The Washington Post

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Democracy Dies in Darkness

SUNDAY, AUGUST 4, 2024 · $5

Transcript shows how search at rally failed

Separate command posts hindered Secret Service before Trump shooting

BY SHAWN BOBURG, SAMUEL OAKFORD AND DEVLIN BARRETT

An urgent message crackled over the radio inside the white trailer, a mobile communications hub for local police helping to secure former president Donald Trump's July 13 rally in Butler, Pa.

"Just an FYI, we had a younger white male, long hair, lurking around the AGR building," a local countersniper said at 5:42 p.m., according to a time-stamped transcript of encrypted radio communications obtained by The Washington Post. "He was viewed with a range finder sighting the stage. … We lost sight of him."

No one from the Secret Service, the agency primarily responsible for protecting Trump, was inside that white trailer to hear the message, according to two law enforcement officials. Instead, the federal agency had its own mobile command post with Pennsylvania State Police almost 300 yards away — and had no direct, open communication line to the local police hub. The local commander inside the trailer had to pick up his cellphone and dial a state trooper to relay the message, the two officials said.

The lack of a direct communication link would later hamper the ability of the Secret Service to quickly grasp the threat posed by would-be assassin Thomas Matthew Crooks as local police searched for him over the next 29

SEE RALLY ON A16

NANNA HEITMANN/MAGNUM PHOTOS FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

Putin's plea: Have babies for Russia

He tells women to embrace patriotism over feminism and to forgo careers to raise children

BY ROBYN DIXON, FRANCESCA EBEL AND NATALIA ABBAKUMOVA
IN MOSCOW

Vladimir Putin, who has long cultivated an aura of machismo as Russia's strongman leader, is enlisting women to grow Russia's population through childbirth and to rebuild his nation as a great power steeped in traditional family values — a campaign that is eroding equal rights and protections, human rights advocates and Russian feminists say.

"Many of our grandmothers and great-grandmothers had seven or eight children, and maybe even more," Putin declared to an audience of ultraconservative religious and political figures who had convened in the State Kremlin Palace in November. "We should preserve and revive these wonderful traditions."

Putin, who spoke by video link from his office in Sochi in southern Russia, appeared on a massive screen flanked by two images of the "Icon of the Savior, Made-Without-Hands," suggesting godlike status as he urged Russian women to give birth to very large families. Russian officials, echoing their leader, are telling women to start young — at 18.

As Putin seeks to restore Russia's status as a superpower, his revanchist policies are rolling back women's rights, Russian feminists say, with idealized roles fitted to the imperial era that predated communism. Women are being told to forgo education and careers to prioritize child-rearing, even as the war in Ukraine drains men from

SEE RUSSIA ON A12

Cadets take part in Russia Day celebrations in the city of Kirov on June 12. Russian feminists say President Vladimir Putin's efforts to shape a conservative society are diminishing women's rights.

ELECTION 2024

Turnout effort is a GOP gamble

CAMPAIGN LEANS ON OUTSIDE GROUPS

FEC recently opened the door for collaboration

BY ISAAC ARNSDORF AND JOSH DAWSEY

Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump is relying on a cluster of loosely coordinated outside groups to run turnout operations traditionally performed by the campaign itself, an approach that takes advantage of new leniencies in campaign finance rules but comes with the risk of untested outfits duplicating efforts or working at cross purposes.

With fewer than 100 days before the election, local GOP officials in battleground states have raised alarms about the scant presence of Trump campaign field staff. For the large armies of paid and volunteer door-knockers and canvassers who typically drive turnout in presidential elections, the campaign is largely relying on outside groups such as America First Works, America PAC and Turning Point Action.

The Trump campaign's shrunken in-house operation

SEE GOP ON A4

Pa. voters: With Vance as VP pick, many reassess Trump's views. **A8**

Debate shake-up: Trump rejects ABC event, pushes Fox as host. **A9**

In Gaza, mixed reactions to the death of Hamas chief

As residents mourn, some criticize him for not staying in the enclave

BY MIRIAM BERGER AND HAJAR HARB

JERUSALEM — For many Palestinians in the Gaza Strip, Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh was one of them.

He grew up in a refugee camp and attended schools run by the United Nations. Even as he climbed the ranks of Hamas, briefly serving as Palestinian prime minister, Haniyeh continued to live in the camp, playing soccer in the streets and nurturing his image as a modest leader.

But by the time he was killed early Wednesday in Tehran — in an operation Hamas blames on Israel — Haniyeh had traded his humble life in Gaza for a more comfortable perch abroad. As Hamas chief, he split most of his time between Qatar and Turkey, courting diplomats and dignitaries. More than 1,000 miles away in Gaza, however, the movement he led had staged a brutal attack in Israel, whose military responded so ferociously that it

SEE GAZA ON A14

Iran statement: A "short-range projectile" killed Haniyeh. **A15**

PARIS OLYMPICS

Richardson's comeback ends at almost

Sprinter was looking for a fairy-tale finish but came up 0.15 seconds short

Jerry Brewer
COLUMN

SAINT-DENIS, FRANCE — In the rain, a poetic ending washed away. This was not the night Sha'Carri Richardson would craft a beautiful last stanza to her comeback. This was the night her Olympic debut, deferred three years because of a mistake, forced her to confront a different kind of disappointment.

She was not meant to be crowned the world's fastest woman. At 5 a.m. Saturday, a 23-year-old sprinter from Saint Lucia awoke, early and eager, and reached for a notebook. She wrote the words "Julien Alfred, Olympic champion." Then she posted a photo and shared a similar sentiment on Snapchat. Those words looked so good to

SEE BREWER ON A18

JABIN BOTSFORD/THE WASHINGTON POST

Three years after a positive test for THC sidelined her from the Tokyo Games, Sha'Carri Richardson had a slow start in the 100-meter race Saturday and finished second to Saint Lucia's Julien Alfred.

Still golden: Katie Ledecky rules the 800-meter freestyle again. **D1**

What a leap: Maryland's LaFond makes history for Dominica. **D1**

Two Black women, two American realities

As Vice President Harris ascended, Sonya Massey was killed by police

BY HOLLY BAILEY

SPRINGFIELD, ILL. — Vice President Harris dominated the news late last month as she became the presumptive Democratic nominee, a first for a woman of color. But that potentially historic milestone barely registered for Jasmine Hudson, who was sitting in grief over another Black woman in the news: her second cousin, Sonya Massey.

On July 22, the same day Harris locked up endorsements for the nomination, Illinois State Police released body-camera video showing the fatal July 6 shooting of Massey, a 36-year-old mother of two, by a sheriff's deputy who responded to Massey's 911 call about a potential prowler at her south Springfield home.

Hudson, who is also Black, had struggled to eat or sleep as her family sought answers about why and how Massey was killed. The footage only made the pain worse. The woman she saw in the video was the same person she'd

SEE HARRIS ON A6

Multiracial Americans: Trump's attacks on Harris feel personal. **A9**

METRO
In a historic Georgetown home, Jane Austen fans enjoy a Regency-era ball.

BUSINESS
For air-conditioning firms, a spike in heat has meant soaring demand.

BOOK WORLD
Dinaw Mengestu's latest is an evocative, mysterious ride.

A-SECTION
Place your bets! Which fast feathered friend wins the bird Olympics?

TRAVEL
Locals give tips on how to navigate gratuities across Europe.

SPORTS
Howard's coach seeks investors in the school's men's basketball team.

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Fact-checking the first ads in the battle to define Kamala Harris

The Fact Checker

GLENN KESSLER

The race to define Vice President Harris is on. The presumptive Democratic nominee for president dropped a new biographical ad at about the same moment Donald Trump's campaign released an attack ad framing her as "dangerously liberal." Here's an assessment of the claims made in each ad.

DEMETRIUS FREEMAN/THE WASHINGTON POST

Vice President Harris, seen campaigning Tuesday in Atlanta, is the focus of disparate political ads seeking to define her. Attack ads tie her to criticism over illegal border crossings and fentanyl deaths. Harris's campaign ads portray her as a protector of consumers.

Trump ad: 'I don't understand'

This 30-second ad is heavily focused on Harris's role in the administration to address the "root causes" of migration from three Central American countries, using a label bestowed by Republicans ("border czar"), which The Washington Post reported in 2021 that she shunned. "Republicans try to crown Harris the 'border czar.' She rejects the title," the headline said. But numerous TV commentators adopted the phrase and applied it to Harris, as this video compilation shows, giving the Trump campaign an opportunity to make the label stick.

"This is America's border czar — and she's failed us."

This voice-over is accompanied by video of Harris dancing in a colorful shirt. It attributes the label of border czar to a 2022 article in the conservative National Review, which called her "border czar" in the headline.

But Harris was not in charge of immigration issues, and she certainly wasn't a czar.

In 2021, President Biden assigned Harris to take charge of the "root causes" strategy — essentially a diplomatic effort with El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras to stem migration from those countries. The efforts appeared to have some impact — border arrests from those countries dropped from 700,000 in the 2021 fiscal year to fewer than 500,000 in 2023, according to Customs and Border Protection (CBP) data. The downward trend has continued in 2024. For instance, nearly 77,000 migrants from those countries crossed the border in June 2021 — and the figure dropped to 24,000 in June of this year.

But the problem shifted. Migrants surged from countries such as Venezuela, Nicaragua, Cuba and Haiti — countries that were not part of the "root causes" strategy. In June, more than 106,000 people from countries other than the three Central American countries were arrested at the border — though that is down from a peak of 239,000 in December. On June 4, Biden issued an emergency order to curb asylum access, and White House officials say illegal crossings have dropped 50 percent since then.

"Under Harris, over 10 million illegally here."

The text of the ad says "over ten million illegal border crossings" — which is technically accurate — but the voice-over is false.

CBP recorded about 10 million "encounters" from February 2021, after Biden took office, through June. But that does not mean all those people entered the country illegally. Some people were "encountered" numerous times as they tried to enter the country — and others (more than 4 million of the total) were expelled, mostly because of covid-related rules that have since ended.

CBP has released more than 3.2 million migrants into the United States at the southern border under the Biden administration through April, the Department of Homeland Security said. These numbers, however, do not include "gotaways" — which occur when cameras or sensors detect migrants crossing the border but no one is found or no agents are available to respond. That figure could add another 2 million, bringing the total number of migrants arriving during Biden's presidency to around 5 million — about half the figure the voice-over claims remained in the United States.

"A quarter of a million Americans dead from fentanyl."

The text of the ad says this happened on "Harris's watch."

Under Biden, according to CBP statistics, overall drug seizures have dropped, especially for marijuana, but until this year increased substantially for fentanyl — the drug most responsible for overdose deaths. Both the decrease in marijuana seizures and the increase in fentanyl seizures reflect trends that started while Trump was president.

Moreover, fentanyl deaths increased nearly 50 percent under Trump, rising to 95,000 from 64,000 in a 12-month period, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Fentanyl deaths continued to increase under Biden but have dropped in the past 12 months, so the increase under Biden is 7 percent, for a total of about 102,000 deaths.

Most drugs come into the United States across the southern border with Mexico. But even a wall does not limit this illegal trade, as much of it travels through legal borders or in tunnels unaffected by visible physical barriers. Even if a wall could curb drug trafficking, it would have a minimal impact on the death toll from drug abuse. As president, Trump often touted how much seizures of drugs at the southern border had increased on his watch. This is an imperfect metric. It could mean that law enforcement is doing a better job. But more seizures also might indicate that the drug flow has increased, and that law enforcement is missing even more.

The amount of fentanyl seized at the border increased under both Biden and Trump, though so far the amount jumped by a larger percentage under Trump, CBP statistics show. In Trump's four fiscal years, the number of pounds increased 586 percent, compared with 462 percent in the first three fiscal years under Biden.

"Brutal migrant crimes, and ISIS now here."

Violent crime rates, especially for homicide in large cities, have fallen sharply during Biden's presidency, after a surge during the pandemic. The violent crime rate is believed to be near its lowest level in 50 years. So the Trump campaign is forced to cite anecdotal stories of migrants killing people.

The reference to the Islamic State is sourced to a CNN report on the arrest of eight Tajik nationals "believed to have connections to ISIS." Islamic State-Khorasan, the Afghanistan-based affiliate of the Islamic terrorist group, is led primarily by Tajiks. The individuals were allowed into the country, but they were tracked down and arrested after intelligence officials connected them to the Islamic State. They are now in federal custody and will be deported.

"Do you have any plans to visit the border?"

The ad then selectively clips from an interview Harris had in June 2021 with NBC's Lester Holt during a visit to Guatemala. He twice asks her if she plans to visit the border and she answers that she will go to the border, but expresses frustration at his question.

- Harris: "I'm here in Guatemala today. At some point, we are going to the border; we've been to the border. …"
- Holt interjects: "You haven't been to the border."
- She answers: "And I haven't been to Europe. I don't understand the point that you are making. I'm not discounting the importance of the border. … I care about what's happened at the border. I'm in Guatemala because my focus is dealing with the root causes of migration."

The ad clips out all her comments about planning to visit the border, her concerns about the border and her focus that day on Guatemala. It just shows viewers this highly edited exchange:

- Holt: "Do you have any plans to visit the border? … You haven't been to the border."
- Harris: "And I haven't been to Europe. I don't understand the point that you are making."

The implication is that she's dismissive of the idea. The NBC interview took place on June 8, 2021. Harris visited the border on June 25, 2021.

"Kamala Harris. Failed. Weak. Dangerously liberal."

The ad ends with this tagline.

Harris ad: 'Fearless'

This is a positive biographical 60-second ad that seeks to portray Harris as tough and decisive — the opposite message of the Trump ad. It begins with the voice-over saying: "The one thing Kamala Harris has always been: fearless."

"As a prosecutor, she put murderers and abusers behind bars."

This is pretty self-evident — this is what prosecutors do. Harris was district attorney of San Francisco from 2004 to 2011, and the line is intended to show she cares about crime and is not "dangerously liberal."

"As California's attorney general, she went after the big banks and won $20 billion for homeowners."

As recently recounted by Fortune, during the subprime mortgage crisis of 2008, Harris walked away from a nationwide settlement that would have netted California no more than $4 billion in compensation for homeowners — what she called "crumbs on the table" — and cut a deal with three major banks that won state residents $20 billion. The agreement was intended to help people stay in their homes through lower mortgage payments. In a surprise, however, more than half chose the settlement's option to sell their homes for less than what they owned the bank, according to a 2013 report by the program's monitor, then-professor and now-Rep. Katie Porter (D).

Harris received some criticism for not seeking to charge bankers with crimes — which she acknowledged. "I too, like most Americans, am frustrated. Clearly crimes occurred and people should go to jail," Harris told the Los Angeles Times in 2016. "But we went where the evidence took us."

"And as vice president, she took on the big drug companies to cap the cost of insulin for seniors."

Harris, in her role as president of the Senate, cast the tiebreaking vote for the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022, an omnibus bill that included a provision to cap the cost of insulin offered through Medicare at $35 a month. It also required the federal government to negotiate to lower the prices of some drugs — a policy shift that infuriated pharmaceutical companies.

Drew Hammill, who was deputy chief of staff to then-House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.), told The Fact Checker that Harris "was a key player in securing the necessary votes to pass the IRA. The vice president helped will the legislation into existence and was an important advocate in securing the insulin provisions." When Harris first ran for president in 2020, she pledged she would "stop pharmaceutical companies from price-gouging patients by setting a fair price for what they can charge for prescription drugs."

"This campaign is about who we fight for.We believe in a future where every person has the opportunity not just to get by, but to get ahead. Where every senior can retire with dignity. But Donald Trump wants to take our country backward. To give tax breaks to billionaires and big corporations and end the Affordable Care Act."

The ad then shifts to excerpts from Harris's first campaign rally, in a Milwaukee suburb, where she tried to frame the election as a choice between the future and the past.

The key factual claims are that Trump wants to "give tax breaks to billionaires and big corporations and end the Affordable Care Act."

Trump has not detailed specific tax plans, except for eliminating taxes on tips, but privately he has expressed interest in cutting corporate tax rates further if he is reelected, according to a Washington Post report. (His 2017 tax bill significantly cut corporate tax rates.) Congressional Republicans have also expressed interest in corporate tax cuts to increase U.S. competitiveness, according to another Post report. Trump also has dangled tax breaks to wealthy donors in exchange for campaign contributions, the report said.

As for the Affordable Care Act, also known as Obamacare, Trump was frustrated in his first term that he could not terminate the law. In 2023, he suggested he would again make an effort, posting on social media: "I want to REPLACE IT with MUCH BETTER HEALTHCARE. Obamacare Sucks!!!" But in 2024, Trump has mostly remained silent on his plans for the law — which remains popular and a rallying point for Democrats.

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Urgent care or ER? Facilities offer both under the same roof.

‘One-stop shop’ adds flexibility, but advocates worry about pricing

BY PHIL GALEWITZ

JACKSONVILLE, FLA. — Facing an ultracompetitive market in one of the nation’s fastest-growing cities, UF Health is trying a new way to attract patients: a combination emergency room and urgent care center.

In the past year and a half, UF Health and a company backed by private equity, Intuitive Health, have opened three centers that offer both types of care 24/7 so patients don’t have to decide which facility they need.

Instead, doctors there decide whether it’s urgent or emergency care — the health system bills accordingly — and inform the patient of their decision at the time of the service.

“Most of the time, you do not realize where you should go — to an urgent care or an ER — and that triage decision you make can have dramatic economic repercussions,” said Steven Wylie, associate vice president for planning and business development at UF Health Jacksonville. About 70 percent of patients at its facilities are billed at urgent care rates, Wylie said.

Emergency care is almost always more expensive than urgent care. For patients who might otherwise show up at the ER with an urgent care-level problem — a small cut that requires stitches or an infection treatable with antibiotics — the savings could be hundreds or thousands of dollars.

While no research has been conducted on this new hybrid model, consumer advocates worry hospitals are more likely to route patients to costlier ER-level care whenever possible.

For instance, some services that trigger higher-priced, ER-level care at UF Health’s facilities — such as bloodwork and ultrasounds — can be obtained at some urgent care centers.

“That sounds crazy, that a blood test can trigger an ER fee, which can cost thousands of dollars,” said Cynthia Fisher, founder and chair of PatientRightsAdvocate.org, a patient advocacy organization.

For UF Health, the hybrid centers can increase profits because they help attract more patients. Those patient visits can lead to more revenue through diagnostic testing and referrals for specialists or inpatient care.

Offering less expensive urgent care around-the-clock, the hybrid facilities stand out in an industry known for its aggressive billing practices.

On a recent visit to one of UF Health’s facilities about 15 miles southeast of downtown, several patients said in interviews they sought a short wait for care. None had sat in the waiting room more than five minutes.

“Sometimes urgent care sends you to the ER, so here you can get everything,” said Andrea Cruz, 24, who was pregnant and came in for shortness of breath. Cruz said she was being treated as an ER patient because she needed blood tests and monitoring.

“It’s good to have a place like this that can treat you no matter what,” said Penny Wilding, 91, who said she has no regular physician and was being evaluated for a likely urinary tract infection.

UF Health is one of about a dozen health systems in 10 states partnering with Intuitive Health to set up and run hybrid ER-urgent care facilities. More are in the works; VHC Health, a large hospital in Arlington, Va., plans to start building one this year.

Intuitive Health was established in 2008 by three emergency physicians. For several years, the company ran independent combination ER-urgent care centers in Texas.

Then, Altamont Capital Partners, a multibillion-dollar private equity firm based in Palo Alto, Calif., bought a majority stake in Intuitive in 2014.

Soon after, the company began partnering with hospitals to open facilities in states including Arizona, Delaware, Indiana and Kentucky. Under their agreements, the hospitals handle medical staff and billing while Intuitive manages administrative functions — including initial efforts to collect payment, checking insurance and taking co-pays — and nonclinical staff, said Thom Herrmann, CEO of Intuitive Health.

Herrmann said hospitals have become more interested in the concept as Medicare and other insurers pay for value instead of just a fee for each service. That means hospitals have an incentive to find ways to treat patients for less.

And Intuitive has a strong incentive to partner with hospitals, said Christine Monahan, an assistant research professor at the Center on Health Insurance Reforms at Georgetown University: Facilities licensed as freestanding emergency rooms — as Intuitive’s are — must be affiliated with hospitals to be covered by Medicare.

At the combo facilities, emergency room specialists determine whether to bill for higher-priced ER or lower-priced urgent care after patients undergo a medical screening. They compare the care needed against a list of criteria that trigger emergency-level care and bills, such as the patient requiring IV fluids or cardiac monitoring.

Inside its combo facilities, UF posts a sign listing some of the urgent care services it offers, including treatment for ear infections, sprains and minor wounds. When its doctors determine ER-level care is necessary, UF requires patients to sign a form acknowledging they will be billed for an ER visit.

Patients who opt out of ER care at that time are charged a triage fee. UF would not disclose the amount of the fee, saying it varies.

UF officials say patients pay only for the level of care they need. Its centers accept most insurance plans, including Medicare, which covers people older than 65 and those with disabilities, and Medicaid, the program for low-income people.

But there are important caveats, said Fisher, the patient advocate.

Patients who pay cash for urgent care at UF’s hybrid centers are charged an “all-inclusive” $250 fee, whether they need an X-ray or a rapid strep test, to name two such services, or both.

But if they use insurance, patients may have higher cost-sharing if their health plan is charged more than it would pay for standalone urgent care, she said.

Also, federal surprise billing protections that shield patients in an ER don’t extend to urgent care centers, Fisher said.

Herrmann said Intuitive’s facilities charge commercial insurers for urgent care the same as if they provided only urgent care. But Medicare may pay more.

While urgent care has long been intended for minor injuries and illnesses and ERs are supposed to be for life- or health-threatening conditions, the two models have melded in recent years. Urgent care clinics have increased the scope of injuries and conditions they can treat, while hospitals have taken to advertising ER wait times on highway billboards to attract patients.

Intuitive is credited with pioneering hybrid ER-urgent care, though its facilities are not the only ones with both “emergency” and “urgent care” on their signs. Such branding can sometimes confuse patients.

While Intuitive’s hybrid facilities offer some price transparency, providers have the upper hand on cost, said Vivian Ho, a health economist at Rice University in Texas. “Patients are at the mercy of what the hospital tells them,” she said.

But Daniel Marthey, an assistant professor of health policy and management at Texas A&M University, said the facilities can help patients find a lower-cost option for care by avoiding steep ER bills when they need only urgent-level care.

“This is a potentially good thing for patients,” he said.

Marthey said hospitals may be investing in hybrid facilities to make up for lost revenue after federal protections against surprise medical billing took effect in 2022 and restricted what hospitals could charge patients treated by out-of-network providers, particularly in emergencies.

“Basically, they are just competing for market share,” Marthey said.

UF Health has placed its new facilities in suburban areas near free-standing ERs owned by competitors HCA Healthcare and Ascension rather than near its downtown hospital in Jacksonville. It is also building a fourth facility, near the Villages, a large retirement community more than 100 miles south.

“This has been more of an offensive move to expand our market reach and go into suburban markets,” Wylie said.

Though the three centers are not state-approved to care for trauma patients, doctors there said they can handle almost any emergency, including heart attacks and strokes. Patients needing hospitalization are taken by ambulance to the UF hospital about 20 minutes away. If they need to follow up with a specialist, they’re referred to a UF physician.

“If you fall and sprain your leg and need an X-ray and crutches, you can come here and get charged urgent care,” said Justin Nippert, medical director of two of UF’s combo centers. “But if you break your ankle and need it put back in place, it can get treated here, too. It’s a one-stop shop.”

KFF Health News is a national newsroom that produces in-depth journalism about health issues and is one of the core operating programs at KFF — the independent source for health policy research, polling and journalism.

PHOTOS BY PHIL GALEWITZ/KFF HEALTH NEWS

Echo Klitz, a nurse manager at a UF Health emergency and urgent care center in Jacksonville, Fla., checks on Andrea Cruz, who came in for shortness of breath and was being treated as an ER patient. Hybrid centers can increase profits because they attract more patients.

UF Health has opened three centers that offer both emergency and urgent care around-the-clock, including in Jacksonville.

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Senate Republicans forgot Trump's recklessness. It's come back to haunt them.

@PKCapitol
PAUL KANE

For weeks, Senate Republicans delighted in the misery of their Democratic counterparts. The political story of the summer — whether President Biden would back down from his run at a second term — left GOP senators smiling and away from the media's glaring spotlight on their foibles.

But the tables quickly turned. Their party's presidential nominee recently returned to his natural form and lashed out against Vice President Harris in divisive terms that had little basis in truth. Republicans went right back into the political PTSD of the Donald Trump era, mouthing the same platitudes that they grasped onto during his presidency.

"He needs to focus on the policies of the Biden-Harris administration," Sen. Shelley Moore Capito (R-W.Va.) told reporters Thursday morning.

Was she comfortable with Trump's rhetoric? "He needs to focus on the Biden-Harris policies. That's the successful pathway to November," Capito said.

If that's the path to success, why does Trump instead dive right into attacks on race instead of policy?

Capito let out a roaring laugh that lasted six whole seconds, incapable of answering the question — or unwilling to share her honest answer.

"I'm a really good mother and grandmother. I can't answer that one," she said.

Senate Republicans have always had the strangest relationship with Trump. The traditional Reagan-Bush ethos remains strong in their caucus even as the populist, nativist elements have come to dominate the House Republicans.

Republicans remember how Trump's grievance-filled stumping for their two candidates who lost in the early 2021 Georgia runoff elections handed control of the Senate to Democrats. Many blamed Trump for inciting the Capitol riot — although just seven voted to convict him in the February 2021 impeachment trial.

After growing tired of constantly responding to his crazy tweets or wild statements during his time in the Oval Office, Senate Republicans were reluctant to endorse Trump's campaign last year.

Yet, as Trump marched through the GOP primaries without any serious competition, and as voters soured on Biden amid questions about his capacity to serve, Senate Republicans embraced what they considered to be a certain victor, especially since he led them to believe that he was a different candidate.

They particularly embraced Trump's call for "unity" after the July 13 attempt on his life in Butler, Pa., which some pundits declared to be the end of any Democratic chances of success.

"I hope that one good thing that comes out of this tragedy is a renewed sense of what unites us, a renewed respect for our fellow Americans," Sen. John Thune (R-S.D.), who previously clashed with Trump, wrote in a July 19 op-ed distributed in his state.

The accommodations came before then. When Trump met at the Senate GOP political headquarters in June, he twice shook hands with Minority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.), who went 3½ years without speaking to Trump after the 2020 elections.

"Tremendous unity," Trump said after that meeting.

Later that day the ex-president even publicly backed one of his harshest Republican critics, former Maryland governor Larry Hogan, in his Senate race.

After Harris locked up the support to replace Biden on the top of the ticket, House and Senate GOP leaders even cautioned their rank-and-file to drop any mentions of Harris as a "DEI" candidate. Trump wanted to focus on policy issues such as inflation and border security.

By 3 p.m. Wednesday, all those hopes for a unity-and-policy-centric campaign came undone.

Trump had just used his appearance at the National Association of Black Journalists conference to falsely question whether Harris hid her Black identity and accuse her of being only Indian. He mocked a prominent journalist as "that woman" and again praised the insurrectionists serving prison time for attacking the Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021. He continued to tout those claims in a rally that same evening.

A couple of reporters followed Thune down a hallway before one politely told him to stop, that he was going to get a ton of questions about these comments. He read Thune the verbatim of Trump's most incendiary remarks.

"Um, the campaign is — needs to be — mostly about the issues. There's plenty to talk about, and I just think that's where the focus needs to be," Thune said, never addressing the substance of Trump's assertions.

In the flip of a switch, Republicans were back on defense, reassuming the same roles they had been playing in years past.

A very small bloc tried to defend or explain the comments. "I mean, he's going to say what he's going to say," Sen. Tommy Tuberville (R-Ala.) said Wednesday evening, acknowledging he had not watched the comments.

"He knows it's all about policy," Tuberville said, suggesting that it must have been a leading question that prompted the remarks. "It is what it is."

Some Republicans took the duck-and-dive approach, making a very brief critique of an obviously outlandish statement.

"I don't think it was helpful," Sen. Roger Wicker (R-Miss.) said, swiftly jumping on an elevator to whisk him away from the Capitol press corps.

Only a few Senate Republicans forcefully criticized Trump, along with the incendiary statements that have resurfaced from his running mate, Sen. JD Vance (R-Ohio).

"Think about it," Sen. Lisa Murkowski (R-Alaska) told reporters Wednesday. "What have we been talking about all week long? Childless cat women, DEI candidates. Now, is she Black? Is she Indian?"

Murkowski is one of only four Senate Republicans to say publicly that they will not vote for Trump, so she has more political freedom to offer her unvarnished thoughts. She recalled how Trump had previously — falsely — questioned whether Barack Obama was a citizen. She questioned if his campaign is capable of carrying on in a normal fashion.

"Maybe they don't know how to handle the campaign. And so you default to issues that just should simply not be an issue," she said.

Most Senate Republicans jumped onto the same rhetorical life raft: Avoid addressing the actual Trump comments and instead wish for a return to the seemingly disciplined, policy-focused candidate of early summer.

"I'd say the policies are the key issues that we need to be talking about," Sen. James Lankford (R-Okla.) told reporters Thursday morning.

Lankford's most recent policy foray would be a keen illustration of Trump's aversion to substance. Lankford spent months negotiating a border-immigration compromise with Senate Democrats, and just as it was coming together, Trump demanded Republicans torpedo the Lankford bill because he wanted to keep the issue alive to use against Democrats in the November election.

Will Trump's rhetoric hurt Republicans in November? "I think we'll know more once the election happens," Lankford said.

Sen. Steve Daines (R-Mont.), chair of the National Republican Senatorial Committee, has about as strong a relationship with Trump and his family as any GOP senator. He's worked closely with the ex-president in recruiting candidates and securing endorsements at the right time to get the best candidates through their primaries and into the general election for the Senate.

He had not heard Trump's comments by Wednesday evening, when a pack of reporters trailed him, so he stopped and listened to a summary.

"I don't think it's that difficult to litigate this race. This is the most liberal candidate for president that we've had in our nation's history. I served with Kamala for four years," Daines responded.

He blasted her "San Francisco politics and ideology" and said Republicans should focus on contrasting "the two visions of where we'd like to take this country."

"That's a better strategy, and that's what I've been talking about," Daines said.

But it's not what Trump enjoys talking about. Republicans learned — relearned — this lesson again from the NABJ appearance.

Trump likes to talk about the border crisis, but his solutions are the simplistic answers of finishing the wall or the impractical idea of creating mass deportation camps for millions of undocumented migrants.

In selecting his running mate, Trump considered several Senate Republicans with real policy expertise in cutting taxes and national security. Some accomplished governors received interest.

Then he settled on Vance, the least experienced GOP running mate since before World War II. Vance's biggest credential, his friends said, was his embrace of Trump's political persona.

By Thursday morning, Murkowski had grown more furious.

"A campaign built on insults of an individual — we should be so far beyond that," she told reporters. "It should not be about which nasty name you can call somebody. It should be about the issues."

Trump staff relies on outside groups for turnout efforts in battleground states

GOP FROM **A1**

resulted from its takeover of the Republican National Committee in March, when Trump secured the nomination. The RNC had been planning an extensive field program, according to documents obtained by The Washington Post. Those now-discarded plans included 88 staff members and 12 offices, and goals to knock on 3 million doors and make 2.4 million phone calls, in Pennsylvania. In Arizona, the RNC's plan called for 62 staffers and seven offices, aiming for 558,000 voter contacts.

Past experiments with outsourcing field operations, most notably Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis's heavy reliance on a super PAC in the Republican presidential primary race, have wound up as expensive boondoggles. With the legal barriers now removed, the current effort will test how much the rules — as opposed to structural or personal dynamics — contributed to the challenges. It will also test how a novel approach stacks up against the Democratic ground effort, which is using more traditional methods.

In what everyone expects to be a close election, the unglamorous mechanics of mobilizing a sliver of additional voters can make all the difference. In 2020, a change of about 43,000 votes across Arizona, Georgia and Wisconsin would have been enough to tip the electoral college.

In March, the Federal Election Commission issued new guidance that opened the door for campaigns and outside groups to collaborate on turnout efforts. In the past, campaigns and official party committees, which are subject to contribution limits, generally observed a firewall that blocked information-sharing with super PACs and nonprofits that accept unlimited contributions.

Now, campaigns and outside groups are free to share messaging and exchange data. That new opportunity has allowed the Trump campaign to supplement a bare-bones in-house field program with allied programs fueled by megadonors.

"These folks have been pre-dividing themselves based on their own focuses," said a Trump campaign official who spoke on the condition of anonymity because they weren't authorized to talk publicly. "My goal isn't to rearrange them, it's to maximize."

Before the Trump campaign's RNC takeover, the committee had detailed plans in certain states — internal documents include hundreds of pages about how an extensive get-out-the-vote effort could win a close election by a small margin.

The documents show a Trump operation that was once prepared to spend extensively across the country, targeting particular communities and attempting to reach more than 1 million voters. In many of the states, the plans included certain towns, small subsections of the population or demographics where the campaign had underperformed in the past.

JOEL ANGEL JUAREZ FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

Loosened guidance for campaigns to collaborate with outside groups on turnout efforts has allowed groups such as Turning Point Action — its Waukesha, Wis., chapter is pictured in June — to help.

"While the Trump Victory Team on the ground did an excellent job getting out the vote in 2020 on Election Day, we did not turn out enough of low propensity voters to compete with the Democrats in early voting or persuade enough voters to hit the number of votes we needed to win," the Pennsylvania plan said. "We need to learn from the lessons of 2020," it added.

"They were totally discarded," said a person familiar with the plans who, like others, spoke on the condition of anonymity to describe private matters.

The campaign's own field operations are using the same formula that carried Trump to victory in the Iowa caucuses, relying on dedicated volunteers serving as neighborhood captains. Under the banner of "Trump Force 47," the campaign is collecting volunteers in key places and assigning them lists of 10 neighbors to personally mobilize.

Volunteers who meet their goal of recruiting 10 voters receive larger lists of targets, focusing on infrequent voters and people who aren't reached by conventional methods such as ads, mail and phone banks. The campaign is encouraging Trump supporters to vote early by mail or in person so it can check them off the list and focus on others — despite the candidate's consistent vilification of mail ballots.

The Trump campaign declined to disclose how many volunteers it has recruited. "The Trump Force 47 program prioritizes many volunteers doing a few high-impact tasks each instead of old models which devolved to few volunteers trying to do many low-impact tasks each," political director James Blair said.

By contrast, the Harris campaign and allied outside groups said they are not changing their approach in response to the FEC decision. The campaign said it has 1,300 staff members (including party payrolls) and 250 offices in battleground states organizing events, trainings, door-knocking, phone calls and online peer messaging. It recruited 170,000 new volunteers who signed up since President Biden withdrew in July and held 2,300 events in swing states last weekend to mark 100 days to the election.

> *"I truly don't believe that most on our side know what we're up against. It's like we're rolling up to the house that's on fire."*
>
> **Tyler Bowyer,** chief operating officer for Turning Point Action

"Our campaign will make millions of voter contacts after having millions of conversations with voters in battleground states with thousands of staff, tens of thousands of volunteers, and hundreds of thousands of events," said the Harris campaign's battleground state director, Dan Kanninen. "The Trump campaign is talking about a handful of organizers and volunteers doing events ad hoc, in a way that makes it look like there's organizing going on when there isn't any."

'Rolling up to the house that's on fire'

More than 50 conservative groups met in Washington in April to coordinate efforts, including avoiding redundancy in voter outreach. The coalition continues to meet on a weekly basis.

"Everyone sees the marketplace here," a prominent Republican involved in one of the efforts said. "Everyone sees the campaign isn't doing it, and there is a huge opportunity."

America First Works, a nonprofit affiliated with the America First Policy Institute that employs many Trump administration alumni, convened the summit and is itself focusing this year on door-to-door canvassing with paid door-knockers and volunteers in 19 bellwether counties such as Bucks County, Pa., Maricopa County, Ariz., and other suburban counties with populations of 400,000 or more. The group said it has fanned people out to knock on 500,000 doors since June.

One of the most ambitious upstart efforts comes from Turning Point Action, the five-year-old political organization founded by right-wing activist and podcaster Charlie Kirk. His group had long clashed with GOP leadership but is now closely aligned with the Trump campaign and the Republican National Committee, symbolized by a prime-time speaking slot for Kirk at the Republican National Convention in July.

Turning Point Action, which has also amplified Trump's false claims of election fraud, ran Trump's college coalition in 2020 and organized "Super Saturday" canvassing outings in 2022. Through that work, the group's leaders concluded that the GOP's existing technology wasn't up to the task and that no one in the party was doing sustained, year-round community-based organizing, said Tyler Bowyer, the program's chief operating officer and an RNC member from Arizona.

Bowyer and Kirk set out to raise about $100 million and hire hundreds of local full-time organizers in the critical battleground states of Arizona, Wisconsin and Michigan, aiming to build a permanent campaign infrastructure on par with what Democratic-aligned groups have developed in recent decades. Bowyer said the group studied social science research and public documents from Democratic-aligned groups to assess successful techniques that they could replicate.

"I truly don't believe that most on our side know what we're up against," Bowyer said. "It's like we're rolling up to the house that's on fire," he added. "Are we going to save the Republican Party? Are we going to save the candidate? Are we just going to sit by and just let the house burn down?"

At a Turning Point Action office in Waukesha, Wis., in June, about three dozen newly hired full-time community organizers got together with poster boards and scented markers to brainstorm techniques to meet their targeted neighbors. They were each assigned a few hundred registered Republicans who didn't vote in recent presidential elections, aiming to turn them out for Trump.

Bowyer instructed the organizers not to come on too strong by showing up with MAGA hats and fliers. Instead, they should research their marks and start reaching out through Facebook groups, community events, or neighborly gestures such as recommending plumbers or harp teachers. They could even arrange seemingly chance encounters on coffee runs or dog walks.

"Some of these things sound like stalking," one staffer whispered.

"Professional stalkers," his colleague joked back.

As one slide from the training implored: "BE NORMAL. BE NORMAL. BE NORMAL."

Turning Point Action's leaders have cited research from some political scientists, who said in interviews that the program seems consistent with methods that experiments have shown to be effective. But the effectiveness of the strategy depends on how motivated and reliable the organizers are, as well as whether they are targeting the right voters, said Donald P. Green, a Columbia professor and co-author of "Get Out the Vote: How to Increase Voter Turnout."

A constellation of groups

Other conservative groups are also engaged in ground efforts. The Faith and Freedom Coalition will focus on evangelical voters and expects to spend $62 million to send 10,000 staffers and volunteers to knock on 10 million doors in presidential and Senate battleground states and 42 House districts, said the Christian conservative group's chairman, Ralph Reed.

The Trump campaign official said more outside groups would emerge to participate in various facets of Trump's ground game. One new super PAC that has already spent more than $15.8 million is America PAC, funded by billionaire X owner Elon Musk, the tech-investor Winklevoss twins and others. Musk denied a Wall Street Journal report that he would be providing $45 million a month, but people familiar with the matter said he is both raising money for the initiative and expected to contribute himself.

The outfit is focused on the seven core battleground states of Pennsylvania, Michigan, Wisconsin, North Carolina, Georgia, Arizona and Nevada. The program is being run by former Republican Governors Association director David Rexrode, as well as Generra Peck and Phil Cox, alumni of DeSantis's presidential primary bid, according to a person with direct knowledge.

The Musk-backed program is in flux, a person familiar with the operation said, after it cut ties with a firm that had been hired to handle much of the operation. It is unclear what the group will do next.

One person familiar with Trump's operation joked that it was funny his campaign was now partially relying on some of the operatives it fiercely mocked when they worked for DeSantis.

In Pennsylvania, a former teacher and onetime Ron Paul supporter is assembling a door-knocking program called Pennsylvania Chase with the sole purpose of getting Trump supporters to request mail ballots and return them.

Cliff Maloney said his plan is inspired by the fact that in 2020, roughly 140,000 Republicans requested mail ballots and never turned them in, and Biden won the state by about 80,000 votes. (It was not clear how many of those Republicans voted in person.)

"No one went to their door and said: 'Hey, Bob, you got that little ballot sitting there? Let's get that thing in!'" Maloney told activists at a Turning Point Action conference in Detroit. Maloney wants to change that with plans to set up as many as 10 regions around the state with 120 paid workers based in group housing from Sept. 1 through Election Day with the goal of knocking on 500,000 doors.

ELECTION 2024

Harris hires leaders of Obama campaign to join 2024 effort

David Plouffe, Stephanie Cutter and Mitch Stewart are joining Harris's team

BY MICHAEL SCHERER AND TYLER PAGER

Presumptive Democratic presidential nominee Kamala Harris hired a battery of new senior advisers to her campaign this week, moving swiftly to replace lifetime loyalists of President Biden with Democratic campaign veterans, including multiple leaders of Barack Obama's presidential bids, according to people briefed on the campaign shifts.

David Plouffe, a top strategist on both of Obama's presidential campaigns, joins Harris as senior adviser for strategy and the states focused on winning the electoral college. Stephanie Cutter, the deputy campaign manager for Obama's reelection, who has been working in recent months with Harris, is the new senior adviser for strategy messaging. Mitch Stewart, a grass-roots organizing strategist behind both Obama victories, will become the senior adviser for battleground states. David Binder, who led Obama's public opinion research operation and previously worked for Harris, will expand his role on the Harris campaign to lead the opinion research operation.

All of the new hires will report to campaign chair Jen O'Malley Dillon, another veteran of Obama's two campaigns. She managed Biden's 2020 campaign and built his 2024 operation from the White House before moving to Wilmington, Del., this year. Harris took control of Biden's campaign as soon as Biden announced he would not seek reelection, an operation consisting of more than 1,300 employees and more than 130 offices. She asked O'Malley Dillon to remain in charge.

"This team is a reflection of the vice president. It brings in people who have worked for her a long time, people who have been with her for the last few years of the administration," O'Malley Dillon said Friday. "This team represents the vice president and how she looks at building consensus and also driving toward one united front to defeat Trump."

The specifics of the new hires were described by campaign officials who spoke on the condition of anonymity to describe internal decisions. People involved said none of the current department heads would be pushed aside. Politico was the first to report Plouffe's new role.

Harris comes to the campaign with her own brain trust who will take on more senior roles in the campaign. Sheila Nix, her campaign chief of staff, will remain in her role, as will Sergio Gonzales, her campaign strategist, and Jalisa Washington-Price and Megan Jones, her political advisers. Brian Fallon, a veteran of Hillary Clinton's 2016 presidential campaign who has been working as Harris's communications director, will be a senior communications adviser, traveling with the candidate. Shelby Cole, Harris's 2020 digital strategist now at the Democratic National Committee, will also play an increased role.

"With 95 days to go, Vice President Harris is building on its powerhouse team that has already delivered historic grassroots support and record-breaking fundraising," Nix said in a statement. "These seasoned and respected leaders are a part of Vice President Harris' steadfast commitment to grow a team that will ensure we do everything possible to win this November."

The new structure around Harris is expected to address the bifurcated nature of the Biden campaign leadership — with a campaign team in Wilmington that effectively answered to Biden's inner circle in Washington, which advisers said sometimes slowed decision-making. The team operating out of Delaware will now be significantly larger at the top as it makes the final push to Election Day, less than 100 days away.

Biden began planning his reelection bid in September 2022, with a clutch of senior White House advisers who have taken on reduced roles in Biden's orbit.

MELINA MARA/THE WASHINGTON POST

Stephanie Cutter, left, formerly the deputy campaign manager for Barack Obama's reelection, has been working with Vice President Harris recently and is her new senior adviser for strategy messaging.

LIZ HAFALIA/SAN FRANCISCO CHRONICLE/AP

David Plouffe, a top Obama strategist, is Harris's senior adviser for strategy and the states focused on winning the electoral college.

Anita Dunn, a senior White House aide, recently announced she would leave to advise a super PAC supporting Harris. Top Biden advisers Steve Ricchetti, Mike Donilon and Bruce Reed will all have smaller roles, as will Annie Tomasini and Anthony Bernal, top advisers to Biden and his wife, Jill.

One of the biggest holes to fill is the one left by Donilon, a senior adviser to the Biden campaign who oversaw message development, advertising and polling. Quentin Fulks, the principal deputy campaign manager for Harris, will take over leadership of the campaign's advertising program with the current paid media team. The campaign is finalizing plans to bring on additional admakers.

In addition to increasing Binder's role, the Harris campaign is also bringing on Terrance Woodbury of HIT Strategies, a specialist in Black voter opinion research. Other pollsters who were working for Biden will continue in their roles. Michael Tyler will continue as campaign communications director, and deputy campaign manager Rob Flaherty will continue to oversee digital advertising, social media and grassroots fundraising.

Former Housing and Urban Development secretary Marcia L. Fudge, who recently came on board as a campaign co-chair, will expand her portfolio to include outreach and strategy. Former congressman Cedric L. Richmond will continue to be a co-chair and Harris adviser. Brian Nelson, undersecretary for terrorism and financial intelligence at the Treasury Department, is coming over to advise Harris on policy.

Jennifer Palmieri, a communications director in the Obama White House who played the same role for Clinton's 2016 campaign, will be a senior adviser to Doug Emhoff, the second gentleman. Palmieri worked more recently as a co-host of the Showtime documentary series, "The Circus."

Liz Allen, who serves as undersecretary for public diplomacy and public affairs at the State Department, will become the chief of staff to Harris's running mate once that person is chosen in the coming days. Allen worked as Harris's communications director when she was Biden's running mate on the 2020 ticket. She worked for Biden when he was vice president and then served as deputy White House communications director at the end of Obama's second term.

Julie Chavez Rodriguez, Biden's campaign manager, will remain in her role for Harris, with an expanded portfolio focused on Arizona and Nevada, where Democrats now say they have renewed hope of defeating Trump.

Cutter, who founded political consulting firm Precision Strategies with O'Malley Dillon, has been working with the vice president for months, helping her to prepare for interviews and do media training. White House visitor records show that Cutter was cleared into the White House by the Harris team five times in the first three months of this year. She has also been overseeing the planning for the Democratic National Convention in Chicago later this month, reprising a role she played in 2020.

Cutter was previously a deputy campaign manager for Obama's 2012 reelection campaign, a deputy White House senior adviser to Obama, a former chief of staff to then-first lady Michelle Obama, and the communications director for John F. Kerry's 2004 campaign, along with other roles, including a period as a host of the now-defunct CNN show "Crossfire."

Plouffe also has a long relationship with the campaign. He advised the Biden campaign informally in 2022 when the campaign was first being put together. More recently, he has hosted a podcast about the 2024 race with Kellyanne Conway, a former adviser to Donald Trump who served as his 2016 campaign manager.

Plouffe is expected to end his consulting arrangement with the social media platform TikTok before joining the campaign.

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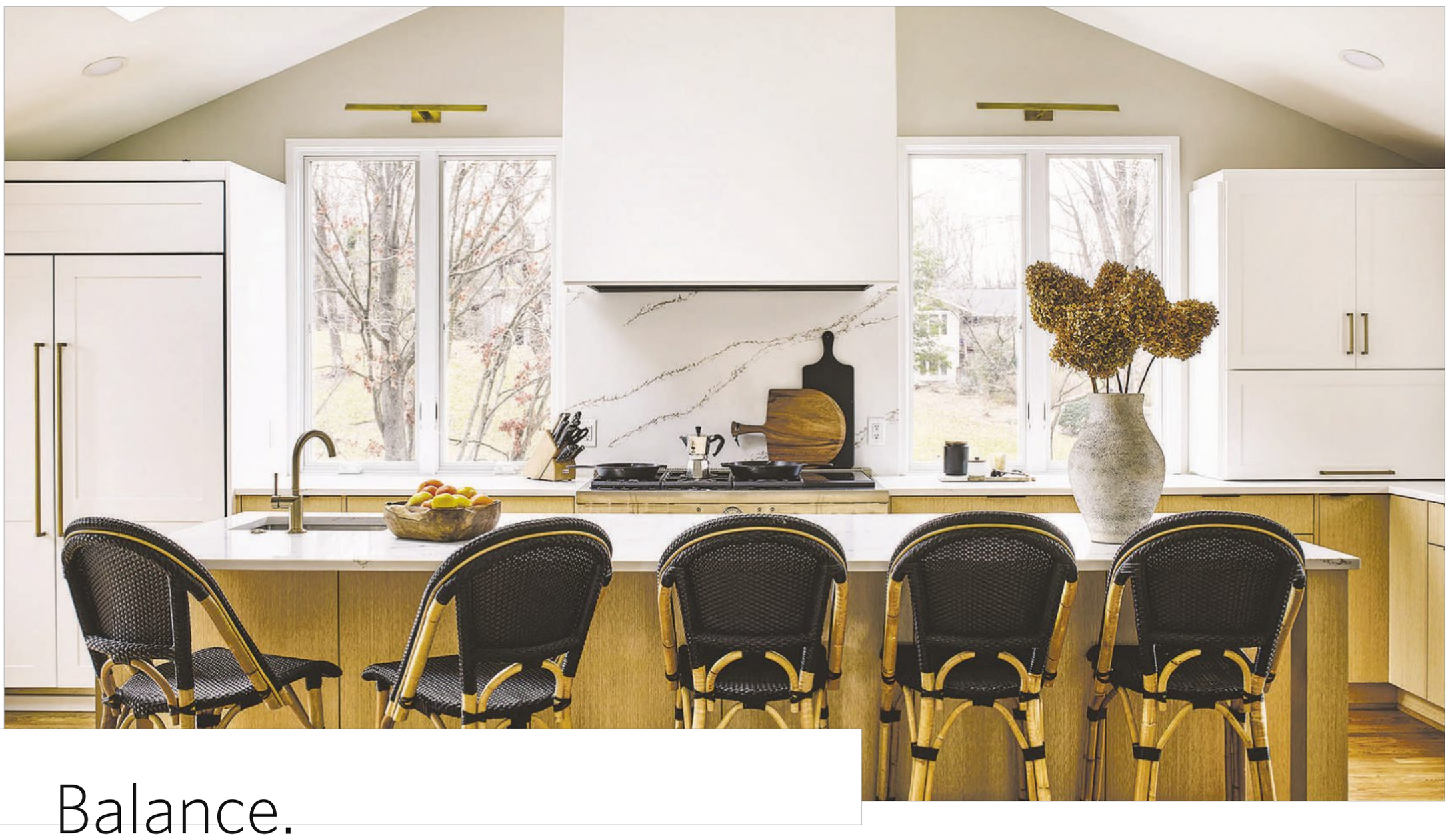

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Two Black women experience separate American realities

HARRIS FROM **A1**

known her entire life — a slight, petite woman who was soft-spoken and spiritual, "someone who wouldn't hurt anyone," she said. And now, her cousin was a hashtag, joining other Black women like Breonna Taylor whose lives were cut short in fatal police encounters.

"My family is not doing good at all," said Hudson, 33, struggling to speak through tears. "We are in shambles. We are in shock. We are distraught. … Why did this happen to her? It doesn't make any sense."

To Hudson, it all seemed so far away from the world where Harris's ascent was being celebrated. One Black woman has the chance to make history as the first female president, while another Black woman, dressed in her pajamas and a headscarf, is regarded as a threat and shot to death in her kitchen.

Harris will formally accept the nomination at the Democratic convention later this month in Chicago, 200 miles northeast of where Massey died in Springfield.

"It's good to see Black women are making strides, but we are not making enough strides. Because if that was the case, my cousin should have been able to call for help and not been killed by a police officer," Hudson said.

Massey's death comes four years after the police killings of Taylor and George Floyd, whose final minutes beneath the unrelenting knees of a Minneapolis police officer were captured in a horrific viral video that spurred worldwide protests and an American reckoning on race and policing that continues to divide the country.

Floyd's murder spurred promises of change from across the political spectrum. But for many Black Americans, who still live in fear of their interactions with law enforcement, that change hasn't materialized. Many of the proposed reforms championed by President Biden and Harris haven't passed — including legislation that would make it easier to punish and fire problem officers and enact limits on racial profiling and the use of deadly force.

THOMAS J. TURNEY/THE STATE JOURNAL-REGISTER/USA TODAY NETWORK

Khloe Sullivan, 9, of Springfield, Ill., left, and her mother, Jasmine, attend a protest in front of the Sangamon County Building on July 12 after sheriff's deputies shot and killed Sonya Massey in her kitchen after she called 911 about a potential prowler.

Civil rights attorney Ben Crump, who was retained by Floyd's family and Taylor's mother, is now representing the Massey family and fought for the public release of the body-cam footage. "It is the worst police-shooting video I have ever seen," Crump said last week.

On the morning after the footage was made public, Crump was with Massey's parents when he saw that he had missed a call from Harris, a friend and ally who regularly calls him for updates about his cases. She was trying to connect with Massey's family, he said.

The night before, Crump had been one of the speakers on a call with thousands of Black men, urging them to rally behind Harris's bid for the presidency, and now he was with Massey's family in the darkest moment of their lives.

"I was thinking about my dear friend … ascending to this place where no other Black woman has ever been in the history of the United States," Crump recalled. "And literally at the same time … I'm thinking about the loss of so much the world could have gotten from Sonya Massey."

Crump thought of his 11-year-old daughter. Would Harris's milestone change things for her? Or would she grow up in the reality that Massey and other Black women have faced? "The fact is that no matter how high a Black woman rises in America, there is no guarantee that she will be respected and protected," Crump said.

In the stories of Harris and Massey, Crump said, "it really is a tale of two historical moments in America. It's like the best of times and the worst of times."

Springfield's ugly history on race

That dichotomy was on the minds of many here in Springfield, the state capital of Illinois and a city of roughly 110,000 known for its connection to two storied American presidents who made history on issues of race: Abraham Lincoln and Barack Obama. They both launched their political careers here, and their names and images are everywhere.

But Springfield also has an ugly history on race. A violent 1908 race riot left several people dead, hundreds injured and scores of Black-owned businesses burned and destroyed, leading to the founding of the NAACP. And more than a century later, the scars from that seismic event linger, residents say, in a city that remains deeply segregated and where discussion of Springfield's fraught racial history was rare until recently, despite its connection to the first Black president.

"People talk about Abraham Lincoln, and they talk about Barack Obama. But many people didn't know about the race riots because it was a taboo secret that people didn't talk about," said Teresa Haley, a Black activist and former president of the local NAACP.

Massey's killing at the hands of a White police officer has only enforced a feeling that little has changed over the past 115 years, Haley said.

Haley, 59, has barely slept since she saw the video of Massey's shooting. "Each time I watch it, I think about Black women all over America being hunted," she said last week, as she stood with members of the Massey family during a news conference at the local NAACP headquarters. "Those of us who have sons and daughters, we used to be concerned about our sons. But now we need to be concerned about Black women, as well."

She is skeptical Harris's political rise will change anything for Black women or protect them from being killed. "It's our reality. It's become our new normal. And it should not be that way," she said.

Others worry that Harris's candidacy will only intensify the racism and sexism that women of color already experience — especially as she runs against former president Donald Trump, who has a history of insulting women and people of color. Trump questioned Harris's racial identity on Wednesday, saying that she "was Indian all the way" but then "became a Black person" for political benefit. Harris later condemned "the divisiveness and the disrespect" of Trump's words.

The incident that led to Massey's killing unfolded in the early morning hours of July 6 when she called 911 reporting a potential intruder. Two deputies from the Sangamon County Sheriff's Office responded and searched around Massey's house. Finding nothing, they knocked on the front door. According to the body-camera footage, it took roughly three minutes for Massey

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to open the door, and when she did, she immediately seemed nervous, quietly telling the officers, "Don't hurt me."

The video shows Deputy Sean Grayson towering over Massey — who, according to her autopsy, stood 5 feet, 4 inches and weighed 112 pounds. As he pressed Massey on why she had taken so long to come to the door, she quickly apologized and explained that she had been getting dressed.

According to her family, Massey had been suffering from mental health issues, and she was home alone — her teenage son and daughter were staying with relatives while she sought help. Her mother, Donna, had called 911 a day earlier to report that her daughter was having a mental breakdown and pleaded with an operator: "Please don't send no combative policemen that are prejudiced — please."

It is unclear whether Grayson or his partner knew about that call or Massey's mental troubles. In the video, Massey appears confused, but she remains unfailingly polite, at one point thanking the officers for coming. "I love y'all. Thank y'all," she says, as she seeks to close the door.

The footage shows the officers ending up inside her home — waiting for Massey to produce identification. At one point, Grayson notices a pot of boiling water sitting over a flame on the stove. "We don't need a fire while we're here," he tells Massey, according to the footage from his partner's body camera. (Grayson had not activated his camera, a violation of department policy, according to the sheriff's office.)

The video shows Massey walking to the kitchen to remove the pot from the stove, taking it near the sink.

Suddenly, the officers, who are standing in the living room, appear to consider the boiling water a potential threat, and as they back away, Massey twice tells them, "I rebuke you in the name of Jesus."

The officers appear to regard Massey's words as a threat — though the statement is a common spiritual phrase that invokes the power of the Messiah to speak out against something untoward, negative or evil. Massey's family has said the phrase was common in their predominantly Black church, and they believe she sensed something bad was about to happen.

Grayson drew his gun and pointed it at Massey, shouting expletives and threatening to shoot her. The woman ducked and immediately apologized. The footage shows Grayson step from the living room toward Massey, firing three times.

Massey's autopsy, made public last week, found she was hit once in the face, near her lower left eyelid. The bullet trajectory was downward, exiting out the back of her neck, according to the coroner — a detail Crump says suggests that Massey was in a stooped position when Grayson shot her.

The video shows Grayson discourage his partner from trying to help Massey, who was still breathing. "That's a headshot," Grayson said. "There's nothing you can do, man."

Grayson, 30, who had worked for Sangamon County since May 2023, was indicted July 17 on five counts, including three charges of first-degree murder, aggravated battery with a firearm and official misconduct. Grayson has pleaded not guilty and is being held at the Sangamon County Jail without bond. He was fired from the sheriff's office. Daniel Fultz, an attorney for Grayson, declined to comment.

The morning after the video footage was released, Harris said, "Sonya Massey deserved to be safe."

"The disturbing footage released yesterday confirms what we know from the lived experiences of so many — we have much work to do to ensure that our justice system fully lives up to its name," Harris said in a statement. She called on Congress to pass police reforms, including legislation that would enact uniform policing rules across the country and make it easier to punish or charge bad officers.

That bill, known as the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act, was co-written by Harris in 2020 when she was in the Senate — and still has not passed.

'A completely different world'

Massey's death has not drawn the national attention other high-profile police killings have — something that many of those grieving in Springfield have blamed on the intense barrage of news in recent weeks, including Trump's attempted assassination and Biden's exit from the presidential race.

REUTERS

JOEL ANGEL JUAREZ FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

TOP: Sonya Massey, seen in an undated photo, was fatally shot by police four years after the police killings of Breonna Taylor and George Floyd. ABOVE: Chantell Brooks, mother of Michael Westley, who was fatally shot by Chicago police in 2013, kisses her grandson at a July rally for Massey.

And likewise, few Black women here say they've had the emotional capacity to process what it would mean to have a Black woman atop the presidential ticket. But many have drawn parallels from this moment to the past.

Tiffani Saunders, a sociologist and organizer with Black Lives Matter Springfield, is reminded of the post-slavery era when some Black people were getting elected to office for the first time, even as other Black people were being lynched. "In some ways," she said, "this is more of the same historical narrative than like a blip of something different."

Sunshine Clemons, 45, thinks of Philando Castile, a Black man who was fatally shot in July 2016 by a Minneapolis-area police officer during a traffic stop. Days after his death, Clemons helped found the local Black Lives Matter chapter to help Black residents cope with their grief and fight for change.

Clemons couldn't stop thinking about how Castile and Massey were killed on the same day, eight years apart. "He launched us, and now we're fighting for her in our city," Clemons said, wiping tears away. It added to a sense of futility, that nothing would bring real change — not even a Black female president.

She said she's been too "overwhelmed and exhausted and angry and sad" to process the presidential race. "I can't even see outside our city right now," Clemons said. "It's almost like that's an alternate reality that's happening. You talk about, this is progress. But that just feels like a completely different world."

Last week, a couple hundred people marched through downtown Springfield toward the county government building, home to the courthouse, sheriff's office and jail where Grayson remains in custody.

The crowd of mostly Black people, but also a few White people, paused before the front steps and chanted, "Justice for Sonya Massey!" Several parents walked with their young children or wheeled them in wagons. One woman carried a sign with Massey's words: "Don't hurt me."

Among those peacefully marching was Doris Turner, 70, an Illinois state senator who made history when she became the first Black woman to represent Springfield in the state legislature. Turner said she was thrilled by the history Harris could make if she becomes the first Black female president.

"It's for the future generations," Turner said. "When I talk about my own history, it's not because I think I am all that great or fabulous. It's because I want the little Black girls to know they can do it, too. And that's what Vice President Harris's election means to me."

But Turner acknowledged that the history Harris could make stands in stark contrast to what happened to Massey, a close family friend who had just been on Turner's porch talking to her a week before she was killed.

Turner has found herself questioning God about why two such cataclysmic events happened at once. "God is at work in everything that we do. … What are we supposed to be learning from this; what are we supposed to be doing?" she said.

For now, Turner has joined with Massey's family in seeking justice. But she wondered whether the tragedy could serve as a wake-up call for Black people. "I think that people who have been pretty disinterested about the election and thinking about it in terms of, 'It's not going to matter to me one way or another.' I think that this shows them the difference and shows them that elections matter, and it shows them that representation matters," Turner said.

But many weren't convinced that Harris's rise would mean a dramatic difference in how Black women are treated by society and by the police.

"Black women are not respected. They are not cared for," said Hudson, Massey's cousin. "They are held to different standards."

Hudson began to cry thinking of her 9-year-old twin daughters and their futures.

She had never been one to mince words with her girls — warning them from a young age of what it means to be Black in America, including how to interact with law enforcement, how people perceive you because of the color of your skin. It was the only way she knew to keep them safe and alive.

She took them to one of the protests over Massey's death, explaining what happened to her cousin and why they were there.

"They are so smart," Hudson said, crying. "They need to know what kind of world we live in."

ELECTION 2024

Pennsylvania voters reexamine Trump's views on women

Spotlight on Vance leaves many questioning former president's judgment

BY MAEVE RESTON

BUCKS COUNTY, PA. — More than a week after Kamala Harris's debut as the likely Democratic presidential nominee, the buzz around her candidacy is still fresh here in the collar counties surrounding Philadelphia. Though many voters acknowledged they know little about her or her ideas, they used words like "exciting" and "energizing" to describe the political moment.

But the politician everyone really wanted to talk about was Sen. JD Vance, with his selection as former president Donald Trump's running mate sparking a new chapter in the long-running conversation about Trump's views of women.

Vance's comments from 2021 suggesting that Americans without children "don't really have a direct stake" in the country's future went viral days ago. But unfortunately for Trump, the maelstrom surrounding his running mate is still stirring in this perennial battleground. In interviews with more than two dozen voters, it was clear that Vance's views have renewed unease about Trump's judgment, his past statements about women and his record on abortion. Almost universally, voters also said they were bracing for Trump to unleash personal attacks on Harris.

"Now that you've got Kamala in there, you've got a whole different ballgame," said Mike Dumin, a 68-year-old independent from Lansdale. "He is going to attack her in ways that are going to be distasteful to most normal people except his base. He can't help himself. He cannot stand the fact that it's a woman, especially a woman who is a minority who could beat him."

Dumin said that Vance's past comments suggest that the senator from Ohio "wants obedient servants at home just having babies" and that his public interactions with his wife, Usha — who met Vance while studying at Yale and clerked for Chief Justice John G. Roberts Jr. before practicing at a prestigious law firm but has kept a low profile — should tell Americans everything they need to know.

"That's what he pushes. That's who he is. And this is coming from *a man*," Dumin said.

"High heels and lipstick," interjected his wife, Susan Dumin, a 68-year-old retired florist. When Trump's and Vance's positions on abortion enter the conversation, she said, "women are terrified. We are 50 percent, and we are letting the other half decide our health care."

In a strange stroke of political timing, America's reintroduction to Harris, now at the top of the Democratic presidential ticket, has coincided with the vetting of Vance. That has meant voters are revisiting the possibility of the first female president at the same time that Vance is drawing scrutiny of his views on traditional marriage, the role of women in the home and his opposition to abortion, including in the case of rape and incest.

Cognizant of the negative reception that some of Vance's views have earned, Trump has defended his running mate even as members of his party second-guess his decision. In a recent interview with Fox News host Laura Ingraham, Trump said Vance "loves family" and went on to defend Americans who don't have children: "I know so many people. They never met the right person," Trump said. "They're every bit as good as anybody else that has the most beautiful family."

When asked whether Vance would be ready to be president, on day one, if necessary, during a Wednesday interview at the National Association of Black Journalists convention in Chicago, Trump noted that vice-presidential picks historically have had very little bearing on the outcome of presidential races.

By including Harris — who has two stepchildren — in his 2021 description of ascendant Democrats as "a bunch of childless cat ladies who are miserable," Vance seems to have triggered anger not only among voters who support her, but also among swing voters, who suddenly feel inspired to defend her.

"Talking about why Kamala doesn't have any kids — that was very disrespectful," said Noris Lugo, a 53-year-old teacher from Montgomery Township, who noted that Vance would have no idea whether a woman has been unable to bear children or has made a choice not to. Before the sudden upheaval caused by President Biden's withdrawal from the race, Lugo was leaning toward voting for Trump because she believes he is good for the economy.

Now, Lugo said, she is more heavily weighing how the former president "treats people" and is concerned that Vance and Trump "have the same behavior and thinking." Disrespect for women — "that's the one thing I don't tolerate," she said.

TOM BRENNER FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

Republican nominee Donald Trump walks onstage at New Holland Arena during a campaign event in Harrisburg, Pa., on Wednesday. Trump's running mate, JD Vance, has drawn attention to the campaign recently for his past comments about women.

Stephanie Crossier, a 32-year-old teacher from Doylestown, leans Republican and believes Democrats have gone too far to the left on abortion.

"He is going to attack her in ways that are going to be distasteful to most normal people except his base. He can't help himself."

Mike Dumin, a 68-year-old independent, discussing Republican nominee Donald Trump and presumptive Democratic nominee Kamala Harris

But she has positive impressions of Harris thus far and said she is struggling as she evaluates whether someone with Trump's ethics should serve as commander in chief.

"Trump has things on his record that shouldn't be there for a president. The legal run-ins," Crossier said, alluding to his recent conviction on 34 counts of falsifying business records in a hush money trial, as well as his other pending criminal trials.

Rosemary O'Connor, a 73-year-old former Amtrak employee from Bedminster, said she was relieved that the scrutiny of Vance has "revitalized" the conversation around Trump.

"People got immune to Trump; they just shrug him off," said O'Connor, who changed her registration from Republican to Democratic after Trump was elected because she no longer felt the party reflected her values. With Vance, she said, "we're getting a new take on their views."

Vance argues that the media has twisted his past statements. His spokesman Luke Schroeder said in a statement that "Harris and her puppets in the leftwing media have attempted to create a fake narrative to distract voters from Kamala's disastrous record." Schroeder said voters would fault Harris for high prices on everyday goods, her past opposition to fracking and "an open border leading to deadly drugs poisoning communities across the nation." (Harris's campaign has recently said she would not seek to ban fracking if elected president.)

"These are the issues Pennsylvanians care about, and they know Kamala Harris is dangerously liberal — that's why they'll reject her in November," Schroeder said.

Steven Cheung, the Trump campaign's communications director, insisted that the former president is "thrilled with the choice he made."

"Kamala Harris is weak, failed, and dangerously liberal, and no amount of gaslighting from her or her campaign will erase her despicable record," Cheung said in a statement.

But Trump has been complicating the GOP's effort to steer the conversation about Harris in a more substantive direction — to scrutiny of her record on immigration and policing, for example. During the NABJ interview, Trump questioned Harris's racial identity — asking whether she was Indian or Black before stating that she just recently "became a Black person."

Harris dismissed his false claims about her race as "the same old show," which she described as "divisiveness" and "disrespect."

Still, impressions of Harris among swing voters here remain fluid. Voters often struggled to recall specific aspects of her record or her biography, creating an opportunity for both sides as they try to define her with millions of dollars of television ads.

Trump and Harris are tied in Pennsylvania, according to The Washington Post's polling average. Harris led Trump by seven percentage points among suburban voters in a head-to-head matchup in a Fox News poll last month. That is a much narrower advantage than the double-digit lead that Biden held with suburban voters in the Fox poll in October 2020. Ultimately Biden won the state by only one point.

Rachel Siegel, a 32-year-old aesthetician from Fountainville, said she didn't vote in 2020 because she was undecided between Biden and Trump. But she has found Harris's demeanor off-putting and described the economy during the past four years as "absolute garbage."

Both Siegel and her mother, Sonia McAfee, 63, questioned whether Harris is strong enough for the role of president.

McAfee said Trump "scares" her when it comes to international affairs, but she is leaning toward voting for him because she doesn't think Harris "is what we need right now." The main criticism McAfee has heard about Harris is that she was not effective in curbing illegal immigration in her role as vice president. (Although Republicans have described Harris as the "border czar," she was tasked with a narrower role addressing the root causes of migration out of Guatemala, El Salvador and Honduras.)

"You feel like you have to look up everything in both parties, because everybody calls each other liars and ultimately you don't know the truth," said McAfee, a retired accountant. "VPs sort of end up in the background, so I don't really know what she's capable of."

McAfee said Vance has seemed "knowledgeable" but "ought to watch how he says things." Both women have been disappointed that much of the discussion around Harris's ascent has centered on race and gender.

"I don't like that people throw out the race card — that she'd be the first Black woman [as president] — I don't care," McAfee said. "You've got to prove to me that you can do the job."

Scott Clement contributed to this report.

RICKY CARIOTI/THE WASHINGTON POST

BASTIAAN SLABBERS/REUTERS

STEPHEN MATUREN/GETTY IMAGES

Vice President Harris will meet with at least three potential picks Sunday: From left, Sen. Mark Kelly of Arizona, Pennsylvania Gov. Josh Shapiro and Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz.

Harris to meet with running mate finalists, name pick by Tuesday

BY TYLER PAGER

Vice President Harris will interview at least three of the finalists to serve as her running mate Sunday in Washington as she moves closer to making her choice, according to multiple people familiar with her plans.

Harris will meet with Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz, Pennsylvania Gov. Josh Shapiro and Sen. Mark Kelly of Arizona, the people said, speaking on the condition of anonymity to discuss confidential deliberations. It is unclear how many of the three other finalists — Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg and Govs. Andy Beshear of Kentucky and J.B. Pritzker of Illinois — have been invited to meet with Harris. In choosing her running mate, Harris is not solely concerned with electability but is also looking for a governing partner and someone she feels chemistry with, her allies say.

Harris spent Saturday at her residence at the Naval Observatory in Washington, where lawyers, led by former attorney general Eric Holder, gave presentations on the finalists based on deep examinations of their backgrounds, experience and potential vulnerabilities, a person familiar with the process said. Holder and a team of lawyers at Covington & Burling oversaw the vetting of the officials in contention on an extremely compressed timeline.

Presidential nominees usually take months to select a running mate, but only two weeks have passed since President Biden withdrew from the race and Harris became the likely nominee. Holder and his team finished the process this past week after poring over reams of paperwork on the candidates.

Harris will announce her vice-presidential pick by Tuesday, when she and the candidate appear in Philadelphia for the first of seven rallies over the course of five days. The two will campaign in each of the seven most competitive states — Pennsylvania, Wisconsin, Michigan, North Carolina, Georgia, Arizona and Nevada.

On Friday, some of the finalists interviewed with Harris's senior staff, including Jen O'Malley Dillon, the campaign chair, and Sheila Nix, Harris's campaign chief of staff. Harris's campaign also brought on Liz Allen, the current undersecretary for public diplomacy and public affairs at the State Department, to serve as chief of staff to Harris's running mate. Allen worked as Harris's communications director when she was Biden's running mate on the 2020 ticket.

Kevin Munoz, a spokesman for Harris's campaign, declined to comment on the process, pointing to his previous statement that the campaign does not "expect to have additional updates until the Vice President announces who will be serving as her running mate."

The finalists are all White men, reflecting an assumption that voters would prefer a White male running mate for the first Black woman and the first person of South Asian descent leading a major-party presidential ticket. Four years ago, Biden selected Harris amid a sense by many in the Democratic Party that it was important to have a woman and a person of color on the ticket.

Since Harris became the presumptive nominee, her potential running mates have blanketed the airwaves trying to demonstrate how they would be an asset as vice president while also taking shots at Sen. JD Vance (R-Ohio), former president Donald Trump's running mate, ahead of a potential debate with him should they be selected.

Pritzker put out an almost four-minute video on social media to tout his accomplishments as governor, while Gabby Giffords, the wife of Kelly, posted a video about their marriage. Allies to Buttigieg, meanwhile, have asked his donors and supporters to make the public case for his bid.

As Harris wraps up her process, the finalists have had to change their schedules to accommodate interviews. Walz had originally planned to campaign for Harris in New Hampshire on Sunday before canceling the appearance. Teddy Tschann, a spokesman for the governor, said in a statement that Walz's "schedule has changed" without providing additional information.

Buttigieg, who pulled out of an official stop in Indiana on Friday, attended a fundraiser for Harris in Holderness, N.H., hosted by Gary Hirshberg, the co-founder of Stonyfield Farms, the dairy company. The fundraiser raised more than $800,000, according to a person familiar who spoke on the condition of anonymity to share financial information.

Shapiro pulled out of a weekend fundraising swing in the Hamptons, and Beshear canceled a Friday stop in western Kentucky.

Yvonne Wingett Sanchez in Phoenix contributed to this report.

ELECTION 2024

Trump backs out of ABC debate, tries to set new terms on Fox

Harris said she would show up on previously agreed-to stage

BY ISAAC ARNSDORF, MICHAEL SCHERER AND ABBIE CHEESEMAN

Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump said Saturday that he will no longer appear at a previously scheduled debate on Sept. 10 and will only debate Vice President Harris, the presumptive Democratic nominee, if she agrees to his terms: a debate on Sept. 4, hosted by Fox News, with a "full arena audience."

Trump had agreed to a presidential debate on Sept. 10 hosted by ABC News before President Biden dropped out of the race last month, and Harris said Saturday that she would show up for the previously negotiated date regardless of whether Trump attends.

But Trump said Saturday that if Harris does not agree to the new format on Fox News, he would refuse to debate altogether.

"I'll see her September 4th, or I won't see her at all," he posted on his social network, Truth Social.

During a rally in Atlanta on Saturday, Trump retold the story of his June 27 debate against Biden and its aftermath. He mocked Biden's subsequent interview with ABC News' George Stephanopoulos, and he reiterated that he'd do a debate with Fox News.

"We're doing one with Fox, if she shows up," he told the crowd in the Georgia State Convocation Center, the same venue where Harris held a rally on Tuesday. "I don't think she's going to go. She can't talk. She can read a teleprompter. I'd give her about a six on a scale of 10. … For talking, I'd give her less than a one. We need people that can talk."

In the weeks since Biden bowed out and endorsed Harris, Trump has struggled to settle on a line of attack against the vice president. His campaign's first attack ad focused on her role in the Biden administration's response to surging migration, while misleading social media posts used a racist trope to attack her on crime. Trump himself has resorted to racist and sexist smears, suggesting her appearance would undermine her with world leaders and falsely questioning her identity.

He continued those attacks at the rally in Atlanta, calling her "crazy Kamala," mocking her name, and calling her a "low IQ individual," prompting laughs in the crowd.

The Harris campaign has condemned Trump's personal attacks and accused him of being afraid to debate her. She was not campaigning on Saturday, instead spending the weekend interviewing candidates to serve as her running mate.

The qualification terms for the ABC debate that Trump had previously agreed to did not specify the names of the candidates. To be eligible to attend the debate, candidates had to reach at least 15 percent support in four separate national polls of registered or likely voters, ABC said when it released its requirements in May.

"It's interesting how 'any time, any place' becomes 'one specific time, one specific safe space,' " Harris posted on X on Saturday, referring to Trump's comments during debate negotiations with Biden. "I'll be there on September 10th, like he agreed to. I hope to see him there."

Harris never agreed to debate Trump on Fox. A person familiar with the matter, speaking on the condition of anonymity to discuss internal planning, said the campaign held no negotiations with Trump or Fox about a new debate. Fox representatives did not respond to requests for comment.

Trump's decision to reopen debate negotiations has restarted a network scramble. CBS News, which had proposed a vice-presidential debate that Biden's campaign had accepted, has circulated a proposal for a vice-presidential debate on Sept. 3 and presidential debate on Sept. 4, the same date as the Fox debate Trump has described, according to a person familiar with the proposal who spoke on the condition of anonymity to describe private communications.

The Commission on Presidential Debates, the traditional mediator for debates, has also said it is ready to move forward with its previously scheduled debates if the candidates are interested.

Harris spokesman Michael Tyler said the campaign would discuss additional debates after the one Trump already agreed to.

"Donald Trump is running scared and trying to back out of the debate he already agreed to and running straight to Fox News to bail him out," Tyler said. "Mr. Anytime, anywhere, anyplace should have no problem with that unless he's too scared to show up on the 10th," he added, referring to language Trump previously used to pressure Biden into agreeing to a faceoff.

The Harris campaign understands that ABC intends to provide the airtime to whichever qualifying candidates show up, even if it is just her, according to a campaign official.

In Friday's post, Trump also raised objections to ABC serving as moderator, even though he previously accepted the network's role. Trump referenced a lawsuit against ABC accusing Stephanopoulos of defaming him by misstating a jury verdict in a New York trial that found the former president liable for sexual abuse. A federal judge in Florida said in July that the case could proceed.

Trump agreed to the ABC debate in May two months after filing his lawsuit against the network. The moderators will be David Muir and Linsey Davis, not Stephanopoulos.

Trump spokesmen did not immediately respond to requests to clarify his post on Saturday.

ABC representatives did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

"A reminder that the Trump campaign never agreed to a VP debate with VP Harris either. She had accepted two different dates on CBS, and they never agreed," Brian Fallon, communications director for the Harris campaign, wrote on X. "They were afraid to debate her as the running mate. Now they are afraid to debate her at the top of the ticket."

Trump also spent time during the lead-up to Saturday's rally attacking fellow Republicans, including the state's popular governor, Brian Kemp; Georgia secretary of state Brad Raffensperger, who refused to cooperate with Trump's demands to overturn the 2020 election; and former lieutenant governor Geoff Duncan, who endorsed Harris.

"I'm not a fan of your governor," Trump told the crowd. He compared Atlanta to a "killing field." and said "your governor ought to get off his a-- and do something about it."

Separately on Saturday, Harris's husband, Doug Emhoff, gave a statement to CNN in which he admitted to an affair during a previous marriage.

"During my first marriage, Kerstin and I went through some tough times on account of my actions," Emhoff said in a statement. "I took responsibility, and in the years since, we worked through things as a family and have come out stronger on the other side."

Josh Dawsey and Marianne Levine in Atlanta contributed to this report.

For multiracial Americans, Trump's attack on Harris feels personal

BY ROBERT KLEMKO, SILVIA FOSTER-FRAU AND EMMANUEL FELTON

When the Rev. Adam Shoemaker heard former president Donald Trump question Vice President Harris's identity as a Black and South Asian American woman this week, he immediately thought back to the dehumanizing question he fielded so many times as a boy.

"What are you?"

Shoemaker, an Episcopal priest who lives in Charleston, S.C., is Arab American. His father is Egyptian and his mother is White. For as long as he can remember, he struggled with feeling like he didn't fit fully into one group or the other. Trump's remarks reminded him that some Americans still think he should have to choose.

"I don't think that anybody should presume to racially identify or categorize another human being," he said. "And I think that is an inherently racist thing to do because it discounts another human being's reality."

Trump's racist broadside Wednesday during a Black journalists conference in Chicago conjured painful memories for America's fastest-growing racial group — those who identify as belonging to more than one race.

The audience gasped when Trump said: "I didn't know she was Black until a number of years ago when she happened to turn Black and now she wants to be known as Black. So, I don't know, is she Indian or is she Black?"

More than 33 million Americans — about 1 in 10 — identify as two or more races, according to the 2020 Census. It is a group that is expected to grow. Yet despite their rising numbers, many Americans of multiracial heritage say they feel fundamentally misunderstood.

As Trump continued to belittle Harris on social media, The Washington Post asked people who identify as multiracial to describe their experiences in the United States and recount their reaction to his words.

Many said they felt pressured growing up to "choose a side" and embrace just one racial identity. Even among those who did, many said they didn't feel entirely accepted.

To hear Trump question the Democratic presidential candidate's right to belong to more than one group left many feeling newly wounded.

"It sort of awakened some feelings of outrage and anger — and hurt, honestly," said Steve Majors, who is Black and White, and was reminded of being teased at school as a child.

Many of those who wrote to The Post accused Trump of deliberately misunderstanding a person's freedom to identify as two races at once for his own political gain. Some believed the former president to be genuinely uneducated. Universally, they condemned the remarks, describing Trump's words as "racist," "ignorant," "abhorrent" and "unsurprising." The Trump campaign did not respond to a request for comment.

"Trump was really relying on stereotypes of multiracial people as disloyal and inauthentic, as not having a core identity, and stoking people's suspicions of multiracial people," said Nitasha Tamar Sharma, a professor of Black and Asian American studies at Northwestern University.

Harris was born in Oakland, Calif., to immigrant parents. Her mother was born in India and her father in Jamaica. Harris's father is the descendant of enslaved Black Jamaicans.

The vice president has credited her mother with helping her feel confident in her identity as both a Black American and a South Asian American from a young age.

In her 2019 memoir "The Truths We Hold," Harris recounted how her mother took her on trips to India, where they celebrated their heritage. But she made clear to Harris and her sister, Maya, that they were also Black girls.

"She knew that her adopted homeland would see Maya and me as Black girls, and she was determined to ensure we grew into confident, proud Black women," Harris wrote.

Harris responded to Trump's remarks Wednesday night at a convention of Black sororities, saying it was "the same old show" of "divisiveness" and "disrespect."

The vice president's sense of clarity in her racial identity, fostered by family, isn't an experience all multiracial people share.

When Rep. Maxwell Frost (D-Fla.) learned of Trump's comments, he thought of distant family members who encouraged him growing up to say he was only Cuban, and not also Black. He went on to embrace both aspects of his identity in high school.

Then he ran for office, and found he spent much of his time defending his identity as a Latino while stumping in Latino communities — and convincing voters in Black neighborhoods that he was also Black.

"There's a lot of unlearning and there's a lot of learning that needs to be done within our communities," the 27-year-old Frost said.

Louis Cook, 19, who identifies as White and Asian, said it was difficult to grow up biracial even in a diverse place like California's Bay Area. His friends would often use his identity as a punchline.

"When I was with White friends, they'd be like, 'Louis, you're a little Asian, do you know what they're saying? Can you tell what kind of Asian they are?'" Cook recalled. "And even with Asian friends, they'd reverse the joke, 'Oh do you know what kind of White person they are?' They would act like I was some sort of expert on these two groups when I'm just trying to navigate my own life."

Trump's attacks on Harris only underscore for many how little people who identify as single race understand about the lives of multiracial Americans.

Sonia Smith Kang, vice president of Multiracial Americans of Southern California, is Black and Latina. She said that sometimes when she meets people and explains that she is multiracial, they ask: "What do you feel more of? Who do you identify with more?"

"It's that kind of pushback that you start to feel like — why am I not heard?" she said. "Why is my identity being parsed out in such a way? And it's really because somebody else needs to understand you."

More and more young Americans know just how complicated that can be. Nearly a third of multiracial Americans are younger than 18, according to the 2020 Census. Many of those interviewed by The Post said it took years for them to get to a place where they felt confident in their identity.

Majors, 58, is Black and White but grew up in a Black family, never knowing his White father. There were not many people of more than one race in his community. Many people would try to put him in just one category.

"It was hurtful as a kid to have people look at me and try to fit me into a rigid racial category," said Majors, a nonprofit marketing executive in Maryland. "In many ways it felt like they were asking me to betray my family and who I thought I was."

Majors said he worried about how Trump's messaging on race would affect children watching it — children who have not had time to become comfortable holding multiple identities.

"It heartens me because she [Harris] got to a place that I'm at, which is like that kind of language, that kind of rhetoric, that kind of divisiveness has no place in this race and no place in our country," he said.

Some Republicans took aim at Harris's racial identity within hours of President Biden announcing he would not seek reelection. Several lawmakers referred to Harris as a 'DEI' choice for the presidency, a reference to corporate diversity, equity and inclusion programs that conservatives have attacked as paths for minorities to get preferential treatment over more qualified White workers.

The former president has doubled down in questioning Harris's identity, reposting a message by far-right activist Laura Loomer this past week that included a photo of Harris's birth certificate that showed that her father listed his race as "Jamaican."

She is "lying about being Black," Loomer added. She did not respond to a request for comment.

Loomer's post drew immediate comparisons to Trump's early political career, when he staked out his position as the most prominent face of the birther movement, which sought to invalidate former president Barack Obama's legitimate birth certificate, issued in Hawaii, and instead suggest that he was actually born in Kenya. Obama is the son of a White mother from Kansas and Black father from Kenya.

A number of those who shared their views with The Post wondered who Trump's intended audience was on Wednesday. Some believed Trump failed in an attempt to turn a room of Black journalists against Harris by suggesting she chose to identify as Black for political gain. Others wondered if Trump's true targets were conservatives watching at home.

Ashley Ramchandani, a 36-year-old who works in local government in Illinois, was reminded Wednesday of hurtful moments in her childhood. Like Harris, she is Black and Indian. Trump was trying to drive a wedge between Black voters and Harris by instilling doubt in her Black bona fides, she said.

"It's using something that's divisive within the community to his own advantage," Ramchandani said. "He was saying to those Black journalists, 'She's not one of you,' and that is not his place to say."

Justin Jones, 28, said he believes otherwise. The Tennessee House representative, who is Black and Filipino, said Republican lawmakers there have joked publicly about Jones's ethnicity in interviews, suggesting Jones flits between racial identities when they suit his interests. Jones was one of two lawmakers briefly expelled from the Republican-led state House last year for joining gun-control protests.

In Trump, Jones sees a similar desire to tap into feelings of racial resentment and grievance among his supporters.

"He's trying to evoke some very painful, very sinister, elements of American history," Jones said. "It's clear that the audience was not the people in the room, but the white nationalists in his base, for whom racism is red meat that they feed on."

Sharma, the professor of Black and Asian American studies, said the nation is at a crossroads not unlike the one during Obama's first presidential election. She noted he faced questions about why he marked "Black" on the census when he is biracial.

But despite Trump's recent remarks, some also see room for optimism. The growing population of multiracial Americans means that in time their experiences will be more common. The federal government is recognizing the nation's increasing diversity. It recently updated how it classifies people by race and ethnicity for the first time in over a quarter-century.

Sharma has two children, ages 14 and 9, who are Black and Indian. They have a great-aunt named Kamala, too. And they know about Harris's presidential race.

"They are very familiar with her," Sharma said. "I think they are excited."

MARVIN JOSEPH/THE WASHINGTON POST

"It sort of awakened some feelings of outrage and anger — and hurt, honestly," says Steve Majors of Takoma Park, who is Black and White. He says Donald Trump's questioning of Kamala Harris's racial identity reminded him of being teased at school as a child.

ST. STEPHEN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Nobody "should presume to racially identify" someone else, says the Rev. Adam Shoemaker.

BREANNA GONZALEZ

Sonia Smith Kang sometimes gets pushback when she tells people she's multiracial.

THE WORLD

Ah, Paris in the summer: For locals, Olympics turn life into a palette of perks and piques

Blocked roads, security checkpoints, lost revenue for cafes but also spiffed-up neighborhoods, star power and joie in the air

BY CLAIRE PARKER AND JULIETTE FEKKAR

PARIS — In the park, people in T-shirts imprinted with red Phryges lounged on beach chairs and watched gymnastics on the big screen, while children equipped with scaled-down sabers lunged their way through free fencing lessons.

One of the petite, new fencers, age 4, ended her bout with a dazzling grin.

"This is what we want to see — we want to start making more Olympians," said Bernard Aussedat, who was supervising the lessons in Parc Monceau on behalf of a local fencing club.

"This is good for Paris, good for sport," he said.

The Olympic Games are reverberating everywhere here this summer. The influx of athletes, officials and spectators from around the world has altered moods and rhythms. Whether this is good or bad for Paris may depend on your vantage point.

Some Parisians have experienced the Games as security and transportation headaches. Some fled town early to avoid the disruptions, feeling that these Olympics were not geared toward them. Others stuck around, sacrificing a traditionally sacred vacation period in the hope of Olympic tourism profits. In some cases, they have ended up disappointed.

But the Summer Games have also brought a bit of joie de vivre back to Paris. They have energized downtrodden neighborhoods and instilled pride in the Olympic hosts — a sentiment reinforced by the face of multi-medal-winner Léon Marchand plastered on newsstands throughout the capital.

"At its base, Paris is not a sporty city," said David Silvain, 41, who came out to watch women speed cyclists race through the 7th arrondissement the weekend before. Yet the Olympics are a "beautiful event," he said, cheering "Vive la France!" as a French cyclist zipped past.

Paris is usually sleepy in late July and August, the time carved out for French summer vacations. Residential neighborhoods typically feel deserted. Finding an open bakery can require a bit of a hike.

And this particular summer began in a bit of a funk, with elections that underscored France's divisions.

Geopolitical tensions, and security concerns, put the country further on edge in the lead-up to the Olympics.

The Opening Ceremonies, held along the Seine on July 26, were ambitious and stunning — the first to take place outside a stadium. They also involved huge risks for a country that has been the frequent target of terrorist attacks. To temper the threat, authorities barricaded off the Seine in the week leading up to the ceremonies, restricted traffic and instituted a system of QR-code screening for people who live and work along the river.

Thomas Girault, 32, was among the Parisians who decided to leave. He said his publishing company, located along the Seine, had advised employees not to come to the office, and he expected the Games to bring a lot of noise.

But as he prepared to leave town, he noticed a strange calm in his neighborhood of Denfert-Rochereau. "I'm surprised," he said in an interview on the eve of the Opening Ceremonies. "I thought it would be much more chaotic."

At Brasserie Moliteuil, down the street from the Parc des Princes stadium, waiter Sabrina de Staël said her boss hired extra staff for the summer, thinking that proximity to the Olympic soccer venue would translate into a surge in customers.

But just days before the competitions kicked off, police told restaurants near Olympic venues that they couldn't put tables outside, de Staël said — effectively shutting down the terrasse, the outward-facing sidewalk seats that are a staple of summer life in Paris. The brasserie, mostly empty during the opening Israel vs. Mali soccer qualifying match July 24, lost money as a result, she said.

The massive police presence around the city unnerved her, too, de Staël said. Paris has deployed tens of thousands of security officers, including French and foreign police, private contractors and soldiers, during the Games. Soldiers wearing fatigues and holding rifles patrol upscale streets on the Seine's left bank, marching past tourists sipping rosé.

Past incidents of police brutality have sparked protests and strained relations between minorities and police officers.

"You go outside your flat and you see a policeman. It doesn't make me feel safe," de Staël said.

By Monday, even as security measures around sporting venues remained, the quays of the Seine were coming back to life. Metal barricades had largely been dismantled. Vendors who sell art on the riverbanks reopened their stalls. As a heat wave baked Paris, tourists wearing sports jerseys licked ice cream cones and snapped selfies in front of landmarks decorated with Olympic rings.

The Olympics have upended Paris tourism, changing where visitors go and what they do.

Shopkeepers in Saint-Germandes-Près said the wealthy clientele from the United States and the Middle East who usually descend on the neighborhood have stayed away.

The Louis Vuitton store was empty on Monday afternoon. Les Deux Magots, an old haunt of Picasso and Hemingway where visitors typically line up to sip coffee, was noticeably quiet. Olympics spectators seemed to be spending their time and money at sports events instead.

The restrictions around the Seine diverted other customers, said Philippe Rouzaud, the manager of Brasserie Lipp, an upscale restaurant that saw its daily business drop by more than half in recent weeks.

"There's a huge deficit here," Rouzaud said. "We're hoping that there'll be a few more people, but we don't know how things will work out."

The prospect of Olympic crowds and premium pricing appears to have deterred some people from visiting Paris this summer. Air France-KLM and Delta blamed the Olympics for lower-than-projected air traffic to the French capital. Low occupancy prompted some hotels to offer last-minute reduced rates.

The Paris tourism office lowered its Olympic-period projections from 15 million to 11 million people — though the latest statistics show 650,000 people arrived during the first days of the Games, a bump of about 17 percent for French visitors and about 15 percent for foreigners compared to the same period in 2023.

Paris officials promised from the start that these Olympics wouldn't be just for tourists — they would be open to Parisians, too, and offer long-term benefits.

The city has set up "Paris beaches" where locals were supposed to be able to swim in newly clean waterways on Sundays during July and August. But after consecutive rainy days, authorities said the water was too polluted for swimming that weekend.

"They say that next week we might be able to go swimming," said Estelle Sirey, 24, sitting in a swimsuit on the edge of Canal St. Martin, one of the designated swimming zones. "I'm still a bit disappointed."

Paying host to the Olympics has thrilled other residents.

"The city is shining with a new light during these Games," Julien Dambre, 27, said as he lounged with friends on colorful new beach chairs by the canal.

For some previously neglected Paris suburbs, the Olympics have brought fresh investment, rare visitors and brushes with athletic greatness.

Saint-Denis, an area north of Paris with high crime and poverty rates, was already home to the Stade de France. For the Olympics, an aquatics center and the Olympic Village were built in the community. Residents here complain about traffic jams caused by blocked-off roads around the venues; on Sunday, police stopped local cars to usher buses for athletes through to the stadium.

But residents praised the newly paved roads and the street cleaners suddenly deployed daily. Here, several said, the influx of police made them feel safer. Authorities also gave out free tickets to some Olympic events.

The thousands of athletes, Olympics organizers and security personnel who have descended on the Olympic Village during the past several days injected star power and international tourists into neighborhoods that rarely see either.

Said El-Ghomari, 42, a telecommunications technician who lives in Saint-Denis and is working for the Games, showed off the country pins athletes had given him.

The Olympics "changed the usual population here," said Diane Noumba, 43, as she sat with her 4-year-old son in a nearby park, watching athletes and volunteers bustle past. "On this passage here, there are diverse populations, different rhythms to life in the neighborhood."

Last Sunday morning, American sprinter Gabby Thomas — favored to medal in the 200-meter race — sipped coffee with her boyfriend at the local cafe-bar, now decorated with balloons and Olympic flags.

A few blocks away, the boulangerie closest to the Olympic Village was packed with police and sports officials ordering lunch. The Games have brought "a real boost to the business," baker Najah Wided said.

"It brings a little bit of joy because normally it's very, very quiet around here," she said. "Everything is going really well these days."

Gretchen Reynolds contributed to this report.

VALENTINE CHAPUIS/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

On Tuesday, people outside the Sacre Coeur basilica in Montmartre dot the steps, which been covered in an Olympic mural.

KEVIN COOMBS/REUTERS

Patrons on the terrace of a restaurant in the Marais neighborhood. Police told those near Olympic venues they can't put tables outside.

GRETCHEN REYNOLDS/THE WASHINGTON POST

Bernard Aussedat leads free fencing lessons in Parc Monceau, one of 25 official "festivity sites" set up by the city of Paris.

"There's a huge deficit here. We're hoping that there'll be a few more people."

Philippe Rouzaud, manager of Brasserie Lipp, an upscale restaurant that saw its daily business drop by more than half in recent weeks

DIGEST

BRITAIN

Police officers injured in nationwide protests

A number of British police officers were injured Saturday as far-right activists faced off with anti-racism protesters in cities and towns across the country, following a stabbing rampage at a dance class earlier this week that left three girls dead and several wounded.

With dozens of similar gatherings taking place around the country this warm and sunny weekend, police have mounted a significant security operation, deploying thousands more officers onto the streets, many in riot gear.

Police have also made more prison cells available and are using surveillance and facial recognition technology. Court hours have also been extended to judge those arrested.

On Saturday, Merseyside Police said a number of officers were injured in "serious disorder" in the center of Liverpool, about 20 miles from the scene of the stabbing attack in the seaside town of Southport, in the northwest of England.

In a series of posts on the social media platform X, the police force, which covers Liverpool and Southport, said there is "no place for this despicable behaviour which disrupts the lives of members of the public who live in the city, or are visiting to enjoy the amenities the city has to offer."

And Humberside Police in a statement said three police officers have been injured and four people arrested following disorder in Hull, a city in the northeast of England. Earlier, windows of a hotel in Hull that is used to house migrants were smashed.

Police also said they had made multiple arrests in Bristol, which is arguably the most left-wing city in the U.K., during a standoff that saw right-wing activists heavily outnumbered by their opponents.

"Some of the behavior we have seen is completely unacceptable and we will use all the powers available to us to deal with it," said Avon and Somerset Police, which oversees the city.

— Associated Press

SOMALIA

32 die, 63 wounded in beach hotel attack

Police in Somalia said Saturday that 32 people died and 63 others were wounded in an attack on a beach hotel in the capital, Mogadishu, the previous evening.

Al-Qaida's East Africa affiliate, al-Shabab, said through its radio station that its fighters carried out the attack.

Police spokesperson Maj. Abdifatah Adan Hassan told journalists that one soldier was killed and another wounded, while the rest of the dead were civilians. Witnesses reported an explosion followed by gunfire.

Lido Beach, is bustling on Friday nights as Somalis enjoy their weekend.

A witness, Mohamud Moalim, told The Associated Press that he saw an attacker wearing an explosive vest moments before the man "blew himself up next to the beach-view hotel."

Moalim said some of his friends who were with him at the hotel were killed.

In a separate attack on Saturday, state media reported that seven people died after a passenger vehicle hit a roadside bomb some 25 miles from the capital.

Somali President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud last year declared a "total war" on the militants as the country started taking charge of its own security.

— Associated Press

VIETNAM

President confirmed as new party chief

Vietnamese President To Lam was confirmed Saturday as the new chief of the Communist Party after his predecessor died July 19.

Lam will be the general secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam, the country's most powerful political role, state media said. It was unclear if Lam will stay in his role as president.

The previous general secretary, Nguyen Phu Trong, dominated Vietnamese politics since he became party chief in 2011.

— Associated Press

Authoritarians stand by Maduro and his claim of victory in Venezuela

Leftist allies reserve judgment of strongman's boast, which U.S. doubts

BY TERRENCE MCCOY

In Nicolás Maduro, the United States and its allies see a tyrant: an authoritarian socialist who has brought economic ruin to oil-rich Venezuela, persecuted and imprisoned political opponents, grown rich on narcoterrorism, and repeatedly and brazenly stolen elections.

Russia, China, Iran and Cuba see their type of guy.

In return for a strategic foothold in the Western Hemisphere, Maduro's closest allies have sent him weapons and oil-refining technology, provided his government with billions of dollars in loans and backed him in each of his confrontations with the West — including now.

Washington and its European partners are questioning the strongman's claim that he was reelected last Sunday. Exit polling and, according to the opposition, the government's records indicate challenger Edmundo González trounced him. Even his leftist allies in Brazil, Colombia and Mexico are reserving judgment.

But Moscow, Beijing, Tehran and Havana were all quick to congratulate Maduro.

The divided response to Maduro's election claim has made Venezuela the latest battlefield in an emerging global ideological conflict that's not between left and right so much as authoritarianism and democracy.

From Ukraine to Taiwan, Yemen to Syria, the authoritarian bloc is upending global norms, working to hinder the advance of democracy and transforming what in other times might have been isolated regional disputes into protracted proxy struggles between the liberal and illiberal worlds.

"It used to be that you could get together a few interested parties and manage a crisis," said Eric Farnsworth, a senior analyst at the Council of the Americas and the Americas Society. "But Russia, Iran and Cuba complicate everything. Their interests are not to manage the crisis, but disrupt the system, to make the management more difficult."

Their support of Maduro has undermined the international community's efforts to force Maduro's exit through diplomatic isolation and economic sanctions. The strongman, the handpicked successor of Hugo Chávez, the founder of Venezuela's socialist state, has ruled Venezuela for more than a decade, despite widespread belief that he stole the 2018 election.

"Maduro is largely immune from Western pressure," said Oliver Stuenkel, a political analyst at the Getulio Vargas Foundation, a university in Brazil. "He doesn't depend much on friendly relations with them."

Some of the support is rhetorical. Iran, North Korea and Nicaragua have offered solidarity, forming a de facto support circle among what might otherwise be isolated pariah states. Venezuela and North Korea, Maduro's Foreign Ministry says, will forge a "new world order." Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi, hosting Maduro in Tehran in 2022, said the countries were "friends in difficult times" who were "resisting cruel imperialism." (Raisi was killed in a helicopter crash in May.)

Others have offered more than words. Russia, for instance, pledged $5 billion to improve Venezuela's oil refineries, $1 billion for its gold mining industry — and firepower. Moscow — long one of Venezuela's biggest arms suppliers — has sold it armored vehicles, tanks, air-defense systems and helicopters, a group of Colombian researchers reported last year in the International Social Science Journal.

At Maduro's most critical moments, when his grip on power appeared most at risk, Moscow has sent additional military aid. In 2019, when the Trump administration declared him a usurper and recognized opposition leader Juan Guaidó as Venezuela's rightful leader, the Kremlin dispatched military planes carrying military equipment and roughly 100 "military technicians." In the lead-up to the presidential election last Sunday, Russia twice sent warships into Caribbean waters — once to dock at a Venezuelan port.

Other support has been less public. In 2019, the Wagner Group, the Russian mercenary firm then closely tied to Russian President Vladimir Putin, sent hundreds of contractors into Venezuela to beef up Maduro's security forces, Reuters reported at the time.

Last week, video spread on social media suggesting the group's return to Venezuela. A man wearing what appears to be a Wagner arm patch is shown among Maduro's security forces.

"One of the reasons Maduro is surviving is because of Russian support," said Vladimir Rouvinski, a Russian political scientist at Colombia's Icesi University. "Russia sees itself as a great constructor of a new world order, and they need Maduro."

Cuba is also believed to have provided significant military support. Chávez, who brought socialism to Venezuela in 1999, enjoyed closed ties with Fidel and Raúl Castro; the communist island remains Venezuela's closest ideological ally.

In 2019, exiled former Venezuelan general Antonio Rivero told Diálogo Américas, a publication of U.S. Southern Command, that the countries had signed several agreements to promote the "Cubanization" of Venezuela's armed forces. Maduro's personal security force is reportedly staffed largely by Cubans. In 2019, when Guaidó led an attempted uprising against Maduro, then-White House national security adviser John Bolton accused Cuba of having dispatched more than 20,000 security agents to Venezuela.

But most crucial to Maduro's survival has been Chinese patronage.

Beijing has long been Venezuela's economic benefactor, its principal creditor and largest oil purchaser. Venezuela has been the largest recipient in Latin America of Chinese loans — an estimated $60 billion, according to the Council on Foreign Relations.

When U.S.-led sanctions threatened to maim Venezuela's oil-dependent economy, China evaded the restrictions by trading through third parties.

It's difficult to know China's ambitions in Venezuela. It could be that they want to cultivate and bolster a friend who can help undermine Western interests in South America, a continent rich in natural resources sought by both China and the United States. Or they might just want to make sure they can collect on their loans.

"It's very difficult to disentangle how much of this is a financial strategy versus geopolitical in nature," said Stephen Kaplan, a political economist at George Washington University.

Other analysts see clear political motives. Several say Russia, China and others are pursuing a campaign of political reciprocity in Venezuela to retaliate against the United States for its support of their adversaries in Ukraine, Taiwan and other countries.

"This needs to be seen through the prism of a superpower conflict between the U.S., Russia and China, and a complete eroding of the world order," said Ulf Thoene, a political scientist at La Sabana University in Colombia. "What's happening in Venezuela is a fight between a candidate clearly backed by Russia, China and Iran — and an opposition that is obviously supported by the United States and Europe."

That dynamic, he said, has fueled violent quagmires around the world, complicating efforts to usher authoritarian leaders to the exits.

Syrian President "Bashar al-Assad is still in power," he said. "We were promised he would be gone in weeks, but he's actually stronger now than he was years ago."

The same, Thoene fears, could happen in Venezuela.

"With every passing day," he said, "the likelihood grows that Maduro will remain in power."

PEDRO PARDO/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

A giant screen in Beijing on Sept. 13 shows Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro meeting with Chinese leader Xi Jinping.

Putin links push for population growth to national security

RUSSIA FROM **A1**

the workforce, creating critical labor shortages.

Russia's low birth rate and relatively short life expectancies have caused consternation in the Kremlin for decades, and many other countries have similarly struggled with declining populations, seeking to encourage childbirth with more-generous social benefits. But Putin has set Russia apart by declaring the effort a matter of national security and tying it to the war in Ukraine.

His policies are being driven not only by economic interests but by his effort to forge a puritanical, militarized society built on nationalism and Orthodox Christianity — locked in a civilizational conflict with the West.

In pursuing these sweeping changes, Putin has cast Russia as the global leader in a fight against what he considers Western debauchery, and has branded democracy advocates and other liberals as purveyors of "destructive ideology" who must be suppressed.

Feminists, LGBTQ+ activists, independent journalists and political opposition figures have been designated as foreign agents, extremists or terrorists and arrested, jailed or forced to flee the country.

Women who embody the traditional image, which is constantly reinforced on state television, are being promoted to high-level positions — such as national children's ombudswoman Maria Lvova-Belova, who has 10 children, five of them adopted. Lvova-Belova, along with Putin, was accused of war crimes by the International Criminal Court over the forced relocation of Ukrainian children.

The Kremlin has called the charges "outrageous and unacceptable," but also "null and void" as far as Moscow is concerned because Russia is not a party to the International Criminal Court.

Reality often diverges from official policy. In 2022, Russia's Labor Ministry adopted a strategy aimed at women's "de facto equality" with men. The year before, a Soviet-era list of men-only jobs was cut to 100 from 450, allowing women to drive trains or work as sailors.

Among the loudest supporters of Putin's agenda are prominent Russian women like London-educated Yekaterina Mizulina, a popular role model for Russian youths who is the daughter of a Russian senator and heads the Safe Internet League, a censorship organization.

Mizulina's denunciations have ruined the careers of risqué celebrities, and led to the closures of gay bars and the blocking of LGBTQ+ internet sites. Asked in an interview what she thought about feminism, she answered flatly: "I don't think about it." Russian women, she said, think men should come first.

"Many women in Russia feel fine if they're deputy to someone. They don't want to be in charge of something. This is our character," Mizulina said. European countries made a mistake, she said, when they put women "in weird positions like minister of defense."

In February, Russia's unemployment rate was 2.8 percent — a record low. Yet women are not working more, according to Rosstat, the state statistical agency, with women's participation in the labor force at 48.8 percent, nearly unchanged from 48.7 percent in January 2022.

And even as it calls on women to sacrifice for the fatherland, Russia has regressed in basic protections for women. Many forms of domestic violence were decriminalized in 2017, with lawmakers such as Yelena Mizulina, the senator, saying that parents should be allowed to beat their children and that women are not offended by a man beating his wife. Groups supporting victims of domestic violence or working to safeguard reproductive rights have been designated as "foreign agents."

The Kremlin denied a request to interview Putin for this series. In response to written questions, Putin's spokesman, Dmitry Peskov, said the Russian government's social policies reflect the will of the Russian people and are designed to increase the population.

Putin has restored a 1944 Soviet "Heroine Mother" award for mothers of 10 or more children, as well as an "Order of Parental Glory." From the Kremlin's situation room, Putin on May 30 held a video conference with nine large families across Russia who had won such awards.

Making sure Russians have "as many children as possible," he declared, is "the underlying goal of our state policy."

Soldiers' mothers and wives who openly support the war in Ukraine are also exalted as heroes, while those who advocate for better treatment of their husbands by the military are ostracized and regarded as traitors who must be silenced.

Ease of access to abortion, legalized by the Soviet Union in 1922, has been curbed. Funding for organizations that promote family values and discourage divorce has been increased.

Marianna Muravyeva, a professor of Russian law and administration at the University of Helsinki, called Putin's ideology of traditional values "very dangerous," with women's rights "constantly challenged and threatened."

"All this ideology is targeting women," Muravyeva said. "Go back to tradition. Tradition is 1917."

"A traditional family is a family where women basically produce and work and are abused, the strong patriarchal model," she added.

Putin, however, sees growing Russia's population as part of his legacy.

"Saving and increasing the people of Russia is our task for the coming decades," he declared on the video link from Sochi. "This is the future of the Russian world — the thousand-year eternal Russia."

When he addressed women on March 8 for International Women's Day, Putin stood by a massive vase of flowers and reminded them that they are beautiful and charming, and that their most important function is to give birth: "You, dear women, are capable of transforming the world with your beauty, wisdom and spiritual generosity, but, above all, thanks to the greatest gift that nature has endowed you with — the bearing of children. Motherhood is an amazing destiny for women."

Putin, who is 71 and, like many in Russia's elite, divorced, is hardly a model for traditional family values. He has long appeared alone at public events and almost never mentions the two daughters from his marriage. He has also never acknowledged children from widely reported relationships with two other women, including a daughter from a secret years-long affair.

Putin has declared 2024 the Year of the Family, and in April he ordered the return of a Soviet competition called "Come On, Girls!" in which young women competed to make the best soup, to vacuum, dance, sing a folk song, or answer questions on kitchen chores.

Senior officials have repeatedly hammered the message for large families and behavioral changes in women.

In July 2023, Health Minister Mikhail Murashko attacked "the downright vicious practice" of women pursuing education and careers before childbirth.

The deputy prime minister for social policy, Tatiana Golikova, in March said that the "correct" age for women to have children is 18 to 24.

"The earlier the first child is born, the earlier the second and third will be born," Golikova said at a youth festival.

Vyacheslav Volodin, chairman of the State Duma, Russia's lower house of Parliament, said: "Girls need to be prepared for adult life by being taught how to cook borscht, because they have to take care of their husbands."

Margarita Pavlova, a senator from the Chelyabinsk region, in a television interview in November said: "We need to stop encouraging girls to get higher education ... which then leads them nowhere."

The rules on how to be a good soldier's wife are laid out in the pro-Kremlin Telegram channel "Wives and the SVO" — using the Russian abbreviation for "special military operation," the Kremlin's euphemism for the war in Ukraine.

"Rejoice in every day."

Create a "magical aura."

Talk to your children. Maintain your beauty.

"Do not spit on yourself under any circumstances," commanded a post with an image of a joyful woman in a white dress running through a flower-filled meadow. "Your husband will come back, and you won't be able to regain your former beauty. So take care of yourself at the same level as before he left."

This pervasive propaganda infuriates the wives and families of mobilized soldiers who are part of a different Telegram group — "The Way Home" — which organizes regular low-key protests calling for demobilization. Members do not have to disclose their names, but Russian authorities are believed to have the capability to identify Telegram users.

"The aim is just to shut us up," said one small-business woman from the Moscow region whose husband has been fighting in Ukraine for 18 months. "They're trying to create an image of a very obedient woman, like a slave."

Women, she said, are being treated "like incubators," even as men are dying in the war. The Post agreed not to publish her name because criticizing the war is now a serious criminal offense in Russia.

"We are in the middle of the war and they're calling on women to give birth to children," the businesswoman said. "Are they crazy? I'm not going to give birth to children in a war." If Russia wins, she added, there will soon be another war.

"So why should I have babies who will live till the next war and then be killed in this next war?" she asked. "No! No way."

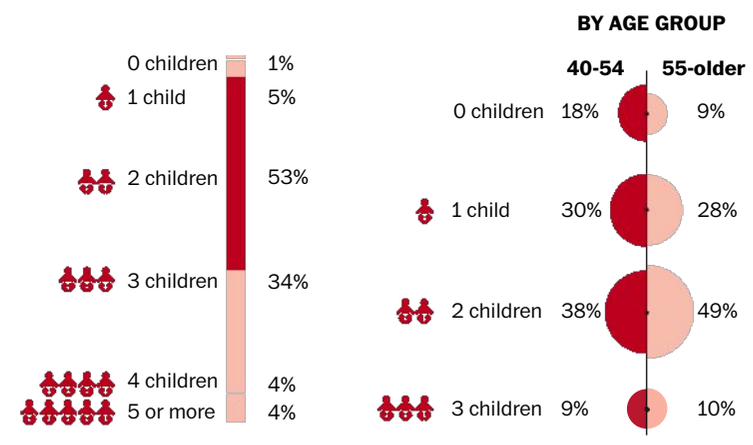
Members of the "The Way Home" are portrayed as traitors and foreign agents. Yekaterina Kolotovkina, by contrast, is depicted as the model new Russian woman, an officer's wife, married to Lt. Gen. Andrei Kolotovkin, the recently retired commander of the Second Combined

NANNA HEITMANN/MAGNUM PHOTOS FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

MIKHAIL METZEL/SPUTNIK/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

TOP: A photo exhibition is displayed in Kirov in June during celebrations for Russia Day and the city's 650th anniversary. The "Wives of Heroes" project features photos of women and girls whose sons, husbands or fathers fought or died in the war in Ukraine, with each draped in the man's military jacket.
ABOVE: In a photo distributed by the state news agency Sputnik, President Vladimir Putin talks to recipients after an award ceremony in Moscow marking International Women's Day in 2023.

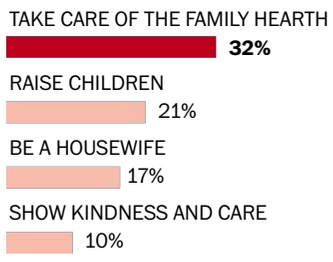
Ideal number of children in eyes of Russian women



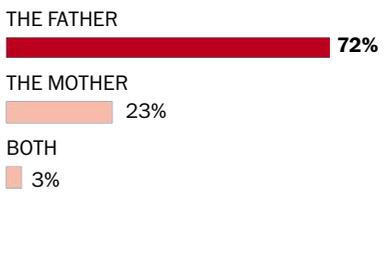
The ideal of femininity

2021 survey on women's qualities

A REAL WOMAN SHOULD ...



Who should take the main role in providing for the family financially



Source: VTsIOM, Levada Survey 2022

Arms Army.

"If your husband went to the battlefield, you bring up children and you support him," said Kolotovkina, who lives in Samara on the Volga River. She married soon after leaving school and followed her husband from one garrison town to another.

"I got married at the right time, and I don't understand it when women in their 40s marry for the first time and then start to think about having a child," Kolotovkina said. "I'm almost in my 40s. I look good! I have two sons and a daughter, and my oldest son is 21 years old."

In September 2022, she launched the project "Wives of Heroes," an exhibition of photos of women and girls whose sons, husbands or fathers fought or died in the war, with each draped in the man's military jacket. Exhibited across Russia, the project, designed to replace women's grief and anger with pride and status, attracted Putin's personal attention.

In an interview at the House of Officers of the Samara Garrison, with its portraits of Russian imperial generals and Soviet leader Joseph Stalin, Kolotovkina echoed the puritanical tone set by the Kremlin and extolled what she called the war's purifying effect.

Russia had been "degrading," importing "filth" from the West, she said. "Now we woke up. Now I see this new Russia being built by our President Vladimir Putin."

Putin's effort to increase the Russian population partly echoes Stalin, who instituted a 1941 tax on childlessness and the Heroine Mother award in 1944. An intense propaganda campaign urged Slavic women to bear many children.

After the 1917 Bolshevik Revolution, Soviet women flooded into the workforce and, in 1922, abortion was legalized, a world first. Soviet women, including a group known as the "Night Witches," flew some combat planes in World War II and kept the state farms and factories going, and in 1963 Valentina Tereshkova became the first woman to fly in space.

Under Stalin, a 1936 decree declared that in no other country did women have "such complete equality in all branches of political, social and family life."

But while Soviet women had social and maternal protections, they were paid less than men, occupied inferior roles, and were barred from more than 450 men-only jobs — the list that was updated in 2021 to allow women not only to be sailors and train operators but also to perform various industrial jobs.

Women's salaries in Russia on average are 60 percent those of men, according to the World Economic Forum's gender gap report from 2021, the last year Russia was included. On closing the overall gap, with lower numbers indicating more success, Russia ranked 81st of 156 countries. The United States placed 30th.

Putin has instituted family grants to encourage higher birth rates, yet military spending remains his top priority and the war has exacerbated the demographic crisis. Hundreds of thousands of men have left Russia to avoid conscription or have been killed or wounded in action.

In 2023, 1.26 million children were born in Russia, 9.5 percent fewer than in 2021, according to Rosstat — the lowest number of births since 1999.

Putin's efforts to shape a conservative society run counter to the values of many Russians. A 2022 study of 15,000 households by Rosstat found that 71.6 percent of women wanted no more than two children, compared with 65.3 percent in 2017.

In late 2022, Russia's Labor Ministry adopted a national strategy aimed at women's "de facto equality" with men, with goals such as closing the gender pay gap and increasing women's political representation.

Things quickly went awry, however. A blizzard of statements by Russian officials, including Putin, contradicted or undermined the strategy — reflecting tension between Russia's need for female workers and Putin's obsession with creating a generation of women committed to replenishing the population.

Russia's ultraconservative nationalist Orthodox movement, which has been riding a wave of anti-Western fervor emanating from the Kremlin, immediately denounced the strategy as Western liberal feminist "nonsense."

The plan meant that "men's money must be given to women," Konstantin Malofeyev, a billionaire oligarch, proclaimed on Tsargrad TV, a station he founded to promote Orthodox ideology. Malofeyev accused the Labor Ministry of promoting "Western feminism, the psychology of individual success and the special rights of women."

Conservatives such as Maria Popova, a housewife from Yaroslavl with 10 children, believe that their time has come.

Hand on heart, she introduced herself at November's World Russian People's Council — where Putin spoke via videolink — as "a simple mother of many children" and called for women to stay home to care for their children and husbands, and for a ban on abortion. Patriarch Kirill, the leader of the Russian Orthodox Church, applauded. Putin took notes.

"It's very clear: Feminism is not tolerated," said Sergei Guriev, the former head of Russia's Higher Economics School and now provost of Sciences Po in France. "Putin is sending female activists, female journalists to prison all the time. He's afraid of feminists."

In November 2022, Putin signed a decree proclaiming traditional values to be a matter of national security and declaring that the United States, foreign nongovernmental organizations, and some Russian groups and people were fostering "destructive ideology" that threatened Russia's existence.

"They're trying to re-domesticate women," said Sasha Talaver, a Russian feminist based in Vienna.

In a Moscow hall filled with exhibits glorifying Russia's battlefield successes on the second anniversary of the invasion of Ukraine, Maria Butina, a prominent lawmaker in Putin's United Russia party, unveiled a propaganda film she had made called "Their Women's Business," about three women in wartime, who, according to Butina, support their husbands, never complain and rarely cry.

The women from Kirov, just over 500 miles east of Moscow, embody virtuous traditional values, despise the West and serve Russia.

Anastasia Bortsova's husband is fighting in the war while she cares for her children and runs a Kirov clothing factory, making military stretchers and camouflage nets.

Anna Artemyeva, wife of an officer who is in Ukraine, leads a local foundation that sends drones and equipment to the front. And Susanna Anikitina Yungblud heads a network of medical centers that treat soldiers and help military wives.

"For us, our country is our child," Butina said at the screening. "You should never get in the way of a woman and their child, because we will stop at nothing to defend them."

Yungblud, after the screening, told The Post that women must do their part for wartime Russia, work hard, not complain, and take care of their families.

"I think the world belongs to men in general, and everything is made for men to have a good life," Yungblud said.

"The role of woman hasn't changed since creation," she continued, adding that young women want "to wear a dress and not men's clothes, to be beautiful, to bear children, to be called moms."

Meanwhile, Russian feminists are being silenced. In February, one of the few opposition politicians still in Russia, Yulia Galyamina, announced that she was going silent to avoid jail.

Members of Pussy Riot, the feminist punk protest group — Maria Alyokhina, Nadya Tolokonnikova and Lucy Shtein — left Russia and now work from afar. Putin's main goal is to "rebuild the dead body of the Soviet Union," Alyokhina said in an interview. "This is not something new, to oppress women. This is an old, old idea."

One feminist in St. Petersburg, who has been arrested repeatedly by police, said feminist activists had been dispersed and harassed.

"People working in activism are feeling lost," she said. "They feel like their past and future has been stolen. They're just floating in a timeless, shapeless space with nowhere to go and no idea how to continue."

NANNA HEITMANN/MAGNUM PHOTOS FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

NANNA HEITMANN/MAGNUM PHOTOS FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

OLEG RAKSHIN/YEKATERINA KOLOTOVKINA

TOP: Volunteers in Kirov, Russia, pack aid in June for soldiers fighting in the country's war in Ukraine. MIDDLE: A woman kisses a religious icon that travels between the front lines in eastern Ukraine and Kirov. BOTTOM: Yekaterina Kolotovkina poses for a portrait as part of her "Wives of Heroes" exhibition.

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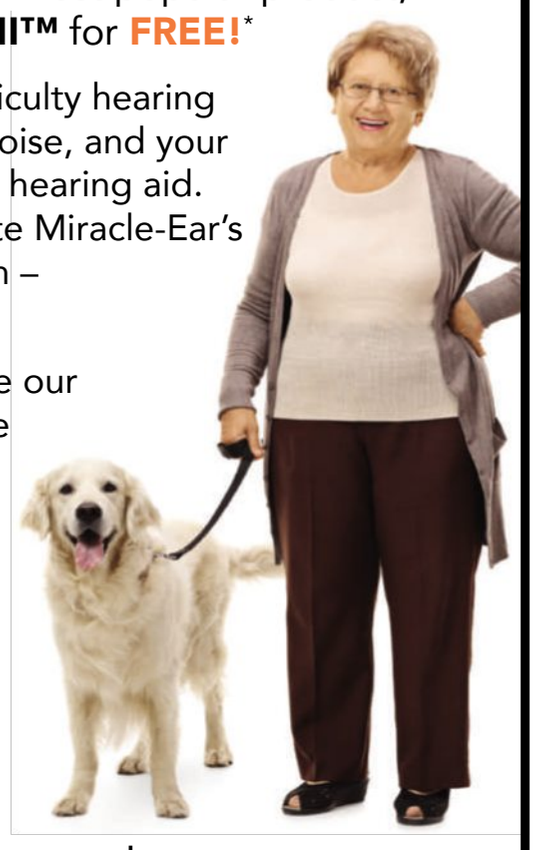

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ISRAEL-GAZA WAR

In Gaza, residents hold complex feelings about slain leader of Hamas

GAZA FROM **A1**

created one of the worst humanitarian crises in the world.

Residents there said many people, whether they supported Hamas or not, mourned Haniyeh's death as the loss of a Palestinian leader, one of many who have been killed over the years. Others said they were torn, angry that Haniyeh was killed by what they suspect were Israeli operatives, but with little sympathy for a man who dined in Istanbul and Doha while they lived in fear of constant Israeli fire.

Because he left Gaza "and me, my mother and sisters live under fire and are forced to leave our homes before they are destroyed … I will not care about the death of Ismail Haniyeh," said Saher al-Aqqad, 26.

Aqqad was recently displaced to a makeshift camp in Mawasi, a narrow strip of land where the Israeli military has ordered much of Gaza's population to congregate. "The one who assassinated him was my enemy," he said, pointing the blame at Israel, which has declined to comment on the attack. But Haniyeh and Hamas, which ruled Gaza for years, are also responsible for this war and his suffering, he said.

Hamas, an Islamist movement with political and military wings, was founded in Gaza in 1987 at the start of the first intifada, or Palestinian uprising, against Israeli occupation. It was an offshoot of the Muslim Brotherhood, and Haniyeh, who was a student activist at the Islamic University, joined right away.

He became a protégé of the group's founder and spiritual leader, Ahmed Yassin, who Israel later assassinated, and assumed the role of Hamas leader in Gaza. Haniyeh was "one of the moderate figures in Hamas compared to the other hawkish leaders or personalities," said Mkhaimar Abusada, a political scientist who fled Gaza for Egypt late last year.

But his legacy "is not easy to describe," Abusada said.

Haniyeh gained a reputation as a unifier among Gaza's political and armed factions, and rose to prominence by securing a Hamas victory at the polls in 2006. As prime minister, he formed a short-lived unity government that included Hamas's chief rival, Fatah, a secular-nationalist party that leads the Palestinian Authority in Ramallah.

But in 2007, the already-fragile coalition came apart, and Hamas fighters violently ousted Fatah and the Palestinian Authority from Gaza, seizing control of the territory. Haniyeh became the de facto leader of Gaza until he was elected as Hamas's political chief in 2017 and left the enclave soon after.

OMAR AL-QATTAA/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

Mourners and colleagues surround the body of Al Jazeera journalist Ismail al-Ghoul on Wednesday.

His death is "a great loss for Palestine and its cause at this time," said Wael al-Halabi, a reporter for al-Kofiya TV, a channel affiliated with Haniyeh rival and former Fatah leader in Gaza, Mohammed Dahlan.

Halabi, who is based in Khan Younis in southern Gaza, said the news was "sad and shocking" because Haniyeh "had tendencies toward unity."

Still, other Palestinians in Gaza said they had little sympathy for Haniyeh while they lived under constant threat of Israeli fire. He watched from afar as Hamas-led fighters rampaged through southern Israel on Oct. 7, killing around 1,200 people and inviting a crushing military response.

Israel's war in Gaza has killed tens of thousands of people, displaced the majority of the population and destroyed the territory's health-care system and other key infrastructure. In July, the world's leading body on food emergencies said nearly half a million people remain at serious risk of famine in Gaza, while the World Health Organization has warned of a potential polio outbreak after the virus was detected in several sewage samples.

Fadi Ahmed, who is in Egypt for medical treatment, said he lost his 5-year-old daughter to the war, while his wife and two other daughters were injured.

"My feelings fluctuate between joy and sadness," said Ahmed, 41, who traveled to Egypt from Gaza for medical treatment.

"Joy because Ismail Haniyeh and all the leaders of the Hamas movement — their lives are not more precious than the soul of my daughter," Ahmed said. "But at the same time, I feel sad because Haniyeh is considered a relatively balanced figure … and his assassination on Iranian soil is unacceptable to us."

Israeli strikes since October have killed a number of Haniyeh's close relatives, including his sister, three of his sons and four grandchildren. Hamas leaders like Haniyeh "may have been in Doha rather than Rafah," said Mouin Rabbani, a nonresident fellow at the Qatar-based Center for Conflict and Humanitarian Studies. "But they are also prepared to pay with their lives, and in Haniyeh's case, the life of his children and the lives of his grandchildren."

What Haniyeh's departure from Gaza may have done, though, is "made him less influential in the movement's affairs than if he had stayed in Gaza and really been in control of the movement there," Rabbani said.

As the Hamas leader built his power base abroad, his replacement in Gaza, Yehiya Sinwar, was chipping away at Haniyeh's authority at home. Sinwar elevated the group's military wing, the Izzedine al-Qassam Brigades, and is believed to have been one of the masterminds behind the Oct. 7 attacks.

"The military wing is the one that runs the war at the time, not the political wing, and the leadership inside Gaza is more influential than the one outside," said Ibrahim Madhoun, a columnist affiliated with Hamas. "The geographical distance affects the nature of decisions, and the presence of the political leadership abroad makes it more distant from the decisive decisions in the war."

Israel says it has killed the head of the Qassam Brigades, Mohammed Deif, as well as his deputy, Marwan Issa. But Hamas has managed to survive so far in Gaza, regrouping in some areas and working to maintain some basic government services.

"These are people who are committed to a cause and who are prepared to forfeit their lives for the cause," Rabbani said. "And have demonstrated that repeatedly."

Harb reported from London.

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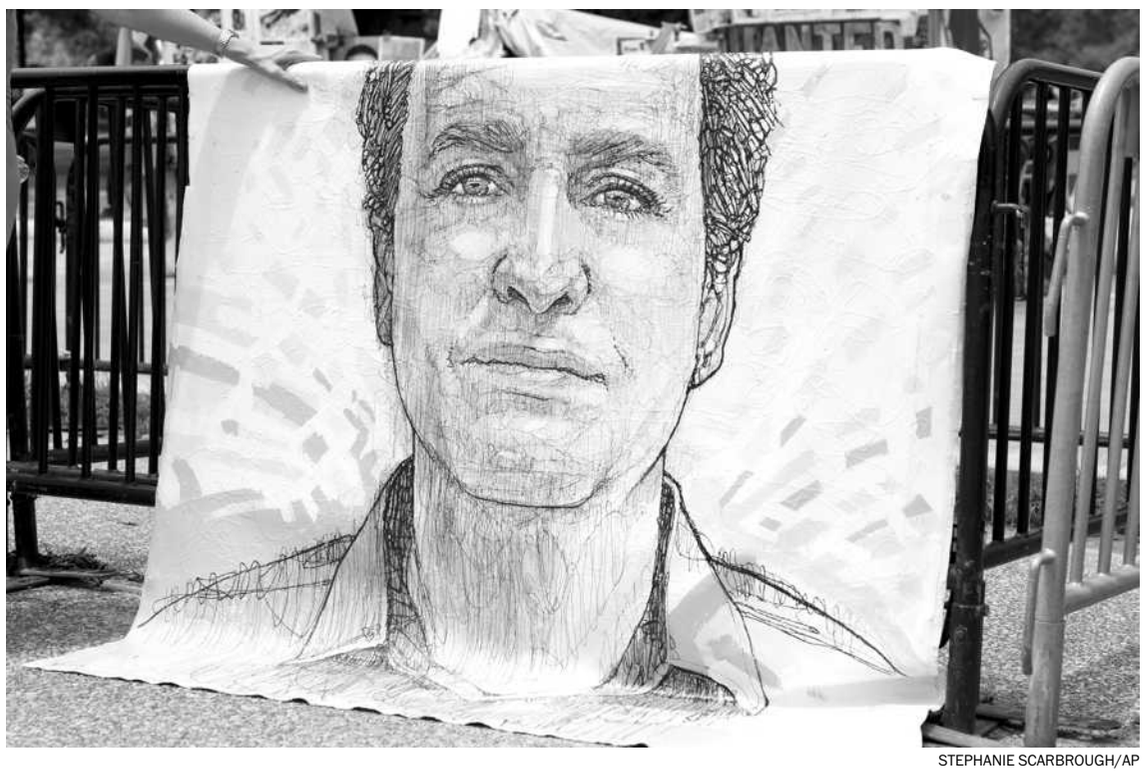
American teacher detained in Russia 'left behind again' in swap

Marc Fogel has been in prison after being found with medical marijuana

BY KELSEY ABLES AND JENNIFER HASSAN



STEPHANIE SCARBROUGH/AP

A portrait of American teacher Marc Fogel, who has been detained in Russia since August 2021, hangs on rails outside the White House during a July 2023 demonstration organized by his family.

A landmark prisoner exchange on Thursday brought home from Russia journalist Evan Gershkovich and former Marine Paul Whelan, among others, but the family of imprisoned American teacher Marc Fogel was not celebrating. Once again, they learned, he had not been included.

"Today, Marc was left behind again," Fogel's wife and sons said in a statement urging the Biden administration to prioritize his release. "Marc has been unjustly detained for far too long and must be prioritized in any swap negotiations with Russia, regardless of his level of notoriety or celebrity."

Fogel, 63, was detained by Russian officials in August 2021 and charged with smuggling into the country a small amount of medical marijuana, which was prescribed in the United States for back pain but is banned in Russia. A Pittsburgh-area native, he was a teacher at the Anglo-American School of Moscow and spent 27 years teaching overseas in places such as Oman, Venezuela and Malaysia. He is serving a 14-year sentence, during which he has been teaching English to prisoners.

Some lawmakers responded to Thursday's news by emphasizing that Fogel must not be forgotten. The Biden administration stressed that efforts to secure the release of Americans imprisoned abroad, including Fogel, will continue.

He is among several Americans who remain in Russia, a list that includes Gordon Black, a U.S. soldier convicted of threatening his Russian girlfriend; Ksenia Karelina, a dual U.S.-Russian citizen and aesthetician who was accused of donating $51.80 to a Ukrainian charity; and Michael Travis Leake, an American expatriate and musician who was convicted on drug charges.

"As we celebrate the good news of today, we cannot forget about Marc and the Fogel family," said Sen. Bob Casey (D-Pa.). "I urge everyone who fought to bring Evan and Paul home to now work to do the same for Marc."

Rep. Mike Kelly (R-Pa.), who represents the district Fogel is from, said he was "saddened not only for Marc, but also for his 95-year-old mother, Malphine Fogel, and Marc's family, who have been without him for more than 1,000 days."

Fogel was also not included in a prisoner swap in 2022, when WNBA player Brittney Griner was freed in exchange for the return of notorious Russian arms dealer Viktor Bout. The two Americans' cases have parallels. Griner was arrested outside Moscow in 2022 for carrying a small amount of cannabis oil. During her swap, there were similar frustrations about the exclusion of Whelan, the former U.S. Marine, whom U.S. officials had also hoped to free in the same deal.

A senior Biden administration official told reporters Thursday, "We absolutely wanted Marc to be included, but it just wasn't going to happen."

"Just like when we got Brittney out, we tried very hard for both Paul and Marc, and we just couldn't get the Russians there," he said. "In this case, we could get Paul; we couldn't get Marc."

State Department spokesman Vedant Patel told reporters that the administration has called for Fogel's humanitarian release and "will continue to engage and work through our team in Moscow."

"There continue to be American citizens detained in legal systems around the world — not, of course, just in Russia. This is a responsibility that we take seriously," he said.

Martin De Luca, an attorney for Fogel, said in a statement that this was "the second high-profile swap that Marc has been left out of over the last three years" and that Fogel had been "caught in the diplomatic crossfire between the U.S. and Russia leading up to the war in Ukraine."

He also called on the administration to "finally designate Marc as wrongfully detained."

Fogel is suffering from "severe health issues," his family said in their statement. "We sincerely hope that this is not our last opportunity to bring him home and save him from potentially dying in a Russian prison."

Manuel Roig-Franzia and Mary Ilyushina contributed to this report.

They lived in Slovenia, until the day the plane landed in Moscow

Their parents were spies who passed themselves off as private citizens

BY MARY ILYUSHINA AND GREG MILLER

KIRILL ZYKOV/SPUTNIK/KREMLIN POOL/AP

Russian President Vladimir Putin walks behind sleeper agents Anna and Artem Dultsev and their children, Sofia, 11, and Daniel, 8, in Moscow on Thursday. A Kremlin spokesman said the children didn't know who Putin was when he greeted them.

It seemed straight out of an episode of "The Americans."

The children — Sofia, 11, and Daniel, 8 — had no idea their parents were deep-undercover Russian spies pretending to be Argentine expats in Slovenia, according to the Kremlin, much like the characters on the television show that was based on similar Russian spies known as "illegals."

Life as Sofia and Daniel knew it ended Thursday when they stepped on a plane destined, they would later discover, for Moscow, as part of a landmark prisoner swap. When President Vladimir Putin greeted them at Vnukovo Airport a few hours later, he did so in Spanish: "Buenas noches."

The daughter and son of Anna and Artem Dultsev always believed they are Argentines, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters Friday. Their mother shed tears as Putin handed her and Sofia bouquets of flowers.

"The children of the undercover intelligence agents who arrived here yesterday learned they were Russian only after the plane took off from Ankara," Peskov said. "They did not know they were Russian and related to our country until then."

Russia emphasized the children's purported ignorance as a symbol of their parents' commitment to the Russian cause in its shadow war with the West. The couple's dedication to their deep-cover lives, however, did not keep them from getting caught.

According to Peskov, the children were shielded from their family's true history so thoroughly that they didn't even recognize the Russian leader upon arrival in Moscow.

