosmology and science communication at the Perimeter Institute for Theoretical Physics and the author of “The End of Everything (Astrophysically Speaking).”

DAVID IGNATIUS

# Russia still wants to help oversee the internet

Russia might be reeling from an “armed mutiny” at home and a botched invasion of Ukraine, but that hasn’t stopped it from pushing a plan for centralized United Nations oversight of the internet. An unfortunate new wrinkle is that Moscow’s approach appears to be getting some support from U.N. Secretary General António Guterres.

“We’re concerned about the Russians ... pushing their authoritarian digital agenda in every forum around the world,” explained a senior Biden administration official in an email. “It’s global and relentless, and when we step back even a little bit, they fill that void.” He said the State Department has conveyed its “legitimate concern” about a U.N. “takeover” of internet governance to U.N. officials in New York.

Russia’s latest bid for top-down internet control came in a resolution submitted for next week’s meeting in Geneva of the ruling council of the U.N.’s International Telecommunication Union. Moscow’s proposal seeks changes in governance “to prevent fragmentation of the Internet,” according to a document posted on the ITU website.

What “fragmentation” is Russia talking about? The internet has been functioning pretty smoothly for decades. If there are any blockages, they’re the ones introduced by authoritarian governments such as Russia and China. But as you read Moscow’s proposal, it becomes clear that Russia is doubling down on its past demands for global political regulation as an alternative to what it claims is U.S. control of cyberspace.

“There is currently no platform for practical interstate dialogue to discuss the possibility of coordinating the activities of states in regulating the Internet of potential threats to the integrity and reliability of the network and preventing regulatory fragmentation,” the Russian document

argues in an English translation.

A reader of this bland bureaucratic language might forget that it was Russia that has used the internet to subvert elections in the United States, as well as balloting in many European countries. Or that it’s Russia that has refused to sign the 2001 Budapest Convention on Cybercrime, which was ratified by 68 countries. This fox, it seems, never tires of attacking the henhouse.

The surprise is that Russia’s ideas about global political regulation appear to have gained some support from Guterres. In a May policy brief to advance his plan for a “Global Digital Compact,” the secretary general supported the existing “multi-stakeholder” governance approach. But he also expressed some of the same regulatory themes as Moscow.

There “must be a collective effort to ensure that regional, national or industry initiatives, however well-meaning, do not further fragment the Internet,” Guterres wrote, without documenting any existing fragmentation. He went on to argue that “we need a networked multilateral arrangement” to handle such problems.

“The United Nations is only one actor in this firmament, but it is the only global entity that can convene and facilitate the collaboration needed,” Guterres argued. His solution appears to be his compact, which the Biden administration official said could be adopted at the U.N.’s planned “Summit for the Future” in September 2024.

The Biden administration is working with allies to make sure internet governance remains broadly based and bottom-up. Explains the senior official: “Many non-governmental stakeholders and some governments are worried that political processes based in New York will lack expertise and competence to address these issues appropriately and will just open the door for intergovernmental, top-

down controls and/or get bogged down in proxy political debates. To many, the secretary-general’s Policy Brief confirmed this suspicion about a New York takeover.”

One skeptical review of Guterres’s proposals comes from Konstantinos Komaitis, an internet policy expert at the Lisbon Council, a think tank based in Brussels. In a recent article, he argued: “The fact that the secretary general aims to channel Internet policy issues through the UN’s multilateral system is alarming. When looking at the issues the ‘Global Digital Compact’ will seek to address, one cannot help but wonder whether the ultimate goal is to create a centralized system where the UN sits at the top.”

Russia itself has actually been a beneficiary of the current system of decentralized governance, which is supervised by an organization known as ICANN. Fiona Alexander, a distinguished fellow at American University’s Internet Governance Lab, noted at a recent U.N. gathering that ICANN rebuffed proposals to cut off Russia’s internet access after the Ukraine invasion, because it wanted to protect a single global internet.

“Ironically, Russia’s internet users were better protected in the internet governance ecosystem than they would have been if decisions were made in this building,” Alexander told the U.N. audience.

These arcane policy debates are the trench warfare of the modern technology world, but they get little attention outside government bureaucracies. “I don’t see any visible, public pushback to Guterres’s Global Digital Compact, and I’m worried, because the United Nations is all politics,” says Alexander.

It would be an appalling mistake if Russia, having muzzled its citizens and invaded its neighbor, got a U.N. platform to write the rules of the road for the digital technology that will shape the 21st century.

ALYSSA ROSENBERG

# Why Congress should pay grandparents to watch kids

If child care ever did get the federal investment it so desperately needs, what should the government pay for?

Broadly, parents need greater access to more affordable child care. But they need it at different hours, and they’d like it to come in a variety of forms and to pay a range of people to do the work.

To meet all those needs, policymakers have to help grow the range of child-care options and trust parents to make the best choices for their families.

Most child care is geared toward parents who work from about 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on weekdays only. For parents who work evenings, nights or weekends, there are services at just 8 percent of traditional day-care centers and 34 percent of home day cares, as Linda Smith and Victoria Owens note in a May report from the Bipartisan Policy Center. A mere 2 percent of centers and 16 percent of home day cares are open between 7 p.m. and 11 p.m.

As a result, workers on nonstandard shifts have vanishingly few options. That’s especially true for those without partners or local family. And people can be left scrounging for child care on short notice. According to that same report, nearly a third of parents find out their schedule with two weeks’ notice or less.

To plug this gap in the market, Congress should kick-start some experiments. Sens. Todd C. Young (R-Ind.) and Maggie Hassan (D-N.H.) have introduced legislation that would fund child-care initiatives for parents who work nontraditional hours or find out their shifts with less than a week’s notice. A bipartisan group of California lawmakers proposed a similar pilot program aimed at supporting police officers.

For ideas, lawmakers could look to facilities such as the Dreamery. This 24-hour child-care center in Kalamazoo, Mich., also offers emergency drop-in care for shift workers. Located in a building that includes affordable housing units, the Dreamery is rooted in the community it serves. Lawmakers might also consider the pilot that the Defense Department launched in 2021 that subsidizes wages for in-home providers such as nannies so military families can have consistent coverage even on nights and weekends.

Many parents prefer to have a friend, family member or neighbor look after their kids. About one-quarter of parents with children under age 3 reported getting their care this way in a survey of parents conducted by the Center for the Study of Child Care Employment at the University of California at Berkeley. Twenty-two percent said a combination of child-care options including this one was their ideal arrangement.

Lacie Nelson from coastal Oregon is one mom who trades child care with a friend, another single parent. She told me why at last month’s Zero to Three Strolling Thunder lobby day in D.C.: The Head Start program where her son was enrolled didn’t feel like a good fit. Her little boy “will eat fruit and vegetables all day long.” When he didn’t want to eat the chicken nuggets the center was serving him, the director wouldn’t work with her to offer him alternatives.

Nelson’s dream would be a policy that lets her pay her friend. That sort of solution could play an important role in rural communities and for night workers who would rather their child sleep at a familiar home than in a private facility.

A child-care stipend that parents could use for whatever kind of care they prefer could make a real difference. It would boost the incomes of the people providing informal care and recognize that what they do is work worthy of compensation. According to the Center for the Study of Child Care Employment, 28 percent of California families don’t pay the friends, family or neighbors they rely on as caregivers. Those who do pay a median wage of \$160 a week.

“There’s so many women taking care of my children,” says Reshma Saujani, the founder of the advocacy group Moms First. She is whipping support for the new Bipartisan Affordable Childcare Caucus. “I do think a child-care subsidy should go to the abuela that’s taking care of your kids. I do think that you should have as much choice in what works for you as possible.”

The challenge is finding a balance between choice and quality. Rep. Ro Khanna (D-Calif.) is working on a bill intended to subsidize care at accredited facilities. He is also considering giving parents a stipend they could use to pay family members and neighbors or even themselves. (That kind of care wouldn’t qualify for the cheaper rate.)

Trusting parents doesn’t come naturally to family aid programs. Recipients of the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children can spend their benefits only on foods that are regulated down to the milligram of iron and the processing method for making masa. For years, many states denied additional financial assistance to poor families who had another child while receiving benefits.

But for a national child-care program to truly serve everyone, politicians need to do three things: stump up the money; give families real choices; then step back and let parents make their own decisions.



# 100 DAYS



# #ISTANDWITH EVAN


It has been 100 days since Wall Street Journal reporter Evan Gershkovich was detained by Russia during a reporting trip and falsely accused of espionage. The Wall Street Journal and the U.S. government vehemently deny the allegation and have called for his immediate release.

This brazen violation of press freedom not only poses far-reaching consequences to journalism and the media, but to governments and democracies everywhere. A free press is pivotal to maintaining a free society.


**Journalism is not a crime, and we will not rest until Evan is released.**









8 a.m.  
78°



Noon  
85°



4 p.m.  
86°



8 p.m.  
80°

High today at approx. 2 p.m.  
**88°**  
Precip: 45%  
Wind: SSE  
4-9 mph

**THE DISTRICT**  
U.S. prosecutors will seek felony charges against the Jan. 6 rioter arrested near the Obama home. **B3**



**VIRGINIA**  
Gov. Glenn Youngkin (R) scolds Senate Democrats for resisting his call for permanent tax cuts. **B3**



**OBITUARIES**  
David Gilmour, 91, brought a glamorous approach to hydration as the founder of Fiji water. **B4**

## 10 killings in 5 days in D.C. leave an international trail of grief

Victims include Afghan who helped U.S. forces, a teacher from Kentucky

BY PETER HERMANN,  
EMILY DAVIES  
AND OLIVIA DIAZ

A military interpreter from Afghanistan who escaped the Taliban and sought refuge in the United States, working as a Lyft driver to support his family. A social studies teacher and wrestling coach from a family of educators in Kentucky who came to D.C. for a professional devel-



JAHÍ CHIKWENDU/THE WASHINGTON POST

**Mayor Muriel E. Bowser and other District officials and community leaders take part in a public safety walk in Ward 5, eager to contain gun violence.**

opment conference. A Montgomery County Community College student on summer break.

They are among the 10 people fatally shot in D.C. in the first five days of July, a spasm of violence that pushed 2023's homicide count to 127 as the city edged closer to what might be the highest yearly total in two decades.

No place in D.C. has seemed immune from deadly gunfire in recent days, and city leaders —

still without a permanent police chief for a department facing historically low staffing — have struggled to quell the violence. The most recent shootings ranged from Columbia Heights to Congress Heights, from Capitol Hill to the campus of Catholic University.

But their impact was not confined to the nation's capital.

It extended almost 600 miles west, to Oldham County High School in suburban Louisville, where Maxwell Emerson, one of those slain, taught in the same school from which he graduated. And it extended almost 7,000 miles east, to Parwan province in Afghanistan, where the extended

SEE VIOLENCE ON **B2**

## House bill could allow stadium at RFK site

A new D.C. home for Commanders would still face hurdles in council

BY MEAGAN FLYNN  
AND SAM FORTIER

Rep. James Comer, chairman of the powerful congressional committee that oversees D.C., is preparing to introduce legislation that could ultimately allow the District to build a Washington Commanders football stadium or another mixed-use development at the decrepit RFK Stadium site — a major development in Mayor Muriel E. Bowser's pursuit to bring the team back to the city.

A House Oversight Committee spokesman confirmed Thursday that Comer (R-Ky.) is preparing the legislation that could allow D.C. to develop the RFK site, which is on federal land, although he stressed it would not be a land sale.

The spokesman, Austin Hacker, said that details of the legislation have not been finalized and that talks are ongoing with Bowser's office.

Comer's legislation, once it is introduced, could mark a new chapter for D.C. as it competes with Maryland and Virginia for a chance to woo the Commanders to a new stadium from its current site in Prince George's County. Bowser (D) has long sought to bring the Commanders back to D.C. — although federal legislation freeing up the RFK site would be just a first step toward that goal, with a number of hurdles remaining, including a divided D.C. Council, whose members have differing opinions about how the site should be used.

Two people familiar with the planned legislation who spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss sensitive negotiations said it involved a lease extension, with one of those people describing it as a 99-year lease extension and modification — which would broaden the city's options for what it could do with the land.

The current RFK lease between D.C. and the National Park Service is slated to end in 2038 and restricts land usage to sports, recreation and entertainment.

Should Comer's legislation move forward, D.C. would probably have a seat at the negotiating table as the Commanders seek a new home among the city, Maryland and Virginia, upping the ante in a debate over the future of the team. The exact timing of the bill's introduction was not clear Thursday.

Comer's role in helping to shepherd the RFK deal somewhat resembles an olive branch after his House Oversight Committee earlier this year held several contentious hearings in which Republicans lambasted crime and public safety in D.C. But when Bowser appeared before the committee in

SEE RFK ON **B4**



MICHAEL S. WILLIAMSON/THE WASHINGTON POST

## Thanks, Captain Gasaway, for cleaning up the Anacostia



Petula Dvorak

Howard Gasaway Sr. couldn't believe what he was seeing.

There, in the water that had been muddy and murky, filled with so much floating trash and tires that it topped a national list

of the dirtiest rivers, he could see the faint outline of his 43-foot Viking yacht's trim tabs in the Anacostia.

During the same week he saw clarity in the water, the Anacostia was declared clean enough to open for legal swimming for the first time in 51 years. And everyone who knows anything about what it took to get here knows it all began with the 91-year-old boat captain.

"I never thought I'd see this," said Gasaway, who still takes his baby — "My Sweet J" — out to see the



MINH CONNORS/THE WASHINGTON POST

fireworks every year.

Gasaway is one of the grand captains of one of the country's oldest African American yacht clubs, the Seafarers — "one of the oldest and most influential champions for restoration of the Anacostia River," said Chris Williams, the president and chief executive of the Anacostia Watershed Society. "They were speaking up for the river back when almost no one else was and have been on the front lines ever since."

The Seafarers began — as did so many successful Black institutions — because of bigotry. The Whites-only clubs of D.C. didn't allow a Black man to launch his boat when Lewis T. Green, a World War I veteran, built his own boat and went looking for a place to launch it, said Tony Ford, the current commodore of the Seafarers.

SEE DVORAK ON **B2**

**TOP: Mark Smith of the District finishes a good round of fishing on the Anacostia in 2020, wrapping it up at dusk to head to his job. ABOVE: Howard Gasaway Sr. aboard his boat at the Seafarers Yacht Club in Washington.**

## Mother in murder case can be released from jail, judge rules

BY DAN MORSE  
AND LAURA MECKLER

A Montgomery County woman accused of letting her 79-pound child waste away and die on their living room floor can be released from jail ahead of her trial, a judge ruled Thursday, saying Cynthia Moore would have to abide by strict release conditions.

Moore will be allowed to live with her mother in Washington but was ordered to stay away from the townhouse in Montgomery Village where her child died and where three adult children still

Md. woman accused of letting child waste away not deemed a flight risk

live, according to Thursday's hearing.

Moore is set to be tried March 11 on one count of second-degree murder in the 17-year-old's death amid accusations she didn't seek needed medical care for the teen. Authorities allege that Moore, 40, and her husband, Dominique

Moore, 45, kept the child and six other minor children in isolated squalor while home-schooling them inside the townhouse.

Circuit Judge Michael J. McAuliffe called the accusations disturbing.

"I have read the allegations in this case, and they send chills down your spine," McAuliffe said. "How someone could treat another human being that way, let alone your own child, is mind-boggling."

But McAuliffe stressed the charges were just allegations, and under Maryland law he couldn't

hold a defendant in jail without bond unless they pose an overwhelming risk of flight and public safety threat that cannot be overcome with release conditions.

McAuliffe barred Cynthia Moore from contact with any of her children. The judge ordered her to wear an ankle monitor and leave her mother's home only for legal or medical appointments. Moore also has six surviving minor children — ages 4 to 14 at the time of the 17-year-old's death. They have been placed in foster care, according to court records.

Moore also faces charges of ne-

glect related to her minor children. Dominique Moore faces the same charges as his wife. He remains detained, but his attorneys may seek his release as well.

The debate over Cynthia Moore's detention status represented the latest development in the case that has raised questions about what school systems and social workers can do to monitor home-schooled children.

"Either the system did not work and/or there are blind spots that need to be addressed," Montgomery County Council member Gabe

SEE HEARING ON **B2**



PETULA DVORAK

# Anacostia’s transformation comes after years of work

DVORAK FROM B1

Green was a much-loved wood shop and mechanical drawing teacher in D.C. public schools. And he pored over boating magazines to learn the electrical systems, mechanics and physics that went into building his first seaworthy masterpiece, the 44-foot Valeria, named for his daughter.

His solution to launching Valeria came when he was walking along M Street, all the way to the end, where he stopped at a forgotten parcel of swampland. It wasn’t perfect, but what was in those days?

The Anacostia was a haven for Black Washington. Swimming and waterfront picnics were a part of growing up in D.C.

But Green wanted more than swimming out of this river. And this humble man had a pipeline straight into the Oval Office. Green knew educator Mary McLeod Bethune, who was friends with Eleanor Roosevelt. That was enough to secure the lease of that land in 1945 to build what club co-founder Bob Martin called “everyone’s Shangri-La.”

As gleaming developments devoured and changed the Anacostia riverfront, the small yacht club was endangered. Last year, D.C. granted the club historic preservation status to help the survival of this institution, long a social hub holding oyster roasts and jazz shows.

Gasaway found his way to the Seafarers in 1974, with a grand leap into boating (“I didn’t know the first thing about boating,” he said), hobbling in on a two-engine power cruiser that decided to turn into a one-engine en route. He dived into boating education, earning licenses and certificates and teaching thousands as an instructor. He still leads a class occasionally.

But his most influential mission began in 1984, when D.C. Mayor Marion Barry (D) visited the marina, which is the farthest north of D.C.’s boathouses and closest to the debris and pollution that clogged the Anacostia.

“Marion Barry told me, ‘Why don’t you clean up your river?’” Gasaway said. “And I said, ‘Mr. Mayor, it’s not my river; it’s your river.’”

Gasaway told Barry that he would clean it if he had help. “And Marion Barry told everyone, ‘Give Howard whatever he needs.’”

And in 1985, Gasaway and the other Seafarers donned rubber gloves, shook out hundreds of trash bags and began cleaning.

“We found refrigerators, tires,” said his wife, Janet Gasaway (the Sweet J’s namesake). “We even found a couple bodies.”

More volunteers were needed, so the D.C. Department of Corrections sent some folks who’d moved out of jail and into halfway houses. “They were really good workers,” Janet Gasaway said.

She helped distribute fliers, she spread the word, and the cleanup grew. The group got boom floats that corralled the debris, and the Army Corps of Engineers brought a barge.

As Earth Day and cleanup programs became fashionable, the Anacostia’s volunteer army grew.

“The Anacostia Watershed Society partnered with the boat club and expanded the event to include dozens of sites and thousands of volunteers around



SEAFARERS YACHT CLUB

**The Seafarers Yacht Club has been doing Anacostia River cleanups for decades. Joined by other environmental organizations, the club’s efforts helped bring the river back to swimmable this year.**

the watershed every Earth Day,” Williams said.

The cleanups helped Washington remember and care for its forgotten river. That led to policy work, advocacy and legal action, he said.

The Seafarers laid the groundwork for D.C. Water’s Clean Rivers Project, “a series of massive tunnels designed to catch storm water, sewer overflows, and trash and divert them to Blue Plains Water Treatment Plant, where before, it all flowed directly into local rivers,” he said.

Ford, the commodore who swam up and down the river as a boy the way other children cruise the streets on their bikes,

stopped when he became a teenager, mostly because that age takes a young man’s attention in different directions. But he also watched in horror as the river grew noxious.

Recently, while working on his 38-foot Sea Ray, he fell off the dock and splashed into the river. It was his first time in the water since he was a child. “It was fresh, almost like a pool. It wasn’t dirty at all,” he said. “I was surprised.”

Swimming in D.C.’s rivers got national attention last year when the pop singer Lorde told fans that she took a dip in the Potomac, where swimming has been illegal since 1971. The Riverkeepers, who are holding

the Anacostia Riverkeeper swim event this weekend, said their testing shows that many of the country’s waters are safer than officials would have you believe.

That transformation began with Gasaway. He put on those rubber gloves decades ago, sweated during those cleanups knowing there was a chance he’d never see through that polluted water. Like the old proverb about the man who planted seeds for a tree whose shade he’d never know, he did it anyhow.

The boaters and the environmentalists acknowledge that.

“All of us who care about the Anacostia owe him a great debt,” Williams said.

# Visitors from afar were among shooting victims

VIOLENCE FROM B1

family of Nasratullah Ahmadyar, another victim, is now cut off from money he had been sending to his ancestral home, even as he supported his wife and five children in Alexandria.

Mayor Muriel E. Bowser (D) said Thursday that no one should accept when someone “dies on our streets.” Speaking before a community walk in Northeast Washington, she said, “We recognize it will take all of us, not just the police, not just the D.C. government, but community as well, to be part of the solutions.”

As Bowser walked, the D.C. Council prepared to consider her “Safer Stronger” legislation, which members are expected to debate at next week’s legislative meeting. The bill would, among several provisions, impose new penalties for gun crimes and make it easier to detain some youths awaiting trial.

Some council members have raised concerns that parts of the bill might return D.C. to the days of mass incarceration. Council member Zachary Parker (D-Ward 5), speaking at Thursday’s event, said he wants to “advance real solutions backed by data that are going to produce real results.” He said residents concerned about crime often ask him, “Is anyone listening?”

Before the community walk, the mayor said that if people arrested with guns walk out of jail “the next day with no consequences whatsoever, we are not

going to drive down crime. That’s true for juveniles who act like adults, and it’s true for adults.”

“We want to make sure petty arguments don’t turn into funerals,” she added.

## ‘A senseless tragedy’

Ahmadyar’s cousin said the family had hoped to bury him Friday but had not gotten his body back from the D.C. morgue. Police said the 31-year-old was shot in the abdomen in a black Toyota Highlander shortly after midnight Monday in the 400 block of 11th Street NE.

The killing in the Capitol Hill neighborhood has frightened residents, including one whose Nest video captured a single gunshot and four young people running down an alley.

“You just killed him,” one person says in the footage.

“He was reaching, bruh,” another says.

“He was about to get out.”

“He was reachin’, bruh.”

The cousin, Mateen Rahmati, 33, who lives in San Francisco, said the family does not know whether Ahmadyar was shot during a robbery or a carjacking — a crime that has spiked in number since the onset of the pandemic and prompted D.C. to partner with DoorDash to issue 5,000 dash cameras to drivers. Lyft confirmed that Ahmadyar worked for the company.

Leslie Parsons, an assistant police chief in charge of the investigative services bureau, called the shooting a tragedy but



FAMILY PHOTO

**Nasratullah Ahmadyar, who was an interpreter for U.S. forces in his native Afghanistan, had moved his family to Alexandria.**

declined to comment on the case, other than to say that detectives “are making progress.” As in the other July slayings, police have not arrested anyone.

Rahmati and Matthew Butler, who was in the Army from 1990 through 2017 and did five tours in Afghanistan, said Ahmadyar started working at Bagram air base north of Kabul when he was 10 or 11, raking leaves and picking up stones. He learned English and became an interpreter, living on the base with the military, Butler said.

In 2020, Butler said, Ahmadyar reached out to him looking for a visa to come to the United States. Butler, 54, was living in Utah and working as a part-time government contractor. He said Ahmadyar, his wife and five children made the last plane out of Afghanistan. The Taliban had threatened anyone who had worked for or helped the Americans.

Ahmadyar’s first stop in the

United States was Philadelphia, but he moved to the D.C. area to escape a dangerous neighborhood, Butler and his cousin said. He settled his family in an apartment on West Braddock Road in Alexandria, working as a tow-truck driver and then for Lyft.

His death, Butler said, “is just a senseless tragedy. I want people to know this man did more for our country than most people in uniform. It was a life-and-death mission to get him to the U.S.”

Butler said he spoke often with his former interpreter, and visited him when he lived in Philadelphia. He said Ahmadyar was inquisitive and would often ask about his family.

Rahmati said Ahmadyar “was just trying to safely live his life with his family,” which included children ages 15 months to 15 years. He described him as generous, sending money to people he didn’t even know in Afghanistan, and working long hours to

build a new life.

## ‘She was so sweet’

In Maryland, Ana Cienfuegos was left mourning her 21-year-old daughter, Alison Cienfuegos-Vasquez, who was shot about 11:40 p.m. Wednesday night on Valley Avenue in Congress Heights, in Southeast Washington.

Cienfuegos said her daughter was a student at Montgomery County Community College in Maryland and had been excited to return to classes in the fall.

“She was so sweet,” her mother said. “She never had problem with nobody. She worked. She was in school.”

Cienfuegos said she called her daughter Wednesday night and asked if she was going out. She said her daughter answered no. “I went to sleep and then this morning the police came and told me someone killed my daughter,” she said. “My baby.”

The mother said she believes her daughter was killed in a domestic dispute, and noted that she had previously received threats. Police declined to comment, citing the ongoing investigation.

## ‘Help I’m being robbed at gunpoint’

Emerson, the teacher and wrestling coach from Crestwood, Ky., was fatally shot shortly after 8 a.m. Wednesday on Alumni Lane NE, in front of Father O’Connell Hall on the campus of Catholic University.

D.C. police initially said it seemed that Emerson had gotten into a dispute with a person he appeared to know. His family disputed that account Thursday, saying he didn’t know anybody in D.C. and they believed the

attack was random. His sister, Ellen Emerson, said that moments before he was shot, he sent his mother a text: “Help I’m being robbed at gunpoint.”

Parsons said Thursday that the initial account came from preliminary information. He said the 25-year-old Emerson and another man “were walking together and arrived where the offense occurred, together.” He declined to elaborate.

Catholic University held a brief vigil for the victim Thursday morning, though officials said he had no connection to the school. Students gathered by a cobblestone courtyard where Emerson had been shot.

Ellen Emerson, 28, said her brother was the assistant wrestling coach and a social studies teacher at Oldham County High School, which the school system confirmed. She said he had won a grant to attend a professional development seminar for educators being held in D.C. She believed her brother was staying with a group near the university.

Maxwell Emerson had a twin brother, and was a new uncle to his sister’s 11-month-old son, the sister said. She and a spokeswoman for the school said Emerson’s father had been a principal of a different school, and his mother had been a teacher.

The sister said Emerson had visited D.C. often and loved the city, and never relayed any concerns about crime. She said he attended the July Fourth fireworks on the National Mall and texted her a selfie with a message: “Happy Fourth!”

Antonio Olivo, Magda Jean-Louis, Meagan Flynn and Dan Lamothe contributed to this report.

# Woman is charged with neglecting other children

HEARING FROM B1

Albornoz (D-At Large) said.

The Moores’ home schooling of their children meant they were not exposed to the teachers and school staff who are mandated to report signs of abuse, Albornoz said. He likened their isolation to what all children experienced during the worst of the pandemic shutdowns. Fewer abuse cases were reported then, he said, but abused children who showed up in emergency rooms were more severely injured.

“There were fewer professionals with their eyes on children,” Albornoz said.

An attorney recently retained by Dominique Moore, Andre Mahasa, declined to comment. Clare Carlson and Roberto Martinez, attorneys for Cynthia Moore, declined to comment but have said

in court filings that the charge of second-degree murder “strains credulity.”

The case dates to May 10, 2022, when police and paramedics were called to the Moore house about an unresponsive 17-year-old. The teen was pronounced dead at the scene.

Prosecutors said the child, who identified as male, hadn’t been able to move independently for months and had slept on a make-shift bed in the living room. The windows of the home were covered in blankets, its floors were littered with animal feces and the toilets didn’t appear to work, police alleged in court filings. All six of the surviving minor children, police said, showed signs of neglect and were removed from the home.

Over the next year, according to police allegations, medical exam-

iners studied the 17-year-old’s death, a task made difficult by a dearth of medical records. They ultimately concluded that “the child was not provided adequate care” and died of “complications of neurological disorder.” Police arrested the Moores this past spring.

At a court hearing in early June, Cynthia Moore told a judge about medical ailments that she said were not being addressed inside the Montgomery County Correctional Facility.

“I have problems with shortness of breath and problems with my lungs, and I have fluid on my heart,” she said, adding that she was having difficulty getting medications. “But they cannot do anything about my heart or my tumors that I have for ovarian cancer, because I have ovarian cancer. They can’t do anything about that.”

Prosecutors Sheila Bagheri and Lauren Fetsch countered that there was no documentation of her medical problems, and they cited jail records showing Moore was receiving medical attention.

They added that the allegations in the current case “involve the defendant improperly self-diagnosing her children with various medical issues and not providing them with any medical attention for many years.”

The judge agreed.

“I don’t believe anything you said. I don’t believe anything,” McAuliffe told Moore in court Thursday.

In arguing for her release, Moore’s attorneys noted she has no previous arrests and is cooperating with ongoing foster care cases involving her children. Moore has gone to all those proceedings and followed all orders imposed, her attorneys said in court filings.

Albornoz, the county council member, said that from his position on the panel’s education and human services committees, he will examine what changes could be made to increase the monitoring of home-schooled children. As of now, he said, the county school system does not appear to have the authority to demand in-person evaluations or observations of home-schooled children.

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# Va. site’s LGBTQ resources removed

WEBSITE FROM B1

year, with commentators and far-right agitators claiming that gay and transgender people are “grooming” children by, for example, holding story time while dressed in drag, or allowing children to discuss gender identity in school.

The Daily Wire inquiry was mainly focused on two programs: Queer Kid Stuff, a resource for children and families that launched its video series in 2016 with a piece exploring the question, “What Does Gay Mean?” and Q Chat Space, which offers live, facilitated chats for LGBTQ+ teenagers. Neither site requires adult permission to use, which some conservatives say they find troubling but LGBTQ+ experts say is essential for youth who need support and are not comfortable bringing their questions to a family member.



AMANDA ANDRADE-RHOADES FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

**Gov. Glenn Youngkin's administration has repeatedly pulled info from Virginia's health website without consulting experts.**

“I don’t know of any child that’s going to feel very comfortable talking about these issue with their parents, but parents are not the enemies,” said Todd Gathje, a lobbyist for the Family Foundation, which has advocated against LGBTQ+ rights. “What’s problematic is when you have government entities coming between the parent and child. . . . That’s when things become very dangerous.”

Messages left at Queer Kid Stuff and Q Chat Space on Wednesday were not returned.

The LGBTQ+ rights group Equality Virginia called taking down the resources “craven and politically motivated.”

“This is part of a pattern with this administration, where it’s

more important to appeal to an anti-LGBTQ+ political base rather than serve LGBTQ+ Virginians in any capacity,” Narissa Rahaman, executive director of Equality Virginia, said in a statement.

The three documented instances when Youngkin officials have removed online public health resources involve the same office in the Virginia Department of Health, records show: the Office of Family Health, which has a mission of “Protecting and improving the health of people in Virginia with a focus on women, infants, children, adolescents, and their families.”

Employees in that division in 2022 told The Washington Post that their work on maternal health disparities had been dis-

missed by Youngkin’s first health chief, Colin Greene, who in comments to them and to The Post questioned the role of structural racism in public health. The Democratic-controlled Senate in February ultimately ousted Greene, a U.S. Army veteran who previously ran a health district in rural northwestern Virginia. (Youngkin has since appointed him a special adviser on opioids.)

In emails from the day the LGBTQ+ resources were removed, division head Vanessa Walker Harris and other employees referred to the past incidents.

“I’m having a bad case of déjà vu,” she wrote to Maria Reppas, the department director of communications, and copied others in her division and on the communications team. “What am I missing? I’m very concerned that staff were directed to remove the webpage without engaging [subject matter experts] in response to a politically motivated inquiry, yet again.”

The first came in February 2022, when Greene directed the manager of the web team remove from the sexual health FAQ page the question, “Where can I learn more about sexual health and pregnancy/STI prevention?” and the answer that recommended an online chatbot powered by Planned Parenthood and two other sites with information catered toward teenagers, records show.

Three months later, in May

2022, the emails show, Greene directed Emily Yeatts, who works in Walker Harris’s division, to request the removal of a list of five Virginia-based organizations that may be able to provide financial assistance for abortion.

