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BRENT CALVER

ON A WINTRY WALK

Snow flies as a woman crosses the Reconciliation Bridge on Saturday. Mainly cloudy skies are forecast for today, with flurries later in the week. See the forecast on **C4**.

Record-breaking snowfall hits city

Calgarians dig themselves out after mess causes delays on roads

NOAH BRENNAN

Calgarians and city crews were busy digging through record-breaking amounts of snow on Sunday after a major dump of snow left many struggling to get around the city.

A snowfall warning in place across the province earlier in the weekend is no longer in effect, and efforts are underway to clean up the mess causing transportation delays around the city.

Environment and Climate Change Canada had predicted up to 15 centimetres of snow to fall in Calgary on Saturday, with stormy conditions not expected to subside until Sunday morning.

Snow stopped falling at around 8 a.m. on Sunday, and efforts to deal with the record-setting snowfall continued across the city.

On Sunday, city crews were busy clearing major roadways such as

Crowchild Trail, Glenmore Trail and Memorial Drive. As of 4 p.m., snow and ice clearing progress was 22 per cent complete, according to a city tracker.

Snow removal efforts on Deerfoot Trail, Stoney Trail and Tsut'ina Trail are managed by the province.

A preliminary Environment Canada report showed 18 cm of snow at the Calgary airport after the heavy snowfall on Friday and Saturday.

Other parts of the province were hit harder, with 26 cm in Beaver Mines and 25 cm in Cold Lake, the report indicated.

The early ECCC report indicated parts of Calgary got as much as

30 cm of snow this weekend. The fast-falling flakes led to a handful of snowfall records being broken in Calgary, as reported by the Calgary Weather Records social media account.

With 24 cm of snow cover by 1 p.m., Saturday saw the deepest amount of snow that Calgary has had on Nov. 23 since record-keeping began in 1955.

"Today's 24 cm of snow cover brought Calgary within six cm of the deepest ever recorded during fall," the account stated.

And with a total of 17.8 cm on Saturday, Nov. 23 became the seventh snowiest November day on record, according to the account.

SEE SNOW ON **A2**

Businesses feel strain of postal strike

DEVIKA DESAI

Calgary businesses are already feeling the strain of low demand volumes and disruptions to their mail delivery processes one week into the Canada Post strike

Businesses say they have had to turn to other delivery options, resulting in higher expenses, and are concerned about being able to mail out orders for customers to receive in time for the holiday season.

"I really hope they get this together quickly," said Jennifer Leblond, who owns Steeling Home, a gift shop located in the Beltline. "We're just trying to problem-solve as we go."

She said her store is currently unable to receive orders from smaller communities in Alberta and the Prairies, which account for about 20 per cent of their daily orders this time of year. "We're seeing a large reduction of orders

from those smaller communities," she said.

Not being able to use Canada Post, normally the cheapest shipping option, has forced Leblond to turn to UPS and FedEx. To keep customers from being turned off from the higher shipping costs, her store has offered a flat UPS rate, of which three per cent is covered by her.

Emmanuel Puscoi, assistant manager at Village Calgary, a

non-profit, said his store is in the same boat.

"Canada Post is usually the service we go with," he said. "Without it, we have had to go to other options, and especially being a small business and a non-profit, that can be tricky."

So far, the demand for orders has been manageable, he said, but it usually picks up in a few weeks, as holiday season is around the corner.

"We get a lot of orders for the Christmas season, all around Canada," he said.

SEE STRIKE ON **A2**

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WEATHER

Today: -13 C
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A Lincoln Cosmopolitan sits in NAIT's auto body shop in Edmonton, before students began renovation work on the 1951 royal ride. PHOTOS: NAIT

Students jump at chance to work on a royal ride

Vehicle that carried the future queen being refurbished at Edmonton school

ZAC DELANEY

EDMONTON NAIT autobody students will be working on a former royal ride as they restore a Lincoln Cosmopolitan that carried the future Queen of England, Elizabeth II, on the Edmonton portion of her tour through Canada in 1951.

"When we introduced the class to the project, and we're like, 'Oh, so is anybody itching to work on this?' Basically everybody in the class put their hands up," said program chair of the autobody department at NAIT Cecile Bukmeier.

The vehicle was generously donated to the program by Ron Lyons, an Edmontonian who bought it from a friend in Calgary. Bukmeier said the restoration responsibilities are being spread around different classes and years in the program, meaning roughly 90 students will get the chance to work on the royal ride by the time it's complete.

Although NAIT's mandate is to have students work on modern vehicles to best prepare them for what they'll see in their careers, Bukmeier said the school likes to be able to offer a special project

like this one to create more buzz for students.

In the past, students restored another car from Lyons, an old Corvette later featured on the school's advertisements around the city, and last year, they refinished a 1985 Jeep CJ.

Work has already begun on the 1951 royal ride.

"They have to strip paint, and then they have to apply modern coatings on this vehicle. So it fit quite well within a lot of the objectives from NAIT. As well ... you don't see one of these cars really every day," said Bukmeier.

THE HISTORY

A beautiful and unique car in its own right, the Lincoln at NAIT is even more special when you factor in its broader history.

Before she was crowned Queen Elizabeth II at age 25 in February of 1952 after the death of her father, King George VI, the just-married Princess Elizabeth and Prince Philip were on a tour of Canada when the Cosmopolitan was used to transport them here and there. The Lincoln was one of 60 cars purchased across the country by

the government for the royal tour.

It was Queen Elizabeth II's first trip to Canada, filling in for her father, King George VI, who was too ill at that point to travel.

More than 100,000 people lined Edmonton streets to see the couple, who used the Lincoln to take a 32-kilometre tour of the city. The tour lasted 10 hours before the couple continued on their Canadian excursion. Less than four months later, King George VI died, passing the throne to Queen Elizabeth II.

In an email, Lyons acknowledged the rich history of the car, but said that isn't what drew him to it.

"I just thought it was cool and

over-the-top with its size and classic good looks," said Lyons.

Bukmeier explained that Lyons "has a long-standing relationship" with NAIT. As a co-owner of Legends Golf & Country Club, Lyons has also supplied golf cars from his golf car museum for students to work on.

"I have an attachment to both the staff and students at the NAIT Autobody Program," said Lyons.

"I feel there is a huge upside in restoring vintage cars and that young people entering the NAIT program can learn an interesting and unique trade and stand to make a very good salary and bring the cool old classics back to their original showroom condition."

When the restoration is finished, both NAIT and Lyons are looking forward to showing off the completed piece of history. The school hopes to have it in its car show, while Lyons plans to bring it around to some local shows before bringing it back to join his museum at the golf club.



NAIT auto body students will refinish the exterior of the car over the coming months. By the time it is finished, roughly 90 students will have had the chance to help with the restoration of a piece of history.

Windy conditions to bring bitter cold to the city

SNOW FROM A1

Challenging driving conditions prompted the City of Calgary to activate transit detours on Friday evening that will likely remain until at least Monday.

Information on those detours is posted at calgarytransit.com/snowdetours.

On Sunday, the city's transit authority continued to post updates about route delays and detours caused by the weather conditions.

CTrain riders were advised to plan for delays along both the Blue and Red lines Sunday morning. Both had resumed regular schedules by the afternoon.

In the wake of the snow dump, Environment Canada said cool temperatures are coming in the province and to expect an across-the-board drop in temperature until the end of the month. Calgarians can expect a bitter cold in the next



A man clears snow from his windshield on Saturday. Parts of Calgary saw as much as 30 centimetres of snow this weekend. BRENT CALVER

couple of days thanks to windy conditions, with a Sunday night low of -18 C reaching -25 with the wind chill. Monday morning has a predicted wind chill of -23, while the Environment Canada forecast showed lows hovering around -14 C for the rest of the week.

No additional snowfall was forecast for the rest of the week.

The break in the snow will be welcomed by many Calgarians continuing to be affected by poor road conditions on Sunday.

On Saturday, AMA was experiencing twice as many requests

for towing and winching services than usual, a company spokesperson told Postmedia, though calls for battery-related services were typical.

As of 4 p.m. Sunday, AMA's website predicted a 41-hour wait for towing or winching services in Calgary, and a seven-hour wait for a battery boost, flat tire fix or fuel delivery. Battery tests or replacements were also seeing a 16-hour wait.

The association encouraged motorists to slow down when navigating wintry conditions, allow for a safe following distance between vehicles and to plug in their block heaters for at least four hours before driving in temperatures below -15 C.

Drivers are also urged to install winter tires if they have not done so already, ensure their tires are inflated to the appropriate PSI (as most tires lose one PSI for every five-degree drop in temperature) and keep vehicle windows and roofs clear of snow and ice.

— with files from Scott Strasser

Charities concerned postal strike will jeopardize fundraising efforts

STRIKE FROM A1

Puscoi and Leblond are not alone.

The Canadian Federation of Independent Businesses sent a letter to the federal government earlier this week citing a survey that found 75 per cent of small businesses will be negatively affected by the work stoppage, with nearly eight in 10 still relying on Canada Post to do business.

The letter, addressed to Labour Minister Steven MacKinnon, implored the government to intervene in the strike by imposing binding arbitration or back-to-work legislation. "The holiday season is crucial for these small businesses," the letter stated.

The CFIB survey shows that 72 per cent of businesses say the strike has caused cash flow issues for them stemming from delays in receiving or sending out cheques and invoices.

Susie Evans, who owns Five Star Courier, a local service, says she has had to ask customers to e-transfer payments to mitigate delays in receiving revenue by sending out cheques.

"There's nothing in the mail," she said.

"I don't know how some small companies are supposed to survive because we can't pay our bills if our receivables aren't coming in."

Several Calgary charities have expressed concerns that the strike may jeopardize their ability to

fundraise during the holiday season, when many non-profits collect the majority of their annual donations.

The Calgary Health Foundation said it brought in \$250,000 from last year's holiday appeal.

"Without knowing how long the strike will last or what impact it will have on its operations, the Foundation is preparing for a substantial drop in dollars," the CHF said in a release.

The foundation encouraged donors to call, visit its website or reach out to the organization for alternate ways to contribute.

Canada Post said that it has seen a shortage of more than eight million parcels since more than 55,000 workers across the country walked off the job on Nov. 15, compared with the same period in 2023.

Talks continued over the weekend with the Canadian Union of Postal Workers, with the support of a mediator.

The strikes is centred on issues including wages and contract work, as well as job security, benefits and working conditions.

The Crown corporation has offered wage increases totalling 11.5 per cent over four years and additional paid leave, while protecting the defined benefit pension and job security provisions.

The union has called for a cumulative wage hike of 24 per cent over four years. It also wants full-time employees to deliver package shipments on weekends, whereas Canada Post hopes to hire contract workers.

Canada Post noted that customers have been forced to turn to the corporations' competitors for deliveries.

"Small businesses is the lifeblood of Canada Post. They're their biggest customers," Leblond said. "You'd think they'd understand they're also going to be losing revenue."

— with Canadian Press files

‘Repair exchange’ gains momentum with free events

Initiative aims to reduce consumption and increase resource sustainability

NOAH BRENNAN

A repair exchange movement is picking up steam in Calgary, offering residents a chance to get essential items fixed at no charge by fellow Calgarians.

The events are made possible thanks to a team of volunteer “fixers” — generous Calgarians skilled in repairing items such as worn-out clothes, household goods and bikes.

Repair Exchange Calgary has become the largest series of repair events in Canada, collaborating this year with community associations and affordable housing agencies to host 16 events across the city, the group said in a news release.

The initiative aims to reduce consumption, increase resource sustainability and extend the life of products and materials, the group said.

The movement has seen an increase in demand for its services due to affordability concerns that have put pressure on many Calgarians to find ways to save money, according to Repair Exchange Calgary co-ordinator Melissa Centofanti.

“It does save a lot of money,” Centofanti said at a repair exchange in the Hillhurst Sunnyside Community Association building on Sunday.

“With the cost of living and affordability crisis, it’s especially important for marginalized communities,” she added.

The events are open to all Calgarians, but one fixer said Sunday the majority of people she helps are from low-income and marginalized communities in the city.

Within the first hour of Sunday’s exchange, Centofanti reported a strong turnout at the event, with a “steady flow” of people bringing in broken items despite poor road conditions brought on by the record-breaking snowfall this weekend.

Three electrical fixers and two fabric fixers were on hand to repair items ranging from kettles and radios to clothing and even stuffed animals, Centofanti said.

Farzana Umar first learned how to sew as a child, watching her mother repair clothes.

As a fixer with Repair Exchange Calgary, Umar has been putting her skills to use helping Calgari-

ans at events across the city over the last year.

While attendance at the exchanges varies, Umar said she typically sees around 40 to 50 people at each event, and many bring multiple broken items to be fixed.

Umar emphasized the events’ importance in reducing waste and helping Calgarians save money. Roughly half of the service requests are for clothing items in need of repair, and while professional fabric repair services can cost upward of \$20 per item, those same repairs can be done for free

by someone like Umar at a Repair Exchange event, she said.

The repair exchanges also provide an opportunity to build community connections, Centofanti and Umar both said.

The exchanges are organized by the Arusha Centre, a Calgary-based charity focused on strengthening communities and pursuing overall sustainability, with support from the city. The events also serve as educational opportunities, allowing participants to learn how to fix their own items and become self-sufficient, Umar explained.

“This is an incredible initiative,” Calgary-North West MLA Rajan Sawhney said in the group’s news release.

“We can repurpose items so they don’t have to go to the landfill. I want to support this movement for sustainability in our communities, our economies, and our country,” Sawhney said.

As the movement grows, Umar and Centofanti are calling for more frequent events to meet community needs.

The next repair exchange is scheduled for Dec. 8.



Victoria Panti, left, and Farzana Umar repair clothing and textile items for the Repair Exchange at the Hillhurst Sunnyside Community Association in Calgary on Sunday. BRENT CALVER



BRENT CALVER

EYE ON THE BALLS Lok Holmes juggles four balls during the Calgary Juggling and Prop Manipulation Jam at Green Fools Theatre and Circus School on Sunday. The Jam runs from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. every Sunday. Admission is \$10.

Province confirms it will withdraw \$1M in funding for CMRB

SCOTT STRASSER

Starting next year, the Alberta government will no longer commit \$1 million in annual support for the Calgary Metropolitan Region Board (CMRB) and will make membership of the group voluntary, a provincial cabinet minister confirmed Saturday.

Municipal Affairs Minister Ric McIver delivered the news on Friday, after a 45-minute in-camera discussion during the CMRB’s latest board meeting in Cochrane.

“Alberta’s government met with the CMRB and the group was informed that no funding from the government would continue after the current year,” he confirmed in a Saturday statement, adding the CMRB was always intended to be a “self-funding” body.

“The CMRB has worked hard, and we are hopeful that they will choose to continue to work together to responsibly plan and manage development,” McIver said. “Our government is open to suggestions on how each board can work collaboratively and we look forward to their ideas as we move forward.”

The CMRB was formed in 2018, with representation comprising elected officials from the City of Calgary and its surrounding mu-

nicipalities. At first, membership included the municipalities of Calgary, Airdrie, Cochrane, Chestermere, Okotoks, Strathmore and High River. The original board also included Foothills, Wheatland and Rocky View counties.

The board’s mandate is to support long-term regional land-use planning, economic development, growth management and policy development, according to its website, in areas such as regional infrastructure and service delivery.

But the board has not been universally popular among its own membership. In 2021, the three rural members of the board — Wheatland, Foothills and Rocky View County — voted against the CMRB’s regional growth plan, claiming the strategy was too urban-focused and would take away the counties’ planning autonomy.

The following year, Strathmore and Wheatland County severed ties with the CMRB. At the time, the Town of Strathmore said with less than two per cent of the region’s population and without direct proximity to Calgary, the cost of participating in the CMRB exceeded the value of membership.

The CMRB could not be reached for comment on Saturday.

Calgary Airport Authority wins right to appeal denial of \$2M in fees owed by Lynx

Airline filed for bankruptcy in February

A group of five Canadian airport authorities fighting to receive unpaid fees from bankrupt Lynx Air have won a partial victory from Alberta’s top court.

The claimants, including the Calgary Airport Authority and Edmonton Regional Airports, are seeking immediate return of more than \$4 million in unremitted airport improvement fees from Lynx, which filed for bankruptcy last February.

The Calgary Airport Authority is owed about half of the total unremitted amount, with another \$1.1 million owed to the Vancouver airport.

Airport improvement fees of varying amounts are charged to departing passengers by airport authorities and earmarked for cap-



Lynx Air, which launched its first flight in 2022, had more than \$200 million in debts after filing for bankruptcy in February. Lynx said rising costs and “a competitive aviation landscape proved disastrous” for the airline.

ital projects. They are collected by airlines and returned monthly to airport operators.

The five authorities had argued distribution of the fees collected by Lynx should be given priority over other claims under the airline’s creditor agreement.

Their reasoning included that other Lynx creditors could otherwise benefit from distribution of the outstanding airport funds.

However, a Court of King’s Bench of Alberta ruling in August determined the airport authorities did not have claim over all other in-

terests. Justice Barbara Romaine cited a 1999 agreement that stated airlines do not have a partnership or trust relationship with the five airports.

“It is clear that the parties defined their relationship with respect to (airport improvement fees) as being a principal/agent relationship, but the express denial of an intention to create a trust overrides any such implication,” Romaine wrote in her decision.

The airports sought to appeal, arguing Romaine erred in her assessment of the contractual obligations contained in the agreement.