"The children of the undercover agents asked their parents yesterday who had greeted them," Peskov insisted. "They did not even know who Putin is."

"This is how undercover agents work and what sacrifices they make for their work and commitment to the cause," he continued, adding that the imprisoned Dultsevs did not see their children as often as they would have liked.

The Dultsevs are part of the illegals — an exotic but not always productive breed in espionage — who seek to pass themselves off as private citizens with no discernible connection to the Russian government, rather than posing as diplomats, which provides legal protection if caught.

The pair arrived in Slovenia in 2017 and posed as Ludwig Gisch and Maria Rosa Mayer Munos, an Argentine couple who ran an art gallery and owned an IT company with an office in Ljubljana, the capital, jobs that became part of their "legend," as the fictitious identities and backstories of illegals are known.

They were detained in late 2022, and the children taken into foster care after the arrest.

Shortly before the swap, the couple pleaded guilty to "spying and falsifying documents," the Ljubljana regional court said in a statement. They were sentenced to 19 months in prison each but released because of time already served and ordered to leave the country.

The couple are believed to have been working for Russia's foreign intelligence service, or SVR.

According to the Slovenian media outlet N1, which covered their trial, the two spies mostly kept silent during the interrogations in accordance with SVR training for illegals — agents working under deep cover who impersonate foreigners, with robust backstories carefully crafted to make them invisible.

Citing sources close to the investigation, N1 reported that the couple were caught "red-handed," most likely while sending information to Moscow. They apparently used the Slovenian capital as their base to travel to other NATO and European Union countries to relay orders from Moscow, and bring cash to other Russian agents.

Their arrests were part of a broader crackdown on Russian spy services across Europe since Russia's February 2022 invasion of Ukraine. European nations have expelled hundreds of suspected Russian intelligence operatives from the country's embassies and diplomatic facilities across the continent. At the same time, heightened scrutiny of Russian penetrations has exposed alleged illegals and other spies working under nonofficial cover in Sweden, Norway, Slovenia, Italy, Poland and elsewhere.

There is little indication that the cover arrangements enabled Gisch and Munos to gain access to any information of strategic significance to Moscow.

If so, their espionage record seems to match that of other illegals deployed by Russia in recent decades. Details of more than a dozen cases that have come to light suggest that most spent years seeking to embed themselves in Western societies with seemingly minimal impact.

Another illegal entered the United States in 2018 posing as a Brazilian graduate student.

The student, Sergei Cherkasov, came closer to a meaningful penetration when he was offered a six-month internship as an analyst at the International Criminal Court in The Hague, in 2023.

The offer came after he had duped a series of prestigious institutions, earning degrees at Johns Hopkins University and at Trinity College Dublin, while posing as Victor Muller Ferreira, a student who had emerged from an impoverished background in Brazil.

Cherkasov was outed by U.S. authorities before he ever set foot inside the international court and is now serving a 15-year prison sentence in Brazil. He was not included in last week's swap, though Brazil's courts have reportedly cleared the way for his possible return to Russia.

If the narrative presented by the Kremlin is accurate, the Dultsev children are among countless others whose lives became enmeshed with their parents' fictitious identities.

But while hailing the Dultsevs as heroes, Peskov made no mention of their exposure by Western security services, the absence of any indication that they had delivered significant intelligence, or the similarly scant track records of other illegals. "They are always embellishing and airbrushing reality," said Andrew Weiss, who oversees research on Russia at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace.

"There is a constant effort by the Russian government to portray the illegals that are returned to them after swaps as heroes, and to lionize them," Weiss said. But the Dultsevs, he said, are now part of a long roster of returned illegals who "hadn't made any major inroads in terms of their mission."

"These are extremely complex and, I would argue, low-payoff activities based on a track of spectacular failure that goes back to the 'ghost stories' case," he said, referring to the group arrested in 2010.

That case became a source of humiliation for Moscow. The 10 arrested illegals had lived in the United States for years, producing meager reports to their handlers without realizing that most if not all of them had been under extensive U.S. surveillance.

Those who were arrested and returned to Moscow included another family with children supposedly ignorant of their parents' true identities. Living under the false identities of Donald Heathfield and Tracey Foley, the couple spent years in Canada before moving to Cambridge, Mass., with their two sons.

The secret duality of their suburban lives inspired "The Americans," which depicted a spy couple carrying out elaborate missions while befriending and deceiving an FBI agent.

Unlike the TV family, Heathfield's and Foley's Russian identities were known for years to U.S. officials, according to court records, and they were under FBI surveillance for a decade before their arrest.

Iran says 'projectile' killed Hamas leader, contradicting report of a bomb

BY SUSANNAH GEORGE, VICTORIA BISSET AND BRYAN PIETSCH

BEIRUT — Iran on Saturday released several details from its investigation into the killing of Ismail Haniyeh, saying the Hamas leader was assassinated by a "short-range projectile" fired from outside the guesthouse where he was staying in Tehran.

The findings were included in a statement from Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, the country's most powerful military institution, and carried by state media. Haniyeh's assassination early Wednesday, while he visited Tehran for the new president's inauguration, was a stinging embarrassment for Iran's security and intelligence establishment.

The statement blamed Israel for the operation, which it said was carried out with "a short-range projectile with a warhead" that weighed about 15 pounds. It "caused a strong explosion," the statement said, without giving more details. Israeli officials have declined to comment on the attack.

Haniyeh was Hamas's top political leader and played a key role in negotiations to end the war in the Gaza Strip. He left the enclave in 2019 to work on building Hamas's alliances abroad, and split his time between Qatar and Turkey, with occasional visits to Iran.

Iran's statement Saturday appeared to try to push back against reporting by the New York Times suggesting Haniyeh was killed by a bomb sneaked into the building months before the assassination took place. An operation to plant an explosive in a guesthouse used by close Iranian allies would have had to penetrate many more layers of Iranian security than an attack launched from the outside.

Hamas officials have also said that Haniyeh was killed by a rocket or missile, but have emphasized that they want to wait until Iran has completed its investigation. The group's representative in Tehran commented on the killing Friday, saying in an interview with the London-based New Arab outlet that he was in the building at the time of the attack.

The guesthouse "was shaking so hard that he thought it was an earthquake or a thunder, but it was neither," he said.

Tensions are high in the region amid concerns that Iran will strike Israel in the coming days in retaliation for the assassination. The United States has repositioned military assets in the region, including warships and fighter jets, to help defend Israel against such an attack. Some commercial airlines have canceled flights this month due to the looming threat, which was reportedly ordered by Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, Iran's supreme leader, in the aftermath of the killing.

The situation is also tense across the border in Lebanon as skirmishes between Hezbollah, the Lebanese militant group and political party, and Israel threaten to turn into a full-scale war. With flights out of Lebanon also being canceled, the U.S. Embassy in Beirut urged any Americans there who sought to leave to "book any ticket available to them, even if that flight does not depart immediately or does not follow their first-choice route."

The British Embassy in Beirut urged Britons not to travel to Lebanon, writing on X on Saturday that for those who were already there: "You should leave while commercial flights remain available."

Here's what else to know

At least 39,550 people have been killed and 91,280 injured in Gaza since the war started, according to the Gaza Health Ministry, which does not distinguish between civilians and combatants but says the majority of the dead are women and children. Israel estimates that about 1,200 people were killed in Hamas's Oct. 7 attack, including more than 300 soldiers. It says 329 soldiers have been killed since the launch of its military operations in Gaza.

Hajar Harb contributed to this report.

Transcript shows how Trump rally shooter evaded police

RALLY FROM **A1**

minutes, resulting in the federal agency's gravest security lapse in decades, a Post examination found. At 6:11 p.m., Crooks opened fire from a rooftop, unleashing eight bullets that left the former president wounded, one rallygoer dead and two others critically injured.

The Post obtained a previously unreported transcript of more than seven hours of encrypted radio communications by local police at the rally that day and interviewed multiple law enforcement officials, some of whom spoke on the condition of anonymity because of the ongoing investigation.

The transcript and accounts provide the clearest picture yet of the minute-by-minute hunt for Crooks, and show how he evaded police and climbed onto the roof of a nearby building undetected. Police lost track of Crooks for 20 minutes after he was seen with the range finder, the transcript shows. When he was spotted again, walking toward the area where he would gain access to the rooftop of what local police called the "AGR building," an officer mischaracterized where he was headed, directing his colleagues to the wrong side of the building.

The Post examination also shows that communication between the Secret Service and the local police was disjointed and time-consuming, helping to explain why Secret Service agents closest to Trump were taken by surprise when gunfire erupted. On three occasions, a local officer inside the Butler County command post had to relay information about Crooks to the Secret Service hub by cellphone — on a day when cell service was balky and unreliable.

That method was too slow when seconds counted. A local police officer spotted Crooks on a rooftop with a gun and radioed in to the local command center that he was "armed" approximately 30 seconds before the shooting, according to the transcript of the radio communications and Secret Service officials, but that message was not passed on to the Secret Service command post before Crooks started shooting, the agency has acknowledged.

The two law enforcement officers who said the command posts had no direct line of communication — and that information about Crooks had to be relayed by cellphone — were Butler County District Attorney Richard Goldinger and a law enforcement official familiar with the police response, who spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss matters of ongoing investigation.

Patrick Young, commander of the Beaver County Emergency Services Unit, which supplied local officers to secure the rally, said that it's important that law enforcement agencies share one command post where information can be received and transmitted quickly.

"All the key stakeholders should be in the same room," Young said in an interview. "That alleviates any communications problems."

A Pennsylvania State Police spokesman stressed that state troopers were acting in a supporting role and referred questions to the Secret Service.

At a news conference Friday, acting Secret Service director Ronald Rowe Jr. acknowledged that there were separate communications hubs that did not effectively share information in vital moments. "There might have been radio traffic that we missed. We have to be better on that," he said.

Rowe repeatedly emphasized that the rally shooting was a failure by the Secret Service, not local law enforcement. "If the large majority of our partners are in a unified command post or in a different location, we need to probably be there, too," he said.

"We're certainly going to examine the communication aspect very closely," Anthony Guglielmi, a spokesman for the Secret Service, said in response to questions from The Post.

DAVE STEWART

'I don't have any service'

The radio transmission about the suspicious male with a range finder set off a flurry of messages between local officers on the ground and supervisors stationed in the Butler County command center trailer.

"Do you know what color shirt?" one sheriff's deputy asked.

"White shirt with a hat," another answered.

In a separate channel for local tactical officers — not audible on the channel used by sheriff's deputies — the countersniper who first reported the range finder was giving a different description: "Gray T-shirt, light-colored khaki shorts."

The local officers lost track of Crooks, and would not see him again for 20 minutes, the transcript shows.

Monitoring the three encrypted communication channels inside the trailer, located next to a lakeside warehouse to the south of the rally site, was Sgt. Ed Lenz, the tactical commander for the Butler County mobile unit, according to the law enforcement official familiar with the police response.

He was joined by a deputy commander in the Butler County Emergency Services Unit, a Butler County sheriff's sergeant and a county employee, the official said.

Lenz did not respond to an email with detailed questions.

When Lenz heard the message about the range finder, he used his cellphone to call a state police officer stationed in the Secret Service trailer at 5:44 p.m., according to the official and call logs. State police Sgt. Joseph Olayer, the call recipient, relayed the information to his Secret Service counterparts in the trailer, the official said.

Olayer declined to comment, citing the ongoing investigation.

Pennsylvania State Police Commissioner Col. Christopher Paris acknowledged in congressional testimony last month that someone from Butler County's tactical unit had called a state trooper inside the Secret Service command post and then sent a text message with a photograph of Crooks. The state police officer was told to forward the image to a separate Secret Service number, Paris said.

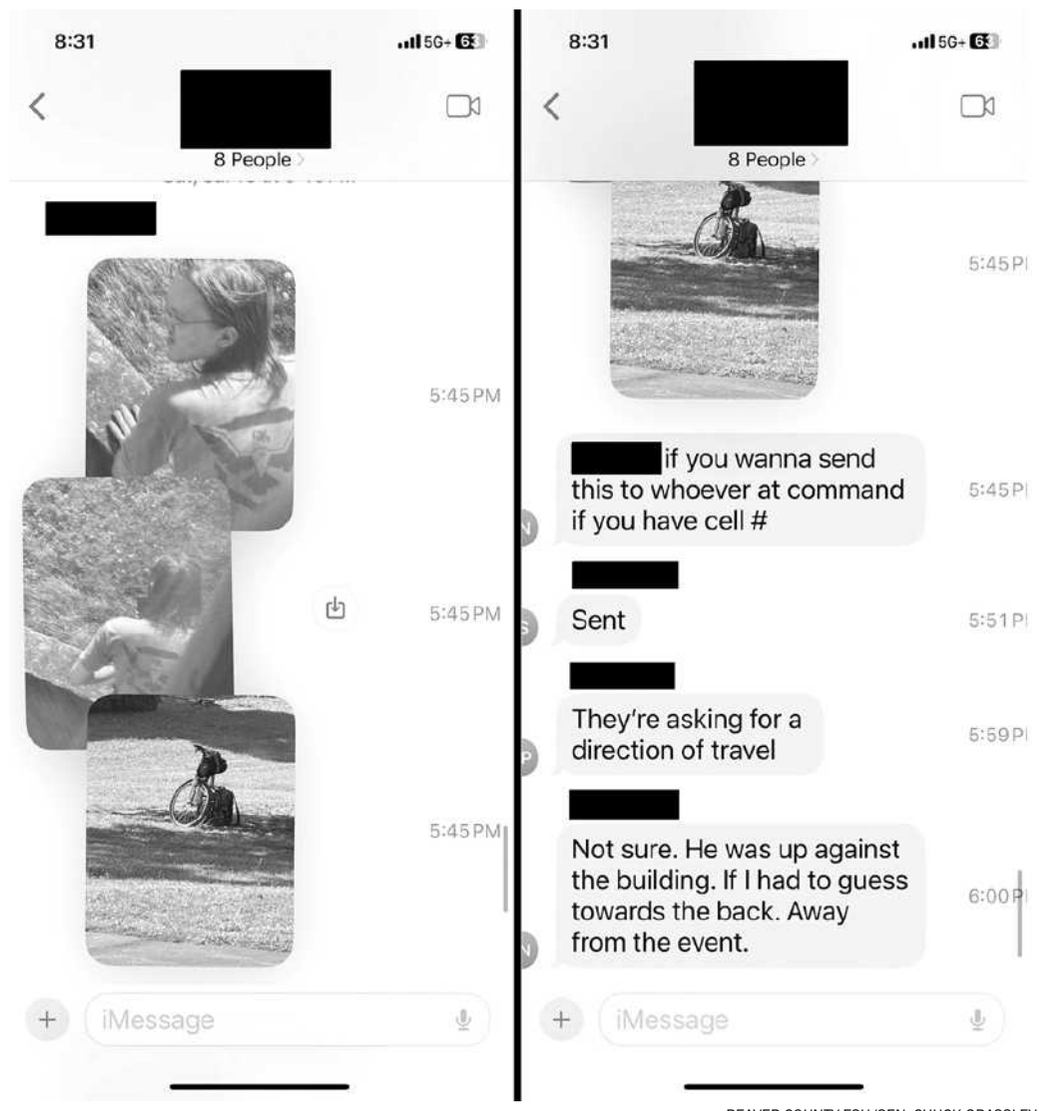
Minutes after Lenz passed on the suspicious-person report to the state police sergeant, Lenz radioed to local officers that help was on the way, the transcript shows.

"PSP (Pennsylvania State Police) and sheriffs should be in route," Lenz told officers on the ground at 5:45 p.m.

As reinforcements made their way to help, officers tried to circulate photos of Crooks, but cellphone reception problems got in the way, the transcript shows.

"I'm trying to forward photographs of the individual," said a local tactical team member at 5:47 p.m.

"Units be advised internet and cell service is down," another officer on that channel said a minute later.



BEAVER COUNTY ESU/SEN. CHUCK GRASSLEY

TOP: A video screenshot shows an officer searching for Thomas Matthew Crooks at the rally in Butler, Pa. ABOVE: Text messages show local officers sharing photos of Crooks on July 13.

"Your picture is probably not going to go through because I don't have any service," a sheriff's deputy radioed at 5:49 p.m.

Around this time, a Butler County tactical officer said he had "notified Hercules," a code name for Secret Service countersniper units, according to the transcript. It's not clear how that communication was sent. But at this point, the Secret Service has said, Crooks was considered a suspicious person, not a threat. The search for the suspicious male remained an endeavor mostly left for local police.

Lenz enlisted more officers, including police handling traffic on roads outside the rally site.

"Our sierra units lost visual of him," Lenz told the traffic-control officers at 5:54 p.m., using the code name for local tactical officers. "I believe you guys are outside of that fence, if you come upon him."

Crooks would resurface eight minutes later, setting off an intensifying manhunt.

'Someone's on the roof'

At 6:02 p.m., the same local sniper who first radioed in the message about the range finder was on the second floor of the building owned by Agr International. From a northwest window, facing away from the rally site, he glimpsed the suspect again just as Trump was preparing to take the podium.

"All right, subject is in between the AGR building. He has a backpack," said Sgt. Greg Nicol, a Beaver County sniper. Nicol had been assigned to look out over the rally site from a window on the opposite side of the building, but he had moved to look for the suspect, according to Young, Nicol's commander.

Nicol did not respond to requests for comment. But in an interview, Beaver County District Attorney Nathan Bible, whose office oversees the county's tactical team, praised Nicol for moving within the building to look for Crooks, calling it "good old-fashioned police work."

"He realized somebody needs to find this guy," Bible told The Post.

From his vantage point on the second floor, Nicol was unable to discern where Crooks was headed, though, the transcript shows.

Crooks was walking to the northeast, toward an area between two wings of the complex of warehouses at Agr International. The space was enclosed on three sides, a dead end. But Nicol suggested Crooks was headed in the direction of a gas station on the other side of the building.

"He just went towards the Sheetz," Nicol said, referring to the gas station about a quarter of a mile away.

That information quickly circulated, the transcript shows.

Inside the Butler County command center, Lenz again called Olayer in the Secret Service command post to pass on a message during a 40-second call at 6:03 p.m., according to the law enforcement official familiar with the police response and call logs.

The message was also passed on to local police units.

"All units be advised also that individual is headed towards Sheetz," a sheriff's deputy radioed to his colleagues at 6:04 p.m.

Instead, two law enforcement officials familiar with the investigation said, Crooks made his way to an HVAC unit next to the Agr building. He scaled that equipment to gain access to the roof of the building, the officials said. Video obtained by the FBI shows Crooks climbing onto the roof at 6:06 p.m., FBI Deputy Director Paul Abbate said in congressional testimony last week.

By the time Crooks was on the roof, officers were still focused on finding him on the ground.

"He's reportedly between the building up here at AGR somewhere," a local officer on the channel for traffic control said at 6:06 p.m. "I'm guessing the west side, east side looks clear."

In the command post, Lenz radioed to the tactical units that local police had the building surrounded. "They should have a fairly good perimeter. If you get another visual let me know," he said at 6:07 p.m.

Less than a minute later, Crooks was spotted again, this time up above.

"Someone's on the roof," a local officer radioed at 6:08 p.m. "I have someone on the roof with white shorts."

Video published by Fox News shows Crooks running along the roof of the Agr building around this time.

Inside the local command, Lenz radioed to clarify that the person on the roof was not a police officer.

"We do not have assets on the roof," he said. "That is not us."

At 6:09, Lenz again dialed the state trooper to inform him about the suspect on the roof, according to the law enforcement official and call logs.

At the same time, a local officer said over the radio that he had a good view of the male on the roof.

"We got him," the officer said. "We don't have him in custody yet, but he's right straight in front of me by the pine tree standing upwards. He had a backpack."

The officer's description appears to match a location on the east side of the complex, near the building where Crooks opened fire. But within 25 seconds, Crooks had slipped out of the officer's range of vision.

"Lost sight of him, trooper was chasing him, trying to follow him around the building," the officer said.

On the other side of the complex, bystanders gathered under a tree about 160 feet from the building had a clearer view of Crooks, who was prone on the rooftop, video shows.

"Someone is on top of the roof, look, there he is right there," a spectator says in a video of that scene. Closer to the building, a police officer craned his neck to see on top, but apparently couldn't locate Crooks due to the angle.

A video taken around the same time by Dave Stewart, a 35-year-old Pennsylvania resident, showed several law enforcement officers struggling to spot Crooks from south of the building, the side closest to the rally site.

"Last time I seen him was by the pine tree between the two buildings, the small walkway joining the buildings," the officer who earlier spotted Crooks on the roof reported at 6:10 p.m.

At 6:11 p.m., a local officer hoisted up to the roofline by a colleague reported the first sign that the man on the roof was, in fact, a deadly threat.

"He's armed," the officer said, according to the transcript. "I saw him, he's laying down."

Local officials have previously said the officer lowered himself because his hands were on the roofline, preventing him from pulling his weapon as Crooks pointed his rifle in the officer's direction.

"He's got a long gun," the officer said again into the radio.

Seconds later, Lenz radioed the Butler County quick response force, a team responsible for responding to any potential coordinated attack on Trump. The team was based in the barns behind the rally stage, documents show, but had moved out into a field and were facing the Agr building, according to video footage recorded two minutes earlier.

"QRF from command. You need to deploy to the AGR building," Lenz said. He added, using shorthand for Butler Township police, "BT has a male on the roof with a long gun. They have made contact with him."

As he was passing on the directive, Lenz interrupted himself: "Shots fired," he said at 6:11 p.m.

The law enforcement official familiar with the police response said officials in the local command center were not able to pass on the message about an armed man to the Secret Service command post. There was not enough time to make the cellphone call.

Jonathan Baran, Szu Yu Chen, William Neff and Imogen Piper contributed to this report.

Emhoff acknowledges having affair during first marriage

BY TYLER PAGER, YASMEEN ABUTALEB AND MAEGAN VAZQUEZ

Second gentleman Doug Emhoff acknowledged Saturday that he had an affair during his first marriage, years before he began dating Vice President Harris.

"During my first marriage, Kerstin and I went through some tough times on account of my actions. I took responsibility, and in the years since, we worked through things as a family and have come out stronger on the other side," Emhoff said in a statement released to the news media after a British tabloid reported on the affair.

Emhoff and his then-wife, Kerstin Emhoff, divorced after the affair.

"Doug and I decided to end our marriage for a variety of reasons, many years ago," Kerstin Emhoff said in a statement Saturday. "He is a great father to our kids, continues to be a great friend to me and I am really proud of the warm and supportive blended family Doug, Kamala, and I have built together."

A person familiar with the situation, who spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss sensitive details, said the affair was known to people who conducted the vice-presidential vetting process four years ago when President Biden was running for office. Harris knew about the affair before she and Emhoff married more than a decade ago, the person added.

Brian Fallon, a spokesman for the Harris campaign, declined to comment.

Doug and Kerstin Emhoff have two adult children, Cole and Ella Emhoff.

Kerstin Emhoff has been publicly supportive of Harris, the presumptive Democratic nominee, and called her an integral part of the family. She volunteered for Harris's 2019 presidential run and attended the Biden-Harris inauguration in 2021 alongside Ella and Cole. Harris has called Kerstin Emhoff a "dear" friend.

When Republican nominee Donald Trump's vice-presidential pick, JD Vance, suggested that Harris and other prominent Democrats "don't really have a direct stake" in the country's future because they are "people without children," Kerstin Emhoff came to Harris's defense.

"For over 10 years, since Cole and Ella were teenagers, Kamala has been a co-parent with Doug and I," she said. "She is loving, nurturing, fiercely protective, and always present. I love our blended family and am grateful to have her in it."

Emhoff gave his first statement about the affair to CNN after the Daily Mail published a story on the relationship early Saturday.

Trump, who has been married three times, has also been accused of infidelity but has denied such accusations. His alleged affair with adult-film actress Stormy Daniels — and a $130,000 hush money payment ahead of the 2016 presidential election to try to keep it quiet — led to a criminal conviction earlier this year.

More than a dozen women have accused Trump of sexual misconduct. He has repeatedly denied wrongdoing. In January, a civil jury ordered Trump to pay the writer E. Jean Carroll more than $83 million for defaming her after she accused him in 2019 of sexually assaulting her two decades earlier. After one of her lawsuits went to trial last year, a jury found that Trump sexually abused and defamed Carroll and awarded her a combined $5 million in damages. That resulted in a separate jury hearing earlier this year to determine whether Trump owed Carroll additional damages.

In the bird Olympics, the fastest flier takes gold

The peregrine falcon is the fastest living thing on earth — when diving. We set out to find the bird that could win a gold medal in horizontal flight.

BY HAILEY HAYMOND AND EMMA KUMER

Welcome to the bird Olympics, where we try to figure out the avian world's fastest fliers. If you think you already know the answer — peregrine falcon — you'd be incorrect. At 240 mph, the peregrine's downward swoop holds the record for the fastest velocity in the animal kingdom. But when flying horizontally, the falcon moves at just 68 mph. One could argue that the peregrine falcon isn't good at flying so much as it's good at falling. ¶ So, we gathered a few of the fast flappers to see who would win in a fair flight. Of course, these Games are purely hypothetical — it would be hard enough to get all of our contenders in the same location, much less to persuade them to fly at the same altitude or perform at their physical limit. Before we get to the main event below, let's meet the flock.

Meet the athletes

Peregrine falcon
Renowned as the speed champion for their downward swoop (or stoop, to ornithologists), they literally eat some of our other competitors for breakfast, including rock pigeons and swifts. Undoubtedly the one to watch — and watch out for — in the race.

Rock pigeon
Though their abundance might cause you to believe that pigeons are mediocre, they're actually quite fast, or they wouldn't have been trained to deliver mail. (Fun fact: Pigeons delivered the results of the ancient Olympic Games in Greece!)

Bald eagle
The iconic symbol of Team USA is surely a fan favorite. They're the largest of our flock, and their 8-foot wingspan goes very nicely with their eightfold stronger eyesight compared with humans. And with a 340-degree field of view, these eagle eyes will be on all the competitors.

Mallard
Known more for their flippers than their wings, don't sleep on the speed of the mallard. They're the most abundant duck in the world, and with a wingspan averaging around 3 feet, they could be our Lucky Duck.

Common swift
Let me tell you — no other bird feels as comfortable in this event as the common swift. Of all bird species, swifts spend the highest percentage of their life in flight. Sometimes they don't land for 10 months straight, so this mile-long race should feel like a breeze!

Anna's hummingbird
With more G-force acceleration than a fighter jet, it's Anna's hummingbird! This little rocket can travel 385 times its own body length every second — which would be super impressive, if it weren't 0.45 percent the size of our largest competitor.

Red-breasted merganser
Another duck has entered the race! Though these birds spend much of their life in the water, they're built to be in the air too. Plus, they have a serrated bill — great for snapping up fish or finishing tape, whichever they cross first.

What makes a bird fast?

To support flight, birds' bodies are crafted to be lightweight. "Bird bones are, for the most part, hollow with like a lattice structure inside that makes them light," said Chad Witko, an ornithologist at the National Audubon Society. They also get an extra boost from air sacs, which circulate oxygen fast enough to keep up with birds' rapid heartbeats. These athletes are pumping a lot of oxygen; a hummingbird's heart rate can get up to 1,200 beats per minute! The fastest species all share a few common features too, including wings disproportionally long for their body (or as ornithologists might say, a "high wing loading"), long tails and curved wings.

But flying is also a game of strategy, taking advantage of weather patterns and gravity.

"Virtually every species of bird that's undertaking a long flight wants a tailwind," said Robert Mulvihill, an ornithologist at the National Aviary. "Hawks famously use updrafts and what's called orographic lift, where the wind strikes the face of a ridge and gives a curling wind, like a surfer might cut across the base of a wave."

Place your bets!

We asked a few ornithologists and birdwatchers which bird they were rooting for in this Olympic race.

"I'm not a betting man, but ducks are the fastest. I don't know which duck. … I think they can, you know, duck it out," said Tkee James, president of the DC Bird Alliance.

"I'd bet on a swift any day. As an inveterate bird nerd, I know that the common swift is the fastest flying bird," said T. Scott Sillett, wildlife biologist and head of the Smithsonian Migratory Bird Center.

"I'd go with the red-breasted merganser. But on any given day, somebody else could be crowned the gold medalist," said Witko, with the National Audubon Society.

"Everybody has their own strategy for being fast," James said. "For doves in general, where they have the benefits of size, they also have the disadvantage of acceleration."

These are the kinds of tradeoffs that keep the race interesting — the winner might not necessarily be the champion in weight or wingspan but has the ideal ratio of both.

Results!

BIRDS RANKED FASTEST TO SLOWEST	SPEED (MPH)
Mallard	103
Red-breasted merganser	100
Rock pigeon	92.5
Common swift	69.3
Peregrine falcon	68
Bald eagle	44
Anna's hummingbird	30

As you can see, our top three species are all relatively small. In fact, they are all *prey* of the peregrine falcon. This raptor evolved to stoop so swiftly because, all else being equal, it's the only way it could ever outfly a pigeon or duck.

Additional events

While the mallard took the gold in horizontal flight, plenty of birds could be top athletes. Here are a few other events and the victors you may see at the next bird Olympics.

Diving
The peregrine falcon may not be the fastest level flier, but that's because it's built for diving. Internal mechanics in eyes, nostrils and wings enhance depth perception, reduce drag and create their dive speed of 242 mph. They hold the world record for fastest member of the animal kingdom.

Distance flight
Common swifts have been recorded flying uninterrupted for 10 months at a time, the longest recorded continual flight. They have evolved to do everything airborne, including eating, mating and sleeping. "Birds have different brains than we do. They're essentially able to shut off half their brain and sleep, with one eye paying attention," Sillett said.

Stealth flight
Falcons, mallards and pigeons are fast in a race, but you'll definitely hear them coming. A barn owl, on the other hand, is one of the quietest flying birds, if not the quietest. Their soft, comb-like feathers lessen midflight turbulence, which allows them to hunt and evade predators in silence.

Track and field
If you take flying off the table and stick to events on the track, an ostrich would be able to outrun even the best human sprinter. The Olympic record for the 100-meter dash is 9.63 seconds, set by Usain Bolt in 2012 — but an ostrich could run the 100-meter dash in 6.04 seconds.

Swimming
The opposite is true for swimming. The average penguin swims at about 6 mph, around the same speed as 23-time Olympic gold medalist Michael Phelps. "When they are porpoising in and out of the water, gentoo penguins have been recorded at 22 mph, which is important since one of their predators, great white sharks, can easily reach speeds of up to 30 mph!" Mulvihill said. In a swim race, birds and humans would be just about even, "unless there is a shark or killer whale involved!"

About this story

Sources
Haymond and Kumer referenced scientific journals, academic articles and discussions with ornithologists to confirm the data presented. The data includes numbers only from consulted verified studies or highest reported average speeds for horizontal flight, which meant that the unverified 105 mph flight of the white-throated needletail was ineligible. The mallard's speed record was set April 6 by the Cohen Wildlife Ecology Lab. The common swift speed was recorded using high-speed cameras and reported in the Journal of Avian Biology. Horizontal flight speed for a bald eagle has been measured at 44 mph, and peregrine falcons have a cited top average lateral flight at 68 mph. The pigeon stat was the top recorded speed of racing pigeon named Bolt, aptly named after Olympian Usain Bolt. The red-breasted merganser's top speed was attained while being pursued by an airplane in Alaska, and the statistic comes from "10,001 Titillating Tidbits of Avian Trivia" by Frank S. Todd (Ibis Publishing Co., 1994). Anna's hummingbird speed comes from National Geographic. The 242-mph peregrine falcon record — which, by the way, was set by a bird named Frightful — was covered in the Emmy-nominated National Geographic "Explorer" program.

Methodology
How do you measure how quickly a bird flies? Well, it depends on the species. Sometimes, scientists will outfit birds with little backpacks that serve as high-precision GPS-CPS transmitters. Other times, they might send birds through a tunnel where there is only one direction to fly. For smaller species, like hummingbirds, they often use cameras with a high frame rate to determine the amount of distance covered between seconds. (Because they are motivated by impressing female birds, researchers will place a stuffed model hummingbird, or a live hummingbird in a cage, near a male's perch.)

Closing Ceremonies

If you imagine infinite bird Olympics events of every distance and climate, it appears that every bird would be a gold medalist in something — and that's by design.

"This isn't their first rodeo," Sillett said. Genetically, birds have been around for hundreds of thousands of years (if not a few million), continuously fine-tuning to make necessary adaptations for their environment.

And scientists are still actively studying how birds are adapting, including how the changing seasons affect the rate at which birds migrate. Because of climate change, some birds' biological clocks tell them to leave their habitats before the destination is ready for them.

At Audubon, Witko helps maintain the Bird Migration Explorer, a tool mapping birds' flight paths. "Birds are struggling," He said. "Today's world has 3 billion less birds than there were in the 1970s."

Humans might only gather for head-to-head competition every four years. But if you're a bird, every day is the Olympics. And if you're a birder, they're being hosted right now in your own backyard.

Google pulls Olympics ad with father using AI to help daughter write a fan letter to track star

BY GERRIT DE VYNCK

SAN FRANCISCO — Google pulled a video advertisement it had been running prominently on Olympics coverage that showed a father using artificial intelligence to help his daughter write a letter to her sports hero, the latest example of the tech giant receiving backlash for its AI products.

The ad for Google's AI chatbot, Gemini, depicted a father proudly talking of his daughter's ambitions in track and field. He was shown using the AI assistant to research coaching tips and then asking it to help her write a fan letter to U.S. Olympics star Sydney McLaughlin-Levrone.

The ad aired repeatedly during NBC's Olympics coverage, putting Google's vision for how AI can help people in front of a massive audience during one of the biggest live events of the year. But many who saw the ad posted criticism of it on social media, turned off by the suggestion that AI should be used to craft a personal message that should come from the heart.

"The Google AI ad during Olympics coverage is so bleak. Prevent your daughter from writing her own fan letter to her sport hero. Ugh," Erika Hall, a design strategist and consultant, said in a post on LinkedIn. "In the fall, is it going to be 'Have your kids generate art using AI and put that on the fridge, so they can focus on their homework instead?' "

On Friday, Google confirmed it was rolling back the ad given the negative feedback.

"We believe that AI can be a great tool for enhancing human creativity, but can never replace it. Our goal was to create an authentic story celebrating Team USA," Google spokeswoman Alana Beale said. "While the ad tested well before airing, given the feedback, we have decided to phase the ad out of our Olympics rotation."

The backlash to the ad is the latest example of Google and rival tech companies competing to commercialize AI, only to face consumer pushback on new products and the way they're being marketed. Google, Microsoft and OpenAI have all delayed or rolled back AI products over the past year and a half after concerns about how the tools worked.

Google has used AI in its products for years, but after OpenAI released ChatGPT in November 2022, the entire tech industry has been locked in a competition to design, build and launch consumer-focused AI products. Google launched its own AI assistant last year, eventually naming it Gemini.

In February, the company had to curtail Gemini's ability to generate images of people after criticism that the tool created historically inaccurate images. And in May, Google slowed down the rollout of its AI answers in search results after the tech told some people to put glue on their pizza, among other bizarre search results.

Some critics compared Google's AI ad to one earlier this year from Apple, which also removed its ad after facing online backlash. That ad showed a massive industrial compactor crushing musical instruments and art supplies into dust, suggesting that creative people only needed an Apple iPad to make art and music.

"The Apple iPad commercial and the Google Gemini AI commercial are different versions of the same thing," Michael Miraflor, chief brand officer at the venture capital firm Hannah Grey, said in a post on X. "They both give the same feeling that something is very off, a sort of tone-deafness to the valid concerns and fears of the majority."

PARIS OLYMPICS

JERRY BREWER

In her comeback bid, Richardson proved she is better, but she is not yet the best

BREWER FROM A1

her, felt so right. She had visualized what would happen 16 long hours later, even though the stage seemed set for a Richardson coronation.

On the rain-pocked purple track at Stade de France on Saturday night, Alfred erupted out of the blocks during the women's 100 meters and owned the race, stunning Richardson and a crowd of 80,000 that had anticipated a classic redemption tale.

Alfred won in 10.72 seconds. Richardson finished second in 10.87. Melissa Jefferson was third in 10.92. With Richardson and Jefferson, it was the first time since 1996 that the United States put two women on the podium in the 100, an event that once epitomized American sprint supremacy.

A few moments after she won, Alfred bent forward and started crying. Richardson patted her on the back and whispered some congratulatory words. Draped in the American flag, she shared a moment with Jefferson, her training partner. Then Richardson retreated from the stage, declining to take the customary lap around the stadium to celebrate winning a silver medal. She breezed through the media mixed zone without talking with reporters. Neither Richardson nor Jefferson, who spoke in the mixed zone, attended the post-race news conference for all three medalists.

Alfred, the first athlete from Saint Lucia to win an Olympic medal, reveled alone.

"Growing up, I used to be on the field struggling, with no shoes, running barefoot, running in my school uniform, running all over the place," Alfred said. "We barely have the right facilities. The stadium is not fixed. I hope this gold medal will help Saint Lucia build a new stadium, to help the sport grow."

Richardson was left to make sense of a successful comeback that ended at almost. It was a redemptive achievement — from banished to a silver medal — but the 24-year-old wanted more. For the past year, the reigning world champion had been the sprinter to beat. Over the past three years, she took care of herself and found a better way to excel. There's no vindication necessary for making yourself a priority, only admiration that she found peace as a person and competitor.

During the 2021 U.S. Olympic trials, Richardson captivated the nation as a brash 21-year-old. Her orange hair seemed like rocket fire as it flowed behind her. She won the 100 and a spot at her first Olympics. She was the new hope for an American return to supremacy in the 100. But a week later, she tested positive for THC, a marijuana ingredient, which is banned by the World Anti-Doping Agency. She admitted to using marijuana to cope after the death of her biological mother.

It sparked a knotty discourse about self-care for athletes, the overpolicing of a drug becoming less vilified and steadily more legal throughout the world, and the uncompromising responsibility we all bear to obey the rules. Richardson hoped for grace. She received none. Exiled from the Tokyo Olympics, she spiraled, reacting too often to criticism, engaging in petty feuds and registering erratic performances upon returning to competition.

But in 2023, she found her spirit. She had healed from the disappointment of Olympic exclusion, grappled with grieving and learned to appreciate and protect herself. Before the 2023 U.S. championships, she snatched an orange wig off her head, revealing braids, and commenced dominating with a new look — and outlook. After her victory at the Olympic trials in June, she explained how she had developed "a deeper love and a deeper care for the talent that I have been given." She didn't come to Paris to get back the Olympics she had lost. It's impossible to manipulate time that way. She arrived ready to show what she had proved in the year leading up to the Olympics: She is the world's fastest woman.

Alfred had other plans on this night. Richardson couldn't recover from a slow start. Midway through the race, it was clear she could not chase down Alfred, who was a three-time NCAA champion at Texas.

She won out of Lane 6, right between Richardson and Jefferson. In the past, Alfred may have paid too much attention to the sprinters on each side of her. But this was her time. She thought only about executing her game plan. The rain was irrelevant. So was Richardson. So were the helicopters hovering over the stadium as the race began.

"Sometimes, when I do [think of others], I tend to panic," Alfred said.

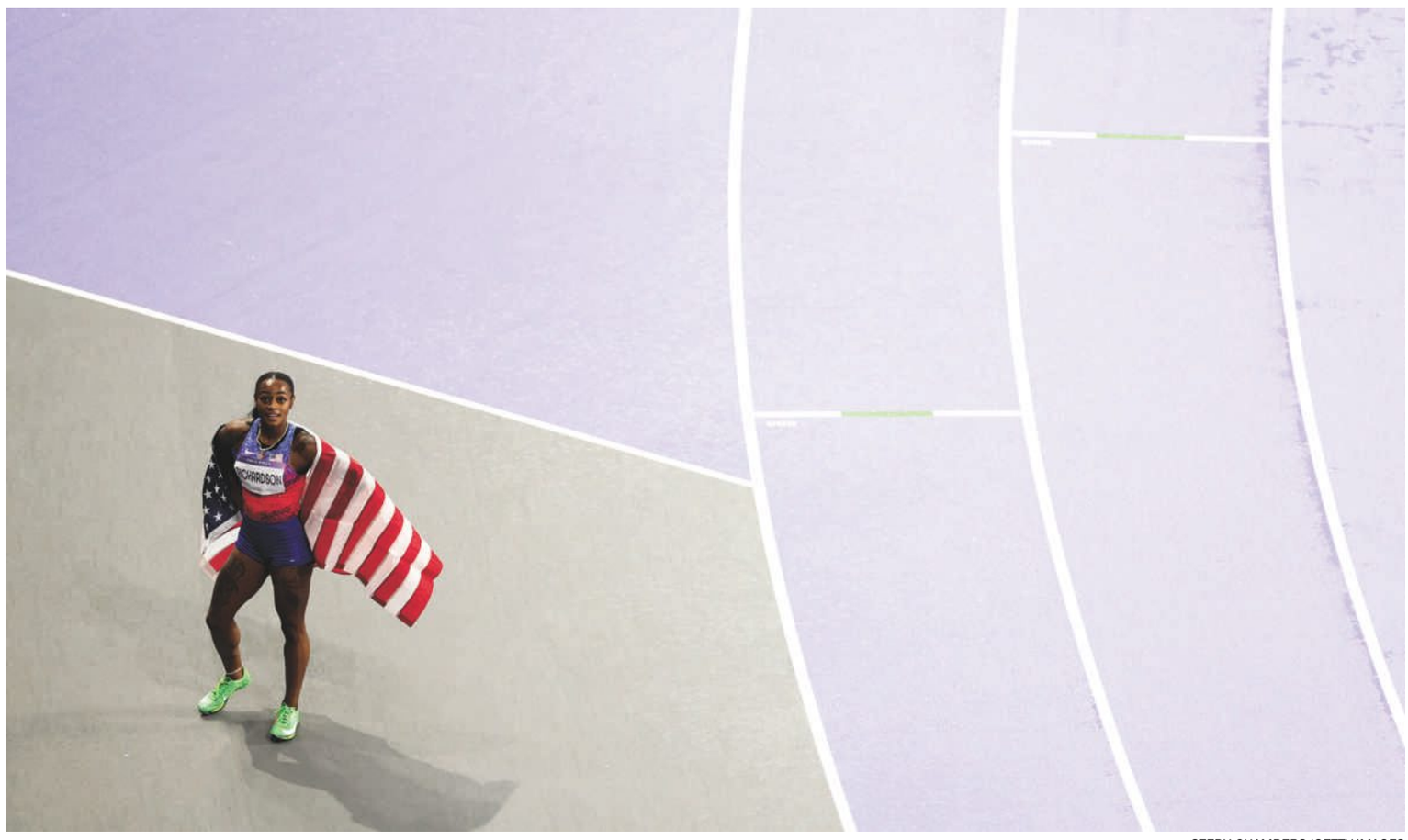
On the other hand, you could see the stress on Richardson's face. She never got comfortable. There was so much at stake for her and the country.

Jamaica had won the previous four women's 100s at the Olympics. Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce won the first two, Elaine Thompson-Herah the latter two. The United States hasn't won gold since Gail Devers went back-to-back in 1992 and 1996. Marion Jones finished first in 2000, but after she admitted steroid use, she was stripped of the five medals she collected at the Sydney Games. So the official records showed that, in the previous six Olympics (since 2000), an American women reached the podium just three times, with Lauryn Williams (2004), Carmelita Jeter (2012) and Tori Bowie (2016) each earning silver. In that span, Jamaican women captured 13 of the 18 medals, including a podium sweep at the Tokyo Olympics in 2021.

Jamaica wasn't a factor this time. Fraser-Pryce was a semifinal scratch because of injury. Before the meet, an injury forced Shericka Jackson to withdraw. Thompson-Herah was too hurt to compete at the Jamaican trials. Their ailments made Richardson an overwhelming favorite, but this was her first time facing Olympic pressure.

In defeat, she embraced Alfred, but she didn't do what most Olympians do: explain what happened. It's understandable if she were too upset to talk. But the silence that cloaked Richardson — hyped appropriately as an American face of these Games — reiterated how closed off she has been since the marijuana incident. She considers it self-preservation. Now we must wonder whether she's too cloistered to relax on this stage.

She needed to be 0.15 seconds faster Saturday. It would have been the perfect comeback story. Instead, her evolution led to another sobering life lesson: Richardson is better, but she's not yet the best. For now, she must settle for being on the right track, even if it seems too wet for comfort.



STEPH CHAMBERS/GETTY IMAGES

After earning the silver medal in the 100-meter race, Sha'Carri Richardson declined to take the customary lap around the stadium.

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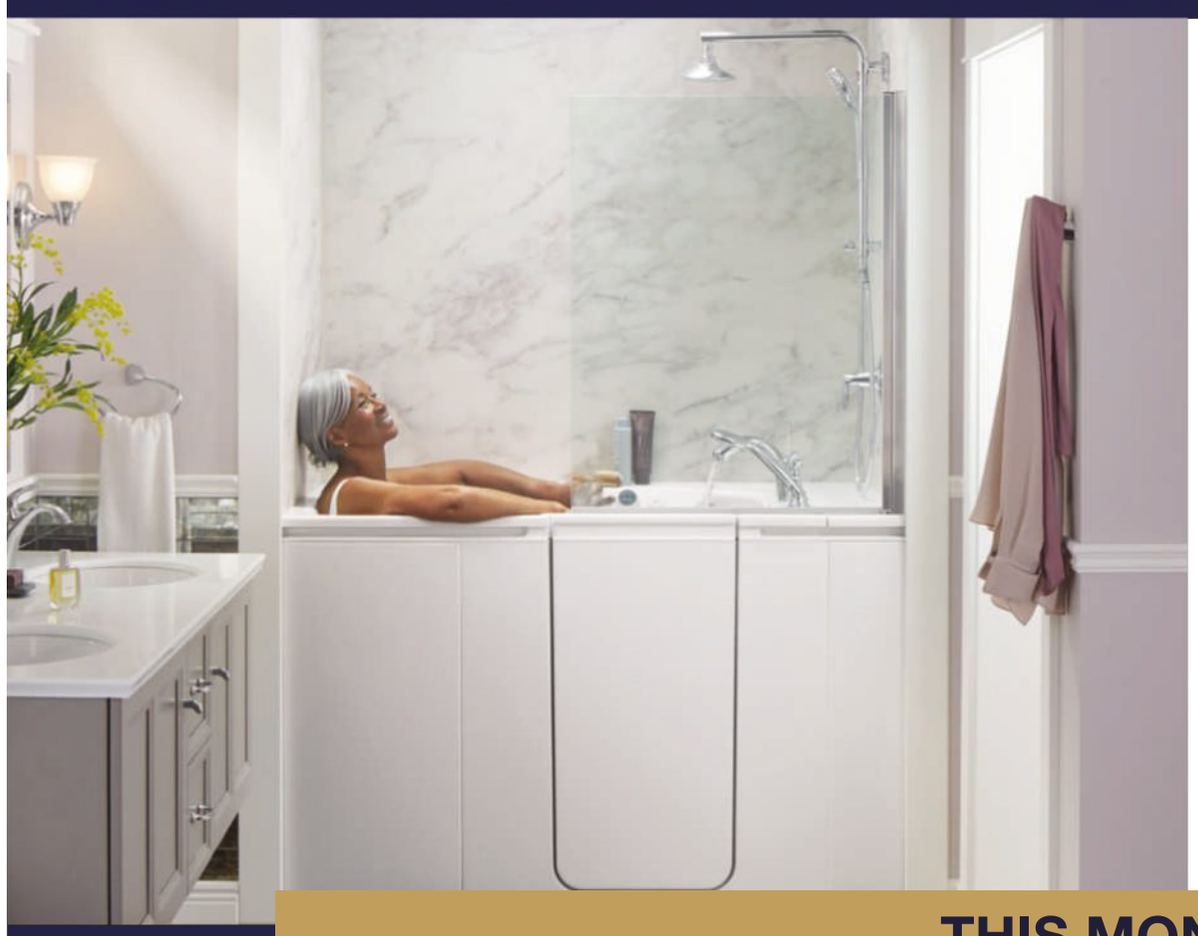

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ELECTION 2024: KEY PLAYERS

Pennsylvania Secretary of the Commonwealth **Al Schmidt (R)**
Arizona Secretary of State **Adrian Fontes (D)**

Officials in key battleground states outline the steps they are taking to safeguard the 2024 elections, counter disinformation and protect poll workers.

WED. AUG. 7 AT 11:30 A.M.

WORLD STAGE: A CONVERSATION WITH WENDY R. SHERMAN

Former Deputy Secretary of State

Sherman speaks about the escalating tensions in the Middle East, the repercussions of the historic prisoner swap between Russia and the United States and the state of American foreign policy.

FRI. AUG. 9 AT 9:00 A.M.

SUBSCRIBER EXCLUSIVE: FIRST LOOK

The Post's **Jonathan Capehart**, **Yasmeen Abutaleb**, **Robert Kagan** and **George F. Will**

Washington Post Live's "First Look" offers a smart, inside take on the day's politics. Jonathan Capehart hosts a reporter debrief followed by a roundtable discussion with Washington Post columnists.

THURS. AUG. 15 AT 12:00 P.M.

STYLE LIVE

Moon Unit Zappa, Actor & Author, "Earth to Moon"

Zappa discusses her new memoir about finding her creative path, coming of age in Hollywood and her legendary father's musical legacy.

In Case You Missed It

PARIS OLYMPICS

Michael Johnson, Olympic Gold Medalist & CEO, Grand Slam Track

The four-time Olympic gold medalist talked about the track and field athletes competing in Paris, the U.S.-Jamaican rivalry and running "freely" without fear.

To watch this program on-demand, visit **wapo.st/parisolympicsjohnson**

WORLD STAGE: SUDAN

Linda Thomas-Greenfield, U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations

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Jaime Seltzer, Scientific Director, #MEAction
Linda Sprague Martinez, Director, Health Disparities Institute, UConn Health
Chimére L. Sweeney, Long Covid Patient Advocate and Founder & Director, The Black Long Covid Experience

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OPINION

The real history of the Wild West, told through my grandfather's gun

BY KATY ROBERTS

Getting rid of family heirlooms is a lost cause for many of us baby boomers. Younger relatives don't want our grandmothers' Haviland teacups, cinnabar bracelets or even the porcelain moose pitchers made in pre-World War II Czechoslovakia. Judging by similar offerings on Craigslist and eBay, no one else is interested in this stuff, either.

Their only value lies in their connection to people we knew, loved ones who are long gone. My mother had no use for the bounty of fragile objects she offloaded on me, but maybe she hung on to them because they reminded her of her parents' middle-class resilience in Depression-era Kansas.

My father's side had no such trove. My paternal grandfather had been lucky to inherit a farm when he was in his early 20s, but it all blew away in the Dust Bowl. When he died in 1957 at age 69, he was scraping by as a bellhop at the Brown Palace Hotel in Denver and living in a rundown rooming house with my grandmother and the few possessions they had left.

She had a Royal Doulton rose jar and a Georgian silver set. My grandfather Morris had only one treasure: an old revolver with a notch carved on the handle.

Why, I wondered nearly 70 years later, did he cling to that beat-up thing, even after he lost everything else?

He had gotten it and the farm from his foster father, a lawman in post-Civil War Kansas named George Nelson Moses. The gun eventually ended up with my brother, who lived for years in Dodge City, Kan., and stashed it at a place called, yes, Gunsmoke Storage. He finally gave it to me to deal with.

My first step was to get an estimate from an online auction site. Though the gun was scratched up, the appraiser identified it from photos as an 1860 Colt Army revolver, standard issue in its day, valued between $1,000 and $2,000 — "depending on its origin."

I naively thought a Kansas historical museum would want it. But these places can be picky. They urge you to document an object's history, hire a real appraiser and get a notarized affidavit.

At first, there was little to go on. My father died in 1970, when I was in high school, so if family stories were told about the gun and "G.N." — which was how the older folks referred to George Moses — I wasn't paying attention.

I did, however, vaguely recall one thing my grandmother said: G.N. had no use for Wild Bill.

It didn't take long, thanks to Kansas county histories and newspaper archives, to discover that Moses's revolver was far more interesting than my grandmother's precious rose jar. The story is both astonishing and, considering the way the history of the American West is told and remembered, completely predictable. I'll start with the astonishing part.

SAMUEL DOLE FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

THE BARTON COUNTY DEMOCRAT

Above: A reproduction of a photograph of George Nelson Moses that accompanied his obituary in the Barton County (Kan.) Democrat in September 1911. At top: Moses's 1860 Colt Army revolver.

THE NEW YORK PUBLIC LIBRARY DIGITAL COLLECTIONS

A general view of Great Bend, Kan., circa 1850-1930.

When we think of the Wild West, Kansas and Missouri don't spring to mind, but both states were epicenters of lawlessness after the Civil War. Jesse and Frank James and Cole Younger were Confederate guerrilla fighters in Missouri in the mid-1860s before they became bank-robbing killers. Wyatt Earp and Bat Masterson courted trouble as lawmen in Dodge City.

James B. Hickok — Wild Bill — and Texas outlaw John Wesley Hardin sized each other up in Abilene, Kan., where Hickok was briefly the sheriff in 1871. America was already gaga over Wild Bill, thanks largely to a fulsome 1867 article in Harper's New Monthly Magazine about his supposed exploits. The bank-robbing Dalton brothers would leave their mark in Kansas later.

Moses's initiation into this violent world came early. He joined the Union Army in 1861 at 17, and his right forefinger was shot off during a battle in Tennessee. It must not have affected his shooting because, after the Civil War, he was recruited for a small Union militia — "all expert horsemen" and "dead shots" who "could be relied upon to face any danger," as he later described them. Their job was to track down Confederates who were still causing mayhem in Missouri.

Among the rebel "bushwhackers" was Archie Clement, who slaughtered and sometimes scalped unarmed Union captives and led a gang that included the young James brothers.

When Clement was spotted drinking in a hotel bar in Lexington, Mo., on Dec. 13, 1866, Moses was one of three militiamen sent to arrest him. Witnesses largely confirmed his shot-by-shot description of the wild gunfight that ensued, and historian T.J. Stiles cited it in his biography of Jesse James.

Moses said their aim was to arrest Clement. But after the militiamen had sidled up to the bar, a fourth, more hotblooded member of their group burst through the front door and yelled, "Surrender!"

Clement lunged through a side door into an office. Moses went after him.

"Just as I slipped into the door Clements turned and fired at me, the ball going through my clothes but not drawing blood," Moses wrote. "I fired at him hitting him in the right breast, crippling him badly which accounts for his poor shooting after that."

The gunfight secured the legend of Little Archie, who, though badly wounded, scrambled into the street and climbed on his horse while being shot at by Moses and others. His dying words, according to various sources, were "I told you I'd never surrender." (Moses said his actual last words were "Oh, hell!" But that doesn't make as good a story.)

In dark corners of the internet, Clement lives on as a rebel martyr, and you can find directions to his supposed Missouri gravesite (adorned with a Confederate battle flag). That Jesse James idolized this psychopath as "one of the noblest boys" and vowed revenge only magnified the mythologizing.

With the rebels subdued in Missouri, Moses headed west. Like Hickok, Moses hunted buffalo and worked as a marshal and scout. He ranged through lawless settlements in Colorado and the Southwest before he helped found the central Kansas town of Great Bend, where he served as the first sheriff from 1871 to 1875.

The new town was on the Santa Fe Trail, and it was soon plagued by disorderly Texas cowboys on cattle drives. Saloons, brothels and gambling halls sprang up to serve them. If Great Bend failed to achieve the notoriety of Dodge City or other cow towns, Moses's fellow townsfolk gave him much of the credit.

One time, a drunk Texan was riding through town, shooting at the occasional resident. Moses was summoned and began walking down the street toward him. "The man started swinging his gun hand toward G.N. when the latter spoke to him pleasantly enough," according to a Great Bend Tribune account. "G.N. wasn't trying to pull a gun and still kept coming." When he neared the cowboy, he reached up as if to shake his hand "and the next minute the gun man was off his pony and G.N.'s grip on his shoulder made him forget all his belligerency."

A showdown in the summer of 1872 was so memorable that, 36 years later, the Kansas Historical Society asked Moses to write about it.

In a 4½-page account he typed in blue ink, he recalled that a cowboy had "ravished" a woman at an isolated homestead, and her husband rode into town demanding justice. With a warrant in hand, Moses and a marshal, James Gainsford, who had been Hickok's deputy in Abilene, scoured the territory's vast cattle herds, saloons and dance halls with no luck. Then, after midnight on a dark street in the town of Ellsworth, a man whispered to them to follow him up to a railroad track.

"I was beginning to get nervous, thinking there was a trap," Moses wrote. But the man, who it turned out was the head of the cattle crew the wanted suspect was riding in, was merely terrified. He made them promise never to reveal who ratted out the outlaw, who he said was "one of the best shots in Texas" and had killed men on the trail. "We thanked him for the information and started back for town. His last words were, 'Be sure and kill him.' "

Early the next morning, with the angry husband tagging along, they spotted the cowboy in a creekside camp, alone except for a cook. The husband's job was to hold the horses if Moses and Gainsford dismounted to move closer to their target. But after the outlaw spotted them and started shooting, the husband galloped off; "that was the last I ever saw of him," Moses wrote.

In the hail of bullets that followed, Moses was fairly sure he had wounded the gunman. But just as he and Gainsford were moving in, six horsemen waving their guns raced up from another direction. He and Gainsford trained their weapons on them. They were drovers on the outlaw's cattle crew. Moses warned them to steer clear of the "little gunplay," and they rode off. In the time this took, and despite the lawmen's exhaustive searching, the culprit got away.

"We started home, very much crestfallen for I had been marshal and sheriff in both Missouri and Kansas for a long time and this was the first time I had ever failed getting a man I was sent after," Moses wrote.

When they finally got back to Great Bend, hungry and tired, Moses took the warrant back to the justice of the peace. He wrote across it: "Received this writ [blank date]. Served the same by shooting at the d----d son of a ----, but didn't get him." Later, he heard from the owner of the cattle herd that "our man" crawled into camp, got a horse and died on the trail soon thereafter.

Before Moses was sheriff, he could be as cocky as any famous gunslinger. At a construction camp in western Kansas, where "the gamblers, painted women and thugs were robbing several hundred railroad laborers," a Santa Fe surveyor, David Heizer, told of how Moses went to a bar to collect a debt from a saloonkeeper who refused to pay him back.

"It made G.N. mad and he kicked him out of the place and took charge of the saloon himself," Heizer wrote. "We believe that Jim Gainsford was with him at the time."

"The saloon man went out and gathered his gang and went back to fix G.N. The latter was ready and had Gainsford stationed behind the door. When the gang filed in, G.N. trained two guns on them and invited them to get out and stay out. He ran the saloon for two days, took in $68 and then turned it back to the owner and said that he had collected the interest due at least."

Moses looked the part of the Western gunman. Heizer first met him when he galloped into a railroad labor camp one evening on a white pony:

"He was six feet tall, straight as an Indian, wore a slouch hat, a blue shirt, open at the throat, a pair of buckskin trousers, fringed down the seams and top boots. His face was bronzed by the desert sun, his features were hard and stern and to emphasize the caste a pair of navy 44s were slung from his belt. But through it all shone a pair of eyes as blue, clear and true, as the sky above us."

If that sounds gushy, you aren't a reader of Wild West biographies. Hickok, especially, dazzled everyone with his "herculean chest" and "long, wavy, silk curls" — "one of the most perfect types of physical manhood I ever saw," George Armstrong Custer said.

But my grandmother was right: G.N. did not speak well of Hickok.

"Wild Bill was a dead shot and a quick man on the draw, but he was a sneak with the gun and wanton with the same," Moses is quoted as saying in a newspaper reminiscence. "He killed many men without provocation and without giving them a chance for their lives and took undue advantages."

He also said Hickok could be a coward. He recalled being in an Abilene saloon when Wild Bill took a "bully's dislike" to a cavalryman Moses knew in Missouri. When his friend "dared Hickok to draw his gun or attempt to arrest him," he backed out.

Hickok's fabled career as a lawman in Abilene lasted only a matter of months. He joined an entertainment troupe of Buffalo Bill Cody's, but soon quit, and made his living playing poker. He was 39 in 1876 when he was shot dead from behind in a gambling hall in the Dakota Territory town of Deadwood.

Moses would have a longer and nobler life. After serving as Great Bend's sheriff, he was elected mayor several times, and he and his brother built a successful mercantile business. He was on the board of three banks, and owned an ice plant and rich farmlands. He testified in a U.S. Supreme Court case on water rights for Kansas farmers. He and his wife, who had no biological children, helped support local orphans. They took in my grandfather when he was a toddler.

When Moses died of cancer in 1911 at 67, the Great Bend Tribune ran two pages of tributes and businesses closed for his funeral. Describing him as "one of the best known peace officers in the West," the eulogists said he did not get his due — "he never boasted of his deeds" and "never played up the part he played in early day incidents that belonged to him."

All that's left is his Colt Model 1860 Army percussion revolver with the notch on the handle. I recruited a top expert in vintage firearms who, taking into account the history of its owner, estimated the gun's value at $15,000. A historical society will want it now.

So what is the predictable part of this good-guy-with-a-gun tale?

America remembers and even lionizes the gunslingers and stone-cold killers and hucksters of the Wild West, but it forgets other people who were no less fearless, but more bent on keeping the peace and founding churches than hanging out in brothels and preening for East Coast reporters and photographers.

This fascination extends to the value of the guns these storied characters carried. Jesse James — "that great bank robber," in the words of former president Donald Trump — had the same model revolver as Moses had. With its belt and holster, it sold in 2009 for $230,000. A Colt .45 belonging to Wyatt Earp, who was both a lawman and a reputed brothel pimp in Wichita, went for $225,000 in 2014.

The Smith & Wesson revolver Hickok was reportedly carrying when he was killed sold for $235,000 in 2022, and a rifle of his brought in $475,312 in 2021. A Colt revolver he was said to own sold for $616,875 in 2022.

I will never know what is so special about the gun George Moses passed down to my grandfather. Does the notch mean it was used to shoot someone who needed killing — someone like Archie Clement?

Does it matter? The gun's real value has nothing to do with its death count. What matters is the mettle of the forgotten man who carried it, as reflected in how he was eulogized in 1911:

"Civilization in overtaking him did not change him. The man of modesty, the man of courage and strong convictions, the man of great strength and physical prowess he was to be feared in any encounter and he had many. They found him right in character. It was in his blood."

Katy Roberts was an editor at the New York Times for 30 years and at Bloomberg Opinion for 10 years.

SUNDAY OPINION

DANA MILBANK

Trump's 'disciplined' campaign is unraveling

For the last year, we've been hearing about the "disciplined," "competent" and "professional" campaign Donald Trump is running. After his chaotic 2016 and 2020 campaigns, he brought in longtime Republican operatives Susie Wiles and Chris LaCivita to lead a "low-drama" operation.

Well, the cat lady is out of the bag.

The trauma caused by the broadly panned choice of Sen. JD Vance as a running mate, combined with President Biden's withdrawal from the race and the massive outpouring of support for Vice President Harris, have had a terrible effect on Trump: They have caused him to revert to being himself.

Discipline has broken down, and the out-of-control Trump — suppressed in recent months with varying degrees of success — is back on full display.

"Christians, get out and vote just this time," he told an evangelical audience a week ago. "In four years, you don't have to vote again. We'll have it fixed so good you're not going to have to vote."

His Fox News ally Laura Ingraham tried to tone down this apparent promise by Trump to make this election America's last. "You will leave office after four years?" she asked him.

"Of course," Trump replied. "By the way, and I did last time."

How reassuring.

Vance, for his part, defended his attack on Harris and other people who do not have children as "childless cat ladies," even as other Vance comments came to light, calling for a "war" against those who say it's okay not to have children, attacking the "childless cabal" and proposing that people with children should have more votes in elections than the childless, who are "sad, lonely, pathetic."

Vance stood by "the substance of what I said" about cat ladies. "I'm sorry," he told interviewer Megyn Kelly. "It is true."

Campaigning in Reno, Nev., Vance expanded his oeuvre of ugliness, invoking the racist "great replacement" conspiracy theory. Harris, he said, "won't stop until every single illegal immigrant that she let in becomes a voter, handing over control of *your* country to people who shouldn't even be here."

And then came Trump's tour de force at a gathering of the National Association of Black Journalists, where he repeatedly attacked his questioners and challenged the ethnicity of Harris, the daughter of an Indian mother and a Jamaican father who went to Howard University and joined the Black sorority Alpha Kappa Alpha. "She was always of Indian heritage and she was only promoting Indian heritage," Trump said on Wednesday. "I didn't know she was Black until a number of years ago when she happened to turn Black. And now she became a Black person."

As if that weren't evidence enough that the Trump campaign has gone off the rails, Trump ally and former adviser Sebastian Gorka could be seen on television calling Harris "a disaster whose only qualification is having a vagina and the right skin color. She's a DEI hire, right? She's a woman, she's colored. Therefore she's got to be good."

And there on Fox News was host Jesse Watters, a Trump mouthpiece, telling viewers that he "heard the scientists say the other day that when a man votes for a woman, he actually transitions into a woman."

Also on that esteemed network, Sen. John Neely Kennedy (R-La.), a frequent Trump surrogate, repeatedly called Harris a "ding dong" while also faulting her for giggling and identifying her as a "loon." The host, Neil Cavuto, criticized the "bash-a-thon of name-calling at her" as "dumb" and asked, "Do you worry how that comes across?"

Kennedy did not.

Neither was Trump spokesman Steven Cheung concerned about appearances, taking to social media to attack "the pieces of sh-- in the media" and the Harris campaign.

JOE LAMBERTI/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

Former president Donald Trump at a campaign rally in Harrisburg, Pa., on Wednesday.

Trump is now using his assassination attempt to make a buck — not for his campaign, not for the family of the man killed in the shooting, but for himself.

Trump, that paragon of self-control, was on Truth Social this past week posting or reposting messages declaring Nancy Pelosi "BAT S--- CRAZY" and an "evil witch"; calling the Jan. 6, 2021, attack on the Capitol an "inside job" and Election Day 2020 "the real insurrection"; proclaiming himself to be what "God has ordained"; railing against Fox News (running ads from "perverts"); repeating a common QAnon slogan; and lamenting that low fuel prices could help "CRAZY KAMALA HARRIS WIN." Later in the week, he shared a conspiracy theorist's bogus claim that "Harris's own birth certificate [proves] she is lying about being Black" and disparaging the deal that secured the release from Russia of Paul Whelan, Evan Gershkovich, Vladimir Kara-Murza and others: "Our 'negotiators' are always an embarrassment to us!"

Above all, he was attending to his top priority: enriching himself. He urged his social media followers to "Get your Bitcoin Sneakers now" and directed them to a website where they could pay up to $499 for a pair of high-tops that say "Trump Crypto President." The sneakers, along with "Victory Cologne," coolers and other sneakers commemorating the failed assassination attempt on Trump, are being sold by CIC Ventures LLC — a company owned by Trump. "FIGHT FIGHT FIGHT" announce the $299, shooting-themed sneakers, showing an image of a bloodied (but lean and muscular) Trump raising his fist.

Trump is now using his assassination attempt to make a buck — not for his campaign, not for the family of the man killed in the shooting, but for himself. Meet the new Trump, same as the old Trump.

It's as though the near-death experience brought out all of Trump's worst attributes. "They all say, 'I think he's changed since two weeks ago. Something affected him,' " Trump told a rally crowd in Minnesota. "No, I haven't changed. Maybe I've gotten worse, actually."

At his speech to evangelical Christians, he said of Harris, "She doesn't like Jewish people." (She is married to one.) He said he "took a bullet for democracy. . . . I might have taken it because of their rhetoric." (The shooter was a registered Republican and a motive hasn't been identified.) He spoke of "defeating Kamala Harris in a landslade," mispronouncing both her name and the geological phenomenon, before correcting the latter.

At the Minnesota rally, he bragged about his golf game and revived old attacks against Hunter Biden and a fantasy about mixed martial arts fighters taking on migrants. He also said that he "will not give one penny to any school that has a vaccine mandate," which would risk reviving the childhood diseases of polio, measles, mumps and chickenpox.

On Ingraham's show, Trump talked some more about the shooting ("my hand was loaded up with blood") and said he took it as a good sign that his wife was concerned: "She either likes or loves me, and that's nice." He explained his reticence to debate Harris, who he says has "the laugh of a crazy person," by reasoning that people "already know everything."

He said the Opening Ceremonies of the Paris Olympics "was a disgrace" for supposedly mocking "The Last Supper." (Organizers say it was actually a portrayal of the Greek god Dionysus.) And he sought to explain his promise that people won't have to vote again in four years by saying that "Christians do not vote well. They vote in very small percentages." Voter turnout among evangelical Christians is exceptionally high.

Trump needs to change the subject — and he's not getting any help from Vance.

Vance's explanations of the newly resurfaced comments from his past about "childless sociopaths" ("I've got nothing against cats") haven't satisfied many inhabitants of Planet Normal, including Sen. Lisa Murkowski (R-Alaska), who told CNN's Manu Raju: "It was offensive to me as a woman. Women make their own determinations as to whether or not they're going to have children or cats or dogs or how many kids they're going to have."

There were problems with the sound system at the NABJ conference — and, in retrospect, it would have been better for Trump if the microphones didn't work at all.

ABC News's Rachel Scott opened with a reasonable question: asking why Black voters should trust him after his long history of racist remarks and his dining with a white supremacist at Mar-a-Lago.

Trump exploded. "I don't think I've ever been asked a question so — in — in such a horrible manner," he said, then railing: "fake news . . . very rude introduction . . . invited me under false pretense . . . you were half an hour late . . . couldn't get the equipment working."

He asserted that he was "the best president for the Black population since Abraham Lincoln," before railing some more: "thirty-five minutes late . . . hostile manner . . . a disgrace."

The questioning moved on to other topics, but Trump was stuck. "A very hostile, nasty tone," he said, before claiming that migrants are "taking Black jobs."

"What, exactly, is a 'Black job,' sir?" Scott asked.

"A Black job is anybody that has a job," Trump shot back.

When Fox News's Harris Faulkner, a sympathetic questioner on the panel, asked about credit-card debt in the Black community, Trump again referred to Scott: "This woman was unable to get the right equipment," making it "very hard for me to hear you."

When Faulkner asked whether Vance was ready to assume the presidency, Trump, perhaps not hearing the question, offered no endorsement: "Historically, the vice president, in terms of the election, does not have any impact."

Trump stumbled in trying to explain whether his call to immunize police from prosecution would extend to the officer who has been charged with murder for killing Sonya Massey, an unarmed Black woman, in her home.

And when Semafor's Kadia Goba asked a question about his age, Trump went right back to attacking Scott. "Look, if I came onto a stage like this and I got treated so rudely as this woman treated me . . ." Trump began.

"Oh my goodness!" interjected a stunned Faulkner.

Trump's staff then yanked him off the stage, 34 minutes into the scheduled hour-long session.

His campaign issued a statement denouncing "liberal mainstream media malpractice." Vance labeled the response to Trump's racial attack on Harris "hysterical." And Trump, on Truth Social, resumed the assault, saying Harris is a "stone cold phony" in her racial identity. "The questions were Rude and Nasty, often in the form of a statement, but we CRUSHED IT!" Trump announced.

Trump moved on to a friendlier reception at a rally in Pennsylvania — but his words were no less zany. He announced that Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-N.Y.), who is Jewish, "has become a Palestinian" and "a proud member of Hamas." The GOP nominee repeated that immigrants are "poisoning our country." He said a former aide's account that he "started throwing hamburgers at the wall" at the White House "was all bulls---." He claimed that his is "the number one selling mug shot in history." He twice said that the Republican Senate candidate in Pennsylvania, David McCormick, is running to be governor.

And Trump confessed to being disoriented by his new opponent. "Two weeks ago, I was talking about Biden," he told the crowd. "I didn't even know her name. Nobody did. Kamala. Hello! Beautiful. I didn't even know her name."

Now, he has a chance to meet her. "Well, Donald," Harris said at one of her own boisterous rallies, "I do hope you'll reconsider, to meet me on the debate stage. Because, as the saying goes, if you got something to say, say it to my face."

For the Trump aides trying to impose discipline on their unraveling candidate, the very notion must be terrifying.

KAREN ATTIAH

His visit with Black journalists was both missile and mirror

CHICAGO

Donald Trump was both a missile and a mirror to Black journalists this past week.

At 9 p.m. on Monday, less than two days before its convention opened here, the National Association of Black Journalists announced that the former president would take part in a moderated "conversation" with ABC's Rachel Scott, Fox News's Harris Faulkner and Semafor's Kadia Goba.

On Tuesday morning, I stepped down as co-chair of the meeting. I have been asked whether this move was in protest of Trump's appearance. It was more than that. As I will explain, I objected to the format, which I rightly feared would allow a White politician to make our Black press advocacy organization into an instrument of his agenda. I am a longtime NABJ member and award-winner. I love this community dearly. But I could not be part of the production and promotion of performative journalistic charades that degrade our communities, and further undermine trust in our profession. I would not participate in a circus that I knew would cause pain to members. The NABJ convention has long been a source of healing and rejuvenation for Black journalists, many of whom save their own funds to attend.

Though I would not lend my name to it, I did attend the widely covered session, held in the international ballroom of the Hilton Chicago. Trump blamed his late start on difficulties with the sound system, but while we waited for nearly an hour, I wondered aloud if he had objected to a last-minute plan to fact-check his appearance, announced by NABJ in partnership with PolitiFact. I knew this would amount to spritzing water on a raging dumpster fire. Ultimately, the fact-checking was only on their website and X and not live on TV or in the room. Most importantly, not to Trump's face.

Trump immediately set the tone by attacking Scott over her first question, which very reasonably asked why a man who — among a litany of race-baiting offenses — hosted the notorious white supremacist Nick Fuentes to dine with him at Mar-a-Lago should be trusted with Black votes. Throughout the session, he returned again and again to demean Scott, even blaming her for the acoustics in a room built in 1927. Fact-checking does nothing with Trump.

For a good part of the past eight years, many of us have criticized our White media peers for both-sidesism, false equivalence and allowing the spread of demonstrable lies. Beyond Trump, we criticized the normalization of racist and anti-Black voices under the guise of "asking the tough questions." NABJ as an organization issued statements over the years about the harm Trump posed to Black journalists, specifically to Black women journalists.

So I was surprised to see a number of Black journalists defend the decision to give Trump this forum, citing NABJ's "tradition" of hosting presidential candidates — as if these are normal times. No serious journalist believes that Trump should never be interviewed. But it is hardly progress for Black journalists to question him in the same problematic format that our White peers have tried unsuccessfully for nearly 10 years. Was the criticism really about journalistic ethics and harm to the Black community? Or were some of us more upset all along that we weren't getting the same access they were to be pawns in his fact-free spectacles?

When it was over, attendees left deflated and angry. Trump's appalling attacks on Vice President Harris — specifically over her Blackness — and his berating of the Black women journalists onstage, had turned a conference that is supposed to be a respite into an attempted humiliation. To make matters worse, NABJ leadership turned down an opportunity to hear from Harris through a remote appearance, which would have given her a chance to balance the horror show.

What hurt the most, perhaps, was the way Black journalists sidelined ourselves in the process. In that packed ballroom were hundreds of seasoned Black journalists eager to ask tough questions that focused on the Black community. But we saw no alternative but to sit in silence that could easily be taken for respect, not protest, not boo, not challenge. I heard too many people say that if they shouted the truth, they might at worst lose their jobs or at best attract attention from security. What was supposed to be the beginning of a conference of empowerment left many of us feeling utterly powerless and embarrassed.

We did not hear any questions about Black maternal mortality, reparations, Black immigrants, or foreign policy in Africa and the Caribbean. Trump was asked only one question about Sonya Massey's horrible death at the hands of Illinois police, and used his answer to try to back away from his intentionally provocative past statements on blanket immunity for police. As Black voting rights are being eroded, there were no questions about his recent comments to Christians, telling them they "won't have to vote anymore" if he is elected. Instead, we got multiple questions about his running mate. Is this the most pressing concern of the Black community?

Then again, Black community journalists were not at the microphones; none of the moderators represented Black-owned, independent or Black local media outlets. In that sense, the event essentially perpetuated the same exclusion and disrespect to historically Black media and Black issues that we associate with White systems.

Under the guise of "tradition" and "accountability," NABJ gave Trump a runway to push particular pain points in the Black community over race, ethnicity, identity and culture. Instead of talking about policies that affect Black voters, the avalanche of post-event headlines has to do with Trump's warped view of who counts as authentically Black. I have seen mainstream White commentators say that the Trump spectacle was useful to them, that they "learned" more about Trump's bigotry. I have seen headlines saying the event was "combative," when if anything the moderators were overly deferential. On the right, commentators praised Trump for his supposed courage in speaking to a Black audience.

I have questions: After more than 10 years of this, going back to Trump's exploitation of a fake controversy over Barack Obama's citizenship, how much additional Black humiliation must we stand while others "learn" about Trump? Why are Black people expected to take pride in our restraint and composure in the face of such dishonesty and disrespect? At what point does a celebration of our professionalism and dignity turn into yet another form of conditioning us to take White abuse lying down?

This is not what we came to Chicago for. We did not come to the historical home of the vibrant Black press, the domain of Johnson Publishing, of Ebony, Jet, the Chicago Defender, of activist and journalist Ida B. Wells, to allow ourselves to be degraded. For the sake of what? Access? Relevance? Fame for White audiences? For racial rage-bait and ephemeral political sound bites?

This is why Trump's missile of a visit should be a mirror, a moment of reflection for NABJ and for Black journalists everywhere — especially those of us in corporate media. We need to think about why we do this work, and who we do it for. Otherwise, we will turn "tradition," "access" and "both sides" into new shackles for the information age.

OPINION

For Dungeons & Dragons, the magic is in the memories

In most games, crying isn't a good sign. But my character, a young elf, had survived an enemy attack only after making a desperate bargain with an ancient and cruel being. In exchange for her life, she could never return home. With a magically assisted message, she was saying goodbye to her family — played equally emotionally by my friend 800 miles away — and my eyes were welling with tears of joy over it. Our friends, scattered in different cities, cheered on our call over a scene well done.

We'd been playing Dungeons & Dragons together for five years, starting because we wanted to keep in touch after graduating high school. None of us had played much before, but it didn't matter. We learned together, navigating the rules and making each other laugh (and sometimes cry) with the story we created.

Dungeons & Dragons turns 50 this year. Over the decades since the game was created and designed by Gary Gygax and Dave Arneson, it has been transformed in the public consciousness from an image of social misfits playing in basements to a commercial behemoth. But the emotional bonds forged along the way are what players remember. We asked five of them to share a moment that stuck with them.

— Lillian Barkley, Opinions audience strategy editor

1970s: A miracle from my brother

Anderson Cooper is a journalist who anchors 'Anderson Cooper 360' on CNN.

Fletcher, my elven thief, was dear to my heart. He wore a red cape and, in my mind, bore a close resemblance to D'Artagnan from "The Three Musketeers." Fletcher and his fellow adventurers would slay monsters and collect treasure. Ever the magnanimous hero, he hosted a party for the townspeople using his windfall of gold.

I was around 11, and my older brother and I had started playing a new game. We had previously played with toy soldiers, staging elaborate troop movements through our house by following the rules from H.G. Wells's "Little Wars," so we had a history of having a joint fantasy in our head. This new game, Dungeons & Dragons, was a natural extension of that.

There were polyhedral dice, which were interesting, but it wasn't a board game. It was a storytelling game. It was both happening in our imaginations and playing out in real life with our friends around a table. We were all in this fantasy together, a group delusion in which everybody bought into the reality. And it was extremely important to me.

My brother, Carter, two years older than I was, came to it first after our father died in 1978. It allowed us to lose ourselves together and gave us a brief respite from the sadness that had descended on us. When we were playing D&D, we weren't stuck in the silences of not talking about him. We could talk about D&D.

I see us now hunched in a circle, waiting for this incredible adventure to begin. My brother set it up, hiding his papers behind a screen to keep the elaborate plans he'd made for us secret, and there was a palpable excitement as we wondered what magical world he had created.

This game gave me license to extend my childhood just a bit longer and permission to feel joy and excitement again. I was a sad boy, stunned and terrified by my dad's sudden death, but playing D&D, I could dive into the table and emerge on the other side as a swashbuckling elven thief, slaying orcs and other monsters. But death found me even in D&D. The game may not have winners and losers like other games, but it does have loss. I don't recall exactly what happened, but in some underground lair, my character, Fletcher, was killed. I was stunned and inconsolable. I refused to accept the death of this imaginary alter-ego for whom I deeply cared. Thankfully, the game allows for miracles the real world does not. My brother, using the mechanics afforded to him in his omniscient role, prolonged Fletcher's story by magically reviving him.

We stopped playing a few months later. My brother, Carter, was developing other interests, and D&D no longer seemed so cool. He died by suicide when he was 23. In going through his things recently, I found his "Dungeon Masters Guide" and "Monster Manual," along with a binder full of hand-written notes he'd made for our games and detailed maps of mazes he'd created for our characters to explore. I'm not sure what to do with them, but I can't throw them away because they are such a part of who he was when we were kids.

The care and imagination my brother put into our adventures inspired in me a love of exploring and storytelling. I left high school early and rode in a truck across sub-Saharan Africa for several months, from Johannesburg to Bangui in the Central African Republic. It was the beginning of a lifetime of travel and adventure and learning to tell stories of my own.

1980s: A mythology of the mind

Lev Grossman is the author of 'The Bright Sword' and the 'Magicians' trilogy.

We started hearing rumors about it when I was in fourth grade. Nobody knew exactly what Dungeons & Dragons was except that it wasn't quite a normal game; it was something weird and arcane and important, like sex or calculus. An older boy who'd played it showed me, furtively, a map hand-drawn in ballpoint pen on graph paper. I struggled to grasp the concept. Was it a board game? Like Sorry? But the pieces could go, like, in any direction? And there's more than one board? "In D&D," the boy said sagely, "there are many maps."

Then one day my friend Ben called and said his brother had a copy of the game. Did I want to play? I did. I hung up the phone — it was a rotary phone, the kind that's firmly attached to a wall — and solemnly announced to my family: "This is the greatest day of my life."

It wasn't, but it was a very good day. We probably played the Village of Hommlet, which came standard with the Basic Set. Ben's older brother was the dungeon master. I played a magic user, so I didn't wear armor, and my only weapon was a dart. I cast my one first-level spell — magic missile, obviously — and then I died. I loved it.

I was raised with no particular religion, and the suburb of Boston where I grew up was an arid, unspiritual place. D&D supplied me with something I was desperately missing: a mythology. I was overflowing with surging pre-pubescent feelings that were beyond my ability to manage or understand, but D&D activated in me vast, hitherto dormant realms. I was learning how to navigate the dungeons of my own subconscious, with their many maps, where the dragons lived, and how to survive there.

As much as I loved it, when it came to the actual playing of D&D, I was awful — both at playing it and to play it with. On some level I still didn't get the concept of D&D because all I wanted to do was *win it*. If I'm being charitable, I might say that I cared too much. I would do anything to keep my character from dying: lie about my dice rolls, conveniently forget rules, invent other rules and argue legalistically with the DM about them. My more imaginative friends would role-play as their characters, act out the scenes and do the voices. I just tried to get all the treasure I could.

As I got older, my tastes evolved. Reading the rulebooks gradually replaced the pleasure of actually playing D&D. I drew vast unplayable maps and combed through the books for bizarre minutiae — the "Players Handbook" contained a reference to a weapon called the Bohemian ear spoon, and I spent hours speculating about the nature of this cruelest of pole-arms. I sought out the more obscure and bizarre modules, like the infamously unbeatable "Queen of the Demonweb Pits." Much of my adult sexuality is probably rooted in my contemplation of the alluring drawing of Tlazolteotl, Aztec goddess of vice, in the "Deities and Demigods" handbook.

It didn't last forever. Eventually, my attention wandered — like Jackie Paper, I got interested in other toys. D&D offered many pleasures but not the pleasure of feeling cooler and cleverer than other people, and I, a callow teenager, went off in search of games that were easier to win.

But the dragons would have the last laugh. Years later, when I grew up and became a writer, I initially chose the path of conventional literary fiction — I wanted to write books that were respectable, full of my caustic, clear-eyed observations about good old-fashioned social reality. But I didn't have much success at it, and it was a long time before I realized I wasn't a literary writer at all. It wasn't until I changed horses and wrote a novel about people who cast spells and explored a magic land that I found my voice and had my first success.

I didn't belong in the surface world, with the cool and clever people. My place was down in the dungeons, where the dragons lived. That's where the treasure was all along.

ILLUSTRATIONS BY EVA WIDERMANN FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

OPINION

1990s: Good dungeon master, good collaborator

Joseph Gordon-Levitt is an actor, writer, director and the founder of HitRecord.

It was something like 1994. I was 13. My friend Nick was coming over later, and I was getting ready. We had agreed that I would be dungeon master that day. I was behaving a bit like a screenwriter outlining a movie and a bit like a kindergartner playing pretend. I paced around my room, absorbed in thought, a pad of graph paper and pencils ready at hand somewhere on the carpeted floor. And then, I had an idea.

I imagined a flood, not a real flood, a magic one, an unrealistically massive amount of water. The currents far too powerful to swim, the threat mortal; our main character would need to escape — somehow. But how? He would have to use his shield! He'd ride the deluge like a medieval boogie-boarder all the way to safety. I'm not saying it was a brilliant idea, but I was totally sold at the time. Our adventure's climax firmly in mind, I felt ready to play.

Not long after Nick's mom dropped him off, we sat down on the carpet and got to it. How does the game begin? Do you turn something on? Do you deal cards? Do you start at Go? No, none of the above. As the DM, I just started talking to Nick in the second person, describing his character's experience. "Okay so, you're at a tavern," I might've begun. That's where a lot of adventures started, us young adolescent dudes fantasizing about what it might be like to go to a bar.

At the tavern, Nick's character met a mysterious thief who knew of a hidden dungeon containing unknown treasures and needing a partner with whom to make the dangerous but potentially lucrative journey. On their way, they probably met a few orcs or wraiths they had to fight, Nick and me rolling dice, doing arithmetic, erasing and re-penciling numbers on graph paper to determine the outcome of the combat. Once in the dungeon, I used a new sheet of paper to map the labyrinthine passageways and specify the locations of other monsters that needed fighting. The whole while, of course, I was thinking about my predetermined climax.

Nick's character did have a shield because I had surreptitiously persuaded him to spend some of his gold on one before the adventure began. Everything was going according to plan. Then, once the time was right, I brought in the flood. "You hear something," I told him. "A rumbling. It's getting closer. And louder."

"What is it?" he asked.

"You can't tell, but it's getting really loud now. Do you want to run?" I prompted him.

"No, I want to see what it is," he said.

BADOOSH! The magic water exploded into the dungeon's chamber, the door flying off its hinges. The Chaotic Evil Mage from whom our heroes had stolen was exacting his revenge. Nick's character ran. Now he just needed to flip over his shield and ride the rushing water.

But he didn't.

Uh-oh. I tried to coax him into it.

"The water's gonna pull you under; you gotta do something."

"I swim hard!" he said, not knowing what else to do.

But that wasn't what I was looking for. The idea I'd started with was not coming to pass. The climax of our story would have to become something else. And that, dear reader, is what makes Dungeons & Dragons unique. A good DM can imagine literally anything and make that part of the adventure, but once the game begins, they also have to be flexible, ready to come up with new ideas in response to the equally limitless imaginations of their players.

This is the crux of collaboration.

I wish I could remember exactly how my adventure with Nick ended that day. I do know it didn't end as I expected. And as I've grown from a 13-year-old D&D player into an adult in the working world, that spirit of collaboration has only revealed itself to be more and more valuable. These days, I put much less weight on my own ideas and much more on what becomes of them once other people join in the game.

2000s: A community of my own

Matthew Mercer is a voice actor and co-founder of Critical Role, where he serves as chief creative officer and game master for the company's flagship show, 'Critical Role.'

One by one, they stopped coming to play. Folks who had never tried it canceled at the last minute, feeling awkward about joining something they didn't understand. Experienced players who were looking forward to making characters and building a story together struggled to explain to their partners why they needed to spend hours away with their "work friends" to play make-believe. The D&D campaign I had poured myself into fizzled to nothing. I wasn't angry at my friends, but I was worried about the death of this passion that had meant so much to me.

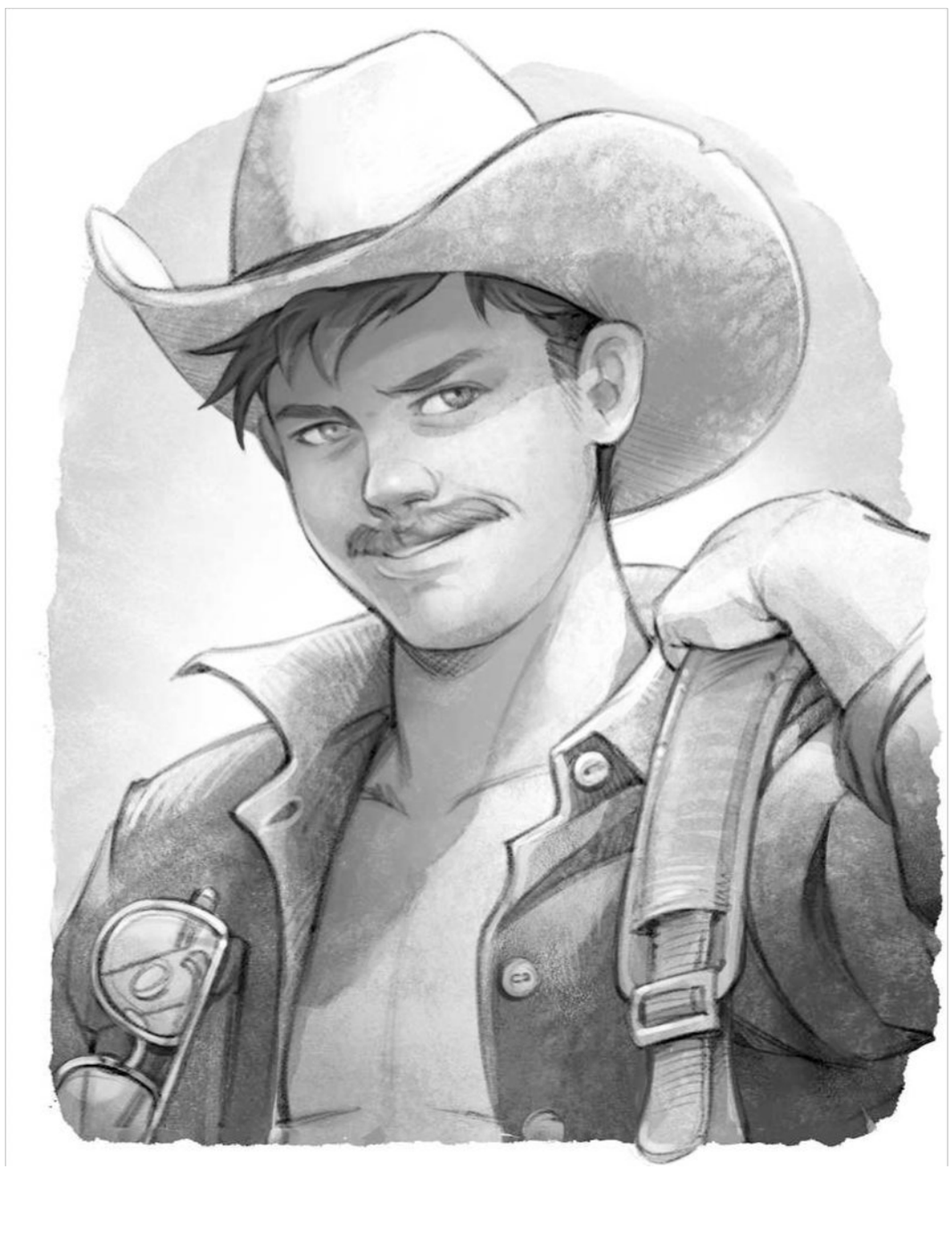
I was a kid whose heart sat in high fantasy, so D&D was very much an experience I felt drawn to. I spent countless afternoons after high school in the '90s at the Collectors Asylum in Westlake Village, Calif., the local comic shop that also sold tabletop role-playing books and "Magic" cards. The Satanic Panic of the '70s and '80s still lingered like an albatross, while TV shows and films endlessly made us the butt of nerd jokes, playing up stereotypes of ultimate geekdom. The zeitgeist perpetuated the idea that "to play D&D was to be an outcast."

The stores were my first taste of this colorful and creative world of gamers. The back corners were consumed with groups gathered around card tables, inventing their own stories together. These were the places I used to go on my lunch break, my little escapes when I had a moment, even if I didn't buy anything. These were our social spaces. It felt like I walked into a community of my own.

In the 2000s, however, video games like "World of Warcraft" became cultural juggernauts, and "pen and paper" games started to fade. Many of the game stores I frequented shut their doors. It had all these signs of an extinction. I felt like this joyful pastime of mine was dying on the vine.

So after each group fell apart, I just tried to find fresh folks who might want to engage in that new journey. It largely ended up being friends who trusted me, were newer to the game and were curious to try it out. Preaching of the joys of rolling dice and playing make believe, I hoped that things could turn around.

We started video streaming our private game in 2015 and it became the web series "Critical Role," which has inspired fans around the world to start their own games. I am so thankful I didn't give up.



2010s: A character's journey — and my own

Ally Beardsley is a comedian and actor in the Dropout series 'Dimension 20.'

I was an aspiring comedian in Los Angeles and had just landed a salaried job at the comedy website CollegeHumor. My co-worker and friend Brennan Lee Mulligan was looking for six comedians to create a show that would be like an at-home game of D&D. Why not? "Dimension 20" became a weird punctuation to my day.

I remember there being too many rules to remember. I kept turning to my friend, Brian Murphy, to ask which dice I should be rolling. I wasn't paid overtime, but I loved the group and was having a lot of fun.

For the second season, I had my sea legs. I created a character for the campaign who was transgender. I had started going by the gender neutral they/them pronouns at work and among friends, but sourcing hormones or getting surgery seemed equal parts expensive and invasive. A fun thing about fantasy is stripping away the crunchy, real-world limitations and asking yourself: "What would I do if I could do anything?"

That season's arc for my character, Pete, was extremely euphoric for me. I had described him as a trans cowboy you might see at Burning Man, and the artist drew him dressed as a freaky Hunter S. Thompson in an open shirt to show his top surgery scars. He has wild magic — uncontrollable and dangerous in the game mechanics — which we used to explore the painful chaos of leaving a family that doesn't accept you.

Since then, I've started testosterone HRT and had top surgery. It's funny to listen back to myself playing a character who had transitioned in ways I hadn't. It's full of inaccuracies that make me smile. Pete takes a testosterone pill every day; I now know it's a weekly injection or a topical gel. I see my face, one wrapped up in playing something so new but instantly right. It was like an oracle. A near-future me who has health insurance! Who's talked to their mom about being trans and even spent a week post-top surgery on that mom's couch in Temecula, Calif!

As I started transitioning my appearance, seeing that in front of the camera felt raw. I was starting hormones, and my voice was cracking. Realizing it was all being recorded felt naked at times, but it has been really nice to talk to fans and friends about how important it is to see someone that looks like you taking a big risk on themself.

With Pete, it was really important to me to tell a story other than the dramatic lead-up to a medical transition. So we started with him having just gotten out of surgery, but that's all you see of that process. Part of his backstory is that he doesn't have a relationship with his transphobic parents, and before shooting the first episode, I felt sick to my stomach. I've been on a journey with my parents, and our starting place didn't have much common ground. When my character meets with his father, it felt as though I was actually running into my own on the street.

Brennan could sense that discomfort, and as my character's dad was about to call Pete by his deadname, Brennan shut the interaction down, surrounding his dad with bubbles that carried him into the sky. Magic is the power and freedom to manipulate your reality, and you can banish the awful voices in your life — let them swirl away into the air.

OPINION

The Washington Post
AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

Mr. Trump was right about crypto (the first time)

EDITORIAL

WHEN HE was president a few years ago, Donald Trump called it "a scam."

Nothing much has changed about cryptocurrency since then. In fact, the biggest news has been the spectacular crash of cryptocurrency exchange FTX and the conviction of its founder on fraud charges. Cryptocurrency is a volatile asset with no intrinsic value. It is used almost exclusively to speculate or to engage in shady businesses, such as selling drugs or collecting ransom, for which the anonymous nature of crypto accounts comes in handy.

The former president, however, has changed his tune, promising to make the United States the "crypto capital of the planet." And the Republican Party seems eager to follow. Sen. Cynthia Lummis (R-Wyo.) has proposed that the federal government purchase around 5 percent of the world's bitcoin supply to build a strategic reserve such as the ones the United States has for oil and gold.

Mr. Trump's pivot attests to a new power emerging in American politics: a class of technological entrepreneurs and venture capitalists uncomfortable with government regulations intended to protect American consumers.

Crypto backers are staking their considerable fortunes on Republicans in 2024. Fairshake, a pro-crypto super PAC, has raised more than $200 million. The Winklevoss twins — big crypto investors who launched the Gemini crypto exchange — have contributed millions of dollars. Venture capitalists Marc Andreessen and Ben Horowitz, perhaps the biggest investors in crypto firms, have offered support to pro-Trump PACs. Silicon Valley entrepreneur Peter Thiel helped launch the political career of Sen. JD Vance (Ohio), who is now Mr. Trump's running mate.

Cryptocurrencies such as bitcoin are bits of code created when a computer solves some complicated mathematical problem. Their core appeal comes from the fact that their supply is dictated by an algorithm, and transactions are validated automatically, on what look like enormous public online spreadsheets.

The "value" of the so-called tokens does not rely on the government. This gives them a unique advantage in the eyes of conspiracy theorists — and criminals — wary of the state. They are safe from the machinations of obscure technocrats at the Treasury Department or the Federal Reserve.

But this means that, unlike dollars, whose value is anchored in the substantial trust that investors around the world have in the full faith and credit of the U.S. government, the U.S. economy and the Federal Reserve, the value of the tokens relies entirely on what other investors would be willing to pay for them. In this way, they are a bit like digital baseball cards (without the pictures). Untethered to anything real, their price soars and plummets wildly.

The crypto lobby now supports MAGA to push back against Biden administration regulators who have been trying to install some guardrails to protect investors.

Mr. Trump, who once called bitcoin 'a scam,' has changed his tune, promising to make the United States the 'crypto capital of the planet.'

Gary Gensler, the head of the Securities and Exchange Commission, has proposed that crypto assets be considered securities, subject to the same regulatory constraints covering other securities. The SEC has sued some crypto firms — such as Coinbase and Ripple — for failing to follow basic federal consumer protection guidelines.

This is hardly unreasonable, because it aims to offer investors in bitcoin and other tokens similar protections to those that cover other financial products. But the crypto lobby is up in arms. And it has not only convinced Mr. Trump that Mr. Gensler should be fired; it has also convinced some Republicans to support plowing the federal government's own resources into this volatile asset class.

Consider Ms. Lummis's plan for the government to buy 5 percent of the roughly 19.5 million bitcoins in circulation. On Wednesday they would have cost about $63 billion. A year ago, the Treasury could have picked them up for some $29 billion. Like any speculative asset, they could easily drop in value again. But the government would have to buy bitcoin from current holders of the cryptocurrency — that is, the ones currently doing the lobbying.

There is a precedent for a Lummis-like experiment. The government of Nayib Bukele in El Salvador invested more than $100 million of its scant reserves in bitcoin a few years ago and made it legal tender in the country. Soon after, the International Monetary Fund warned the country about the "large risks associated with the use of bitcoin on financial stability, financial integrity, and consumer protection."

Mr. Trump's old crypto skepticism was correct, and it still is. Americans should see nothing appealing about Republicans' shift to please a new interest group seeking to sell a risky product without limitation — and, indeed, their plan to use taxpayer money to help these wealthy investors.

ANN TELNAES

Ms. Harris stands up to Mr. Trump

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

America's cat ladies would like a word with Mr. Vance

I'm more of a dog lady than a cat lady. But I take issue with JD Vance's argument that "childless cat ladies" have no direct stake in the future of the country.

In the eight decades of my life so far, I have been emotionally tied to many children, including four younger siblings, eight younger cousins, many adult friends' children, seven nieces and nephews, five godchildren, and eight grandnieces and -nephews. In a real and spiritual sense, I have loved and nurtured them throughout their infancies, toddler years and childhoods; applauded their graduations, weddings, children, achievements and everyday joys; and grieved with them in their sorrows. These ties have been a lifelong investment in their futures, and in that of the country.

Recently, I met one of my goddaughters at a little cafe, and we talked all afternoon about everything: her partner and his daughter, her work, her travels, my volunteer work with refugees and so on. We visited her apartment, where I smiled to see a snake and a gecko she had rescued. Although I didn't give birth to her, she and I are bonded for life.

Vice President Harris tells a story of her birth family taking in and protecting a friend who was being abused by her biological father. Our country would be much the poorer without the many wise adults — female and male, coupled and single — who care for, protect, and mentor their real or virtual nieces and nephews, even if they are unrelated by blood.

Kathryn Tobias, *Cheverly*

The choice not to have a child is very personal and certainly no sin. Painfully, some of us were not able to have children for various reasons. It does not make us miserable people — trust me on that one.

Many of my childless friends, as well as myself, have a real love of life. We are productive and smart, and we love other people's children and care that they all succeed. Children are our future, whether they be of our own womb or that of another. It doesn't matter! We get that, and we love and cherish the children of others because we hope that our examples will help them grow into kind and charitable adults who may one day actually run this country.

Personally, I think it's quite plausible that JD Vance could learn a few things from us "childless cat ladies."

Donnalee Shapiro, *Smithtown, N.Y.*

Reading Karen Tumulty's July 29 op-ed, "Vance is giving Republicans buyer's remorse," made me wonder if The Post has noticed the Facebook group "Cat Ladies for Kamala Harris."

The list was created just recently and already has tens of thousands of members. It mostly consists of meme posts, but people are breaking out to Discord and other platforms to organize fundraising, calls and other get-out-the-vote efforts.

JD Vance made a seriously bad choice to double down on his remarks about cat ladies. The internet is for cat memes, after all. And the power of this specific meme to energize women seems impressive.

Christie Ward, *Santa Fe, N.M.*

And so would their pets

Love is the joy of our existence projected beyond ourselves. Love may be given to a person, a belief, a pet or even a thing. The act of giving it or receiving it reaffirms our worth and helps us find happiness and meaning in a universe that at times seems indifferent or even hostile to our existence. When we are young, we need to receive love to survive. As we enter adulthood, we need to share love to make a family. As we age, we need to give love to achieve enlightenment.

In the past, several of my critically ill patients have asked to leave the hospital to care for a beloved cat or dog, and would stay only if I could reassure them that their pet was cared for and safe. There is a purity to love, which is not cheapened by who receives it. Thirty-five percent of adults who are single and have not been married have never been in a committed relationship. Are they not worthy to give or receive love from a cat or a dog? Is the joy of their love any different from your love? Aren't their contributions to society valid?

People who love are happy, kind and productive. Love is not a zero-sum game. It is not diminished when received by greater numbers. There is enough for everyone. Let us celebrate it, wherever it is found.

David Lowe, *East Greenwich, R.I.*

Dear Mr. Vance,

I would like to introduce you to Peanut, our 3-year-old rescue cat. She lives in Maryland with me; my wife, Paulette; and her three feline siblings: Oscar, Chloe and Ollie. We rescued these abandoned cats to give them a safe, loving home. They are family to us. Perhaps you might want to apologize to the millions of cat lovers who were offended by your disparaging comments about childless cat women.

Mel Tansill, *Catonsville, Md.*

And other parental figures

I am a 72-year-old retiree who has no children of my own. But every June on a particular Sunday, I receive a text message from a mom whose two sons were my advisees in boarding school. The message simply says, "Happy Father's Day."

In JD Vance's eyes, I am a person without children and hence supposedly with no stake in the future of the country. But while I am certainly no Mr. Chips, who said on his deathbed that he had thousands of children, all of them boys, I have taken my turn at plenty of parenting, and I remain invested in the lives of my former students. Vice President Harris is a mom. Pete Buttigieg is a dad. Mr. Vance is an unprincipled opportunist.

W. Edward Blain, *Roanoke*

Mr. Vance's fantasy world

There are a lot of ways to criticize JD Vance's "cat ladies" remark. But I've noticed no one has pointed out that his underlying premise of women — childless or not — controlling our government and our "corporate oligarchy," as he put it, has no basis in reality.

As of June, only 52 of the Fortune 500 companies are led by women, or 10.4 percent. Just 25 percent of senators and 29 percent of House members are women. As of October 2023, 68 percent of sitting federal judges were men. That hardly looks like control, but these numbers certainly are not surprising given the patriarchal society we live in.

So, Mr. Vance, before you start claiming that childless women do not have a sufficient stake in our country and economy to be running them — a profoundly bizarre and sexist point of view — know the facts as to whether they actually *are* running things. Of course, facts may be beside the point of Mr. Vance's argument.

Joni Jacobs, *Clear Lake, Iowa*

Beware sarcastic politicians

Recent reporting of comments from vice-presidential candidate JD Vance about "childless cat ladies" highlights the meanness of this politician. His supporters brush off such comments as "only a joke," with Mr. Vance himself saying: "Obviously, it was a sarcastic comment. I've got nothing against cats."

I have been telling my friends for years to beware of politicians who resort to sarcasm. Sarcasm is described as hostility disguised as humor, though I would add that it is, just as often, an after-the-fact defense of mean comments. Of course, Mr. Vance is now working with Donald Trump, the master of the "it was only a joke" defense. Beware of politicians making fun of others. Their underlying hostility is no joke.

Bill Fogarty, *Arlington*

Now, about those extra votes

With regard to JD Vance's proposal that people with kids should get an extra vote, perhaps he should think about giving that vote to the person who earned it: the woman who gave birth to the kid. If Mr. Vance's argument is that only procreators should have a stake in the future, why not follow that idea to its logical conclusion and declare that the woman who carried the child for nine months and labored to deliver it has a greater stake than the man who merely got her pregnant — and, as such, she should get the votes and the say in politics that comes with them.

Linda Falcao, *North Wales, Pa.*

We should be careful not to dismiss the idea of providing some voting power to children — to be exercised by their caregivers — simply because JD Vance presents the idea as a way to effectively penalize families that don't or can't have children. Such a proposal would ensure politicians have incentives to support spending and policy initiatives that benefit future generations. It would not be a bonus for becoming a parent, as Mr. Vance suggests.

Mr. Vance may have a narrow-minded idea of what families should be. But his bad reasoning should not keep us from considering what might be a good policy.

Jason Morgan, *Vienna*

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OPINION

DAVID VON DREHLE

Why Austin should leave the 9/11 plea bargain alone

Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin's last-minute kibosh on a plea deal with three 9/11 planners makes you wonder what's up at the Pentagon these days. The case has been dragging on since the mid-2000s, with periodic updates in the news about negotiations to resolve the thorny legal nettle created by extreme interrogation methods. A phalanx of attorneys haveworked for years in what came to seem a hopeless pursuit of an ideal outcome. Evidently, this all came as a surprise to the boss. It is to be hoped that Austin, having blundered into the middle of things, will soon find a way to excuse himself and let the deal be reassembled — because, while not ideal, it reflects something good about the United States of America.

That's important, because America's virtues, like all things human, are often more aspirational than actual — a high bar that we set for ourselves even as we know it won't be easy to clear. The United States had the power to kill these men but chose in the interrupted deal to hold itself to its ideals, among them the rule of law.

Does Khalid Sheikh Mohammed deserve to die, along with two other prisoners who facilitated the terrorist attacks? Yes, by any measure. From his fevered brain came the idea of hijacking commercial airplanes and crashing them, full of passengers and highly flammable jet fuel, into office buildings teeming with workers. Nor was he only an idea man for al-Qaeda. KSM, as he is known to his captors, has also boasted that he was the murderer who beheaded the American journalist Daniel Pearl.

To say he doesn't deserve to die is to say that no one deserves to die. And that statement shares one border with anarchy and another with meaninglessness. No one deserves to die, but everyone must (sooner or later). As Kurt Vonnegut wrote: hi ho.

However, the question of just deserts is the beginning, not the end of the matter. America, at its best, sees past the specific offender to more troubling issues of government power. Arguably, the fiercest lesson of the modern age is that governments cannot be trusted very far with decisions about who deserves to live and die. The fact that KSM and his fellow 9/11 plotters are at the top of a slippery slope doesn't mean the slope doesn't exist. Any nation serious about human dignity and inherent rights must take care not to go charging downward.

Such a nation understands that no outside authority exists to enforce its values. Others can scold, can protest, can lodge petitions in international tribunals. But only a nation's own best self can be an effective brake on deadly power.

What makes this case so complex, and so important, is that killing these men under different circumstances would be easily justified by the unwritten rules of the shadowy Gray War on international terrorism. KSM's superior in al-Qaeda, Osama bin Laden, was killed by Navy commandos during a 2011 raid on his home in Pakistan. Bin Laden's successor as head of the terrorist network, Ayman al-Zawahiri, was the target of a deadly 2022 drone strike in Afghanistan. These are but two examples of enemy fatalities on a global battlefield that knows few bright lines.

At least one such line exists, however, encompassing the American justice system. KSM and his co-conspirators were not killed on the unmarked battlefield. Instead, they were captured alive and taken into U.S. custody. At that point, though they did not deserve any more due process than bin Laden or Zawahiri received, they got it anyway — not because of who they are or how they've lived, but because of who we are and how we live.

Their treatment during their early captivity has been a matter of deep national soul-searching and significant controversy. For six months in 2003, at a secret prison in Poland operated by the CIA, KSM was subjected to physically and psychologically violent interrogations intended to extract information about ongoing terrorism plans. These included more than 180 simulated drownings on the waterboard, humiliating confinement nude or wearing only a diaper, extreme sleep deprivation and repeated "walling" — CIA-speak for having his head slammed against a wall. The other captives experienced much the same.

Experts differ as to the quality of information derived from such techniques. And today, we have the luxury of forgetting how fearful those days were. One rumored plot pursued by interrogators involved some sort of nuclear attack, a radioactive bomb or an assault on a nuclear power plant, perhaps. If that were true and KSM knew about it, what right had he to withhold the information?

When, finally, the interrogators — or, as many would say, the torturers — had gotten what they could from these men, America arrived at a fateful crossroads. We could be the sort of country (they're found all through time and around the world) where execution follows forced confessions as night follows day. We chose otherwise; the choice led to this outcome; and we can all stand a little taller because of it.

A final note:

Perhaps Secretary Austin was moved by the admittedly powerful thought that families of the innocent dead will be denied the balancing of scales sometimes called "closure." If so, a bit of humility is in order. As a society, we can — and should — offer the thousands victimized by the wholesale slaughter that which we are able to deliver: support, caring and sympathy. Their loss is to be honored and their loved ones remembered. The scuttled plea agreement also provides for the permanent imprisonment of those who victimized them. Alas, no punishment, no matter how severe, can set right even one family's losses. Of all the crimes that cannot be ameliorated, cannot be healed, murder is the absolute.

AMANDA ANDRADE-RHOADES FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

Clouds roll in at the Supreme Court on July 1.

Biden's court 'reform' would end our independent judiciary

BY MITCH MCCONNELL

This past week, President Biden said that "no one is above the law." We know he does not mean that. For nearly four years, the Biden-Harris administration has defied lawful orders and undermined judicial authority.

When Justice Department officials told line attorneys to ignore subpoenas from congressional investigators, one of Biden's own judicial appointees replied, "Are you kidding me?" When the Supreme Court ruled that transferring hundreds of billions of dollars in student loan debt onto the taxpayer is illegal, the president continued hunting for loopholes and said defiantly, "This fight is not over."

For decades, the courts were a reliable ally of the left and its policy aims. This is no longer the case, and Democrats are not taking it well.

Biden's latest push for Supreme Court "reform" is merely an extension of this liberal frustration at an independent judiciary that follows the Constitution and applies the laws as written. The president first vented this frustration by naming a commission to study court expansion after fewer than 100 days in office.

That scheme went nowhere. Now, he has proposed the next steps. And no matter how tired or predictable, these direct attacks on a core institution of our democracy deserve swift refutation. Consider each of Biden's proposals in turn:

First, in the wake of the court's decision to reaffirm presidential immunity, he wants to massively undermine it by constitutional amendment. In support of that idea, he claims that he shares "our Founders' belief that the president's power is limited, not absolute." Certainly, that would be news to anyone who has watched this president govern.

The Biden-Harris administration has repeatedly rewritten our immigration laws from the White House, directed alarming surveillance of religious communities, and empowered unelected regulators to wreak havoc on small businesses and major employers alike.

But even if you ignore this record and take Biden at his word when he claims to understand the limits of his power, history tells us that presidents rightly enjoy immunity for official acts.

Second, the president suggests that the existence of term limits on his own office justifies the imposition of such limits on a separate, equal branch. This is a non sequitur, easily dispelled by the stated intention of the Founders.

Alexander Hamilton explained in "Federalist 78" that life tenure was essential to an independent judiciary. Because "nothing can contribute so much to its firmness and independence as permanency in office," he wrote, "this quality may therefore be justly regarded as an indispensable ingredient in its constitution, and, in a great measure, as the citadel of the public justice and the public security."

The Supreme Court itself has repeatedly reaffirmed the importance of life tenure, including in majority opinions authored by staunch liberals such as Justice Hugo Black in *United States ex rel. Toth v. Quarles* (1955) and Justice William J. Brennan Jr. in *Northern Pipeline Constr. Co. v. Marathon Pipe Line Co.* (1982).

But even if the notion of term limits for justices were not contrary to the Constitution, Biden fails to contend with the separate, equally dangerous blow it would deal to the Senate's power of advice and consent. The only way each president would be guaranteed two justices to "appoint," as he has proposed, is if the Senate became a rubber-stamp sideshow. One might expect a proud former chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee — who argued publicly (as early as 1992) that the Senate need not consider an opposite-party nominee in an election year — to grapple seriously with such a foreseeable consequence of his proposal.

Third, in seeking to justify his subversion of the court's existing code of ethics, the president suggests that a separate code designed specifically to govern the conduct of lower-court judges should also apply to the nine justices. Never mind that there are real, practical and constitutional differences between the Supreme Court and the lower courts, not least of which is that lower courts are established by Congress while the Supreme Court is established by the Constitution. Empowering inferior-court judges to enforce Supreme Court ethics is topsy-turvy.

Such a scheme is no less absurd than handing binding authority over U.S. Senate ethics to state legislatures — or for that matter, the House of Representatives.

Despite the slapdash, election-year expediency of Biden's proposal, the underlying issue is more than some parlor debate for law professors. The president proposes to hamstring the only independent branch of the federal government empowered to shield individual Americans from the whims of the executive and the tyranny of legislative majorities.

There is no substitute for an independent judiciary, and the left should not be allowed to dress up its attacks as "reform."

The Senate, a firewall in its own right against simple majority rule, understands this essential role. In recent years, the Senate has had to defend the core feature of this firewall against attacks from within our own chamber. Today, those of us concerned for the separation of powers must now defend an equal branch with few protections of its own.

Many years have passed since Biden traded service under Article 1 for a job under Article 2. I wonder if my former colleague knew then that he would one day use it to undermine Article 3.

The writer, a Republican, represents Kentucky in the U.S. Senate, where he is minority leader.

ALEXANDRA PETRI

'Dear Sydney': A Gemini ad jeremiad

Let me tell you about the Gemini "Dear Sydney" ad. This ad for Google's AI product is very bad.

This ad makes me want to throw a sledgehammer into the television every time I see it. Given the choice between watching this ad and watching the ad about how I need to be giving money NOW to make certain that dogs do not perish in the snow, I would have to think long and hard. It's one of those ads that makes you think, *perhaps evolution was a mistake and our ancestor should never have left the sea.* This could be slight hyperbole but only slight!

If you haven't seen this ad, you are leading a blessed existence and I wish to trade places with you. But I am about to recount it to you so that you can share in my misery, as anyone who has been watching the Olympics in any format now does.

The ad features a little girl who wants to write a letter to her idol, Olympic hurdler Sydney McLaughlin-Levrone. So far, so good! The little girl's dad wants to help her.

"I'm pretty good with words," the girl's dad says, "but this has to be just right." So . . . they will write it together? So . . . he will let his daughter write it herself? No! So . . . he asks Gemini AI to write the letter to Sydney on his daughter's behalf — and be sure to tell Sydney "sorry, not sorry" that his daughter plans to break her records one day.

And the AI gamely does! (From the two or three lines of its output that you can glimpse in the course of the ad, you can see that the letter it writes is, candidly, garbage.)

Amazingly, this is an ad *for* the Gemini AI. Not an ad made by Google's detractors in the hopes of getting us all to rise up with pitchforks and shut the whole thing down. Personally, I am not a big corporation, but I do not think that a good way of selling your product is to announce that it will suck all the joy out of being alive. I enjoy the joys of being alive. I don't hate efficiency. But I hate missing the point.

LUCKYBUSINESS/GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

All of the buffoons excited by the prospect of AI taking over all our writing — report summaries, data surveys, children's letters, all tossed into the same pile indiscriminately — are missing the point in a spectacular manner. Do you know what writing is?

It is thinking in a form that you can share with other people. It is a method for taking thoughts and images and stories out of your brain and putting them into someone else's brain. E.M. Forster quotes a woman saying, "How can I tell what I think until I see what I say?" To take away the ability to write for yourself is to take away the ability to think for yourself.

If the little girl in the commercial knows that she wants to say sorry-not-sorry for breaking Sydney McLaughlin-Levrone's records someday, she already has more to say than Gemini ever will. What about Sydney inspires you? Why do you want to write to her? How do you want to be? Gemini doesn't know any of these things.

This is an ad for the people who think that replacing meals with pills is a prospect that fills everyone with delight, that if we can ever do away with sleep and music entirely, it will be a grand triumph. *Instead of wastefully spending hours picking out yarn and knitting your baby a blanket by hand, Grandma can now push a button!*

This is an ad for people who think, "Who would POSSIBLY want a horrible letter from a CHILD? Why, there might be MISSPELLINGS in it! The attached drawing might have a head that was TOO LARGE and hands with six fingers!" Compare this to the marvel of a letter written by AI, which might include a drawing with six fingers but for different reasons.

What will these buffoons come up with next? "Gemini, propose for me"? "Gemini, tell my parents I love them"? Lying on your death bed, "Gemini, write a letter to my children saying all the things I wish I'd been able to tell them"? "What was my favorite thing about being alive?"

You're missing it! You're missing all of it! Go home, jump back into the sea, forget it, because this is the ride and you're missing it.

(Google said Friday that it was pulling the ad.)

GEORGE F. WILL

Two elliptical candidates, one treadmill

The white noise of American politics is the gurgling river of rhetoric from two presidential candidates who seem determined to say nothing germane about the nation's domestic misgovernance and deteriorating security. The candidates are wagering that there are no serious consequences of prolonged unseriousness.

Last Monday, the national debt "unexpectedly" surged past $35 trillion. Neither candidate seemed to notice. But, then, trillion-dollar increments are not what they used to be. The debt reached $32 trillion on June 15, 2023. It reached $33 trillion 92 days after that and, 105 days later, $34 trillion. Two hundred and thirteen days after that, we reached Monday's milestone on our "treadmill to oblivion." (That is the no-longer-quite-so-amusing title of a 1954 book by comedian Fred Allen.) The Congressional Budget Office projects $56 trillion in 10 years.

The Republican Party, in its Trappist mood, has taken a vow of silence, not mentioning the debt in its platform. But at least it has a platform. In 2020, it just preemptively endorsed whatever pleases its Dear Leader. Democrats, who are *comparatively* serious, promise to make unpopular minorities (the rich, corporations, etc.) cough up the trillions squirreled away in their mattresses.

Both candidates have (to dignify their irresponsibility with Jeffersonian cadences) "sworn upon the altar of God eternal hostility against" any modification of the entitlement programs (Social Security, Medicare) that are driving the nation's indebtedness. This is redundant evidence that, beneath the foam of rhetorical discord, the political class is more united by class interest than it is divided by ideology: Both parties enjoy running huge annual deficits even when, as today, the economy is growing and unemployment is low.

Back in reality, last week Russia, intensifying its war to erase a European nation, launched almost 90 drones against Ukrainian targets. No drones hit their targets, but on July 8, Russian missiles killed nearly 50 people and injured nearly 200 when they struck, among other things, a Kyiv children's hospital. A serious U.S. response would have been to lift the limits that have been imposed on military targets in Russia that Ukraine is permitted to strike using U.S. weapons. There was, however, no serious response.

A widening war that could engulf the Middle East might elicit serious thinking from the candidates. One of them seems opposed to U.S. power projection, lest he find himself in Ronald Reagan's shadow. The other candidate might be wary of inflaming the small but clamorous pro-Hamas and antisemitic portion of her party's progressives. This might prevent her from pursuing Pennsylvania's 19 electoral votes (three more than Georgia or North Carolina, four more than Michigan, eight more than Arizona, nine more than Wisconsin, 13 more than Nevada) by choosing as her running mate that state's Jewish governor, Josh Shapiro, who is strongly pro-Israel.

The Republican candidate is not bashful about speaking his mind concerning legislative proposals: His frown killed bipartisan border legislation cobbled together by one of the most conservative senators, Oklahoma Republican James Lankford. (Donald Trump dislikes the border chaos less intensely than he likes having the chaos as an issue.) Trump could, however, use his campaign to seek a mandate pertinent to governing: He could impart momentum to Sen. Roger Wicker's defense proposals.

The Mississippi Republican approvingly quotes foreign policy analyst Hal Brands's assessment: "As the strategic environment deteriorates, it's time to recognize how eminently thinkable global conflict has become." Wicker, ranking Republican on the Armed Services Committee, proposes countering the "axis of aggressors" (China, Russia, Iran, North Korea) with a $55 billion "generational investment" above the administration's plan, which shrinks real (inflation-adjusted) defense spending.

Unfortunately, the candidates will pass the time until Election Day pelting each other with insincerities. Vice President Harris vows to end the border crisis that became one because of actions and inactions of the Biden-Harris administration. She promises to improve the cost of living that soared during the inflation that reached a 40-year high under that administration. And she promises to rescue women from Trump's supposed abortion extremism. (Never mind that the overturning of *Roe*, which she operatically deplores, put abortion policy beyond the federal government's reach.)

Trump is promising whatever pops into his skull during one of those bouts of rhetorical diarrhea that enchant his audiences. For example, during his acceptance speech, which was of Castroite length, he assured the Milwaukee convention that the Green Bay Packers will have a swell season.

Perhaps. But expect that the national debt will soon "unexpectedly" pass $36 trillion. Seriously.

IF YOU'RE LUCKY ENOUGH TO LIVE A LONG LIFE, YOU WILL GET SICK

It's one thing we can all count on.
Everyone, even the lucky ones, gets sick.

But when people can't afford their medicine,
are unsure that it will make them healthier,
or don't believe their medicine is made for their body,
medicine isn't working for everyone.

For all of us to get better,
it takes investing in research to find new treatments,
whether or not those investments come back.
It takes clinical trials which reflect everybody,
so we can make sure our medicine is made for everybody.
It takes scientists who persist in making new medicines,
even when it's easier to give up.
It takes a willingness to work with anyone
to find treatments no one could find on their own.

This is only the beginning.
There's much more to do.
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ILLUSTRATION BY MATT WILLIAMS FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

A patron saint of longing takes us on a meditative ride

Ron Charles

It was obvious from the start that Dinaw Mengestu was adding something extraordinary to American literature. His debut novel, "The Beautiful Things That Heaven Bears" (2007), told the story of an immigrant who, like the author, had come to the United States from Ethiopia only to find himself haunting his new home and haunted by his homeland.

Accolades for the young author accrued quickly, including a Guardian First Book Award and a Los Angeles Times Book Prize. The National Book Foundation named Mengestu one of its "5 Under 35"; the New Yorker said he was one of the best 20 writers under 40. The MacArthur Foundation bestowed him its "genius" grant.

Over the past 17 years, that early praise has been confirmed by several inventive, introspective novels, including "How to Read the Air" and "All Our Names." Forged from an alloy that defies the heat of the melting pot, Mengestu's stories are an inimitable monument to the African immigrant experience. In book after book, this patron saint of longing has unraveled the twisted privileges and agonies of being here but not of here.

His new novel, "Someone Like Us," teases the inclusive spirit of that title. Like all of Mengestu's

SEE **CHARLES** ON **B5**

Looking back at the National Book Awards of the 1980s. **B8**

Michael Dirda: A page-turning history of America's bookstores. **B2**
Becca Rothfeld: A Nobel winner rages against mortality. **B3**
Movies: How one summer, and eight films, changed Hollywood. **B4**

Serious browsers will love this history of American bookstores

Michael Dirda

Throughout "The Bookshop: A History of the American Bookstore," Evan Friss emphasizes that the most successful bookshops do more than sell novels, nonfiction and children's literature. They thrive when they become community gathering places. As he writes about the early days of New York's Gotham Book Mart: "It was a museum, art gallery, therapist's couch, disheveled English professor's office, grandmother's living room, and Parisian cafe, all wrapped in one."

Friss's survey of the American bookstore ranges from the 18th century to the present, from Benjamin Franklin's Philadelphia print shop to novelist Ann Patchett's Parnassus Books in Nashville, with stops along the way in Boston, Chicago, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Washington and Miami. As a professor of American and urban studies at James Madison University, Friss can be expected to know his way around a research library, but he also proves to be an adept reporter. As a result, he has produced a work of popular history that is both entertaining and informative.

Consider the Old Corner Bookstore in mid-19th-century Boston. It was overseen by William Ticknor and James T. Fields, who made the shop a clubby haven for — and eventually the publisher of — New England's best writers. Ticknor and Fields, with its offices inside the store, brought out such classics as Nathaniel Hawthorne's "The Scarlet Letter" and Harriet Beecher Stowe's "Uncle Tom's Cabin." Fields, who functioned as the acquisitions editor, did make mistakes, however. After skimming the manuscript of a novel by one eager author, he told her: "Stick to your teaching. … You can't write." Fortunately for fans of "Little Women," Louisa May Alcott didn't listen.

Anyone in the least way bookish eventually visited the Old Corner, as it was called. It was here that typesetter and printer Henry Oscar Houghton met Harvard graduate George Harrison Mifflin, the two men eventually forming the publishing firm Houghton Mifflin. In later years, when the store moved to new premises, the young Christopher Morley worked on the floor during the Christmas rushes of 1913, 1914 and 1915, gaining some of the background knowledge he would need for his novel "Parnassus on Wheels" (1917). In that bibliophile's classic, the 39-year-old Helen McGill abandons a life of housekeeping drudgery to take over Roger Mifflin's traveling horse-drawn bookstore, Parnassus on Wheels. The two middle-aged book lovers eventually marry.

McGill was just one of the many women — the others real, not fictional — who found rewarding careers in bookselling. Marcella Hahner revolutionized the third-floor books section of Marshall Field's department store in Chicago, transforming it into a browser's paradise and, arguably, the best general bookstore in early-20th-century America. Frances Steloff founded the Gotham Book Mart in 1920 to promote modern and avant-garde literature, and was involved with it almost until her death at 101 in 1989. Today, Nancy Bass Wyden oversees the Strand in New York, continuing the work of her father and grandfather, Fred and Benjamin Bass, while also instituting changes — not all of them universally welcome — to keep the store vital.

In discussing the Strand, Friss relates the history of New York's "Booksellers' Row," the cluster of secondhand-book dealers located on Fourth Avenue between Eighth and 14th streets. When I first visited New York in the early 1970s, only a few of those shops still survived, but even then they were glorious places to browse. To this day, I remember one store with a dark, warehouselike second floor, usually not open to casual customers. There I found, and paid just a few dollars for, a jacketless copy of Elizabeth Bishop's "Complete Poems" (1969) and a first edition of Ford Madox Ford's "The March of Literature" (1938). I have them still.

Many of these Fourth Avenue dealers regarded books as simply merchandise — and they weren't always careful about where their stock came from. Once, Benjamin Bass was taken to court for selling some stolen law textbooks. He pleaded ignorance of their provenance. After the case was dismissed, Bass congratulated the fellow bookseller who had defended him: "You were just wonderful. After you finished talking, I was almost convinced myself that I hadn't known that those were stolen."

As Friss repeatedly shows, young people who open bookshops, particularly specialty shops, tend to be visionaries, men and women on a mission. New York's Oscar Wilde Memorial Bookshop celebrated gay life, and Amazon Bookstore Cooperative in Minneapolis — named long before the advent of the online powerhouse founded by Jeff Bezos (who owns The Washington Post) — promoted feminism and women's liberation. Back in the 1930s, the Workers' Bookshop in Manhattan hoped to raise class consciousness among the masses, offering talks and seminars, as well as books and pamphlets, extolling Marxism as the answer to America's social, racial and economic inequalities. In the late 1960s and '70s, Drum & Spear, here in Washington, aimed "to encourage more Black people to read more about Black people." However widely they differed, these crusading start-ups shared the same purpose: They believed that books could help change the world.

These shops also came to share the same fate: They no longer exist. For a few years, their aims and the zeitgeist coincided, and they prospered. But times change. Over the last half-century, all "indies" have had to compete with superstores like Barnes & Noble and, more daunting still, the behemoth Amazon. As Friss states: "In 1995, there were roughly seven thousand independent bookstore outlets. Within five years, three thousand of them closed."

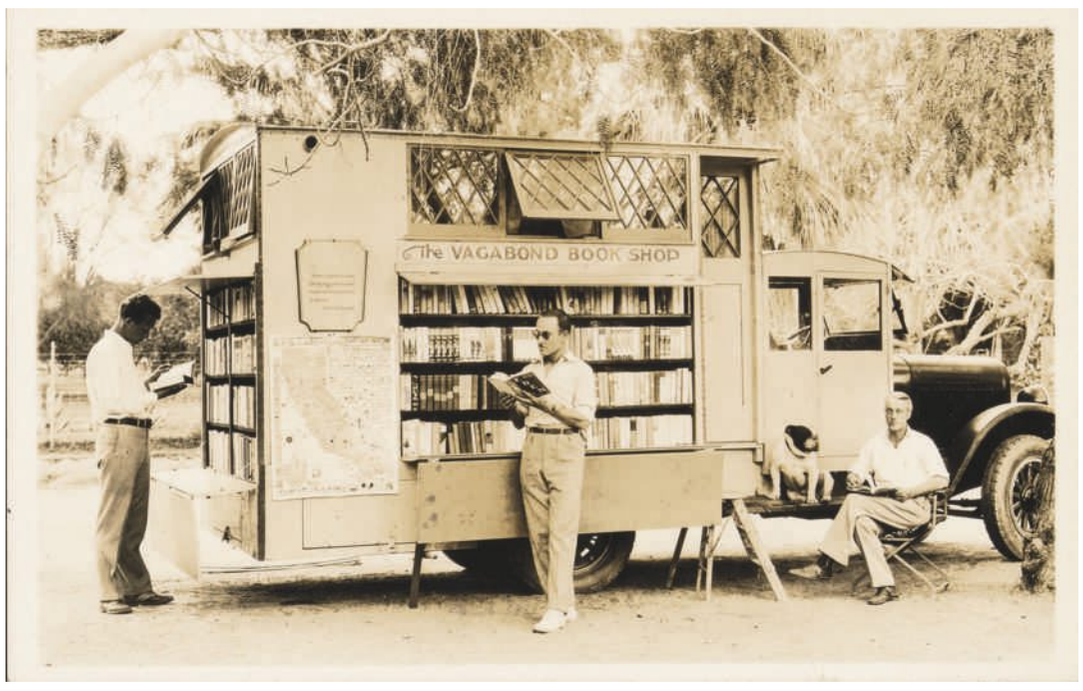
Some independent bookstores certainly continue to flourish; Washington's Politics and Prose, for instance. To a large extent, they do so by supplying more than just books. Author events, in-house coffee shops, reading groups, lectures and mini-courses, literary T-shirts, mugs, postcards and similar tchotchkes — all these, plus a good location and affordable rent, have grown de rigueur for any smallish shop hoping to last more than a few years. As Friss points out, buying from an indie is now also viewed by some shoppers as "an overt political act, signaling a set of values: supporting communities, small businesses, and maybe even the cultures of reading and democracy." Nonetheless, even the most prominent independent bookstores often seem to need additional propping up: Would Parnassus in Nashville still be around were it not for the investment and the customer draw provided by its owner, the beloved novelist Patchett? Maybe.

In general, Friss organizes his chapters around book people like Patchett, producing New Yorker-style profiles of the more prominent, replete with amusing anecdotes and plenty of photographs. The "Czarina," as Hahner was called, once brought an elephant into Marshall Field's. Craig Rodwell, who founded the Oscar Wilde Memorial Bookshop at age 26, was a former lover of the San Francisco politician and gay icon Harvey Milk. Friss even landed an interview with Len Riggio, who revitalized Barnes & Noble, and also talked with some of the sidewalk book vendors, most of whom were Black, who set up tables on New York's Sixth Avenue in the 1980s and '90s. Sometimes, though, Friss leaves you wanting to know even more about people like Walter Garland, the Black manager of the Workers' Bookshop, who served in the Abraham Lincoln Battalion during the Spanish Civil War.

Despite its high degree of anecdotal liveliness, "The Bookshop" slowly grows quietly, unavoidably elegiac. Almost every chapter follows the same arc: A bookstore is established, succeeds for a while — or at least finds its niche — and then gradually declines and eventually goes out of business, often shortly after the founder dies. These days, one can't help but wonder if all brick-and-mortar shops are on the downward path of that bell curve. Fewer people read printed books, and many read no books at all. Friss is clear-eyed about American materialism and what he calls our "ill-begotten fantasies of achieving happiness through consumption."

Sigh. Over the years, walk-in bookshops have evolved and mutated, always reflecting the dreams of our changing society, but their place in the age of screens and social media now seems increasingly uncertain. Still, there's at least one reason, even if it's a bit starry-eyed, to remain hopeful: Like Aladdin's Cave of Wonder, bookstores are magical and don't we all need some magic in our lives?

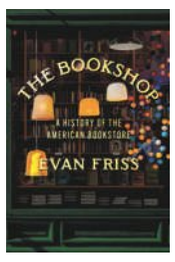
GOTHAM BOOK MART COLLECTION/UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA



JAMES D. PHELAN PHOTOGRAPH ALBUMS, BANCROFT LIBRARY, UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA AT BERKELEY

TOP: Frances Steloff at the Gotham Book Mart, the Manhattan shop she founded in 1920. ABOVE: Frank Collins, seated, and his mobile Vagabond Book Shop, which he drove through California and other Western states. It had space for more than 1,000 books, plus a writing desk, a dinner table and a bed that pulled down from the wall.

Michael Dirda is a Pulitzer Prize-winning columnist for Book World and the author of the memoir "An Open Book" and of four collections of essays: "Readings," "Bound to Please," "Book by Book" and "Classics for Pleasure."



THE BOOKSHOP
A History of the American Bookstore
By Evan Friss
Viking.
403 pp. $30

A powerful tale of music, love, regret and a dying horse

BY HAMILTON CAIN

Best known as the smiley co-host of "Hee Haw," Buck Owens (1929-2006) had a thriving career long before his on-camera debut. As the frontman for his eponymous band, based in California's San Joaquin Valley, he pioneered the "Bakersfield sound" while touring bars and honky-tonks from Phoenix to Tacoma, Wash., putting the "western" in country and western, as the genre emerged into the music mainstream.