Greene also directed the removal of a definition of reproductive justice from the department’s family planning webpage — “the human right to maintain personal bodily autonomy, have children, not have children, and parent the children we have in safe and sustainable communities” — emails show.

The requests came the day after the leak of a draft Supreme Court opinion that ultimately overturned *Roe v. Wade*, the landmark ruling legalizing the right to an abortion nationwide.

“[A]nd in other news, here we go again with removing things from the webpage without consulting ofhs,” Yeatts wrote to Walker Harris on May 31 of this year, on the afternoon that a reporter for the Daily Wire submitted questions. “[T]he adolescent health website now? What in the world?” wrote another employee.

Upon learning of the Daily Wire questions, two subject-matter experts, including Yeatts, floated a draft reply that said “VDH’s webpage includes information for all people, including transgender youth, and strives to include information consistent with best public health practices,” adding:

“LGBT people are at increased risk for violence.”

Walker Harris wrote back saying that because her team manages the content on the website, she hoped their “subject matter expertise” would be considered in an agency response.

The emails do not show the department responding, and the story does not include a comment from the department.

In a message to colleagues on May 31, Walker Harris said Karen Shelton, Youngkin’s new health commissioner, apologized for how the change was handled, saying “she received a directive from [Health and Human Resources] to pull the webpage down and there wasn’t much time to communicate about it.”

The following week, a journalist with the Richmond-based Virginia Mercury asked Reppas whether the resources would be restored. Reppas immediately turned to higher-ups for guidance. The next day, emails show, Virginia Health Department Chief Operating Officer R. Christopher Lindsay responded:

“Maria- this is part of an overall project to look at areas of the VDH website that can use redesign. We are using data to look at website traffic and will redesign towards public health initiatives that are relevant to consumer demand.”

Records indicate the response was never sent.

## VIRGINIA

# Youngkin says revenue is strong for tax cuts

BY GREGORY S. SCHNEIDER

PETERSBURG, VA. — Gov. Glenn Youngkin (R) on Thursday scolded Democrats in the Virginia Senate for resisting his call for \$1 billion in permanent tax cuts, saying upcoming financial data will show an even bigger state budget surplus than expected.

The fiscal results for June, due out in a few days, “will be my final plea because I think we will fully confirm that we are well ahead of the \$3.6 billion budget forecast for a surplus,” Youngkin said in remarks to reporters after an unrelated event here. “And there’s no reason why we shouldn’t be able to have a substantial tax reduction.”

Youngkin also fired back at Maryland Gov. Wes Moore over the Democrat’s suggestion in a

radio interview that Virginia is not the proper place for a new FBI headquarters because Youngkin and other Republicans have criticized the Justice Department’s handling of charges against former president Donald Trump. Youngkin accused Moore of politicizing the selection process and resorting to a “bag of tricks” to combat Virginia’s advantages in the sweepstakes for the headquarters.

On the budget battle, Democrats who control the state Senate have argued that the specter of an uncertain economy makes it imprudent to pass a Republican package of tax cuts that will cost more than \$900 million per year.

Sen. Scott Surovell (D-Fairfax) noted that a recent survey by the National Association of State Budget Officers projected that

state revenue would decline by 0.7 percent in fiscal 2024, which began July 1.

“Permanent tax cuts are reckless & irresponsible,” Surovell tweeted this week. He noted that Senate Democrats have countered with a proposal for \$900 million in one-time rebates to taxpayers instead of the recurring cuts favored by Youngkin and the Republican-controlled House of Delegates.

An impasse over the cuts caused House and Senate budget negotiators to suspend talks on June 27. They had been flirting with a budget deal since the General Assembly failed to reach agreement on a spending plan before adjourning this year’s legislative session on Feb. 25, though the process was delayed by the June 20 primary elections.

The state is at the midpoint of a two-year budget passed in 2022, so the lack of an agreement does not interrupt funding for state agencies and programs. But it leaves some \$3.6 billion of expected surplus in limbo. School systems, in particular, don’t know what kind of raises to expect next

year for teachers.

Budget amendments passed by the Democratic-controlled Senate would use most of the surplus to fund raises for teachers, law enforcement officers and state employees, as well as a host of other programs such as higher education and mental health services. Youngkin and House Republicans favor a plan that spends less on those priorities in favor of increasing the standard personal income tax deduction by \$500 to \$9,000 for individuals and twice that for married couples filing jointly; slightly reducing the highest tax rates; and small cuts for businesses and veterans.

Youngkin also proposed cutting the state corporate tax rate, but House Republicans abandoned that proposal in the face of firm opposition from the Senate, according to Del. Barry Knight (R-Virginia Beach), chairman of the House Appropriations Committee and top budget negotiator for that chamber.

On Thursday, Youngkin reiterated his support for the full slate of cuts, adding that he would

favor holding in reserve any surplus beyond the projected \$3.6 billion. “We can actually put more reserves away to cushion any future problems and still cut taxes by a billion and invest 2.6 billion in critical investments,” Youngkin said. “This is a time for us to recognize the reality of the numbers and to do what’s best for Virginians.”

He said Senate Democrats “want to try to convince people that it’s either this or that. We can do all of it, just like we did last year.” In 2022, the General Assembly gave bipartisan approval to \$4 billion worth of tax cuts as well as some additional spending.

Youngkin demurred when asked whether he will call a special session of the legislature to try to force a deal but indicated he’ll consider that option once the June revenue numbers are released.

Knight, the top House negotiator, said he hopes to see top Democrats in Richmond next week and will take their temperature for reopening talks. Sens. Janet D. Howell (D-Fairfax) and

George L. Barker (D-Fairfax), the co-chairs of the Senate Finance and Appropriations Committee, could not be reached for comment.

Youngkin addressed the Maryland governor’s comments when asked about them by a reporter. Speaking Monday on WTOP’s “DMV Download” podcast, Moore said Maryland deserved the FBI headquarters in part because, “from my understanding, I’m the only chief executive of the two states that actually says, ‘I believe in the mission of the FBI and I don’t believe it should be defunded’ — the only one.”

When Trump was indicted early last month, Youngkin tweeted: “These charges are unprecedented and it’s a sad day for our country, especially in light of what clearly appears to be a two-tiered justice system where some are selectively prosecuted, and others are not.”

On Thursday, Youngkin dismissed the criticism. “That’s just not the way I roll, which is to make accusations,” he said. “The reality is, we back law enforcement in Virginia.”

## THE DISTRICT

# Felony charges loom for man arrested near Obama’s house

BY SPENCER S. HSU

U.S. prosecutors told a federal judge that they will bring unspecified felony charges as soon as possible against a man who was arrested last week with guns near former president Barack Obama’s house in Washington.

Taylor Taranto, 37, a defendant in the Jan. 6, 2021, riot at the U.S. Capitol, was in the neighborhood hours after former president Donald Trump shared Obama’s address on social media.

Prosecutors did not set a deadline or describe the charges on Thursday. However, a defense attorney for Taranto said at a bond hearing that none of the contemplated charges privately discussed by prosecutors relate to purportedly threatening statements that the government alleged Taranto made regarding Obama, House Speaker Kevin McCarthy (R-Calif.), Rep. Jamie B. Raskin (D-Md.) and a federal facility in suburban Maryland.

Neither side elaborated further, and after a brief hearing, U.S. Magistrate Judge Zia M. Faruqui said he would resume the hearing next Wednesday after court officials and the defense explore whether Taranto’s wife in Washington state or others might be able to vouch for Taranto’s home incarceration pending trial.

“This is going to take some time, unfortunately,” Faruqui told Taranto, who will remain held at D.C. jail pending a decision.

The delay prolongs a mystery over the government’s investigation of Taranto. Prosecutors said in a bond motion Wednesday that while the FBI had been monitoring Taranto’s online activities for some time, the government only obtained a warrant on June 29 for his arrest on four misdemeanor counts of trespassing and disorderly conduct at the Capitol, one day after Taranto hosted a live stream in which he said he was driving his van and intended to blow it up at the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), a federal facility about

15 miles north of Washington.

Taranto also “made ominous comments referencing Speaker McCarthy,” prosecutors alleged, including, “Coming at you McCarthy. Can’t stop what’s coming. Nothing can stop what’s coming.”

Law enforcement conducted an “all-hands-on-deck” search for Taranto’s black 2000 Chevrolet van but were unable to locate him before Taranto began another live stream near Obama’s house in Washington’s Kalorama neighborhood that same day, the government said.

Taranto allegedly recorded himself saying he was looking for “entrance points” and “tunnels underneath their houses,” referring to Obama’s and “the Podestas’ house” — an apparent reference to lobbyist Tony Podesta, who recently listed a home nearby for sale — and repeatedly stating that he was trying to get a “shot” and a “good angle on a shot,” prosecutors claimed.

Taranto was pursued by Secret Service agents and arrested, and a search of his parked van nearby turned up two 9mm handguns, 400 rounds of ammunition and a machete, prosecutors said.

Assistant U.S. Attorneys Allison K. Ethen and Colin Cloherty noted that Taranto holds anti-government views and has openly stated that he does not acknowledge the legitimacy of the U.S. or Washington state constitutions. They also argued that he poses a demonstrated threat to multiple political figures as well as the public. But he has not been formally charged with any such crimes, although the prosecutors warned that if Taranto is released, “The severity of the consequences that could result are catastrophic.”

Taranto said he has been living out of his van after coming to Washington earlier this year to take up McCarthy’s offer to show Capitol security video to Jan. 6 defendants. Separately, Taranto live-streamed himself inside a Takoma Park elementary school on June 18, a Sunday, saying he

chose the school because it was close to the home of Raskin, a four-term Democrat who has been a leading congressional critic of Donald Trump, prosecutors said.

“He [Raskin] is one of the guys that hates January 6 people, or more like Trump supporters, and it’s kind of like sending a shock wave through him because I did nothing wrong and he’s probably freaking out . . . and saying s--- like, ‘Well he’s stalking me,’” the

government alleged Taranto said.

Because Taranto is not charged with a violent crime and has no criminal history, prosecutors moved for a bond hearing under a provision that requires the government to show by a preponderance of evidence that he poses a serious risk of flight or obstructing justice. Despite prosecutors’ arguments of Taranto’s potential dangerousness, Faruqui has repeatedly cited conflicting federal trial judges’ rulings, including

one who said her “hands were tied” from considering a defendant’s threat to public safety if prosecutors did not clear the flight or obstruction hurdle.

“If he’s not a serious risk of flight, can I detain him? There are judges that have said the answer to that question is no,” Faruqui said Thursday.

At Assistant Federal Public Defender Katie Guevara’s request, Faruqui said he would ask D.C. jail officials to restore Taranto’s access to his medication, saying it was “completely unacceptable” that he be withheld care for mental health conditions he sustained as a result of his Navy service during the Iraq War.

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# SUNDAY PREVIEW

## BUSINESS

**AI leaps and bounds:** Artificial intelligence has become shockingly capable in the past year, with chatbots conducting fluid conversations, crafting poems and writing lines of computer code, and image-makers creating fake “photos” that are virtually indistinguishable from the real thing. A look at how the technology has evolved so fast.

## ARTS & STYLE

**The Tom-ness of Cruise:** For more than four decades, the mega-star has attained near-mythic status by giving audiences what they want, and he’s showing no signs of slowing down.

## BOOK WORLD

**The Beatles through Paul’s lens:** A look at “1964: Eyes of the Storm,” an intimate collection of previously unpublished photographs taken by Paul McCartney during the explosive period in early 1964 when the band became an international sensation.

## SUNDAY COUPONS

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NO23-0371-2x8



# RFK site could house new Commanders stadium

RFK FROM B1

May, she and Comer struck a cordial tone, with Comer and many other Republicans noticeably reserving their ire for the council. Comer, pledging a desire to work with the mayor, had expressed interest in taking a look at facilitating a “new arena” for the city.

“As Chairman Comer mentioned at the hearing with D.C. Mayor Bowser, he is interested in working with her and the city on a wide variety of issues, including the RFK Stadium site,” Hacker, the committee spokesman, said in a statement. “Committee staff continue to have fruitful discussions with the Mayor’s team and other stakeholders on these issues.”

Bowser’s office did not immediately comment Thursday evening.

Bowser has enthusiastically pursued returning the Commanders to Washington as the team remakes its image, with a new name, a pending new owner and a search for a new home. And D.C. for years has hoped to obtain control of the massive slab of federal land at RFK — valuable real estate in a city that has limited spaces that large for new development.

But the D.C. Council last year split on whether the land should be used for a Commanders stadium, especially as controversy clouded the team.

Soon-to-be-former team owner Daniel Snyder was confronted with investigations into widespread sexual harassment within the organization, as well as allegations of financial impropriety — causing legislators in D.C., Virginia and Maryland to express trepidation about attracting the team, especially with taxpayer



JONATHAN NEWTON/THE WASHINGTON POST

**If the legislation proposed by Rep. James Comer (R-Ky.) is successful, negotiations for what to do with the RFK Stadium site would begin, upping the ante in the debate over the Commanders’ future.**

money.

Council Chairman Phil Mendelson (D) firmly opposed a stadium. And Del. Eleanor Holmes Norton (D-D.C.) said she would not introduce federal legislation allowing the District to purchase RFK until Mendelson and Bowser reached an agreement on the terms and conditions of the legislation. Bowser and Mendelson had not been able to get to that point amid disagreements about the land use.

But with the looming sale of the Commanders to Josh Harris,

the politics have somewhat shifted and the search for a new stadium has been reinvigorated.

Comer’s decision to introduce the bill circumvents Norton, who in previous years has led legislation to sell the land, and also circumvents her stated requirement that Bowser and Mendelson must reach an agreement. Mendelson recently said he was still waiting for the NFL’s investigative report into sexual harassment within the organization to be released before reaching any conclusion about RFK.

In a statement Thursday reacting to news of Comer’s expected legislation, Norton said she still viewed a consensus between Bowser and the council as the best route forward.

“Chairman Comer has repeatedly demonstrated a fixation for meddling in D.C.’s affairs in his committee’s recent hearings, even though he is not a D.C. resident and he does not represent D.C. in Congress,” Norton said. “The future of the RFK site should be decided by a consensus between the D.C. Council and the

## OBITUARIES

DAVID GILMOUR, 91

### Entrepreneur developed Fiji water

BY HARRISON SMITH

David Gilmour, a Canadian-born entrepreneur who made millions in real estate and gold mining, but who remained best known for bringing a glamorous, square-edged approach to hydration as the founder of Fiji water, died June 11 at his home in Manhattan. He was 91.

The cause was cardiac arrest, said his wife, Jillian Gilmour.

By the time he came up with the idea for Fiji water in the early 1990s, Mr. Gilmour had amassed a fortune from his business ventures with Peter Munk, a friend from his college days in Toronto. Together they launched a popular stereo company, Clairtone Sound; assembled a chain of more than 50 hotels across the South Pacific; and funneled their earnings into a Canadian oil company that evolved into the world’s largest gold mining business, Barrick Gold.

Their collaboration took Mr. Gilmour around the world, to mines in Northern Ontario and a proposed hotel site near the Egyptian pyramids, although he kept returning to Wakaya, a tiny Fiji island that he first visited in the early 1970s. The island had lush forests, white sand beaches and turquoise lagoons, and it became a refuge for Mr. Gilmour after the death of his only child, Erin Gilmour, who was slain in her Toronto apartment in 1983, at age 22.

Mr. Gilmour built a reservoir, airstrip and jetty on the island, as well as a 12,000-square-foot villa he called Vale O, or House in the Clouds. In 1990, he opened the Wakaya Club & Spa, an exclusive resort that he jokingly referred to as “a place to put the overflow guests” from his home.

The resort’s eight thatched-roof suites were reserved by celebrities including Bill Gates, Nicole Kidman, Paris Hilton and Keith Richards, and staff lived nearby at a new “company town.” At the center of the community was a red-roofed church with a set of stained glass windows that served as a memorial to Mr. Gilmour’s daughter.

As Mr. Gilmour told it, the island was his “Noah’s ark,” keeping him afloat in a tempestuous world. It was “my passion, my home, my retreat, the source of my inspiration,” he told *Palm Beach Illustrated* in 2015. “Ideas come to me when I’m sitting on the island; it’s given me every good idea I’ve had in business.”

That included the idea behind Fiji water, which Mr. Gilmour said was inspired by seeing a

guest brandish a bottle of Evian on the Wakaya golf course. There was no reason, he decided, for someone to bring a water bottle from Europe when there was fresh natural water to be found in Fiji.

Mr. Gilmour founded Fiji water in 1999, after locating a pristine aquifer on the country’s largest island, Viti Levu, and signing a 99-year lease with the Fiji government. He invested about \$48 million of his own money to launch the business, according to the *Wall Street Journal*, and sold the water in distinctive square bottles adorned with a picture of a hibiscus flower and text describing the water’s source as a “virgin ecosystem far from acid rain, herbicides, pesticides and other pollutants.”

To promote the brand, Mr. Gilmour worked his Hollywood connections to get the bottles placed on television shows including “The Sopranos” and “Ally McBeal.” He also lobbied for Fiji water to be carried by luxury restaurants and hotels, and vouched for the purity himself: He never drank tap water, he told the *Times* of London, and always traveled with bottles from Fiji. “I brush my teeth with it,” he said.

By 2004, Fiji water was reportedly the second-biggest imported water brand in the United States, behind only Evian. The business was sold that year to Roll International — a private Los Angeles-based company now called the Wonderful Co., owned by billionaire Stewart and Lynda Resnick — for a reported \$50 million.

Like other bottled water companies, Fiji has been criticized as wasteful, given the plastic that goes into the bottles and the energy it takes to make, fill and ship them around the world. But the company has remained a commercial success, and today trails only San Pellegrino among imported water sales in the United States, according to the Beverage Marketing Corp.

Mr. Gilmour had little interest in serving as a corporate caretaker. As he told the *Toronto Globe and Mail* in 2008, he was happy to sell a business once it started to take off and was more interested in developing new ideas than holding on to old ones. “Once it reaches a critical mass, I kind of get bored sitting around a boardroom table,” he said. “In my companies, we don’t have board meetings.”

The youngest of four children, David Harrison Gilmour was born in Winnipeg, Manitoba, on Nov. 5, 1931. He grew up in Toronto, where his father worked as an

investment banker. His mother was an opera singer who performed in London and across Canada.

As a boy, Mr. Gilmour went skiing and horseback riding and spent summers traveling overseas. After he graduated from high school, the *Globe and Mail* reported, his father offered him money either to finance a start-up or to fund a years-long vacation across Europe. Mr. Gilmour accepted the latter, receiving a \$10-a-day stipend on the condition that he not travel with friends, whom his father considered a bad influence.

“I learned what people are really like,” he said. “I learned to touch only what I totally believe in 100 percent. And I learned how to take care of myself.”

He went on to study business at the University of Toronto, and sold pots and pans door-to-door before launching his first company, Dansk Design, which sold modern Scandinavian furniture and housewares.

In 1958, he partnered with Munk, a Hungarian-Canadian electrical engineer, to found Clairtone Sound. The company’s futuristic stereos appeared in movies with Frank Sinatra and Sean Connery and earned praise from jazz musician Dizzy Gillespie, but the business struggled after it expanded into television and moved its manufacturing from Toronto to Nova Scotia. Mr. Gilmour and Munk were forced out of the company in the late 1960s, and the company collapsed a few years later.

“That was our PhD in busi-

*“Ideas come to me when I’m sitting on the island; it’s given me every good idea I’ve had in business.”*

David Gilmour, talking about Fiji’s Wakaya

ness,” Mr. Gilmour told the *Globe and Mail*.

With Munk, he soon started Southern Pacific Hotel, which acquired dozens of hotels in countries including Australia and New Zealand.

Mr. Gilmour worked for several years on a project to build a luxury resort near the pyramids, with backing from Saudi financier and arms dealer Adnan Khashoggi, but the proposal was condemned by politicians and archaeologists and ultimately killed by Egyptian President Anwar Sadat. The company was sold in 1981 to Singaporean banker Khoo Teck Puat for about \$100 million.

Mr. Gilmour continued work-



J. COUNTESS/WIREIMAGE

**David Gilmour invested about \$48 million of his own money to start Fiji water, sold in square bottles with a hibiscus label image.**

ing with Munk on companies including Barrick Gold and TrizecHahn, a real estate business, and described his business partner as “the brother I never had.” Munk died in 2018.

In 1981, Mr. Gilmour married

Jillian Sweeney, a New Zealand native and his sole immediate survivor. They lived in New York and Palm Beach, Fla. After a cyclone decimated Wakaya in 2016, Mr. Gilmour sold the island to Clare Bronfman, an heiress to the Seagram’s liquor fortune. She was sentenced to almost seven years in prison in 2020 for her role in the NXIVM sex-trafficking case.

Mr. Gilmour’s marriages to Anna Wilmot, with whom he had his daughter, and Diane Williams ended in divorce. Last year, investigators used genetic genealogy to charge a Northern Ontario man in the killings of Mr. Gilmour’s daughter and another woman, Susan Tice. His wife said the

Mayor, who have been entrusted to represent the best interests of D.C. residents.”

The team’s upper management has in the past shown enthusiasm about returning to what its president, Jason Wright, has called “the spiritual home of the team.” The team’s vice president of public affairs, Joe Maloney, and the team’s lobbyist, Matthew Cutts of Dentons, have been actively encouraging members of Congress to support D.C. getting control of RFK.

But exactly what kind of proposal — if any, in the middle of a tough budget year — that D.C. could make to attract the Commanders to RFK remains unclear. The city must also contend with the needs of other professional sports teams already in the District, including the Nationals, Wizards, Capitals and Mystics, which have their own requests for maintenance and upgrades at existing stadiums and arenas. And disagreement on the council about whether to bring the Commanders to RFK has yet to be resolved.

Comer’s legislation is likely to revive that debate if it moves through Congress.

The last time an RFK bill was introduced in Congress was 2019, by Norton. The House Natural Resources Committee also held a hearing on the legislation in 2017, and the then regional director of the NPS National Capital Region, Bob Vogel, expressed support for the city gaining control of RFK, but the effort ultimately failed to lead to change.

A House Natural Resources spokesperson did not immediately respond to a request for comment Thursday.

Nicki Jhabvala and Michael Brice-Saddler contributed to this report.

#### DEATH NOTICE

##### BROZ

RAYMOND BROZ JR.

Raymond “Dutch” Broz, Jr., of Arlington, VA, died peacefully on July 4, 2023, at Virginia Commonwealth University Medical Center in Richmond, VA, comforted by his daughter. He was born January 6, 1939, in Pittsburgh, PA, to Jane and Raymond, Sr. After graduating from Stowe Township High School, Ray attended business school in Pittsburgh. He moved to Washington, DC, in 1961, where he began his 40-year career with the Federal Bureau of Investigation. It was at the FBI Washington Field Office that he met Mary Susan Hirschak, whom he married on June 11, 1966. Together, they settled in Arlington, VA, and welcomed their daughter, Mary Carol, in 1975. Ray was an avid Steelers fan; a member of Arlington Moose Lodge No. 1315; and most of all, a devoted husband, doting father, and proud Pappy. Ray was preceded in death by his parents, his wife Susan, and his brother William Broz. He is survived by his daughter, Mary Broz Vaughan (Steve); his grandson Alex; and many loving in-laws, nieces, nephews, relatives, and friends. A visitation will be held at Murphy Funeral Home located at 4510 Wilson Blvd. at 10 a.m. on Saturday, July 8, 2023 followed by a Funeral Mass at St. Ann Catholic Church and burial at Columbia Gardens Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Ray’s preferred charity, Children’s Home Society of Virginia ([www.chsva.org](http://www.chsva.org)), the nonprofit agency that brought his daughter home.



##### CAMPLI

ARTHUR M. CAMPLI

MAY 30, 1959 - JULY 1, 2023



Officers and members of Local 26 IBEW are hereby notified of the death of Brother Arthur M. Campli. Our condolences are extended to his family and friends.



#### DEATH NOTICE

##### DEGRAZIA



ELLEN MARY O’CONNOR DEGRAZIA

Ellen Mary O’Connor DeGrazia died on June 9, 2023 at age 95, from complications of cancer. Beloved mother of Augustus (d.2011), Belinda (Holtzclaw), Christophe, David, and Elizabeth (Blumenfeld), grandmother to Zoe DeGrazia and Samuel and Zachary Blumenfeld; former wife of Edward DeGrazia and long-term partner of Zelda Dilworth. Ellen was born in Chicago on July 7, 1927, earned a BA at the University of Chicago in 1945 and, after having children, an MSW from the University of Maryland-Baltimore. Ellen was a long-time resident of Chevy Chase, MD, a social worker, election day poll watcher, Whitman Walker Clinic, volunteer, and occasional protester for liberal causes. Ellen loved her children and grandchildren; mystery novels, particularly Agatha Christie; and humor of all kinds. Ellen’s beautiful smile and riotous laughter will always be remembered. There will be a private service.

##### FINLAYSON



PATRICIA GLENN FINLAYSON

On Monday, June 26, 2023, Patricia Glenn Finlayson, age 83, of District Heights, MD, passed away peacefully surrounded by family. Beloved wife of the late Joseph Arnold Finlayson, Jr., Esq.; mother of Sheila Renee Finlayson, Esq.; the late Joseph Glenn Finlayson, the late Arnold Robert Finlayson, Esq., and the late Patricia Michelle Finlayson; sister of Barbara Glenn Reaves (Merwyn) and sister in-law Leah Minnie Sheppard. Also survived by a host of other relatives and friends. Service Tuesday, July 11, 2023; visitation 10 a.m., service 11 a.m. First Baptist Church of Highland Park, Main Sanctuary, 6801 Sheriff Road, Landover, MD. Interment Cedar Hill Cemetery. [www.mcguire-services.com](http://www.mcguire-services.com)

When the need arises, let families find you in the Funeral Services Directory.

To be seen in the Funeral Services Directory, please call paid Death Notices at 202-334-4122.

The Washington Post

#### CORRECTION

•The June 28 obituary of actor Julian Sands incorrectly described his role in the 1984 film “The Killing Fields.” He played British journalist Jon Swain, not a photographer.



## DEATH NOTICE

## FRANK

## JOHN RAY FRANK

(Age 86)  
John Ray Frank of New Market, MD, died July 4, 2023, at Citizens Care and Rehabilitation Center of Frederick due to complications from diabetes.  
The family will hold a visitation on Monday, July 10, 2023 at Stauffer Funeral Home-Frederick is managing the funeral arrangements.  
[www.staufferfuneralhome.com](http://www.staufferfuneralhome.com)



## DEATH NOTICE

## KREISS

## MARTIN KREISS "Marty"

On Monday July 3, 2022, HANNAH KREISS, of Silver Spring, MD, son of the late Aaron and Kate Kreiss, died peacefully on Tuesday, July 4, 2023. Marty was the devoted life partner for 50 years to his wife, Michele, loving father to Deborah, Stephanie, Bryan (Adrienne) and Jeffrey; adoring Zayde to Tyler, Ari, Benjamin and Alexis. Service will be held on Tuesday, July 11, 2023, in the chapel of Judean Gardens, 16225 Bachelors Forest Rd., Olney, MD at 11 a.m. The family will receive guests immediately following the interment. Directions will be provided. In lieu of flowers a donation may be made to the charity of your choice. Funeral arrangements will be handled by Hines Rinaldi (301) 622-2290.



## DEATH NOTICE

## LEVY

## HANNAH LEVY (Age 33)

On Monday July 3, 2022, HANNAH LEVY of Potomac, MD, Beloved wife of Andrew Gruhin, loving mother of Bobby Indigo Gruhin, dear daughter of Stephen Levy and Lois Zuckerman and grand daughter of Estelle Zuckerman, cherished sister of Nora Gorenstein. Grave-side services will be held on Friday, July 7, 2023, 11 a.m. at Garden of Remembrance Memorial Park, Clarksburg, MD. Shiva to be announced. Memorial contributions may be made to the charity of your choice. Arrangements entrusted to TORCHINSKY HEBREW FUNERAL HOME, 202-541-1001.



## LOEB

## BETTY S. LOEB

Betty S. Loeb (nee Segal), of New Market, MD, passed away on Thursday, July 6, 2023 at the age of 83. She is survived by her loving husband, Bernard S. Loeb; loving children, David Loeb (Lauren Wendt) and Dana (Scott) Holman; adored grandchildren, Matthew, Ezra and Talia Loeb, Talia Loeb, Michael and Jason Holman. She was predeceased by her devoted parents, Michael and Edith Segal.

Betty was a loving mother, wife, and grandmother. She was a very decent, caring human being and a huge Penn State fan.

Services at Garden of Remembrance Memorial Park, 14321 Comus Road, Clarksburg, MD 20871, on Sunday, July 9, 2023 at 12:30 p.m. Please omit flowers. Contributions in her memory may be sent to Congregation Kol Ami of Frederick. The family will be in mourning at 9067 Clendenin Way, Frederick, MD 21704, through Monday. Arrangements by Sol Levinson Funeral Home. [www.sollevinson.com](http://www.sollevinson.com)



## SAUNDERS

## WILLIE JOE SAUNDERS

## "Joe" (Age 99)

Willie Joe Saunders, affectionately known as "Joe", passed away peacefully on Monday, June 19, 2023. A Memorial Mass will be held on Friday, July 14, 2023 at St. John Neumann Catholic Church, 620 N. Bestgate Road, Annapolis, MD 21401 at 10:30 a.m. [www.LastingTributesFuneralCare.com](http://www.LastingTributesFuneralCare.com)

## DEATH NOTICE

## DEATH NOTICE

## SMITH

## JAMES ARCHER SMITH

## In Loving Memory

Jim peacefully passed away on Thursday, June 29, in Florence, SC, after a prolonged illness. He was born in Alexandria VA on September 11, 1943. Jim is survived by his wife Dorothy Smith, daughter Michelle Smith, son Charles and wife Tracey Smith and stepsons Donald and wife Suzette Bunch and Michael Bunch, along with 11 grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren. Jim an electrician by trade working at the Kennedy Center and owner of Smith Electric retiring in 2005 and moving to Florence, enjoying the slower pace of life. He has met many good friends and neighbors along his path in life. He was an avid Redskins fan never missing a game and donating time and supplies to local pet charities, an animal lover who leaves two furry family members longing for his return. He will be loved and missed forever. Services will be held at Denaine's Funeral Home in Springfield, VA on Saturday July 8, 2023, Viewing from 12 p.m. to 1 p.m., Service from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. Following he will be laid to rest at Mount Comfort Cemetery in Alexandria, VA.

## IN MEMORIAM

## TURNER



## MARY ELLEN TURNER

Today we sing "happy birthday to ya, happy birthday to ya, happy birth-dayay!" - to the woman whose smile lit up any room, and generosity melted hearts - happy 85th birthday, Mama! Your Lynette & Asiah will celebrate you forever.

## DEATH NOTICE

## GOETZ



## ANN CAROLINE GORHAM GOETZ

## (Age 83)

Ann Caroline Gorham Goetz, of Oak Hill, Virginia, passed away in her home on June 29, 2023.

Ann was born on November 12, 1939 to Leonard and Caroline "Kak" Gorham of Alexandria, VA. Her parents were active members of Immanuel Lutheran Church, and she was the 1st student to enroll in the inaugural class at Immanuel Lutheran Church School. She went on to cheerlead for and graduate from George Washington High School in Alexandria, VA in 1957. Ann was an active member of the church Young Peoples' Group, participating in volunteer activities and sports leagues.

While working as a secretary at the Pentagon, Ann met her future husband Major Gerald L. Goetz and they married June 11, 1966 Immanuel Lutheran Church. They raised their family on Latham Street in Alexandria, and later moved to Oak Hill when Jerry retired as a Colonel from the U.S. Army to work as a nuclear scientist at SAIC.