On Friday, Alberta Court of Appeal Justice Jane Fagnan granted the airports leave to appeal.

Initial court filings indicated Lynx, which launched its first flight in April 2022, had more than \$200 million in debts after filing for bankruptcy.

Lynx said airport charges, rising costs and “a competitive aviation landscape proved disas-

trous” for the airline in past court filings.

Lawyers for the five airports said Lynx’s primary secured creditor, private equity firm Indigo, which owned a quarter of the airline, was owed more than \$90 million in principal and another \$20 million in interest and costs. It has received \$87 million since the creditor filing, according to Fagnan’s decision.

Lynx also owed \$47.8 million to various trade creditors and \$25.6 million in unpaid taxes to the federal government, according to court documents.

The \$4 million claimed by the five airport authorities is being held in a trust account by the bankruptcy monitor. Authorities for Halifax and Winnipeg airports are also involved in the legal action.

The Toronto Airport Authority, which was not part of the 1999 agreement cited by Romaine, was successful in arguing for return of \$1.7 million in unremitted fees.

Postmedia News



A rendering depicts Hampton Inn by Hilton, a development of Calgary-based Triple One Properties opening next spring at 614 6th Avenue S.W. TRIPLE ONE PROPERTIES

Hampton Inn by Hilton coming to downtown next spring

Striking 16-storey tower being constructed with a special infill design to fit tight space



DAVID PARKER

On a narrow lot on 6th Avenue S.W., Calgary's newest hotel has topped off at 16 storeys and work is proceeding on schedule to welcome guests by late spring 2025.

Hampton Inn by Hilton — Calgary Downtown, is a development of Calgary-based Triple One Properties that will add another 151 rooms to the city's hospitality inventory.

Executive vice-president Sameer Mawji is excited to watch the progress and delighted to announce that he has persuaded Stella Chen to accept the role of general manager.

Chen has a varied experience in the hotel industry, having studied hotel management in Lucerne, Switzerland, and

earning her hospitality degree in Miami.

Her working experience has included management positions in Johannesburg, Moscow, Kuala Lumpur, Washington, D.C., and London. In Calgary, Chen served as executive director of Trico LivingWell.

She is busy interviewing and hiring department head positions, later in the new year bolstering the staff count to around 50.

Triple One also owns the Courtyard by Marriott Hotel in Saskatoon.

Mawji is a driven individual who wants to take the gift of his late father's legacy to another level that matches the stature of his potential.

"I want to bring the strongest upper-tier focused service brand in the world to the front door of downtown Calgary, elevating it to the stature comparable to that found in the full-service brands, but at a more value-oriented price point," he said.

Triple One is the vision of the late Shiraz (Sam) Mawji, as a family company whose inspiration was to have a vertically integrated real estate company with a goal of delivering high-quality hospitality-based assets with acute focus on leading customer service programs, partnered with the best brands in the Canadian prairies.

The downtown site for Hampton Inn by Hilton required a rather unique infill design between a commercial building and small parking lot.

NORR was the architect working collaboratively with Triple One and a geographically diverse team of consultants to conceptualize a design that considered the hotel brand, guest demographics and site constraints requiring pre-built steel framing.

The result is a striking and eye-pleasing tower with a dynamic exterior featuring mesh facade treatment with gold coloured aluminum panelling.

Hampton Inn by Hilton will integrate well with the public and resident guest experience, thanks to a setback in a faceted manner of the ground and second floor. It allows for an

animated and inviting frontage zone, which opens to a porte cochere that combines a one-way driveway and pedestrian access to the hotel drop-off and main entrance.

The tight site also resulted in several innovative solutions related to vehicular access, including valet parking via car lift to below grade triple-high vehicle stackers.

Retail was originally planned for the main floor, but the entire space has been devoted to a Kohler showroom.

The boutique hotel design features Kohler-branded guest rooms — 12 per floor. Chen says that it is possible to rent a whole floor, in a busy part of the city directly across from the Calgary Courts Centre.

The second floor has hotel office space and a kitchen to serve hot breakfasts, including the brand's famous waffles.

It also boasts a Plus-15 connection.

Half of the 15th floor is for administrative offices, and the sixth features conference spaces and fitness facilities.

NORR is an employee-owned global team of 800 architects,

engineers, interior designers and planners working collaboratively across 12 sectors. It has a strong hospitality portfolio that includes the world's tallest tower in Dubai.

The Calgary office of about 100 staff has been kept extremely busy with its residential portfolio.

Notables include West Village Towers, Aria University District and Jayman Club Active Living. NORR continues with several projects for Truman Homes, while also currently designing many other multi-family properties in Calgary for clients such as Streetside, Trico, Rohit, Logel and Jayman.

NOTES: Tom Tait has been in the publishing business in this city for almost 45 years: 20 with Key to Calgary/Where magazine, and since 2002 with his Galleries West. Age-related realities suggest he deserves to take life a little easier, and he is looking for someone to talk about the opportunities to take the respected online arts magazine forward. David Parker appears regularly in the Herald. Read his columns online at calgaryherald.com/business. He can be reached at 403-830-4622.

RCMP

Charges laid in fatal collision

DEVIKA DESAI

A 50-year-old man is facing impaired driving charges related to a fatal head-on crash near Drumheller at the beginning of the year.

Sean Powell of Strathmore was arrested Tuesday on several charges, including impaired operation of a conveyance causing death, RCMP said in a release.

The collision occurred at 11:45 p.m. on Jan. 6 between a pickup truck and a car on Highway 9 near Range Road 214. The driver of the car, a 39-year-old man, died at the scene. His 33-year-old female passenger was transported to hospital with injuries. Both are residents of Drumheller.

Powell was taken to Drumheller hospital with non-life-threatening injuries, RCMP said.

He was released from custody and is to appear in the Drumheller Alberta Court of Justice on Dec. 20.

Activists happy council will keep aquatic centre open

SCOTT STRASSER

Community advocates are celebrating Calgary city council's vote to keep the Inglewood Aquatic Centre open for another two years, though the area councillor called it a fiscally irresponsible decision.

After passing the city's 2025 budget, council wrapped up a weeklong meeting on Friday by voting 12-3 to keep the community pool open until the completion of an expansion project at the MNP Community and Sport Centre of Erlton.

Councillors Jennifer Wyness, Raj Dhaliwal and Evan Spencer voted in opposition.

The reconsideration vote stemmed from an urgent notice of motion introduced earlier this month from councillors Sonya Sharp and Andre Chabot to keep the pool open for another two years. It was originally slated to close on Dec. 22.

Their motion asked council to allocate \$350,000 to support the pool's most critical upgrades, while also earmarking an operational funding cap of \$400,000 annually that was previously relinquished in the four-year budget.

While most of her proposed amendments were rejected during budget deliberations, Sharp said she was pleased to see a sizable majority of council support her pitch to maintain Inglewood's aging aquatic centre.

"The overwhelming public opposition to the pool's closure has spoken volumes," she said in a social media statement. "Residents made it clear that this space matters, and council has a responsibility to listen and respond to the priorities of our communities."

"Cutting essential community services should never be the default solution to balancing a budget or lowering taxes. We need to find better ways to find efficiencies while prioritizing investments that directly improve quality of life in our city, and this pool is a shining example of that."

Bob Swan, a longtime Inglewood resident and frequent visitor of the Inglewood Aquatic Centre, said the impassioned advocacy of residents helped sway council's decision. He noted community members fought to save their pool by organizing a petition, conducting a lawn sign campaign, holding multiple rallies and lobbying councilors. Council's decision buys the community two years to keep up with a longer-term solution, Swan added.

He noted that next year, two other city-run lane pools are slated to close temporarily to undergo repairs (Renfrew and Glenmore) while MNP will close off its eight-lane pool to the public as well. These closures will create an even higher demand for public pools, he argued.

"People are already scrambling to find places to swim," Swan said. "It's just not the right decision now (to close Inglewood)."

Council had originally voted 8-7 in October to accelerate the Inglewood pool's closure, after staff pointed out its necessary electrical upgrades could cost upwards of \$1 million.

While he voted along with the majority on Friday, Inglewood's area councillor said his own vote to keep the facility open was done begrudgingly.

Ward 9 Coun. Gian-Carlo Carra said it was a smart move politically but the wrong move fiscally.

"I think the residents did a great job of advocating, for sure," he said.

"When you get an organized group and you have an election coming up, politicians sometimes make weird decisions. But I'm not going to vote against closing it, even if it's the right thing to do. If we want to spend a lot of money for a low return, let's do it."

The Inglewood pool first opened in 1962 and is about 20 years past its life expectancy, according to the city.

Its electrical issues don't currently pose any safety concerns, but staff did warn that the funds approved will be the bare minimum to keep the facility operational and won't guarantee the pool could remain open for any extended period of time.

"It's not like anyone is going to get electrocuted if the electric fails, but there is a chance everyone is splashing around the pool and then it goes dark," Carra said.

"And we're not going to spend the millions of dollars it's going to take to make sure that doesn't happen; we're going to spend a couple hundred thousand dollars to do the absolute bare minimum to make sure it can go for as long as possible."

"It's anyone's guess how long that is."



The Inglewood Aquatic Centre was slated to shutter at the end of the year, but it will now remain open for another two years. GAVIN YOUNG

cal upgrades could cost upwards of \$1 million.

While he voted along with the majority on Friday, Inglewood's area councillor said his own vote to keep the facility open was done begrudgingly.

Ward 9 Coun. Gian-Carlo Carra said it was a smart move politically but the wrong move fiscally.

"I think the residents did a great job of advocating, for sure," he said.

"When you get an organized group and you have an election coming up, politicians sometimes make weird decisions. But I'm not going to vote against closing it, even if it's the right thing to do. If we want to spend a lot of money for a low return, let's do it."

The Inglewood pool first opened in 1962 and is about 20 years past its life expectancy, according to the city.

Its electrical issues don't currently pose any safety concerns, but staff did warn that the funds approved will be the bare minimum to keep the facility operational and won't guarantee the pool could remain open for any extended period of time.

"It's not like anyone is going to get electrocuted if the electric fails, but there is a chance everyone is splashing around the pool and then it goes dark," Carra said.

"And we're not going to spend the millions of dollars it's going to take to make sure that doesn't happen; we're going to spend a couple hundred thousand dollars to do the absolute bare minimum to make sure it can go for as long as possible."

"It's anyone's guess how long that is."

AN EDITION OF
NP
in the CALGARY HERALD

THE VANCOUVER POLICE BOARD'S VICE-CHAIR HAS RESIGNED AFTER SHE MADE SEVERAL SOCIAL MEDIA POSTS ALLEGING THAT CANADA'S CULTURE AND VALUES ARE BEING UNDERMINED BY MINORITY GROUPS. [PAGE NP3](#)

'TERROR' BLAMED IN RABBI'S KILLING

3 ARRESTS
'Antisemitic incident' in Dubai
TIA GOLDENBERG AND JON GAMBRELL

TEL AVIV, ISRAEL • Israel said Sunday that the body of an Israeli-Moldovan rabbi who went missing in the United Arab Emirates has been found after he was killed in what it described as a "heinous antisemitic terror incident."

The statement from Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's office said Israel "will act with all means to seek justice with the criminals responsible for his death." Israeli authorities did not say how they determined the killing of Zvi Kogan was a terror attack and offered no additional details.

The U.A.E.'s Interior Ministry later said authorities arrested three perpetrators involved in the killing.

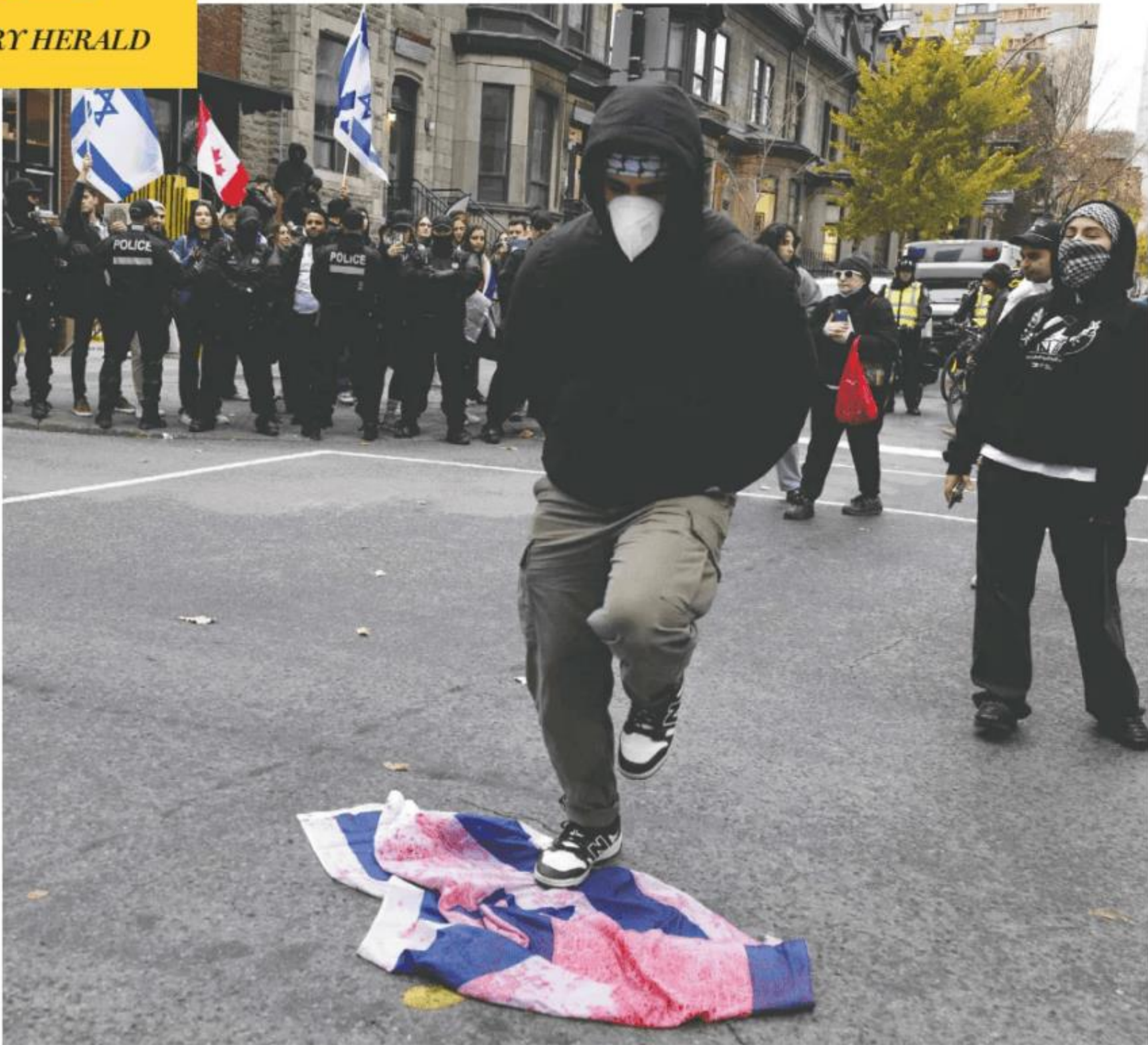
Kogan, 28, an ultra-Orthodox rabbi who went missing on Thursday, ran a Kosher grocery store in the futuristic city of Dubai, where Israelis have flocked for commerce and tourism since the two countries forged diplomatic ties in the 2020 Abraham Accords.

The agreement has held through more than a year of soaring regional tensions unleashed by Hamas's October 7, 2023 attack into southern Israel. But Israel's retaliatory offensive in Gaza and its invasion of Lebanon, after months of fighting with the Hezbollah terrorist group, have stoked anger among Emiratis, Arab nationals and others living in the U.A.E.

Iran, which supports Hamas and Hezbollah, has also been threatening to retaliate against Israel after a wave of airstrikes Israel carried out in October in response to an Iranian ballistic missile attack.

The Emirati government did not respond to a request for comment.

See RABBI on NP4



A man dances on the Israeli flag as students gather outside Concordia University in Montreal on Thursday to protest the ongoing conflict in Gaza. On Friday night, hundreds of anti-NATO and anti-Israel activists turned violent on Montreal streets, smashing store windows and burning cars.

Café shut over Nazi salute

ARI DAVID BLAFF

The Second Cup café chain has shut down a store it says is linked to a Montreal franchisee who gave pro-Israel demonstrators a Nazi salute and chanted, "The Final Solution is coming."

In videos shared on social media, the woman was filmed Thursday at an anti-Israel protest at Concordia University wearing a keffiyeh, a traditional Palestinian scarf, black sunglasses and a medical mask initially obscuring her identity. Over the course of the weekend, as news of the incident went viral and drew stern condemnation from across the political spectrum, she was linked to a Second Cup café inside the city's Jewish General Hospital.

Late Saturday, the company announced it had severed ties with the

MONTREAL
SECOND CUP
CLOSED AFTER
FRANCHISEE'S
'FINAL
SOLUTION IS
COMING' CHANT

store, shutting it down and terminating its franchise agreement. "Last night, our franchisee at the Jewish General Hospital was filmed making hateful remarks and gestures," the company said in a public statement posted on Instagram

and X.

"This franchisee's actions are not only a breach of our franchise agreement, but they also violate the values of inclusion and community we stand for at Second Cup."

Mayor Jeremy Levi, whose community of Hampstead is a suburb of Montreal, applauded the news, underscoring, "To every pro-terror, anti-Israel, and antisemite spewing hate: understand this clearly — your vile rhetoric and actions will not go unchecked. Your attempts to intimidate or sow division only strengthen our resolve and unite us in purpose."