Owens makes a cameo appearance in Willy Vlautin's enigmatic, beautiful "The Horse," which tells the tale of Al Ward, a grizzled guitarist and recovering alcoholic, and his encounter with a dying horse on an isolated mining claim in the Nevada desert. At Al's first concert, Owens and the Buckaroos had scrambled his teenage insides; he'd pursued C&W with an electric Telecaster that outlasted his marriages and flings. Now in his 60s, Al's living in self-imposed exile, stuck amid dawn-to-dusk solitude. "The Horse" taps a wealth of influences — Hemingway, Johnny Cash, John Huston's film "The Misfits" — but Vlautin's cadences and wit are his alone, sharp and bracing, like shots of whiskey.

Each day Al wakes to a routine of chores and ideas for songs, pillaging old notebooks from his time on the casino circuit. He hikes through the hills, swills instant coffee and heats up cans of Campbell's soup, piquant flavors such as chicken wonton and fiesta nacho cheese. At night he reads faded magazines until he drifts off. Mostly he looks backward: a frustrated adolescence in Reno, shunned by an aloof mother; his passion for his second wife; the glory days when he rotated in and out of bands.

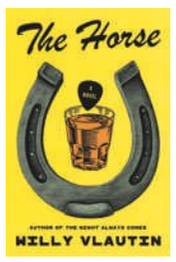
Inherited from a great-uncle, the claim feels removed, a former assayer's office stripped down to a wood stove, piles of National Geographic and Sports Illustrated. There's a battery-dead '82 Monte Carlo marooned in the yard. One winter morning Al discovers a blind horse in the road outside his shack, "mane matted and tangled with sagebrush … scars were on its legs, on its neck and withers, and a faded brand read *Tt* on its left hip." He tries to feed it spaghetti and grass but to no avail: The horse stands stock-still, lipping a bit of snow, wasting away. It bleeds when a coyote nips its leg. It may or may not be real.

Al mulls what to do. He decides a bullet to the skull is more merciful than starvation — to summon courage he breaks his fragile sobriety, tossing back a tumbler of tequila: "He tried to take short sips but finished the drink in two swallows. The relief that alcohol had always given him was still there. Bad nerves to no nerves in one drink." In the end he can't pull the trigger. His dilemma is punctuated by vibrant flashbacks, mini-novels in their own right, retracing the path that brought him here.

"The Horse" might have been a familiar meditation on late-life regret, except that Vlautin's intriguing structure elevates his game. He avoids a strict chronology, shuffling and cutting Al's story like a deck of cards. The liminal dreamscape of the claim and horse form the narrative's hub while the flashbacks are spokes that fly to the edge of Al's consciousness. In his prime, songs poured forth with the fury of desire. Vlautin cheekily plays with titles: "Bonnie Blacked Out Again," "When the Mascara Runs," "Uno, Dos, Tres — I'm Gonna Bust Your Face." Collectively these titles — and there are a lot — drop clues to Al's arc. A series of lowlifes had preyed on his naiveté, leveraging his talent for their gain. When he'd reap financial success, Al would burn through the Benjamins on suits, liquor and hotel upgrades. He'd bounced among women, finding happiness with Maxine, a waitress he'd met in Reno. After their divorce and her subsequent suicide, he'd bottomed out on a bender in Lancaster, Calif. His great-uncle had fetched him, and he'd cleared his head.

Pawnshops, sixers of Coors, misbegotten relationships: These details evolve organically from Vlautin's dual professions as novelist and musician. (In addition to writing fiction he records with the Delines.) He's a scribe of the underclass, reporting along the margins, teasing melodies from noise and silences. He reflects on whether art can redeem us. "How many notebooks had he filled with half-good songs, songs that were almost?" Al asks himself. "How many hours and months and years had he toiled and tinkered? And Jesus, how many hours had he spent learning cover songs he hated?"

Grounded in music and sex and money (or lack thereof), Al's memories balance his present-day stasis, urging him forward. Eventually he must reckon with places and people beyond his assayer's shack and sets off on a journey that skirts the rim of madness. Mythical yet inventive, a struggle between man and beast, "The Horse" follows the playbook of "The Old Man and the Sea" or Julia Phillips's recent "Bear," weighing the totemic natural world against the frailties of the human condition.



THE HORSE
By Willy Vlautin
Harper.
208 pp. $25.99

Hamilton Cain is a book critic and the author of "This Boy's Faith: Notes From a Southern Baptist Upbringing." He lives in Brooklyn.

Notes from a lifelong quest for immortality

ARTHUR GRIMM/UNITED ARCHIVES/GETTY IMAGES

Becca Rothfeld

THE BOOK AGAINST DEATH
By Elias Canetti, translated from German by Peter Filkins
New Directions. 432 pp. $19.95, paperback

On Aug. 14, 1994, when he was 89 years old, the great writer Elias Canetti betrayed his most cherished principle: He died.

Canetti lives on in his work, of course, but that isn't the kind of immortality for which he so ardently agitated. This was a man who named each of his memoirs after sense organs — "The Tongue Set Free" (1979), "The Torch in My Ear" (1982) and "The Play of the Eyes" (1986) — and posthumous fame, devoid of gristle, did not interest him. Nor was he tempted by the afterlife envisioned by Christians. He was an irreligious Jew, but he remained faithful to the materialism of his tradition, insisting that he craved "eternal life *here* rather than somewhere else." What good was consciousness without its trappings? "Absent the body, the soul is a mockery," he scoffed.

Both of these emphatic protestations appear in "The Book Against Death," a captivating collection of Canetti's notes that appeared in German in 2014 and that New Directions will publish in an English translation this fall. The jottings that make up the volume are learned and often allegorical, but Canetti's refusal of death was no metaphor. "The totally concrete and sincere, constant goal of my life is the attainment of immortality for every human," he wrote, and he meant it.

His vehemence was in part a response to the terrors he witnessed as a reluctant participant in the 20th century. Born in 1905 in Ruse, Bulgaria, to a Sephardic Jewish family that had passed through Spain, Italy and Turkey, he had an itinerant upbringing quintessentially of its time and place. His childhood smacked of sanatoriums (at which his sickly mother often stayed), Viennese doctors (who were revered in his community for their medical brilliance) and summers at picturesque Alpine lakes (the Canettis stayed in high style at the grand hotels of old Europe). He grew up in Bulgaria, England, Switzerland, Austria and Germany, and by adulthood he spoke Ladino, Bulgarian, English, French and, above all, German, the language in which he wrote the masterpieces that earned him the Nobel Prize in literature in 1981.

Yet death dogged him everywhere he went. First and most formative was the unexpected death of his father when he was 7, a blow from which he never recovered. "My father's death was at the center of every world I found myself in," he wrote in his memoirs. It set the emotional stage for the ensuing desolations of the two world wars. Canetti weathered the first in relative comfort as a schoolboy in Vienna and Zurich, the second as a literary eminence in exile in England. His survivor's guilt is a frequent theme in "The Book Against Death." "How shameful, shameful that *I* have outlived all the victims," he laments. "Have I done enough, have I justified the fact that I was only a witness, not a victim?"

But ultimately, Canetti's opposition to finitude was neither purely personal nor purely political. It was dispositional, almost primal. "The Book Against Death" advances a stray argument every so often, but for the most part it is one long shriek.

Canetti is a peculiar writer, difficult to categorize or even characterize. His sole novel, "Auto-da-Fé" (1935), is a nightmarish fable about a cathectic bibliophile. It is a brutal and disorienting book, reminiscent of the writings of Franz Kafka (whom Canetti admired) and Samuel Beckett (toward whom he was more ambivalent). But his most famous achievement, the monumental "Crowds and Power" (1960), is an idiosyncratic work of poetic anthropology unlike anything else in world literature. Canetti cites legends and rituals from an astonishing range of cultures as he seeks to demonstrate that crowds are the antidote to humanity's primordial fear of touch. Many of his conclusions are dubious. Is it really true that crowds are equalizing forces that raze all hierarchy, or that they grow practically of their own accord, or that those who outlive others relish the victory over the dead implicit in their very survival? Yet the literal truth or falsity of the pronouncements in "Crowds and Power" is beside the point: Regardless of its plausibility, it has the stern and enthralling authority of a myth or a religious text. Canetti's memoirs are something else again. In his sparkling recollections of a bygone Europe, he invented a lighter genre for himself.

The writer Elias Canetti in 1972. "The Book Against Death," newly translated into English, collects decades' worth of his musings about mortality, which he saw as unjust. "Absent the body, the soul is a mockery," he wrote.

If there is any thread that stitches these disparate projects together, it is their author's respect for obsession. He initially intended "Auto-da-Fé" to be one in a series of eight books about monomaniacs, and his own monomaniacal fixation was always the rank injustice of mortality. For 65 years, this affront preoccupied him. He started compiling the notes later gathered in "The Book Against Death" in 1929 and stopped only when he succumbed to his subject.

Canetti once described his polemic against death as "the only book that I was born to write," but it is also a book he could not finish, or even properly start. Eventually, he decided to begin by jotting down whatever popped into his mind. "I will record thoughts against death as they occur to me, without any kind of structure and without submitting them to any tyrannical plan," he wrote. He intended to organize his reflections into a more conventional document someday, but he never had the chance. "The Book Against Death" was compiled by his editors and his daughter after he passed away.

The results are heterogeneous. Some of Canetti's meditations span several pages; others are brisk aphorisms. Many are straightforward; a handful are downright gnomic. "He only wants to be kissed by very old ravens," one particularly mysterious entry reads. Canetti sometimes chronicles his personal life in the book — he writes wistfully about his first wife, who died in 1963, and he cannot resist a few joyful remarks about the birth of his daughter — but he also includes short, grotesque fictions. In one, he imagines "a people made up of individuals who have kangaroo-like pouches, into which they stuff their shriveled dead and carry them around with them." Another vignette is as bizarre as it is charming:

"After the rain, he went out in search of snails. He talked to them; they did not creep away from him. He held them in his hand, observed them and laid them to the side where no bird could see them. When he died, all the snails from the neighborhood came together to form his funeral cortege."

And although Canetti is generally high-minded, lovers of German-language literature will be delighted to discover that he is not above a touch of gossip about his peers: "The Book Against Death" contains digs at the Austrian novelist Thomas Bernhard and the German novelist (and fellow Nobel Prize winner) Günter Grass, whom Canetti described as "a complete idiot" with "dictatorial airs."

For all their formal diversity, however, the fragments in "The Book Against Death" are largely consistent in content. Though they are ordered by year, they have no real trajectory. Canetti's concerns at the end of his life were the same as his concerns in youth. The deities who permit mortality were his perennial antagonists. "God looks on as one person after another dies," he wrote. Years later, he was still fuming: "I have approached a hundred gods, and I looked each straight in the eye, full of hatred for the death of human beings."

It is not hard to understand why Canetti is so often eulogized as an airy intellectual. His memoirs are full of passionate accounts of his omnivorous reading, and in "The Book Against Death" he is capable of referencing a scholarly article about elephants in one breath and the writings of the German philosopher Walter Benjamin in the next. "Rarely has anyone been so at home in the mind," Susan Sontag approvingly wrote.

Yet "The Book Against Death" serves to remind us that Canetti's mind was firmly embedded in his flesh. Even writing struck him as a kind of calisthenics: "Write because you are still breathing and your heart, which is probably already diseased, still beats," he instructed himself as he aged. The life he loved so much was a gantlet of appetites. "His home consists of all the places where he has eaten," he wrote. "His friends are all the people who gave him something to eat."

Accordingly, it was not spiritual illumination but everyday banality that he could not stand to lose. No line better distills the tender spirit of "The Book Against Death" than this: "Above all, when I am dead, what I will miss: the voices of people in a restaurant." Canetti did not fret about the state of his soul; he worried himself sick about the fate of all the detritus that makes up a life:

"What will become of all that has piled up within you, so much, so much, an enormous stock of memories and habits, deferred questions, frozen answers, thoughts, emotions, tender feelings, hardships, everything there, everything there, what will become of it all the moment life extinguishes within you? The disproportionate size of this stockpile — and all of it for nothing?"

How is it to be preserved? "Would it be at all possible to love *more*?" Canetti wondered. "To revive a dead person through more love, has no one ever loved enough?" In one of his recurring fantasies, we succeed in abolishing the word for death, thereby the idea of it, and thereby the thing itself. (For Canetti, a writer to his core, naming was talismanic.) "Can any language be made viable that does not know the word 'death'?" he asked. The ideal society, he proposed later, would be one "in which people suddenly disappear, but no one knows that they are dead, as there is no death, there is not even a word for it."

Of course, Canetti could not abolish the word "death" any more than he could abolish the phenomenon: It occurs hundreds of times in the very document in which he dreamed of its abolition. In 1971, he admitted: "It could indeed come to pass that someday I may *yield* to death. I ask anyone who might hear of it for forgiveness." Twenty-three years later, he suffered defeat at the hands of his nemesis, but I don't think he yielded.

"He would like to die while writing," reads one of his notes from 1986. "Before he's entirely finished, he'd like to complete a sentence, exhale before the next sentence, and die exactly between the two." And this is exactly what he did. His very last entry contains no acknowledgment that death is even possible. "It is time for me to sort matters out again within myself. Without writing I come undone. I sense how my life dissolves into dead, dull speculation when I no longer write down what is on my mind." Then came the luminous final sentence, flush with undimmed hope: "I will try to change that." As if he would have time.

If death involves fixity, then life demands movement. "The Book Against Death" refuses finality by remaining forever on the cusp of transformation. It will await its final revision until the end of time. It can't save all of us, as Canetti longed to, but there is a small portion of immortality to be found in it nonetheless. An unfinished book is the only thing I know of that never dies.

Becca Rothfeld is the nonfiction book critic for The Washington Post and the author of "All Things Are Too Small: Essays in Praise of Excess."

Project 2025 fans the flames of book hysteria

BY RON CHARLES

Donald Trump usually has no trouble convincing us that he knows nothing about books. But lately, one particularly dystopian tome has been sticking to him as though it were printed on flypaper.

"Mandate for Leadership 2025: The Conservative Promise" — commonly referred to as Project 2025 — is a radical plan released by Trump's buddies at the Heritage Foundation. It's designed to help the chronically unfocused leader of the GOP reenter the Oval Office with a detailed blueprint for a conservative revolution. When the glorious vision of Project 2025 is realized, the president will exercise power unchecked by "deep state" bureaucrats, and the nation shall be filled with NPR-hating, father-led families oblivious to climate change, as God intended.

The word "woke" jumps out so often in Project 2025 it's like we're wandering through a MAGA haunted house.

And the prose is tarted up with the same paste of grandiosity and banality that one finds slathered all over a precocious eighth-grader's term paper. Consider this passage by former Trump administration official Rick Dearborn: "From popular culture to academia, the American presidency has long been a prominent fixture of the national imagination — naturally so since it is the beating heart of our nation's power and prestige. It has played, for instance, a feature role in innumerable movies and television shows and has been prodded, analyzed, and critiqued by countless books, essays, and studies."

In short, the Project 2025 blueprint is 900 numbingly boring pages of snarling grievances, historical revisions and right-wing fantasies.

Naturally, given the book's alarming specifics, Trump has been keen to disavow any connection to Project 2025 — the same way I used to feel embarrassed at camp when the horse I was riding farted. But make no mistake: Trump is saddled up on this old nag, and where it's headed is where he'll take our country if he gets the chance.

I don't need to take you through all the various horrors of Project 2025. Plenty of better qualified people are doing that — including former Maryland governor Larry Hogan (R). But I will draw your attention to what the playbook has in store for Americans who love libraries, books and freedom of expression.

In a section called "A Promise to America," Heritage President Kevin D. Roberts recycles the foundation's inflammatory hysteria about "pornography invading" schools. This rhetoric has already burned through many conservative state legislatures, resulting in book bans, demoralized teachers and threats against librarians. But Roberts, who does not believe that Joe Biden won the 2020 election, is eager to take the chimerical fight against school pornography to the national level: "Educators and public librarians who purvey it should be classed as registered sex offenders," he says.

Demonizing teachers and librarians like this is ludicrous and shameful. Such language seeps from the same sewer of intolerance that inspired Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini to call for Salman Rushdie's assassination.

Our teachers and librarians are not purveyors of pornography. The loony insinuation that they're poisoning children's minds endangers these devoted public servants and elides fundamental concerns about freedom of expression, literary merit and cultural significance.

But Project 2025 goes on to assure us that there's nothing complicated about banning whatever Roberts and his ilk might deem offensive. "Pornography should be outlawed," he says. "It has no claim to First Amendment protection. Its purveyors are child predators and misogynistic exploiters of women. Their product is as addictive as any illicit drug and as psychologically destructive as any crime. ... The people who produce and distribute it should be imprisoned."

Keep in mind the books that have been condemned as pornographic over the last few years by self-appointed gatekeepers of public morality: Toni Morrison's "Beloved," Khaled Hosseini's "The Kite Runner," Judy Blume's "Forever" and so many more cherished classics — enough to fuel a pyre that could be seen from the heavens. In November, you'll have a chance to throw your vote into this fire or cut off its oxygen. Choose wisely.

[Update: On Tuesday, Project 2025 announced it would end its policy work following Democratic attacks that angered Trump.]

This article was excerpted from our free Book Club newsletter. To subscribe, visit *wapo.st/booknewsletter*.

NONFICTION

The family roots of Ayn Rand's steely vision

BY MARCO ROTH

How much compassion is due someone who quite publicly hated the very idea of compassion? This question kept haunting me as I read Alexandra Popoff's new biography of Alisa Rosenbaum, better known to the world as Ayn Rand. The life traced out in Popoff's retelling (also discernible between the lines of Rand's own novels and public pronouncements) conforms in broad outlines to what the literary critic Parul Sehgal dubbed "the trauma plot," when violence a long way back is revealed at the end to account for a person's least likable, least explicable traits and actions. Rand, author of the single-minded and literal heavyweight classics "Atlas Shrugged" and "The Fountainhead," was not shy about the proximate cause of her trauma, although she would never have used that word herself. She blamed "Communism," but that name covered a multitude of sins and doesn't alone explain why Rand felt additionally compelled to advocate against most acts of human kindness.

Popoff, a prolific biographer of Russian literary figures including Vasily Grossman, Sophia Tolstoy and the wider Tolstoy circle, is most comfortable and expansive detailing the hothouse competitive atmosphere of Alisa's early years at the elite and progressive Stoyunina gymnasium for girls. Her classmates there included Vladimir Nabokov's sister Olga, along with other teachers and students who would go on to shape the early Soviet arts scene before fleeing to exile (the lucky ones), getting sent to the gulag or being shot during various purges of the Russian intelligentsia.

The future Ayn Rand's survival and eventual rise to prosperity and fame were as much results of a diversity of options and lucky breaks as any superhuman qualities like the ones espoused in her work. The extended Rosenbaum family, especially the Kaplans on Rand's mother's side, covered a fair spectrum of 20th-century Eastern European Jewish experiences and outcomes: One uncle joined the Bolsheviks and, in 1919, became director of the Museum of the Revolution in St. Petersburg, ensuring that the family could eventually rebound from the confiscation of their apartment and family business (a pharmacy); a great-aunt had emigrated to the United States in the 1890s — one of her daughters owned a movie theater in Chicago and introduced Rand to her Hollywood connections, while the family sponsored Rand's initial travel visa in 1926; another cousin studied medicine at the famous Robert Koch Institute in Germany.

Meanwhile, the Bolshevik abolition of sex discrimination in universities enabled Rand to enroll at the Institute of the Living Word, the center of both the avant-garde literary experimentation of the Russian formalists and the art of Soviet propagandistic oratory. (Rand preferred the latter.) She later studied film production and screenwriting at the Leningrad State Institute for Screen Arts, giving her access to her beloved American films and burnishing her résumé for when she would land in Hollywood as "a very inexperienced, very bewildered and frightened little immigrant from Russia," as she later remembered herself in a letter to Cecil B. DeMille.

Rand was also fortunate to have been rejected by her teen crush, Lev Bekkerman, a talented engineering student whom, thanks to Rand's early Russian diaries and letters, Popoff identifies as the model for John Galt in "Atlas Shrugged." Bekkerman would go on to design early tank engines for Joseph Stalin before he was murdered by the Soviet state in 1937. Rand's eventual Americanization did not come about through recognition of her extraordinary abilities in her field or perceived importance to American society, but through her marriage to a C-list actor named Frank O'Connor. ("A shotgun wedding — with Uncle Sam holding the shotgun," as she described it.) Rand supported O'Connor through a series of odd Hollywood jobs while she wrote the scripts and early novels that would launch her career.

The Rand who carved success for herself out of these hardscrabble Hollywood years appears, in Popoff's account, as a direct ancestor of our own era's massively online authors: a relentless polemicist and talented propagandist who knew how to stay on message, and who was intolerant of nuance in her characters and in her life; nakedly ambitious, often confusing friendship with uncritical adulation and unqualified support; hyperaggressive but also easily wounded by the slightest criticism. When Bennett Cerf, the legendary Random House editor, requested cuts to "Atlas Shrugged," Rand asked him whether he would dare edit the Bible. Once the novel appeared, she organized her followers to write letters protesting negative reviews and later paid for a full-page rebuttal to a critique of her essays in the New York Times. What she lacked in talent, grace and subtlety of intelligence, she more than made up for in unyielding drive, an amphetamine-boosted capacity for late-night writing sessions after a full day's work and a terrifyingly consistent imagination.

Popoff also partly credits Rand's American success to her early training as a Soviet system writer; she may have hated what the Bolsheviks stood for and what they did to her family and friends, but she was too good a student not to absorb their rhetorical lessons. Rand intuited the basic principles of "politically correct" socialist realism (once cheekily summarized as "boy meets tractor") even before they were officially promulgated by Stalin's commissars. The heroic capitalists, architects and engineers of her fiction were American counterparts to the heroic proletarians of novels like "How the Steel Was Tempered," by Nikolai Ostrovsky. Her insistence on outputs as the sole measure of economic happiness reflected both her tremendous productivity and her early exposure to classic Soviet quota economics. She liked to pepper her intellectual disputes with invective: One economist was a "frantic coward." Her arguments for granting a vast leniency to exceptional individuals, whose own self-interest she believed was identical with the greater interest of humanity, perfectly mirrored Vladimir Lenin's and Stalin's justifications for revolutionary violence in the name of history.

Popoff is less clear, however, when it comes to what makes Rand's life unusually noteworthy in a Jewish context — all the more unfortunate because this book is published as part of Yale University's "Jewish Lives" series. Popoff might have been better off avoiding the weak attempts to detail biblical influences in Rand's fiction — they are few and mostly unconvincing — and instead done more to contextualize Rand within the long political history of Jewish Messianism and the messiah-like figures to have emerged from the Russian-Jewish encounter.

After the success of "The Fountainhead" and while she was writing "Atlas Shrugged," Rand became a mid-20th-century cult figure to rival Leon Trotsky and the grand rabbi of Lubavitch Hasidism, Menachem Schneerson. In modern Jewish experience, she is the only woman to do so. Unlike libertarianism, which predated Rand and already had an American following, Objectivism, as Rand named her philosophy, attracted a core group of mostly first-generation American and Canadian Jews who were in their teens and early 20s during the Eisenhower years. Unmoored from traditional religious beliefs, often gifted overachievers in music, math or science (like longtime Rand loyalist and former Federal Reserve Chair Alan Greenspan), they sought an authoritative doctrine that would allow them to pursue personal happiness and financial success without the hang-ups of their parents' more anxious generation. Predictably, the Objectivist Institute devolved into a cult of personality, complete with dogmatic reading groups, sex scandals, official purges and denunciations, and plenty of hurt feelings. Rand had come home, and that home was the groupthink atmosphere that her alter ego, Alisa Rosenbaum, had fled. Her outright rejection of psychoanalysis, that other great Jewish messianic cult of the 20th century, was as overdetermined as it was unavoidable.

Nonetheless, it is Freudian insight more than Objectivist theories that keep her and her writing relevant to the contemporary American political and cultural scene. Although contemptuous of human vulnerability and suffering, Rand's political philosophy is, at its core, a classic drama of self-destructive victimhood, a revolt of snubbed, self-proclaimed elites. Her various supermen of all genders — Howard Roark, Dominique Francon, John Galt, Dagny Taggart — are primarily motivated by the desire to avenge perceived slights; their major actions come across as spiteful and reactive, like the patently absurd idea of the capital strike in "Atlas Shrugged" and Roark dynamiting his own buildings in "The Fountainhead." Rand's works also overflow with lengthy courtroom dramas where the defendant repeatedly acknowledges bad deeds (including murder) only to argue that they are not guilty by reason of inherent superiority. Rand always invites judgment, and always refuses it.

Someone curious about deeper patterns in human lives is left wondering what might have gone differently if Alisa hadn't suffered an apparent crisis of confidence after she lost her first scriptwriting job for DeMille. (Popoff refers to it as "depression.") She then ghosted her parents and two sisters, not replying to their letters at just the moment they were trying to join her in America. That they never blamed her when she eventually wrote to them again, after it was too late for the visa, seemed to have made it worse for Rand. She had assumed a responsibility she was unable to bear, or had refused a responsibility that was hers alone: what to do when your loved ones are hostage to a force you believe to be an absolute evil, and you have the means to attempt their rescue and don't?

She would spend the rest of her life and many hundreds of thousands of words justifying that failure without ever addressing it directly. All of her family but her sister Nora, the youngest of the Rosenbaums, would eventually die during the Nazi siege of Leningrad. In 1974, after 47 years of separation, the sisters met in New York, and quarreled about altruism and Solzhenitsyn — Rand disliked his public professions of Christianity. Rand never spoke to her sister again. Inside the roaring fire of individualism, the still small voice of guilt.

AP

AYN RAND
Writing a Gospel of Success
By Alexandra Popoff
Yale University Press.
239 pp. $28

Ayn Rand in Manhattan in 1962. She moved to the United States in 1926, leaving her parents and sisters behind in Russia.

Marco Roth is Tablet's cultural critic at large and the author of "The Scientists: A Family Romance."

The summer when geek culture took over Hollywood

BY CHRIS KLIMEK

If you're a certain kind of cinephile, you probably know a few things with the rote force of scripture: That Conan — the barbarian, not the talk show host — philosophized about what is best in life. That E.T. phoned home. That Spock sacrificed himself to save the crew of the starship Enterprise. That patricidal "replicant" Roy Batty, in the final moments of his own brief life, eulogized his vanishing memories as "tears in rain."

Remarkably, these visions of a mythical past and a suburban present, a hopeful future and a dismal one, all landed in cinemas in the same year — and, more astonishingly, the same eight-week window. That transformative May-to-July epoch is the subject of former Entertainment Weekly critic Chris Nashawaty's brisk and insightful history, "The Future Was Now: Madmen, Mavericks, and the Epic Sci-Fi Summer of 1982."

In the era before, Nashawaty writes, Hollywood was caught napping by "Star Wars." That blockbuster's undreamt-of success in 1977 showed the many graying studio heads who'd turned down George Lucas's swashbuckling, *pew-pew* adventure that the audience for sci-fi and fantasy was vaster and hungrier than they'd ever contemplated. When Steven Spielberg's "Close Encounters of the Third Kind" hit six months later, even the holdouts had to admit that "Star Wars" was no fluke. Suddenly the studios were all in on spaceships — and lasers, ghosts, robots, wizards, and aliens both friendly and frightening. But because movies aren't made at warp speed, several years would go by before they had anything really good to show for it.

Half a decade later, an uncommonly rich harvest yielded eight films that were, paradoxically, both distinct authorial visions and made-to-order for the rapidly organizing geek demographic Lucas had unearthed: Ridley Scott's "Blade Runner," John Milius's "Conan the Barbarian," Spielberg's "E.T. the Extra-Terrestrial," Tobe Hooper's "Poltergeist," George Miller's "The Road Warrior" (released under the less-evocative sobriquet "Mad Max 2" outside the United States, where few had seen the 1979 film "Mad Max"), Nicholas Meyer's "Star Trek II: The Wrath of Khan," John Carpenter's "The Thing" and Steven Lisberger's "Tron." Several were instant hits; at least two were box office flops. All have retained an outsize hold on two generations of movie lovers — particularly the loyal merch-collecting, convention-attending subspecies that in the 21st century would remake the mainstream movie audience in its own, superhero-tee-wearing image.

For what it's worth, the Oscar nominees for 1982's best picture were "E.T.," "The Verdict," "Tootsie," Costa-Gavras's forgotten political thriller "Missing" and "Gandhi," which won. Not an embarrassing list but, true to Oscar form, not indicative of what was boldest and most bracing at the movies that year — of What Is Best in Life.

"E.T." was the top grosser by a huge margin in 1982 and earned nominations for best director and best original screenplay, among others. Perhaps because it was so warmly received right out of the gate, it's the only one of the eight in Nashawaty's book that's never gotten a sequel or remake — though "E.T." knockoffs crowded video store shelves for the rest of the '80s.

On the other end of the spectrum, the R-rated diptych of "Blade Runner" and "The Thing" shared a release date and went down like attack ships on fire off the shoulder of Orion — bombing harder than any of the other Class of '82 flicks. It wasn't just audiences who failed to appreciate the banquet they'd been served: Nashawaty cites June 25, 1982, as "arguably the worst day in the history of film criticism." The top tastemakers of the time — Roger Ebert, Pauline Kael and Vincent Canby are all cited — rejected both releases as confusing, violent and oppressively bleak. Only after years of VHS- and cable-enabled revisitations (and in the case of "Blade Runner," multiple revised rereleases) would this accidental duo claw its way into the pantheon.

That these and the other half-dozen movies that Nashawaty surveys have enjoyed such a long afterlife means much of this history has been previously told. The tortured development and production of "Blade Runner" is the subject of both Paul M. Sammon's book "Future Noir" and director Charles de Lauzirika's 3½-hour documentary "Dangerous Days." "Wrath of Khan" director Meyer recorded a wonderfully candid commentary track when that film was released on DVD; his memoir, "The View From the Bridge," also emphasized his work on "Khan" and two subsequent Star Trek films. The production of "Conan" got covered in Arnold Schwarzenegger's memoir "Total Recall" and in the documentary "Milius" (2013). You get the idea.

Even so, Nashawaty supplements this wealth of extant material with his own reporting, both new to this book and drawn from his 25 years on the beat as a reporter and critic, and his work interweaving the concurrent productions of these films, and contextualizing them in the burgeoning geek culture of the time, is thorough and compelling. He also has a gift for evoking the wild personalities that made these films what they were: You both wish you could've been there and feel grateful that you weren't when he describes then-cocaine-and-mushrooms-abusing "Conan" screenwriter Oliver Stone, already an Academy Award winner for his "Midnight Express" screenplay, inviting Schwarzenegger to his apartment to recite dialogue from Marvel's "Conan" comics of the 1970s.

What Nashawaty doesn't share is his personal relationship to these films. Were they seminal to his identity as an aficionado turned critic? How old was he when he saw these movies for the first time? He's weirdly mum on this topic. It would be appropriate, in a book about films whose audiences identify with them in a deep and lasting way, for the author to indulge in a little autobiography. Nashawaty's book is a bit poorer for that elision.

Despite that, his respect and enthusiasm for these films and the artists who made them are abundant and genuine. He's also clear-eyed about how the annihilating triumph of what was once niche fare has affected movies now that the "Blade Runner" year of 2019 has come and gone: "The movie calendar became one long endless summer," he laments. "One giant popcorn cinematic universe where the popcorn has turned flavorless and stale." But his book vividly conjures a long-vanished era when it was still salty and buttery and fresh — and before studios asked us to survive on it.

UNIVERSAL HISTORY ARCHIVE/UNIVERSAL IMAGES GROUP/GETTY IMAGES

Steven Spielberg on the set of "E.T. the Extra-Terrestrial," one of the influential science fiction movies released in 1982.

THE FUTURE WAS NOW
Madmen, Mavericks, and the Epic Sci-Fi Summer of 1982
By Chris Nashawaty
Flatiron.
289 pp. $29.99

Chris Klimek is a writer, critic and podcast host in Washington.

FICTION

Grappling with the loss of a father-ish figure

ANNE-EMMANUELLE ROBICQUET

Dinaw Mengestu returns with another introspective novel about the struggle to feel settled.

CHARLES FROM **B1**

novels, it's about the struggle to feel settled, to feel at peace, but once again he edges around that theme by a wholly unexpected route. Although the story takes place over a few days near the end of 2019, the festive tones of the holiday season never pierce the pervading gloom of these opening words: "I learned of Samuel's death two days before Christmas."

This is no procedural, but an evocative scent of mystery lingers over the novel. Who is Samuel? Why did he die? Why must we care? For the next 250 pages, these are the questions the narrator worries over as though his own life depends on the answers — because, in a sense, it does.

"Even though I'd known for years that Samuel was my father, neither he nor my mother had ever expected me to treat him as such," the narrator explains. "Whatever friendship they'd had in Ethiopia had evolved into something far more guarded and yet protective." After coming to America, Samuel remained an avuncular figure in an erratic orbit around their lives. "At my mother's insistence, Samuel still came to our apartment on the weekends to sleep, one of the many things she worried he wouldn't do if left on his own."

The man speaking to us in these hushed tones of reminiscence is an Ethiopian American known by his nickname, Mamush, who works as an international reporter in Paris. He and his wife and their 2-year-old son had planned on flying home to the Washington area for Christmas. But a host of problems conspired against that performance of happy family life. With riots in Paris and reports of a virus starting to circulate around the world, it seems like an ill-advised time to travel. Even more alarming, their toddler's muscles have begun to atrophy for some mysterious reason, as though in sympathy with the waning vigor of their marriage. Mamush's wife sends him off to visit his mother and Samuel in the United States expecting he won't return.

She has good reason to doubt his commitment. "We communicated best through oblique angles," Mamush claims, but in fact, his wife has made herself entirely clear. "You look for ruin," she once told him. "And if you can't find it, you make it." Indeed, as the novel opens, Mamush purposely misses his flight to Virginia, lies about it and books another one to Chicago instead.

As a child, he lived in the Windy City with his mother and Samuel, and he hopes to do a little investigation of their past before the holidays. Despite how quickly he works, by the time he reaches Virginia, he learns that Samuel, a taxi driver, has killed himself in his garage. With that, his search for answers sinks into his own memories and the cold trail that Samuel left behind.

Mengestu's work is always introspective, but "Someone Like Us" is strikingly ruminative. In a witty bit of meta-criticism, Mamush notes that an irritated editor once told him: "What you wrote doesn't make sense. You go in and out of scenes. You spend almost a thousand words describing the bartender in a hotel and even more describing some airport that's being built. WTF? It has nothing to do with the story you were supposed to write. Where's the portrait? What is the conflict?"

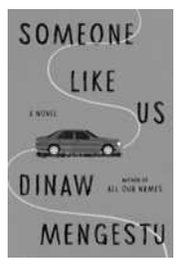
That complaint may capture the response of readers frustrated with Mengestu's aggressively meditative style. But be patient, and you'll eventually settle into this book's strange motion. The structure of the novel feels like a Möbius strip cut from sheets of grief. And stark black-and-white photos — taken by Mamush's wife — are laced through these pages to arrest our attention.

For much of the story, Mamush is alone, though memories of Samuel hover over him with such intimate presence that it's hard to remember he's not actually there — which, of course, is what Mamush is struggling to realize, too. I'm reminded of Lorrie Moore's gloomy 2023 novel, "I Am Homeless if This Is Not My Home," which also involved a young man and the self-inflicted death of a loved one. But while Moore turned their road trip into a zombie odyssey, Mamush's long rides with Samuel take place in the realm of scrambled memories and imagination.

As Mengestu moves back and forth in time, we learn more about this remarkable man, "somewhere between a father and an uncle," whose enthusiasm for life was shredded by racism and poverty. Driving a taxi — a concession to his thwarted economic opportunities — was a punishing occupation that led him to drink and addiction. But in the crucible of his shame and determination, Samuel was able to transform driving into a symbol of community, even salvation. He harbored dreams of building a vast network from D.C. to California that catered exclusively to "immigrants, migrants, refugees, anyone who was in the wrong place and needed to be somewhere else but didn't know how to get there."

"People are afraid," Samuel once told Mamush. "They are afraid to leave their house. They are afraid even to take the bus or train. What are they supposed to do? They need someone they can trust to get them where they need to be safely." Alienated from his family and wandering the world, Mamush realizes just how much his own heart resonates with what Samuel desired.

Once again, Mengestu has driven us along a path we never knew existed to a place we all recognize.



SOMEONE LIKE US
By Dinaw Mengestu
Knopf.
251 pp. $28

Ron Charles reviews books and writes the Book Club newsletter for The Washington Post. He is the book critic for "CBS Sunday Morning."

At Versailles, the dangerous honesty of fairy tales

BY SAMUEL ASHWORTH

It is the late 17th century, and King Louis XIV is at the pinnacle of his power. Versailles is the hub of the French aristocracy, a great beehive dripping with honey — and bristling with stingers. We are in the era of the great salons, the private gatherings where nobles and intellectuals converge to *hon-hon* the issues of the day. Clare Pollard's work of historical fiction, "The Modern Fairies," grants us entry into one such salon, hosted by Madame Marie d'Aulnoy, a real-life salonnière and author, who has, as the story begins, mysteriously been rehabilitated after scandal and imprisonment.

The theme of Marie's salon is fairy tales and proto-feminism. Each chapter, more or less, features a guest telling their version of a tale, most notably Charles Perrault, who will in time collect these stories in his famous volume "Contes de ma mere l'Oye": Mother Goose tales. In the opening chapter, Perrault begins a tale about a king loved by his people, feared by his enemies, and blessed with the most beautiful of wives and daughters. The guests lean in, eager to hear what misfortune will befall this perfect family. "For the energy that lies behind all stories is a destructive energy," the narrator warns us, full of "the urge to burn down what *is* for what *might be*."

If this sounds like Angela Carter rewriting "The Canterbury Tales," you're not far off. But "The Modern Fairies" is more than mere homage. Versailles is clutched in a desperate battle between Louis's mistresses, and the collateral damage is only growing. As storms gather, the guests begin to use fairy tales as a way to speak openly — an increasingly dangerous game. To fall afoul of the king can be swiftly lethal, and Louis has spies everywhere, overseen by his utterly sinister chief of police, Reynie.

The Modern Fairies gather at Marie's salon because there's more honesty in fairy tales than in the cant to which they, as members of the aristocracy, must publicly subscribe. There *are* wolves in the forest. Hunger *will* make a parent abandon their children. Love *can* destroy you. Men *do* execute their wives for asking questions. Faced with the brutal truths around them, the guests in Marie's salon want to believe in their own happy endings. Thus, they measure each storyteller by how well they stick the landing: They are savage to those who try to get away with sanctimonious morals or unearned happiness.

Unfortunately, the novel's most important storyteller is also its most frustrating element. Like Molière's famous hypochondriac Argan in "The Imaginary Invalid," "The Modern Fairies" is hobbled by its own crutch. Pollard's story structure depends entirely on a narrator who can enter the mind of any character, no matter how minor. She refers to herself as "I" and holds her "dear reader" by the elbow in a voice that combines Jane Eyre and Lady Whistledown from "Bridgerton" — except that sometimes, her diction pitches into 2020s English.

The narrator describes Versailles under Louis XIV as a "panopticon," a term that wouldn't be coined for 100 years and wouldn't acquire its modern, metaphorical sense until a century and a half after that. In a jarringly op-ed-like paragraph, she writes of "human sexuality being as wildly beautiful and various as it is," and of organized religion as a "system of brainwashing." "Brainwashing" and "human sexuality" did not exist in the court of Louis XIV or any other Bourbon. These anachronisms continually disrupt the fictional dream of this novel.

The same is true of the inconsistent — and patronizing — use of translation. At one point early on, Pollard invokes the Académie Française, "known as 'les immortels' after the academy's motto 'À l'immortalité.' ('To Immortality.')" This smacks of distrust in the reader, but it happens with some regularity. Midway through the book, Marie d'Aulnoy tells a character, "You are joining our group of Modern Fairies, Les Fées Modernes!" Marie, we know.

Worse, Pollard keeps us completely in the dark about just who this narrator is until the final chapter, a grave mistake. Had she offered this story up to Marie's salon, the guests would have been merciless about this choice. They'd have pointed out that veiling a narrator's identity in mystery requires A) that the narrator have a good reason for keeping it secret and B) that when the secret is revealed, we suddenly see the story in a whole new way. Not so in "The Modern Fairies," a book I would have enjoyed far more if I had not spent so much of it trying to figure out who was interrupting this otherwise galloping story. Was it a servant? A salon guest? Belle-Belle, the pet marmoset? No. It's audacious and would be an intriguing idea — if it had been introduced by Chapter 2.

In its breadth and variety and ambition, "The Modern Fairies" can feel furiously grotesque, like one of the sybaritic nightly banquets Louis enjoys, featuring hundreds of dishes — at which the king consumes gargantuan meals, even though an oral infection has lately carved a hole in his sinus, meaning that food bubbles disgustingly out of his nose as he devours it. (He is also suffering from an anal fistula, about which we hear a *great* deal.) Pollard lays out more courses than we can possibly savor, yet each dish is exquisitely made — and researched. At its best, her writing is velveted with human insight, especially when it comes to the artifice of appearances: Her characters' clothes and makeup are rendered with jarring precision. Pollard's women do not apply lipstick, they lacquer their mouths with dyed animal fat; when they powder their faces, they do so with the white lead that scourges the skin it brightens.

Ultimately, the finest moments in "The Modern Fairies" are not the most rococo or outrageous (the sex is graphic and abundant, but rarely pleasurable for the women involved) but rather the most intimate. A scene of Marie with her daughters and servants as they clean up after a salon is very affecting. Most encouragingly, the book's third act is its strongest. "I cannot quite promise happy ever after," the narrator warns us in the end, "not even an old storyteller such as I." But rest assured: She sticks the landing.

Samuel Ashworth is the author of the forthcoming novel "The Death and Life of August Sweeney," about the rise and fall of a legendary chef, told through his autopsy.

SOPHIE DAVIDSON

Clare Pollard

THE MODERN FAIRIES
By Clare Pollard
Avid Reader.
249 pp. $28

"I cannot quite promise happy ever after," the narrator warns us in the end, "not even an old storyteller such as I."

10 noteworthy books for July and August

Hot picks starring witches, lovers, immigrants and playwrights

BY BECKY MELOAN

Lazy summer days offer a chance to lose yourself in the rhythms of a good book — family dramas, a page-turning thriller, memoirs to make you laugh and cry, and new historical fiction and fantasy from well-known authors.

'Grown Women'
by Sarai Johnson

Johnson's engaging, character-driven saga examines the relationships between four generations of Black mothers and daughters and the truths and lies they tell themselves and one another. Kicked out of her upper-middle-class home by her emotionally distant mother, pregnant 18-year-old Charlotte vows to raise her daughter, Corinna, with the support she missed in childhood. But it's not long before the emotional scars from abuse prove too deep, and the cycles of violence and half-truths continue. When Corinna, too, becomes a teenage mother, the women reconnect and vow to do right by the baby, even if it means confronting family secrets and mistakes. (Harper)

'The Black Bird Oracle'
by Deborah Harkness

Harkness provides a satisfying return to the best-selling All Souls series that began in 2011 with "A Discovery of Witches." The 7-year-old twins of witch Diana Bishop and vampire Matthew de Clermont receive an ominous summons to a magical aptitude test on the same day that a letter arrives from an unknown great-aunt inviting Diana to return "home." When she arrives at Ravenswood, the place where her family has lived for generations, she must confront the dark secrets hiding in her preternatural heritage and grapple with her desire for dangerous power that threatens to overwhelm her unless she can control it. (Ballantine)

'No Road Home'
by John Fram

Toby Tucker, a lonely single father, tries to shield his queer son, Luca, from prejudice. But he may have put his sensitive boy in danger by marrying pediatrician Alyssa Wright, heiress to a televangelist empire. Upon arriving at the Wrights' Texas compound, Toby realizes that his new wife and her family have unsettling plans for Luca, who reports having conversations with the eerie "Mister Suit." After a shocking murder, suspicion falls on Toby, who must race to clear his name while also protecting Luca from peril. A tinge of Gothic chill adds a frightening layer to Fram's suspenseful thriller. (Atria, July 23)

'The Wedding People'
by Alison Espach

Phoebe Stone arrives at a luxurious Rhode Island hotel in her best dress and with no luggage. A series of misfortunes has led her to this day, during which she plans to eat a delicious meal and then walk into the water and never come out. But her plan is thwarted by a closed kitchen and a wedding that has taken over the rest of the hotel. When the bride realizes that Phoebe's intentions could derail her week-long extravaganza, her attempt to manage the situation leads the two women to start confiding in each other. As Phoebe becomes swept up in the drama of other people's lives, she finds her own path forward. Espach's wit and warmth deliver a gratifying story about how people who have given up might find a reason to start caring again. (Holt, July 30)

'The Widow's Guide to Dead Bastards: A Memoir'
by Jessica Waite

While grieving the untimely death of her husband, Waite discovered he had been keeping secrets, including infidelity, drug use and a pornography addiction. Her candid grief memoir vacillates between sorrow and white-hot rage as she seeks to reconcile her memory of the man she cared for — a beloved father to their 9-year-old son — with her feelings of betrayal. Each new revelation brings fresh pain, but as her understanding of the circumstances surrounding his choices deepens, she learns new definitions of love, strength and forgiveness. (Atria, July 30)

'Between Friends and Lovers'
by Shirlene Obuobi

Josephine Boateng, or "Dr. Jojo" to her many Instagram followers, appears to have it all. But for years she's been secretly pining for her best-friend-turned-Hollywood-heartthrob Ezra Adelman, who is now dating Jo's childhood bully. After a confession of her feelings to Ezra is derailed, Jo bumps into Malcom Waters, a rising literary star, sparking a connection that may be even deeper than it first appears. Obuobi's emotionally insightful novel explores the tension between friendship and love, and whether the risk of placing trust in others is worth the reward. (Avon, July 30)

'The Fertile Earth'
by Ruthvika Rao

Rao's heart-wrenching tale of forbidden love between the daughter of an aristocratic landowner and the son of a widowed villager transpires amid mid-century India's brutal rural rebellion against elites. As children, Vijaya and Krishna develop a deep connection, but a catastrophe results in Krishna's expulsion from their homeland. Years later, neither has forgotten the other, but as the shifting political climate ensnares the families they love, renewing a connection could prove dangerous. (Flatiron, Aug. 1)

'How to Leave the House'
by Nathan Newman

Taking place over 24 hours before the anxious narrator, Natwest, leaves for college, Newman's entertaining debut feels fresh and young, portraying modern life with a mixture of humor and reflection. Searching for a misdirected and potentially embarrassing package, Natwest is forced to make the rounds of his English neighborhood, encountering an emotionally fraught ex, a teenager worried about her nudes being leaked online, his mother and her Ponzi-scheme-peddling ex-boyfriend, and the town's dentist, a wannabe artist whose exhibition featuring paintings of the human mouth is everyone's evening destination. A television adaptation is already coming from the creators of "Chernobyl" and "True Detective." (Viking, Aug. 13)

'Manboobs: A Memoir of Musicals, Visas, Hope, and Cake'
by Komail Aijazuddin

When Aijazuddin moved into his NYU dorm room in the early 2000s, he was sure his life could finally begin. He spent his Pakistani childhood feeling like an outsider: gay and overweight, his knowledge of Marvel superheroes was eclipsed only by his mastery of Broadway show tunes. His screens had shown him an America where he could be accepted and free to love who he wanted; in reality it turned out to be another place where he felt like an outsider — a Brown man from a Muslim country in a post-9/11 world. At once humorous and heartbreaking, his memoir allows his bubbly personality to shine in a story about letting go of shame and finding self-acceptance. (Abrams, Aug. 13)

'By Any Other Name'
by Jodi Picoult

Picoult, known for exploring social issues in her best-selling fiction, returns with a thought-provoking tale of two female playwrights and the similar compromises they make 400 years apart. Emilia Bassano, mistress to Lord Chamberlain, has a sharp wit and a talent for writing but no outlet for her work, so she agrees to let a man publish her plays under his name, thereby writing herself out of history. Centuries later, Melina Green has written a play inspired by her ancestor, Emilia, and it wins a contest after she impulsively submits it under a male name, forcing her to decide whether she will allow her identity to be removed to ensure her work will be performed. In the end, both women must decide what price they will pay to satisfy their desires and ambitions. (Ballantine, Aug. 20)

Becky Meloan is the editorial aide in Book World.

LITERARY CALENDAR

Aug. 5 - 9

5 MONDAY | 6:45 P.M. ***Kathy Reichs*** discusses "Fire and Bones" at the S. Dillon Ripley Center, 1100 Jefferson Dr. SW. 202-633-3030. $25-$30.

7 P.M. ***Ala Stanford*** discusses "Take Care of Them Like My Own: Faith, Fortitude, and a Surgeon's Fight for Health Justice" at Politics and Prose, 5015 Connecticut Ave. NW. 202-364-1919.

6 TUESDAY | 6 P.M. ***Melinda Beatty*** presents "Things That Go Bump in the Day" at Curious Iguana, 12 N. Market St., Frederick. 301-695-2500.

7 P.M. ***Dinaw Mengetsu*** discusses "Someone Like Us" at Politics and Prose.

7 P.M. ***Joann Hill*** discusses "Unique Eats and Eateries of Washington DC" at Politics and Prose at Union Market, 1270 Fifth St. NE. 202-544-4452.

7 WEDNESDAY | 6 P.M. ***Stacie Murphy*** discusses "The Witch's Secret," and ***Katharine Schellman*** discusses "A Scandal in Mayfair," at Bards Alley, 110 Church St. NW, Vienna. 571-459-2653.

7 P.M. ***Edward Dolnick*** discusses "Dinosaurs at the Dinner Party: How an Eccentric Group of Victorians Discovered Prehistoric Creatures and Accidentally Upended the World" with ***Joe Palca*** at Politics and Prose at the Wharf, 610 Water St. SW. 202-488-3867.

7 P.M. ***Eliza Griswold*** discusses "Circle of Hope: A Reckoning With Love, Power, and Justice in an American Church" with ***Daniel Burke*** at Politics and Prose.

8 THURSDAY | 7 P.M. ***Clara Bingham*** discusses "The Movement: How Women's Liberation Transformed America 1963-1973" at Politics and Prose.

7 P.M. ***Rollo Romig*** discusses "I Am on the Hit List: A Journalist's Murder and the Rise of Autocracy in India" with ***Shahan Mufti*** at Politics and Prose at Union Market.

9 FRIDAY | 7 P.M. ***Marshall Ganz*** discusses "People, Power, Change: Organizing for Democratic Renewal" at Politics and Prose.

7 P.M. ***Barbara Bradley Hagerty*** discusses "Bringing Ben Home: A Murder, a Conviction, and the Fight to Redeem American Justice" at Politics and Prose at the Wharf.

For more literary events, go to *wapo.st/literarycal.*

Washington Post Hardcover Bestsellers

COURTESY OF THE AMERICAN BOOKSELLERS ASSOCIATION

FICTION

1 **THE WOMEN** (St. Martin's, $30). By Kristen Hannah. An Army nurse in Vietnam treats soldiers wounded in combat but struggles to find support when she returns home.

2 **THE GOD OF THE WOODS** (Riverhead, $30). By Liz Moore. Tragedy revisits the owners of a summer camp when their teenage daughter disappears, echoing a similar loss years before.

3 **SANDWICH** (Harper, $26.99). By Catherine Newman. Vacationing with her young-adult children and aging parents forces a woman to recalibrate her expectations.

4 **JAMES** (Doubleday, $28). By Percival Everett. A reimagining of "Adventures of Huckleberry Finn" told from the point of view of Jim as he flees from enslavement.

5 **ALL FOURS** (Riverhead, $29). By Miranda July. A woman embarks on a solo cross-country road trip but instead hides in a nearby hotel and explores life without the responsibilities of family.

6 **THE BOOK OF ELSEWHERE** (Del Rey, $30). By Keanu Reeves and China Miéville. An immortal warrior makes a deal that will allow him to die, leading to unforeseen consequences.

7 **LONG ISLAND COMPROMISE** (Random House, $30). By Taffy Brodesser-Akner. The children of a wealthy family struggle to fulfill the promise of their wildly successful parents.

8 **THE BRIGHT SWORD** (Viking, $35). By Lev Grossman. The remaining knights of the Round Table must restore Camelot to its former glory after the death of King Arthur.

9 **FUNNY STORY** (Berkley, $29). By Emily Henry. Daphne, whose ex-fiancé, Peter, left her for another woman, agrees to be roommates with Miles, whose ex-fiancée left him for Peter.

10 **ALL THE COLORS OF THE DARK** (Crown, $30). By Chris Whitaker. The relationship between childhood best friends endures in the decades following a tragedy.

NONFICTION

1 **THE DEMON OF UNREST** (Crown, $35). By Erik Larson. The author of "The Splendid and the Vile" chronicles the months after Abraham Lincoln's election that set the stage for the Civil War.

2 **AUTOCRACY, INC.** (Doubleday, $27). By Anne Applebaum. The journalist and historian explores the methods 21st-century dictators use to enact their ideologies — and how democracies can defeat them.

3 **THE ANXIOUS GENERATION** (Penguin Press, $30). By Jonathan Haidt. A social psychologist attributes the recent increase in adolescent mental illness to the prevalence of smartphones.

4 **THE CREATIVE ACT** (Penguin, $32). By Rick Rubin. A Grammy-winning music producer shares how artists work and suggests ways to foster creativity in everyday life.

5 **THE WAGER** (Doubleday, $30). By David Grann. After enduring storms, sickness and a shipwreck, the surviving crew members of HMS Wager turn against each other.

6 **AN UNFINISHED LOVE STORY** (Simon & Schuster, $35). By Doris Kearns Goodwin. The Pulitzer Prize-winning biographer shares her own history.

7 **ON CALL** (Viking, $36). By Anthony Fauci. The doctor and public health official shares stories from his upbringing and career as a scientific adviser to presidents through multiple crises, including the covid pandemic.

8 **ATOMIC HABITS** (Avery, $27). By James Clear. How to make small changes that have a big impact.

9 **A WALK IN THE PARK** (Scribner, $32.50). By Kevin Fedarko. Two men attempt a 750-mile hike through the Grand Canyon.

10 **OUTLIVE** (Harmony, $32). By Peter Attia and Bill Gifford. A physician offers alternate ways of looking at aging and longevity.

Rankings reflect sales for the week ended July 28. The charts may not be reproduced without permission from the American Booksellers Association, the trade association for independent bookstores in the United States, and indiebound.org. Copyright 2024 American Booksellers Association. (The bestseller lists alternate between hardcover and paperback each week.)

MADDIE MCGARVEY FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

Hanif Abdurraqib

'There's Always This Year: On Basketball and Ascension' by Hanif Abdurraqib

Sophia Nguyen, news and features writer

"There's Always This Year" is a love letter to LeBron James and the Cleveland Cavaliers — but it's also a deeply personal book about coming of age in Columbus, Ohio, and the hometown heroes that Abdurraqib grew up worshiping. The essayist and poet explores how it feels to be a fan — with all the bitterness and euphoria that involves — and winds up meditating on the nature of devotion.

'Open: An Autobiography' by Andre Agassi

Nora Krug, editor

In his 2009 memoir, Agassi, one of the most decorated American tennis players of all time, tries to convince readers that he hates the game. He does a pretty good job of it. Looking back at his long career, he shares many highs, including his victory at the 1996 Olympics. "I feel my heart swell," he writes of the moment the gold medal was placed around his neck, "and it has nothing to do with tennis, or me — and thus it exceeds all my expectations. … This moment is special because it is not mine."

But what makes the book so compelling is Agassi's frankness about his many lows, beginning as a very young child when his father forced him to pick up a racket. Then came the torture of tennis academies, grueling travel, debilitating injuries, heartbreaking losses on the court (recalled with such detail that it might be useful to read the book while watching the matches), struggles with the media and his personal life, in particular his brief marriage to Brooke Shields. But Agassi wouldn't have it any other way. "I want the pain only tennis can provide," he writes. This love-hate battle plays out beautifully on the page, with the assistance of ghostwriter J.R. Moehringer, who helped Prince Harry express his own torture in his memoir "Spare."

JEFF BARK

Sam Anderson

'Boom Town: The Fantastical Saga of Oklahoma City, Its Chaotic Founding, Its Apocalyptic Weather, Its Purloined Basketball Team, and the Dream of Becoming a World-Class Metropolis,' by Sam Anderson

Sam Fortier, sports reporter

This is the best book I've ever read that helps the reader understand a city through its sports team. I was deeply skeptical of Anderson's argument that Oklahoma City is "the great minor city of America" and "one of the great weirdo cities of the world."

But then he beautifully braids together narratives about tornadoes, civil rights, the Flaming Lips, ancient geology, modern architecture, how power works in a city and the 2012-13 NBA season. I was convinced. The book is serious, silly, unexpected, inevitable, deeply reported and breezily written. It's also incredibly fun. I recommend it highly.

ILLUSTRATION BY JAVI AZNAREZ FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

Ten incredible books about sports to read now

BY WASHINGTON POST STAFF

With the Olympics in full swing, Book World has sports on the brain. But everyone else does, too, so for this installment of Staff Picks, we invited a few of our colleagues from the Sports section to weigh in with their favorite books on the topic as well. As is the case at the Summer Games in Paris, there's something here for everyone, from essays to memoirs and novels.

'Laughing in the Hills: A Story of Life and the Race Track' by Bill Barich

John Williams, Book World editor

My father and I shared a lifelong love of both reading and watching sports, but we also shared a seemingly odd trait when you consider those first two: rarely reading full-length books about sports. (Journalism about sports? Yes, loads of it.) But my dad was a big follower of horse racing from his young days, when it was massively popular, and I have a decent-size shelf of books about the subject — it's inspired a lot of good writing. Barich's writing is so good that editor William Shawn excerpted this memoir in the New Yorker in 1980. Barich is often at the track — Golden Gate Fields in California — but his mind roves widely: through family history (he randomly started playing the horses to help distract himself from the stress of his mother having cancer), time he spent studying in Florence and the lives of horses during the Renaissance. All in all, a memorable combination of the earthy and the intellectual.

'The Hidden Game of Football: A Revolutionary Approach to the Game and Its Statistics' by Bob Carroll, Pete Palmer and John Thorn

Neil Greenberg, sports reporter

"The Hidden Game of Football" transformed the way we understand the sport by bringing statistical analysis into the spotlight. Published in 1988, it delved into what truly makes teams win or lose, moving beyond traditional stats to introduce groundbreaking concepts like "expected points" and play efficiency.

What I love about the book is how it demystifies football's complexities, making it accessible to both casual fans and serious students of the game. Carroll, Palmer and Thorn's methods and recommendations are now widely used in modern football analytics, showing the book's lasting impact. For example, the authors suggested that teams go for it on fourth down more often instead of kicking field goals near the goal line, and recommended adding sacks and sack yardage to the NFL's passer rating so quarterback performance would be measured more effectively.

Much as "Moneyball" made baseball analytics mainstream, "The Hidden Game of Football" is a seminal work in sports literature, revolutionizing our understanding of the gridiron.

'The Striker and the Clock: On Being in the Game' by Georgia Cloepfil

Jacob Brogan, editor

The most famous sports memoirs tend to take us through the lives of still more famous athletes, stories in which even humility serves to underscore the greater fact of triumph. Cloepfil — a former professional soccer player, mostly for a scattered series of relatively minor international teams — offers something different in "The Striker and the Clock," confronting the gradual foreclosure of possibility as she aged, even as she remained committed to the game she loved.

Organized into brief chapters that roughly map onto the 90 minutes of a match, her book meditates on the almost inevitable gap between our aspirations and our capacities. "The job of the athlete is not to mythologize her own life," Cloepfil writes. "The job of the athlete is to navigate unrelenting decay." This is a book of uncommonly honest insight, one full of wisdom won not through adulation but persistence.

GENE J. PUSKAR/AP

Barry Bonds hits a home run for the San Francisco Giants in a game against the Pittsburgh Pirates in May 2001. Bonds is the main character in "Game of Shadows," about Major League Baseball's reckoning with performance-enhancing drugs.

'Game of Shadows: Barry Bonds, BALCO, and the Steroids Scandal That Rocked Professional Sports' by Mark Fainaru-Wada and Lance Williams

Gus Garcia-Roberts, sports reporter

The definitive account of the scandal that forced baseball to finally reckon with the performance-enhancing drugs wreaking (lucrative) havoc on its record books, "Game of Shadows" remains a damn good read 18 years after it was published. The characters are Coen brothers-esque, from a spiky-haired lackey selling AIDS meds to bodybuilders, to a mad PED scientist cooking up cutting-edge illegal protocols in a Bay Area lab, to the book's central character, fuming slugger Barry Bonds, who grew bitter and turned to PEDs after watching lesser hitters Mark McGwire and Sammy Sosa captivate the nation while obviously juicing. It's an evergreen saga of how glossy sports institutions will bury their heads when unpleasant trends are fueling profits. But when those secrets finally boil over — and attract the talents of high-caliber journalistic diggers like Fainaru-Wada and Williams — get the popcorn ready.

'The Only Rule Is It Has to Work: Our Wild Experiment Building a New Kind of Baseball Team' by Ben Lindbergh and Sam Miller

Jesse Dougherty, sports reporter

What would you do if you could run your own baseball team? No, not a fantasy team — a real, breathing collection of human beings playing the sport? In "The Only Rule Is It Has To Work," the authors spend a summer answering that question in Northern California, guiding the Sonoma Stompers through a season of independent ball. But the book is much more than two nerds using analytics to flip strategy on its head. At times, it's a full-on workplace comedy. At others, it's a romance disguised as sport, with moving relationships between the writers and the players, the players and their craft, a small town and its team of nobodies. And at the center of the story is another question, perhaps the most pressing in an evolving industry: How do you weigh what you know against what you can see and feel?

'Winterland' by Rae Meadows

Emily Giambalvo, sports reporter

I usually avoid fiction about gymnastics because I can't get through a chapter without feeling frustrated by inaccuracies, but Meadows's novel is one of my favorite books. It's a spot-on depiction of the Soviet Union's intense gymnastics program, but its plot extends far beyond the sport — to a missing mother, Cold War politics and stories from gulag camps. This is not as much a sports book as it is a gripping work of historical fiction, though gymnastics fans will still appreciate the well-researched nods to Soviet stars. As a former gymnast who had a Russian coach, this was the perfect book for me.

GRACE SALESSES

Matthew Salesses

'The Sense of Wonder' by Matthew Salesses

Ron Charles, fiction critic

Before reading "The Sense of Wonder," I had no sense of professional basketball or Korean TV drama. But such is the transporting power of Matthew Salesses's novel that I felt swept up in both. The stateside half of this story is inspired by the sudden fame of Jeremy Lin, who led the New York Knicks to seven consecutive wins in 2012 and sparked a worldwide craze known as "Linsanity!"

Salesses uses Lin's experience as the first Taiwanese American in the NBA to explore the complications of race and racism in professional sports — from the fine line between enthusiasm and exoticism to the tension between Asian and Black players. That may sound dour, but "The Sense of Wonder" streaks across these pages with all the agility and speed of NBA players on the court. And with a maneuver that seems at first out of bounds but quickly scores, Salesses enriches this story with a parallel plot about the star player's girlfriend, who's trying to bring K-dramas to the United States. Both the basketball player and the TV producer find themselves working in arenas defined by intense passions and strict rules. Anybody watching won't be able to look away.

SPREADING THE WORD

The National Book Awards will celebrate its 75th anniversary at this year's ceremony, on Nov. 20. To mark the occasion, The Washington Post has collaborated with the administrator and presenter of the awards, the National Book Foundation, to commission a series of essays by National Book Award-honored authors who consider (and reconsider), decade by decade, the books that were recognized and those that were overlooked; the preoccupations of authors, readers and the publishing industry through time; the power and subjectivity of judges and of awards; and the lasting importance of books to our culture, from the 1950s to the present day. In this essay, Jesmyn Ward — a two-time winner of the National Book Award, for her novels "Salvage the Bones" and "Sing, Unburied, Sing" — looks back at the 1980s. A technical note about this decade: From 1980 to 1986, the awards were presented under the name The American Book Awards. The original name was restored in 1987, and the National Book Foundation recognizes all honorees from this period as National Book Award recipients.

BY JESMYN WARD

In the 1980s, the number of National Book Award categories ballooned and retracted by the year. In 1980, there were multiple awards for biography. That same year, new categories included an award for first novels and another for paperback fiction. For several years starting in 1986, awards were given in only two categories: fiction and nonfiction.

In 1983, the number of categories was at its peak, and that year signaled an essential transformation in the mission of the National Book Awards. The nominees were wonderfully rich and varied in viewpoints and representation. Up to that time, legendary White male writers had been honored again and again, and they were worthy of praise. But now the awards acknowledged as well the great accomplishments of women writers, queer writers and writers of color. Among the finalists and winners that year were Eudora Welty, Judith Thurman, Gail Godwin, Bobbie Ann Mason, Anne Tyler, Marilynne Robinson, Gail Albert, Susanna Moore and Joanna L. Stratton — and, most important to this particular writer, eventually, two Black women: Gloria Naylor and Alice Walker.

In 1983, I was a child in Mississippi. I longed to read, to be one of those children whose brains are wired to begin reading when they are 3 or 4 years old, but I was not. I felt cheated as I paged through the massive Bible on its stand in the living room at my grandmother's house, its pages cool. I traced its paintings: Noah loading the animals onto the ark; Moses cowering before a burning bush. I'd heard these stories in church, but there was one painting for which I had no narrative context: Abraham and Isaac on Mount Moriah. Abraham's skin glowed as he stood tall over his bound son. The pictures were reproductions of paintings, but I didn't know that at the time; I couldn't read the attributions. What I knew was Abraham's severe face. What I knew was Isaac's panicked flailing. I saw the brilliant angel descending, and how they all shone in struggle. I was desperate to understand why, to know more, in the dim, hot, close, pine-paneled room.

At that time, my mother was working as a hotel housekeeper. She spent hours hauling bedding, doing laundry, vacuuming, scrubbing with disinfectant: erasing the human from the room in preparation for another. She did not want that kind of future for me. "You're going to go to college," she told me, even though she hadn't completed her associate's degree, having fallen pregnant with me. She had been the first person in her family to attend an institute of higher education. She came home in the evenings, exhausted, sweat glistening on her forehead, three children to feed and bathe and put to bed. My mother was weighed down by work, paid and not, yet before she put me to sleep at night, she sat with me in the living room, on the itchy sofa next to the heavy Bible on its stand, and attempted to teach me to read. She'd taken some of her money, scarce as it was, and purchased phonics books. "I'm going to teach you how to do this," she said. "You smart. You can get it." She believed this because I first attended school when I was 2 years old, when we were living in Berkeley, Calif., before we returned home to Mississippi, where Head Starts were just being established and universal access to preschool did not exist, where kindergarten wasn't even offered in most public schools. Much later, my mother would tell me she wished for years that we had remained in California.

I disappointed my mother. I dutifully and diligently completed the exercises, agonizing through pages of material, trying to fit the puzzle of the sounds together into words, but I could not. The language would not align in my brain, and I stalled in answering her questions. She would point to a word, coaxing me. "Tell me," she would say, "what you see." I would try to read it, but mostly I would stare at her finger on the page: her fingernail cut blunt and short, her hands unnaturally dry, the moisture leached from her skin by cleaning agents and sheets and blankets and coverlets, my mind spinning. She would softly sigh, and then she would read the word, and I would feel shame. We worked for months on these books. After a time my mother gave up, and I went back to my play in the piney woods, building playhouses from abandoned plywood and straw, climbing trees, worming my way under my grandmother's house on my stomach. But evenings would find me there in the living room, hand on that Bible, a quiet despair in me as I waited for the word to reveal itself, to make sense. For Abraham and Isaac to speak. It didn't happen.

Instead, I learned to read in 1983, in first grade, at my local public school, DeLisle Elementary. My teacher's name was Mrs. Cohen, and she was tall and brown-haired and pale. She made her way through the classroom, gently bending over our desks, teaching us the building blocks of sound and letters. By the time I was 6, my brain was finally developed enough to understand, and I gained letters and combinations piecemeal, simple words, until I could slowly make my way through two-word sentences. *Dick runs. Jane sits.* Within weeks, I made my way to three words, and so on. *See Spot run.*

But the memory of my mother's ambitious determination to lead me to literacy, the way I failed her, made my newfound access to reading seem even more of a wonder. I turned to the painting of Abraham and Isaac, and I read, a word here, a word there — enough to figure out the story. I felt the miracle in understanding — in reading. In that moment, that skimming took on the raw glory of Isaac bound on a slab of stone on the mountain, the delicious mercy of the angel appearing just as Abraham skims Isaac's tender neck with the blade. I saw my mother in the angel, lodging bits of language into my brain before it could utilize them. I saw Mrs. Cohen in the angel, recognized her kind attentiveness and direction in the blessed descent. I did not yet know who God was, who Abraham was, but I knew the winged holiness of those who taught reading. I knew the sacred breath of words.

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: National Book Award recognition for Gloria Naylor, Alice Walker and Toni Morrison in the 1980s meant that their works made their way to school libraries, Jesmyn Ward notes.

And then, for many years, there were no angels and no miracles, but I encountered minor spirits as I read through my elementary and middle school libraries. The prestige of the National Book Awards meant that honorees from the early '80s, before the awards for children's books were paused in 1984, were likely to be found in small public-school libraries in Mississippi. I read Arnold Lobel's "Frog and Toad Are Friends," and the streams and burrowed dens seemed to exist in the world that I lived in, somewhere out in the marshy, piney woods of south Mississippi. I read Madeleine L'Engle's "A Swiftly Tilting Planet" and thrilled at the fact that the hero was a girl, that she was on a great adventure, smart and capable. I also responded to the fact that her life had texture; she had lived with loss, and as a Black child in rural Mississippi, I saw the handprint of loss all around me. But the most resonant of the prize-winning children's books for me in the '80s was Beverly Cleary's "Ramona and Her Mother."

It was one of the first books in which I felt an echo, however faint, of my own experience. I knew what it meant to grow up poor. Ramona's father has been without a job for a long time when the book opens, and Ramona knows that his struggle to find work has been difficult for her whole family. The need for economy is evident in the foods they eat, in the eggs and sausage they serve their neighbors, in Ramona's parents forcing her to eat beef tongue.

All of this was familiar. I grew up eating government-provided Frosted Flakes mixed with powdered milk. I choked down unfamiliar meat, too, bologna and liver, and when I balked at it, my elders told me stories about my great-grandparents frying blood and eating it over rice. My grandmother told me that she ate biscuits every morning for breakfast as a child. I, like Ramona, was growing up in a world where economic opportunity, or lack thereof, dictated what food was on the plate, what clothes could be purchased, which toys could be given for Christmas. Scarcity was a fact, and adaptability was a necessity. Ramona gave me a way to begin to understand this, to give words to the kind of double helplessness one feels because one is not only poor but also a child. Ramona found power in asserting herself in the games she played, and in her relationships with her sibling and her parents — but the only place I found any kind of power was in books, in part because that other most important aspect of me, my Blackness, was unaccounted for in "Ramona and Her Mother."

I searched for that echo, for a Black character, a modern girl who lived in difficult circumstances, for years. I wanted to feel a little less alone. I wanted more of who I was reflected back to me in the literature that I read. The miracle of the National Book Awards choices in 1983, which included Naylor's "The Women of Brewster Place" and Walker's "The Color Purple," meant that books that sounded in me in new and more complete ways were held up as models of great literature. It meant that Walker's and Naylor's works could garner much wider publicity and acclaim, and more easily find their way to small, rural libraries around the country. The bestowing of the National Book Award meant that I could find both books in my Mississippi high school library in the late '80s and early '90s.

These books, along with Toni Morrison's "Beloved," a finalist for the fiction award in 1987, were major miracles in my young adult life. They appeared and, like Isaac's angel, they ameliorated the violence of poverty and racism. They gave reason to the unspeakable. There was so much I witnessed that I had no words for. I had no words to describe my grandmother, home from a late shift at the pharmaceutical plant, too tired to speak, her eyes shuttered — how I longed for her when she took to her room to sleep. I had no words for the smell of my mother's hands, washed dry by bleach and ammonia from long hours at the hotel. I had no words for the quiet joy in my mother's eyes when she sat and watched us open our presents on Christmas morning, when 12 months of work yielded Cabbage Patch Kids or red 10-speed bicycles. I had no words for the effusive joy in my grandmother's wrists and shoulders as she modeled a fur coat on the same Christmas, how the fur touched the soft places on her with such tenderness. I couldn't express it, but I knew that to be bestowed with such softness in such tender places was part of the gift, too.

I'd spent much of my childhood and tween years searching for books in which people like my mother, father, grandmother, aunts, uncles and great-grandparents were witnessed with such tenderness. I wanted the logic of the knife. The reason behind the knee pressed to the neck, the mercilessness in the prophet's eyes. I needed reason and witness. Naylor was one of the first writers I found who gave witness to the people in my life. She witnesses Mattie, who could be a twin to my grandmother, grown old after years of labor, providing house and home for her feckless son. She witnesses Ciel, who could be a twin to my mother, who longs for her inconstant husband to stay, to love her, to be a helpmate to her, even as she struggles to make a home for their child, alone at Brewster Place. It was so powerful for me to read Naylor's testimony, her witness of all the people of my life: "Like an ebony phoenix, each in her own time and with her own season had a story."

While Naylor provided witness and reason for my people, Walker provided witness and reason for my place. Land bent to the will of white supremacy and manifest destiny yields a place where a gang of White men can attack and jail Sofia. It yields the kind of place that would then release Sofia to work for Miss Millie, who grinds her down for years. This yields the kind of place where misogyny is ingested and modeled by Black men, who rape their daughters, who beat their wives. White supremacy is an ever-bearing tree, planted by a remote God, tended by a white-bearded Abraham. This tree yielded stories from my grandmother of sundown towns and hate-fueled murder. It yielded stories from my parents of segregated parks and schools. I witnessed its bounty in the adults around me. So many people in my parents' generation struggled with substance addiction. So many people in my grandmother's generation lived as functioning alcoholics. How that tree flourished, dropping fruit in the form of internalized misogyny and racism, which the men of my line ate and grew addled on until they exercised the only power they thought they had: They left.

Yet this is also a place etched with rivers, with fields of yellow, white and purple flowers, with deep, breathing forests, with buzzing, electric swamps. This is the kind of place where coyotes lope, bears amble, foxes gambol and alligators laze. This is the kind of place where communities gather by the water, where they baptize and camp and celebrate and teach children how to swim. This is the kind of place where joy is thick as mosquitoes, where we say — and yet, and yet, and yet. Where we tell stories, where we turn our faces to the sky and laugh. This is the kind of place where we feel Walker's Celie when she says: "I believe God is everything, say Shug. Everything that is or ever was or ever will be. And when you can feel that, and be happy to feel that, you've found it."

I am so grateful to the National Book Awards for casting a wider net, expansive enough to recognize deeply beautiful, eminently wonderful, American tales in the 1980s. Without this support, without the foundation's reach, I might never have found this literature, which gave words to so much in my life. I might never have had these models that told me I could tell stories, too. I would never have been able to conjure nouns, verbs, image and rhythm for the blinding fall of Mississippi midsummer rain, the perceptive whine of a pit bull puppy, the soft, protective curve of a lonely boy's back as he cuddles his baby sister, my lost brother's long eyelashes, a roped, enslaved girl fording a river, the down on my departed beloved's cheek, my mother's tender heart or my grandmother's knowing smile.

Without Walker, Naylor and Morrison, I would not have known how to write about the cool beat of the angel's wings over my head. How to detail how the hair at my nape and my sire's knife lifted at the same time. How to render how I stood and looked my white-bearded father, architect of this world, full in his face and bared my teeth in grimace, in grin. How the desert wind cut sere, peppering me with sand. How I knew I would tell this story. How I knew he would bear this judgment for centuries.

How I laughed in spite.

Jesmyn Ward is the author of the novels "Where the Line Bleeds"; "Salvage the Bones," which won the National Book Award in 2011; "Sing, Unburied, Sing," which won the National Book Award in 2017; and "Let Us Descend." Her memoir, "Men We Reaped" (2013), was a finalist for the National Book Critics Circle Award.

ILLUSTRATION BY JOSÉ L. SOTO/THE WASHINGTON POST; TOM KELLER/AP; JOEY IVANSCO/ATLANTA JOURNAL-CONSTITUTION/AP; BERNARD GOTFRYD/LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

The Washington Post
METRO
SUNDAY, AUGUST 4, 2024 EZ RE C

THE DISTRICT
The Circulator bus system will be phased out starting Oct. 1; service will cease at the end of the year. C4

MARYLAND
The pilot in a fatal July 16 plane crash in Easton reported a "significant engine problem." C4

OBITUARIES
GOP political adviser Tom Korologos, 91, was an expert on Senate confirmation hearings. C5

PHOTOGRAPHS BY SHEDRICK PELT FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

WALTZING FOR AUSTEN

In a historic Georgetown home, guests traveled to a Regency-era ball and dressed for the occasion

BY CLAIRE HEALY

On a small dance floor at the Dumbarton House in Georgetown, professional dancers, Jane Austen fans and the simply curious learned how to Viennese waltz. In empire waist dresses and tailcoats, they took their first steps, preparing for the live orchestra and ball ahead.

About 200 people filled the rooms of the 19th-century museum Friday night for the International Club of D.C.'s first "Jane Austen Ball." The event, which included the option of dance classes, promised attendees an evening of 1800s British courtship: Every detail, from the music to the clothing, was designed to emulate Britain's "Regency Era," when George IV ruled Britain and Austen published her novels.

Sanjaya Hettihewa, founder of the International Club of D.C., decided to organize a Jane Austen-themed ball to coincide with Dumbarton House's annual Jane Austen Film Festival. Hettihewa began to dance in college and has organized dozens of balls in the city, including an annual ball at the Austrian Embassy.

"Sometimes I joke that if I were like a fish, the Viennese waltz would be my water," he said.

SEE BALL ON C3

TOP: Dance instructor Michael Sims waltzes with a student at the Jane Austen Ball. ABOVE: Sadie Broome Coombs and her daughter tour D.C.'s Dumbarton House.

Voting in D.C. could change

RANKED CHOICE, PRIMARIES AT ISSUE

Populace will consider Initiative 83 this fall

BY MEAGAN FLYNN

D.C. voters will decide in November whether to make major changes to the city's elections system after the D.C. Board of Elections on Friday certified a ballot initiative that, if approved, would bring ranked-choice voting and semi-open primaries to the District.

The board voted to place Initiative 83 on the ballot after finding supporters had gathered enough valid signatures to qualify.

The initiative will jointly ask voters to open primary elections to registered independents — who can't participate in them — and to change how votes are tallied through ranked-choice voting. That method allows voters to rank up to five candidates in order of preference and is intended to ensure that the winner receives at least 50 percent of the vote.

Proponents are seeking to convince fellow voters that those changes would expand democracy and require politicians to work harder for votes in all pockets of the city. But the effort will have to overcome significant pushback from opponents, who either want to keep primaries strictly for party members or see ranked-choice voting as an unnecessary change that could hamper voters.

"As I did when we proposed this, I talked about this being about democracy and how committed I am to the District of Columbia and putting our voters first, and to really having a robust democracy here," Lisa D.T. Rice, a Ward 7 advisory neighborhood commissioner who led the "Make All Votes Count" initiative, told the board, adding: "I don't know that we could have imagined a year ago that we would be here with these kinds of numbers and this kind of response, and it just shows to me our voters are eager to take part in the process."

Rice, a registered independent, has argued that not allowing independents to vote in primaries

SEE INITIATIVE ON C2

County opens first 24/7 mental health-care center

Pr. George's site is a new tack for behavioral crisis stabilization in the state

BY EMMA UBER AND KATIE METTLER

Yolanda Gales waited in a hospital ambulance bay last week, watching a 70-year-old woman in handcuffs. The woman had been detained by police and brought to the hospital as part of an emergency petition — a court order mandating she receive an urgent mental health evaluation.

Six and a half hours later, the woman still hadn't received medical attention. And by the time Gales finally left the hospital close to midnight, the woman still sat there, hands cuffed.

"That's traumatizing in and of itself," said Gales, a program director with the Prince George's County mobile crisis response team.

Gales recalled the story this week as officials gathered to unveil what they say is the solution to the waiting game so many in crises have been forced to endure — a 16-bed emergency mental health center staffed 24/7 and designed to eliminate harmful wait times.

"We can usher people here and they can get the help that they need because the hospitals are

SEE MENTAL HEALTH ON C3

EMMA UBER/THE WASHINGTON POST

Prince George's County Executive Angela Alsobrooks, with other officials, cuts the ribbon at the Dyer Care Center in Clinton on July 29.

Lawyer pleads guilty in embassy incident

Fla. resident attempted to detonate an explosive outside China's consulate

BY TOM JACKMAN

A criminal defense lawyer from Florida pleaded guilty Friday to trying to ignite an explosive device outside the Chinese Embassy in Washington last year, and he also admitted that he used the same method to cause an explosion in San Antonio in 2022 outside the headquarters of Texas Public Radio. His plea agreement calls for a sentence of seven to 10 years in prison, but the judge said Friday he had not decided whether to accept the sentencing terms.

Christopher Rodriguez, 45, a former public defender from Panama City, Fla., admitted that he placed a backpack containing explosive material next to a lamp post about 12 feet behind the Chinese Embassy in Northwest Washington on the morning of Sept. 25. He then went back across Van Ness Street to a vacant lot on the University of the District of Columbia campus and fired several shots at the backpack, but he missed, court records indicate.

However, Rodriguez used the same technique successfully in San Antonio in November 2022, prosecutors said. In that incident, Rodriguez placed explosive material at the base of a sculpture next to the San Pedro Creek Culture Park, just outside the public radio offices, court records state. Surveillance video shows Rodriguez walking up to the large silver sculpture, placing two canisters near the base and then walking away.

Prosecutors said Rodriguez then climbed onto a nearby roof and shot the canisters with a rifle, causing a brief explosion which did minor damage to the sculpture titled "Miss Mao Trying to Poise Herself at the Top of

SEE EMBASSY ON C4

Voters in District will weigh primary rules, ranked-choice

INITIATIVE FROM **C1**

amounts to "voter suppression." More than 70,000 registered independents — or "NPs," No Party — are locked out of participating in the deep-blue city's all-important primary elections, which often can determine who holds power.

In addition, Rice and other supporters have argued that ranked-choice voting is more reflective of the will of voters since it requires candidates to secure a majority of support to win the election; crowded races, as in the most recent Ward 7 Democratic primary for D.C. Council, can result in the winner advancing with only a fraction of the vote.

If voters approve the initiative, D.C. would join a number of jurisdictions nationwide that have adopted ranked-choice voting in recent years, such as Alaska, New York City and neighboring Arlington County, Va.

Opponents, however, have argued ranked-choice voting is a wonky method that could chill residents' enthusiasm to vote, rather than expand democracy. Mayor Muriel E. Bowser (D) has called ranked-choice voting a "bad idea," saying she hoped "nobody votes for it" if it makes the ballot in November. The D.C. Democratic Party has filed a lawsuit seeking to block the initiative from moving forward, arguing that allowing independents to vote in primaries violates free-association rights. The case is pending in a D.C. appeals court.

And the Vote NO on Initiative 83 campaign is expected to continue its fight.

The campaign sought to challenge thousands of petition signatures on the basis that the Make All Votes Count campaign used Wite-Out on many petition pages they submitted, such as on voters' address lines — which opponent Deirdre Brown called "shady and possibly illegal" during Friday's board meeting. Brianna McGowan, an I-83 backer, said the group used Wite-Out to clarify barely legible writing or correct minor errors. They didn't think it would be an issue, she said.

Board of Elections officials said that of more than 40,000 petition signatures the Make All Votes Count campaign submitted, 27,773 were found to be valid — beyond the minimum requirement of about 22,500. Signature reviewers rejected 4,802 signatures for use of Wite-Out that appeared to affect voter intent, and rejected thousands more for other issues such as not being from valid registered D.C. voters, officials said.

CRAIG HUDSON FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

Lisa Rice, who proposed Initiative 83, speaks to supporters on July 1. The D.C. Board of Elections certified the ballot initiative on Friday.

Brown said she suspected more petitions could have been invalidated for Wite-Out problems but argued that the Board of Elections did not make sufficient accommodations to allow her group to more closely scrutinize the signature verification process. "This issue extends way beyond I-83," Brown said.

The board was unmoved. Board of Elections Chairman Gary Thompson said he felt confident the process was transparent and the small army of petition reviewers scrutinized every petition signature with "painstaking care." He repeated several times that the board was neutral about the initiative, adding at one point that he was undecided and looked forward to hearing the arguments for and against.

"My suggestion is to turn your attention to the voters now and educate them," Thompson said. "People have heard about this, but I think our voters have a long way to go before November to really hear out both sides. Instead of putting your energy on us, the ones that just count the signatures and verify the signatures … the most productive use of anyone's time would be, I think, to educate the voters."

The I-83 campaign could encounter some challenges in that some voters might support one half of the initiative — but not the other.

That was the problem that Anita Shelton passionately argued during the board's public comment period would hinder voters in the upcoming election.

Based on how the ballot initiative is set up, "I cannot voice my opinion appropriately," Shelton told board members. "I am a supporter of open primaries and I'm very against ranked-choice voting. That option is not provided to me in the language that's on the ballot."

She urged the board to consider separating the two pieces into separate questions, so voters would not be forced to jointly consider them. But Thompson said the board had already considered that issue in previous hearings, and was moving forward with the two election changes paired in one ballot question.

Asked previously why the campaign decided to pair the major changes, Rice said the campaign viewed both changes under the umbrella of expanding democracy in one powerful combination.

"We want full democracy here in D.C.," Rice said last month. "We need ranked-choice voting to make politicians accountable to us — and the 73,000 people who have been disenfranchised from voting."

While ranked-choice voting has started to spread to more jurisdictions, the I-83 campaign may have an education hurdle for a basic problem: Extremely few people are likely to have voted this way before.

Rice has said explaining it to people has been simple, noting how people rank their favorites all the time in everyday life — and ranking candidates on the ballot would be no different.

The way it would work in D.C. is, voters would be allowed to rank up to five candidates in order of preference. Vote counting would proceed in rounds, starting with all voters' top picks. If after one round of counting a candidate secures 50 percent of the vote, that candidate wins the election. But if not, a second round of counting begins, in which the worst-performing candidate is eliminated. For any voters who had selected that eliminated candidate as their top pick, their vote would automatically go instead to their second choice. This process continues until a candidate hits the 50 percent threshold.

Should voters approve the initiative, it would join a number of major policy changes that D.C. voters forced at the ballot box. Over the past decade, residents have voted to legalize the possession of recreational marijuana, phase out the tipped minimum wage and decriminalize psychedelic mushrooms.

The initiative, which can go into effect only if funds allow, would also still have to withstand congressional scrutiny, and there are some early indications it's already on Republicans' radar. One, Rep. Michael Lawler (N.Y.), filed an amendment to a House appropriations bill last month seeking to block D.C. from implementing ranked-choice voting or moving forward with the ballot initiative. The amendment isn't likely to succeed.

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Waltzes and Regency dress at D.C.'s Jane Austen ball

BALL FROM **C1**

"That's where the inspiration to organize these balls come from."

Attendees came with partners, friends or solo to experience the jump back in time. Some brought their own twists to historical fashion.

Callie Ann Pokorski, 26, made everything she wore to the ball herself — down to the undergarments — with the exception of a small red feathered crown. Her grandmother bought her first sewing machine in middle school and she taught herself with YouTube videos. She made a white apron front-style gown with a red open robe.

"I do a lot of ballroom dancing, swing dancing, and I just love the historical pieces," she said. "You know how they fit, they're all essentially . . . made to fit you."

Once she decided to attend the event, Allison Stevens, 43, Googled photos from the popular TV series "Bridgerton," broke out her sewing machine and made her own version of the show's famous dresses. The result: a light pink dress covered in a sheer layer of embroidered flowers that took her three days to put together.

"I've rekindled my love this week," said Stevens, whose mother taught her to sew as a child in Victoria, Australia. "I haven't sewn for 18 months and I got my sewing machine out a couple weeks ago."

At 6 p.m., attendees lined up in a circle for dance lessons. Stevens curtsied to her husband, laughing. He bowed, and it started. Left, right, left. Right, left, right. One step forward, two steps in place. Listen for the three-count of the waltz. Swap partners. Don't step on anyone's toes.

In the center calling out instructions was Todd Borzych, a dance instructor in D.C. since 2002. Borzych, 51, fell in love with dance in the early '90s: first the cha-cha, jive and then swing. As he traveled the country for the Air Force, he picked up new dances at each station. In Texas it was the two-step, in Hawaii, ballroom dancing.

"D.C. is the place to be for Viennese waltz in the United States," Borzych told his new students. He said that he didn't know of any other U.S. city with as many balls of this nature.

The ball began at 8 p.m. and dancers floated across the room in front of a silent screening of the 2005 adaptation of "Pride and Prejudice," featuring Keira Knightley. A pianist, violinist and flutist from the Salon Orchestra of Washington played classical music specific to the time period. Patisserie Poupon, a French bakery in Georgetown, supplied tarts and mini-cakes.

"I've just always wanted to go to a ball," Sal Elzarea, 26, said in her second outfit of the evening: She started in a white gown and ended in a red ball gown and hoop skirt that matched her husband's red suit. She had never attended a prom and wanted to experience a dance.

"You ever feel like you were just born in the wrong time period?" she said. "I feel like back then there was a lot of formal dancing. But now people just have to go to, like, the club."

Nicole Jeskey, 31, fell in love with Austen's books as a child. She and her husband hired a babysitter for their daughter and prepared their outfits for the evening: her in a purple gown, and him in a suit with buttons selected from Joann Fabric and Crafts, an arts and crafts store. He carried a skull cane repurposed from a Halloween outfit.

The journey of Austen's male characters, like Mr. Darcy in "Pride and Prejudice," has stuck with Jeskey. Mr. Darcy starts as "a deeply flawed, horrible human," she said, but woos protagonist Elizabeth Bennet by taking steps to grow on his own.

"It's still relevant," Alex Cameron, her husband, said, describing a period in which he focused on his personal growth for their relationship as similarly "having to improve upon oneself in order to be ready."

Marcia Miller, 65, started reading more of Austen's books when her daughter was in high school. After a friend told her about the ball, she signed up — and went alone when her friends could not make it. Now she stood talking with her new friend Stephanie Ogle, who had also come alone.

"This is my year of trying something new," she said, adding waltz classes to a growing list of activities that she's completed since a divorce.

In between dances, attendees gathered in the entrance area or walked through the quiet Bridgerton-esque garden around the house.

"I think that it's just more..." Sadie Broome Coombs, 43, paused, searching for the word. "Different," her daughter finished her sentence. The pair were visiting D.C. together from St. Mary's County, Md.

"It's just like the costume," Melody Coombs, 22, continued. "One night to be somebody else."

"Oh, there you go," Sadie Broome Coombs said. "I just wanted to take my daughter out somewhere different. Somewhere fun. Take pictures."

Other attendees had long been immersed in D.C.'s dance world. Michael Sims, 48, an independent dance instructor in the area, attended with Leslie David, one of his students. David, 68, got her dress on Recollections, an online site selling historical clothing, and Sims had his outfit tailored for a previous Bridgerton-themed ball.

"Dance is all I've ever wanted to do," Sims said about teaching dance. "I've met so many people from different walks of life."

The seed for these events was first planted during a cultural exchange Hettihewa experienced while attending public high school in D.C. When he moved to D.C. from Sri Lanka with his family 20 years ago, a mentorship program paired him with Gerald Feffer, a prominent local tax lawyer. Feffer introduced him to the opera, local sports and Thanksgiving.

After graduating from the University of Maryland, where he first learned ballroom dancing, Hettihewa founded the International Club of D.C. — a community celebrating the city's multiculturalism and the beauty of cultural exchanges like the one he experienced with Feffer in high school.

The organization says it now has 47,000 members from over 90 countries, and partners with the over 80 embassies in D.C. for similar events.

Hettihewa has two more balls planned at the Dumbarton House this year, including a Frank Sinatra-inspired soiree with swing lessons on Oct. 4, and a Bridgerton ball in November. Also coming up: classical music at the French Embassy, an annual waltz at the Austrian Embassy, a Halloween dance on Embassy Row and a New Year's Eve gala at the Willard InterContinental.

Borzych, who has partnered with Hettihewa for years and plans his own events with his wife, hopes the dances will bring together people across generations and political divisions.

"Maybe we can dance and just kind of let all that stuff go, once in a while," he said. "Let's not worry so much about everything else."

PHOTOGRAPHS BY SHEDRICK PELT FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: Two attendees, dressed in Regency-era attire, watch the Jane Austen Ball, held in Georgetown's Dumbarton House on Friday night. A group of guests arrives at the historic mansion for the ball, which also featured dance classes. Attendees dressed in a variety of garb inspired by Austen's novels and the era she wrote in, such as this Bridgerton-inspired dress and reticule, which Allison Stevens made herself. Sanjaya Hettihewa, founder of the International Club of D.C. and the host of the Jane Austen Ball, has organized dozens of balls in the city and decided to organize one inspired by Austen to coincide with Dumbarton House's annual Jane Austen Film Festival.

After 4 years of planning, mental health center opens in county

MENTAL HEALTH FROM **C1**

clearly overwhelmed," Gales said. "We've been waiting a long time for this to open up."

The Dyer Care Center, named for inventor Leonard Dyer, is a first-of-its kind behavioral health crisis stabilization center in Maryland that has been in the works for four years. Funded by a $23 million grant from the Health Services Cost Review Commission, the center located in Clinton, Md., will be open to patients within the next 30 days.

Once at the Dyer Care Center, patients can spend 23 hours there receiving specialized behavioral care that meets their immediate needs.

The opening of the center is a notable achievement for the administration of County Executive Angela D. Alsobrooks (D), who has made the expansion of mental health resources in Prince George's a key part of her plan for residents — and emphasized the issues in her current bid for U.S. Senate against former governor Larry Hogan (R).

"At the beginning of my administration, Prince George's County was a behavioral health desert," Alsobrooks said at a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the new center Monday morning.

"Prince George's County has suffered for a long time from lack of investment," she told the crowd of about a hundred people, hinting at a systemic lack of resources in majority Black and Latino Prince George's. "This investment is really huge for our county."

The center includes a group therapy room, a psychiatric consult room, a seclusion and restraint room, a quiet room and a restroom that is designed to prevent people from harming themselves. Patients can admit themselves to the center, be directed there through the 988 suicide and crisis lifeline or be brought in by law enforcement or mobile response teams.

In addition to minimizing lengthy wait times at hospitals, the center aims to prevent unnecessary hospitalizations or incarcerations.

Officers with the Prince George's County Police Department are often asked to respond to 911 or other calls for service involving people who are known to be or suspected of experiencing a mental health crisis. In those situations, officers have the legal power to petition for a person to receive an emergency evaluation at a hospital.

Officers exerted that power 907 times in 2023, according to the department, and have taken people for evaluation more than 450 times so far this year.

Alsobrooks said that, during her previous job as the county's top prosecutor, she learned that more than 70 percent of people arrested in Prince George's were intoxicated and more than a third of people were on psychotropic medications.

"We are largely arresting and recycling people who are suffering with mental health and addiction and putting them in places where they could not be healed," Alsobrooks said, "until now."

At the unveiling, Maryland's Secretary of Health Laura Herrera Scott applauded the county for taking a wholistic approach to mental health care and creating non-punitive infrastructures so that mental health episodes are less likely to be criminalized.

"Regardless of where you live, your age, your race, your ethnicity, your health insurance status, you have someplace to contact, and that's our statewide 988 line, someone to respond and that's our mobile community health crisis team," Herrera Scott said. "But, more importantly, somewhere safe to get help, stabilize and get connected to ongoing care and that's where the Dyer Care Center comes in."

Lori Werrell, board chairman of the six-hospital nonprofit Totally Linking Care in Maryland, said she hopes emergency calls reporting mental health crises will become less likely to turn violent once the center has opened.

"Law enforcement will know they have a behavioral health partner," Werrell said. "All they have to do is call. That joint response theoretically should minimize the number of times things escalate because there's somebody else with a different skill set able to intervene."

Prince George's County Sheriff John D.B. Carr was in the crowd for Monday's unveiling and said in an interview after that the Dyer Center will have an immediate, measurable impact on the work of his deputies.

In the county, sheriff's deputies are the ones who carry out court-ordered emergency petitions for mental health evaluations by physically going to the location of a person experiencing a psychiatric crises, taking them into custody and transporting them to a hospital.

Carr's deputies, who are specially trained to work with those in crisis, respond to an average of 100 court-ordered petitions a month. Often, he said, the people they pick up have to sit in handcuffs for hours waiting for an available bed. In the past, he said, patients have waited as long as seven hours.

"They don't need to be treated as criminals," Carr said. "They need to be given that additional help they need."

Now, Carr said, his deputies will be able to take someone directly to the Dyer Center at any hour of the day.

"We have a lot of individuals who are dealing with mental health crises, and unfortunately they don't know how to get the resources," Carr said. "Instead of suffering in silence, they now have somewhere to go."

The center currently has a 16-person capacity but may expand in the future, Werrell said. Regardless if someone is brought in against their will through an emergency petition or voluntarily seeks help, Werrell said the Dyer Care Center operates under a "no wrong door" philosophy in which no one gets turned away.

"Anyone can walk through that door," Werrell said. "And whatever help they need or want or are willing to accept, they will get."

If you or someone you know needs help, visit 988lifeline.org or call or text the Suicide & Crisis Lifeline at 988.

The Guide to Offers
The Washington Post

Enter for the chance to win a pair of tickets to UB40 on August 13 at 9:30 Club

UB40 is one of the most successful and influential British groups of all time, with more than 100 million albums sold and more than 50 charting singles in the UK, including global #1 hits "Red Red Wine" and "(I Can't Help) Falling in Love With You." The reggae/pop legends will mark their 45th anniversary this year with an album featuring new songs and reworked classics. "For more than 40 years, we've been one of the hardest working touring bands in pop music," says guitarist/vocalist and UB40 co-founder Robin Campbell, who along with Jimmy Brown (drums), Earl Falconer (bass, vocals) and Norman Hassan (percussion, trombone, vocals) have been the core of the band for its entire ever-evolving history. "We aim to have a party every show," he said.

See details at washingtonpost.com/entertainment/events/lists/388

MARYLAND

Pilot reported 'significant engine problem' before crash

Final report on plane that was 30 years old will take 12 to 24 months

BY OMARI DANIELS

On July 14, Robert Merlini posted a video on Facebook of what he called one of the loves of his life.

"Boy, do I love this thing," Merlini said in the video as he panned around showing the profile of a twin-engine Cessna. "She's a good old girl. I definitely have an attachment to this thing. She's a beast. All right, I'm going. Let's go!"

An avid pilot with 4,100 hours of flight experience under his belt, Merlini hit the skies again on July 16 after he hadn't flown in six months.

But shortly after taking off from Tipton Airport in Fort Meade that morning, Merlini reported a "significant engine problem" before he crashed into a river in Easton, according to a preliminary report recently released by the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB).

The report offered more details into the investigation of the crash last month that left the 56-year-old from Annapolis dead.

Merlini was flying the plane for the University Research Foundation, according to information from a news conference held the day of the crash. Eric Heidhausen, president of the foundation based in Greenbelt, said Merlini had been a consultant and spent "many hours" in the airplane. Merlini was flying to Easton Airport to conduct future atmospheric testing flights, or what is known as a "ferry flight."

Heidhausen declined a request for an interview, saying he could not discuss the ongoing investigation, but said that the foundation is dedicated to supporting an investigation to find the cause of the crash.

"I'm accountable to the organization for the safe management of flight operations of our airplane," Heidhausen said the day of the crash.

Two days before the crash, maintenance personnel performed ground engine runs at the end of an annual inspection of the plane, the NTSB report said. After the inspection, Merlini told his manager that 12 gallons of fuel remained in each main fuel tank and he planned to add 20 gallons to each tank so he would not have to switch tanks during the flight, according to the report.

However, security footage at the airport showed that Merlini added 20 gallons to each auxiliary fuel tank instead of the main tanks. During the flight, Merlini contacted the Easton Airport air traffic control tower to report "a pretty significant engine problem" as the plane was 12 miles southwest of Easton Airport. Merlini then reported that the airplane was at 2,400 feet mean sea level and had a "pretty bad right engine." About 30 seconds later, Merlini declared an emergency and stated that both engines were losing power.

ALICE PILKERTON

Shortly after taking off on July 16, Robert Merlini — shown with his girlfriend, Alice Pilkerton — experienced mechanical issues.

The air traffic controller cleared the plane to land on a runway, but Merlini reported that he would not reach the airport and would try to land in a field. The plane then crashed into the Tred Avon River four miles southwest of Easton Airport.

The left wing, including the left engine, separated about one foot outboard of the wing root and has not been located, but the remaining wreckage remained intact and was examined at a recovery facility, according to the report. Both right-wing fuel tanks were breached during impact.

Heidhausen said that the foundation had the plane for 30 years.

Alice Pilkerton, Merlini's girlfriend, said in an interview that she felt Merlini should not have been flying in the plane due to its age.

"The plane was old. I believe it's just been sitting there because he wanted to get the plane working again," Pilkerton said. "I know that plane shouldn't have been flying."

David Ryan, an assistant professor at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University's Prescott Campus and executive director of the Robertson Safety Institute, said the plane's age would only be a factor if it was not properly maintained. Ryan also said that the auxiliary tank being filled instead of the main tank would only matter if the correct tank was not selected by the pilot.

"The older the airplane is, the more inspections might be required. But if the airplane meets the annual inspection requirements, then it would be perfectly safe and fine," Ryan said. "If maintenance is done properly, the age of the airplane wouldn't matter and it would be airworthy."

Ryan said that a follow-up investigation would involve looking at the plane's engines. An NTSB spokeswoman said that a final report would take 12 to 24 months.

Pilkerton said she and Merlini met on a dating site in 2023 and had their first date at the West End Grill in Annapolis in October. In the parking lot after their date, Merlini showed Pilkerton an app on his phone where stars and planets can be viewed. Pilkerton showed Merlini the planet Jupiter and the two kissed.

"We hit it off, and we dated since then," Pilkerton said.

After that, Pilkerton said that she and Merlini would occasionally say "I love you to Jupiter and back" to one another. Pilkerton said she admired Merlini's passion for flying and that she would have joined Merlini on any of his flights if time in her schedule permitted.

"His entire interest was flying, and you couldn't help but be happy for him," Pilkerton said. "He would have been in his element, and I would have loved to witness that."

A Fla. man pleads guilty in Chinese Embassy case

EMBASSY FROM C1

Lenin's Head." It shows a small, feminized figure of Mao Zedong using a long pole to balance on Vladimir Lenin's head.

Rodriguez pleaded guilty to possessing a destructive device in the Texas incident, and damaging property occupied by a foreign government and causing malicious damage to federal property by explosives, which carries a five-year mandatory minimum sentence. His sentencing was set for Oct. 28, and Chief U.S. District Judge James E. Boasberg said he would inform the lawyers before that hearing as to whether he would issue a sentence within the seven-to-10-year range. If not, Rodriguez can withdraw his plea.

No motive was given for the two incidents. Rodriguez, who has been held in the D.C. jail since shortly after his arrest in November, answered Boasberg's questions Friday about whether he understood the proceedings and was knowingly entering his pleas but did not otherwise discuss the case.

Agents from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives worked the case, which started after a Secret Service agent discovered an unattended black backpack behind the Chinese embassy around 2:45 a.m. Surveillance footage helped them track the movements of an unidentified person in the hour before the backpack was found, leading to the discovery of shell casings at the vacant lot on the UDC campus, and bullet fragments next to a wall behind the embassy, court records show.

Inside the backpack was a bag with about 14 pounds of a gray granular material and two clear plastic containers with a half-pound each of a similar gray material. ATF Special Agent Denise Katolin Arrans wrote in an affidavit last fall that the "exploding targets" consisted of a binary explosive mixture, in which two substances combine to explode when struck with a bullet.

U.S. DISTRICT COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Christopher Rodriguez, 45, a former public defender from Panama City, Fla., admitted that he placed a backpack containing explosive material next to a lamp post about 12 feet behind the Chinese Embassy on the morning of Sept. 25.

ATF then took a DNA sample from the backpack and got a hit in the national DNA databank because Rodriguez had been arrested in Los Angeles in 2021. In that case, according to Arrans's affidavit, Rodriguez was found with a gun on the center console of his vehicle, two more guns elsewhere in the vehicle, and several bags and jars of "Tannerite," a brand of exploding targets designed to blow up when hit by a bullet, "which is consistent with the substance recovered from the backpack found outside the Chinese Embassy." The resolution of that case was not immediately available.

Agents began surveilling Rodriguez in Florida after the DNA hit, but automated license-plate readers used by police showed that he was driving in Georgia, North Carolina, Virginia and Florida. After agents used phone records to confirm his presence in D.C. on Sept. 25, Rodriguez was arrested in Louisiana on Nov. 4 and ordered held without bond. He was later transferred to the D.C. jail, where he has been held since.

THE DISTRICT

Circulator service will cease by year's end

BY DANNY NGUYEN

The Circulator bus system will be phased out beginning Oct. 1 and fully end by Dec. 31, according to D.C. Department of Transportation plans released Monday.

On Oct. 1, the Rosslyn-Dupont Circle bus route will be terminated, as will late-night service on the Woodley Park-Adams Morgan and Georgetown-Union Station routes. The Georgetown-Union Station, Congress Heights-Union Station, and Eastern Market-L'Enfant Plaza routes will cease service at 9 p.m. daily instead of midnight, and the National Mall route will continue operations until 7 p.m. daily. These remaining routes will operate in 20-minute intervals, a 10 minute increase from current operations.

The cuts come as the District reconciles with budget woes that included cuts to major programs, including an end to the Circulator and slashes to even her flagship affordable housing production program. These cuts were made to account for a $4 billion budget shortfall anticipated over the next five years.

The Circulator would have required an infusion of more than $100 million to sustain itself next fiscal year, said DDOT director Sharon Kershbaum in a hearing with the D.C. Council transportation committee in April.

The bus system has long contended with lackluster ridership numbers that placed it on the chopping block a year ago. Most routes have experienced about 73 percent dips in ridership from pre-pandemic levels. The lone exception is the relatively popular Georgetown-Union Station route, which still experienced a 40 percent dip in ridership from pre-pandemic levels.

As such, Circulator has relied on local tax dollars for sustenance. Revenue from Circulator's $1 fares made up only about 5 percent of its $40 million operating budget last fiscal year

Ridership on Metrobus, an alternate but twice more costly bus service, has fully rebounded from pre-pandemic levels, according to Metro data.

The local transportation agency has previously indicated to The Post it would work with the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA), which runs Metro, to replace some of Circulator's shuttered service with bus lines. The two agencies are working on a strategy to mitigate the effects of this for commuters.

The bus system has long contended with lackluster ridership numbers that placed it on the chopping block a year ago.

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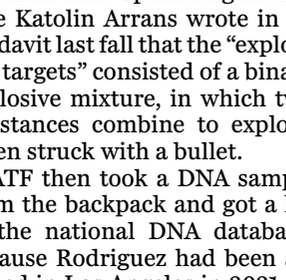
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OBITUARIES

JAMES K.W. ATHERTON/THE WASHINGTON POST

TOM KOROLOGOS, 91

Adviser was Republican Party's Senate confirmation hearings guru

BY BRIAN MURPHY

Tom Korologos, a Republican political adviser and White House confidant who carved out a powerful niche as a guide for Senate confirmation hearings, counseling more than 300 nominees for positions including key Cabinet posts and Supreme Court seats, died July 26 at his home in Washington. He was 91.

The cause was complications from heart problems, said his son, Philip.

For nearly five decades, Mr. Korologos was among the most influential and sought-after specialists in Washington. He developed such an expertise with the confirmation process — as well as an encyclopedic sweep of each senator's views and questioning styles — that he was seen as a mix of coach, strategist and oracle.

His personal politics were Republican, and he was part of dozens of high-profile hearings with nominees from GOP administrations, including William Rehnquist for the Supreme Court in 1972, Donald H. Rumsfeld for his first stint as defense secretary in 1975 and — in a losing effort — Robert H. Bork during his contentious duels with senators during his 1987 hearing for a seat on the high court.

Yet Mr. Korologos's reputation for success brought Democrats seeking his private counsel such as Susan Rice for her 2009 hearings to become the U.S. ambassador at the United Nations.

Mr. Korologos was sometimes called the "101st senator," as a familiar face in the chamber and for his ability to sway proceedings. He described himself as a "translator" of the confirmation process, who learned how to read the room, anticipate questions and help steer the nominee from trouble spots. "The confirmation hearing, and that ritual, is something that is a fairly different kind of world," he said. "We are intermediaries."

That included grueling prehearing prep in hopes of identifying any weak points with the nominee. Every skeleton in the closet was rattled, every potential pitfall assessed, Mr. Korologos said.

"What is your nightmare question you don't want them to ask? You better have an answer for it, because they're going to ask it," he told The Washington Post in 2016.

In 2004, Mr. Korologos was the one facing the Senate as President George W. Bush's nominee as ambassador to Belgium. "I know how to negotiate. I know how to build consensus. I know how to close the deal," he said in his opening statement to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. "And as many of you know firsthand, I am also able to twist arms and kick shins if I have to in order to get my point across."

In a rare display of bipartisan backing, senators from both parties spoke on Mr. Korologos's behalf, sometimes reminiscing about past dealings with Mr. Korologos. "This isn't a nomination hearing. It's a roast," quipped Sen. George Allen (R-Va.). The confirmation sailed through.

Yet in Brussels over the next three years, Mr. Korologos was left to defend the deepening U.S. military crisis in Iraq as criticism grew at European Union headquarters and among many NATO allies. Mr. Korologos was widely associated with U.S. policies in Iraq by serving in 2003 as a senior counselor to the Defense Department and L. Paul Bremer, the presidential envoy who effectively led Iraq for more than a year after the fall of Saddam Hussein.

While in Brussels, Mr. Korologos created a program to bring together Muslims from the United States and Belgium. The initiative was adopted by the State Department for other places around the world.

During a visit to Brussels by Bush in 2005, Mr. Korologos watched the wave of anti-American protests and denunciations. He also displayed his made-in-Washington political instincts. "He's not popular anywhere in Europe," he said of Bush, "but the good news is they didn't vote."

Mr. Korologos's world was often defined by numbers: how to get just enough votes on his side. During the Republican National Convention in 1976, Mr. Korologos was in high-level meetings after Sen. Jesse Helms of North Carolina put forward a platform amendment that opposed key policies by President Gerald Ford and his secretary of state, Henry Kissinger, including détente-seeking overtures to the Soviet Union.

Kissinger wanted to wage an open fight against the Helms document — and threatened to resign if the Ford team stood in his way. Mr. Korologos worried that an ideological battle at the convention would hurt the upcoming presidential campaign.

"'Henry, for Christ's sake, if you're going to quit, do it now, we need the votes,'" Mr. Korologos said, according to an oral history by former vice president Dick Cheney, who in 1976 was the White House chief of staff. Kissinger backed down. (Ford lost to Jimmy Carter that November.)

For the Bork hearings, Mr. Korologos faced hurdles from the start, he said. One of Bork's supporters, Sen. Strom Thurmond (R-S.C.), had two staffers feuding over who should assist Mr. Korologos. Thurmond told Mr. Korologos to work with both.

"All of a sudden I'm refereeing these two warring staffers who wanted a piece of the action," Mr. Korologos said in 2013 during a panel discussion at the Nixon Legacy Forum.

In the Senate, Bork sparred with lawmakers. Some feared Bork would seek to weaken civil rights rulings by the Supreme Court. Bork also faced sharp questioning over his role in the 1973 "Saturday Night Massacre," when he carried out Nixon's orders to fire Special Prosecutor Archibald Cox after demands for Oval Office tapes.

Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee even quizzed Bork over his bushy beard and choices of video rentals. Mr. Korologos advised Bork not to shave off "the weird beard."

As Bork appeared to lose ground with senators, Mr. Korologos said he was under enormous pressure from conservatives to start a public-image-building campaign for Bork.

"The Bork allies were all over me for not buying ads, not starting up war rooms," he told The Post. "I argued back, 'This is not a political campaign.' If the Founding Fathers wanted this to be a political election, we'd buy ads. But it's not."

Bork's nomination was rejected 58-42 in October 1987. "That's why they created the word 'Bork' — he was 'Borked,'" said Mr. Korologos. "That was the beginning of the go-after-a-nominee."

Studied journalism

Tom Chris Korologos was born April 6, 1933, in Salt Lake City. His parents, immigrants from the Arcadia region of Greece, ran a tavern in Salt Lake City called the Bomb Shelter.

He earned a bachelor's degree in journalism at the University of Utah in 1956 and then served as a second lieutenant in the information office at Little Rock Air Force Base in Arkansas. After his military service, he received a master's degree from Columbia University's graduate school of journalism in 1958 and was awarded a fellowship to report in Europe for the New York Herald Tribune and other outlets.

He later worked at newspapers including the Salt Lake Tribune, where a phrase he used in a 1960 story — "the greatest snow on Earth" — was adopted by Utah's tourism officials as a promotional slogan.

He was working at a Salt Lake City advertising agency in 1962 when he took his first political job, joining the staff of Sen. Wallace F. Bennett (R-Utah). In the early 1970s, Mr. Korologos worked as an adviser on Senate affairs in the Nixon administration and stayed on with Ford after Nixon's resignation in 1974. Mr. Korologos co-founded the lobbying firm Timmons and Co. in 1975. He later was a consultant to the international law firm DLA Piper.

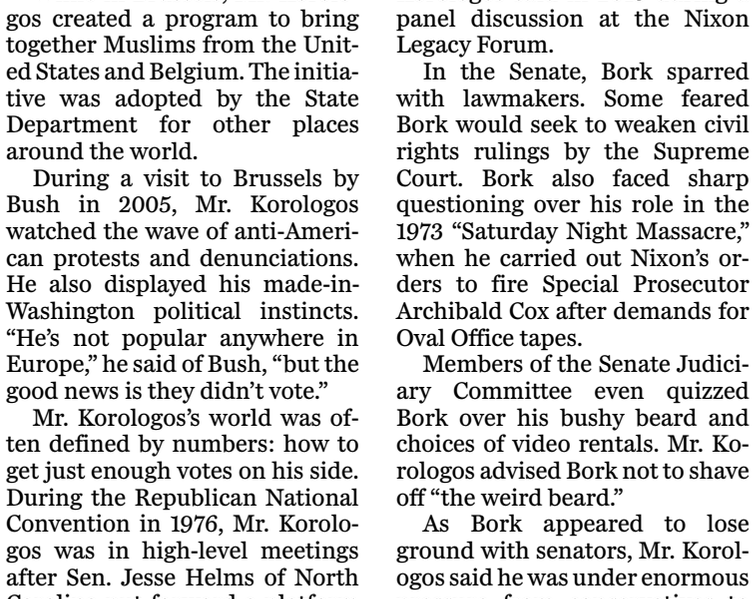
Mr. Korologos said he took no fee for his work with nominees. Yet he noted that he was keenly aware of the marketing value of being seen as an indispensable insider.

Mr. Korologos wasn't always feeling the pulse, though. In an August 2016 commentary in The Post, he predicted Hillary Clinton would storm to victory that November and leave the GOP to pick up the pieces without Donald Trump as the party leader.

Mr. Korologos's wife of 37 years, the former Joy Goff, died in 1997. Three years later, he married the former Ann McLaughlin, who had served as labor secretary in the Reagan administration. She died in 2023. Survivors include three children from his first marriage, a brother, a sister, eight grandchildren and two great-grandsons.

One of the many footnotes of the Watergate era belongs to Mr. Korologos. In early August 1974 — with Congress moving toward impeachment votes on Nixon — Mr. Korologos used his connections to put together a Senate scorecard for the White House.

Mr. Korologos's tally showed that Nixon had fewer than a dozen supporters left. Nixon resigned a few days later.



CHARLES TASNADI/AP

Tom Korologos, top and above center, was often successful in his work. A rare loss came when Ronald Reagan Supreme Court nominee Robert H. Bork (in gray suit) was denied a position on the high court in 1987 amid a contentious a hearing on Capitol Hill.

DEATH NOTICE

BARNES

CHARLES HENRY BARNES SR.
Charles "Charlie" Henry Barnes Sr. of Arlington, VA, passed peacefully on Wednesday July 31, 2024 surrounded by his loving family. He was the dedicated father of Charles H. (Terry) Barnes, Jr., Linda J. (Bill) Gibbs, John W. (Laurie) Barnes, Karen L. (Peter) Buer, and the late Kathryn E. Hines, Deborah A. Moore, and Janet L. Wahl; also surviving are 21 grandchildren; 19 great-grandchildren; brother, George Barnes, and sister, Doris McDonald. He was preceded in death by his loving wife, Judith E. Barnes (2005). Services will be held 12 p.m., Tuesday, August 6, at THE ROBERT J. MURPHY FUNERAL HOME, 4510 Wilson Blvd, Arlington, VA. with Interment Columbia Gardens. In lieu of flowers, it is suggested that memorial contributions be made in her name to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, 501 St. Jude Pl., Memphis, TN. 38105-1905.

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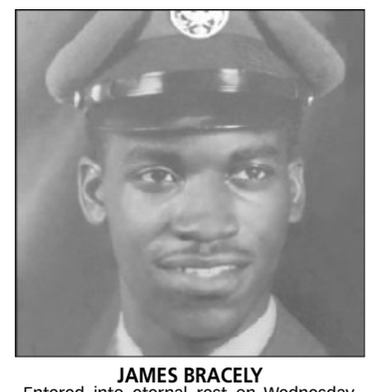
The Washington Post

DEATH NOTICE

BRACELY



JAMES BRACELY
Entered into eternal rest on Wednesday, July 24, 2024. He is survived by his wife Marie; two children, Brent (Stephanie) and Dawn (Luis Yoseph); three grandchildren, David, Jasper and Jarrell; a host of nieces, nephews and friends. Mr. Bracely may be viewed at Stewart Funeral Home, 4001 Benning Rd., NE on Monday, August 5 from 10 a.m. until service at 11 a.m. Interment at Quantico National Cemetery.

BRITTAIN

THOMAS BALDWIN BRITTAIN III
Thomas Baldwin Brittain III, a real estate manager and longtime resident of Arlington, VA died unexpectedly at home on June 1, 2024 at the age of 72.

Tom is survived by his mother, Suzanne Murray Stroup and three brothers and six nieces and nephews.

Tom was born in Groton, Connecticut on January 1952 to Thomas Baldwin Brittain Jr. and Suzanne Murray Brittain. He had a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Virginia and had worked as a property manager for over 30 years.

Tom was a devoted son, brother and uncle. He will be deeply missed by his friends, family, and all who knew him.

A memorial service is scheduled for 1 p.m. on Friday, August 9, 2024 at the Calvary United Methodist Church, 2315 South Grant Street, Arlington, VA 22202. Reverend Amy Beth Coleman will officiate. A memorial reception with the family will be held immediately after.

GANLEY

ELIZABETH BETTY GANLEY
Elizabeth "Betty Ganley," lifelong resident of Arlington County, VA, passed away July 30, 2024. Betty is survived by her three children: Chris, Michael (Kristin), and Catherine (Joe) as well as nine grandchildren. A Mass will be held at St. Agnes Catholic Church, Arlington, Virginia, on August 5 at 11 a.m. Burial and reception to follow at Columbia Gardens Cemetery.

GRAY

DONNA GRAY
Donna Maria Gray transitioned from this life into eternal rest on July 29, 2024. Family and friends will unite on Thursday, August 8, 2024 for visitation from 10 a.m. until service at 11 a.m. at Briscoe-Tonic Funeral Home, 7 Industrial Park Drive, Waldorf, MD 20602. Interment will be private.
www.briscoe-tonicfuneralhome.com

JONES

ANNELIESE JONES
Anneliese Jones of Stevensville, MD, passed peacefully on August 2, 2024. She is predeceased by her husband, Elbert F. Jones. She leaves behind her children, Richard (Barb), Laura, Nancy, Martha, and Cathy (Colin); her grandchildren, Rebecca, Mallory, Arthur, Steven, and Cody; and her great-grandson, Wade.
A funeral service will be held at Christ Church, 830 Romancoke Road, Stevensville, MD 21666 on Friday, August 9, at 11 am. In lieu of flowers, donations in her memory may be made to the National Kidney Foundation.
www.fhnfuneralhome.com

DEATH NOTICE

BAGLEY

VICKI LYNN BAGLEY
Vicki Lynn Bagley (Ladmer), a beloved resident of Palm Beach, Florida, Chautauqua, NY, Washington, DC, and Denver, Colorado, passed away peacefully in her sleep on July 16, 2024, surrounded by her children.
Born on February 5, 1943, in Denver, Colorado, Vicki graduated from East High School in 1960 at the age of 16, having skipped two grade levels. She furthered her education at UCLA and began working with security clearance at the Rand Corporation in Los Angeles. It was in Los Angeles where she met and fell in love with Smith Walker Bagley from Greenwich, Connecticut, a member of the Reynolds tobacco family. They married in 1966 and settled in Winston-Salem, NC, where they had three children. The couple were early supporters of Jimmy Carter's presidential campaign. They moved to Washington, DC in 1976 to support the campaign, hosting numerous fundraisers and events.
Vicki Bagley had a strong entrepreneurial spirit and a love for real estate. In the late 70s, Vicki founded Vicki Bagley Realty, which became a great success. However, she took the most pride in mentoring a team of capable women who found success as agents and real estate investors. In 1991, Vicki delved into publishing, launching a society magazine focused on philanthropic activities in the nation's capital. After her divorce from Smith in 1983, Vicki relocated to Manhattan for several years before making Palm Beach, Florida her permanent residence. During her time in New York, she acquired Celebrity Service International, a prominent media information business serving industry leaders, agents, managers, and public relations executives across various sectors from entertainment to fashion to sports.
Known for her love of learning, attending lectures, and making investments, Vicki found true happiness in reading. She always said she was never bored since she always had a book to keep her entertained. In the latter part of her life, she enjoyed traveling the world with her son and investing in real estate. She was a fantastic cook, had a flair for interior design, and could decorate and flip properties sight unseen.
Vicki was preceded in death by her sister Teri Levine of Cleveland, Ohio, and her parents Betty and Jack Ladmer of Denver, Colorado. She is survived by her daughters Nancy Bagley (Soroush Shehabi) of Washington, DC, and Nicole Bagley (Fred Krumbhaar) of Denver, Colorado, and her son Brett Bagley of Denver; as well as her three grandchildren Dylan Walker, Ella Walker, and Kamran Shehabi-Bagley. Additional survivors include her niece Marne Levine (Phil Deutch) and children Jackson and Zander Deutch of Atherton, California,;niece Lindsey Levine of New York, NY; and brother-in-law Dr. Mark Levine of Cleveland, Ohio, and Palm Beach, Florida.
A Chapel Service August 7, 2024 at 11 a.m. with burial to follow at Emanuel Cemetery.
In lieu of flowers, please consider donating to SafeHouse in Denver, Colorado, or sharing a memory.

CARPENTER

ELEANOR FULTON CARPENTER
(Age 90)
Eleanor "Ele" Fulton Carpenter died of natural causes on July 20, 2024 in Washington, DC. Ele was born on October 10, 1933 in Colón, Panama to Robert and Dorothea Fulton. She was predeceased by her parents, her brother, Bobby Fulton, her identical twin sister, Joyce Fulton, and her loving husband of 32 years, Chapin Carpenter Jr. Her marriage to John L. Chamberlain III ended in divorce. Ele is also survived by her three children, Carolyn Nazdin (Joel), Allison Basil (Will), and John L. "Chip" Chamberlain IV (Neusa Uberti), and by seven grandchildren, two great-grandchildren, four stepdaughters and their eight children, siblings Diana Fulton-Manders (Robbie), Barbara Reese, Barry Fulton, Daisy Lewis, and Duncan Lewis, and a host of nieces and nephews.

In 1966, Ele moved with her young family to the Washington, DC area. Until that time, she had moved frequently around the country and abroad due to several factors: her father's promising military career, her mother's untimely death when Ele was 11, treatment of Ele's poliomyelitis which she contracted a few days after enrolling at Wellesley College in 1951, and her first husband's medical training and military service. Ele established many lasting personal friendships during her lifetime and she found spiritual fulfillment as a parishioner of St. Patrick's Episcopal Church for nearly 60 years. Ele also enjoyed a 32-year career at The Sidwell Friends School where she undertook an internship to complete her Master of Education, a degree she started at the University of Kentucky. Subsequently, she was hired by Sidwell's Upper School for teaching and administrative positions of increasing responsibility, including Director of Studies and Assistant Principal, which she held when she retired in 1998.

A Memorial Service will be held at 2 p.m. on Saturday, September 21, 2024 at St. Patrick's Episcopal Church, 4700 Whitehaven Parkway, NW, Washington, DC 20007.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to The Sidwell Friends Fund (https://www.sidwell.edu/support-us/make-a-gift) or to St. Patrick's Episcopal Church (https://stpatrickschurchdc.org/give/).

DEATH NOTICE

COBURN

GEORGE M. COBURN

George M. "Tim" Coburn died on February 10, 2024, age 100, at Forwood Manor, Wilmington, Delaware, from complications due to Covid 19.

Born on December 15, 1923, in New York City, NY, Tim was the youngest of five children of Katherine Rawn Coburn and Ralph George Coburn of Greenwich, Connecticut. Tim was a graduate of Brooks School, Harvard College, and Harvard Law School. After he enlisted for service in WWII, the Army selected Tim for intensive German language instruction at Lehigh University, followed by rigorous training at Camp Ritchie, Maryland, the German prisoner of war interrogation center. During his 18 months duty in Germany, Tim's unit screened German applicants for civil service positions to assess Nazi affiliation and was also responsible for hunting down Nazi war criminals.

Upon admission to the Massachusetts bar, Tim joined the Office of the General Counsel of the Navy Department. His many accomplishments included the role of editor and contributor to Navy Contract Law, for years the only single authoritative treatise on government contract law.

In 1963, Tim formed a law firm with former Navy General Counsel F. Trowbridge vom Baur, later known as vom Baur, Coburn, Simmons & Turtle, for the practice of government contract law, one of the first such firms in the country. Later, Tim served as counsel to other law firms and was engaged in solo practice from 1992 until retirement in 2013.

A noted expert in government contract law, Tim was active for many years in the Public Contract Law Section of the American Bar Association and served as chair during 1978-79. In addition, he was a long-time member of the Procurement Division of the National Defense Industrial Association and chaired its legal committee for several years. He authored or edited books on government contract law and wrote many articles on that subject.

In 2012, Tim published his memoir "My Sixty Years as a Public Contract Lawyer." In it he candidly and for the first time discussed his sexual orientation, encouraged by the progressing attitudes of the day. He also discussed the harm to his career by the homophobia of earlier times. In 1962, after twelve years of legal work of the highest order, and three and a half years exemplary military service, Tim lost his security clearance and was forced to resign from the Navy Office of General Counsel because that office was not permitted to employ gay attorneys.

A private memorial service took place on June 27, 2024, at the First Parish Unitarian-Universalist Church in Duxbury, Massachusetts with burial at the adjacent Mayflower Cemetery. Tim Coburn personified the best of his generation: duty to country and family, intellectual rigor, integrity, and devotion to the highest standards of the legal profession. He is survived by several devoted nieces and nephews.

FOSTER

JOHN RODNEY FOSTER

Age 70, passed away peacefully on July 17, 2024. Born on February 9, 1954, in Washington, DC, Rod was a beloved father, friend, and community member who left an indelible mark on everyone who knew him.

Rod enlisted in the army at age 18 and was a patriotic veteran and a strong Trump supporter. He was a dedicated and successful car salesman whose warm smile and genuine interest in people made him not only a trusted professional but also a cherished friend to many of his clients and colleagues. He spent over 40 years in the automotive industry, dominating dealerships in Northern Virginia from the 1970s to the 2000s, and later retiring from Hendrick Automotive in Charlotte, NC, where he built lasting relationships and earned a reputation for honesty and integrity.

Outside of work, Rodney was known for his passion for life and his unique interests. A huge music lover, he enjoyed sharing his favorites with friends and family. Rod had a zest for life that was contagious. He loved spending time outdoors, enjoying his motorcycles and the beach. His adventurous spirit, coupled with a deep love for music and good company, made every moment with him special.

He is survived by his children Catherine Foster, Melissa Foster, and John Foster, who will miss him dearly; his sister Linda Heininger; and brothers Greg Foster and Stephen Foster. He was predeceased by his mother Mary Ann McCormick and his father John Irby Foster.

A celebration of Rod's life will be held later, where friends and family will gather to remember and honor his journey. Rod will be remembered for his kindness, his patriotism, and his unwavering belief in living life to the fullest. He leaves behind a legacy of love, laughter, and cherished memories.

May he rest in peace.

GOLDMAN

ALFRED M. GOLDMAN

In loving memory of Alfred Mynderse Goldman, Jr., beloved husband, father, brother and friend, who took his final breath on July 22, 2024 at the age of 91, surrounded by loved ones in Olney, MD. He is preceded in death by his loving father, Alfred M. Goldman, and mother, Sarah Conrad Fauntleroy Goldman, and leaves a legacy through his devoted and beloved wife of 48 years, M. Lucia H. Goldman; daughter of 43 years, Christianne Marie Fauntleroy Witten; and dear brother, Thomas F. Brunson.

He was a graduate of the California Institute of Technology in Aeronautics with a B.S. in '55 and M.S. in '56. During his studies, he founded the undergraduate chapter of the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics of which he was a member for 50 years. He carried on his father and grandfather's legacy of military service, joining his high school's Army ROTC program and becoming the cadet commandant of Caltech's Air Force ROTC program. He was commissioned in the United States Air Force in 1955 and assigned to the Air Force Research and Development Command HQ in Air Defense Systems Planning in Baltimore, MD.

Following his military service, Alfred had a rewarding career as an engineer in aeronautics, space exploration and communication satellites that spanned nearly 4 decades and included working at Hughes Aircraft, General Dynamics, Jet Propulsion Laboratory, American Satellite and Comsat. He notably served as the lead U.S. representative to Intelsat's multinational technical advisory committee for telecommunications.

In retirement, he nurtured his passion for lifelong learning and intellectual curiosity by continuing his studies in photography, physics, astronomy and exoplanets, earning academic distinction and inspiring many of his classmates. He also served as a docent at the Air and Space Museum providing tours to students.

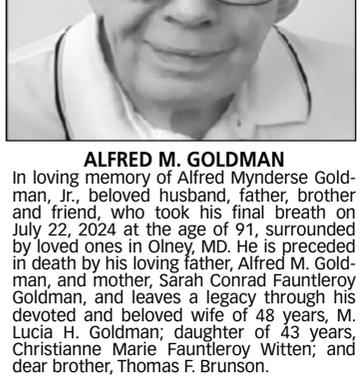
Alfred declared by his example the importance of being a citizen of the world. He was an avid world traveler with a keen interest in history, global events and spectator sports.

We will forever cherish his memory and the example he set for us all as a man of integrity, humility, character, kindness, and faithfulness.

A funeral service will take place August 17 at 11:30 a.m. at Christ Church in Alexandria, VA to celebrate Alfred's remarkable life and enduring impact on all who knew him. In lieu of flowers, we invite contributions to honor Alfred's legacy to the following causes he loved:

Second Chance Wildlife Center: https://www.facebook.com/SCWC.org [facebook.com] or check contributions to the National Air and Space Museum's S.H.E. Can STEAM Camp: https://airandspace.si.edu/SheCan. Please make checks payable to the National Air and Space Museum with "SHE Can" on the memo line and mail to: Kelly Bloom, Smithsonian's National Air and Space Museum, Capital Gallery, Office of Advancement, PO Box 37012 MRC 522, Washington, DC 20013-7012.

GOREY



HAYS GOREY JR.

Hays Gorey, Jr., a longtime Vienna, Virginia resident and Salt Lake City, UT native who rose to prominence as a federal antitrust prosecutor in Washington, DC died on July 17, 2024. He was 79.

Born on November 23,1944 to Hays Gorey, Sr. and Nonie Hammond Gorey, Hays grew up in the Avenues neighborhood of Salt Lake City where he was a little league star pitcher. He was intellectual and studious with a mischievous streak. He pushed boundaries, broke a few rules, and teased his younger siblings mercilessly as his mother would encourage them to "tease back," knowing that they were no match. With maturity, he became a law-abiding, loving, gently teasing, and protective older brother. Known for his wit, he relished being ribbed by his nieces and nephews with their rendition of Carly Rae Jepson's hit song "Call Me Maybe" modified to "Call Me Haysie." Crazy Haysie.

A lover of outdoor activities, Hays joined extended family members on hiking and camping trips in the western U.S. and reached the base of Mount Everest during a 2004 excursion to Nepal. He traveled extensively throughout eastern and western Europe and Asia.

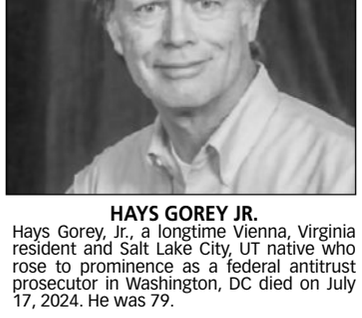
Hays was a 1966 graduate of the University of Utah and a 1969 graduate of the University of Utah College of Law. He received a Master of Laws from Georgetown University in 1977. Hays spent his public career with the Department of Justice, serving in the Antitrust and Criminal Divisions. Besides representing the United States in major civil and criminal cases, he nurtured and delighted in the close relationships with colleagues he met at Justice. In 1997, then-Attorney General Janet Reno honored Hays with an award for distinguished service. Never quite getting his fill of pursuing wrongdoers, Hays established a private law practice with former federal prosecutors in Washington, DC following his retirement from public service.

Hays married Suzanne Anthony in 1984 and together they celebrated the birth and life of their shining light Elisabeth. Hays was unwaveringly devoted to his family. During the past two decades he loved and provided endless care for Suzanne, who suffered a stroke resulting in severe hemiparalysis, and Elisabeth, who was diagnosed with chronic illness. His effort and sacrifice allowed Suzanne to stay at home—her ultimate wish—until her passing in August 2023. He offered Elisabeth a listening ear in the middle of the night or nourishment when she could not get out of bed, placing her needs above his even when his own suffering exceeded hers.

Hays was preceded in death by his parents, Nonie and Hays, and his wife, Suzanne. He is survived by his daughter Elisabeth, sisters, DeAnn (Larry) and Susan, and brother Tom (Annette,) and many adoring nieces, nephews, grandnieces, and grandnephews. The family extends gratitude for the loving care provided to Hays by his constant caregivers Zeinab Mohamud and Jerry Flamiano. Finally, the family is eternally grateful for Hays' dear friend, Jack Wade, who lovingly took over every role that Hays could no longer perform during his final years.

Please join us in celebrating Hays and Suzanne's lives on Friday, August 23, 2024 at 2 p.m. for a service and reception to follow at the Unitarian Universalist Church in Oakton, Virginia. Those who wish to participate in the service remotely may find a link at moneyandking.com

TARTANIAN



MARY TARTANIAN

Mary Tartanian passed away peacefully at age 95 on April 19, 2024 in Columbia, MD. She was predeceased by her husband Charles. She is survived by her son and his wife, Gary and Ann Tartanian; her daughter and her husband, Joan and Eric Schaefer; her grandchildren Holly (and Greg) Clark and Aileen Tartanian; and her great granddaughter Clara. She was beloved by her family and brought joy to those who knew her, with her bright smile and her kind, sweet nature. She is remembered for her generosity and her delicious Christmas cookies.

Mary was born and raised on a farm in Upstate New York. After her father passed away when she was young, she moved with her mother to New York City, NY. She married Charles in 1954, and they lived in NY until 1970 and then moved to southern Maryland. Mary worked in accounting at Andrews Air Force Base. While working full time, she earned her bachelor's degree in accounting from the University of Maryland in 1984.