Ann loved her family and dedicated her life to being a wife, mother, grandmother, and great grandmother. While her husband was deployed to Vietnam, she worked as an administrative assistant at the Cameron Station Army Post, maintained her home, and reared her children. She loved playing the piano and inspired her children to play and love music as well. Ann was always up for an adventure, frequently hatching spur-of-the-moment trips with her kids to the

Shenandoah river, crabbing in the Chesapeake Bay, beach and surf fishing trips to Rehoboth Beach, and making history come alive while relic hunting with her son. Ann could always be counted on to chaperone grade school trips, be a swim meet timer, and drive for Meals on Wheels. She was also a local Bowling and Tennis Champion, which inspired her children's love of sports. She excelled while working in the Admitting Department at Alexandria Hospital and was promoted to Supervisor, which encouraged her to pursue a Nursing degree later in life. One of her greatest joys was working as a Docent in First Ladies Hall at the National History Museum in Washington, DC, where she loved making history come alive for the Museum's visitors.

She had a great love of travel, and took amazing trips to see Germany's castles, Austria's Biergartens, the beaches in Bora Bora and Fiji, and an educational trip to Cuba. She jetted on the Concord, sailed the QE2, and especially cherished trips to her second home on the Big Island of Hawaii.

Ann was preceded in death by her parents and her husband, COL Gerald L. Goetz. She is greatly missed and survived by her children Sheri Kebbel (Dennis), Hon. Debra Camathan (Russ), Jennifer Goetz (David Kalinowski), Dr. Liana Goetz (Chris Wible), Darrell Goetz (Page), and her step-daughter Lisa Goetz-Bouknight (Jon). She was also loved and is missed by her eight grandchildren Julia Anna, Arielle, and Christian Kebbel, Austin and Andrew Carnahan; Lydia and Reese Goetz; and Caroline Kalinowski. Also her three step grandchildren Joshua and Jordan Hilber, and Aletheia Mc Curry; the two great-grandchildren Lillian and Lucas Kebbel; as well as six step great-grandchildren Isabelle, Trystan, and Dylan Hilber; Connor, Piper, and Walker Mc Curry.

Visitation with the family will be July 13, 2023, 4 to 7 p.m. at Every-Wheatley Funeral Home, 1500 West Braddock Road, Alexandria, VA. The Celebration of Life will also be held at Every Wheatley, 11 a.m. on July 14, with a reception for family and friends to follow at Immanuel Lutheran Church, 1801 Russell Road Alexandria, VA 22301.

The family requests that all flowers and remembrances be sent to Every-Wheatley. Interment will be held on a to-be-determined date at Arlington National Cemetery.

## DEATH NOTICE

## DEATH NOTICE

## ROESER



## VALERIE KAY ROESER

Valerie Kay Roeser (nee Ewins), 83, formerly of the Town of Staines, London, England, will be laid to rest beside her husband of 61 years on July 8, 2023, during a private ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery.

Valerie passed away peacefully after a brief illness on Sunday, March 27, 2022, in Fairfax, VA.

Valerie was born in Staines, a suburb of London, England, to William "Bill" Sr. and Katherine (Molly) Ewins on March 24, 1939. Valerie was a successful salesperson and held sales positions in many businesses, predominantly

ly in the home interior field. She graduated from the West London academy of Drayton Manor in 1957. Soon after graduation she met her husband to be, Carl Joseph Roeser Jr., while he was stationed in London during his time in the U.S. Air Force.

Valerie loved to vacation with family and loved gardening. She had an uncanny green thumb, as demonstrated by all the lovely house plants that filled her home, many of which were started from just a sprig. She also loved arts and crafts as well as knitting and crocheting. Valerie was a huge tennis fan and never missed watching the big matches. Valerie retired at the age of 62 and spent much of her time as a retiree day tripping with her husband Carl.

Valerie was preceded in death by her father, William Sr.; her mother, Katherine; her brother, William Jr.; and her loving husband of 61 years, Carl Jr.

Valerie is survived by her daughter Linda Newland, married to Charlie and her son Carl Roeser II, married to Maria. She also leaves behind three grandchildren, Sarah (Roeser) Upperman, Samuel Newland and James Roeser; one great-granddaughter, Chloe Upperman; and a large extended family.

In memory of Valerie, say "I love you" to someone close to you and give them hugs as often as possible.

## WESCHLER

## MAUREEN MCDONNELL WESCHLER

## Remembering Maureen

Maureen McDonnell Weschler was born Mary Margaret McDonnell on January 7, 1957 in Brooklyn, New York. She died on June 28, 2023 at age 66 after a two decade battle with cancer. She is survived by her loving husband of 51 years, Samuel Newland of Vienna, VA, and her sons Leonard (Katie), Christopher, sister Kathleen Bartosh, and grandson Maximilian. Her father Aloysius McDonnell, mother Mary Breslin and brother Richard Mack previously passed.

Maureen was an award-winning clinical psychotherapist and social worker with a bachelor's degree from Hood College (1981), and master's degree from Virginia Commonwealth University (1984).

Maureen was a loving and supportive mother to her boys, of whom she was endlessly proud. She traveled to all fifty states and many countries, including her family's home of Ireland where she visited many times. She loved to cook, appreciated the value of a good hug, enjoyed trying different foods, and prized a good cup of tea.

Maureen was diagnosed with breast cancer in 1999, which then metastasized in 2001.

## DEATH NOTICE

## DEATH NOTICE

## GRANVILLE



## EVELYN BOYD GRANVILLE (Age 99)

Dr. Evelyn Boyd Granville, who was one of first two African American women to receive a Ph.D. in mathematics from an American university – both in 1949, died peacefully at her apartment in Silver Spring, MD on June 27, 2023. During her long life, she performed pioneering work in the field of computing; raised chickens; and sold catfish in Texas.

Evelyn Boyd was born on May 1, 1924 in Washington, DC, the second daughter of William and Julia Walker Boyd. Her parents separated when she was young, and she was raised by her mother and aunt. Boyd was valedictorian at Dunbar High School, from which she retired in 1988. Two years later she started teaching at the University of Texas in Tyler as the Sam A. Lindsey Professor of mathematics. There she developed elementary school math enrichment programs.

Her first retirement was 1984, when she and her second husband, Edward V. Granville, a realtor, left L.A. for a rural 16-acre plot of land in East Texas, his place of birth. They shared a lovely, quiet home, but Granville was soon teaching again, first at the local public schools, and then at Texas College, from which she retired in 1988. Two years later she started teaching at the University of Texas in Tyler as the Sam A. Lindsey Professor of mathematics. There she developed elementary school math enrichment programs.

Following graduate school, Boyd went to New York University Institute for Mathematics and performed research and teaching there. Afterwards, she took a teaching position at Fisk University, a historically black college, because postings at predominantly white colleges were not available to black women. But in 1952 she left academia and returned to Washington with a position at the National Bureau of Standards. In 1956, a new door opened. Granville was recruited to

a position with IBM, where she was seated before a 650 Magnetic Drum Data-Processing Machine and asked to do programming. Three years later, NASA was formed, and the fledgling agency contracted with IBM to help launch satellites and manned capsules outward, closer to the stars. Another door.

She was assigned first to Project Vanguard and Mercury writing programs to track the orbital trajectories of satellites and rockets. Later, she joined Project Apollo, providing technical support to the engineers working to make possible a lunar landing.

After nearly two decades in the private sector, Boyd did, eventually, become a teacher. It was 1967. She was living in Los Angeles, in the midst of a divorce from her first husband, and IBM was asking her to move again, to Northern California. The divorce was destabilizing enough, she said, no to IBM. She wanted to stay in place. She applied to be an assistant professor of mathematics at California State University, Los Angeles, got the job – as a full professor – and gladly took a 50 percent pay cut. There she taught and wrote textbooks on how to teach mathematics and, there, she finished her career—sort of.

Her first retirement was 1984, when she and her second husband, Edward V. Granville, a realtor, left L.A. for a rural 16-acre plot of land in East Texas, his place of birth. They shared a lovely, quiet home, but Granville was soon teaching again, first at the local public schools, and then at Texas College, from which she retired in 1988. Two years later she started teaching at the University of Texas in Tyler as the Sam A. Lindsey Professor of mathematics. There she developed elementary school math enrichment programs.

After Ed died, she returned to Washington, DC in 2010 and finally settled into retirement, where she regularly bristled when she heard anyone say that "women can't do math".

Granville received honorary doctorates from Smith College, Lincoln University, Spelman College and Yale University. She also received the William Lucius Cross Medal, the Yale Graduate School Alumni Association's highest honor; and was featured in a Yale Alumni Magazine cover story about 150 Years of Women at Yale. Granville was a National Academy of Engineering honoree; any was inducted into the National Academy of Sciences Portrait Collection of African Americans in Science.

Funeral services will be held on Saturday, July 8, 2023, under the direction of McGuire's Funeral Service, 7400 Georgia Avenue, NW, Washington, DC (202) 882-6000. Viewing at 10 a.m. will be followed at 11 a.m. by the Episcopal Burial service. Interment will be private.

[www.mcguire-services.com](http://www.mcguire-services.com)

## QUESTER



## DR. GEORGE H. QUESTER

## (Age 86)

Dr. George H. Quester passed away on July 3, 2023, in Arlington, Virginia. The cause was a hemorrhagic stroke. He was 86 years old.

Dr. Quester taught and wrote in the areas of arms control, international politics, American foreign policy, and military strategy for over 50 years. He was a Professor of Government and Politics at the University of Maryland in College Park, and also taught at Cornell University, Harvard University, UCLA, and in the Department of Military Strategy at the National War College. He spent a year at the Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences at Stanford University. From 1991 to 1993, he served as the Olin Visiting Professor at the United States Naval Academy. After retiring from the University of Maryland, he served as the J.B. and Maurice C. Shapiro Visiting Professor of International Affairs at George Washington University's Elliott School of International Affairs. Dr.

Quester often lectured overseas, including numerous visits to Peking University and Fudan University.

Dr. Quester is the author of over a dozen books on international security issues, and on broader questions of international relations. Dr. Quester's publications include: Deterrence Before Hiroshima (1966, reissued 1986), The Politics of Nuclear Proliferation (1973), The Future of Nuclear Deterrence (1986), Nuclear Monopoly (2000), Defense and Defense in the International System (2003, 3rd ed.), Nuclear First Strike: Consequences of a Broken Taboo (2005), Preemption, Prevention and Proliferation: The Threat and Use of Weapons in History (2009), and Nuclear Zero: Lessons from the Last Time We Were There (2015). He was a member of the International Institute of Strategic Studies and the Council on Foreign Relations.

Dr. Quester graduated from Columbia College. He received his doctorate in political science from Harvard University.

Dr. Quester is survived by his wife Aline Quester (nee Olson) of 59 years, their children, Theodore Quester (Annelia Chase) and five grandchildren, Hugo Boyden, Oliver Boyden, Nicolas Quester, Oscar Quester, and Brigid White. George was a devoted husband, father, and grandfather, with a keen sense of humor. He loved traveling with Aline, watching the Yankees (as long as they were winning), and reading history. He was a lifelong railroad and subway buff and an avid stamp collector.

No memorial service is planned. Donations may be made in George's memory to the National Eye Institute (NEI) or a charity of your choice.

## PIETSCH



## GLORIA H. PIETSCH

After a brief illness and just shy of her 98th birthday, our cherished Gloria H. Pietsch passed away peacefully on July 1, 2023. She was an amazing person and selflessly devoted to her family, friends, neighbors and her faith.

She was born Gloria Horstmann in Syracuse, New York in 1925. While at Syracuse University, she met the love of her life, Bob Pietsch. They were inseparable and had a joyous 44 years of marriage. Bob's career with the FBI relocated them several times and included a magical stretch living in New City, New York.

In the true spirit of the Greatest Generation, Mom was the ideal homemaker - creating a home that was positive, secure, fun and endlessly supportive. She was always there for her children and did anything and everything to build us up. Our victories were

her victories. If we had problems or a tough day, it pained her as much or more than us. She and Dad taught us by example the way to treat each other and the ones you love. Supremely humble, she loved to laugh and was loyal, and quick with a kind word or compliment. Every second with her adored granddaughters was a gift.

Whether it was relationships with the extended FBI community, her 30 years of volunteering at Fairfax Hospital, 40 years on the altar guild at the Church of the Good Shepherd, or playing in her bridge group, Gloria made enduring friendships wherever she went. She was always rooted for the underdog and was genuinely nice to everyone no matter their station.

She loved to swim and her "just one more lap" would always be heard at family barbecues. Gloria and Bob loved their travels and frequent social gatherings with friends. A lobster roll with her neighbors was a highlight.

She will be dearly missed until we meet again by her sons Tom (Susan Hall) and Chris, her daughter Sue (Chris Hutmire), Nancy and her treasured grandchildren Casey and Emily, and her loving nieces and nephews.

A memorial service will be held Friday, July 14, at the Church of the Good Shepherd at 9350 Braddock Road, Burke, VA 22015 at 1 p.m. with reception to follow. Interment to be held at a later date at Arlington National Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to either the Church of the Good Shepherd or World Central Kitchen.

## NEEL



## NOREEN MARIE NEEL

## DECEMBER 31, 1937 – JUNE 24, 2023

Noreen Marie Neel, 85 of Solomons, formerly of Piney Point, Maryland died peacefully on June 24, 2023 at The Hermitage at Solomons Assisted Living facility. She was well loved by family, friends, and the Hermitage staff. She was the daughter of the late Irvin A. Buckler and Francis M. Buckler. She was survived by 11 grandchildren, four great-grandchildren and her sister Mary Agnes Donato.

Mrs. Neel was a registered nurse, formally trained at St. Agnes School of Nursing in Baltimore. She has kept in touch with her graduating class at St. Agnes until her passing and met many times over the years with the girls to "catch up." She worked as a

nurse for several years in Albuquerque, New Mexico while her husband was stationed there. Once Mr. and Mrs. Neel moved back to Maryland, Mrs. Neel worked at St. Mary's Hospital for three years, St. Mary's Nursing Home for four years and finally 22 years as the school nurse at The Seafarers Harry Lunenburg School of Seamanship in Piney Point. Mrs. Neel was very active in the community. She was a member of St. George Catholic Church, as a lector and choir member. She delivered meals to the homebound and attended bible study. She was a member of the St. Mary's Women's Club and served as chair of their Scholarship Committee. As a member, she volunteered her time to the St. Mary's Oyster Festival, clothing drives, and other fundraising events such as a house tour in Piney Point. She volunteered with the Valley Lee Rescue Squad for 5 years. She organized many years of American Red Cross Blood Drives, worked on repairing homes for those in need, and was an Election Judge for many years as well. She was also the Mothers' March Chairperson one year for the St. Mary's Chapter of March of Dimes and with the help of many, raised thousands of dollars.

Family and friends are invited to pay their respects on July 11 at St. George Catholic Church in Valley Lee, Maryland with Rev. Peter Giovannoni as the celebrant. Viewing will be from 11 a.m. to 12 noon. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 12 noon. Interment will follow in the church cemetery. In lieu of flowers, contributions in her memory can be made to The Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research (<https://www.michaelfox.org>), the American Red Cross (<http://www.redcross.org>) or to a charity of choice.

[www.brinsfieldfuneral.com](http://www.brinsfieldfuneral.com)

## COAN



## NANCIE SOMERVILLE COAN

Nancie Somerville Coan, born in Hartford, Connecticut, to Frank Speer Coan and Janet Stone Coan, passed away peacefully at the age of 98 after a short illness in Washington, DC, on March 20, 2023.

Nancie lived her early years with her family in Lahore and Hyderabad, India, where her father headed the YMCA. In Lahore, the family camped during summers in Kashmir's Himalayas to avoid the city's heat—endowing her with a passion for hiking.

Returning to the U.S. from India in 1931, the family settled in Princeton, NJ, where Nancie

spent her adolescent years. After graduating from Vassar College in 1945, her adventurous spirit led her to join sister, Ellen, in Baghdad, Iraq, where she helped with Ellen's four sons; she also applied her organizational skills to manage Ellen's husband's (Nizar Ali Jawdat) company.

Forced to flee Baghdad with the Jawdats during the 1958 revolution, Nancie settled in Washington, where she became the Manager of Bethel Programs at NTL Institute from 1962 to 1992. She spent nearly every summer in Bethel, Maine with her close friends; it became her community and sanctuary.

Never married, she lived an active life after retiring, ushering at theaters, including Shakespeare Theater Company and Arena Stage, and volunteering at several organizations and the Clinton White House. She continued to spend summers in Bethel, hiking with friends and picking blueberries to embellish her pancake breakfasts. Nancie is survived by nephews and nieces Brian Lockhart and Leslie Lockhart Bisharat; Kumait, Zaidun, Rakan and Hammad Jawdat; Christian Coan, Peter Coan, Rachel Coan Zeche and Lucy Coan Helfrich.

The second-youngest of deceased siblings Frances (Mim) Nemtin, Ellen Jagard, Stuart Coan and Janet (June) Dunbar, Nancie is survived by nephews and nieces Brian Lockhart and Leslie Lockhart Bisharat; Kumait, Zaidun, Rakan and Hammad Jawdat; Christian Coan, Peter Coan, Rachel Coan Zeche and Lucy Coan Helfrich.

No services are planned.

## FINCH

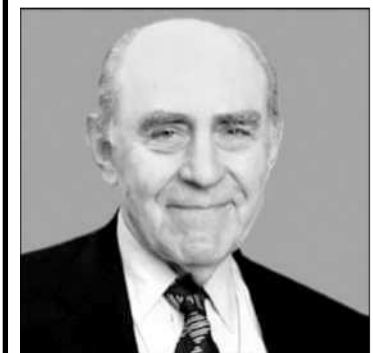


## ELSIE FREEMAN FINCH

Elsie Freeman Finch passed peacefully on July 2, 2023, at Kensington Park Senior Living in Kensington, Maryland. She was 93. Over the course of a long and well-lived life, she was a singer, professional archivist, political activist, wife, and mother. Born to British immigrants in Rochester, New York, she was the first woman in her extended family to attend college. She sang as a soloist and chorister in church and community choirs in her early years. She married

John Finley Freeman, a Harvard-trained historian, and the couple settled in Manhattan, Kansas, where John was a professor and Elsie an instructor in English composition. Together they had two sons before John's sudden death in 1965. Soon after, she and the boys moved to St. Louis, Missouri, and subsequently to Washington, DC. There, she pursued a career as an archivist, at the University of Maryland, the Archives of American Art, and the National Archives. Throughout her career, she advocated in talks and publications for archivists to engage researchers and the public with their records, not just preserve those documents. She developed classroom curricula and various public-facing programs. She was named a Distinguished Fellow of the Society of American Archivists and was a co-founder of the Mid-Atlantic Regional Archives Conference. A dedicated feminist and early supporter of various women's movement organizations, she advocated for the advancement of women in her profession. Elsie Freeman Finch is survived by Jared Freeman, his wife Wendy Weinberg, and their son Jesse Freeman, as well as by Matthew Freeman and his wife Amanda Freeman. A memorial service will be held at a date to be determined this fall, with assistance from the Potomac Valley Cremation Center.

## MIRSKY



## ALLAN F. MIRSKY

Allan F. Mirsky passed away on February 3, 2023, the morning after his 94th birthday, after a long and highly distinguished career in neuropsychology, and a personal life that was lived so well.

Allan grew up in the Bronx, New York. After graduation from the Bronx High School of Science, he went on to receive his bachelor's degree from the City College of New York. There he considered studying engineering, French, pre-med, and biology, until he discovered psychology and never looked back.

Allan went on to receive his Ph.D. from Yale University in 1954. He recalled Yale as a tremendously stimulating environment, with multiple neuropsychological studies going on in the Psychology Department and at the Medical School. In studying WWII veterans with brain injuries, Allan helped to create the Continuous Performance Test, which remains the standard method to assess sustained attention.

Allan was then recruited to the National Institute of Mental Health, where he continued to pursue a lifelong interest in the neural bases of and behavioral effects of seizure disorders. After eight years, he moved to Boston University as a Professor of Psychiatry, Psychology, and Neurology. In his 19 years there, he continued his research on epilepsy and other attention disorders. He then returned to NIMH as Chief of the Laboratory of Psychology and Psychopathology,

where he expanded his research in terms of assessment techniques and clinical groups.

In his 70-year career, Allan made major contributions to studies of attention in numerous clinical disorders, including seizure disorders, schizophrenia, autism, violence, psychopharmacology, and traumatic brain injury. He is particularly well known in the field for his emphasis on brainstem structures and their role in attention, and for partitioning attention into five distinct processes, with each measured by different tests and supported by different brain structures. This model provides a taxonomy of attention that is standard in the field of neuropsychology.

Allan served as President of several professional societies and was one of the founders of the American Board of Clinical Neuropsychology, from which he received the award for Distinguished Service and Contributions to the Profession of Psychology. Other professional awards included the Distinguished Career Award from the International Neuropsychological Society and the Distinguished Lifetime Contribution to Neuropsychology Award from the National Academy of Neuropsychology.

Stellar as Allan's professional career was, he is also remembered by scores of friends, colleagues, and mentees for his humble and gentle nature, his dry sense of humor, his splendid ability to tell a story, his thoughtfulness, and his generosity of time and attention. His personality was a wonderful mix of charming, kind, witty, sensitive, jovial, and mischievous, and he is dearly missed by all.


Allan is survived by his beloved wife of 36 years, Connie C. Duncan, Ph.D.; a daughter, Laura Mirsky (Mark Rotenberg), and son, Richard Mirsky, from a previous marriage to Carol Vogel Mirsky, who predeceased him; one brother, David P. Mirsky, M.D. (Susan); and his standard poodle, Matti.



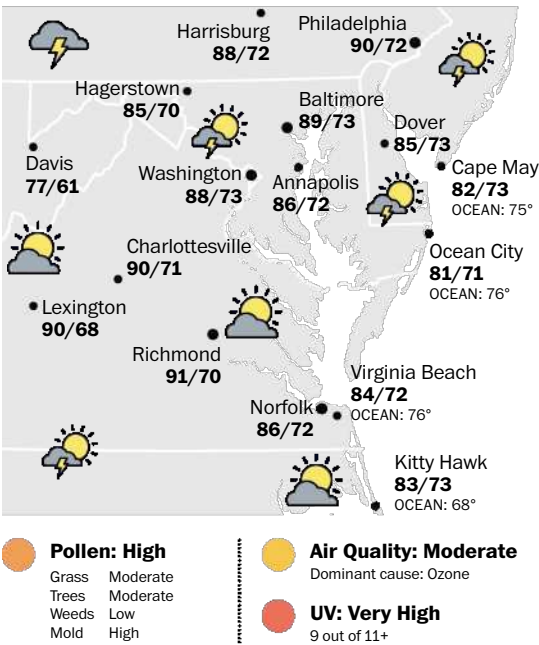
# THE WEATHER

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## A steamy day

 There should be a fair amount of sun, but a few showers and storms are possible through the afternoon. There may even be a more organized line or two of storms (though they are unlikely to be severe). Highs peak in the upper 80s to lower 90s with light south winds and moderate humidity. Any showers or storms could linger well into the evening but should die off by midnight. Lows are mainly in the lower 70s across the area.

## REGION









**Blue Ridge:** Today, sunshine, some clouds. A thunderstorm this afternoon, except dry in southern parts; humid in northern parts. High 72 to 79. Winds west-northwest 4–8 mph. Tonight, cloudy in central parts; clouds breaking elsewhere. Low 62 to 66.

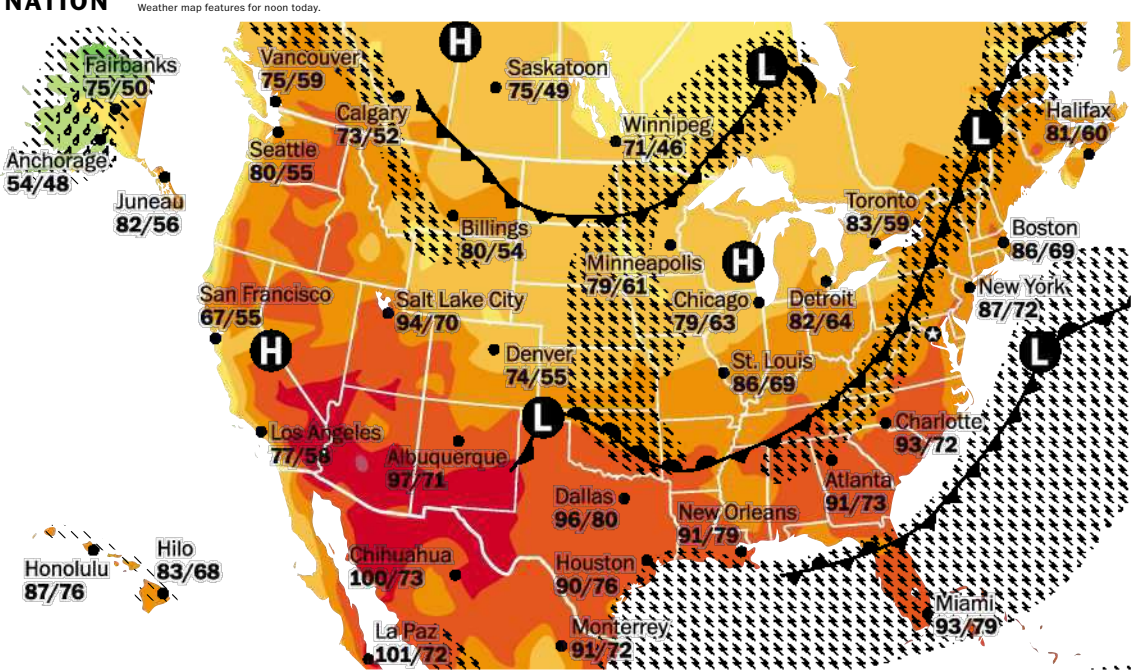
**Atlantic beaches:** Today, partly sunny, humid; patchy morning fog. High 81 to 86. Winds south-southeast 6–12 mph. Tonight, a thunderstorm in spots; however, dry in the south. Low 69 to 73. Winds south-southeast 4–8 mph. Saturday, a thunderstorm in spots.

**Waterways:** *Upper Potomac River:* Today, sunshine, some clouds. Wind south-southeast 4–8 knots. Waves under a foot. Visibility clear. • *Lower Potomac and Chesapeake Bay:* Today, partly sunny. Wind southeast 6–12 knots. Waves 0–1 foot on the Lower Potomac; 1–2 feet on the Chesapeake Bay. • *River Stages:* The stage at Little Falls will be around 3.10 feet today, with no change of 3.10 Saturday. Flood stage at Little Falls is 10 feet.

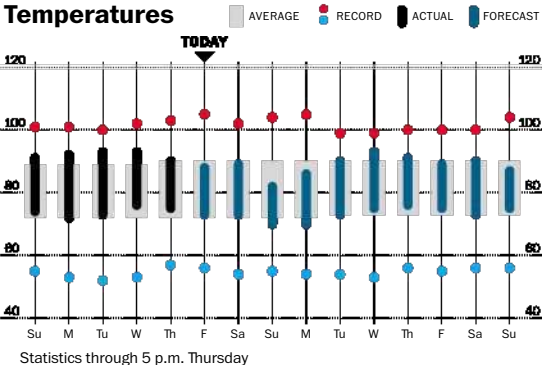
Today's tides (High tides in Bold)				
Washington	6:39 a.m.	<b>11:54 a.m.</b>	7:12 p.m.	none
Annapolis	2:38 a.m.	<b>9:09 a.m.</b>	3:47 p.m.	<b>9:50 p.m.</b>
Ocean City	5:32 a.m.	<b>11:30 a.m.</b>	5:38 p.m.	<b>11:55 p.m.</b>
Norfolk	<b>1:05 a.m.</b>	7:27 a.m.	<b>1:37 p.m.</b>	7:48 p.m.
Point Lookout	<b>5:04 a.m.</b>	12:06 p.m.	<b>5:40 p.m.</b>	none

Today	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
T-storm	T-storm	Heavy t-storms	T-storm	T-storm	T-storm, hot
					
<b>88°</b> 73°	<b>89°</b> 73°	<b>82°</b> 70°	<b>86°</b> 70°	<b>90°</b> 73°	<b>93°</b> 75°
FEELS*: <b>102°</b>	FEELS: <b>101°</b>	FEELS: <b>91°</b>	FEELS: <b>89°</b>	FEELS: <b>97°</b>	FEELS: <b>103°</b>
CHNCE PRECIP: <b>45%</b>	P: <b>40%</b>	P: <b>100%</b>	P: <b>65%</b>	P: <b>80%</b>	P: <b>40%</b>
WIND: <b>SSE 4–8 mph</b>	W: <b>ESE 6–12 mph</b>	W: <b>W 4–8 mph</b>	W: <b>NNW 6–12 mph</b>	W: <b>NNW 4–8 mph</b>	W: <b>SW 4–8 mph</b>
HUMIDITY: <b>High</b>	H: <b>High</b>	H: <b>High</b>	H: <b>High</b>	H: <b>Moderate</b>	H: <b>High</b>

## NATION

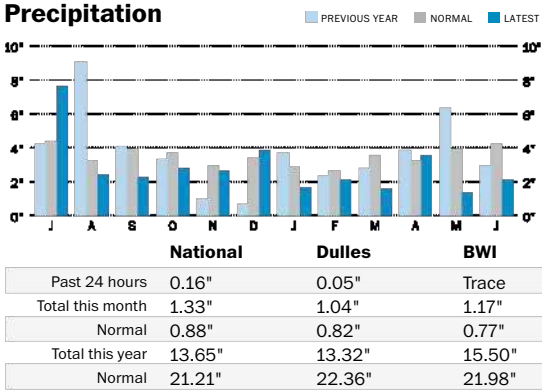


## OFFICIAL RECORD



National			Dulles			BWI		
High	90°	1:00 p.m.	90°	10:03 a.m.	91°	11:01 a.m.		
Low	75°	3:01 p.m.	71°	4:18 a.m.	73°	4:22 a.m.		
Normal	90°/72°		87°/66°		89°/67°			
Record high	103°	1999	102°	1977	105°	2010		
Record low	57°	1979	45°	1979	51°	1979		

Difference from 30-yr. avg. (National): this month: +1.9° yr. to date: +2.5°



Moon Phases			Solar system		
July 9	July 17	July 25	Rise	Set	
Last Quarter	New	First	Sun	5:49 a.m.	8:36 p.m.
		Full	Moon	11:59 p.m.	10:36 a.m.
			Venus	9:07 a.m.	10:38 p.m.
			Mars	9:23 a.m.	10:56 p.m.
			Jupiter	1:51 a.m.	3:29 p.m.
			Saturn	11:16 p.m.	10:13 a.m.



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CHIKE PHOTOGRAPHY FOR LOTTA STUDIO

## The show struggles to go on

Faced with various financial struggles, some theaters press pause, while others drop curtain for good

BY PETER MARKS  
IN NEW HAVEN, CONN.

For more than 55 years, the highly regarded Long Wharf Theatre made its home in a converted warehouse in an old food terminal near New Haven Harbor. Then one day last year, with rent payments an escalating burden, the company became homeless.

Is a legacy theater company without its theater still a company? It's a proposition that Long Wharf's artistic director, Jacob G. Padrón, has been testing — an "itinerant" theater model — and the rest of the anxiety-ridden theater world is watching closely. Still reeling from the pandemic, many of the country's nonprofit theaters of various sizes are in deep financial

trouble, in what is rapidly turning into the most severe crisis in the 70-year history of the regional theater movement.

"It's happening more and more and more, and it's going to be an epidemic," said Michael M. Kaiser, former president of the Kennedy Center and now chairman of the DeVos Institute of Arts Management at the University of Maryland. "I've always believed that we were heading for a time that we were going to lose a whole lot of mid-sized cultural organizations. And I still believe that's true."

Evidence of the turmoil mounts day by day, as companies from California to New York announce major cutbacks in their

SEE THEATERS ON C2

**Tony winner Audra McDonald performs at Long Wharf Theatre in May. The New Haven, Conn., company gave up its performance space. "It's going to be an epidemic," says Michael M. Kaiser, ex-president of the Kennedy Center.**

### MEMO

## Second rodeo? Better strap in.

BY CAITLIN GIBSON

The first night after we came home from the hospital with my 2-year-old daughter's baby brother, I was irrationally determined to carry out a cherished routine. Every time I had ever tucked my little girl into bed, I sang James Taylor's "Sweet Baby James" — but that evening, her bedtime arrived just as my newborn demanded to nurse. I made a choice: I handed my wailing infant to my husband and dashed into my daughter's bedroom to say good night in the way she had always known, as if nothing had changed.