"There are consequences for your reprehensible choices, and we will ensure they are felt," Levi added in a social media post Saturday evening following the Second Cup announcement.

See PROTESTER on NP2

10-METRE ASTEROID

MARCIA DUNN

CAPE CANAVERAL, FLA. • Planet Earth is parting company with an asteroid that's been tagging along as a "mini moon" for the past two months.

The harmless space rock will peel away on Monday,

overcome by the stronger tug of the sun's gravity. But it will zip closer for a quick visit in January.

NASA will use a radar antenna to observe the 10-metre asteroid then. That should deepen scientists' understanding of the object known as 2024 PT5, quite possibly a boulder that was blasted off the moon by an impacting, crater-forming asteroid.

While not technically a moon — NASA stresses it was never captured by Earth's gravity and fully in orbit — it's "an interesting object" worthy of study.

The astrophysicist brothers who identified the asteroid's "mini moon behaviour," Raul and Carlos de la Fuente Marcos of Complutense University of Madrid, have collaborated with telescopes in the Canary Islands for hun-

dreds of observations so far.

Currently more than 3.5 million kilometres away, the object is too small and faint to see without a powerful telescope. It will pass as close as 1.8 million kilometres of Earth in January, maintaining a safe distance before it zooms farther into the solar system while orbiting the sun, not to return until 2055. That's almost five times farther than the moon.

First spotted in August, the asteroid began its semi jog around Earth in late September, after coming under the grips of Earth's gravity and following a horse-shoe-shaped path. By the time it returns next year, it will be moving too fast — more than double its speed from September — to hang around, said Raul de la Fuente Marcos.

The Associated Press



The harmless space rock that has recently been tagging along as an Earth 'mini moon' is set to peel away on Monday.

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NEWS

Franchisee
ran outlet
inside Jewish
General

PROTESTER

Continued from NP1

Idit Shamir, the Israeli Consul General in Toronto, thanked Second Cup for acting swiftly. “Imagine chanting ‘The Final Solution is coming’ and throwing a Nazi salute at @Concordia — while running a café at Jewish General Hospital, a place built by Holocaust survivors,” the Toronto-based official wrote on X.

The incident came as hundreds of anti-NATO and anti-Israel activists turned violent on Montreal streets on Friday night, smashing store windows and burning cars. Clashes with local law enforcement led to a handful of arrests as videos circulated online showing sweeping chaos.

“What we saw on the streets of Montreal last night was appalling. Acts of antisemitism, intimidation, and violence must be condemned wherever we see them,” Prime Minister Justin Trudeau tweeted a day after the riots. “The RCMP are in communication with local police. There must be consequences, and rioters held accountable.”

“Complete lawlessness in Montreal as the Pro-Hamas terror mobs emboldened by the Trudeau Liberals destroy the PM’s own hometown,” Conservative deputy leader Melissa Lantsman wrote on social media Friday night.

“Rioters on a violent rampage and not a single word from our government. They only act when you disagree with them. Bring back law and order, safe streets and communities in the Canada we once knew and loved. Hope the concert was good,” Lantsman added, swiping at Trudeau’s attendance at a Taylor Swift concert in Toronto the same night.

Conservative Party Leader Pierre Poilievre struck a similar note.

“You act surprised. We are reaping what you sowed,” the opposition leader publicly responded to Trudeau following the prime minister’s earlier statement.

“And, while you were dancing, Montreal was burning. We won’t let you divide us anymore. Call an election now. We will fire you and reclaim our citizenship, our values, our lives, our freedom and, most of all, our country.”

Footage of masked protesters with red smoke flares walking down the street and jubilantly smashing windows even made waves south of the border, prompting American investment magnate Bill Ackman to tweet: “@JustinTrudeau needs to go.”

The violent scenes prompted the Israeli consulate to “urge the Canadian government to act decisively to curb this dangerous and antisemitic incitement before tragedy strikes,” calling popular protests chants including “globalize the intifada” as “not just rhetoric” but “a call for violence against Jews, Israelis, and anyone who upholds Western values.”

National Post



JOHN MAHONEY / MONTREAL GAZETTE

A protester holds a smoke torch during a demonstration in Montreal on Friday in support of Palestinians and in opposition to the meeting of NATO parliamentarians in the city.

‘VIOLENT MOBS’ DENOUNCED
IN MONTREAL RIOTS

Trudeau, attending
Swift concert, slams
antisemitic acts

JASON MAGDER

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and politicians of all stripes are condemning the violence that broke out as part of an anti-NATO protest in downtown Montreal late Friday.

Three people were arrested after pro-Palestinian, anti-NATO protesters smashed windows, clashed with police officers and set vehicles ablaze on Friday evening.

“What we saw on the streets of Montreal last night was appalling. Acts of antisemitism, intimidation, and violence must be condemned wherever we see them. The RCMP are in communication with local police. There must be consequences, and rioters held accountable,” Trudeau wrote on X late Saturday morning.

Quebec Premier François Legault also described the scenes as antisemitic.

“Burning cars and smashing windows is not about sending a message, it’s about causing chaos. Such acts have no place in a peaceful society like Quebec,” he wrote.

The protest coincided with the arrival of about 300 delegates from NATO member states and partner countries attending a high-level summit, running from Nov. 22 to 25 in Montreal, focused on Ukraine, climate change and the alliance’s future. It was the second day of a wave of student-wide pro-Palestinian protests across Montreal.

While the demonstration was underway, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau was attending the Taylor Swift concert in Toronto with members of his family. Videos were shared online of him dancing at the show.

Trudeau’s presence at the concert, juxtaposed with the escalating violence in Montreal, was condemned widely on social media,

including by Conservative Party Leader Pierre Poilievre.

“Violent mobs riot and rampage through beautiful Montreal, typifying the chaos that is engulfing our once-peaceful country after nine years of Trudeau’s radical, divisive agenda. Trudeau fiddles while Montreal burns,” he wrote, alluding to the concert.

Late Friday afternoon, an initial group of protesters had gathered at Émilie-Gamelin Parc downtown before marching toward the Quartier des Spectacles, according to Manuel Couture, a spokesperson for the Montreal police. By 5:30 p.m., another group had converged at Place des Arts, and the two demonstrations merged.

The protesters then marched down St-Urbain Street. At 6:10 p.m., tensions escalated as demonstrators set an effigy of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on fire in the middle of the crowd. As the march continued, objects — including small explosive devices and metal items — were hurled into the street, targeting police officers. By 6:40 p.m., protesters had smashed shop windows near St-Urbain and René-Lévesque Boulevard, and set two vehicles ablaze.

Couture said police deployed chemical irritants and conducted crowd-dispersal manoeuvres to regain control. Two men, age 22 and 28 respectively, and a 22-year-old woman were arrested for obstructing the work of police officers, said Véronique Dubuc, spokesperson for the Montreal police. The woman will also be charged with assault.

All were identified and released at the scene. They will eventually have to appear in court to answer the charges.

Couture said the protesters had dispersed by 7 p.m.

Friday’s protest was organized by the groups Divest for Palestine and the Convergence of Anti-Capitalist Struggles.

In a post to X on Saturday, Legault said he “asked the Minister of Public Security (François Bonnardel) that the police arrest violent people and that the SPVM request assistance from the SQ if neces-

sary.”

Legault shared a report from the Journal de Montreal in which Bonnardel said the number of arrests linked to Friday’s protest could rise over the coming days.

Montreal Mayor Valérie Plante spoke out against the violence in a statement posted on X early Saturday.

“The (outbreak of violence) during the demonstration yesterday is shocking and has no place in a peaceful metropolis like Montreal,” Plante wrote. “Neither chaos, nor violence nor vandalism towards merchants are tolerated and I thank (Montreal police) who made several arrests yesterday.”

Plante’s comments echoed those made by interim opposition leader Aref Salem 11 hours earlier.

“These intolerable acts have no purpose,” Salem wrote. “The silence of the Plante administration is resonating.”

Speaking to reporters at the Halifax International Security Forum, Foreign Affairs Minister Mélanie Joly and Defence Minister Bill Blair said the protesters’ actions were unacceptable.

“Those who spread hate and antisemitism, use violence, loot and destroy property must be condemned and held accountable. Rioting is not peaceful protest and has no place in Montreal or anywhere in Canada,” Joly wrote on X.

Anti-NATO protesters gathered again in Montreal on Saturday to demand Canada withdraw from the alliance. About 80 people attended the peaceful demonstration organized by Le Mouvement Québécois pour la Paix, holding signs that read “Canada out of NATO” and chanting “solidarity with Palestine.” Several in attendance held Communist Party of Canada flags while others held Palestinian flags.

The protests came amid heightened tensions following Thursday’s pro-Palestinian demonstrations at Concordia University, where protesters flooded the Hall Building and clashed with pro-Israel counter-demonstrators outside.

Postmedia, with additional reporting from The Canadian Press

Man shot
by police
after call
to 911

LAS VEGAS

LAS VEGAS • A Las Vegas man called for police help during a home invasion before an officer fatally shot him, according to authorities and 911 calls.

Brandon Durham called 911 early Nov. 12, saying he was hiding with his 15-year-old daughter after someone broke into his home, Assistant Sheriff Dori Koren said.

Durham is heard pleading with the dispatcher to “send someone ASAP” in audio recordings obtained last week by KVVU-TV in Las Vegas.

Koren identified the officer who shot Durham as Alexander Bookman, 26.

Bookman was one of the first officers to arrive and kicked in the front door. Koren said the officer found Durham in a hallway struggling over a knife with the intruder.

In a short clip of body camera video released by police, the officer yells for them to drop the knife, then fires one round. Durham and the intruder both fall to the floor, then the officer moves closer and fires five more rounds while standing over them, the video shows.

Durham, 43, died in his home.

Koren said Durham and the intruder knew each other. The intruder was arrested and charged with home invasion and assault.

David Roger, general counsel for the union representing Las Vegas police officers, said Saturday in a statement that Bookman was not at fault.

“While Mr. Durham’s death is tragic, Officer Bookman was doing his job and did not intend to commit a crime. The person responsible for Mr. Durham’s death is in custody,” he said.

Durham’s family wants Bookman fired and charged in the shooting.

“Mr. Durham was not threatening anyone. There’s no justification for the use of force against Mr. Durham,” Lee Merritt, a civil rights attorney representing the family, said at a news conference, the Las Vegas Review-Journal reported.

Clark County District Attorney Steve Wolfson said in a statement that it was too early in the investigation for him to comment on possible charges.

Bookman is on paid leave while the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department investigates.

The Associated Press



LAS VEGAS METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

Las Vegas police released body camera footage after a 43-year-old was shot and killed inside his home last week.

CANADA

Police board vice-chair fired over posts

VANCOUVER

SARAH GROCHOWSKI

Vancouver police board vice-chair Comfort Sakoma-Fadugba resigned Friday after she made several social media posts alleging that Canada's culture and values are being undermined by minority groups.

Screenshots of Sakoma-Fadugba's Instagram stories, shared on Reddit, show her raising concerns over mass immigration, the erosion of Christian values, gender transitions, "woke culture" and the legacy of slavery.

"I'm going to get very vocal about things happening in Canada, and it's OK if it upsets some people," Sakoma-Fadugba wrote.

The diversity and inclusion strategist joined the Vancouver police board, which provides civilian oversight of policing, in January 2022.

While acknowledging Sakoma-Fadugba's contributions to the board, chair Frank Chong said in a statement Friday: "Recent statements posted on social media by the vice-chair of the Vancouver police board do not reflect the values of the board and are inconsistent with our code of conduct."

"This afternoon, I requested and received Comfort's resignation."

In the social media posts, Sakoma-Fadugba described herself as a Nigerian-Canadian mother and shared a personal experience to illustrate her views on multiculturalism in Canada.

She said that her son's participation in a Diwali celebration at school made her realize that the "push for secular education wasn't about religion," but about "erasing Christian values from the lives of our children."

Sakoma-Fadugba also expressed concern that Hindu values might become "the dominant cultural influence" in Canada, replacing what she said were traditional Canadian values.

"The reason Canada is such a tolerant society is because Christianity, the dominant religion here, is inherently tolerant, and our society reflects those values."

She also criticized what she described as "woke culture," claiming it has led to the removal of Canadian figures like Terry Fox from passports and the erasure of veterans, and arguing that it "pits children against their parents by creating a judicial system where parents can be incarcerated for refusing to let their minor child undergo gender transitions."

Upon Sakoma-Fadugba's appointment, the board praised her for having an "impressive background in business, community service, and advancing equity, diversity, and inclusion in all aspects of life."

She is the founder of Avunze Advisory, a Canadian consulting firm that specializes in equity, diversity, inclusion and anti-racism, working with organizations to create more inclusive and equitable environments.

Postmedia News

MANITOBA

FIRST CASE OF MORE SEVERE MPOX STRAIN CONFIRMED

The Public Health Agency of Canada has confirmed the country's first case of a more severe type of mpox in a person in Manitoba, though it says the risk to the general population remains low.

The agency says the travel-related case is associated with an ongoing outbreak of what's known as clade 1 mpox in central and eastern Africa. It says the person sought medical care for mpox symptoms

in Canada shortly after their return and is isolating, with contact tracing being conducted. The agency says that while clade 2 mpox has been circulating in Canada since 2022, this is the first confirmed case of clade 1 in the country. Mpox is a viral infection that is contagious and causes a painful rash that can be accompanied by other symptoms like fever, chills, headache, and back, joint and muscle pain.

The Canadian Press



/DARREN CALABRESE / THE CANADIAN PRESS

Nova Scotia party leaders, from left, Conservative Leader Tim Houston, Liberal Leader Zach Churchill and NDP Leader Claudia Chender, pose after a debate in Halifax earlier this month. Nova Scotians go to the polls Tuesday.

N.S. Tories appear poised for re-election

RURAL MOMENTUM

KEITH DOUCETTE

HALIFAX • With one day left before Nova Scotians elect their next government, polls suggest Progressive Conservative Leader Tim Houston's decision to call an early vote will pay off and the real battle will be between the Liberals and NDP for second place.

The Progressive Conservatives are seeking a second consecutive mandate Tuesday after sweeping the Liberals from power in August 2021. Houston called the snap election on Oct. 27 citing the need for a fresh mandate and ignoring his government's election law, which for the first time in Nova Scotia set a fixed election date — July 15, 2025.

In a recent interview, Alex Marland, a political scientist at Acadia University, said the final result is shaping up to be what Houston hoped for when he called the election. Marland said several factors were at play in Houston's political calculus to go early.

"He was ahead in the polls and there was the lack of public attention or excitement or enthusiasm for an election coming against the backdrop of all the attention paid to the U.S. election, and of course there were (Nova Scotia) municipal elections," said Marland. "The fact it was a snap election caught the other parties off guard and made it harder for them to organize."

He said the result has been an absence of "interest, anger or motivation" on the part of the electorate. "I think that ultimately benefits the Progressive Conservatives," said Marland.

A Narrative Research poll released Wednesday put the Tories comfortably ahead with 44 per cent support. The NDP were second at 28 per cent and the Liberals third with 24 per cent. The survey of 800 adult Nova Scotians between Nov. 4 and 17 is considered accurate within 3.5 percentage points, 95 times out of 100.

Tom Urbaniak, of Cape Breton University, said the campaign "may be the quietest I've seen in Nova Scotia."

"It just feels less intense on the ground," Urbaniak said. "There are fewer signs and less literature going to doors, and there appears to be less conversation in coffee shops."

He said the lack of a longer ramp-up to the fixed date has also contributed to a general lack of attention, and the 30-day campaign is the shortest allowed by law. "So that was also a factor."

Issues such as the cost of living, a lack of affordable housing and the province's ailing health-care system were prominent in the campaign, but no single issue dominated in the way the Progressive Conservatives managed to make health care the main issue in 2021.

Marland said what the polls suggest is that the Progressive Conservatives should "steamroll" through many rural areas outside of Halifax.

"Within the Halifax area they are in much tighter competition with the NDP and that's a real problem for the Liberals because it suggests that the Liberals aren't competitive anywhere," he said. "So the real issue here ... is how much of the Liberal vote will hold?"

Urbaniak said NDP Leader Claudia Chender has

emerged as a solid campaigner with strong debate performances that have helped to boost her profile in her first election as leader.

With advance polling numbers pointing toward a possible low voter turnout on Tuesday, Urbaniak believes the battle between the Liberals and NDP will hinge on who can get out the most voters in ridings where they are competitive. "It (the result) will favour whoever has strong mobilization on the ground," he said.

Liberal Leader Zach Churchill agrees. "We've got to get people out to vote," Churchill said, while pointing out that Elections Nova Scotia have not sent out voter information cards because of the postal strike. "A lot of people do not know where they are voting, so it puts a lot more pressure on candidates, on their volunteers and the central campaign team to inform people," he said Friday.

Chender believes her party's message has been getting through as the result of hard work on the ground.

"We've criss-crossed the province in the last 24 hours and we are going to keep visiting as many candidates in communities as we can until election day," she said Friday.

She also believes getting out the vote will be critical at a time of year when people are not necessarily focused on politics. "For us as New Democrats, it's one door at a time, giving people that information about where to go vote," she said.

Houston, meanwhile, expressed confidence that his campaign has reached enough Nova Scotians to deliver his party a second term in government.

"There's work to be done, but on balance I think Nova Scotians recognize the effort," he said Friday. "I'm optimistic for sure, but we'll spend the next few days continuing to work hard and getting around the province."