A daughter of Armenian immigrants, she was proud of her heritage and supported Armenian charitable organizations. Services will be private.

DEATH NOTICE

MONSMA

EDWIN MONSMA
5/16/31 - 7/15/24

Edwin J. Monsma died peacefully at his home in Ponte Vedra Beach, FL, on July 15, 2024, surrounded by his beloved family. Ed was a gentleman and loving father, grandfather, and great grandfather. He lived his life with integrity and graciousness and followed a path of self-sacrifice and service to his country.

Ed was born in Grand Rapids, Michigan, on May 16, 1931, to Edwin and Freida (Van Wesep) Monsma. He attended Grand Rapids Christian High School (class of 1949) and Calvin College (class of 1953), excelling in academics and track and field. Ed enjoyed recounting running a 4:38 mile on a cinder track without track shoes. In 1953, Ed moved to Washington, DC, to attend George Washington University law school on an academic scholarship. He graduated from law school and passed the D.C. bar in 1956 on his first attempt.

While in Washington, DC, Ed met and later married his English wife, Barbara Harle. The couple was stationed in Spokane, Washington, where Ed served for two years in the Army. Following his honorable discharge, Ed and Barbara moved to Northern Virginia where they started a family and Ed began his legal career with the General Accounting Office (GAO). He served with the highest distinction for the GAO and Office of Management and Budget, retiring as Assistant General Counsel at the GAO. At the start of his legal career, Ed was encouraged to move back to Michigan and practice law "as a big fish in a small pond." He preferred to remain in D.C. as "a small fish in a big pond." Ed recounted with pride providing legal review of the policies and procedures for the historic transition of power from President Nixon to Gerald Ford.

Ed enjoyed swimming, running, adopting dogs and cats, watching Formula 1 racing, classic cars, good food and wine, entertaining, exploring quantum physics, and traveling extensively worldwide. Following Ed and Barbara's move to Ponte Vedra beach in 2017, the couple continued to entertain, and Ed enjoyed engaging in spirited debates over the interpretation of law, typically over a good glass of whiskey.

Ed is predeceased by his parents, wife, daughter (Jessica), and sister (Mary). He is survived by his daughter Liz McCarthy (Jim); son Ian (Deirdre Groll); grandsons Trey (Aleena) and Christopher (Amanda); great-grandchildren Ainsley, Mikayla, Dean, and Camille; brothers Jim (Jan) and Chuck (Norma), and numerous nieces and nephews.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to the National Zoo or the Vicar's Landing Scholarship Fund. Please visit his online Tribute at www.quinn-shalz.com. Arrangements by Quinn-Shalz Family Funeral Home. Private Celebration of Life pending.

OZER

MARTHA ROSS REDDEN OZER

Martha Ross Redden Ozer, a groundbreaking advocate for the rights of Americans with disabilities, died on June 20, 2024 in Washington, DC. She was 91. Ozer was born on September 4, 1932, in Richmond, Kentucky to Robert Lee Ross and Udelle Hurst Ross. She graduated from Georgetown College and earned her Doctor of Education from the University of Kentucky.

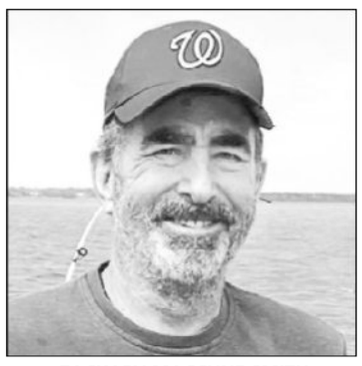
In 1953, she married the Rev. John Dudley Redden. The couple adopted four children and remained married until his tragic death in a car accident in 1969. In 1979, she married Mark Ozer, a Washington, DC-based neurologist. They spent 40 years in DC–and traveling the world–until his death in 2019. Ozer converted to Judaism and was active in the Jewish community and at her home since 2014 at Ingleside at Rock Creek.

From her positions at the American Association for the Advancement of Science and the American Council on Education, Ozer made a lasting impact working with disabled scientists to organize the first "barrier-free" scientific meeting in 1976, and in testifying before the Senate to advocate for full implementation of Section 504 of the federal Rehabilitation Act, a precursor to the Americans with Disabilities Act. In the 1980s, she pursued a career in child psychology advocating for educational support for children with special needs, aligned with her commitments to accessibility.

Ozer is survived by her children Mary Reardon, Patricia (Irvin) Kupper, and Robert Redden. Her son Mark Redden, died in 2010. She is also survived by Mark Ozer's children Elizabeth, Mark, Emily, and Nicole Ozer, and David Battey (husband of the late Katherine Ozer), and her 11 grandchildren and five great-grandchildren who all loved their Mee-Maw.

A DC celebration of life is planned for mid-August. In lieu of flowers, for those that wish to contribute the family invites your support of the National Family Farm Coalition or Georgetown College.

SMITH



ZACKARY MACCUNE SMITH
Gifted software engineer and father of three dies at the age of 65.

Zackary MacCune Smith was born on October 15, 1958, in Rochester, Minnesota to writer Lola Chadwick and family farmer John Guy Smith. After his parents joined the Peace Corps, Zack, the middle child between two sisters, and his family lived in Ecuador and then the Dominican Republic. Post Peace Corps, they moved to Anita, IA and then Sacramento, CA, while also spending summers in Schenectady, NY. The family settled in Washington, DC in 1968, a period where Zack also worked on his father's Guatemalan melon and okra farm throughout his teenage years.

After graduating from DC Public Schools in 1977, he served in the U.S. Army as a Specialist 4th Class Combat Engineer in the 82nd Airborne Division at Fort Bragg, NC (now Fort Liberty) until 1980. Using the GI Bill, he attended Iowa State University, graduating in 1985 with a Bachelor of Science in Computer Science and a Minor in Horticulture. Shortly after, he began his 40-year career as a software developer. Proficient in over 60 systems and databases, Zack navigated the tech sector's booms and busts, the start-ups and successes, the failures and advancements - always making the most of any circumstance as evidenced by a period of self-employment with his own company Zackary Smith & Associates, in which he served as president, secretary, treasurer and sole board member, and by his consecutive positions with Racal-Guardata, Cable & Wireless, ACT Networks, Gemplex Internet, AOL, Entourage Systems, Tollgrade Communications, UNiSYS and, most recently, on SAIC's back-end engineering team serving U.S. Customs and Border Protection.

Zack and Tina Marie Gantz married in April 1995 and moved to Berlin, Germany for a temporary work assignment returning to DC after a year. A dedicated family man, Zack and Tina had three children: twins Tyler and Samantha born in 1996, and son Tucker born in 1997 raising them in Fairfax, VA. Zack's passions included his family, DC's sports teams, national parks and traveling with his partner of the last seven years, Veronica Spina. Although Zack was diagnosed with advanced lung cancer, he persevered through his illness. He continued working, which he described as providing the satisfaction of solving a complex puzzle. He traversed Zion with his children and organized many camping excursions. He spent time with loved ones and kept up the tradition of poker games with his friends.

Zack died July 25, 2024. He is survived by his children, Tyler Smith, Samantha Smith, and Tucker Smith; siblings, Jessica Smith (m. Paul Krupa) and Abigail Smith; ex-wife Tina Marie Gantz; partner Veronica Spina; cousins Bruce Feustel (m. Joyce Eder) and George Smith; many Chadwick relatives; and his cat Krash. In lieu of flowers the family asks that you donate to the National Park Foundation as a tribute to Zack. Go to https://give.nationalparks.org. A celebration of Zack's life will be held at 12:30 p.m. on August 24, 2024 at 3999 University Dr, Fairfax, VA 22030.

STUART

DOUGLAS BAIRD STUART COLONEL U.S. ARMY (RET.)

Colonel Douglas Baird Stuart, US Army, (Ret.), of Fort Washington, MD, passed away peacefully at his home on February 14, 2024. He was born December 24, 1932 in Carlisle, PA, son of Dr. Wm. Baird Stuart and Hannah Daube. He graduated from Carlisle High School in 1950, where he was class valedictorian. He graduated from the United States Military Academy, West Point, NY, in the class of 1954. As a respected member of his class, he served as Class Treasurer for over 25 years. He earned a Masters Degree in Industrial Engineering from Arizona State University and a Masters Degree in Accounting from The Catholic University of America. He graduated from the Basic Field Artillery Course, the Command and General Staff College, and the Army War College.

During his military career, Col. Stuart was assigned to MACV as an advisor in Ca Mau, Vietnam during the Tet Offensive. He commanded the 1st of the 10th Artillery Battalion in Schweinfurt, Germany and later served as Assistant Division Artillery Commander, 3rd Infantry Division. At the end of his military career, he served in the Pentagon in the Office of the Army Vice Chief of Staff. He was also awarded the Parachutist Badge, Combat Infantry Badge, Bronze Star, Commendation Medal for Valor, Meritorious Service Medal and the Defense Superior Service Medal.

Following his retirement, he practiced as a CPA with an accounting firm in Washington, DC. He later established his own private accounting practice, retiring in 2022.

Col. Stuart was an active member of the Sons of the American Revolution, serving as Maryland State President and National Trustee. He also served on the National Finance Committee. He took particular pride in awarding the annual SAR Junior ROTC Scholarship to local high schools throughout Prince George's County. A devotee of history, he was a member of the Civil War Round Table of the District of Columbia and served for many years as their treasurer.

Proud of his Scottish heritage, he was a member of the St. Andrews Society of Alexandria, VA for over 30 years. For over 40 years, Col. Stuart was a member of Southminster Presbyterian Church in Fort Washington, where he served on the church session and the ushering team. He was also a lifelong golfer. His proudest moment was hitting a hole-in-one in 1973 and continued playing the game well into his eighties.

Col. Stuart was preceded in death by his parents and his brother Albert Daube Stuart. He is survived by his wife of 70 years, the former Emma Rosewell Robbins; two children, Joseph Baird Stuart (Theda) of Hinesville, GA, and Kathleen Rosewell Stuart Stodghill (Jeff) of Newport News, VA; granddaughter Alice Rosewell Stodghill of Leipzig, Germany; his sister, Hannalie Stuart Ferguson (William) of Rock Hill, SC, and many nieces and nephews. His beloved dog "Westie" will miss him.

A funeral service will be held on Monday, August 12 at 11 a.m. at the Old Post Chapel on Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall in Fort Myer, VA. Interment with Full Honors will follow in Arlington National Cemetery. Please arrive 45 minutes prior to the scheduled start of the service with government issued ID and enter Ft. Myer via the Hatfield Gate (Main Gate, Open at all times): Washington Blvd. at S 2nd Street.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to West Point Association of Graduates or Southminster Presbyterian Church in Fort Washington, Maryland.

He was a true gentleman. We will miss his quick wit, quiet manner, and genuine smile.

Be Thou at Peace.

POST YOUR CONDOLENCES

Now death notices on washingtonpost.com/obituaries allow you to express your sympathy with greater ease. Visit today.

The Washington Post

DEATH NOTICE

MCCLELLAND

RAMONA BURGESS MCCLELLAND

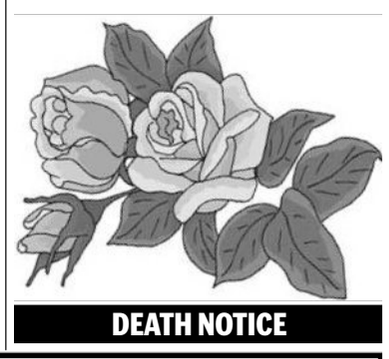
Ramona Burgess McClelland, 94, passed away peacefully at her home on July 14, 2024. She was born on July 24, 1929, to William C. Burgess and Mildred Speelman Burgess in Cumberland MD. She was a proud alumna of Gallaudet University – Class of 1952. Ramona was the beloved wife to her late husband of 56 years, Robert L. McClelland; devoted mother of Steve McClelland and Pamela McClelland; grandmother of Sha-Shonie, Ansel and Paloma: and great-grandmother of four. She was preceded in death by her brother Ronald and sister Rita and is survived by her brother William. Private memorial services will be held. Memorial contributions may be made in her honor to the National Deaf Life Museum, Gallaudet University, 800 Florida Avenue, NE, Washington, DC 20002 - https://gallaudet.edu/museum/be-a-friend-of-the-museum.

DEATH NOTICE

MCDOWELL

DEBRA A. MCDOWELL

Passed on July 24, 2024 at age 68. Memorial Visitation Thursday, August 8 at Briscoe-Tonic funeral home in Waldorf, MD from 2 to 2:30 p.m. with Services following.



DEATH NOTICE

BENTZEN

MARTHA HARRISON BENTZEN

Martha Harrison Bentzen, 86, passed away peacefully, surrounded by family, in her home on July 29, 2024.

Martha was born on March 6, 1938, in Cincinnati, OH, and moved to Indianapolis, IN, while in high school. She graduated from DePauw University where she was a member of the Kappa Alpha Theta Sorority. Martha dedicated many years to being an educator in Montgomery County, MD, including in the cooperative preschool movement. She volunteered for The Barker Foundation by raising funds and housing many women placing their children for adoption. She served on the Hospitality Committee, created by the State Department, conducting courses for foreign diplomatic women newly arriving in the United States. Martha will be deeply missed and remembered for her incredibly warm heart, unconditional love and ultimate grace.

Martha lived in Potomac, MD and Arlington, VA before retiring and moving to Virginia Beach, VA -- where her Mother's family had a cottage and Martha's family spent many summer vacations.

Martha was predeceased by her parents, Mr. and Mrs. William E. Harrison of Potomac, MD, formerly of Cincinnati, OH; by her grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Charles W. Koolage of Norfolk, VA and Mr. and Mrs. Charles Louis Harrison of Cincinnati, OH; and by her in-laws, Mr. and Mrs. Richard L. Bentzen (Donna) of MI and Mrs. Charles W. Harrison (Joan) of PA.

She is survived and cherished by her devoted husband of 64 years, Michael Porter Bentzen; her two siblings, Charles William Harrison of PA and Robert Edward Harrison of Wilmington, NC; her three children, Brian Porter Bentzen (Michelle) of Earlysville, VA, Elizabeth Bentzen Carnes (Michael) of Apex, NC and Katherine Walker Bentzen of Virginia Beach, VA; her four grandchildren, Samantha and Eric Carnes of Apex, NC and Rosalie Mae and Holden Brian Bentzen of Earlysville, VA; her sister-in-law, Jayne Bentzen Silverman of Washington, CT; and many cousins, nieces, nephews and grand nieces and nephews.

Interment will be private, and a celebration of life will be planned for a later time. In lieu of flowers, if you choose, donations could be made to the Boys & Girls Club of Greater Washington and St. Jude Children's Hospital.

BROWN

WILLIAM ANDREAS BROWN

William Andreas Brown, retired US Ambassador to Israel and Thailand, died peacefully (age 93) in the presence of his loving family on July 19, 2024, at his home in Arlington VA. Helen Brown, his beloved wife for 72 years, died in 2022. He is survived by their four children (Joanna-maria, Margarita, Alexander, and Anastasia), five grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren. Service private. He will be interred at Arlington National Cemetery (date TBA). Donations in his memory may be made to The Harry S. Truman Research Institute for the Advancement of Peace at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

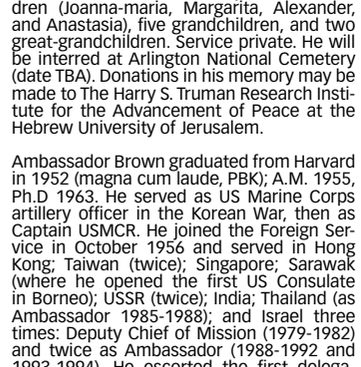
Ambassador Brown graduated from Harvard in 1952 (magna cum laude, PBK); A.M. 1955, Ph.D 1963. He served as US Marine Corps artillery officer in the Korean War, then as Captain USMCR. He joined the Foreign Service in October 1956 and served in Hong Kong; Taiwan (twice); Singapore; Sarawak (where he opened the first US Consulate in Borneo); USSR (twice); India; Thailand (as Ambassador 1985-1988); and Israel three times: Deputy Chief of Mission (1979-1982) and twice as Ambassador (1988-1992 and 1993-1994). He escorted the first delegation from the House of Representatives to the Peoples Republic of China in 1972. He administered the US- Soviet Environmental Agreement (1974 -1976). As the last chargé d'affaires in Taipei, he closed the American Embassy after the US broke diplomatic relations in 1978. He then opened its "non-official" replacement, the American Institute in Taiwan, of which he later became Acting Director. He was Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for East Asia and Pacific Affairs (1983-1985). After serving as Ambassador to Israel during the Persian Gulf War Iraqi missile attacks, the first Intifada and the peace process which led to the 1991 Madrid Peace Conference, he retired in 1992. Called out of retirement in 1993 to head the American Embassy in Tel Aviv, he attended the September 1993 White House meeting of President Clinton, Prime Minister Rabin and Yasser Arafat.

In retirement, Ambassador Brown lectured widely and appeared on television and radio programs discussing historic events in the Middle East and Southeast Asia. He continued as pro bono Chairman of the Board of Directors of the American Institute of Taiwan to meet and escort leaders visiting or transiting the United States. He served briefly as Special Envoy on Burma in 1996 and in 2002 headed a team which visited the Peoples Republic of China to assess the US funding for the United National Population Fund program. He continued to serve for many years as pro bono Chairman (later Honorary Chairman) of the Board of Trustees of the Harry S. Truman Research Institute for the Advancement of Peace at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

Ambassador Brown also taught courses at the University of Pennsylvania and the University of New Hampshire. An avid scholar, his publications include Wen T'ian-hsiang: A Biographical Study of a Sung Patriot and an annotated translation of The History of the Mongolian Peoples Republic. He maintained contact with the Mongolian Cultural Association of Arlington/Falls Church with the goal of continued awareness of the Mongolian expatriate community. He identified and located all the members of his Marine Corps 15th Special Basic Course of 1952 to facilitate their 50th and subsequent reunions. He also conducted genealogical research on behalf of the Armenian American communities of Rhode Island and Worcester MA. He retained his keen mind and stayed informed on current events until his very last day, discussing their context with footnotes and personal insights such that talking with him was like opening a textbook (in the best way).

Throughout his long life, Ambassador Brown exemplified an incorruptible character, unstoppable grit and a demonstrated selflessness in service. Known for his bonhomie and indefatigable spirit of adventure, he would designate a distant mountain as "our first goal of the day" on a hike and was equally at home canoeing the back rivers of Borneo, earning parachute wings with the Royal Thai Armed Forces, and snorkeling in the Red Sea. And every year until the 2020 Covid pandemic he revisited Thailand to sail a Hobie Cat at the Royal Varuna Yacht Club. His loved ones wish him bon voyage as he embarks on yet another new adventure and continues his remarkable journey. May he find peace in the wind, and safe harbors along the way. Semper Fi.

CARR



DOROTHY CARR

Dorothy "Dottie" Carr (Miller), age 58, of Montgomery County, Maryland, passed away on July 8, 2024, leaving behind a legacy of love and light that touched the hearts of all who knew her. Born on November 8, 1965, in El Paso, Texas, Dottie's life was defined by her vibrant spirit and unwavering kindness.

Dottie was a force to be reckoned with, living each day for the people she cherished. Her beautiful bright blue eyes mirrored her vibrant soul, and her unique humor and quick wit never failed to bring laughter to those around her. She had a rare gift for brightening anyone's day; her smile was truly contagious, spreading warmth and happiness wherever she went.

Dottie's love knew no bounds. Her laughter filled every room, her smile lit up every heart, and her ability to bring people together was unmatched. She created lasting bonds with everyone she met, leaving a lasting impression of warmth and compassion. Dottie was more than a presence; she was a beacon of positivity and strength, a natural leader who connected people effortlessly.

Dottie is survived by her beloved children Christopher Carr, Stephanie Gerges, Synthea Bennett, and Mackenzi Carr, who were the center of her world. She adored her grandchildren Teddy, Richard, and Caralina, and took immense joy in their every smile and laughter. Dottie also leaves behind numerous nieces, nephews, and her lifelong confidante and childhood best friend Sheila Allen.

In her journey, Dottie was preceded in death by her parents, Lois and Cecil, her dear brothers Guy and Randy, and her eldest daughter, Melissa Carr, who held a deeply cherished place in her heart.

A celebration of Dottie's life will be held in the mountains of West Virginia, a place she held dear and where she forged enduring memories with her children and loved ones. Details of the celebration will be shared with close family and friends, honoring the beautiful life she lived and the love she shared.

CAWEIN

PAUL EMILE CAWEIN

Paul Emile Cawein, born on May 12, 1931 in Hamilton Ohio, died on July 6, 2024, age 93 in Chautauqua, NY. He is preceded in death by father Emile, mother Elsa, brothers Donald and Howard and sister Ruth. He is survived by nieces Jill (John) Hopkins, Jane (Chuck Engle) Cammann, nephew Thomas (Margaret) Cawein, and many grand and great grand nieces and nephews.

Paul attended Ohio University in Athens, Ohio, majoring in history and English. He was drafted into the U.S. Army Medical Corps as a religious conscientious objector where he was diagnosed with type one diabetes and received a medical discharge. He attended the Episcopal Theological Seminary in Cambridge, Mass. in 1954, but left the following year determining that he was gay. He worked and taught in Boston for three years before moving to Montreal where he taught high school for three years. While in Montreal he started to collect Inuit art which has led to a large collection of prints and soapstone figures.

In 1962, he moved back to Boston to teach junior high school. While there, he wrote a case study under a Harvard Business School professor which led to the Harvard-Newton Project in Business History and Economic Concepts. Paul was its first director. In 1970 he earned his doctorate at the Harvard Graduate School of Education. He took a position in the D.C. Public Schools as Assistant Superintendent for Career Development Programs. He then worked for the Federal Government working first for the National Institute of Education which later folded into the Research Department of the U.S. Office of Education, from which he retired in 1986.

During these years in Washington, Paul met Ralph Miller, who became his life-partner of 35 years. They purchased a row house and other real estate projects in the Adams Morgan neighborhood of Washington, DC. He was a dedicated parishioner of St Albans serving on the flower guild, volunteering regularly at the "Opportunity Shop," and serving on the vestry. He later established an endowment for the Adult Forum. Paul had a wonderful voice and loved to sing, participating in choirs and a madrigal group for many years.

Paul and Ralph started vacationing at Chautauqua Institution in Western New York, in 1992, then purchased a house in 1995. After renovation they moved in permanently in 2004. Unfortunately, Ralph died of cancer shortly thereafter. Paul spent his remaining years as an enthusiastic fulltime resident of the Chautauqua Institution. He loved and embraced the culture there allowing him to be his authentic self. No services being held.

DEATH NOTICE

MOORE

DR. MARIANNE FRANCES MOORE
Dr. Marianne Frances Moore passed away on August 1, 2024. Beloved wife of 27 years to Steven A. Moore; doting mother to Elizabeth Sergel-Hartman and her husband Jason and Emily Sergel and her husband Jonos Komlos'; adoring grandmother to James, Ben and Esther Violet; sibling to John (Lorraine) Woolever and Luise (Brian) Malloy; aunt to Douglas and Julia Woolever; cousin to JoAnn (Joel) Weiner; as well as a sister-in-law to Kimberly (Daniel) Clark-Brondum and Hermon Clark, Jr.. Visitation will be on Thursday, August 8, 2024 from 5:30 to 8 p.m. at Robert E. Evans Funeral Home, 16000 Annapolis Road, Bowie, MD, 20715. Church Visitation will be Friday, August 9, 2024 from 9 to 9:30 a.m. at Hope Lutheran Church in College Park, with a funeral service starting at 9:30 a.m. See full obituary and leave online condolences at:
www.robertevansfuneralhome.com

MURRAY

MARY ALICE MURRAY (Age 70)
On Saturday, July 6, 2024, of Silver Spring, MD. Beloved mother of Joseph Howley Noyes; sister-in-law of Paula Murray; sister of the late Thomas J. Murray and James C. Murray. A native Washingtonian, she was a long-time employee of the US Dept. of State. Mass of Christian Burial at St. John the Evangelist Church, 10103 Georgia Avenue, Silver Spring, MD, on Friday, August 23, 2024, at 11 a.m. Interment private. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to St. Ann's Center for Children, Youth, and Families, https://www.stanns.org/ OR Casey House (Montgomery Hospice) https://montgomeryhospice.org/services/general-inpatient-care/
www.COLLINSFUNERALHOME.com

FERRARA

PHILIP JOSEPH FERRARA SR. (Age 86)
On Monday, July 29, 2024, of Mt. Airy, formerly of Lanham; owner of Penn Mar Liquors; beloved 65 year husband of Rosemary Ferrara; father of Rosemary Levy (Phil), Terri Clevenger (Marty McIlvain), Philip Ferrara, Jr., and Michelle McGraw; grandfather of 12, great grandfather of six; brother of Geraldine Rizzardi. The family will receive friends for visitation from 10 to 11 a.m. on Tuesday, August 6, 2024 at St. Michael Catholic Church, 1125 St. Michael's Road, Mt. Airy, MD 21771, where a Mass of Christian Burial will be offered by Rev. Kurt Klismet at 11 a.m. Interment will follow at St. Michael's Catholic Church Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. Arrangements, Stauffer Funeral Home, Mt. Airy. Expressions of sympathy:
staufferfuneralhome.com

SMITH

CARL, MARIANA AND JEFFRY SMITH
Lt. General Carl Smith, U.S. Air Force (Ret.), who died on January 3, 2023, will be interred with full military honors at Arlington National Cemetery at 9 a.m. on August 9, 2024. He will be laid to rest with his wife, Mariana "Marty" Smith, who died on April 30, 2022. Following Lt. Gen. and Mrs. Smith's burial, their son, Brig. General (USAF, Ret.) Jeffry Smith, who died on January 8, 2023, will be interred with full military honors at 11 a.m.

MURPHY FUNERAL HOMES
ARLINGTON | FALLS CHURCH

TAPPE

EDWARD ANTHONY TAPPE II
Passed from this life on Monday, June 24, 2024; survived by two brothers, Charles and Walter Tappe, one sister, Mary Alice Werner, two nephews, two nieces, four grand nephews and nieces. Predeceased by parents, Edward A. (2000) and Alice C. Tappe (2010). Ed worked in the English Language Cataloguing Department of the Library of Congress for forty years. A Funeral Mass will be held at St. Hugh of Grenoble Catholic Church, 135 Crescent Rd., Greenbelt, MD Tuesday, August 13, at 10 a.m. Expressions of sympathy may be sent to The Reverend Walter J. Tappe at the above named address.

WALSH

PATRICK KEVIN WALSH
Patrick Kevin Walsh (1942-2024) of Ocean View, DE, beloved husband of 44 years to Denise Levitine, passed peacefully on July 27, 2024. Pat was born to Jean and Edward Walsh on May 24, 1942 and raised in Silver Spring, MD. He was preceded in death by his brother Dennis Walsh and sister Mary Walsh; and is survived by his brother Michael Walsh (Mary Anne), sister Peggy May (Ray), daughters Sue Hopewell (Richard) and Sharon Blackstock, sons Darin Walsh (Jennifer) and Ted Levitine-Walsh (Danielle), and grandchildren Patrick, Brad, Adam, Dylan, Kate, and Elena. He was humble, kind, funny, resilient and loved by all. He will be missed, but remembered in bourbon toasts for many years to come. Services will be private. To read a fuller version of his life highlights, see Melson Funeral Services (Frankford, DE)
www.melsonfuneralservices.com

WARREN

ELLEN RANDOLPH WARREN
NOVEMBER 1, 1945 - JUNE 22, 2024
No Services.

IN MEMORIAM

HOLLAND

SUSAN DESIREE HOLLAND
6/6/71 - 8/4/23
The light of our lives left us one year ago. Your brilliant, contagious smile still shines on all of us. Your courageous spirit and love still inspires family, friends and Special Olympics athletes to aspire to greatness. We miss you every second of every day.
Love, Mom, Pop, family and friends.

HOLT-THOMAS

INEZ GOODWIN HOLT-THOMAS
August 4, 1929 ~ November 17, 2014
Happy 95th Birthday
Mom, we all love you!!

DEATH NOTICE

FOSTER

LESLIE FRANK FOSTER
On May 4, 2024, Leslie Frank Foster, 64 years old, passed away after a prolonged illness at Fairfax Hospital in Arlington, VA.

Ms. Frank Foster was much beloved by her husband, Charles (Chuck) Foster; her cousins Joan Holzwart (Jaime Rodriguez), Judy Holzwart and John Holzwart; her friends from the US and Europe; her co-workers, and by a bevy of fur babies rescued and adored by their queen of the "foster fail."

In lieu of flowers, please make a donation to your local animal shelter or rescue organization.

Funeral services will be held at Fairfax Memorial Park in Springfield, VA on Saturday August 10. Visitation from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. Service at noon with burial to follow.

GALLOWAY

BARBARA G. GALLOWAY
Barbara G. Galloway of Farmville, VA transitioned peacefully on Saturday, July 20, 2024. She was 96.

Born in Washington, DC, Barbara graduated from Dunbar High School, Miner Teachers College (B.S.) and Howard University (M.A.). After 32 years in the District of Columbia education system, Barbara retired with her husband and love of her life, George E. Galloway, eventually relocating closer to family in Farmville, VA.

She was proceeded in death by George, and two daughters, Claudia G. Logan and Carol G. Hurley. She is survived by her grandchildren, Michael Robinson, Eric Hurley, Brian (Jennifer) Logan, April Hurley, and Andrea Hurley (Jordan Hester), her niece, Jennifer Durham, six great-grandchildren, and many other relatives and friends.

A celebration of life will be held on August 10, 2024 at First Baptist Church, 100 S. Main St., Farmville, VA 23901 at 2 p.m. Flowers may be sent to the church or donations may be made in Barbara's name to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital directly or online.

KESSLER

GARY DELL KESSLER (Age 78)
Gary Dell Kessler, 78, died on July 29, 2024 in Charlottesville, Virginia. He earned degrees at the University of Virginia, George Washington University, and the U.S. Army War College and worked for thirty-two years in editorial, analysis, and management positions at the CIA, in the government foreign news agency, with tours in Japan, Thailand, and Cyprus, eventually rising to consultancy service for twenty years, editing academic and trade books, and was published in nonfiction, fiction, and short stories.
The family will receive friends from 6:07 p.m. until 7:58 p.m. on Friday August 9, 2024 at Hill & Wood Funeral Service, Charlottesville Chapel.
A Memorial Service will be held at 4 p.m. at First United Methodist Church of Charlottesville on Saturday August 10, 2024. Parking will be available at Hill and Wood Funeral Home. Interment will be private.
In lieu of flowers, donations may be sent to the charity of your choice.
www.hillandwood.com

DEATH NOTICE

MEXIA

STEPHEN T. MEXIA
Age 86 of Wilmington, DE and formerly of Columbia, MD, died July, 28, 2024. Service will be at Brandywine Valley Church and burial will be private. For complete obituary details and online condolences visit: www.mccreryandharra.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.

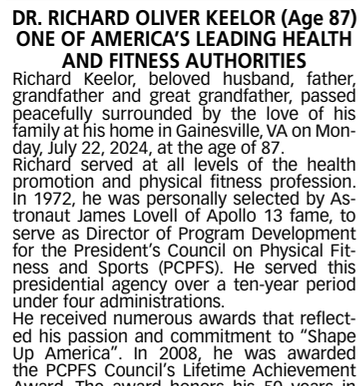
The Washington Post

DEATH NOTICE

KEELOR

DR. RICHARD OLIVER KEELOR (Age 87)
ONE OF AMERICA'S LEADING HEALTH AND FITNESS AUTHORITIES
Richard Keelor, beloved husband, father, grandfather and great grandfather, passed peacefully surrounded by the love of his family at his home in Gainesville, VA on Monday, July 22, 2024, at the age of 87.
Richard served at all levels of the health promotion and physical fitness profession. In 1972, he was personally selected by Astronaut James Lovell of Apollo 13 fame, to serve as Director of Program Development for the President's Council on Physical Fitness and Sports (PCPFS). He served this presidential agency over a ten-year period under four administrations.
He received numerous awards that reflected his passion and commitment to "Shape Up America". In 2008, he was awarded the PCPFS Council's Lifetime Achievement Award. The award honors his 50 years in creating change in health promotion and physical fitness and improving lives around the world. Richard was admired for his dedication and focus on health advocacy and leadership training. He was awarded the U.S. Jaycees Healthy American Fitness Award in 1984, the highly coveted Winston Churchill Award of the United Kingdom for exceptional leadership in the health and fitness field, and the prestigious Distinguished Service Award from the International Association of Worksite Health Promotion. The National Association of Governor's Councils on Physical Fitness and Sports honored Richard as the first recipient of the Glenn V. Swengros Memorial Award in honor of his ongoing national leadership in promotion of health and physical activity. He was not just an extraordinary director of the President's Council on Fitness and Sports; he was a beacon of inspiration, a guiding light in the pursuit of health and excellence. His unwavering commitment to promoting fitness and wellness has left an indelible mark on our nation, shaping the lives of many, from young athletes to seasoned professionals.
Richard is survived by his loving wife, Carolyn Keelor, his children Kelly (Keelor) Mowe (the late Blake Mowe), of Lawrenceville, GA, Richard and his wife Rose Keelor, of Round Hill, VA; and Ryan Keelor and his wife Josette Keelor, of Berryville, VA. He is also survived by his grandchildren, Caroline, Annemarie, and Katelynn Mowe and Sarah, Grace, and Olivia Keelor and great grandchild Noah Mowe, along with many other family members and dear friends. He is preceded in death by his parents the late Oliver H. Keelor and Rachel A. Gifford Keelor of Redondo Beach, California and stepmother Genevieve Keelor of Torrance, California.
Friends are invited to celebrate his life on Sunday, August 11, 2024, 2 p.m. at Unity of Fairfax, 2854 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton, VA 22124 and live streamed at UnityofFairax.org/live. Followed by a reception at the Vienna Moose Lodge, 9616 Courthouse Rd. Vienna, Va 22181. Contributions may be made in his honor at his high school alma mater Redondo Union High School- Link: https://redondounionasb.myschoolcentral.com/ and selecting the category "Football." Make a donation to the "Richard Keelor Memorial Donation".

MCGOUGH



JAMES PATRICK MCGOUGH JR.
James Patrick "Rick" McGough, Jr., 73 of Sterling, VA passed away on Saturday, July 6, 2024 after a tough battle against esophageal cancer. He was born October 13, 1950, in Philadelphia, PA and grew up in Southampton, Bucks County, PA. He was happily married to Patricia Hall McGough for nine years. In addition to his wife, Rick is survived by his children, Sean McGough, Michelle McGough, Amanda Windish (Lance Windish), and Kevin Billings; a grandson Damian, and a granddaughter, Blair. He is also survived by his niece and nephews. He was the eldest son of James, Sr., and Rita Maloney McGough and had four siblings: Kathy McGough, Dennis McGough (Sachiko), Michael McGough and Eileen Consiglio (Mike). Rick earned an undergraduate degree in Liberal Arts/German from La Salle University in Philadelphia, PA and earned a master's degree in Intercultural Communication from the University of Illinois-Chicago. He also acquired a Project Management Professional Certification (PMP). He was an avid sports fan, especially devoted to the Philadelphia Phillies and the Philadelphia Eagles. His laugh and his story telling will be sorely missed by all who knew him.
A Celebration of Rick's Life will be held on September 22, 2024, from 12 p.m. to 3 p.m. at Clyde's Willow Creek Farm, 42920 Broadlands Blvd., Broadlands, VA 20148. In lieu of flowers, you may give a contribution to Blue Ridge Hospice, 333 W. Cork Street, Winchester, VA 22601 or to the American Cancer Society at https://donate.cancer.org.

MCKEE

MARGARET JEAN MCKEE (Age 95)
Margaret Jean McKee, 95, of Cheshire, Connecticut, and Washington, DC, died after a short battle with pancreatic cancer on July 20, 2024.
Jean was born in New Haven, CT, on June 20, 1929, to Waldo McCutcheon McKee and Elizabeth Thayer McKee, and was younger sister to Elizabeth Brooks McKee Lewis. She grew up in Brooklyn, NY, and graduated from Vassar College in 1951. She leaves two nieces, Linda Lewis McCoy and Elizabeth Lewis Panke, a nephew, James Eugene Lewis, III, and a first cousin, Constance Thayer Latson.
Jean was an extraordinary woman, a trailblazer with a remarkable career in politics. Proud of her patriotic heritage, Jean was named deputy administrator of the Bicentennial Administration, later Administrator, and was honored to secure five bipartisan presidential appointments. Please reference her full obituary at Joseph Gawler's Sons, LLC: Dignity Memorial - Funeral Homes, Cremation and Cemeteries.
Memorial services will occur at 11 a.m. on Saturday, September 7, at St. Peter's Episcopal Church in Cheshire, Connecticut. In lieu of flowers, Jean would be very honored if gifts could be made to the Olmsted Network, www.olmsted.org, or a charity of your choice.

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SHOUP

HAROLD SHOUP "Hal"
Harold (Hal) Shoup, 94, cherished husband, father, and grandfather, passed away peacefully in his home in Herndon, VA on July 31, 2024, surrounded by loved ones. Born in Pontiac, MI, Harold graduated from Michigan State University, where he was an All-American swimmer. He then served in the Air Force during the Korean War.

In 1958, Hal married Mary Ann (Brinegar) Shoup. Together, they raised three children: Chris, Leslie, and Lisa. The family lived in Bay Village, Ohio, for 26 years, where Harold was as an executive with Carr-Liggett Advertising, eventually becoming president.

In 1989, Hal took on the role of Executive Vice President of the American Association of Advertising Agencies in Washington, DC, retiring in 2001.

Hal is remembered for his unwavering commitment to family and his professional accomplishments. He is survived by his wife, Mary Ann; children, Chris (Suzie) Shoup, Leslie (Thierry) Schwarzmann, and Lisa (Ed) Stucky; and grandchildren, Austin (Kaitlin), Charlie (Ann), Mary Ellen (Ronnie), Thomas, Jack (Karén), Julia, Matthieu, and Louis. His legacy of love and leadership will continue to inspire those who knew him.

Private Services.

DEATH NOTICE

OSWALD

MARY LOUISE OSWALD (Age 88)
Mary Louise Hurney Oswald of Potomac, Maryland, passed on July 26, 2024. She was 88. She was a native Washingtonian, born August 30, 1935, to Paul and Louise Kirsch Hurney. She graduated from Georgetown Visitation, received a B.A. from Trinity College, and a Master's Degree in Social Work from Catholic University. For 35 years, she was a dedicated worker and manager in the Montgomery County, Maryland Department of Social Services.
Mary Louise was preceded in death by her husband, Rudolph Oswald, her parents Paul and Louise Hurney, siblings Paul Hurney Jr. and Patricia Watkins, and nephew Joseph D. Watkins, III. She is survived by her stepchildren, grandchildren, great grandchildren, and nieces and nephews.
A Funeral Mass will be held Saturday, August 10, 2024 at 10:30 a.m. at St. Elizabeth's Catholic Church, Rockville, Maryland.
In lieu of flowers, the family asks for donations to So Others Might Eat, 71 O Street, NW, Washington, DC 20001, www.some.org
www.COLLINSFUNERALHOME.com

DEATH NOTICE

DEATH NOTICE

BAILEY

ELIZABETH ALLEN BAILEY
MAY 16, 1948 - JANUARY 25, 2024
Elizabeth Allen Bailey went to peace from complications related to a long term pulmonary condition. Always gentle, cheerful and caring, Liz gave freely of her time to make life and work better for others. She devoted much of her time to mentoring others, and was much beloved by a wide circle of friends.

Liz came to Washington as Director of Wisconsin Governor Tony Earl's State-Federal Relations Office; served the National Guard Memorial Museum as the first Director of Historical Services & Development; was appointed by President Bill Clinton to serve in the Pentagon as Special Assistant to an Assistant Secretary; and, in his 2nd term, as Special Assistant to the Secretary of Defense for White House Liaison.

Liz's passion for advancing economic and social justice led her to strong advocacy for the enduring benefits of member-owned cooperatives, with their principles of member-driven governance with grassroots building of locally-owned enterprises which, in turn, support other co-ops in the community of co-ops. After several years in leadership at the National Cooperative Business Association CLUSA International, she formed The Bailey Group to bring action to that vision. She also served on non-profit boards, including the Center for Workforce Inclusion, a national group dedicated to workforce development for adults 50 and over.

She earned a BA in journalism from the UW-Madison and a Master's Degree in Public Policy from the LBJ School of Public Affairs, Austin, Texas. Liz also enjoyed tennis, downhill skiing, music, gardening, interior decorating, cooking and entertaining friends.

Born in Chippewa Falls, WI, Liz is survived by her husband, Jim Bailey, Arlington, VA, and her brother, Loyall C. Allen (Pamela) of Gardner, MA, and numerous beloved nieces and cousins in Wisconsin, Minnesota, Illinois and Virginia. Inurnment will be in September in a family plot in Pepin, WI, along the Mississippi River. Celebrations honoring Liz will be held in Madison, WI, and Washington, DC.

Liz and her family suggest that any memorials be made to The Cooperative Development Foundation; Cooperation Works; Center for Workforce Inclusion, to the benefit of CWI Labs; or The Federation of Southern Cooperatives Land Assistance Fund.

CARE

HELEN JEAN CARE (Age 98)
Helen J. Care, age 98, passed away peacefully at Ingleside in Rockville, Maryland entering Heaven on July 15, 2024. Beloved wife of the late George A. Care: loving mother of Robert Care (Nancy) and Catherine Milbourn (Gordon). Helen was much loved by her grandchildren Jackie White (Gabriel), Matthew Care (Colleen) and Jonathan Milbourn. Also survived by her great grandchildren John and Zachary Care and Emery and Nora White.
Helen was born in Indiana in 1926 to parents of European descent and moved to New York City, NY in 1930 when she was four years old. Residing in the Bronx and Brooklyn, Helen lived through the Great Depression and World War II. Living in New York, Helen saw many Broadway shows, the 1939 World's Fair and experienced the incomparable New York City restaurants and shopping.
After the War, Helen met and married Army veteran George Care in 1947 at The Little Church Around the Corner in Manhattan. The couple lived in Brooklyn and eventually moved to Livingston, New Jersey. Helen, an avid reader, secured a job at Burrell's (Wynne Brothers) press clipping bureau— where Helen was paid for her favorite hobby—reading—specifically reading newspapers for clients. The couple eventually moved to Potomac, Maryland in 1966.
Helen was a devoted Christian, Girl Scout Leader, fabulous cook and baker, music lover and world traveler. Helen loved wild birds, nature and animals – evidenced by the many dogs and cats that filled her house over the years. Most of all, she loved her family.
The viewing will take place at 11 a.m. followed by a funeral service at 1 p.m. on August 7, 2024, at Joseph Gawler's Sons Funeral Home, 5130 Wisconsin Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20016.

JOSEPH GAWLER'S SONS, LLC
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COHEN

NORMAN COHEN
On July 31, 2024, Norman Cohen, 90, passed away peacefully. He is survived by his beloved wife and soulmate of nearly 68 years, Marilynn Weitz Cohen, and his loving children, Dr. Evelyn Cohen Reis (Dr. Steven Reis) and Jordan Cohen. He will be dearly missed by his three grandchildren and his many nieces and nephews. He was the cherished brother of the late Ruth Orleans (Arnold) and brother-in-law of Alan Weitz (Cynthia) and the late Barbara Weitz.

Born in Norfolk, he lived in Washington, DC, Potomac, MD, and recently, Pittsburgh, PA. After graduating from George Washington University, he earned a law degree from Georgetown University. In addition to a long career at the U.S. Agency for International Development, he was a volunteer Commissioner for the Montgomery County Housing Commission for 20 years. He served as a visionary leader of the Lafayette Federal Credit Union Board for over 45 years and was honored by their naming their headquarters building after him. He demonstrated his strong belief in Tikkun Olam through his work in Asia, Africa, and Central America and his many years as a volunteer. He leaves behind a legacy of love, compassion, and a commitment to repairing the world. He will be deeply missed and forever remembered by those whose lives have been touched by his kindness, acts of service, and passion for uplifting communities.

Funeral services will be held at Congregation Har Shalom in Potomac, where he was a founding member, on Sunday, August 4 at 12 p.m. Internment will follow at Judean Memorial Gardens in Olney. Memorial contributions may be made to Congregation Har Shalom or the Myasthenia Gravis Foundation.

COWELL

ALBERT MYRON COWELL JR. "Al"
(1932-2024)

Albert "Al" M. Cowell, Jr., 92, of Bradenton Florida, was called home to be with the Lord on June 25, 2024 at Tidewell Hospice-Bradenton Hospice House.
He served two years in the Korean War (1953-1955) as a company clerk at the rank of Sergeant in the U.S. Army. Upon returning home from the war he resumed working with his father and brother in the family masonry business, A. Myron Cowell, Inc., eventually taking over as President of the business upon his father's death. He was active in Rotary International, Farmer's Club, Ducks Unlimited, and many other community organizations. He served on the board of Montgomery General Hospital-Olney, MD and the boards of local banks. He and his family were charter members of The Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd in Olney, Md. He was an active member of the church devoting his time and energy to serving on the church council, as an usher, participating in smaller group activities, and helping the youth group out on occasion.
Al was preceded in death by his parents, his sister, and his brother. He is survived by his wife, Shirley (of 67 years), his four children, eight grandchildren, three great grandchildren, and many nieces, nephews, and cousins.
A Celebration of Life will be held on August 17, 2024 at 10 a.m. at The Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd, 4200 Olney Laytonsville Rd., Olney, MD 20832. Interment will be private with family only at Fort Lincoln Cemetery in Brentwood, MD. In lieu of flowers the family requests donations be made to Al's favorite charities, St. Jude Children's Research Hospital and The Wounded Warrior Project.

DICK

JOSEPH L. DICK
CAPTAIN, U.S. NAVY (RET.)
Captain Joseph L. Dick, USN (Ret.), passed away peacefully on July 23, 2024 with his loving family by his side. He was predeceased by parents, John and Mary Dickshinski, and four brothers; Clem, Eugene, Edward, and Jack, and sister Irene. He is survived by his sister, Dorothy.
Joe was born in Nanticoke, PA in 1928. After moving to Chicago, Joe Dick graduated from Northwestern University in 1952 with a degree in Zoology. In his spare time, he formed the gymnastics team, competed on the collegiate level, and lettered.
He served with distinction for 30 years in the United States Navy, including tours as the Naval Attache and as the Assistant Naval Attache to the US Embassy in Ottawa, Canada. He served on many US Navy ships, including Commanding Officer of the USS Myles C. Fox (DD-829) and Executive Officer of the USS Little Rock (CLG-4). Joe received numerous medals, including the Meritorious Service Medal, the Defense Meritorious Medal, the Defense Superior Service Medal, and special recognition from the Secretary of the Navy.
Joe was an active church member and champion for the local church and community. He led his children's church youth groups, lent his support for church suppers and outreach programs, and served as the Sunday School Superintendent at Trinity Episcopal Church, in St Mary's City, MD. He participated in Cursillo. Joe also coached his children's soccer and gymnastics teams and served as PTA president at Friendly High School. Joe was a long-time member of the Lions Club, serving from 1982 to the present. He also served as President of the Lions Club.
After retirement he formed and led various drug and alcohol prevention programs in St Mary's County, MD from 1984-1999, including Winning on Wellness, which he created. Later, along with Tommy McKay, he helped form the only Co-Op Winery in the United States in 2007. His vineyard was his hobby and passion for over 40 years.
In 1982, he and his wife of 70 years, Nancy, purchased and restored St Michael's Manor in Scotland, MD. They ran a bed and breakfast for many years. They had numerous interesting guests over the years including a former Secretary of the Navy.
In 2002, Joe ran for state delegate in district 29B. Although the campaign was ultimately not successful, the entire family participated in the effort.
He is survived by his wife Nancy and five children: Susan Belmore (Glenn), David Dickshinski, (Elinor), Dr. Laura Swett, (Dr. Bruce), Jonathan Paul (Maria), Jeff Dickshinski (Trish). Grandchildren: Sean Belmore, Anna Lancaster (CJ), Tim Dickshinski (Pooja Kothari), Ben Dickshinski (Jess Bazzelle), Hannah Dickshinski, Christa Day (Jeff Ballin), Dr. Katherine Aboud (Dr. Assad), Jamie Knecht (Emily), Sarah Dickshinski, Leah Dickshinski. Great grandchildren: Emilee, Payton, Carlie, Jordan Lancaster, Sami Aboud, and many nieces and nephews.
Memorial service was held on July 26, 2024. Condolences to the family may be made at www.brinsfieldfuneral.com
Arrangements by Brinsfield Funeral Home, P.A.

THE WEATHER

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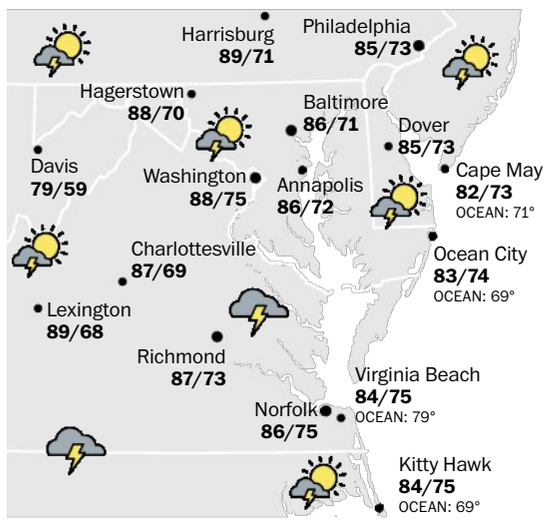
Storms bring humidity with them

There will be fewer concerns about flooding and gusty winds following any of Saturday's late thunderstorms, as sporadic clouds hold temperatures in the upper 80s to low 90s. But showers are possible at any time, with a batch of weaker storms possible later in the morning. More storms, perhaps a little stronger and with heavier rain, might develop in the afternoon. Storms may linger into the evening before skies clear a bit. The low will be near 75, but it will be extremely humid.

Today	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
T-storms	Partly sunny	Mostly sunny	A shower and t-storm	A t-storm in the area	Rain, a t-storm
88° 75°	**99°** 77°	**95°** 75°	**80°** 70°	**81°** 70°	**82°** 68°
FEELS*: **93°**	FEELS: **103°**	FEELS: **103°**	FEELS: **84°**	FEELS: **85°**	FEELS: **88°**
CHNCE PRECIP: **90%**	P: **5%**	P: **25%**	P: **90%**	P: **45%**	P: **75%**
WIND: **WSW 6–12 mph**	W: **SW 6–12 mph**	W: **ESE 6–12 mph**	W: **ENE 6–12 mph**	W: **E 7–14 mph**	W: **NE 6–12 mph**
HUMIDITY: **High**	H: **High**	H: **High**	H: **High**	H: **High**	H: **High**

REGION



Pollen: Moderate

Grass	Low
Trees	Low
Weeds	Moderate
Mold	Moderate

Air Quality: Moderate
Dominant cause: Ozone

UV: Moderate
3 out of 11+

Blue Ridge: Today, partly sunny; a thunderstorm in the area in the morning, but any time in central parts. High 72 to 81. Winds west-southwest 4–8 mph. Tonight, mainly clear. Low 62 to 66. Winds west-northwest 4–8 mph.

Atlantic beaches: Today, mostly cloudy, humid. A couple of showers and a heavy thunderstorm; arriving during the afternoon in the north. There can be ponding on streets and highways. High 82 to 86. Winds south-southwest 10–20 mph.

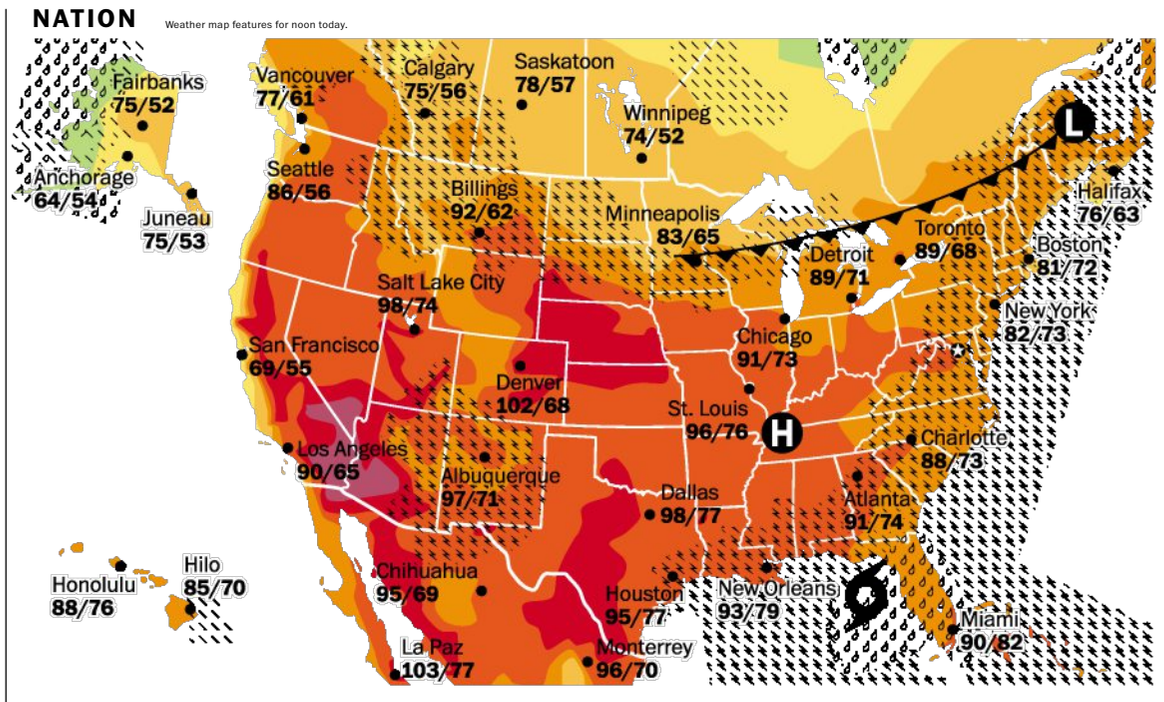
Waterways: *Upper Potomac River*: Today, mostly cloudy, a couple of showers, a heavy thunderstorm. Wind southwest 4–8 knots. Waves 0–1 foot. • *Lower Potomac and Chesapeake Bay*: Today, partly sunny, showers, a heavier thunderstorm. Wind south 8–16 knots. Waves 1–2 feet on the Lower Potomac; 1–3 feet on the Chesapeake Bay.• *River Stages*: The stage at Little Falls will be around 2.70 feet today, rising to 2.80 Monday. Flood stage at Little Falls is 10 feet.

Today's tides (High tides in **Bold**)

Washington	3:10 a.m.	**8:37 a.m.**	3:54 p.m.	**9:12 p.m.**
Annapolis	**6:13 a.m.**	12:42 p.m.	**5:57 p.m.**	11:55 p.m.
Ocean City	2:24 a.m.	**8:02 a.m.**	2:07 p.m.	**8:33 p.m.**
Norfolk	4:22 a.m.	**10:21 a.m.**	4:17 p.m.	**10:37 p.m.**
Point Lookout	**2:04 a.m.**	8:58 a.m.	**2:08 p.m.**	8:09 p.m.

NATION

Weather map features for noon today.



T-storms, Rain, Showers, Snow, Flurries, Ice, Cold Front, Warm Front, Stationary Front

<–10 | –0s | 0s | 10s | 20s | 30s | 40s | 50s | 60s | 70s | 80s | 90s | 100s | 110+

Yesterday's National
High: Palm Springs, CA **115°**
Low: Gould, CO **37°**
for the 48 contiguous states

World
High: Hassi Messaoud, Algeria **118°**
Low: Mount Cook, New Zealand **12°**
excludes Antarctica

NATIONAL	Today	Tomorrow
Albany, NY	87/68/t	89/68/t
Albuquerque	97/71/s	96/71/pc
Anchorage	64/54/s	71/58/s
Atlanta	91/74/t	88/74/t
Austin	97/74/t	99/76/s
Baltimore	86/71/t	100/75/pc
Billings, MT	92/62/t	90/62/pc
Birmingham	92/75/s	93/75/s
Bismarck, ND	75/58/t	65/50/t
Boise	98/72/s	104/72/pc
Boston	81/72/t	92/70/pc
Buffalo	85/69/pc	81/65/pc
Burlington, VT	88/68/t	80/59/t
Charleston, SC	85/77/t	82/75/r
Charleston, WV	90/64/s	92/65/pc
Charlotte	88/73/t	89/74/pc
Cheyenne, WY	92/65/pc	90/58/t
Chicago	91/73/pc	87/69/t
Cincinnati	90/70/s	92/71/pc
Cleveland	88/70/s	84/70/t
Dallas	98/77/pc	100/78/s
Denver	102/68/pc	97/64/t
Des Moines	94/72/pc	99/65/pc
Detroit	89/71/pc	85/64/t
El Paso	100/77/t	102/76/pc
Fairbanks, AK	75/52/s	84/57/s
Fargo, ND	78/62/pc	71/53/t
Hartford, CT	83/70/t	95/69/pc
Honolulu	88/76/pc	88/78/pc
Houston	95/77/t	97/77/t
Indianapolis	89/70/s	92/72/pc
Jackson, MS	97/75/s	97/74/s
Jacksonville, FL	87/77/r	82/75/r
Kansas City, MO	94/69/s	95/70/s
Las Vegas	113/89/s	112/88/s
Little Rock	96/74/s	99/75/pc
Los Angeles	90/65/s	92/68/s
Louisville	92/73/s	95/73/pc
Memphis	95/75/pc	95/77/pc
Miami	90/82/t	93/82/t
Milwaukee	88/71/pc	76/63/t
Minneapolis	83/65/t	67/58/r
Nashville	93/72/s	96/73/s
New Orleans	93/79/t	97/79/t
New York City	82/73/t	91/74/pc
Norfolk	86/75/t	90/76/t
Oklahoma City	97/69/s	96/70/s
Omaha	98/72/s	100/65/s
Orlando	85/77/r	85/76/t
Philadelphia	85/73/t	94/73/pc
Phoenix	116/92/pc	114/91/pc
Pittsburgh	89/68/s	90/68/pc
Portland, ME	80/66/t	88/63/t
Portland, OR	93/62/s	90/59/s
Providence, RI	81/70/t	89/70/pc
Raleigh, NC	87/73/t	91/74/t
Reno, NV	98/66/s	98/64/s
Richmond	87/73/t	93/73/s
Sacramento	98/59/s	96/59/s
St. Louis	96/76/pc	97/76/s
St. Thomas, VI	90/82/t	90/82/t
Salt Lake City	98/74/pc	102/77/s
San Diego	80/67/pc	79/66/pc
San Francisco	69/55/pc	70/54/pc
San Juan, PR	90/81/r	90/81/t
Seattle	86/56/s	82/56/s
Spokane, WA	88/65/t	95/65/pc
Syracuse	90/69/t	81/66/t
Tampa	81/77/r	85/77/t
Wichita	99/68/s	102/70/s

WORLD	Today	Tomorrow
Addis Ababa	68/56/sh	68/57/r
Amsterdam	69/57/pc	75/62/pc
Athens	95/78/s	94/76/s
Auckland	58/43/c	57/44/pc
Baghdad	109/83/pc	111/83/s
Bangkok	92/79/t	94/81/t
Beijing	90/73/t	95/75/pc
Berlin	74/56/pc	75/55/pc
Bogota	68/48/sh	67/49/r
Brussels	72/57/c	78/61/s
Buenos Aires	60/51/c	60/57/s
Cairo	96/78/s	97/79/s
Caracas	78/66/t	79/65/t
Copenhagen	68/57/t	72/57/c
Dakar	85/79/sh	85/80/r
Dublin	68/63/sh	73/50/c
Edinburgh	66/60/c	72/55/c
Frankfurt	77/59/c	79/59/pc
Geneva	82/61/c	85/62/s
Ham., Bermuda	87/80/s	86/78/s
Helsinki	70/55/sh	72/54/sh
Ho Chi Minh City	91/77/t	89/77/t
Hong Kong	93/83/t	94/83/t
Islamabad	86/77/t	89/78/t
Istanbul	92/74/s	90/72/s
Jerusalem	89/67/s	88/67/s
Johannesburg	78/45/s	69/39/pc
Kabul	88/67/s	89/66/s
Kingston, Jam.	91/81/t	91/81/pc
Kolkata	91/81/t	91/81/t
Kyiv	75/60/sh	80/63/s
Lagos	83/74/sh	82/75/c
Lima	67/58/pc	66/59/pc
Lisbon	91/66/s	85/67/s
London	73/57/c	77/63/s
Madrid	99/74/s	101/73/s
Manila	90/79/t	89/79/t
Mexico City	75/55/c	74/56/r
Montreal	87/67/t	74/60/t
Moscow	73/56/pc	75/58/r
Mumbai	83/79/sh	87/80/sh
Nairobi	77/52/pc	79/54/s
New Delhi	94/80/r	92/81/t
Oslo	70/58/sh	77/58/c
Ottawa	87/66/pc	74/56/pc
Paris	77/57/c	85/62/s
Prague	74/57/t	71/52/pc
Rio de Janeiro	83/69/s	84/70/s
Riyadh	110/87/pc	108/86/pc
Rome	90/73/s	90/73/pc
San Salvador	85/70/t	87/70/pc
Santiago	60/44/c	52/41/r
Sarajevo	86/56/s	85/58/pc
Seoul	97/80/t	94/80/t
Shanghai	104/84/pc	104/84/c
Singapore	88/80/t	92/80/c
Stockholm	68/54/pc	71/52/pc
Sydney	62/49/pc	63/50/c
Taipei City	99/80/pc	98/79/pc
Tehran	100/82/s	103/87/s
Tokyo	94/80/t	94/81/t
Toronto	89/68/pc	82/64/t
Vienna	79/66/sh	76/56/pc
Warsaw	81/61/c	69/57/c

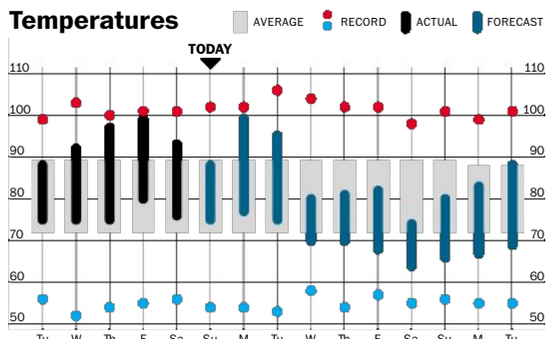
Key: **s**-sunny, **pc**-partly cloudy, **c**-cloudy, **r**-rain, **sh**-showers, **t**-thunderstorms, **sf**-snow flurries, **sn**-snow, **i**-ice

Sources: **AccuWeather.com**; US Army Centralized Allergen Extract Lab (pollen data); airnow.gov (air quality data); National Weather Service

* AccuWeather's **RealFeel Temperature®** combines over a dozen factors for an accurate measure of how the conditions really "feel."

OFFICIAL RECORD

Temperatures

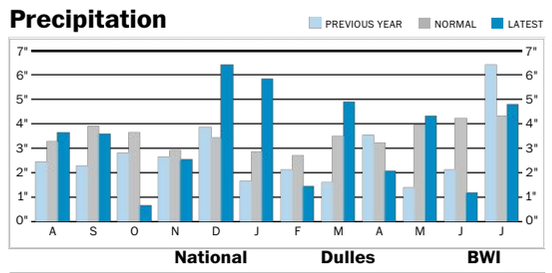


Statistics through 5 p.m. Saturday

	National	Dulles	BWI
High	**93°** 3:00 p.m.	**97°** 1:35 p.m.	**95°** 1:22 p.m.
Low	**76°** 6:00 a.m.	**74°** 5:00 a.m.	**74°** 6:00 a.m.
Normal	89°/72°	87°/67°	88°/67°
Record high	101° 2006	99° 2006	100° 2006
Record low	56° 1920	50° 1998	55° 1998

Difference from 30–yr. avg. (National): this month: **+5.9°** yr. to date: **+3.1°**

Precipitation



	National	Dulles	BWI
Past 24 hours	Trace	0.00"	2.18"
Total this month	Trace	0.00"	2.18"
Normal	0.34"	0.36"	0.43"
Total this year	24.51"	20.65"	25.28"
Normal	25.10"	26.15"	26.23"

Moon Phases

Aug 4	Aug 12	Aug 19	Aug 26
New	First Quarter	Full	Last Quarter

Solar system

	Rise	Set
Sun	6:12 a.m.	8:16 p.m.
Moon	6:04 a.m.	8:47 p.m.
Venus	7:36 a.m.	9:08 p.m.
Mars	1:30 a.m.	4:05 p.m.
Jupiter	1:50 a.m.	4:28 p.m.
Saturn	9:53 p.m.	9:17 a.m.

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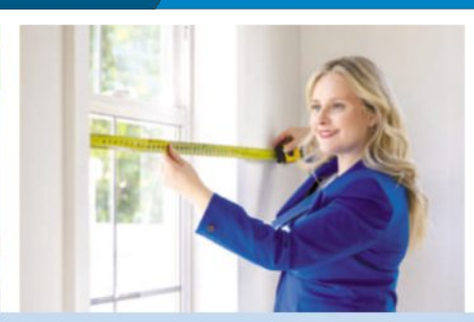

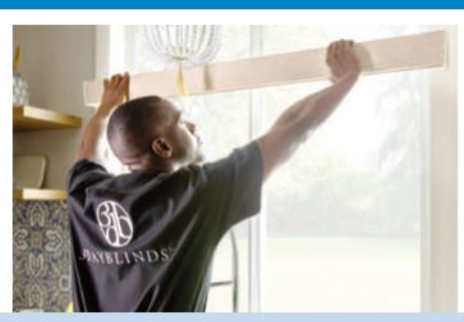

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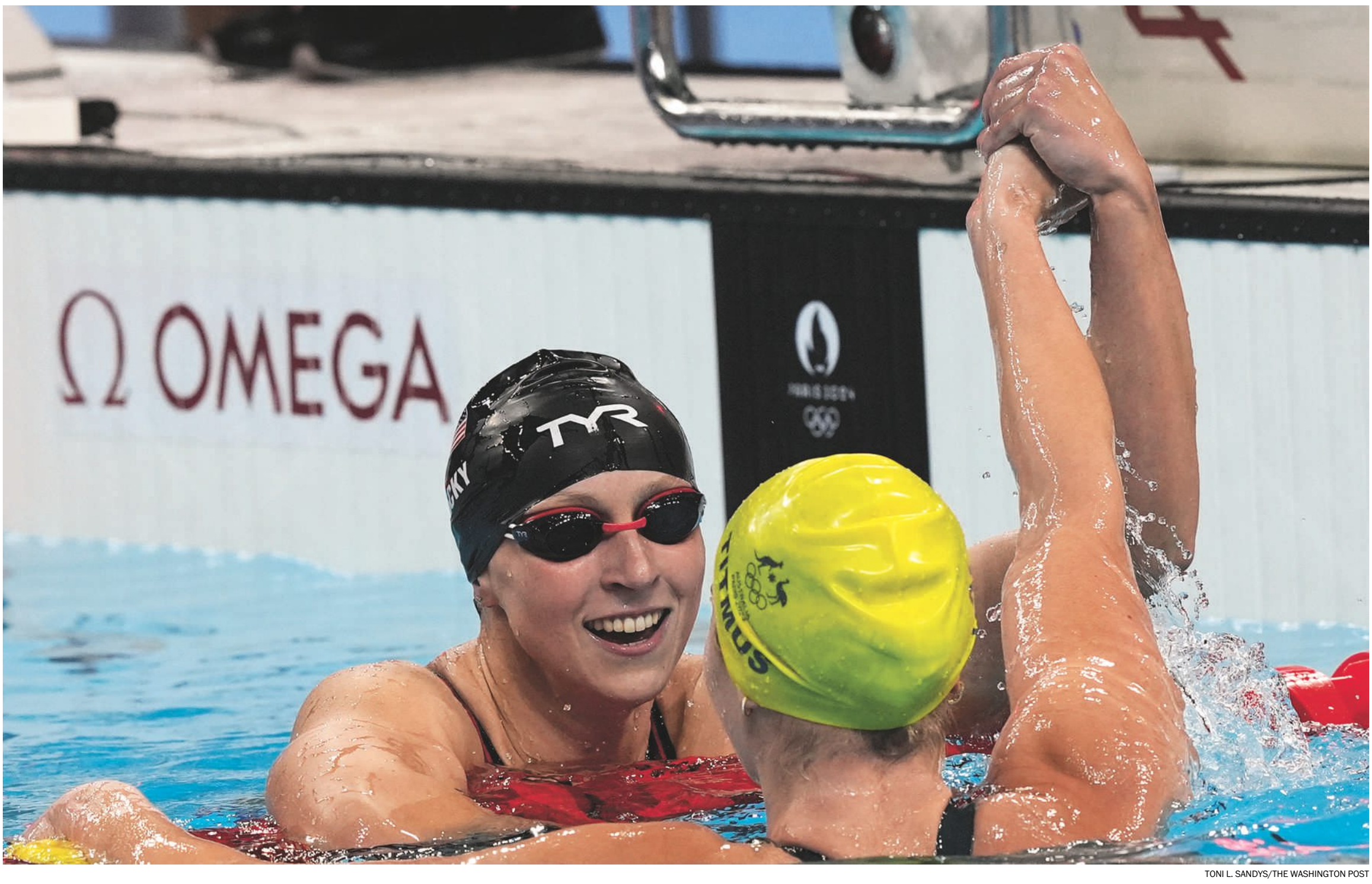
SUNDAY, AUGUST 4, 2024 · WASHINGTONPOST.COM/SPORTS

PARIS OLYMPICS

Maryland pride



TONI L. SANDYS/THE WASHINGTON POST

Katie Ledecky won the 800-meter freestyle for the fourth straight Games, giving her nine Olympic gold medals, the most among female swimmers. "She's rewritten distance freestyle," teammate Paige Madden said.

Former Terp LaFond earns a historic gold

BY ADAM KILGORE

SAINT-DENIS, FRANCE — Her story culminated Saturday night on a purple track, with her walking a joyous lap in the rain with a flag foreign to the Olympic podium draped across her back. It was the forest green of Dominica, resplendent with yellow, black and white stripes converging around a handsome and proud Sisserou parrot.

It unspooled through Maryland's Montgomery County and the University of Maryland, through a high school classroom and a local cricket club. For Thea LaFond, it never deviated from the tiny island where was she was born, from the people back home who inspired her to become an Olympic champion unlike any other.

"I was never allowed to ever forget where I came from," LaFond said.

After Saturday night, the place she came from will never forget her. LaFond won the triple jump gold medal at the Paris Olympics, delivering a commonwealth of 70,000 in the East Caribbean its first Olympic medal of any color. Born in Dominica, raised in Maryland and educated as a Terrapin, LaFond hopped, skipped and leaped 15.02 meters (49 feet 3¼ inches) into her home

SEE TRIPLE JUMP ON D10

Just shy of perfection
Jerry Brewer writes that Sha'Carri Richardson's redemption tale came up agonizingly short. **A1**

Surprise, surprise
Expect the expected: Ryan Crouser and Joe Kovacs finish gold-silver in the shot put. **D5**

AGUSTIN MARCARIAN/REUTERS

Trinity Rodman is hoisted by Emily Fox after lifting the U.S. women into the semifinals by scoring an extra-time goal against Japan on Saturday in Paris.

In a beast of a match, Rodman's beauty wins it

UNITED STATES 1, JAPAN 0 (ET)

BY STEVEN GOFF

PARIS — For more than two tense hours, the Olympic women's soccer quarterfinal between the United States and Japan on Saturday was a match of strategy and resolve rather than skill and speed, a test of patience and a demand for courage as frustration swelled and opportunities failed to materialize.

And then almost halfway through extra time, as exhaustion took hold and a defensive mistake seemed like the only way someone would score, Trinity Rodman offered a moment of artistic brilliance.

Thanks to Rodman's third goal in four games, on a breathtaking sequence, the United States beat Japan, 1-0, to set up a semifinal match vs. Germany on Tuesday

SEE SOCCER ON D8

Ledecky knows it's work that makes her a winner

Barry Svrluga

NANTERRE, FRANCE — Katie Ledecky is not accustomed to company. Not in the women's 800-meter freestyle, anyway. She essentially claimed ownership of this event when she won Olympic gold as a teenager in London. She does not loan it out. It is her baby, her pet, the swim that put her on an international stage — and now one that figures to keep her there for four more years, if the end of her fourth Olympics is an appropriate time to look ahead to her fifth.

But back to that company. On Saturday night at Paris La Défense Arena, Ledecky swam those 16 pool lengths in the event in which she owned three gold medals and wanted another. One lane over was Ariarne Titmus, her rival and friend from Australia. Halfway through the race, Titmus was annoyingly close. With 100 meters left, she remained. Ledecky once dusted every field she faced in the 800.

"I knew it was going to be tough," Ledecky said, "all the way to the finish."

At 27, Ledecky is a fully formed character — and not just in the 800 free. She is known as an athlete, as a woman, as an icon.

SEE SVRLUGA ON D9

How does he do that?
Pole vault star Armand "Mondo" Duplantis is part magician and part musician. **D6-7**

Still on the rise
Simone Biles vaults to her third gold medal; Stephen Nedoroscik grabs another bronze. **D8**

Bouzkova beats erratic Sabalenka, will face Badosa for DC Open title

BY SAPNA BANSIL

Aryna Sabalenka's 26th unforced error was a wayward forehand that cost her the first set and some of her sanity. It was a fitting conclusion to a swift and dismal opening frame Saturday night in her DC Open semifinal against unseeded Marie Bouzkova, during which the world's No. 3 player was demonstrably frustrated as she lost control of her groundstrokes. Throughout the set, she hung her head, sighed heavily and looked to her box for answers.

While there were times the top-seeded Sabalenka summoned her elite form, her tumultuous play and a rain delay of nearly four hours proved too much to overcome.

SEE DC OPEN ON D12

DC Open, finals
Noon, 2:30 and 5 p.m., Tennis Channel

PRO FOOTBALL
Jayden Daniels was sacked often in college. Should the Commanders be worried? **D2**

BASEBALL
Luis García Jr. celebrates an important anniversary with a home run and a win. **D3**

COLLEGE FOOTBALL
Navy is remaining grounded, but its passing game could take off this season. **D3**

For sale: NCAA tournament team from D.C. Asking just $100 million.

BY JESSE DOUGHERTY

The Howard University men's basketball team is for sale.

Or at least Kenny Blakeney, the Bison's head coach, is saying as much to potential investors. As part of a wide-ranging proposal that has not been previously reported, he is seeking $100 million for a 33 percent stake in his program. In an era of change, in an effort to be on the right side of extreme stratification, he's going for it.

"College athletics is full-fledged business now," Blakeney said in a July interview. "The whole idea is to not get left behind. It's, 'How do we include ourselves in this?'

"I don't want to have a two-tiered system where we're not able to compete for the NCAA tournament or the national

SEE HOWARD ON D3

THE DAY IN SPORTS

GOLF

Lee surges to the lead at Portland Classic

Andrea Lee took the lead Saturday in a bid for her second Portland (Ore.) Classic victory in three seasons, shooting a 5-under-par 67 for a one-stroke advantage over **Dewi Weber** and **Alexa Pano**.

Lee rebounded from an opening bogey to birdie five of the next eight holes in calm conditions at Columbia Edgewater. She added a birdie on the par-5 12th to get to 19 under and closed with six pars.

"I just got to stick to my game plan, try to birdie the par-5s and maybe some of the easier holes and hole locations," Lee said. "You just got to stay really patient out there and know that putts are going to eventually fall my way."

The 25-year-old American won the 2022 event on the tree-lined course for her lone LPGA Tour title.

"Obviously, I love this golf course," Lee said. "I feel really comfortable out here. Had a really solid day. Just played really steady golf. Managed to get some putts to drop on the front nine."

Weber, the second-round leader after a 62, chipped in for birdie on the par-4 17th in a 70. She is trying to earn her first victory on the LPGA Tour and send a statement to the Dutch Olympic committee that it made a mistake by declining to send her to Paris.

"I just got to make good swings, good strokes, not underread the putts and see if they go in," said Weber, making only her second LPGA Tour start of the year. "That's truly all I can do."

Angel Yin (66) and first-round leader **Polly Mack** (69) were 17 under. …

In Pittsburgh, **Kaori Yamamoto** of Japan shot a 1-over 72 to take a five-stroke lead into the final round of the U.S. Senior Women's Open.

Yamamoto had a 7-under 206 total at Fox Chapel. Afternoon play was delayed for three hours because of rain.

Annika Sörenstam (71) was tied for second with fellow Hall of Famer **Juli Inkster** (71), **Leta Lindley** (71) and **Mikino Kubo** (70). Sorenstam won the 2021 event.

PRO BASKETBALL

Mavericks bring back veteran Dinwiddie

The Dallas Mavericks are bringing back **Spencer Dinwiddie** in a reunion with the guard who played a key role in the team's run to the 2022 Western Conference finals.

The Mavericks announced the signing of Dinwiddie along with that of undrafted rookie free agent **Jamarion Sharp**, who played on their NBA Summer League team.

Dinwiddie was acquired before the 2022 trade deadline in a deal that sent **Kristaps Porzingis** to the Washington Wizards and ended the Mavericks' attempt to pair Porzingis with fellow European star **Luka Doncic**. It was a spark for Dallas's trip to the West finals, where the Mavericks lost to the Golden State Warriors.

This time, Dinwiddie joins a backcourt led by Doncic and **Kyrie Irving**, the star duo who led the Mavericks to the NBA Finals this past season. Dallas lost to the Boston Celtics in five games in its first trip to the Finals since winning the franchise's only championship in 2011.

Irving is recovering from surgery after breaking his left hand in an offseason workout.

The club has yet to provide a timetable for Irving's return.

PRO FOOTBALL

Miami gives Hill raise with restructured deal

Tyreek Hill is the latest wide receiver to get a lot more money.

The five-time all-pro and the Miami Dolphins agreed to a restructured contract worth $90 million, with $65 million guaranteed, his agent told the Associated Press.

The deal raises Hill's four-year total of fully guaranteed money to $106.5 million. It's the most guaranteed money added to a contract without adding extra years.

Hill did not participate in Saturday's team workout or speak with reporters but posted "I'm here to stay" on social media.

The 30-year-old Hill caught 119 passes for an NFL-leading 1,799 yards and 13 touchdowns last season. Hill has reached 1,700 receiving yards in the first two seasons since Miami acquired him from the Kansas City Chiefs.

The Vikings' **Justin Jefferson** ($140 million), the Lions' **Amon-Ra St. Brown** ($120 million), the Eagles' **A.J. Brown** ($96 million) and the Dolphins' **Jaylen Waddle** ($84.8 million) also received mega-contracts this year. …

Seattle Seahawks quarterback **Geno Smith** is expected to return to practice in the coming week after missing a few days with hip and knee issues, Coach **Mike Macdonald** said.

Smith was a spectator during the Seahawks' fan fest practice at Lumen Field. Afterward, Macdonald said that, while Smith was set to have another set of tests, he expected the quarterback to get some practice time soon.

"We're still going through that process, but it looks optimistic," Macdonald said. …

Tennessee Titans wide receiver **DeAndre Hopkins** won't require surgery for a knee injury suffered in training camp but "will miss several weeks," first-year coach **Brian Callahan** said.

Callahan did not detail the nature of the injury, which Hopkins suffered last week. The 32-year-old Hopkins was seen with a wrap on his left knee during Wednesday's practice.

"It's not a surgical issue, so the timeline could vary on those injuries. So it'll be a few weeks, probably," Callahan said.

A three-time all-pro, Hopkins led the Titans last season with 75 receptions for 1,057 yards and seven touchdowns. …

Arizona Cardinals linebacker **BJ Ojulari** is out for the season after suffering a knee injury during training camp.

"Obviously, feel bad for him, for the team," Coach **Jonathan Gannon** said. "He did a lot of work this offseason and was going to be a big part of what we do. But he'll come back stronger, ready to go, better than ever next year."

Ojulari played in all 17 games during his rookie season, finishing with four sacks. He was a second-round pick out of LSU in the 2023 draft. …

Los Angeles Rams right tackle **Rob Havenstein** is week-to-week because of an ankle injury.

Havenstein was hurt in practice Thursday, making him the Rams' third projected starter on the offensive line to suffer an injury in training camp.

Left tackle **Alaric Jackson** is out because of an ankle injury, and left guard **Jonah Jackson** suffered a shoulder injury Tuesday. Those injuries are also considered week-to-week.

MISC.

City defender joins Dortmund on loan

Borussia Dortmund signed Brazilian defender **Yan Couto** on loan from Manchester City with an option to make the move permanent.

The German Bundesliga club said the 22-year-old Couto agreed to a loan through June 2025.

Couto joined City in 2020 from Brazilian club Coritiba and spent loan spells at Sporting Braga (Portugal) and Girona (Spain). …

Florida running back **Montrell Johnson** is considered week-to-week following arthroscopic knee surgery, a person familiar with the situation told the AP.

Johnson is expected back in time for the Gators' season opener against rival Miami on Aug. 31 at the Swamp.

A senior, Johnson led the Gators in rushing the past two seasons. …

Karl won the $1,050,000 Hambletonian in East Rutherford, N.J., as trainer **Nancy Takter** continued a family tradition and Hall of Fame driver **Yannick Gingras** scored his first win in the trotting classic.

In a driving rainstorm, Karl closed resolutely to beat **Highland Kismet** by a length as the 3-5 favorite.

— From news services

SPOTLIGHT: NFL

DAVE RICHARD/ASSOCIATED PRESS

Colts great Dwight Freeney was one of seven members of the Pro Football Hall of Fame's Class of 2024 enshrined Saturday.

McMichael, Freeney highlight Hall ceremony

BY ROB MAADDI

Steve McMichael couldn't make it to the Pro Football Hall of Fame, so the ceremony came to him.

Battling ALS and bedridden in the advanced stages of the neurological disease, the 66-year-old two-time all-pro defensive tackle was the second player enshrined in the Pro Football Hall of Fame among seven members of the Class of 2024 on Saturday in Canton, Ohio.

Surrounded by several of his Chicago Bears teammates and his wife, Misty, at his home in Homer Glen, Ill., McMichael wore his gold jacket, and his bronze bust was unveiled live in a touching tribute.

"You are on a team that you can never be cut from and never be released from," Hall of Famer Richard Dent said, patting McMichael on the head. "When you die, you'll always be on this team. Welcome home, Steve. You're in football heaven forever."

Dwight Freeney, Randy Gradishar, Devin Hester, Andre Johnson, Julius Peppers and Patrick Willis also were enshrined, raising the total members of the Hall of Fame to 378.

The ceremony was delayed for nearly two hours because of heavy rain and lightning. Similar weather Thursday night forced the preseason opener between the Bears and Houston Texans to be stopped with 18 minutes remaining.

Freeney, a three-time all-pro defensive end with the Indianapolis Colts, was playing soccer in high school when the football coach took him off the field.

"My parents are both Jamaican, so soccer was in my blood," Freeney said. "If it wasn't for my high school coach, Jack Cochran, pulling me off that soccer field and convincing me to play this great game, I wouldn't be on this stage today."

Colts owner Jim Irsay, who is recovering from a fall, introduced Freeney in a video message. Irsay then was brought onstage in a wheelchair to help unveil Freeney's bronze bust.

"He arguably was the best Colt defensive player in our 60-plus year history," Irsay said.

Freeney played 11 seasons in Indianapolis and 16 total, registering 125½ sacks, many using his signature spin move. He forced 47 fumbles, made seven Pro Bowls and earned one Super Bowl ring.

Hester became the first player inducted primarily as a return specialist. He returned a league-record 14 punts for touchdowns and ran back five more kickoffs for scores during an 11-year career spent mostly with the Bears.

"I guess the NFL had started taking the return game seriously," Hester said. "I hope that me being here today opens up the door and brings some attention to other guys like Brian Mitchell and Josh Cribbs because I'm not the only returner who deserves to be in the Hall of Fame."

— Associated Press

TELEVISION AND RADIO

PARIS OLYMPICS, SEE PAGE D10

MLB

1:30 p.m.	**Milwaukee at Washington** » MASN2, WJFK (106.7 FM), WDCN (87.7 FM)
1:30 p.m.	**Baltimore at Cleveland** » MASN, WIYY (97.9 FM), WSBN (630 AM)
1:30 p.m.	**Arizona at Pittsburgh** » MLB Network
4:30 p.m.	**New York Mets at Los Angeles Angels** » MLB Network (joined in progress)
7 p.m.	**St. Louis at Chicago Cubs** » ESPN, WSBN (630 AM)

GOLF

3 p.m.	**Korn Ferry Tour: Utah Championship, final round** » Golf Channel
6 p.m.	**LPGA Tour: Portland Classic, final round** » Golf Channel

SOCCER

11:30 a.m.	**Scottish Premiership: Kilmarnock at Celtic** » CBS Sports Network
5 p.m.	**Concacaf under-20 men's championship, final: United States at Mexico** » Fox Sports 1
8 p.m.	**Leagues Cup: Cruz Azul at Philadelphia** » Fox Sports 1
10:30 p.m.	**Leagues Cup: Necaxa at Seattle** » Fox Sports 1

TENNIS

Noon	**ATP: DC Open, doubles final** » Tennis Channel
2:30 p.m.	**WTA: DC Open, singles final** » Tennis Channel
5 p.m.	**ATP: DC Open, singles final** » Tennis Channel

PRO BASKETBALL

2 p.m.	**The Basketball Tournament, final: Forever Coogs (Houston) vs. Carmen's Crew (Ohio State)** » WTTG (Ch. 5), WBFF (Ch. 45)
3 p.m.	**Big3: Week 8** » WUSA (Ch. 9), WJZ (Ch. 13)
6 p.m.	**Big3: Week 8** » MASN

MEN'S LACROSSE

3 p.m.	**Premier Lacrosse League: Boston at Maryland** » WJLA (Ch. 7), WMAR (Ch. 2)

WOMEN'S LACROSSE

3 p.m.	**Athletes Unlimited: Team North vs. Team Moreno** » ESPN2
5 p.m.	**Athletes Unlimited: Team Apuzzo vs. Team Kennedy** » ESPNU

WOMEN'S SOFTBALL

5 p.m.	**Athletes Unlimited: Team Wallace vs. Team McQuillin** » ESPN2
7:30 p.m.	**Athletes Unlimited: Team Kilfoyl vs. Team Lorenz** » ESPNU

LITTLE LEAGUE BASEBALL

2 p.m.	**Southeast Region semifinal: Florida vs. Tennessee** » ESPN
4 p.m.	**Southwest Region semifinal: Texas West vs. Louisiana** » ESPN

Daniels took a lot of sacks at LSU. Will that be an issue with the Commanders?

BY SAM FORTIER

Let's talk about the rate at which Jayden Daniels takes sacks. It's easy, during training camp, to forget about sacks because the defensive players aren't allowed to hit the quarterbacks, much less sack them. And during preseason games, quarterbacks don't usually play long enough for sacks to become an issue. But it's worth focusing on them now for three reasons:

1. One of the main knocks on Daniels coming out of LSU was that he took too many sacks — 65 in two years with the Tigers.

2. The ability of the Washington Commanders to protect Daniels is a major question mark, even though research shows sacks reflect more on quarterbacks than on offensive lines.

3. Sacks kill drives and are certain to be a big topic of conversation sooner or later; as the Boy Scouts say, be prepared.

Before the draft, segments of the Commanders' fan base and the data analytics community raised red flags because even though Daniels is a rare talent with many strengths, data suggests he might have a fatal flaw.

(Brace yourself for a fire hose of numbers from Jason Starrett, the helpful media and content operations manager at TruMedia.)

Last season, out of 124 Football Bowl Subdivision quarterbacks with at least 200 dropbacks, Daniels had one of the lowest rates of being pressured (25.7 percent, 18th) but ranked just below average in sack rate (6.0 percent, 67th).

Overall, Daniels was sacked on 20.2 percent of the dropbacks in which he was pressured, which ranked 79th in the FBS and was more than two percentage points higher than the national average.

Other elite quarterbacks didn't take that many sacks. The only other first-rounder with a worse "pressure-to-sack" rate was the Chicago Bears' Caleb Williams (21.9 percent), but the data also suggests Williams was more elusive in the pocket as he tried to buy time and make explosive plays. It took longer to sack Williams than any other quarterback in the country (4.2 seconds on average), whereas Daniels went down more quickly (3.5 seconds, 43rd).

To nerds — said lovingly — those numbers were alarming, in part because sack rate is one of the most stable and predictive quarterback metrics from college to the NFL. And those concerns were consistent with film-based evaluations of Daniels; one analyst called pocket management his "pain point."

The worry: If Daniels got sacked at a relatively high clip behind a strong offensive line at an elite program, the problem might get worse when he plays for a rebuilding NFL team with a line that, uh, looks pretty thin at tackle.

But when opponents couldn't bring down Daniels, he *cooked* them. It takes fewer numbers to explain this because people have seen the highlights that led to him winning the Heisman trophy.

The important ones: Pressure didn't stop him from hunting big plays; last year he led the FBS in yards per attempt on throws when pressured (11.1), and nearly half of his completions on such throws gained 20 yards or more (48 percent, fourth). And on 104 pressured dropbacks, Daniels committed just one turnover.

"So that's the trade-off: A few more sacks may be worth it as long as Daniels continues to take care of the ball and exploit defenses working to create pressure," Starrett wrote in an email.

The profile, which resembles that of a young Russell Wilson, also seemed okay by Commanders Coach Dan Quinn, who wants his quarterback to get out of the pocket and keep his eyes downfield.

"If he just gets outside the pocket to run, that's a lot easier to defend," Quinn said. "So, you're outside the pocket, but [Daniels] can stay alive and throw on the move. That's where [his strength] is."

The criticisms of Daniels might remind Commanders fans of those about Sam Howell, who spent a stretch of last season on pace to break the single-season sack record. (Ultimately, he merely led the league with 65.)

But Starrett found that Daniels's sack problem was never even close to as severe as Howell's in college and that Daniels protected the ball much better.

"They're just in different ballparks as players," he wrote. "The numbers suggest Daniels has both a higher floor AND a higher ceiling, which obviously should be the case seeing as one was a fifth-round pick and the other was taken No. 2 overall."

There are reasons to be optimistic about the Commanders' offense this season. The interior line should be better; more balanced play-calling should maximize the unit's strengths rather than amplify its weaknesses, as it did last season; and the quarterback is more talented.

There are reasons to be pessimistic, too. The offense won't have the same talent advantage LSU's did; the coaching staff doesn't have a track record of working together; and the quarterback could take too many sacks.

But even when Daniels took sacks in college, he still thrived as few others have. To maintain that style in the NFL, he must continue to make big plays and protect the ball at elite levels.

One year later, García has a smile on his face as the Nationals end their skid

NATIONALS 6, BREWERS 4

BY SPENCER NUSBAUM

A hint of a smile found its way onto Luis García Jr.'s face as he answered a question about the past year. A year ago to the day — Aug. 3, 2023 — he was demoted to Class AAA Rochester. On Saturday, he was batting third against the Milwaukee Brewers and doing exactly what the Washington Nationals had hoped he would all along.

That included singling, doubling and homering; paying attention to "the little things"; playing rangy defense at second base; and lifting the Nationals to a 6-4 win at Nationals Park that snapped a five-game skid.

He was asked, specifically, how proud he was of the progress he has made since that date in 2023. He chose to tackle it a different way.

"It's something that probably had to be done," García said, through team interpreter Octavio Martinez, of the decision. "It's a lesson that had to be taught to me. Now that I'm up here, I've learned a lot from it."

A year ago, there were questions about his focus and consistency at the plate and in the field. Those questions got a megaphone during spring training, when Manager Dave Martinez said there was an open competition for the second base job.

"He's gotten better," Martinez said. "It's definitely paying off for him. I see a different kid — more confident, understands what he needs to do. His throwing has gotten better. So he's playing well."

Over the offseason, García played in the Dominican Winter League. He was able to find his confidence and focus amid raucous crowds. He learned about defensive preparation from former major leaguer Robinson Canó. And, he said, he was able to get a heavy dose of breaking pitches. In his first at-bat Saturday, he ripped a two-out double off an Aaron Civale curveball.

NICK WASS/ASSOCIATED PRESS

Luis García Jr., who was demoted to Class AAA a year prior, scores a run during a 3-for-4 performance that raised his average to .287.

A more intense focus, though, hasn't restrained the 24-year-old's bubbly personality. He arrived at second base with a big grin and the Nationals' usual hip-thrusting dance. His hit ignited a four-run first inning. A Keibert Ruiz single brought García home. As he walked into the dugout, there was Martinez — who has taken a tough-love approach — to give him a congratulatory pat. After James Wood walked, Travis Blankenhorn drove in two more runs with a double, and Alex Call made it 4-0 with a single.

It only got better for García. He led off the third with a 400-foot solo shot, also on a breaking pitch, for a 5-0 lead and his 12th homer, adding to his career high. In the fifth, he received an ovation ahead of his third at-bat before singling, stealing his 17th base (four more than he had in his first four major league seasons combined) and scoring on Wood's single, making it 6-1. Only a hard lineout in the seventh spoiled a perfect day. García is now hitting .287 with a .772 OPS, figures ignited by a .373 average and a 1.048 OPS since July 1. The biggest shocker Saturday was that he did his damage with the bases empty — he entered the game hitting .361 with runners in scoring position, the seventh-best mark in the majors.

His defense has taken a massive leap, too. His range, per Baseball Savant, ranked in the first percentile in 2022 and the 15th percentile in 2023 but has rocketed to the 87th percentile this year. No longer are the questions about whether he's part of the team's future; instead, they're about what his role will be. They're more technical — whether, for instance, he's ready to regularly face left-handed pitching. That, in and of itself, is progress.

"I attribute a lot to those little things," García said. "I feel like sometimes in the past, I would focus on the big things and not worry so much about the little things and it would affect my play. Now, it's the other way around. Now, I focus on the little things, and the big things just play themselves out."

It also has been a memorable year for DJ Herz, the lefty who gave the Nationals (50-61) five smooth innings that included just two hits, one walk, six strikeouts and one run — which was unearned and came in the fifth via Juan Yepez's error at first base, a wild pitch and Jackson Chourio's single. On Aug. 3 last season, he was a few days removed from the trade that brought him over from the Chicago Cubs' minor league system.

He, too, has lodged himself in conversations about Washington's future. The 23-year-old has a 4.27 ERA with 11.5 strikeouts per nine innings, the fifth-best mark among pitchers with at least 10 starts. That begins with his fastball, a pitch he threw almost 70 percent of the time against National League Central-leading Milwaukee (62-48).

"I feel like it's always been my best pitch," Herz said. "When the fastball's on, it's going to be a good day. It's been good as of late."

Saturday's matchup showed Washington still has plenty of other questions to answer. A bullpen that has struggled over the past month and then lost two key pieces at the trade deadline allowed three runs Saturday to cut Washington's lead to two before Kyle Finnegan closed it out with his 29th save. Call, who was 3 for 3 and boasts a 1.175 OPS in 28 at-bats, must continue to spray the ball around the field for Washington to consider him worthy of big league opportunities.

"It is really satisfying, exciting — fun," Call said, grinning. "Getting hits is fun. Helping the team is fun. And I know I'm a player who can help the team."

As for García? Well, Martinez's tough love isn't going to soften anytime soon.

"He focuses on the little things, and it's making him a lot better," the manager said before reiterating that García has to maintain his focus defensively. If he doesn't? Martinez kept it blunt: "I'm not afraid to send him down again if I have to."

NATIONALS ON DECK

vs. Milwaukee Brewers

Today	1:35	MASN2

vs. San Francisco Giants

Tomorrow	6:45	MASN
Tuesday	6:45	MASN
Wednesday	6:45	MASN
Thursday	4:05	MASN

vs. Los Angeles Angels

Friday	6:45	MASN
Saturday	6:45	MASN
Aug. 11	11:35 a.m.	Roku

Radio: WJFK (106.7 FM), WDCN (87.7 FM)

Navy has come to pass, but new hybrid wing-T will still lean on ground game

BY GENE WANG

For years, the Navy football team's blueprint for success was focused on its punishing and efficient triple option. The Midshipmen finished in the top six nationally in rushing each year from 2002 to 2019, leading the country six times. Highlighting that stretch: a program-record 360.5 rushing yards per game in 2019 that powered Navy to an 11-2 record.

That number dropped to 194.6 yards per game last season, leading to a change in offensive coordinators. Second-year head coach Brian Newberry brought in Drew Cronic to replace Grant Chesnut. Cronic used spring practice to begin installing a hybrid wing-T as Navy's base formation, with heightened attention to the passing game not commonly associated with that alignment.

Less than a week into preseason camp, those subtle tweaks are providing cautious optimism that the offense can reclaim the sort of production that would let the Midshipmen end this stretch of four straight losing seasons.

"When you think of a wing-T-based offense, the passing game isn't something you really think a whole lot about," Newberry said Saturday during media day at Navy-Marine Corps Memorial Stadium. "The concepts that Coach Cronic has in the passing game — whether it be the quick, short passing game; the play-action; the boot game — are really, really good. It's given our defense a lot of problems going back to spring ball — just the spacing. He's got answers for everything."

Among the most conspicuous tweaks: deploying a tight end in the passing game more regularly. In previous iterations of the offense, players occupying that position were almost exclusively asked to block.

Senior Thomas Scully (6-foot-2, 236 pounds) was listed first on the depth chart at tight end when training camp began. Cody Howard is second on the depth chart after playing wide receiver and tight end last year. The 6-2, 231-pound junior missed spring practice following offseason surgery but has added more than 10 pounds to adjust to the physicality of playing tight end.

"We want to be very multiple and line up guys in a lot of different places," Cronic said. "With the tight end, the more versatile we can be there and still have a guy who's a good blocker but can hurt you if you get matched up with linebackers, matched up with safeties, that's a really good weapon to have."

Even after adding wrinkles to the passing attack, the Midshipmen continue to be committed to establishing the run first and foremost, Cronic and Newberry said. Navy failed to do so consistently last season, finishing 17th in the country in rushing offense on the way to a 5-7 record.

"We've still got to be able to line up, come off the ball and run downhill on people," said Cronic, who spent the past four seasons as the head coach at Mercer of the Football Championship Subdivision. "I mean, we've got to be able to do that."

Tasked with directing the offensive revival is quarterback Blake Horvath. The junior played in four games last year before an Oct. 7 thumb injury derailed his season. He did not play again, and Navy ended up using four quarterbacks before the campaign ended.

Horvath won the starting job going into this season, having beaten out sophomore Braxton Woodson during spring practice. Newberry indicated the decision to elevate Horvath, an option quarterback in high school, to the top of the depth chart was tied to his command of the playbook and poise under duress.

The Midshipmen have been seeking consistency at quarterback since 2019, when Malcolm Perry rushed for a school-record 2,017 yards. He is the most recent quarterback to lead Navy in rushing; last year, its top rusher was then-sophomore fullback Alex Tecza, who had 758 yards. None of the quarterbacks had more than 257.

"We always want to be able to run the ball," Horvath said. "We don't want to have to lean on our passing game for an entire game, but we have the weapons and we have the offense this year to do that, I'd say. In the past, where [we could] win a game without passing the ball or completing the ball, I think that would be a very rare occurrence if that ever happened this year. I expect to pass a lot more."

In an unprecedented effort, Blakeney seeks $100 million investment in program

HOWARD FROM D1

championship. And from what I'm hearing right now, that is a real possibility, that there's going to be an NCAA tournament that isn't going to include everyone else; it's just going to include those Power Four [conference] universities and maybe the Big East. That's not what I signed up for."

A year from now, because of a major legal settlement, schools could be permitted by the NCAA to share revenue directly with athletes. And while the new model will not change postseason access for basketball, it could further divide the haves and have-nots, leading Blakeney to pitch Howard to private equity groups and other potential investors.

He met with a private equity firm in June. In mid-July, he flew to Las Vegas for a charity golf outing and talked with private equity investors — plus some other rich folks — on the course. His business plan is long and layered. The main thrust, though, is that Blakeney needs that initial $100 million to upgrade Howard's arena and roster. From there, he would want Howard to go independent, allowing it to find its own television deal (think Notre Dame) or join a bigger conference as an affiliate school (think the Big East, which Blakeney mentions throughout his written proposal).

Should the idea progress, the 52-year-old coach would pitch a three-way revenue split: a third to the owner(s), a third to Howard and a third to his program, which he says he believes could then use the interest to cover annual operating costs and no longer take money from the school.

What does the school think of this? Well, Blakeney is holding off on deeper discussions with Howard officials until he has investors on the line.

And is this within NCAA rules? The short answer is that, at the moment, Blakeney doesn't care. Or as one sports economist, who spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss a deal he isn't involved with, put it: "There are always ways to get lawyers to write around issues."

"You have to be aggressive if you want to position yourself well for the future," said Mit Winter, a Kansas City-based college sports lawyer who has worked with schools, athletes and donor-funded name, image and likeness (NIL) collectives. "There is a lot of uncertainty right now, not just legally but with what the structure of college athletics is going to look like. So if you're sitting back and waiting to see, you're probably going to be caught off guard when it does settle. You have to start that preparation now."

Howard is a historically Black private university that competes in the Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference. In March, the men's basketball team won the conference tournament for the second consecutive season, then lost by three to Wagner in an NCAA tournament First Four game. These details are important context for Blakeney's vision because the crux of it — and the crux of any small program's chance of joining the higher ranks — is access to TV money. Would an investor or investment group pony up before Howard had a lucrative TV deal in hand? Or, on the flip side, can Howard become attractive to a network without the seed money to help it recruit and retain better players?

CRAIG HUDSON FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

Howard men's basketball coach Kenny Blakeney met with a private equity firm in June and spoke with private equity investors in July.

A lot of the plan hinges on those chicken-or-egg questions. The MEAC's television deal is up after the coming season, meaning Howard can shop for other opportunities without the hurdle of a long-term commitment. But a few years ago, when a group tried to spin off a handful of HBCUs into the Professional Collegiate League (PCL), it was hard to land investors without the TV side nailed down.

"That's the carrot that they have to get from a cash flow perspective to actually make money for whoever, whether it's an ultra-high-net-worth individual or a private equity firm," said Ricky Volante, a lawyer who was the PCL's chief executive. "How do you actually give them a return? I think the main way is going to be through media revenue, which then requires you to have access to one of the major media deals."

This is why a handful of experts say they believe a private owner would be more likely for Howard than a private equity group. Private equity, they reasoned, is often looking for quick and substantial returns on investment. But a private owner could view Howard as a fun, important project with a potential return in the future. Blakeney is open to someone who would be in regular contact about the roster and the direction of the program. He would actually prefer it, feeling an emotional connection could compel a wealthy individual — or a small group of them — to buy.

A former player at Duke and onetime assistant at Harvard and Columbia, Blakeney knows people who want to own NBA teams but aren't quite rich enough. Buying Howard, he said, could be their opportunity to sit behind the bench and ride on the team plane. With the SEC and Big Ten separating from the pack with their TV money, the Big 12 is considering a private equity investment to keep up, according to multiple people familiar with those discussions. Florida State has long been interested in private equity investments for its athletic department. But Blakeney's proposal is the first known plan courting investors to own part of a specific program.

"We're just at the beginning of it," Blakeney said. "But I do feel like there is a short window of opportunity because the speed that NIL is moving, the transfer portal is moving, the professionalism of our business is happening. This s--- has to take place fast. There has to be some conversations."

When he projects future revenue to investors, Blakeney hammers the untapped revenue streams at Howard. The school has not sold naming rights for its arena or practice facility. If it did, a company could have substantial signage facing busy Georgia Avenue NW. The school does not lease out the arena for concerts or other community events. The team doesn't have sponsorship patches on its jerseys. Its locker room is not endowed. Blakeney's position is not endowed.

But Blakeney is really banking on — and maybe dreaming a bit about — having a team that will be worth paying to see in person and on national TV. He's self-aware enough to call his plan "fantasy sports, to a degree." He knows Howard's brand, as a prominent HBCU and as a premier academic school in the nation's capital, is only so valuable and marketable. His team has to take a major leap.

To get there, he would use $50 million of the sale price to improve and add seats to Burr Gymnasium, which seats fewer than 3,000. He then figures $4 million to $5 million in NIL money would help him build a nationally relevant team. He would take a portion of his ballooned budget and pay each scholarship player a salary through revenue sharing, which the NCAA could permit by the fall of 2025.

Blakeney is also open to collective bargaining with his players, writing in his business plan: "The formation of a players union could be considered to safeguard the interests of the athletes. These unions would negotiate on behalf of the players for better NIL deals, health benefits, and working conditions. They would also play a role in ensuring that players are fairly compensated and protected against exploitation."

All of this, every bit of it, is provocative in an industry that doesn't like disruption. So after decades in the sport, is Blakeney worried about a former teammate or fellow coach asking: *What in the world are you thinking*?

"I don't care," he said. "This is what we're dealing with. And if we're not going to turn our eye to what's hitting us in the face, then we're not looking at this thing the right way."

BASEBALL

National League

EAST	W	L	PCT	GB	L10	STR
x-Philadelphia	65	44	.596	—	2-8	L-5
Atlanta	60	50	.545	5½	6-4	L-1
x-New York	58	51	.532	7	7-3	W-1
Washington	50	61	.450	16	3-7	W-1
Miami	41	70	.369	25	5-5	W-1

CENTRAL	W	L	PCT	GB	L10	STR
Milwaukee	62	48	.564	—	5-5	L-1
St. Louis	57	54	.514	5½	4-6	W-1
Pittsburgh	56	54	.509	6	5-5	W-1
Cincinnati	53	57	.482	9	6-4	W-1
Chicago	54	59	.478	9½	5-5	L-1

WEST	W	L	PCT	GB	L10	STR
x-Los Angeles	63	47	.573	—	4-6	L-3
San Diego	60	52	.536	4	8-2	W-1
Arizona	59	52	.532	4½	8-2	L-1
San Francisco	55	57	.491	9	7-3	L-1
Colorado	41	71	.366	23	4-6	L-1

x-Late game

American League

EAST	W	L	PCT	GB	L10	STR
Baltimore	66	46	.589	—	5-5	W-1
New York	66	46	.589	—	6-4	W-1
Boston	58	51	.532	6½	5-5	L-1
Tampa Bay	56	54	.509	9	6-4	W-1
Toronto	51	60	.459	14½	5-5	L-1

CENTRAL	W	L	PCT	GB	L10	STR
Cleveland	67	43	.609	—	7-3	L-1
Minnesota	61	48	.560	5½	6-4	W-3
Kansas City	62	50	.554	6	6-4	L-1
Detroit	53	59	.473	15	3-7	W-1
Chicago	27	86	.239	41½	0-10	L-19

WEST	W	L	PCT	GB	L10	STR
x-Seattle	58	53	.523	—	5-5	W-1
Houston	57	53	.518	½	5-5	L-1
Texas	53	58	.477	5	4-6	W-1
x-Los Angeles	47	63	.427	10½	4-6	L-3
x-Oakland	46	65	.414	12	7-3	W-1

x-Late game

Nationals 6, Brewers 4

BREWERS	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	AVG
Chourio lf	5	1	2	1	0	0	.263
Perkins cf	3	0	0	0	0	0	.257
Mitchell ph-cf	1	1	1	0	0	0	.295
Contreras c	3	0	1	0	1	0	.281
Adames ss	4	0	0	0	0	2	.248
Sánchez dh	4	0	1	1	0	0	.226
Hoskins 1b	4	1	1	1	0	2	.220
Frelick rf	4	1	0	0	0	1	.267
Ortiz 3b	3	0	0	0	0	2	.245
Bauers ph	1	0	0	0	0	1	.212
Turang 2b	3	0	1	0	0	1	.263
TOTALS	35	4	7	3	1	9	—

NATIONALS	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	AVG
Abrams ss	4	0	0	0	0	1	.253
Yepez 1b	4	0	0	0	0	0	.333
García 2b	4	3	3	1	0	0	.287
Ruiz c	4	1	1	1	0	0	.217
Wood lf	3	1	1	1	1	1	.248
Blankenhorn dh	4	1	1	2	0	1	.100
Call rf	3	0	3	1	0	0	.429
Young cf	3	0	1	0	0	1	.252
Lipscomb 3b	2	0	0	0	0	0	.211
TOTALS	31	6	10	6	1	4	—

MILWAUKEE .... 000 010 120 — 4 7 0
WASHINGTON . 401 010 00X — 6 10 1

E: Yepez (2). **LOB:** Milwaukee 6, Washington 3. **2B:** Contreras (27), García (19), Blankenhorn (1). **HR:** Hoskins (19), off Law; García (12), off Civale. **RBI:** Chourio (46), Hoskins (57), Sánchez (25), Ruiz (36), Blankenhorn 2 (2), Call (5), García (52), Wood (17). **SB:** Call (3), García (17). **CS:** Wood (3). **S:** Lipscomb.

BREWERS	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Civale	4	7	5	5	1	3	80	5.40
Wilson	3	3	1	1	0	0	31	3.93
Mears	1	0	0	0	0	1	10	4.91

NATIONALS	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Herz	5	2	1	0	1	6	77	4.27
Law	2	1	1	1	0	1	22	3.21
Adon	⅔	2	2	2	0	1	16	7.71
Finnegan	1⅓	2	0	0	0	1	18	3.38

WP: Herz (2-4); **LP:** Civale (0-2); **S:** Finnegan (29). **Inherited runners-scored:** Finnegan 2-2. **HBP:** Herz (Turang). **WP:** Herz, Finnegan. **T:** 2:10. **A:** 30,577 (41,376).

HOW THEY SCORED

NATIONALS FIRST
CJ Abrams strikes out swinging. Juan Yepez lines out. Luis Garcia doubles. **Keibert Ruiz singles, Luis Garcia scores.** James Wood walks. Keibert Ruiz to second. **Travis Blankenhorn doubles, James Wood scores, Keibert Ruiz scores. Alex Call singles, Travis Blankenhorn scores.** Jacob Young strikes out on a foul tip.
Nationals 4, Brewers 0
NATIONALS THIRD
Luis Garcia homers. Keibert Ruiz grounds out. James Wood flies out. Travis Blankenhorn called out on strikes.
Nationals 5, Brewers 0
BREWERS FIFTH
Sal Frelick reaches on error. Fielding error by Juan Yepez. Joey Ortiz strikes out swinging. Brice Turang strikes out swinging. **Jackson Chourio singles, Sal Frelick scores.** Blake Perkins flies out.
Nationals 5, Brewers 1
NATIONALS FIFTH
Luis Garcia singles. Keibert Ruiz flies out. **James Wood singles to center field, advances to second, Luis Garcia scores.** Travis Blankenhorn pops out.
Nationals 6, Brewers 1
BREWERS SEVENTH
Rhys Hoskins homers. Sal Frelick pops out. Joey Ortiz strikes out swinging. Brice Turang lines out.
Nationals 6, Brewers 2
BREWERS EIGHTH
Jackson Chourio singles. Garrett Mitchell pinch-hitting for Blake Perkins. Garrett Mitchell singles. Jackson Chourio to second. William Contreras grounds out. Garrett Mitchell to second. Jackson Chourio to third. Willy Adames strikes out on a foul tip. **Wild pitch by pitcher Kyle Finnegan, Garrett Mitchell to third, Jackson Chourio scores. Gary Sanchez singles, Garrett Mitchell scores.** Rhys Hoskins flies out.
Nationals 6, Brewers 4

WASHINGTON TEAM STAX

Entering Sunday's game.

Batters	Avg	H	2B	HR	RBI	BB	SB
Call	.429	12	2	1	5	7	3
Yepez	.333	31	12	2	14	8	1
García	.287	100	19	12	52	17	17
Ramírez	.281	18	4	1	16	1	0
Vargas	.269	54	14	1	23	16	7
Winker	.257	81	18	11	45	53	14
Abrams	.253	104	23	16	54	33	20
Thomas	.253	76	16	8	40	32	28
Young	.252	79	15	1	22	21	26
Wood	.248	26	3	2	17	13	3
Adams	.233	24	5	2	8	9	1
Meneses	.231	65	11	3	42	21	2
Ruiz	.217	64	10	8	36	9	1
Lipscomb	.211	38	3	1	10	14	11
Senzel	.209	43	10	7	18	27	1
Nuñez	.200	3	0	0	0	2	4
Rosario	.183	40	11	7	26	13	8
Millas	.167	5	1	1	1	2	2
Gallo	.164	23	7	5	11	21	1
Robles	.120	3	0	0	2	5	4
Blankenhorn	.100	1	1	0	2	0	0
Totals	.242	890	185	89	444	324	154

Pitchers	W	L	ERA	H	ER	BB	SO
Vargas	0	0	0.00	2	0	0	0
Floro	3	3	2.06	42	12	13	40
Williams	5	0	2.22	45	14	16	47
Law	6	2	3.21	68	24	18	55
Finnegan	2	5	3.38	36	17	14	45
Irvin	8	9	3.56	115	53	32	115
J.Barnes	6	2	4.09	43	20	12	35
Harvey	2	4	4.20	43	21	12	50
Salazar	0	0	4.26	9	3	4	7
Herz	2	4	4.27	45	22	13	59
Parker	5	6	4.31	95	48	26	84
Garcia	2	3	4.42	36	19	14	52
Gore	6	9	4.54	123	56	44	122
Rutledge	0	0	4.76	5	3	2	7
Corbin	2	11	5.88	146	79	39	89
Rainey	0	0	6.39	33	22	22	23
Weems	1	1	6.59	49	30	20	34
M.Barnes	0	0	6.75	16	10	4	10
Adon	0	0	.771	9	6	3	4
Ferrer	0	0	10.80	6	6	4	4
Gray	0	2	14.04	15	13	5	9
Willingham	0	0	18.00	2	2	0	1
Totals	50	61	4.40	983	480	317	892

NL leaders

Entering Sunday's games.

BATTING

Ohtani, LA	.308
Arraez, SD	.307
Marte, Ari	.303
Profar, SD	.301
Ozuna, Atl	.300
Bohm, Phi	.297
Freeman, LA	.288
Reynolds, Pit	.286
Tovar, Col	.285

ERA

Sale, Atl	2.71
Suárez, Phi	2.87
Wheeler, Phi	2.94
Greene, Cin	2.97
Fried, Atl	3.08
Imanaga, Chi	3.10
King, SD	3.26
Keller, Pit	3.30
Sánchez, Phi	3.36

AL leaders

Entering Sunday's games.

BATTING

Witt, KC	.348
Kwan, Cle	.332
Judge, NY	.318
Guerrero, Tor	.314
Soto, NY	.309
Devers, Bos	.308
Altuve, Hou	.304
Díaz, Hou	.300
Alvarez, Hou	.296

ERA

Burnes, Bal	2.47
Lugo, KC	2.57
Skubal, Det	2.58
Houck, Bos	2.79
Singer, KC	2.88
Blanco, Hou	2.95
Kirby, Sea	3.04
Anderson, LA	3.05
Gilbert, Sea	3.11

Tigers 6, Royals 5 (11)

Wenceel Pérez singled with two outs in the 11th for Detroit, which trailed in the ninth, 10th and 11th.

ROYALS	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	AVG
Fermin dh	5	0	0	0	0	1	.306
Witt ss	4	0	0	1	0	1	.345
Pasquantino 1b	4	1	2	1	1	0	.266
Blanco pr-lf	0	1	0	0	0	0	.237
Perez c	5	0	1	0	0	2	.281
Renfroe rf	5	0	2	1	0	0	.242
Massey 2b	3	1	1	0	0	0	.253
Garcia ph-2b	2	0	0	0	0	0	.236
DeJong 3b	5	1	2	2	0	0	.364
Melendez lf	3	0	1	0	0	2	.192
Hampson ph-lf-1b	1	0	0	0	0	0	.255
Isbel cf	4	1	0	0	0	2	.222
TOTALS	41	5	9	5	1	8	—

TIGERS	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	AVG
Pérez lf-rf	6	1	1	1	0	1	.243
Keith 2b	4	0	0	0	1	0	.250
Vierling rf-lf-3b	4	0	1	0	1	2	.251
Malloy dh	5	0	1	1	0	0	.218
Madris 1b	4	2	3	1	0	1	.375
Urshela ph-1b	0	0	0	0	1	0	.239
Ibáñez 3b	3	0	1	1	0	1	.270
McKinstry ph-3b	1	1	1	0	0	0	.179
Vilade ph-lf	1	1	0	0	0	0	.222
Meadows cf	5	1	2	1	0	1	.146
Báez ss	4	0	1	1	1	1	.177
Rogers c	5	0	0	0	0	1	.192
TOTALS	42	6	11	6	4	8	—

KANSAS CITY . 000 001 200 11 — 5 9 1
DETROIT ..... 000 001 002 12 — 6 11 1

Two outs when winning run scored.
E: Witt (12), Keith (11). **LOB:** Kansas City 7, Detroit 10. **2B:** Perez (19), Vierling (19), Madris (2), McKinstry (7), Báez (11), Malloy (4). **3B:** Meadows (2). **HR:** Pasquantino (15), off Maeda; De-Jong (1), off Maeda; Madris (1), off Harvey.

ROYALS	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	ERA
Lorenzen	5⅔	5	1	1	2	5	1.59
Long	1⅓	0	0	0	0	1	2.22
Erceg	1	0	0	0	0	1	0.00
Harvey	1	3	2	2	0	0	7.71
Bubic	1	1	1	0	1	1	1.86
McArthur	⅔	2	2	1	1	0	5.32

TIGERS	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	ERA
Holton	3	0	0	0	0	3	2.70
Maeda	3⅓	6	3	3	1	4	6.75
Vest	1	2	0	0	0	0	2.96
Sammons	1⅓	0	0	0	0	0	5.19
Foley	2	1	2	0	0	1	3.89

WP: Foley (3-3); **LP:** McArthur (4-5). **Inherited runners-scored:** Long 1-0, Vest 1-0, Sammons 2-0. **IBB:** off Bubic (Urshela), off McArthur (Báez). **T:** 2:56. **A:** 35,210 (41,083).

PAUL SANCYA/ASSOCIATED PRESS

A Tiger for all time

Hall of Fame manager Jim Leyland, who led the Tigers to the 2006 and 2012 World Series and compiled a 700-597 record in his eight seasons with Detroit, had his No. 10 retired by the franchise Saturday.

Yankees 8, Blue Jays 3

Aaron Judge launched his 41st home run, adding to his major league-leading total, and New York handled Toronto.

Anthony Volpe and Trent Grisham also hit two-run shots off José Berríos to help Carlos Rodón win his third consecutive start.

BLUE JAYS	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	AVG
Springer dh	4	1	0	0	1	2	.227
Loperfido cf-lf	4	0	1	0	0	2	.286
Guerrero 1b	4	2	3	1	0	1	.318
Kirk c	4	0	1	2	0	1	.239
Horwitz 2b	3	0	1	0	1	0	.281
Clement 3b	4	0	0	0	0	0	.265
Schneider lf	2	0	0	0	0	2	.214
Varsho ph-cf	2	0	1	0	0	1	.201
Jiménez ss	4	0	1	0	0	3	.219
Berroa rf	2	0	0	0	0	1	.143
Barger ph-rf	1	0	0	0	1	0	.195
TOTALS	34	3	8	3	3	13	—

YANKEES	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	AVG
Verdugo lf	5	1	0	0	0	0	.233
Soto rf	5	1	1	0	0	2	.308
Judge dh	3	2	2	2	2	1	.321
Wells c	4	0	2	1	1	2	.244
Torres 2b	4	1	1	0	1	1	.233
Chisholm 3b	3	0	1	0	1	0	.308
Volpe ss	4	1	2	3	0	0	.261
Rice 1b	4	1	0	0	0	1	.200
LeMahieu 1b	0	0	0	0	0	0	.182
Grisham cf	4	1	1	2	0	1	.188
TOTALS	36	8	10	8	5	8	—

TORONTO ..... 100 002 000 — 3 8 2
NEW YORK .... 220 020 11X — 8 10 0

E: Horwitz (1), Jiménez (2). **LOB:** Toronto 7, New York 9. **2B:** Guerrero (28). **HR:** Guerrero (22), off Rodón; Judge (41), off Berríos; Grisham (7), off Berríos; Volpe (11), off Berríos.

BLUE JAYS	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	ERA
Berríos	5	7	6	5	3	6	4.11
Swanson	1	0	0	0	0	0	7.23
Burr	1	1	1	1	2	1	4.85
Ye.Rodríguez	1	2	1	0	0	1	19.6

YANKEES	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	ERA
Rodón	5⅓	3	3	3	2	8	4.37
Cousins	⅔	1	0	0	0	0	2.25
Weaver	1	0	0	0	1	3	2.92
Kahnle	1	1	0	0	0	1	2.13
Leiter	⅔	3	0	0	0	0	3.38
Holmes	⅓	0	0	0	0	1	2.80

WP: Rodón (12-7); **LP:** Berríos (9-9); **S:** Holmes (23). **Inherited runners-scored:** Cousins 2-2, Holmes 3-0. **IBB:** off Berríos (Judge). **T:** 2:51. **A:** 40,218 (47,309).

Cardinals 5, Cubs 4

A Chicago fielding mix-up allowed Nolan Arenado's short fly to drop for a tying, two-run single in a three-run eighth inning and Tommy Pham tripled and scored in the ninth as St. Louis rallied past the Cubs.

JoJo Romero pitched a perfect eighth, and Ryan Helsley tossed a one-two-three ninth for his major league-leading 34th save.

CARDINALS	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	AVG
Winn ss	5	0	0	0	0	0	.279
Burleson 1b	4	2	1	1	1	0	.278
Contreras c	3	1	1	0	0	0	.258
Goldschmidt dh	4	0	0	0	0	2	.234
Donovan lf	4	1	3	0	0	0	.267
Arenado 3b	4	0	2	2	0	0	.266
Gorman 2b	4	0	0	0	0	1	.199
Pham rf	4	1	2	0	0	0	.471
Siani cf	3	0	0	0	0	3	.256
Nootbaar cf	0	0	0	1	0	0	.232
TOTALS	35	5	9	4	1	6	—

CUBS	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	AVG
Happ lf	3	1	0	0	1	1	.228
Busch 1b	3	1	2	2	0	0	.260
Wisdom ph-1b	1	0	0	0	0	1	.200
Suzuki rf	4	0	0	0	0	2	.272
Bellinger dh	4	0	0	0	0	0	.276
Paredes 3b	4	0	0	0	0	2	.100
Hoerner 2b	4	1	2	0	0	0	.257
Swanson ss	3	0	0	0	0	1	.222
Crow-Armstrong cf	3	1	1	1	0	0	.196
Amaya c	2	0	0	1	0	1	.211
TOTALS	31	4	5	4	1	8	—

ST. LOUIS..... 100 000 031 — 5 9 0
CHICAGO..... 220 000 000 — 4 5 1

E: Paredes (1). **LOB:** St. Louis 6, Chicago 2. **2B:** Burleson (14), Pham (2). **3B:** Pham (1), Crow-Armstrong (5). **HR:** Burleson (19), off Taillon; Busch (15), off Gibson.

CARDINALS	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	ERA
Gibson	7	5	4	4	1	7	4.04
Romero	1	0	0	0	0	1	2.38
Helsley	1	0	0	0	0	0	2.64

CUBS	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	ERA
Taillon	6	6	1	1	0	4	3.25
Smyly	1	0	0	0	0	1	2.47
Hodge	1	2	3	2	1	1	2.74
Neris	1	1	1	1	0	0	3.60

WP: Romero (5-1); **LP:** Neris (8-4); **S:** Helsley (34). **HBP:** Hodge (Contreras). **T:** 2:21. **A:** 40,073 (41,363).

Reds 6, Giants 4

Tyler Stephenson hit two of Cincinnati's four home runs as the Reds bounced back from being no-hit by Blake Snell the night before to defeat San Francisco.

Reds right-hander Hunter Greene allowed just one hit while striking out 11 to extend his scoreless innings streak to 21.

GIANTS	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	AVG
Wade 1b	4	0	0	0	0	2	.286
Ramos cf	3	0	0	0	0	2	.285
Encarnación rf	1	1	1	1	0	0	.200
Bailey c	4	0	0	0	0	2	.260
Chapman 3b	4	2	2	1	0	1	.244
Conforto lf	3	1	2	1	0	0	.224
Fitzgerald ss	4	0	0	0	0	3	.303
Yastrzemski rf-cf	3	0	0	0	1	0	.244
Luciano dh	3	0	0	0	0	3	.324
Schmitt 2b	2	0	0	0	0	0	.222
Wisely ph-2b	1	0	0	0	0	0	.260
TOTALS	32	4	5	3	1	13	—

REDS	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	AVG
India 2b	3	1	2	1	1	0	.262
De La Cruz ss	4	0	0	0	0	0	.257
Steer lf	3	1	1	0	0	0	.233
Benson lf	1	0	0	0	0	0	.194
France 1b	4	1	1	0	0	0	.125
Stephenson c	4	2	2	4	0	2	.242
Candelario dh	3	0	1	0	0	1	.226
Friedl cf	3	0	0	0	0	2	.208
Fairchild rf	2	1	1	1	1	0	.225
Marte 3b	3	0	0	0	0	2	.172
TOTALS	30	6	8	6	2	7	—

SAN FRAN..... 000 000 211 — 4 5 1
CINCINNATI ... 011 400 00X — 6 8 2

E: Chapman (13), Friedl (1), De La Cruz (21). **LOB:** San Francisco 3, Cincinnati 2. **2B:** Chapman (29), Candelario (22). **HR:** Conforto (11), off Wilson; Encarnación (1), off Santillan; Chapman (16), off Díaz; Stephenson 2 (13), off Harrison; India (9), off Harrison; Fairchild (7), off Harrison.

GIANTS	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	ERA
Harrison	3⅔	6	6	6	1	4	4.09
Hjelle	1⅓	1	0	0	0	1	3.78
Hicks	2	1	0	0	1	1	4.03
Ta.Rogers	1	0	0	0	0	1	2.27

REDS	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	ERA
Greene	6	1	0	0	1	11	2.83
Wilson	1	2	2	2	0	2	5.10
Santillan	1	1	1	1	0	0	1.29
Díaz	1	1	1	1	0	0	4.35

WP: Greene (8-4); **T:** 2:14. **A:** 32,602

Twins 6, White Sox 2

Chicago's team-record losing streak reached 19 games after the White Sox gave up Max Kepler's tie-breaking home run in the seventh inning that lifted Minnesota.

The losing streak is the longest since Baltimore dropped 19 in a row in August 2021.

The Twins have won 11 of their past 12 against the White Sox.

WHITE SOX	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	AVG
Vargas 3b	3	0	0	0	1	2	.067
Baldwin ss	4	1	1	1	0	1	.167
Robert cf	4	0	0	0	0	2	.214
Benintendi dh	4	0	0	0	0	0	.202
Sosa 2b	4	0	0	0	0	0	.228
Sheets 1b	3	1	0	0	0	2	.214
Julks lf	3	0	0	0	0	1	.226
Fletcher rf	3	0	0	0	0	1	.186
K.Lee c	2	0	2	1	1	0	.216
TOTALS	30	2	3	2	2	9	—

TWINS	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	AVG
Margot rf	2	0	0	0	0	1	.240
Kepler ph-rf	3	1	1	1	0	1	.266
Buxton cf	3	0	0	0	1	1	.274
Lewis 3b	2	0	0	0	2	2	.281
Miranda dh	3	0	0	0	1	0	.319
Santana 1b	3	1	0	0	1	0	.243
Jeffers c	3	2	2	1	1	0	.233
Castro 2b	4	1	1	2	0	0	.260
A.Martin lf	3	1	2	0	1	0	.241
B.Lee ss	4	0	2	2	0	0	.250
TOTALS	30	6	8	6	7	5	—

CHICAGO..... 000 011 000 — 2 3 1
MINNESOTA.. 010 010 13X — 6 8 0

E: Toussaint (1). **LOB:** Chicago 4, Minnesota 7. **3B:** K.Lee (1), A.Martin (1). **HR:** Baldwin (1), off Ober; Jeffers (16), off Crochet; Kepler (7), off Toussaint.

WHITE SOX	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	ERA
Crochet	4	1	1	1	4	2	3.19
Toussaint	3	3	2	2	1	3	3.60
Brebbia	⅔	3	3	3	2	0	6.26
Shuster	⅓	1	0	0	0	0	4.47

TWINS	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	ERA
Ober	7	2	2	2	2	7	3.69
Jax	1	1	0	0	0	2	2.05
Duran	1	0	0	0	0	0	3.57

WP: Ober (11-5); **LP:** Toussaint (0-1). **Inherited runners-scored:** Shuster 2-1. **HBP:** Ober (Sheets). **T:** 2:20. **A:** 38,289 (38,544).

Orioles 7, Guardians 4

ORIOLES	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	AVG
Slater lf	3	0	2	0	0	1	.750
Mullins ph-cf	2	0	0	0	0	1	.220
Mountcastle 1b	5	0	1	0	0	1	.266
Henderson ss	5	2	3	1	0	0	.288
Santander rf	5	2	2	0	0	0	.248
Jiménez dh	3	0	2	1	0	1	.500
Rutschman ph-dh	1	1	1	2	1	0	.262
Mayo 3b	3	0	0	0	0	0	.000
O'Hearn ph	1	1	1	1	0	0	.271
Urías 3b	1	0	0	0	0	0	.243
Cowser cf-lf	3	0	1	1	1	1	.250
McCann c	4	0	0	0	0	0	.213
Holliday 2b	4	1	2	1	0	1	.146
TOTALS	40	7	15	7	2	6	—

GUARDIANS	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	AVG
Kwan dh	2	2	0	0	2	1	.330
Martínez cf-lf	4	1	1	2	0	0	.238
Ramírez 3b	4	1	1	2	0	0	.276
J.Naylor 1b	4	0	1	0	0	0	.250
Thomas rf-cf	4	0	0	0	0	2	.188
Giménez 2b	4	0	1	0	0	0	.249
Schneemann lf-ss	4	0	2	0	0	0

The Washington Post

PARIS OLYMPICS

SUNDAY, AUGUST 4, 2024

PHOTOS BY JABIN BOTSFORD/THE WASHINGTON POST

Ryan Crouser captured an unprecedented third straight Olympic gold medal in the shot put with a mark of 75 feet 1½ inches, relegating teammate Joe Kovacs to the silver medal for the third consecutive Games.

It's Crouser, then Kovacs ... again

The Americans earn gold and silver in the shot put for the third consecutive Olympics — and plan to keep on throwing

BY ADAM KILGORE

SAINT-DENIS, FRANCE — At some point during the past eight years, introduction became a hassle for Ryan Crouser. He would emerge from tunnel to track and pop his shirt or raise his arm or flex his biceps. And then he would hold an awkward stare into the camera as the announcer finished cataloguing the long list of accolades that made him the greatest shot putter who ever lived.

As he prepared to win his third consecutive gold medal at the Paris Olympics, Crouser devised a solution: He needed a pose he could hold long enough for Stade de France to learn about his medals and championships.

When Crouser emerged, he dropped to a knee and rested his chin on his right fist in the manner Rodin's "The Thinker" — "*Le Penseur*" for the locals.

"Little shout-out to a French sculptor," Crouser said. "That's my all-time favorite. I like to think of myself as a thinker."

Crouser added yet another title to his indomitable Olympic career, again topping the friendly rival who had the great misfortune of being born at roughly the time as the man who defined what is possible in the event. In a rain-stifled competition, Crouser claimed his third consecutive Olympic title, making him the sixth male American track and field athlete — and first since Carl Lewis — to win three straight Olympic golds in the same event.

Same as the first two, Joe Kovacs stood one spot beneath Crouser on the podium. Crouser won with a 22.90-meter (75 foot-1½ inch) heave, well short of the Olympic record he set in Tokyo. Kovacs bagged his third straight silver when his final attempt soared 22.15 meters (72-8) and vaulted him from fourth to his customary position, a dramatic attempt he savored more than many longer throws.

Crouser had won in Rio de Janeiro as an upstart. In Tokyo, he strung together the most impressive series in the sport's history in the wake of his grandfather's death. His gold at the Paris Olympics was valediction and testament to his resilience. He separated from his competitors in dismal conditions. The most impressive part was what it took to step into the circle.

"Throwing a 16-pound ball is not easy on the body," Crouser said.

Crouser had for years battled through an injury to his elbow tendon that was manageable. While training in April, Crouser suffered a torn pectoral muscle that could have been catastrophic. He did not know whether he could compete at the U.S. Olympic trials or how his body would respond. He entered in the unfamiliar position of having just the third-longest throw in the world this year.

Kovacs, who struggled on his opening throws in a rainy final round, didn't move onto the podium this time until his final attempt, jumping from fourth place to win the silver medal.

"It was a bit of a blessing to come in feeling just happy to be there," Crouser said. "There were a number of times where I didn't even know if I'd make the Olympic team. Would I be at a level to throw at the Olympic final?"

After Crouser hit his longest throw in his third attempt, the skies above Stade de France opened. The rain both prevented Crouser from challenging his record and effectively assured him victory.

Chalk caked on throwers' necks, and their feet slipped on the slick circle. Nigerian Chukwuebuka Cornnell Enekwechi crashed onto his backside as he released his fourth attempt. Crouser stumbled out of the circle on his next try. In those conditions, 22.90 meters may as well have been a mile. Rain is more welcome at a wedding than at the Olympic shot put final.

All of that placed Kovacs in a horrible position. He had struggled on his opening throws, adrenaline causing him to lift up and out of his spin too soon. He sat in fourth place when his sixth and final throw arrived.

Kovacs watched the three throwers before him all slip and fall. Kovacs is the shortest man at major competitions, but he is also the strongest. The speed and force with which he throws at his most fierce allowed for the real chance of serious injury on the slick surface.

But he had not trained in his backyard back in Dublin, Ohio, during breaks when his kids napped so he could play it safe. He had not come to the Olympics to let someone else take his medal.

"For me, it's more scary to not swing," Kovacs said.

Kovacs made one concession that doubled as a mechanical fix. He slowed down his spin a touch. He threw more with guts than mechanics. When the shot left his hand, Kovacs somehow knew it would be good and launched into immediate, profane celebration. "NBC bleeped some things out there," Kovacs said. The shot dented the wet grass 22.15 meters away, enough to pass bronze medalist Rajindra Campbell of Jamaica and American Payton Otterdahl for second place. It was shorter than his silver medal throw in Tokyo. It meant more.

"It was not a good technical throw, but it was an emotional throw," Kovacs said. "I found a way to make it happen. I'm going to be more proud of that throw as a silver medal than all my other ones before."

Said Crouser: "That was the most impressive throw I've seen Joe make."

Crouser and Kovacs both declared their intention to keep throwing 16-pound balls for another four years. They already have dedicated themselves to perform at the apex of their sport for more than a decade. Crouser sleeps nine hours per night, coaches himself and never drinks aside from a 10-day bass fishing vacation.

"There's maybe a little bit of craziness to keep on coming back," Kovacs said. "It's a lot easier to just say it was a good run."

It may be craziest for Kovacs, who shows up at every major competition to find Crouser. Kovacs knocked Crouser off the top of a world championship podium once. For most of his career, he has been defined against the best ever. Kovacs is the only other man to surpass the world record Randy Barnes held for 31 years. It has earned almost exclusively silver.

"If either of us existed at separate points in throwing history, that person would be the greatest of all time," Crouser said.

There can only be one greatest, though, and it is Crouser. After his final, cosmetic throw, Crouser raised his arms and held back tears. He made a slow walk around the rim of the stadium with an American flag around his back, slapping high-fives with fans in the first row, so much more than happy to be there.