Except everything had changed, and as I heard the baby crying through the

wall and saw my overwhelmed toddler staring at me wide-eyed, I felt my throat close as tears welled. I forced myself to sing anyway, and here is the truth: It was not good. I sounded like an anguished frog having an asthma attack. My daughter lay very still, regarding this pathetic spectacle warily, and then she whispered three of the most devastating words a child can say to their parent.

"Mama," she said. "No more singing." If you have one kid, and you're expecting another, you might think you know *something* about what's coming, and how to prepare for it. You have the advantage of familiarity with elements of new parenthood that felt foreign the

SEE MEMO ON C3

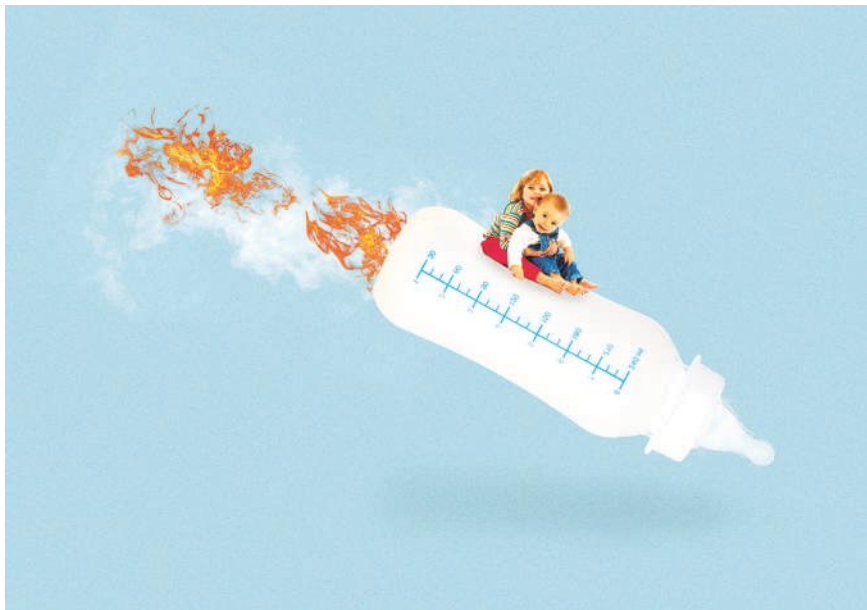


ILLUSTRATION BY AGNES LEE/THE WASHINGTON POST; ISTOCK

### BOOK WORLD

## 'American Ending' starts with a family's origin story

BY CAROLE BURNS

When prizewinning author Mary Kay Zuravleff decided to base her fourth novel, "American Ending," around her own family's arrival in America — Russian Orthodox "Old Believers" who immigrated about 100 years ago to work in the coal mines in Pennsylvania — she knew that writing her first historical novel would be challenging. But she didn't expect the story she was telling to feel so relevant today.

She found herself describing the masks worn during the 1918 flu pandemic and the discrimination faced by her family and other immigrants. "One day when I was writing, I literally typed 2019 instead of 1919," Zuravleff said. "I just sat at my computer, stunned. I thought, 'Okay, this is then, and this is now.'"

In a recent interview, Zuravleff, a longtime D.C. resident whose previous novel, "Man Alive!," was a Washington Post Notable Book, talked about how "American Ending," told in the voice of a young girl proud to be the first American in her family, explores the paradoxes — historical and contemporary — inherent in being American.

This interview has been condensed and edited for clarity.

**Q:** How much did the story you knew growing up — that your paternal grandmother lost her American citizenship when she married because your grandfather wasn't a citizen — inspire "American Ending?"

**A:** That made the novel vital. I'd heard the refrain my whole life, and it didn't mean anything to me. And then one day I look at the 1920 Census. It says she's born in Erie, Pa., yet she is marked as "Alien." I was stunned. "Alien" is a strong word, and there's something about seeing it in writing that infuriates you.

Americans teach a more flattering history than what transpired. After the

SEE BOOK WORLD ON C2

### MOVIES IN WEEKEND



**Joy Ride**

★★★★☆

Four friends go on a raunchy road trip full of self-discovery and sexual innuendo — like, we're talking Fifty Shades levels. **26**

**The Lesson**

★★★★☆

Sharp British literary thriller is let down by its ending, as a deliciously combustible story fizzles out in melodrama. **27**

## Anthem tries to stay true to nation's past

BY JONAH VALDEZ

Fans often ask R&B singer and actor Jill Scott why she doesn't sing "The Star-Spangled Banner" at sporting events.

The reason: She knows a completely different anthem would leave her lips, Scott told an audience during a March show in her hometown of Philadelphia.

The anthem she's referring to is one that she wrote as a teenager living in north Philadelphia, a biting critique of racial inequality in America. And after more than 30 years, she performed her rewrite while touring this year. The neo-soul icon gave the highest-profile performance of the anthem so far Saturday at Day 2 of the 2023 Essence Festival in New Orleans. In front of a packed Caesars Superdome audience — where the festival celebrating Black artists and Black women has taken place since 1994 and has drawn crowds of nearly half a million — Scott belted out her remixed anthem. She received ovations and applause from the arena and gained buzz across social media.

"Oh say, can you see, by the blood in the streets," Scott began a cappella to the tune of the original anthem, but she slowed its cadence, letting each word reverberate through the arena. "That this

SEE ANTHEM ON C3



# Long Wharf’s situation may be a harbinger of a sea change in theater world

THEATERS FROM C1

offerings — or shut down altogether. The theater world was further rocked recently when one of the nation’s largest companies, the Los Angeles-based Center Theatre Group, said it would “pause” programming in one of its theaters, the Mark Taper Forum. That followed the upheaval at Oregon Shakespeare Festival, another industry mainstay, which said last month it needed an emergency infusion of \$7.5 million or its 2023 season could not go on. The urgent effort came after a similar plea, in April, for which OSF raised \$2.5 million.

The cutbacks and closings have been so regular of late that a document circulates among leaders of the field, listing recent “permanent closures” — such as Triad Stage in North Carolina, Southern Repertory Theatre in New Orleans, New Ohio Theatre in New York — and staff and program downsizings. In June, off-Broadway’s Public Theater eliminated its Under the Radar Festival, which set an industry standard for avant-garde and international plays. To save money, even august companies such as Arena Stage — working with what its leaders call “deficit planning” — are reducing the number of plays they produce.

And just last week, Chicago’s 35-year-old Lookingglass Theatre Company, debut theater for Tony-winning director Mary Zimmerman’s “Metamorphoses,” declared that it was ceasing operations until late next spring. As regional theaters often are the seedling ground for both new-play development and work that eventually goes to Broadway, every “pause” can have consequences down the road.

The crisis is a perfect storm of bad economic and demographic trends, exacerbated by a change in cultural habits during the pandemic. Experts in theater management say that 25 percent to 30 percent of theater audiences have not returned since the pandemic shutdown of March 2020 that lasted until late 2021. Retrenchment has continued, they say, not so much out of lingering fears of getting sick, but because theater simply receded as a priority as other pastimes filled the gap. Streaming entertainment at home, for example, has proved a durable substitute for the time and expense of theater.

No one cause completely explains the situation, but many theaters have been slow to respond to changes in the marketplace. Billions in federal aid — including the \$15 billion Shuttered Venue Operators Grant program approved in 2020 — kept



CHIKE PHOTOGRAPHY FOR LOTTASTUDIO

theaters afloat during the shutdown. But that cushion was temporary. The money was largely spent, observers say, but problems from before the pandemic, such as a continual decline in season subscriptions, have not been adequately addressed.

The confluence has theater business professionals issuing dire warnings.

“By this time next year, I think the industry will shrink by half,” said Amy Wratchford, who has been managing director of theaters in Virginia and is now president of the Wratchford Group, an arts management consultancy.

Wratchford added that “donor fatigue” — a reluctance by some financial supporters to continue to shore up struggling institutions — has been settling in. (Unlike commercial Broadway shows, whose investors optimally expect a profit, the nation’s regional theaters operate on a nonprofit basis, deriving income from ticket sales, grants from philanthropies and donations from individuals.)

“What we’ve got,” she said, “is a disconnect between theater and the people who fund it.”

Kaiser, whose institute coun-

sels hundreds of arts organizations across the country, believes that some theaters, motivated by honorable concerns about social and racial justice, pivoted in their programming too abruptly after the shutdown.

He called the move “a change of

*“By this time next year, I think the industry will shrink by half.”*

Amy Wratchford, president of the Wratchford Group, an arts management consultancy

perspective in what stories they want to tell without necessarily bringing their audiences or their donors or their boards along with them, in a way that makes clear as to why this is important and how to participate and how to watch. And as a result, I think we’re seeing some serious loss of audience and board support and donor support.”

Although a few companies folded in the wake of the pandem-



JOEL CALLAWAY

**LEFT:** Kit Ingui, from left, Jacob G. Padrón and Nancy Alexander at Long Wharf Theatre’s annual benefit concert in May. **ABOVE:** In June, Long Wharf presented Kristina Wong’s “Kristina Wong for Public Office” at Yale’s University Theatre. Artistic director Padrón envisions Long Wharf expanding the theater’s reach to underserved communities.

ic, it was Long Wharf’s announcement in February 2022 of a radical new direction that was the industry’s real wake-up call. A strong artistic force for decades, Long Wharf has championed such playwrights as David Rabe and Margaret Edson, who won a Pulitzer Prize for “Wit,” which got a crucial early boost at Long Wharf. But time and declining attendance caught up with the organization: By the point at which Padrón and Kit Ingui became artistic director and managing director in 2019, its 400-seat main stage theater was typically less than half filled, and the building was desperately in need of upgrades.

“When I got here, financial challenges were already in existence for Long Wharf over the course of more than a decade,” Ingui said in an interview in the downtown office suite that now serves as company headquarters. “There were severe deficits.”

With an operating budget of about \$4 million, and facing increases that would put annual rent at about \$500,000, something drastic had to be done. “The board recognized that the building and the expense and the operations were not sustainable,” Padrón said. “It just wasn’t good anymore.”

“So we had to figure out a different way,” he added. “We know that it is such a risk. But we also know that great things don’t come without taking risks.”

The “great thing” Padrón had in mind was potentially exciting

but also deeply upsetting to some longtime Long Wharf patrons: giving up the building and finding spaces for productions in and around New Haven. The Yale-trained Padrón, 43, a California native who grew up on shows at Luis Valdez’s storied El Teatro Campesino, founded for farmworkers, is part of a generation of younger theater leaders more committed to diversity, equity and inclusion. He envisioned Long Wharf expanding its reach to underserved communities.

That has meant offerings such as “Black Trans Women at the Center,” a multiyear digital festival of new work, and “I AM: Muslim/American,” a film by Aaliyah Miller and Halima Flynn that Long Wharf has taken for talkback sessions across Connecticut. The itinerant era also birthed a concert reading in September of the Broadway musical “Jelly’s Last Jam” in a space in the city’s Dixwell neighborhood.

There is no shortage of potential sites for the company’s projects — the staff has toured more than 60 in the area. This fall, actress Kathleen Chalfant will perform Joan Didion’s “The Year of Magical Thinking” in private homes in the New Haven area. And while the new team has been able to erase the company’s deficit, the unknown is whether Long Wharf can hold on to its position as a strong cultural influence and attract the new audiences it seeks.

The company’s board of directors is solidly behind the gamble.

“We had to make some kind of decision, were we going to stay or leave the financial model? That subscription model is absolutely failing,” said board chair Nancy Alexander, herself a consultant to nonprofit organizations. “And so the financial model, which was based largely on that, was starting to crumble. But the really positive and very important factor was our desire to make theater for everyone.”

The hope for some struggling companies is that reducing programming for a time — and thus the pressure on the budget — will allow them to re-energize. Meghan Pressman, Centre Theatre Group’s managing director and chief executive, said pausing work in the Mark Taper allows time for “a restructuring, a rebalancing,” as a new artistic director, Snehal Desai, takes over this summer. (The company is still presenting musicals in its larger Ahmanson Theatre.)

Pressman acknowledges that the industry came up short in the effort to lure audiences back after the pandemic. “We bet big on the past year and half,” she said, adding that perhaps a public airing of theater’s dire straits will let reluctant theatergoers know how desperately they are needed to return.

“That is one of the only positive outcomes out of this really distressing moment,” Pressman said. “If it throws a spotlight on the struggle over what is happening, then I am proud to be of service.”

# Studio Theatre’s ‘Fun Home’ has stirring performances, 10-year-old knockout

BY CELIA WREN

A near-epiphany glimmers in “Ring of Keys,” one of the exhilarating musical numbers in Studio Theatre’s “Fun Home.” It’s a song about a young girl almost — but not quite — understanding part of her future identity, and it’s sung by 10-year-old Quinn Titcomb, a knockout performer who’s part of a terrific cast in this stirring production directed by David Muse.

The energetic tyke that Quinn portrays, known as Small Alison, is funny, boisterous, petulant and gleeful at various points in this musical, a bittersweet coming-out story and family drama. But she’s puzzled, earnest and awe-filled in “Ring of Keys,” as she senses an affinity with a woman — a stranger — she has spotted in a diner. We in the audience realize the woman is a lesbian, and that Small Alison, who when older will also identify as such, feels kinship for that reason. For the girl, though, the experience is a mystery.

Beyond the assurance of the performance, the moment lingers in the mind because — as a beautiful solo about a mere fleeting glimpse, which the singing character doesn’t wholly comprehend — it rings so true about human subjectivity and growth. “Ring of Keys” also epitomizes the searching, wondering dynamic that’s a leitmotif in the show, which has music by Jeanine Tesori and a book and lyrics by Lisa Kron, and is based on the autobiographical graphic novel by Alison Bechdel.

A memory play that, in its 2015 Broadway debut, won multiple Tony Awards including best musical, “Fun Home” features three versions of its central character. In addition to Small Alison, there’s 43-year-old Alison (the charismatic Andrea Prestinario), who’s an out lesbian cartoonist, and Medium Alison (Maya Jacobson, compellingly excitable and vulnerable), an Oberlin student just starting to understand her sexuality. Looking back, the 43-



TERESA CASTRACANE/STUDIO THEATRE

**Quinn Titcomb, center, and other cast members perform in “Fun Home” at Studio Theatre. The musical, based on the graphic novel by Alison Bechdel, is a bittersweet coming-out story.**

year-old struggles to understand the life and death of her father, Bruce (Bobby Smith), a closeted gay man who ran a funeral home. Brainy but troubled, Bruce was a lover of antiques and old houses,

seemingly finding in such treasures an authenticity that contrasted with his life’s deceptions.

“I want to know what’s true,/ dig deep ... until now gives way to then,” he sings, the sentiment par-

alleling the grown Alison’s search for revelations within her memories.

Smith expertly captures Bruce’s moodiness, intelligence and pain. In other deft acting turns, the golden-voiced actress Rebecca Pitcher channels Bruce’s love-suffering wife, Helen, and Thani Brant radiates spot-on poise as college student Joan. Adante Carter channels several minor figures. (Sarah Cubbage designed the personality-appropriate costumes.) That we are seeing the characters largely from the perspective of 43-year-old Alison is underscored by Debra Booth’s set, which principally portrays a cartoonist’s studio but also transforms in powerful reveals.

Despite the musical’s serious themes, humor abounds. In one hilarious number, Small Alison and her siblings Christian and John (the able August Scott McFeaters and Teddy Schechter)

create a homemade commercial for the funeral parlor, dancing and singing like the Jackson 5 while dropping casual references to caskets and formaldehyde. The pop sounds here stake out one edge of Tesori’s varied score, which at other times encompasses wistful, shifting, shimmering textures. The seven-person band, including music director Darren R. Cohen, sounds good.

Studio doesn’t mount musicals too often. Staging this rich one has paid off.

**Fun Home**, music by Jeanine Tesori; book and lyrics, Lisa Kron; based on the graphic novel by Alison Bechdel. Directed by David Muse; lighting design, Brian Tovar; sound, Gordon Nimmo-Smith; movement coordinator, Ashleigh King; props, Amy Kellett. About 90 minutes. Tickets: Start at \$55. Through Aug. 20 at Studio Theatre, 1501 14th St. NW. 202-332-3300. [studiotheatre.org](http://studiotheatre.org)

# American identity and its paradoxes

BOOK WORLD FROM C1

Civil War, did African Americans get citizenship? What about Indigenous Americans? What about Chinese Americans? It’s not pretty, and it’s not what we think it is.

**Q:** Is Yelena, the protagonist, one of your grandmothers?

**A:** I’m named after my two grandmothers, Mary and Kay. My character Yelena is this mash-up of my mom’s mom, Kay; my own mom; and me. My mom’s mom was very canny. She marched into the foreman’s office and demanded that my grandfather be paid in cash instead of scrip, like Yelena’s mother in the novel. That is gutsy.

**Q:** Yelena’s smart, wryly observant voice pulls us through the novel. Did she speak to you immediately?

**A:** Yes. Readers of early drafts said the novel should be told in third person, and I kept saying it has to be first person because the book’s message is: I am here. You don’t see me, but I am right here, and I belong here.

**Q:** Yet we see her rebelliousness only through her very funny internal monologue. She can’t really rebel — or can she?

**A:** Yelena is doing every single thing she is asked. She loves school, but she has to leave fourth grade to take care of her sister’s babies. So she’s sassing her father in her head, but she would never say the things she thinks out loud. My challenge

was not to put a 21st-century spin on her, because family, history and religion are tying her hands at every turn. From where we sit, we see so much possibility for agency that she does not have. And so, is she going to be beaten down, or is she going to find a way?

**Q:** Did you have a different audience in mind when writing this book?

**A:** I don’t know who I’m writing for, but this book is dedicated to my mother. She read many drafts, and she was an editor, so she read some of them for proofreading purposes. So when the book was done, and she chose to read it again, for pleasure, she said: “I’m not Yelena, but she has all my thoughts.” There’s an audience.



AMERICAN

ENDING

By Mary Kay

Zuravleff

Blair. 320 pp.

\$28.95

When you come from illiterate, poverty-stricken stock, you’re not necessarily raised to be proud of that, to want to tell that story and spread it around.

And yet I keep meeting people who are being told the story of their family at someone’s deathbed. Their relatives could take that secret to the grave, but before they die,

they want to tell their story. So there’s both pride and shame in it. That makes for a good novel: pride and shame.

**Q:** A few generations later,

you’re publishing your fourth novel — your grandmothers would have been astonished. Isn’t that the American ending we mythologize?

**A:** Oh, I love that. And I had a lot of choices that they did not have. To study writing was anathema to my parents — and I thought, “I’ll be all right.” That’s a luxury, a privilege.

**Q:** Many communities of color are blocked from seeing the same type of progress across generations. Was that something you were thinking about, too?

**A:** Yes. My God, I’m from Oklahoma, and the Black community in Tulsa was firebombed — it was an affluent,

educated, self-sustaining community in the ‘20s, and it was destroyed. So when I put this story out there, I am not saying we’ve had a tough time, too. I’m saying: “Here’s another instance where we have not done right by the people who have come here. What can we do differently?”

**Q:** Yelena’s mother has her children choose the endings of their bedtime stories each night: a Russian ending — such as wolf eating a bride — or an American ending — the bridegroom cutting open the wolf’s stomach to release the happy bride. Which did you choose for the readers of “American Ending?”

**A:** Neither. Yelena is determined to discover a new American ending.

**Carole Burns’s** debut novel, “The Same Country,” is being published in Britain this fall.



# Expecting a second child? The math can be a lot more complicated than 1+1.

MEMO FROM C1

first time — the baby gizmos and gadgets, the basics of breastfeeding or bottle-feeding, how to wrap a swaddle that stays put for more than three seconds. But then an entirely distinct and unique new baby arrives, blithely indifferent to an older sibling's blueprint, and you realize you have to learn how to care for this tiny stranger while *also* caring for your first offspring, who probably has some big feelings about the radical realignment of their family unit. Until this transition is upon you, the logistical and emotional chaos of having to divide your focus between two small humans (never mind yourself, never mind a partner) is hard to fathom.

"I think the shift from one to two children is such a drastic change in everyone's life, and it is not explored enough or mentioned in general conversation," says Sherisa de Groot, a mother of two and founder of the online literary platform Raising Mothers. "I feel like I spent most of my pregnancy preparing my son and very little preparing myself."

Several moms told me that before the arrival of a second kid, they felt comforted by how reasonable the number sounded: *two*. But there are certain realms where mathematics gets complicated and counterintuitive — like quantum field theory, or the addition of one child to a family that already has one child. "One child is one," says Joanna Kaylor, a mom to a 4-year-old son and 2-year-old daughter in Virginia. "Two children are actually somewhere between three and five kids' worth of everything." Add a stomach virus or a lice infestation to the equation, and a parent can no longer offer a numerical estimate because they've sprinted off into the hills wearing a lampshade for a hat.

Ryann Fapohunda, who has 3-

and 1-year-old boys, says she tried to brace herself, asking her friends what to expect when she was pregnant with her second. "My friends were like: 'You know, there are days where I don't even wash my face. I'm just too busy.' And I'm like: 'What do you mean? You don't wash your *face*?' " She laughs. "I didn't understand. And now I do."

In the early years of a two-child family, there is an overwhelming physicality to the act of parenting. There is constant carrying, changing, buckling and dressing, the daunting task of supervising and safeguarding two bodies with one. Most parents of two (or more) kids have a story (or 10) about confronting this reality. A colleague once told me about the time she was wrangling her baby in his car seat, when his brother declared that he had to pee and took off running through a parking lot with his pants pulled down. He does not remember this. His mother will never forget.

Kaylor can still picture the morning when she was helping her 4-year-old son use the bathroom, and she heard the sound of fluid splashing in the kitchen. It took her a moment to deduce that her toddler daughter was pouring milk all over the table and the floor, and there was absolutely nothing Kaylor could do about it. "When I came back in the kitchen, my daughter was playing in the milk and needed a bath," she says. "Which meant my son also wanted a bath. At 8 a.m., as I was trying to get them out the door to day care."

For Saranah Holmes Walden, a mom of two in North Carolina, the breaking point was always dinnertime, when her husband was still at work, and she was juggling her newborn and toddler. "I remember one night having food on the stove, and my son was crying, and my 2-year-old

daughter was asking for something and pulling on my legs," she says. "I had to turn the fire off, feed my son, take care of my daughter, and dinner still wasn't made, and then I remember looking around and being like: 'Oh, gosh, there's also laundry. There are bottles in the sink that need to be washed.'" It's hard to find a word for what that time felt like, she says, except, "*Whoa.*"

When second-time moms seek support from Jessica Zucker, a psychologist who specializes in maternal and reproductive mental health, they often tell her that they're struggling with feelings of guilt over spending less quality time with their older child. They tell her that it's hard to find time to rest and care for themselves.

"Second-time mothers, in my clinical experience, all too often blame themselves for 'not being able to do it all,'" she says. "And yet, they *are* juggling it all! The culprit, I tell them, is the culture not supporting us in deep and meaningful ways as mothers."

Zucker notes that the fatigue and demands of parenting two children can amplify feelings of anxiety or depression — and that even if a mom felt great after her first baby, that doesn't mean she won't struggle with postpartum mental health issues the second time.

The research on adding a second kid to a family is a mixed bag: One study indicated that a second child can lead to a decline in happiness — but only for the mother; a father's happiness appeared to hold steady between kids one and two. Numerous studies have suggested that having more kids can lead to decreased satisfaction in a marriage, but a 2015 study found that a marriage might actually be more resilient the second time around.

Some parents find that their friends and family don't rally around them as intensely for

baby number two (if, like me, you had a second kid during the pandemic, then you might have found yourself even more isolated from a socially distanced village). Zucker says she's heard second-time moms wonder aloud in therapy sessions about whether people "even care" about meeting a second child.

"The emotional temperature of the second-time mother seems not to be taken the way it is the first time around," Zucker says. "Checking in. Sending food, flowers, gifts, support. My sense, though, is that it's less a function of people not caring but more of an assumption that mothers have 'got this,' since it is not their first rodeo."

But it's still uncharted territory: "No two pregnancies, deliveries or babies are the same," she says. "No two motherhoods are necessarily the same, either."

The tips and tricks that worked best with the first baby might not work at all for the second one. The suggestion to "sleep when the baby sleeps" — which was already a farce, let's be real — is now a logistical impossibility.

When Katie Yen, a mom of two in D.C., had her first baby, her daily life revolved around her son's feeding and sleeping schedule. While she was on maternity leave, she says, she would stay up past 11 p.m. to nurse him one last time for the night, then both of them would alternate sleeping and nursing until nearly noon the next day.

"But there was no way that was happening with a second kid," she says, "because now I had to get up and moving, to help get the first one off to day care and get lunch prepared, and make breakfast."

There are, of course, those fleeting, sacred hours in the late evening, after the kids are asleep, and a blissful quiet descends. That's when one voice in your

head whispers: *You are sleep deprived; go to bed*, and another voice counters, *Remember books? Remember TV? Remember uninterrupted snacking?* The nightly question looms: Is it better to be a marginally rested parent-robot or a corpse who has seen the most recent episode of "Ted Lasso?"

Erica Blue Roberts, a mom to a 5-year-old and a 21-month-old, remembers eyeing the clock, wondering at what hour her infant might wake her overnight. "You think, 'I *should* go to sleep now because I have no idea how my night is going to go,'" she says. "But it's also the only time you have for yourself. So you're like, 'I don't care, I need to watch a couple of shows and have some dessert,' and then you end up staying up until 11, and the baby wakes up an hour later. But you *needed* that for yourself!"

Roberts recalls one of her earliest memories after her son was born — he arrived early with medical complications and spent 18 days in the NICU. Within days of giving birth, Roberts was making daily trips alone on the ferry from Brooklyn to Manhattan to see her newborn at the hospital, while her husband stayed home with their daughter. She remembers sitting on the ferry one beautiful afternoon beneath bright September skies, so overwhelmed and exhausted that she couldn't stop sobbing as the New York skyline drew closer.

She wants to be honest about what that felt like, so other moms might feel safe being honest, too.

"You don't want to scare someone who is having their second," she says. "But you want to validate their potential feelings: This could be tough, and if it *is* tough, that's totally okay, and you're not alone."

What helps most, in the end, is time.

"I would say it took at

least six months for me to feel like I wasn't completely drowning, and probably a good year before I was like, 'Okay, this is more normal than it is *whoa*,'" Walden says. Her daughter is 4 now, and her son is almost 2. "Now I've got this whole little routine. We're doing fine."

It took about a year for Yen's family to find a new equilibrium, too: "By that time, there was more of a rhythm, and my son was more consistently sleeping through the night, so everything felt more doable. We were balancing work-life responsibilities much better." Her boys are 3 and 7 now, she says, and they're extremely close. "They are so precious with each other, and my heart bursts with joy when I see them sometimes." She pauses. "Well — you just have to make sure they're not hungry, angry or tired."

Fapohunda describes this season of her life as "beautiful chaos," and she (mostly) relishes it. "It's wonderful. I love seeing my boys together." They've developed a special bond, she says; recently, her older boy told her at bedtime, *I love my baby*. In those moments, she says, she thinks about how grateful she is, how "I would do anything for my family." She laughs: "And then, in the next breath, I'm like, *I am so tired.*"

A few nights ago, I put my son in his crib and poked my head into his big sister's room. Her dad had already tucked her in, but she was still awake, so I sat on the edge of her bed to say good night. I was thinking about that first night at home with her brother, and how little I had known then about all that would change and all that would remain constant. Nearly three years later, my daughter doesn't remember much of life before her little brother was part of it.

"Can you sing?" she asked, so I did.

## Scott wrote version of anthem when she was 19

ANTHEM FROM C1

place doesn't smile on you, colored child."

The song ends with the gut punch of a revised closing line, replacing the words written by amateur poet and slave owner Francis Scott Key, "O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave," with "This is not the land of the free but the home of the slaves."

"In total tears of the power of this truth," @MariePurnell5 wrote on Twitter, responding to a clip of the song.

User @forthecomments1 declared Scott's rendition the new "Black American National anthem!!"

Essence, the lifestyle magazine that hosts the festival, agreed, writing on its Twitter account, "Everyone please rise for the only National Anthem we will be recognizing from this day forward. Jill Scott, we thank you!"

Decades after writing the new-look anthem at age 19, the 51-year-old Scott has been performing the anthem this year throughout her belated tour to commemorate the 20th anniversary of her 2000 platinum album, "Who Is Jill Scott? Words & Sounds Vol. 1." Her performances of the work have served as a lead-in to her

song "Watching Me," and slowly started to make waves online as early as April.

Performances of "The Star-Spangled Banner" became a formality at sporting events in the late 1940s after World War II when NFL Commissioner Elmer Layden required them before kickoff at games. In recent years, however, American patriotic figures and symbols such as "The Star-Spangled Banner" have come under scrutiny amid movements for racial justice after the police killings of Michael Brown in 2014 and George Floyd in 2020.

Some have homed in on the song's little-known third verse, which historians have said includes a line that disparages enslaved Black people. Others have noted Key's slave-owning past, with a crowd in 2020 tearing down his statue at San Francisco's Golden Gate Park.

Even so, generating any friction against the tune can prove costly and controversial. NFL quarterback Colin Kaepernick famously sat, then knelt during the national anthem while a member of the San Francisco 49ers as a protest against police brutality against Black people. His protests, which gained national attention and widespread scrutiny, started in 2016. After the 2016



BENNETT RAGLIN/GETTY IMAGES

**Jill Scott's performance of her version of "The Star-Spangled Banner" at the Essence Festival in New Orleans was saluted on social media.**

season, Kaepernick became a free agent and remained without a team as multiple franchises refused to sign him. The former Super Bowl QB hasn't played a game since. During following seasons, however, more players joined the protests for Black lives, kneeling during anthems.

Scott, who wrote her anthem in the early 1990s, isn't the first artist to rearrange the "Star-Spangled Banner" with a critical message. Jimi Hendrix famously

did so at the Woodstock festival in 1969, which many consider to be a criticism of the Vietnam War. Hendrix's version was an instrumental masterpiece, but Scott is perhaps the most visible vocalist to rewrite the anthem's lyrics to reflect a more honest telling of America's history of racism toward Black people. And observers online took notice of the inherent risks of Scott's rendition.

"Don't jump me, but Jill Scott is openly Black as f--- and doesn't

downplay it even slightly for any audiences," @il0vetotour wrote on Twitter. "Seeing a Black woman from Philly use the National Anthem to call out what the country is, in a sold out arena is not something I take lightly. ..."

It's not clear what prompted Scott to bring out her 32-year-old national anthem during recent shows. But in March at her Philadelphia concert, Scott said she hoped her rendition of the anthem wouldn't divide people, and spoke of some of her choices in writing the lyrics.

"When I sing 'home of the slave,' that is not intended to divide, because division is not what we need," Scott said to the Met audience. "When I say that, we are in a place that makes us slaves to consumerism, it makes us slaves to social media, makes us slaves to bulls--- lies that don't make no kind of sense, but we follow the stories like suckas, like slaves, to whatever kinds of negativity that doesn't benefit us as a people, as a culture nor as a society."

Here are the full lyrics to Scott's rewritten portion of the national anthem:

"Oh say can you see by the blood in the streets/ That this place doesn't smile on you colored child/ Whose blood built this land with sweat and their hands/ But we'll die in this place and your memory erased/ Oh say, does this truth hold any weight/ This is not the land of the free, but the home of the slaves!"

— Los Angeles Times

## Mom is retired, but reader's siblings are using her as a 24-hour babysitter

Ask Sahaj

SAHAJ KAUR KOHLI

she is retired and can finally do the stuff she wants, my brother is basically using her as a free, 24-hour babysitter. This isn't the first time. My sister also had my mom take care of her kids for almost 8 years. Part of my culture is that the mom should be selfless and live for her kids. My mom is almost 80 years old. When will her life start? What should I do?

— Stressed

**Stressed:** I wonder how much of this is you projecting what you want for your mom vs. what your mom actually wants.

You're protective of your mom. You've witnessed her sacrifices, and now that she's retired, you want her to make the most of it. But what if this is her version of making the most of it?