At dissolution, the Progressive Conservatives held 34 seats in the 55-seat legislature and the Liberals held 14 seats, while the NDP had six and there was one Independent.

The Canadian Press

'It's beyond anything like I expected'

Canadian CEO reflects on trip to space

CHRIS KNIGHT

Henry Wolfond returned from space Friday determined to go back.

"I can't wait to go again," he said moments after his ride, a New Shepard capsule operated by Blue Origin, landed in the West Texas desert near the spaceport from which it had launched just 10 minutes earlier.

Gesturing to his wife, Rochelle Reichert, he added: "She's coming with me next time."

The newly minted Canadian astronaut is also chairman and CEO of Bayshore Capital in Toronto and chair of the Confronting Antisemitism Committee of the UJA Federation of Greater Toronto.

As he exited the capsule after the rocket ride to the edge of space, Wolfond held his hand over his heart for a moment, then pointed to the heavens where he had been floating in zero gravity just minutes before.

Last week, before his flight, Wolfond told the National Post that he hoped his journey would help bring attention to antisemitism and broader hatred.

"Hatred of Jews became normalized," he said. "Hateful words escalate to violence, to harassment, to intimidation, to blocking businesses, and ultimately to murder. I hope that's not the path that we're on, but I'm very frightened that we could be."

"So my hope in connecting that to this mission is that I can reach out to people, responsible Canadians who see that the same way that I do, will be aligned with us, and will

speak out against antisemitism and speak out against all hatred.

"I don't think any hate should be accepted in our society, and people need to recognize, if it's hatred against the Jews today, it can become hatred against them tomorrow."

Back on Earth Friday, he echoed those thoughts.

"It's beyond anything like I expected before," he said of the experience. "It's perspective that adds to the mission that I'm on to combat hate and antisemitism. Seeing the world from up that high where you don't see the borders, you don't see the divisions, you don't see all of the lines that divide us where we hate each other."

He was close to tears as he added: "We're all one people, we're all on this very fragile small planet. It's amazing."

Wolfond's personal history with flight began when he dreamt of becoming an astronaut, after watching Gemini and Apollo missions on TV as a child. He tried to become a fighter pilot, but lacked the 20/20 vision required. Still he took to the air, and even now sometimes moonlights as a professional pilot on charter, medevac and organ retrieval flights around the world.

He once rode in the Concorde, which still holds the record as the fastest and highest-flying passenger plane in history. But Blue Origin's New Shepard capsule passed the Concorde's cruising altitude of 60,000 feet or about 18 kilometres, and its top speed of Mach 2.2 or 2,700 km/h, just 90 seconds into its four-minute ascent.

It eventually reached a speed of 3,600 km/h — roughly Mach 3 — and an altitude of 351,000 feet or 107 kilometres.

National Post

WORLD

Rabbi had been 'missing' in U.A.E.

RABBI
Continued from NP1

However, senior Emirati diplomat Anwer Gargash wrote on the social platform X in Arabic on Sunday that "the UAE will remain a home of safety, an oasis of stability, a society of tolerance and coexistence and a beacon of development, pride and advancement."

Early Sunday, the U.A.E.'s state-run WAM news agency acknowledged Kogan's disappearance but pointedly did not acknowledge he held Israeli citizenship, referring to him only as being Moldovan. The Emirati Interior Ministry described Kogan as being "missing and out of contact."

"Specialized authorities immediately began search and investigation operations upon receiving the report," the Interior Ministry said.

Netanyahu told a regular Cabinet meeting later Sunday that he was "deeply shocked" by Kogan's disappearance and death. He said he appreciated the co-operation of the U.A.E. in the investigation and that ties between the two countries would continue to be strengthened.

Israel's largely ceremonial president, Isaac Herzog, condemned the killing and thanked Emirati authorities for "their swift action." He said he trusts they "will work tirelessly to bring the perpetrators to justice."

Israel also again warned against all non-essential travel to the Emirates after Kogan's killing.

"There is concern that there is still a threat against Israelis and Jews in the area," a government warning issued Sunday said.

Kogan was an emissary of the Chabad Lubavitch movement, a prominent and highly observant branch of ultra-Orthodox Judaism based in Brooklyn's Crown Heights neighbourhood in New York City. It said he was last seen in Dubai. The U.A.E. has a burgeoning Jewish community, with synagogues and businesses catering to kosher diners.

The Rimon Market, a Kosher grocery store that Kogan managed on Dubai's busy Al Wasl Road, was shut Sunday. As the wars have roiled the region, the store has been the target of online protests by supporters of the Palestinians. Mezuzahs on the front and back doors of the market appeared to have been ripped off when an Associated Press journalist stopped by on Sunday.

Kogan's wife, Rivky, is a U.S. citizen who lived with him in the U.A.E. She is the niece of Rabbi Gavriel Holtzberg, who was killed in the 2008 Mumbai attacks.

The U.A.E. is an autocratic federation of seven sheikhdoms on the Arabian Peninsula and is also home to Abu Dhabi. Local Jewish officials in the U.A.E. declined to comment.

While the Israeli statement did not mention Iran, Iranian intelligence services have carried out past kidnappings in the U.A.E.

The Associated Press



AMIR LEVY/GETTY IMAGES

A woman reacts after a rocket fired from Lebanon struck her house in the village of Rinatya in central Israel on Sunday. Some of the scores of rockets fired reached the Tel Aviv area in the heart of Israel.

LEBANON

HEZBOLLAH FIRES ROCKET BARRAGE INTO ISRAEL

BEIRUT Hezbollah fired about 250 rockets and other projectiles into Israel on Sunday, wounding seven people in one of the terrorist group's heaviest barrages in months, in response to deadly Israeli strikes in Beirut while negotiators pressed on with ceasefire efforts to halt the all-out war.

Some of the rockets reached the Tel Aviv area in the heart of Israel.

Meanwhile, an Israeli strike on an army centre killed a Lebanese soldier and

wounded 18 others in the southwest between Tyre and Naqoura, Lebanon's military said. The Israeli military expressed regret, saying that the strike occurred in an area of combat against Hezbollah and that the military's operations are directed solely against the terrorists.

The European Union's top diplomat called Sunday for more pressure on Israel and Hezbollah to reach a deal, saying one was "pending with a final agreement from the Israeli govern-

ment." U.S. envoy Amos Hochstein was in the region last week.

The emerging agreement would pave the way for the withdrawal of Hezbollah terrorists and Israeli troops from southern Lebanon below the Litani River in accordance with the UN Security Council resolution that ended the month-long 2006 war. Lebanese troops would patrol with the presence of UN peacekeepers.

The Associated Press



JORDAN

GUNMAN KILLED NEAR ISRAELI EMBASSY

AMMAN, JORDAN Police in Jordan shot and killed a man after he opened fire near the Israeli Embassy early on Sunday, authorities said.

Three police officers were wounded in the shootout in the Rabiah neighbourhood of the capital, Amman. Authorities did not identify the shooter or say what his motive was.

Jordan is a close Western ally that made peace with Israel in 1994. But Israel's offensive in the Gaza Strip, launched after Hamas's Oct. 7, 2023 attack, has strained relations. Jordan has a large Palestinian population and has seen repeated protests outside the Israeli Embassy, with demonstrators sometimes clashing with police.

Jordan's Public Security Directorate said in a statement that police pursued the gunman.

A retired Jordanian soldier killed three Israelis in September at the border crossing between Jordan and the West Bank. The gunman was shot dead by Israeli security forces.

The Associated Press

PAKISTAN

POLICE ARREST THOUSANDS AHEAD OF RALLY

ISLAMABAD Pakistani police arrested thousands of Imran Khan supporters ahead of a rally in the capital to demand the ex-premier's release from prison, a security officer said Sunday.

Khan has been behind bars for more than a year and has over 150 criminal cases against him. But he remains popular and his political party, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf or PTI, says the cases are politically motivated.

Shahid Nawaz, a security officer in eastern Punjab province, said police have arrested more than 4,000 Khan supporters. They included five parliamentarians.

Pakistan has sealed off Islamabad with shipping containers and shut down major roads and highways connecting the city with PTI strongholds in Punjab and northwestern Khyber Pakhtunkhwa provinces.

Tit-for-tat tear gas shelling between the police and the PTI was reported on the highway bordering Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

The Associated Press



PHILIPPINES

VP THREATENS TO HAVE MARCOS JR. ASSASSINATED

MANILA, PHILIPPINES Philippine Vice President Sara Duterte said Saturday she has contracted an assassin to kill the president, his wife and the House of Representatives speaker if she herself is killed, in a brazen public threat that she warned was not a joke.

Executive Secretary Lucas Bersamin referred the "active threat" against President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. to an elite presidential guards force "for immediate proper action." It was not immediately clear what actions would be taken against the vice president.

The Presidential Security Command boosted Marcos' security and said it considered the vice-president's threat, which was "made so brazenly in public," a national security issue.

Duterte, a lawyer, later tried to walk back her remarks and said they were not an actual threat but only an expression of concern over an unspecified threat to her own life.

The Associated Press

U. K.
STARMER VOWS 'RADICAL' SPENDING OVERHAUL

British Prime Minister Keir Starmer said his Labour government would be setting out "radical reforms" in the coming week to tackle the U.K.'s rising outlays on benefits.

"Make no mistake, we will get to grips with the bulging benefits bill blighting our society," the prime minister said in an op-ed in the Mail on Sunday newspaper.

Starmer's Labour is under pressure to balance the country's spending and boost growth after returning from over a decade out of power.

The first set of indicators following its inaugural budget saw private enterprise stagnate and consumer retail spending fall.

The number of working-age people who claim health-related benefits or who are not working due to long-term sickness has soared in the United Kingdom since around the start of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Bloomberg



THAILAND

MEDICAL TYCOON WHO DUPED INVESTORS FLEES TO CHINA

Thai hospital tycoon Boon Vanasin, who lured some US\$217 million of investments in fake medical projects, has fled to China, prompting the police to issue a warrant for his arrest. Police have received some

520 complaints since December last year involving about 247 people, deputy police commissioner Nopasin Poolsawat said. The victims believed they were investing in medical businesses in Thailand, Laos

and Vietnam. "The fundraising was for all these projects that didn't exist," Nopasin said. He said nine were involved in the fraud. Police are looking for Boon's assets including 19 cars. Bloomberg

Putin forgives debt for recruits

UKRAINE FIGHT

SAMYA KULLAB AND ELISE MORTON

KYIV, UKRAINE • Russian President Vladimir Putin has signed a law granting debt forgiveness to new army recruits who enlist to fight in Ukraine.

The measure, whose final version appeared on a government website Saturday, underscores Russia's needs for military personnel in the nearly three-year war, even as it fired last week a new intermediate-range ballistic missile.

According to Russian state news agency Interfax, the new legislation allows those signing up for a one-year contract to write off bad debts of up to US\$96,000. The law applies to debts for which a court order for collection was issued and enforcement proceedings had commenced before Dec. 1, 2024. It also applies to the spouses of new recruits.

Russia has ramped up military recruitment by offering increasing financial incentives, in some cases several times the average salary, to those willing to fight in Ukraine.

The strategy has allowed the military to boost its ranks in the conflict zone while avoiding another mobilization order. A "partial mobilization" in September 2022 sparked an exodus of tens of thousands of Russian men, who fled the country to avoid enlistment.

The intense and drawn-out war has strained Russian resources. Putin in September called for the military to increase its troops by 180,000.

The U.S., South Korea and Ukraine say North Korea sent more than 10,000 troops to Russia in October, some of whom have recently begun engaging in combat on the front lines, piling more pressure on Ukraine's also weary and overstretched army.

The push for recruits coincides with the firing of a new intermediate-range ballistic missile at Ukraine on Thursday. Putin said it was in response to Kyiv's use of American and British missiles capable of striking deeper into Russia.

In light of the missile strike, U.S. president-elect Donald Trump's incoming national security adviser, Mike Waltz, said Sunday that the incoming administration wants "to get both sides to the table" and is concerned about escalation.

Waltz made clear on Fox News Sunday he has met with Biden's national security adviser, Jake Sullivan, to discuss U.S. policy and options in Ukraine, and the Florida congressman assured that those conversations will continue.

The congressman also emphasized Trump's desire for the conflict to end quickly. Trump, who has praised Putin over the years, avoided throughout the campaign setting conditions for an end to the conflict, suggesting he would be open to considerable annexations of Ukraine.

The Associated Press

AUSTRALIA

MEDIA WATCHDOG
BILL FAILS
TO GAIN SUPPORT

Australia's government has withdrawn a bill that would have given a media watchdog power to monitor digital platforms and require them to keep records about misinformation and disinformation on their networks. Communications Minister Michelle Rowland, pictured, said Sunday the government was unable to drum up the support needed to pass the legislation. The opposition spokesman, David Coleman, said the bill "betrayed our democracy" and amounted to "censorship laws in Australia." "Based on public statements and engagements with senators, it is clear that there is no pathway to legislate this proposal through the Senate," Rowland said. The bill would have granted the Australian Communications and Media Authority power over digital platforms by approving an enforceable code of conduct. *The Associated Press*



'Cursed'
emerald
may finally
head home

RIGHTFUL OWNER

TERRENCE MCCOY

Nearly a quarter-century ago, a giant, malformed emerald was illegally wrenched from Brazilian soil and smuggled across the ocean and into the United States, where it has been the object of intrigue, obsession and dispute ever since. Many have claimed to be the rightful owner of the 836-pound Bahia emerald, reputed to be the world's largest, which is worth as much as US\$1 billion. Their legal battles have endured for so long and ensnared so many participants — including, ultimately, the Federative Republic of Brazil — that people have taken to calling the rock cursed. For more than 15 years, it has languished inside the Los Angeles Sheriff's Department, as criminal and civil cases over the rock tarried in two continents, and journalist after journalist took up the story.

But now the Brazilian emerald is finally poised to come out — and head home. On Thursday, United States District Judge Reggie B. Walton said that a request by the American and Brazilian governments to return the emerald to its native country can move forward, brushing aside pleas from a consortium of U.S. gem speculators who claimed to be the rightful owners. "We're very happy with the decision," said Boni de Moraes Soares, a federal prosecutor who specializes in international disputes. "We're closer than ever to bringing the Bahia emerald back to the Brazilian people." Kit Morrison, an Idaho businessman who had claimed to be the gem's rightful owner and asked U.S. authorities to refrain from returning it to Brazil, said he accepted the ruling. "I don't have any feeling of defeat or loss," he said. "When you are an investor and entrepreneur, you do everything you can to protect, preserve and improve the investment and opportunity. However, you cannot control the things that are out of your control." He didn't respond to a question asking whether he intended to appeal. Much of the case centred on Brazil's claim that the emerald had been illegally removed from the country. It pointed to a pair of criminal convictions in Brazil it had secured against two Brazilian gem prospectors whom it had accused of illegally procuring the emerald in 2001 and then fabricating customs documents to bring it to the United States. Brazil said the emerald was a national treasure and belonged inside a museum, and a Brazilian court issued a forfeiture order.

The Washington Post



L.A. COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT
The Bahia emerald, said to be the world's largest, is worth up to US\$1.7 billion.



MARJORY COLLINS/LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

A dentist treats a young patient in Greenbelt, Maryland, in 1942. With U.S. president-elect Donald Trump's plans to nominate Robert F. Kennedy Jr. — who promises to end fluoridation of public water — to his cabinet, the battle over fluoride is back in the spotlight.

SCIENCE

The fluoride wars

IT'S A DECADES-OLD CULTURAL BATTLE
THAT AMERICANS JUST CAN'T SEEM TO QUIT

PETULA DVORAK

Folks reported strange things in a New York town in 1945, right after the government announced an experiment adding tiny amounts of fluoride to the municipal drinking water. "Dozens of Newburgh residents called the water department to complain that the water was discolouring their saucepans, hurting the flavour of carbonated beverages and causing digestive upsets," the Washington Evening Star reported on Feb. 22, 1951. One Newburgh resident demanded restitution from the city, claiming her false teeth dissolved overnight in a glass of tap water. The same thing happened in North Carolina, where residents of Charlotte flooded the city water department with complaints of illness not long after the water fluoridation program was announced there in 1949. All of these complaints? They came before the fluoride had actually been added to the water. The callers had only heard this would happen. Newspapers described it as something used in some insecticides, but didn't mention that it is a mineral naturally occurring in water and soil. "By the time the compound was put in," the Evening Star wrote, "... complaints had ceased." And so began the fluoride wars, a decades-long battle of science, urban myth, emotion and passionate division. It's a public debate that has invoked Nazis and Communists, mind control, public poisoning and civil rights. And with president-elect Donald Trump's plans to nominate Robert F. Kennedy Jr. — who promises to end fluoridation of public water — to his cabinet, it's part of today's politics. Tooth decay had long been a profound public health issue in America.