	GOLD	SILVER	BRONZE	TOTAL
United States	14	24	23	61
France	12	14	15	41
China	16	12	9	37

Live updates: For analysis and results throughout the Games, visit *wapo.st/parisolympics*

Medal leaders through Saturday.

What makes 'Mondo' fly?

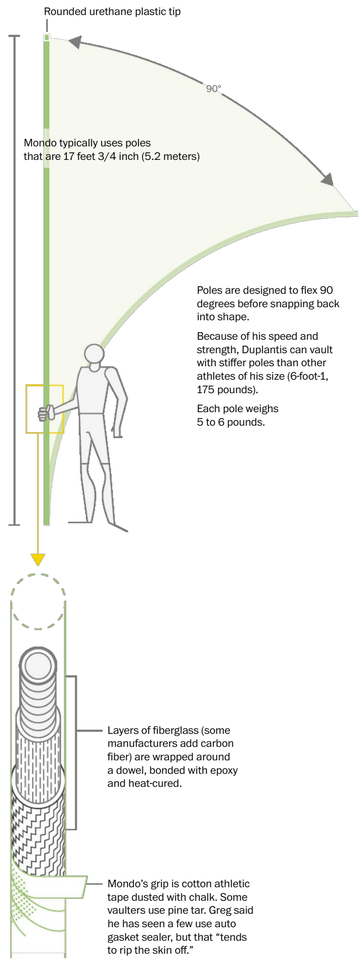
The world's best pole vaulter turns a harrowing event into something almost musical

BY BONNIE BERKOWITZ, LESLIE SHAPIRO, WILLIAM NEFF, CJ RICULAN AND ÁLVARO VALIÑO

A great pole vaulter has to be fast, powerful and precise to propel himself two stories high using only a stick. The greatest vaulter of all time makes it look elegant. ¶ Louisiana's Armand "Mondo" Duplantis, 24, who competes for Sweden, has set the world record eight times since 2020 and is the undisputed favorite to win a second consecutive Olympic gold medal Monday in Paris. ¶ His unorthodox yet supremely graceful and efficient technique once prompted a youth coach to marvel, "While everybody else fights the pole, Mondo dances with the pole." ¶

Poles 101

Most elite vaulters carry about 10 different poles to a competition and may switch based on weather or track conditions. They tend to start the early rounds with more flexible poles that require less effort to bend and switch to stiffer ones later that will launch them higher. No rules govern poles other than that "the basic surface must be smooth," said Chris Chappell of UCS Spirit, the company that makes poles for Mondo. His are made to order but aren't custom — anyone could buy one.

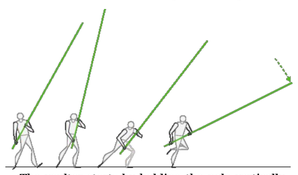


About this story

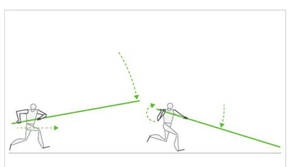
Information on poles came from Don Rahrig and Brian Mondschein of ESSX and Chris Chappell of UCS Spirit. Technique descriptions came from Greg Duplantis, Simon Arkell and David Butler. Additional information from the World Athletics competition and technical rules.

Running with a pole

Vaulters used to carry poles horizontally down the runway, a very awkward way to sprint. They now use an "active pole drop" technique that makes the pole work for them rather than being a dead weight.



The vaulter starts by holding the pole vertically, typically with the dominant hand six to 12 inches from the end.



As the vaulter runs — typically 20 steps — gravity pulls the pole downward like a drawbridge closing.

An absurdly fast approach

The faster a vaulter sprints, the more energy they can transfer to the pole. That helps in two ways. The pole moves forward more quickly, like a windshield wiper on a higher speed. And the vaulter can use a stiffer pole, which is tougher to bend but will fling them higher as it straightens out. No world-class pole vaulter has ever run as fast as Mondo.

His top speed at takeoff has been measured at 10.3 meters per second, which translates to 23 mph — elite sprinter territory. Just a handful of other pole vaulters have cracked 10 mps, said Johan Cassirame, a French sports scientist who studies the biomechanics of pole vaulting and has a database of more than 18,000 vaults.

Mondo's speed advantage is so great that if everything else were equal, he would be expected to soar nearly a foot higher (30 centimeters) than his closest competitors, Cassirame said. His world record, set in April, is 20 feet 5½ inches (6.24 meters) — 3 inches (8 cm) higher than anyone else has ever cleared. On many jumps, he clears the bar by quite a bit more.

The active pole drop is one of the ways Ukrainian coach Vitaly Petrov upended the sport in the 1980s and '90s. His ideas, combined with the success of star pupil and 35-time world record breaker Sergey Bubka, rewrote the textbook method of pole vaulting. Mondo may be revising it.

An unusual pole drop

How many ways are there to land the pole in the vault box? At least two: Mondo's and everyone else's.

Most vaulters try to drop the pole tip directly into the back of the recessed vault box. But Mondo puts it down about a foot before the end of the rubber runway and lets it slide into the vault box.

It's one of many aspects of his technique that are not by-the-Petrov-book. It matters — unless it doesn't. No one seems exactly sure.

When Mondo dropped the pole this way as a youngster, Greg Duplantis — his father and coach and a former world-class vaulter himself — was concerned.

"I tried to get him to drop the pole in a more conventional manner, and he could do it, no problem," Greg said. "But he just didn't like it. And also the results weren't any different. … So I thought, 'Well, it's not hurting him.'"

Now Greg thinks it may help him.

All vaulters experience vibration as they run with the pole and a violent shock when the pole hits the end of the box before it begins to bend. Greg theorizes that by dropping the pole onto the runway early, Mondo not only deadens some of that vibration but also has a split-second longer to prepare his body for that shock.

"He's more ready to take off than others," Greg said.

A difficult takeoff

The moment the pole hits the back of the vault box, Mondo's body position differs in several ways from conventional wisdom. He (sometimes) is closer to the box.

Most top vaulters take off at least 14 or 15 feet away. Mondo can nail a vault at 14 feet but also as close as 12 feet, Greg said, an unusually wide range.

His foot is on the ground longer. Mondo's foot is still on the runway when the pole begins to bend. The Petrov ideal would be for the foot to leave the ground right when the pole hits the back of the box or a fraction of a second before then.

He's typically "under": Conventional wisdom says vaulters should be able to draw a vertical line from their top hand to the toe of their takeoff foot. But Mondo's toe is usually closer to the box than his hand. In vaulting lingo, that means he takes off "under." (The opposite, when a vaulter's toe is behind that imaginary line, is called "out.") That is not unusual: Other world-class vaulters take off under as well.

The knock against it is that it puts a lot of stress on the shoulders and back. Vaulters can have their hips violently yanked underneath them when the pole collides with the back of the box. But Mondo's transition is so fluid that it's hard to see when the collision occurs, even in slow motion.

A throwback swing

Vaulters turn upside down by pushing hard against the pole with their arms and swinging their lower bodies. "It is a very, very aggressive movement," said David Butler, the coach at Rice for 24 years who is known as the "Zen master" of pole vaulting.

Mondo swings both legs like a pendulum, a strong power move similar to a gymnast building momentum on the horizontal bars. Greg said the technique is a throwback to the days of metal or bamboo poles that didn't bend, so vaulters had to wring every bit of momentum out of their bodies.

Most other vaulters drive one knee upward and swing only their straight leg, sacrificing a bit of momentum in exchange for the ability to get upside down quickly. Notice how Mondo keeps his bottom arm straight as the pole goes from bending to unbending? That is difficult to do, two-time Olympic vaulter Simon Arkell said, but it helps him keep pressure on the pole. He would lose more energy if his arm were bent.

A really tight tuck

Through the swing, Mondo's body is "long-long-long-long-long-long — and at the very last second, he'll break his hips and get in a little ball to be able to get upside down," said Doug "Bubba" Sparks, a three-time world masters champion who has known the Duplantis family since Mondo was a toddler. That "little ball" is called a tuck, and Mondo does it such that his hips will be aligned above his shoulders just as the pole is about to unbend, the perfect position to be launched upward.

The style is not unique to him — vaulters have to tuck somewhat to get upside down — but his tuck is extreme, with his knees nearly touching his face.

Many vaulters leak momentum during that tricky transition as the pole goes from bending to unbending, but Mondo has a natural feel for catching the bend, Butler said, such as "a surfer catching a wave." His center of mass never stops moving forward and upward.

A straight-as-an-arrow launch

A quick tuck is important because a vaulter wants to be upside down and parallel to the pole when it uncorks all that stored energy. If Mondo has "caught the bend," the pole recoil will propel him upward, Butler said, and he will be "popped right off the top of the pole like a pop gun, like a rocket launch."

On big jumps, his body often is still rising for an incredible four feet after he lets go of the pole.

The most important thing you can't see

Everyone who spoke for this story said Mondo's technique is revolutionary, yet none of them said it is his greatest superpower.

Some mentioned an uncanny awareness of where his body is in space that allows him to adjust mid-jump to save an imperfect takeoff.

Others cited his inner drive and competitiveness, honed during a childhood spent trying to keep up with two athletic older brothers.

But everyone mentioned his fearlessness, a nonnegotiable requirement when you're intentionally propelling your body more than 20 feet into the sky.

"Firstly, he doesn't know what he's supposed to be afraid of," Sparks said. "Secondly, he's not afraid of anything."

PARIS OLYMPICS

GYMNASTICS

Biles vaults to third gold in Paris; Nedoroscik gets bronze

BY EMILY GIAMBALVO

FRANCISCO SECO/ASSOCIATED PRESS

Simone Biles used her signature Yurchenko double pike vault Saturday to defeat Brazil's Rebeca Andrade and win her third gold in Paris.

PARIS — Simone Biles hasn't faced a challenger as strong as Brazil's Rebeca Andrade in years, and in the vault final, they met for their quickest battle of these Paris Olympics. On the apparatus on which both are perhaps most impressive, each delivered two vaults, a grand total of about 25 seconds of thrilling gymnastics that ended with Biles's third gold medal in Paris.

Biles performed a highflying Yurchenko double pike, a vault so hard no other woman has ever attempted it. Yet Biles flew through the air, reaching a height not even Andrade can match, and controlled the landing well. She took just a hop backward and then had a similar strong landing on her second vault for an average score of 15.300.

If Biles had struggled on her landings — or had Andrade debuted a new skill successfully — this competition might have been tight. But about 15 minutes later, when Andrade stepped into the spotlight, Biles's gold already seemed guaranteed.

Biles has been outstanding at these Games, capping a years-long comeback after withdrawing from multiple events at the Tokyo Olympics because of a disorienting mental block. While many praised Biles's decision to prioritize her physical and mental health, some critics called her a quitter.

"But they're really quiet now, so that's strange," Biles said. "After all these years of putting the mental work in, it's paid off, so I'm super excited to be on this stage again."

Andrade, the defending Olympic champion on this apparatus after Biles withdrew in Tokyo, was excellent in Saturday's final. But her two vaults, the same ones she has performed in the past, could not challenge Biles's level of difficulty. Andrade earned a 14.966 two-vault average, finishing well ahead of bronze medalist Jade Carey, a U.S. gymnast who was thrilled with a redemptive podium finish after a stumble on the runway kept her from a medal at the previous Olympics.

Biles's performance was a showcase of her innovation. She has changed the perception of what is possible in women's gymnastics with skills such as the Yurchenko double pike, which now bears her name. It's a dangerous element because gymnasts must reach incredible height when they propel off the apparatus to ensure they land safely. In a testament to Biles's ability, her most common flaw is having too much power, which sometimes leads to her falling backward.

When Biles received the signal to compete and the crowd roared, her coach, Laurent Landi, instructed her to calm down and take her time. She secured the landing with ease.

Biles, 27, said afterward this was the last time she will perform that skill, though she didn't rule out the 2028 Los Angeles Games.

"The next Olympics is at home, so you just never know," she said. "I am getting really old."

Gymnasts must perform two different vaults to be eligible for medals on the apparatus. After the Yurchenko double pike, Biles landed a vault known as a Cheng, which features a half-twist entry onto the table and then a 1½ twist in the air. Andrade's Cheng was slightly better, earning a 9.500 execution score compared with Biles's 9.300.

"She is a very powerful gymnast," Biles said. "And she does keep me on my toes."

Andrade teased the possibility of her unveiling a new element — a triple-twisting vault that would bring her scoring ceiling closer to Biles's mark — but she stuck with her 2½-twisting variation instead. Biles's double pike earned a difficulty score that was a full point higher. That's why Biles chose to perform such a difficult vault. The added value is worth the same as the deduction for a fall.

As soon as Biles stayed on her feet, she effectively sealed the gold. Andrade had not yet competed, but Biles's high score was impossible to reach. That's the reward for mastering such a complex element, and for Biles, it was again her winning formula.

Nedoroscik gets bronze again

Stephen Nedoroscik came to the Olympics for a single apparatus: one routine, repeated three times over the span of a week.

That 40-second rhythmic sequence of swinging, flying and floating around the pommel horse was all it took to become an internet sensation, the American hero of the men's gymnastics team final and a two-time Olympic medalist.

The Rubik's Cube-solving, bespectacled 25-year-old endeared himself to fans with his quirky charm as he landed on the podium thanks to his pommel horse poise.

On Saturday, Nedoroscik hit his set for the third consecutive time, scoring a 15.300 to win the bronze in the apparatus final. Nedoroscik narrowly edged Britain's Max Whitlock, the two-time defending Olympic champion, to earn a spot on the podium behind gold medalist Rhys McClenaghan (Ireland) and silver medalist Nariman Kurbanov (Kazakhstan). In the competitive field of finalists, six athletes posted marks within a range of six-tenths, and McClenaghan called it "the best pommel horse final that's ever happened, in my eyes, ever."

For Nedoroscik, the podium finish capped a whirlwind week. He arrived here essentially unknown outside the gymnastics community and turned into one of the most surprising stars of the Games. Entering the apparatus final, Nedoroscik muted the notifications that had been flooding his phone and embraced what he described as monotony.

That meant lonely training — Nedoroscik was the only U.S. male gymnast to advance to an individual apparatus final — and sticking to his rituals. For breakfast, he ate six pieces of green apple and one of the TikTok-famous Olympic Village chocolate muffins. ("They are delicious," he said. "I need them.") In his free time, Nedoroscik solved a Rubik's Cube "a couple hundred times," including on the morning of this competition.

Before the decisive set in the team finals, the camera captured Nedoroscik with his eyes closed under his glasses and his head tilted back, now a widely shared meme. And then Nedoroscik delivered a solid routine under pressure to seal the U.S. team's breakthrough bronze medal.

He called the memes "hilarious" and "surreal." And he was particularly excited that John Green, the author of "The Fault in Our Stars," tweeted about him.

"I've just been consistently on top of this world for the past week now," Nedoroscik said.

Ahead of the pommel horse final, Nedoroscik posted another photo of a Rubik's Cube with a solve time of 9.707. He wrote: "Good omen pt. 2."

Nedoroscik sees himself as a problem-solver. His pommel horse set sometimes requires adapting on the fly. He loves the apparatus because it's "super freeing when you're swinging really well," he said. He practices these same skills every day, but the concept of chasing perfection keeps it from feeling boring. He already said he's eyeing the 2028 Olympics.

As a kid, Nedoroscik enjoyed pommel horse, but his favorite event was parallel bars. But then a coach — someone who had coached a pommel horse national champion — visited Nedoroscik's gym and said the high-schooler had potential. Nedoroscik began to take the apparatus more seriously. Soon after, he won a national title at the Junior Olympic level, a precursor to the elite tier in the sport.

He didn't know much about NCAA gymnastics and landed at Penn State, where Coach Randy Jepson "took a risk taking me in," Nedoroscik said. "I pretty much didn't have any recruiting trips. I was kind of just the guy that did horse."

In a way, that hasn't changed. Nedoroscik is still the pommel horse guy. But now he's the pommel horse guy everyone knows.

BOXING

Amid ongoing uproar, Khelif clinches a medal with victory in quarterfinals

BY LES CARPENTER AND CLAIRE PARKER

VILLEPINTE, FRANCE — After the referee raised Imane Khelif's hand here Saturday afternoon, declaring the Algerian boxer the winner of her quarterfinal bout and clinching her an Olympic medal, Khelif fell to her knees, shouting and crying. Then she punched the Olympic rings in the middle of the canvas.

Whether the blow was out of joy or rage was difficult to discern. In a week, Khelif had gone from a little-known amateur fighter to the center of an online furor engulfing the Paris Games.

Khelif and Taiwan's Lin Yu Ting were disqualified from last year's International Boxing Association world championships after the organization alleged without evidence that tests revealed the women, who are not transgender, had XY chromosomes, suggesting they may have a testosterone-based advantage over other women fighters.

The International Olympic Committee, which severed ties with the IBA last year and is running the boxing competition at these Games, has said the fighters meet its eligibility requirements, which require boxers to fight in the gender category that matches how they are identified on their passports.

So Khelif fought. And because Olympic boxing gives bronze medals to both losing semifinalists, her unanimous decision over Hungary's Anna Luca Hamori meant that whatever happens in her semifinal bout Tuesday, she will go home with a medal. When this was clear, she couldn't stop crying.

She cried as hundreds of Algerian fans, waving flags and shouting her name, stomped on the steel stands inside this makeshift arena inside an airport convention hall. She cried as she walked out of the ring and under the stands. She cried as she walked into the interview area behind the bleachers, where dozens of television reporters shouted questions in Arabic, and she occasionally screamed answers in return. She even cried as her coaches led her past at least 100 reporters who had gathered to ask her questions, too.

Khelif beat Hamori soundly. But both women exchanged strong blows, and there was nothing like the one punch that made Khelif's first opponent, Italy's Angela Carini, quit less than a minute into their fight Thursday. That punch landed hard and in the process ignited a storm of rhetoric from former president Donald Trump, author J.K. Rowling and an army of online anti-transgender activists. On Saturday, Khelif won each of the bout's three rounds by landing her swings more consistently.

In the days before the fight, Hamori herself stirred the controversy, sharing an Instagram post showing an image of a female boxer facing off against a muscled monster with horns, according to screenshots from her account published by French media outlet Le Parisien. (The Instagram story was no longer visible by Saturday afternoon.)

Not long after Khelif walked through the interview area in tears, though, Hamori's tenor had changed. A Hungarian sports official grabbed a microphone in the area and said Hungarian officials believe the IOC will make the right decisions when looking at the future of Olympic boxing, Then Hamori took the microphone.

"I'm so proud of myself," she said. "That was my childhood dream. So I am so happy, and I wish good luck to my opponents and the others in the finals."

Christian Klaue, the IOC's public affairs director, later said he had talked with Hungary's Olympic media directors about changing the rhetoric around the boxers.

"It has been fine in boxing ... for the last 50 or 60 years," Klau said. "And now in three days it seems to be an issue, which is beyond reasonable looking at the reaction socially. But the reaction on social media is not because of the issue but because of this topic being so polarized."

The IOC and IBA are embroiled in a long-standing fight over control of Olympic boxing. The IOC's decision last summer to strip the IBA of its Olympic governance authority, combined with the IOC's decision to ban Russia from competition here, has fueled suspicion that IBA president Umar Kremlev, a Russian sports power broker, is seeking to disrupt the Games.

Late Friday night, Kremlev said in a statement that he will pay prize money to the boxers who lost their opening-round bouts to the fighters at the Paris Games. The IBA says it typically pays Olympic gold medalists $100,000. Kremlev said he would pay that amount to Carini and Uzbekistan's Sitora Turdibekova, who lost to Lin on Friday.

Kremlev's prize-money offer was not well received by IOC President Thomas Bach, who has been the target of raging social media posts from Kremlev. Russia and the IBA "have undertaken ... before these Games, a defamation campaign against France, against the Games, against the IOC," Bach said during a news conference here Saturday morning.

IOC officials initially tried to sidestep questions about the boxers' presence at the Olympics. But they have turned up their rhetoric in recent days as anti-transgender activists seized the issue and news coverage followed.

IOC officials said the two women are not transgender and never faced questions about their gender or testosterone levels before the IBA disqualifications. The IOC and other sports officials have said they have never been given information about the tests the IBA said it performed or what standard the IBA said the boxers failed to meet.

"These people have no credibility," IOC spokesman Mark Adams told reporters Saturday. "Maybe in their own minds [they do], but they have no credibility for anyone else."

Rodman has 'bit of magic' to propel U.S. to the semis

SOCCER FROM D1

in Lyon.

Off her game much of the afternoon, the Washington Spirit's 22-year-old forward settled Crystal Dunn's long pass with a soft touch before cutting the ball back on a defender to set herself up for a curling left-footed shot from 10 yards into the far side of the net.

"The last thing I remember is Crystal playing it, and then I was just like, 'Ahhhhh,'" said Rodman, who is in her fourth season with the Spirit in the National Women's Soccer League. "Reminiscing on it when I was walking back, I was like, 'What ... just ... happened?'"

What just happened?

"A world-class finish," U.S. Coach Emma Hayes said.

"I took a touch inside, and I see Trin wide," Dunn said. "I was like: 'You know what? If Trin can go one [versus] one in this situation, I trust and believe.'"

Rodman said she blacked out for a moment. Sophia Smith said the same thing.

"I just remember feeling so relieved when that went in," Smith said.

Mallory Swanson said, "Of course, Trin's going to do that."

Korbin Albert added: "It's insane. When I saw it go in, I thought, 'F--- yeah.'"

The laborious victory kept alive U.S. hopes of winning its first gold medal since 2012 and reclaiming global supremacy after a run of shortfalls on the world stage. Since winning the 2015 World Cup, the Americans have won one of four major tournaments.

After the U.S. team was bounced from the 2023 World Cup in the round of 16 — its earliest exit in a major competition — Hayes's mission has been to reshape the program ahead of the 2027 World Cup in Brazil.

Although medal expectations here were initially not as high as at previous Olympics, especially with Hayes new to the team and several young players in important roles, there is growing belief this squad could win gold.

It took a nervy 120 minutes to advance, capped by Rodman's goal in a match with few genuine scoring opportunities.

"Was it a game that was most likely to head to penalties?" Hayes said. "Yeah, absolutely. So we've prepared for that. [Japan] brought out our best patience, which was the most-needed skill today."

To avoid the shootout, Hayes and the players said they recognized the need to change their possession-oriented approach.

"That was the only way we were going to find a goal in that game," Rodman said of Dunn's long ball that put her in a one-on-one situation. "We had tried all game long to get in the seams and get in between them, and it wasn't working."

Dunn said: "Did I think she was actually going to do the cut and the moves and the shot? No, but knowing Trin, you know she makes anything happen, so this game needed a little bit of something different, and I was able to see that opportunity."

Rodman added, "We kind of knew it was going to come down to something brilliant like that, if it came from me or anybody else on the field."

The match played out in what, for the first time for the United States at these Olympics, looked and sounded like a big deal. The three group matches were played in the south of France, hundreds of miles from Paris, in front of small crowds. Though there was much at stake, the games had a preliminary vibe.

Saturday felt different, even before play began. Fans representing both teams flowed toward sold-out Parc des Princes — located in southwest Paris, steps from Roland Garros — sporting national colors and flags. The last time the Americans played there was an epic World Cup quarterfinal against France in 2019.

Although the U.S. team has lost only once to Japan (not including shootouts) in 41 meetings, the games are almost always tight, and with Japan's organizational assets and technical ability, the Americans were in for a difficult afternoon.

Asked whether she expected such a challenge, Hayes said: "A million percent, and anyone who thought otherwise is naive. They work their socks off, and when they hit you in the transition, they are so dynamic."

Japan was content to sit back, concede possession and look to force giveaways that could lead to transition opportunities. The Americans ran into resistance beyond the penalty area and labored to create any serious opportunities. Everything hit a dead end.

Rodman had a promising opportunity in the open field in the 69th minute, but her first touch betrayed her.

In extra time, Smith raced in alone, but goalkeeper Ayaka Yamashita reduced the angle and blocked the unimaginative bid. The first half of the 30-minute extra time was about to expire when Rodman struck.

"Ultimately, games like this sometimes just take a little bit of magic, a little bit of individual brilliance," Swanson said, "and that's what Trin gave you."

"That's the best moment in my career," Rodman said, "and I hope that gets topped."

PARIS OLYMPICS

SWIMMING

Disqualification gives Walsh different level of heartbreak

BY DAVE SHEININ

TONI L. SANDYS/THE WASHINGTON POST

Alex Walsh, center, thought she had earned the bronze medal in the 200-meter individual medley, only to find out she had been disqualified for making an illegal turn.

NANTERRE, FRANCE — For a precious few moments Saturday night, American Alex Walsh was, as far as she or anyone else knew, the bronze medalist in the women's 200-meter individual medley at the Paris Olympics. Her time of 2 minutes 7.06 seconds shone next to her name on the scoreboard, more than a second clear of fourth place. She hung on the lane line at Paris La Défense Arena, sharing a hug and an exhausted smile with her friend and teammate Kate Douglass, the silver medalist.

And then, suddenly, it was all gone — her time erased from the scoreboard, her name dropped to the bottom of the screen next to the letters DSQ, her bronze medal yanked away before she could even get it around her neck.

Swimmers lose races and medals by hundredths of a second all the time, but this was another level of heartbreaking: a disqualification in an Olympic final for an illegal turn at the halfway point of the race, at a cost of a trip to the podium and a bronze medal.

Stunned, Walsh walked off the pool deck, blank-faced. Minutes later, the medal ceremony went on without her, Douglass and Australian Kaylee McKeown — who was elevated as bronze medalist by Walsh's DQ — flanking the gold medalist, Canadian phenom Summer McIntosh. The gold was McIntosh's third of these Games, along with one silver, cementing her status as the best all-around female swimmer in the world.

For Walsh, the silver medalist in the 200 IM at the Tokyo Games, it was a devastating way to end her only individual event of the Olympics. She walked past the media, flanked by a USA Swimming official, and did not stop to talk.

"I'm just devastated," said her sister, Gretchen, who earned a gold medal and a piece of a world record as part of the U.S. 4x100 mixed medley relay. "I think Alex deserves so much. She's worked so hard. … It's really sad."

Walsh's DQ was the result of an illegal turn as she moved from backstroke to breaststroke. "The swimmer did not finish the backstroke leg on her back," the official ruling noted. Replays of the race appeared to confirm the ruling: Essentially, as Walsh approached the wall, she rotated her body too far toward her stomach-down side, when by rule she had to stay on her back — or at least not rotate past 90 degrees, or vertical — until touching.

A poolside referee saw the infraction and called it, and it was upheld by video review, according to a spokesperson for World Aquatics, the sport's international governing body.

"She went past vertical — that's the problem," NBC analyst (and three-time Olympic gold medalist) Rowdy Gaines said on the broadcast after watching the replay of Walsh's turn. "From that angle, that looks like that's the right call."

The "crossover" turn used by most elite swimmers in the backstroke-to-breaststroke transition is a notoriously tricky move for swimmers and swim officials — because of the fine line between rotating to vertical before the turn or going a tick past it — and produces the most violations of any segment of the IM.

In an odd twist, McKeown was disqualified in the semifinal of the same event at last year's world championships in Fukuoka, Japan. The winner of that semi was Walsh, who went on to take silver in the final. Swimming Australia, in a statement that night, labeled the ruling "unjust."

A spokesperson for USA Swimming said the organization would be making no comment or statement Saturday night. But Douglass, who is Walsh's teammate with the University of Virginia's pro training group and swam collegiately with her, indicated there was at least some concern among the Americans that the DQ was unfounded.

"We're both upset with it. There's no way you can't be," said Douglass, who has a gold and two silvers in the Paris meet, which concludes Sunday. Asked whether she was upset because she disputes the ruling, she said: "I'm upset because I don't know if it was the right call or not. But I can't really speak on that. I'm not an official. But when it comes to back-to-breast turns like that, I feel like we all have our fair share of mistakes, and I feel like I don't know if it was worth a DQ."

Asked what she said to Walsh in the immediate aftermath, Douglass said: "There's really nothing you can say in that moment to make it better. I tried my best, but it's not my place to comfort her there."

Gretchen Walsh was in the warmup pool preparing for her butterfly leg in the mixed medley relay as her sister's final was taking place. She watched the finish, saw Alex touch in third place, then put her head down and kept swimming.

"Then I did one more 50 of warm-down, and then it was a DQ," Gretchen Walsh said. "I was just stopped in the middle of the pool, so upset."

She had just a few seconds to speak with her sister as she made her way to the ready room, where swimmers wait to be called onto the pool deck.

"I knew I was going to have to move on from that quickly in the moment," Gretchen Walsh said following her relay gold. "Give her a big hug and tell her I'm here for her and then go out and do this in her honor."

BARRY SVRLUGA

Ledecky puts in the time, and history is her reward

TONI L. SANDYS/THE WASHINGTON POST

Katie Ledecky, who held off Ariarne Titmus in the 800 freestyle, is already thinking about training with an eye on Los Angeles and 2028.

SVRLUGA FROM D1

Her career could have ended Saturday night, and there would be only paeans.

"She's rewritten distance freestyle," compatriot Paige Madden said, "and swimming in general."

In beating back Titmus at the Paris Olympics, Ledecky won her fourth straight gold in the 800 and ninth across her four Games, breaking a tie with fellow American Jenny Thompson for most by a female swimmer. She now has 14 medals overall, which extended her own mark among female swimmers.

Her accomplishments are unmatched. The process is exhausting. She knows what it will take to do this again in 2028 in Los Angeles and is already thinking about it.

"I've kind of been dreading this break," Ledecky said of her next few weeks, when she will return to her hometown of Bethesda for something of a forced chill-out period. "I have no idea how long it's going to be. I'm sure I'll find my way back to the pool pretty soon."

Get back in the pool? For four more years? Not so much for the triumph of climbing to the top of a medal stand and hearing "The Star-Spangled Banner" once more. Rather, for the joy of unlocking the pool at her training base in Gainesville, Fla., on a Sunday morning when the rest of the swimming world is happy to exhale on the couch.

This is a fascinating element to greatness. We think it reveals itself in moments such as Saturday night, with gold at stake, an international audience looking on and worthy opponents in the pool. That's when greatness makes its public appearance. It's built elsewhere, in anonymity, in all the moments no one sees.

"I'm always in the pool," Ledecky wrote in her autobiography, released in the run-up to these Games. "Hours a day, nearly every day, since I was a toddler perched on the side ladder, blowing bubbles and kicking my feet. The pool is and has always been my refuge. It functions as my playground, my hobby, my passion, my workplace, my lifeblood."

There are all sorts of elements there: cuteness from those days as a kid, obsessiveness as she aged. It would seem an identity completely attached to swimming, and maybe that's true.

But what stands out is the work — and the understanding of it. When she was blowing bubbles and kicking her feet — heck, when she won that gold in London what seems like a lifetime ago — she didn't and couldn't comprehend the full measure of the hours and the arduousness it would take. Not in a single practice or a single week but in four years of them in which one session absolutely helps build the next.

They don't show those sessions on NBC. Which is kind of awesome.

"I probably enjoy the training more than the racing," Ledecky said. "… Honestly, if I could go back to training on September 1 and just train all fall, I'll be one happy camper."

Yet it's telling how Ledecky added to both her ledger and her legend by fending off not only Titmus but the hard-charging Madden, who ended up with bronze. When Ledecky won gold in 2012, it was by 4.13 seconds — a giant margin in a swimming race. Four years later in Rio, when she was absolutely cresting, she won by 11.38 seconds — enough time to nap in between gold and silver, setting a world record that still stands.

And then three years ago in Tokyo, she staved off Titmus — but, by comparison, barely, just 1.26 seconds.

So with Titmus at her side again Saturday, she leaned not on those previous golds — but on everything that happened in between.

"I had to stick in the race and trust myself," Ledecky said, "trust my training, trust that I knew how to race that event."

Trust her training, in an event in which she owns the fastest 16 times in history. Trust her training, in an event in which she has been beaten in a final just once since 2010 — and that by Canada's burgeoning superstar Summer McIntosh in an obscure meet in February in Orlando.

Trust herself. Trust her training.

"That's how remarkable she is," Titmus said.

The enormity of Ledecky's achievement and the rare diligence involved isn't lost on Titmus, who has beaten Ledecky in the 400-meter freestyle in the past two Olympics. When Ledecky won 800 gold in 2012, Titmus was an 11-year-old girl in Tasmania with only dreams.

"That's just remarkable to me to think that she's still winning at this level," said Titmus, now 23. "I just have more respect for her. I know how hard it is to defend a title, and to go four in a row is unreal."

When Ledecky touched the wall in 8 minutes 11.04 seconds — faster than she swam in Tokyo — she looked at the scoreboard. The company arrived quickly. Titmus was just 1.25 seconds back, Madden just 0.71 seconds behind that. Ledecky looked to the sky.

"It was just kind of a feeling of relief," Ledecky said.

She was pushed, and she pushed back. Her meet is over. She has done this enough that she knows what's next: media appearances to capitalize on her four-medal performance here. Time with her family back in Bethesda. Weighing endorsement opportunities.

It's a drill — a lucrative drill. It's not why she does it.

"Sometimes you're like, 'Gosh, I just want to get in the pool,'" she said.

Find her there next. We have seen her public successes. They are, in so many ways, unmatched. They are built in private not so much because swimming is who she is but because swimming is what she loves.

PARIS OLYMPICS

ROWING

After a dry spell, U.S. returns to the podium

The United States long has been a dominant force in men's rowing eight. The Americans won the inaugural race at the 1900 Olympics and took gold at 11 of the first 14 Olympic regattas, including the 1924 Paris Games.

If that sounds like ancient history, it kind of is. The United States hadn't won a gold in the eight since 2004 and hadn't reached the medal podium since 2008. No American boats found the podium in Tokyo, the first time the United States went home empty-handed since 1908.

The Americans posted the top qualifying time in Monday's heats and ran third nearly the entire race Saturday. In the end, they couldn't quite catch Britain or the Netherlands in Vaires-sur-Marne, France. But their time of 5 minutes 25.28 seconds was good enough for third, 2.4 seconds out of first.

"It wasn't gold, it wasn't silver, but it got us on the podium," said Clark Dean, the lone holdover from the Tokyo boat. "I think I speak for everyone when I say we're super proud of what we did."

— Rick Maese

BASKETBALL

White provides a spark for U.S. in group finale

Having locked up a spot in the quarterfinals already, the U.S. men's basketball team needed only to go through the motions against Puerto Rico, which was already eliminated from the tournament.

But going through the motions proved to be an arduous challenge for Team USA, which trailed Puerto Rico early in the second quarter before pulling away for a 104-83 blowout victory at Stade Pierre-Mauroy in Villeneuve-d'Ascq in its third and final group stage game.

The U.S. team's spark finally came from backup guard Derrick White, the only member of the 12-man roster who hasn't been an NBA all-star. The 30-year-old White had a key steal that led to a Kevin Durant three-pointer and set up another three that re-energized an expectant crowd.

The United States next will face Brazil on Tuesday at Bercy Arena in Paris.

— Ben Golliver

TENNIS

After upset of Swiatek, Zheng goes all the way

Zheng Qinwen claimed China's first tennis singles gold medal by defeating Donna Vekic of Croatia, 6-2, 6-3, at Roland Garros.

The 21-year-old Zheng displayed the same powerful serves and groundstrokes she used to eliminate No. 1 Iga Swiatek in the semifinals and now has the biggest title of her career. …

Matt Ebden and John Peers won Australia's second tennis gold medal, beating Austin Krajicek and Rajeev Ram of the United States, 6-7 (8-6), 7-6 (7-1), 10-8, in a match tiebreaker in the men's doubles final. …

Lorenzo Musetti won Italy's first tennis medal in 100 years, beating Felix Auger-Aliassime of Canada, 6-4, 1-6, 6-3, for the men's singles bronze.

DAVID RAMOS/GETTY IMAGES

A tight squeeze

Crowds of fans cheer for cyclists passing through the Cote de la butte Montmartre in Paris during the men's road race Saturday.

TELEVISION

ARCHERY
7:10 a.m. — Men's final — USA Network

BASKETBALL
11:15 a.m. — Women: United States vs. Germany — USA Network

BEACH VOLLEYBALL
4 a.m. — Men's round of 16: Germany vs. Brazil — CNBC
7 a.m. — Men's round of 16: Czech Republic vs. Netherlands — E!
11:25 a.m. — Women's round of 16: Brazil vs. Australia — E! (joined in progress)
3 p.m. — Men's round of 16: Brazil vs. Netherlands — CNBC
4 p.m. — Women's round of 16: United States vs. Italy — NBC

CANOEING
9:30 a.m. — Men's kayak cross heats — USA Network
10:45 a.m. — Women's kayak cross heats — E!

CYCLING
8 a.m. — Women's road race — CNBC
11:10 a.m. — Women's road race — NBC (joined in progress)

FENCING
8:50 a.m. — Men's team foil, semifinals — E!
1:30 p.m. — Men's team foil, bronze medal match — E! (joined in progress)
2:30 p.m. — Men's team foil, final — E!

GOLF
3 a.m. — Men's final round — Golf Channel

GYMNASTICS
9 a.m. — Apparatus finals — NBC (joined in progress)

HANDBALL
5 a.m. — Men: Egypt vs. Argentina — CNBC

THREE-ON-THREE BASKETBALL
1:05 p.m. — Men: United States vs. Netherlands — E!
3:30 p.m. — Men's elimination round — USA Network

SAILING
6 a.m. — Day 8 — Peacock

SWIMMING
12:30 p.m. — Women's 50-meter freestyle, men's 1,500-meter freestyle, men's and women's 4x100-meter medley relay, finals — NBC

TABLE TENNIS
8 a.m. — Men's singles bronze medal match — E! (joined in progress)
9 a.m. — Men's singles final — USA Network (joined in progress)

TENNIS
6 a.m. — Finals — Peacock

TRACK AND FIELD
4:05 a.m. — Morning session — USA Network
1:05 p.m. — Women's high jump, men's hammer throw and men's 100 meters, finals; women's 800 meters and men's 1,500 meters, semifinals; men's 400 meters, first round — NBC, USA Network

VOLLEYBALL
7 a.m. — Women: United States vs. France — NBC

CYCLING

Evenepoel earns sweep of road race, time trial

The only things that slowed Remco Evenepoel on his way to Olympic history were a flat tire and the finish line.

The Belgian cyclist became the first rider to sweep the road race and time trial at the Summer Games, relentlessly attacking over three climbs of Montmartre and building such a lead on the run-in to the finish at the Pont d'Iéna that Evenepoel was able to swap out bikes in the final kilometers and still begin his celebration early.

He raised his arms in triumph as he crossed the bridge over the Seine, stopping a foot or two past the finish line to soak in the cheers.

Valentin Madouas, who tried to keep pace with him late in the race, held on for silver as French countryman Christophe Laporte took bronze from a group that included Matteo Jorgensen of the United States, Ben Healy of Ireland and Marco Haller of Austria.

FENCING

Kharlan's strong finish seals win for Ukraine

Ukraine won its first gold medal in Paris with a victory over South Korea in the women's team saber fencing final at Grand Palais.

Individual bronze medalist Olga Kharlan scored 22 points, and the Ukrainian team recovered from six points down for a 45-42 win.

With her team down 40-37 and the crowd chanting her name, Kharlan came in for the final leg of the bout and went 8-2 to win.

Japan beat France, 45-40, for the bronze, even though the French team had individual gold medalist Manon Apithy-Brunet and silver medalist Sara Balzer.

JUDO

Riner delivers clincher for France over Japan

Teddy Riner earned the decisive win as France defended its Olympic title in mixed team judo, beating Japan in the final for the second straight Games.

After Riner secured his record-tying third individual gold medal one night earlier in dramatic fashion, he finished the team competition by beating Tatsuru Saito by ippon 6:26 into golden score competition. The teams split the first six fights at Champ-de-Mars Arena.

Brazil and South Korea both won bronze medals. …

Afghan judoka Mohammad Samim Faizad tested positive for the anabolic steroid stanozolol, the International Testing Agency said.

EQUESTRIAN

Werth helps Germany pull off the three-peat

Equestrian star Isabell Werth helped Germany win the team dressage title for the third consecutive Games with a narrow victory over Denmark at the Palace of Versailles.

It was Werth's eighth Olympic gold and increased her overall medal tally to 13, all in dressage and more than any equestrian.

Werth, riding Wendy, was joined on the podium by Jessica von Bredow-Werndl and Frederic Wandres.

SHOOTING

Hancock tops student to secure fourth gold

Vincent Hancock of the United States beat his student Conner Prince to earn his fourth Olympic gold medal in men's skeet in Déols.

Shooters are eliminated one by one in the finals, and when Taiwan shooter Lee Meng-yuan ended in bronze medal position, that set up a fight for the gold between Hancock and Prince, who grinned and shook hands.

Earlier, Yang Jiin became the third South Korean woman to win a shooting gold medal in Paris after she edged past Camille Jedrzejewski of France in a tense 25-meter pistol tiebreaker. Veronika Major took the bronze for Hungary.

— From news services and staff reports

LaFond makes history for island without a track

TRIPLE JUMP FROM **D1**

country's history.

LaFond, 30, could envision what Dominica's cities and towns looked like Saturday night: streets packed with revelers, cars gridlocked, people yelling at televisions and into their phones. The commonwealth had endured so much in recent years. She had given the people something to celebrate.

"Oh, God, my country is never going to stop partying, are they?" LaFond said. "And it's a Saturday? Just cancel work on Monday, guys."

"They deserve this as much as I do," LaFond added. "And I hope they are partying enough for the both of us. I don't know what I've done in life to deserve this. I don't know how everything worked out — I'm not going to say I don't know. We worked for this."

LaFond is a track and field champion born on an island without a track. She lived in Roseau, the capital, until she was 5. Her family immigrated to the United States and lived for two years in New Jersey. Her father got a job at the U.S. Agriculture Department, so they moved to Silver Spring. Her mom became a professor. She attended Kennedy High, where she became a track star. Her family returned to visit Dominica every summer.

LaFond competed in the heptathlon at Maryland. She remained in the area, and as she gravitated to triple jump, someone introduced her to coach Aaron Gadson.

"A few months in, I was like, 'Oh, you're cute,'" LaFond said. They are now married, and Gadson still coaches her.

To make a living, LaFond worked at Kennedy. She taught special ed, math and a course she called Life 101: teaching kids how to open checking accounts, save money and not overextend credit cards.

In 2022, LaFond decided she needed to stop working if she wanted to see how far she could take her triple jump career.

"Taking off a Friday and going to Finland on Thursday [night] and coming back and being in the classroom Monday morning took a toll," LaFond said.

When she stopped teaching, Dominica's Olympic committee offered financial support. She and Gadson practiced at an indoor facility in Ashburn until the owner raised the price. LaFond and Gadson found, of all places to train for the Olympics, the Columbia Cricket & Sports Complex.

They rented a space about 40 meters long and 15 feet wide. The owner allowed them to make it their own: LaFond bought wood planks, and they created a runway by covering them with the same rubber-granule surface used at major track stadiums. At the end of the corridor, they dumped seven tons of sand themselves with wheelbarrows and wagons.

"Our backs were aching for days," LaFond said. "This is what made an Olympic champion."

Without the toil of teaching, LaFond launched her career. She finished fifth at the 2022 world championships and then fifth again in 2023. Earlier this year, she won the world indoor championship. Yulimar Rojas, an unbeatable triple jump world record holder from Venezuela, suffered an injury that knocked her out of these Olympics. LaFond came to Paris believing she could win.

YOAN VALAT/EPA-EFE/SHUTTERSTOCK

Thea LaFond, who competed in the heptathlon at the University of Maryland, won the triple jump for Dominica's first medal in any event.

On Saturday, LaFond applied pink eyeliner and wore a black-and-green bikini uniform. On her second jump, she soared 15.02 meters to take the lead. She sprung from the sand pit and screamed.

As the competition unfolded, she kept an eye on 23-year-old Julien Alfred of Saint Lucia, a sprinter with whom she had bonded over their island heritage. At meets on the track circuit, they had talked earlier about remaining confident at major championships surrounded by athletes from countries with more resources. "We're just as big as everyone else," they told each other.

When they saw each other in Paris, they told each other, "I believe in you."

As LaFond watched Alfred win the 100 meters Saturday night, she fought back tears amid her own competition.

"I was like, 'Dang it, she went and got gold,'" LaFond said. "'I have to do it now.'"

Once the rain started falling, no one could touch LaFond's mark. The last jump finalized the podium: Jamaica's Shanieka Ricketts won silver, and American Jasmine Moore, who also will compete in the long jump, took bronze at her first Olympics.

LaFond first thought of Dominica, as she often had when she trained. Hurricane Maria devastated the island in 2017, damaging 98 percent of its buildings and causing $1.2 billion in damage. On days when she did not feel like training, she would tell herself that if Dominicans persevered, so could she. LaFond sometimes felt helpless. On Saturday night, she provided them something nobody else ever had.

She wants to give them something else. LaFond has not been back to the island in 18 months, too focused on training. She will go back soon, and she will keep going back. A gold medal will mean more resources, and LaFond knows what she wants to do with them: On the island where she was born, she will build a track.

"I want these children and the next generation to have accessibility," LaFond said. "The Caribbean is producing diamonds. The ability to just be able to hop on a track and play around, you know?"

SCOREBOARD

OLYMPICS

Paris Summer Games

MEDALS TABLE
142 OF 329 TOTAL EVENTS

Nation	G	S	B	Tot
United States	14	24	23	61
France	12	14	15	41
China	16	12	9	37
Britain	10	10	13	33
Australia	12	8	7	27
Japan	8	5	9	22
South Korea	9	7	5	21
Italy	6	8	5	19
Canada	4	4	7	15
Netherlands	6	4	4	14
Germany	4	4	2	10
Brazil	1	4	4	9
Romania	3	3	1	7
Hungary	3	2	2	7
New Zealand	2	4	1	7
Israel	1	4	1	6
Switzerland	1	1	4	6
Ireland	3	0	2	5
Sweden	1	2	2	5
Spain	1	1	3	5
Croatia	2	1	1	4
Belgium	2	0	2	4
Hong Kong	2	0	2	4
Kazakhstan	1	1	2	4
South Africa	1	1	2	4
Greece	0	1	3	4
Poland	0	1	3	4
Georgia	1	2	0	3
Ukraine	1	1	1	3
Uzbekistan	1	0	2	3
Mexico	0	2	1	3
India	0	0	3	3
Azerbaijan	2	0	0	2
Czech Republic	1	0	1	2
Guatemala	1	0	1	2
North Korea	0	2	0	2
Jamaica	0	1	1	2
Kosovo	0	1	1	2
Turkey	0	1	1	2
Taiwan	0	0	2	2
Moldova	0	0	2	2
Tajikistan	0	0	2	2
Argentina	1	0	0	1
Dominica	1	0	0	1
Ecuador	1	0	0	1
Norway	1	0	0	1
Philippines	1	0	0	1
Saint Lucia	1	0	0	1
Serbia	1	0	0	1
Slovenia	1	0	0	1
Uganda	1	0	0	1
Denmark	0	1	0	1
Ethiopia	0	1	0	1
Fiji	0	1	0	1
Mongolia	0	1	0	1
Tunisia	0	1	0	1
Austria	0	0	1	1
Egypt	0	0	1	1
Grenada	0	0	1	1
Lithuania	0	0	1	1
Portugal	0	0	1	1
Slovakia	0	0	1	1

SATURDAY'S RESULTS

BASKETBALL
MEN
United States 104, Puerto Rico 83
Serbia 96, South Sudan 85
WOMEN
China 80, Puerto Rico 58
Spain 70, Serbia 62

BEACH VOLLEYBALL
MEN
Germany 2, Poland 0 (21-19, 21-15)
Australia 2, France 0 (21-16, 22-20)
Chile 2, Canada 0, Canada INJ
United States 2, Australia 0 (21-19, 21-17)
WOMEN
Switzerland 2, Paraguay 1 (23-21, 18-21, 15-12)
Spain 2, Germany 0 (21-16, 21-19)
Switzerland 2, France 0 (21-11, 21-8)
Latvia 2, Canada 0 (21-14, 22-20)
Japan 2, France 0 (21-15, 21-18)
Canada 2, Czech Republic 0 (21-15, 21-12)

BOXING
MEN
57 KG
QUARTERFINALS
Abdumalik Khalokov, Uzbekistan, def. Jose Quiles Brotons, Spain, 5-0.
Charlie Senior, Australia, def. Carlo Paalam, Philippines, 3-2.
Munarbek Seiitbek Uulu, Kyrgyzstan, def. Jahmal Harvey, United States, 3-2.
Javier Ibanez Diaz, Bulgaria, def. Shudai Harada, Japan, 5-0.
71 KG
QUARTERFINALS
Omari Jones, United States, def. Rami Mofid Kiwan, Bulgaria, 5-0.
Asadkhuja Muydinkhujaev, Uzbekistan, def. Nikolai Terteryan, Denmark, 5-0.
Lewis Richardson, Britain, def. Zeyad Eashash, Jordan, 3-2.
Marco Alonso Verde Alvarez, Mexico, def. Nishant Dev, India, 4-1.
WOMEN
50 KG
QUARTERFINALS
Wu Yu, China, def. Chuthamat Raksat, Thailand, 5-0.
Nazym Kyzaibay, Kazakhstan, def. Ingrit Lorena Valencia Victoria, Colombia, 4-1.
Buse Naz Cakiroglu, Turkey, def. Pihla Kaivo-oja, Finland, 5-0.
Aira Villegas, Philippines, def. Wassila Lkhadiri, France, 3-2.
66 KG
QUARTERFINALS
Janjaem Suwannapheng, Thailand, def. Busenaz Surmeneli, Turkey, 4-1.
Imane Khelif, Algeria, def. Anna Luca Hamori, Hungary, 5-0.
Chen Nien Chin, Taiwan, def. Navbakhor Khamidova, Uzbekistan, 5-0.
Yang Liu, China, def. Oshin Derieuw, Belgium, 5-0.
60 KG
SEMIFINALS
Yang Wenlu, China, def. Wu Shih Yi, Taiwan, 5-0.
Kellie Harrington, Ireland, def. Beatriz Iasmin Soares Ferreira, Brazil, 4-1.

CYCLING
MEN
ROAD RACE
1. Remco Evenepoel, Belgium, 6:19:34.
2. Valentin Madouas, France, 6:20:45.
3. Christophe Laporte, France, 6:20:50.
4. Attila Valter, Hungary, 6:20:50.
5. Toms Skujins, Latvia, 6:20:50.
6. Marco Haller, Austria, 6:20:50.
7. Stefan Kueng, Switzerland, 6:20:50.
8. Jan Tratnik, Slovenia, 6:20:50.
9. Matteo Jorgenson, United States, 6:20:50.
10. Ben Healy, Ireland, 6:20:54.
11. Julian Alaphilippe, France, 6:20:59.
12. Mathieu van der Poel, Netherlands, 6:21:23.
13. Thomas Pidcock, Britain, 6:21:24.
14. Mathias Vacek, Czech Republic, 6:21:25.
15. Michael Matthews, Australia, 6:21:47.
16. Marc Hirschi, Switzerland, 6:21:47.
17. Mattias Skjelmose, Denmark, 6:21:47.
18. Alex Aranburu, Spain, 6:21:47.
19. Santi Buitrago, Colombia, 6:21:49.
20. Mads Pedersen, Denmark, 6:21:54.
21. Jasper Stuyven, Belgium, 6:21:54.
22. Juan Ayuso, Spain, 6:21:54.
23. Alberto Bettiol, Italy, 6:21:54.
24. Brandon McNulty, United States, 6:21:54.
25. Dani Martinez, Colombia, 6:21:54.
26. Felix Grossschartner, Austria, 6:21:54.
27. Corbin Strong, New Zealand, 6:22:31.
28. Maximilian Schachmann, Germany, 6:22:33.
29. Lukas Kubis, Slovakia, 6:23:16.
30. Madis Mihkels, Estonia, 6:23:16.
31. Stephen Williams, Britain, 6:23:16.
32. Simon Clarke, Australia, 6:23:16.
33. Nelson Oliveira, Portugal, 6:23:16.
34. Kevin Vauquelin, France, 6:23:16.
35. Oier Lazkano, Spain, 6:23:16.
36. Dylan van Baarle, Netherlands, 6:23:16.
37. Wout van Aert, Belgium, 6:23:21.
38. Luka Mezgec, Slovenia, 6:26:57.
39. Laurence Pithie, New Zealand, 6:26:57.
40. Alex Kirsch, Luxembourg, 6:26:57.
41. Michael Woods, Canada, 6:26:57.
42. Magnus Sheffield, United States, 6:26:57.
43. Fred Wright, Britain, 6:26:57.
44. Derek Gee, Canada, 6:26:57.
45. Jhonatan Narvaez, Ecuador, 6:26:57.
46. Rui Costa, Portugal, 6:26:57.
47. Josh Tarling, Britain, 6:26:57.
48. Tiesj Benoot, Belgium, 6:26:57.
49. Biniam Girmay, Eritrea, 6:26:57.
50. Luca Mozzato, Italy, 6:26:57.
51. Ben O'Connor, Australia, 6:26:57.
52. Alexey Lutsenko, Kazakhstan, 6:26:57.
53. Orluis Aular, Venezuela, 6:26:57.
54. Eduardo Sepulveda, Argentina, 6:28:31.
55. Eric Fagundez, Uruguay, 6:28:31.
56. Yukiya Arashiro, Japan, 6:28:31.
57. Jambaljamts Sainbayar, Mongolia, 6:28:31.
58. Jakob Soderqvist, Sweden, 6:33:56.
59. Michael Moerkoev, Denmark, 6:36:31.
60. Ryan Mullen, Ireland, 6:36:31.
61. Stanislaw Aniolkowski, Poland, 6:38:03.
62. Itamar Einhorn, Israel, 6:39:27.
63. Soeren Waerenskjold, Norway, 6:39:27.
64. Ognjen Ilic, Serbia, 6:39:27.
65. Kim Euro, South Korea, 6:39:27.
66. Anatolii Budiak, Ukraine, 6:39:27.
67. Franklin Archibold, Panama, 6:39:27.
68. Lyu Xianjing, China, 6:39:27.
69. Ryan Gibbons, South Africa, 6:39:27.
70. Nils Politt, Germany, 6:39:29.
71. Vinicius Rangel Costa, Brazil, 6:39:31.
72. Daan Hoole, Netherlands, 6:41:17.
73. Mikkel Norsgaard Bjerg, Denmark, 6:41:17.
74. Tobias Foss, Norway, 6:41:17.
75. Georgios Bouglas, Greece, 6:45:33.
76. Ali Labib, Iran, 6:46:33.
77. Charles Kagimu, Uganda, 6:50:49.
78. Gleb Syritsa, AIN, DNF.
78. Yacine Hamza, Algeria, DNF.
78. Lau Wan Yau Vincent, Hong Kong, DNF.
78. Elia Viviani, Italy, DNF.
78. Yevgeniy Fedorov, Kazakhstan, DNF.
78. Christopher Rougier-Lagane, Mauritius, DNF.
78. Achraf Ed Doghmy, Morocco, DNF.
78. Eric Manizabayo, Rwanda, DNF.
78. Domen Novak, Slovenia, DNF.
78. Matej Mohoric, Slovenia, DNF.
78. Thanakhan Chaiyasombat, Thailand, DNF.
78. Burak Abay, Turkey, DNF.
78. Nikita Tsvetkov, Uzbekistan, DNF.

FENCING
WOMEN
SABER TEAM
TABLE OF 8
Ukraine (Olena Kravatska 0-1-2; Alina Komashchuk 2-1; Olga Kharlan 3-0), def. Italy (Chiara Mormile 0-2; Martina Criscio 1-1-1; Michela Battiston 0-2-1; Irene Vecchi 1-0), 45-37, 38:21.
Japan (Shihomi Fukushima 1-2; Misaki Emura 1-1-1; Risa Takashima 2-0-1), def. Hungary (Luca Virag Szucs 2-0-1; Anna Marton 1-1-1; Liza Pusztai 0-2; Sugar Katinka Battai 0-1), 45-37, 54:31.
France (Cecilia Berder 2-0-1; Manon Apithy-Brunet 1-2; Sara Balzer 2-0-1), def. Algeria (Chaima Benadouda 0-1; Saoussen Boudiaf 1-0-2; Zohra Nora Kehli 1-2; Kaouther Mohamed Belkebir 0-2), 45-32, 30:51.
South Korea (Choi Sebin 1-1-1; Yoon Jisu 1-2; Jeon Hayoung 2-1), def. United States (Tatiana Nazlymov 0-2; Elizabeth Tartakovsky 1-2; Magda Skarbonkiewicz 3-0; Maia Chamberlain 0-0-1), 45-35, 41:22.
CLASSIFICATIONS 5-8
Hungary (Luca Virag Szucs 3-0; Anna Marton 2-1; Sugar Katinka Battai 1-2; Liza Pusztai), def. Italy (Irene Vecchi 0-3; Michela Battiston 2-1; Martina Criscio 1-2; Chiara Mormile), 45-35, 32:43.
United States (Maia Chamberlain 2-1; Magda Skarbonkiewicz 2-1; Elizabeth Tartakovsky 2-1; Tatiana Nazlymov), def. Algeria (Kaouther Mohamed Belkebir 0-3; Saoussen Boudiaf 3-0; Zohra Nora Kehli 0-3; Chaima Benadouda), 45-28, 33:55.
SEMIFINALS
Ukraine (Olena Kravatska 0-1-1; Alina Komashchuk 3-0; Olga Kharlan 3-0; Yuliia Bakastova 1-0), def. Japan (Shihomi Fukushima 0-2; Misaki Emura 0-2-1; Risa Takashima 1-2; Seri Ozaki 0-1), 45-32, 38:30.
South Korea (Choi Sebin 3-0; Yoon Jisu 1-0; Jeon Hayoung 1-1-1; Jeon Eunhye 0-0-2), def. France (Cecilia Berder 0-1; Sara Balzer 0-1-2; Manon Apithy-Brunet 0-2-1; Sarah Noutcha 1-1), 45-36, 38:56.
FINALS
PLACEMENT 7-8
Italy (Irene Vecchi 2-1; Martina Criscio 2-0-1; Michela Battiston 2-1; Chiara Mormile), def. Algeria (Kaouther Mohamed Belkebir 1-2; Zohra Nora Kehli 0-3; Saoussen Boudiaf 1-1-1; Chaima Benadouda), 45-27, 21:02.
PLACEMENT 5-6
United States (Elizabeth Tartakovsky 2-1; Maia Chamberlain 1-2; Magda Skarbonkiewicz 2-1; Tatiana Nazlymov), def. Hungary (Luca Virag Szucs 2-1; Anna Marton 0-3; Sugar Katinka Battai 2-1; Liza Pusztai), 45-39, 39:16.
BRONZE MEDAL MATCH
Japan (Risa Takashima 1-1-1; Seri Ozaki 2-1; Misaki Emura 1-2; Shihomi Fukushima), def. France (Sarah Noutcha 1-2; Sara Balzer 1-2; Manon Apithy-Brunet 2-0-1; Cecilia Berder), 45-40, 50:10.
GOLD MEDAL MATCH
Ukraine (Yuliia Bakastova 0-2-1; Alina Komashchuk 0-1-2; Olga Kharlan 3-0; Olena Kravatska), def. South Korea (Choi Sebin 0-1-2; Jeon Hayoung 1-1-1; Jeon Eunhye 2-1; Yoon Jisu), 45-42, 41:31.

FIELD HOCKEY
WOMEN
Argentina 3, Britain 0
Netherlands 5, Japan 1
Australia 3, Spain 1
United States 1, South Africa 0
China 7, France 1
Belgium 2, Germany 0

GOLF
MEN
THIRD ROUND

Jon Rahm, Spain	67-66-66—199
Xander Schauffele, United States	65-66-68—199
Tommy Fleetwood, England	67-64-69—200
Nicolai Hojgaard, Denmark	70-70-62—202
Hideki Matsuyama, Japan	63-68-71—202
Thomas Detry, Belgium	71-63-69—203
Tom Kim, South Korea	66-68-69—203
Rory McIlroy, Northern Ireland	68-69-66—203
Scottie Scheffler, United States	67-69-67—203
Ludvig Aberg, Sweden	68-70-66—204
Jason Day, Australia	69-68-67—204
Joaquin Niemann, Chile	66-70-68—204
Christiaan Bezuidenhout, S. Africa	70-71-64—205
Thorbjorn Olesen, Denmark	71-68-66—205
Victor Perez, France	70-67-68—205
Erik Van Rooyen, South Africa	67-69-69—205
Byeong Hun An, South Korea	72-68-66—206
Corey Conners, Canada	68-69-69—206
C.T. Pan, Chinese Taipei	69-65-72—206
Alejandro Tosti, Argentina	68-69-69—206
Stephan Jaeger, Germany	71-64-72—207
Matteo Manassero, Italy	69-69-69—207
Wyndham Clark, United States	75-68-65—208
Ryan Fox, New Zealand	67-73-68—208
Shane Lowry, Ireland	71-71-66—208
Collin Morikawa, United States	70-68-70—208
Carlos Ortiz, Mexico	68-70-70—208
David Puig, Spain	69-69-70—208
Min Woo Lee, Australia	76-65-68—209
Guido Migliozzi, Italy	68-67-74—209
Adrien Dumont De Chassart, Belgium	70-70-70—210
Sami Valimaki, Finland	67-71-72—210
Fabrizio Zanotti, Paraguay	70-69-71—210
Joel Girrbach, Switzerland	69-72-70—211
Shubhankar Sharma, India	70-69-72—211
Sepp Straka, Austria	67-74-70—211
Nick Taylor, Canada	70-73-68—211
Abraham Ancer, Mexico	70-71-71—212
Gavin Green, Malaysia	74-69-69—212
Viktor Hovland, Norway	70-75-67—212
Alex Noren, Sweden	67-74-71—212
Tapio Pulkkanen, Finland	69-72-71—212
Matti Schmid, Germany	68-75-69—212
Rafael Campos, Puerto Rico	73-70-70—213
Keita Nakajima, Japan	70-70-73—213
Nicolas Echavarria, Colombia	74-69-71—214
Kevin Yu, Chinese Taipei	73-69-72—214
Gaganjeet Bhullar, India	75-69-71—215
Kris Ventura, Norway	71-68-76—215
Zecheng Dou, China	69-70-77—216
Emiliano Grillo, Argentina	66-75-75—216
Adrian Meronk, Poland	73-71-72—216
Matt Fitzpatrick, England	73-64-81—218
Daniel Hillier, New Zealand	75-73-70—218
Kiradech Aphibarnrat, Thailand	74-73-72—219
Phachara Khongwatmai, Thailand	70-75-74—219
Mito Pereira, Chile	69-76-74—219
Carl Yuan, China	70-72-78—220
Camilo Villegas, Colombia	76-74-72—222
Matthieu Pavon, France	71-75-77—223

GYMNASTICS
MEN
FLOOR EXERCISE
FINAL
1. Carlos Edriel Yulo, Philippines, 15.000.
2. Artem Dolgopyat, Israel, 14.966.
3. Jake Jarman, Britain, 14.933.
4. Illia Kovtun, Ukraine, 14.533.
5. Milad Karimi, Kazakhstan, 14.500.
6. Luke Whitehouse, Britain, 14.466.
7. Rayderley Zapata, Spain, 14.333.
8. Zhang Boheng, China, 13.933.
POMMEL HORSE
FINAL
1. Rhys McClenaghan, Ireland, 15.533.
2. Nariman Kurbanov, Kazakhstan, 15.433.
3. Stephen Nedoroscik, United States, 15.300.
4. Max Whitlock, Britain, 15.200.
5. Oleg Verniaiev, Ukraine, 14.966.
6. Takaaki Sugino, Japan, 14.933.
7. Hur Woong, South Korea, 14.300.
8. Loran de Munck, Netherlands, 13.733.
WOMEN
VAULT
FINAL
1. Simone Biles, United States (15.700, 14.900), 15.300.
2. Rebeca Andrade, Brazil (15.100, 14.833), 14.966.
3. Jade Carey, United States (14.733, 14.200), 14.466.
4. An Chang Ok, North Korea (14.066, 14.366), 14.216.
5. Valentina Georgieva, Bulgaria (14.100, 13.866), 13.983.
6. Elsabeth Black, Canada (14.100, 13.766), 13.933.
7. Yeo Seojeong, South Korea (14.166, 12.666), 13.416.
8. Shallon Olsen, Canada (14.100, 12.633), 13.366.

HANDBALL
WOMEN
Netherlands 30, Hungary 26
France 32, Spain 24
Brazil 30, Angola 19
Sweden 27, Slovenia 23
Norway 30, Germany 18
Denmark 28, South Korea 20

JUDO RESULTS
MIXED TEAM
ELIMINATION ROUND OF 32
CONTEST 1
Nikoloz Sherazadishvili, Spain, def. Adnan Khankan, Refugee Olympic Team, Ippon, Uchi-mata, 0:54.
Peter Paltchik, Israel, def. Gonchigsuren Batkhuyag, Mongolia, Ippon, Tsuri-goshi, 3:36.
Gennaro Pirelli, Italy, def. Zsombor Veg, Hungary, Waza-ari, Sumi-gaeshi, 3:59.
CONTEST 2
Ariane Toro Soler, Spain, def. Muna Dahouk, Refugee Olympic Team, Ippon, 0:36.
Timna Nelson Levy, Israel, def. Sosorbaram Lkhagvasuren, Mongolia, Ippon, Yoko-shiho-gatame, 4:00.
Veronica Toniolo, Italy, def. Reka Pupp, Hungary, Ippon, Soto-makikomi, 6:59.
CONTEST 3
David Garcia Torne, Spain, def. Mohammad Rashnonezhad, Refugee Olympic Team, Ippon, 2:18.
Tohar Butbul, Israel, def. Baskhuu Yondonperenlei, Mongolia, Ippon, Ko-uchi-makikomi, 5:33.
Manuel Lombardo, Italy, def. Bence Pongracz, Hungary, Ippon, 1:06.
CONTEST 4
Cristina Cabana Perez, Spain, def. Nigara Shaheen, Refugee Olympic Team, Ippon, 0:53.
Enkhriilen Lkhagvatogoo, Mongolia, def. Gili Sharir, Israel, Ippon, 6:15.
Szofi Ozbas, Hungary, def. Kim Polling, Italy, Waza-ari, Yoko-guruma, 4:35.
CONTEST 5
Erdenebayar Batzaya, Mongolia, def. Sagi Muki, Israel, Ippon, Ko-soto-gake, 2:39.
Christian Parlati, Italy, def. Krisztian Toth, Hungary, Ippon, Tani-otoshi, 3:25.
CONTEST 6
Adiyasuren Amarsaikhan, Mongolia, def. Raz Hershko, Israel, Waza-ari, Ushiro-kesa-gatame, 4:00.
GOLDEN CONTEST
Sagi Muki, Israel, def. Erdenebayar Batzaya, Mongolia, Waza-ari, Sode-tsurikomi-goshi, 2:14.
Spain (Nikoloz Sherazadishvili; Ariane Toro Soler; David Garcia Torne; Cristina Cabana Perez), def. Refugee Olympic Team (Adnan Khankan; Muna Dahouk; Mohammad Rashnonezhad; Nigara Shaheen), 4:41.
Israel (Peter Paltchik; Timna Nelson Levy; Tohar Butbul; Gili Sharir; Sagi Muki; Raz Hershko), def. Mongolia (Gonchigsuren Batkhuyag; Sosorbaram Lkhagvasuren; Baskhuu Yondonperenlei; Enkhriilen Lkhagvatogoo; Erdenebayar Batzaya; Adiyasuren Amarsaikhan), 28:17.
Italy (Gennaro Pirelli; Veronica Toniolo; Manuel Lombardo; Kim Polling; Christian Parlati), def. Hungary (Zsombor Veg; Reka Pupp; Bence Pongracz; Szofi Ozbas; Krisztian Toth), 20:04.
ELIMINATION ROUND OF 16
CONTEST 1
Julie Beurskens, Netherlands, def. Milica Nikolic, Serbia, Ippon, Sumi-gaeshi, 0:25.
Uta Abe, Japan, def. Ariane Toro Soler, Spain, Ippon, 3:59.
Sarah Leonie Cysique, France, def. Timna Nelson Levy, Israel, Ippon, Sode-tsurikomi-goshi, 1:40.
Pauline Starke, Germany, def. Katharina Tanzer, Austria, Ippon, Ko-soto-gake, 0:23.
Huh Mimi, South Korea, def. Tugce Beder, Turkey, Ippon, Ko-uchi-gari, 3:11.
Rafaela Silva, Brazil, def. Abiba Abuzhakynova, Kazakhstan, Ippon, Soto-makikomi, 3:12.
Eteri Liparteliani, Georgia, def. Odette Giuffrida, Italy, Ippon, Ko-soto-gari, 0:19.
Shukurjon Aminova, Uzbekistan, def. Christa Deguchi, Canada, Ippon, 6:18.
CONTEST 2
Strahinja Buncic, Serbia, def. Tornike Tsjakadoea, Netherlands, Ippon, Uchi-mata-gaeshi, 2:23.
Salvador Cases Roca, Spain, def. Soichi Hashimoto, Japan, Ippon, Kuzure-kesa-gatame, 0:50.
Joan-Benjamin Gaba, France, def. Tohar Butbul, Israel, Ippon, 8:01.
Samuel Gassner, Austria, def. Igor Wandtke, Germany, Ippon, 3:09.
An Baul, South Korea, def. Muhammed Demirel, Turkey, Ippon, Ko-uchi-gari, 2:53.
Daniyar Shamshayev, Kazakhstan, def. Daniel Cargnin, Brazil, Ippon, Uchi-mata-sukashi, 3:37.
Manuel Lombardo, Italy, def. Lasha Shavdatuashvili, Georgia, Ippon, Sasae-tsurikomi-ashi, 5:00.
Murodjon Yuldoshev, Uzbekistan, def. Arthur Margelidon, Canada, Waza-ari, Ko-soto-gari, 6:19.
CONTEST 3
Joanne van Lieshout, Netherlands, def. Marica Perisic, Serbia, Ippon, Ude-hishigi-ude-gatame, 1:20.
Miku Takaichi, Japan, def. Cristina Cabana Perez, Spain, Ippon, Tate-shiho-gatame, 3:35.
Miriam Butkereit, Germany, def. Lubjana Piovesana, Austria, Ippon, Ko-uchi-gari, 0:15.
Marie Eve Gahie, France, def. Gili Sharir, Israel, Ippon, 2:50.
Kim Jisu, South Korea, def. Fidan Ogel, Turkey, Ippon, Ude-garami, 2:50.
Ketleyn Quadros, Brazil, def. Esmigul Kuyulova, Kazakhstan, Ippon, Sumi-gaeshi, 1:32.
Kim Polling, Italy, def. Eter Askilashvili, Georgia, Ippon, Seoi-nage, 2:30.
Gulnoza Matniyazova, Uzbekistan, def. Catherine Beauchemin-Pinard, Canada, Ippon, 1:35.
CONTEST 4
Nemanja Majdov, Serbia, def. Noel van T End, Netherlands, Ippon, 6:53.
Sanshiro Murao, Japan, def. Tristani Mosakhlishvili, Spain, Waza-ari, O-soto-gari, 4:00.
Eduard Trippel, Germany, def. Wachid Borchashvili, Austria, Ippon, 5:51.
Maxime-Gael Ngayap Hambou, France, def. Sagi Muki, Israel, Ippon, 1:41.
Mihael Zgank, Turkey, def. Han Juyeop, South Korea, Ippon, Kuzure-kesa-gatame, 1:37.
Abylaikhan Zhubanazar, Kazakhstan, def. Rafael Macedo, Brazil, Ippon, Ude-hishigi-juji-gatame, 3:37.
Lasha Bekauri, Georgia, def. Christian Parlati, Italy, Ippon, Ko-soto-gake, 2:59.
Davlat Bobonov, Uzbekistan, def. Francois Gauthier Drapeau, Canada, Waza-ari, Yoko-guruma, 4:00.
CONTEST 5
Milica Zabic, Serbia, def. Marit Kamps, Netherlands, Ippon, 0:19.
Ai Tsunoda Roustant, Spain, def. Rika Takayama, Japan, Ippon, 5:17.
Renee Lucht, Germany, def. Michaela Polleres, Austria, Ippon, Tate-shiho-gatame, 3:25.
Kim Hayun, South Korea, def. Kayra Ozdemir, Turkey, Waza-ari, Harai-goshi, 4:57.
Beatriz Souza, Brazil, def. Kamila Berlikash, Kazakhstan, Waza-ari, O-uchi-gari, 4:31.
Alice Bellandi, Italy, def. Sophio Somkhishvili, Georgia, Ippon, 0:48.
CONTEST 6
Aleksandar Kukolj, Serbia, def. Michael Korrel, Netherlands, Ippon, 6:28.
Nikoloz Sherazadishvili, Spain, def. Tatsuru Saito, Japan, Waza-ari, Harai-goshi-gaeshi, 4:00.
Leonardo Goncalves, Brazil, def. Nurlykhan Sharkhan, Kazakhstan, Ippon, Ude-hishigi-juji-gatame, 1:46.
Ilia Sulamanidze, Georgia, def. Gennaro Pirelli, Italy, Ippon, O-soto-otoshi, 3:46.
Serbia (Milica Nikolic; Strahinja Buncic; Marica Perisic; Nemanja Majdov; Milica Zabic; Aleksandar Kukolj), def. Netherlands (Julie Beurskens; Tornike Tsjakadoea; Joanne van Lieshout; Noel van T End; Marit Kamps; Michael Korrel), 17:48.
Japan (Uta Abe; Soichi Hashimoto; Miku Takaichi; Sanshiro Murao; Rika Takayama; Tatsuru Saito), def. Spain (Ariane Toro Soler; Salvador Cases Roca; Cristina Cabana Perez; Tristani Mosakhlishvili; Ai Tsunoda Roustant; Nikoloz Sherazadishvili), 23:03.
France (Sarah Leonie Cysique; Joan-Benjamin Gaba; Marie Eve Gahie; Maxime-Gael Ngayap Hambou), def. Israel (Timna Nelson Levy; Tohar Butbul; Gili Sharir; Sagi Muki), 14:12.
Germany (Pauline Starke; Igor Wandtke; Miriam Butkereit; Eduard Trippel; Renee Lucht), def. Austria (Katharina Tanzer; Samuel Gassner; Lubjana Piovesana; Wachid Borchashvili; Michaela Polleres), 13:03.
South Korea (Huh Mimi; An Baul; Kim Jisu; Han Juyeop; Kim Hayun), def. Turkey (Tugce Beder; Muhammed Demirel; Fidan Ogel; Mihael Zgank; Kayra Ozdemir), 15:28.
Brazil (Rafaela Silva; Daniel Cargnin; Ketleyn Quadros; Rafael Macedo; Beatriz Souza; Leonardo Goncalves), def. Kazakhstan (Abiba Abuzhakynova; Daniyar Shamshayev; Esmigul Kuyulova; Abylaikhan Zhubanazar; Kamila Berlikash; Nurlykhan Sharkhan), 18:15.
Italy (Odette Giuffrida; Manuel Lombardo; Kim Polling; Christian Parlati; Alice Bellandi; Gennaro Pirelli), def. Georgia (Eteri Liparteliani; Lasha Shavdatuashvili; Eter Askilashvili; Lasha Bekauri; Sophio Somkhishvili; Ilia Sulamanidze), 16:38.
Uzbekistan (Shukurjon Aminova; Murodjon Yuldoshev; Gulnoza Matniyazova; Davlat Bobonov), def. Canada (Christa Deguchi; Arthur Margelidon; Catherine Beauchemin-Pinard; Francois Gauthier Drapeau), 18:12.
GOLDEN CONTEST
Miku Takaichi, Japan, def. Cristina Cabana Perez, Spain, Ippon, Ko-soto-gari, 1:22.
Manuel Lombardo, Italy, def. Lasha Shavdatuashvili, Georgia, Waza-ari, Kata-guruma, 1:16.
QUARTERFINALS
CONTEST 1
Hifumi Abe, Japan, def. Strahinja Buncic, Serbia, Ippon, 3:30.
Igor Wandtke, Germany, def. Daniel Cargnin, Brazil, Ippon, 2:15.
Joan-Benjamin Gaba, France, def. An Baul, South Korea, Ippon, 5:16.
Murodjon Yuldoshev, Uzbekistan, def. Manuel Lombardo, Italy, Ippon, Okuri-eri-jime, 7:36.
CONTEST 2
Saki Niizoe, Japan, def. Marica Perisic, Serbia, Ippon, Uchi-mata, 3:05.
Miriam Butkereit, Germany, def. Ketleyn Quadros, Brazil, Ippon, 1:22.
Kim Jisu, South Korea, def. Marie Eve Gahie, France, Ippon, Seoi-nage, 2:16.
Gulnoza Matniyazova, Uzbekistan, def. Savita Russo, Italy, Waza-ari, Kami-shiho-gatame, 4:00.
CONTEST 3
Takanori Nagase, Japan, def. Nemanja Majdov, Serbia, Ippon, 4:53.
Rafael Macedo, Brazil, def. Eduard Trippel, Germany, Ippon, O-soto-gari, 3:35.
Maxime-Gael Ngayap Hambou, France, def. Han Juyeop, South Korea, Ippon, Yoko-guruma, 3:16.
Christian Parlati, Italy, def. Davlat Bobonov, Uzbekistan, Ippon, Tai-otoshi, 3:59.
CONTEST 4
Milica Zabic, Serbia, def. Rika Takayama, Japan, Ippon, 0:59.
Beatriz Souza, Brazil, def. Renee Lucht, Germany, Waza-ari, Harai-makikomi, 4:00.
Romane Dicko, France, def. Kim Hayun, South Korea, Ippon, 1:02.
Alice Bellandi, Italy, def. Iriskhon Kurbanbaeva, Uzbekistan, Ippon, 3:20.
CONTEST 5
Aaron Wolf, Japan, def. Aleksandar Kukolj, Serbia, Ippon, 3:16.
Erik Abramov, Germany, def. Leonardo Goncalves, Brazil, Ippon, 0:43.
Teddy Riner, France, def. Lee Joonhwan, South Korea, Ippon, Sumi-otoshi, 1:34.
Gennaro Pirelli, Italy, def. Alisher Yusupov, Uzbekistan, Ippon, 2:55.
Japan (Hifumi Abe; Saki Niizoe; Takanori Nagase; Rika Takayama; Aaron Wolf), def. Serbia (Strahinja Buncic; Marica Perisic; Nemanja Majdov; Milica Zabic; Aleksandar Kukolj), 15:43.
Germany (Igor Wandtke; Miriam Butkereit; Eduard Trippel; Renee Lucht; Erik Abramov; Pauline Starke), def. Brazil (Daniel Cargnin; Ketleyn Quadros; Rafael Macedo; Beatriz Souza; Leonardo Goncalves; Rafaela Silva), 15:45.
France (Joan-Benjamin Gaba; Marie Eve Gahie; Maxime-Gael Ngayap Hambou; Romane Dicko; Teddy Riner), def. South Korea (An Baul; Kim Jisu; Han Juyeop; Kim Hayun; Lee Joonhwan), 13:24.
Italy (Manuel Lombardo; Savita Russo; Christian Parlati; Alice Bellandi; Gennaro Pirelli; Veronica Toniolo), def. Uzbekistan (Murodjon Yuldoshev; Gulnoza Matniyazova; Davlat Bobonov; Iriskhon Kurbanbaeva; Alisher Yusupov; Shukurjon Aminova), 27:45.
CONTEST 6
Rafaela Silva, Brazil, def. Pauline Starke, Germany, Ippon, 2:55.
Veronica Toniolo, Italy, def. Shukurjon Aminova, Uzbekistan, Ippon, 5:55.
GOLDEN CONTEST
Erik Abramov, Germany, def. Leonardo Goncalves, Brazil, Waza-ari, Kata-guruma, 0:55.
REPECHAGE
SEMIFINALS
SEMIFINAL OF TABLE A
Saki Niizoe, Japan, def. Miriam Butkereit, Germany, Waza-ari, O-soto-gari, 5:18.
Sanshiro Murao, Japan, def. Eduard Trippel, Germany, Ippon, 1:39.
Rika Takayama, Japan, def. Renee Lucht, Germany, Ippon, Yoko-shiho-gatame, 3:09.
Aaron Wolf, Japan, def. Erik Abramov, Germany, Ippon, O-uchi-gari, 2:09.
Japan (Saki Niizoe; Sanshiro Murao; Rika Takayama; Aaron Wolf), def. Germany (Miriam Butkereit; Eduard Trippel; Renee Lucht; Erik Abramov), 12:15.
Semifinal of Table B
Marie Eve Gahie, France, def. Kim Polling, Italy, Ippon, Kesa-gatame, 1:21.
Christian Parlati, Italy, def. Maxime-Gael Ngayap Hambou, France, Ippon, 6:04.
Romane Dicko, France, def. Alice Bellandi, Italy, Ippon, 1:28.
Teddy Riner, France, def. Gennaro Pirelli,

Badosa's road back from injury leads to final vs. Bouzkova

DC OPEN FROM **D1**

Bouzkova, ranked No. 43 in the world, prevailed, 6-4, 3-6, 6-3, at William H.G. FitzGerald Tennis Center in Rock Creek Park to advance to Sunday's women's singles final against 62nd-ranked Paula Badosa. Sabalenka finished the match with 62 unforced errors and inordinate angst.

The DC Open is Sabalenka's first tournament since she withdrew from Wimbledon with a shoulder injury. She needed three sets to win her round-of-16 match Wednesday against qualifier Kamilla Rakhimova, then endured a harrowing start to her semifinal Saturday. Fifteen minutes into the match, she had ceded two breaks and trailed 4-0. By the end of the first set, she totaled eight winners to those 26 errors and managed just seven points on Bouzkova's serve.

The two-time Grand Slam champion began to steady herself by the second set, rediscovering her crackling groundstrokes and searing service game to earn an early break and a 4-1 lead. Up 5-3, she closed the set with a blistering serve down the middle.

But the match took one more turn. Sabalenka had just earned a break to take a 2-1 lead in the third set when the wind picked up and the skies became darker. Play was suspended for 3 hours 43 minutes amid heavy rain.

After the players returned to the court at 9:45 p.m., so, too, did Sabalenka's erratic play. Bouzkova, who said she ate, showered and napped during the prolonged delay, broke on each of the Belarusian's final three service games to rally for a 5-3 lead, prompting Sabalenka to fling her racket to the court.

"I was just telling myself to be aggressive [after the delay] and just be really, really active on my feet, just have kind of like a quick start and see how I can play after that," Bouzkova said. "I think I returned pretty well tonight. Especially in the third set, I was able to neutralize her serve pretty well. That kept me alive."

Bouzkova held at love to secure the match. She will seek her second career title against Badosa, who won Saturday's first semifinal over 49th-ranked Caroline Dolehide, 6-3, 6-3, in a tidy 1 hour 21 minutes.

CRAIG HUDSON FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

Aryna Sabalenka, the top seed at the DC Open and the third-ranked woman in the world, committed 62 unforced errors and lost to unseeded Marie Bouzkova in the semifinals.

At 2-2 in the second set, the Spaniard took four of the final five games to clinch a spot in the final. Leading 5-3, she earned a match point on Dolehide's serve, then triumphantly raised her arms after the American overhit a forehand.

Afterward, she stood on the sun-splashed stadium court and described herself as emotional. The DC Open was another step in her recovery from a back injury that kept her out of three of four majors last year and raised doubts about whether she would return to the court — much less to the form that once made her the No. 2 player in the world. As recently as May, her ranking cratered to 140th.

"I'm feeling now [like] an athlete again," she said. "... Now seeing myself [as] a different player physically, mentally and even tennis-wise, for me it's unbelievable."

The wild-card entrant has strung together four consecutive victories in her first appearance in D.C., but it hasn't necessarily been easy. To get to Saturday, she endured a three-set marathon against 2021 U.S. Open champion Emma Raducanu a day earlier that lasted 2 hours 45 minutes and left her in significant pain. "I was a little bit scared — I'm going to be honest — after the match [Friday]," Badosa said. "I'm like, 'Whoa, I don't know how I'm going to recover.'"

But she felt well enough to face Dolehide. On Sunday, she will play in a final for the first time in 2½ years.

"It's been a while ... with a lot of struggles," Badosa said. "I will try to enjoy as much as I can."

Dolehide was the last American remaining in the women's singles draw. The DC Open marked her second appearance in a tour-level semifinal.

Saturday's schedule closed late at night with the men's semifinals — No. 10 seed Flavio Cobolli vs. No. 2 Ben Shelton and No. 4 Sebastian Korda vs. No. 5 Frances Tiafoe — but began with top-seeded Americans Asia Muhammad and Taylor Townsend winning the women's doubles title over China's Xinyu Jiang and Taiwan's Fang-Hsien Wu, 7-6 (7-0), 6-3.

Muhammad and Townsend, who have combined to win more than 650 doubles matches, had an unusual path to the final: After defeating compatriots Hailey Baptiste and Peyton Stearns to open the tournament Wednesday, they advanced through the quarterfinals and semifinals on walkovers.

They showed some rust during a back-and-forth first set before finding their rhythm in the tiebreaker. In the second set, Muhammad and Townsend earned a decisive break on the eighth service game following an error by Wu. Leading 5-3, Townsend closed out the championship with a huge serve down the middle. The duo embraced and celebrated their third title together.

"We're such great friends off the court, that comfort level comes in," Townsend said. "There is a plan. We just kind of fall into rhythm."

The victory continued a special summer for Townsend, who won the Wimbledon women's doubles title last month with Katerina Siniakova. It was the 28-year-old's 38th time competing in a Grand Slam doubles or mixed doubles draw — and her first major title.

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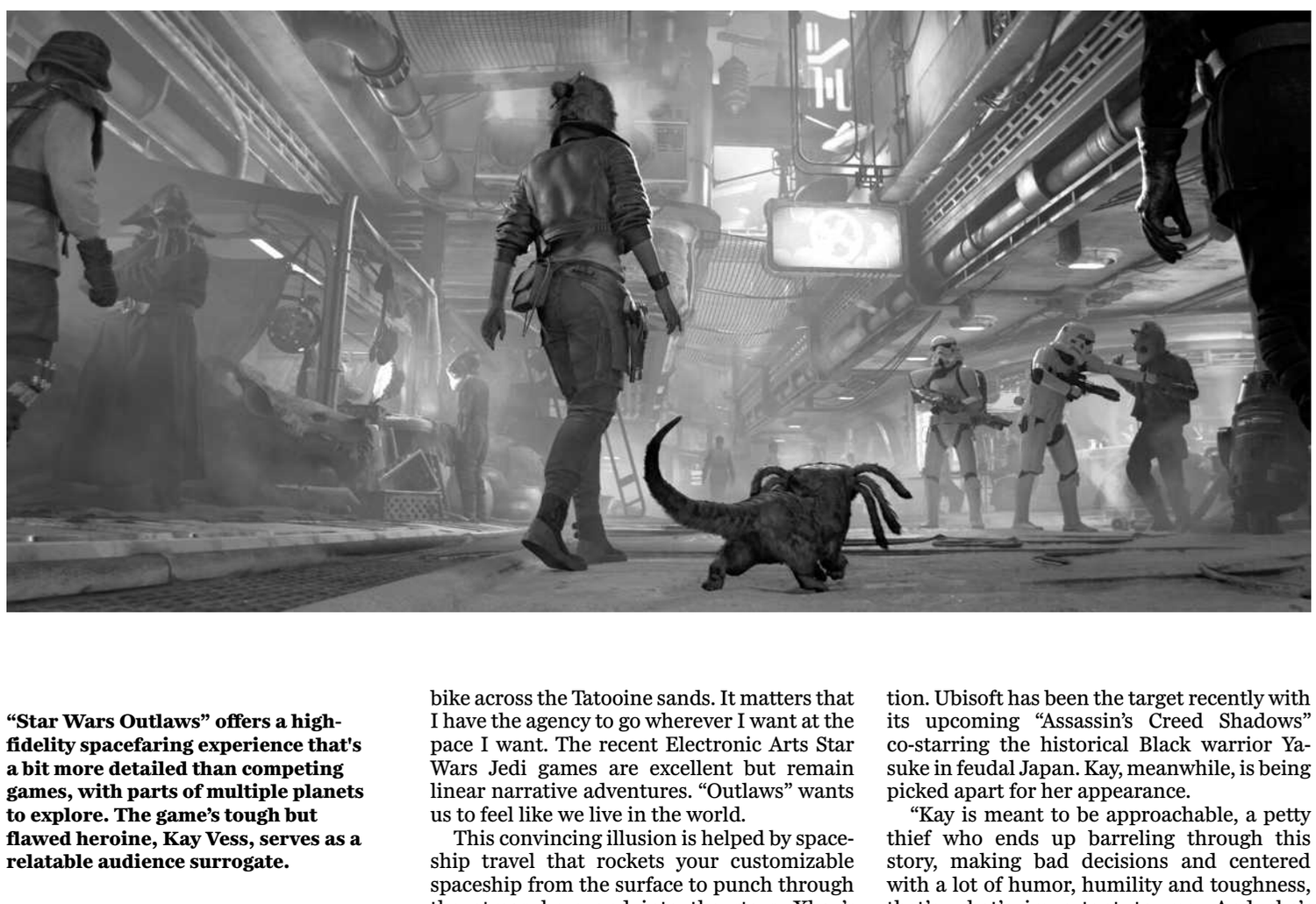
JOE FENTON FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

UBISOFT PHOTOS

CRITIC'S NOTEBOOK

A sneak peek at 'Outlaws' made me fall in love with Star Wars all over again

BY GENE PARK



"Star Wars Outlaws" offers a high-fidelity spacefaring experience that's a bit more detailed than competing games, with parts of multiple planets to explore. The game's tough but flawed heroine, Kay Vess, serves as a relatable audience surrogate.

Star Wars was the first love of my life, but I can't stand the brand anymore.

I'm one of the many turned off by the Disney movies and TV shows about the galaxy far, far away. I grew tired of Jedi psychobabble, the remixed Joseph Campbell archetypes and the inability to explore new narrative themes. "Star Wars Outlaws," releasing Aug. 30 on PlayStation 5, Xbox and PC, looked to be more of the same, starring a scoundrel and taking place in the year after "The Empire Strikes Back." On top of that, recent games by publisher Ubisoft have sometimes felt stale thanks to the influence its open-world formula had on the games industry. The "Ubisoft open world" has become a standard descriptor for a by-the-numbers video game.

But I admire the work of Massive Entertainment creative director Julian Gerighty, who steered the multiplayer shooting series The Division to great success. When I heard he helmed this project, I had to pay attention. After playing two hours of "Star Wars Outlaws," I'm shocked to report that my fire for Star Wars is rekindled.

It's the simplicity of the concept. There's never been a single-player Star Wars digital experience that allows you to hang out in its seamless open world. When I walked our heroine Kay Vess into a cantina and started chatting with gang members, the high visual and audio fidelity made a real difference. After all, Star Wars is the franchise that used high-tech special effects to change popular entertainment forever. While I've yet to discover whether this game will explore new narrative themes, it's at least tickling the right parts of nostalgia in ways that don't feel pandering.

"What we did with the very small core team when we kicked things off was reconnect with what Star Wars meant to us … that feeling when I had that VHS tape that I wore out and playing with the Kenner toys," Gerighty tells The Washington Post. "Before the internet, before streaming services, before sequels and prequels and TV shows, before you could find Star Wars everywhere, what was my imagination in love with? It was the universe … sorry, I'm not allowed to say universe. It was the galaxy of substance, a galaxy where everything was possible."

It's a visceral thrill to ride Kay's speeder bike across the Tatooine sands. It matters that I have the agency to go wherever I want at the pace I want. The recent Electronic Arts Star Wars Jedi games are excellent but remain linear narrative adventures. "Outlaws" wants us to feel like we live in the world.

The recent Electronic Arts Star Wars Jedi games are excellent but remain linear narrative adventures. "Outlaws" wants us to feel like we live in the world.

This convincing illusion is helped by spaceship travel that rockets your customizable spaceship from the surface to punch through the atmosphere and into the stars. Xbox's "Starfield," while a great game featuring a thousand planets, failed to provide an immersive spacefaring experience. Gerighty said "Outlaws" learned from another Ubisoft game, "Starlink: Battle for Atlas" in 2018. In that game, spaceships would seamlessly travel between three planets.

"['Starlink'] was directed by a friend of mine and we did meetings with the tech team there," he said. "The issue they had is that the worlds felt a little small, the galaxy felt small, so the solution to that was that we're not going to build the whole planet. We're going to focus on smaller areas, make it dense, make it rich and full of handcrafted things that connected with the world and have that sort of funnel out into space, into orbit. And the orbit around the planet is also level-designed." He adds that the spaceship sequence in "Call of Duty: Advanced Warfare" was another source of inspiration.

Like the political sphere, the video games industry is racked with discourse and misplaced rage around diversity and representation. Ubisoft has been the target recently with its upcoming "Assassin's Creed Shadows" co-starring the historical Black warrior Yasuke in feudal Japan. Kay, meanwhile, is being picked apart for her appearance.

"Kay is meant to be approachable, a petty thief who ends up barreling through this story, making bad decisions and centered with a lot of humor, humility and toughness, that's what's important to me. And she's beautiful, come on," Gerighty said. "It makes no sense to me and it's not worth engaging with. If you engage with bad faith people, there's no nuance and no possibility of real dialogue. So all we can do is make the best game possible."

It's true that Kay feels like a great audience surrogate, stumbling her way through the open world. The player can make alliances and betray them. Faction dynamics like the gang relations of "Grand Theft Auto: San Andreas" have been missing from the open-world formula for some years, and it's exciting to see it in the Star Wars setting.

After my preview, I went along with my day at work. When I came home, I was excited to play more "Star Wars Outlaws" and find out what happens when I betray that criminal overlord I just helped, or maybe upgrade my speeder bike. Then I realized that I don't actually have the game yet — I had caught the bug. It's a nice feeling to be excited, once again, for a Ubisoft open world game, and for Star Wars.

ART

IN THE GALLERIES

Pulpy prints reflect Mexico's dynamic and complex history

BY MARK JENKINS

Tacos, Olmec stone heads and Day of the Dead festivities are among the motifs of "Destinos," Pyramid Atlantic Art Center's survey of contemporary Mexican printmaking. But the 25 illustrators selected by Edgar Reyes, a Guadalajara-born local artist, also draw from American, British and especially Japanese pop culture. Many of the prints are risographs, made with a low-cost process developed by a Tokyo company, and one participant has even adopted an eccentric Japanese pseudonym, Ketsueki Koibito ("blood sweetheart").

The stylistically versatile Koibito is among the most playfully audacious of the contributors. The artist confines a Teletubby within a threatening circle of flame, places a crown of thorns on a clown's head and updates a traditional Jesus with a Hello Kitty eye mask that includes the cartoon cat's trademark bow. Abraham Mascorro Morales's linocut of an elaborately decorated cowboy is all in close shades of gray, which nearly disguises that one of the decorations depicts Pikachu, the electric-mouse Pokémon. Gibrán Turón depicts the Grim Reaper astride a winged cartoon horse that's pink, one of the most common hues in these candy-colored pictures.

The prints can be as simple as Zyanya Arellano's outline drawing of an angel cat, outfitted with halo, wings and a familiar-looking pink bow. Equally uncomplicated if more symmetrical is Mary Lechuga's visual ode to a taco, accented in yellow and, yes, pink. But the selection also features Nando Murio's expressionist portrait of the artist as a young smudge, his face barely there, and Asdl Manzano's bare-breasted Madonna, her body modeled and shadowed to yield a realistic fleshiness.

The show's affordably priced prints are not limited editions, and many are in fact individual pages from zines and comics. Produced by five publishers, most founded since 2017, the artworks share a pulpy vitality and an appealing irreverence. The artists may borrow from Japanese anime, American comics and British TV, but their sensibilities are distinctively their own.

"Canoa" by Madrastra Negativia, included in the exhibit "Destinos" at Pyramid Atlantic Art Center.

STEREO VISION PHOTOGRAPHY

DAVID PLAKKE

A detail of "Potomac River Shen Series" on view at Union Station.

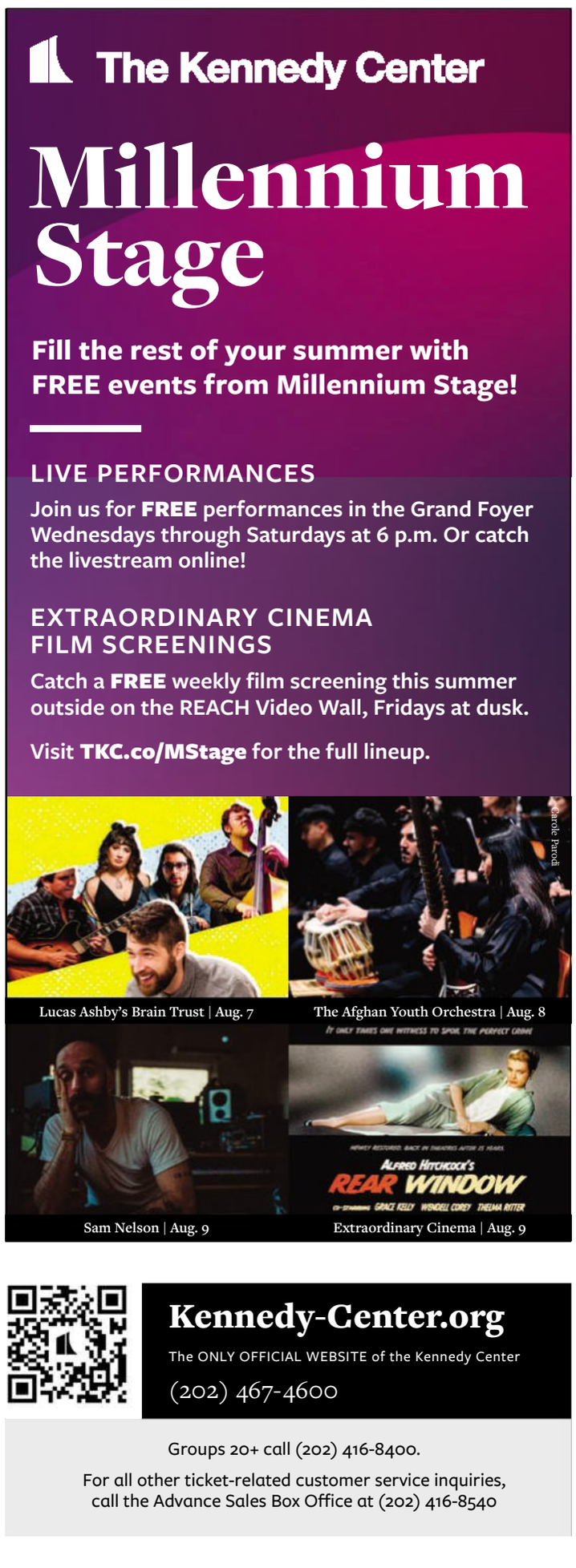
Destinos Through Aug. 18 at Pyramid Atlantic Art Center, 4318 Gallatin St., Hyattsville. pyramidatlanticartcenter.org. 301-608-9101.

Katherine Tzu-Lan Mann

Washington painter and collagist Katherine Tzu-Lan Mann usually works on a large scale, filling entire gallery walls with murals that layer renderings of the natural world imagery atop free-form abstraction. But her latest project couldn't cover the available surface at a 1-to-1 ratio. Mann's "Potomac River Shen Series" had to be enlarged 400 percent from the originals to span the approximately 375-foot-long space in Union Station's waiting room.

The mural is divided into three vast lengthwise panels that were printed on vinyl and installed above the train gates. The picture began the way Mann's artworks usually do, with pours of ink and paint. The artist then added realistic renderings of aquatic plants, some derived from photographs she made at Kenilworth Park and Aquatic Gardens. All three sections are colorful, but the final section, representing spring and summer, is the greenest.

The triptych is "a love letter to the Potomac River," said Mann while leading a tour of the piece. Yet the mural, like most of the artist's output, is also an homage to her Chinese artistic heritage. The horizontal format invokes East Asian scroll painting, and each panel centers on a "shen," a shape-shifting clam-monster from Chinese myth. Shen supposedly can generate mirages, so the



ART

TERRY LA RUE

"Untitled" by Terry La Rue, included in his photography exhibit "Frames Between the Pain" at the Leica store in downtown D.C. The work is informed by the artist's chronic pain from a decade-old skateboarding crash.

An installation view of "The Genesis Project Volume 5" collaboration at Brentwood Arts Exchange.

PETE DUVALL/ANYTHING PHOTOGRAPHIC

billowing, fluid imagery can be seen as a magical illusion just as much as a tribute to the actual river that runs through the region.

Katherine Tzu-Lan Mann: Potomac River Shen Series Through Aug. 19 at Union Station, 50 Massachusetts Ave. NE. amtrak.com/artatamtrak.

The Genesis Project

An exercise in artistic accumulation, "The Genesis Project" began in September with an empty gallery at Brentwood Arts Exchange. Since then, five teams of two artists each have expanded the collective undertaking, often in reaction to their predecessors' contributions. All the participants maintain studios near the venue, but work in disparate styles and media.

Nature imagery is most common, providing an ironic counterpoint to the gallery's location in a light-industrial zone. Trees, flowers, birds, butterflies and rabbits, rendered with varying degrees of realism, populate the walls. Ellen Cornett's detailed drawings portray creatures that appear human, but sport animal heads. Wayson R. Jones's draped fabric piece became part of the trunk of an elephant extrapolated by Kay Lee. One wall, the responsibility of Becky McFall, is dominated by vine-like hanging fabric forms in mottled colors; the others bear the marks of multiple artists.

The juxtaposition of 3D and flat imagery is one of the most effective aspects of the multi-artist improvisation. Lee daubed raindrops below Erwin Timmers's glass clouds, and Laurel Lukaszewski contrasts her black ceramic crows with painted ones. The fifth and final team to tinker with "Genesis" consisted of Lukaszewski and Jodi Ferrier, who stacked the bottom of one wall with piles of rough near-circles. They suggest cobblestones that anchor the entire composition, yet were among the last things added. That's a suitable ending to an edifice constructed purely by whimsy.

The Genesis Project Through Aug. 17 at Brentwood Arts Exchange, 3901 Rhode Island Ave., Brentwood. pgparks.com/facilities/brentwood-arts-exchange. 301-277-2863.

Terry La Rue

The eerie scenarios of Terry La Rue's "Frames Between the Pain" recall early-20th-century surrealism, but where his predecessors were inspired by dreams, La Rue evokes a waking nightmare: chronic pain resulting from his decade-old skateboarding crash. The pictures in the Seattle artist's show at downtown D.C.'s Leica store feature oblique angles, silhouetted figures, spidery tendrils and seemingly fragmented bodies. There's even a melting clock, an apparent bow to Salvador Dali.

La Rue makes his black-and-white pictures with a monochromatic digital camera, which captures a world "free from color," according to his remarks in a short video projected at the store. The artist then transfers the images to metal plates he uses to make the finished prints, giving the process a physicality unusual in post-film photography.

While many of La Rue's compositions are posed and unnaturalistic, he's quite good at capturing everyday moments that happen to appear strange or ominous. In one, a hang glider is barely visible amid a cloud-choked sky; in another, a man stands next to a cascade of water whose droplets glisten like crystal daggers. The picture reveals a world that's both lovely and incurably shattered.

Terry La Rue: Frames Between the Pain Through Aug. 22 at Leica, 977 F St. NW. 202-787-5900.

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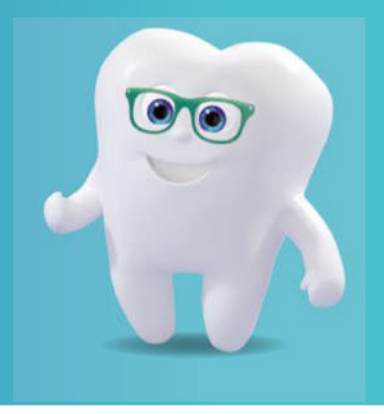

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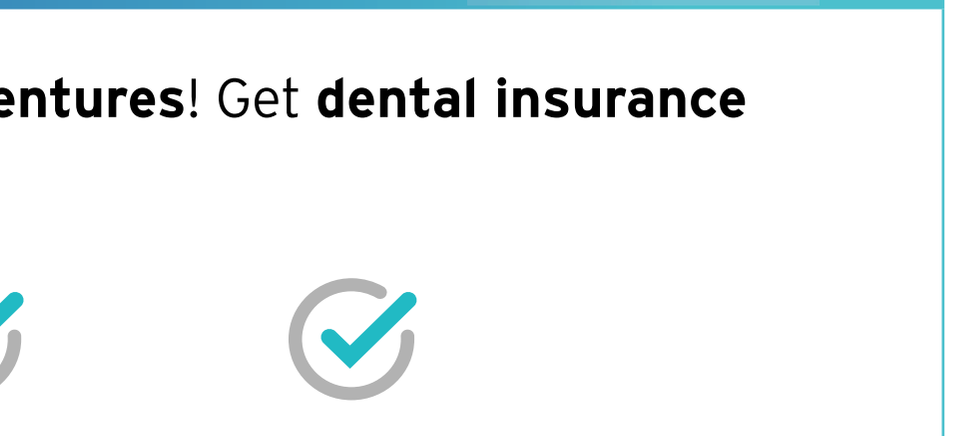

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6347

Parent rattled by daughter's seemingly abrupt breakup with 'perfect partner'

Carolyn Hax

Carolyn Hax is away. The following first appeared Feb. 5 and July 21, 2010.

Dear Carolyn: My 25-year-old daughter met a guy about a year ago. He's the perfect partner for her. She told me that he is "the one" and that she loves him so much. My whole family welcomed him as one of our own. They did everything together, even adopted a dog. They moved in together two months ago.

My daughter just asked him to leave. No reason to him or anyone else except that she needed to find herself. Both my family and his family are totally devastated. The guy moved to his mom's house with the dog, and all three of them haven't stopped crying for three days.

For some odd reason, I feel as though I have lost a big chunk of my heart. I was very close to the dog; he spent weekends with me while my daughter and her boyfriend did things together. Now I'm disappointed in my daughter, and I miss the boyfriend and the dog. They live two hours away, so I'll probably never see them again.

I want to get/keep in touch with the boyfriend, but feel as though it would hurt my daughter. And I would like to still see the dog. Weird? Any suggestions as to what I should do, or not do?

— C.

C.: I'm sorry. It's not weird at all — unless the dog hasn't stopped crying for three days. But even that seems appropriate here.

It's normal to get invested in a child's choice of mate, especially given the closeness that comes with a good one, and the drama that comes with a bad. It's normal for seemingly great relationships to implode for mysterious reasons. It's normal to get swept into their grief.

But don't judge your daughter for her decision. You don't know what happened between them or how they misaligned. Maybe she's not a disappointment, but instead brave to say "no" against the stream of everyone else's "yes."

And don't stay in touch with the boyfriend. If they had been married umpteen years, I might say otherwise, but your hanging on to him after a year will only send messages your daughter doesn't need, like "You screwed up" and "My opinion of him matters more than yours."

If her reason for breaking up was good, then she needs you to have faith in her, and if her reason was impetuous, then her need for a steady emotional example is all the more acute.

A breakup is dog bites man, not man bites dog. Be sad for them all, just not so sad that you're closed to whatever comes next.

ILLUSTRATION BY NICK GALIFIANAKIS FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

Dear Carolyn: Clearly, you are big into using "like" instead of "love." You make this substitution all the time. If you ever feel like expounding on it, I'd be curious.

— Anonymous

Anonymous: Sure. Have you ever seen "Like never dies" on a movie poster? Heard a song called "All You Need Is Like"? Hung on those three little words, "I like you"? Love is never in danger of being dismissed, discounted or taken for granted.

But like is routinely so. It's the consolation prize, the faint praise to be damned with.

Yet while like can endure without love ever having anything to do with it, love takes a beating when like isn't there to support it. Consider what happens when you don't like the way your beloved treats you or others around you — or when you don't like what your beloved watches on TV or does for a living or uses to fill spare time; or what topics your beloved chooses to discuss, or how; or whom your beloved chooses to befriend or admire; or how much your beloved contributes to the household chores or coffers; or where your beloved pegs certain priorities.

It's very difficult to sustain love under the pressure of daily exposure to behaviors or traits you don't like — whether this loved one is family, friend or mate. Even if it doesn't die outright, love can quickly become abstract.

Abstractions do have their place. Love in the abstract is what gets us up in the night when a child cries out, when we're desperate for sleep. It's what flies us cross-country to witness our close friend's wedding, knowing full well that said friend will have about 3.7 quality minutes to spend with us amid various hosting obligations. It's what moves us to account for someone else's well-being even when that person isn't present, and even when attending to their needs might force us to compromise our own.

But when it comes to sharing your day-to-day life without wanting to run screaming, a person's expressions, body language, conversation topics, diversions, quirks, tics and attitude with you need to be pleasing — likable — on a purely functional level.

And so when it comes to people writing in about practical problems with people they love, that's the first thing I urge them to consider: Do you *like* this person, fundamentally? Because that's the bed where the abstraction of love can reliably lay its head.

Write to Carolyn Hax at *tellme@washpost.com*. Get her column delivered to your inbox each morning at *wapo.st/gethax*.

Join the discussion live at noon Fridays at washingtonpost.com/live-chats.

Wife relayed a friend's secret to one of her besties

Asking Eric

R. ERIC THOMAS

Dear Eric: Please help me settle a disagreement with my wife. One day, a friend of ours, "Ed," shared something very sensitive and embarrassing with us and asked for advice. He also asked us not to tell anyone, and, of course, we both swore to secrecy.

One week later, one of my wife's oldest and closest friends (a "BFF") came to visit and my wife proceeded to tell BFF about Ed's predicament. When we were alone later, I asked my wife why she broke her promise of secrecy. She responded by saying, "I did not! My BFFs and I tell each other everything and we all keep everything to ourselves, so nobody's ever going to hear about it."

While BFF and Ed do not know each other, all six of the BFFs and Ed know of one another by name and there's a slight chance their paths will cross at some point or another.

When I asked her whether we should go back and ask Ed if it was okay to share his predicament with her BFFs, she got angry and said there was no reason to upset him. I then thanked her for validating my point. What say you?

— Secret Keeper

Keeper: Far be it from me to wade into the murky waters of settling marital disputes, but this is cut and dried. So, I'm strapping on my Crocs and jumping in.

When you swear to not tell anyone a piece of information, there's not a lot of fine print. Do many, if not all, of us bend the rules a little around spouses and significant others? Yes, but I can't imagine Ed meant "don't tell anyone except your five best friends whom I don't know but have been assured are good secret-keepers."

There is a difference between a story suitable for public consumption and a personal revelation shared in confidence.

Your wife took Ed's predicament and turned it into gossip. Even if nothing bad comes of the BFFs knowing, she betrayed the trust he put in her.

She seems secure in her choice, alas, so I don't have advice for her.

But "Ed," if you're reading this — best to choose more trustworthy confidantes.

Dear Eric: I am an elderly woman with medical issues. I belong to a homeowners association and pay monthly dues out of which "lawn care" is automatically deducted monthly.

The lawn care employees refuse to maintain my lawn. I called the lawn company owner and he said that he "had informed all of his employees not to set foot on my property." This started last year when I complained to the owner that his employees chopped down my flowers.

My neighbors have been complaining about my lawn, and I can get no help maintaining it, from the lawn care company that I automatically pay each month. I contacted the HOA president, who referred me to the property manager, who has not rectified the problem with the lawn care company.

I am on a fixed income and cannot afford to hire another lawn care company, especially when I have already paid for the services of the current one.

I also cannot afford to hire an attorney. I was warned not to file a complaint with the Consumer Protection Agency or the Better Business Bureau because then the lawn care company "will do nothing" for me and they also have a contract to remove the snow and if they refuse to remove my snow, it could have deadly consequences. What can I do?

— Overgrown Obstacle

Overgrown: First, talk to your neighbors and ask for their help. If they're complaining to you about the state of your lawn, explain your situation and solicit their advice. Ask them to advocate on your behalf to the HOA.

(This may also be an opportunity for a kind neighbor to volunteer to just mow it themselves. I'm not sure that would be part of my journey, but some people really love to mow lawns.)

I'd give up on trying to reason with the lawn care company. It's unclear why the company owner is taking such an extreme stance. I wish I knew more about the way your disagreement began and escalated. But even if there's more to the story, his contract is with the HOA. And the HOA, in turn, has a contract with you.

You should also request a meeting with the full board. Familiarize yourself with the governing documents and covenants, conditions and restrictions documents.

Try to have a respectful but productive conversation, remembering that the board is made up of volunteers. Tell them that you're afraid of retaliation and ask for their help. Explain that this puts you and them at risk. Ask how they plan to rectify this and what their timetable is.

Send questions to R. Eric Thomas at *eric@askingeric.com* or P.O. Box 22474, Philadelphia, PA 19110. Follow him on Instagram and sign up for his weekly newsletter at *rericthomas.com.*

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the GUIDE to the Lively Arts

SHOW NAME	DATES & TIMES	DESCRIPTION	DETAILS	PRICE	ADDITIONAL
THEATRE					
A NUMBER by Caryl Churchill	August 8 - September 1 Thu - Sun	Starring real-life father and son David Bryan Jackson and Max Jackson. Hailed as "stunning" by *The New York Times*, A NUMBER is set in a near-future as a guilt-ridden father clones his son to correct past mistakes triggering shocking revelations about identity, parenting, and the ethical dilemmas of science.	**Gunston Theater II** **Arlington, VA** **www.edgeuniversetheater.org/wapo**	$30	PWYC Aug. 8 Every day is Father's Day
Olney Outdoors presented by Olney Theatre Center	through August 31	Olney Outdoors is back for another great summer of outdoor entertainment! Coming up this week, musical salutes to Fleetwood Mac (8/8), comedy with James Lawson (8/9), Rockabilly Rumble concert (8/10), Drag and Drinks hosted by Evon Michelle of SadBrunch (8/11).	**Olney Theatre's Root Family Stage at Omi's Pavilion** **2001 Olney-Sandy Spring Road, Olney, MD 20832** **olneytheatre.org**	$35-$40	Free Parking! Chair, Bleacher, and Lawn seating available Most shows at 8:00 pm
MUSIC - CONCERTS					
Silent Night Music by Kevin Puts Libretto by Mark Campbell	Fri, Aug 9, 7:30 pm Sun, Aug 11, 2:00 pm Thu, Aug 15, 2:00 pm Sat, Aug 17, 7:30 pm	Experience the profound message and emotional nuances in the Pulitzer Prize-winning opera that tells the story of a surprising Christmas truce during World War I through beautiful arias and lush choral singing.	**The Barns at Wolf Trap** **1635 Trap Rd** **Vienna, VA 22182** **www.wolftrap.org/opera**	Start at $45	Free parking.
Summer Concert Series	Tuesday, August 6 at 7 P.M. at the U.S. Capitol Steps Saturday, August 10 at 7 P.M. at National Harbor	Join The U.S. Air Force Band for two FREE concerts in the Summer Concert Series on Tuesday evening on the West Lawn at the steps of the U.S. Capitol and Saturday evening at the National Harbor Waterfront. FREE and open to the public, no tickets required! All outdoor concerts are subject to weather cancellation.	**Tuesday at U.S. Capitol West Lawn** **Washington, D.C.** **Saturday at Plaza Stage** **National Harbor Blvd** **Oxon Hill, MD** **MORE INFORMATION AT USAIRFORCEBAND.COM**	FREE	Find The U.S. Air Force Band on FB/IG @ USAFBand and YouTube @ TheUSAF Band
United States Marine Band Latin Jazz Ensemble	Wednesdays & Thursdays June - August	The Marine Latin Jazz Ensemble takes the stage with a hot mix of spicy tunes perfect for swinging on the dance floor. Bring a chair/blanket & take part in this fun American tradition!	**U.S. Capitol West Terrace: August 7 at 7 p.m.** **Glen Echo Park: August 8 at 7:30 p.m.** **Full Details: www.marineband.marines.mil**	FREE, No Tickets Required	Weather updates posted on social media & website by 6 p.m.
AUDITIONS					
Polyhymnia Auditions **Fall 2024**	Aug 13 & 20 Sept 10 & 17 7:45 pm	Auditioning all parts for small *a capella* chorus with wide-ranging repertoire. Auditions and rehearsals in Bethesda.	**To schedule: email polyhymniasings@gmail.com.** **www.polyhymniasings.org**	n/a	See website for details

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SUMMER SCARIES

Horror movies have sunk their teeth into the box office and held up a cracked mirror to our frightening times. In this special issue, we survey the genre's bright lights — and dark corners.

THE KEEPER OF NIGHTMARES
Shudder's Samuel Zimmerman is on the hunt for great horror. **E9**

THE EXPERT'S PICKS
The scary movies that Zimmerman can't get out of his head. **E11**

THE SOUNDS OF VIOLENCE
Five film composers who can scare us with our eyes closed. **E12**

'BLAIR WITCH' SWITCH
Maryland town is embracing the film that made it infamous. **E13**

MEET THE MONSTERS
A field guide to the creepiest creatures of 21st-century cinema. **E16**

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As horror gets bigger, its best creators are getting bolder. **E18**

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Releases for the rest of 2024 include frights of every type. **E20**

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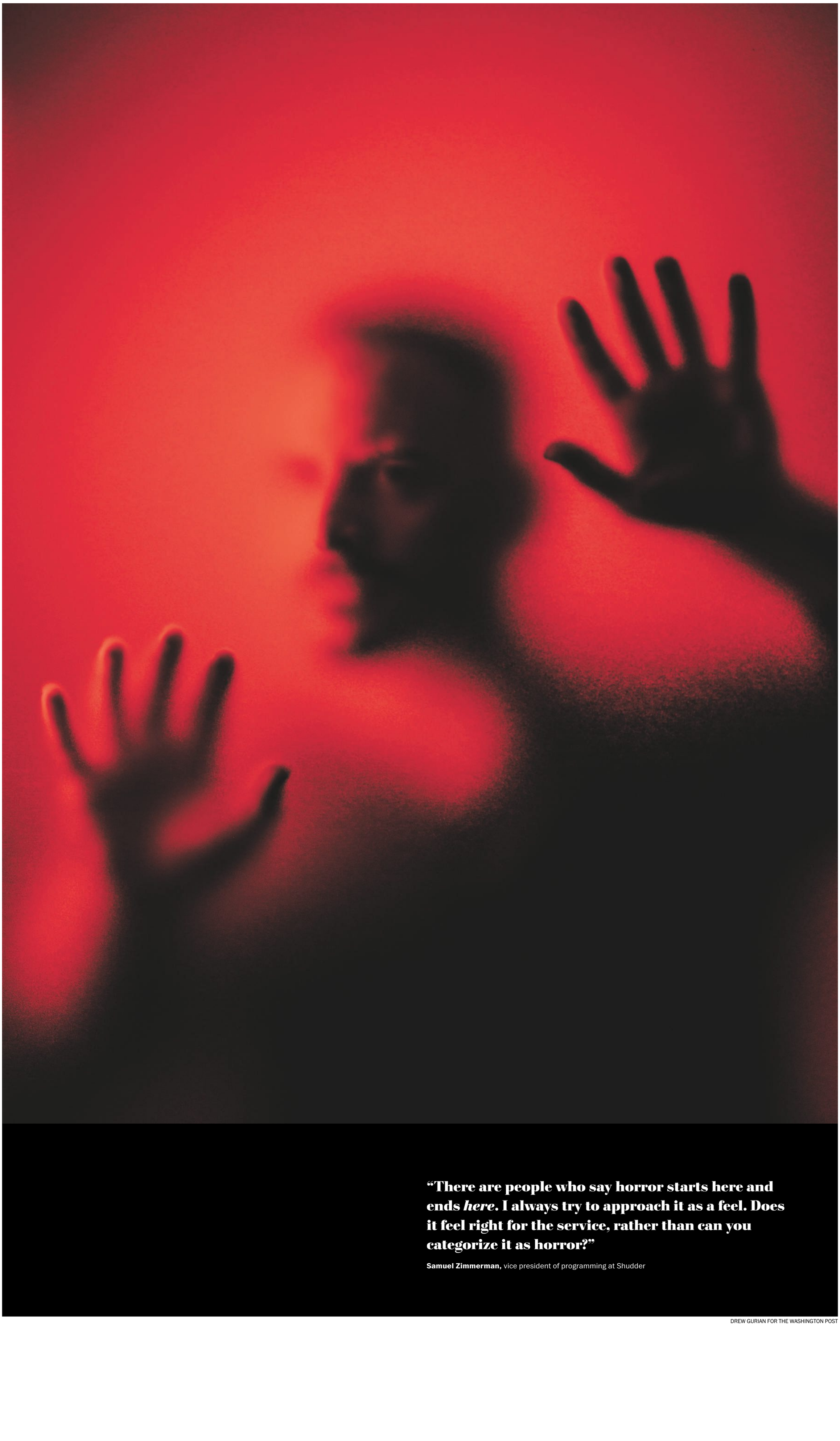
JOE FENTON FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

SUMMER SCARIES



“There are people who say horror starts here and ends *here*. I always try to approach it as a feel. Does it feel right for the service, rather than can you categorize it as horror?”

Samuel Zimmerman, vice president of programming at Shudder

DREW GURIAN FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

SUMMER SCARIES

Keeper of nightmares wants to lure you to Shudder

As curator of the streaming platform, Samuel Zimmerman selects all sorts of frightful delights — to prove that every person is a horror fan, even someone who won't admit it

BY TRAVIS M. ANDREWS
IN NEW YORK

Samuel Zimmerman wants to scare the living hell out of you.

Ask him for a movie recommendation, and you might find your stomach turning as you watch a woman bite a man's eyeball out of his skull and spit it into another man's mouth, which causes the receiver to choke to death. Maybe you'll shut your eyes as a clown repeatedly stabs a woman before pouring bleach and table salt into her wounds. Or your wife might come home from work to find you lounged out in a recliner watching a mama scoop brain matter from her dead son's skull for an evening snack.

Your wife might wonder if you need immediate psychiatric care. You might later tell Zimmerman this, and he might laugh.

Samuel Zimmerman wants to scare you because it's his job.

He's the curator at Shudder, the bespoke streaming service owned by AMC Networks that, alongside the movie studios Blumhouse and A24, is shaping the modern landscape of horror as the genre becomes more mainstream. Shudder is the only true streaming service dedicated to horror, a must-have for anyone interested in the gruesome, the grotesque, the grisly. Its expansive library includes around 500 titles at any given time. Though the company will not release numbers for Shudder, specifically, it has helped AMC Networks reach 11.5 million subscribers.

Zimmerman's formal title is vice president of programing, but really he's the (crypt) keeper of the feel-bad movie.

"Shudder has changed the entire face of horror in the last decade," says Phil Nobile Jr., editor in chief of Fangoria. It is "a place that is curated by human beings who love movies."

And, boy, does Zimmerman love movies. The scarier, the better.

On a blazing June afternoon, for nearly two hours over lunch at a Brazilian restaurant in the West Village, Zimmerman waxes horrific about horror, leaving his chicken Milanesa mostly untouched.

He's engaging, soft-spoken, an unexpectedly gentle soul behind his My Bloody Valentine T-shirt. We chat about a scene from "In a Violent Nature," in which a guy pulls a woman's head through her stomach from behind, with a hook. Yeah, it's confusing. It has earned a reputation among horror fans as "the pretzel kill." He chuckles while talking about a large dog that bites a young girl's head and shakes her to death(ish) like a rag doll in "When Evil Lurks."

At the same meal, he lights up about how he loves cuddling his 1½-year-old son when the boy can't sleep.

He describes some horror movies, like classic Stephen King adaptations, as "warm and comfy."

We have different definitions of "warm and comfy."

And he's always on the hunt.

In the pre-streaming age, he might have been your nerdy neighborhood video store clerk, excitedly shoving an obscure VHS cassette into your hands — thrilled to share it because he just discovered it himself.

Yes, Zimmerman wants to scare the living hell out of you.

But he always wants to scare the living hell out of himself.

Zimmerman wasn't always like this. In 1993, when he was about 5 years old, growing up in New York, his mom took him to the theater to see "Jurassic Park." An early scene of a cow being eaten by a *Tyrannosaurs rex* upset him so much that they left the theater. "My mom always says, 'We saw more of the

SEE ZIMMERMAN ON E10

Samuel Zimmerman is responsible for the massive library offered by Shudder, which includes around 500 titles at any given time. The only true streaming service dedicated to horror is a must-have for anyone interested in the gruesome, the grotesque, the grisly.

DREW GURIAN FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

SUMMER SCARIES

DREW GURIAN FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

ZIMMERMAN FROM **E9**

lobby than we saw of the movie.'"

But soon enough, he began his accidental training for programming a horror streaming service, even if he couldn't predict that the job or the company would exist. Not long after the dino-on-cow violence incident, he bored of childish fare. "I remember being a kid who always wanted to be older," he says. "I was so eager to get to Stephen King and Edgar Allan Poe."

"I wanted to touch the void," Zimmerman adds. "What I love about horror is feeling upset."

If it was ghostly or ghastly or ghoulish, he hungrily consumed it — from Nathaniel Hawthorne to R.L. Stine. No one else in his family particularly enjoyed horror, but they supported him. His dad gave him "Carrie" and "The Shining." His grandmother bought him "Psycho" on VHS. His mom, a nurse who hates horror because she sees it in real life, didn't love what he watched but let him read anything.

He saw the 1996 referential slasher "Scream" and felt compelled to track down all the movies it alludes to. In high school, one of his friends took a job at a video store, blowing the floodgates open. Despite the real-life horror unfolding around him — his freshman year of high school was a few days old on Sept. 11, 2001 — he obsessed over the world of the macabre.

On to State University of New York at Purchase, where he continued trying to touch the void while fellow cinema studies majors — disciples of Godard and Truffaut — side-eyed him for being so interested in a genre that was considered as lowbrow as it was lucrative. While his classmates fell for French new wave, Zimmerman fell for New French Extremity.

"Even when horror has been popular, the sentiment around it hasn't been," he says.

He began interning at the horror magazine Fangoria and stuck around until they hired him. He worked as a contributing editor until 2014, when AMC began developing a streaming service aimed at gentle freaks like Zimmerman and hired him as its curator.

Once again, he faced a void. This time, he needed to fill it.

He wanted Shudder to be a pathway into the genre for a rookie and an illuminating library for the experienced viewer, a mixture of old and new, high and low, both road map to and a PhD class on horror, a digital version of going to the video store his buddy worked at and picking out something he'd never heard of.

Channeling the spirit of that video clerk is his rule: Don't be condescending. Shudder's vibe should never be: "I can't believe you haven't seen that," he says. Instead, it should be: "I'm so excited for you to see that."

He helped build the library by striking a balance between his personal taste and what's best for the service, both licensing existing films and releasing, financing and producing Shudder's own originals: "Our intent is to be distinctive. We want to prove you don't have to go broader to be successful."

And he was the one to do it, says Emily Gotto, Shudder's senior vice president of acquisitions and productions. "Sam is the encyclopedia of horror for Shudder. It's almost as though he has a photographic memory."

Just don't call him an expert. Even though he averages a movie or two a day, Zimmerman balks at the term.

"I know what I haven't seen," he says.

Still, he's seen enough to rise to one of Shudder's primary challenges: how to get people to watch this stuff. Nearly half of Americans claim to hate it — there are actual polls! — but its fans are often addicts, flocking to any interesting new release. Under his and Gotto's direction, Shudder releases about 30 new movies each year — and it has helped launch the careers of Issa López, who helmed "True Detective: Night Country," and Rob Savage, who later directed an adaptation of Stephen King's "The Boogeyman." It currently offers more than 200 original titles.

At least, Zimmerman says, the moral outrage behind this stuff, often fueled by conservative media, has died down. Half of Americans may claim to hate the genre, but the idea that it's corrupting youths has mostly gone the way of the dodo and the satanic panic that plagued heavy metal.

You might think you're in that hating half. If so, Zimmerman thinks you're wrong.

"Everybody's a horror fan, whether they're ready to admit it or self-identify as one," he says.

So, uh, what exactly *is* horror? Ask your average filmgoer — especially the ones who spit on the genre — and they'll probably mention slasher films or gory torture porn.

"There are people who say horror starts here and ends *here*," Zimmerman says, a concept he finds reductive. "I always try to approach it as a feel. Does it feel right for the service, rather than can you categorize it as horror?"

His point is as astute as it is frustrating: The only prevailing trend in modern horror is that there is no prevailing trend in modern horror.

That's great for the genre, even as it makes Zimmerman's job that much more difficult.

Samuel Zimmerman's goal is for Shudder to offer films that entice horror rookies but also connoisseurs of the genre. Divisive content doesn't scare him or, by extension, Shudder.

Blockbusters like "Get Out" and the Quiet Place series are ostensibly horror, but they're discussed breezily over bottomless brunches and at whatever stands as office water coolers these days.

Meanwhile, recent indie horror films seeing wide release include "In a Violent Nature," a meditative slasher told from the killer's perspective. The 2022 film "Skinamarink," part of a genre called liminal horror, leaves audiences either enthralled or asleep. During the pandemic, Shudder released "Host," a supernatural horror that takes place entirely on a Zoom call.

Experimental directors push the form by employing different aspect ratios, which Zimmerman credits to audiences being comfortable with vertical videos from their TikTok addictions.

Some modern horror borders on three hours long. Others are under 60 minutes.

"They're all in the world of horror, but they're not doing the same things," Zimmerman says. "The moment feels limitless for the genre."

Nobile agrees, saying: "Thanks to Jordan Peele on one end of the spectrum and thanks to Sam Zimmerman on the other end of the spectrum, where he's putting movies like 'Skinamarink' on TV, there's a wider spectrum of budget, tone, voice, vibe of horror than there's ever been in the history of motion pictures. There's every sliver of horror under the sun right now."

Meanwhile, social media has both extended horror's reach and diminished its thrills. It's a double-edged Buck 120 bowie knife for the genre. (Yes, we know a Buck 120 bowie is not double-edged. It's a horror reference. Pipe down, and maybe peek over your shoulder.) It spreads the powerful imagery to the masses (including that 50 percent who hate it), but it defangs movies by isolating creepy moments and crazy kills. If you watch them in context, Zimmerman says, "you have to engage with the actual emotional resonance of those scenes."

They don't give you an out.

Horror has always been a sandbox for emerging filmmakers. If you're good enough, all you need is a camera to scare the audience. "You don't need a cast of 25 people and a budget of 100 million in order to create fear," Gotto says.

It's like comedy in that way. "It takes crazy skill, understanding the rhythm to set up a punchline," Zimmerman says.

So Shudder began handing out pails and shovels to unknown emerging filmmakers with "crazy skill," earning itself a reputation as a filmmaker-first destination.

"Thanks largely to Sam Zimmerman, they have turned into an aspirational destination for independent filmmakers," Nobile says. For proof of how much the service respects said filmmakers, he says, "they might be the only service I have where the end credits run, where there's no option to skip or not giving you a countdown clock to the next thing."

Demián Rugna knew that his script for "When Evil Lurks," about a demon possessing a small town, would be a hard sell. The Argentine filmmaker imagined all sorts of disturbing gruesome scenes, including a woman killing herself with an ax to her own head and a French mastiff shaking the limp body of a child. Oh, and it's also an allegory about farm pesticides in his homeland.

"It's hard to find financing for these kinds of movies," Rugna says. So, when he shared his script with Shudder, he awaited the dreaded notes asking for changes. But those notes never came. "They respect me, as a filmmaker," he says. "They wanted me to make my movie."

Kyle Edward Ball's experience was similar. He was an amateur filmmaker with a YouTube page where he re-created people's nightmares. As his 30th birthday loomed, he made a short called "Heck," which he expanded into a feature-length titled "Skinamarink."

The film is a tough sell. It follows two small children waking up to the disappearance of all the doors and windows of their house — and their father. The micro-budget, near-plotless horror is more a series of creepy images than a narrative, more unsettling than scary.

It's arguably the most divisive movie in years. Shudder gleefully acquired it.

"At the streaming premiere in Los Angeles, they treated me like I was the f---ing king of Hollywood," Ball says. They got Patton Oswalt to do a Q&A with Ball and had someone from the office of horror auteur David Lynch, whom Ball deeply admires, attend and give Ball a bag of signed merch. "They were amazing and really punch above their weight."

Divisive doesn't scare Zimmerman or, by extension, Shudder. Chris Nash predicted *maybe* 30 percent of its potential audience would like "In a Violent Nature," which he imagined as Gus Van Sant directs a slasher. Gory kills bookend extended sequences of the killer just walking through fields and forest. Mundanity followed by brutality. Rinse (off the blood), wash (off the entrails), repeat.

Zimmerman — and Shudder in general — seemed to "want to try something different," Nash says, "which I feel isn't very common."

"It's encouraging to know that people like him are out there, championing films that aren't following well-worn paths," he adds.

Samuel Zimmerman wants to scare the living hell out of you — or out of anyone. But it's obvious he wants much more than that. He wants to spread the joy he finds in this stuff.

He doesn't mind if watching people get turned into gory, gooey mush isn't your thing. He wants to find something you *will* like, even if it doesn't necessarily involve demons or ghosts or witches or zombies or whatever lurks in your closet as you slip into the hypnagogic stage each night.

The void isn't the point, in this case. The joy it brings is.

He remembers his earliest horror loves and wonders which he'll show his son first, when he's old enough.

Maybe none.

"I'm almost too self-conscious about it. I don't want him to feel like he has to like it," Zimmerman says. "I want him to be genuinely into whatever he's interested in.

"If that's horror, great."

"Thanks to Jordan Peele on one end of the spectrum and thanks to Sam Zimmerman on the other end … there's a wider spectrum of budget, tone, voice, vibe of horror than there's ever been in the history of motion pictures. There's every sliver of horror under the sun right now."

Phil Nobile Jr., editor in chief of Fangoria

SUMMER SCARIES

DREW GURIAN FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

Samuel Zimmerman, curator of horror streamer Shudder, was asked to pick the scariest movies ever made. "These are the ones that live in my brain," Zimmerman says.

The curator of Shudder lives for fear. These are the films that spook him.

BY TRAVIS M. ANDREWS

Too much summer sun? In the mood for a little darkness? If you're in need of a good fright, look no further. We called up Samuel Zimmerman, who curates the bespoke horror streaming service Shudder, in hopes of finding the most terrifying movies ever made. He didn't disappoint. ¶ This is not a ranked list, he stresses. "I think it would be hard for me to say, objectively, these are the scariest movies," he says. "But if you asked, 'What are the scariest movies to you,' then these are the one that live in my brain." ¶ *The following are Zimmerman's responses, edited and condensed.*

'The Blair Witch Project' (1999)

This is a completely irreplicable film, despite many trying to replicate the experience over the years. Its story [three film students investigating a murderous local legend] taps into deeply primal fears: being lost, being spied on, preyed upon, hunted. Some horror movies don't show you everything — such as the monster, etc. — with the argument that the viewer's imagination is more powerful than anything on-screen. Has any movie done it better?

The scariest moment in this movie is when the characters run from their tent and one repeatedly screams, "What the f--- is that?" as they run into full, pitch-black darkness. In that moment, either version — whether she's actually seeing something or is losing her mind — is equally distressing. No matter what she's experiencing, it's really upsetting.

Screaming and running into the void. That's what the movie feels like: Staring into a void.

It gives me chills just talking about it.

Available for rent on most major streaming services.

'Lake Mungo' (2008) / 'Pulse' (2001)

"Lake Mungo" and "Pulse" are two sides of the same coin for me. These are movies that are entirely about the dread of confronting imminent death, of confronting your own death.