Have you talked to your mom about what she wants to do with her time? Start there. She may

want to be with her grandkids — especially if family is an important value for her. If you talk to her and find that she feels obligated to help rather than truly wanting to, then it's time to talk about making time for herself.

You could ask her hypothetical questions, like: "Are there friends you wish you spent more time with?" or "Is there a hobby you wish you had more time for?" This can help you both find resources on activities of interest in her area. You can also encourage her to take action, like: "You've done so much for us over the years, and you deserve to put yourself first." If she hasn't ever made time for herself, doing so now won't be easy. Be supportive while reminding yourself that it will take time for her to take the first step — and it's her decision when she does so.

I'm curious about your relationship dynamic with your siblings. Are there other issues, past or present, contributing to your feelings on this issue? Why don't you seem to trust your

siblings' motives with your mom? Why do you feel it's your role to protect your mom? Are you letting your possible resentment toward them cloud how you feel about this situation? If you decide your siblings are taking advantage of your mom's generosity, you may need to bring this up with her directly and tell her what you're observing (rather than what you're feeling).

Either way, you should still talk to your siblings. This may sound like: "I understand you need help with the kids, but I worry that Mom will miss out on other things because she won't say no to you. I really want us to talk about how we can encourage her to make time for herself." This will frame the conversation as wanting to work together with your siblings to enrich your mom's life, rather than blaming them for your mom's lack of free time.

You can initiate conversations with your family, but you cannot force them to do things differently. Instead of approaching this as you against

them, open up a larger conversation about working together and prioritizing your mom's happiness.

**Dear Sahaj:** My Indian parents focus a lot on obligations when it comes to relationships with people in our community. "So and so helped us with this event so we must help them or go to their event." However, they often don't really like these people and complain after being around them but say at least they've done their bit by fulfilling the obligation. I don't feel like we should be inauthentic about relationships, and I don't think we need to reciprocate with people who we find irritating or who aren't always there for us. Is that selfish? It's such a huge generational distinction, I don't know how to come to terms with it.

— Much Obligated

**Much Obligated:** You're not selfish, but you do have different values from your parents. Your parents prioritize community, and for them being an active

member means fulfilling obligations, even if they don't want to.

Instead of seeing their behavior as "inauthentic," reframe it as a testament of loyalty to people *like them* within a larger system that can be unkind. If your Indian parents are like mine, they came to this country and relied on finding their community to help them feel connected and safe. Nurturing relationships within this community requires mutual generosity. Even if there are people they don't get along with as well as others, they probably feel pride and responsibility in their role within the collective.

You don't have to agree with your parents' choices. Instead, focus on what you can tolerate. You can cut them off when they complain. This can sound like: "I don't agree with how you're handling this, so I don't think we should talk about [name] anymore." Or, "It seems like this has been an issue for you for a while. You should talk to [name] about it."

You can try mirroring your

parents' comments back to them: "You say you feel like you should be there for [name] but on the other hand, you've shared many times how they have annoyed you." Or you can ask a question to understand their perspective, like: "You always put others in the community first no matter how they treat you. Why is that?"

Your parents may be less concerned about what others do for them and more concerned about how they are perceived in the community. They value harmony in their community, so the "why" of doing things matters much less than the "what" that's done. It's okay if it doesn't work for you. In fact, you are allowed to behave differently in *your* relationships. However, when it comes to *their* relationships, this works for them and that's enough.

Sahaj Kaur Kohli is a mental health professional and the creator of Brown Girl Therapy and Culturally Enough, communities focused on people with bicultural identities and immigrant parents. You can submit questions here: [wapo.st/ask-sahaj](mailto:wapo.st/ask-sahaj).



TELEVISION

TV HIGHLIGHTS



PRIME VIDEO

**The Horror of Dolores Roach** (Prime Video) Dolores Roach (Justina Machado) returns to Washington Heights after over a decade in prison. She reunites with an old friend who lets her work as a masseuse in the basement beneath his empanada shop, but finds herself willing to do anything to survive.

**Outlander** (Starz at 8) While returning to Scotland, Jamie is pulled back into the Revolutionary War; William goes on a covert mission; Roger and Brianna work to adapt to life in the 1980s.

**Diners, Drive-Ins and Dives** (Food at 9) A Los Angeles joint makes Salvadoran dishes with a twist, and an Oregon food cart serves up authentic Indian.

**When Sharks Attack . . . and Why** (National Geographic at 9) Experts study a strange surge of shark attacks on Florida’s Treasure Coast.

**100 Day Dream Home** (HGTV at 9) A family who has lived in a historical house with problems looks to leave the past behind in a new build with no maintenance issues; Mika and Brian must create a new home with ample storage and custom features for each family member.

**When Sharks Attack** (National Geographic at 10) Experts look into the first shark attacks

recorded on the coasts of Bali in Indonesia.

**House Hunters** (HGTV at 10:01) A buyer hopes to follow in her immigrant parents’ footsteps and build wealth through homeownership in San Bernardino, Calif.; she wants a home that has modern details and space to entertain her extended family.

MINISERIES

**The Ashley Madison Affair** (Hulu) A miniseries that chronicles the hack of a dating website meant to allow easy infidelity for married people.

MOVIE

**The Out-Laws** (Netflix) Owen (Adam DeVine), a mild-mannered bank manager, comes to believe that his future in-laws (Pierce Brosnan and Ellen Barkin) may be notorious bank robbers after his bank is held up by a pair of mysterious masked bandits.

— Olivia McCormack

BROADCAST CHANNELS										
7/7/23	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00	11:30
4.1 WRC (NBC)	• NBC News	• Hollywood	• Hot Wheels-Challenge		• Dateline NBC			• News		(:35) • J. Fallon
4.2 WRC (IND)	Bones		Frasier	Frasier	Frasier	Frasier	Roseanne	Roseanne	The Nanny	The Nanny
5.1 WTTG (Fox)	• Fox 5	• TMZ	• WWE Friday Night SmackDown (Live)				• Fox 5 News at 10		• Fox 5 News	• The Final 5
7.1 WJLA (ABC)	• Wheel	• Jeopardy!	• Will Trent	• 20/20				• News		• J.Kimmel
9.1 WUSA (CBS)	• News	• ET	• Tough as Nails		• Fire Country		• Blue Bloods		• 9 News	(:35) • Colbert
14.1 WFDC (UNI)	• La rosa de Guadalupe		• La rosa de Guadalupe		• El amor invencible		• Mujer		• Noticias	• Noticiero
20.1 WDCA (MNTV)	• FamFeud	• Family Feud	• Fox 5 News On the Plus		• FamFeud	• FamFeud	• Big Bang	• Big Bang	• Chicago P.D.	
22.1 WMPT (PBS)	• State	• Artworks	• Midsomer	(:45) • Midsomer Murders	(:40) • Puppy School		• La Frontera		• Wash	
26.1 WETA (PBS)	• PBS NewsHour		• Wash		• Rubenstein		• Great American		• La Frontera	• Amanpour and Company
32.1 WHUT (PBS)	• DW News	• Concrete	• Old School Rollers			• Hand Dance		• Alpha Kappa Alpha		• BBC News
50.1 WDCW (CW)	• Neighbor	• Neighbor	• Family Law (SP)			• Moonshine (P)		• DC News Now		• Seinfeld
66.1 WPXW (ION)	• Basketball		Indiana Fever at Washington Mystics (Live)			• WNBA Basketball		• Hawaii Five-0		• Hawaii Five-0
CABLE CHANNELS										
A&E	The First 48		The First 48		The First 48		The First 48		(:05) The First 48	
AMC	Movie: Jurassic Park ★★★ (1993)						Movie: The Lost World: Jurassic Park ★★ (1997)			
Animal Planet	Treehouse Masters		Treehouse Masters		Treehouse Masters		Treehouse Masters		Treehouse Masters	
BET	(6:40) Celebrity (:50) Celebrity		Family Feud		Celebrity Family Feud		(:10) Celebrity Family Feud		(:20) Celebrity Family Feud	
Bravo	Below Deck Down Under				Movie: Get Hard ★★ (2015)					
Cartoon Network	My	My	King/Hill	King/Hill	Burgers	Burgers	American	American	American	American
CNN	E. B. OutFront (Live)		Cooper 360 (Live)		CNN Primetime (Live)		CNN Tonight (Live)		CNN Tonight (Live)	
Comedy Central	The Office		The Office		The Office		The Office		Movie: The Wedding Singer	
Discovery	Gold Rush-Res.		Gold Rush		Hoffman Family Gold		Gold Rush-Res.		(:10) Outback Opal Hunters	
Disney	(6:10) Movie: Onward ★★★		The Villains		Pretty Frk		Hailey		The Villains	
E!	Movie: Dirty Dancing ★★★ (1987)				Movie: Bridesmaids ★★★ (2011)				Pretty Frk	
ESPN	Basketball Portland Trail Blazers vs. Houston Rockets				Basketball Charlotte Hornets vs. San Antonio Spurs				NBA Basketball	
ESPN2	Cornhole		Cornhole		Bull Shark		Bull Shark Bandits		SportsCenter (Live)	
Food Network	Diners, Drive	Diners, Drive	Diners, Drive	Diners, Drive	Diners, Drive	Diners, Drive	Diners, Drive	Diners, Drive	Diners, Drive	Diners, Drive
Fox News	Jesse Watters (Live)		Fox News Tonight (Live)		Hannity (Live)		The Ingraham Angle (Live)		Gutfeld!	
Freeform	Family Guy	Family Guy	Family Guy	Family Guy	Family Guy	Family Guy	Family Guy	Family Guy	The 700 Club	
FX	Movie: Iron Man 2 ★★ (2010)						Movie: Iron Man 2 ★★ (2010)			
Hallmark	(6:00) Movie: Christmas in E...		Movie: Picture a Perfect Christmas (2019)				Gold Girls		Gold Girls	
Hallmark M&M	Movie: Curious Caterer: Dying for Chocolate (2022)				Movie: Curious Caterer: Grilling Season (2023)				Murder, She Wrote	
HBO	(6:35) Movie: Lucy ★★★		(:05) The Idol		(:15) Movie: Election ★★★ (1999)				Painting	
HGTV	Dream Home	Dream Home	Dream Home	Dream Home	100 Day Dream Home		Hunters	Hunters	100 Day Dream Home	
History	Ancient Aliens		Ancient Aliens		Ancient Aliens		(:05) Proof-There		(:05) Ancient Aliens	
Lifetime	(6:00) Flowers in the Attic		V.C. Andrews' Flowers in the Attic Series				(:05) Flowers in the Attic: The Origin			
MASN	MLB Baseball Texas Rangers at Washington Nationals (Live)					Nats Xtra		Pro Padel League		
MSNBC	The ReidOut (Live)		All In With (Live)		Alex Wagner Tonight (Live)		The Last Word With (Live)		11th Hour (Live)	
MTV	Ridiculous	Ridiculous	Ridiculous	Ridiculous	Ridiculous	Ridiculous	Ridiculous	Ridiculous	Ridiculous	Ridiculous
Nat'l Geographic	Jaws Invasion		When Sharks Attack 360		When Sharks Attack		When Sharks Attack		When Sharks Attack 360	
NBC SportsNet WA	(2:00) FanDuel Racing (Live)						Contenders		Contenders	
Nickelodeon	Movie: Cloudy With a Chance of Meatballs ★★★ (2009)				Friends		Friends		Friends	
NWSN	On Balance		Cuomo		Dan Abrams Live (Live)		Banfield		Cuomo	
PARMT	Two Men		Two Men		Movie: The Dark Knight ★★★ (2008)				Movie	
Syfy	Killjoys		Killjoys		Killjoys		Killjoys		Killjoys	
TBS	Burgers		Burgers		Movie: Ride Along 2 ★★ (2016)		(:50) Movie: Shaft ★★ (2019)			
TCM	(6:00) Movie: Mogambo		Movie: The Getaway ★★★ (1972)		(:15) Movie: Greased Lightning ★★ (1977)					
TLC	90 Day Fiancé		90 Day Fiancé: Before the 90 Days				90 Day		Match Me Abroad	
TNT	Movie		Movie: Creed II ★★★ (2018)				All Elite Wrestling		Movie: Ocean's Twelve	
Travel	Haunted Hospitals		Haunted Hospitals		Haunted Hospitals		Haunted Hospitals		Haunted Hospitals	
TruTV	Jokers		Jokers		Jokers		Jokers		Jokers	
TV Land	Raymond		Raymond		Raymond		Raymond		King	
TV One	Cosby Show		Cosby Show		Cosby Show		Cosby Show		Cosby Show	
USA Network	(6:00) 2023 U.S. Women's Open Golf Championship Second Round (Live)								The Big D	
VH1	(5:00) Movie: What Men Want				Movie: The Devil Wears Prada ★★★ (2006)				Movie: The Devil Wears Prada ★★	
WNCN	Pocket Hose		Larry K		7News at 6		Paid Prog.		The National Desk (Live)	
LEGEND: Bold indicates new or live programs ♦ High Definition Movie Ratings (from TMS) ★★★ Excellent ★★ Good ★★ Fair ★ Poor No stars: not rated										

LA TIMES CROSSWORD

By Hanh Huynh

ACROSS

1 "Mi \_ es su ..."

5 Notice with a clickable

10-Across

10 5-Across letters

14 Sitting on

15 Romantic partner

16 Red Muppet

17 \*Abandoned in the shallow end?

19 Shiny wrap

20 \_ tai

21 Long walk

22 Question of methodology

23 \*Group that oversees some sauces in the kitchen?

28 Minecraft resources

29 Plug

31 Text that may have red squiggly underlining

34 Oscar winner Michelle

35 Dennings of "WandaVision"

36 \*Not fully self-indulgent?

41 Skeleton prefix

42 Brewpub pours

43 Olympus neighbor

44 Criticized harshly

46 Nombre entre six et huit

49 \*Job description for a private eye?

53 Chanted syllables

54 Gear teeth

55 Actor McShane

57 Pot-baking spot

59 Words on an empty billboard, and a hint to how the answers to the starred clues were formed

62 Blizzard component, often

63 Shift neighbor

64 See 56-Down

65 Ramona, per Beezus

66 Requires

67 Rendezvous

DOWN

1 Chill

2 First-stringers

3 "America's Got Talent" judge Vergara

4 Fitting

5 "Seinfeld" character with unusual dance moves

6 Stoli and Smirnoff

7 Like Wrigley Field's outfield walls

8 Messi's jersey number

9 Work unit

10 Improve

11 Sluggish ones

12 The Keydets of the NCAA

13 Party pro

18 Sound at a drone race

22 Commotion

24 \_ deck

25 Olympic blade

26 Colorful clog

27 Worship to excess, in slang

30 Jazz legend James

31 Take \_ : admit defeat

32 Graph line

33 Continuity problems

34 Football meas.

37 Rabbit conjurers

38 Choir part

39 Pained cry

40 Lavish affection (on)

45 Emphatic denial

46 Was obviously asleep

47 Mystery awards named for a mystery writer

48 VA concern

50 Like some angles

51 Medieval lord

52 Tee size

56 With 64-Across, retirement funds

57 Keystone \_

58 Isl. with four provinces

59 Hong Kong actor/director Donnie

60 Four quarters

61 Tailored edge

THURSDAY'S LA TIMES SOLUTION

P	A	C	E	C	A	R				S	O	R	T	A			
S	T	A	T	E	L	A	W			L	I	N	E	A	R		
S	E	T	A	D	A	T	E			A	S	L	A	N	T		
T	E	C		A	M	E	N			S	T	Y					
				H	O	R	O			T	A	T	E		S	A	D
R	A	S	H			S	T	O	V	E	R			O	D	E	
C	L	O	M	P		A	V	E	D	A				A	O	L	
C	A	M	E	L		P	E	R		C	A	P	R	I			
O	N	E			A	G	E	R	S		T	U	B	E	S		
L	I	Z			Y	O	U	B	E	T			R	U	S	H	
A	S	S			C	A	P				S	T	A	B			
					C	U	T			A	V	E	R		B	F	F
C	A	N	A	P	E					R	E	T	A	I	L	E	R
B	M	O	V	I	E					D	I	S	C	R	E	T	E
S	O	W	E	D						L	E	T	S	S	E	E	

© GALIFIANAKIS

I'M YOUR WANDERED SELF-DETERMINATION FACILITATOR.

How aggressively to help a widow?

**Dear Carolyn:** Our friend's husband died a year ago in his mid-30s. She has been struggling a lot. She is not seeing a therapist, is drinking to cope, and it does not sound like she is performing well at work. Her house is a mess, she eats poorly and gets no physical activity. She gets out of breath very easily just from walking a short distance. She is upset at both the state of her house and her physical condition but is not taking steps to address either.

We want to help her and do not want to overstep. We would like to spend a day this summer with her cleaning out her house — one drawer, closet, and room at a time — to sort of jump-start her healing and future wellness. Is this wildly inappropriate or the loving thing to do?

— Friends of the Deteriorating Widow

**Friends of the Deteriorating Widow:** I'll go with "loving thing to do," though in its current form it does not sound like the effective (enough) thing to do. This is just not a job for one big assertive day, on a few levels. Starting on the surface of the issue: An overdue house reorganization is a multiday job

even for a healthy person who is all in on the idea. As in, multiple days of targeted projects of limited scope and duration, with days in between to rest. Cleanups involve a thousand microdecisions that add up to emotional and even physical overwhelm. Your friend is grieving, struggling, drinking. You may be fortunate to secure her cooperation for 15-minute sessions, if at all.

Since you are at the threshold between helping and overstepping, responsiveness to her is paramount. It's okay to come in with definitive offers, especially with a friend who is foundering and has expressed her dismay at that, but keep the offers small, small, small and give her a chance to take an affirmative step toward accepting them.

So, go ahead and intrude past your typical comfort point, but on a small scale. "Grab your sneaks. We're going for a walk." "I brought you some (nutritious) dinners for your freezer." "I'm still listening, I'll just be over here tackling these dishes." That kind of thing. If she protests? "I want to do this. Please let me. You'll get back to it yourself soon enough." Not pushy. Nudgy. Balanced by generous doses of being there without trying to fix her.

My answer is zooming out from specific tasks to the bigger

picture, which is this: It's the help of radical presence. Not a huge jump-start day, necessarily (though if she is more open to it than I think she will be, then go for it), but a day in, day out, gentle caregiving presence that *incrementally* lowers her barriers to managing her life on her own again, and maybe even clears some of her mind space to make room to heal.

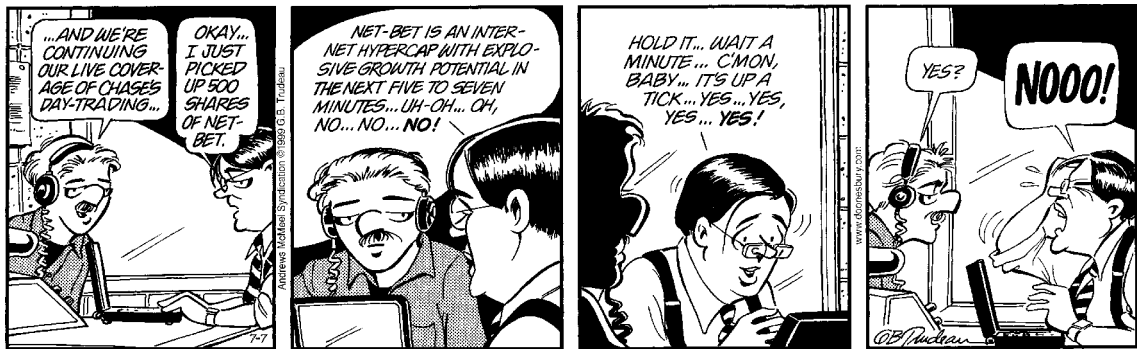
You may not have that kind of time, reasonably, so rally the rest of the "we" you referred to in your letter. Delegate and schedule these small gestures so there is someone at her side on a regular basis, unobtrusively enough not to smother her but steadily enough to give yourselves a chance to catch her in this fall.

If you make a difference, and as you make a difference, look for any glimmer of receptiveness to the formal support she clearly needs. Having information handy for therapists and local grief support groups (to which you can offer to drive her) will prepare you for when that moment comes. Fingers crossed she lets you all in.

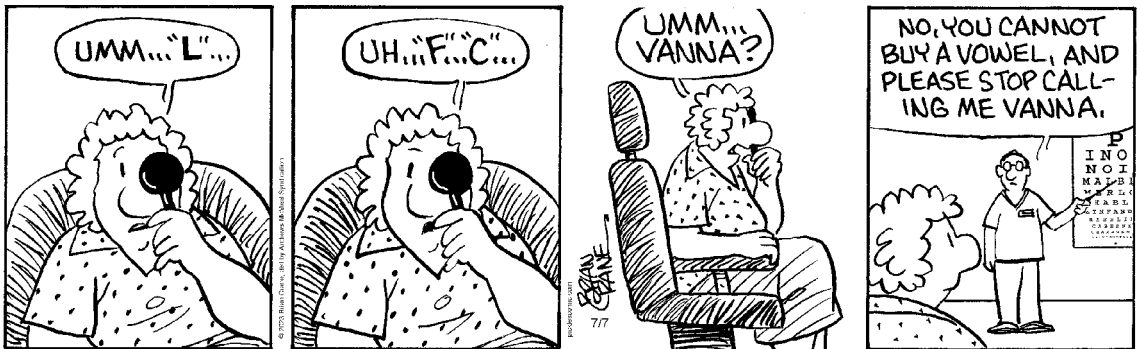
Write to Carolyn Hax at [tellme@washpost.com](mailto:tellme@washpost.com). Get her column delivered to your



CLASSIC DOONESBURY



PICKLES



BRIDGE

N-S VULNERABLE

<b>NORTH</b>		<b>EAST</b>	
♠ A 7 2		♠ K Q 8 4	
♥ J 9 6 2		♥ 7 3	
♦ K J 5 3		♦ Q 8	
♣ 5 2		♣ J 10 9 8 4	

**WEST**

♠ J 10 9	
♥ 8 5	
♦ 10 9 7 6	
♣ K 7 6 3	

**SOUTH (D)**

♠ 6 5 3	
♥ A K Q 10 4	
♦ A 4 2	
♣ A Q	

**The bidding:**

<b>SOUTH</b>	<b>WEST</b>	<b>NORTH</b>	<b>EAST</b>
1 ♥	Pass	2 ♥	Pass
4 ♥	All Pass		

Opening lead — ♠ J

This week's deals have treated declarer's play when he must choose among two or more finesses. It's better to try everything — combine your chances — than to rely on a single chance. Cover the East-West cards. West leads the jack of spades against four hearts. How will you try for 10 tricks?

Say you win the first spade and draw trumps. At IMP scoring, take the best play for the contract. You can finesse in diamonds by leading to the jack, but only after taking the K-A. You guard against a doubleton queen with East.

When the queen falls, you can finesse in clubs for an overtrick. If East's diamonds were Q-10-9-8, you would finesse in clubs.

At matchpoint duplicate, your play would be different. The contract is "normal" — every pair will reach four hearts — so you would try for the maximum number of tricks: You would take the ace of diamonds and lead to the jack. If the cards lay perfectly, you would make two overtricks, and you would be unlucky to go down.

**DAILY QUESTION**

You hold:

♠ A 7 2 ♥ J 9 6 2 ♦ K J 5 3 ♣ 5 2

Your partner opens one diamond. The next player bids two spades (preemptive). What do you say?

**ANSWER:** You could bid three diamonds, but since your most likely game is four hearts, you must try to locate a heart fit. By agreement, a negative double here promises enough strength to compete at the three level, with heart length plus diamond help or clubs. Discuss negative doubles with your partner.

— Frank Stewart  
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RED AND ROVER



FRANK AND ERNEST



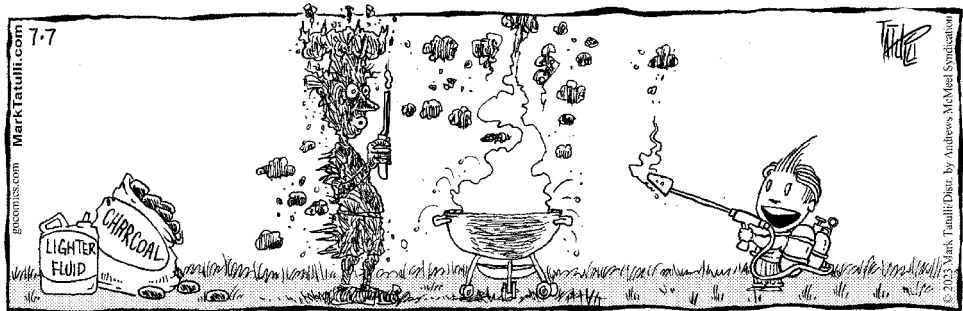
CLASSIC PEANUTS



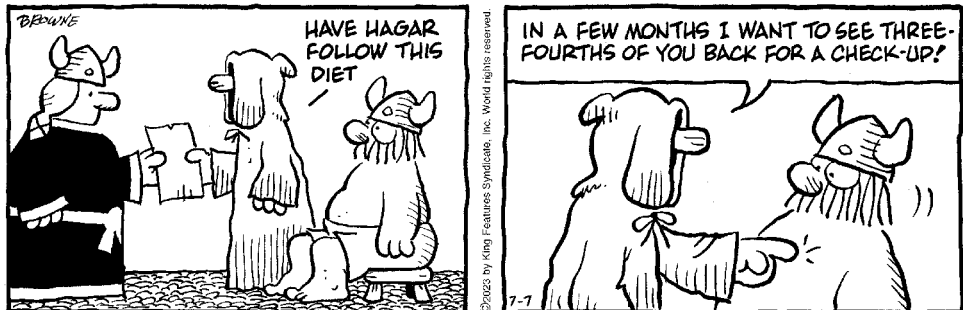
RHYMES WITH ORANGE



LIO



HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



BLONDIE



SUDOKU

Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9 inclusively.

7	2		1					3
3	5		7					4
					2			
	9			7				
4				6				1
			8				6	
		7						
	1			4			2	5
6				2			9	7

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★



**CLUE**

ACROSS

1. \_\_\_ soup

5. Venomous snake

6. \_\_\_ pollution

7. Enough

**CLUE**

DOWN

1. Loose

2. Insignificant

3. \_\_\_ dressing

4. Funny movie

**ANSWER**

LINTLE

BAAMM

SINOE

NYPLTE

**ANSWER**

ELRMIB

NIMLOAN

NALAITI

DCYEOE

**JUMBLE CROSSWORDS** by David L. Hoyt

How to play

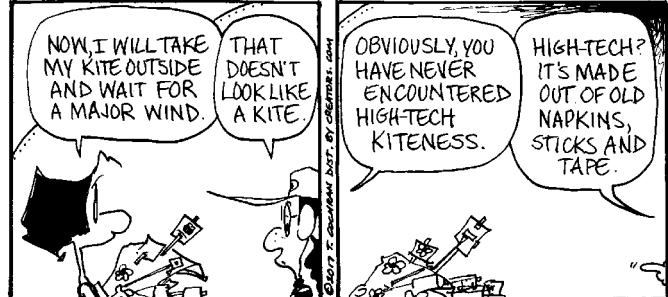
Complete the crossword puzzle by looking at the clues and unscrambling the answers. When the puzzle is complete, unscramble the circled letters to solve the BONUS.

**BONUS**

CLUE: Wapusk National Park in northern is the world's largest denning site for polar bears

ANSWERS: A-Lentl, EA-Vanilla, GA-Noise, TAC-Penny, JD-Lumber, 2D-Nominal, 3D-Italian, 4D-Comedy, 5D-Norfolk

AGNES



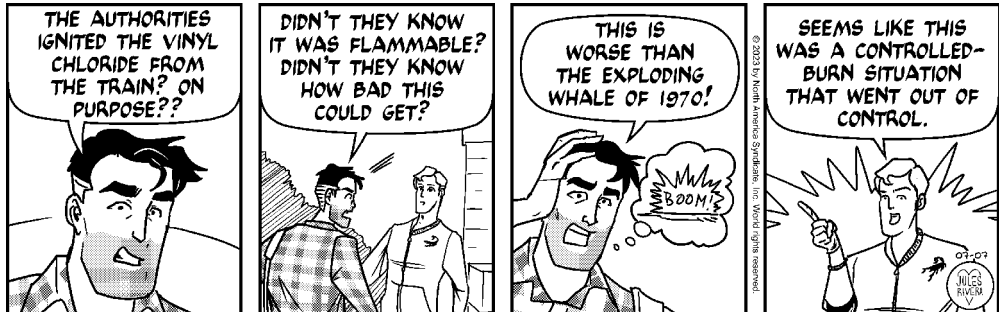
WUMO



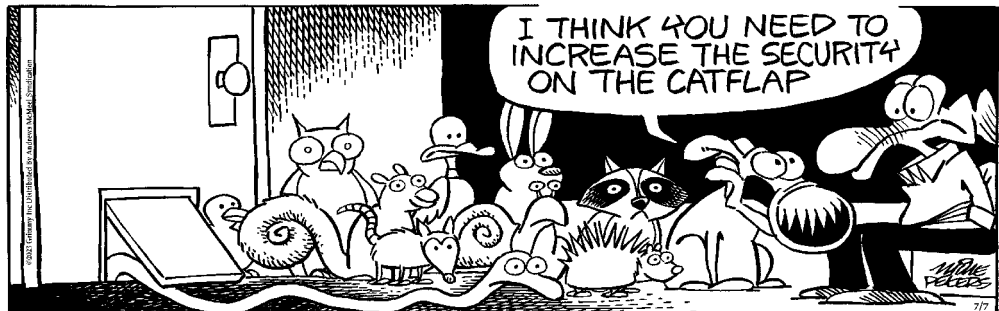
MIKE DU JOUR



MARK TRAIL



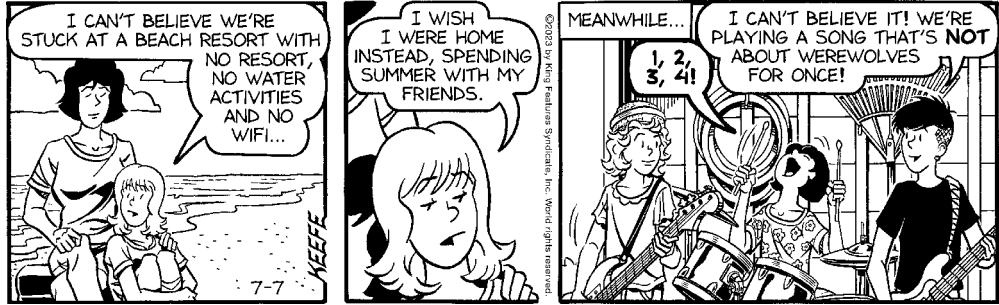
MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM



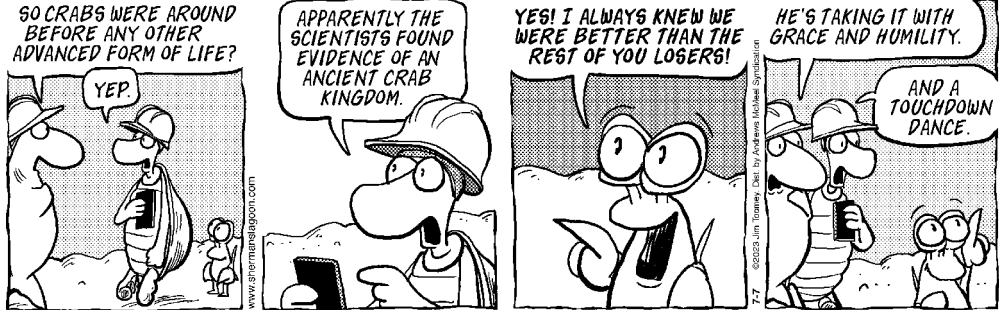
BALDO



SALLY FORTH



SHERMAN'S LAGOON



CURTIS



BREWSTER ROCKIT: SPACE GUY!