"Not one person in 10 had a mouth full of teeth," Willard Vermeulen told The Washington Post in a 1988 interview when he described his dental practice in Grand Rapids, Mich., in the 1930s. The dentist went on to describe the Saturday morning routine of extracting scores of rotten teeth from the mouths of children. Grand Rapids became the first U.S. city to try adding fluoride to its drinking water in 1945. In the 1940s, bad teeth was the top reason the Selective Service booted aspiring soldiers from the Army. About 17 per cent of recruits didn't have "six opposing teeth," according to the American Dental Association. By then, American scientists researching fluoride believed they may have come across a simple antidote for better dental health. It began in 1901, when a dental school graduate from the East Coast headed west to open his first practice and was startled by the pronounced brown stains on the teeth of his patients in Colorado Springs. Curiously, Frederick McKay observed that the folks with "Colorado Brown Stain" had otherwise remarkably healthy teeth. McKay began researching this, and was joined by others hopscotching from Colorado to Idaho to Arkansas, following reports of other brown-toothed children. The answer finally came exactly 30 years after he met his first mottled tooth. The chief chemist at a company in Pennsylvania, exhausted after years refuting

claims that aluminum cookware was poisonous, tested a water sample from one of the brown-tooth towns and found high levels of fluoride. The early research focused on how to reduce the fluoride levels on some water sources across the nation. The idea was to get rid of the brown stains, the result of over-fluoridation called fluorosis. "Scrub, Scrub, Scrub, Just Like Tub," read the headline of a 1941 story in the Albuquerque Tribune advising people of ways to eliminate the stains. Eventually, H. Trendley Dean, head of the Dental Hygiene Unit at the National Institutes of Health, homed in on the benefits of the fluoride and sought to determine levels that strengthened the teeth but didn't stain them. The Grand Rapids experiment was his first chance to try this out. Within 11 years of the 15-year experiment, the level of tooth damage from decay dropped by 60 per cent among the city's children, according to the National Institutes of Health. As other municipalities began adding fluoride to the public water supply, studies continued to show improvement in children's dental health. The fear of fluoridation, however, began to bloom. "The German chemists (under Hitler) worked out a very ingenious and far-reaching plan of mass control," read one of the many letters opposing fluoridation that were published by the Hartford Courant in February 1955.

A reader in the Chippewa Herald-Telegram in Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin, urged editors that same year to alert FBI director J. Edgar Hoover that fluoridation programs should count as an "attempt at poisoning the public water supplies." Historians have debunked the myth of Nazi involvement, and scientists have knocked down scores of theories centring on singular and weird examples of health issues. The growing dissent may have had something to do with that moment in American culture. Widespread fluoridation was beginning as part of the "long list of social developments that swept into the public conscience on the wings of scientific achievement," R. Allan Freeze and Jay H. Lehr wrote in their 2009 book, *The Fluoride Wars: How a Modest Public Health Measure Became America's Longest-Running Political Melodrama*. The authors drew parallels between this public division and the development of nuclear power and the widespread development of genetically altered food. "Like the pasteurization of milk and the iodization of salt, fluoridation was delivered publicly rather than privately," they wrote. "Those that wished to avoid the governmental benevolence had to work to do so." As hundreds of studies were published establishing the dental benefits of fluoride and debunking medical concerns, the nation continued to see hundreds of votes, lawsuits and legislative battles over the practice. The Kingston Whig-Standard newspaper boiled the conflict down in a 1972 editorial that said, "This is not a public-health issue. It is a civil rights issue." NIH calls it an "achievement ranking with the other great preventive health measures of our century."

The Washington Post

“NOT ONE PERSON IN 10 HAD
A MOUTH FULL OF TEETH ...

PLAN AHEAD

FROM FLIGHT DELAYS TO WEATHER, HAVING TRAVEL INSURANCE MIGHT SAVE YOU THOUSANDS. PAGE NP7



CANADA'S BUSINESS VOICE, MONDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 2024



LORA MOORE

"I'm at the top of my game and just got benched." Shannon Davidson, launched her consultancy firm SED Who? after being let go of her job when she was 54. She says her plan was to continue working and she will stick to it.

JOB HUNTING IN YOUR 50s PRESENTS EXTRA HURDLES

COMPANIES SEE POSITIVES IN RETAINING OLDER WORKERS, BUT PREFER YOUNG RECRUITS WHEN HIRING

RITIKA DUBEY

Shannon Davidson was let go from her executive role at a marketing firm last year after a merger led to cuts. She knew she wasn't done with her career yet, but finding her next workplace in her mid-50s was a daunting prospect.

"When the reality of considering my age came in, I felt like many people do when they're let go at this age," she said.

"I'm at the top of my game and just got benched."

Looking for work can be a challenge for anyone, but switching jobs or finding a new one after 50 can be especially challenging as prospective employers may be reluctant to hire someone they may see as an expensive or overqualified candidate. Often companies see the positives in keeping older workers employed. But when they set out to hire someone, younger candidates are often preferred, said Ellie Berger, an associate professor at Nipissing University who has studied ageism for two decades.

"The biggest struggle is when you're on the outside, trying to get back in," Berger said of seasoned workers.

JOB SEARCH HURDLES

Berger said it takes longer for older workers to find jobs and they spend more weeks unemployed than younger workers. Her research included discussions with employers who were sometimes candid in their explanations.

"They would mention things like, if people leave the year they receive their degree off their resume or any dates left

off resumes, they thought that would be a red flag," she said. Another bias discovered in her research was an employer who said, "If someone's looking creaky and shaky, I won't hire them."

Ageism often becomes a roadblock for workers as early as age 45, Berger said. It gets worse when gender, disability and race are added to the mix, she added.

She said many employers in her research said they wouldn't consider anyone at or after the age of 55.

"They said, like, 'At 55, they'd have to be pretty exceptional in all of these areas for me even to consider them,'" Berger said. "Then (for) 65, 'No, I wouldn't even consider it.'"

While ageism is a barrier, other aspects such as health concerns, need for flexibility in hours and economic factors can also be hurdles for job seekers in their 50s.

A 2015 Statistics Canada report found that non-voluntary retirement — older people who wanted to keep working, but weren't able to find a job — constitutes about 25 per cent of all retirements in a year. The older laid-off workers are, the more likely they are to retire.

DENTED RETIREMENT SAVINGS

Francine Gutwilk moved back home to Manitoba from the U.S. in 2009. A professional recruiter, Gutwilk was in her late 40s and had left New York at the height of the financial crisis.

"I just wanted to work again, and I was sending out applications for everything from sales to HR positions to recruiting positions," she said. Most of the

time, there was no response.

Gutwilk, now 62 and working as a lunch supervisor at a nearby school, suffered a long stretch of unemployment. The lack of income significantly stunted both her savings and Canada Pension Plan contributions.

Although she wasn't working, Gutwilk started a business she hopes will turn into a nest egg. She has developed recruitment software called Wizard Hire, which attempts to remove bias from the resume review process.

"My main focus is on selling the platform and that's going really well for me," she said. "All the waiting and bad experiences finally turned around for me."

Losing a job during your 50s or 60s can have significant financial impacts because that's when many people have higher incomes and fewer expenses such as a mortgage or raising children, said Bonnie-Jeanne MacDonald, director of financial security research at the National Institute on Ageing at Toronto Metropolitan University.

"People have more capacity to save more," MacDonald said. "If you cut those years off, that can make a huge dent in this kind of really critical preparatory period."

And because government retirement benefits kick in later in life, retiring for good is difficult.

"Somebody who's out of work in their 50s would be very vulnerable because what ends up happening is they can't even start their OAS (Old Age Security) till they're 65," she said.

SEE JOBS ON NP7

“SINCE COVID, PEOPLE ARE A LOT MORE WILLING TO GET TRAVEL INSURANCE, JUST BECAUSE IT’S A REAL-LIFE SITUATION. PEOPLE ARE STARTING TO LOOK INTO THAT A LOT MORE AS THEY REALIZE THAT LIFE HAPPENS AND THINGS CAN CHANGE QUICKLY.” — JOHN LYSACK, FINANCIAL ADVISER

Showcasing experience can be ‘a real advantage’

JOBS

Continued from NP6

“Losing your employment earlier on, you’re not only unable to save more for retirement, you’re probably going to end up having to start drawing on your savings, which is taking you in the opposite direction,” she added.

YOU CAN STILL LAND A JOB IN YOUR 50S

Laura Hambley, founder of Canada Career Counselling, said she has been noticing more career pivots among people in their 50s. Upskilling can help jobseekers land a job faster.

“The challenge can be that a previously long career in only one area may unintentionally communicate they lack learnability and adaptability,” Hambley said. “It is critical that those skills be demonstrated. “Showcasing experience and wisdom that you bring and how

“I’M GOING TO FIGHT AND I’M GOING TO DO WHAT ENERGIZES ME, BECAUSE THAT WAS ALWAYS MY PLAN, AND I’M STICKING TO IT.

much you’ve seen and dealt with in your career is a real advantage,” she said.

“Also emphasizing if you’d like to mentor people.”

Hambley suggested people try to address internalized ageism which could affect their confidence and energy.

Self-talk such as “I’m not going to bother applying for that because they’re a younger company,” or “They’re not going to perceive me as having the right technical skills” can project a lack of confidence in people, she added.

Many people in their 50s pivot to contract, entrepreneurial or consultancy jobs, Hambley said.

Davidson, who was laid off from her marketing job, chose to open her own business since she still needed income. Now 55, she runs her marketing consultancy, mentoring young talent.

“I’m going to fight and I’m going to do what energizes me, because that was always my plan, and I’m sticking to it,” she said.

Her advice to people in their 50s is not to let anyone define them as “old” or overqualified.

“Tap it, tap us. ... Take our experience. Learn from us.”

The Canadian Press



CHRISTINNE MUSCHI / THE CANADIAN PRESS

Extended coverage on travel insurance may offer protection for unforeseen circumstances such as trip cancellations and delays, lost baggage, or complications from natural disasters, says personal finance and travel expert Barry Choi.

TRAVEL

Insurance might just save you thousands

‘PEACE OF MIND’

SAMMY HUDES

Hannah Logan didn’t expect to wind up in the hospital, or face a pricey bill for X-rays and medication when she travelled to Bosnia over a decade ago.

The Ottawa woman recalls staying in a “mouldy hostel” at the time, which led to her developing a lung infection and needing nine different types of antibiotics while abroad.

Despite the nightmarish situation, Logan said she was fortunate because she had planned ahead.

“Travel insurance came through for me,” she said.

The 35-year-old self-described “digital nomad” now works as a travel blogger and influencer, leading group trips around the world — including an upcoming trek to Antarctica in January.

She said buying travel insurance isn’t just a nice-to-have before a trip. It’s a must.

“Yeah, it kind of sucks to throw out an extra \$50, \$100, whatever the coverage

ends up being, but if you do need it, it can save you thousands,” said Logan.

“And I just think for the peace of mind and knowing that’s there just in case the worst does happen ... I think it’s worth it.”

Financial planners agree with that sentiment, adding it’s important for consumers to shop around for a plan that best fits their individual needs when taking out travel insurance.

While most credit card companies provide some form of coverage for health or trip protection, personal finance and travel expert Barry Choi said he recommends taking out “extended” travel insurance on top of that.

He said extended coverage may offer protection for unforeseen circumstances such as trip cancellations and delays, lost baggage, or complications from natural disasters.

“Anything can happen these days,” said Choi.

“We’re seeing more flight delays. We saw what happened during the pandemic, even more recently hurricanes and how that affected

travellers too.”

While plans vary across providers, a full year of unlimited medical coverage for an individual traveller who is relatively healthy can cost less than \$200, he said, while wider packages that include extra features like cancellation insurance might be closer to \$350.

“I tell people, if you can’t afford travel insurance, you can’t afford to travel,” said Choi.

“It’s such a minimal cost, it’s not worth it to not have it. I would rather not sleep in an airport, I would rather not have to panic or worry if my flight is cancelled and I don’t have any compensation in place.”

He said it’s especially important for those over 55 years old to have a separate travel insurance policy in advance of a trip, as credit card coverage tends to reduce at that age in anticipation of increased medical issues.

Choi cautioned travellers should be aware of other factors that may arise which void coverage of certain costs. For instance, jetting off somewhere the Canadian government has for-

mally advised to avoid due to the threat of a hurricane may mean you won’t get reimbursed for the cost of changing your return flight.

“It really comes down to the fine print. You’ve really got to pay attention to your policies,” said Choi.

John Lysack, a financial adviser and founder of Toronto-based John Lysack Wealth Management, said clients are more willing to take out extra travel insurance than they used to be.

He attributes the shift to the COVID-19 pandemic, when travel restrictions often complicated flight plans and the risk of getting sick on vacation meant potentially having to isolate in place before being allowed to board a plane.

“Since COVID happened, I think people are a lot more willing to get travel insurance, just because it’s a real-life situation,” said Lysack.

“People are starting to look into that a lot more as they realize that life happens and things can change very, very quickly.”

Logan said she learned that lesson when COVID first hit in 2020. She said she

was in a Middle Eastern desert when the Canadian government told citizens abroad to come home as borders began to close amid the unfolding public health crisis.

“I was panicking, trying to figure out, ‘How do I get home?’ The flights were so expensive,” she recalled.

Logan learned from her insurance provider she would qualify for emergency evacuation coverage through her plan, which was specifically tailored for people like her who often work remotely outside their home country.

“My one-way flight ended up being almost \$2,000, so I paid for the flight out of pocket, and I think that it was reimbursed in about 90 days,” she said.

Lysack said that while younger clients are sometimes less appreciative of the value that insurance provides, it’s simply not worth the risk to go somewhere without it.

“When it comes to your own life, if something happens abroad, those expenses can add up very, very quickly depending on the circumstance,” he said.

The Canadian Press

LIFE INSURANCE

Buying while you’re young can help you save on premiums

AGE CRUCIAL FACTOR

RITIKA DUBEY

Buying life insurance in your 20s can feel like an added cost to an already long list of expenses. But experts say it can safeguard loved ones if life doesn’t go as planned.

There can be a “very high temporary insurance need” for younger Canadians, said Andrea Thompson, a certified financial planner at Modern Cents, in an interview. That’s because mortgage debt and lost income earning potential over their lifetime creates a need to protect their family’s financial interests.

While life insurance often doesn’t take priority for a carefree 20-something-year-old, it can help protect families and co-signers from incurring that debt suddenly if the young person dies unexpectedly.

“Life insurance is mostly for legacy, taxes and loved

ones,” said Jeffrey Talor, director of sales at Canwise Life Insurance Services.

“You want to make sure that your family is not exposed in the event of your passing.”

There are a lot of benefits to purchasing life insurance when young, Talor said. Age is an important factor in locking in a lower premium for the coming decades.

Down the road, Talor said, if their health deteriorates and a person already owns life insurance, the premium will not change until the term ends.

The policy is calculated by age, among other factors, Talor said. Fewer medical requirements and lower mortality rates for those in their 20s make it easier and cheaper to buy life insurance.

“Between 20 to 30, we’re noticing it’s the best rate band and between 30 to 40, there is a bit of an increase, then 40 to 50, it’s becoming somewhat pricey,” Talor said.

He says a lack of educa-

tion on the benefits of life insurance also dissuades young Canadians.

“We think it’s so expensive to buy insurance,” he said. “It’s not that expensive to buy term insurance, it’s about a dollar or \$2 a day.”

Term life insurance covers the policyholder for a set period, such as 10 or 20 years, and the premiums do not change throughout the length of the term. Permanent life insurance can come with more expensive premiums because it covers you for your entire life. While the premiums can be higher, they are also fixed.

Some permanent life insurance policies also have a cash value feature, where a portion of the premiums goes toward building a cash value over time which the consumer can use or borrow from.

The individual could use the cash value portion as collateral for loans, Talor said. Other benefits could include buying built-in creditor protection in case a person files

for bankruptcy in the future.

But there’s no magical age to buy life insurance at, said Thompson.

“By 22, you might not have a mortgage yet and might not have dependants,” she said. “There’s not a specific age that I would say everyone should rush out and go get insurance.”

As you move through life, changes such as marriage, a mortgage, or having children, change the amount of insurance coverage needed.

Thomson said she recommends an insurance needs analysis to all her clients as part of her holistic financial planning, which helps deter-



Andrea Thompson

mine risks based on age and life stage.

Most people have some base coverage through their employment with group insurance but Thompson said it may not be enough.

Talor said people can buy insurance in stages as their life situation evolves.

“In your 20s, you need X, then come 40s, you start a business so you incur more debt,” he said. “You can always go back to market and purchase small. The advantage of having insurance is you can stack life insurance policies in Canada,” he said.

Talor suggested people look at their budget and determine the amount they’re comfortable spending on a life insurance policy.

“The most important thing is to understand life insurance is not a difficult or complex thing to acquire,” he said. “Dealing with the right broker that can simplify the process and understanding the terms and conditions up front makes it way easier.”