"Lake Mungo" [a faux documentary about a family coming to terms with their 16-year-old daughter and sister drowning and the likely supernatural events that subsequently occur] is very one-to-one, you and yourself, marching toward death. "Pulse" [about ghosts invading the living world via the internet] is more about societal loneliness and societal collapse. One's micro, one's macro, but they both elicit the same crushing dread.

They make me feel sad and scared. It's frightening but exhilarating at the same time to feel and reckon with those things.

"Lake Mungo" available on Amazon Prime and Tubi. "Pulse" is available for rent on most major streaming services.

'Angst' (1983) / 'The Texas Chain Saw Massacre' (1974)

"Angst" is this wildly upsetting home invasion film about a killer who gets out of an asylum, and you're chained to this man as he immediately returns to a violent and vicious lifestyle. Both the killer in "Angst" and Leatherface, the murderer in "The Texas Chain Saw Massacre," are so reprehensible. Humans leaving humanity behind.

These are incredible pieces of chaos that make you feel unsafe watching them, because these are very human monsters, and there's something crueler to that than, say, a supernatural monster. You watch them and you feel like you wouldn't be able to get away — and that maybe you can't even get away from the experience you have while watching them. You just can't turn them off. It feels like the creators have unleashed something that they're not even responsible for.

"Angst" is available on Tubi. "The Texas Chain Saw Massacre" is available on Amazon Prime, Peacock and Tubi.

'Terrified' (2017)

"Terrified" is a potpourri of absolutely horrible things happening.

It's just purely scary, in that really great funhouse way. It's so freaky and so many different kinds of freaky.

There is supernatural splatter, and there is this very upsetting, long creature, which functions as a great ghostly figure, a thing that should not be. And there's dread of a small child who's been resurrected and moves very slowly and basically haunts a space. [The movie is about a Buenos Aires neighborhood dealing with a variety of supernatural events.]

Demián Rugna, the Argentine filmmaker who later teamed up with Shudder for the terrific "When Evil Lurks" (2023), is a master of suspense and horror, and he really sells every piece of grotesquerie in this movie. You can feel the movie darkly grinning at you, like it's taking pleasure from how freaked out you are at every new reveal.

It's one of the great turn-all-the-lights-off kind of movies. And it was the first really major step of announcing Demián as a generational talent in horror.

Available on Shudder.

'Twin Peaks: Fire Walk With Me' (1992)

I lived near multiple video stores as a child, during the waning days of both Blockbuster and independent video stories. One day, I went into one of the video stores and saw "Twin Peaks: Fire Walk With Me" on the shelf. Not being old enough to fully understand the context, I thought, "Oh, this is what that 'Twin Peaks' thing is." So this was my first exposure to "Twin Peaks," and I was left to make sense of it by myself.

Perhaps it belongs in some of the conversation with "Lake Mungo" and "Pulse." I don't know why I'm so drawn to this, but it's a very personal reckoning with your own mortality and your own death. And like in those movies, there's a deep sadness in it.

You know going in that this is the last week of Laura Palmer's life.

It captures a ferocity that the show only slightly gets into. It really feels like every darkness that show was hinting at is fully unleashed. It's relentless. And also really beautiful.

In this one, Laura is the character who gets to work through the facing of her own mortality, which I always find really stunning and tearful in a lot of ways.

And then there are just images in the movie that are freaky as all hell.

Available on Max.

'The Ring' (2002) / 'Ring' (1998)

They're both incredible. "Ring," the Japanese original film [about a cursed video; anyone who watches it dies seven days later], and "The Ring," the remake, sit side by side in my mind.

The moment when the little girl's ghost comes out of the television is so iconic. It's something you haven't seen before. It's uncanny, deeply strange, breaking the rules of what you thought was possible.

I have such an affinity for things centered on cursed media: stories of tapes you shouldn't watch or records you shouldn't listen to. The idea that something is living in those pieces of media that can move beyond the bounds of a screen or a speaker is really fun. It's a metatextual quality that isn't adding humor or knowledge. It's actually making things scarier.

I also love that there's no solving it. The solution they find is really to just pass on the continued cycle of oncoming death, which is something we all have to live with.

"The Ring" available on Paramount Plus. "Ring" available on Shudder and Tubi.

'Ghostwatch' (1992)

Much as Orson Welles aired "War of the Worlds" on the radio as if it were an actual newscast, "Ghostwatch" was originally presented on the BBC as a live broadcast featuring journalists trying to find paranormal activity. What seems like harmless fun at first turns sinister as terrifying and unexplainable events begin happening.

The story is that tons of people thought there was an actual investigation and that things were actually going wrong and worriedly (or angrily) called the BBC. There's a pre-widespread internet quality where you don't know how much of that story is actually true. How many people actually thought it was real? I love that there's this mythic quality about it.

I love introducing it to people. People enjoy giggling at some of its dated qualities, some of the cultural artifacts. But I find that halfway through, that snickering stops because the movie is so effective at being scary. It creates such an oppressive atmosphere. It kind of stops you in your tracks.

To create that sense of atmosphere, despite in parts playing like a goof, that's almost a magic trick.

Available on Shudder.

'The Wailing' (2016) / 'The Medium' (2021)

These are connected in my mind because Na Hong-jin, who wrote and directed "The Wailing," was a co-writer and producer on "The Medium." They're both sort of about religious wonder but also investigating the forces outside of us that are controlling us via possession, moving us around either in joy or in cruelty.

They both make you feel a little worn-out in your soul. It's such a great feeling.

"The Wailing" available on Peacock and Netflix. "The Medium" available on Shudder.

'Rec' (2007) / 'Rec 2' (2009)

These are the most perfect funhouse movies in the world. They're so relentless. They excel in shock and jolt and nightmare imagery.

It's primal. You're always going to second-guess something in the dark. In your life, the lights go out, you're somewhere alone at night, and you can't escape the feelings and questions that you have. The Rec movies put you in the middle of that feeling with ferocious, supernatural beasts.

Watching them back-to-back is the way to go. You should make a night of it.

"Rec" and "Rec 2" are available for rent on most major streaming services.

SUMMER SCARIES

ILLUSTRATION BY ANTONELLO SILVERINI FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

Five film composers who helped define the sound of scary

BY MICHAEL ANDOR BRODEUR

It feels like we are living through something like a horror flick renaissance — and thankfully I don't even have to uncover my eyes to enjoy it. ¶ As horror movies continue to find ways to subvert their own conventions and sneak up on themselves, film composers have also been pushing the traditional sounds of "scary music" — think Zilgi's retrofuturist soundscapes for "Longlegs," Colin Stetson's feral reeds in "Hereditary," or Will Bates's unholy drones for "Immaculate." ¶ The history of horror scores is a long, winding path (that leads to an old abandoned shed stocked with a bunch of rusty hatchets), with legends of the form and shadowy figures that lurk around the edges of the frame. Here's my stab at five of the most killer composers in film history.

Bernard Herrmann

Spooky film music truly begins with Bernard Herrmann, whose instinctual blend of beauty and horror made him the go-to composer for Alfred Hitchcock. Herrmann got his start at CBS, working on radio dramas with Orson Welles — he even conducted the panic-inducing 1938 live broadcast of "War of the Worlds." He'd go on to score seven films for Hitchcock, including "Psycho" — perhaps the stabbiest string section ever recorded, and the most enduring example of Herrmann's unorthodox approach to rhythms and harmonies. (He also makes a cameo as a conductor in "The Man Who Knew Too Much.") The composer also worked with directors including François Truffaut ("The Bride Wore Black"), Brian De Palma ("Obsession," for which he earned an Oscar nomination) and Martin Scorsese ("Taxi Driver," his final score before his death in 1975). He even took the first crack at an opening theme for "The Twilight Zone" — an unsettling 12-tone anxiety attack, employed for just one season before Marius Constant's iconic ostinato commenced its eerie loop.

Ennio Morricone

The grand maestro of the Italian cinema died in 2020, but he left behind a legacy that spans every imaginable genre — from the spaghetti westerns of Sergios Corbucci, Sollima and Leone, to a long list of giallo (Italian horror) classics such as "Cold Eyes of Fear" and "My Dear Killer." Morricone's creepy yet cosmopolitan scores for director Dario Argento included "The Bird With the Crystal Plumage," "The Cat o' Nine Tails" and "The Phantom of the Opera." I love the ghostly psych-folk touches of his score for "Exorcist II: The Heretic" (which continue to haunt horror scores to this day), but my favorite Morricone monster movie treatment is his theme to John Carpenter's 1982 horror/sci-fi classic, "The Thing," which thumps with an alien heartbeat, twists with unrelenting tension and gradually insinuates itself through growling synths and icy organs — a chilling approximation of fear itself.

John Carpenter

If you're not someone who stays (or uncovers their eyes) for the credits, you might not have known that director John Carpenter almost always plays double duty as the primary composer for his films. From the bleeps and bloops of his 1974 debut sci-fi comedy "Dark Star" to his influential 1976 action thriller "Assault on Precinct 13," to a string of horror and thriller favorites such as "The Fog," "Christine" and "They Live," Carpenter's widescreen approach to the visual carries right over to his arresting musical sensibilities. Most memorably, Carpenter created that piercing piano line that throbs like a heightened pulse through the first three "Halloween" films.

Angelo Badalamenti

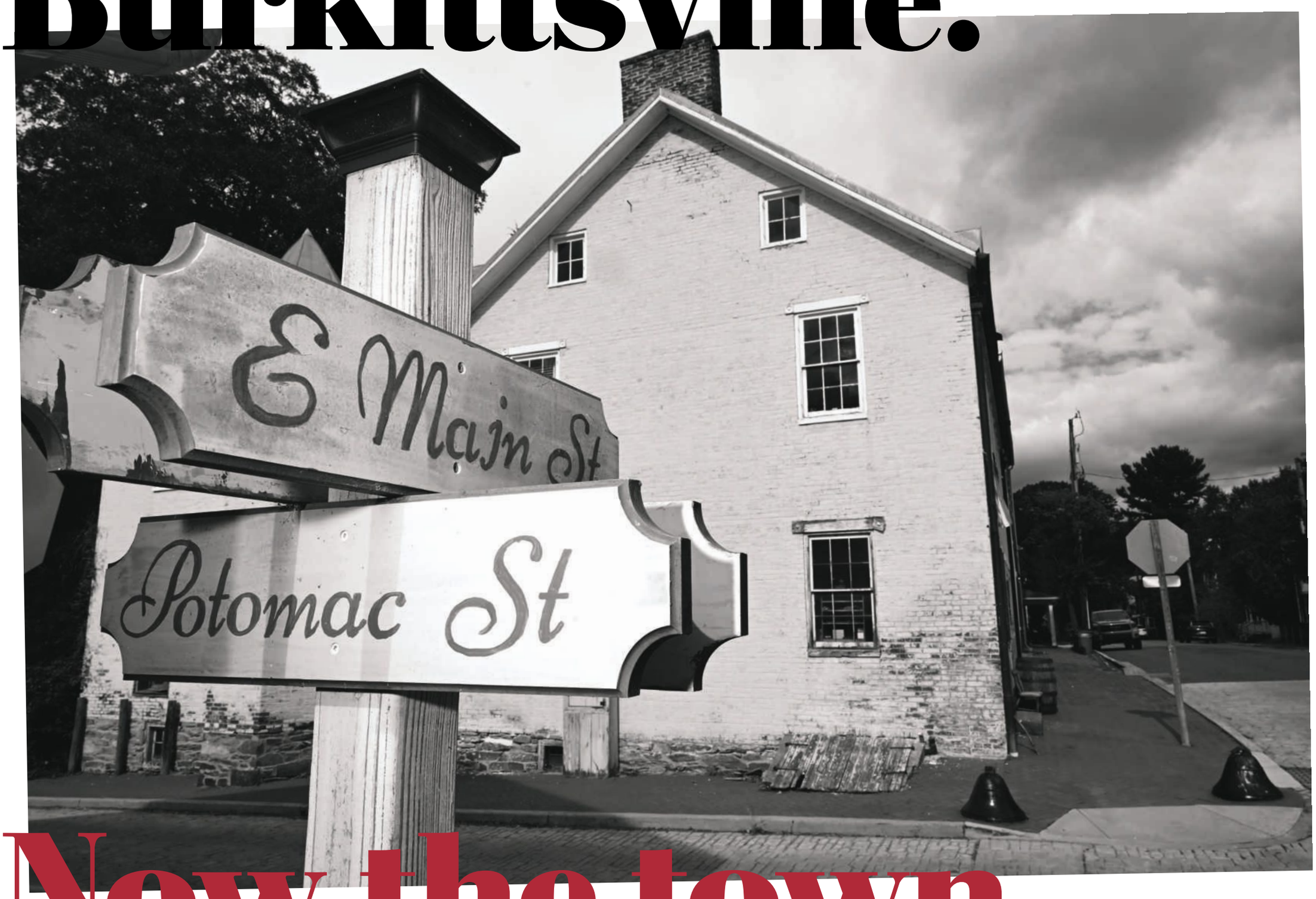
The films of director David Lynch tend to dwell in the gray area between pleasant dreams and waking nightmares, and sound has always played a major part in creating their eerie atmospheres. (Lynch himself often moonlights as a sound designer on his own films.) A talented songwriter and arranger (who wrote tracks for Nina Simone and Shirley Bassey), Badalamenti, who died in 2022, segued into film scoring in the mid-1970s. And while you can hear Badalamenti operate in pure horror mode in 1987's "A Nightmare on Elm Street 3: Dream Warriors," his sweet spot is the mix of swooning sentimentality and creeping surrealism that made Lynch's films so seductively disorienting: From "Blue Velvet" to "Wild at Heart," "Lost Highway" to "Mulholland Drive," and of course, every dark corner and back road of "Twin Peaks." Part of what makes his music so effective is the way the fear and dread that course through it are ever undercut by a sunbeam of sweetness and innocence. (On that note, if you've never seen the footage of Badalamenti sitting at a keyboard and explaining how he composed "Laura Palmer's Theme," I must insist that you do, and have a tissue handy.)

Mica Levi

If you saw Jonathan Glazer's obscenely unflinching family portrait "The Zone of Interest," you know how even the faintest sounds cut like razor wire. You may also have noticed its heavily rationed music, committed to just a few points in the film, and sometimes its very margins. Mica Levi's main theme slowly disintegrates in your ears, its slumping intonation a sonic capture of dwindling hope. Over the past decade and just a few impactful films, Levi — erstwhile leader of busted indie-pop outfit Micachu & the Shapes — has become one of the most innovative composers in the business. The grief-stricken strings that replayed like a horrible memory in Pablo Larrain's "Jackie" earned Levi an Oscar nomination. And their original music for Glazer's otherworldly "Under the Skin," which pulses through the film like an alien heart, remains one of the most haunting film scores ever released.

SUMMER SCARIES

‘Blair Witch’ fans haunted Burkittsville.



Now the town is welcoming them.

When the movie became a hit, obsessives descended on the Maryland village.

Now, 25 years later, it’s embracing its place in film history.

BY MATT COHEN
IN BURKITTSVILLE, MD

Above: Street signs in Burkittsville.
MATT MCCLAIN/THE WASHINGTON POST

Eduardo Sánchez couldn’t believe he was back in the town that should hate him. ¶ He’d first arrived in Burkittsville — a village of fewer than 200 people at the base of South Mountain, about 15 miles west of Frederick, Md. — in early 1997 with his college pal and co-director, Daniel Myrick. They were scouting locations for a micro-budget horror flick about three student documentarians investigating a frightening urban legend in the Maryland woods. Satisfied with the spectral setting, the directors returned to town with a small crew and their three leads. Filming took eight days. It cost $60,000. ¶ “The Blair Witch Project” was released in theaters 25 years ago. It changed horror movies, and maybe cinema, too. But it also changed Burkittsville.

First, the film was a hit out of Sundance, parlaying early buzz into a $1.1 million sale to Artisan Entertainment. Then, beginning in July 1999, it became a worldwide box-office phenomenon, grossing nearly $250 million and haunting pop culture for months. (It was satirized by not just “Saturday Night Live” but even Scooby-Doo.) Its lo-fi found-footage aesthetic — which emphasized off-screen horrors rather than blood-soaked violence or elaborate creature design — inspired a vast subgenre that fundamentally changed how studios thought about making horror movies. Without “The Blair Witch Project,” there would have been no “Cloverfield,” “REC” or the Paranormal Activity series.

There also would have been fewer migraines in Burkittsville. At the height of “Blair Witch” mania, the town was inundated with superfans and, more worryingly, true believers in the movie’s faux-real premise. They caused traffic jams on the town’s two main streets, accosted locals to tell them the town wasn’t safe for their kids and, in a few cases, barged unannounced into people’s homes.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

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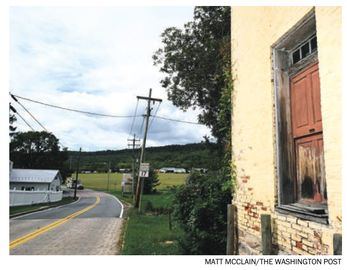
MATT MCCLAIN/THE WASHINGTON POST

“For a year straight, from sunup to sundown, there were people going by in slow cars with a camera. And it was such a shock because the town didn’t know. They didn’t understand what was going on.”

Deborah Burgoyne, former mayor of Burkittsville, about how “The Blair Witch Project” affected the town



MATT MCCLAIN/THE WASHINGTON POST

MATT MCCLAIN/THE WASHINGTON POST

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FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

“After 24 years of not doing it, I’m now locking the door,” one resident told The Washington Post at the time.

Burkittsville was, and presumably remained, ticked off.

At least that’s what Sánchez, 55, thought. “I knew the history,” he says. “There were a lot of things that happened that we couldn’t control, unfortunately.” Then, last year, he got an invitation from Burkittsville’s current mayor, Michael Robinson.

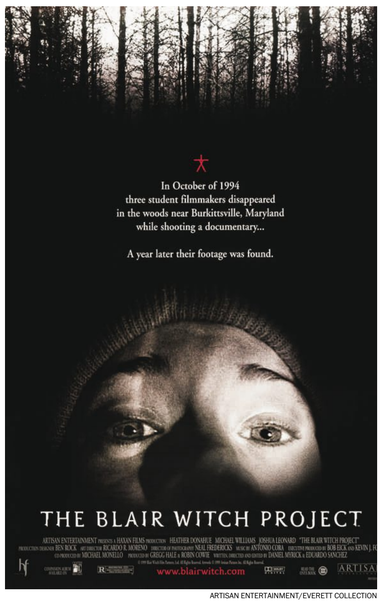
Robinson, 49, asked whether Sánchez would come to town. Could he do a Q&A? The event would be in the parking lot behind the Burkittsville Ruritan Club, where the town holds its local council meetings.

“‘Yeah, we’re going to do a screening,’” Sánchez recalls the conversation going. “I’m like, ‘*Whaaaat?*’”

Sánchez and Myrick had been slowly developing “The Blair Witch Project” for four years when they started scouting locations in Maryland. Sánchez, who was born in Cuba but grew up in Montgomery County, was living in the state at the time, while Myrick was down in Miami.

“It was kind of like a no-brainer that, of course, we’re gonna shoot it in Maryland,” Sánchez says. As a kid, he’d been drawn to the vast, spooky woods in rural parts of the state, which seemed perfect for a horror movie. During Myrick’s visits in the 1990s, they would drive around Frederick County. Eventually they stumbled upon Burkittsville, which fit the lore they were already inventing — graying hamlet, haunted forest, murderous hermit, plenty of graves.

“We were on this road coming up over this hill and saw this picturesque little town with the church steeple and the cemetery, and there’s a little bit of the mountain behind it,” Sánchez says. “It’s a beautiful place. Dan and I were both like, ‘Okay, there it is. That’s the town.’” They worked some of Burkittsville’s history into their mythos. They wanted a story that uncovered an evil with antebellum roots. Burkittsville was founded in 1824. “We always wanted to create this fake timeline where something weird had been happening in this area every 50 years,” Sánchez says.



ARTISAN ENTERTAINMENT/EVERETT COLLECTION

ARTISAN ENTERTAINMENT/EVERETT COLLECTION

ARTISAN ENTERTAINMENT/EVERETT COLLECTION

TOP: The Burkittsville Union Cemetery, featured in the beginning of “The Blair Witch Project.” TOP RIGHT: Burkittsville, a village of fewer than 200 people about 15 miles west of Frederick, Md., was inundated with superfans after the film’s release. Some people came to Burkittsville to rescue children from what they gathered was a cabal of witches, not realizing the story was made up. ABOVE, CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT: A poster for the film, which was released in theaters 25 years ago. “Blair Witch” co-directors Daniel Myrick, left, and Eduardo Sánchez in 1999. Rei Hance, credited by her birth name, Heather Donahue, in a scene from the movie.

Only a few scenes in the final cut of the movie were actually filmed in Burkittsville. Rei Hance (then using her birth name, Heather Donahue), Michael C. Williams and Joshua Leonard — the actors playing the three doomed documentary students at the center of the film — interview locals about the town legend while recording their own establishing shots of the town cemetery. “The setup interested me because they had a faux documentary that actually explained a little bit about the town itself,” says Paul Gilligan, a longtime Burkittsville resident who was mayor from 1995 to 1998. “In terms of setting up the story, I thought that was genius. They got more of the character of [Burkittsville]: isolated, small town, no one knows where we are or who we were.”

Gilligan, 77, credits the film’s found-footage style and clever early internet marketing strategy — which played up the notion that the Blair Witch and the three missing filmmakers were real — for the movie’s success. And also for unleashing a flood of people on Burkittsville.

“It was this place you would never suspect had this dark history,” Sánchez says. “Now, looking back on it, we wouldn’t have set it in Burkittsville if we knew the movie would blow up the way it did.”

How bad was it? “For a year straight, from sunup to sundown, there were people going by in slow cars with a camera,” says Deborah Burgoyne, 69, another former mayor of Burkittsville who has lived in the town for more than four decades. “And it was such a shock because the town didn’t know. They didn’t understand what was going on.”

Reports of “Blair Witch” tourists flooding the town’s streets, goth kids skulking around the cemetery at night, and thieves stealing the “Welcome to Burkittsville” sign featured in the movie eventually became a minor news event in and of itself. “Let’s face it, the movie is not about the Waltons or Mayberry,” Mayor Joyce M. Brown told The Post at the time of the film’s release. “We are a Christian community.” While some residents at the time described getting a kick out of the attention, many more seemed to just want the “Blair Witch” visitors to go away.

The incidents that stick with Burgoyne involve the people who, not realizing the story was fake, came to Burkittsville to rescue children in town from what they gathered was an actual cabal of witches, almost like a Catoctin QAnon.

“They would be disappointed because they thought we were stupid locals who didn’t know [about the Blair Witch] or we were hiding something,” she says. “We brainwashed the kids who are here.”

Burgoyne recalls sitting on her front porch with her then-5-year-old daughter, who had just gotten off the school bus. A woman in a Bentley with Florida license plates pulled up in front of the house and started to interrogate Burgoyne about the Blair Witch’s whereabouts.

“I’m like, ‘It’s not real.’ And she’s arguing with me, and then she realizes [my daughter] is on the porch with me, and the woman says, ‘You have children here!?’” Burgoyne recalls. “And I turned around, looked at [my daughter] and turned back to the woman and said, ‘That’s not my child; that’s my lunch!’ And I yanked her and ran back into the house.”

Just over a year after the release of “The Blair Witch Project” came “Book of Shadows: Blair Witch 2,” a sequel that Artisan rushed into production without the involvement of Sánchez or any of the original film’s cast and crew. It also briefly filmed in Burkittsville and was universally panned.

In the DVD commentary, director Joe Berlinger describes meeting with Burkittsville leaders about the project, only to be shooed out of town. “It really was like villagers with torches,” Burgoyne says of that sit-down. As it happened, that film’s plot centered on fans of the first film obsessing over its footage and descending on its setting.

In real life, the fans kept coming in smaller and smaller numbers. Robinson, the current mayor, still happens upon strangers in the town cemetery every now and then.

“You get the occasional people who are like, ‘I want to find the graves of the children who were murdered,’” he says. “And I have to tell them, ‘Well, they’re not real, so they’re not here. You can find a bunch of infants who died back in the 1800s because they didn’t have vaccines, though.’”

Robinson differs from his predecessors in a key way: He’d like the “Blair Witch” tourists to come back.

It’s not just because Robinson is a fan of the film (he stresses he’s not a die-hard), but because he thinks the town deserves to see some benefit from the landmark movie’s success. Robinson is relatively new to Burkittsville — he moved there with his family in 2016 and became mayor in 2022 — but says that he rarely hears people complaining about “Blair Witch”-related incidents these days.

Others would also like Burkittsville to get its piece. Burgoyne recalls several locals trying to sell Burkittsville merchandise emblazoned with the movie’s stickman logo to tourists, only to be met with legal threats. “When they found out people in town were profiting in any way, they sent cease-and-desist orders,” she says.

The three co-stars have an even bigger beef with the distributor of “The Blair Witch Project.” They recently penned an open letter asking Lionsgate, which acquired Artisan in 2003, to provide them fair compensation and back pay for their work on the film. The movie wasn’t filmed under a union contract, as Variety detailed, so Leonard, Hance and Williams have made only a tiny fraction of the movie’s earnings. Sánchez declined to comment specifically on the dispute, citing a nondisclosure agreement, but said he and the original “Blair Witch” team support the three actors’ efforts. “Generally speaking, artists are always exploited,” Sánchez says.

Like its stars, Burkittsville seems to be permanently entwined with “The Blair Witch Project.” “It would be great if the town would make *any* money off of this stuff,” Robinson says. “Because we haven’t for 25 years.”

To celebrate the film’s 25th anniversary, Robinson has organized another screening in Burkittsville in September. Like last year’s event, the profits will benefit the Burkittsville Union Cemetery — the cemetery featured in the beginning of the film — which Robinson says has experienced wear and tear from the thousands of “Blair Witch” visitors over the years. “It’s not cheap to maintain a cemetery, especially in a small town like this one,” he says.

Sánchez, who went on to make more horror films and has a career directing for TV, will also be back. Before the 2023 screening, he had returned to Burkittsville only once since the original film production, to pose for photos for a 2019 article in a local newspaper about the movie’s 20th anniversary. But last year’s gathering was the first time the town rolled out the red carpet for him.

Under the long, wooden pavilion behind the Burkittsville Ruritan Club, Robinson introduced Sánchez, along with a few locals who were briefly featured in the film, to a standing ovation. There were residents from Burkittsville and other nearby towns in attendance, as well as folks who traveled to the screening from all over: New York, California, Britain.

For 30 minutes or so, Sánchez took questions. But mostly, people were as shocked as he was that he had come back to town.

Locals shared war stories from the aftermath. Burgoyne recalled how the Frederick County Sheriff’s Office had to divert resources to attend to the hundreds of calls it got from angry people who thought the movie was real. (A spokesperson for the sheriff’s office said it had to “pay special attention to that area for some time because of the problems the movie created for the residents.”) But in that moment, Sánchez didn’t feel bad anymore. It was clear that Burkittsville was finally proud to be the “Blair Witch” town.

After the Q&A, the pavilion lights were dimmed, and a silence fell over the crowd, disturbed only by cricket chirps and the low drone of cicadas in an abutting corn field. The film’s opening title card flashed onto the screen:

In October of 1994, three student filmmakers disappeared in the woods near Burkittsville, Maryland while shooting a documentary.

A year later their footage was found.

The crowd cheered.

Robinson remembers standing in the back with Sánchez: “About 15 minutes after it started, he turned to me and said, ‘I never thought this would happen.’”

SUMMER SCARIES

Let it roar: The baddest monsters of the 21st century

As tastes and technology evolved from silent movies, so did the chilling creatures stalking us in cinemas

BY A.A. DOWD

For about as long as there have been movies, there have been movie monsters.

Way back in 1896, cinema pioneer Georges Méliès jolted audiences with the spectacle of a bat miraculously transforming into a man in "The House of the Devil." As if swinging open the gates of hell, Méliès invited all manner of clawed, malevolent beasties onto the silver screen. The silent years were stalked by German versions of golems and vampires, while an American makeup wizard named Lon Chaney gave fright a face — or rather, a gallery of faces.

As tastes and technology evolved, so did the monsters. You can chart a history of human fear through the changing nature of what has tormented actors in Hollywood and the cinematic beyond. Creatures of folklore and forces of gothic malevolence gave way to atomic behemoths, the irradiated bugs, reptiles and suddenly colossal housewives of the 1950s. War, disease, space, the digital revolution — our anxieties about all of the above took a physical, sometimes gooey form. Meanwhile, advances in special effects diversified the menagerie, as artists like Ray Harryhausen (the skeleton warriors of 1963's "Jason and the Argonauts"), Tom Savini (the undead of 1978's "Dawn of the Dead") and Stan Winston (the animatronic dinos of 1993's "Jurassic Park") found new ways to bring our nightmares to life.

For better or worse, the new century has been dominated by monsters made from ones and zeros instead of clay or latex. It has also given rise to monster movies fixated on what the monster really represents. Any student of mythology will tell you that a werewolf has always been more than a werewolf. But in an age of baldly metaphoric horror, it's hard to find a creature feature that doesn't trample its subtext like a guy in a rubber suit stepping on model cars.

What's the mark of a great movie monster? Ingenuity of design matters, certainly. When you've seen a thousand zombies, a fresh configuration of teeth and limbs can make all the difference. They should be scary, too, although that's subjective: One person's nightmare fuel is another's sleeping aid. And the best movie monsters transcend the effects behind them through the intangibles of screen presence. You accept the strange, uncanny reality of their existence — a reality born from how they look, sound, move and behave. They come alive before our awed eyes, compelling us to avert our gaze.

Rampaging mutants, autonomous tumors and the fanciest gentleman in horror since Dr. Caligari — the best movie monsters of the new century have imprinted their own diabolical mark on the collective psyche. We would put the 10 ghastly things ranked below up against the best that Universal or Hammer or Toho has to offer. So long as there are movies, there will be movie monsters. Pray to the Devil that they keep making them this cool.

ILLUSTRATIONS BY JOHN GALLAGHER FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

10

Moder, 'The Ritual' (2017)

"The Ritual," about four friends whose hiking trip leads them into occult danger, is no modern genre classic. But the David Bruckner film does feature a truly remarkable monster: a towering folkloric entity with an elklike body and an antlered head that — if you look closely — resembles a limp human figure with grasping hands. While the word "Lovecraftian" leaps to mind, the reality is that the mighty Moder, worshiped by a woodland cult of true believers, resembles only itself. Sometimes, all you need to make horror-movie history is to give evil a new shape.

9

Sam, 'Trick 'r Treat' (2007)

Before he unleashed yuletide critters in 2015's "Krampus" and orchestrated the city-leveling mayhem of 2019's "Godzilla: King of the Monsters," Michael Dougherty pitted a cranky Brian Cox against a miniature prankster from hell. The final segment in his holiday anthology "Trick 'r Treat" is, well, a treat. Its darkly comic pleasures hinge on the puckish malevolence of Sam, a pajama-clad instrument of chaos who comes to look like the irreverent spirit of Halloween incarnate. His climactic unmasking is a gift from the underworld gods of nifty prosthetic makeup effects, sure to leave monster lovers grinning ear to ear like a jack-o'-lantern.

8

The Shimmer bear, 'Annihilation' (2018)

Though not entirely a horror movie, Alex Garland's science-fiction whatsit about an expedition into a mysterious mirror realm called the Shimmer does feature one nightmare for the ages: a deformed bear that "speaks" in the voice of its victims, parroting their death screams every time it opens its massive, dripping jaws. Plenty of monsters provoke yelps of fear. This one perversely echoes them, almost mocking the terror of those staring into its maw.

7

Gabriel, 'Malignant' (2021)

We'll tread lightly here, as the true nature of this monster qualifies as a plot twist. Let's just say that the villain of "Malignant," an anatomically inverted, parkouring shadow slasher, possesses an unexpected relationship to the film's heroine, played by Annabelle Wallis. When Gabriel finally gets his big, shocking close-up — a scene so brutal in its violence that it begins to look like slapstick comedy — he tilts this unpredictable James Wan potboiler into a new register of deranged fun. The demon lies within, the movie says with a bloody, crooked smile.

SUMMER SCARIES

6

The Pale Man, 'Pan's Labyrinth' (2006)

No rundown of modern cinema's best monsters would be complete without something from the twisted imagination of Guillermo del Toro, a mad scientist who has spent most of his career flooding theaters with frightening, sometimes sympathetic new organisms. Arguably his most striking creation is the Pale Man, the gaunt, child-devouring predator whom Doug Jones plays for five suspenseful, unforgettable minutes in the Oscar-winning "Pan's Labyrinth." The most inventive touch: those peepers on his clawed hands, rising to give the monster sight at the exact moment that audiences might decide to block their vision with a defensive palm.

5

It, 'It Follows' (2014)

Not to be confused with Pennywise the Clown, the shape-shifting menace of David Robert Mitchell's brilliant supernatural thriller has no original, official form. Instead, it disguises itself as ordinary people, swapping its appearance out every few minutes while slowly but relentlessly pursuing the unlucky teenagers cursed by its attention. That it can look like anyone is the key to its fearsomeness; by the end of the movie, the audience has become as paranoid as the characters, scanning every inch of the frame for the slow approach of danger. Who needs creature effects?

4

Eli, 'Let the Right One In' (2008)

Conceptually speaking, there's nothing unique about the childlike bloodsucker Lina Leandersson plays in the moody Swedish horror movie "Let the Right One In," directed by Tomas Alfredson. Vampires are a dime a dozen, right? But Eli is a great character, a tragic creature of the night who has relied on manipulation and self-mutilation to survive for decades. Her relationship with a young, bullied outcast is at once touching and disturbing — a bond forged around the promise of violence. And she cements her place alongside the greatest minions of Dracula in the film's bravura swimming pool climax, where this ageless girl next door demonstrates her awful, tremendous power.

3

Jean Jacket, 'Nope' (2022)

It's arguably a spoiler to even include Jordan Peele's spectacular sci-fi thriller on this list, given how long the film takes to reveal the truth about the unidentified flying object hovering over its California setting. But what a reveal! Only when "Nope" has taken us inside the infernal innards of its mysterious flying saucer do we understand what's really abducting the local population. The final-boss version of Jean Jacket, peacocking against a vast expanse of sky, is breathtaking enough to attend the Met Gala. Peele's most wicked trick, though, is unleashing a creature this original and then arguably upstaging it in the scares department with an ordinary chimpanzee.

2

The Babadook, 'The Babadook' (2014)

"The real monster is grief," insist countless art-house horror movies made in the image of "The Babadook." But don't blame the dapper demon for these wannabe trauma phantoms. While Jennifer Kent's influential creepshow might cast its storybook boogeyman as a metaphor for repressed emotions, that never interferes with his primary duty, which is scaring the living daylights out of you with his croaked mantra, slithering vertical movements and demented vaudeville, silent-movie-villain routine. Few modern movie monsters are so instantly, chillingly recognizable in silhouette. Plus, how many of them have achieved the status of queer icon?

1

The Gwoemul, 'The Host' (2006)

Godzilla for a new generation is how you could describe the star attraction of "The Host," the genre-blending kaiju movie from "Parasite" director Bong Joon-ho. Except that there's really no confusing this movie monster for any other. Brought to life via animatronics and the digital magic of Weta (the New Zealand CGI shop that worked on the "Lord of the Rings" movies), the Gwoemul is a marvel of singular creature design that suggests a fish crossed with a frog crossed with one of the dinosaurs of "Jurassic Park." As with the original King Kong, it's the impression of a sentience, even a personality, that makes the beast so memorable: From the moment it emerges from the water and gallops down a Seoul riverbank like an overgrown puppy, we believe in it.

ILLUSTRATIONS BY JOHN GALLAGHER FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

SUMMER SCARIES

PERSPECTIVE

Horror movies have never been bigger.

ILLUSTRATION BY DAVID ÁLVAREZ FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

And that's scary.

BY JEN YAMATO

For more than a century, even through a pandemic, horror films have been frighteningly good business, which says a lot about the adrenaline-spiking ways humans love to be entertained. We pay good money to be scared out of our skins for 90-ish minutes at a time, and many of us would prefer it be in the shadowy embrace of a movie theater. ¶ Armchair psychologists might say we seek cinematic escape from the horrors of real life — entertainments that allow us to safely confront, and even thrill to, the fears that truly terrify us. Whether you buy that or not, it's a fact that horror is now the fastest-rising film genre, having doubled its market share from 4.87 percent in 2013 to 10.08 percent in 2023, per The Numbers, a movie industry data service. And with that growth comes critical attention and clout — if not always respect. ¶ But what will horror filmmakers do with their newfound power? I hope a few recent successes — movies such as this year's runaway hit "Longlegs" and "I Saw the TV Glow," both popular and critically acclaimed, plus other genre gambles gone terror-ifically right — might point the way. The best horror films are getting bolder, funnier and more creative. The smartest thing the genre can do to keep moviegoers hungry is embrace the off-kilter and keep us on our toes. ¶ Whether it's legacy franchises built on iconic IP, art-house-leaning A24 horror or the myriad imitators trying to mimic trendy, of-the-moment terrors, the genre needs to take a page from its most resourceful characters and adapt and evolve if it's going to stay unkillable. ¶ Thankfully, we are already starting to see where horror might go next.

SEE PERSPECTIVE ON E19

SUMMER SCARIES

NEONCLO

WARNER BROS. PICTURES/EVERETT/SHUTTERSTOCK

CAITLIN OCHS/REUTERS

CHRIS PIZZELLO/INVISION/AP

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: Lauren Acala in "Longlegs," the highest-grossing original horror movie of the year. Jordan Poole accepts the best original screenplay Oscar for "Get Out" in 2018. M. Night Shyamalan attends the New York premiere of his new film "Trap" last month. Vera Farmiga stars in "The Conjuring," a 2013 horror film that kicked off a billion-dollar franchise.

PERSPECTIVE FROM **E18**

A decade ago, an audacious trio of convention-shirking horror films signaled a tectonic shift in genre storytelling. That watershed moment, Fangoria editor in chief Phil Nobile Jr. tells me, led to our current age of horror. Even now, we are in the "blast radius" of those films' influence.

It started with Jennifer Kent's "The Babadook" (2014), which personified grief as a storybook monster and ushered in an era of heavy psychological symbolism that still reverberates in films like "Smile," "The Boogeyman" and "M3GAN." Then, 17th century folk horror "The Witch" (2015) launched the careers of writer-director Robert Eggers, star Anya Taylor-Joy and A24 itself (at the time just three years into operation) with its nerve-rattling slow burn. And finally, "Get Out" (2017), nominated for four Academy Awards including best picture, kicked open Hollywood's doors for Black horror narratives and overt social commentary while winning writer-director Jordan Peele the Oscar for best screenplay.

"Trauma-based horror really had a flash point with 'Babadook,' and we've been seeing the effects of that for 10 years," Nobile says. "The legitimate film industry recognizing and celebrating 'Get Out' changed how so many people in so many corners of the industry even look at horror. And 'The Witch' was a harbinger of A24 auteur art-horror. Each of those titles represents a moment that led to the floodgates being open of one kind of horror or another."

Horror went majorly mainstream in the years that followed, flexing both commercial muscle and art house allure. Perhaps by coincidence, it also paralleled the kind of immersive, character-based scares seen in survival horror video games popular throughout the decade. Deliberately paced horror films with bursts of terror, such as David Robert Mitchell's "It Follows" (2015), Ari Aster's "Hereditary" (2018) and "Midsommar" (2019), and Severin Fiala and Veronika Franz's "Goodnight Mommy" (2015) edged the frontiers of art house horror outward, attracting cult followings in the process. Even the 2019 success of Bong Joon-ho's South Korean thriller "Parasite," winner of four Oscars including best picture, signaled that the awards elite had become increasingly receptive to darker genre narratives.

Meanwhile, filmmaker James Wan introduced horror's highest-grossing franchise with "The Conjuring" in 2013 (franchise take to date: $2.2 billion) and continued to grow the "Insidious" film series ($741 million) throughout the decade, while producer Jason Blum turned his namesake Blumhouse Pictures from micro-budget horror mavens to makers of high-profile IP breathing new life into the "Halloween" and "Exorcist" franchises.

All of the above helped get us to where we are now, with high demand keeping the genre flowing: In 2023 alone, IMDb catalogued 1,586 new horror films, up 39 percent from 2013, when the genre yielded 1,140 titles. Since 2013, more than 20 of the top-grossing scary movies broke $200 million at the box office. Last year, according to Comscore, horror collectively grossed $962 million domestically and more than $1.9 billion worldwide, with franchise sequels from "Evil Dead Rise" to "Saw X" breaking the $100 million mark. And horror's most popular household brands are only getting bigger; in January Blumhouse and Wan's Atomic Monster, Hollywood's two biggest genre producers, even joined forces to tackle blockbuster horror hitmaking under one banner.

This modern glow-up brought greater volume, variety and cultural currency to an oft-maligned genre. But mainstream popularity and a low-cost, high-reward model incentivizing producers to flood the horror market can also bring creative stagnation, clichéd cash grabs and formulaic copycats. It gets exponentially harder to lose ourselves in the primal frights on-screen when we can see the jump scares, emotional scars and heavy-handed metaphors coming a mile away.

The ever-present danger of creative inertia is why another covid-era 1-2-3 punch of bigswing horror was so invigorating: James Wan's ridiculously entertaining psychodrama "Malignant" (2021), Zach Cregger's subterranean nightmare "Barbarian" (2022) and the high-tech shenanigans of "M3GAN" (2022). They formed a new unholy trinity of bonkers horror, made by studios, whose unexpected over-the-top twists and playful frights sent a fresh breeze shuddering throughout the genre landscape. Torpid pacing, conventional scares, everyday logic and reason — those all went out the window, and not a moment too soon.

"What those movies share is a camp-adjacent sensibility, and if fun horror is coming, then that's really good news for everybody," Nobile says. "Because we've hit a bit of a saturation point or maybe an entropy with the self-serious, dour horror, the trauma-based PTSD horror. And all three prove that people are kind of ready for a vibe shift. They're ready for a party."

Genre fans felt that dizzying rush again in July when Nicolas Cage slithered into theaters under a pile of grotesque prostheses as a moldering serial killer with a penchant for puzzles, and for tormenting Maika Monroe, in Osgood "Oz" Perkins's "Longlegs." Viscerally creepy and morbidly funny with a gonzo Cage turn, its unpredictable turns had moviegoers calling it the scariest movie in years. Driven by a cryptic marketing campaign, "Longlegs" soared to a better-than-projected $22.6 million opening (far surpassing the $5.3 million opening for the Sydney Sweeney nun horror "Immaculate," distributor Neon's previous benchmark) and became a No. 2 summer box office success behind the family-friendly juggernaut "Despicable Me 4." Still in theaters with $58.6 million and counting, it's now the highest-grossing original horror movie of the year, and Neon's best performer ever. So what helped it break out?

"This audience demands and craves films that are inventive, transgressive and boundary-pushing," Neon Chief Marketing Officer Christian Parkes says. "By definition, the genre itself is about limits and pushing past them. People crave that, and I believe they crave that in a communal space, which is why they're perfect for movie theaters. And what we found with 'Longlegs' was that people wanted to go get scared in the dark."

Meanwhile, the PG-13 alien invasion prequel "A Quiet Place: Day One" has a $254 million worldwide tally and Ti West's R-rated "MaXXXine" closed out A24's popular "X" and "Pearl" franchise with a series-best $18.9 million. Summer horror season wraps up with M. Night Shyamalan's serial killer psycho-thriller "Trap," kooky Euro-horror "Cuckoo," and sci-fi horror sequel "Alien: Romulus" hitting screens in August before "Speak No Evil," an American remake of the bleak 2022 Danish psycho-thriller, drops in September. And dozens more horror titles will open in theaters or on streaming before the year closes out with Eggers's fangy "Nosferatu," a prestige Christmas release that's already attracting Oscar buzz.

The wide range of horror being made, and made accessible, is unprecedented. By the end of the year — which was admittedly off to a slow start at the box office before "Longlegs" ambled in — 2024 will have given us scary studio fare of all stripes, including one about a killer swimming pool ("Night Swim"), a stylish "Omen" prequel ("The First Omen"), sequels ("Beetlejuice Beetlejuice") and remakes ("The Crow"). In October, cult hit "Terrifier," a 2016 niche splatter slasher about a demonic clown whose follow-up made $15 million worldwide on a reported $250,000 budget, gets a threequel in "Terrifier 3" — a healthy indication that independent horror is capable of finding its own hungry audience well outside the mainstream.

All of which is to say that, while horror is undeniably having a moment, it's been ages since it was pigeonholed as the disposable B-movie buck. (Although it's still that, too: Gird your loins for R-rated slashers "Winnie-the-Pooh: Blood and Honey 2," "Bambi: The Reckoning," and Steamboat Willie in "Mickey's Mouse Trap," among other public-domainsploitation flicks on the horizon.)

Comscore analyst Paul Dergarabedian says reports of cinema's demise have been greatly exaggerated, and that's doubly true of the horror genre, especially when there's a recognizable brand in play. And because it can be made with no stars, small budgets and limited special effects, the genre is built for success.

"Horror has been consistently performing well — the box office numbers have gotten bigger, but the profitability factor has remained pretty consistent," Dergarabedian says. After a lackluster start to the year at the box office, he adds, one need only look to "A Quiet Place: Day One," with its series-best $52 million debut, as evidence that horror is so potent, even a prequel to a popular PG-13 property can have blockbuster returns.

And for further proof that horror is thriving beyond the niche fringes of the movie business, consider A24. The production and distribution company has displayed a curatorial golden touch with artful, unconventional narratives and slow-burn domestic and psychological horror, and its zeitgeisty generation-defining critical and commercial success has made the A24 name catnip for cinephiles, its model ripe for imitators. But what makes an A24 movie, let alone an A24 *horror* movie?

A source close to the studio, speaking on the condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to comment publicly, says one mission is to usher transgressive voices into Hollywood, which often manifests via horror: "It's a combination of trying to work on films and with filmmakers that feel distinct and fresh relative to what's come before, and sneaking these films into the mainstream in a way that historically the world told everyone wasn't possible."

The artist-forward approach allows genre-defying filmmakers to make a splash within the horror space, where economics can make it easier to get a first film off the ground. And it's launched the likes of Aster, Eggers, Alex Garland ("Ex Machina"), Rose Glass ("Saint Maud") and most recently Jane Schoenbrun, whose haunting, A24-backed trans allegory "I Saw the TV Glow" announced the arrival of an exciting new voice redefining the boundaries of horror.

Now, with a recent infusion of cash pegging A24's valuation at a reported $3.5 billion, the company is making moves of its own. Upcoming high-concept horror releases — the Brandy-starrer "The Front Room" (Sept. 6), and "Heretic," from the writers of "A Quiet Place" (Nov. 15) — hint at a move toward the mainstream. At the same time, A24 is spinning Danny and Michael Philippou's teen possession hit "Talk to Me" into its next franchise and is reteaming with the Australian duo on another original horror project. And it's still committed to investing in rising talent, with respective genre debuts of first-time feature filmmakers Mark Anthony Green ("Opus") and Gen Z prodigy Kane Parsons ("The Backrooms") among its future slate.

As Blumhouse and Atomic Monster take their partnership to the next level, A24 looks to grow, and Neon steps into position as the home of buzzy horror this summer, the genre seems on the brink of its next expansion era, having proven audience appetites for horror of all shapes and sizes. And with distributors like IFC, RLJE and Shudder also giving indie and foreign discoveries a platform (including experimental breakouts such as the micro-budgeted "liminal horror" "Skinamarink" and so-called ambient slasher "In a Violent Nature"), it's tempting to imagine an unprecedented new wave of creative voices and thrills.

Because, while horror isn't dying off anytime soon, the scares that got our pulses and minds racing a decade ago have worn thin. The bold, beautiful business of terror depends on shaking us out of our comfort zones, challenging our changing fears in ways that earn our attention — and our screams.

SUMMER SCARIES

ILLUSTRATION BY ALBERTO ARAGÓN FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

There's a horror film for everyone this year — scaredy-cats included

BY LUCAS TREVOR

For every kind of horror movie, there is a kind of horror fan. Whether you love the most extreme and gory flicks the genre has to offer or you faint at the sight of blood, somewhere out there is a movie for you. ¶ Starting this weekend with the latest from M. Night Shyamalan, the films on tap for the remainder of the year are so varied that, for easier filtering, we've matched some of the buzziest titles to the audiences they're likely to attract. And for those who don't see their "type" represented, or are too impatient to wait for the theatrical rollout, try revisiting the best of what 2024 has already delivered: the Lynchian coming-of-age movie "I Saw the TV Glow," the inverted slasher flick "In a Violent Nature" or the deeply unsettling "Longlegs," with Nicolas Cage appearing as unhinged as ever.

'Trap' (released Friday), for the logline lover

Through the relative ebbs and flows of Shyamalan's career, there's something consistent about his films. No matter what, they always *sound* intriguing. His latest, "Trap," follows Josh Hartnett ("Oppenheimer") as a father taking his daughter to a Taylor Swift-style pop concert. Except Hartnett is a serial killer known as "the Butcher," and the concert is an elaborate sting set up by local police to catch him. Think that's giving away too much? That's all in the trailer. But we're guessing M. Night has a few twists up his sleeve.

'Cuckoo' (Aug. 9), for the body-horror freak

Starring Hunter Schafer ("Euphoria"), the film follows an American teen who moves to the German Alps to live with family. What follows from director Tilman Singer is a mix of body horror and psychological thriller. Distributor Neon has cut its teeth (pun intended) with the body-horror subgenre, releasing films like "Titane," "Crimes of the Future" and "Possessor" in recent years. If you liked those movies, "Cuckoo" should be right up your alley. Just maybe skip your mid-movie hot dog for this one.

'Alien: Romulus' (Aug. 16), for the binge-watcher

"Alien: Romulus" marks the seventh film in the science-fiction franchise, and it presents a fantastic opportunity. Beginning as a relatively straightforward creature feature directed by Ridley Scott and released following the success of "Star Wars" (1977), the franchise has been all over the map: a James Cameron-helmed action blockbuster ("Aliens"), a dread-inducing David Fincher project ("Alien 3") and whatever Jean-Pierre Jeunet's "Alien: Resurrection" was supposed to be. In the 2010s, Scott returned to the franchise with "Prometheus" and "Alien: Covenant," shifting away from the original narrative and asking complicated questions like "Where do we come from?" and "How many Michael Fassbenders does it take to play a flute?" Now Fede Álvarez ("Don't Breathe") will helm an Alien project that promises to return the franchise to its horror roots. Prepare by rewatching all 12 hours, preferably where no one can hear you scream.

'AfrAId' (Aug. 30), for the schlock doctor

Seemingly capitalizing on 2022's "M3GAN," Blumhouse and writer-director Chris Weitz will be adding "AfrAId" to the anti-AI canon. The new release follows a family that has brought home an AI device (sort of Alexa on steroids). The device is intended to make parenting easier using artificial intelligence but quickly reveals itself to be more sinister than helpful. Schlock has long been an important aspect of horror films, which typically have smaller budgets and less serious plots. But as any acolyte of the late, great Roger Corman will tell you, that doesn't necessarily mean lower quality.

'Beetlejuice Beetlejuice' (Sept. 6), for the scaredy-cat

Listen, horror isn't for everyone. Some people need a less scary entry point to go there at all. Look no further than "Beetlejuice Beetlejuice." Director Tim Burton returns to inject the genre with humor and camp while star Michael Keaton provides the Beetlejuice character's anarchic energy. Perhaps most exciting is the addition of Jenna Ortega, the young star of "X," "Scream VI" and Burton's own "Wednesday" series. She seems like a perfect fit for the Burton oeuvre, alongside Keaton and other returning franchise stars like Winona Ryder and Catherine O'Hara.

'Speak No Evil' (Sept. 13), for the deep-cut disciple

A remake of the 2022 Danish film of the same name, "Speak No Evil" follows Mackenzie Davis and Scoot McNairy as a young couple visiting the home of friends they met on vacation. All is not as it seems, and social norms are pushed to their limits as the situation becomes more and more unsettling. The 2022 original is a smaller film available to stream on Shudder and something of a hidden gem for genre obsessives. Its graphic imagery and nihilistic ending make the film unique and certainly worth a watch in the run-up to the remake's release.

SUMMER SCARIES

AIDAN MONAGHAN/FOCUS FEATURES

'The Substance' (Sept. 20), for the film fest aficionado

Starring Demi Moore ("Ghost") and Margaret Qualley ("Poor Things"), "The Substance" follows aging actress Elisabeth Sparkle. She takes an experimental drug that The Washington Post's Jada Yuan explains "will allow her to essentially birth a younger version of herself." Qualley plays Sue, the younger version of Sparkle. The Coralie Fargeat-directed film received mixed reviews when it premiered at the Cannes Film Festival in May. In the United States, it could be a "Parasite"-like critical darling and awards powerhouse or an international curio like "Titane."

'Terrifier 3' (Oct. 11), for the blood-and-guts fanatic

Since its debut in 2016, the Terrifier franchise has operated as a cult classic. From multi-hyphenate auteur Damien Leone, the films follow the gruesome adventures of Art the Clown (David Howard Thornton) as he terrorizes young women, pizza parlor employees and janitors. With minuscule budgets and increasingly gruesome imagery, both the 2016 and 2022 features found an audience with horror obsessives. Leone came up in special effects and makeup, and his films never lack for imaginative kills. With the third entry in the franchise, Leone will be handing off special-effects duties and working with a bigger budget. Be afraid.

'Smile 2' (Oct. 18), for the sequel devotee

This sequel to the surprise hit "Smile" follows pop star Skye Riley (Naomi Scott) as she is terrorized by the entity from the first film. The trailer suggests more shocking and elaborate kills this time around. The 2022 original wasn't expected to be the box office success it was: A simple premise, a great marketing campaign and an easy-to-remember name brought in more than $200 million worldwide. Can the sequel cash in again?

'Nosferatu' (Dec. 25), for the old soul

What has more Christmas spirit than a period-piece vampire movie? Former indie darling Robert Eggers will continue his ascent to the big leagues with "Nosferatu," an adaptation of the classic Dracula tale. Eggers's works so far, "The Witch," "The Lighthouse" and "The Northman," all explore horror within period settings. As a director, Eggers never sacrifices authenticity for mass appeal, making films that are of their time as much as our own. In the past year, two movies, "Renfield" and "The Last Voyage of the Demeter," have transformed the classic Dracula story, with mixed results. If nothing else, "Nosferatu" is expected to be authentic to the mood and tone of the 1922 masterpiece of German expressionism.

WARNER BROS. PICTURES

WARNER BROS. PICTURES

FROM TOP: Lily-Rose Depp, left, and Emma Corrin in Robert Eggers's remake of the horror classic "Nosferatu." Michael Keaton returns as the ghost with the most in Tim Burton's sequel "Beetlejuice Beetlejuice." Josh Hartnett and Ariel Donoghue attend a pop concert with a twist in M. Night Shyamalan's "Trap."

SUMMER SCARIES

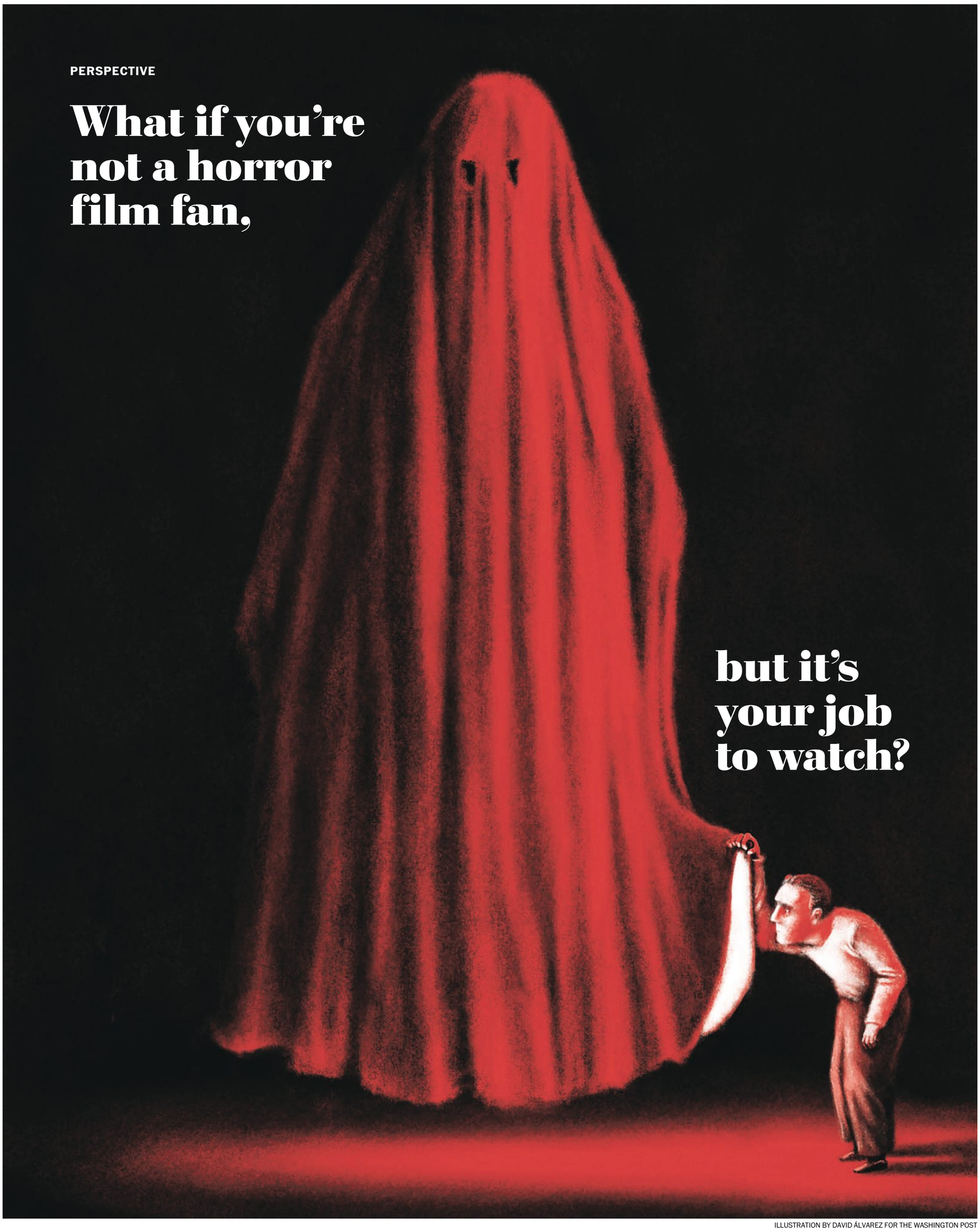


ILLUSTRATION BY DAVID ÁLVAREZ FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

Confessions of a critic who couldn't stand to watch scary movies — until they finally surprised him

BY TY BURR

Why do people like being scared? ¶ Better yet, why do some people *hate* being scared? In a popular culture in which boogeymen, serial killers, satanic cults and homicidal dolls stalk every multiplex and every streaming platform, where do you go to shut out the screaming? Where's the safe house? And what if your job requires you to subject yourself to being terrified time and time again? ¶ This is not an idle question for a working movie critic who — shh, don't let this get around — *doesn't really enjoy horror movies*. I know, I know: As a consumer guide and cultural commentator on the things we watch, I'm supposed to be open to and appreciative of all genres of filmed narrative. A critic has to be knowledgeable about the entirety of his or her field — has to be able to distinguish not only between good art and bad art but good and bad schlock and everything in between. In theory and mostly in practice, I do. But, man, have my nerves been taking a pounding lately.

SEE **MUST SEE** ON **E23**

SUMMER SCARIES

DAN POWER/MAPLE PICTURES/EVERETT COLLECTION

WARNER BROS./EVERETT COLLECTION

JUSTIN LUBIN/A24

MUST SEE FROM **E22**

The cinema is deep into a horror renaissance that's been going on for the better part of a decade, the latest entries including films like Ti West's "MaXXXine" and Osgood "Oz" Perkins's "Longlegs." Each week brings new frightmares; the genre has dedicated streaming channels such as Shudder (11.5 million subscribers and counting), endless devoted websites and packed horror conventions. The hallmarks of the current cycle are young, imaginative directors — many of them women — a stress on atmosphere and ambiguity, an interest in social metaphors and metafictions, pop culture artifacts used as a delivery method of unease, the internet as a haunted limbo, retro formalism, mysterious cults, Gen-Z disillusionment and a particular attention to body horror and the potential mutations and/or mutilations of the flesh.

Whee.

Almost all these elements have been present in filmed horror from the very beginning, of course, just in different concentrations and emphases. Silent expressionism gave way to the monster movies of the 1930s and '40s, which gave way to the fears of nuclear and personal obliteration in the '50s, and so on. Alfred Hitchcock's "Psycho" (1960) can be seen as the movie that broke horror and, indeed, film history in half by being the first to not only (seem to) show murder realistically — inaugurating the slasher film as we still know it — but to consciously toy with the audience as an act of consensual gamesmanship. You don't watch "Psycho," you surrender to it, and every horror film made since works in its shadow.

I didn't get around to seeing "Psycho" until college in the 1970s, and by then the movie had so fully entered the pop-culture lexicon that I was already familiar with every scene. But that period was also when I walked out of a screening of "The Texas Chain Saw Massacre" (1974) in a cold sweat of panic — one of the very few times I've ever bailed — before what I was sure was a coming deluge of carnage. (I was wrong, as I found out in a rewatch years later: "Massacre" is surprisingly *un*gory, relying more on suspense, set decoration, sound and makeup to sustain its aura of human butchery.)

But gritting one's teeth and sticking it out became a point of pride as films got bloodier, freakier, scarier; part of the "fun" was steeling yourself for the jump scares. (Unless you didn't; I still remember a college girlfriend who had to be bodily carried to the car, traumatized and sobbing, after the final gotcha shot of Brian De Palma's "Carrie.") When a horror movie came along that was touted as a must-see — "The Exorcist" or "The Silence of the Lambs" or "Scream" — all of us weenies had to decide whether to gird our psyches and go.

It got more interesting when I started getting *paid* to go.

I came of age as a professional reviewer during the 1980s and '90s, a time of retrenchment into the bloody catechisms of the post-"Halloween" slasher film as well as an exploration of new boundaries of transgression. This is where I learned what kind of horror movies bored me or just grossed me out and which engaged me on a more primal, technical or artistic level. I came to despise the teen dice-and-slice subgenre of "Friday the 13th" et al. as pure product, a cash cow for a numbed generation desperate to feel something. I also learned that I had a taste for horror when it had a sense of humor about itself, especially when that humor went way over the top. Stuart Gordon's "Re-Animator" (1985) is still one of the funniest and most memorable movies I've ever seen — pretty remarkable given that it ends with the villain being strangled by his own reanimated intestines.

This is what has kept my hair from turning white over 40 years of writing reviews: an antenna for and appreciation of when a horror movie has something else going on beyond merely separating characters from their limbs and moviegoers from their money. An *idea*, for lack of a better word, or at least a healthy sense of absurdity. My list of favorite gonzo horror comedies is long and includes the Evil Dead movies, "Zombieland" (2009), "Tucker & Dale vs. Evil" (2010) and "The Cabin in the Woods" (2011).

New filmmakers using the form to explore issues like racism ("Get Out," 2017), STDs and sexual anxieties ("It Follows," 2014), family dysfunction ("Hereditary," 2018), gender dysphoria ("I Saw the TV Glow," 2024) and religious fundamentalism ("Saint Maud," 2019) — fine, bring 'em on. Genre fiction has always been a vehicle for social criticism disguised as horror, melodrama, science fiction or westerns, and it's where ambitious young artists have traditionally learned their trade. And when a director really plugs into an existential sense of doom, it can carry more power than all the latest digital gore effects. Julia Ducournau's "Raw" (2016), a tale of incestuous sisterly cannibalism, is an impossible movie to shake because it taps into such deeply powerful taboos about family rivalries and loves. (And, yes, because it gives new meaning to the word "ladyfingers.")

West's much-praised trilogy of "X" (2022), "Pearl" (2022) and "MaXXXine" (2024) plays with the styles of earlier horror movies — specifically the grainy sleaze of "Texas Chain Saw Massacre" and other '70s films in "X" — while Mia Goth's tough-skinned heroines upend the cliché of the virginal "final girl" who survives the mayhem. Perkins's "Longlegs" continues the tradition of demonic murderers out there somewhere between urban legend, the online netherscape and reality, and adds a truly disturbing Nicolas Cage performance like a rotten cherry on top. These are filmmakers who aspire not to raise horror to the level of the "culturally respectable" but to double down on craft and impact and imagination until the genre's virtues can't be denied.

By contrast, it's the films that are primarily about how much pain can be inflicted on a person while we watch — where the act, not the dread of the act, is paramount — that I find as enjoyable as a trip to the dentist. The Saw movies, as intricately constructed as they may be, are essentially torture devices for an audience's delectation. The gleeful carnage of Eli Roth's "Hostel" (2005) and "The Green Inferno" (2013) is, to me, offensive. The demonic possessions of the Insidious franchise and the haunted houses and dolls of "The Conjuring" and its spinoffs — meh. I get more scared reading the daily headlines.

But that's part of what horror movies are *for*, at least to the millions who respond to them. The real world is terrifying enough for many if not most people, and a large part of the fear is our powerlessness and lack of control. A horror movie lets us feel, viscerally process and resolve those anxieties, and then go out for drinks afterward. Horror also allows for socially acceptable date-clutching — a time-honored tradition — and a reminder that, while everyone in the movie may be dead, we're still alive. It lets us fantasize about our own death, in fact, without actually dying. On a darker note, it can indulge the human tendency to rubberneck, and, for some, it caters to and satisfies an innate taste for sadism.

Which is, at rock bottom, why I still have an inherent dislike of the form, even as I've learned to appreciate the more interesting or ambitious entries as part of growing a thicker critical skin. I simply don't enjoy watching other people's physical pain, especially when it serves as a movie's primary reason for being. Does that make me a wuss? Sure, why not. But people who feel the suffering of on-screen characters could also be called empaths.

I have yet to be convinced that's a bad thing.

Ty Burr is the author of the movie recommendation newsletter Ty Burr's Watch List at tyburrswatchlist.com.

CLOCKWISE, FROM TOP LEFT: Tyler Labine and Alan Tudyk in "Tucker & Dale vs. Evil" (2010). Jason Miller, Max von Sydow and Linda Blair in "The Exorcist" (1973). Mia Goth in "MaXXXine" (2024), one of the latest entries in horror's renaissance.

Answers to last week's puzzle.

MAKING THE SWITCH (JULY 28)

O	W	L	■	I	T	E	M	S	■	■	F	E	M	U	R	■	C	H	I
P	I	E	■	N	O	R	A	H	■	■	E	L	O	P	E	■	R	A	M
E	R	A	■	F	O	R	W	A	R	D	L	O	O	K	S	■	E	S	P
R	E	D	D	E	N	S	■	F	O	A	L	■	N	E	O	N	A	T	E
A	S	S	I	S	I	■	A	T	A	R	I	S	■	E	N	A	M	E	L
■	■	■	I	N	T	E	R	F	E	R	E	N	C	E	P	A	S	S	■	■
L	U	N	G	E	■	I	T	D	■	■	I	I	I	■	N	A	I	L	S
E	G	G	■	D	O	N	■	■	■	■	■	■	G	S	T	■	C	I	A
I	L	L	S	■	I	S	I	S	■	■	O	A	H	U	■	S	L	A	Y
F	I	E	L	D	L	E	F	T	■	■	O	U	T	P	E	T	E	R	S
■	■	■	A	I	D	■	F	R	E	E	Z	E	■	R	N	A	■	■	■
P	R	O	P	E	R	T	Y	I	N	T	E	L	L	E	C	T	U	A	L
R	A	W	■	S	U	E	■	P	D	A	S	■	I	M	O	■	N	E	O
O	N	T	H	E	M	A	P	■	■	■	■	S	L	E	D	D	O	G	S
M	A	H	A	L	■	M	A	D	■	■	P	E	A	■	E	E	R	I	E
S	T	A	Y	■	N	O	T	E	S	G	R	A	C	E	■	M	I	S	S
■	■	T	A	L	E	■	S	E	E	Y	O	U	■	V	L	O	G	■	■
S	C	H	O	O	L	S	■	P	A	R	M	■	M	E	A	N	I	N	G
L	O	U	■	F	L	I	P	F	L	O	P	P	I	N	G	■	N	O	R
O	R	R	■	T	I	T	E	R	■	■	T	E	N	T	O	■	A	P	E
W	E	T	■	S	E	E	D	Y	■	■	S	W	I	S	S	■	L	E	G

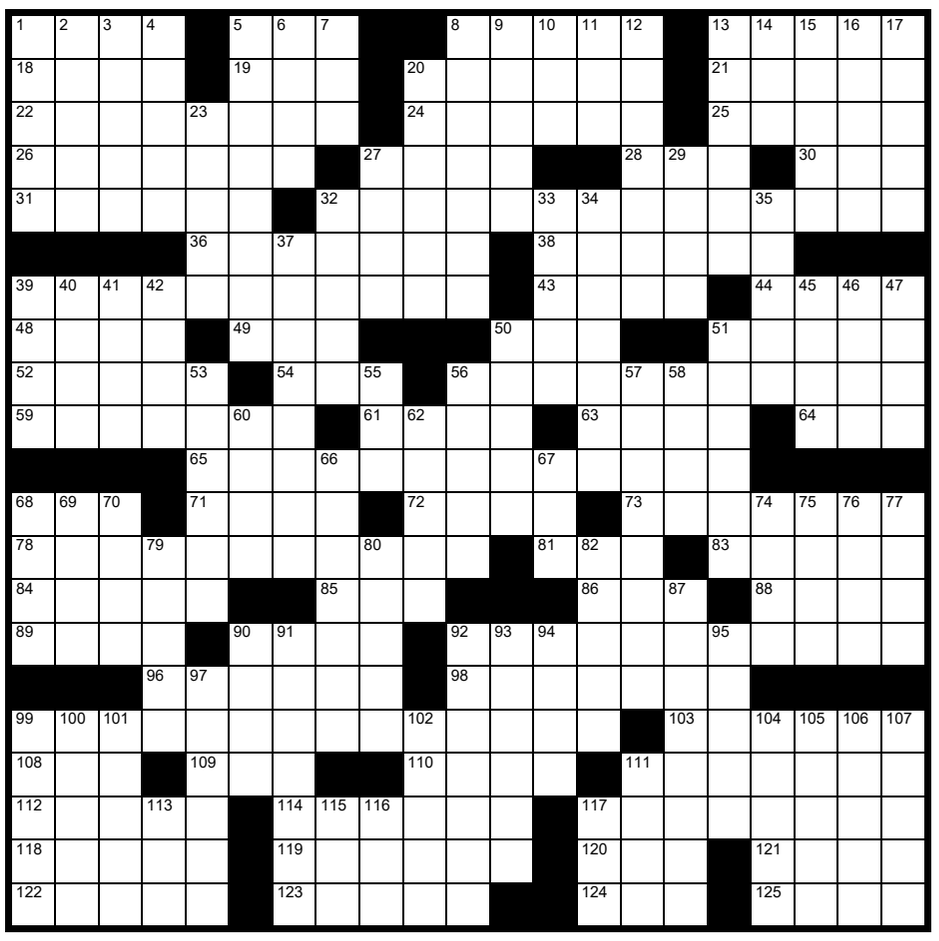
Answers to last week's L.A. Times Sunday puzzle.

L	E	A	S	E	■	■	P	T	A	S	■	■	M	O	D	■	A	C	E	S
U	N	D	U	E	■	B	U	R	P	E	E	■	I	N	U	■	R	A	V	E
S	T	I	C	K	F	I	G	U	R	E	S	■	D	E	C	K	C	R	E	W
T	R	O	T	■	R	O	S	E	■	S	P	A	S	■	T	A	T	E	R	S
Y	E	S	I	T	I	S	■	S	C	A	N	N	E	D	■	N	I	B	■	■
■	■	■	O	U	T	■	S	T	O	W	■	T	A	I	L	■	C	E	L	S
S	P	I	N	D	O	C	T	O	R	S	■	I	S	S	A	■	H	A	I	L
H	E	N	C	E	■	A	U	R	A	■	B	L	O	C	K	P	A	R	T	Y
U	R	D	U	■	A	I	D	Y	■	K	I	L	N	■	E	A	R	■	■	■
S	K	I	P	■	A	R	I	■	D	I	N	E	■	■	■	W	E	B	S	■
H	U	G	■	S	H	O	O	T	I	N	G	S	T	A	R	S	■	E	P	S
■	P	O	S	H	■	■	■	H	A	T	E	■	H	R	T	■	G	A	I	T
■	■	■	H	U	E	■	P	A	N	E	■	D	A	M	E	■	A	N	N	A
C	L	E	A	N	S	L	A	T	E	■	B	O	N	O	■	B	R	I	A	N
C	O	M	B	■	T	O	Y	S	■	F	L	O	O	R	M	O	D	E	L	S
S	L	O	B	■	D	O	R	A	■	O	U	R	S	■	C	H	E	■	■	■
■	■	B	Y	E	■	M	A	I	T	R	E	D	■	P	I	O	N	E	E	R
S	L	A	C	K	S	■	I	D	E	S	■	O	W	E	N	■	G	A	V	E
P	I	N	H	E	A	D	S	■	R	U	N	N	I	N	G	M	A	T	E	S
A	L	D	I	■	N	E	E	■	P	R	O	O	F	S	■	S	T	E	N	T
M	A	S	C	■	D	M	S	■	■	E	S	T	E	■	■	G	E	N	T	S

7/28/24

CROSSWORD

"NEVER HEAR THE END OF IT" BY EVAN BIRNHOLZ



ACROSS

1 The D of CD
5 Minuscule amount
8 Tab, e.g., or something on a tab
13 Freudian ____
18 Pitcher Hershiser whose first name is an anagram of 40 Down
19 Eon subdivision
20 Crème ____
21 Deck where you'll find the Tower
22 *Far-off chopper?
24 Winged creature in "The Wizard of Oz"
25 Skilled in acrobatics
26 Those always taking L's in chess?
27 Poster design choice
28 0, to some athletes
30 Genre for the Slackers
31 Soldier's reply, at times
32 *Herringlike fish that shows up at the typical end of a workday?
36 "Ahsoka" star Dawson
38 Makeup exam
39 *"Hit the deck, guys!"?
43 Holiday preceders
44 Like customers who yell at the waitstaff
48 Tony who retired as the Cowboys' career leader in passing yards
49 "Got you!"
50 Buzzer by a bed
51 Air field?
52 "Genuine poetry can communicate before it is understood" writer
54 Fort Meade org.
56 *Tawdry trinkets decorating Satan's home?
59 Moist cloths
61 Faceoff initiated by slapping somebody with a glove
63 Author listing abbr.
64 1976 rock album, or the first word of the band that made it
65 *News headline stating that a big snapping reptile is finished?
68 Expert on plants and bugs?
71 Ex-Yankee Martinez
72 Numbers of birthdays
73 Goes again, as with 46 Down
78 *Actor Ferrell, when becoming emotional?
81 Minnesota governor Walz
83 Single-masted boat
84 Biblical father of Esau and Jacob
85 Show that fills in the blanks of its alum Chri_ Par_e_l
86 "Soul Food" actress Long
88 Laos location
89 Like the Evil Dead franchise
90 "Heartland" author Mort
92 *Diagram developer John, when attending an orchestra's performance?
96 "Dunno"
98 Excavate
99 *Taller version of president Harding?
103 The pieces at 26 Across, colloquially
108 Kilometers ____ hour
109 Subject of a human "drive"
110 Glided on a smooth floor
111 Whom Cicely portrayed in the 1978 miniseries "King"
112 Not relevant
114 Like Chuck Tingle's books
117 Pronounce, as syllables ... and what's spelled by the letters you hear from the asterisked answers' deleted syllables
118 Ski lodge refreshment
119 Unit circle's x-coordinate
120 Driver's lic., SSN, etc.
121 Shoppe adjective
122 Dastardly look
123 ____ for the fences (tried to hit a homer)
124 Piece of band merch
125 Part of a gardening packet

DOWN

1 Dweebish
2 Jazz pianist Schweizer
3 Big trucks
4 Sink stoppages
5 Reddish-purple vegetable, in Britain
6 SIMPLE savings plans
7 Estate or sales follower
8 Provide a dull lecture
9 Reach a cost of
10 Class
11 Born, in France
12 Conference highlight
13 Supporters of flowers
14 Streaming annoyance
15 The ____ Rovers (folk band that played "The Orange and the Green")
16 Oktoberfest dance
17 Lieu
20 "So bad it's good" entertainment, maybe
23 Bronze medalist's place
27 Solid
29 Coats, as cupcakes
32 Components of a werewolf costume
33 Fishing basket, or a fishing rod spool if you ignore the first letter
34 Razed
35 Catwalk walk
37 Closing performance
39 Worked with markers
40 Show assignment
41 Skip over
42 ____ sport (postgame complainer)
45 KGB's home
46 Craps cubes
47 Aural repetition
50 Disney princess who befriends the candelabra Lumière
51 Some track athletes
53 Strategic development
55 Great fuss
56 Katherine who played Izzie Stevens on "Grey's Anatomy"
57 More blustery and rainy
58 English soccer striker Harry
60 Smug reaction, perhaps
62 Politician Stewart, Mo, Tom or Mark
66 Bovine building
67 Bethesda winter hrs.
68 Substantial sip
69 Argentine currency
70 Number on a quarter
74 Norwegian Olympic speedskater Johann ____ Koss
75 Get upset in the playoffs, say
76 Beef cut
77 Bridge distance
79 "The Descendants" director Alexander
80 Spouse's sister, e.g.
82 Like the ruler Pachacuti
87 Experimental film setting
90 One of a hexagon's six
91 Suits concerned with spots
92 Game with sweep stakes?
93 How orange chicken may be served
94 "____ anything else?"
95 Floral sticker
97 Buick driver's security system
99 Homeric stories
100 Noble gas used in ion thrusters
101 Minuscule amount
102 "Toy Soldiers" actor Sean
104 Makeovers
105 Lifted illegally
106 Part of a Chopin opus
107 Stuffed
111 Series of symbols
113 "Mystification" author
115 Move over a lake, say
116 NCAA home of the Beavers, Buckeyes or Cowboys
117 "That doesn't ____ well with me"

HOROSCOPE

BY GEORGIA NICOLS

Happy Birthday | Aug. 4: You are a rebellious, free spirit who likes to chart your own course. You're intelligent, compassionate and strong-willed. You like to enlighten others. This is a slower-paced year. Take time to rejuvenate yourself. Focus on business and personal relationships, especially with those who have your back.

Moon Alert: There are no restrictions to shopping or important decisions. The Moon is in Leo.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
Today's New Moon is the perfect time to consider whether you value your creativity. You're inventive, especially when doing anything with your hands. This is the perfect day to acknowledge and own your talents.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
This is the best day of the year to ask yourself what you can do to improve your home and family relationships. You love the stability of a strong home life, because at heart, you're a country squire.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
How are your communication skills? Do people understand you? Do you understand others? Are you a good listener, or are you just waiting for your chance to speak?

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
Each New Moon is a chance to make resolutions. Today's New Moon is your chance to think about how you handle what you own. How can you simplify your life and make what you own work for you?

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
Today the only New Moon in your sign all year is taking place, which means it's the perfect day to look in the mirror and ask yourself how you can improve the image you create on your world.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
Because of the placement of the New Moon, this is an excellent day to give a little thought to your spiritual values. Honest observations help you to be realistic about basic truths.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
Today's New Moon is the perfect day to ask yourself about the friends that you keep. Do you hang out with quality people? Are your friends of benefit to you, or do they come at a cost?

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
This is the best day of the year to think about your life direction. Are you at work today just because you were at work yesterday? Are you headed where you want to go?

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
You are the truth-seeker and the traveler of the zodiac. Today's New Moon is an excellent time for you to ask yourself if more education or travel would improve your job or your life.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
Today's New Moon urges you to take care of loose details about taxes, debt, inheritances, estates, and the wealth and resources of others, especially shared property with partners. Are you happy with how these things are handled?

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
Today is the perfect day for you to ask yourself what you can do to improve your closest relationships. After all, for a relationship to be successful, you must be as good for your partner as he or she is for you.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
How can you improve your job? Consider this today. And also, what can you do to improve your health? Do you have a pet? These are the questions that today's New Moon prompts you to consider.

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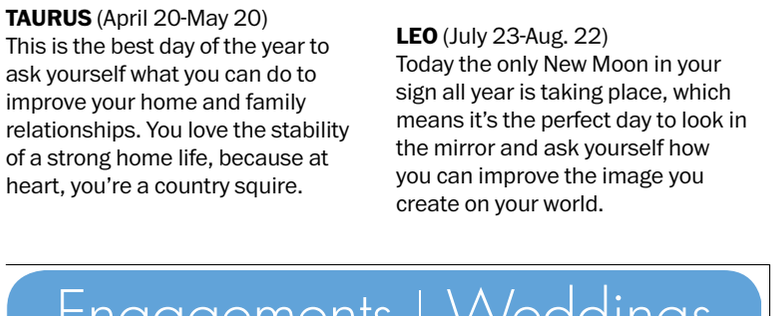
All materials must be received by Monday at 1 p.m.



L.A. TIMES SUNDAY PUZZLE

EDITED BY PATTI VAROL AND JOYCE NICHOLS LEWIS

"ALL BALL" BY KELLY RICHARDSON

ACROSS

1 Fuses
6 Fuse
11 Microsoft's web browser
15 Bar
18 Really fowl?
19 "Fuller House" actor John
20 Like a leaf blower
21 "Flamin' Hot" director Longoria
22 Goal of a dog running an agility course?
24 "__, Brute?"
25 Talk by a rev.
26 Adds nutrients to, as flour
27 Mass x acceleration
29 Provide fare for an affair
31 Vibe
32 Teddy bear picnic need
34 Betting setting
35 Wildebeest
36 Arrive too late for the blanket giveaway?
38 Chrysalides, e.g.
41 Art able to
42 Cove, e.g.
43 Stringed instrument
44 World's third-largest river, by volume
45 Thanksgiving Day Parade sponsor
47 Really grate on
51 Socrates, Plato, and Aristotle?
53 Hajj destination
54 Ride a bike
55 Branch of Islam
56 Two-tone bear
57 Handles
58 Saint-Tropez sea
61 Garden privacy border made of psychoactive plants?
65 Part of REM
66 Graduates
68 Major artery
69 Sch. between Mex. and N. Mex.
71 Nom de plume
72 HS assessments
73 Gutter ball?
78 List of options
79 Los Angeles art museum
80 Salty side
81 Appeal
82 Big name in tractors
84 Pam of "Jackie Brown"
85 Petrichor, e.g.
86 All of the reporters covering a trial?
91 Brains behind a tech startup?
92 Ed who plays Donald Sterling in the miniseries "Clipped"
93 Lambaste
94 New Hampshire state flower
97 Tehran resident
98 Take over a dance
99 Seats near the action
102 "Sneakers" actor Kingsley
103 Lowly worker
105 Basketball stat, and what can be found in six of this puzzle's long answers
108 Back muscle, briefly
109 "Not long now"
110 Over the moon
111 __ Loops
112 "Rockaria!" rock gp.
113 Sports award
114 Chip dip
115 Forest fronds

DOWN

1 Pay
2 Vault or beam, in gymnastics
3 Petrol unit
4 Modern matchmakers
5 Ice-and-syrup treat
6 Some Numic speakers
7 "Prolly not"
8 Letters introducing a judgment
9 85 in a 55, say
10 Evita, to Juan Perón
11 Lyriq or Leaf
12 Coddle, with "on"
13 Instinct
14 Teach
15 Awaken
16 Skin care brand whose name comes from the Latin for "oats"
17 Like a slot canyon
19 "__ Used To Be Mine": Sara Bareilles song
23 Not 'round?
28 Pro coin flipper
30 Plant with helicopter seeds
32 Hint
33 Sylvan __: "Hey Mami" folktronica duo
34 Animation stills
36 Head locks?
37 Artist who has recorded in Tolkien's fictional language
38 Post-M.A. pursuit
39 Fed. next to Oman
40 Not post-
41 Undersea colony creator
44 Cook-off bowlful
45 Smart society
46 "Hells Bells" band
48 Lounging
49 British title
50 If not
52 Adds water to
53 Soda fountain drinks
54 Like some air fresheners
56 Celebration
57 Celebrations
58 "__, this is a Wendy's"
59 Romance novelist Kennedy
60 Destroy
62 Hopping holiday figure
63 Farm animal in some yoga classes
64 Mathematician who wrote the first theorem of graph theory
67 Schmaltzy
70 References in some crossword clues
72 Machu Picchu country
73 Rally
74 Fabrications
75 Cheer after un gol
76 Write
77 Perched
79 Subj. of John McPhee's "Annals of the Former World"
80 Guitar component
83 Celestial obscuration
84 Yogurt topping
85 Prequel series, essentially
86 Quirk
87 "Far out!"
88 Shanty
89 Hanoi holiday
90 Lion families
91 Lump of earth
95 Trellised archway
96 Two-dot punctuation
98 Flock flat
99 __ market
100 Vermilion
101 Hoses down
104 Dawn goddess
106 LUV competitor
107 "Boy With Luv" band

8/4/24

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MOVIE DIRECTORY

(!) No Pass/No Discount Ticket

Sunday, August 4, 2024
www.washingtonpost.com/movies

DISTRICT

AMC Georgetown 14
3111 K Street N.W.

Harold and the Purple Crayon (PG) CC: 10:40-5:00-6:45-9:50
A Quiet Place: Day One (PG-13) CC: 10:20
Despicable Me 4 (PG) CC: 10:50-1:30-4:00-6:30-9:00
Deadpool & Wolverine (R) CC: 11:40-2:45-6:00-9:10
Inside Out 2 (PG) CC: 11:30-2:00-4:25-6:50-9:20
Twisters (PG-13) CC: 11:20-1:20-4:10-7:00-10:10
Trap (PG-13) CC: 11:10-1:50-4:30-7:10-10:00
Longlegs (R) CC: 2:30-4:50-7:20-10:30
Didi (R) CC: 11:30-4:40-7:10-9:30
Kneecap (R) CC: 11:50-9:15
Deadpool & Wolverine: The IMAX Experience (R) CC: 10:15-1:10-7:30-10:40
Deadpool & Wolverine 3D (R) CC: 12:30-3:30-6:30-9:40
Sing Sing (R) CC: 10:30-2:20-5:00-7:40-9:45
Ponyo - Studio Ghibli Fest 2024 (G) 3:00-7:00
Fly Me to the Moon (PG-13) CC: 7:20
The Fabulous Four (R) CC: 4:20
Deadpool & Wolverine: The IMAX 3D Experience (R) CC: 4:15
BlackPink World Tour Born Pink in Cinemas 12:00
Deadpool & Wolverine (R) CC: 11:00-5:15-8:20
Harold and the Purple Crayon (PG) OC: 2:20
Trap (PG-13) OC: 12:20
Didi (R) OC: 2:00
Deadpool & Wolverine (R) OC: 2:10
Fly Me to the Moon (PG-13) OC: 1:15

Alamo Drafthouse Cinema - DC Bryant Street
630 Rhode Island Ave NE

Xanadu (1980) (PG) 10:55AM
Anchorman: The Legend of Ron Burgundy (PG-13) 7:15
Deadpool & Wolverine (R) 12:10-3:35-7:00-10:25
Inside Out 2 (PG) 10:15-1:00-3:45-6:30-9:15
Twisters (PG-13) 11:45-12:45-4:00-6:15-10:00
Trap (PG-13) 11:00-4:30-7:45-10:45
Longlegs (R) 10:15-1:00-3:45-6:45-9:45
Didi (R) 10:00-5:00-7:30-10:15
Deadpool & Wolverine (R) 10:15-11:10-1:35-2:35-3:00-5:00-6:00-8:25-9:25-9:45
Trap (PG-13) 2:00
Didi (R) 1:45

Angelika Pop-Up at Union Market
550 Penn Street NE - Unit E

Deadpool & Wolverine (R) 12:00-1:00-3:00-4:00-5:45-7:00-8:35
Twisters (PG-13) 12:20-3:15-6:00-8:50

Avalon Theatre
5612 Connecticut Avenue

Jaws (PG) 10:30AM
Thelma (PG-13) 12:00-5:00
Fly Me to the Moon (PG-13) 2:15-7:15
Widow Clicquot (R) 1:00-3:00-5:15-7:30

Landmark Atlantic Plumbing Cinema
807 V Street Northwest

Deadpool & Wolverine (R) 1:00-1:45-2:30-3:45-4:30-5:15-6:30-7:15-8:00
Twisters (PG-13) 1:20-4:10-6:15-7:00
Trap (PG-13) 4:40-7:25
Longlegs (R) 1:30-4:00
Trap (PG-13) 2:00

Landmark E Street Cinema
555 11th Street Northwest

Deadpool & Wolverine (R) 12:00-1:00-3:30-4:30-7:00-8:00
Twisters (PG-13) 12:15-3:15-7:45
Longlegs (R) 12:25-3:45
Didi (R) 12:30-3:00-4:00-5:15-7:30
Kneecap (R) 1:30-4:15-7:25
Sing Sing (R) 12:45-3:25-7:15-8:15
Deadpool & Wolverine (R) 6:00
Didi (R) 6:15
Sing Sing (R) 1:45

Regal Gallery Place
701 Seventh Street Northwest

Harold and the Purple Crayon (PG) 10:50-1:30-3:50-6:20-8:50
Despicable Me 4 (PG) 11:10-1:50-4:20-7:20-9:50
Deadpool & Wolverine (R) 10:00-11:20-11:50-12:50-1:20-2:40-3:10-4:10-4:40-6:10-6:40-7:40-8:10-9:20-9:40-10:00-10:40
Inside Out 2 (PG) 9:30-12:10-2:50-5:50-8:40
Trap (PG-13) 10:20-1:10-4:00-6:50-9:30
Longlegs (R) 9:40-3:05-8:20-10:50
Deadpool & Wolverine 3D (R) 9:20-12:20-3:40-7:10-10:20
Ponyo - Studio Ghibli Fest 2024 (G) 3:00-7:00
BlackPink World Tour Born Pink in Cinemas 12:30
Deadpool & Wolverine (R) 11:00AM
Twisters (PG-13) 9:50-11:30-1:00-3:20-4:30-7:30-10:30
Longlegs (R) 5:40
Deadpool & Wolverine 3D (R) 10:30-1:50-5:20-9:00
Twisters (PG-13) 6:30

MARYLAND

AFI Silver Theatre Cultural Center
8633 Colesville Road

The Seven Samurai (Shichinin no samurai) 3:15-7:15
Thelma (PG-13) OC: 11:10AM
Topper (1937) 1:10
Eyes Wide Shut (R) 5:30
The Lobster 8:45
Rendezvous (NR) 11:00AM
The Thin Man (1934) (PG) 1:00
Thelma (PG-13) 1:10
CatVideoFest 2024 5:45
A Night at the Opera (1935) (NR) 11:00AM
The King of Marvin Gardens (R) 7:25
Funny Face (1957) (NR) 3:15
Destroy All Monsters (Kaiju Soshingeki) (1968) (NR) 9:30

AMC Academy 8
6198 Greenbelt Road

Harold and the Purple Crayon (PG) CC: 10:15-12:30-2:50-5:10-7:30-9:45
Despicable Me 4 (PG) CC: 11:15-1:40-4:20-6:50-9:20
Deadpool & Wolverine (R) CC: 10:00-12:00-1:00-3:00-4:00-6:00-7:00-9:00-10:00
Inside Out 2 (PG) CC: 10:50-1:15-3:50-6:20-9:00
Twisters (PG-13) CC: 10:30-1:30-4:30-7:20-10:10
Trap (PG-13) CC: 10:40-1:20-4:10-6:50-9:30
Deadpool & Wolverine 3D (R) CC: 11:00-2:00-5:00-8:00-11:00

AMC Annapolis Mall 11
1020 Annapolis Mall Road

Harold and the Purple Crayon (PG) CC: 9:00-11:40-2:00-4:20-6:40-9:00
A Quiet Place: Day One (PG-13) CC: 11:10-12:15
Despicable Me 4 (PG) CC: 9:30-12:00-2:35-5:00-7:25-9:50
Deadpool & Wolverine (R) CC: 10:45-1:45-4:45-7:45-10:45
Inside Out 2 (PG) CC: 9:10-10:50-1:20-3:50-6:30-9:05
Twisters (PG-13) CC: 12:10-1:40-4:30-7:20-9:45
Trap (PG-13) CC: 9:00-11:30-2:10-4:50-7:30-10:10
Longlegs (R) CC: 1:50-4:35-7:10-9:40-12:20
Kneecap (R) CC: 10:20
Deadpool & Wolverine 3D (R) 10:00-1:00-4:00-7:00-10:00
Ponyo - Studio Ghibli Fest 2024 (G) 3:00-7:00
The Firing Squad (PG-13) 9:45AM
Deadpool & Wolverine (R) CC: 9:15-11:30-12:15-2:30-3:15-5:30-6:15-8:30-9:15-12:15

AMC Center Park 8
4001 Powder Mill Rd.

Harold and the Purple Crayon (PG) CC: 10:45-1:15-3:45-6:15-9:00
Despicable Me 4 (PG) CC: 11:45-2:15-4:45-7:15-9:45
Deadpool & Wolverine (R) CC: 10:00-12:00-1:00-3:00-4:00-6:00-6:30-7:00-9:15-10:15
Twisters (PG-13) CC: 10:30-1:30-4:30-7:45-10:30
Trap (PG-13) CC: 11:15-2:00-4:45-7:30-10:00
Longlegs (R) CC: 10:15-12:45-3:30-9:30
Deadpool & Wolverine 3D (R) CC: 11:00-2:00-5:00-8:00

AMC Columbia 14
10300 Little Patuxent Parkway

Deadpool & Wolverine (R) OC: 1:30
Bad Boys Ride or Die (R) CC: 5:10-10:35
Deadpool & Wolverine (R) CC: 10:00-1:00-4:00-7:00-10:00
Harold and the Purple Crayon (PG) CC: 11:15-4:15-6:45-9:15
A Quiet Place: Day One (PG-13) CC: 2:30-8:00
Despicable Me 4 (PG) CC: 11:45-4:40
Inside Out 2 (PG) CC: 10:00-1:30-4:00-6:30-9:00
Longlegs (R) CC: 11:10-2:10-4:50-7:05-9:45
Twisters (PG-13) CC: 10:45-12:00-1:45-4:45-7:45-10:45
Trap (PG-13) CC: 11:20-4:40-7:15-9:50
Auron Mein Kahan Dum Tha 7:40
Deadpool & Wolverine 3D (R) CC: 6:00-9:00
Kneecap (R) CC: 10:50
Despicable Me 4 3D (PG) CC: 2:25-7:20
Deadpool & Wolverine: The IMAX Experience (R) CC: 11:00-2:00-8:00-11:00
Ponyo - Studio Ghibli Fest 2024 (G) 3:00-7:00
The Fabulous Four (R) CC: 1:45-6:50
Deadpool & Wolverine: The IMAX 3D Experience (R) CC: 5:00
BlackPink World Tour Born Pink in Cinemas 12:00
Deadpool & Wolverine (R) CC: 10:30-11:30-3:00-4:30-7:30-9:30-10:30
Harold and the Purple Crayon (PG) OC: 1:45
Trap (PG-13) OC: 2:00
Kneecap (R) OC: 5:00
The Firing Squad (PG-13) 4:20-9:45

AMC DINE-IN Rio Cinemas 18
9811 Washingtonian Center

Bad Boys Ride or Die (R) CC: 5:15-8:15
A Quiet Place: Day One (PG-13) CC: 11:30-10:30
Despicable Me 4 (PG) CC: 9:30-2:20-4:45-9:45
Harold and the Purple Crayon (PG) CC: 11:00-1:30-4:00-6:30-7:30-9:15
Deadpool & Wolverine (R) CC: 10:00-11:00-11:45-1:15-2:15-3:00-4:30-5:30-6:15-7:45-8:45-9:15-11:00
Inside Out 2 (PG) CC: 10:15-1:00-6:15-8:45-10:00
Twisters (PG-13) CC: 9:45-11:15-1:00-2:15-4:15-5:15-7:30-8:30-10:45-11:30
Longlegs (R) CC: 9:35-12:10-2:45-5:20-8:00-10:45
Trap (PG-13) CC: 9:45-10:45-4:15-7:00-8:15-9:45-11:15
Coup! 9:45AM
Despicable Me 4 3D (PG) CC: 11:55-7:15
Deadpool & Wolverine: The IMAX Experience (R) CC: 10:30-1:45-11:30
Kneecap (R) CC: 5:00-7:45
Deadpool & Wolverine 3D (R) CC: 12:15-3:30-6:45-10:00
Ponyo - Studio Ghibli Fest 2024 (G) 3:00-7:30
The Fabulous Four (R) CC: 9:45-10:15
The Firing Squad (PG-13) OC: 3:45
Inside Out 2 3D (PG) CC: 5:45
Deadpool & Wolverine: The IMAX 3D Experience (R) CC: 5:00-8:15
BlackPink World Tour Born Pink in Cinemas 12:15
Successor 9:30-1:00-4:25-11:00
Shivam Bhaje 12:35-4:00
Deadpool & Wolverine 3D (R) CC: 9:30-12:45-4:00-7:15-10:30
The Firing Squad (PG-13) 2:15
Trap (PG-13) 1:30

AMC Magic Johnson Capital Center 12
800 Shoppers Way

Bad Boys Ride or Die (R) CC: 11:30-1:30-4:15-7:00-9:45
Harold and the Purple Crayon (PG) CC: 2:00-4:20-6:45-9:10
A Quiet Place: Day One (PG-13) CC: 9:45
Despicable Me 4 (PG) CC: 11:45-2:10-4:40-7:10-9:35
Deadpool & Wolverine (R) CC: 12:30-1:00-3:30-4:00-6:30-7:00-7:30-9:30-10:00
Inside Out 2 (PG) CC: 11:15-1:45-4:15-6:45-9:15
Twisters (PG-13) CC: 12:20-3:20-6:20-9:20
Trap (PG-13) CC: 11:20-2:00-4:40-7:20-10:00
Longlegs (R) CC: 4:50
Deadpool & Wolverine: The IMAX Experience (R) CC: 2:00-8:00
Deadpool & Wolverine 3D (R) CC: 11:30-2:30-5:30-8:30
Ponyo - Studio Ghibli Fest 2024 (G) 3:00-7:00
The Fabulous Four (R) CC: 11:00AM
Deadpool & Wolverine: The IMAX 3D Experience (R) CC: 11:00-5:00
Harold and the Purple Crayon (PG) OC: 11:35AM
The Firing Squad (PG-13) 12:30-2:20

AMC Montgomery 16
7101 Democracy Boulevard

Despicable Me 4 (PG) CC: 11:45-2:15-4:45-7:15-9:45
Harold and the Purple Crayon (PG) CC: 11:15-1:45-4:15-6:45-9:15
Deadpool & Wolverine (R) CC: 10:00-11:15-12:45-2:30-4:00-4:30-5:45-7:15-7:45-9:00-10:30
Inside Out 2 (PG) CC: 10:15-12:00-2:30-5:00-7:30-10:00
Twisters (PG-13) CC: 10:30-1:30-4:30-5:45-7:30-10:30
Trap (PG-13) CC: 10:45-4:15-7:00-9:45
Longlegs (R) CC: 10:00-8:45
Ponyo - Studio Ghibli Fest 2024 (G) 3:00-7:00
Fly Me to the Moon (PG-13) CC: 12:00
Successor 12:30-3:45-5:00-8:15-10:00
Trap (PG-13) OC: 1:30
Deadpool & Wolverine (R) 1:15

AMC St. Charles Town Ctr 9
11115 Mall Circle

Harold and the Purple Crayon (PG) CC: 10:45-2:15-4:45-7:15-9:30
A Quiet Place: Day One (PG-13) CC: 3:00-8:00
Despicable Me 4 (PG) CC: 12:45-3:00-5:30-8:00-9:15
Deadpool & Wolverine (R) CC: 11:45-1:15-3:00-3:45-4:30-6:15-7:45-9:30-10:15-11:00
Inside Out 2 (PG) CC: 10:45-1:30-4:00-6:30-9:00
Twisters (PG-13) CC: 12:00-3:15-6:15-10:30
Trap (PG-13) CC: 10:45-1:15-4:00-6:45-9:45
Longlegs (R) CC: 12:30-5:30-10:30
Deadpool & Wolverine 3D (R) CC: 11:00-12:30-7:00

Cinemark Egyptian 24 and XD
7000 Arundel Mills Circle

Harold and the Purple Crayon (PG) 2:25
Deadpool & Wolverine (R) XD: 10:10-1:20-4:30-7:40-10:50; 9:30-3:50-7:00-10:10; 9:10-9:20-9:40-9:50-10:00-10:20-10:30-12:10-12:20-12:30-12:50-1:00-1:30-1:40-3:20-3:30-3:40-4:00-4:10-4:40-4:50-5:00-6:40-6:50; 1:10
Inside Out 2 (PG) 2:10
Twisters (PG-13) 1:30; 10:05-10:30-1:05-4:05-4:30-7:05-7:30-10:05-10:30
Trap (PG-13) 2:30; 9:00-11:45-5:15-8:00-10:45
Longlegs (R) 5:25
Deadpool & Wolverine 3D (R) XD: 12:40; 9:00-10:40-1:50-4:20-6:30-8:10-9:40-11:20
Deadpool & Wolverine (R) 7:10-7:20-7:30-7:50-8:00-9:50-10:00-10:20-10:30-10:40-11:00-11:10
Bad Boys Ride or Die (R) 9:25-5:15-8:10-11:05
A Quiet Place: Day One (PG-13) 9:15-5:30-8:05-10:45
Harold and the Purple Crayon (PG) 9:05-11:35-2:05-4:35
Despicable Me 4 (PG) 9:15-9:35-11:45-12:05-2:35-4:45-5:05-7:15-9:45
Inside Out 2 (PG) 9:00-9:10-11:35-11:45-12:20-4:45-7:20-9:55
Trap (PG-13) 7:10-9:55
Longlegs (R) 9:25-12:05-2:45-8:05-10:45
Auron Mein Kahan Dum Tha 9:30
Ponyo - Studio Ghibli Fest 2024 (G) 3:00-7:00
BlackPink World Tour Born Pink in Cinemas 3:00
A Place Called Silence 12:50-6:55
Successor 9:40-3:45-9:50
Boat 7:35
Bad Boys Ride or Die (R) 2:20
Harold and the Purple Crayon (PG) 9:25-11:55-4:55-7:25-9:55
A Quiet Place: Day One (PG-13) 11:55AM
Despicable Me 4 (PG) 2:15

Cinépolis Gaithersburg
629 Center Point Way

Harold and the Purple Crayon (PG) 11:15-4:45-7:30-10:15
Deadpool & Wolverine (R) 12:00-1:00-3:30-4:30-7:00-8:05-10:30
BlackPink World Tour Born Pink in Cinemas 3:00
Despicable Me 4 (PG) 10:30-1:15-4:00-6:45-9:30
Inside Out 2 (PG) 12:15-2:00-5:45-8:45
Twisters (PG-13) 12:30-3:45-7:15-10:45
Trap (PG-13) 10:45-1:45-4:45-7:45-11:00

Greenbelt Cinema
129 Centerway

Twisters (PG-13) 5:00
Touch (R) 2:15
Widow Clicquot (R) 5:15
Twisters (PG-13) 2:00

Landmark Bethesda Row Cinema
7235 Woodmont Avenue

Despicable Me 4 (PG) 4:30-6:45
Deadpool & Wolverine (R) 2:00-2:45-3:30-4:15-5:00-5:30-6:15-7:00-7:45-8:30
Inside Out 2 (PG) 5:10-7:20
Twisters (PG-13) 1:45-2:55-4:20-5:40-7:15-8:15
Despicable Me 4 (PG) 2:15
Inside Out 2 (PG) 2:30

Landmark at Annapolis Harbour Center
2474 Solomons Island Road Unit H-1

Minions (PG) 11:00AM
Harold and the Purple Crayon (PG) 11:30-1:40-3:50-7:10
Despicable Me 4 (PG) 2:25-4:40-7:15
Deadpool & Wolverine (R) 11:00-11:45-12:15-1:15-1:55-2:40-4:15-4:45-5:30-6:30-7:00-7:40
Inside Out 2 (PG) 12:35-2:50-5:05-7:20
Twisters (PG-13) 1:20-4:05-6:50
Trap (PG-13) 11:50-2:20-4:45-7:25
Ponyo - Studio Ghibli Fest 2024 (G) 3:00

Phoenix Theatres Marlow 6
3899 Branch Avenue

Harold and the Purple Crayon (PG) 11:00-1:35-4:30-6:45-9:00
Despicable Me 4 (PG) 12:10-2:30-4:45-7:05-9:30
Deadpool & Wolverine (R) 10:40-12:00-1:30-4:25-7:10-7:45-10:00
Inside Out 2 (PG) 12:30-3:00-5:30-8:00
Trap (PG-13) 12:00-2:30-5:00-7:30-10:00
Deadpool & Wolverine 3D (R) 4:00-10:30

Regal Cinemas Majestic Stadium 20 & IMAX
900 Ellsworth Drive

Bad Boys Ride or Die (R) 9:25
Harold and the Purple Crayon (PG) 10:40-1:15-4:00-6:45-9:15
A Quiet Place: Day One (PG-13) 10:10-12:45-3:35-6:20
Despicable Me 4 (PG) 11:45-2:25-4:55-7:40-10:25
Deadpool & Wolverine (R) 10:00-10:30-11:00-11:20-12:50-1:05-1:20-1:50-2:40-4:10-4:25-4:40-5:10-6:00-7:30-7:45-8:00-8:30-9:20
Inside Out 2 (PG) 11:10-12:15-2:50-5:30-8:15
Trap (PG-13) 10:20-11:15-1:10-2:10-4:20-5:20-7:20-8:20-10:30
Peak Season 9:55-1:45-4:15-6:35
Longlegs (R) 12:10-6:25
Auron Mein Kahan Dum Tha 2:15-5:35-9:05
Kneecap (R) 10:15-1:00-3:50-6:40-9:30
Deadpool & Wolverine: The IMAX Experience (R) 12:20-7:00-10:20
Deadpool & Wolverine 3D (R) 11:50-3:10-6:30-9:50
Ponyo - Studio Ghibli Fest 2024 (G) 3:00-7:05
The Fabulous Four (R) 10:05AM
Deadpool & Wolverine: The IMAX 3D Experience (R) 3:40
BlackPink World Tour Born Pink in Cinemas 2:55-5:45-8:35
A Place Called Silence 12:30-3:30-9:40
Twisters (PG-13) 10:50-12:40-3:45-6:50-9:10-10:00

Regal Germantown
20000 Century Boulevard

Harold and the Purple Crayon (PG) 10:45-1:10-3:50-6:30-9:00
Despicable Me 4 (PG) 11:00-1:40-4:20-6:50-9:20
Inside Out 2 (PG) 10:40-1:20-4:10-7:10-9:40
Twisters (PG-13) 10:30-1:30-4:40-7:50-10:55
Trap (PG-13) 11:30-2:10-4:50-7:30-10:20
Auron Mein Kahan Dum Tha 11:20-2:30-5:40-8:50
Ponyo - Studio Ghibli Fest 2024 (G) 3:00-7:00
Ulajh 11:05-2:40-6:20-9:50
A Place Called Silence 10:50-2:00-5:10-8:00-10:50
Deadpool & Wolverine (R) 10:35-11:10-11:50-12:50-1:15-1:50-4:00-4:30-5:00-5:30-6:10-7:40-8:10-8:40-9:30-10:25-11:00
Deadpool & Wolverine 3D (R) 12:20-3:30-6:40-10:00
Deadpool & Wolverine (R) 2:20

Regal Hyattsville Royale
6505 America Boulevard

Bad Boys Ride or Die (R) 9:00
Harold and the Purple Crayon (PG) 11:50-2:40-5:10-7:50-10:30
A Quiet Place: Day One (PG-13) 10:40-1:10-3:50-6:40-9:50
Despicable Me 4 (PG) 11:20-2:10-4:50-7:40-10:00
Deadpool & Wolverine (R) 2:00-5:30-8:30
Inside Out 2 (PG) 10:50-1:20-4:10-6:50-9:30
Twisters (PG-13) 11:40-2:50-6:10-9:20
Trap (PG-13) 11:10-1:50-4:40-7:20-10:20
Kneecap (R) 12:10-9:45
Deadpool & Wolverine 3D (R) 11:30-3:00-6:30-9:40
Ponyo - Studio Ghibli Fest 2024 (G) 3:05-7:05
Deadpool & Wolverine (R) 10:30-11:00-12:00-12:30-1:00-1:30-2:30-4:00-4:30-5:00-6:00-7:00-7:30-8:00-9:10-10:10-10:40; 3:30

Regal Laurel Towne Centre
14716 Baltimore Avenue

Harold and the Purple Crayon (PG) 10:10-10:50-1:30-2:15-4:00-6:30-9:00
A Quiet Place: Day One (PG-13) 5:00-7:50-10:00
Despicable Me 4 (PG) 10:20-12:40-3:30-6:15-8:50
Deadpool & Wolverine (R) 10:00-10:40-11:30-12:00-12:50-2:00-2:45-3:15-4:45-5:20-6:00-6:40-7:30-8:10-8:40-9:20-10:10
Inside Out 2 (PG) 10:30-1:00-3:50-6:50-9:30
Twisters (PG-13) 10:05-11:20-1:10-4:10-7:20-10:20
Trap (PG-13) 11:10-1:50-4:30-7:10-9:50
Longlegs (R) 10:25
Deadpool & Wolverine 3D (R) 1:20-4:20
Ponyo - Studio Ghibli Fest 2024 (G) 3:00-7:00
BlackPink World Tour Born Pink in Cinemas 12:30

Regal Rockville Center
199 East Montgomery Avenue

Harold and the Purple Crayon (PG) 11:20-1:30-4:15-6:30-9:45
A Quiet Place: Day One (PG-13) 11:00AM
Despicable Me 4 (PG) 12:30-3:00-5:45-8:30-10:55
Deadpool & Wolverine (R) 11:00-11:30-12:45-1:15-1:45-2:15-4:00-4:30-5:00-5:30-6:00-7:15-7:45-8:15-8:45-10:30-11:00
Inside Out 2 (PG) 11:30-12:45-1:15-1:45-2:15-4:00-4:30-5:00-5:30-6:00-7:15-7:45-8:15-8:45-10:30-11:00
Twisters (PG-13) 11:00-1:30-4:20-7:10-10:05
Trap (PG-13) CC: 11:30-2:10-4:50-7:30-10:10
Longlegs (R) CC: 10:20
Deadpool & Wolverine 3D (R) CC: 1:00-4:00-7:00-10:00

AMC Hoffman Center 22
206 Swamp Fox Rd.

Harold and the Purple Crayon (PG) 2:00
Deadpool & Wolverine (R) OC: 12:00-1:00
The Firing Squad (PG-13) 10:15-12:35-2:55-5:15-7:35-10:00
Bad Boys Ride or Die (R) CC: 11:30-2:15-5:00-7:45-10:30
A Quiet Place: Day One (PG-13) CC: 10:30-1:00-3:30-6:00-8:30-11:00
Harold and the Purple Crayon (PG) CC: 9:45-11:40-12:15-2:45-4:20-5:15-6:40-7:45-9:00
Inside Out 2 (PG) CC: 12:10-4:50-9:50
Deadpool & Wolverine (R) CC: 10:30-1:30-4:30-7:30-10:30
Despicable Me 4 (PG) CC: 9:30-2:10-7:00
Twisters (PG-13) CC: 10:00-12:50-2:20-3:40-5:10-6:30-8:00-9:20-10:55
Trap (PG-13) CC: 9:45-10:45-12:30-1:30-3:15-4:15-6:00-7:00-8:40-10:00-11:15
Longlegs (R) CC: 10:00-2:45-4:50-7:20-9:50
Deadpool & Wolverine 3D (R) CC: 10:00-11:30-2:30-4:00-5:30-7:00-8:30-10:00-11:30
Oddity (R) CC: 11:00
Ponyo - Studio Ghibli Fest 2024 (G) 3:00-7:00
The Fabulous Four (R) CC: 9:55-12:20
Sound of Hope: The Story of Possum Trot (PG-13) CC: 11:55AM
Deadpool & Wolverine: The IMAX 3D Experience (R) CC: 3:30-6:30

iPic Pike & Rose
11830 Grand Park Avenue

Harold and the Purple Crayon (PG) (!) 11:30-2:30-6:00-9:00
Deadpool & Wolverine (R) (!) 11:00-11:45-12:15-2:45-3:15-3:45-6:30-7:00-7:30-10:15-10:30-11:00
Twisters (PG-13) 12:00-3:30-6:45-10:00
Trap (PG-13) (!) 12:45-4:00-7:15-10:45
Inside Out 2: The IMAX Experience (PG) 11:15-4:45-6:15-9:15
Longlegs (R) 1:30-7:45-10:45
BlackPink World Tour Born Pink in Cinemas (!) 3:00

VIRGINIA

AMC Courthouse Plaza 8
2150 Clarendon Blvd.

Harold and the Purple Crayon (PG) CC: 11:10-2:20-4:40-7:10-9:30
Despicable Me 4 (PG) CC: 11:15-1:40-4:10-6:40-9:10
Deadpool & Wolverine (R) CC: 11:00-12:00-2:00-3:00-5:00-6:00-8:00-9:00-11:00
Inside Out 2 (PG) CC: 12:10-2:40-5:10-7:40
Twisters (PG-13) CC: 11:30-1:30-4:20-7:10-10:05
Trap (PG-13) CC: 11:30-2:10-4:50-7:30-10:10
Longlegs (R) CC: 10:20
Deadpool & Wolverine 3D (R) 10:30-1:50-5:10-8:30
Ponyo - Studio Ghibli Fest 2024 (G) 3:00-6:45
The Fabulous Four (R) 9:55AM
BlackPink World Tour Born Pink in Cinemas 5:00
Deadpool & Wolverine (R) 3:40-7:00-10:20
Deadpool & Wolverine 3D (R) 12:20

AMC Shirlington 7
2772 South Randolph St.

Harold and the Purple Crayon (PG) CC: 10:10-11:50-2:50-4:40-7:40-9:35
Deadpool & Wolverine (R) CC: 10:30-1:30-4:30-7:30-10:30
Inside Out 2 (PG) CC: 10:00-12:25-5:10-10:00
Twisters (PG-13) CC: 10:25-1:20-4:20-7:10-10:10
Trap (PG-13) CC: 12:00-2:40-5:20-8:00-10:40
Longlegs (R) CC: 12:05-2:45-5:20-7:50-10:20
Deadpool & Wolverine 3D (R) CC: 12:30-3:30-6:30-9:30
Inside Out 2 3D (PG) CC: 2:10-7:00

AMC Tysons Corner 16
7850e Tysons Corner Center

Deadpool & Wolverine (R) OC: 1:45
Trap (PG-13) 1:15
The Firing Squad (PG-13) 9:20-4:30
Bad Boys Ride or Die (R) CC: 7:05-9:55
A Quiet Place: Day One (PG-13) CC: 7:40-10:15
Despicable Me 4 (PG) CC: 9:25-1:20-6:20
Harold and the Purple Crayon (PG) CC: 10:00-12:25-5:20-7:55-10:20
Inside Out 2 (PG) CC: 9:40-1:35-6:35
Deadpool & Wolverine (R) CC: 11:30-2:45-6:00-9:05
Twisters (PG-13) CC: 9:30-12:40-3:45-6:45-7:50-9:50-10:55
Longlegs (R) CC: 9:35-12:10-2:55-5:30-8:05-10:50
Trap (PG-13) CC: 10:35-4:00-6:50-9:40
Despicable Me 4 3D (PG) CC: 10:40-3:50-9:00
Deadpool & Wolverine: The IMAX Experience (R) CC: 9:55-1:05-7:20-10:40
Deadpool & Wolverine 3D (R) CC: 12:20-3:30-6:40-10:05
Didi (R) CC: 10:15-12:45-3:15-5:45-8:15-10:45
Kneecap (R) CC: 9:50-5:00
Despicable Me 4 (PG) CC: 9:30-2:10-7:00
Twisters (PG-13) CC: 10:00-12:50-2:20-3:40-5:10-6:30-8:00-9:20-10:55
Trap (PG-13) CC: 9:45-10:45-12:30-1:30-3:15-4:15-6:00-7:00-8:40-10:00-11:15
Longlegs (R) CC: 10:00-2:45-4:50-7:20-9:50
Deadpool & Wolverine 3D (R) CC: 10:00-11:30-2:30-4:00-5:30-7:00-8:30-10:00-11:30
Oddity (R) CC: 11:00
Ponyo - Studio Ghibli Fest 2024 (G) 3:00-7:00
The Fabulous Four (R) CC: 9:55-12:20
Sound of Hope: The Story of Possum Trot (PG-13) CC: 11:55AM
Deadpool & Wolverine: The IMAX 3D Experience (R) CC: 3:30-6:30

AMC Worldgate 9
13025 Worldgate Drive

Harold and the Purple Crayon (PG) CC: 11:45-2:15-4:30-6:45-9:00
Despicable Me 4 (PG) CC: 10:45-1:15-3:45-6:15-8:45
Deadpool & Wolverine (R) CC: 10:00-12:00-1:00-3:00-6:00-7:00-9:00-10:00
Inside Out 2 (PG) CC: 10:00-12:30-3:00-5:30-8:00
Twisters (PG-13) CC: 10:15-1:15-4:15-7:15-10:15
Trap (PG-13) CC: 10:30-1:00-3:30-6:00-8:30-11:00
Longlegs (R) CC: 9:30-2:00-4:40-7:10-9:40
Deadpool & Wolverine 3D (R) CC: 10:00-11:30-2:30-4:00-5:30-7:00-8:30-10:00-11:30
Oddity (R) CC: 10:00
Ponyo - Studio Ghibli Fest 2024 (G) 3:00-7:00
The Fabulous Four (R) CC: 9:55-12:20
Sound of Hope: The Story of Possum Trot (PG-13) CC: 11:55AM
Deadpool & Wolverine: The IMAX 3D Experience (R) CC: 3:30-6:30
Inside Out 2 3D (PG) CC: 9:45-2:30-7:20
BlackPink World Tour Born Pink in Cinemas 12:00
Deadpool & Wolverine (R) CC: 11:00-2:00-3:00-5:00-6:00-7:45-8:00-9:00-10:45-11:00
A Place Called Silence 10:05
Successor 2:50-9:45

AMC Potomac Mills 18
2700 Potomac Mills Circle

Deadpool & Wolverine (R) 6:30
Despicable Me 4 (PG) CC: 11:45-4:10-7:20
Harold and the Purple Crayon (PG) CC: 10:20-11:00-11:30-12:40-1:20-3:40-6:00-7:10-9:30
A Quiet Place: Day One (PG-13) CC: 10:15-12:45-3:15-5:45-8:15-10:45
Deadpool & Wolverine (R) CC: 10:00-1:00-4:00-7:00-10:00
Inside Out 2 (PG) CC: 11:15-1:45-6:45-9:15
MaXXXine (R) CC: 9:10
Twisters (PG-13) CC: 10:15-1:15-4:10-5:30-7:50-8:30-9:50-10:50-11:20
Trap (PG-13) CC: 11:40-5:00-7:40-10:20-11:00
Longlegs (R) CC: 10:40-1:10-3:40-6:10-8:40-11:15
Coup! 5:45-8:15
Despicable Me 4 3D (PG) CC: 2:15-9:45
Deadpool & Wolverine 3D (R) CC: 10:30-12:30-1:30-3:30-4:30-7:30-9:30-10:30
Kneecap (R) CC: 2:40-5:15
Deadpool & Wolverine: The IMAX Experience (R) CC: 11:00-2:00-5:00-8:00-11:00
Ponyo - Studio Ghibli Fest 2024 (G) 3:00-7:00
The Fabulous Four (R) 5:25
Deadpool & Wolverine: The IMAX 3D Experience (R) 12:20
BlackPink World Tour Born Pink in Cinemas 12:00-2:30
Deadpool & Wolverine (R) 9:30-10:00-12:50-1:10-4:40-7:30-8:00
Deadpool & Wolverine 3D (R) 11:00AM
Deadpool & Wolverine (R) 10:

PHOTOS BY SCOTT SUCHMAN FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

The black pepper pavlova at Neutral Ground in McLean is a nicely chewy white dome flecked with black pepper and poised on a plate shared with plump stewed blueberries

A spot with smoke, sweetness and seductive decor

Chef David Guas of Bayou Bakery gives us Northern Virginia's best new restaurant

BY TOM SIETSEMA

The most captivating new restaurant in Northern Virginia entices you from the street with planters the color of avocado and umbrellas a shade of tangerine and continues the seduction inside, where the foyer, its wallpaper festooned with palmetto leaves, looks like a page torn from Coastal Living. Servers crisscross the dining room with drinks whose mere looks refresh you and dishes that obviously spent time in a wood-fired oven.

Diners who have been here know reservations are practically a must; spontaneous types show up hoping the first-come, first-served bar hasn't filled up. (Good luck finding a faux alligator-skin perch after 6 p.m.)

The word is out: David Guas, the veteran chef behind Bayou Bakery in Arlington, has rolled out a second place to eat, Neutral Ground Bar and Kitchen in McLean. His upbringing in New Orleans and the restaurant's proximity to the nation's pressure-cooker capital explain the name. "I didn't know what a median was until I was 18 and in college," says the chef, who grew up in a city where strips of land dividing the streets were referred to as neutral ground. At the same time, Guas, 49, wanted to offer an "adult" restaurant where anyone could "come in, belly up to the bar … and let the B.S. of the day melt away."

The menu nods to the chef's Southern roots but doesn't dwell on them. Pimento cheese spread, barbecue shrimp and a Sazerac that whisks you to Crescent City are outnumbered by broadly American dishes, many of which take advantage of the oven Guas inherited from the previous restaurant, Assaggi Osteria and Pizzeria. Every course contains a whiff of smoke. One of the best beginnings is a salad of charred cabbage tossed with cool cucumbers in a vibrant green goddess dressing, and one of the finest finishes is a chocolate candy bar garnished with smoked mandarins.

If Guas had his way, the restaurant would have been called Lillian's, after his paternal grandmother. His business partner, who happens to be his wife of almost 25 years, restaurant publicist Simone Rathlé, vetoed the notion. "Nothing against grandmothers or women," says Rathlé, but she felt the couple's new restaurant needed to make a definite point with its brand.

The chef dipped into his memories when writing the menu. Washington food lovers of a certain age will smile in recognition of the ahi tuna tartare, gems of fish tossed in a coconut milk sauce lit with serrano chiles, lime and cilantro. Scooped up with wonton chips tucked in a sleeve of paper, the appetizer was a featured player at the late DC Coast, where Guas worked as a pastry chef. His grandmother, whom he calls "the queen of appetizers," doesn't have her name on the restaurant, but she is remembered on the menu with "Lillian's" tuna croquetas, fingers of mashed potato and tuna fried to a shade of gold and simply served with a lime wedge. The pool of first courses includes a very good spread of smoked fish, smooth with mascarpone and nipped with horseradish and cayenne; and roasted local oysters lounging in hot baths of butter, lemon and parmesan.

Chef and owner David Guas wanted to offer a place for patrons to "let the B.S. of the day melt away."

Main courses are named for the way in which diners tend to order. Haven't we all heard someone at the table announce they're in the mood for "the steak" or "the fish"?

"The Pasta" is a riff on the angel hair with anchovies the chef served Rathlé when they first dated. The version at Neutral Ground, based on changing pasta, is a fancier combination of crawfish meat bound with a cream sauce tweaked with black garlic, lemon zest and just enough crushed anchovies to give the dish depth without calling attention to the ingredient. Suffice it to say, everyone who tasted the dish at my table tried to keep it to themselves. "The Burger" is two beef patties, crusty from the grill and plied with shaved Vidalia onion, pickles and American cheese that melts in the warmth of the meat and makes for saucy eating. The pork chop proves a simple comfort: juicy, served in thick slices, and cheffed up with a cool slaw of shaved fennel and green apple that could use more of the fruit.

"The Bird" is my pick of the lot. Fried quail crackles thanks to a coat of potato starch, and its bright red sauce — glossy with honey, spicy with Korean chile paste, shocked with fresh ginger — is finger-licking good. The adjective attached to the entree, GBD, gives a server the chance to explain "golden, brown, delicious" (and diners the opportunity to verify the claim).

Specials tap into the season. There's an ocean of octopus out there. Neutral Ground pairs its hot rope of seafood with a sparkling salad of white beans and chopped peaches for fruity contrast.

There's no kids menu, a bone of contention for some neighbors even though the restaurant's website spells out the absence of high chairs and booster seats in a detailed FAQ. Not that children aren't welcome, says Guas, a father of two (now adult) sons; it's just that the menu is the menu. This consumer appreciates the abundant online intel. Wine drinkers are informed the corkage fee is $30 for outside bottles, and if anyone's debating wearing a ball cap inside, hats are restricted to the bar area. "Our southern upbringing dictates that rule!" explains the website.

Rathlé says she aspired to create "an oasis in McLean," the couple's longtime home, with the design, which incorporates lots of personal touches, including her parents' 1950s-era living room mirror and photographs she's snapped from beaches around the world. "Our happy place is the beach," she says. Hence the tabletops chosen to suggest sand and the tropical wallpaper that has some of us mentally remodeling rooms at home. A semiprivate space dubbed the "cabana room" features a round table that seats eight, another fillip in a restaurant full of them. (Love the wooden caddies for silverware atop each table.)

Early arrivals not only get seats at the bar, they also get to converse without raising their voice. Despite evidence of soundproofing in the dining room (feel the foam under the table?), Neutral Ground becomes a blast around prime time. The last time I ate there, I left with ringing in my ears.

One expects good desserts from Guas, and he delivers. A fool for meringue, I always spring for the pavlova, a nicely chewy white dome flecked with black pepper and poised on a plate shared with plump stewed blueberries. With the chef's background in mind, I swoon over the delicate crème caramel, a marvel coaxed from eggs, vanilla and burnt sugar and presented with a wand of cinnamon-laced pastry. (Want to re-create the confection at home? The recipe is in Guas's cookbook "Dam Good Sweet.") Then there's the decadent, high-gloss chocolate candy bar — a little crisp, a little mousse-y — based on the popular chocolate pyramid that once ended meals at DC Coast. Lemon ice box pie is disappointing only because it's not the frozen recipe you might expect. Otherwise, I like the tangy, room-temperature dessert, gussied up with smoky strawberries and basil syrup.

Down the road, Guas plans to expand the hours of service to include brunch first, then lunch. For the moment, he and Rathlé offer food and ambiance unlike anything in McLean.

"My new favorite place," I overheard a man at a neighboring table tell his date. Like a lot of fans, he's anything but neutral.

Neutral Ground Bar and Kitchen

6641 Old Dominion Dr., McLean. 703-992-9095 *neutralgroundbarandkitchen.com*. Open for indoor and outdoor dining 4 p.m. to 9 p.m. Tuesday through Thursday, and 4 p.m. to 10 p.m. Friday and Saturday. **Prices**: Appetizers $7 to $22, main courses $20 to $48. **Sound check**: 88 decibels/Extremely loud. **Accessibility**: No barriers to entry; ADA-compliant restrooms.

The charred cabbage chopped salad is among Neutral Ground's best opening courses.

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SUNDAY, AUGUST 4, 2024 · SECTION F
EZ EE

A guide to tipping in European countries

Customs change across the continent. Avoid making a faux pas with advice from locals.

BY CATHERINE BENNETT

Whether you're heading to France for the Olympics, island-hopping in Greece or hiking across Ireland, a trip to Europe means you'll be navigating how to tip for the service you receive. But while tipping in the United States is the norm, in Europe it can be more complicated. ¶ Minimum-wage laws across Europe mean that waiters don't need tips to make up their salary. Nowhere will you need to tip like an American, even if businesses in tourist hot spots may hope you do. ¶ Customs around tipping in restaurants, bars, taxis and hotels vary depending on the country, but a general guideline is that tipping 5 to 10 percent in recognition of fine service is appreciated. Another guideline is that the fancier and more expensive your surroundings, the more you are expected to tip.

SEE TIPPING ON F3

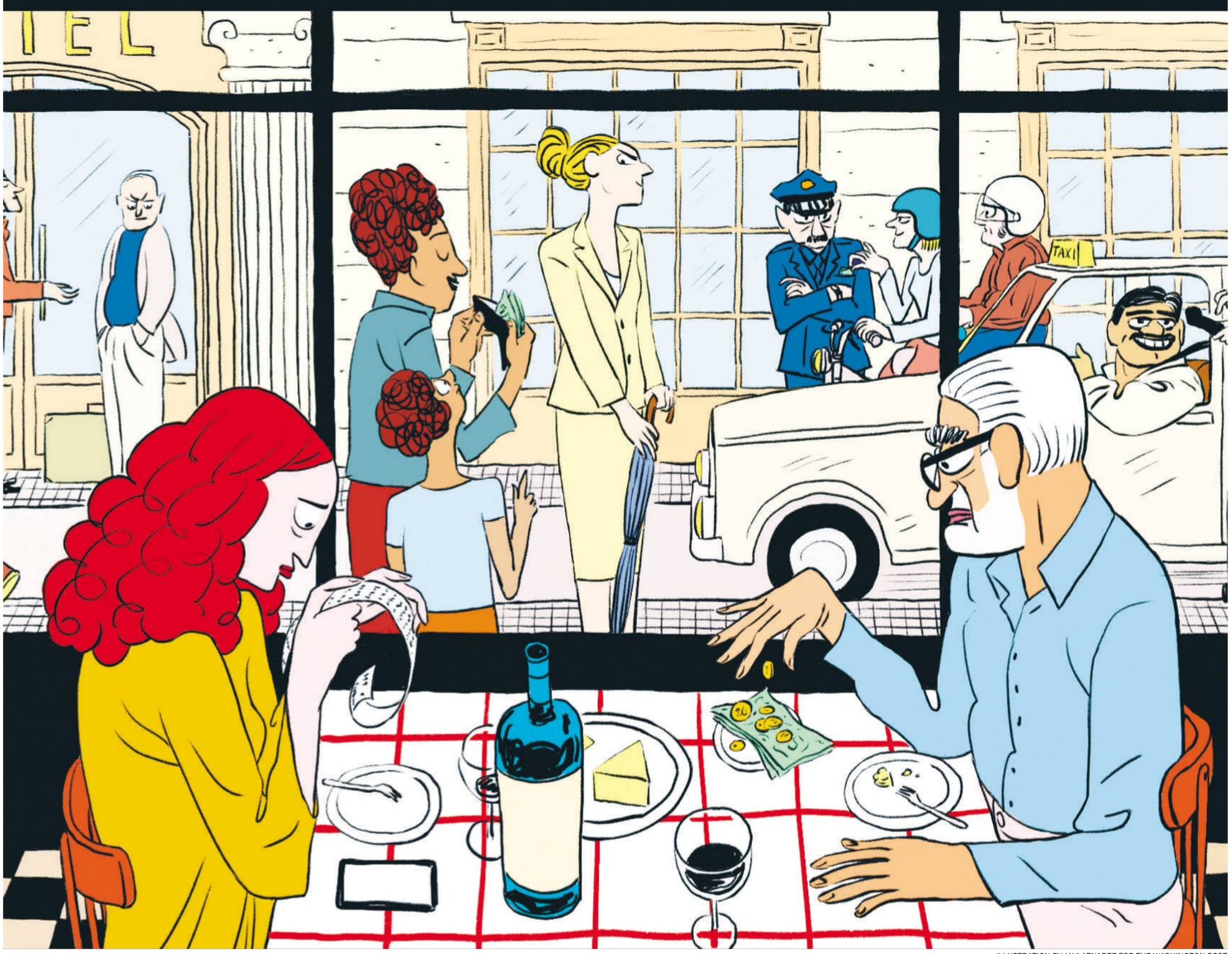

ILLUSTRATION BY JAVI AZNAREZ FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

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American Airlines aims to better handle mobility aids. **F2**

HOTELS
What do guests steal from their accommodations? **F4**

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ITALY
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IZA HABUR/GETTY IMAGES

According to the Transportation Department, U.S. carriers checked 74,894 wheelchairs and scooters in April and mishandled nearly 950 of them, a rate of 1.27 percent.

American Airlines tries to improve wheelchair handling

BY ANDREA SACHS

American Airlines announced on July 23 an automated tagging program for passengers with mobility devices. The streamlined system, the carrier said, should help it better manage passengers' wheelchairs, scooters and other indispensable equipment.

The new computer-generated tags, launched last month at airports worldwide, replace the ones written by customer service agents. The new markers resemble checked-bag tags but with a greater wealth of information, such as where to deposit the device upon landing; details about the equipment, including weight, battery type and any preexisting dings or damage; and an inventory of disassembled parts.

That system, American Airlines said, will eliminate the guesswork of reading an agent's handwriting and ensure consistency. It will also provide "enhanced visibility" of the equipment, according to a company statement, and allow its staff members to share passengers' information more easily.

Later this year, travelers will be able to save details about their equipment and their service animals in their personal profile. The agent then can pull up the information electronically. The airline also is developing a way for passengers to track their equipment throughout their journey, it said.

"We're constantly innovating on our efforts to deliver a more seamless travel experience for all of our customers," Kim Cisek, the airline's vice president of customer experience, said in a statement to The Washington Post. "This advancement not only makes travel more convenient for our customers who use wheelchairs and other mobility devices, it also equips our team members to help deliver a world-class customer experience."

Accessibility advocates applauded the carrier for its commitment to passengers with mobility needs. But they cautioned that the new tagging system was one small step on a long road toward obstacle-free travel.

"It's certainly more efficient, and it should help prevent wheelchairs from falling through the cracks from a data standpoint," said John Morris, founder of *wheelchairtravel.org*. "But I don't necessarily know if it'll have a significant impact on the actual passenger experience."

As a wheelchair user, Morris said, he has faced every imaginable inconvenience: Airlines have forgotten to check his equipment onto his flight. They have not delivered it to the jet bridge in a timely fashion. They have damaged his chair and lost it.

"I don't necessarily think this solves those issues," he said.

According to the Transportation Department, U.S. carriers checked 74,894 wheelchairs and scooters in April and mishandled nearly 950 of them, a rate of 1.27 percent. The previous year's figure was roughly the same.

AMERICAN AIRLINES

American Airlines' tags for mobility devices will include extra information, such as where to deposit equipment upon landing.

Joy Burns, the alliances and community coordinator with Wheel the World, which specializes in accessible travel, flies with her husband, who uses a manual wheelchair. Burns said she and members of the Wheel the World Facebook group believe that carriers mishandle their equipment more frequently than the DOT numbers suggest.

"The chairs arrive the majority of the time, but they arrive damaged," Burns said. American Airlines' new tagging system, she said, "is kind of like putting a Band-Aid on a problem that needs a tourniquet."

To address such concerns itself, the DOT proposed a rule in February that would categorize the mishandling of a passenger's wheelchair as an automatic violation of the Air Carrier Access Act, which prohibits disability-based discrimination in air travel. The rule also calls for yearly training for airline employees who work with disabled passengers or handle their equipment.

Your flight is stuck on the tarmac. What does your airline owe you?