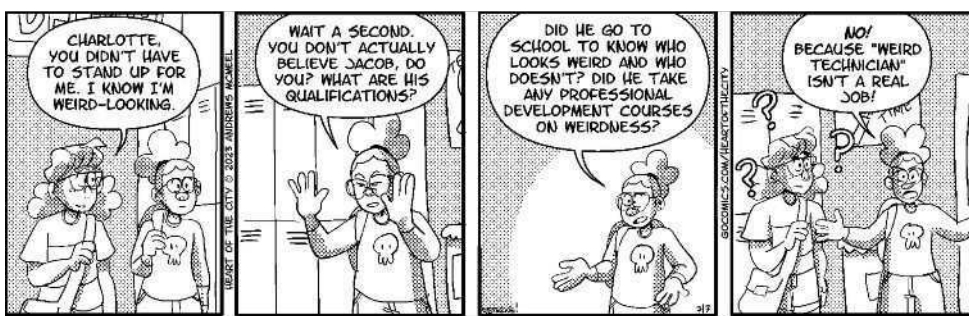




MUTTS



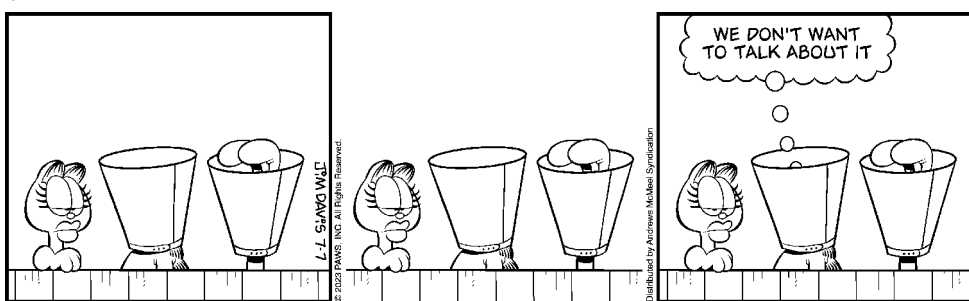
HEART OF THE CITY



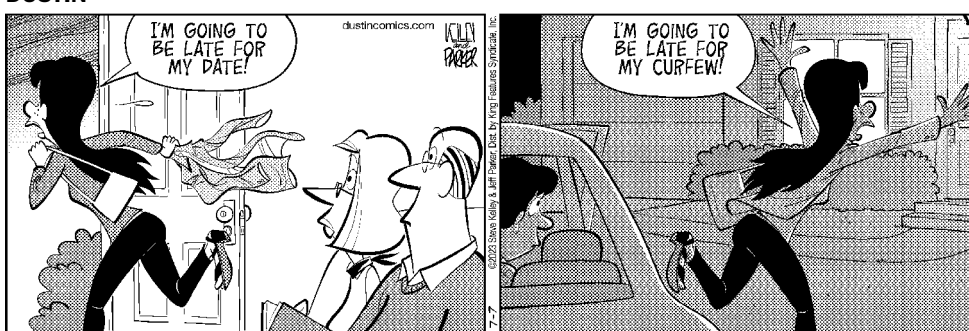
FRAZZ



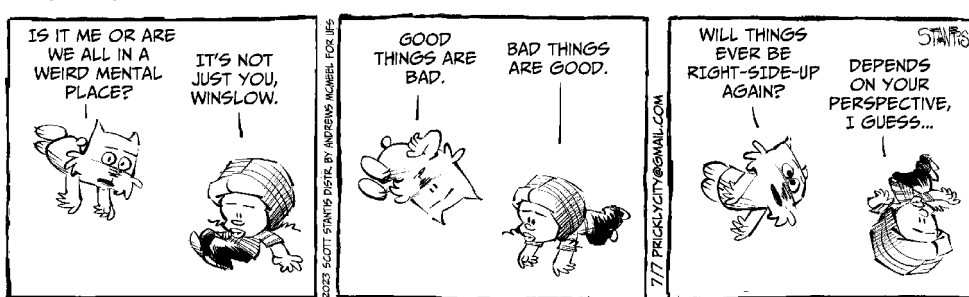
GARFIELD



DUSTIN



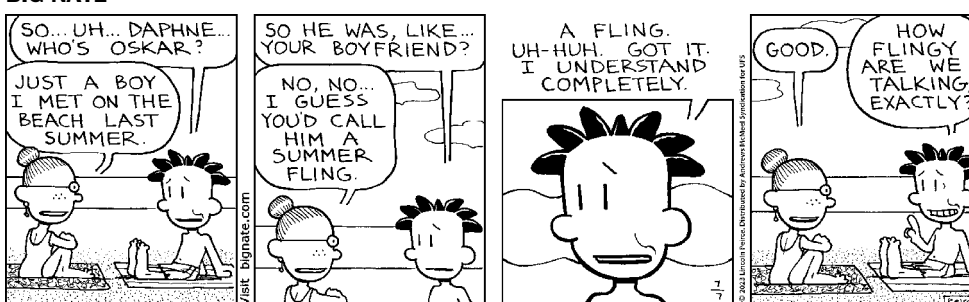
PRICKLY CITY



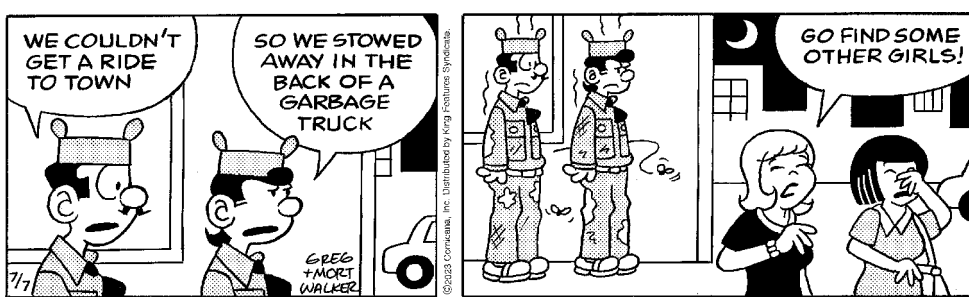
NON SEQUITUR



BIG NATE



BEETLE BAILEY



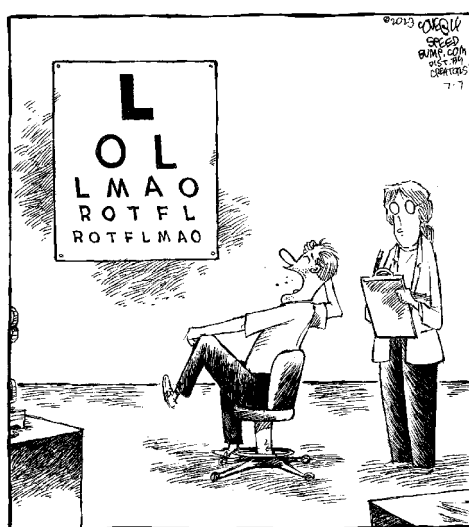
PREVIOUS SUDOKU SOLUTION

3	2	9	6	5	7	4	1	8
6	5	1	9	8	4	2	3	7
7	4	8	3	2	1	6	9	5
5	1	4	2	6	8	3	7	9
9	8	6	7	4	3	1	5	2
2	7	3	5	1	9	8	4	6
1	9	2	4	7	6	5	8	3
8	6	7	1	3	5	9	2	4
4	3	5	8	9	2	7	6	1

PREVIOUS SCRABBLEGRAMS SOLUTION

L	O	U	N	G	E	R	1	58
A	F	F	O	R	D	2	13	
M	E	M	E	N	T	O	3	63
B	E	T	W	E	E	N	4	74
PAR SCORE 145-155							TOTAL	208

SPEED BUMP



ZITS



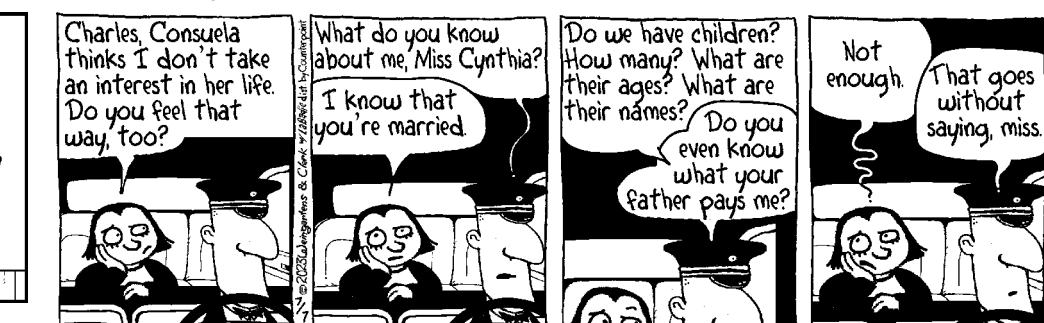
JUDGE PARKER



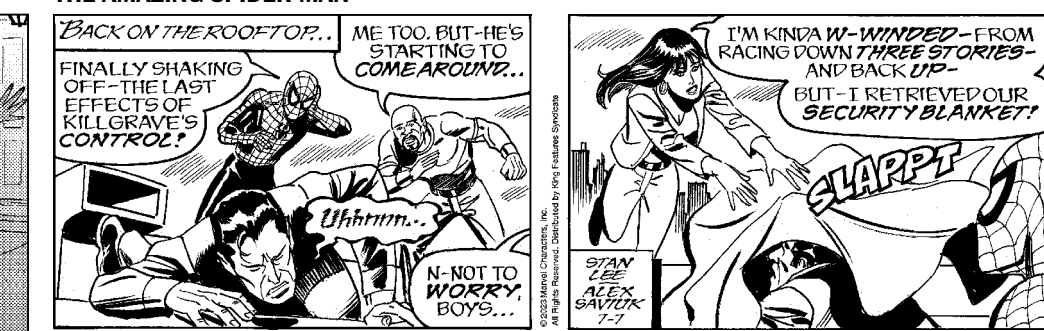
CANDORVILLE



BARNEY AND CLYDE



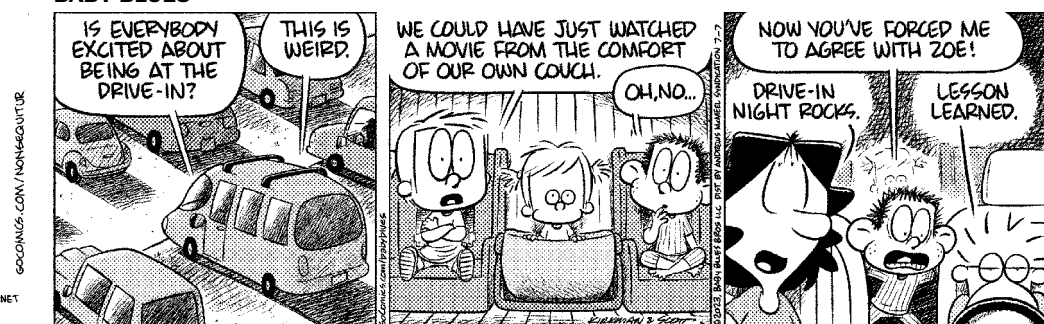
THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN



LOOSE PARTS



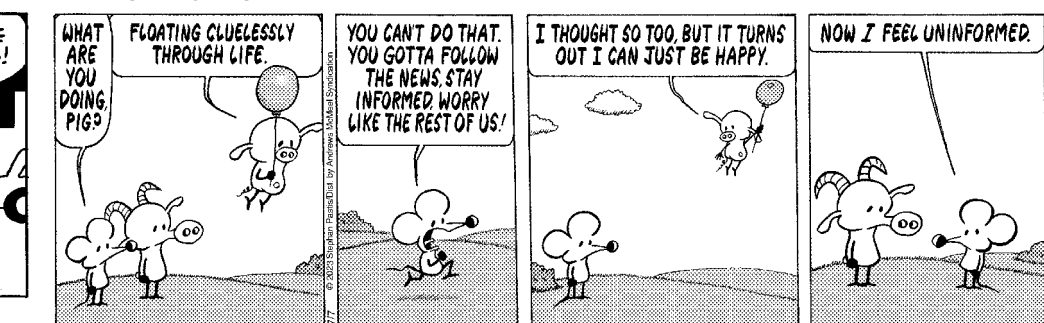
BABY BLUES



ON THE FASTTRACK



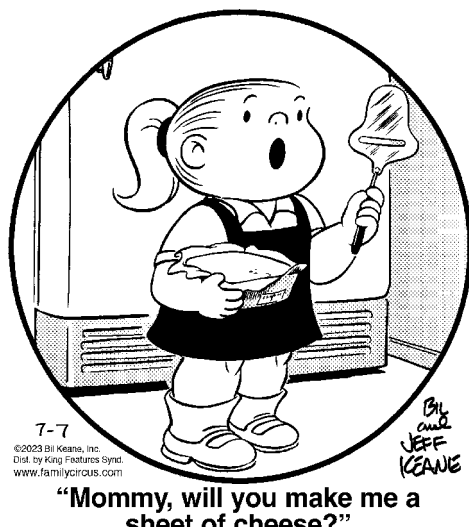
PEARLS BEFORE SWINE



DENNIS THE MENACE



FAMILY CIRCUS



REPLY ALL LITE



HOROSCOPE

BIRTHDAY | JULY 7

In many ways, you're an imaginative dreamer. You are creative, open and honest. You are sometimes shy. This is a wonderful, fun-loving and social year for you. Let your guard down and loosen up a bit. Have fun but remember your goals. Old friends might reappear.

ARIES

(MARCH 21-APRIL 19). What a difference a day makes! You're happy because you have a warm feeling in your tummy. Everything is improving at home; plus, romance and your social life look promising. Meanwhile, behind-the-scenes deals might make you richer!

TAURUS

(APRIL 20-MAY 20). This is a completely feel-good day for you. This is a marvelous day to socialize with others, especially female companions. Group activities will appeal to you. Everyone's happy to see your face.

GEMINI

(MAY 21-JUNE 20). You are in the public eye for some reason. In fact, people seem to know personal details about your private life. (Like, what's with that?) Nevertheless, you look good! In fact, you appear prosperous and successful to others (even if you aren't).

CANCER

(JUNE 21-JULY 22). Today you're eager to do anything that will expand your horizons. You want to meet new people. You want to travel. You want to entertain new ideas and learn new things. Yes, you want to push the sides of the envelope!

LEO

(JULY 23-AUG. 22). This is an excellent day for business and commerce. The support that you need from others – financial or practical – will be forthcoming. Group feelings will be blessed.

VIRGO

(AUG. 23-SEPT. 22). This is a marvelous day to schmooze with friends and partners, as well as members of the general public. People are happy to see you, and you're glad to see them. In particular, group situations will thrive with joy and animation.

LIBRA

(SEPT. 23-OCT. 22). Things will go beautifully at work today (or with whatever task that you set for yourself). In particular, group activities are blessed. Don't hesitate to ask for help from others. Work-related travel is likely!

SCORPIO

(OCT. 23-NOV. 21). This is a fabulous day to schmooze! Accept all invitations to party. Extend a few yourself. Enjoy sports events, social diversions, the theater, musical performances, romantic dates and playful activities with kids.

SAGITTARIUS

(NOV. 22-DEC. 21). This is a marvelous day to entertain. Stock the fridge and invite the gang over! Any kind of gathering at your home will be a positive experience. In particular, you will enjoy hanging out with people from different backgrounds and different cultures.

CAPRICORN

(DEC. 22-JAN. 19). Your sense of optimism is what empowers you today. "Build it, and they will come." It's easy for you to have a strong belief in something. This is what is sustaining and, in fact, what will facilitate what happens next.

AQUARIUS

(JAN. 20-FEB. 18). This is an excellent day for business and commerce. Actions that you initiate and financial negotiations will almost certainly boost your income or lead to a financial benefit in the future. You might have to travel for work.

PISCES

(FEB. 19-MARCH 20). Today the Moon is in your sign dancing with Jupiter, which makes you feel warmhearted, congenial and happy. Not only that, you are concerned about the welfare of others. Meanwhile, this is an excellent time for any kind of group activity.

— Georgia Nicols

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PRO BASKETBALL

USA Basketball has some international scores to settle as it sets a star-packed roster for the FIBA World Cup. **D2**

SOCCER

D.C. United can't reach a deal with Lewis O'Brien's English side, probably spelling end of his MLS loan. **D5**

TOUR DE FRANCE

Tadej Pogacar's stunning attack late on the Col du Tourmalet wins Stage 6, tightens up race for yellow. **D7**



Britain's Andy Murray walked off Centre Court leading Stefanos Tsitsipas of Greece by two sets to one when play was stopped shortly before 11 p.m. Thursday.

MIKE HEWITT/GETTY IMAGES

# Curfew and chaos reign

BY AVA WALLACE

WIMBLEDON, ENGLAND — The grounds of the All England Club teemed in earnest for the first time Thursday after two days of rain. Souvenir shops bustled, and the pathways were packed as if their fans were hustling at the U.S. Open, not strolling the stately brick walks of Wimbledon.

"Murray Mount," the slope of earth formerly known as Henman Hill alongside Court 18 where people bring their blankets and their Pimm's to watch the biggest matches of the day on a big screen, positively bulged.

It was probably the weather. Or the coming weekend. But much of the crowd purchased their tickets ahead of time, and

Tense Murray-Tsitsipas match is halted by local rule, adding to Wimbledon's scheduling woes

they have no way of telling who's going to be on the schedule, after all.

And on the Thursday schedule was a second-round clash between Andy Murray and Stefanos Tsitsipas.

Let's hope some of them bought tickets for Friday as well.

The sea of humanity that showed up for the tennis here saw only the front end of a brewing cage match as one of Wimble-

don's many quirks set in to stop the show and plunge the tournament's already mucked-up schedule into further chaos. There is an 11 p.m. curfew at Wimbledon, and when the second-set tiebreaker in the Murray-Tsitsipas match arrived shortly after 9:40 p.m., after 1 hour 54 minutes of play, it seemed there might be trouble.

Tournament officials halted the match at 10:39 p.m. local time. The break might have fallen at a natural stopping point — Murray had just captured the third set to lead 6-7 (7-3), 7-6 (7-2), 6-4 — if there had not been such drama directly before the break.

With the curfew inching closer and Centre Court erupting with every point, **SEE WIMBLEDON ON D3**

Wimbledon | Today, 6 a.m., ESPN

# Amateurs are staking their claim at Pebble

Ireland's Donegan among those in hunt at U.S. Women's Open

BY GENE WANG

PEBBLE BEACH, CALIF. — Irish amateur Aine Donegan played in a team golf event in Scotland last weekend before she made the trip to California for the U.S. Women's Open. Her 30-hour journey to Pebble Beach Golf Links included stops in Dublin, Newark and San Francisco.

Donegan's clubs, however, didn't arrive until Tuesday, two days before she was set to tee off at the storied venue playing host to the crown jewel of the women's Grand Slam for the first time. Then, upon unzipping her golf travel bag, Donegan found her driver badly damaged.

Forced to play with the new set of clubs she had been using for practice early this week and making her first start at a major, the LSU junior still managed to shoot a 3-under-par 69 Thursday and finish the opening round one stroke behind leaders Xiyu Lin of China and Hyo Joo Kim of South Korea.

Donegan was among three amateurs within two shots of the lead. American Amari Avery, a junior at Southern Cal, and Italy's Benedetta Moresco, a junior at Alabama, were also lurking after carding 2-under 70s in the morning wave.

"It's like everything happens for a reason, that the clubs were late, **SEE U.S. OPEN ON D6**

U.S. WOMEN'S OPEN

Pebble Beach, first round

POS.		TO PAR
T1	Xiyu Janet Lin	<b>-4</b>
	Hyo Joo Kim	<b>-4</b>
T3	Aine Donegan (a)	<b>-3</b>
	Nasa Hataoka	<b>-3</b>
	Bailey Tardy	<b>-3</b>
	Hae Ran Ryu	<b>-3</b>
	Allisen Corpuz	<b>-3</b>
	Leona Maguire	<b>-3</b>

TV: 4 p.m., Peacock; 6 p.m., USA

# Legacy of the Negro Leagues endures

New documentary detailing rise and fall arrives in theaters

BY SCOTT ALLEN

On Feb. 13, 1920, in Kansas City's Paseo YMCA, Andrew "Rube" Foster and seven other owners of Black baseball teams across the Midwest established the Negro National League. "We are the ship, all else the sea" — a quote borrowed from abolitionist Frederick Douglass — was adopted as the league's slogan, and Foster, the owner and manager of the Chicago American Giants, was named its first president.

Foster's vision for the enterprise, which he had championed since his days as an outstanding pitcher with the Giants from 1911 to 1917, was to create a league so dynamic and entertaining that Major League Baseball's White owners would be foolish not to expand their more established circuit by joining forces with it. Foster's premature death at 51 in 1930 denied him the chance to make his dream a reality, but his contributions to the sport and baseball's eventual full-scale integration are undeniable. **SEE NEGRO LEAGUES ON D6**

# De La Cruz sure is loud, and let's hear it for the noise



Candace Buckner

Change can come suddenly, rocking three gold chains and blasting 455-foot homers. Wearing hair in dreadlocks extensions, mirrored shades

that obscure a pair of boyish, cocoa eyes, and a hat turned backward because . . . well, just because.

Change can stand as tall as an NBA wing, move like a sprinter in Lane 4, rocket a ball like a first-string quarterback and do all this in a sport the best young athletes have shunned for years. Though change has slowly been creeping into the national pastime, which is way past its time to evolve, a catalyst such as 21-year-old rookie Elly De La Cruz still can shake us up.

We have come to expect bat flips and swaggy home run trots, respect rooted in the game and ferocity branched from self-expression. Flamboyance that oozes from the pores of mostly brown-skinned players despite demands of compliance from the "play the right way!" crowd.

None of this is new. We have felt electricity from Bryce Harper, Tim Anderson, Fernando Tatis Jr. and Ronald Acuña Jr., to name just a handful. And yet here comes De La Cruz, a dose of lighter fluid tossed on the Cincinnati Reds' 2023 season and, possibly, all of baseball. The game could use a few more wildfires such as this. De La Cruz, with a special



ROB CARR/GETTY IMAGES

Elly De La Cruz is MLB's newest phenom, and he has Cincinnati red hot and surprisingly in first place.

combination of power and personality, cockiness and comparisons to Mickey Mantle, can be the ideal star for the game's shift toward speed and action. His team has won 20 of its past 24 games to lead the NL Central. And the Reds are having fun doing it; once home run hitters return to the dugout, they're honored with a fur cape and a Viking helmet. Leading the

way is De La Cruz, who is going viral in every ballpark he enters. But does baseball, a game steeped in nostalgia while existing in American culture for more than a century, need more Ellys to grow?

"I mean, in reality, yes, because it's players that people love to enjoy to see," De La Cruz told me through Reds interpreter Jorge Merlos. "I mean, it's guys

that get people fired up, fans fired up with what they're going to see out on the field."

The thing about baseball, it's like an ant that crawls across scorched earth. Whenever you think the game has been nuked — by betting scandals, cocaine in the clubhouse, juiced-up hitters — it somehow prevails. Though baseball doesn't attract the

**SEE BUCKNER ON D5**

# Hard-luck Nats are on wrong end of a sweep

REDS 5, NATIONALS 4 (10)

BY JESSE DOUGHERTY

In the end, after it rained, then sprinkled, then cleared up for the Washington Nationals to blow one-run leads in the sixth and eighth innings Thursday at Nationals Park, Nick Senzel took over for the Cincinnati Reds. In the ninth, after Riley Adams reached with a one-out double, Senzel leaped at the right field wall to rob CJ Abrams of what would have been a walk-off hit. And in the 10th, Senzel led off with a first-pitch, two-run homer off Hunter Harvey, leading the Reds to a 5-4 win and a four-game sweep.

When the Nationals rallied in the bottom half, Senzel was on his third position, going from center to right to third base. Once Lane Thomas skipped an RBI single past Elly De La Cruz and after Jeimer Candelario was hit in the right knee by Alexis Diaz and left the game, Dominic Smith struck

**SEE NATIONALS ON D5**

Rangers at Nationals

Today, 7 p.m., MASN



# USA Basketball starts fresh with new players and coach for FIBA World Cup

Kerr will lead a squad that has little experience on international stage

BY BEN GOLLIVER

LAS VEGAS — Steve Kerr’s first run as USA Basketball coach will feature a team that’s light on international experience but relatively loaded with star talent. USA Basketball announced Thursday that its 12-man roster for the upcoming FIBA World Cup tournament in Asia will be headlined by four all-stars — Anthony Edwards, Tyrese Haliburton, Brandon Ingram and Jaren Jackson Jr. — and include Paolo Banchero, Mikal Bridges, Jalen Brunson, Josh Hart, Cam Johnson, Walker Kessler, Bobby Portis and Austin Reaves.

The overhauled roster, which doesn’t include any returning players from previous Olympics or World Cup teams, marks a fresh start for USA Basketball after longtime executive director Jerry Colangelo and former coach Gregg Popovich both retired after winning gold at the Tokyo Olympics in 2021. Former NBA star Grant Hill stepped in as Colangelo’s successor, while Kerr, the coach of the Golden State Warriors, has taken the reins from Popovich in advance of the 2024 Paris Olympics. Kerr will be assisted by Miami Heat Coach Erik Spoelstra, Los Angeles Clippers Coach Tyronn Lue and Gonzaga Coach Mark Few. USA Basketball has won gold at the past four Olympics but is seeking to avenge an embarrassing seventh-place finish at the 2019 FIBA World Cup in China, where an underwhelming roster

lost to Serbia and France. This year, the World Cup will feature group stage games in the Philippines, Japan and Indonesia before converging on Manila for the knockout round, which will open with the quarterfinals Sept. 5 and conclude with the gold medal game Sept. 10. “We are excited for the challenges ahead,” Hill said in a statement. “I am confident that working together, and under the leadership of our outstanding coaching staff, this team will proudly represent the United States this summer in Manila.” Kerr’s roster, while not exactly a “Dream Team,” is well balanced positionally and features several advantages over the 2019 group, which struggled to develop chemistry after losing several high-profile players to last-minute withdrawals. Jackson, the reigning NBA defensive player of

the year, should thrive in the international game because of his mobility, while Ingram, Bridges and Johnson bring valuable length and versatility on the wings. At guard, Brunson and Haliburton are more natural distributors than the backcourt options at Popovich’s disposal four years ago. Edwards and Banchero, a pair of former No. 1 overall draft picks, will be cast as pure scorers with the physicality necessary to create shots and get to the free throw line, while Hart, Portis and Reaves will serve as energetic glue guys. USA Basketball should boast the tournament’s deepest and most talented team, though it will need to establish its go-to options in late-game situations. Ingram and Edwards are the most likely candidates after Kevin Durant filled that role brilliantly in Tokyo.

“I’m confident this group will represent our country well, with effort, talent and a commitment to winning together,” Kerr said. “We look forward to competing for a gold medal in the World Cup later this summer.” Adding Jackson and Kessler, who just completed a standout rookie season with the Utah Jazz, is a crucial long-term development for USA Basketball, which will need to match up with Serbia’s Nikola Jokic, France’s Victor Wembanyama and other talented big men in future international tournaments. Jokic, the reigning Finals MVP, has yet to announce whether he will play in the World Cup, while Wembanyama, the top pick in last month’s draft, will skip the tournament to prepare for his rookie season with the San Antonio Spurs. The Americans, who won the FIBA tournament in 2010 and

2014, are second behind Spain in FIBA’s world basketball rankings. To launch its latest run for gold, USA Basketball will hold a training camp in Las Vegas before hosting Puerto Rico in an Aug. 7 exhibition at T-Mobile Arena. From there, the Americans will play two exhibitions in Spain and two more in the United Arab Emirates before opening World Cup play in the Philippines on Aug. 26 with a group stage game against New Zealand. They are scheduled to face Greece on Aug. 28 and Jordan on Aug. 30 to complete group play. Giannis Antetokounmpo played for Greece in the 2019 tournament, but his status remains uncertain this time around. Luka Doncic led Slovenia to the semifinals at the Tokyo Olympics and was included on the team’s extended roster this month.

# Stuck in the injury ‘boat,’ Mystics trying to stay afloat until the all-star break

BY KAREEM COPELAND

While much of the country was enjoying the Fourth of July, Mike and Eric Thibault found themselves busy tinkering with the Washington Mystics’ roster. A rash of recent injuries to key players left the team in need of some maneuvering. Starting center Shakira Austin went down June 25 with a hip injury that was predicted to keep her out at least three weeks. Then two-time league MVP Elena Delle Donne was lost to an ankle sprain last week in Atlanta, and her status remains day-to-day. She has not participated in practices this week. Backup guard Kristi Toliver is out at least through next weekend’s all-star break because of plantar fasciitis. And Natasha Cloud is dealing with her own ankle tweak that forced her to miss Thursday’s practice. That left the Thibaults retooling the roster, including a trade for Queen Egbo, while trying to enjoy the holiday. “It’s not easy with all the chang-



JONATHAN NEWTON/THE WASHINGTON POST

**Mystics leading scorer Elena Delle Donne is expected to be listed as questionable for Friday’s game along with guard Natasha Cloud.** First, they had to terminate the hardship contracts of local fan favorite Abby Meyers and Linnae Harper to get under the salary cap before being able to execute the trade that sent Amanda Zahui B. to the Indiana Fever in a straight swap for Egbo. Meyers was signed

to a hardship contract June 20 after Li Meng went back to play for the Chinese national team in the Asia Cup. Meng returned this week after winning the championship and is available moving forward. Harper was signed to a hardship contract June 30, coming straight from playing with Team USA in the FIBA 3x3 World Cup in Austria. “Our team didn’t have a full roster, either,” Meng said through an interpreter. “So we faced a lot of challenges team-wise when we were back in Asia Cup. We did play to the spirits and the principles of the Chinese women’s national team because our core playing principle is teamwork and never give up when you’re facing challenges. So I also want to bring that spirit and thinking to the Mystics because we are also facing challenges team-wise. “So for the rest of us, we need to go all out and never give up.” The Fourth of July began with the release of Meyers and Harper before the trade went through. A day later, Harper was re-signed

and Meng was activated. Teams can go over the salary cap when they use hardship contracts. Meng’s sharpshooting meant Meyers’s offense was needed less than Harper’s defensive abilities. The Mystics rank ninth in rebounding, and the absences of Austin and Delle Donne leave a hole in their rim protection and paint defense. Hence the move for Egbo, who was the No. 10 overall draft pick last year and made the all-rookie team after averaging 7.2 points, 6.3 rebounds and 1.2 blocks (fifth in the league). “We kind of said at the start of practice that we’re in flux a little bit every day right now,” Thibault said. “People in, people out, but everybody that’s in, just do it with full commitment. Be more connected. Stick together. Take these games as their own thing, and then we’ll see where we’re at after the break.” Washington hosts the Fever on Friday, and Delle Donne and Cloud are expected to be listed as questionable. Egbo was scheduled to arrive Thursday afternoon, par-

ticipate in shoot-around Friday morning and be available to play in the evening. Thibault said they will do whatever it takes for this final stretch, including throwing the new faces out there and using whatever lineups are necessary. All of the injuries and tumult played a significant role in the Mystics (9-7) losing their past two games after winning six of eight, and now they have three more games before the all-star break. They’re in fourth place in the league standings, with both the Atlanta Dream (8-8) and Chicago Sky (8-9) sneaking up from behind with three-game winning streaks. “Who wants to go on a break on a low?” Brittney Sykes said. “It’s one of those things where you want to sit with a win and not sit with a loss because now you’re just marinating, waiting to get your next game. “These first 20 games, it came fast. So the next 20 is going to go even faster, and then that goes into playoffs. So we’ve got to prepare.”