The Canadian Press

PIPPEN JR. DROPS 30 ON BULLS

Scotty Pippen Jr. already had plenty of fond memories of watching his hall of fame father at Chicago's United Center. He added one of his own Saturday night. Pippen, son of former Bulls great Scottie Pippen, scored a career-best 30 points, added 10 assists and shot 13 of 16 to lead the Memphis Grizzlies past the Bulls by a score of 142-131. "It's a dream come true. It's crazy to say I put up 30 and 10 in the gym where my dad had played,"



Pippen Jr. said after scoring 26 points in the first three quarters to help Memphis win its second straight game. "It means everything to me and my family. I talked to my dad tonight about coming in here and playing. He just told me to go out there and kill it, so that's what I tried to do." The elder Pippen, who won six NBA championships as part of the Bulls dynasty of 1990s, wasn't in the building Saturday. *The Associated Press*



Flames centre Mikael Backlund makes a pass under Minnesota Wild forward Ryan Hartman during Saturday's game at the Saddledome. The Flames won 4-3 in a shootout. *BRENT CALVER*

FLAMES SETTLE IN TO TIGHT GAME THAT WORKS

Lessons learned from humbling defeats a reminder to stick to their brand of hockey



DANNY AUSTIN

The Calgary Flames have figured out what works for them. And they know exactly what doesn't work, too. If they need a reminder of what happens when they stray too far from the relentless, tight-checking game that's got them sitting in second place in the Pacific Division after 21 games, they only need to go back and look at two games in late October. A 5-0 loss to the Vegas Golden Knights and a 5-1 setback at the hands of the Utah Hockey Club two nights later were the low points of a season that's otherwise had a lot of highs. "We know what kind of game we have to play, we learned a lesson when we went to Vegas and Utah and got off our game," said Flames captain Mikael Backlund. "Really, those were the only two games this year where it felt like we got off our game and played really bad. The boys learned

from that and bounced back. I think since then, we've been playing really good hockey and lately we've been playing really tight and haven't given up much and both our goalies have been really good. Great team effort all through the lineup." The Flames certainly look like a team that learned the lessons they needed to from those two humbling defeats. They returned home after that rough loss in Salt Lake City and have gone 7-2-2 in November. They haven't scored more than three goals in a game once this month, but they're not giving up many odd-man rushes and both Dustin Wolf and Dan Vladar have been coming up with big saves when called upon in the net. The Flames dump the puck into the corners and fight tirelessly to retrieve it along the boards. It might not be the sexiest brand of hockey, but it works. And they know the alternative does not, at least not for this group. "We had success early on in the year and I think we surprised a lot of people and maybe surprised ourselves a little bit and that road trip, we got away

from what gave us success," said Flames head coach Ryan Huska. "When you have success, it makes it so much easier for them to say 'Yeah, this is it, so let's continue to do that.' "It's guys like Mikael, guys like (Nazem Kadri, Jonathan Huberdeau, MacKenzie Weegar and Rasmus Andersson). They're the guys who are driving the truck on that one." The results have been pretty astonishing. If the late October road trip served as a reminder of what can happen if the Flames get away from their brand of hockey, then the four-game homestand they completed with Saturday's 4-3 shootout win over the Minnesota Wild proved that when they do stick to their system, they're a very hard team to beat. The Flames won all four of their games at the Saddledome over eight days, allowing only six goals in that stretch. It took two shootouts for them to secure all eight points that were up for grabs, but as Andersson put it, the Flames seem "pretty comfortable in close games." There's a clear confidence in the locker-room and while it's still early in the season, 21 games is not nothing. There's reason to believe that what the Flames are doing is sustainable, as long as they stick to their system. "I thought up until the Vegas game we played really good hockey and then those two games happened, but we bounced back," Backlund said. "We played well against Jersey and have been chipping along. Not winning every game, but collecting a lot of points and lately we've been on a role here. Guys are playing for each other, confidence is high and the group's really tight, it's great to see guys sacrificing for each other." *daustin@postmedia.com x.com/DannyAustin_9*

Murray to coach Djokovic

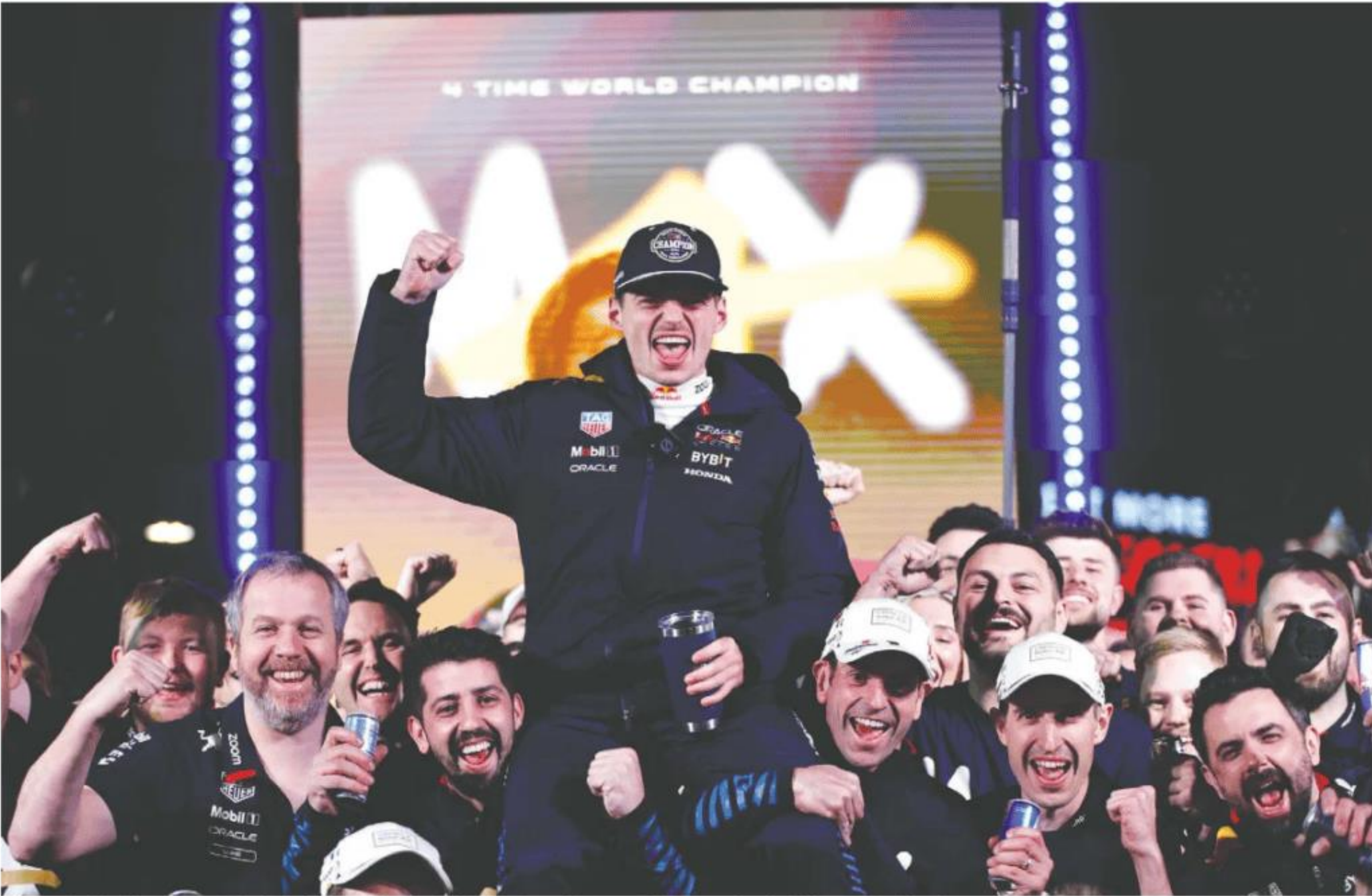
GLYNN A. HILL

Two players from one of the more iconic eras in men's tennis will now be on the same side. Novak Djokovic, winner of 24 grand slam singles titles, has tapped longtime rival Andy Murray as his new coach, the tennis star announced on social media. "They called us game-changers, risk takers, history makers," Djokovic said in a video. "I thought our story may be over; turns out it has one final chapter. It's time for one of my toughest opponents to step into my corner. Welcome aboard, coach Andy Murray." The 37-year-olds have played each other dozens of times dating back to junior level. In 36 professional meetings, Djokovic holds a 25-11 advantage, though Murray defeated the 37-year-old Serbian for two of his three career major titles, first at the 2012 U.S. Open and again at Wimbledon in 2013. Djokovic defeated Murray for four of his 10 Australian Open titles. Murray retired from professional tennis in August after the Paris Olympics. He told The Associated Press he will help Djokovic prepare for next year's first major championship. "I'm going to be joining Novak's team in the off-season, helping him to prepare for the Australian Open," he said. "I'm really excited for it and looking forward to spending time on the same side of the net as Novak for a change, helping him to achieve his goals." Djokovic spent most of the 2024 season without a full-time coach following his March split from 2001 Wimbledon champion Goran Ivanisevic. After winning three major titles in 2023, Djokovic failed to win a grand slam trophy this year and slipped to seventh in the world rankings — though he

did win an Olympic gold medal in singles at the Paris Olympics. Djokovic, Roger Federer and the recently retired Rafael Nadal are often referred to as the Big Three because of their achievements and domination of men's tennis over two decades. Together, the trio owns 66 grand slam titles, with Djokovic's 24 atop the all-time list of men's players. A win at next year's Australian Open would give him the most singles titles by any player, passing Margaret Court. Though less distinguished, Murray was considered one of the sport's best men's players in his own right. From 2008 to 2016, he was considered to be in the same company as Federer, Nadal and Djokovic. Like Djokovic, Murray is a former world No. 1. He owns two Olympic gold medals alongside his three grand slam titles. When Murray stepped away from the game in August, he jokingly wrote on X, "Never even liked tennis anyway." As he gets set to join Djokovic, his former rival said on Instagram, writing, "He never liked retirement anyway." *The Washington Post*



Novak Djokovic



F1 champion Max Verstappen of the Netherlands and Oracle Red Bull Racing celebrates with his team after the F1 Grand Prix of Las Vegas on Saturday. CHRIS GRAYTHEN/GETTY IMAGES

Verstappen wins fourth straight F1 championship

Fifth-place finish on Vegas Strip Circuit secures another title for Red Bull driver

JENNA FRYER

LAS VEGAS Asked how he planned to celebrate his fourth consecutive Formula One championship, Max Verstappen did a quick scan of the room searching for a drop of alcohol.

"Well, I ran out of beer, so I don't know," he said. "Maybe another one, and then maybe I switch to something else. I don't need to drive anymore, so we don't do the drink and drive. I don't need to do that."

Actually, Verstappen can do anything he wants after finishing fifth on Saturday night in the Las Vegas Grand Prix to beat Lando Norris of McLaren for the title with two F1 races remaining this season.

The Red Bull driver is now a king of Las Vegas, a year after he arrived in Sin City extremely negative about the extravagant race on the famed Strip. He won and completely changed his tune last November as the Dutchman even sang Viva Las Vegas as he crossed the finish line.

Now he used the street circuit to become only the sixth driver in F1 history to win at least four titles. Verstappen needed only to finish ahead of Norris to win the title. He started fifth but was already up to second by the 10th lap and Norris never challenged.

He ended the race up 63 points over Norris with two events remaining this season — a position Verstappen said he never expected to be in even though he's the son of a former F1 driver. His father, Jos, was even once teammates with Michael Schumacher, one of the best in F1 history.

Despite being surrounded by greatness, Verstappen insisted he never expected his own career to be so successful.

"When you're growing up racing some legendary drivers, it's very impressive that I can even be on the podium, whenever it is," he said. "Maybe win a championship? It's already hard enough to win one, and then of course, then you also need a bit of luck to be in the right team situation to maybe win more. Luckily, we did that."

The team celebrated their champion as soon as the race ended.

"Max Verstappen you are a four-time world champion," team principal Christian Horner said on the radio. "That is a phenomenal, phenomenal achievement. You can be

incredibly proud of yourself as we are."

Verstappen sounded unusually emotional on the radio.

"Oh My God, what a season. Four times. Thank you, thank you guys," he said. "We gave it all."

The race was won, meanwhile, by George Russell who was followed by Lewis Hamilton in the first 1-2 sweep for the Mercedes drivers since 2022. Hamilton came from 10th on the grid — two weeks after a demoralizing race in Brazil — to capture his podium finish.

The duo crossed the finish line under a checkered flag waved by actor Sylvester Stallone.

Carlos Sainz Jr. finished third for Ferrari as the constructor championship remains a tight battle between leader McLaren and Ferrari. Charles Leclerc, his teammate, was fourth. Red Bull had won the title that pays roughly US\$150 million in prize money the last two seasons, but has slipped to third in the standings.

It's already hard enough to win one ... then you also need a bit of luck to be in the right team situation to maybe win more. Luckily, we did that.

That championship battle appears headed to next month's season finale in Abu Dhabi. McLaren has a 24-point lead over Ferrari heading into this weekend's race in Qatar after Norris and Oscar Piastri finished sixth and seventh in Las Vegas.

"Max deserved to win it. He drove a better season than I did, he deserved it more than anyone else," Norris said. "Max just doesn't have a weakness. When he's got the best car, he dominates and when he's not got the best car, he's still just there always."

Verstappen, meanwhile, made easy work of Norris after a season

where the McLaren driver pushed him harder than he'd been challenged since Verstappen's first title in 2021.

"To stand here as a four-time world champion is something I never thought would be possible," Verstappen told actor Terry Crews, who moderated the podium news conference held in front of the Bellagio's famed fountains.

"It was a very challenging season and I had to be calm. I think this season taught me a lot of lessons and we handled it well as a team, so that of course makes it a very special and beautiful season."

Verstappen, who is 27, won 19 races last year. He opened this season on a tear, but along winless streak from June until Brazil two weeks ago has him on only eight wins, his fewest since 2020.

Verstappen asked at the Bellagio what time it was, noting he was in Las Vegas and "I'm very thirsty." He had a Champagne celebration awaiting him.

Verstappen matched former Red Bull driver Sebastian Vettel as four-time champions for the team.

This was the second year of the race after its debut was a bit of a disaster with locals livid for months over ongoing construction, as well as traffic detours and delays, the inability to access many local businesses and outrageous price gouging by the tourism industry as well as LVGP ticketing. Then, a loose valve cover nearly destroyed Sainz's Ferrari minutes into the first practice.

It caused an hours-long delay for repairs, fans were kicked out of the circuit, and F1 ran practice until 4 a.m. — when it legally had to reopen the streets to the public.

This year has been far less hectic, in part because all of the infrastructure headaches were dealt with a year ago, but also that last year's race was spectacular. Despite all its speed bumps, the actual running of the race was one of the best of the F1 season.

Russell started on pole ahead of Sainz, who wanted redemption after the valve-cover fiasco last year. He had to serve a penalty because his car was damaged in the incident.

"I was hoping Vegas had something to offer me after last year, but I will take a podium," Sainz said. "I was looking at every manhole, avoiding them this time."

The race is the final stop in the United States for F1, which has exploded in American popularity the last five years. The trio of races in Miami, Austin and Las Vegas are more than any other country.

Next week, F1 is expected to announce it will expand the grid to 11 teams to make room for an American outfit backed by General Motors' Cadillac brand. The announcement of the American team did not come during the weekend to avoid taking attention away from the Las Vegas Grand Prix, which is the showpiece event of the Liberty Media portfolio.

The race drew 306,000 fans over three days.

The Associated Press

Russell, Hamilton clinch 1-2 finish for Mercedes at Las Vegas Grand Prix

MARK ANDERSON

LAS VEGAS An ecstatic George Russell had just won the Formula One race Saturday night when he exclaimed in his radio, "Vegas!"

He was ready to start celebrating in America's party capital, saying he would skip his flight back to his home in the United Kingdom to make the most of his Las Vegas Grand Prix victory.

"I'm definitely not getting on that flight," Russell said in the post-race podium interview with actor Terry Crews and the Bellagio fountains in the background. "I'm going to enjoy this evening."

This night, however, wasn't just about Russell. Lewis Hamilton finished second to give Mercedes the top two positions.

Given the turmoil surrounding the team — Hamilton moves to Ferrari next year — and the disappointment of not contending for the constructors' championship, Mercedes at least had this night. Even if some of that spotlight was shared with Max Verstappen, who clinched his fourth consecutive title, doing just enough with a fifth-place finish.

This is the first time since the 2022 race in Brazil that Mercedes went 1-2, that being the same order with Russell and then Hamilton.

Team principal Toto Wolff said Mercedes could carry over this success to next weekend's race at Qatar because the weather and track are similar. He was less optimistic about the season finale at Abu Dhabi. But that's for another day. He was happy to celebrate what Mercedes accomplished on this night, but unlike Russell, Wolff was following through on his plan to return to Los Angeles on Sunday and be with his family.

"It's good to come back with a 1-2, and I'm happy with the way we got there because we dominated the race," Wolff said.

"There are laps when we were two seconds faster and it feels good."

Brazil in '22 was Russell's only victory until this season when he won in Austria in June. He's considered a three-time winner because his July victory in Belgium resulted in disqualification for failing the car's minimum-weight limit in the post-race inspection.

Hamilton, instead, was given the victory. Otherwise, that also would've been a top-two finish for Mercedes. Of Hamilton's F1-record 105 victories, his first with Mercedes occurred nearly 10 years ago to the day. He had the car capable of racing to win No. 106, putting together the best practice times before stumbling in the third and final qualifying run Friday night. That landed him 10th on the starting line.

"I guess it would've been a breeze today (with a better starting position), but it's OK," Hamilton said. "I had fun coming back from 10th. The team did a fantastic job. We don't know why we are so quick this weekend."

Wolff said he was impressed how Hamilton fought his way through the field for such a strong finish. But next year, Hamilton will be on another team, and Wolff will be searching for ways to keep him off the podium. In the post-race news conference, Hamilton deflected any disappointment about what could've been and instead heaped praise on the winner.

"George did a great job," Hamilton said. "He did everything you're supposed to do. I'm happy for him, and I'm just grateful I could get back up there and support the team like I want to."

Russell showed what he was capable of accomplishing in Las Vegas by securing the pole.

"I think we won the race from step one," Russell said. "It was exceptional and I knew from there on in ... the only way we were going to lose the victory was if I (damaged) the tires. So it was just a case of managing my pace ... and bringing it home."