BY SOFIA ANDRADE

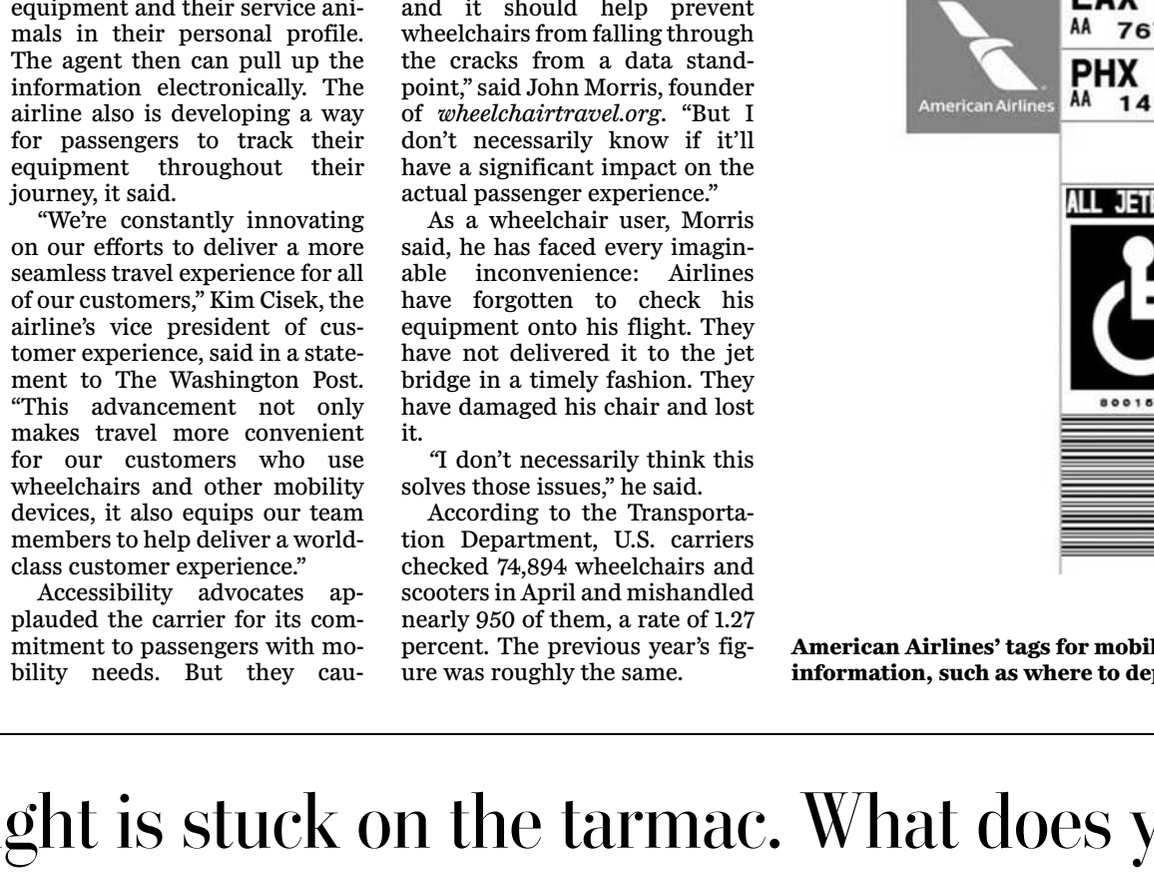
U.S. airports fell into chaos last month as a CrowdStrike outage led approximately 46,000 flights to be canceled worldwide. Thousands of Delta flights continued to be affected, provoking a Transportation Department investigation and adding to what already was a summer of flight delays.

But although delays often are miserable, they can be even more so when you're waiting on the tarmac, as some of the outage-affected passengers said they were. It doesn't help that, in a summer of extreme and dangerous heat, planes can't cool cabins on the ground as well as they can in the sky.

If your flight is stuck on the tarmac past a certain point, airlines may owe you. But there's a catch.

The protections for U.S. airline passengers are "rudimentary" compared with those in Europe, said Eric Napoli, the chief legal officer at claims management company AirHelp. "The best you're going to get is what airlines want to offer you in the terms and conditions you have for that airline."

You'll have to advocate for yourself.



WASHINGTON POST ILLUSTRATION; ISTOCK

Your basic rights

Tarmac delays have shortened significantly since the Transportation Department established customer-protection rules for delays, said William McGee, a senior fellow for aviation and travel at the American Economic Liberties Project. But some tarmac stops still can drag maddeningly on.

Depending on how long you're stuck on the tarmac, airlines in the United States have certain obligations.

Per DOT rules, at the two-hour mark, airlines must provide their passengers with food, water, "comfortable" cabin temperatures, access to functioning toilets and medical assistance, if needed. After that — before three hours on the tarmac for domestic flights, and before four for international flights — an aircraft must provide customers the option to deplane. The exception to this rule, Napoli said, is if a safety issue is preventing the plane from returning to the gate.

The same tarmac rules apply for arriving planes. If travelers are not provided with these essential provisions, Napoli recommends filing a complaint with the airline as soon as possible.

Airlines' policies for flight delays

Some airlines that provide food, hotel or transportation vouchers or flight credits for other sorts of delays would provide the same for a tarmac delay, as long as it falls within their specific guidelines.

To find your airline's policies, check the Transportation Department's Airline Cancellation and Delay Dashboard (*bit.ly/delay-dashboard*), which compiles compensation and rights information from 10 U.S. carriers. The dashboard lists which airlines give a travel credit or voucher when delays last more than three hours (JetBlue, Southwest and Alaska) and which provide hotel accommodation and transportation in the case of significant delays (all but Frontier). The Transportation Department does not define "significant delays" worthy of refunding, however, so travelers who believe they're eligible must file a complaint with their airline on a case-by-case basis.

McGee also recommended that passengers download airlines' contracts of carriage, documents that serve as contracts between U.S. airlines and their passengers. Contracts of carriage can be difficult to understand, but knowing your rights helps you appeal for what you deserve.

"You have to do a little homework. I wish I could say it was easy, … but it's not, in the United States," McGee said.

How to get what airlines owe

Regardless of the problem, whether delay or cancellation, contact airline customer service quickly. Especially during mass disruptions, such as the CrowdStrike outage, beating the rush to ask for help can be the difference between getting timely assistance and waiting hours or days for a response.

The best way to reach customer service, experts say, is in person or over the phone. Talking to a real person — even if it requires a long hold time — means you can more directly insist upon your rights, rather than argue with a chatbot.

TRAVEL

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WILLIE B. THOMAS/GETTY IMAGES

Many Germans "feel morally obliged to leave something, but within reason," said Linda Kaiser, a manners expert and a consultant for the German Etiquette Society.

Europe's tipping culture, explained

TIPPING FROM **F1**

Asking a porter to take your bags in a five-star hotel? Give them five euros for the trouble. Getting the tasting menu at a chic restaurant? Leave at least 10 percent. And "free" walking tours aren't really free — tip guides at least five euros per hour, wherever you are in Europe.

Learn the norms around the continent and avoid faux pas with these tips for tipping.

France

French people have a relaxed approach to tipping. I've lived in France for 11 years and have gotten used to tipping not being compulsory. You are not expected to tip in taxis or Ubers — unless you particularly enjoyed the driver's conversation or they were especially helpful with your bags — and the same goes for the person who greets you at your rental apartment, bar staff and even hotel staff.

In a good restaurant with attentive service, you can tack on five to 10 euros, or if you got a croissant and a coffee at a sidewalk cafe that cost you €4.80, you can leave five euros rather than hanging around for your change.

Apart from that, just relax. No one is going to chase you out of a bistro demanding their tip.

Germany

It's standard at table-service establishments in Germany to leave a 5 to 10 percent tip in cash at the end of a meal. In some big cities, you may be able to do so with card, but there are still parts of the country, particularly rural ones, where you'll need to have cash on you. Tell the server when paying your bill how much you'd like to add on for their gratuity, rather than leaving cash on the table.

Many Germans "feel morally obliged to leave something, but within reason," said Linda Kaiser, a manners expert and a consultant for the German Etiquette Society. "We only give 15 to 20 percent if the service was better than excellent."

Greece

Greeks want you to have a good time when you visit. Leaving a tip shouldn't be something you do robotically.

"In Greece, generosity and hospitality go hand in hand," explained Melina Thalassinou, a content and social media manager for Greeking.me, a bespoke travel consultancy. "It is seen as a gesture of appreciation rather than an obligation — more about building good relations than adhering to strict percentages." She advises tipping a tour guide 10 to 15 percent of the tour's cost, tipping hotel porters one to two euros per bag, and leaving a small tip for housekeeping (one to two euros per day).

GETTY IMAGES

Keep in mind that salaries in Greece for waiters and tour guides can be low and that work hours can be long. That, plus the fact that prices can be lower than back home, may make you want to leave generous tips at restaurants or cafes, though there's still no need to give more than 10 percent. If you're eating at a simple taverna, leave some cash on the table when you leave. (One to three euros should suffice.) After a fancier, more expensive meal, leave five to 10 euros. Tip with cash, so the money is more likely to get to the waiters.

Thalassinou said leaving a tip after getting a drink at a bar is less common, but rounding up the bill will always be appreciated, whatever the situation.

Ireland

Tipping in Ireland usually falls under one of two explanations: because you had good service or because you had spare coins.

"People don't expect to be tipped," said John McKiernan, a sales supervisor with Vagabond Tours. "People may even refuse tips if they think it's not necessary. If you don't know if it's appropriate or not, it's always good to ask. They'll be honest with you."

If you're in a restaurant and in a large group, it's polite to tip 10 percent if service is not already included. Some restaurants automatically will add a 20 percent service charge if you're in a group of 10 or more. In a pub, it's advisable to have cash on you if you want to leave a tip. Leave a euro per round of drinks brought to your table.

If you're one of those travelers who likes to get haircuts when you go abroad — and, yes, some people do — in Ireland you have to tip both the hairdresser and the person who washes your hair. You should also tip taxis, at least rounding up to the nearest 10.

Italy

"I think a lot of Americans come here and fall into the trap of thinking that you don't need to tip in Italy. You do!" said Elizabeth Minchilli, a Rome-based food tour operator and author. She suggests tipping 5 percent at restaurants, adding that "10 percent is seen as generous."

Coffee bars, Minchilli said, can be confusing for visitors. Drinking your coffee while standing at the counter will cost less than drinking it at a table, and although you don't need to leave a tip for the former, you do for the latter.

If you're getting anything to take away, such as a panino or a gelato, then tipping is optional. But whenever there's table service, Minchilli advises leaving something, even if it's just a euro for a cappuccino or a cornetto.

Be aware of a few Italian terms before you go. A coperto, or cover, charge on a restaurant tab represents the cost of the cutlery, tablecloth and complimentary breadsticks. Don't confuse it with a service charge, which you'll see marked as "servizio incluso"(if it's already included) or "servizio non incluso" (if it isn't). Leave your tip on the table, unless you're in a busy public place where it might be swiped or forgotten, in which case you can hand it to the server directly.

If you rent a car in Italy and need to fill up, some gas stations offer the option of a servito (serviced) lane, where an attendant will do it for you. The service costs more than filling up at the pump yourself, so you don't need to tip, though the attendant probably won't say no. If you ask for other services, such as a windshield wash, you can tip a few euros.

Spain

If a server in Spain is friendly and efficient, you can thank them and leave a tip with the bill. For a tapas meal, think three to five euros. If you've just dropped into a bar to have a caña of beer or a café con leche in the daytime, you can leave change next to your empty glass.

Amy Bingham, co-founder of the food tour company Walk and Eat Spain, has some cardinal rules when it comes to tipping there. "If you're drinking on a terrace, always tip," she said, because servers "have to work so hard to run those drinks across a crowded sidewalk." And if the bill comes to more than 40 euros per person, make sure you're paying with paper, not just coins.

United Kingdom

Tipping is not necessary in the U.K. if you're eating a casual meal at a pub or anywhere else where you order at a counter, but it will be appreciated. Whether you're grabbing a pint in a pub, a cup of tea in a cafe or a cocktail at a bar, you can round up your order or drop a quid in the tip jar.

If you go to a restaurant with table service, then at least 10 percent is standard. Check the check. "It's common to see an optional service charge, which is genuinely optional!" Denisa Podhrazska, owner of the guided tours company Let Me Show You London, wrote in an email. The official Visit London website recommends you ask your waiter whether they personally will receive your tip if you add it on to your card payment. If the service charge is included but you've had a bad experience, you are within your rights to ask for it to be taken off the bill.

Remember that, in London, like in most of the U.K., cards do reign supreme. You even can pay with card now in the capital's traditional black cabs, where tipping has always been optional.

As in the rest of Europe, though, it's no disaster if you tip a bit too much or a bit too little. Have a look around you, look at what the locals do and don't sweat it. You're on vacation, after all.

GLOW IMAGES/GETTY IMAGES

MIDDLE: In Greece, tipping "is seen as a gesture of appreciation rather than an obligation," said Greeking.me's Melina Thalassinou. ABOVE: In Italy, Elizabeth Minchilli, a Rome-based food tour operator and author, suggests tipping 5 percent at restaurants.

Catherine Bennett is a writer based in Paris.

Bare-bones airline reinvents itself with premium perks

BY HANNAH SAMPSON AND EDWARD RUSSELL

WASHINGTON POST ILLUSTRATION; ISTOCK

Spirit Airlines, the ultra-low-cost carrier famous for charging passengers for every perk, is about to offer new fare options that even include — *gasp!* — snacks.

Following other budget carriers eager to turn around a struggling business, Spirit announced Tuesday that it will sell premium tickets that will come with a bigger seat, food and drinks, bags, priority boarding, and WiFi. Other, lower-priced options promise perks including a blocked middle seat or seat selection.

The new fares — called "Go," "Go Savvy," "Go Comfy" and "Go Big" — will be available to book starting Aug. 16. Some perks will not be available on flights until Aug. 27.

The changes mark a major departure from Spirit's "unbundled" approach, which advertised rock-bottom ticket prices but left travelers paying for extras such as bringing a carry-on. Spirit still will sell a category of ticket that allows only a personal item.

"We're unveiling a new era in Spirit's history and taking low-fare travel to new heights with enhanced options that are unlike anything we've offered before," Ted Christie, the airline's CEO, said in a news release. "We listened to our Guests and are excited to deliver what they want: choices for an elevated experience that are affordable and provide unparalleled value."

Spirit already had announced in May that it was doing away with fees to change or cancel a flight. Passengers previously had to pay $69 to $119, depending on when the change was made; there was no charge 60 or more days from departure.

As part of the changes announced Tuesday, Spirit also is tweaking its boarding process and is introducing priority check-in for some travelers at select airports starting Aug. 27. The airline announced the new offerings as "part of a significant transformation that delivers an even friendlier, more comfortable, and cost-effective travel experience."

Since the pandemic, Spirit has faced rapidly rising costs, slow revenue growth and a big debt bill due in 2025. It had hoped that a merger would solve its problems, but it ended such plans with JetBlue in March, after a federal judge blocked the move on antitrust grounds.

The premise behind the airline's new fares is simple: Presented with options for more perks, such as assigned seats or checked bags, most travelers prefer spending a bit more over buying the cheapest option. Major airlines such as American and Delta saw this when they introduced no-frills basic economy fares in the past decade-plus.

Jungho Suh, a teaching assistant professor of management at the George Washington University School of Business, said Spirit's move makes strategic business sense but comes with risk.

"It's risky by diluting their brand identity, which is budget-traveler-friendly," he said.

The airline faces significant pressure from Wall Street to boost revenue quickly. Many analysts warn that Spirit could file for Chapter 11 bankruptcy to address more than $1 billion in debt due next year.

In the meantime, Spirit's financial outlook is worsening. The airline told investors earlier in July that its "non-ticket revenue" — what it makes from charging for things such as checked bags and assigned seats — was lower than expected during the three months ending in June.

"We believe [that drop] primarily relates to the removal of change fees and Frontier's new bundled offering," Savanthi Syth, an airline analyst at investment bank Raymond James, wrote in a report July 16.

Spirit competitor Frontier Airlines rolled out changes to its model in May, offering a handful of fare categories with perks built in at higher prices. Southwest announced last month that it will move away from its open-seating policy and instead sell assigned seats, including premium options.

Spirit remains a budget airline even with the changes, said Brett Snyder, who runs the air travel blog Cranky Flier and the travel planning company Cranky Concierge. The carrier is not, for example, making any changes to its core offering, which includes some of the tightest legroom of any U.S. airline.

"Spirit is just trying to make it easier for people to fly them," Snyder said.

Robes, lightbulbs, fake Oscars: The stuff people steal from hotels

BY HANNAH SAMPSON

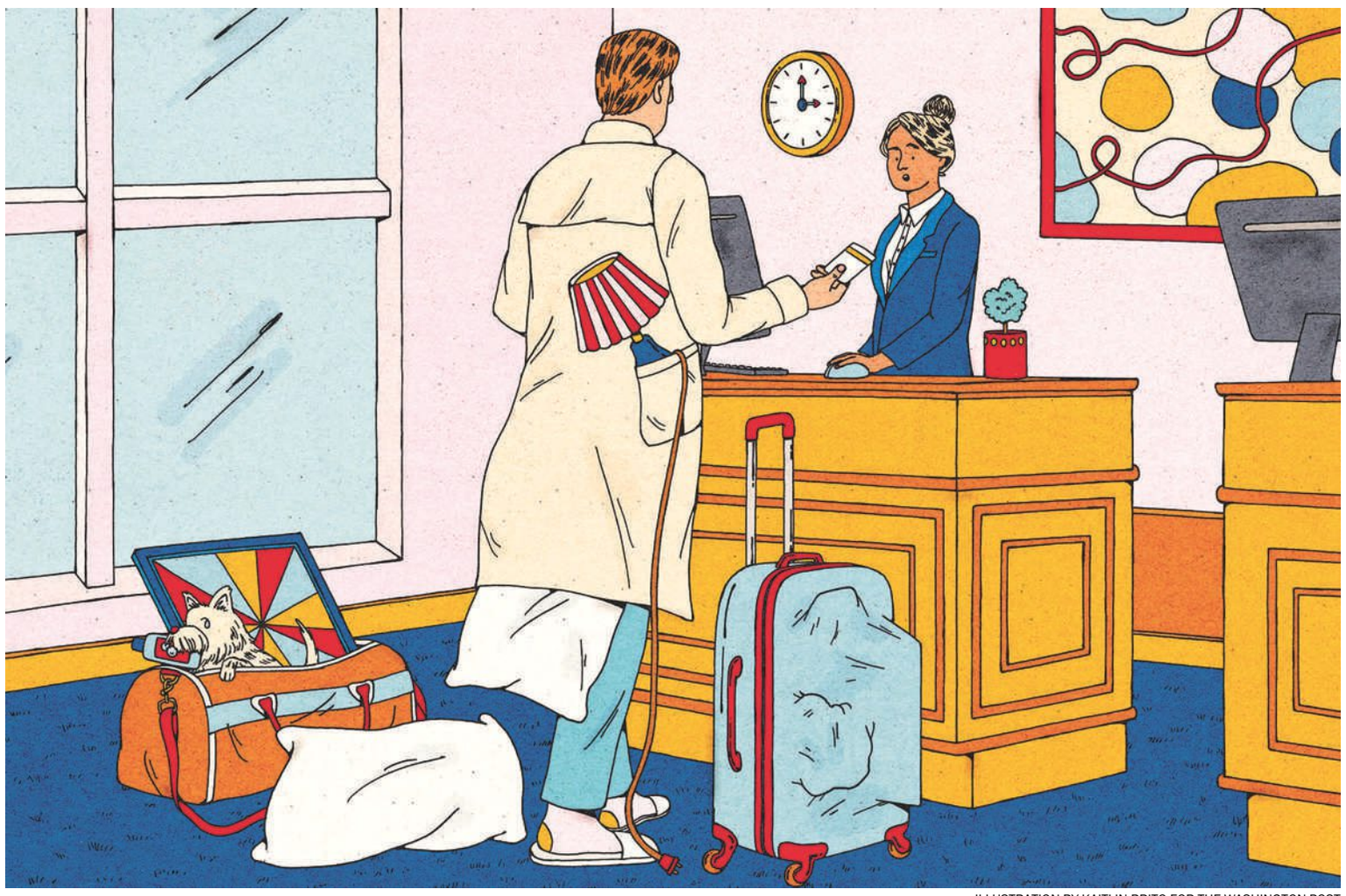

ILLUSTRATION BY KAITLIN BRITO FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

Many hotel guests get comfortable lounging around in the plush, cozy robe hanging in their closet. So comfortable, in fact, that they find the garment too irresistible to leave behind, leading managers to add price tags and anti-theft warnings to rooms.

It's fine to pack up your room's bar soap and shower cap, but hotel experts say guests sometimes think too far outside the toiletry kit when it comes to take-home items. And although an individual hotel's response may vary, travelers shouldn't be surprised to find extra charges if they treat their room like a department store.

"We dealt with it all the time," said hospitality consultant Anthony Melchiorri, a former hotel manager and the host of the Travel Channel show "Hotel Impossible." "That's one of the reasons you take a credit card and check in with a deposit."

In recent years, hoteliers have taken more steps to combat theft: selling in-demand products online, displaying signs in rooms that indicate what can be purchased, and using trackable chips in linens or electronics.

"Hotels can implement controls to minimize the risk of theft, but the more controls, the more the hotel begins to resemble a prison," Sean Hennessey, a clinical associate professor in New York University's hospitality program, wrote in an email. "So it's a balancing act."

Hennessey wrote that most brands have also boosted security to better track and monitor access to rooms "such that hotel theft is probably less prevalent today than in the past."

The most-stolen items

Major hotel chains contacted by The Washington Post, including Marriott and Hyatt, did not respond to questions about hotel room theft. Industry experts say there are no publicly reported statistics.

But hospitality insiders with years of experience shared the items that they've known to walk away, including lightbulbs, hangers, hair dryers, coffee makers and, of course, robes.

"You're not entitled to taking the pillows, which people will do," said Lonny Wolfe, a former general manager who works with hotels to turn around troubled properties. "You're not entitled to taking the iron, which people will do."

Paul Eckert, executive vice president of operations for Davidson Hospitality Group, said there was a time when smartphone-docking radio clocks would get stolen, but those aren't used anymore. TVs have also disappeared with guests.

"All those things get charged back to the customer," said Eckert, who noted that theft has been rare in his experience. "If there's something noticeable, we pass the cost on."

Wolfe said one guest at a hotel he was working with in South Florida reported that he didn't like his room, nor the second or third that he tried. Wolfe noticed that the Bible was missing from all three rooms; after checking security cameras in public areas, he could see footage showing the man throwing the Bibles in garbage cans.

"I caught him red-handed," he said. After the man returned to the hotel to complain about rooms yet again, Wolfe told the property to never let him return.

Taking furniture and electronics

It's not just rooms that get raided.

Melchiorri said one guest at a New York City hotel claimed late at night to an employee that Melchiorri had given permission to use new lobby furniture for a house party. The guest removed one chair — and then the night manager cried foul, foiling a larger plan.

"We got it back the next day," Melchiorri said.

Michael "Doc" Terry, a senior instructor at the University of Central Florida's hospitality school and a longtime hotelier, remembered running a large convention hotel when thieves swooped in.

"They came right in the front door, grabbed A/V equipment and just [went] right out of the hotel right in front of everybody," he said, noting that they could have easily been legitimate contractors. "You have crews coming in all the time."

He managed a Hollywood-themed hotel once that had fake Oscars — inscribed with winning names and all — in the main lobby bar.

"People just ripped it right off the bar after hours," said Terry, who also has a hospitality consulting business.

He said the items people will take — and the response from management — will vary according to the type of hotel, the amount the owners have invested, the risk management approach and the housekeeping practices.

Mehmet Erdem, who teaches lodging operations at the University of Nevada at Las Vegas, said hotels need to keep a careful inventory, meticulously check for missing items, and be sure about the culprit if they plan to charge a guest for pilfered items or report theft to police.

Melchiorri said if a guest takes one towel or washcloth, they probably won't get hit with a bill.

"However, if you consistently take things, we'll definitely charge you," he said. "Some hotels, some management companies are a lot more strict than others."

He said guests might dispute a charge and try to initiate a chargeback. That's when a hotel would have to provide some kind of proof.

"Listen, there's security cameras everywhere today," he said.

Although some towel snatchers might get away with their scratchy souvenirs, travelers shouldn't assume that there will be no consequences. In 2010, a hotel guest in Nigeria was convicted of stealing two towels. They were ordered to serve three months in jail or pay a $20 fine, ABC News reported at the time.

What hotels expect to lose

There are items hoteliers expect people to take — an idea explored on an episode of "Friends" in which the characters Ross Geller and Chandler Bing raid an inn for amenities.

"You have to find the line between stealing and taking what the hotel owes you," Ross says. "For example, a hair dryer: no, no, no. But shampoos and conditioners: yes, yes, yes."

Eckert, whose hospitality management company includes 86 hotels and resorts under different brands, said hotels even welcome it when guests take some knickknacks home; a pen emblazoned with the name of a hotel, a tiny sewing kit or a little lotion bottle can serve as a mini piece of marketing.

"They're all branded, and part of it is people will see it," he said, calling it "a decent opportunity to catch someone's attention."

Some properties include locally inspired body products, small samples of which are available in the room; larger versions can be purchased. Often, though, single-use products that used to be available for the taking are being swapped for larger bottles for things such as shampoo, conditioner and body wash in an effort to cut down on waste.

"Sustainability is changing a lot of what is in the guest rooms for people to take with them to reduce that single-use plastic," Eckert said.

He said that theft occurs in a "very, very small percentage" of cases and noted that it hasn't been a big discussion in his 32-year hospitality career.

"The one that comes up the most that we charge people for is the robe," he said. "Another opportunity for us to promote the brand of the hotel and resort that we're operating."

THE UPGRADE

Dining solo on vacation? You should always sit at the bar.

BY MICHELLE TCHEA

To submit a travel hack to The Upgrade, visit wapo.st/upgrade.

ILLUSTRATION BY MIN HEO FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

Being led to the bar instead of a table can make some restaurant patrons feel a certain stigma. But I often advise friends that it's the place to be. If you have the confidence to claim a stool, the rewards will be many. It beats a dark corner table every time.

Service is often faster and more efficient at the bar. You may get a view of an open kitchen a la "Chef's Table" without paying a premium. And, most importantly while traveling away from home, you're improving your chances of getting into one of the most popular restaurants in town. (Bar seats are often left for walk-ins only.)

My bar stool bias was confirmed on a recent impromptu trip to Australia. At Pellegrino 2000 in Sydney — immensely popular after Taylor Swift visited during her Eras Tour — I easily snagged a seat on a busy Saturday afternoon. Rather than waiting for unlikely last-minute cancellations (as my hotel concierge suggested), I perched on a stool to enjoy what many hyped as the trendiest restaurant in the city.

Peering into the kitchen, I didn't have to rely on Google Images to guide my order. Umming and arrhing over whether to get the spaghetti alle vongole or prawn-stuffed ravioli, I saw two young chefs making dumplings from scratch — sold. I ordered the ravioli as a primi and followed the recommendation of my bartender, Thomas, for the wild barramundi. While I waited on my food, Thomas told me where else I should eat and drink during the remainder of my stay.

On the same trip, I snagged a bar seat at Woodcut, a swanky new restaurant by the harbor. I had a prime seat watching a brigade of chefs play with a naked flame, manipulating a wood-burning oven, a Japanese robata grill and a traditional Basque-style grill that cooked my John Dory. The sommelier was my unofficial dining partner for the evening, popping in between courses to tell me about affordable local sips.

One caveat when you're dining at the bar: You don't have to go it alone, but don't push beyond a party of three. Any more, and you will find yourself choosing conversations to your right or left. If you're sharing plates, you may miss out on dishes. No one wants to go home hungry, especially if we're going Dutch.

Europeans have long seen the bar as a social destination, where locals drop in for a quick coffee in the morning and have an aperitif at night. On my last visit to Paris, I found more restaurants with the "comptoir" (counter bar) design and culture. I didn't feel unrefined sitting by the bar at Maxim's as I tucked into my terrine de campagne in the newly reprised historical house of Paris. Nor did I feel bougie at Laurent, where I dipped a crusty baguette into my eggs en cocotte with caviar for less than $22. At Le Chiberta and Brasserie Fouquet's, offshoot eateries of star chefs in Paris, the counter remains my favorite seat in the house.

Perhaps there is something about dangling your feet off the ground that makes bar dining more playful, social and engaging. Give me a high bar stool over a low table pressed up against a wall or restroom any day. There's nothing inferior about sitting by the bar. If anything, it's the hottest seat right now.

Michelle Tchea is a travel and food writer based in Europe.

Bringing a dog into the United States just got more complicated

The CDC has a new border policy for rabies vaccinations and microchips. Here's what you need to know.

BY ANDREA SACHS

WASHINGTON POST ILLUSTRATION; ISTOCK

A new Centers for Disease Control and Prevention policy intended to stop the spread of rabies went into effect last week, creating requirements that could keep some pet owners from bringing dogs into the United States. As of Thursday, anyone entering the country with a dog must provide the proper travel documents and health records for their animal. The dog must also be microchipped and healthy.

The regulations apply to all forms of international travel, including flying, driving and going on cruises. Travelers who don't meet the requirements could be stopped from boarding their flight.

Rabies kills an estimated 59,000 people a year across more than 150 countries, according to the World Health Organization. Nearly all human rabies cases can be traced to bites and scratches from infected dogs. The United States has been free of dog rabies since 2007.

"The regulations bring the United States into conformity with the practices of other countries that are rabies-free," said Elizabeth Schuette, president and chief executive at the ARK at JFK, an import-export animal facility at the New York airport.

The entry criteria are more elaborate for dogs who have spent time in destinations with a high threat of rabies (about 110 countries). However, travelers whose dogs have spent the previous six months in a country with a low or nonexistent threat of rabies must also abide by a few new rules.

If you're planning an international trip with your pet, or plan to bring a foreign pup home, here's what you need to know.

What were the rules before?

Previously, if you and your dog vacationed in a low-risk country, you did not need any extra documents and could arrive at any U.S. airport.

For high-risk destinations, passengers whose dogs received a rabies vaccine in the United States could enter with proof of a U.S.-issued vaccination certificate or a CDC Dog Import Permit. Dogs vaccinated in a high-risk country needed the permit, plus a serologic titer test and a booster within 10 days of arrival by a U.S. veterinarian.

Depending on the situation, dogs from rabies-afflicted countries were only accepted at airports with a CDC-staffed quarantine station or a CDC-approved animal-care facility.

Now, the requirements apply to "all dogs coming from all countries, so it greatly expanded the reach of the rule and who it is going to impact," said Danielle Palermo, a regulatory specialist for the Humane Society Legislative Fund.

Why is the CDC changing border rules for dogs?

The CDC has been tightening regulations on dog imports in recent years, citing a rise in falsified or fraudulent documents, including rabies vaccination records. In 2020, the CDC reported a 52 percent increase in the number of dogs that were not eligible for entering the country because of spurious paperwork, as compared with 2018 and 2019.

Kimberly Graner, chief operating officer of Kennel Club LAX and Tailwind Global Pet, which provides pet relocation services and hands-on care at Los Angeles International, said sick dogs from abroad have at times overwhelmed the veterinary-care industry. She said the CDC policy can help curtail outbreaks and ensure a healthier animal population.

"These regulations are important so that we don't risk the health and safety of animals or people in our community or overrun vets," Graner said. "I've had situations where vets are completely booked to take on these animals who are extremely sick and need health care immediately."

What do dog owners need to do after visiting low-risk countries?

Dogs traveling into the United States will have to comply with the following new requirements:

- Owners must fill out a CDC Dog Import Form per dog. The online form and processing service are free.
- The dog must be at least 6 months old to enter.
- The dog must have a microchip that is International Standards Organization-compatible, which means it can be read with a universal scanner.
- The dog must appear healthy.

Palermo, whose organization has been discussing the potential effects of the final rule with the CDC and legislators, said airline gate agents and Customs and Border Protection agents will assess dogs' overall condition. She said they can contact the CDC if they are unsure about what qualifies as "healthy." Providing supporting materials can help streamline the process.

"If your dog has a skin condition like eczema or is a foot licker because they're anxious, it would be helpful to have paperwork that your vet has signed that shows that your dog isn't experiencing a contagious virus or bacteria," Palermo said.

What about dogs arriving from countries with a high risk of rabies?

High-risk travel destinations include Colombia, Thailand, South Africa, Morocco, Egypt, Belize, Ukraine and Israel, the newest addition to the CDC's list.

If you're returning from a high-risk country, in addition to the previous requirements, owners will need to ask a USDA-accredited vet to complete a Certification of U.S.-Issued Rabies Vaccination form or a USDA-endorsed export health certificate. The Agriculture Department has a list of approved vets (*bit.ly/vet-list*). All relevant documents must include the microchip number.

Owners who vaccinated their dogs in a high-risk country, a common scenario for rescue dogs, will need to take the greatest number of extra steps, including acquiring a certification of foreign rabies vaccination. Fliers will need to go through one of six U.S. airports with a CDC-approved animal-care facility and make an appointment to have your dog revaccinated and quarantined.

Schuette recommends landing during weekday working hours, when the veterinarians are readily available. "To bring someone in at 2 in the morning to revaccinate could be quite costly," she said. "We'd hold the dog till the next day for the veterinarian to come in and do the exam."

Which airports have CDC-approved animal-care facilities?

- Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport.
- Los Angeles International Airport.
- Miami International Airport.
- John F. Kennedy International Airport (New York).
- Washington Dulles International Airport.
- Philadelphia International Airport.

When do I need to submit the import form?

To be safe, the CDC recommends completing the form at least a few days in advance of your trip to the United States, but said you can fill it out on your departure day. You should receive an emailed receipt within 15 minutes of submitting it.

The one-page form is straightforward for no-risk travel, requiring such basic information as the dog's name, age and breed, and your departure country and arrival date. The approved document is valid for multiple trips over six months. High-risk destinations require more information, such as a recent photo of your dog, and the form is valid for only a single entry.

Expect to show the form to the gate agent before boarding and to CBP upon entering the country.

What about service dogs?

Passengers with service dogs must adhere to the same rules, with one exception: If the service dog was vaccinated in a high-risk country and is accompanying their owner by sea, they can skip the appointment at the animal-care facility and enter the country at any port.

How will this affect military families?

The policy may be concerning to military families, who have seen air travel options for their pets shrink. Robert Misseri, cofounder and president of Paws of War, a nonprofit that helps active military members transport their animals to the States, said families must now provide background information that they might not possess, such as the dog's personal history.

"We have an active military member stationed in South Korea who recently adopted a dog from a local person. He doesn't have a date of birth or a history of vet records," Misseri said. "So there are some challenges."

Misseri said the airlines, which are grappling with the new measures, are also an obstacle. He said he tried to book cargo reservations for military pets departing after Aug. 1 but was unsuccessful.

"There may be confusion between the airlines and the CDC," he said.

How are the airlines responding to the new rule?

A number of airlines, such as United and Delta, continue to fly pets as usual — at least for now. Others have introduced new policies. Check with your airline for updates.

"Some airlines are requiring that importers utilize an IPATA [International Pet And Animal Transportation Association] shipper or freight forwarder to book their dogs' international travel," Schuette said. "Some airlines are restricting imports from high-risk countries altogether."

American Airlines said it will not accept dogs as carry-on pets if they originate from or have visited a high-risk country. American Airlines Cargo is not taking reservations for animals from these vulnerable areas, either, citing the CDC's new policy.

Swiss and Lufthansa, meanwhile, said they will fly U.S.-bound passengers with dogs only to the six airports with animal-care facilities.

What happens if you ignore the policy?

Airlines will not let you board the plane unless you satisfy the requirements. Stateside, officials will bar your animal from entering the country.

If you are coming from a high-risk destination, the airline could return your dog to the originating country. You would be responsible for covering the plane fare. Or the dog could be quarantined at your own expense.

"The owner will be responsible for any overnight boarding, vet care or quarantining fees," Graner said.

In Italy, free bar snacks are a way of life

BY NATALIE B. COMPTON

PHOTOS BY DEEPI AHLUWALIA

Travelers can find complimentary bite-size snacks called stuzzichini across Italy in bars, cafes, cocktail spots and more. The free snacks can be a way for an establishment to work through its pantry while giving customers something to soak up their spritz. "It's all about minimizing waste and being able to stretch ingredients," said Stef Ferrari, the author of "Stuzzichini: The Art of the Italian Snack."

The love story started with a paper bag.

It was the thick of the pandemic, and Stef Ferrari had just moved to Italy to study the country's history and culture at the Istituto Lorenzo de' Medici in Florence. She stopped by a historic cafe for a drink and was surprised when the server handed her a bag along with her paper cup. (The cafe was serving takeout only while the world waited for a vaccine.)

"I was like, 'I didn't order anything, this must be for someone else,'" remembers Ferrari, an Emmy-winning producer and food writer — no relation to the racing family. But the server at Caffè Gilli insisted. Inside the bonus bag was a tray of bite-size snacks: a paper cup of green olives, homemade crackers and brioche sandwiches with garlicky goat cheese to go along with her drink.

That was Ferrari's introduction to stuzzichini, the complimentary snack that often comes with your drink at a bar in Italy. As she saw it, the appetizers represented "a gesture of hospitality and care," and the beginning of an obsession.

Like tapas in Spain, stuzzichini can be simple or elaborate, from a bowl of peelable lupini beans to a fancier spread — like her Florentine experience. The tiny acts of kindness sparked a years-long investigation into the custom that led to Ferrari's new book, "Stuzzichini: The Art of the Italian Snack."

The name translates to appetizer or canapé, coming from the Italian word for "stimulate" or "tantalize," as these little dishes are designed to do just that. They're an essential component of aperitivo culture, the Italian ritual of gathering for drinks before dinner, as Italians frown on drinking with an empty stomach.

"The classic aperitivo ritual is going and getting one drink, something light, not getting a buzz on, and being convivial with friends or colleagues," said Rome-based cookbook author and tour guide Katie Parla.

American enthusiasm for aperitivo culture has been climbing for years, but mostly focused on the beverage side of the ritual. While aperitivo drinks such as the Aperol spritz stole the show, aperitivo snacks remained an unsung hero.

Ferrari's book is an exception. It's a love letter — part cultural guide, part cookbook — to the bites that help open up your appetite for dinner. We asked Ferrari for her tips on finding and enjoying the snacks on your next trip to Italy.

Where to find stuzzichini

Stuzzichini can be as simple as a cup of peanuts or more involved, like "a beautifully composed puff pastry with salmon mousse," Ferrari said.

You'll find them across Italy in a bar, cafe, enoteca (wine bar) or cocktail spot during happy hour. The Italian version, that is.

"It can be little bit later than what the U.S. would consider happy hour," Ferrari said. "You're probably looking at 6, 7, 9 — sometimes even later."

Ferrari has never outright ordered stuzzichini. They were always something that arrived as a surprise. Some places will advertise stuzzichini with a sign out front to draw in customers. Others will just provide you with a serving along with your drink order.

Depending on where you're traveling, they might not be called stuzzichini. In Venice, for example, they're cicchetti.

"The word stuzzichini is pretty particular to the central part of the country," Ferrari said. "If you go south, there's a different word for it.

"Most of the time, it's made with whatever the local specialty is: ... a particular kind of pork or a particular kind of cheese."

Stef Ferrari, author of "Stuzzichini: The Art of the Italian Snack"

If you go north, there's a different word for it. But the concept is very much the same."

And, like the name, stuzzichini can have regional differences. Each one can be an expression of a place, Ferrari said.

"Most of the time, it's made with whatever the local specialty is: ... a particular kind of pork or a particular kind of cheese," she said.

In northern Italy, Ferrari found snacks with Austrian influences, such as Liptauer cheese on a cracker. Up in the Dolomites, she was served a potato pancake. In Sicily, she encountered snacks with North African spices, raisins, currants and dates.

Spontaneity is part of the fun

More often than not, they're surprising. Go back to the same bar the following night, and you might find the same bite or you might be served the same kind of dish but with another ingredient at the heart of it (such as another style of crostini, the classic canapé of grilled bread with toppings). It could be something else entirely. Each time Ferrari returned to Caffè Gilli in Florence, where she first encountered stuzzichini, the snack was never exactly the same.

"They're totally ephemeral," she said.

That's because the free snacks can be a way for an establishment to work through its pantry while giving customers something to soak up their spritz.

"It's all about minimizing waste and being able to stretch ingredients," Ferrari said. "That's why they're different all the time. Because, a lot of the times, they're kind of just like made up on the fly."

Stuzzichini's ephemeral nature is part of the fun. Enjoying these fleeting snacks can be an antidote to our tendency to overplan travel.

"I feel like travelers now Google everything in advance," Ferrari said. "They find all the menus for every place they want to go. They've read about it, they've seen it on TV, and it's all but fait accompli by the time you're there. ... There's no discovery to it anymore."

Not the stuzzichini. Even if you've researched the bar to the high heavens, the snack du jour is bound to be a surprise. Plus, it's a good conversation starter.

"You start talking about: 'What is this product? Where does this come from? What's the inspiration?'" Ferrari said. "And, of course, [the staff are] all so proud to come over to the table and tell you. ... It opens up like a completely new and exciting avenue for travel."

Essential stuzzichini etiquette

Think of stuzzichini as a small token of appreciation from the kitchen. Even though Ferrari says it could end up being your "girl dinner," it's not designed to be a meal. You may be treated to more than one serving if you order more than one drink, but don't expect a free feast in exchange for ordering one spritz.

"Particularly if there's a buffet situation, which it is occasionally the case, ... don't abuse it," Ferrari said. "It's a gesture. It is meant to make you comfortable and at ease. But it is not sustainable for them to have a bunch of study-abroad students pillaging the buffet."

No matter how tasty the snacks are, don't overdo it on the drinks, either. "Public drunkenness in general is just frowned upon [in Italy]," Ferrari said.

Her last tips: Be gracious, be grateful and free up the table if you're done with your drink.

Cheese is a stuzzichini staple. However, remember that stuzzichini are a gift from the kitchen, not a given.

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AX FN FS LF PW DC BD PG AA FD HO MN MS SM

BELOW: Steve Seneff cuts a copper pipe in preparation for the replacement of a coil in an HVAC system in an attic of a house in Broadlands, Va. RIGHT: An air-conditioning unit outside an energy-efficient home in Silver Spring, Md.

ALLISON ROBBERT/THE WASHINGTON POST

CRAIG HUDSON FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

Amid record heat, bustling HVAC contractors try to keep their cool

Air-conditioning companies are seeing a spike in demand for services as temperatures have soared

BY HANNAH ZIEGLER

There's one thing hotter than the record-breaking temperatures blanketing the country this summer: business for air-conditioning contractors.

Demand for air-conditioner replacements in the United States has spiked this summer as triple-digit temperatures have settled in across the country, said Gary Bedard, the home comfort solutions president for Lennox International, one of the HVAC industry's biggest manufacturers. That spike can be even bigger for regions at the center of the heat wave such as D.C., he said.

This summer is already the hottest on record in D.C. Temperatures surpassed 101 degrees for a record-breaking four consecutive days last month. More than 150 million people were under heat alerts across the country in July as triple-digit temperatures blasted the East Coast and parts of the Midwest.

Bedard expects the increased demand for air-conditioning fixes to persist as summers get hotter and people keep their units longer.

The global market for air conditioning has seen an average annual growth rate of 7 percent over the past decade, according to a 2024 report from the Building Services Research and Information Association. In 2018, the International Energy Agency forecast that the

SEE **HVAC** ON **G5**

D.C. feeling hot, hot, hot

36
days at 90 degrees or higher. There were only 32 during all of last year.

19
days at 95 degrees or higher.

6
days at 100 degrees or higher.

As of Friday.

Buying a home may get more confusing

Shoppers will soon have to sign contracts with their agents to abide by new commission rules

BY AARON GREGG AND JULIAN MARK

Would-be homeowners will soon face a new hurdle: wading through lengthy, potentially confusing real estate contracts even before they tour a home.

Currently, most buyers can choose a Realtor without making any commitments in writing. But starting Aug. 17, buyers will have to sign a mandatory agreement first — and it could include hard-to-understand provisions that favor agents and cost buyers money, legal experts and consumer advocates say.

The newly mandatory contracts are the result of a March court settlement with the National Association of Realtors that consumer advocates hope will end practices that led to seller agents paying their buyer counterparts half of the commission fee from a home sale. Proponents of ending that automatic split hope that having buyers pay their own agents will spur negotiations that could lead to lower commissions.

Contract templates now being circulated by Realtor groups would have buyers pay some of the commissions rather than just sellers, as is now the case. But consumer advocates worry that most buyers simply aren't equipped to vet the legal documents their agents ask them to sign, leaving them at the mercy of industry norms.

"Nobody in their right mind is reading these forms," said University of Buffalo law professor Tanya Monestier, who has reviewed more than a dozen of the new contract templates.

SEE **CONTRACTS** ON **G4**

Think twice before buying a contract for car repairs

Michelle Singletary
THE COLOR OF MONEY

One of the great fears of auto ownership is an expensive repair bill.

The anxiety of having to come up with hundreds or thousands of dollars to get your car back on the road is real. If you need a vehicle to get to work or take your children to school, a rattle or loud creaking noise can send you into a panic.

A check engine light flashes and you pull out your owner's manual hoping it's a loose gas cap and not something serious, like a faulty catalytic converter. Understanding this anxiety, CarShield, which heavily advertises on television, offers vehicle service contracts promising to be your financial knight should you need to make that dreaded trip to the mechanic.

Vehicle owners are told their monthly premiums would save them from worry.

"Drive with more peace-of-mind, knowing your vehicle and budget are protected from the unexpected," CarShield advertises.

But like so many of these service contracts, the devil is always buried in the fine print. Too often there are so many exclusions it renders the policy useless.

So it was no surprise to me when the Federal Trade Commission announced late last month an eight-figure settlement with CarShield. It wasn't a car owner's savior, the agency said.

"Instead of delivering the 'peace of mind' promised by its advertisements, CarShield left many consumers with a financial

SEE **SINGLETARY** ON **G5**

WASHINGTON POST ILLUSTRATION; ISTOCK

HELP DESK

A few things experts suggest you try the next time you come across an image that seems doctored. **G2**

DEPARTMENT OF DATA

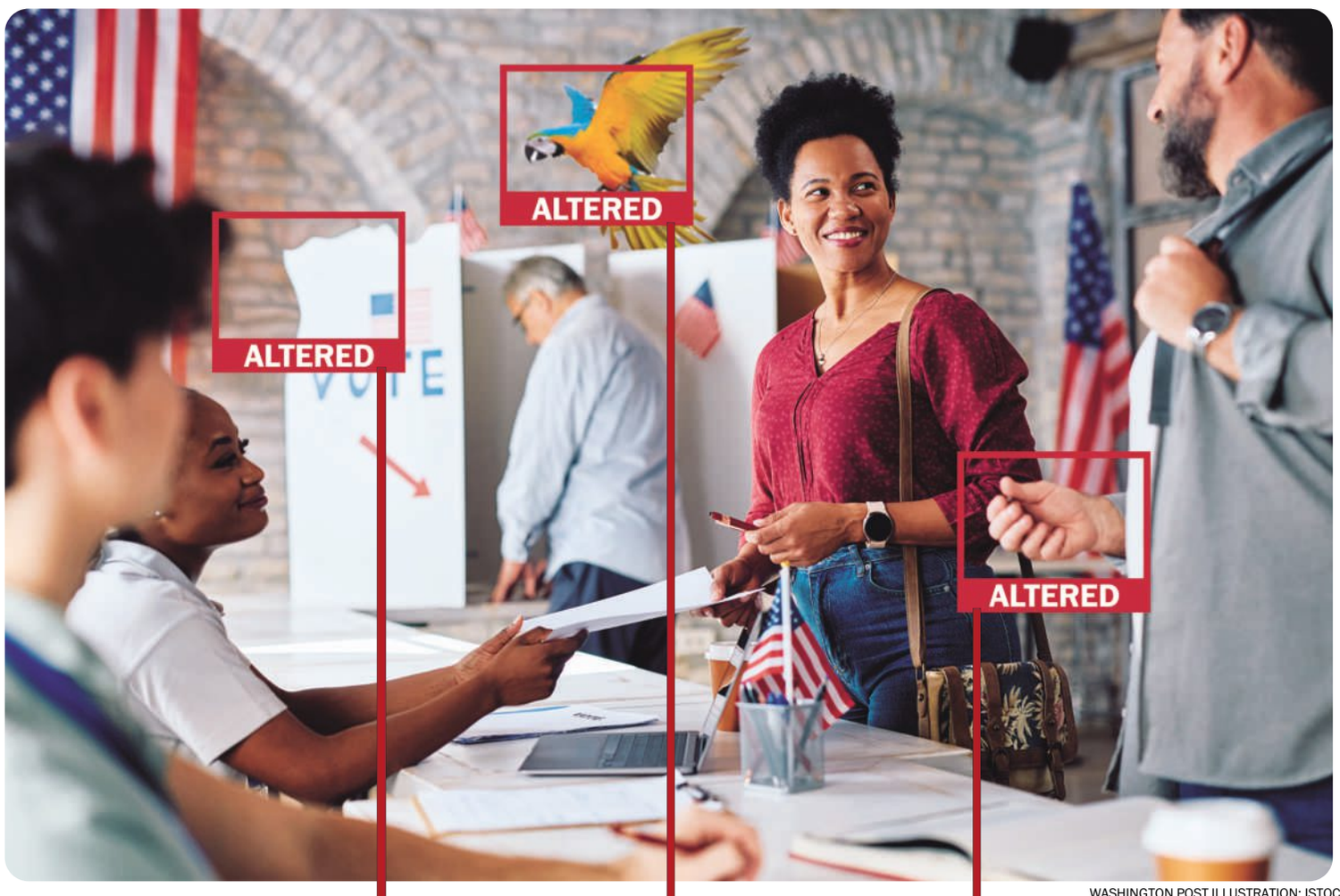
How common is adoption, and all the rest of your (many) questions about the subject, answered. **G3**

WASHINGTON POST ILLUSTRATION; ISTOCK

With rapid advances in artificial intelligence, AI-generated and manipulated imagery, like the picture above, is growing more complex.

HELP DESK

Fake images are getting harder to spot. Here's a field guide.



WASHINGTON POST ILLUSTRATION; ISTOCK

The voting station has wonky lines at the top.

A close-up of the poorly cut out parrot.

A man with six fingers.

BY CHRIS VELAZCO AND MONIQUE WOO

Photographs have a profound power to shape our understanding of the world. And it's never been more important to be able to discern which ones are genuine and which are doctored to push an agenda, especially in the wake of dramatic or contentious moments. But advances in technology mean that spotting manipulated or even totally AI-generated imagery is only getting trickier. Take for example a photo of Catherine, Princess of Wales, issued by Kensington Palace in March. News organizations retracted it after experts noted some obvious manipulations. And some questioned whether images captured during the assassination attempt on former president Donald Trump were genuine. Here are a few things experts suggest the next time you come across an image that leaves you wondering.

Zoom in

It might sound basic, but a study by researcher Sophie Nightingale at Lancaster University in Britain found that, across age groups, the people who took the time to zoom into photos and carefully scrutinize different parts were better at spotting altered images.

Try it the next time you get a weird feeling about a photo. Just be sure not to focus on the wrong things. To help, we've created this (slightly exaggerated) sample image, above and top, to highlight some common signs of image manipulation.

Rather than focusing on things like shadows and lighting, Nightingale suggested looking at "photometric" clues such as blurring around the edges of objects that might suggest they've been added later; noticeable pixelation in some parts of an image but not others; and differences in coloration.

Consider the parrot above: For one, who brings a parrot to a polling location?

And take a closer look at its wings — the blurred edges of its leading feathers contrast with the round cutouts closer to its body.

This is clearly an amateurish Photoshop job.

PAUL ELLIS/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

Alterations in the March picture of Catherine, Princess of Wales, with her children were quickly pointed out by people online.

Search for funky geometry

Fine details are among the hardest things to seamlessly edit in an image, so they get flubbed frequently. This is often easy to spot when regular, repeating patterns are disrupted or distorted.

In the image to the left, note how the shapes of the bricks in the wall behind the divider are warped and squished. Something fishy happened here.

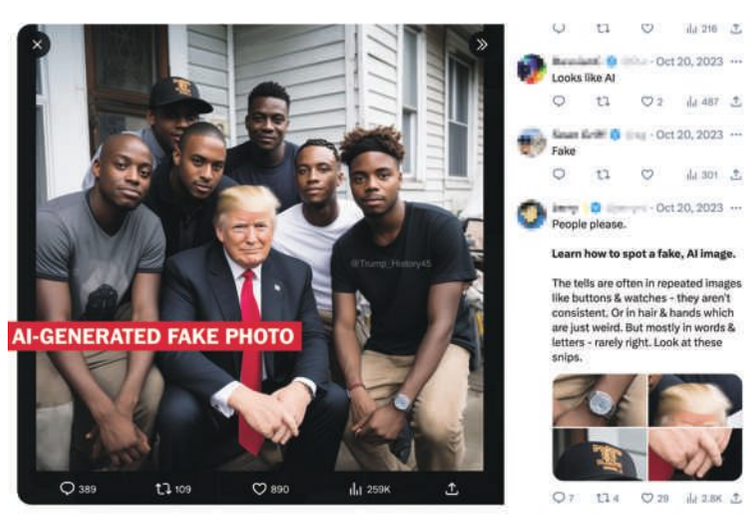
Consider the now-infamous photo of Catherine.

The princess appeared with her arms draped around two of her children. Online sleuths were quick to point out inconsistencies, including floor tiles that appear to overlap and a bit of molding that appears misaligned.

In our polling place example, did you catch the person with an extra finger? Sure, it's possible they have a condition like polydactyly, in which people are born with extra fingers or toes. That's a bit unlikely, though, so if you spot things like extra digits, it could be a sign that AI was used to alter the image.

It's not just bad editing that screws up fine touches. AI is notoriously iffy when it comes to manipulating detailed images.

So far, that's been especially true of structures like the human hand — though it's getting better at them. Still, it's not uncommon for images generated by or edited with AI to show the wrong number of fingers.



THE WASHINGTON POST/X

An AI-generated fake photo of former president Donald Trump at an impromptu meet-and-greet with six Black men.

Consider the context

One way to determine the authenticity of an image is to take a step back and consider what's around it. The context an image is placed in can tell you a lot about the intent behind sharing it.

Ask yourself: Do you know anything about the person who shared the photo? Is it attached to a post that seems meant to spark an emotional reaction? What does the caption, if any, say?

Some doctored images, or even genuine images placed in a context that differs from reality, are meant to appeal to our "intuitive, gut thinking," says Peter Adams, senior vice president of research and design at the News Literacy Project, a nonprofit that promotes critical media evaluation. These edits can artificially engender support or elicit sympathy for specific causes.

Nightingale recommends asking yourself a few questions when you spot an image that gets a rise out of you: "Why might somebody have posted this? Is there any ulterior motive that might suggest this could be a fake?"

In many cases, Adams adds, comments or replies attached to the photo can reveal a fake for what it is.

Above is one real-life example pulled from X. An AI-generated image of Trump flanked by six young Black men first appeared in October 2023 but reappeared in January, attached to a post stating that the former president had stopped his motorcade to meet the men in an impromptu meet-and-greet.

But it didn't take long for commenters to point out inconsistencies, like how Trump appeared to have only three large fingers on his right hand.

Go to the source

In some cases, genuine images come from out of the blue in a way that leaves us wondering whether they really happened. Finding the source of those images can help shed crucial light.

Earlier this year, science educator Bill Nye appeared on the cover of Time Out New York dressed more stylishly than the baby-blue lab coat many of us remember. Some wondered if the images were AI-generated, but following the trail of credits back to the photographer's Instagram account revealed that the Science Guy really *was* wearing edgy, youthful clothes.

For images that claim to have come from a real news event, it's also worth checking news services like the Associated Press and Reuters and companies like Getty Images — all of which let you peek at the editorial images they've captured.

If you happen to find the originating image, you're looking at an authentic one.

Try a reverse image search

If an image seems out of character for the person in it, appears pointedly partisan or just generally doesn't pass a vibe check, reverse image tools — like TinEye or Google Image Search — can help you find the originals. Even if they can't, these tools may still surface valuable context about the image.

A recent example: Shortly after a 20-year-old gunman attempted to assassinate Trump, an image appeared on the Meta-owned social media service Threads that depicted Secret Service agents smiling while clinging to the former president. That image was used to bolster the baseless theory that the shooting was staged.

The original photo does not contain a single visible smile.

Even armed with these tips, it's unlikely that you'll be able to tell real images from manipulated ones 100 percent of the time. But that doesn't mean you shouldn't keep your sense of skepticism honed. It's part of the work we all need to do at times to remember that, even in divisive and confusing times, the truth still exists.

Losing sight of that, Nightingale says, only gives bad actors the opportunity to "dismiss everything."

"That's where society is really at risk," she said.

BUSINESS

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DEPARTMENT OF DATA

Where adoption is most common — and who's most likely to get adopted

BY ANDREW VAN DAM

You've sent in so many adoption questions that we had two choices: rechristen ourselves the Department of Adoption for the foreseeable future, or don our querying cap, crack each of our knuckles in order and answer as many as we could in one go.

We decided to get cracking. Here goes.

How common is adoption?

We suspect reader Ryan Hanlon might have an ulterior motive for asking this, given that his LinkedIn lists him as president and CEO of the National Council for Adoption.

The answer: While adoption may have been more common in the tough-to-measure past, it's surprisingly rare today.

Depending on the source, adopted children seem to make up 1 to 3 percent of America's under-18 population. It's the fifth-most-common relationship between a child and a head of household, narrowly ahead of foster care, according to the Census Bureau's American Community Survey (ACS) from 2008 to 2022. The vast majority of kids are the biological children (88 percent) or grandchildren (8 percent) of the householder.

While the ACS provides stellar big-picture numbers, it's hamstrung by its focus on a child's relationship to a single head of household, regardless of the presence of their parent or parents. To map relationships further, we turned to the Census Bureau's Current Population Survey (CPS). Unlike many of its rivals, the CPS lists both parents for every child.

About 1.2 percent of U.S. children are adopted, though that's just kids who are living only with an adoptive single parent or, more commonly, two adoptive parents. Another 0.5 percent live with one adoptive parent and one biological or stepparent. We assume those adoptions were made by folks who, after marriage or cohabitation, wanted to make the parent-child relationship official.

This measure, at least, shows adoption is so rare that it's about as common to live with only stepparents, a situation faced by 1.4 percent of children, roughly evenly split between those who have a single stepparent and those who have two stepparents, presumably because of family upheavals.

Meanwhile, 63 percent of children live with two biological parents and 25 percent live with a biological single parent.

How are parents finding these adoptees?

In the case of stepparents, the answer seems obvious. The rest usually rely on foster care or private agencies.

There were 368,530 children in foster care as of September 2022, according to the Children's Bureau at the Department of Health and Human Services. Of those, 108,877 were waiting to be adopted. That year, 53,665 children were adopted with public agency involvement, typically meaning they came from the foster care system.

We don't yet have estimates for 2022 adoptions outside of the foster system. With no national source (yet), folks have to cobble together the data from state and county records as it dribbles out. But Hanlon estimates that there were about 50,000 domestic private adoptions in 2019 and a pandemic-reduced 40,000 in 2020. In both years, about half of those adoptions involved stepparents.

Another 1,275 children were adopted from abroad in the year ending in September 2023, according to the State Department.

Who's most likely to adopt?

You may remember reader Kevin Foster from his peerless paper-check data. Well, Foster was moseying home from a Massachusetts grocery store one day when he overheard someone say, "Well, I'm adopted, so it's okay." No other context, but it got him thinking: What demographic groups are most likely to adopt?

It turns out gay married men with kids are 12 times more likely to have adopted at least one of them than their straight married counterparts, according to the ACS. Women in same-sex marriages are over eight times more likely to adopt.

Paradoxically, as we'll see later, the states with the fewest same-sex couples often adopt at the highest rates. That's because same-sex couples, even today, lead only 1.6 percent of U.S. households, and a large majority of such households don't include children. So even with sky-high adoption rates among same-sex couples with children, such couples only account for about 3.6 percent of adoptive families — usually not enough to move the needle.

Instead, national trends seem to be driven by race, particularly by high adoption rates among America's White majority — only Native Americans have higher adoption rates. Adoption is also more popular among rural Americans and veterans.

Older couples with children are also more likely to have adopted. We assume that, as with same-sex couples, they're choosing adoption because of biological factors as much as cultural ones.

Which state has the highest adoption rates?

West Virginia! It also had the fastest-rising adoption rate in the country between 2008 and 2022, according to the ACS. Based on your questions, we're guessing some of you might point to the state's abortion rate as an explanation — it was the fourth lowest in the country in 2019 and 2020, according to the Guttmacher Institute.

Beyond that Appalachian enclave, we saw a correlation between higher abortion rates and lower adoption rates, but it wasn't entirely consistent. The states with the second and third highest adoption rates, Montana and Alaska, both protect abortion in their state constitutions according their courts and to KFF. They are, however, two of the states with the largest concentrations of Native Americans.

These demographic trends appear to drive most adoption trends. In addition to race, immigration — or lack thereof — seems to play a starring role. Native-born Americans are about twice as likely to adopt, and West Virginia has the lowest immigrant concentration of any state. Three of the states with the lowest adoption rates — California, New York and New Jersey — also have the most immigrants, even after adjusting for population size.

Why do Native Americans adopt at such high rates?

We had no answers until Angelique Day, associate professor at the University of Washington's School of Social Work and faculty affiliate at the Indigenous Wellness Research Institute, stepped in and did all our work for us. She confirmed her theories with a colleague, then called to walk us through an elegant explanation.

Native Americans are much more likely to be in the foster care system than their peers, ACS data shows. But while other marginalized groups with high foster care populations, notably African Americans, often get adopted by White families, many Native American children get placed with Native families thanks to the Indian Child Welfare Act.

Passed in 1978 to help counteract the horrific legacy of a system that removed a third of Native children from their homes, the act allows tribes to participate in adoption cases involving their citizens and prioritizes placing the child with relatives or members of the tribe.

Day encouraged us to think of Native American adoptions as similar to international adoptions, in which the rules are set by agreements between two governments — because that's really what agreements between tribes and the feds are. This relationship has helped the large Native population in foster care translate into many adoptions by Native American families in a way that's not possible for non-tribal communities.

What about international adoptions?

The inverse relationship between immigration and adoption has, of course, one glaring exception: the adoptees themselves. Adoptees are about twice as likely to come from abroad as biological children, though that's changing as international adoptions plummet.

State Department data shows international adoptions peaked in 2004 at 22,987 and have fallen more than 94 percent since then. In 2023, a year when 3,591,328 children were born in the United States, a record low of just 1,275 were adopted from abroad. Over that time, the flow of adoptees from China has fallen from 7,038 to 16, according to the State Department.

It's not that Americans have lost interest in adopting from abroad or even just that geopolitics have changed, Hanlon told us. Instead, he ties plunging adoption rates to an international agreement to standardize adoptions that took effect in 2008. Meant to limit sketchy adoptions and human trafficking, it has instead raised costs and wait times to the point where many parents don't dare begin the process.

"There's still plenty of children who need and would greatly benefit from intercountry adoption, and there's plenty of U.S. families that are open to adoption," Hanlon said. But "we've put up a lot of red tape."

A spokesperson for the State Department, which now oversees overseas adoptions, pointed out that such adoptions started their decline before the international agreement. Political changes, better living standards and other social and economic factors have reduced the number of children globally in need of adoption, the spokesperson said.

How many adoptees have a different race than their parents?

Beth Herman in Colorado was one of several readers who asked about transracial adoptions. From 2020 to 2022, more than a third of adopted children came from a different racial background than their head of household. That's more than three times the rate for biological children, and substantially higher than the rates for grandchildren or stepchildren.

Put another way, most adoptions aren't transracial. But only because 92 percent of White kids get adopted by White families, by far the highest in-group adoption rate. If you leave them out, the majority of non-White kids (56 percent) are adopted by parents of another race, and by "another race" we usually mean White.

Most notably, White people have adopted 2 out of 3 Asian adoptees in America. Most Black and Hispanic adoptees are adopted by Black and Hispanic parents, but in both cases, it's a narrow majority (54 and 51 percent respectively) with White families close behind.

Do children identify with their birth race or their adopted race?

Herman tacked on a twist to the transracial adoption question: Do adoptees identify with the race of their adopted parents?

Adoptees almost always identify with their birth group, at least according to whoever took the time to fill out the Census Bureau's exhaustive survey (we have no way of measuring how the child would have described themselves). For example, 98 percent of adoptees born in China are listed as Asian, a decent match for the 98 percent of China-born American adults who identify as Asian.

The only consistent exceptions, albeit minor ones, involve children from Hispanic countries. For example, 99 percent of Mexico-born adults in the United States describe themselves as Hispanic, compared with 95 percent of Mexico-born adopted children. Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador and the Dominican Republican show similar patterns.

That makes sense. Hispanic ethnicity has long been a cultural designation rather than a racial one, though the lines could blur under upcoming Census Bureau policy changes. If an adoptee has been removed from that cultural context, it makes less sense to apply the designation.

Our friends at the Pew Research Center have seen the same trend among Americans descended from folks who hailed from Hispanic countries: Almost all first-generation immigrants identify as Hispanic, but their children and grandchildren are less likely to do so.

Has overturning Roe v. Wade changed adoption patterns?

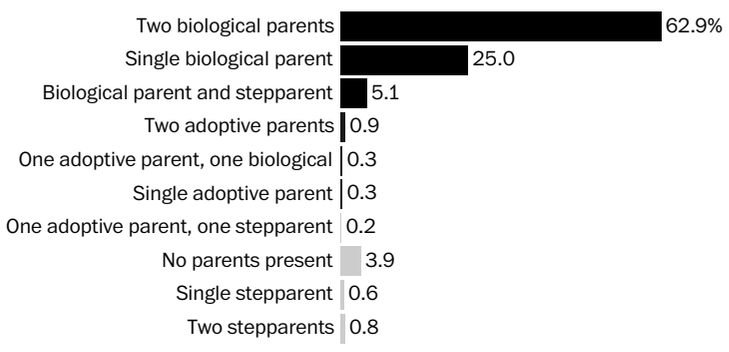
We don't have enough data quite yet. We do not see adoptions of younger children rising in the states with abortion bans based on the CPS, but a better picture will emerge as more detailed data is released and our friends in academia start cracking their knuckles, too.

The Department of Data craves questions. What are you curious about: What we now know about LGBTQ+ America? Whether Substack newsletter revenue is still growing? Who's most likely to move in with their in-laws after marriage? Just ask at *wapo.st/department-of-data*.

If your question inspires a column, we'll send you an official Department of Data button and ID card. We'll mail this week's envelopes to Hanlon, Foster, Herman and a ton of other readers, including Marvin J. Wolf in Asheville, N.C., who asked about Korean adoptees; Lesley Morgan of Carrollton, Tex., who asked about the effects of Roe being overturned; and David J. Smith of Rockville, Md., who asked about the geography of adoption, among other things.

The most common living situation remains two biological parents, with adoption being quite rare

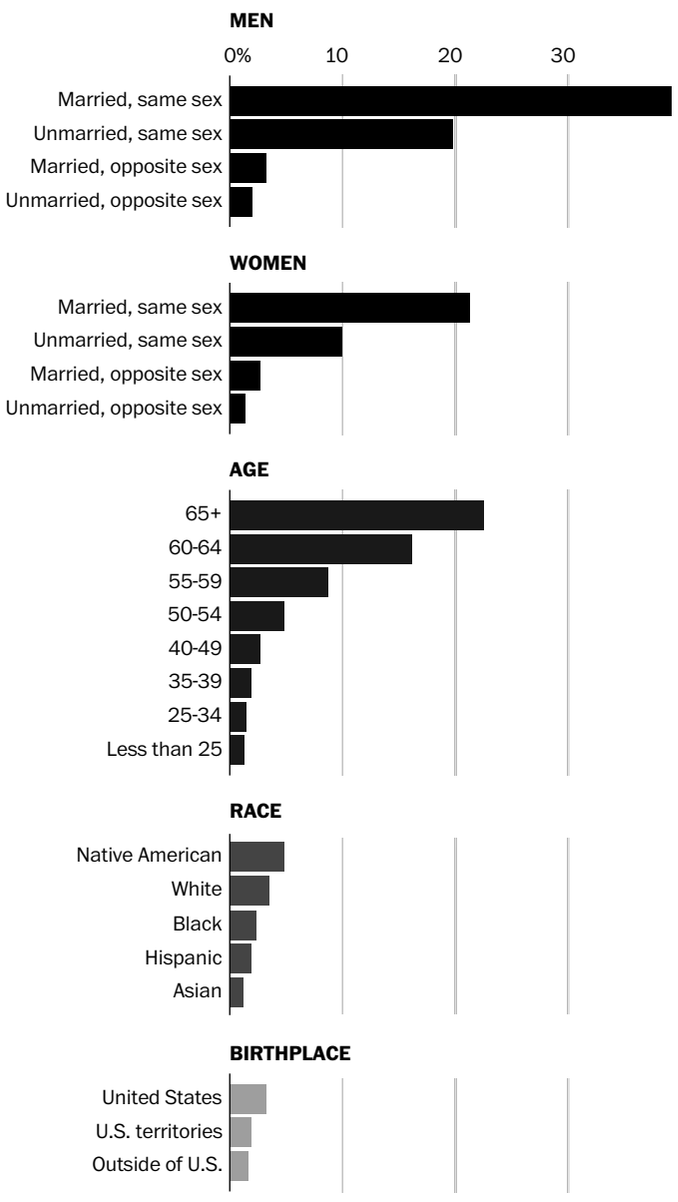
Present parents for U.S. children, by relationship



Source: Census Bureau's Current Population Survey via IPUMS

Same-sex couples are much more likely to adopt

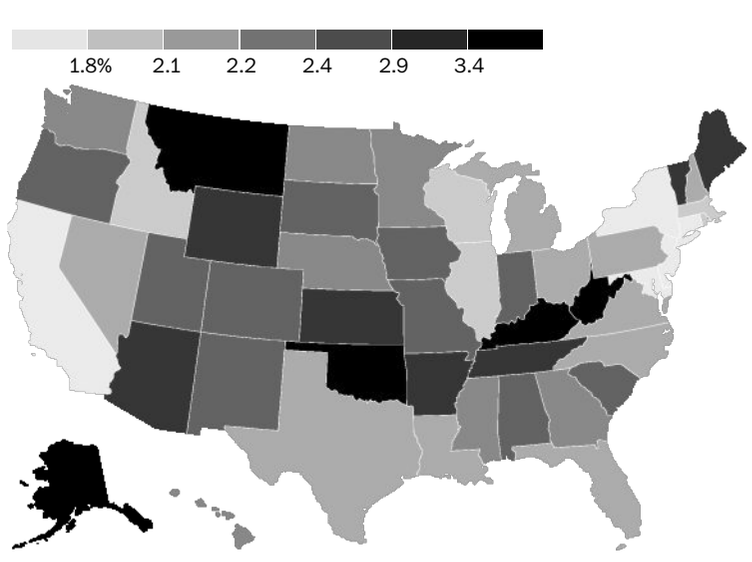
Of all households where householders have their own children present, this is the share in which they have at least one adopted child, broken out by the householder's demographics



Note: Native American includes American Indian and Alaska Native. Asian includes Pacific Islander.
Source: Census Bureau's American Community Survey

West Virginia is the adoption capital of the country

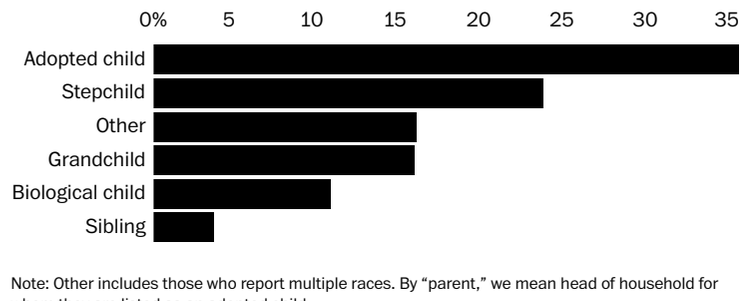
Of children who live with their parents, the share who are adopted, 2018-2022



Note: Adoption is based on their relationship with the head of household.
Source: Census Bureau's American Community Survey

More than a third of adopted children are transracial

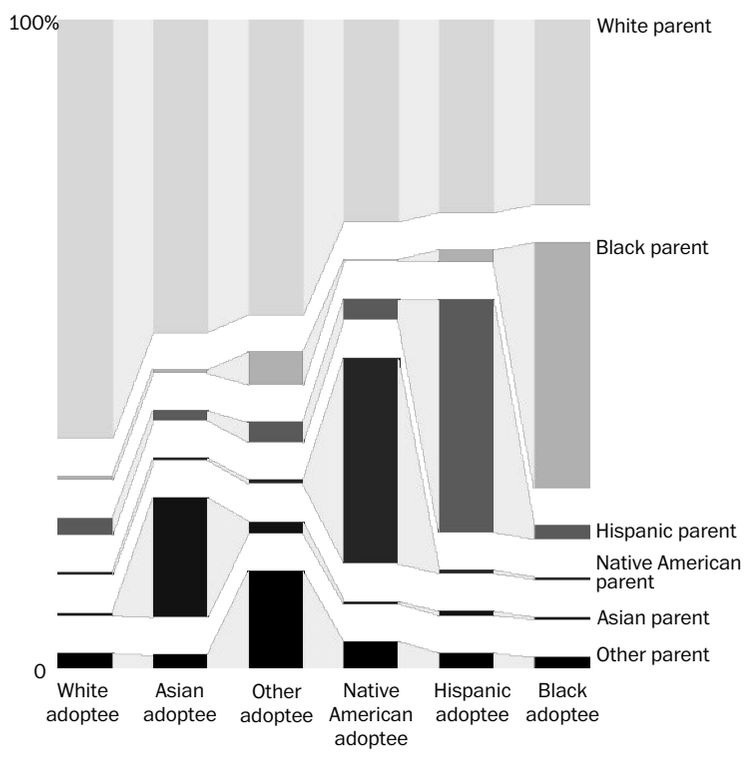
Share of children who don't share a race with their head of household, by relationship to head of household, 2020-2022



Note: Other includes those who report multiple races. By "parent," we mean head of household for whom they are listed as an adopted child.
Source: Census Bureau's American Community Survey

White kids are almost always adopted by White families

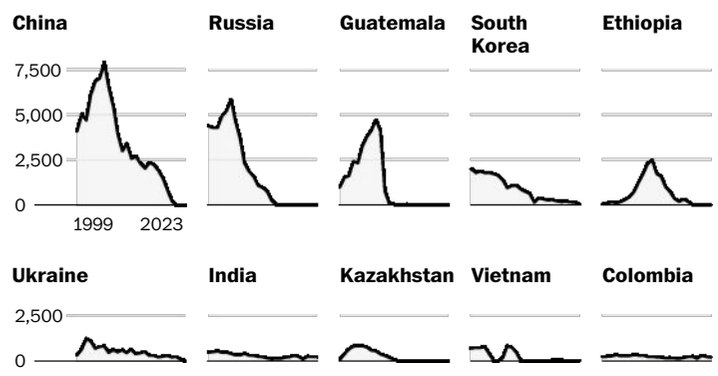
Transracial and intraracial adoption, 2020 to 2022



Note: Other includes those who report multiple races. Native American includes American Indian and Alaska Native. Asian includes Pacific Islander. By "parent," we mean head of household for whom they are listed as an adopted child.
Source: Census Bureau's American Community Survey

International adoptions have plunged across the board

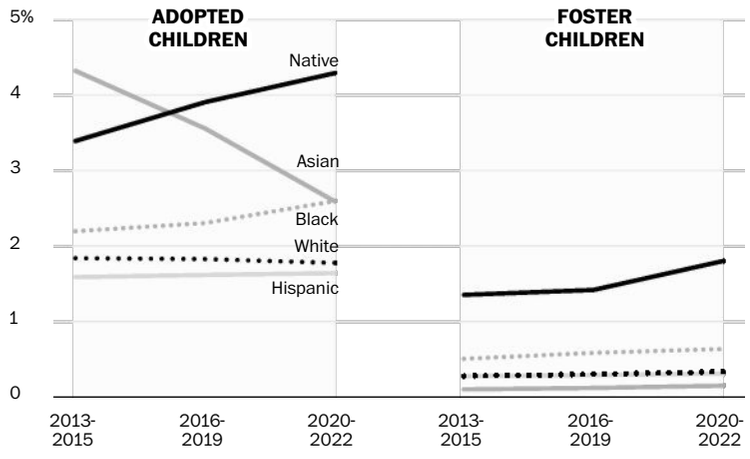
Children adopted from abroad by U.S. families, by country of origin



Note: For fiscal years ending in September
Source: State Department

Looking at the children, we see Native American kids are most likely to be adopted in foster care

U.S. children by race and relationship to the head of household



Note: Native American includes American Indian and Alaska Native. Asian includes Pacific Islander.
Source: Census Bureau's American Community Survey via IPUMS

DEPARTMENT OF DATA/THE WASHINGTON POST

A heated debate: When to report an office affair and when to keep it to yourself

Work Advice

KARLA L. MILLER

Readers have been divided over whether a recent advice seeker should tell the wife of a co-worker that her husband was cheating on her at work. Some readers strongly felt the letter writer should stay out of it. Others, many of whom had been in the wife's position, felt just as strongly that the letter writer should clue her in, even though they barely know each other.

But one phrase kept coming up in the discussion: "hostile work environment," which the reader worried about being accused of creating. On the other side, some commenters argued it was the reader who was being subjected to a "hostile work environment" after stumbling upon the affair partners in a supply closet.

According to employment law experts I consulted, however, "hostile work environment" has a specific legal meaning that doesn't seem to apply in either case. While the couple's behavior was inappropriate for the workplace, "there's a difference between unprofessional action … and unlawful action," said Amy Epstein Gluck, chair of the Employment, Labor and Benefits department at Pierson Ferdinand.

To qualify as a hostile work environment, the behavior has to be "severe or pervasive" enough to interfere with an affected employee's ability to perform their job — and it has to be both subjectively (in the witness's eyes) and objectively (to a reasonable person) hostile or offensive, Epstein Gluck explained.

Even though it might not meet the legal criteria for a hostile work environment, however, the sordid secrets of the supply closet may still be something the employer would want to know about, according to employment attorney Jack Tuckner of Tuckner, Sipser, Weinstock & Sipser.

"Presumably, the company wouldn't condone the closeted consorting in any event, as it could … lead to sexual harassment or retaliation claims should the canoodling couple's relationship go south, as these affairs often do," wrote Tuckner via LinkedIn.

So that leaves the reader in the same situation as before: bearing an unpleasant secret and torn about whether, how and to whom they should say something, with only their conscience as a guide.

To complicate things more: Even when a situation seems to meet the standards of a hostile work environment — severe or pervasive harassment — reporting it doesn't guarantee clarity, as another reader reported.

TONY STUDIO/GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCK

"I stuck my neck out for a young single woman who was being harassed by my co-worker, an older married man," said the reader, who asked to remain anonymous. "I regret it."

At the time, the reader, married and in her late 30s, shared a workspace at a large corporation with a female intern. An older, married male co-worker "was smarmy with the intern when no one else but me was around. Making personal comments, touching her shoulder or arm," the reader said in an email.

Although the intern didn't directly rebuff him, she was clearly uncomfortable. "The intern told me in confidence how she dreaded coming into the office. She would practically beg me not to leave her alone with him," the reader said. So the reader, also uncomfortable with what she was observing, offered to talk to management and human resources. The intern "seemed relieved that I was willing to intervene on her behalf," she said.

HR interviewed all three workers for several months, after which the senior employee took early retirement. The intern also left soon after. "She never met my eyes nor spoke with me again," said the reader, who found her work environment had changed for the worse because "word had gotten out."

She, too, ended up leaving the department and now wonders whether the situation "could have been handled more informally," she wrote. "Once management was involved, there was no going back." If the intern had directly told her male colleague his attentions were unwelcome, "I think he would have slunk off," the reader said.

The reader even questions her own motives: "I spoke up because of situations I've been in, in the past … and wishing I had done something different than just ignore it or laugh it off," she wrote. "I didn't consider the repercussions to others; to my working relationships, to the guy's wife, to the intern's ability to keep her summer job."

Reader, for what it's worth, I say you're being way too hard on yourself.

First, you don't know if the guy would have quietly slunk off if the intern had spoken up. He might have lashed out or sabotaged her in ways that would be hard to prove. That's why harassment victims find it hard to speak up in the first place, and why they often end up second-guessing themselves.

Second, you aren't to blame for the intern's regret or embarrassment, how HR handled it, or even the wife's feelings. Your former colleague is. He clearly knew his behavior was not okay, because he knew enough to hide it from almost everyone. Why were you the exception? Maybe he assumed you would lend propriety without intervening, a complicit chaperone in his game of gentleman caller and ingenue.

Third, your motives are fine. You put the intern's needs first by hearing her concerns and asking what she needed from you. But even if you hadn't, you still would have had the right to go to HR on your own behalf.

"It's not just direct targets who can experience a hostile work environment — witnesses to harassment or inappropriate behavior can be affected too," and they are legally protected from retaliation for reporting concerns in good faith, Tuckner confirmed.

I'm sorry the repercussions bounced back on you and the intern. I can't say whether what you did was the One Right Thing — but it was a good thing. And that's as close as most of us can hope to get.

karla.miller@washpost.com

New contract requirements could make buying a home even more confusing

CONTRACTS FROM **G1**

The Justice Department has apparently taken notice of the new contracts. Monestier said the DOJ in July responded to notes she sent about contracts issued by several state associations, including the one drafted by the California association. Moreover, the California Realtor Association's general counsel Brian Manson said in a June 21 article in the trade publication Inman that the association had received an inquiry from the department.

Lotus Lou, a spokeswoman for the association, confirmed Manson's comments. The Justice Department did not respond to requests for comment.

Monestier described a draft from the California Association of Realtors, for example, as "dense, complicated and all over the place" to the point of incomprehensibility. "I think that's by design," said Monestier, who evaluated the California template at the request of the Consumer Federation of America.

In its June statement, the association rejected Monestier's assessment, calling her critique of the forms "misguided," "absurd" and insufficiently familiar with California law. The organization has made several changes that address advocates' concerns, the group said.

Manson told The Washington Post that the group has spent months working on its draft contracts and has made several changes.

"The revised forms are greatly simplified, making them more transparent and easier for consumers to understand with the help" of their Realtors, Manson said in an emailed statement.

The Post reviewed template contracts and other industry guidance from Realtor groups in eight states. The Post sought feedback on the draft contracts from lawyers, real estate agents, consumer advocates and others with knowledge of the industry.

Some in the industry believe requiring buyer contracts will do little to change commissions, which are typically 6 percent of the sale price, with 3 percent going to the seller agent and 3 percent to the buyer Realtor. NAR and its affiliates said that commissions have always been negotiable, and many buyer agents already ask their clients to sign upfront agreements.

Edward Rogers, the head of a real estate brokerage firm in the Philadelphia area, said he expects that negotiations on the buyer side will be rare even after the new rules go into effect. "I do believe it will happen, but I don't think it will happen often," he said.

Having commissions paid entirely from the seller side helps new home buyers, Rogers said. "Our marketplace is a lot of first-time home buyers, a lot of middle-class working families trying to buy homes, and they truly can't afford, or they might not have the savings," to pay a commission.

The changes will ultimately benefit the industry and consumers by adding more transparency to the commission process, Rogers said. He advised home buyers to go over the new contracts with their agents and understand them fully before signing.

Southern California real estate agent Iain Phillips stressed the importance of easy-to-understand contracts. His brokerage has long used buyer-agent contracts but he said an initial draft of the California Association of Realtors' buyer agreement was a "nightmare" with its length and confusing language.

"Especially for someone who has never purchased a home before," he said, "they'll be looking at that with a lot of questions."

Consumer advocates say it's important that home buyers understand what they are agreeing to before signing with an agent. "Understandable agreements have the ability to empower buyers and transform their relationship to agents," said Stephen Brobeck, a senior fellow at the Consumer Federation of America, a consumer advocacy group.

The group is recommending that brokers and their clients have the right to terminate the contracts at any time, without penalty. The broker's fee should also be clearly stated as a dollar figure or hourly rate, the group says, while any additional fees should be subtracted from the commission paid in a sale.

Brobeck's organization also argues that seller concessions, which can include the seller paying the buyer agent's commission, should be approved by buyers themselves and not their brokers.

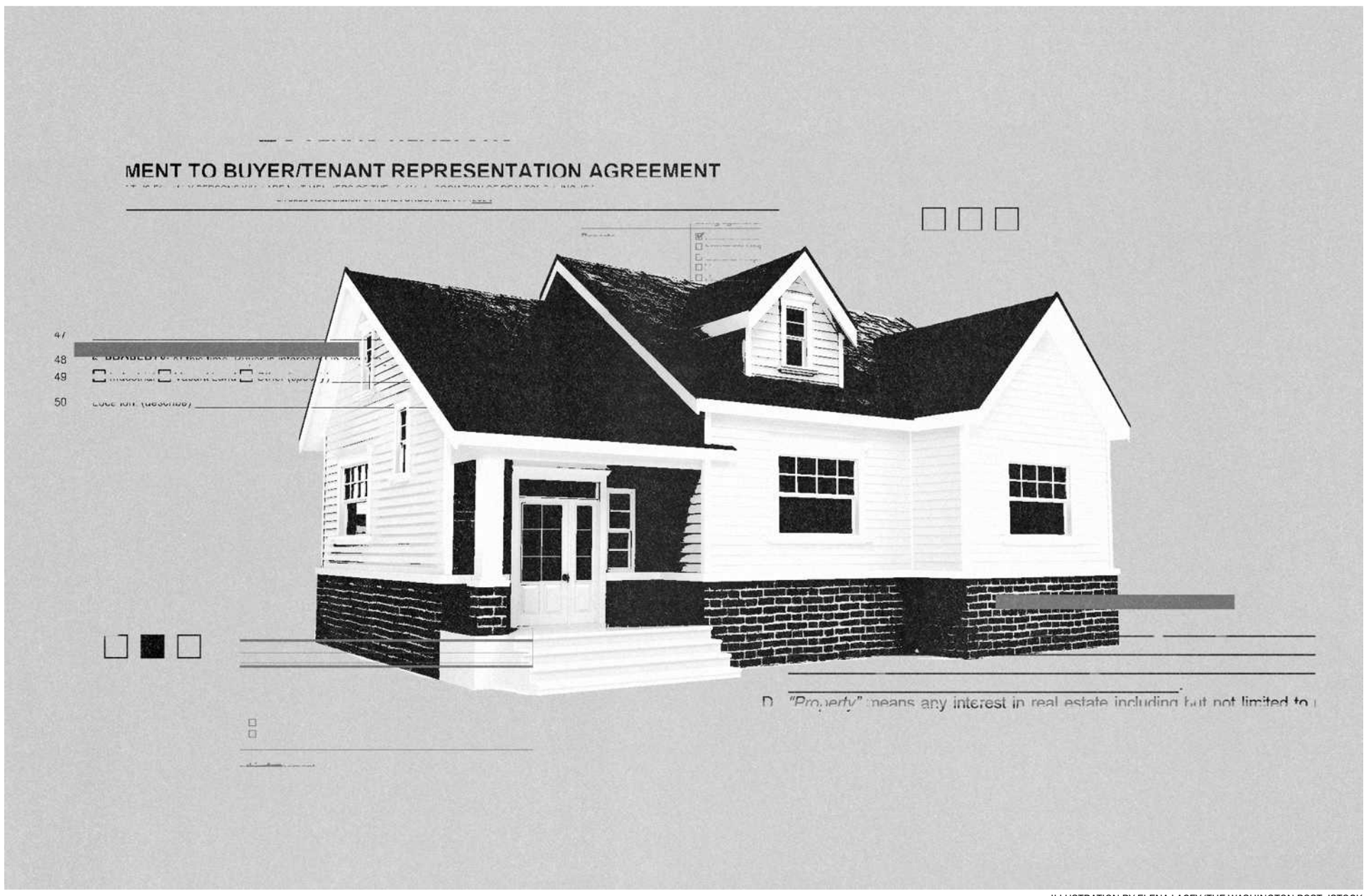


ILLUSTRATION BY ELENA LACEY/THE WASHINGTON POST; ISTOCK

Tanya Monestier, a law professor, described a draft from the California Association of Realtors as "dense, complicated and all over the place" to the point of incomprehensibility. "I think that's by design," she said.

The consumer federation also opposes mandatory mediation or arbitration clauses.

Some draft contracts, reviewed by The Post, contain heavy fees and other provisions that might worry home buyers.

A draft from Oregon suggests that a buyer who backs out after making a formal offer should be charged $2,500. A draft from Texas says a client would be liable for "the amount of compensation that Broker would have received under this agreement if Client was not in default" in certain situations where a deal falls through.

Monestier, the University of Buffalo law professor, said home buyers who back out of a deal through their own fault could owe tens of thousands of dollars beyond even their deposit. "No consumer would ever appreciate the consequences of this default provision. … It would come as a complete surprise to them," she said.

Lori Levy, general counsel for Texas Realtors, said "there may be limited circumstances where a buyer's actions would rise to the level of breach for which the broker should be able to be compensated under the agreement," adding that failing to purchase a home generally wouldn't constitute a breach of contract.

Others are concerned that the contracts will undercut a central part of the NAR agreement.

Under the current system, Realtors putting homes on the organization's multiple listing service (MLS) — a nationwide repository of properties for sale — frequently offer to split commissions with buyer agents. The lawsuit settlement will end the practice of including those compensation offers in the database listings.

Advocates have argued that if buyer agents no longer get the traditional commission split, they will be forced to negotiate rates with their own clients. While the new templates from state Realtor groups do have provisions about home buyers paying their own Realtors, the contracts also could allow buyer agents to be paid directly by sellers outside of the MLS.

"Nothing in the NAR settlement prohibits home sellers from compensating buyer brokers off the MLS," said Nick Gaglio, outside antitrust counsel for Florida Realtors. "Such offers are a pro-competitive way to increase buyers' interest in a house and thus improve returns for home sellers."

One draft contract from Texas simply replaces commissions with "bonuses" that the buyer agent can collect from the seller, Monestier said.

Levy, the Texas Realtors general counsel, said the language on bonuses puts buyers in control by providing transparency about compensation. The draft form notes that bonuses can only be provided if there is written permission from the client.

"The forms shine a light on what a buyer's broker will earn and give the client control to agree to a bonus or not," Levy said.

A template from Florida contains a line specifying that the broker can get "separate compensation" from the property owner. Gaglio said the provision for outside compensation has "nothing to do with the NAR settlement" and "merely reflects a common situation in which a broker provides separate services" to the buyer and seller.

One concern raised by consumer advocates is that the emerging templates contain workarounds allowing buyers to collude with sellers, effectively maintaining the current industry norm in which agents for each side get paid 3 percent of the home sale price.

A summer 2024 newsletter from the Georgia Association of Realtors says members could put their listing on a personal website and include a statement as to how buyer brokers will be compensated, for example, or use an MLS listing that promises a certain amount of money for "closing costs" without mentioning buyer broker compensation.

The language in the drafts aligns with some Realtor predictions that the industry could largely maintain the status quo. Though some rules might be different, "it's going to be business as usual," said Phillips, the California agent.

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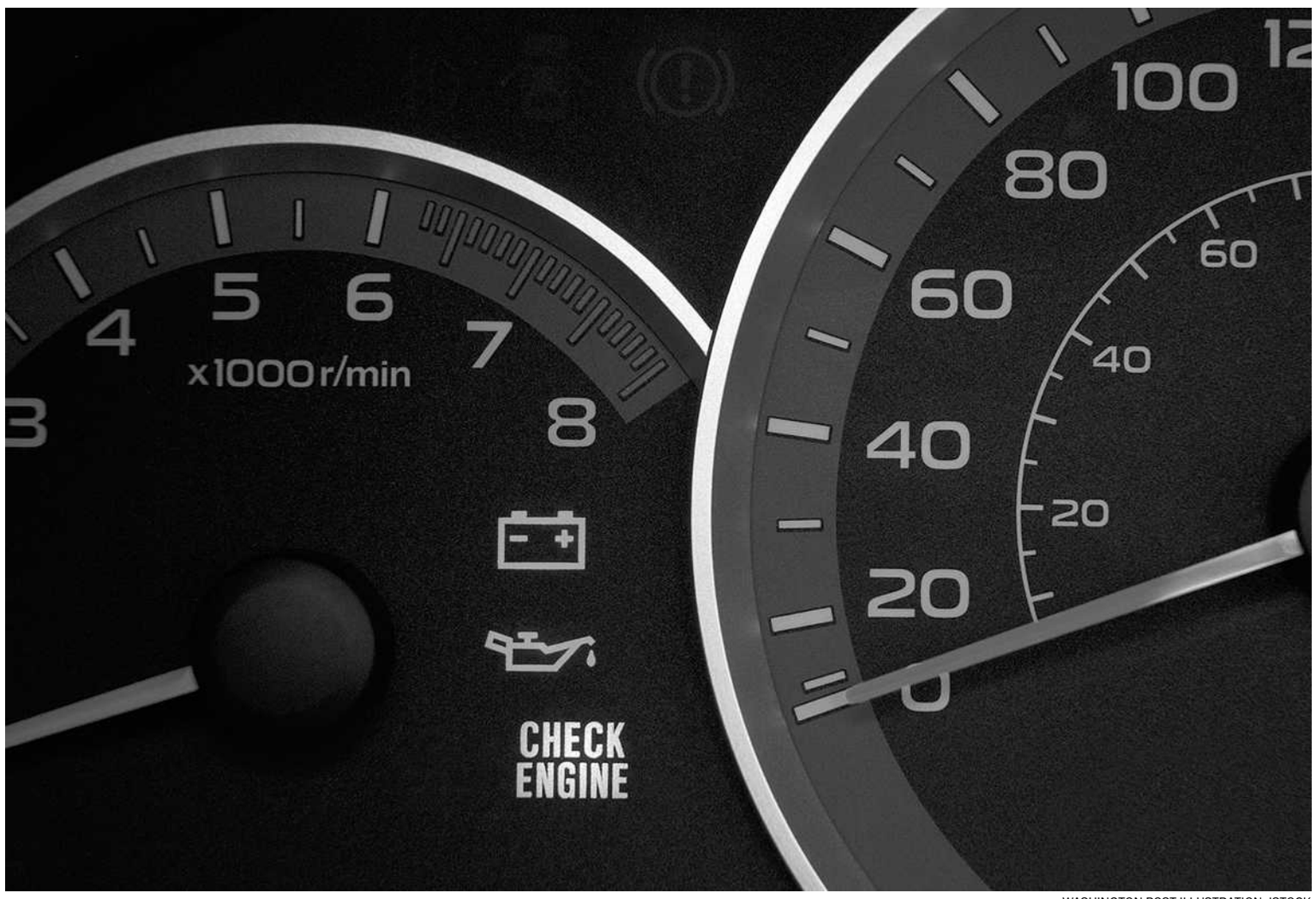
MICHELLE SINGLETARY

FTC settlement shows why you should think twice about a car-repair contract

SINGLETARY FROM G1



WASHINGTON POST ILLUSTRATION; ISTOCK

headache," Samuel Levine, director of the FTC's Bureau of Consumer Protection, said in a statement. "Worse still, CarShield used trusted personalities to deliver its empty promises."

The FTC said that Missouri-based NRRM LLC, which does business as CarShield, along with American Auto Shield LLC, the administrator of its vehicle service contracts, agreed to pay $10 million to settle charges of deceptive and misleading advertisements and telemarketing pitches.

CarShield advertises and sells service contracts ranging from about $80 to $120 a month, the agency said.

"While we disagree with many of the assertions from the FTC, we share their commitment to helping customers fully understand exactly what we provide and the value we offer," CarShield said in a statement.

If you're considering signing up for a vehicle service contract, I think it's helpful to walk though the FTC complaint against CarShield.

Celebrity endorsements

The regulator alleged that CarShield advertisements with celebrity endorsers, including sportscaster Chris Berman and actors Ice-T and Vivica A. Fox, were false or misleading.

Some celebrities were "nominally contract holders," but never actually used CarShield for vehicle repairs, the agency said.

When other celebrity endorsers use the CarShield plan, the FTC said, they were treated as "preferred customers" and far more likely to have their repair claims approved than a typical consumer.

"We are making very clear that all spokespeople in our ads are actual CarShield customers," the company said following the settlement.

Exclusion nightmares

The FTC said that only after purchasing a contract and "authorizing" CarShield to sign it on their behalf did consumers receive their contract, a "dense, 25- to 30-page document, filled with numerous exclusions, terms, and conditions that are not disclosed in CarShield's advertising or by its telemarketers."

Despite hundreds or thousands of dollars, consumers were often stuck having to pay for the very repairs they were assured would be covered, the FTC said in its complaint.

Although the agency documented a 2012 consent judgment and permanent injunction with the state of Missouri for misleading consumers, CarShield general counsel Michael E. Carter blamed the pandemic and supply-chain issues for problems with finding a mechanic to get their vehicles repaired.

"Though we welcomed the FTC's insights, it was unfortunate the FTC brought its gaze on our industry during the most tumultuous business climate in United States history," Carter said in an emailed statement.

The company said its marketing efforts will now include additional details about car repairs typically covered and direct potential customers to their website for information about the plans they offer.

"Companies may try to rush you through contracts, but it's always important to read them before agreeing," Levine said in an email. "Look for exclusions that deny coverage or restrict where you can get your car serviced."

Can't use auto shop of their choice

According to some consumers, their preferred mechanic or dealership was unwilling to take on their repair job because of prior bad experiences with CarShield.

"Everyone laughs when I ask if they accept CarShield as coverage," according to one customer cited in the FTC complaint.

Another said, "Out of the 10 repair facilities I called from CarShield's website, all said they did not accept CarShield."

To cover a claim, repair facilities had to "comply with burdensome claims requirements" that included submitting maintenance records, photographs and allowing third-party inspectors into their garages to check the consumer's vehicle.

Before paying for a vehicle service contract, call around yourself to local auto repair shops to find out their experience with handling claims from the company.

Don't let your fear of future repairs scare you into a policy that won't do you much good.

High out-of-pocket costs

Even for "approved" repairs, consumers found CarShield wouldn't completely cover labor costs. Facilities are reimbursed in an amount the company approves based on unspecified "nationally recognized labor guides," the FTC said.

"Consumers are financially responsible for the cost difference between this amount and what the repair facility charges," the agency said in an email. "Thus, consumers are often left with substantial out-of-pocket costs."

Poor car rental coverage

The FTC said rental car coverage was approved only after CarShield has authorized a repair claim, which often takes days or weeks after a claim is submitted.

"Consumers with denied claims receive no rental car, while many consumers with 'approved' claims must pay a portion of their rental car costs," according to the agency's complaint.

In response to the settlement, the company said it has expanded rental car coverage and provided ride-share benefits.

As for the settlement, consumers do not need to take any action at this time, the FTC said. A refund process will be announced in the coming months.

Looking at the complaint against CarShield, you might find that putting money aside in a dedicated saving account for auto repairs is a better financial move, Levine said.

I agree.

If you have a personal finance question for Michelle, please call 1-855-ASK-POST (1-855-275-7678). Her award-winning column The Color of Money is syndicated by The Washington Post News Service and Syndicate and carried in dozens of newspapers.

As temperatures increase, so do customers' calls for air-conditioning service

HVAC FROM G1

TOM WILLIAMS/CQ-ROLL CALL/GETTY IMAGES

Workers help a crane lift a cooling system on Feb. 17 in D.C. HVAC demand has been rising worldwide for years.

global stock of air conditioners in buildings would grow to 5.6 billion by 2050, up from 1.6 billion.

Although much of that demand will come from outside the United States, domestic demand for new and repaired units is far from peaking, Bedard said. Most new air-conditioning units last between 15 and 20 years, so those installed as the U.S. housing market rebounded from the Great Recession are starting to fail, he said.

Air-conditioning contractors prepare all year for hot weather, but it's hard to prepare for a season this warm, professionals said. Perry Hugee's D.C.-based HVAC business employs 37 full-time workers, but the company has struggled to keep up with demand for air-conditioning fixes this summer.

"It's at the point where I'm going out on the job myself," said Hugee, 70. "I'm retired from working in the field, but I've got to go put my tool belt back on because there's a need."

About 70 percent of his business's recent repair jobs have been emergencies, Hugee said, including fixes at local hospitals, churches and schools. Many of those units have been poorly maintained or are too old to withstand record-breaking temperatures, he said.

The same hot weather that has people calling for Hugee's services can also take a toll on his workers, lengthening the time spent on each job. Yet they have to take advantage of the increased demand, he said.

"I tell my guys: 'This is what we've been looking for. We have three months to bring in the harvest,'" Hugee said. "So we have to endure hardship, and the hardship is the heat."

High temperatures usually bring big business for Jay Krafft, who owns an Alexandria, Va.-based company that specializes in heating and air-conditioning systems. But the recent string of record-shattering heat waves has prompted more emergency repair calls and forced contractors to work longer days outside — often on rooftops, where heat indexes can be 20 degrees hotter than on the ground.

"You've heard that adage 'When life gives you lemons, you make lemonade?'" Krafft said. "Well, with this type of summer, we've got about 20 bushels of lemons, so we're making a lot of lemonade."

Ideally, HVAC demand would follow a "roller coaster" of temperatures, Krafft said.

But extended stretches of hot weather, when contractors don't get a break from responding to heat emergencies, keep them from fulfilling regular summer commitments to warranty customers and those who have contracts for regular tuneups, said Maurice Noori, who works at regional HVAC company Michael and Son.

"It's a lot of maneuvering chess pieces on a big, gigantic chessboard," Noori said.

One of Michael and Son's most recent chess moves involved a weeks-long repair at a townhouse in Bethesda, Md., where the company's contractors made several visits last month while its residents sheltered elsewhere temporarily. On a scorching day in mid-July, contractor Mohan Maharjan arrived to finish the job.

After nine summers with Michael and Son, Maharjan has plenty of strategies to beat the heat. He swears by his cooling vest, which absorbs and slowly releases water to envelop him in cold air. He also carries a magnetic umbrella that can stick to any outdoor fan he encounters.

On this particular day, as the area's feels-like temperatures approached 100 degrees, all Maharjan needed to stay cool was a sliver of shade on the home's rooftop porch while he fixed a broken piece in the central air unit, added coolant and checked its pressure. After four hours of work throughout the morning, he suddenly raced down four flights of stairs to see whether air was finally flowing in the basement.

As Maharjan stood in a dark hallway outside the utility closet, the air-conditioning unit's familiar hum rang through the house, signaling his work was done.

Most of Maharjan's repairs this summer have taken about an hour, but longer jobs like the one in Bethesda make it hard to meet the record demand — even as contractors clock 14-hour days. "We're getting really busy, and we try to fit in as much as we can," Maharjan said.

HVAC companies are also struggling with supply-chain issues that date back to the height of the pandemic. During heat waves, businesses don't have the luxury of waiting for parts that might take weeks to arrive, Krafft said, adding that contractors use a mix of methods to keep up with demand and make at least a dozen repair visits a day.

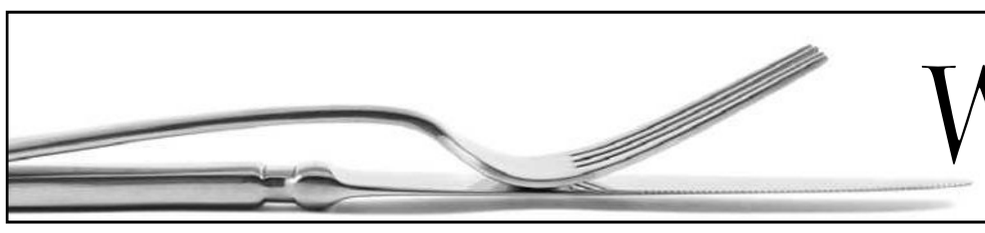
His company keeps a board for jobs that receive short-term replacements and need to be revisited when the heat breaks, Krafft said. If a contractor can't come up with a quick solution, they drop off a portable unit at the customer's home.

Hugee believes his industry will face an equipment shortage by mid-August, given that contractors are barely halfway through a summer that has already set records for high temperatures. "Even without the heat, we have enough problems trying to get the parts and the equipment," Hugee said.

Krafft's air-conditioning replacement business was already heating up before summer temperatures set in. His company recently found itself servicing more consumers interested in energy-efficient cooling options, such as heat pumps. That kept business busy during the typically slow spring season.

The industry is working overtime to meet demand fueled by high temperatures and consumers' desire for more energy efficiency, but new Environmental Protection Agency requirements for refrigerants — key chemicals used in HVAC systems — are set to throw another supply-related curveball to contractors later this year.

"Not only do we have the units working harder, and we have to prepare for that, but we also have what the industry throws at us," Krafft said. " … I don't know what's going to happen, but it's always changing, and that, in turn, keeps us busy, which is a good thing."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Create a workplace that celebrates well-being

By Bob Helbig

More employers are investing in employee well-being to promote employee engagement, retention and profitability. Considering the biggest investment employers have is in their people, this is a means to prevent burnout, sick days and absenteeism.

Well-being impacts employees' physical, mental and emotional health. Creating a comprehensive strategy involves planning, implementation and evaluation. While there are many health trends, research shows there are some proven, meaningful ways to effectively boost employee well-being for employees and organizations.

Creating a workplace health and well-being strategy is an ongoing process that requires commitment and continuous effort. Done right, it can create a positive work environment that benefits both workers and the organization. These six steps to do just that:

Consider business goals: All great well-being strategy plans start with goal alignment. Make sure your employee well-being goals support key business goals and vice versa. Suppose your organization is focused on improving performance. Leaders should use well-being tools like employee recognition to achieve that goal, while simultaneously boosting engagement and productivity.

Gather feedback from employees: Confidential surveys help employees feel comfortable providing honest feedback about their well-being. Plus, they allow employers to monitor long-term success, gather data and add action items. Health and well-being are personal topics, so it's essential to provide employees with confidential and supportive opportunities for feedback. The more you do with their feedback, the more employees engage with the process.

Evaluate your employee benefits package: Providing a comprehensive and competitive employee benefits package is another essential part of workplace well-being. Benefits such as Employee Assistance Programs (EAPs) help employees find valuable wellness information, resources and tools. Remember, it's essential to use feedback to ensure your benefits package satisfies employee wants and needs. Every group of employees is different. If you aren't asking how you can improve well-being for your unique workforce, you'll never know.

Consider your workplace culture: Culture is a foundational element that shapes the entire employee experience. Employees who feel healthy and happy achieve higher job satisfaction and a sense of belonging, boosting productivity and culture. Think about how your workplace culture could benefit from higher levels of employee well-being and how your leadership team can support the employee experience more consistently and sustainably. Small additions to a well-being plan, such as more workplace flexibility and opportunities for honest feedback, could make a difference.

Set and activate realistic goals: Once leaders know what their employees want and need, it's time to make a well-being strategy action plan with achievable goals. Not only do smart goals make it easier to celebrate success, they motivate employees by making health and wellness a priority.

Measure and review: Collect data and feedback often to see what's working and what could use more attention. Employees' well-being requests will change over time and after they receive helpful treatment and support. Checking in regularly ensures everyone's needs are met, helping teams pivot and stay healthy. Plus, that accountability from leadership creates employee loyalty and employer appreciation.

Bob Helbig is media partnerships director at Energage, an employee survey firm that is The Washington Post's survey partner for Top Workplaces. The production of this section did not involve the news or editorial staff of The Washington Post.

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Construction Project Manager

Apex Companies seeks Construction Project Manager in Rockville, MD to oversee construction activities to ensure compliance with the design documents. Position based at headquarters and may be assigned to unanticipated worksites throughout the U.S. as determined by management. Telecommuting permitted. Apply @ www.jobpostingtoday.com Ref# 67638

Kerry Inc. seeks Continuous Improvement Mgr (Harrisonburg, VA) to dev and implement an effective CI strategy that encompasses all site functions as Continuous Improvement Mgr. REQS: bach deg or forgn equiv in Engr, Bus. Mgmt or a rltd, plus 5y exp. in continuous improvement or Bus. Devel. Telecommuting permitted. Applicants who are interested in this position should apply via email to michelle.miller@kerry.com, use subject line [Continuous Improvement Manager / REQ 50219]. EOE.

Cook (Chinese Specialty) (Multiple Openings) – Prep/Cook a variety of dishes of Chinese specialty; 2 yr exp as a Cook (Chinese Specialty) or related occupation. Yong Wang, Inc. dba North China Cafe. Falls Church, VA. Apply at: L7039537538@163.com

Cook Helper (2 openings) – Brentwood, MD – F/T, No exp req'd. Call Mr. Choudhury @ 547 Corporation; 301-779-0838

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C JOBS

Jonas Collections and Recovery, Inc. has an opening for a Solution Consulting – Consultant II in Fairfax, VA. Duties include: Participate the creation of estimates. Resp. for installation and integration of sftwe prod. Participate in implementation. Assist in training and support. Participate in integration. Rec. improvements. Serve as tech. resource. Understand integration of platforms. Ensure technical integrity. Analyze reqs. and produce designs. Analyze new and existing architectures. Participate in teams that analyze designs and implement arch. Present technical data to nontechnical personnel and customers. Review effectiveness and suggest improvements. Collab. to 'productize' solutions. Drive improvements. Among other duties. *Remote working position/telecommuting benefits available from anywhere in the U.S.

Requires 3 yrs of exp. in job offered, or position as Implementation Specialist, Comp. Sys. Analyst, or related position in Comp. Sys/IT field. Must hold 2 yrs of on-the-job experience with: HTML; CSS; Microsoft Secret Server; JavaScript; jQuery; MySQL; and with Bootstrap. Apply at https://talentmanagementsolution.wd3.myworkdayjobs.com/JonasSoftwareUSA or https://www.crsoftware.com/company/careers/ or email resumes to HR at Isha.Mahajan@jonassoftware.com or mail to Attn. HR, Jonas Collections and Recovery, Inc., 4035 Ridge Top Road, Suite 600, Fairfax, VA 22030.

COOK, INDIAN SPECIALTY FOODS. Prep. a div. range of Indian dishes, appetizers, main courses, desserts & snacks. Select high quality ingredients, spices & produce to keep authenticity & freshness of Indian dishes. Demo. exp. in various Indian cooking techniques; tandoor, curry prep. spice blends, regional specialties. 2 yrs/exp. req'd incl. curry/dessert chef or rel. Knwld/exp. in prep. orders, in menu plan & dessert prep. & check inventory. Send resume to job site. Passage to India Rest, ATTN: SONALI S. 4931 Cordell Ave., Bethesda, MD 20814.

Cook (Multiple Openings) (Thai Signature Group LLC DBA Signature Thai) 40hrs/wk. Var OT. $41059.00/year. Prepare the Thai specialty dishes and other foods shown on the menu; Prepare meats, soups, sauces, vegetables, and other foods prior to cooking. Season and cook food according to prescribed method. Portions and garnishes food. 24 months of cook or cook helper exp. req'd. Submit resumes to: 722 King Street Alexandria VA 22314.

D JOBS

Integriant Ventures Insurance Services, Inc. (dba Mayberry Advisors Insurance Services) has multiple openings for Lead Data Scientist in McLean, VA. Wage Offer: $165,000/yr. Telecommuting w/in 30 miles of McLean, VA. To apply, upload resume and cover letter to https://bit.ly/45HJifq and reference job title. EOE . Principals only.

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D JOBS

Data Scientists/Data Analyst – Multiple Openings - Ashburn, VA

DPR Solutions Inc needs professionals:

Data Analysis, visualization & mgmt. using Tableau, Power BI, & work with Python, R & SQL

Req. - Bachelor's with 2yrs exp. Comp. salary, Relocate to unanticipated sites. No national/ international travel. Please mail resume to Ref: CEO, 20130 Lakeview Center Plaza, Ste 140, Ashburn, VA-20147.

[redacted]

Drivers -$65 per hour- Drive executives call 609-377-9959

Domestic

Nanny needed for Danielle Sauer (Alexandria, VA). Care for children in pvt. home. HS diploma or equiv. req. 24 mths exp. as nanny or childcare worker req. Email to: danisuelee@gmail.com

E JOBS

Century Stair Company LC seeks CAD Operator based in Haymarket, VA. AS degree in Civil Engineering required. 9am-5pm M-F. Job duties: evaluating processes, designs, and the value of engineering products, inspection of components, production/shipping schedules, price estimates/margins for project. Mail resumes to Attn: Jeffrey Douglas Held, CEO 15175 Washington St, Haymarket, VA 20169. EOE.

Bechtel Manufacturing & Technology Inc. has an opening in Reston, VA for Assistant Project Engineer I&C Design Manager: Interface with our Customer on detailed design development interface for LSS and telecom systems. Position requires a Bach degree or a foreign degree equiv in Instrumentation, Systems, or Elec Eng or a relatd field, and 15 yrs of work exp in any occupation in which the req'd exp was gained. Various unanticipated locations. Relocation possible. To apply, email resume to bechtelusjobs@bechtel.com & ref job #7429262.

ENGINEERING

Micron Technology, Inc. has an opening for **Operations Improvement Engineer** in Manassas, VA. Job duties include: Responsible for analyzing and optimizing the performance of the production operations. Responsible for facility optimization, improving overall manufacturing efficiency and ensuring high product quality.

Travel: 25%. Some travel may be required to work on projects at various, unanticipated sites throughout the United States and Internationally

To apply, visit Micron.com/Careers. Search by requisition no. JR57185.

D JOBS

DIRECTOR

Nardello & Co. LLC (Washington, DC) seeks Director to conduct in-depth investigations into individuals and companies in the US and Latin America for civil litigation support, white collar criminal defense, asset tracing, anti-corruption and fraud investigations, activist defense, political risk and strategic intelligence, due diligence and compliance investigations. Reqs BS (US or forgn equiv) in Int'l Affairs, PoliSci or a rltd field +2yrs of exp in pos offrd or as an Anlyst, Associate, Mngr, or in a rltd role. All of reqd exp must have incl'd exp wi/ intrpretng lrg amounts of data extractd from public records, human intellgnce & intrnt & media sources; presntng data in mult prdct formats, both intrnlly & to clnts in a cohrnt & concise way; findng creatve sol'ns to invstgatve mattrs rltng to litigatn, anti- corrptn & anti-fraud practces, enhncd due dilgnce & cmplnce, & pretrnsctn plannng; employng rigrous anlyicl methods, incl idntfyng pattrns or inconsistencies among diffrnt datasets & sources & intrprtng them to detrmine the reliablty & accrcy of the info idntfd; open source intellgnce, & publc rcrds rsrch & invstgatns & synthszng w/ human intellgnce findngs; usng rsrch databases & invstgatve anlys pltfrms; effctvly mngng & monitrng case resources agnst tight & overlappng deadlines; trainng anlysts in employng rsrch databases & invstgatve anlys pltfrms, while takng into accnt, & stayng up to date on, a constntly changng landscape of available info & ways of idntfyng, compilng & contxtualzng findngs; draftng writtn rprts varyng in length & cmplxty that thrghly, yet concsly, detail findngs while being apprprtly tailored to clnts' rsk profles & appetite; contxtlzng macro-level trends in politics, corrptn & econmcs across the Americas region to indvdl invstgatve prjcts & educatng teammates & clnts on the same; & mngng relatnshps w/ 3rd parties such as subcntrctrs & srvce provdrs, incl task briefng, coordnatn & billng duties, takng into accnt & adjstng for oftn diffcult or fluid on-the-ground realities & contxt. Role entails hybrid wrk, w/ time split btwn wrkng in our DC offce & flexblty to telecommute from anothr US locatn. Salary: $135,000-$140,000/yr. Email résumé info@nardelloandco.com.

E JOBS

ENGINEERING

DISYS seeks **Manufacturing Engineer, Assembly** in McLean, VA to plan, direct, & coord. mfg proc; dvlp, eval, & imp. mfg meth. w/ knwldg of prod. dsgn, matrls & parts, tooling & prdctn equip capabil, asmbly/fab meth, & QC stdrds. Reqs: min U.S. Bach deg in Mfg Eng, Ind Eng, or rel Eng fld, or frgn equiv; 2 yrs' exp in job or rel occ; exp w/ ERP/BPCS, Minitab, SharePoint, Adobe Professional, PTC Creo, AutoCAD, Windchill; strg undrstndng of Lean Mfg p'ples & Cont Imp p'ples; & comp knwldg of mtrl (prop, trtmnt, testing). Must be willing to work at var. work loc. throughout U.S. Apply online at https://dexian.com/jobs/ by srchng kywrds "Manufacturing Engineer, Assembly."

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Education

Head of Public Engagement

American Physical Society seeks Head of Public Engagement in College Park, MD to lead, supervise, and train scientists to deliver informal physics education activities for K-12 and adults; write grant proposals; conduct research and author publications on original physics educational material; and deliver physics lectures to the public. Req's Master's in Physics or related and 4 years' experience in the duties of the offered role. Telecommuting permitted. To apply, mail resume to Timera Pipkin, American Physical Society, ATTN: HPE, 1 Physics Ellipse, College Park, MD 20740.

Lecturer II. Teach interpretation, intra-lingual & American Sign Language (ASL)-English translation courses from introductory to advanced levels to graduate & undergraduate students. Provide ASL coaching with individualized, in-depth diagnostic feedback for interpretation students. Employer: Gallaudet University. Job in Washington, D.C. Requires Master's degree or Equivalent in Education, Deaf Education or related field, fluency in American Sign Language at time of job interview, 2 years of experience teaching American Sign Language (ASL)-English translation & interpretation & excellent references. Position for hire immediately. Mail resume & references to Gallaudet University, 800 Florida Avenue NE, College Hall, #106, Attn: Jennie Sivak, Job # P000570, Washington, D.C. 20002. EOE.

F JOBS

Finance: DSFederal Inc. (Rockville, MD). Financial Analyst: Conduct quantitative analyses of information involving investment programs or financial data of public or private institutions, including valuation of businesses. Requires Masters in Accounting, Economics, Bus Admin or related. 1 year experience in job offered or related occupations of Accounting Specialist, Accountant, Investment Analyst or related financial positions. Experience must include financial accounting, risk assessment, internal auditing, forecasting, monitoring/ reconciling accounts, preparing reports/ statements & invoicing. We offer competitive salaries & benefits. Travel may be required. Email CVs to jingjing.li@dsfederal.com.

Fin Eng: use advanced mathematical, analytic, computational & econ tools to create algorithms for analyt or prod develop't; dev models & algorithms support measuring servicer perform & level of credit risk; build quantitative analytic models & scalable software;provide analysis of new prods or asset classes; suggest fin prog modifications; propose new risk indicators for sr staff/manag't approval & implementation; dev stat tests & benchmark perf metrics for models. Min reqts: MS Finance, Quantitat Finance, Econ,Stats or rel field plus 1 yr rel exp. Exp Python & SQL req'd. Telecommuting Benefit: Nat'l Telecommuting — position allows employee to reside anywhere in U.S. & perform work exclusively from worker's home. Send res & cvr ltr: Attn: HR, Entagile, LLC, 4000 Legato Rd, Ste 1100, Fairfax, VA 22033.No emails or tel. calls.EOE.

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E JOBS

Environmental Engineer: Conduct engineering studies for water main & sewer line rehabilitation & replacement. Assist professional engineers in broader engineering activities. Provide advanced geographic info sys technical support to DC Water. Perform hydraulic & hydrological analyses. Identify environmental risks & dev risk mgmt strategies for civil engineering projects. Forecast water demand. Analyze maps, drawings, blueprints, aerial photography, or other topographical or geologic data. Est quantities & materials, equip, or labor costs. Perform field work to evaluate existing condition of water main & sewer line rehabilitation & replacement & prep condition assessment reports. Interface w/ other disciplines & participate in project meetings to execute projects in accordance w/ project work plan. **Min Rqmts:** Master's in Civil Engineering or Environmental Engineering or Structural Engineering or Construction Engineering or Architectural Engineering. EIT Cert req. Knwl of or exp. w/ metal speciation & toxicity, chemical composition & evolution of natural waters, hydrodynamic transport, practice of separations & conversions in water quality & residuals mgmt, coagulation, adsorption, ion exchange, oxidation, sedimentation, flocculation, filtration, pollution control & resource recovery. Verifiable ref. **Job Loc:** C. C. Johnson & Malhotra, P.C. (CCJM), 1025 Connecticut Ave., N.W., Ste. 1201, Washington, DC 20036. **Resumes to:** C. C. Johnson & Malhotra, P.C. (CCJM), 9210 Corporate Blvd, Ste. 370, Rockville, MD 20850. Attn: G. Joseph

Healthcare - General

Comtrix Solutions, Inc. is looking for Medical Technologists to work in the Aldie, VA area. Position requires:

•Bachelor's degree in medical technology, Life Science, or Medical Laboratory Science;
•ASCP Certification or AMT Certification; and
•5 years' of experience as a Medical Technologist.
•May be asked to provide services at unanticipated worksite locations.

Please send resumes and cover letter to ATTN: Lakshmi Narra 23099 Red Sunset Place, Aldie, VA 20105. Please refer to job code #CMT2A in your cover letter.

Dietitian: Sodexo, Inc.: Dietitian Nutritionist 2 – Healthcare (Multiple Positions) in Bethesda, MD and various unanticipated client locations throughout the US. Functions as a nutrition resource to assigned patient care areas, developing peers, and food-service staff to ensure the provision of safe, high-quality care. Req's Master's degree in Nutrition OR Bachelor's degree in Nutrition or a related field and 3 years of clinical nutrition work experience. Registered Dietitian Nutritionist (RD/RDN); Certification/licensure as required by state(s) of practice. TO APPLY: Please apply directly online at https://jobs.us.sodexo.com/ and reference (Job ID: 974324)

Personal Care Aide

Rockville, MD, must complete CNA training pgrm.,resumes to M. Yeager, gramriri@verizon.net.

I JOBS

INSURANCE

Busy State Farm office in NOVA looking for L&H & P&C licensed sales/service rep with experience. Excellent comp with starting base pay up to 70K plus commission, bonus & paid vacation. Call 703-987-8024 leave message.

Healthcare - General

Mental Health Counselor: Duties include practice of Applied Behavioral Analysis such as direct therapy, supervision of behavior analysts, functional Behavior Assessments, Behavioral Observations and Behavioral Evaluation. Plan and organize structured programs of therapy, work, study, recreation, or social activities for clients. Obtain client information through interviews, observation, or tests. Develop and implement treatment plans based on Clinical experience and professional knowledge. Act as a client advocate to coordinate required services or to resolve emergency problems in crises situation. Consult with family members and school personnel to assist them in understanding and dealing with patients. Refer patients, clients, or family members to community resources or to specialist as necessary. Gather information about community mental health needs or resources that could be used in conjunction with behavioral therapy. Assess patients for risk of suicidal attempts. Maintain confidentiality of records relating to clients' treatment. Maintain client diagnostic records including Federal and State mandated forms. Coordinate workshops & courses about behavioral health issues using technologies such as Test Interpretation Software, Client Information Data Base Systems, and Scheduling Software. Update knowledge by reading professional literature, attending professional seminars, and maintaining contact with other social services. Must be Licensed Behavior Analyst in State of Maryland by Board of Professional Counselors and Therapists. Must have Master's Degree in Special Education with major in Applied Behavior Analysis, or Psychology with major in Applied Behavior Analysis. Send Resume to Behavioral & Educational Solutions P.C., 1400 Spring St., Suite 101, Silver Spring, MD 20910.

J JOBS

ComputerPackages Inc
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Java Developer

Computer Packages Inc, a global company specializing in Intellectual Property software is seeking Java Developers with at least three years practical experience. You will be responsible for design, development and management of Java-based applications. Knowledge of Jasper, Spring-Boot and/or Angular a plus. Apart from experience with Java we're seeking someone with solid database structure knowledge and analytical skills. CPI does offer internal and external training. B.S. in Comp Sci or other technical major preferred. Recent or upcoming grads are encouraged to apply. Excellent benefits including tuition reimbursement, health & dental and opportunity for advancement. Please send resume to:
cpijobs@computerpackages.com.

JONIC CARING INC., A NON PROFIT ORGANIZATION IN WASHINGTON DC, HAS OPENINGS FOR HIGH SCHOOL GRADS FOR SUMMER EMPLOYMENT. CONTACT: 202 509 4383

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L JOBS

Mid-level Associate (Americas Trade) sought by White & Case LLP in Washington, D.C. to provide legal advice in international trade & customs investigations, focused on Asia-Pacific proceedings & regulatory requirements. Telecommuting may be permitted up to 2 days per week. When not telecommuting, must report to White & Case LLP at 701 Thirteenth Street NW, Washington, D.C. 20005. Salary: $225,000 - $235,000/year. Must be admitted to the District of Columbia Bar. Submit resume online at: https://www.whitecase.com or via email to:
lateralrecruiting@whitecase.com.
Must specify Ad Code CYEK.

Line Cook

Prep ingredients & sauces. Cook Thai dishes according to recipes. Clean food prep areas & utensils. Req. knowledge of Thai cuisine. To apply, email neisha8027@gmail.com. NEVA Group, Inc. dba/Neisha Thai Cuisine 8027 Leesburg Pike, Vienna, VA

M JOBS

Mechanical Control Systems Specialist - Trustees of Amherst College dba Folger Shakespeare Library has a position available in Washington, D.C. to oversee installation, operation, maintenance, and repair of heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) mechanical equipment and systems in all properties, including residential spaces, historic buildings, and office buildings. Maintain HVAC systems to meet strict temperature, humidity, and dew point levels requirements for a museum and rare materials library environment. Perform engineering duties in planning and designing mechanically functioning equipment and in investigating equipment failures or difficulties to diagnose faulty operation and recommend remedial actions. Apply: Kimberley Mauldin, Head of HR, Folger Shakespeare Library, 201 E Capitol St SE, Washington, DC 20003 USA. Reference job ID: KM-WH24

O JOBS

Office and Administrative Support Supervisor wanted for non-profit political organization (Bethesda, MD). Requires min. Bachelors in Business degree. Reply by resume only to Free Our Vote, Inc., 6900 Wisconsin Ave, #41024, Bethesda, MD 20824.

Office Helpers: assist to copy, sort, scan docs, organize files, stock office supplies + rel. duties. HS/GED or for. equiv. Send cl/res to Alianza Multiservice, LLC, Attn: Monica 18572 Office Park Drive, Montgomery Village, MD 20886

Oracle Application Consultants, Washington, DC: Assist software enggs w/ dvlpmt of Oracle EBS Financials & Supply Chain based tech solutions using pl/sql & java techs. Testing, documentation, configuration of custom software objects. Assist w/ managing Project Team, Schedule, Cost, Scope, & Deliverables as needed. Telecomm permitted. Send res to: Creoal Consulting LLC via email at resumes@creoal.com

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P JOBS

Production and Design Manager
Mya Saray LLC seeks a FT Production and Design Manager based in Sterling, VA.High school degree & 2 yrs experience in Production and Design Management required. No training provided. 9am-5pm M-F. Job duties include: developing and designing new products; directing manufacturing and operations; maintaining quality control. Mail resumes to Attn: Mahmoud Badawi, 43671 Trade Center Pl., Ste114, Sterling, VA 20166. EOE.

Project Manager for Atlantic Refinishing & Restoration, Inc in Beltsville, MD to plan, coordinate, budget, control, monitor & supervise construction projects from start to finish. Req. Bach. Deg. or foreign equiv. deg. in Construction, Civil Engr., or a related field. 36 mos. work exp. in the construction industry. Knowledge of construction assemblies, engr., project scheduling, cost mgmt., allocation of materials/equip. & work force resource, blueprint reading, construction methodology, structural knowledge, Procore, Bluebeam, & PlanGrid software. Salary: $105,269-$107,900/yr. Send Resume to HR@AtlanticRR.com

R JOBS

Research Associate
Widener-Burrows & Associates, Inc. DBA WBA Research located in Lanham, MD is seeking a Research Associate with a Bachelor's degree in Business, Marketing, Management or related fields and 12 months experience in this field.
Email resume to:
RHenley@WBAresearch.com

Research Asst, Washington, DC & DC metro area. Design & implement HDL coder MATLAB SIMULINK Module for an End-to-End Swarm Array Coherent Combining (SACC) communication system incl. channel impairments. Mail resume to A. Daniels, The Catholic University of America, 620 Michigan Ave. N.E., Przybyla 201, Washington, DC 20064.

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RPG Programmer/Analyst
Computer Packages Inc, an international business specializing in Intellectual Property management software and services, is seeking programmers with knowledge of RPG, D82. Experience with iSeries/AS400 application development preferred. Experience with Java, Access or COBOL a plus. Excellent salary and benefits including health insurance, tuition reimbursement and opportunity for growth.
Please send resume to:
cpijobs@computerpackages.com

S JOBS

ComputerPackages Inc
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Software Trainer
Computer Packages Inc, the leader in Intellectual Property software for 55 years, is seeking a Software Trainer to train clients on the use of our web-based applications. Our specialized IP management systems are developed in-house and used by organizations worldwide. Seeking a highly motivated individual with technical experience or education, and ability to do some travel. Excellent benefits including health & dental, tuition reimbursement, pension & opportunities for advancement.
Please send resumes to
cpijobs@computerpackages.com

Special Legal Consultants (f/t) needed by Law Offices of Paul Strauss and Associates, PC in Washington DC. No remote, freq. eve. & wknd work. Will provide legal advice to clients in the U.S. & Argentina on Argentine real estate & tax law as well as counsel Argentine entities investing in the U.S. on various legal topics incl, trade regulations, corporate structure, commercial real estate transactions, & securities under Argentine law. Must have at least a 1st prof'l deg. in law or a foreign deg. equiv; Special legal consultant licensed by D.C. Court of Appeals. Send resume to Paul Strauss at 1020 16th St., N.W., #500, Washington DC 20036.

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S JOBS

Sr. Product Manager - AI Financial Risk Solutions (Bach w/ 5 yrs exp; Major: Engg or equiv.) – Sterling, VA. Job entails working w/ & reqs exp incl: Dev & mgmt of enterprise products focused on AI for preventing financial crime; Creating & enhancing solutions for credit monitoring, anti-money laundering, financial crimes, & compliance portfolios; AWS cloud technology; integration of microservices for real-time API communications; Salesforce API, IBM Safer Payments, Oracle Siebel & Snowflake; Ensuring all products conform to industry standards & regulatory compliance w/ financial services & data security; & Lead the design & building of fraud solution architecture. Various worksites: relocation to project-based unanticipated worksites within USA possible. Send resumes to Varnar, Inc., Attn: HR, 46090 Lake Center Plaza ,#108, Sterling, VA 20165.

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IT Systems Administrator
Computer Packages Inc., a global software company, is seeking an IT Systems Administrator who will play a crucial role in ensuring the stability, security, and efficiency of our IT systems. You will work on a team to: manage and maintain our IT infrastructure; diagnose and resolve hardware, software, and network issues; install, configure, and maintain software applications, operating systems, and active Directory environments; monitor and manage user accounts, permissions, and access controls; work with our cybersecurity admin. to enforce security measures to protect against cyber threats and unauthorized access. Requirements: BS degree in computer science or other technical degree preferred. Experience with Office 365, Windows server environment and Active Directory services a plus. Solid understanding of networking protocols, configurations, and troubleshooting. Experience with virtualization technologies (VMware, Hyper-V, etc.) a plus. Excellent problem-solving skills and attention to detail. Strong communication and interpersonal abilities. We offer an excellent salary and benefits package along with relocation assistance, visa sponsorship, and opportunity for growth. Resumes only to
cpijobs@computerpackages.com

T JOBS

TAX
KPMG LLP seeks Senior Associate(s) in McLean, VA. Pos req bach deg in Finance or rel field + 2 yrs exp in offrd pos or rel occ. 2 yrs exp must incl Sales & exchange transactions under IRC 1001, 1222, 1223, & 453; Debt-financing considerations under IRC 108 & 1017; Deductibility analysis under IRC 163; Foreign reporting of Forms 5471, 8868, & 8858 pursuant to IRC 6038; Individual itemized deduction assessments, incl IRC 213, 164, 163, & 170; Individual self-employment tax assessments, incl IRC 1401 & 162; U.S. GAAP; & BNA Bloomberg. Interested? Apply online at https://www.kpmguscareers.com/ job-search & type requisition number 113188 in the keyword search box for Experienced Professionals. Should you have any difficulty in applying for this position through our website, please contact: us-hrscatsadmin@kpmg.com for assistance in the application process. If offered employment, must have legal right to work in the U.S. EOE. KPMG offers a comprehensive compensation & benefits package. No phone calls or agencies please. KPMG, an equal opportunity employer/disability/veteran. KPMG maintains a drug-free workplace.

Tech Jobs

Adaequare, Inc. (Chantilly, VA) has multiple openings for Software Engineers and Network Security Engineers (incl Sr. positions). All positions require ability to travel/relocate/telecommute to various unanticipated U.S. locations for short-/long-term assignments. Email resume to openjobs@adaequare.com & reference job title & code 202407.

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Tech Jobs

Advisor Software Engineer
CSC Covansys Corporation hiring for Advisor Software Engineer in Ashburn, VA (Ref. #7278364). Prfrm hghly cmplx systms anlys and dsgn; Cnfgrtn and cdng; Idntfng gps and wrkng wth the bsnss in dvlpng fnctnl spcs. Pstn rqrs a Mstr's dgr or a frgn eqvlnt in cmptr scnc, mngmnt infrmtn systms, or rltd fld, and 6 yrs of wrk exprnc in job offrd, as an Advsr Sftwr Engnr, or rltd occptn. In lieu of a Mstr's dgr or a frgn eqvlnt in cmptr scnc, mngmnt infrmtn systms, or rltd fld, and 6 yrs of wrk exprnc in job offrd, as an Advsr Sftwr Engnr, or rltd occptn, will accept a Bchlr's dgr or a frgn eqvlnt in cmptr scnc, mngmnt infrmtn systms, or rltd fld, and 9 yrs of wrk exprnc in job offrd, as an Advsr Sftwr Engnr, or rltd occptn. Will work at unanticipated client sites throughout the U.S. Telecommuting is permissible. Annual Salary range: $165,173 to $169,100. Full-time hires are eligible to participate in the DXC benefit program. DXC offers a comprehensive, flexible, and competitive benefits program which includes, but is not limited to, health, dental, and vision insurance coverage; employee wellness; life and disability insurance; a retirement savings plan, paid holidays, paid time off; and much more. To apply, email resume to globallmobility@dxc.com resume must include Ref. #7278364, full name, email, address & mailing address. No phone calls. Must be legally authorized to work in the U.S without sponsorship. EOE

Talteam Inc. (Herndon, VA) seeks Sr. BI Developer. Dvlp/utlze bus intel tools/web tech. Use stat prgrmg lang/data vslztn tools. Dvlp data mdls/data wrhsng/ETL prcs. $166,858/yr. REQ: BS in Comp Sci/rel/equiv + 4 yrs exp as bus intel Dvlpr/rel. Must have 4 yrs exp (sim/com w/ exp req abv) w/ Python, jQuery, JavaScript, HTML, SQL Server, Oracle, Microstrategy SDK, Tomcat, Tableau, Apache Web Server, IIS, Amazon Redshift, Snowflake, & Google Big Query.
Resumes to jonathan.miller@talteam.com. May be rlctd to unantcptd wrksts arnd US. May have opp to tlcmte frm any loc in US as prjcts allw.

Computer/IT: CGI Technologies & Solutions Inc. seeks Software Engineer in Fairfax, VA (& various unanticipated locations throughout US) to design, develop, document, test & debug applications software & systems that contain logical & mathematical solutions. Job req Bach deg in Comp Sci, Engg, IT, or a rel field & 5 yrs in any job involving experience with development of Hadoop & Hive queries. Must be willing to relocate to various unanticipated work locations throughout US. All offers of emp are contingent upon successful comp of a background check, which may incl drug screen depending on work assignment. Email resume to recruiting@cgifederal.com & ref job code 1351.