## WNBA ROUNDUP

# Stewart, Collier plan to launch domestic offseason league for stars in January

FROM NEWS SERVICES AND STAFF REPORTS

WNBA stars Breanna Stewart and Napheesa Collier are founding a new women’s basketball league, aimed to give top players an option to play domestically during the WNBA offseason once the league’s new prioritization rules go into full effect next year. The new league will feature 30 professional players spread across six teams, playing games of three-on-three and one-on-one in Miami. The league, called Unrivaled, would run from January through March. ESPN first reported the news Thursday. “It’s the ability for players to stay home, to be in a market like Miami where we can just be the buzz and create that with the best WNBA players,” Stewart told

ESPN. “We can’t keep fighting [the WNBA’s prioritization rule]. It is a rule that takes away our choices, which should never be a thing, especially as women, but it is still a rule.” The WNBA’s prioritization rules, which take effect this year and were collectively bargained in 2020, require players with two or more years of league experience to report to training camp on time or by May 1 — whichever is later — or face a fine. They will be suspended for the year if they miss the start of the season. Starting in 2024, players will be suspended for the season if they don’t arrive by the start of training camp or at least by May 1. Many WNBA players regularly compete in Europe and elsewhere on contracts worth considerably more than those stateside. As a

result, a number of those players routinely report late because their overseas teams are still active when the WNBA season begins in mid-May. “We remain committed to the WNBA, however there’s a problem that exists, which is players having to choose whether to play overseas to maximize earnings in the winter or stay home with family,” Collier said on Twitter. “We’ve decided to create our own solution.” Stewart, a former league MVP who played in Turkey this past offseason, had called prioritization “one of the biggest disconnects between players and the WNBA and Board of Governors.” The New York Liberty star told ESPN the idea for Unrivaled began to materialize as she considered the future of her overseas playing career with her wife ex-

pecting the couple’s second child this fall. Collier, a three-time all-star with the Minnesota Lynx, stopped playing overseas after she gave birth to her first child in 2022. She said the idea of a family trying to navigate child care overseas was her primary motivation. In Unrivaled, Stewart and Collier’s goal is to secure enough private funding and sponsorships to compensate players for the contracts they would be giving up overseas because of new league rules. “We’ve all been talking and realizing that we’re missing a moment, having a lot of our players be overseas or not playing basketball [during the offseason],” Stewart said. “I think top players, they want to be playing, right? They want to be home, they want to be playing, but it has to make sense.

It has to be right, and the money has to be right. And I think that’s what Unrivaled is trying to do.” — *Glynn A. Hill* • **SKY:** Chicago forward Ruthy Hebard, who gave birth to son Xzavier less than three months ago, is cleared to return to action. **Sun snaps losing streak** In Uncasville, Conn., Alyssa Thomas and DeWanna Bonner each scored 16 points, and the Connecticut Sun beat the Seattle Storm, 93-73, on Thursday night to snap a two-game losing streak. Connecticut scored 24 of the opening 28 points behind a combined 8-for-8 shooting by Bonner and Thomas. The Sun tied a franchise record with 11 assists in the first quarter. The Sun led 57-24 at the break for the largest halftime lead by any

team this season, according to ESPN Stats & Info. Four Connecticut players were in double figures, including Thomas with 13 points, seven rebounds and five assists. Bonner made all three of her three-point attempts in the first half, and Connecticut made 7 of 9. The Sun finished 9 for 13 from three-point range. Tiffany Hayes, Rebecca Allen and Natisha Hiedeman had 14 points apiece for Connecticut (13-5), which played its first home game since June 27. Tyasha Harris added 11 points off the bench. Jewell Loyd scored 22 points for Seattle (4-13), which has lost four straight and six of its past seven. Kia Nurse added 11 points. Seattle went five-plus minutes without scoring during Connecticut’s 19-0 run in the first quarter. — *Associated Press*

## DIGEST

## PRO BASKETBALL Wembanyama, Spears cross paths in Vegas

Pop singer **Britney Spears** said Thursday that she was struck by a San Antonio Spurs security team member when she attempted to approach rookie forward **Victor Wembanyama** outside a Las Vegas restaurant Wednesday night. The incident, which reportedly prompted Spears to file a police report, came two days before Wembanyama is set to make his highly anticipated Summer League debut against the Charlotte Hornets at UNLV’s Thomas & Mack Center on Friday. No charges have been filed in connection to the incident. “I recognized an athlete [Wembanyama] in my hotel lobby as I was heading to dinner,” Spears wrote in a lengthy statement on Instagram. “I later went to a restaurant at a different hotel and saw him again. I decided to approach him and congratulate him on his success. It was really loud, so I tapped him on the shoulder to get his attention.” The 19-year-old Wembanyama told reporters Thursday that he was walking in a busy hall and that his security team had instructed him not to stop to talk

with any fans because it would “make a crowd” outside Catch, a seafood restaurant at the Aria resort on the Las Vegas Strip. — *Ben Golliver* The Indiana Pacers announced they have agreed with all-star guard **Tyrese Haliburton** on a five-year max contract that could pay a franchise-record \$260 million. Haliburton’s new deal keeps him with Indiana through 2028-29. He has been considered the centerpiece of Indiana’s rebuild after he was acquired in a trade with the Sacramento Kings before the 2021-22 deadline. Indiana also traded guard **Chris Duarte** to the Kings for two future picks. . . . The Golden State Warriors finalized their trade with the Wizards for guard **Chris Paul**, sending forward **Patrick Baldwin Jr.** and guards **Jordan Poole** and **Ryan Rollins** to Washington along with a pair of draft picks. The Wizards will receive a 2027 second-round selection and a 2030 first-round choice, the team said. Golden State also signed veteran guard **Cory Joseph**. **SOCCER** Paris Saint-Germain added some firepower to its squad with the arrival of **Marco Asensio** and bolstered its defense by signing

## TELEVISION AND RADIO

<b>MLB</b>	
7 p.m.	<b>Texas at Washington</b> » MASN, WJFK (106.7 FM)
8 p.m.	<b>Baltimore at Minnesota</b> » Apple TV Plus, WYIY (97.9 FM), WSNB (630 AM)
<b>NBA SUMMER LEAGUE</b>	
4:30 p.m.	<b>New Orleans vs. Minnesota</b> » NBA TV
5 p.m.	<b>Denver vs. Milwaukee</b> » ESPN
6:30 p.m.	<b>Chicago vs. Toronto</b> » NBA TV
7 p.m.	<b>Portland vs. Houston</b> » ESPN
8:30 p.m.	<b>Cleveland vs. Brooklyn</b> » NBA TV
9 p.m.	<b>Charlotte vs. San Antonio</b> » ESPN
10:30 p.m.	<b>Sacramento vs. Atlanta</b> » NBA TV
11 p.m.	<b>Golden State vs. Los Angeles Lakers</b> » ESPN
<b>WNBA</b>	
7 p.m.	<b>Commissioner’s Cup: Indiana at Washington</b> » WPXW (Ch. 66)
<b>AUTO RACING</b>	
7:30 a.m.	<b>Formula One: British Grand Prix, practice</b> » ESPN
11 a.m.	<b>Formula One: British Grand Prix, practice</b> » ESPN
4 p.m.	<b>NASCAR Truck Series: O’Reilly Auto Parts 150, qualifying</b> » Fox Sports 1
6 p.m.	<b>ARCA Series: Zinsser SmartCoat 150</b> » Fox Sports 1
<b>GOLF</b>	
7 a.m.	<b>DP World Tour: Made in Himmerland, second round</b> » Golf Channel

**Milan Skriniar** to a five-year deal. PSG announced its first two recruits of the summer a day after unveiling new coach **Luis Enrique**. Asensio joined on a three-year deal through June 2026, PSG said. The left-footed striker won three Spanish league titles and three Champions League crowns with Real Madrid. He previously worked with Enrique when the Spanish manager was in charge of the national squad. Out of contract with Inter Milan, the powerfully built Skriniar — a Slovak international — had been in talks with PSG for

months after the French champion failed to reach a financial agreement with the Serie A side for him last year. . . . Veteran defender **César Azpilicueta** joined Atletico Madrid after 11 seasons with Chelsea. The 33-year-old Spaniard signed a one-year contract with Atletico. He left Chelsea after making 508 appearances for the English club. Atletico also signed **Caglar Soyuncu** for the next four seasons. The 27-year-old Turkish defender had been playing with Leicester City. . . . **Cristiano Ronaldo** got a new

4 p.m.	<b>PGA Tour: John Deere Classic, second round</b> » Golf Channel
4 p.m.	<b>U.S. Women’s Open, second round</b> » Peacock
6 p.m.	<b>U.S. Women’s Open, second round</b> » USA Network
<b>SOCCER</b>	
2:30 p.m.	<b>Women’s friendly: Germany vs. Zambia</b> » CBS Sports Network
10 p.m.	<b>Canadian Premier League: HFX Wanderers at Vancouver FC</b> » Fox Sports 2
<b>TENNIS</b>	
6 a.m.	<b>Wimbledon, third round</b> » ESPN
<b>CYCLING</b>	
8 a.m.	<b>Tour de France, Stage 7</b> » USA Network
<b>AUSTRALIAN RULES FOOTBALL</b>	
5:30 a.m.	<b>AFL: Collingwood at Western</b> » Fox Sports 2
<b>TRACK AND FIELD</b>	
10 p.m.	<b>U.S. outdoor championships</b> » CNBC
<b>COLLEGE BASEBALL</b>	
10:30 p.m.	<b>HBCU Swingman Classic</b> » MLB Network
<b>BOYS’ HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL</b>	
10:30 a.m.	<b>Peach Jam: Strive For Greatness vs. NH Lightning</b> » NBA TV
Noon	<b>Peach Jam: Maine United vs. TBD</b> » NBA TV
1:30 p.m.	<b>Peach Jam: Expressions vs. Vegas Elite</b> » NBA TV

club coach when Al-Nassr announced it hired his fellow Portuguese **Luís Castro**. Castro is the latest coaching hire this week in the cash-rich Saudi Pro League, following **Jorge Jesus** at Al-Hilal and **Steven Gerrard** at Al-Ettifaq. **MISC.** One of the last remaining links to the Kings’ Stanley Cup championship teams and one of the best players in franchise history is extending his stay in Los Angeles. Captain **Anze Kopitar** signed a two-year extension worth \$14 million. He’s now under

contract through the 2025-26 NHL season at an annual salary cap hit of \$7 million. The center from Slovenia was the Kings’ leading scorer this past year at age 35 with 28 goals and 46 assists. Kopitar is one of two players remaining from 2012 and 2014 when the Kings won the Cup. . . . **Dick Sheridan**, who turned around the North Carolina State football program while leading the Wolfpack to six bowl appearances in seven seasons as their coach, died at age 81, the university said. — *From news services and staff reports*



WEEKEND TV AND RADIO

Tomorrow

<b>MLB</b>	
1 p.m.	<b>Chicago Cubs at New York Yankees</b> » MLB Network
2 p.m.	<b>Baltimore at Minnesota</b> » MASN, WIYY (97.9 FM), WSBN (630 AM)
4 p.m.	<b>Texas at Washington</b> » MASN2, WJFK (106.7 FM)
4 p.m.	<b>Cincinnati at Milwaukee</b> » Fox Sports 1
7:15 p.m.	<b>Atlanta at Tampa Bay</b> » WTTG (Ch. 5), WBFF (Ch. 45)
10 p.m.	<b>New York Mets at San Diego</b> » MLB Network
<b>NBA SUMMER LEAGUE</b>	
3 p.m.	<b>Miami vs. Boston</b> » NBA TV
3:30 p.m.	<b>Dallas vs. Oklahoma City</b> » ESPN2
5 p.m.	<b>New York vs. Philadelphia</b> » NBA TV
5:30 p.m.	<b>Detroit vs. Orlando</b> » ESPN
7 p.m.	<b>Memphis vs. Chicago</b> » NBA TV
8 p.m.	<b>Indiana vs. Washington</b> » ESPN2
9 p.m.	<b>Milwaukee vs. Phoenix</b> » NBA TV
10 p.m.	<b>Los Angeles Clippers vs. Utah</b> » ESPN2
<b>WNBA</b>	
2 p.m.	<b>Seattle at New York</b> » ESPN
<b>AUTO RACING</b>	
6:30 a.m.	<b>Formula One: British Grand Prix, practice</b> » ESPNU
10 a.m.	<b>Formula One: British Grand Prix, qualifying</b> » ESPN2
1:30 p.m.	<b>NASCAR Truck Series: O'Reilly Auto Parts 150</b> » Fox Sports 1
4 p.m.	<b>NASCAR Xfinity Series: Alco Uniforms 250, qualifying</b> » USA Network
5:30 p.m.	<b>NASCAR Cup Series: Quaker State 400, qualifying</b> » USA Network
8 p.m.	<b>NASCAR Xfinity Series: Alco Uniforms 250</b> » USA Network
<b>GOLF</b>	
7:30 a.m.	<b>DP World Tour: Made in Himmerland, third round</b> » Golf Channel
1 p.m.	<b>PGA Tour: John Deere Classic, third round</b> » Golf Channel
3 p.m.	<b>PGA Tour: John Deere Classic, third round</b> » WUSA (Ch. 9), WJZ (Ch. 13)
3 p.m.	<b>U.S. Women's Open, third round</b> » WRC (Ch. 4), WBAL (Ch. 11)
<b>SOCCER</b>	
Noon	<b>UEFA European Under-21 championship, final: Spain vs. England</b> » CBS Sports Network
7 p.m.	<b>Concacaf Gold Cup, quarterfinal: Panama vs. Qatar</b> » Fox Sports 1
7:30 p.m.	<b>MLS: Inter Miami at D.C. United</b> » Apple TV Plus, WONK (104.7 FM)
10 p.m.	<b>Concacaf Gold Cup, quarterfinal: Mexico vs. Costa Rica</b> » Fox Sports 1
10 p.m.	<b>NWSL: Washington at San Diego</b> » Paramount Plus
<b>TENNIS</b>	
8 a.m.	<b>Wimbledon, third round</b> » ESPN
1 p.m.	<b>Wimbledon, third round</b> » WJLA (Ch. 7), WMAR (Ch. 2)
<b>CYCLING</b>	
6 a.m.	<b>Tour de France, Stage 8</b> » Peacock
<b>CANADIAN FOOTBALL LEAGUE</b>	
7 p.m.	<b>Ottawa at Hamilton</b> » CBS Sports Network
<b>MIXED MARTIAL ARTS</b>	
8 p.m.	<b>UFC 290, prelims</b> » WJLA (Ch. 7), WMAR (Ch. 2), ESPN
<b>RUGBY</b>	
3 p.m.	<b>Major League Rugby, final: San Diego vs. New England</b> » WTTG (Ch. 5), WBFF (Ch. 45)
<b>TRACK AND FIELD</b>	
9 p.m.	<b>U.S. outdoor championships</b> » CNBC
<b>GIRLS' HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL</b>	
4 p.m.	<b>Run 4 Roses Classic, 2025 Aqua championship: Teams TBD</b> » ESPNU
6 p.m.	<b>Run 4 Roses Classic, 2024 Aqua championship: Teams TBD</b> » ESPNU

Sunday

<b>MLB</b>	
Noon	<b>Texas at Washington</b> » Peacock, WJFK (106.7 FM)
1:30 p.m.	<b>Chicago Cubs at New York Yankees</b> » MLB Network
2 p.m.	<b>Baltimore at Minnesota</b> » MASN, WIYY (97.9 FM), WSBN (630 AM)
4:30 p.m.	<b>Seattle at Houston</b> » MLB Network (joined in progress)
7 p.m.	<b>MLB first-year player draft</b> » ESPN
<b>NBA SUMMER LEAGUE</b>	
3:30 p.m.	<b>Toronto vs. Cleveland</b> » NBA TV
4 p.m.	<b>Los Angeles Lakers vs. Charlotte</b> » ESPN2
5:30 p.m.	<b>New York vs. Brooklyn</b> » NBA TV
6 p.m.	<b>Detroit vs. Houston</b> » ESPN2
7:30 p.m.	<b>Boston vs. Washington</b> » NBA TV
8 p.m.	<b>San Antonio vs. Portland</b> » ESPN2
9:30 p.m.	<b>Atlanta vs. Denver</b> » NBA TV
10 p.m.	<b>New Orleans vs. Golden State</b> » ESPN2
<b>WNBA</b>	
3 p.m.	<b>Washington at Connecticut</b> » ESPN
<b>AUTO RACING</b>	
10 a.m.	<b>Formula One: British Grand Prix</b> » ESPN2
Noon	<b>IMSA WeatherTech Championship: Chevrolet Grand Prix</b> » WRC (Ch. 4), WBAL (Ch. 11)
7 p.m.	<b>NASCAR Cup Series: Quaker State 400</b> » USA Network
<b>GOLF</b>	
7:30 a.m.	<b>DP World Tour: Made in Himmerland, final round</b> » Golf Channel
1 p.m.	<b>PGA Tour: John Deere Classic, final round</b> » Golf Channel
3 p.m.	<b>PGA Tour: John Deere Classic, final round</b> » WUSA (Ch. 9), WJZ (Ch. 13)
3 p.m.	<b>U.S. Women's Open, final round</b> »WRC (Ch. 4), WBAL (Ch. 11)
<b>SOCCER</b>	
4 p.m.	<b>Women's friendly: United States vs. Wales</b> » TNT, Telemundo
5 p.m.	<b>Concacaf Gold Cup, quarterfinal: Jamaica vs. Guatemala</b> » Fox Sports 1
7:30 p.m.	<b>Canadian Premier League: Forge FC Hamilton at York United</b> » Fox Sports 2
8 p.m.	<b>Concacaf Gold Cup, quarterfinal: United States vs. Canada</b> » Fox Sports 1
<b>TENNIS</b>	
8 a.m.	<b>Wimbledon, round of 16</b> » ESPN
1 p.m.	<b>Wimbledon, round of 16</b> » WJLA (Ch. 7), WMAR (Ch. 2)
<b>CYCLING</b>	
7 a.m.	<b>Tour de France, Stage 9</b> » Peacock
<b>BASKETBALL</b>	
1 p.m.	<b>Big3: Week 3</b> » WUSA (Ch. 9), WJZ (Ch. 13)
<b>CANADIAN FOOTBALL LEAGUE</b>	
7 p.m.	<b>Montreal at British Columbia</b> » CBS Sports Network
<b>MEN'S LACROSSE</b>	
2 p.m.	<b>Premier League Lacrosse: Redwoods vs. Chaos</b> » ESPN2
<b>TRACK AND FIELD</b>	
9 p.m.	<b>U.S. outdoor championships</b> » CNBC
<b>BOYS' HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL</b>	
Noon	<b>Peach Jam Under 15 Championship: Teams TBD</b> » ESPNU
2 p.m.	<b>Peach Jam Under 16 Championship: Teams TBD</b> » ESPNU
4 p.m.	<b>Peach Jam Under 17 Championship: Teams TBD</b> » ESPNU
6 p.m.	<b>Peach Jam Eighth Grade Championship: Teams TBD</b> » ESPNU



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WIMBLEDON ROUNDUP

Drama replaces downpours as first round finishes

BY HOWARD FENDRICH

WIMBLEDON, ENGLAND — Let the record reflect that the rain-logged first round of Wimbledon 2023 finally concluded at 3:23 p.m. local time Thursday, Day 4 of the tournament, 48 hours later than originally planned, when Alexander Zverev finished off his 6-4, 7-6 (7-4), 7-6 (7-5) victory over Dutch qualifier Gijs Brouwer.

Zverev was supposed to start and, naturally, finish, on Tuesday. Instead, he didn't take the court to play his first point of the fortnight until about 17½ hours after Novak Djokovic already had made his way into the third round.

“Took me three days,” Zverev joked, “but I’m here.”

For once this week, the sun was out at the All England Club, and the showers were nowhere to be found.

Instead, there was plenty of play, plenty of results — 56 in all — and plenty of drama, perhaps none more than in one much-hyped showdown that did not conclude: Two-time Wimbledon champion Andy Murray's match against two-time major finalist Stefanos Tsitsipas was suspended at 10:40 p.m. and will resume Friday.

Played with the roof closed at a loud Centre Court filled with “Let's go, Andy! Let's go!” chants from fans, that one was stopped just after Murray took a two-sets-to-one lead. Tsitsipas took the opening set 7-6 (7-3), but Murray took the next two 7-6 (7-2), 6-4. Murray, 36 and with an artificial hip, slipped and fell behind a baseline but arose and finished that third set just before play was halted.

There were tears for Alizé Cornet, who slipped to the turf and hurt her leg at 5-all in the second set of what would become a 6-2, 7-6 (7-2) loss to defending champion Elena Rybakina.

There were tears for Donna Vekic, too, and she won. She came back from a set and 5-2 down in the second to eliminate 2017 U.S. Open champion Sloane Stephens.

“I was losing,” Vekic said later.



ALASTAIR GRANT/ASSOCIATED PRESS

Alexander Zverev won his opening match, originally slated for Tuesday, in three tough sets Thursday.

“Not that I was just losing — I felt like I was getting killed.”

There was realism for Stan Wawrinka, a three-time Grand Slam champion who is now 38, coming off years of injuries and operations, and, while he was pleased to defeat Tomás Martín Etcheverry, 6-3, 4-6, 6-4, 6-2, knows what comes next: a match-up against Djokovic, who has won seven of his men's-record 23 major championships at this event.

“There's zero opportunity to win Wimbledon for me, I think,” Wawrinka acknowledged.

“It's an honor to play Novak here. . . . Hopefully I can make a competitive match,” he continued, “but if you will look at recent results, I don't really stand a chance.”

There was new ground for a group of men who won to reach the third round at the All England Club for the first time: No. 14 seed Lorenzo Musetti, qualifier Maximilian Marterer, Mikael Ymer, Quentin Halys and Roman Safiul-

lin.

Ymer came back from a two-set deficit to knock off No. 9 Taylor Fritz of the United States, 3-6, 2-6, 6-3, 6-4, 6-2.

Two American men stuck around for the next round by winning: No. 10 Frances Tiafoe, a semifinalist at the U.S. Open last September, and No. 16 Tommy Paul, a semifinalist at the Australian Open in January.

They were joined in the third round by two American women, No. 4 Jessica Pegula and 2020 Australian Open champion Sofia Kenin.

There was familiar disappointment at the grass-court major tournament for Casper Ruud, who was the runner-up at three of the past five majors but lost to British wild-card Liam Broady on Centre Court, 6-4, 3-6, 4-6, 6-3, 6-0. Ruud has never been past the second round in four appearances at Wimbledon.

“I'm going to keep trying. I have a goal, of course, in my career to

try to do well here at some point,” said Ruud, who was seeded fourth in the men's bracket. “It didn't happen this year. I'll come back. I honestly love coming here. It's such a special place.”

There was the end of the line for Anett Kontaveit. She was the last player to lose to Serena Williams — at the U.S. Open last year while ranked second — and said before Wimbledon she would be retiring because of a chronic bad back.

And there was the latest sign of promise from Mirra Andreeva, a 16-year-old qualifier from Russia.

Andreeva made her way into the third round at the second consecutive major when 2021 French Open singles and doubles champion Barbora Krejčíková quit because she was hurt while trailing 6-3, 4-0.

“For sure, it's not the way I wanted to win the match,” Andreeva said. “But still, I advance to the next round, so I'm happy with that.”

— Associated Press



TOLGA AKMEN/EPA-EFE/SHUTTERSTOCK

Fifth-seeded Stefanos Tsitsipas will have to rally against Andy Murray when their curfew-halted match resumes on Centre Court on Friday.

Wimbledon's match of the day goes to another day

WIMBLEDON FROM DI

Murray took a wrong step serving at 40-15 and fell to the ground, grabbing his groin and screaming in agony as he rolled over, losing the point. After he righted himself awkwardly and stood to serve, Tsitsipas did him a massive favor and sent a return long. Set, Murray.

Even Murray's mother, Judy, who has seen her share of events on Centre Court, shook her head in disbelief at that.

Tsitsipas and Murray's postponement muddles an already crowded Friday schedule on Centre Court. Play does not begin until 1:30 p.m. on the tournament's biggest stage, and officials must squeeze in two full men's singles matches and one full women's singles match in addition to potentially two remaining sets of Murray-Tsitsipas.

Those lucky ticket holders may never leave their seats: Top-seeded Carlos Alcaraz is set to open

play against Alexandre Muller, followed by the resumption of Murray-Tsitsipas. Top-seeded Iga Swiatek then faces 30th-seeded Petra Martić, all of it a lead up to a real humdinger of a closing act: Novak Djokovic against Stan Wawrinka in the final match of the day.

That's a lot to cram in in less than 10 hours.

But cram they must because Wimbledon's schedule is, beg pardon, shot to hell. The first round finally wrapped up just after 3:20 p.m. here, on the fourth day of the tournament, two days later than initially planned. It was Alexander Zverev who closed it with a 6-4, 7-6 (7-4), 7-6 (7-5) victory over qualifier Gijs Brouwer.

“Took me three days,” Zverev said, “but I’m here. I’m happy about that.”

There were 73 singles and doubles matches completed Thursday. On Friday, some will be finishing up their second-round matches as others conclude their third.

The near-total rainout Tuesday meant many are playing matches with much less rest than usual, and grass courts are already prone to fostering tightly knotted matches. The slick surface makes serves fast and their bounces unpredictable and low, meaning it can be more difficult for players to break service.

It's even more difficult for tired players to break service, so matches groaned along across the grounds. Tiebreakers were achingly common.

For the 36-year-old Murray, there is a question of whether rest might do him good after his apparent injury or halt his momentum. The suspension took the air out of Centre Court, where fans had waited all day for the third meeting between Murray and Tsitsipas, 24, in anticipation of a high-quality match with a little extra zip to it.

In the era of polished sportsmanship and fond hugs at net, there is some delightful frostiness

between the two owing to a 2021 victory by Tsitsipas over Murray at the U.S. Open during which Tsitsipas took more than seven minutes for a bathroom break mid-match — uncommon but within the rules — and Murray said he “lost respect” for his young opponent.

Tsitsipas had little support when they took to the court Thursday. He took a more reasonably timed bathroom break after the second set and was roundly booed by Centre Court upon return. When Murray broke him to take a 1-0 lead to start the third set, the place came practically undone, tilting from hushed to exalting in a millisecond. The crowd was silent when Murray fell, his scream echoing throughout the stadium, and apoplectic when he won the set anyway.

It was all worthy of the slugfest happening on court, though the anticlimactic ending was decidedly not. Friday promises more drama — almost a few days' worth.



## BASEBALL

## National League

EAST	W	L	PCT	GB	L10	STR
Atlanta	58	28	.674	—	9-1	W-1
Miami	51	38	.573	8½	6-4	L-1
Philadelphia	47	39	.547	11	8-2	W-3
x-New York	40	46	.465	18	5-5	W-4
Washington	34	53	.391	24½	4-6	L-4

## Reds 5, Nationals 4 (10)

REDS	AB	R	H	B	BB	SO	AVG
Newman 1b.....	3	0	1	0	0	0.259	
Casali c.....	0	0	0	0	0	0.169	
Voitz ph-1b.....	2	0	1	1	0	1.212	
McLain ss-2b.....	4	0	0	0	2	2.295	
India 2b.....	4	0	0	0	0	1.252	
Fraley rf.....	0	0	0	0	0	0.279	
De La Cruz 3b-ss.....	4	0	2	1	0	0.325	
Steer lf-1b-3b.....	4	0	0	0	1	1.287	
Stephenson dh.....	4	1	0	0	0	0.260	
Senzel cf-rf-2b.....	4	1	2	0	0	0.241	
Benson rf-lf.....	3	2	1	0	1	1.288	
Malie c.....	1	0	0	0	0	0.225	
Friedl ph-cf.....	1	0	0	2	0	0.309	
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>—</b>

NATIONALS	AB	R	H	B	BB	SO	AVG
Thomas rf.....	5	0	2	3	0	0.305	
Candelario 3b.....	4	0	1	0	0	0.261	
Meneses 1b.....	3	0	0	0	0	2.279	
Smith 1b.....	2	0	0	0	1	0.260	
Garrett lf.....	3	0	0	0	0	2.267	
Dickerson ph-lf.....	2	0	0	0	0	0.255	
Ruiz dh.....	5	0	0	0	0	2.225	
Vargas 2b.....	4	0	1	0	0	0.288	
Adams c.....	4	0	3	0	0	0.282	
Abrams ss.....	4	1	0	0	0	1.233	
Call cf.....	2	3	1	2	0	0.212	
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>—</b>

CINCINNATI, 001 001 010 2 — 5 6 0  
WASH., 000 020 100 1 — 4 8 0

**LOB:** Cincinnati 4, Washington 2. **2B:** De La Cruz (9), Benson (4), Adams 2. **HR:** Senzel (7), off Harvey; Call (4), off Duarte. **RBI:** Newman (27), De La Cruz (15), Votto (12), Senzel 2 (33), Thomas 3 (48), Call (21). **SB:** De La Cruz (12). **Abrams 2 (11), Call (7), Candelario (5), CS:** Abrams (2), St. Friedl.

REDS	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	ERA
Williamson.....	3	1	0	0	1	4.521	
Farmer.....	1½	2	2	2	1	13.74	
Gibaut.....	1½	2	0	0	0	3.46	
Duarte.....	1	1	1	1	0	0.340	
Sims.....	1	0	0	0	0	0.321	
Santillan.....	1	1	0	0	0	0.00	
Diaz.....	1	1	1	0	0	1.208	

NATIONALS	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	ERA
Gore.....	1½	1	0	0	0	1.442	
Thompson.....	2½	1	1	1	0	0.383	
Weems.....	1½	0	1	1	1	21.96	
Ferrer.....	1½	1	0	0	0	0.260	
Finnegan.....	1	2	1	1	0	0.350	
Harvey.....	1½	1	2	1	0	3.329	
C.Abbott.....	½	0	0	0	1	2.424	

**WP:** Santillan (1-0); **LP:** Harvey (3-4); **S:** Diaz (25). **Inherited runners-scored:** Gibaut 1-0, Thompson 1-0, Ferrer 2-1. **HBP:** Weems (McLain), Diaz (Candelario). **WIP:** Diaz. **T:** 3:13. **A:** 10,064 (41,376).

## HOW THEY SCORED

## REDS THIRD

Nick Senzel grounds out. Will Benson walks. Luke Malie grounds out. Ben to second. Kevin Newman singles, Benson scores. Matt McLain flies out.

## REDS 1, Nationals 0

## NATIONALS FIFTH

Eugenio Vargas grounds out. Riley Adams singles. CJ Abrams reaches on a fielder's choice. Adams out at second. Alex Call walks. Lane Thomas singles, Call scores, Abrams scores. Jeimer Candelario singles. Thomas to third. Joey Meneses strikes out swinging.

## Nationals 2, Reds 1

## REDS SIXTH

TJ Friedl pinch-hitting for Malie. TJ Friedl walks. Newman lines out. McLain hit by pitch. Friedl to second. Jonathan India strikes out swinging. Ely De La Cruz doubles, Friedl scores, McLain out at home.

## Reds 3, Nationals 2

## NATIONALS SEVENTH

Abrams pops out. Call homers. Thomas grounds out. Candelario grounds out.

## Nationals 3, Reds 2

Benson doubles. Friedl out on a sacrifice bunt. Benson to third. Joey Votto pinch-hitting for Curt Casali. Votto singles, Benson scores. McLain grounds out. Votto to second. Jonathan India grounds out.

## Reds 3, Nationals 3

## REDS TENTH

Senzel homers, Tyler Stephenson scores. Benson strikes out swinging. Friedl walks. Votto strikes out swinging. McLain called out on strikes.

## Reds 5, Nationals 3

## NATIONALS TENTH

Thomas singles, Call scores. Candelario hit by pitch. Thomas to second. Smith strikes out swinging. Corey Dickerson grounds out. Garcia to second. Thomas to third. Kelbert Ruiz lines out.

## Reds 5, Nationals 4

## NL leaders

Entering Thursday's games.

## BATTING

Arraez, Mia.....	384
Acuña Jr., Atl.....	337
Freeman, LA.....	313
Castellanos, Phi.....	310
Stott, Phi.....	304
Thomas, Was.....	304

## HOME RUNS

Olson, Atl.....	29
Alonso, NY.....	25
Betts, LA.....	25
Soler, Mia.....	22
Castellanos, Phi.....	22
Albies, Atl.....	22

## RBI

Olson, Atl.....	70
Albies, Atl.....	63
Alonso, NY.....	58
3 tied.....	57

## ERA

Elder, Atl.....	2.46
Steele, Chi.....	2.56
Stroman, Chi.....	2.76
Cobb, SF.....	2.91
Sneyd, SD.....	3.03

## SAVES

Doval, SF.....	25
Diaz, Cin.....	24
Hader, SD.....	20
Williams, Mil.....	18
Bednar, Pitt.....	16

## STRIKEOUTS

Strider, Atl.....	155
Keller, Pitt.....	125
Snell, SD.....	121
Gallen, Atl.....	120
Luzardo, Mia.....	120

## AL leaders

Entering Friday's games.