The Associated Press



Lewis Hamilton sprays Champagne on race winner and fellow Mercedes driver George Russell after Saturday's Las Vegas Grand Prix. It was Mercedes' first 1-2 finish since 2022. RICK SCUTERI/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



MICHAEL REAVES/GETTY IMAGES

MAKING HISTORY Thailand's Jeeno Thitikul makes a chip Sunday en route to winning US\$4 million, the largest-ever LPGA prize, at the CME Group championship on in Naples, Fla.

Goaltending remains big concern for Canada

Four Nations Tournament starter might not even be someone who is a Canadian



STEVE SIMMONS

Definition of desperate: Team Canada has expanded its search for three goaltenders as the deadline approaches in early December for the Four Nations tournament in Montreal and Boston.

The new flavour of the day is Joey Daccord of the Seattle Kraken, who isn't even a Canadian.

He's from outside Boston. His father was born in Canada. His mother is from Switzerland. But they can manipulate the rules, as the Canadian Olympic Committee has done on numerous occasions, to get him in.

So it's probably Daccord and St. Louis netminder Jordan Binnington and one of Adin Hill, Sam Montembeault, Cam Talbot, Logan Thompson, or Mackenzie Blackwood as the third goalie.

I'm told there's no interest in Edmonton's Stuart Skinner.

The truth on the third goalie, no matter who it is: It's a short tournament. If you need to play your third goalie, it means you're not contending.

The GMs for the Four Nations event are not happy about the Dec. 4 deadline to name their roster. They'd like more time, six more weeks maybe, but they're not going to get it.

The date was negotiated by the NHL and NHL Players' Association, ostensibly to give the majority of players who aren't

involved with the event time to book time to book their vacations.

The Toronto Raptors are caught in an unusual squeeze of sorts. The better they play, the more games they win, the more they damage their draft position.

Best thing for the Raptors: Find a way to lose close games and excite the fan base all at the same time.

Players won't naturally tank. That's not how athletes work. But management can help push in one direction or the other.

So if you're Masai Ujiri, what do you do — keep Jakob Poeltl long term or trade him now when his value is about as high as it will ever be?

Tom Henke had 217 saves with the Toronto Blue Jays, the most in team history. No one will ever come close to that number again.

Henke should be on the Level of Excellence at Rogers Centre.

Meanwhile, there is nothing wrong with the Blue Jays walking away from hometown boy Jordan Romano so long as they find a replacement for him who is better. That's the challenge. And you're trusting Mark Shapiro and Ross Atkins to do that?

There was a time when the Raptors didn't want hometown players on their roster. They thought it would be a distraction.

It was no distraction for Romano in his time pitching for the Jays. He embraced being the hometown guy. He loved talking about it. He welcomed the challenge. Not only will it will be difficult to replace Romano the

pitcher, third overall in saves in history, it will be just as difficult to replace Romano the person from the Blue Jays' clubhouse.

By the way, the top Canadian on the Raptors, R.J. Barrett, is playing the best basketball of his life right now.

This Vince Carter celebration has gone just a little too far.

There are Carter T-shirts for sale, Carter jerseys, the tournament court is in Carter's colours.

The Raptors are celebrating mediocrity: Carter played 418 games for the Raptors, winning one playoff series. The team averaged 44 wins a season with Carter. Pretty low bar for all the that's being spent on this.

Kawhi Leonard played 84 games for the Raptors. They won a championship in his only season. He won the Finals MVP. The team won 58 of the games he played in. He was won-and-done, playing just under .700 basketball here. Now, that's something worth selling T-shirts and retiring jerseys about.

If the vote for the Hart Trophy was taken today, Kirill Kaprizov of the Minnesota Wild would win the NHL's MVP. Which is something completely new.

No Minnesota player, not a North Star or a Wild, has won the Hart Trophy or even been close. Bobby Smith did finish 10th in Hart voting 42 years ago. So there is that.

The usual contenders around Kaprizov through the first quarter of the season: the regulars, Nathan MacKinnon, Cale Makar, Connor Hellebuyck, Nikita Kucherov. And Connor McDavid, who hasn't really gotten going yet.

Canadian tennis in decline: Felix Auger-Aliassime, once ranked sixth in the world, will finish this year at 29. Denis Shapovalov, once as high as No. 10, is now at 56. The almost always injured Milos Raonic and Bianca Andreescu, both former top-10 players, are not in the top 100 anymore. Leylah Annie Fernandez will end the year at 31st after a high of 13th.

How hard is it for a Canadian to rush for 1,000 yards in the NFL? Well, it's happened only once.

Thirty eight years ago, Rueben Mayes of North Battleford, Sask., ran for 1,353 yards with New Orleans as a rookie. Since then, nobody.

But here's Chuba Hubbard, from just outside Edmonton, close to becoming the second Canadian to hit the 1,000-yard mark. He sat at 811 yards in Carolina with seven games to play entering Sunday's games.

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Smylie holds off mentor to claim Australian PGA

Home crowd favourite scrambles with 11 consecutive pars to win by two shots

Australian Elvis Smylie shot a 4-under 67 to win the 54-hole Australian PGA on Sunday by two shots after a final round shootout with his compatriot and former mentor Cameron Smith.

Smylie finished at 14-under 199, two ahead of Smith, who had a 2-under final round 69 in Brisbane. Smith's LIV tour teammate Mark Leishman and Australian Anthony Quayle shared third place on 11 under at the par-71 Royal Queensland.

Heavy rain showers and an unplayable course on Friday forced the second round to be abandoned and made the joint Australasian PGA and European Tour event a 54-hole tournament.

Five years ago Smylie, the son of former Australian tennis pro Liz Smylie, won the Cameron Smith Scholarship, which allowed him to spend a week at Smith's Florida home where he was able to learn to live and practise as a PGA Tour professional.

Now 22, Smylie started Sunday's final round tied atop the leaderboard with Smith at 10 under par.

Smith was the 2022 British Open winner at St. Andrews and previously won the Australian PGA in 2017, 2018 and 2022.

Smylie had a breakthrough win in last month's West Australian Open.

The pair traded birdies until the sixth hole, when there was a two-shot turnaround when Smylie birdied and Smith bogeyed. Smylie, who led after a first-round 65, had four birdies in his first seven holes and played his outward nine in four-under 32, turning at 14 under.

He had good ups and downs under pressure at the par-four 10th and 12th holes, using his three-wood to punt the ball onto the greens from close range.

With a bogey at the ninth hole, Smith turned in 35, having dropped back into a second-place tie at 11-under with Quayle, Mark Leishman and Australian David Micheluzzi.

Smith had another bogey on the par-four 14th, which dropped him back to 10 under while Quayle finished with an 8-under 63 to take an early clubhouse lead at 11-under.

Smylie was under pressure at the par-five 15th when he hit his second well to the left of the green. Again he scrambled to save par while Smith birdied to move back

to 11-under, cutting the lead to three shots.

Smith trimmed Smylie's lead to two when he holed out from off the green for birdie at the par-three 17th, winning a large cheer from the crowd on the tournament's party hole. Smylie's birdie putt from six feet slipped past.

Smylie held his nerve when he put his tee shot on the 18th into light rough with the broad trunk of a tree between him and the green 186 metres away. He curled his around the tree, but into a green-side bunker.

Smylie played a nerveless shot from the sand to three feet and holed out for par, finishing with 11 consecutive pars. He managed to get up and down from precarious positions six times on the back nine.

"It's a dream come true," Smylie said. "I won't forget this day playing with Cam and (Leishman)."

"My short game was great; I definitely saved myself."

The Australian PGA is the first event of the 2025 European Tour season. Next week, many of the same players will travel to Melbourne for the Australian Open, also on the European Tour. It is being played concurrently with the Women's Australian Open at famed sandbelt courses Kingston Heath and Victoria.

Patrick Reed won for the first time in nearly four years on Sunday when he closed with a 4-under 66 for a three-shot victory at the Hong Kong Open on the Asian Tour.

Reed seized control of the tournament with a 59 on Saturday played under a preferred lie on the rain-soaked Hong Kong Golf Club. Defending champion Ben Campbell of New Zealand shot a 65 to finish second.

Reed started with a three-shot lead and ran off four straight birdies on the front nine to pull away from the field.

It was his first victory since the Farmers Insurance Open at Torrey Pines in January 2021. The former Masters champion has yet to win an individual title in his three seasons with Saudi-funded LIV Golf.

Reed also is playing the final two weeks of the Asian Tour in Qatar next week and then the PIF Saudi International.

The Associated Press



Jordan Romano would be hard for the Toronto Blue Jays to replace on the mound, in the clubhouse and with fans. MARK BLINCH/GETTY IMAGES



GRANT HALVERSON/GETTY IMAGES

NOTEBOOK

Blondin earns ‘full set’ of medals

Ivanie Blondin was a key player in two of Canada’s medals at the long-track speedskating World Cup on Sunday in Nagano, Japan.

Blondin, 34, earned a silver medal in the women’s mass start and a bronze with Yankun Zhao in the mixed gender relay.

She had captured gold in the women’s 3,000-metre race on Saturday, leading from start to finish.

The two medals on Sunday pushed Canada’s total for the weekend to four.

“I knew it was possible to win a full set of medals this weekend,” Blondin said.

She stayed in the front pack of skaters in the women’s mass start, while conserving her energy for the final sprint. She crossed the line in a time of eight minutes, 36.71 seconds, just behind her Dutch rival Marijke Groenewoud (8:36.64).

A few races later, the Ottawa native competed in the mixed gender relay.

She combined with Zhao for her first career World Cup podium. It was also Canada’s first-ever medal in the mixed gender relay, a new discipline that was added to the World Cup circuit last season.

Canada’s women’s and men’s team pursuit squads recorded the fifth and fourth fastest times in the field, respectively.

Meanwhile, Laurent Dubreuil of Levis, Que., skated at a strong pace for the second 500-metre of the weekend, but his time of 34.78 seconds was good enough for only a fourth-place finish.

Rico Carty, who won the 1970 NL batting title when he hit a major league-best .366 for the Atlanta Braves and played in the early days of the Toronto Blue Jays, has died. He was 85.

The Dominican native made his big-league debut with the Braves in September 1963. He batted .330 with 22 homers and 88 RBIs in his first full season in 1964, finishing second to Dick Allen in voting for NL rookie of the year.

Carty had his best year in 1970, batting .366 with 25 homers and a career-best 101 RBIs.

Carty batted .299 with 204 homers and 890 RBIs over 15 years in the majors, also playing for Cleveland, Toronto, Oakland, Texas and the Chicago Cubs.

He retired after the 1979 season.

Jannik Sinner clinched Italy’s second consecutive Davis Cup title and capped his breakthrough season at the top of tennis by beating Tallon Griekspoor 7-6 (2), 6-2 on Sunday for a 2-0 win over the Netherlands in the final of the team competition.

Matteo Berrettini had put Italy ahead with a 6-4, 6-2 victory over Botic van de Zandschulp in the opening singles match on an indoor hard court at the Palacio de Deportes Jose Maria Martin Carpena in southern Spain.

The Italians became the first country to win the Davis Cup in back-to-back years since the Czech Republic in 2012 and 2013.

Meanwhile, Italy’s women won the Billie Jean King Cup by defeating Slovakia on Wednesday.

Postmedia wire services

GRAY AREA Kansas City Chiefs tight end Noah Gray hauls in a pass in front of Carolina Panthers defender Xavier Woods on Sunday at Bank of America Stadium in Charlotte, N.C. Gray scored a pair of touchdowns as the Chiefs won 30-27 to improve their record to 10-1.

ROUNDUP

Struggling Blues pull trigger on stunning coaching switch

The St. Louis Blues fired coach Drew Bannister and hired Jim Montgomery as his replacement just five days after the 2022 Jack Adams Award winner was let go by the Boston Bruins.

Blues president and GM Doug Armstrong announced the stunning change on Sunday.

Bannister had been on the job in St. Louis for less than a year since succeeding 2019 Stanley Cup-winning coach Craig Berube and getting the interim tag removed after last season.

The Blues have lost 13 of their first 22 games this season.

Montgomery spent two seasons as an assistant on Berube’s staff in St. Louis between coaching Dallas and Boston. The Bruins fired him less than a quarter of the way through the season after losing 12 of their first 20 games.

The Blues signed Montgomery to a five-year contract.

Armstrong moving on quickly from Bannister and making a long-term commitment to Montgomery is the longtime NHL executive’s latest move in the hopes of keeping the championship window open for St. Louis. Last summer, the



Jim Montgomery

Blues signed restricted free agents Philip Broberg and Dylan Holloway to offer sheets to lure them away from defending Western Conference champion Edmonton, and Armstrong acquired several other players to remake his roster on the fly.

Handing the reins to Montgomery puts a seasoned, successful coach in charge. The 55-year-old former player is 180-84-33 in the regular season — a points percentage of .659 that ranks among the best in league history.

Rafael Nadal’s relatively low-key retirement ceremony at the Davis Cup was defended by the head of

the International Tennis Federation on Sunday as being dictated by the 22-time Grand Slam champion’s wishes.

“Rafa is an amazing player and has a legacy of tennis that he’ll leave behind, inspiring millions of players around the world to play tennis, to continue to play. We felt it was very important to listen to what Rafa wanted and how he wanted to be celebrated. That’s exactly what we did,” ITF president David Haggerty said.

Feliciano Lopez, the former player who is the Davis Cup Finals tournament director, deflected a question about the way Nadal was feted after his team, Spain, was eliminated by the Netherlands in the quarterfinals Tuesday.

“We should focus, all of us, on the fact that Rafa chose Davis Cup to be the final tournament of his career instead of keep talking about his farewell ceremony,” Lopez said. “Honestly, we did our best.”

A video tribute was played, with highlight videos from Nadal’s career and recorded messages from such current or former players as Roger Federer, Novak Djokovic, Andy Murray and Serena Williams.

None of those contemporaries was on hand for the event.

Olympic champion Clement Noel held on to his commanding first-run lead to take a men’s World Cup slalom on Sunday for his second win in two weeks and 12th overall.

The Frenchman lost time in the final run, but still finished 0.43 seconds ahead of Kristoffer Jakobsen, denying the Swede what would have been his first World Cup win.

Atle Lie McGrath of Norway, who was second after the opening run, dropped to third. Noel also won the season-opening slalom in Finland a week ago for his first World Cup victory in 22 months.

Mohamed Salah sent Liverpool eight points clear at the top of the Premier League by scoring twice to help his team rally to a 3-2 win over last-place Southampton on Sunday.

It was the 10th victory in 12 league games for Liverpool, who took advantage of defending champion Manchester City’s stunning third straight league loss — 4-0 at home to Tottenham on Saturday.

Liverpool was trailing 2-1 when Salah equalized in the 65th minute. The Egypt forward then converted a penalty in the 83rd after a handball by Yukinari Sugawara.

Salah now has 10 goals for the campaign, second behind Man City’s Erling Haaland (12).

The Associated Press

NFL STANDINGS

AMERICAN FOOTBALL CONFERENCE						
East	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Buffalo	9	2	0	.818	320	214
Miami	5	6	0	.455	215	236
N.Y. Jets	3	8	0	.273	204	242
New England	3	9	0	.250	197	282
South	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Houston	7	5	0	.583	285	268
Indpolis	5	7	0	.417	242	274
Tennessee	3	8	0	.273	202	290
Jacksonville	2	9	0	.182	208	316
North	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Pittsburgh	8	3	0	.727	252	186
Baltimore	7	4	0	.636	334	271
Cincinnati	4	7	0	.364	297	296
Cleveland	3	8	0	.273	186	267
West	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Kansas City	10	1	0	.909	270	218
L.A. Chargers	7	3	0	.700	220	145
Denver	7	5	0	.583	264	202
Las Vegas	2	9	0	.182	206	314

NATIONAL FOOTBALL CONFERENCE						
East	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Philadelphia	8	2	0	.800	259	179
Washington	7	5	0	.583	334	277
Dallas	4	7	0	.364	221	319
N.Y. Giants	2	9	0	.182	163	252
South	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Atlanta	6	5	0	.545	244	274
Tampa Bay	5	6	0	.455	309	273
New Orleans	4	7	0	.364	262	260
Carolina	3	8	0	.273	194	340
North	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Detroit	10	1	0	.909	360	183
Minnesota	9	2	0	.818	274	197
Green Bay	8	3	0	.727	288	223
Chicago	4	7	0	.364	221	217
West	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Arizona	6	5	0	.545	244	236
Seattle	6	5	0	.545	246	244
L.A. Rams	5	5	0	.500	213	239
San Francisco	5	6	0	.455	260	260

NHL STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE					
Atlantic	GP	W	L	OL	P
Toronto	21	13	6	2	28
Florida	21	12	8	1	25
Buffalo	22	11	9	1	23
Boston	22	10	9	3	23
Tampa Bay	19	10	7	2	22
Detroit	20	8	10	2	18
Ottawa	20	8	11	1	17
Montreal	20	7	11	2	16
Metropolitan	GP	W	L	OL	P
New Jersey	23	14	7	2	30
Carolina	20	14	5	1	29
Washington	20	13	6	1	27
N.Y. Rangers	19	12	6	1	25
N.Y. Islanders	21	8	8	5	21
Columbus	20	9	9	2	20
Philadelphia	21	9	10	2	20
Pittsburgh	23	7	12	4	18

WESTERN CONFERENCE					
Central	GP	W	L	OL	P
Winnipeg	21	17	4	0	34
Minnesota	20	13	3	4	30
Dallas	19	13	6	0	26
Colorado	21	12	9	0	24
Utah	21	8	10	3	19
St. Louis	22	9	12	1	19
Nashville	21	7	11	3	17
Chicago	21	7	12	2	16
Pacific	GP	W	L	OL	P
Vegas	21	13	6	2	28
Calgary	21	12	6	3	27
Los Angeles	22	11	7	3	25
Edmonton	22	11	9	2	24
Vancouver	19	10	6	3	23
Seattle	21	10	10	1	21
Anaheim	19	8	8	3	19
San Jose	23	6	12	5	17

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE				
Top 8	W	L	Pct	GB
Cleveland	17	1	.944	—
Boston	14	3	.824	2.5
Orlando	11	7	.611	6
New York	9	7	.563	7
Miami	7	7	.500	8
Milwaukee	8	9	.471	8.5
Atlanta	7	10	.412	9.5
Indiana	7	10	.412	9.5
Bottom 7	W	L	Pct	GB
Chicago	7	11	.389	10
Detroit	7	11	.389	10
Brooklyn	6	10	.375	10
Charlotte	6	10	.375	10
Toronto	4	13	.235	12.5
Philadelphia	3	13	.188	13
Washington	2	13	.133	13.5

WESTERN CONFERENCE				
Top 8	W	L	Pct	GB
Golden State	12	4	.750	—
Oklahoma City	12	4	.750	—
Houston	12	6	.667	1
L.A. Lakers	10	6	.625	2
L.A. Clippers	11	7	.611	2
Denver	9	6	.600	2.5
Memphis	10	7	.588	2.5
Phoenix	9	7	.563	3
Bottom 7	W	L	Pct	GB
Dallas	9	8	.529	3.5
San Antonio	9	8	.529	3.5
Minnesota	8	8	.500	4
Sacramento	8	8	.500	4
Portland	7	10	.412	5.5
Utah	4	12	.250	8
New Orleans	4	13	.235	8.5



THE SCIENCE BEHIND ‘WET DOG SHAKE’

Scientists believe they've discovered the reason why dogs shake when wet. It happens because of a receptor in the skin called C-LTMR. When mammals are stimulated by droplets on the back of their necks, they all perform a similar shake. In part of the study, published in the journal *Science*, researchers tested how mechanoreceptors in mice responded to oil droplets. This allowed them to narrow down their focus to three recep-



tors on the skin. Then, they used optogenetics to activate these receptors with light. The C-fibre low-threshold mechanoreceptors (C-LTMRs) prompted the mice to do the “wet dog shake.” “It’s a complicated behaviour,” Dawei Zhang, the study’s co-author and a doctoral student at the Howard Hughes Medical Institute of Harvard Medical School, told the website Live Science. *Melissa Hank*

Is mindfulness key to exercise?