Computer/IT: CGI Technologies & Solutions Inc. seeks Software Engineer in Fairfax, VA (& various unanticipated locations throughout US) to design, develop, document, test & debug apps s/w & systs that contain logical & mathematical solutions. Job req Bach deg in Comp Sci, Engg, Info Systs, IT or rel f'ld & 5 yrs in any job title involving exp with installation, configuration, & mgmt of UNIX systs. Must be willing to relocate to various unanticipated work locations throughout US. All offers of emp are contingent upon successful comp of background check, which may incl drug screen depending on work assignment. Email resume to recruiting@cgifederal.com & ref job code 1548.

Computer/IT: CGI Technologies & Solutions Inc. seeks Software Developer in Fairfax, VA (& various unanticipated locations throughout US) to research, design, devel, &/or modify enterprise-wide systems &/or apps s/w. Job req Bach deg in Comp Sci, Engg, IT or rel field & 5 yrs in any job title involving exp in Oracle or similar relational databases (RDBMS). Up to 60% telework permitted. Must be willing to relocate to various unanticipated work locations throughout US. All offers of emp are contingent upon successful comp of a background check, which may also incl drug screen depending on work assignment. Email resume to recruiting@cgifederal.com & ref job code 1342.

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Tech Jobs

Computer/IT: CGI Technologies & Solutions Inc. seeks Software Developer in Fairfax, VA (& various unanticipated locations throughout US) to research, design, devel, &/or modify enterprise-wide systs &/or apps s/w. Job req Bach deg in Comp Sci, Eng'g, IT or a rel field & 5 yrs in any job title involving designing app based on identified architecture. Must be willing to relocate to various unanticipated work locations throughout US. All offers of emp are contingent upon successful comp of a background check, which may incl drug screen depending on work assignment. Email resume to recruiting@cgifederal.com & ref job code 1365.

Computer/IT: CGI Technologies & Solutions Inc. seeks Software Developer in Fairfax, VA to research, design, devel, &/or modify enterprise-wide systs &/or apps s/w. Job req Bach deg or equiv in Comp Sci, Comp Engg, Engg, IT, or a rel field & 6 yrs in any job title involving exp designing, coding, & debugging complex programming logic for existing or new apps. Full-time telework permitted. All offers of emp are contingent upon successful comp of a background check, which may also incl drug screen depending on work assignment. Email resume to recruiting@cgifederal.com & ref job code 1377.

Computer/IT: CGI Technologies & Solutions Inc. seeks Software Developer in Fairfax, VA (& various unanticipated locations throughout US) to research, design, devel, &/or modify enterprise-wide systems &/or apps s/w. Job req Bach deg in Comp Sci, Engg, Info Systems, IT or rel field & 5 yrs of exp as a S/W Developer, Tech Lead, S/W Engr, or similar position. Must be willing to relocate to various unanticipated work locations throughout US. All offers of emp are contingent upon successful comp of a background check, which may also incl drug screen depending on work assignment. Email resume to recruiting@cgifederal.com & ref job code 1336.

Computer/IT: CGI Technologies & Solutions Inc. seeks Software Developer in Fairfax, VA (& various unanticipated locations throughout US) to research, design, devel, &/or modify enterprise-wide systs &/or apps s/w. Job req Bach deg in Comp Sci, Comp Engg, Electronic Engg, IT, or a rel field & 5 yrs of exp in any job title involving implementing, maintaining & enhancing ETL solutions. Must be willing to relocate to various unanticipated work locations throughout US. All offers of emp are contingent upon successful comp of a background check, which may incl drug screen depending on work assignment. Email resume to recruiting@cgifederal.com & ref job code 1343.

Computer/IT: Senior Manager, Application Security - Bloomberg Industry Group, Inc. – Arlington, VA – Take a leadership role executing the application security program and initiatives. Reqs: must have Bach degree or frgn equiv in Computer Science, Information Security and Assurances, or a closely related field + 3 yrs exp in an information security occ. Part-time telecommuting is permitted. Send CV to resumes@bloomberg industry.com & ref: 20-009

Computer/IT: CGI Technologies & Solutions Inc. seeks Software Developer in Fairfax, VA (& various unanticipated locations throughout US) to research, design, devel, &/or modify enterprise-wide systems &/or apps s/w. Job req Bach deg in Comp Sci, Engg, Info Systems, or a rel field & 5 yrs in any job title involving exp providing apps production support. Must be willing to relocate to various unanticipated work locations throughout US. All offers of emp are contingent upon successful comp of a background check, which may also incl drug screen depending on work assignment.
Email resume to recruiting@cgifederal.com & ref job code 1364.

Computer/IT: University of Maryland, College Park: Research Analyst – College Park, MD : Support the data reporting needs of the Office of Enrollment Management (EM), including data related to Undergrad Admissions and Fin. Aid. Req's Bachelor's degree or foreign equiv. in Comp. Sci., Data Sci,, Info. Tech. or rltd fld and 2 yrs of experience with data analytics OR Master's degree or foreign equiv. in Comp. Sci., Data Sci., Info. Tech. or rltd fld. Hybrid; up to 1 day/wk remote. Please apply on-line at https://ejobs.umd.edu/postings/search and reference position number 102458.

Computer/IT: CGI Technologies & Solutions Inc. seeks Software Developer in Fairfax, VA (& various unanticipated locations throughout US) to research, design, devel, &/or modify enterprise-wide systs &/or apps s/w. Job req Bach deg in Comp Sci, Eng'g, IT or rel field & 5 yrs in any job title involving exp w/ devel, programming, & enhancement of apps. Full-time telework permitted. All offers of emp are contingent upon successful comp of a background check, which may incl drug screen depending on work assignment. Email resume to recruiting@cgifederal.com & ref job code 1338.

Computer/IT: CGI Technologies & Solutions Inc. seeks Business Systems Analyst in Fairfax, VA (& various unanticipated locations throughout US) to act as liaison between business function & info systems, providing tech/functional expertise in identifying, evaluating, & developing basic systs. Job req Bach deg in Comp Sci, Eng'g, Info Systs, Electrical Eng'g, IT or rel field & 5 yrs in any job title involving exp evaluating info from multiple sources in MS Access, SQL Developer, & Toad. Must be willing to relocate to various unanticipated work locations throughout US. All offers of emp are contingent upon successful comp of a background check, which may incl drug screen depending on work assignment. Email resume to recruiting@cgifederal.com & ref job code 1380.

Computer/IT: CGI Technologies & Solutions Inc. seeks Software Developer in Fairfax, VA (& various unanticipated locations throughout US) to research, design, devel, &/or modify enterprise-wide systs &/or apps s/w. Job req Bach deg in Comp Sci, Engg, IT or a rel field & 4 yrs in any job title involving exp working with MS Azure. Must be willing to relocate to various unanticipated work locations throughout US. All offers of emp are contingent upon successful comp of a background check, which may also incl drug screen depending on work assignment. Email resume to recruiting@cgifederal.com & ref job code 1361.

Computer/IT: CGI Technologies & Solutions Inc. seeks Software Developer in Fairfax, VA (& various unanticipated locations throughout US) to research, design, develop, &/or modify enterprise-wide systems &/or apps s/w. Job req Bach deg (3-yr foreign deg accepted) in Comp Apps, Comp Sci, Comp Engg, or Info Systems, IT or a rel field & 5 yrs of in any job title involving exp with Java 8. Must be willing to relocate to various unanticipated work locations throughout US. All offers of emp are contingent upon successful comp of a background check, which may also incl drug screen depending on work assignment.
Email resume to recruiting@cgifederal.com & ref job code 1324.

Computer/IT: CGI Technologies & Solutions Inc. seeks Software Developer in Fairfax, VA (& various unanticipated locations throughout US) to research, design, develop, &/or modify enterprise-wide systs &/or apps s/w. Job req Bach deg in Comp Sci, Engg, Info Systs, IT or rel f'ld & 5 yrs in any job title involving exp w/ micro-services using Spring Boot. Must be willing to relocate to various unanticipated work locations throughout US. All offers of emp are contingent upon successful comp of background check, which may incl drug screen depending on work assignment. Email resume to recruiting@cgifederal.com & ref job code 1371.

Computer/IT: CGI Technologies & Solutions Inc. seeks Software Engineer in Fairfax, VA (& various unanticipated locations throughout US) to design, develop, document, test & debug apps s/w & systs that contain logical & math solutions. Job req Bach deg in Comp Appls, Comp Sci, Engg, Info Systs, IT or rel f'ld & 5 yrs in any job title involving exp working w/ Oracle, SQL, PL/SQL, Teradata, Informatica, Data Warehouse, ETL, Tableau, & Unix. Must be willing to relocate to various unanticipated work locations throughout US. All offers of emp are contingent upon successful comp of background check, which may incl drug screen depending on work assignment. Email resume to recruiting@cgifederal.com & ref job code 1355.

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Computer/IT: CGI Technologies & Solutions Inc. seeks Software Developer in Fairfax, VA (& various unanticipated locations throughout US) to research, design, devel, &/or modify enterprise-wide systs &/or apps s/w. Job req Bach deg in Comp Sci, Eng'g, IT or rel field & 5 yrs in any job title involving exp w/ devel, programming, & enhancement of apps. Full-time telework permitted. All offers of emp are contingent upon successful comp of a background check, which may incl drug screen depending on work assignment. Email resume to recruiting@cgifederal.com & ref job code 1346.

Computer/IT: CGI Technologies & Solutions Inc. seeks Software Developer in Fairfax, VA to research, design, develop, &/or modify enterprise-wide systs &/or apps s/w. Job req Bach deg in Comp Sci, Engg, Info Systs, IT, or rel f'ld & 5 yrs in any job title involving experience with HTML5 & JavaScript. Full-time telework permitted. All offers of emp are contingent upon successful comp of background check, which may incl drug screen depending on work assignment.
Email resume to recruiting@cgifederal.com & ref job code 1340.

Computer Network Specialist
GL Intelligence, Inc is seeking a Computer Network Specialist to analyze network data, implement security, monitor performance, support routers/firewalls, troubleshoot for North American clients, train users, maintain equipment, and research industry trends etc. Position requires a bachelor's degree computer science or related, 1yr experience as computer network specialist or similar, experience with IT project management and etc., any interested applicants can mail their resume with code GL24 to: GL Intelligence, Inc., 10400 Eaton Place, Suite 215, Fairfax, VA 22030.

Engineer III-Data Networks
Hughes Network Systems LLC, Germantown, MD. Admin & manage large scale enterprise networks w/focus on data management ops, machine learning ops, Cloud & automation solutions. Req's: MSC in Comp Sci, Comp Eng, or Telecoms w/6 months exp or BSc with 5 years exp. To view & apply visit https://echostar.wd5.mywordayjobs.com/echostar enter job # R0004364 in the Search Field & follow instructions.

ENGINEERING
Applied Materials, Inc. in Manassas, VA seeks: Custmr Engrs (Req L6057): Prfrm strtp actvts thrgh Tier II w. ltd spprt, & cmplte qual. w. min asstnce, verify op'l quality of syst. eqpt. Trvl to vrius unantcptd dom/int'l client sites. Salary $82,618-$99,141/yr. Email resume to Applied Materials Inc. at: applied_resumes_Team@amat.com. Must include REQ# in Subject Line to be considered.

Navy Federal Credit Union has F/T permanent opening for **ETS Developer- IV – Cloud Development** pos. to develop web-based solutions & install programming languages. Reqs: Bach/equiv in CS/Comp Info Sys/Engg (any field)+ 5 yrs exp in applcn Dvlpmnt or in lieu Master's/equiv + 3 yrs exp. Job Loc'n: Vienna, VA. Part time telecommuting permitted. Mail Cvr Ltr & CV: Venkatesh Kawthale at 820 Follin Lane SE, Vienna, VA 22180 or email: openpositions@navyfederal.org. Must use Ref# 'ETS Dvlpr- IV – Cloud Dvlpmnt Ref#240024"

DataSync, Inc. has mult. F/T permanent positions for Data/Business/Mgt/Business Sys/Comp.Sys/Quality/Sys/ IT /Lead Analysts, DevOps Enggs., Database Administrators, QA Lead/ Mngrs & Project Mngrs. Job Loc'n: Sterling, VA and various unanticipated loc'ns in the US. Reloc'n poss. Mail Resumes to HR, DataSync Inc. 22636 Davis Dr. Ste-150 Sterling, VA 20164 or careers@datasyncinc.com

IT-AAA Virginia Consulting INC has Multiple Openings in Leesburg, VA.
Software Engineer ($139,589.00): Work, Involve, Ensure, Confirm, Review & assists in the development of verification.
Computer Programmer ($114,026.00): Write, Collab, Impl, Correct, Create & updt code libraries.
All positions req trvl/reloc to various unanticipated client locs thruout U.S w/expenses paid by emplyr. Mail res & position to Manager, AAA Virginia Consulting Inc, 26 Plaza St., NE, Ste. C, Leesburg, VA 20176 or email ID:
hr@aaavcinc.com

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Tech Jobs

IT Consultant (Manassas, VA)
Will work at unanticipated client locs throughout the US. Analyze, dsgn, dvlp, test, debug, create, implmt, modify, specialize, S/W app. Dvlp techn'l spec, Operational manual & NFR checklist. Ensure compliance w/ est. architecture, dsgn patterns, policies, dsgn solutions focusing on reuse & industry stds at prgm level. Work on fast train by-wkly sprints & Agile, EDD methodologies & loosely coupled & scalable architectures. Code reviews to enforce adherence to event-driven architecture principles & best practices. Tools & Tech: Java, Spring, Spring boot, Microservice, Kafka (EDD), Axon framework, Junit (TDD), Hibernate, JPA, PCF, AWS Cloud, Flyway migration, PLSQL, Oracle, Angular JS, Jenkins, Bitbucket, SQL, IntelliJ, Maven, Gradle, Splunk, Windows, Linux, Microservices. Reqmts: Master's deg (or equiv) in Comp Sci, Comp Info Sys, Engg, or a rltd fld & 1 yr of exp in comp S/W dvlpg &/or consulting. Will accept US equiv of the educ. Resp to Attn.: HR (Ref. GG1497B), Vaisnavi Group, LLC, 8809 Sudley Rd, Manassas, VA 20110.

IT Professionals:
Ent. Lvl to Sen. Lvl (multiple positions) Salesforce Dvlprs, Sftwr Dvprs, Bus. Intlgnce Anlysts, Data Engnrs, Sftr Engnrs, DBAs, .Net Dvlprs, Sr. Datastage Dvlprs, are needed for our Herndon, VA Office. Must be willing to travel to set up systems to various clients at unanticipated locs across the nation. Send resume, Cvr Ltr., & Sal. Req. to Accentuate IT Solutions LLC, 13800 Coppermine Rd, Ste 248, Herndon, VA 20171.

IT Professionals:
Ent. Lvl to Sen. Bus. QA Anlysts, SW Engnrs, & SW Devs. are needed for our Herndon, VA Office. May req. traveling. Pls send Resume, Cvr Ltr., & Sal. Req. to Largeton Inc at 13800 Coppermine Rd, Herndon, VA 20171.

IT Professionals:
Ent. Lvl to Sen. Lvl Sftwr Engnrs are needed for our Herndon, VA Office. May req. traveling. Pls send resume, Cvr Ltr., & Sal. Req. to TuniraSoft, LLC at 205 Van Buren St, Suite 120, Herndon, VA 20170.

IT Professionals:
Ent. Lvl to Sen. Lvl. .NET Dvlprs, Java Dvlprs, Oracle DBAs, Prgrm Anlysts, QA Anlysts, Sftwr Dvlprs, & Network Engnrs, are needed for our Herndon, VA office. Must be willing to travel to set up systems to various clients at unanticipated locs across the nation. Send resume, ref., & Sal. Req. to iSolve Technology Inc at 462 Herndon Parkway, Ste 205, Herndon, VA 20170.

Principal Solutions Architect
Bach. + 10 yrs. Use Enterprise Architecture, TOGAF, ARCHIMATE, Alfabet & project portfolio management skills to design & implement SAG technical solutions for clients. Software AG, LLC, Reston, VA; may telecommute w/in US. F/T. $178,672 - $223,759.40. Full benefits pckg.
CV to christina.berman@softwareag.com with req. #6427. No calls/agents; no visa sponsorship.

National Industries for the Blind opening for Programmer Analyst in Alexandria, VA. 37.5 hrs./wk. Duties include: Gather & document technical & functional specs & troubleshoot production issues. Research best technical solution to support most efficient business processes. Define EDI business req. & specs. Set-up, configure & maintain business partner integration with Oracle B2B & SOA suite. Monitor B2B, BPEL & XML Gateway daily processes for EDI transactions including 850,860,855,810,856 & 846. Troubleshoot tech. EDI issues. Develop procedures for monitoring EDI transactions. Recommend EDI process improvements. *Remote work/telecommuting benefits available. Can work from anywhere in U.S.* Req. Bachelor's, or foreign equiv., in Computer Science or related field plus 2 yrs. exp. in job offered. Req. 2 yrs. exp. with each: SOA tools Oracle 10/11g SOA suite, JDeveloper, Oracle BPM, B2B,BPEL, Web Services, Enterprise Svc Bus (ESB), IBM MQ & JMS tech.; Oracle SQL/PL; R12 tools (ADF, Java, BI, Forms, Reports, etc.); Strong SQL, Oracle RDBMS, Unix, Shell Scripting & PL/SQL skills. Annual Salary Range: $78,374-$106,000. Send resumes to: awalling@nib.org or National Industries for the Blind, Attn: Ann Walling, 3000 Potomac Ave., Alexandria, VA 22305.

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Tech Jobs

Programmer Analyst
Advanced Management Technology, Inc. (Arlington, VA)- Must have proof of legal authorization to work in U.S. Apply online at https://www.tetratech.com/ (under Posting # 16100001077). To view full information about the job opportunities including the full job description, related occupation, education and experience requirements please refer to the internet posting at https://www.tetratech.com/ under Posting # above.

Pure Integration, LLC seeks 3 Computer Systems Analysts to analyze engg & business problems to develop & implement IT solutions for complex applications, system admin. issues, & network concerns; perform systems mgmt. & integration functions; & troubleshoot program & system malfunctions. Position requires: a bachelor's in CompSci or related IT field, or foreign equiv, w/ 2 yrs. IT exp. as a Software Engineer or related position using AWS, Git, GitHub, HTML, JavaScript, & Restful. Annual Salary range of $78,374 to $110,000. Position in Reston, VA. May work from various unanticipated locations. May work remotely from anywhere in the US. Applicants should apply at HR@pureintegration.com.

SMTS-Hardware (Firmware Design). Hughes Network Systems LLC, Germantown, MD. Lead the design/implementation of embedded systems and firmware required for satellite broadband network components & system-on-chip architecture. Req's: MSc in Comp Sci, Comp Eng, Elec Eng w/3 yrs exp or BSc w/5 yrs exp. To view & apply visit https://echostar.wd5.myworkdayjobs.com/echostar enter job # R0004367 in the Search Field & follow instructions.

SMTS-Software
Hughes Network Systems LLC, Gaithersburg, MD. Plan & implement all phases of app dev for satellite network management systems solutions. Java, JavaScript, HTML, Spring, Hibernate, Oracle, PL/SQL. Req's: MSc in Comp Sci, S/W Eng, Comp Eng w/3 yrs exp or BSc w/5 yrs exp. To view & apply visit https://echostar.wd5.myworkdayjobs.com/echostar enter job # R0004366 in the Search Field & follow instructions.

SMTS-Software (Network Management System)
Hughes Network Systems LLC, Germantown, MD. Lead the design & implementation of app features, utilities and tools to be used in a next-gen satellite Network Management System, plan testing ops for APIs. Req's: MSC in Comp Sci, S/W Eng, Comp Eng w/3 yrs FTE exp or BSc with 5 yrs FTE exp. To view & apply visit https://echostar.wd5.myworkdayjobs.com/echostar enter job # R0004368 in the Search Field & follow instructions.

Pure Integration, LLC seeks 3 Software QA Analysts to develop & execute software tests to identify & address software issues; design comprehensive test plans, scenarios, scripts, or procedures; test system mods; & develop & maintain test docs. Position requires: a bachelor's in CompSci, MIS, or related IT field, or foreign equiv, w/ 2 yrs. IT exp. as a Developer or QA/Software Engineer or related position using XML and HTML, as well as 2 yrs. exp w/ (a) Python or React, & (b) JavaScript or Restful. Annual Salary range of $73,570 to $80,000. Position in Reston, VA. May work from various unanticipated locations. May work remotely from anywhere in the US. Applicants should apply at HR@pureintegration.com.

Software Engineer
The Washington Post has multiple openings for a Software Engineer in Washington, DC. Job duties include: Work across many backend services which power subscriber experiences onsite and in native mobile apps. Write high-quality code with best practices and design patterns in mind and engage in code review/quality assurance. The base pay range for this position in Washington, D.C. is USD $119,700.00 - $199,300.00. Pay is based on market location and may vary depending on job-related knowledge, skills, and experience. A sign-on payment and restricted stock units may be provided as part of the compensation package, in addition to a full range of medical, financial, or other benefits, dependent on the position offered. Applicants should apply via Washington Post's internal or external careers site.
Contact: Apply online at https://careers.washingtonpost.com/. Please refer to job requisition number-JR-90274825- 21829.7.1.

Tech Jobs

Software Developers and Management Analysts
Skysoft, Inc. of Falls Church, VA seeks qualified software developers and management analysts to work full time in McLean, VA. Email resumes to: tina@skysoftusa.net

Software Engineer 2
Asurion, LLC seeks a Software Engineer 2 in Sterling, VA to develop effective, maintainable code in a timely fashion. Telecommuting permitted. Applicants may apply at jobpostingtoday.com/ Ref # 86073.

Software Engineers (multiple positions): MS in Comp. Sc/Eng related with 1 yr exp. Expertise in Adv. Computer Arch, Internet & Network tech, Technical Writing abilities, Systems Design, Curam application dev. & AWS. Travel/Reloc. Resume to:, OOTB MINDS INC. 1426 21st NW, Unit # S-6, Washington, DC 20036. Email: yashwant@ootbminds.com

SOFTWARE ENGINEERS
Reston, VA & various unanticipated locations throughout the U.S. Invlv in SDLC includng rqurmnt anlys, dsgn spcficaton, codng, & tstng of apps. Dsgn, dvlp, tst, suprt, & maintn softwr apps & prgrms. Crt stord prcdurs, functns, & packgs for movng data frm stagng area to data mart. Prpar tst scripts & conduct systm & unit tstng. Prfrm trublshotng, idntfy bugs, & debugng. Skills Req'rd: ASP .NET, Angular, HTML, JavaScript, SQL, jQuery, Visual Studio, SVN, GIT & Postman. Bachelor's in Sci, Tech, or Engg (any) w/2 years of experience in the job offrd or rltd occuptn is req'd. Mail CV: HR, SMK Soft Inc., 12359 Sunrise Valley Dr, Ste. 170, Reston, VA 20191

Software Engineer - Sr. Consultant Level
CyberSource Corporation, a Visa Inc. company, currently has an opening for Software Engineer - Sr. Consultant Level (REF73148O) (multiple openings) in Ashburn, VA. Job duties include: Work with Solution or Enterprise Architecture to translate architecture into a delivered solution that realizes the vision and purpose. Provides the technical guidance the project needs to meet the wider goals of the org strategy. Position reports to the Ashburn, VA office and may allow for partial telecommuting. The estimated salary range for a new hire into this position is $137,134.00 USD to $212,700.00 USD per year, which may include potential sales incentive payments (if applicable). Salary may vary depending on job-related factors which may include knowledge, skills, experience, and location. In addition, this position may be eligible for bonus and equity. Visa has a comprehensive benefits package for which this position may be eligible that includes Medical, Dental, Vision, 401 (k), FSA/HSA, Life Insurance, Paid Time Off, and Wellness Program. Contact: Qualified applicants should apply online at https://usa.visa.com/careers.html by searching job #.

Software Engineer, F/T position avail w/ Technuf LLC in Rockville, MD. Job Duties include: software development, architecture, database design for custom applications; researching, designing, implementing and managing software programs; writing and implementing efficient code; integrate Ciscos Push-to-Talk audio and video capabilities with mobile based intelligent collaboration and dispatch system; conduct load test with Jmeter automation tool; writing script for load testing in Jmeter; build intuitive, WPF-based web interface to handle emergency command and control situations. Must have: Bachelor's degree in Computer Engineering, Computer Programing and Information System or related fields. Please send resume to Faisal Quader at 6290 Montrose Road, Rockville, MD 20852.

Technical Consultant
Daon seeks a Technical Consultant in Fairfax, VA to conduct solutions workshops with customers and partners.
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Tech Jobs

Sr. Data Scientist
Visa U.S.A. Inc., a Visa Inc. company, currently has an opening for Sr. Data Scientist (REF73252I) (multiple openings) in Ashburn, VA. Job duties include: Work within a team to generate business insights based on big data, identify actionable recommendations and communicate findings to clients. Brainstorm innovative ways to use our unique data to answer business problems. Communicate with clients to understand the challenges they face and convince them with data. Position reports to the Ashburn, VA office and may allow for partial telecommuting. The estimated salary range for a new hire into this position is $145,400.00 USD to $232,700.00 USD per year USD per year, which may include potential sales incentive payments (if applicable). Salary may vary depending on job-related factors which may include knowledge, skills, experience, and location. In addition, this position may be eligible for bonus and equity. Visa has a comprehensive benefits package for which this position may be eligible that includes Medical, Dental, Vision, 401 (k), FSA/HSA, Life Insurance, Paid Time Off, and Wellness Program. Contact: Qualified applicants should apply online at https://usa.visa.com/careers.html by searching job #.

TECHNOLOGY
Visa U.S.A. Inc., a Visa Inc. company, currently has an opening for **Sr. Manager (REF73167P) (multiple openings)** in Washington, DC. Job duties include: Manage existing fraud detection products and prevention solutions while developing enhancements to these products and delivering solutions focused on risk and authentication. Assess global market trends, evaluate potential product opportunities, and recommend market entry strategies. Up to 10% domestic travel is required. The estimated salary range for a new hire into this position is $132,900.00 USD to $212,700.00 USD per year; **Sr. Data Scientist (REF74174T) (multiple openings)** in Washington DC. Job duties include: Work within a team to generate business insights based on big data, identify actionable recommendations and communicate the findings to clients. Brainstorm innovative ways to use our unique data to answer business problems. The estimated salary range for a new hire into this position is $130,100.00 USD to $208,300.00 USD per year. Positions report to the Washington, DC office and may allow for partial telecommuting. Salary may vary depending on job-related factors which may include knowledge, skills, experience, and location. In addition, this position may be eligible for an annual bonus and equity. Visa has a comprehensive benefits package for which this position is eligible that includes Medical, Dental, Vision, 401(k), Employee Stock Purchase Program, FSA/HSA, Life Insurance, Paid Time off and Wellness Programs. Contact: Qualified applicants should apply online at https://usa.visa.com/careers.html by searching job #.

Tech Sys Spec.: Use knwldg of ISOs for manuf. & service-based industries, risk mgmt for general tech. systems & medical devices, MS Azure, audit principles to implement tech. portion of regulatory business projects. F/T. BSI Group America Inc., Herndon, VA. May WFH w/in US. SR: $94,700 - $100,050. Benefits: https://www.bsigroup.com/en-GB/about-bsi/careers/.w CV to nora.clinton@bsigroup.com & Ref# 6358. No calls/recruiters. No visa sponsorship.

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All advertisements for the sale or rental of dwelling units published in The Washington Post are subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act, which makes it illegal to advertise 'any preference, limitation, or discrimination because of race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status or national origin, or intention to make any such preference, limitation, or discrimination.' State law forbids discrimination based on factors in addition to those protected under federal law.

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The Washington Post Jobs

FEATURED EMPLOYERS SPOTLIGHT

JOBSEEKERS: Washington Post Featured Employers are D.C.'s largest and most prominent organizations. They include employers across a range of industries, like IT, accounting, healthcare, and government, and are hiring candidates today! This spotlight showcases a small sample of our Featured Employers, allowing you to learn about each company and some of the thousands of jobs they are currently hiring for. Check out the FE Spotlight each Sunday to discover new D.C. area companies.

HOW TO APPLY: To view a complete list of our Featured Employers' job listings, visit www.washingtonpost.com/jobs. To register online, create a job seeker profile and upload your resume visit washingtonpost.com/resume.

EMPLOYERS: Searching for talent? Join some of D.C.'s top companies on the area's #1 job board. Washington Post Jobs has over 1.5 million registered online jobseekers across a variety of industries, occupations and career levels. Washington Post Jobs' Featured Employer packages offer a valuable and unique way to source qualified candidates. Become an FE today and leverage the power of Washington Post media. Contact your Jobs account rep and call 202-334-4101.

Featured Employers of The Week

Adventist HealthCare

Healthcare–*We are a faith-based healthcare organization, based in Montgomery County, Maryland. We are the largest employer in Montgomery County with over 6,000 employees! Our comprehensive approach to caring for our community includes three acute-care hospitals – Shady Grove Medical Center, White Oak Medical Center and Fort Washington Medical Center – as well as two Physical Rehabilitation hospitals, Outpatient centers, Imaging Centers, Urgent Cares, Home Care Services, Employer Health Programs and Physician…*

Unit Support Coordinator (USC), Day Shift, Emergency Department–*Fort Washington*
Fort Washington Medical Center seeks to hire an experienced Unit Support Coordinator for our Emergency Department who will embrace our mission to extend God's care through the ministry of physical, mental and spiritual healing. As a Unit…

Registered Nurse (RN), Day Shift, Heart and Vascular Unit–*Silver Spring*
Adventist HealthCare is hiring a Full time, Registered Nurse for the Heart and Vascular Unit in Silver Spring, Maryland. We are offering Sign-On Bonuses up to $15,000. White Oak Medical Center seeks to hire an experienced Registered Nurse…

George Mason University

Education–*George Mason University is a university with three campuses, each with a distinctive academic focus that plays a critical role in the economy of its region. At each campus, students, faculty, and staff have full access to all the university's resources, while duplication of programs and support services is minimized through the use of technology. In addition to the main campus in Fairfax, the university has campuses in Arlington and Prince William Counties.*

Application Analyst–*Fairfax*
Department: Auxiliary Services and Operations. Classification: Info Technology Spec 2. Job Category: Classified Staff. Job Type: Full-Time. Work Schedule: Full-time (1.0 FTE, 40 hrs/wk). Location: Fairfax, VA. Workplace Type: On Site Required. Pay Band: 05. Salary: Salary commensurate with education…

Applications Analyst–*Fairfax*
Department: University Life. Classification: Info Technology Spec 2. Job Category: Classified Staff. Job Type: Full-Time. Work Schedule: Full-time (1.0 FTE, 40 hrs/wk). Location: Fairfax, VA. Workplace Type: Hybrid Eligible. Pay Band: 05. Salary: Starting from low $70ks…

Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority

Delivery and Transportation–*The Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority operates the second largest rail transit system and the fifth largest bus network in the United States. Safe, clean and reliable, "America's Transit System" transports more than a third of the federal government to work and millions of tourists to the landmarks in the Nation's Capital. Metro has earned a worldwide reputation for security and architectural beauty. WMATA is clearly the employer of choice for over 10,000 area residents. The Authority was created in 1967 by…*

Category Manager–*Washington D.C.*
The Category Manager is primarily responsible for all aspects of the assigned category. This includes being responsible for mastering knowledge areas such as the category supply market, the key vendors in the market, and trends in the market that affect the Authority's cost…

Paralegal III–
The Paralegal III is assigned as a Team Leader and provides direction to the junior paralegals. The incumbent often works on all phases of a matter, such as on a trial from beginning to end. For litigation matters, the incumbent supports attorneys in courtroom or may be required to attend trials acting as an assistant…

Dewberry

Engineering–*Dewberry is a leading, market-facing professional services firm with more than 50 locations and 2,000 professionals nationwide. What sets us apart from our competitors are our people. At Dewberry, we seek out exceptional talent and strive to deliver the highest quality of services to our clients. Whether you're an experienced professional or a new graduate, you'll have the chance to collaborate with the best and brightest and work on innovative and complex projects at the forefront of the industry. Our commitment to excellence…*

Traffic Engineering Intern–*Fairfax*
Dewberry is currently seeking a Traffic Engineering Intern for Summer 2025 to join our Transportation Group in our Fairfax, VA office. This is an excellent career opportunity for an enthusiastic and talented individual to join a team of outstanding professionals. This position offers…

Site/Civil Engineering Intern–*Fairfax*
Dewberry is currently seeking a Site/Civil Engineering Intern for Summer 2025 to join our Site/Civil department in our Fairfax, VA office to work on a variety of projects for clients within the commercial and government sector. This is an excellent career opportunity for…

Westat

Research–*Westat, headquartered in Rockville, Maryland, near Washington, D.C., is an employee-owned research corporation serving agencies of the U.S. Government, state and local governments, businesses, and foundations. We conduct surveys and program evaluations, provide statistical research, and offer related services. Our multiproject environment provides career opportunities in health, energy, education, transportation, the environment, human services, and the workforce. We combine the relevant research area expertise…*

Deltek Costpoint IT Leader - (Remote-ET/CT Time Zone)–*Rockville*
Westat is an employee-owned corporation providing research services to agencies of the U.S. Government, as well as businesses, foundations, and state and local governments. Westat's research, technical, and administrative staff of more…

Deltek Costpoint IT Leader - (Remote-ET/CT Time Zone)–*Rockville*
Westat is an employee-owned corporation providing research services to agencies of the U.S. Government, as well as businesses, foundations, and state and local governments. Westat's research, technical, and administrative staff of more…

Sheehy Auto Stores

Automotive–*In 1966, Sheehy Ford began as a small, suburban, family-owned car dealership just off the Washington, D.C. Beltway. Today, Sheehy Auto Stores is one of the Top 30 Dealer groups in the country. The company has grown to more than $2 billion in sales and has expanded to include import and domestic franchises with 27 dealerships throughout the Washington, DC, Richmond, Virginia, Baltimore, Annapolis, and Hagerstown, Maryland areas. We are proud to represent these brands: Ford, GMC, Honda, Hyundai, Infiniti, Lexus, Lincoln…*

Automotive BDC Associate–*Annapolis*
As a BDC Sales Associate, you will be directly responsible for monitoring and following up with customer leads received via the Internet, phone, and visits to the dealership. Outstanding customer service, organization, and follow-through are required. We are looking for candidates with…

Automotive Service Advisor–*Laurel*
Sheehy Auto Stores is seeking Service Advisors to join our team. Put your natural knack for pleasing people to work! If you can make customers feel welcome and confident that their needs are met, our dealership may be your next career home. We need more than a Service Advisor; we…

Fairfax County Government

Government and Public Services–*Fairfax County, Virginia is a diverse and thriving urban county. As the most populous jurisdiction in both Virginia and the Washington metropolitan area, the County's population exceeds that of seven states. The median household income of Fairfax County is one of the highest in the nation and over half of its adult residents have four-year college degrees or more educational attainment. Fairfax County also is home to an extensive commercial office market and is a major employment center. Fairfax County Government is a…*

Assistant County Attorney V–*Fairfax*
The County Attorney's Office is seeking an attorney with high-quality legal knowledge and skills in the areas of collective bargaining and employment law, including considerable experience in drafting, negotiating, and implementing labor relations contracts established as…

Administrative Assistant IV–*Fairfax*
Provides exceptional customer service to residents and businesses at the department's full-service counter. Applies comprehensive knowledge of the statutory requirements and established policies and procedures for all tax types to explain tax liabilities and…

Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority

Airport Operations/Management–*The Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority operates a two-airport system that provides domestic and international air service for the mid-Atlantic region. The organization consists of approximately 1,700 employees in a structure that includes central administration, airports management, and police and fire departments. In addition to operating Ronald Reagan Washington National and Washington Dulles International Airports, the Airports Authority is responsible for capital improvements at both airports and management of the Dulles Toll Road.*

Industrial Control Technician II ($7,500 Sign-on-Bonus)–*Washington D.C.*
Compensation Grade: T21. Salary Range: $37.96-$49.35. Opening Date: July 29, 2024. As an Industrial Controls Technician II, you will perform full journey level work in maintaining and troubleshooting all airport…

Technology & Compliance Integration Program Manager–*Washington D.C.*
Compensation Grade: S22. Salary Range: $112,986.00-$163,829.00. Opening Date: July 29, 2024. As the Technology and Compliance Integrations Program Manager, you will manage the integration of technology…

Fairfax Water

Science–*Fairfax County Water Authority (Fairfax Water) is Virginia's largest water utility, serving one out of every five Virginians who obtain their water from public utilities. Nearly 1.5 million people in the Northern Virginia communities of Fairfax, Loudoun, Prince William and Alexandria depend on Fairfax Water for superior drinking water. That's 1.5 million friends, neighbors and family members. We don't need any other reason to demand the highest in water quality standards! Chartered in 1957 by the Virginia State Corporation Commission as a…*

Meter Technician II–*Fairfax*
Under the supervision of the Supervisor, Meter Services, installs, repairs, and maintains 5/8" through 6" water meters and provides assistance for working on larger sized meters. Examples of Duties: Installs, repairs, and maintains 5/8" through 2" water meters and provides assistance for working…

Laboratory Field Technician I - Temporary–*Herndon*
Under close supervision of the Laboratory Supervisor(s), performs routine field sampling and analysis of water from various sources to assure that drinking water meets regulatory requirements. Performs general laboratory maintenance…

Alexandria City Public Schools

Education–*Alexandria City Public Schools is one of the most diverse school systems in the country and we celebrate that diversity. Our students come from more than 80 different countries, speak more than 60 languages, and represent a rainbow of ethnic and cultural groups. They are economically diverse, but all are rich in that the residents of Alexandria are dedicated to ensuring that each and every one of them achieves success. The children of Alexandria have benefited significantly from the strong support of City Council and the Alexandria…*

Security Specialist (Part-Time)–*Alexandria*
The Security Specialist provides for the safety and welfare of facilities and occupants during non-classroom activities; minimizes the frequency and/or severity of harmful incidents; and communicates observations and/or incidents that have a potential impact on the general…

Casual: Intersession–*Alexandria*
The Intersession Teacher enables all students to pursue their education in the context of remediation and extension classes offered during Tucker's two-week Intersession program. Qualifications: Evidence of a negative tuberculin test (or chest x-ray) Criminal background…

The MIL Corporation (MIL)

Government Contractor–*Established in 1980, MIL provides innovative cyber, engineering, financial, and information technology services to the federal government. Our subject matter experts help advance customer operations through proven tools and methodologies. Dedicated to excellence, service, and support, MIL recognizes that sustained high-quality service delivery is a critical contributor to our success. We are recognized by our clients and industry professionals alike for our integrity, diligence, and expertise across our core service areas: Cyber…*

Mid-Senior Level Systems Engineer (Security Engineering, Associate)–*Lexington Park*
The MIL Corporation seeks a Mid-Senior Level Systems Engineer (Security Engineering, Associate) that will support our Naval Aviation acquisition programs; which has an exciting opportunity supporting a major ACAT developmental…

Program Control Analysis, Team Lead–*Tysons Corner*
The MIL Corporation seeks a Program Control Analysis, Team Lead to support our Corporate Service Center (CSC) in Tyson's Corner, VA. The position requires attention to detail, initiative, excellent oral and written communication skills, ability to function independently with minimal…

AARP

Associations–*AARP is a nonprofit, nonpartisan, social welfare organization with a membership of nearly 38 million. Our aim is to disrupt preconceived notions about aging, turn goals and dreams into Real Possibilities, strengthen communities and fight for the issues that matter most to people 50-plus and their families; such as health care, employment security and retirement planning.*

Consumer Research Insights Manager–*Washington D.C.*
The Consumer Research Insights Manager conceptualizes, develops, and conducts primary and secondary research to develop insights that shape various departmental objectives. Evaluates programs and business priorities to identify improvements…

Marketing Analytics Manager–*Washington D.C.*
The Marketing Analytics Manager gathers, analyzes, and shares marketing data and insights to improve marketing performance. Collects and evaluates data effectiveness and operational execution of marketing campaigns, measuring customer satisfaction or retention. Consults with…

Capital One

Financial Services and Banking–*We Don't Only Think Big Things—At Capital One, We Do Big Things. You're dedicated to your career. You deserve professional satisfaction and personal fulfillment. You belong at Capital One. Here, every day brings another chance to do impactful work that matters: helping millions of customers confidently manage their money, building stronger communities and delivering truly disruptive tech. You'll give your all alongside some of the brightest, most resilient people in the industry—and in return, you'll enjoy…*

Lead Software Engineer–
We are seeking Back End Software Engineers who are passionate about marrying data with emerging technologies. As a Capital One Software Engineer, you'll have the opportunity to be on the forefront of driving a major transformation within Capital One.

Applied Researcher I–
You will partner with a cross-functional team of data scientists, software engineers, machine learning engineers and product managers to deliver AI-powered products that change how customers interact with their money. Leverage a broad stack of technologies - Pytorch, AWS Ultraclusters, Huggingface…

Ensco, Inc

Technology and Software–*ENSCO, Inc. represent a $165 million international technology enterprise with over 750 employees headquartered in the Washington, D.C., area. Since 1969, ENSCO has provided innovative engineering, science, and technology solutions to government and private sectors worldwide, specializing in aerospace, national security, and surface transportation. Their projects operate in mission-critical environments where safety, security, reliability, and resilience are paramount. ENSCO's culture emphasizes creativity, innovation…*

Operations Research & Systems Analysis SME–*Fairfax*
Formulate and apply mathematical modeling and other optimizing methods to develop and interpret information that assists management with decision-making, policy formulation, or other managerial functions. May collect and analyze data…

Facilities Specialist–*Pueblo*
ENSCO is seeking a Facilities Engineer / Facilities Specialist. Responsibilities include developing, reviewing, and approving plans for internal and external building modifications. The Facilities Specialist will support the Facilities Project Management Team with project management initiatives…

Rigil Corporation

Engineering–*Rigil is an award-winning strategy, technology, and products company committed to making life better for every individual and community they support. Founded in 2005 as a woman-owned business, Rigil had one premise: There is always a better way. A better way to serve customers, deliver solutions, and foster a balanced working community. Rakhi Sharma founded Rigil in 2005 on one premise: There is always a better way. A better way to serve customers, develop solutions, and foster a balanced working community. Rakhi…*

Sr. PowerBuilder Developer–*Chantilly*
Maintain continued operation and development request for the OPCS application, Reviews, analyzes, and modifies programming systems including encoding, testing, debugging and installing to support an organization's application systems. Consults with users to identify current operating…

Sr. ServiceNow Application Developer–*Chantilly*
Continued development and operation of the ServiceNow Scoped Applications (Procurement PDF Generation and the ServiceNow DCAT ITSM Ticketing application). Works with users to identify current operating procedures and clarify program objectives.

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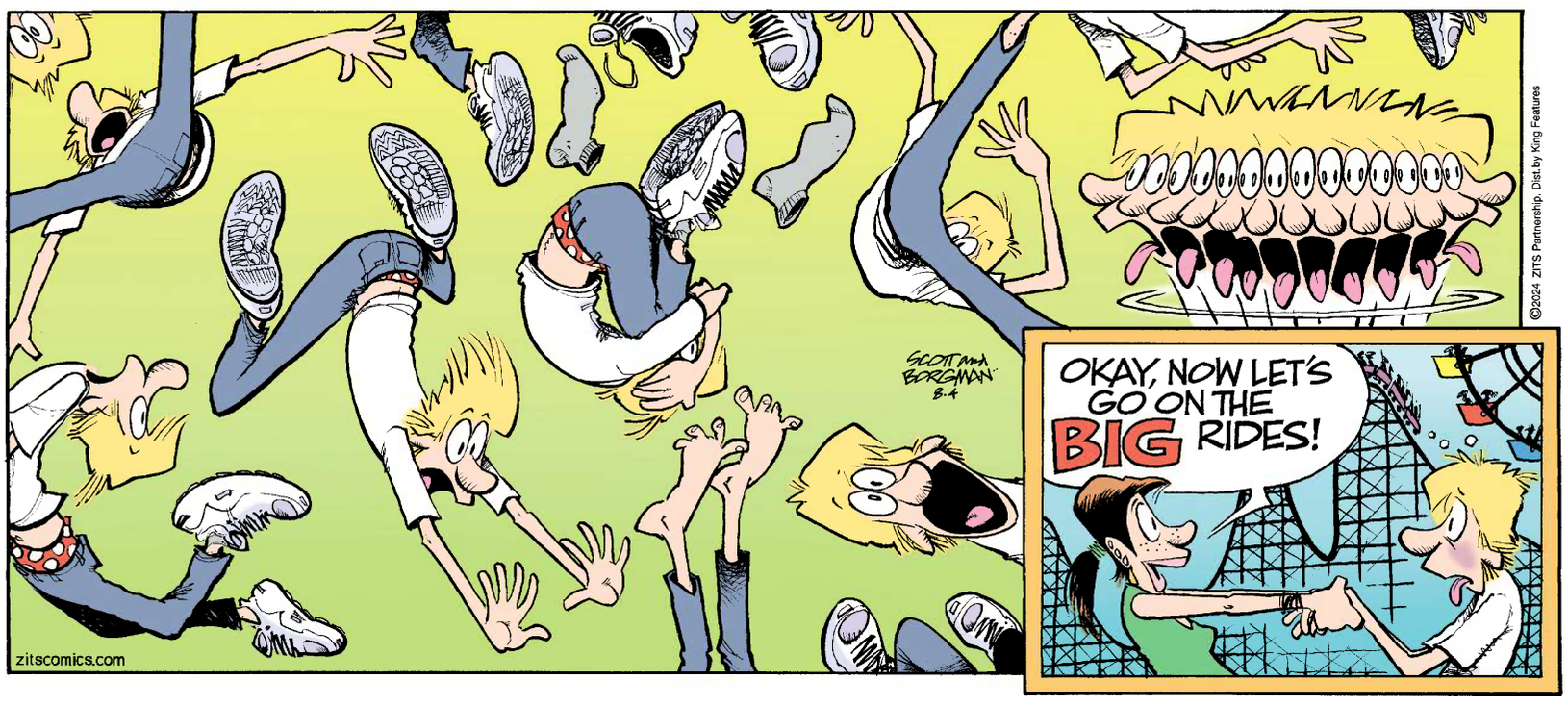
ZITS

By Jerry Scott & Jim Borgman

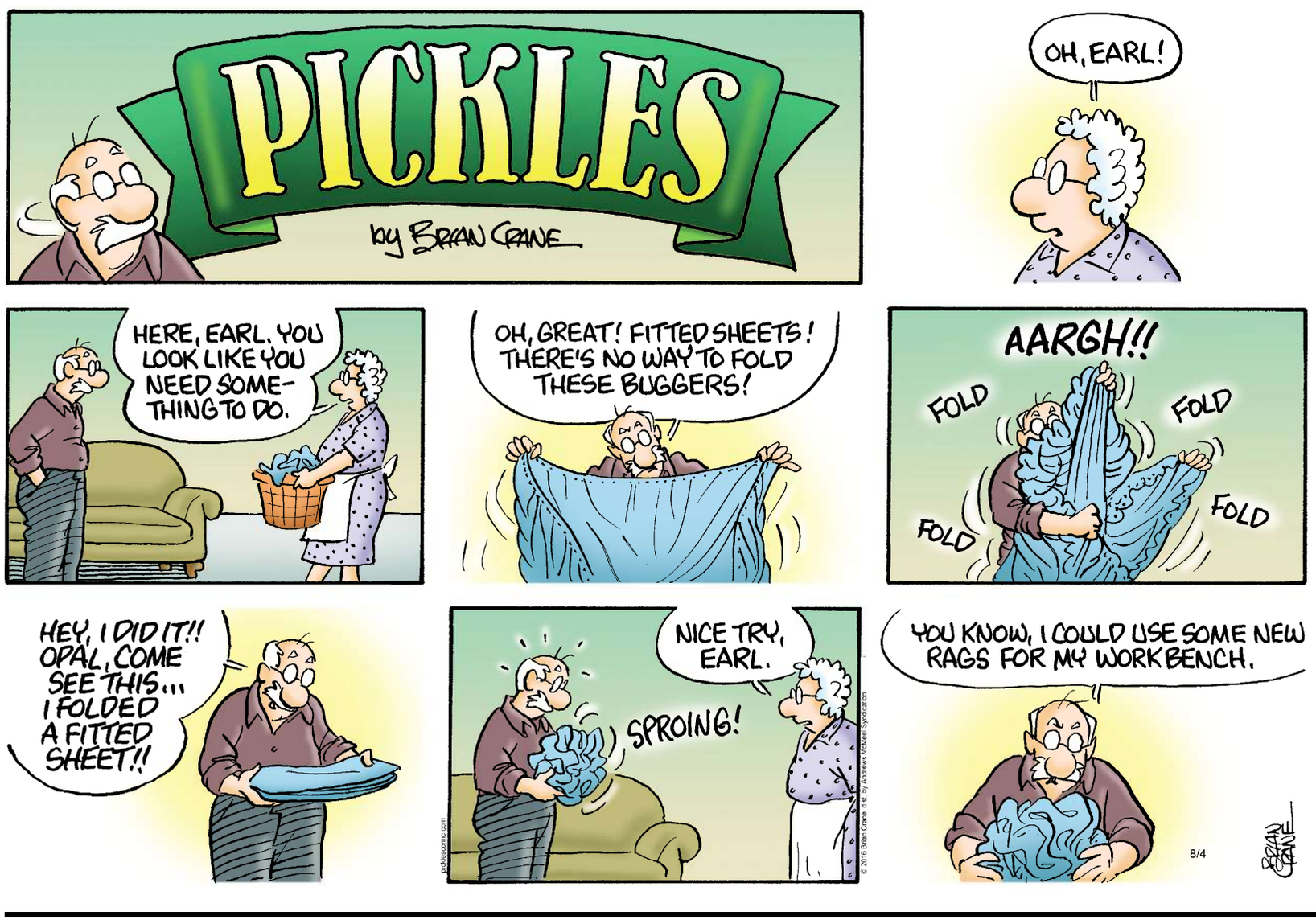


BABY BLUES

By Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott

PICKLES

by Brian Crane

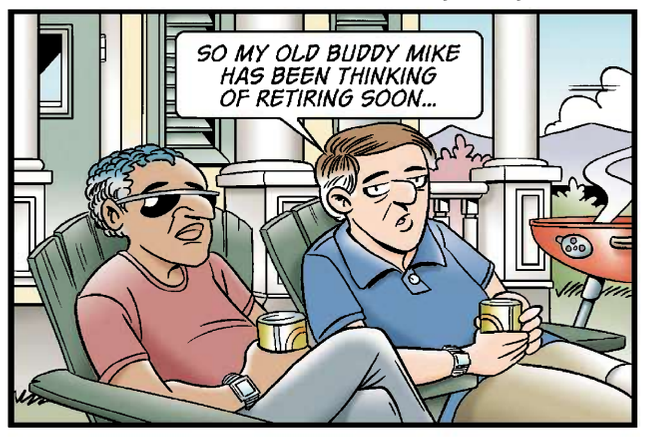


SHERMAN'S LAGOON

by Jim Toomey

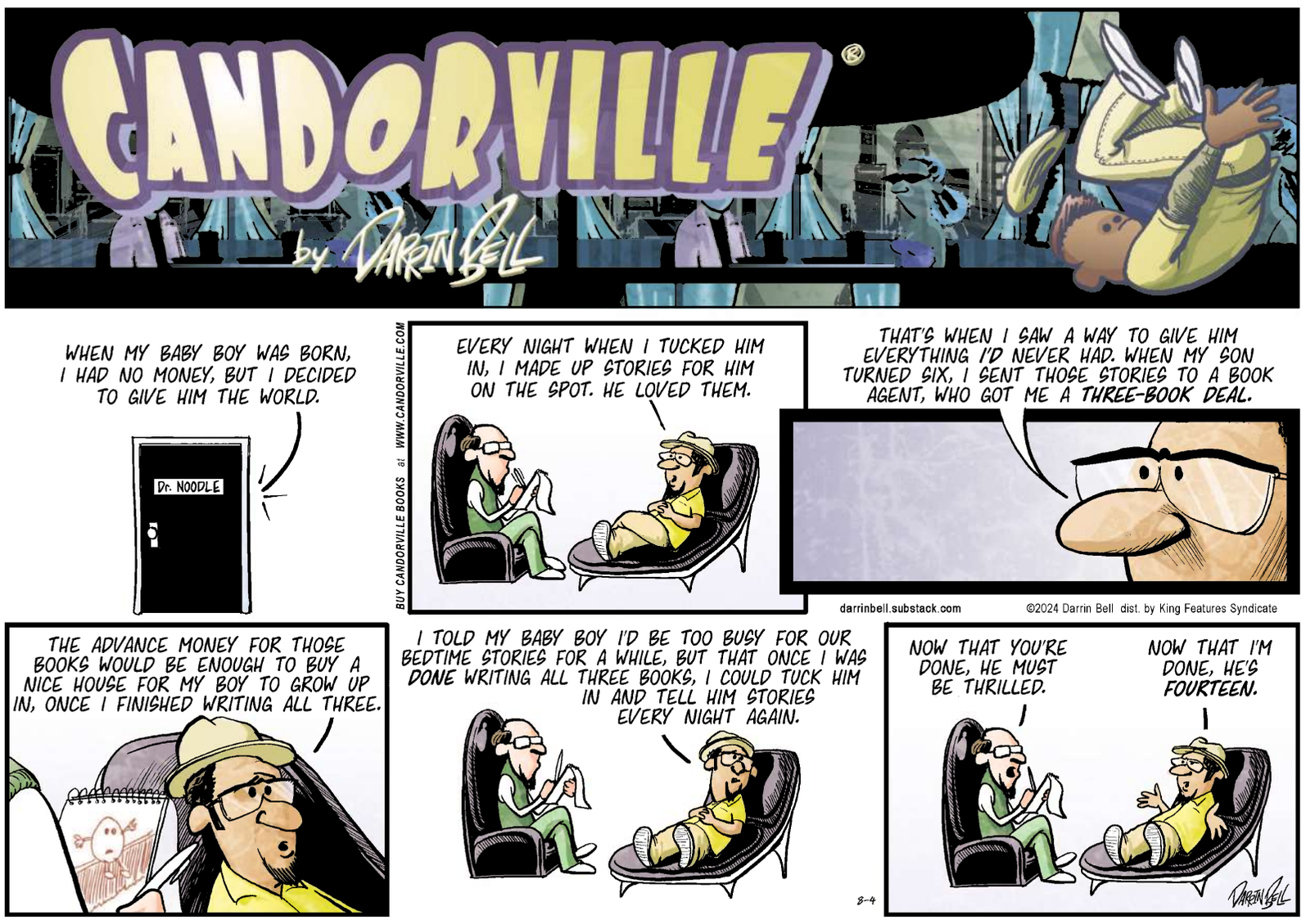
DOONESBURY

By Garry Trudeau



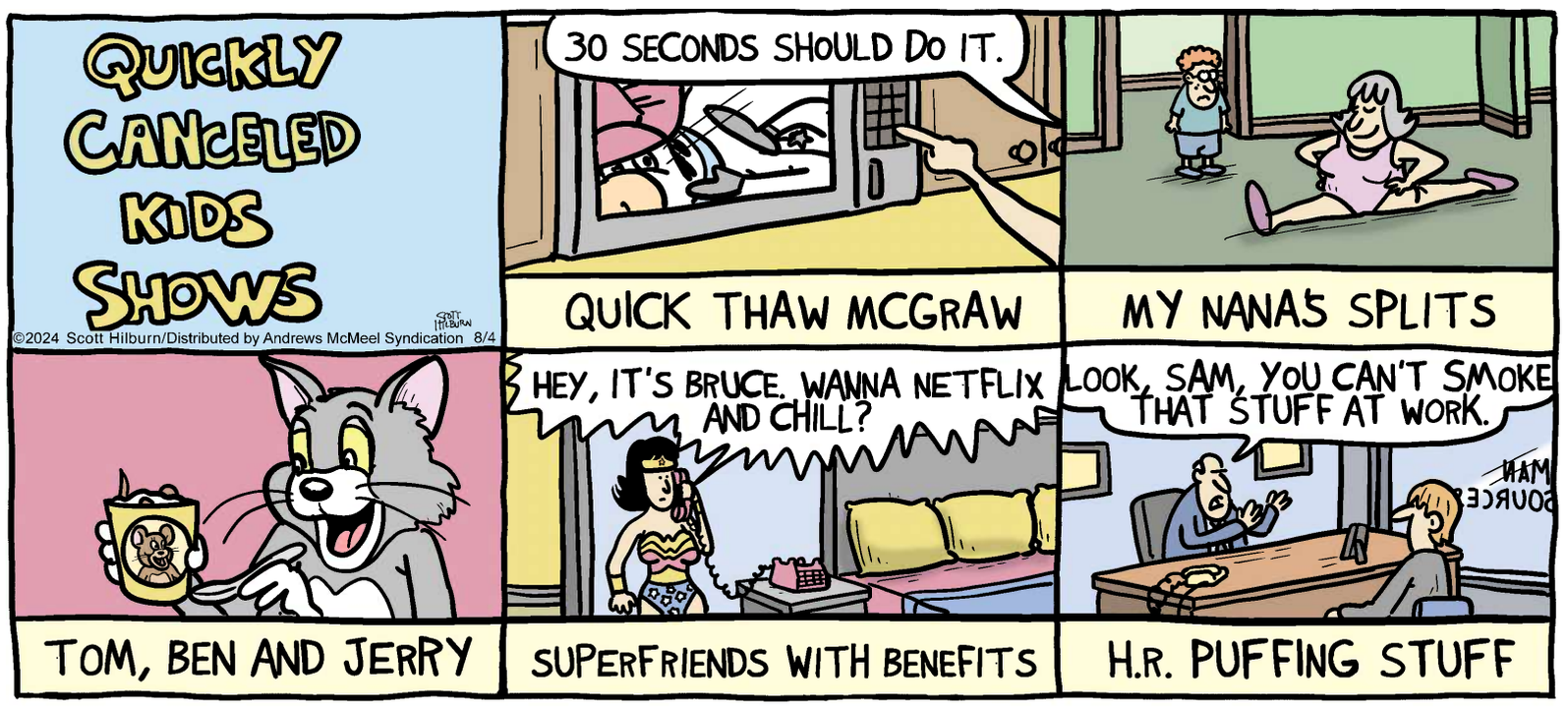
CANDORVILLE

by Darrin Bell



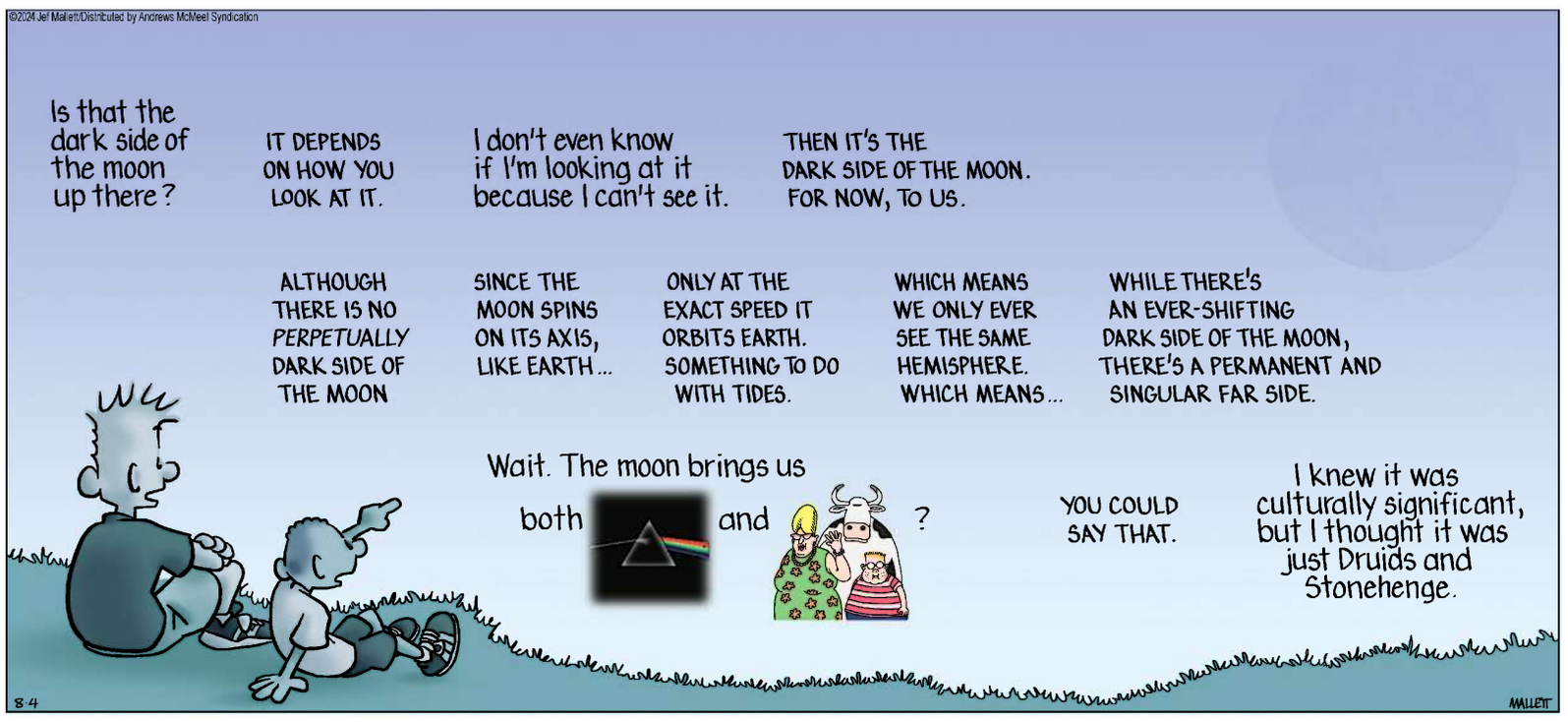
THE ARGYLE SWEATER

By Scott Hilburn



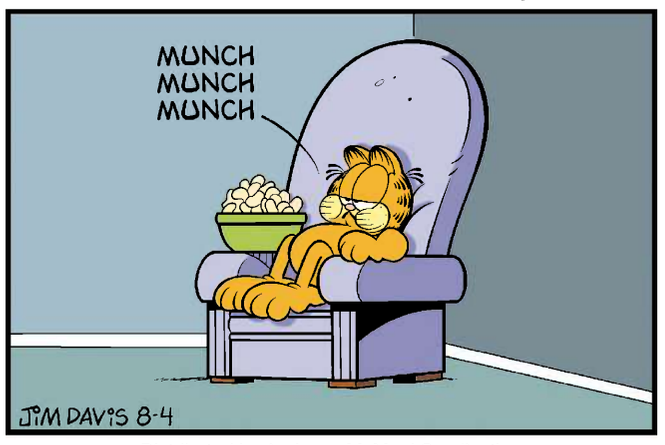
FRAZZ

By Jef Mallett



GARFIELD

By Jim Davis



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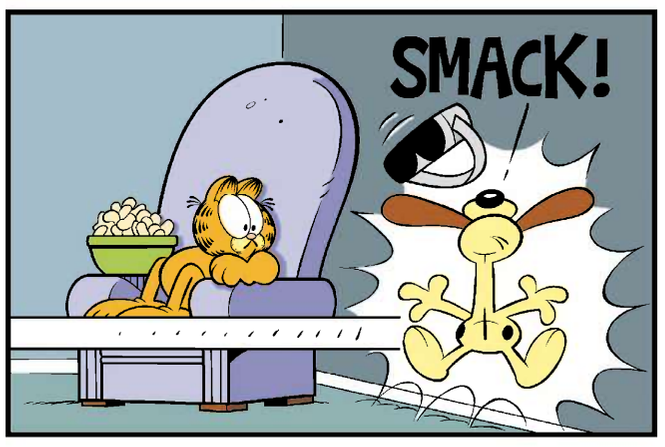

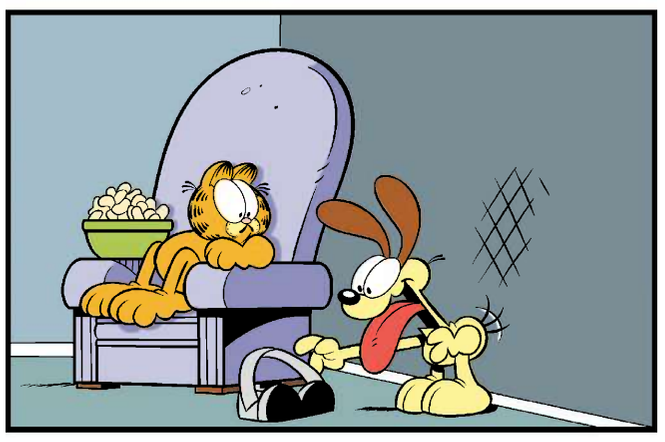

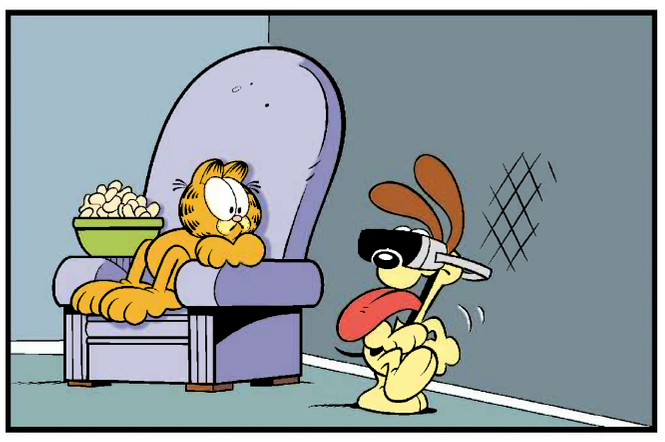

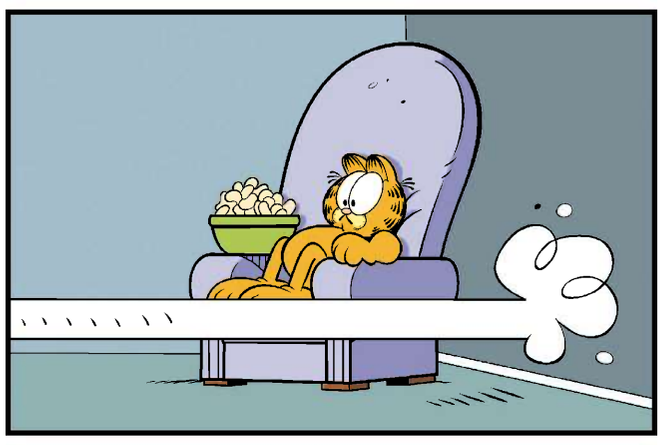

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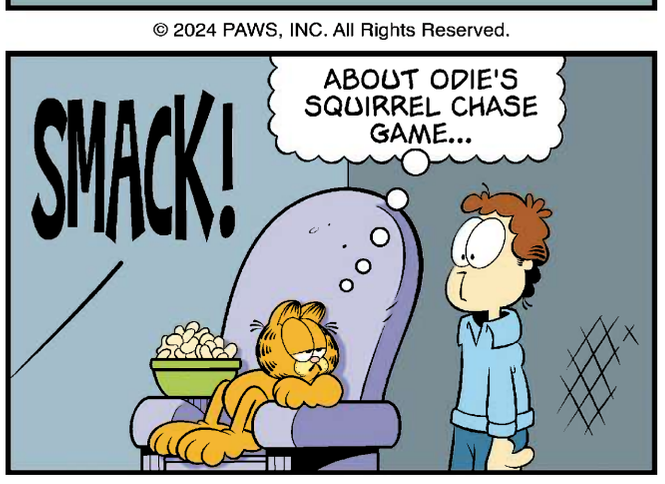
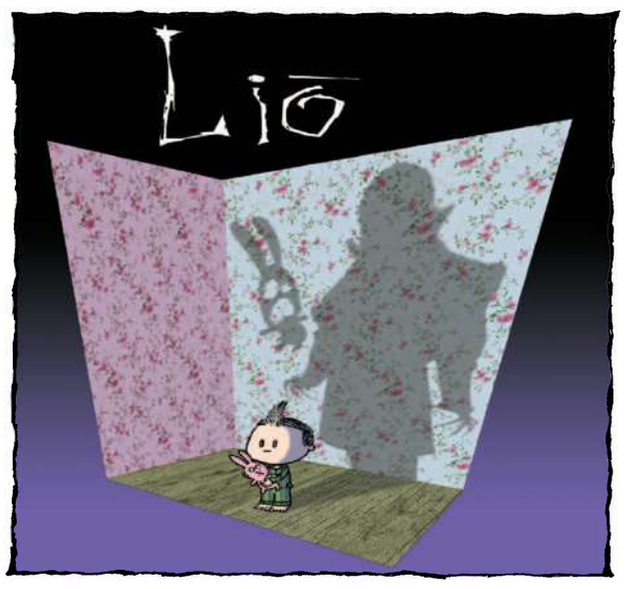
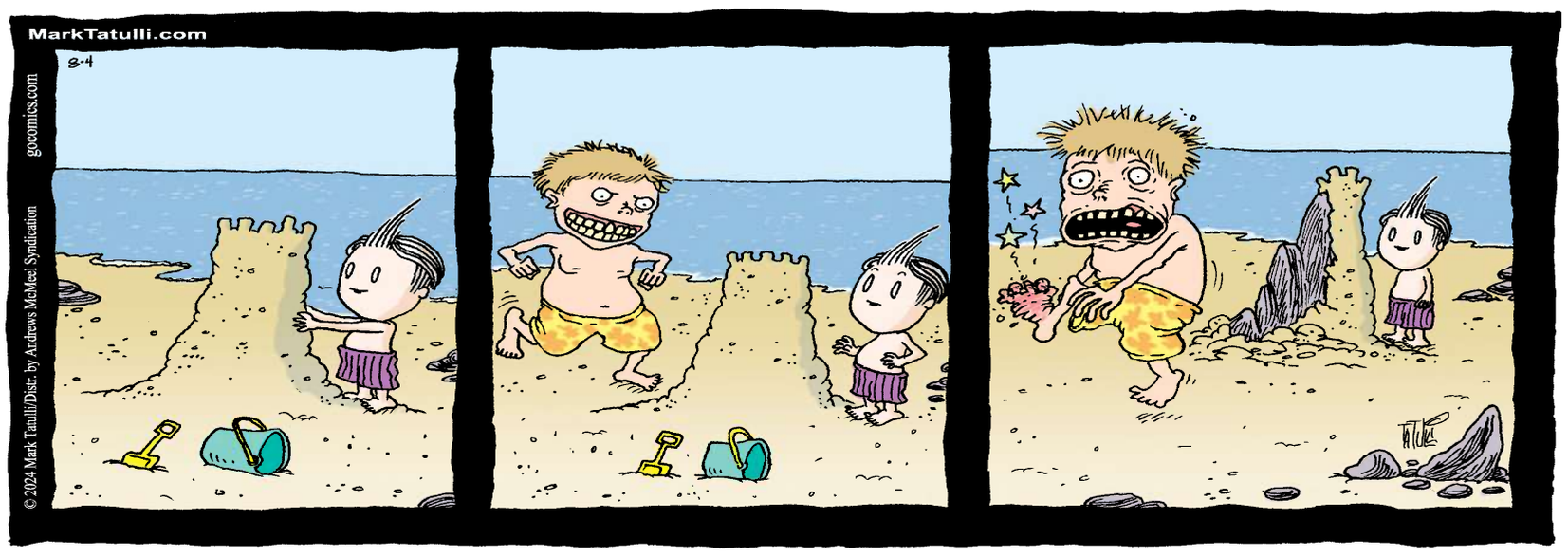
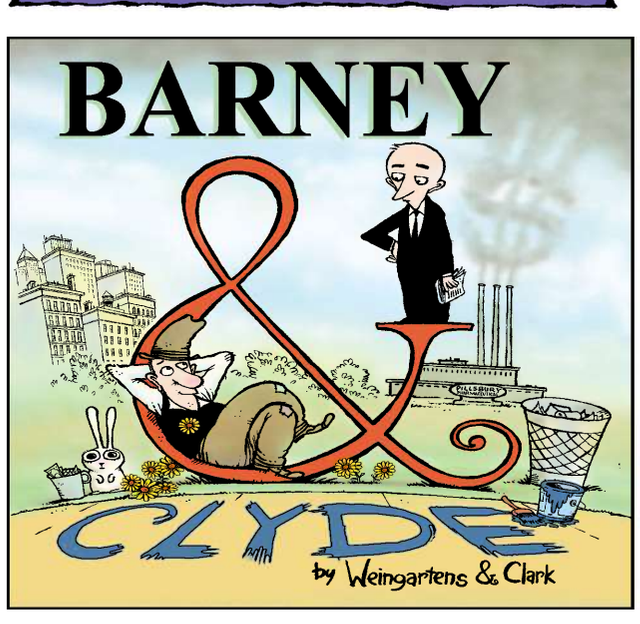


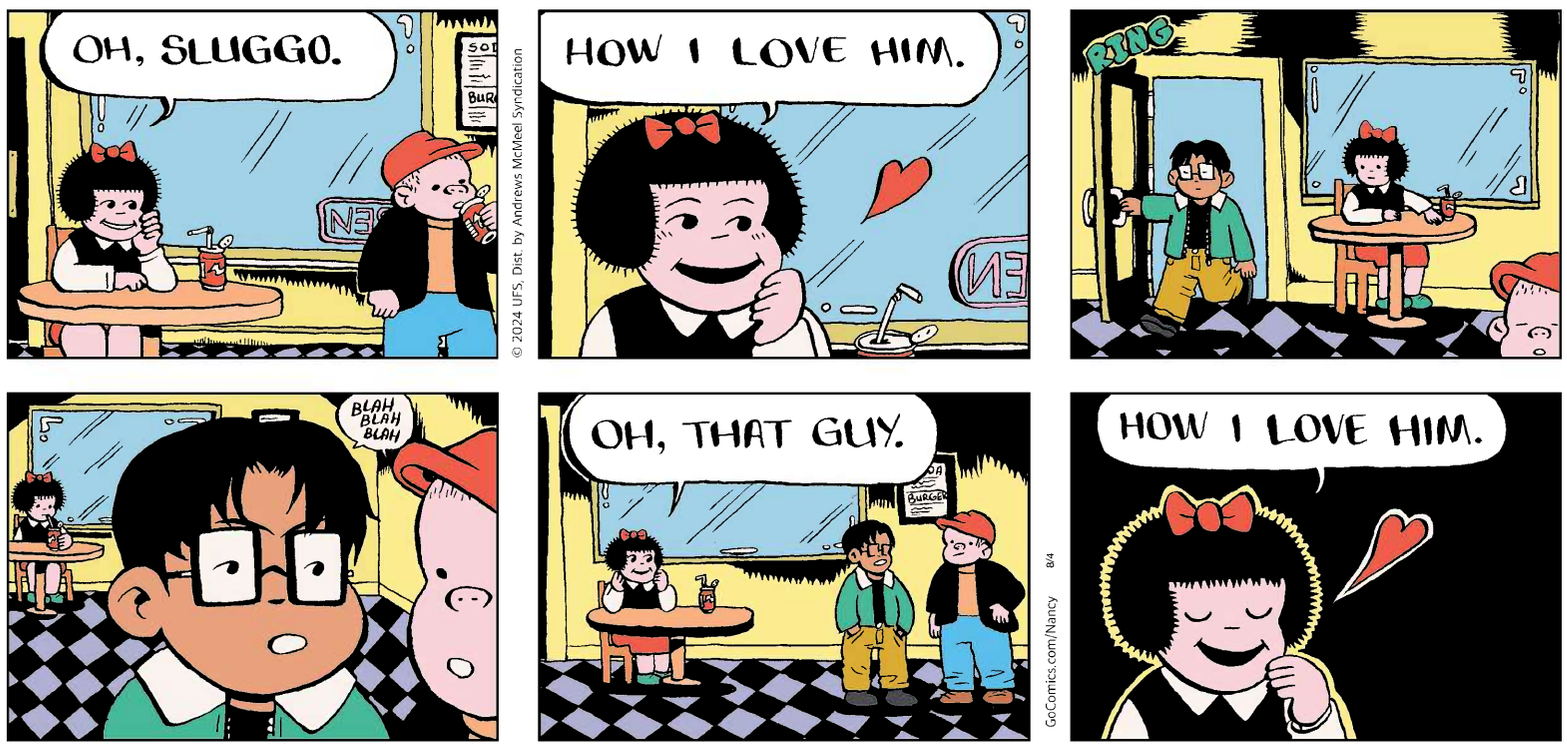






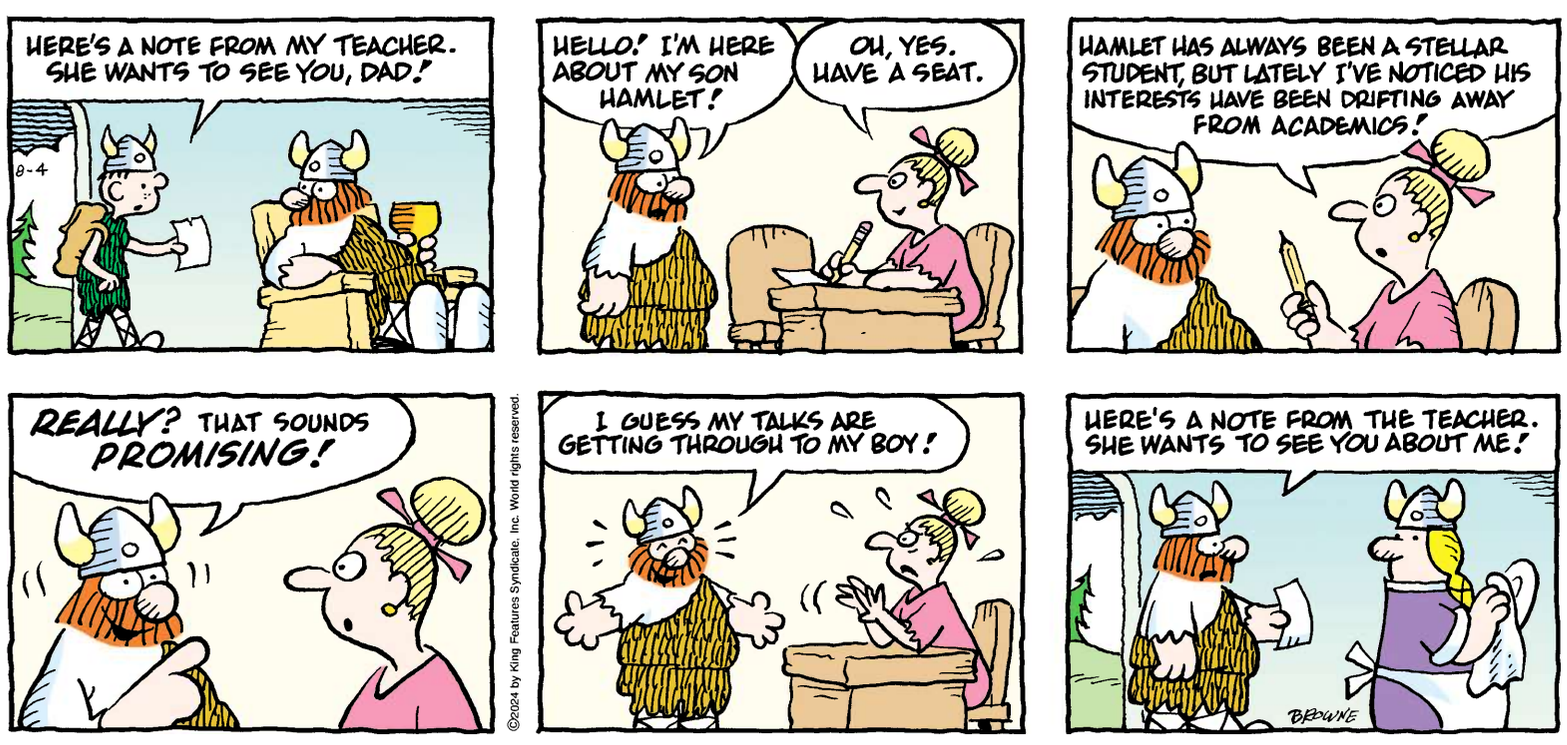
NANCY

By Olivia Jaimes



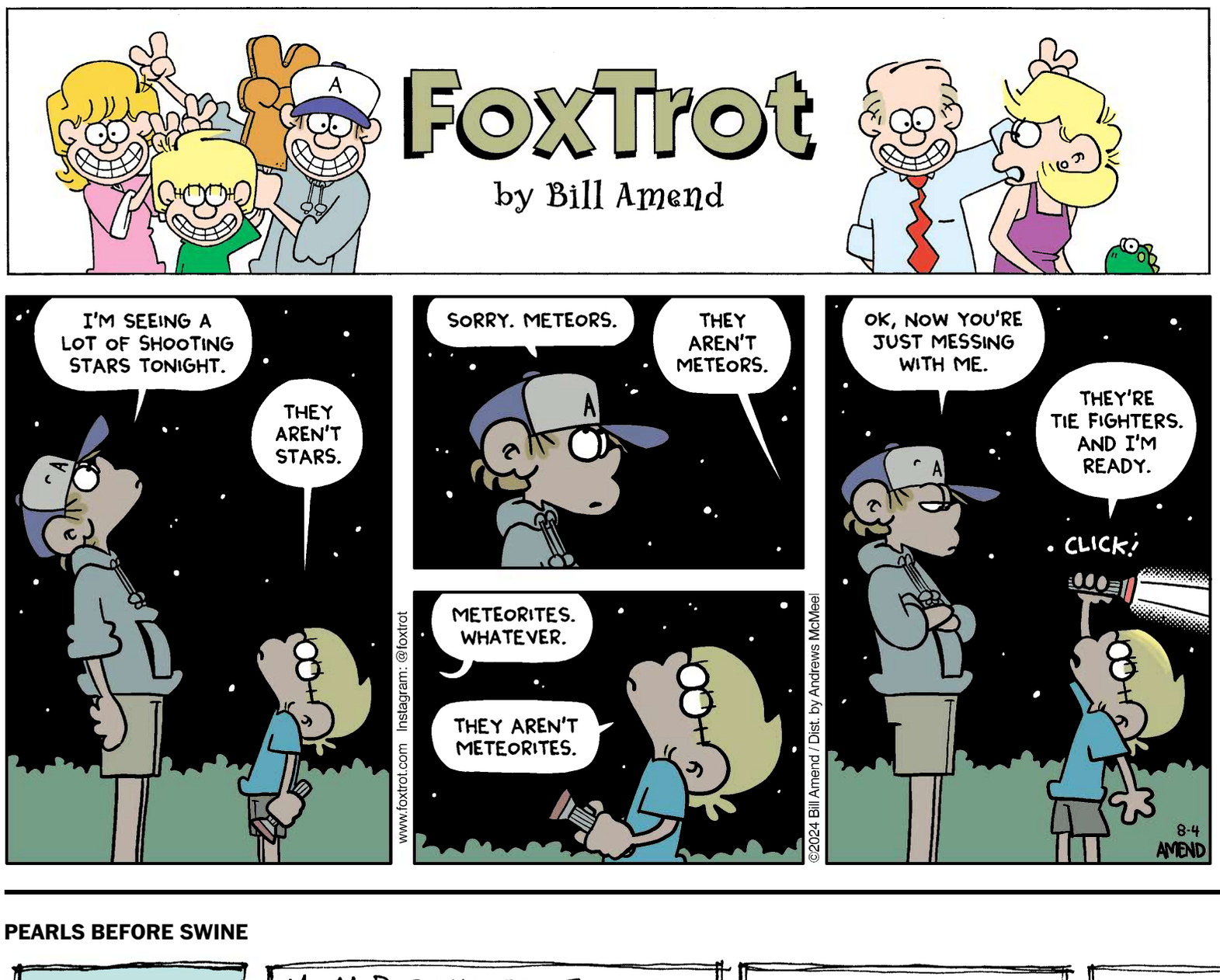
HAGAR THE HORRIBLE

By Dik Browne



FoxTrot

by Bill Amend



NON SEQUITUR

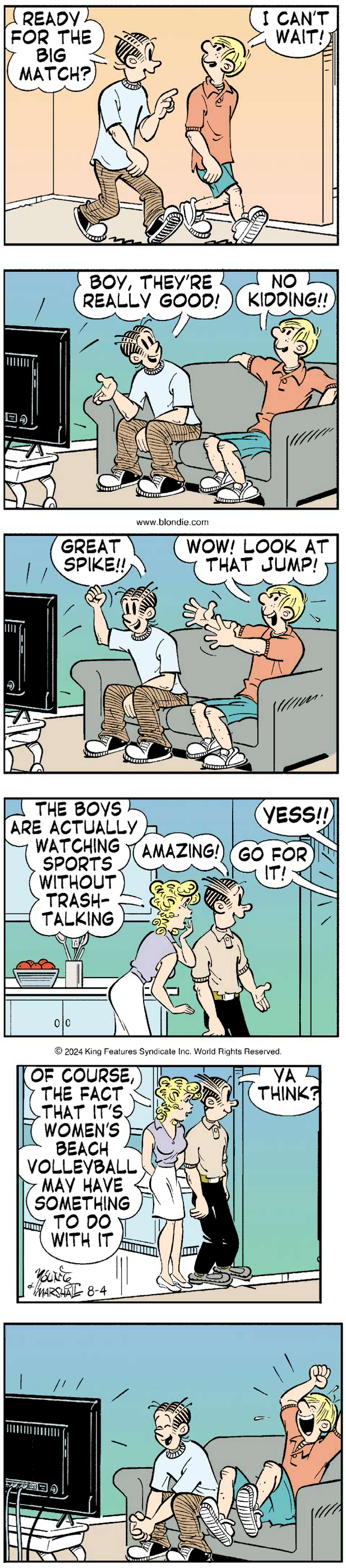
By Wiley

PEARLS BEFORE SWINE

By Stephan Pastis

BLONDIE

By Dean Young & John Marshall



JUMBLE FOR KIDS

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME!®

By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

The letters of these crazy words are all mixed up. To play the game, put them back into the right order so that they make real words you can find in your dictionary. Write the letters of each real word under each crazy word, but only one letter to a square.

PPO

MNID

OKFR

LESL

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Now you're ready to solve today's Jumble For Kids. Study the picture for a hint. Play around with the letters in the circles. You'll find you can put them in order so that they make your funny answer.

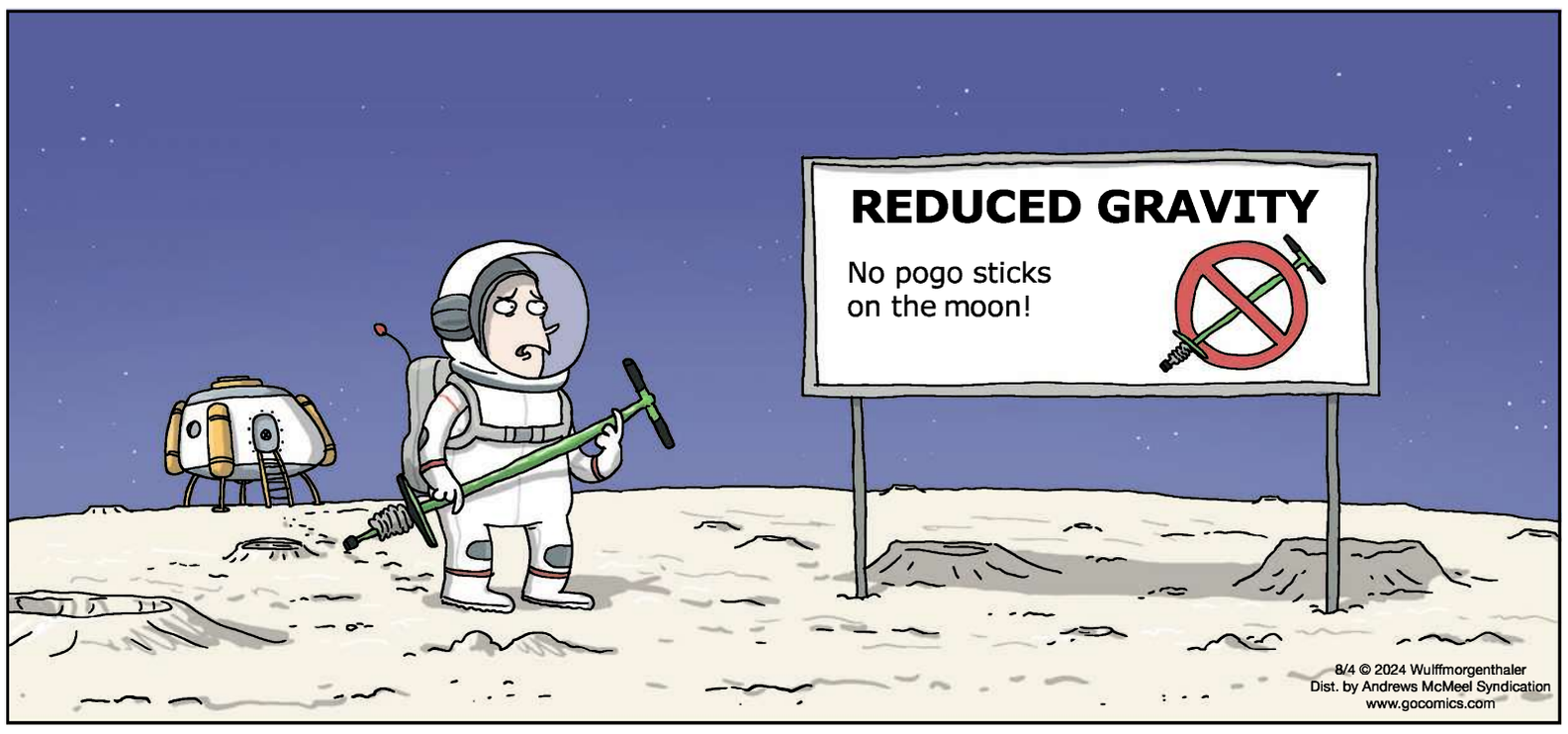
Print answer here: A

ANSWER (HOLD UP TO MIRROR)

Jumbles: pop mind love sell
Answer: A promise

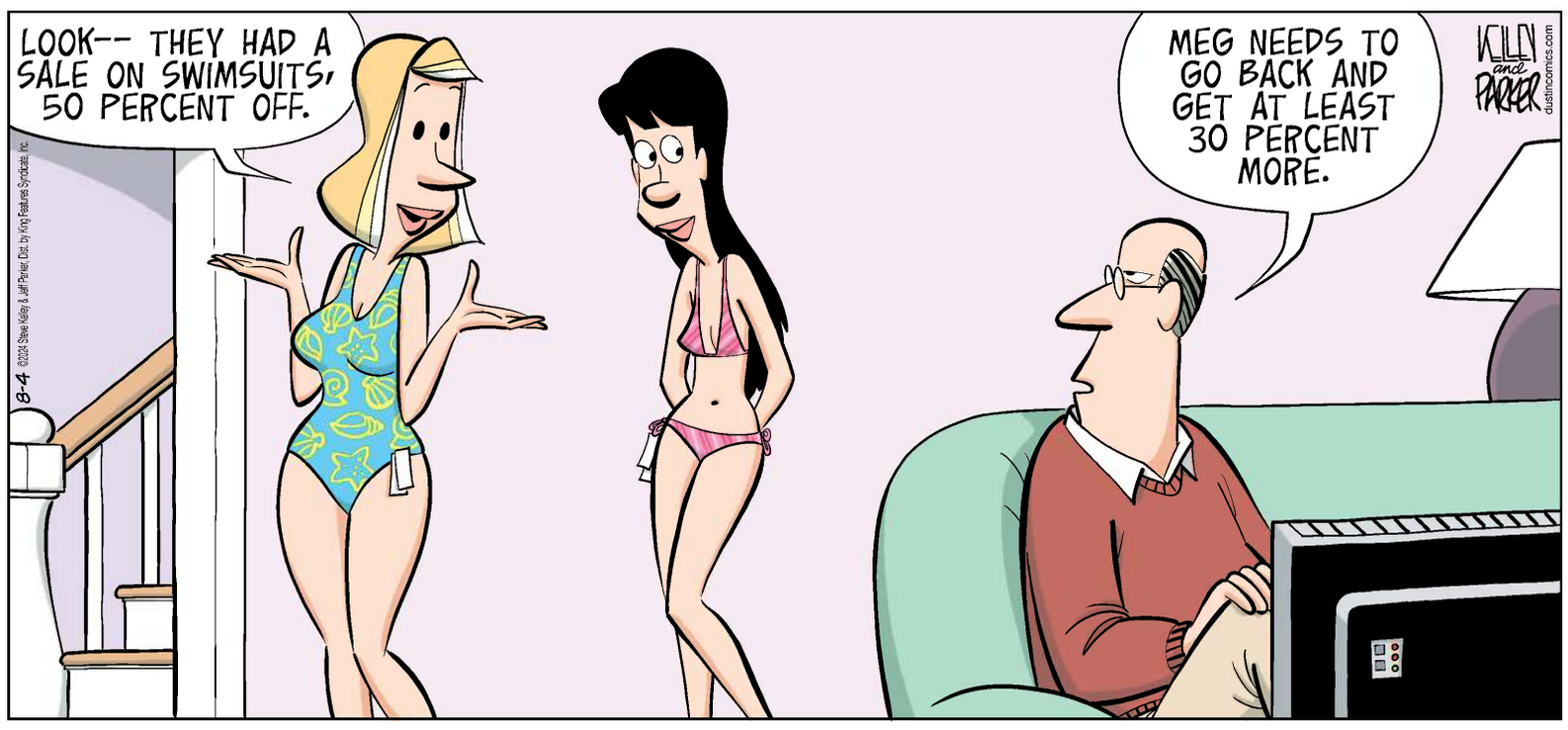
WUMO

By Mikael Wulff & Anders Morgenthaler



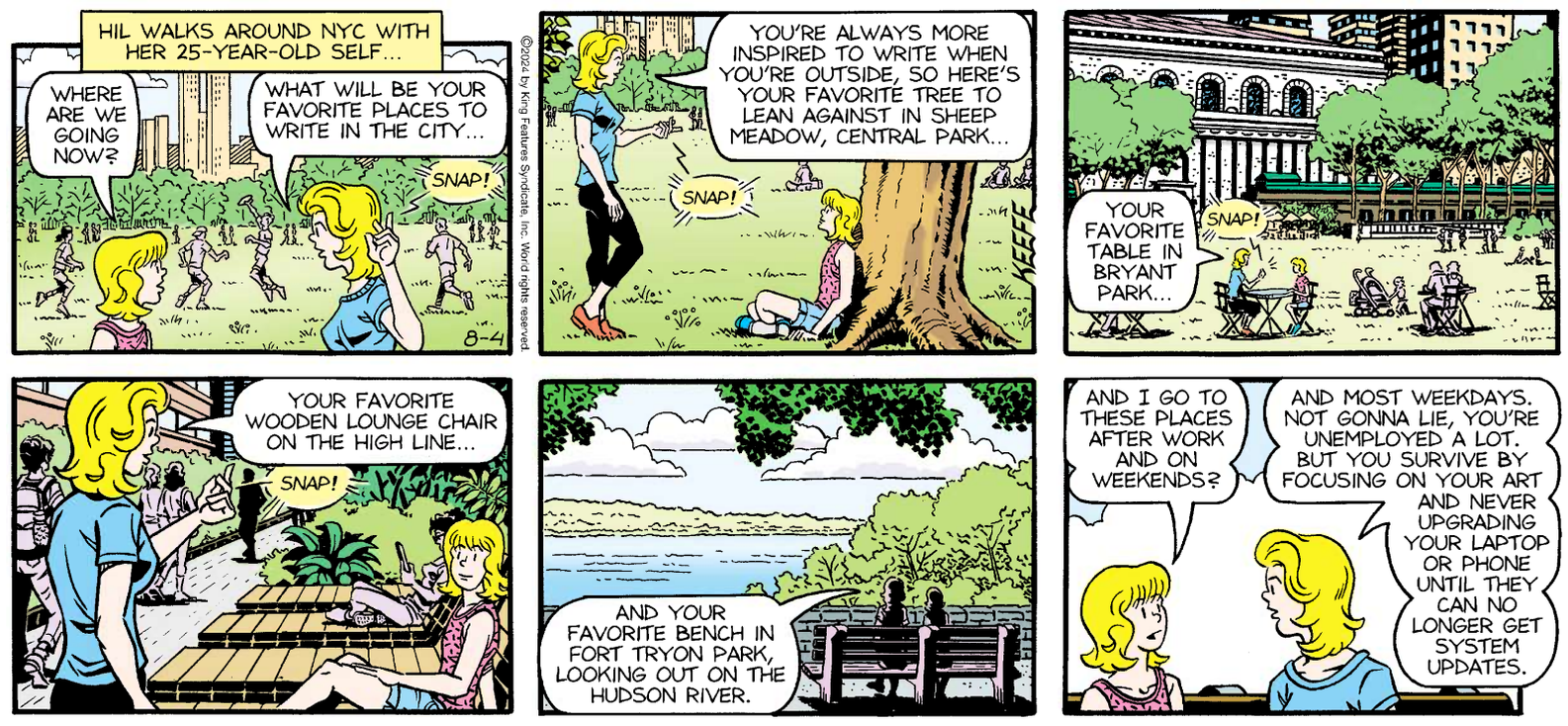
DUSTIN

By Steve Kelley & Jeff Parker



SALLY FORTH

By Francesco Marciuliano & Jim Keefe



BIG NATE

By Lincoln Peirce

REPLY ALL LITE

By Donna A. Lewis

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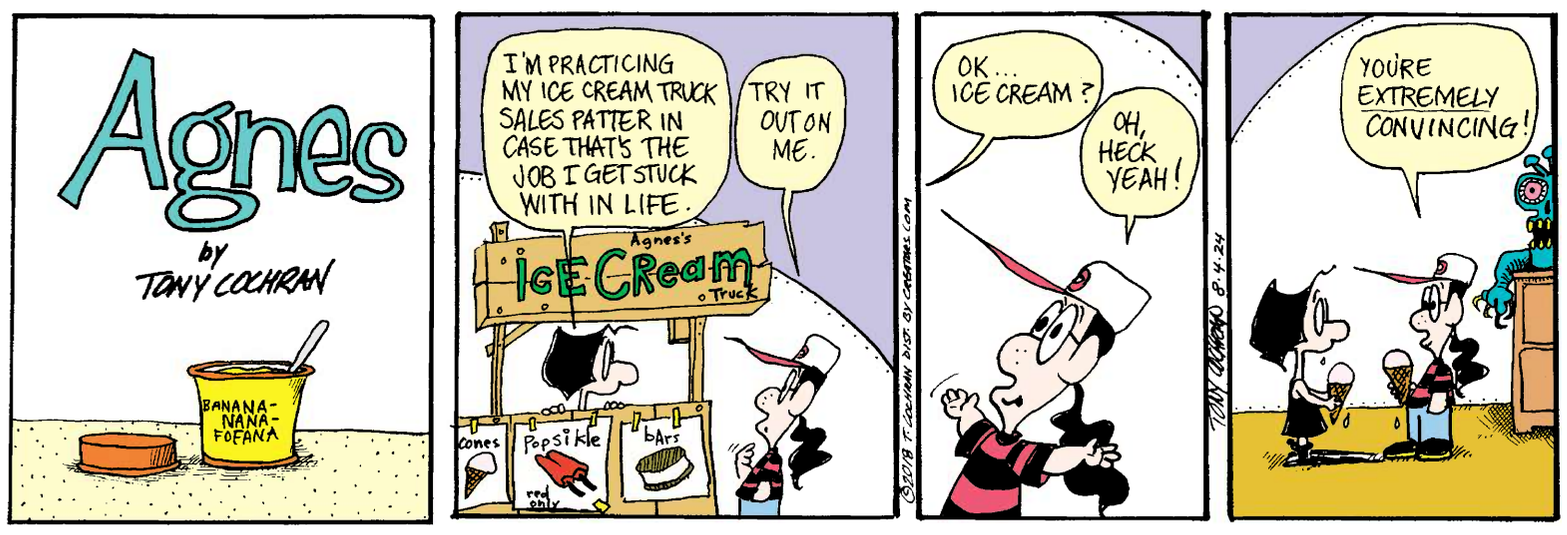
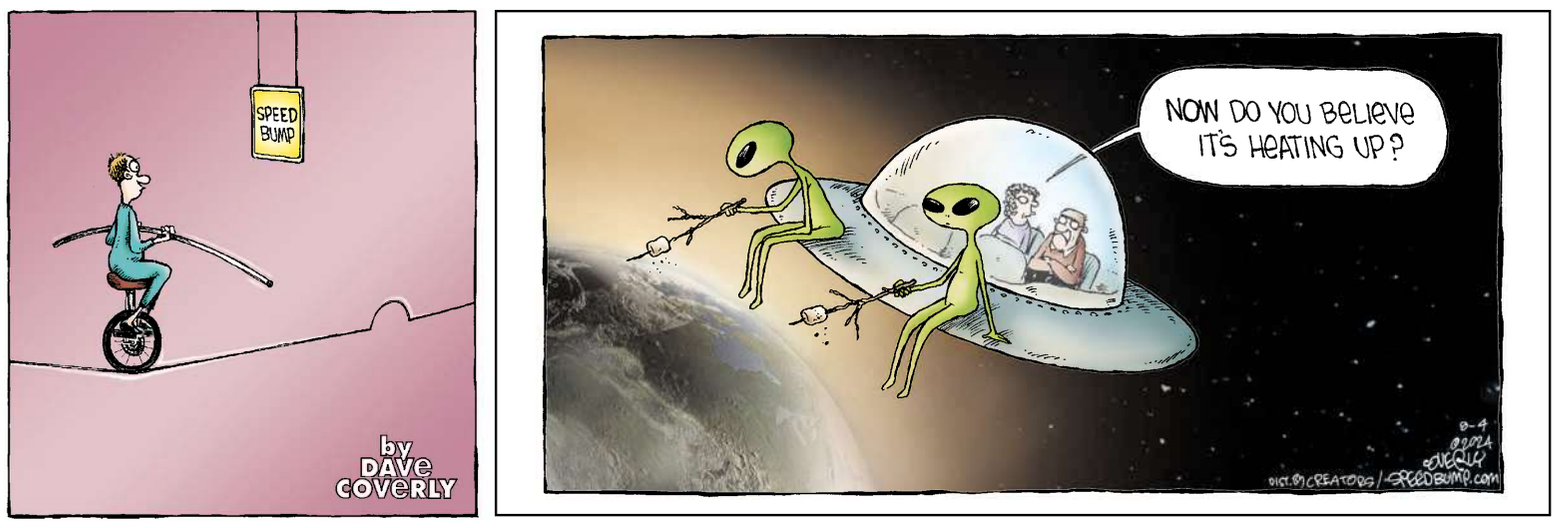
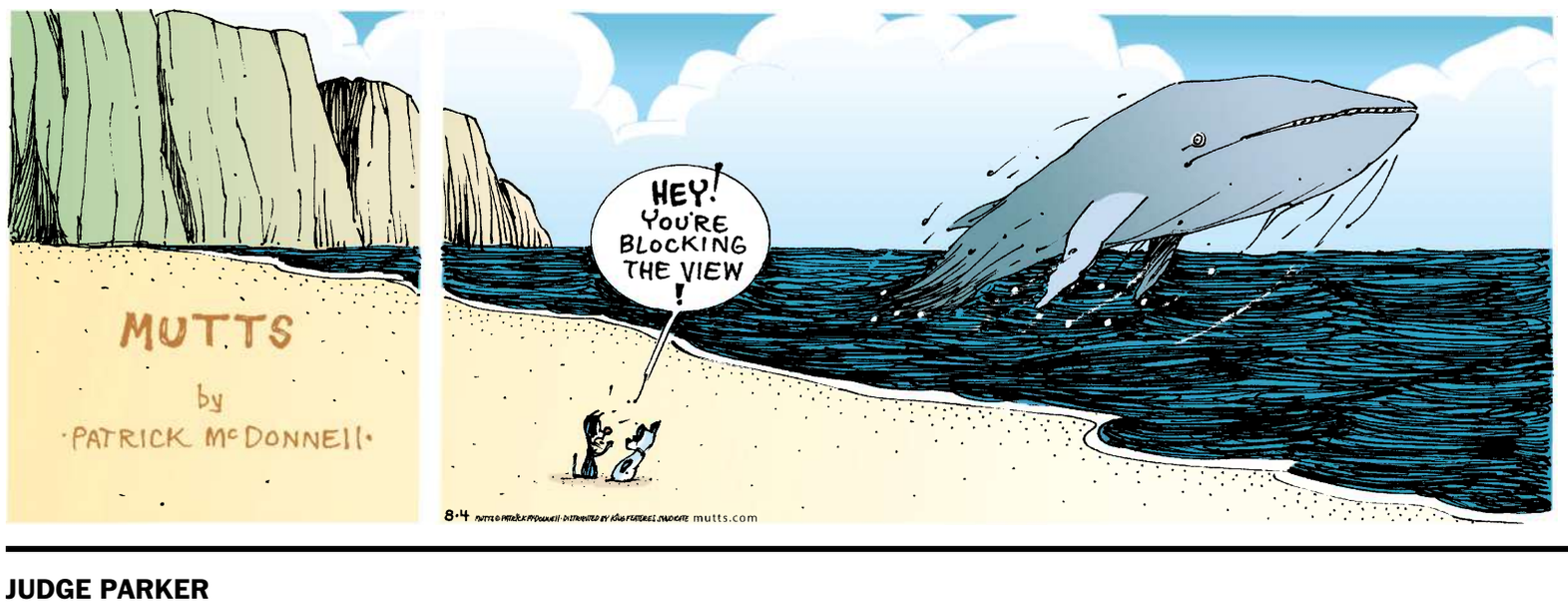
8-4

LOOSE PARTS

By Dave Blazek

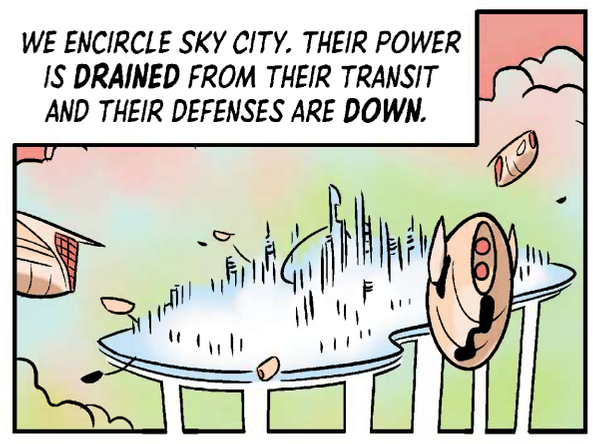






FLASH GORDON

By Dan Schkade



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JUDGE PARKER

By Francesco Marciuliano & Mike Manley

Hal Foster's Prince Valiant

BY SCHULTZ AND YEATES

HAVING MOVED A GOOD MILE AWAY FROM THE HORROR IN THE TOMB MOUND OF *SÍ AN BHRÚ*, VAL AND COMPANY, AND THEIR CAPTIVE SYGBALD, BED DOWN FOR AN UNEASY SLEEP.

VAL AND ARN TRADE OFF ON WATCH BEFORE TURNING IN FOR A FEW HOURS' REST.

VAL WAKES EARLY TO SEE GUNHILD ALREADY AFIELD AND RETURNING WITH THEIR SCATTERED MOUNTS. SHE OFFERS: *"I DID NOT THINK THEY WOULD GO FAR – THEY ARE WELL TRAINED, EVEN WHEN SPOOKED.*

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"...BUT I SAW NO SIGN OF WITGAR'S HORSES." VAL SIGHS. *"THEN WE MUST ASSUME HE HAS ALREADY RIDDEN ON. I'M AFRAID I MUST LEAN ON THIS SYGBALD TO LEARN WHERE HE WOULD BE..."*

BEFORE VAL CAN FINISH, AN ARROW FLIES INTO THE TREE TRUNK NEXT TO HIM...

...FOLLOWED BY AN UNRUSH OF MOUNTED WARRIORS, GALLOPING OVER A NEARBY RISE, AT RIGHT ANGLES TO THE MISSILE AND WAILING LIKE BANSHEES! VAL'S TROOP IS CAUGHT IN A PINCER ATTACK!

9565 YEATES 8/4/24

NEXT: Battle Tactics

KidTown

©2024 Andrews McMeel Syndication Written and illustrated by Steve McGarry

8/4

Which page in today's paper has the most images of legs?

Use the News

TRUE but STRANGE

ANY IDEA HOW WE GET OUT OF HERE?

You may have found a spider in the bathtub at some time. But did you ever wonder how the spider got there?

If you thought the spider crawled up the drain, you'd be wrong – that's a myth! It was probably thirsty and, attracted by the tiny drops of water in the tub, it climbed down the wall.

But because the sides of the bath are so smooth, the spider was unable to climb back up and escape!

LEGS AMLAJHOUSE WOODLOUSESLR ISNIUSSMUPOI DGENTDALPOET ONVHNRCSDIEH WAACAEVPFVNE EFIARRALLECG GHRARTEOLE ATGVSW

These words are hidden in our puzzle. They may go across, down or diagonally, in any direction. Mark them as you find them, and the remaining 23 letters, when read in order, spell out a creepy-crawly message!

ARACHNID CELLAR FANGS HOUSE JUMPING LEGS RECLUSE SAC TARANTULA TRAPDOOR VELVET VENOM WIDOW WOLF WOODLOUSE

Answer: ALL SPIDERS HAVE EIGHT LEGS

Slylock Fox

Count Weirdly's minions are at Slylock Fox's house posing as state Foliage Protection agents. Weirdly instructed the imposters to install spy cams in the trees. What caused Slylock Fox to become suspicious and order them off his property?

Solution: The so-called state agents made a mistake when claiming that moths would eat the leaves. Slylock knows that adult moths generally do not eat leaves; they only do so during their larval (caterpillar) stage. This error made Slylock question their legitimacy, prompting him to order them to leave his property.

A SWARM OF HUNGRY MOTHS IS FLYING THIS WAY! WE GOTTA SPRAY THE TREES TO STOP THEM FROM EATING THE LEAVES!

WEBER/SOTO

HOW TO DRAW shampoo time

8-4

YOUR DRAWING

Today's terrific artist is Jacob, age 13

Submit your drawing to **www.slylockfox.com**

The scrambled words are insects. How many can you unscramble?

1) ETMTRIE
2) ACDIAC
3) OFRAYDLNG
4) CTKERIC

Did I get on the list?

Answer -- 1) Termite 2) Cicada 3) Dragonfly 4) Cricket

Spot six differences between these panels.

Answer -- Chimney, man in boat, hair, eyelashes, plane and fin.

Have fun solving a new comic puzzle every day at www.slylockfox.com

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Hank Ketcham's Dennis the Menace

GROUP EFFORT

NOW, NOW, GEORGE. YOU KNOW WHAT THEY SAY.

IT TAKES A VILLAGE TO RAISE A CHILD!

R. Ferdinand/S. Ketcham 8-4

GOODBYE, DEAR.

SEE YA LATER!

A VILLAGE?!

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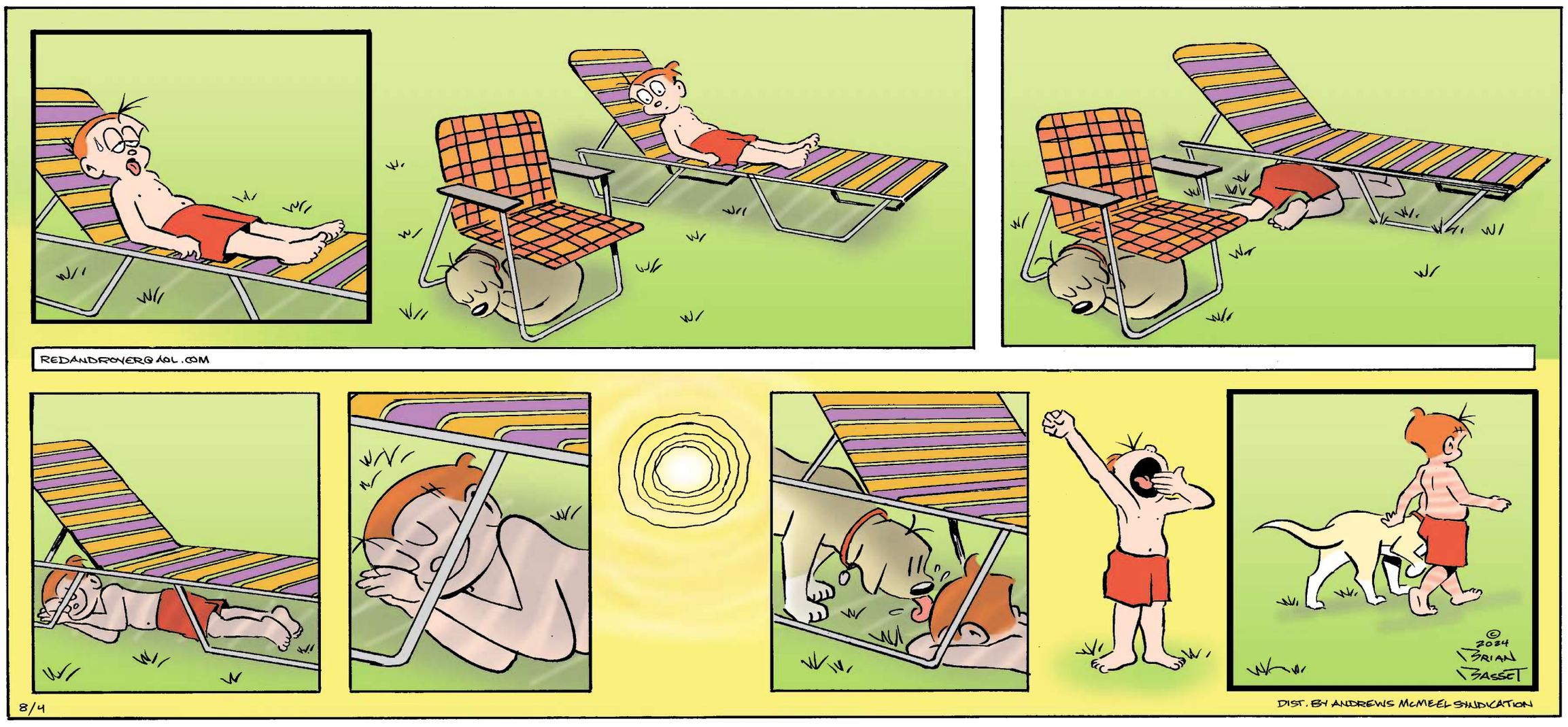
I THOUGHT HE'D NEVER LEAVE.

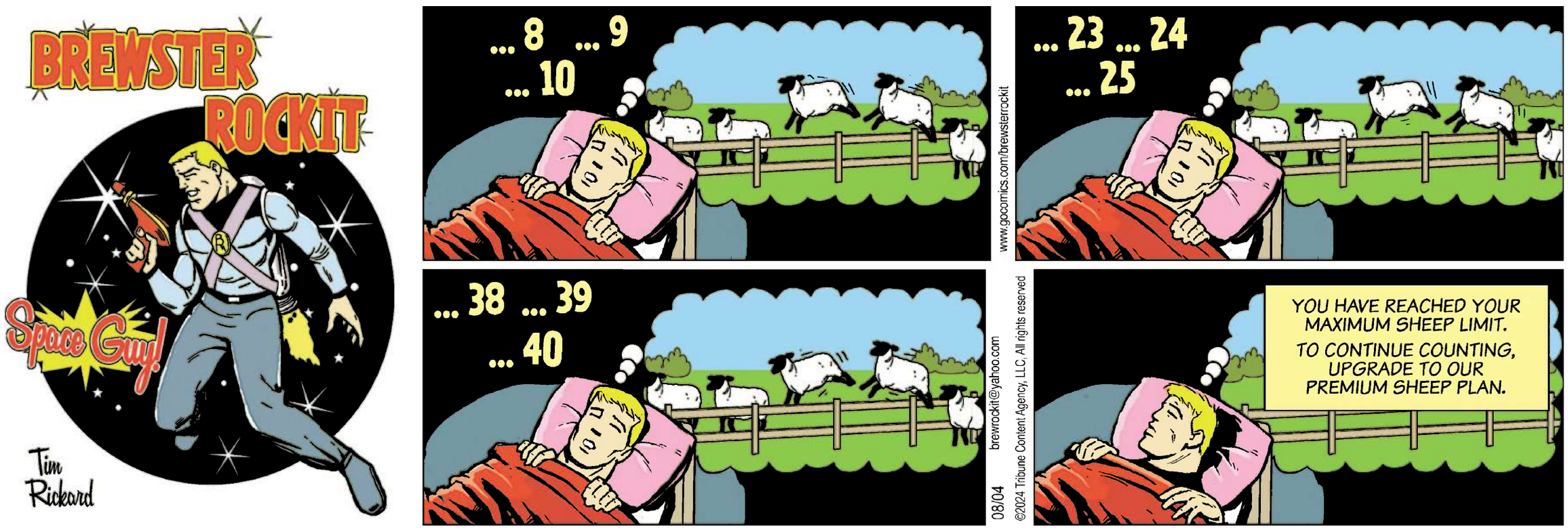
THAT KID NEEDS THE WHOLE PLANET!

RED AND ROVER

By Brian Basset



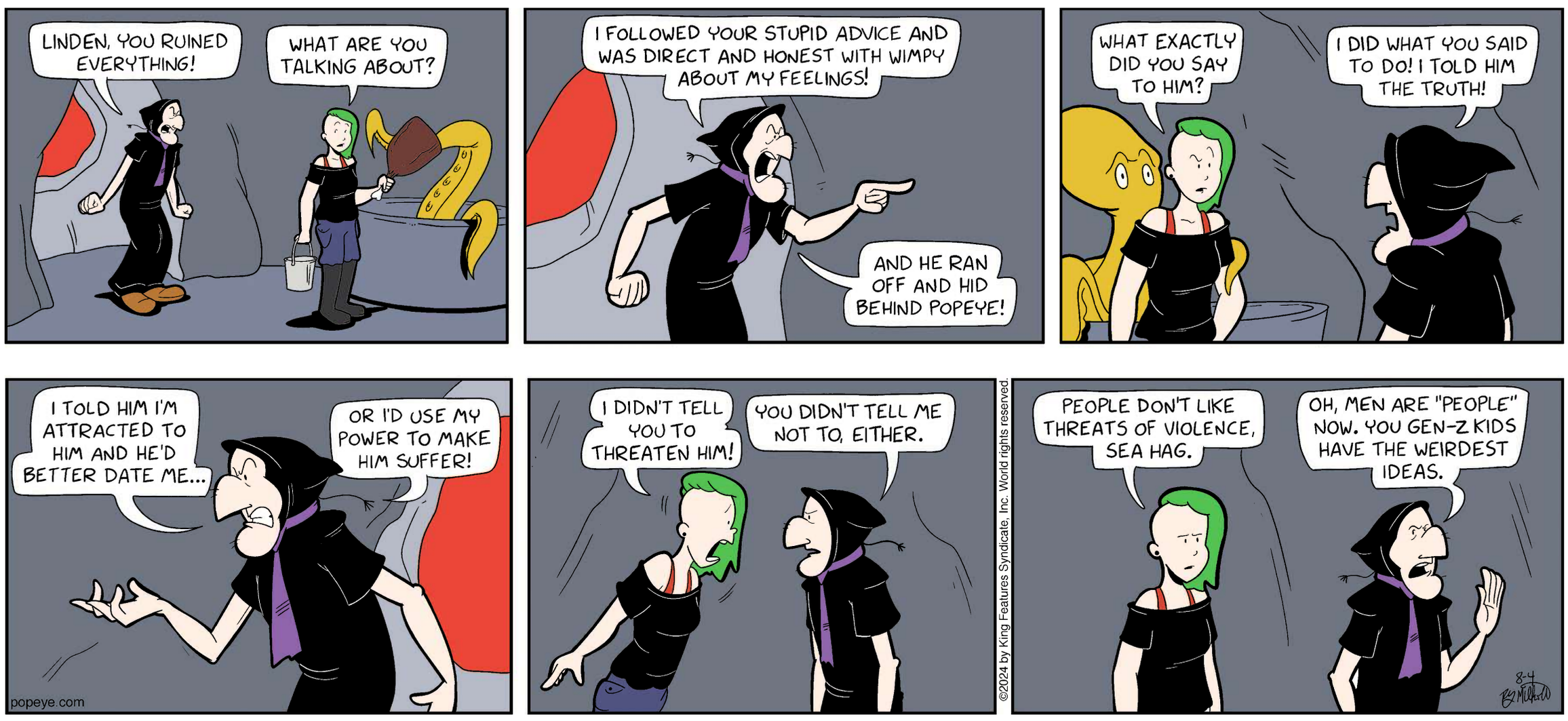
BREWSTER ROCKIT



Mort Walker's beetle bailey®

POPEYE

By Randy Milholland



SAMURAI SUDOKU

(c) www.djape.net

				1				
	3	7				1	2	
		8	6		7	5		
5			9	6	4			8
6			2	5	8			1
		6	1		3			
	5	4					1	
				7				

				3				
	3	6				2	7	
		5	1		7	9		
5			6	8	3			9
7			2	1	5			4
			3		2	1		
	7					8	9	
				7				

						2		
			4	7	9	1		6
			6	5	8	2		1

				6				
	6	9					2	
		4	1		3			
1			6	5	4			9
5			8	3	1			4
		3	4		5	9		
	5	7				3	4	
				7				

				6				
	6	9					2	
		4	1		3			
1			6	5	4			9
5			8	3	1			4
		3	4		5	9		
	5	7				3	4	
				7				

				2				
			7	9	1			6
			5	8	2			1

				6				
	6	9					2	
		4	1		3			
1			6	5	4			9
5			8	3	1			4
		3	4		5	9		
	5	7				3	4	
				7				

				2				
			7	9	1			6
			5	8	2			1

				6				
	6	9					2	
		4	1		3			
1			6	5	4			9
5			8	3	1			4
		3	4		5	9		
	5	7				3	4	
				7				

				9				
			2	3	1			4
			1	2	9			7

				2				
			4	3	5			8
			8	6	4			9

Level of Difficulty: 5 (on a scale of 0-5)

How to Play

The rules of Samurai Sudoku are the same as in the popular Sudoku puzzles that appear in the daily comics section.

As with standard Sudoku, the Samurai version requires no math, just logic, reasoning ... and an iron will. The goal is to fill in each column, row and 3X3 box with the digits 1 through 9 without repeating any. The twist in Samurai Sudoku is that the digits that appear in the overlapping boxes must work for both puzzles.

A piece of advice to get you started: Don't focus completely on one grid at a time. Keep the whole puzzle in mind as you go, because filling in a number in one grid could give you clues to another. What's important to understand is this: Each Samurai puzzle is ONE puzzle, not five separate Sudoku puzzles that just overlap each other. Occasionally people claim that, for example, the "bottom right" 9X9 puzzle had more than one solution. Well, yes it may, but the entire puzzle can be solved in only one way. Never resort to guessing! For more tips, go to http://www.djape.net/sudoku/wp/?p=144.

Last Sunday's Solution

6	9	2	5	8	1	4	3	7
4	3	1	6	7	9	2	5	8
5	8	7	3	4	2	1	6	9
2	6	8	9	1	7	5	4	3
7	1	9	4	3	5	6	8	2
3	4	5	2	6	8	7	9	1
9	2	4	1	5	3	8	7	6
8	5	3	7	2	6	9	1	4
1	7	6	8	9	4	3	2	5

6	7	2	4	3	5	1	8	9
4	8	5	1	9	7	3	2	6
3	9	1	6	8	2	5	4	7
2	3	7	5	6	9	4	1	8
5	1	6	3	4	8	9	7	2
9	4	8	2	7	1	6	3	5
1	2	9	7	5	4	8	6	3
7	5	3	8	1	6	2	9	4
8	6	4	9	2	3	7	5	1

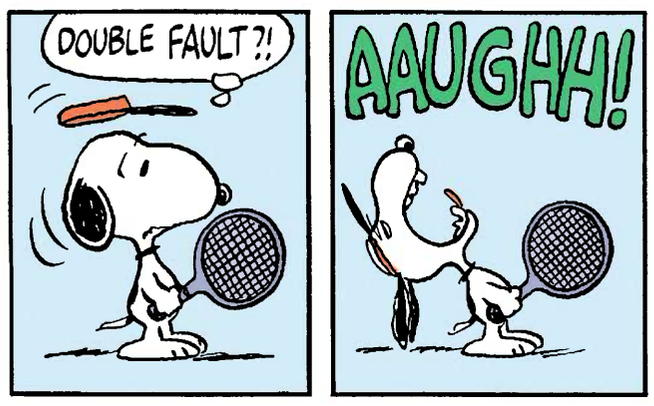
			2	8	9	6	7	4
			5	6	1	3	9	8
			4	3	7	5	2	1

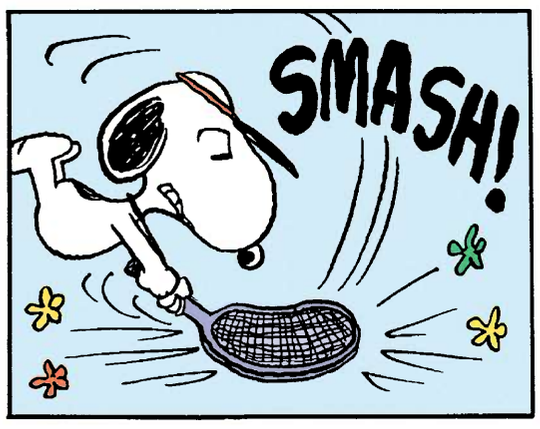
3	4	5	1	2	7	6	9	8
7	8	9	3	5	6	1	4	2
2	1	6	4	8	9	7	5	3
4	2	7	9	6	8	3	1	5
6	3	8	5	4	1	2	7	9
5	9	1	2	7	3	4	8	6
8	7	2	6	9	4	5	3	1
1	5	4	8	3	2	9	6	7
9	6	3	7	1	5	8	2	4

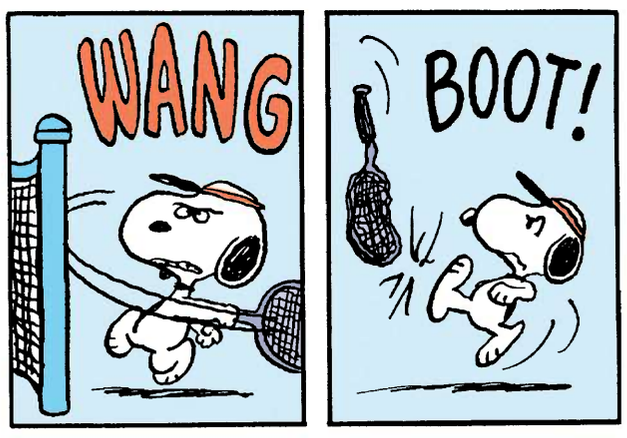
4	3	7	1	2	5	8	9	6
8	6	9	4	3	7	2	1	5
5	1	2	9	8	6	4	3	7
9	4	8	2	7	1	6	3	5
3	7	6	5	4	9	1	2	8
1	2	5	8	6	3	9	7	4
6	8	4	3	9	2	7	5	1
7	5	3	6	1	8	2	4	9
2	9	1	7	5	4	3	8	6

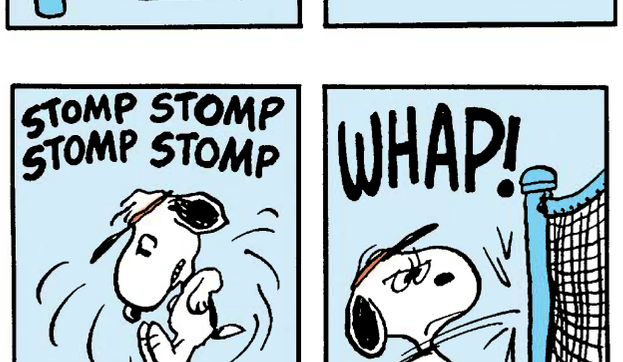
CLASSIC PEANUTS

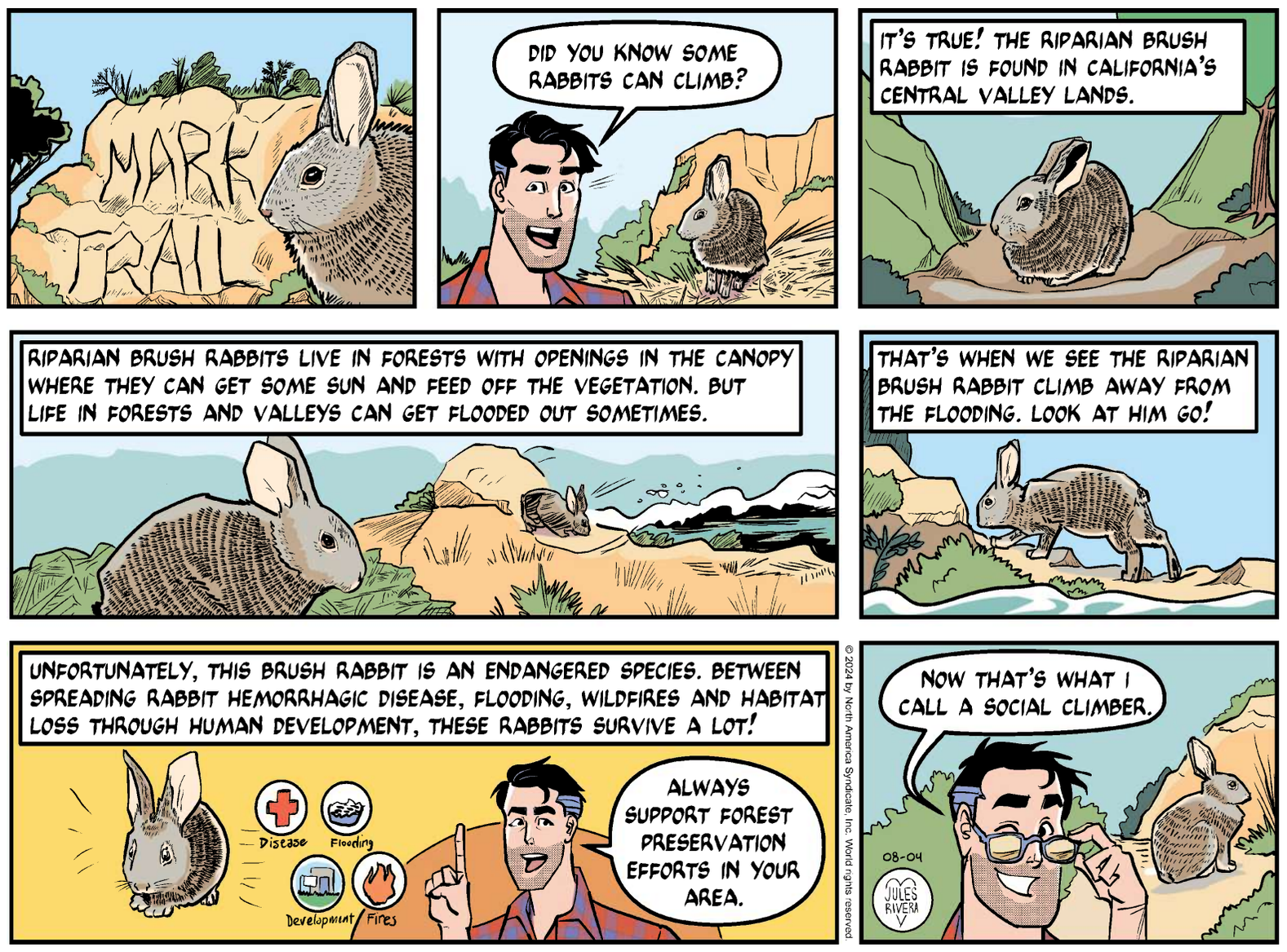
By Charles Schulz





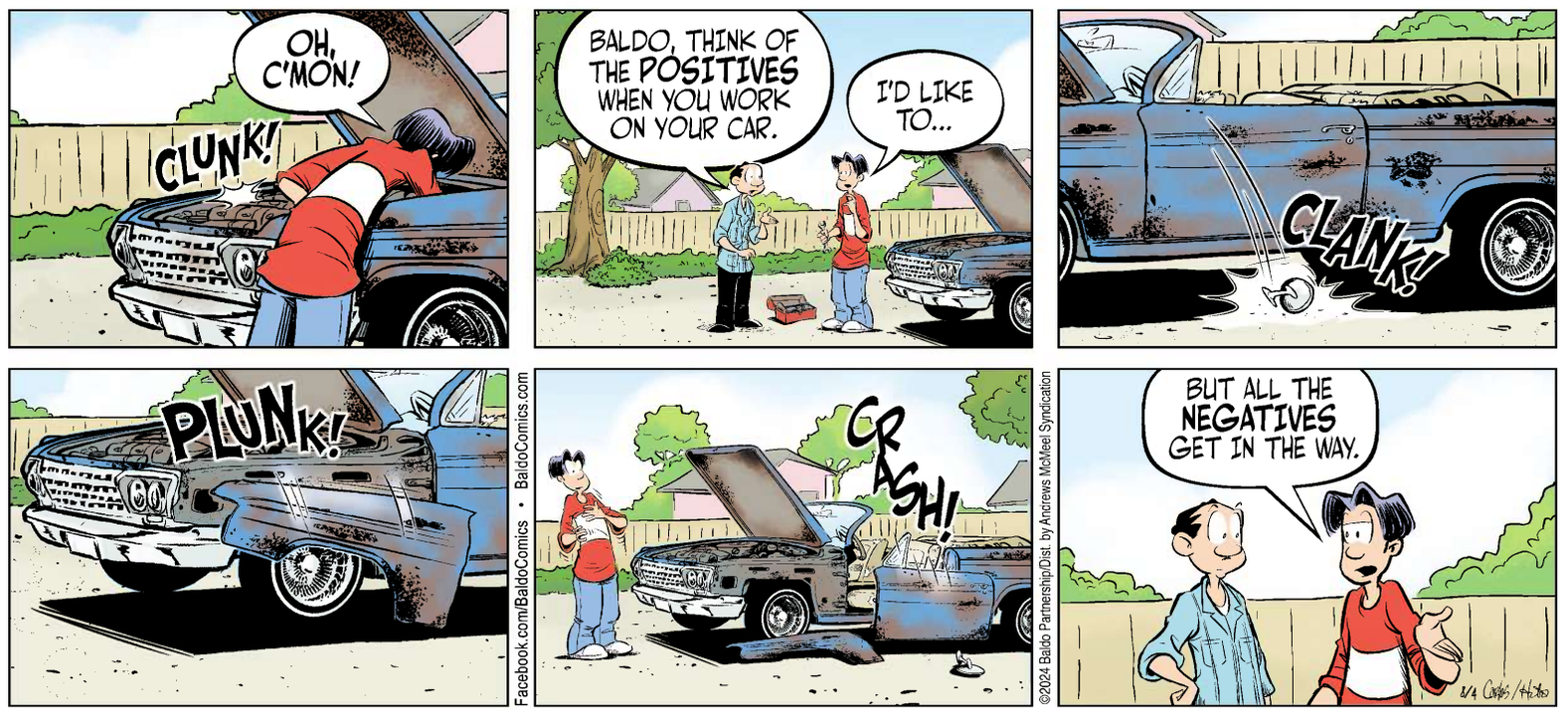






BALDO

By Cantú & Castellanos



PRICKLY CITY

By Scott Stantis