## BATTING

Shane Bieber, Tor.....	313
Hays, Bal.....	312
Yoshida, Bos.....	312
Diaz, TB.....	310
Taveras, Tex.....	300

## HOME RUNS

Odubui, LA.....	31
Robert Jr., Chi.....	25
Garcia, Tex.....	22
Devers, Bos.....	20
Judge, NY.....	19

## RBI

Garcia, Tex.....	71
Devers, Bos.....	68
Odubui, LA.....	68
Naylor, Cle.....	61
Heim, Tex.....	58
Arozarena, TB.....	58

## ERA

Valdez, Hou.....	2.49
Gray, Min.....	2.50
McClanahan, TB.....	2.53
Cole, NY.....	2.79
Eovaldi, Tex.....	2.83

## SAVES

Romano, Tor.....	25
Clase, Cle.....	24
Bautista, Bal.....	23
Estévez, Hou.....	21
Presly, Hou.....	19

## STRIKEOUTS

Gausman, Tor.....	146
Lopez, Min.....	138
Odubui, LA.....	132
Lynn, Chi.....	127
Cole, NY.....	118

## Central

CENTRAL	W	L	PCT	GB	L10	STR
Cincinnati	49	39	.557	—	8-2	W-5
Milwaukee	47	41	.534	2	6-4	W-1
Chicago	40	46	.465	8	3-7	L-1
x-Pittsburgh	40	46	.465	8	5-5	L-1
St. Louis	36	51	.414	12½	4-6	W-1

## Brewers 6, Cubs 5

Victor Caratini hit a tie-breaking home run off Michael Fulmer in the eighth inning, and Milwaukee recovered after blowing a three-run lead and beat Chicago to gain a split of their four-game series.

Cody Bellinger was 4 for 4 with three RBI for the Cubs.

CUBS	AB	R	H	B	BB	SO	AVG
Tauchman dh.....	5	0	0	0	0	2.240	
Hoerner ss.....	4	0	0	0	0	2.275	
Happ lf.....	3	0	0	0	2	2.253	
Suzuki rf.....	3	1	1	0	1	2.258	
Morel lf.....	4	1	1	0	0	2.281	
Bellinger cf.....	4	2	4	3	0	0.298	
Gomes c.....	4	1	1	2	0	2.264	
Young 1b.....	4	0	0	0	0	3.192	
Wisdom 3b.....	3	0	0	0	0	2.189	
Mancini ph.....	1	0	1	0	0	0.246	
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>—</b>

BREWERS	AB	R	H	B	BB	SO	AVG
Yelich lf.....	3	2	1	3	1	0.287	
Adames ss.....	2	0	0	1	1	1.206	
Winker dh.....	2	0	0	2	1	1.199	
O.Miller 2b.....	4	0	1	0	0	2.280	
Tapia rf.....	4	1	1	0	0	2.176	
Perkins rf.....	0	0	0	0	0	0.231	
Anderson 3b.....	4	0	0	0	0	3.228	
Caratini c.....	2	1	1	2	0	0.252	
Turan 2b.....	4	0	1	0	0	0.204	
Wiemer cf.....	3	1	1	1	1	1.204	
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>

CHICAGO..... 010 002 020 — 5 8 1  
MILWAUKEE. 000 040 11X — 6 6 2

**E:** Gomes (5), O.Miller (6), Anderson (5). **LOB:** Chicago 7, Milwaukee 6. **2B:** Morel (8), Bellinger (13), Turan (7). **HR:** Bellinger (8), off Peralta; Gomes (8), off Mejia; Yelich (11), off Stroman; Caratini (5), off Fulmer.

CUBS	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	ERA
Stroman.....	5	4	4	4	4	6.296	
Palencia.....	1	0	0	0	0	1.000	
Leiter Jr.....	1	0	1	0	2	2.319	
Fulmer.....	1	1	1	1	0	1.462	

## BREWERS

IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	ERA
Peralta.....	5½	4	3	3	10	4.70
Wilson.....	½	0	0	0	0	2.279
Peguero.....	1	0	0	0	0	2.273
Mejia.....	1	3	2	2	0	13.5
Paysans.....	1	1	0	0	1	1.96

**WP:** Mejia (1-0); **LP:** Fulmer (5-0); **S:** Paysans (3). **HBP:** Peralta (Hoerner). **WIP:** Stroman. **T:** 2:55. **A:** 35,366 (41,700).

## Cardinals 3, Marlins 0

Nolan Arenado homered, Jack Flaherty pitched scoreless ball for his second straight start, and St. Louis beat Miami to avoid a series sweep.

St. Louis dropped the first three games of the series. Two were one-run defeats, including a 10-9 walk-off loss Wednesday night.

CARDINALS	AB	R	H	B	BB	SO	AVG
Donovan dh.....	5	0	0	0	0	2.283	
Nootbaar lf.....	4	1	1	0	0	3.257	
Arenado 3b.....	3	1	1	1	0	0.280	
Contreras c.....	3	0	1	0	0	1.235	
Gorman 2b.....	3	1	2	1	1	2.237	
Walker rf.....	4	0	0	0	0	2.279	
Edman dh.....	4	0	0	0	0	2.282	
Burleson 1b.....	4	2	1	0	0	0.227	
DeJong ss.....	4	0	0	0	0	0.230	
Carlson cf-rf.....	2	0	0	2	1	2.42	
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>—</b>

## MARLINS

Soler dh.....	3	0	1	0	1	1.252
De La Cruz lf.....	3	0	1	0	1	0.277
Sánchez rf.....	4	0	2	0	0	0.263
Cooper 1b.....	4	0	0	0	0	2.255
Wendle ss.....	4	0	0	0	0	0.271
Segura 3b.....	4	0	1	0	0	1.202
Myers cf.....	4	0	1	0	0	2.455
Fortes c.....	4	0	0	0	0	1.214
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>7</b>

ST. LOUIS..... 001 000 110 — 3 7 0  
MIAMI..... 000 000 000 — 0 0 0

**LOB:** St. Louis 7, Miami 10. **2B:** Contreras (20), Gorman 2 (12), Nootbaar (11), Sánchez (14), Myers (1). **HR:** Arenado (17), off Pérez.

CARDINALS	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	ERA
Flaherty.....	6½	9	0	0	2	54.27	
Stratton.....	½	0	0	0	0	0.443	
Gallegos.....	1	0	0	0	0	14.37	
Hicks.....	1	0	0	0	0	14.04	

## MARLINS

IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	ERA
Pérez.....	6	3	1	2	7	2.36
Floro.....	1	2	1	1	0	24.28
Soriano.....	1	2	1	1	0	12.87
Lindgren.....	1	0	0	1	0	0.51



# Failure to extend loan means United’s O’Brien probably is on his way out

BY STEVEN GOFF

D.C. United midfielder Lewis O’Brien, who has played almost every minute while on a short-term loan from a Premier League club, is likely to return to England soon because the sides have been unable to reach an agreement on extending the deal, Coach Wayne Rooney said Thursday.

The current pact expires July 16. For weeks, United has been seeking to extend the loan with Nottingham Forest through the end of the MLS season this fall.

“It’s probably looking more likely Lewis will be going back to England,” Rooney said. “We haven’t managed to get to an agreement with Nottingham Forest.”

O’Brien, 24, is expected to make his Audi Field farewell Saturday against Inter Miami, then make

his final appearance July 15 at New England.

Rooney said United is close to signing a replacement, but one club official said “nothing is imminent.” The MLS transfer and trade window opened Wednesday and won’t close until Aug. 2. The team is in the market for multiple players.

United (8-9-5) hasn’t made the playoffs since 2019. With 12 matches left, it is in eighth place in the Eastern Conference, which will send nine teams to the postseason.

Aside from the loan negotiations, United also had the option of purchasing O’Brien’s contract. But because his market value is several million dollars, a loan extension was always the most realistic route.

“We knew what it was” when



JOHN MCDONNELL/THE WASHINGTON POST

**Lewis O’Brien, left, has played all but 15 minutes of his 15 games for United since he was acquired via a loan from Nottingham Forest.**

United agreed in the spring to acquire him on loan, Rooney said. “He’s been fantastic for us since he’s come in — [a player of] great character.”

United was fortunate to have acquired O’Brien in the first place. In January, he had been slated to join Blackburn Rovers, an English second-division side, on loan. Last-minute clerical issues prevented the move, and because he had not been registered by Forest to play the rest of the season, going abroad became the primary option.

Rooney and D.C. officials said O’Brien is drawing interest from clubs around England this summer, which affords Forest greater options in transferring or loaning him. He also could rejoin Forest, which will soon open training camp ahead of the 2023-24 sea-

son.

O’Brien has started 15 MLS matches and substituted just twice, totaling 15 minutes on the bench. He also missed one game because of an MLS suspension. Although he contributed just one goal and one assist, he brought value in his industriousness, vision and two-way play.

**Notes:** Defender-midfielder Victor Palsson rejoined the squad after missing three matches to attend to family matters. Before that excused leave, he missed one game while on Icelandic national team duty. . . .

Forward Ted Ku-DiPietro, who has not played since June 3, will need a few more weeks to recover from an ankle injury, Rooney said.

**Inter Miami at D.C. United**  
Tomorrow, 7:30 p.m., Apple TV Plus

CANDACE BUCKNER

## Reds’ De La Cruz is baseball’s newest phenom, and the sport had better be ready

BUCKNER FROM D1

constant attention of the NFL or NBA, leagues that have done a better job marketing their stars, it endures. The sport has survived worse things than boring ballplayers.

Such as Aaron Judge, the square-jawed Yankee who serves up moonshots and possesses the personality of an accountant. Back in May, the Toronto Blue Jays television crew speculated that Judge, the reigning American League MVP, might have been cheating at the plate. Oh my, Judge was hot about that insinuation. So angry in fact that he told reporters: “I’ve got some choice words about that.”

We’re still waiting to hear them.

Even Shohei Ohtani, the unicorn we may not fully appreciate, should be appointment viewing, but the casual fan still knows very little about him. He does things in baseball we may never seen again — dominate as a pitcher and a hitter, and apparently he’s a bit of a prankster, too — yet Ohtani wasn’t even in the top 10 of the most Googled athletes last year.

The language barrier may be the reason, but that doesn’t explain how De La Cruz can express his passion to a universal crowd. He exudes confidence in most everything except speaking a new language to reporters (he told me his English is just “a-ight”). Yet his demeanor during Wednesday’s postgame interview did not require translation: “Just to tell everybody that the knob is not the reason I am doing a good job. It’s because of all the work I’m putting out there,” De La Cruz said in defending himself against the suggestion of impropriety with his bat.

This season, the lanky, 6-foot-5 De La Cruz has recorded the fastest infield throw in Class AAA or the major leagues at 99.2 mph. Since his early June



ROB CARR/GETTY IMAGES

**Rookie Elly De La Cruz, 21, has both power and personality and is one of the major reasons the Reds have won 20 of their past 24 games.**

call-up, he has hit for the cycle, the youngest player to do so in 50 years, and became the first player 21 or younger to have a pair of four-hit games within his first 25 major league games since 2000-01.

He confidently calls himself the “fastest man in the world.” And if you watch him run through his third base coach’s stop signal — while a good two or three strides away from third base! — and still beat the throw to home, you might not think he’s being brash at all, just honest.

And this week when the Elly De La Cruz Show hit Washington, it hit hard. On Wednesday, before his first plate appearance, Nationals Manager Dave Martinez asked the home plate umpire to check the white knob attached to the rookie’s bat. The inspection and resulting conference between the managers and crew ticked away precious minutes when De La Cruz could have been performing, and a smattering of boos carried through the stadium. Though De La Cruz would strike out, he would get

his revenge in the fifth. When the ball finally landed 455 feet away, De La Cruz pointed to the end of his bat, mocking the Nats that maybe they should check it again.

That night Martinez, ever the old-school preservationist, derided the rookie’s “antics.” By Thursday, however, he gave De La Cruz props, consenting the game needs players such as him.

“Yeah, look, and I said this last night: I love watching him play. He’s an exciting player. He’s very talented,” Martinez said. “He plays with a lot of excitement.

You can tell he has fun. . . . I’ve seen the way he does some things that are really, really good. Yesterday he hit a groundball and he went from home to second faster than I’ve ever seen anybody.”

And when was the last time any of us have heard a 10-year veteran such as Reds catcher Curt Casali say out loud: “I’m very, very happy to be on his team.” Meaning, De La Cruz. A rookie. *His* team.

“He’s must-watch TV,” Casali said. “I’ve never seen somebody who can do the things that he

can do. I think he’s just scratching the surface of his true ability. Coming in, people might call him ‘raw.’ And he is. He’s 21 years old. He’s brand new to big league baseball, and he’s coming and he’s doing things that nobody else has ever done. Nobody can really believe [it] until you see him.”

Which is why people keep clicking to watch him. Merlos, the interpreter as well as the Reds’ social media manager on the road, told me the team’s tweet with the most engagement this season is the graphic welcoming De La Cruz to the majors. The reel featuring De La Cruz sliding into first base to beat a tag for an infield hit is the only video on the team’s Instagram to surpass 1 million views this season. As 21-year-old Liam Holland, the co-founder of the Bat Boys Baseball channel, attempts to grow the cool factor of baseball, he knows De La Cruz content gets more hits than most other posts.

“With Elly and a bunch of other players — people call it ‘showboating,’ people call it ‘unprofessional.’ But what we do, we’re trying to match that energy and show it off as well,” Holland said. “Yeah, there’s been that stigma, but the world in general is shifting away from that stigma. It’s becoming more accepting of everyone being who they are, and I think that’s reflective in players like Elly.”

De La Cruz has the present-tense game to liberate baseball from the confines of its past. The new-age skills and showmanship, but in a package that must feel palatable for even the purists. Some may brand his behavior “antics,” but a changing society — one the game needs to embrace — might view it, rightfully, as entertainment. And those casual fans are more likely to keep returning to this kind of show. De La Cruz has arrived, and so has change. Baseball better be ready.

# Nationals get a glimpse of what they could become in another loss to Cincinnati

NATIONALS FROM D1

out before Senzel charged a grounder nubbbed by Corey Dickerson. His throw to first was low and wide, but Spencer Steer, playing *his* third position of the afternoon, laid out to snag it. The next batter, Keibert Ruiz, flew out to center to seal the loss.

“It looked like it was going to go, and then he just made a really good play on that,” Harvey said of watching Senzel’s ninth-inning catch from the dugout. “Which was kind of a bummer.”

Way earlier in the day, with one out in the second, MacKenzie Gore stood on the mound and turned his left palm to the crying sky. He sure wasn’t worried about a little rain. So instead of scampering for cover, he put his hands on his hips, shook his head, then stared at the plate as if Tyler Stephenson never should have left the batter’s box, no matter that a shower was quickly becoming a full-on storm.

For a few waterlogged moments, the 24-year-old had the whole place to himself. He seemed to know that once he walked off the field, there was a good chance he wouldn’t retake it. And after a 103-minute weather delay, he was right, even though he tried to keep his left arm warm with a pair of simulated innings in the bullpen. There was no reason to push Gore in early July. That’s why Mason Thompson, Jordan Weems, Jose A. Ferrer, Kyle Finnegan, Harvey and Cory Abbott lined up behind him.

“After an hour and a half, we



PATRICK SEMANSKY/ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Cincinnati’s Nick Senzel circles the bases after clubbing a two-run homer in the 10th inning Thursday.**

talked to him, and he was good,” Manager Dave Martinez said of Gore. “I told him: ‘We’re not going to put you out there like that. Last year you had arm injuries. We won’t do that to you.’”

Thompson recorded eight outs and stranded Gore’s runner on third in the second. Then, after searching all week for a breakthrough hit, the offense nudged ahead when Thomas singled in two with two outs in the fifth.

Right before Thomas split the shortstop and third baseman, Abrams appeared to be picked off between second and third, but he escaped to extend the inning with a swim move slide that completed a double steal. But a half inning later, Weems, who has thrown 84 pitches since Monday, walked the leadoff batter and plunked Matt McLain with one out, setting up a matchup between De La Cruz and the rookie Ferrer.

De La Cruz finished the series with 10 hits, including three doubles and a 455-foot homer. In the finale, he singled off Gore — the second-to-last at-bat before the delay — then beat Ferrer by sneaking a double inside the third base line. One run scored. The Reds tried to push across another, but Stone Garrett, Abrams and Adams combined for a strong relay, ending with Adams tagging McLain’s outstretched hand at

home plate.

Ferrer, 23, followed with a one-two-three seventh. Alex Call followed that with a solo home run, his first extra-base hit since he returned from the Class AAA Rochester Red Wings. But Finnegan couldn’t hold the lead in the eighth, then Harvey couldn’t keep Senzel or the automatic runner from coming home in the 10th.

“I left the pitch over the plate, and he hit it,” Harvey said of the fastball Senzel pulled for the go-ahead homer. Sometimes it’s as simple as that.

Like the Nationals, the Reds didn’t plan to contend this season, yet they left Washington with a two-game lead atop the National League Central. Their Opening Day payroll, according to Cot’s Baseball Contracts, was just under \$83 million (ranking 26th, four spots below the Nationals). After Joey Votto, who is owed \$25 million in 2023, their next highest-paid player is Wil Myers at \$6 million. Myers was the Reds’ only splash in free agency, the exact sort of player who keeps a spot warm in a low-cost, years-long rebuild. Then they cut Myers in late June, when rebuilding gave way to baseball’s hottest team — winners of 20 of their past 24.

The headliner is the 21-year-old De La Cruz. But McLain, Steer and Andrew Abbott are all stand-out rookies, too. McLain, a first-round pick in 2018, was promoted in mid-May. Steer, acquired at the deadline last summer, has 14 homers. Abbott, recalled in

NATIONALS ON DECK		
<b>vs. Texas Rangers</b>		
Today	7:05	MASN
Tomorrow	4:05	MASN2
Sunday	12:05	Peacock
<b>at St. Louis Cardinals</b>		
July 14	8:15	MASN
July 15	7:15	MASN
July 16	2:15	MASN
<b>at Chicago Cubs</b>		
July 17	8:05	MASN2
July 18	8:05	MASN2
July 19	8:05	MASN
Radio: <i>WJFK (106.7 FM)</i>		

early June, has a 1.21 ERA in six starts, though he didn’t pitch against the Nationals.

In the Reds — and their promising young talent, in a club that had a new player at every position by the end of Thursday’s game, matching speed and power with a ton of versatility — Martinez saw what his team could be down the line. But in the meantime, he really wanted to steal a win.

“We have some players that I’m really excited about that are really, really young still, that are going to have an opportunity to play up here,” Martinez said, referring to the prospects who haven’t arrived yet. “ . . . So I look at that team, and I say, ‘Man, what’s to come for us is going to be pretty good.’ ”



GOLF ROUNDUP

# Ranked 842nd in the world, Blixt takes the first-round lead at John Deere

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Jonas Blixt heated up on the back nine at TPC Deere Run on Thursday, playing his last six holes in 6 under par for a 9-under 62 and a two-shot lead over Grayson Murray after the first round of the John Deere Classic in Silvis, Ill.

Murray was 8 under through 13 holes but stalled from there. He bogeyed his final hole and shot a 64. Cameron Young, the highest-ranked player in the field at No. 19, also closed with a bogey and was part of a big group three shots back.

The 39-year-old Blixt, a three-time winner on tour, has only conditional status and is making his first PGA Tour start since the Byron Nelson in May. He spent most of the past six weeks working at

home with his swing coach and missed the cut last week on the Korn Ferry Tour, but he felt as if something clicked on the range Tuesday.

“I kind of came to the point in my season where it’s so late that I don’t feel any pressure anymore really and just kind of go out and swing at it,” Blixt said. “Golf is weird. Like, tomorrow I can shoot 100 I feel like, but today was a great day.”

Blixt shot a 7-under 29 on the back nine — his first time breaking 30 for nine holes on tour — and the 62 matches his career-best round. He drove the green on the 360-yard, par-4 14th hole and made a 43-foot putt for an eagle. On the par-4 18th, he hit his approach from a fairway bunker within five feet for a closing birdie.

Blixt last won in 2017 at the Zurich Classic of New Orleans, paired with Cameron Smith in the team event. He had back surgery two years later and has struggled since. He entered the week ranked 842nd in the world.

“I played a lot of years on tour, and I’m very thankful for it, and I got to play with a lot of good players, a lot of good golf courses, a lot of good sponsors,” Blixt said. “Sometimes you just have to be grateful for what you have and what you experience as well and not always think about what could have been. So I kind of lean on that a little bit. Obviously I’m still hungry. I’m not saying that I’m quitting.”

Murray’s 64 was his best round on tour in three years.

Murray, a winner at the Barba-

sol Championship in 2017, suffered a knee injury in a scooter crash in Bermuda in October, forcing him to withdraw from the Bermuda Championship. He didn’t play again until January on the Korn Ferry Tour, and since then he has worked on spending his free time productively.

Joining Young at 65 were Greyson Sigg, Garrick Higgo, Adam Schenk, Nate Lashley and Richy Werenski.

•**DP WORLD TOUR:** Scotland’s Robert MacIntyre led the Made in Himmerland tournament by two shots after an opening 6-under 64 in Farso, Denmark. MacIntyre made five birdies in seven holes on the back nine.

Ross Fisher had to endure tougher conditions in the morning of wind and rain and posted a

66. He was alone in second.

**Koepka calls out teammate**

Brooks Koepka accused LIV Golf Series teammate Matthew Wolff of quitting on the course, telling Sports Illustrated he has “basically given up on him.”

Wolff, who won in his third start as a pro on the PGA Tour in 2019, joined LIV Golf last year and plays for Smash, the team captained by Koepka. He has finished out of the top 30 in 48-man fields in his past five events, including a withdrawal.

“I mean, when you quit on your round, you give up and stuff like that, that’s not competing,” Koepka told Sports Illustrated. “I’m not a big fan of that. You don’t work hard. It’s very tough. It’s very tough to have even like a team

dynamic when you’ve got one guy that won’t work, one guy is not going to give any effort. He’s going to quit on the course, break clubs, gets down, bad body language. It’s very tough.

“I’ve basically given up on him,” Koepka said. “A lot of talent, but I mean the talent’s wasted.”

Wolff won the Jack Nicklaus Award as the nation’s best player as a sophomore at Oklahoma State in 2019, turned pro and won in his third start on the PGA Tour at the 3M Open. He had the 54-hole lead at the 2020 U.S. Open at Winged Foot before closing with a 75 to finish as the runner-up to Bryson DeChambeau.

Wolff, 24, withdrew before the final round of the LIV event outside Washington last month with an undisclosed injury.

# Amateurs make moves at Pebble Beach as big names fade

U.S. OPEN FROM D1

and then the driver came and it was broken, and then all of a sudden I have no choice but to put this Ping driver in,” Donegan said. “Out here you need to drive the ball well, hit the fairway. The rough is really thick, and if you’re not hitting the fairways, you’re going to be struggling, and luckily for me it all worked out.”

After starting on the No. 10 tee and making bogeys on her first two holes, Donegan jump-started her round by holing out from 96 yards for an eagle at the 376-yard par-4 15th. She aimed right of the flagstick on the advice of her caddie and coach, Gary Madden, and the ball bounced several times on the putting surface before spinning back and dropping into the hole, bringing the gallery around the green to its feet.

She followed that with a birdie at the par-3 17th and carded four more birdies on her second nine, completing the round in a crowded group tied for second.

“Definitely at the top,” Donegan said when asked where her inaugural round at Pebble Beach ranked in her golf career. “No doubt about it. Let’s just say it wouldn’t be the first time I started bogey-bogey. For me to come back then and finish how I finished and play the rest of the rest of the round, I’m really proud of myself.”

So, too, was Avery, who had a spotlight thrust upon her at age 8 when she was featured in the 2013 Netflix documentary “The Short Game” about some of the top youth golfers in the world descending on famed Pinehurst to compete in the U.S. Kids World Championship.

Dubbed “Tigress” by her father, who envisions his daughter following in the footsteps of Tiger Woods, Avery started with birdies on Nos. 2 and 3 and added two more on Nos. 15 and 17 in her second U.S. Women’s Open. She missed the cut in 2021 at Olympic Club in San Francisco.

Avery secured a spot in this



Amateur Aine Donegan, shown on the ninth hole, had quite a journey just getting to the U.S. Women’s Open, including a damaged driver.

# Negro Leagues showcased in new film

NEGRO LEAGUES FROM D1

The rise, fall and enduring legacy of the Negro Leagues, none of which would have been possible without the entrepreneurial Foster, are the focus of a new documentary titled “The League” by acclaimed director Sam Pollard. The movie, which opens nationwide this weekend and is executive produced by Ahmir “Questlove” Thompson, shines a light on the individuals who helped grow the Negro Leagues into a thriving economic force that stabilized Black communities amid the Great Migration. It will be available to stream digitally July 14.

Using newly discovered archival footage, insight from historians and recorded interviews with Negro League players and executives, Pollard traces the history of Black baseball from 1884, when Moses Fleetwood Walker played catcher for the predominantly White Toledo Blue Stockings of the major league American Association, through Jackie Robinson reintegrating the sport in 1947. The movie is based on former Negro League umpire Bob Motley’s memoirs, which were co-written by his son, Byron, who contacted Pollard about directing the documentary several years ago and recorded many of the interviews featured.

In 1920, the same year the Negro National League was created, Kenesaw Mountain Landis, a federal judge in Chicago, was appointed MLB’s first commissioner. By then, organized base-

ball had been racially segregated for nearly three decades, in part because of the efforts of legendary Chicago White Stockings player-manager Cap Anson. In 1887, Anson refused to play an exhibition game against the Newark Little Giants unless the International League team’s Black players, including Walker and pitcher George Stovey, sat out. International League directors held a secret meeting in the wake of Anson’s protest and decided to prohibit the signing of Black players going forward. Other leagues followed suit.

The Negro National League, which featured an up-tempo style of play that would come to define the Negro Leagues, was a success. Foster’s death and the Great Depression brought about the original league’s demise in 1931, but a second Negro National League was founded in 1933 by Pittsburgh businessman Gus Greenlee. Pollard delves into the heated crosstown rivalry that developed between Greenlee’s Pittsburgh Crawfords and Cumberland Posey, owner and manager of the Homestead Grays. With the founding of the Negro American League in 1937 and stars such as Josh Gibson, Cool Papa Bell, Oscar Charleston and Buck O’Neil dazzling large crowds in multiple leagues across the country, the late 1930s and 1940s marked the heyday of Black baseball.

Meanwhile, Landis did little to change the status quo at the major league level, which remained segregated despite no

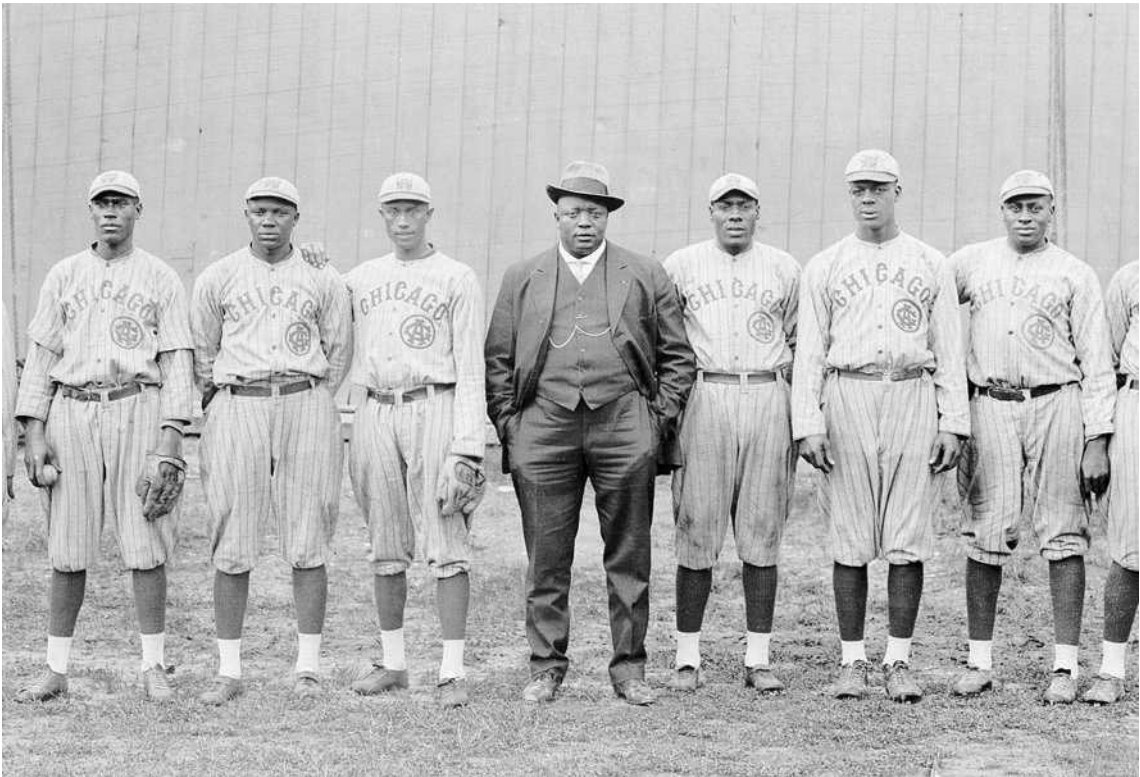
official policy against signing Black players.

“This was a period of American history where Jim Crow and the rule of segregation was the law of the land, and it was very difficult for people to see Black people being integrated in anything that involved the so-called American experience,” Pollard said.

In one of the more revealing parts of “The League,” Pollard details the role that Wendell Smith of the Pittsburgh Courier and other Black sportswriters had in integrating baseball. In December 1943, Paul Robeson, the Black singer, actor and civil rights activist, made the case for integration in a roughly 10-minute presentation to Landis and MLB’s 16 owners during a meeting attended by several prominent Black newspapermen.

Landis died in office in November 1944. The following year, Brooklyn Dodgers president Branch Rickey signed Robinson of the Negro League Kansas City Monarchs to a minor league contract. One aspect that is typically left out of the oft-told story of Rickey’s and Robinson’s roles in integrating baseball but that receives ample attention in “The League” is Rickey’s low opinion of the Negro Leagues and the detrimental effects Robinson’s signing had on the future of Black baseball.

“Integration was good morally and socially . . . but that progress came at a cost,” Bob Kendrick, president of the Negro Leagues Baseball Museum in Kansas City,



Andrew “Rube” Foster, center, was one of seven owners who established the Negro National League.

says in the movie.

Rickey mocked the idea of compensating teams from which he poached stars such as Robinson, Don Newcombe and Roy Campanella, drawing criticism from Effa Manley, longtime owner of the second Negro National League’s Newark Eagles. Without some of its biggest stars, the Negro National League folded in 1948.

As Manley, who died in 1981 and is the only woman inducted in the Baseball Hall of Fame, put it: “Fans deserted us to go see the boys on the White team.”

“The League” is the latest —

and most thorough — recognition of the Negro Leagues in recent years. In December 2020, MLB announced it would add the names and statistics of more than 3,000 Negro Leaguers from seven distinct leagues in the 1920s, 1930s and 1940s to its official records. The latest edition of “MLB The Show,” baseball’s most popular video game simulation, includes eight Negro League legends as part of a new game mode, with narrative videos about their journeys. And just last month, MLB announced the St. Louis Cardinals and San Francisco Giants will play a regu-

lar season game in 2024 at Rickwood Field in Birmingham, Ala., which was home to the Negro Leagues’ Birmingham Black Barons.

“That’s fantastic,” said Pollard, who grew up a Cardinals fan and is plenty familiar with historic Rickwood Field. It’s where he shot beautiful re-creations with local college players in period-specific uniforms and equipment to break up the monotony of black and white archival footage and on-camera interviews in the movie. “The thing they complained most about was those old gloves.”