Once exercise stars feeling uncomfortable, getting reluctant exercisers to find pleasure in a workout is an uphill battle. *ANTONIO GUILLEM/GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO*

Accepting discomfort associated with a workout may be more effective than tuning it out



JILL BARKER

There’s no shortage of rumination about why more than half of Canadians don’t meet the recommended 150 minutes of moderate to vigorous physical activity per week. Lack of time is a common excuse, but there are plenty of busy people who exercise regularly. Access is another often-stated barrier, though most Canadians can safely exercise outdoors or in the privacy of their own home should other fitness facilities not be within an easy commute.

What’s often ignored is the role enjoyment plays in exercise adherence. For those who revel in a tough workout, the idea some people hate to sweat may seem strange. But if exercise pushes you so far outside your comfort zone that physical activity is associated with pain more than pleasure, there’s little motivation to get off the couch.

Once exercise becomes coupled with discomfort, getting reluctant exercisers to find pleasure and enjoyment in physical activity is an uphill battle. To help improve its appeal, researchers have been looking at the effectiveness of something called “extrinsic strategies” to promote better exercise adherence. Defined as “environmental manipulations of the exercise experience that fall outside of the FITT (frequency, intensity, time and type) principles,” extrinsic strategies are more about the mental, rather than physical, aspects of exercise.

In short, the focus is less about the frequency, intensity, time and type of exercise, and more about the role feelings play in the



Developing an appreciation for the effort that exercise requires may be part of what keeps some people exercising regularly, according to current research. *GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO*

adoption of a regular workout routine. To be clear, we’re not talking about taking the effort out of exercise. Extrinsic strategies work on altering the perception of effort.

Even more granular, it’s important to alter how effort is perceived during, not after, a workout. There’s a marked difference in how people feel once they wipe the sweat off their brow compared to when they’re grinding it out just hoping to finish. And while some people use the feeling of accomplishment that comes after a tough workout to motivate their return to the gym, others can’t get past the memory of how uncomfortable it felt in the moment.

One of the extrinsic strategies to improving the exercise experience is focusing on external stimuli instead of how the body feels.

Music is a popular distraction, which is why so many exercisers listen to their favourite playlists. Another option is exercising outdoors where nature works its magic at diverting exercisers from the internal sensations of effort. Exercising with a friend or within a group also helps. But contrary to using external distractions to dampen the effort of exercise, is the novel idea of leaning into how your body feels during a tough workout.

Mindfulness is defined as paying attention to what’s happening in the moment while also being open to how the body responds physically and mentally to the current experience.

In other words, instead of trying to dissociate from the feelings of effort, mindfulness aims to accept and acknowledge the exertion it takes to complete

a workout. The idea that mindfulness is effective at improving exercise adherence is gaining traction, with initial studies suggesting it has merit, but mostly when exercising at lower intensities. Learning to accept and become comfortable with the feelings associated with physical exertion could be a crucial first step in finding pleasure in exercise.

A recent study published in the *Journal of Sports Sciences* tested the effectiveness of mindfulness in enhancing the exercise experience. The goal of the research team was to see if mindfulness “could prove a useful pleasure-enhancing strategy during exercise.”

A test sample of 34 recreationally active men and women were divided into two groups. One group was equipped with a

recording taken from Headspace, a popular meditation and mindfulness app, that focused exercisers on tuning into their body and its movement. The control group was without any mindfulness tools.

Both sets of exercisers were asked to follow a 2.4 km loop through a local park at a self-selected intensity they could sustain for 20-25 minutes. Heart rate was continually monitored, and study subjects were asked to check in with how they felt at two points during the walk (at 0.8 km and at 1.6 km).

Results indicated listening to a mindfulness recording led to a more pleasurable exercise experience than walking the loop without.

That positive response to exercise continued after the workout finished, another sign the mindfulness guided walk produced the kind of enjoyment that could encourage exercisers to walk more often.

Learning to appreciate the feelings associated with effort is an interesting strategy to introduce, especially to new exercisers who often negatively perceive the physical sensations that occur during a workout. With more practice accepting, instead of tuning out, those feelings, a greater number of novice exercisers could become more tolerant of the effort required to improve overall fitness. It’s also an interesting approach for seasoned exercisers who generally rely on dissociating from the intense feelings of a hard workout.

Acknowledging, accepting and appreciating the effort of being physically active are tools every exerciser can lean into when the going gets tough. More importantly, it could be part of an improved strategy to get more Canadians enjoying the 150 minutes a week they spend working up a sweat.

TV WATCH

Are you buying what companies are selling?

Netflix doc explores shady retail tactics

MELISSA HANK

This summer, a curious trend took hold on social media. People started posting content about items like five-year-old water bottles, sweatshirts from high school and old shoes that had been mended and remended. “Underconsumption core,” they called it — because any trend worthy of an algorithm needs a “core” suffix.

The goal was to enjoy using existing belongings, as well as to repair and repurpose items instead of buying new. Those who were thrifty and environmentally minded rejoiced. But with Black Friday sales heralding the holiday buying season, are we now over underconsumption core?

A new Netflix documentary aims to keep the concept alive. Now streaming, *Buy Now! The Shopping Conspiracy* explores tactics companies use to make you purchase ever more stuff. Industry insiders reveal the manipulation methods at brands such as Adidas, Apple and Amazon.

“You’re being 100 per cent played, and it’s a science,” says Maren Costa, a former designer at Amazon who helped develop the site. She says marketers even use testing and data to determine which colours on the “click to buy” and “free shipping” buttons will make the most money.

In response, an Amazon spokesperson told U.K. newspaper *The Mirror* the company was left out of the film’s production process. “Amazon wasn’t given an opportunity to respond to or fact-check the claims in this documentary, and the assertions that we encourage or hide product waste are false,” the spokesperson said.

From writer-director by Nic Stacey (an Emmy nominee for *The World According to Jeff Goldblum*), *Buy Now!* also explores the environmental costs of overconsumption. Footage shows a beach in Ghana buried under discarded clothes. A repair expert also explains how companies make products unmendable so customers keep buying new things — and creating waste.

We produce about 400 million tonnes of plastic waste globally each year, according to the United Nations Environment Programme. We also make 92 million tonnes of textile waste annually, per the World Economic Forum. And, in 2022, we produced an estimated 62 million tonnes of waste globally from electrical and electronic equipment (e-waste), says the World Health Organization.

Nirav Patel, a former Apple software development engineer, says in the film that the latter fact seems far from the minds of those in the tech industry — and, we might guess, other industries.

“In my own personal experience, if you’re a designer or engineer in one of these companies, waste never enters the conversation,” he says. “There is no meeting within a company building a laptop or phone or other device that’s, ‘Let’s talk about what happens at the end of life.’”

Buy Now! The Shopping Conspiracy explores the environmental costs of shopping. *NETFLIX*



Despite a solid conclusion at the end of season 1, star and co-creator Sharon Horgan has returned for a second season of *Bad Sisters*. *APPLE TV+*

SONIA RAO

Bad Sisters wasn’t supposed to have a second season. Based on the Belgian series *Clan*, the dark comedy on Apple TV+ — about siblings in Dublin who plot to kill their sister’s abusive husband — wrapped its murder mystery two years ago on a rather final note. Its 10 episodes were cleanly written, loose ends snipped or tucked back into the ball of yarn. The critically acclaimed show won a Peabody Award and landed four Emmy nominations.

And yet, just a few months into producing that first season, co-creator and star Sharon Horgan was already thinking about what she would do with a second. Then, just a few weeks after that first season’s finale aired, Apple renewed the series. Plans for a limited run flew out the window once it became clear that Horgan, who developed the show with Dave Finkel and Brett Baer, had more to say about deep-seated misogyny and the lasting effects of abuse.

“You create characters and it does seem almost criminal to let them go after a first season,” Horgan said. “I said, ‘Well, if we can do it right, I’d do it again.’ Because the other thing about the show going down well is, you don’t want to f--- it up by going again.”

Horgan might be best known on this side of the Atlantic for creating and starring with Rob Delaney in *Catastrophe*, a sitcom offering a remarkably unpolished look at modern marriage and parenting. The Irish multihyphenate broke out on British TV in the aughts with the witty BBC series *Pulling*, about a trio of 30-something women navigating single life in London.

Horgan considers *Bad Sisters*, which recently returned

COMMENT

WHY HORGAN RETURNED TO BAD SISTERS

Dark comedy still has plenty of life to explore in second season of sinful siblings

to Apple’s streaming platform, to be her most genre-bending work yet. It plays as a straight comedy when the sisters bicker, a drama when they grieve, a thrilling caper when they set out on a risky mission. The absurdity binding the scenes allows Horgan to “really push the envelope” with how she tests her characters’ survival instincts, she said. Last season’s revenge fantasy plot explored what angry women are capable of doing when they are pushed to their limits. This season, which departs from the source material, wonders what repercussions those women may encounter.

A quick refresher (with spoilers, of course): The series left off with the five Garveys — Eva (Horgan), Grace (Anne-Marie Duff), Ursula (Eva Birthistle), Bibi (Sarah Greene) and Becca (Eve Hewson) — getting away with murder. Whereas her sisters try but fail, Grace ends up being the one to successfully kill hus-

band John Paul (Claes Bang) and stages it as a horrible accident. She is found out by Thomas and Matt Claffin (Brian Gleeson and Daryl McCormack), a pair of brothers whose family business holds John Paul’s life insurance policy. The Claffins work overtime to prove the Garveys’ involvement in John Paul’s death as a means of saving their failing company, but they eventually strike a deal: The brothers will keep Grace’s secret so long as she doesn’t file the hefty insurance claim.

John Paul, a raging misogynist, was a cathartic villain for Horgan to write. He stood in for a lifetime of “bigoted white men telling us what to do,” she said. The new episodes pick up two years later, when the Garveys face a harsh reality: Though John Paul is now long dead, the systems that enabled his toxic behaviour are thriving. The show digs into institutional sexism by introducing a young female

police detective, Una Houlihan (Thaddea Graham), who suspects something was awry with the previous investigation of John Paul’s death but must fight her male colleagues to reopen the case. The Garveys are treated as hysterical women by those colleagues. The impact of John Paul’s abuse lingers in how they struggle to trust themselves, or even each other.

Grace finds love again and marries a mild-mannered man named Ian (Owen McDonnell), but their honeymoon period doesn’t last long: “I really, desperately wanted to see a happy Grace at the start,” Horgan said. “But I also wanted to be true to the situation. She killed the man she once loved. She killed the father of her child. It’s not something she’s just going to get over.”

Eva, the oldest, has spent a lifetime looking out for her younger sisters. She reveals to them in season 1 that John Paul once raped her, a difficult admission that allows her to feel “like a weight lifted,” Horgan said. Season 2 finds Eva thinking more about herself. “I wanted to explore what that looks like to a woman who’s hitting 50 and perimenopausal and single with disposable income,” Horgan continued. “I wanted to put her in a place where she felt in charge of her destiny.”

Without John Paul, there is no clear villain throughout the new run. The Garveys find lots to dislike about a new character named Angelica (Fiona Shaw), a religious woman who needles her way into Grace’s life after meeting her at a grief group. But as bigoted as she may be, Angelica reveals just as much about the Garveys’ own biases. Sometimes they are their own worst enemies.

The Washington Post

Stamos gets bald cap backlash

Full House star blasted for his effort to cheer up his friend and co-star



John Stamos

John Stamos was “shocked” by the backlash he received for wearing a bald cap to visit Dave Coulier.

The 61-year-old star “flew across the country” to see his *Full House* co-star after his pal revealed he had been diagnosed with stage 3 non-Hodgkin lymphoma, a “very aggressive” cancer, and while he made his friend “laugh so freaking hard” at his gesture of solidarity, he was left “embarrassed” for the people who criticized his decision.

Speaking to TMZ, Stamos said: “He wanted me to come shave his head. I knew before, so I brought the bald cap from the studio.”

The actor wasn’t able to actually

shave his own head in solidarity because of contractual obligations.

He added: “Regardless, I’m so shocked. First I’ll say, I’m just embarrassed and they’re embarrassing. But when I started seeing this blowback, I’m just like, ‘What?’ I couldn’t figure it out. I still don’t know 100 per cent.

“What they should be doing instead of making silly little videos, or doing comments — they should call their doctor, make an appointment. I think that’s the whole point of this. It’s been Dave’s message.”

Though Stamos normally isn’t concerned with online criticism, he admitted he was “hurt” by the

backlash because he just wanted to be there to support his friend through a hard time.

“I don’t look at stuff (online). I swear most of the time I don’t, but this one really hurt me mainly because I didn’t understand it.

“But the point is that I’m embarrassed for people that they waste time on this when all I was doing

was cheering up a friend, and I’m sorry — I started to say ‘I’m sorry,’ I’m not sorry.”

The pair enjoyed their meeting. “He cried, we laughed, we watched old movies and we told stories and I brought videos and it just was a beautiful thing,” Stamos said.

Coulier previously defended his pal against the criticism and insisted he “laughed out loud” when he came to visit.

He wrote on Instagram earlier this week: “I’m sorry to see a bunch of negative comments as I’ve just begun my cancer journey.

“It’s our friendship (me and John) and this is how we are handling a very tough time. I’m a comedian and humour is what drives me.

“John knows how to cheer me up and I laughed out loud when he arrived wearing a bald cap — being a true loving friend and brother (sic).”

Bang Showbiz





Because toothpaste is not formulated for the skin, it can lead to dryness and inflammation, which could actually worsen acne, according to Hadley King, a dermatologist. GETTY IMAGES

COMMENT

FACING THE FACTS ABOUT TOOTHPASTE

Can it cure acne? *Lindsey Bever* shares what dermatologists have to say about it.

Is it true that toothpaste can treat pimples? Toothpaste is being touted on social media as a hack to clear acne, soothe burns and whiten fingernails. But dermatologists say products intended for these purposes are better options, and toothpaste may exacerbate skin conditions. Toothpastes have many ingredients — fluoride to help prevent cavities; baking soda; hydrogen peroxide; abrasives to help remove substances from teeth surfaces; flavours; sweeteners; foaming agents; and humectants to keep the toothpaste from crumbling. Some of these can combat acne. Hydrogen peroxide, for instance, can dry out zits and help kill bacteria.

“It’s understandable that people may have tried this as a home remedy, especially in the days before we had the better options for acne spot treatments,” said Shadi Kourosh, director of the dermatology division of community health at Massachusetts General Hospital and associate professor at Harvard Medical School. But because toothpaste is not formulated for the skin, it can lead to dryness, irritation and inflammation, potentially delaying the pimple-healing process or worsening acne. Inflammation increases the risk of post-inflammatory hyperpigmentation, Hadley King, a dermatologist, said. Carol Cheng, assistant clinical

professor of dermatology at UCLA, said she has seen patients who have used toothpaste as a salve to treat acne and developed a painful rash. “I’ve even seen a couple of cases of chemical burns because of the irritating properties from toothpaste that should not be used on the skin and left on for long periods of time,” she said. Toothpaste is also not recommended for other dermatologic conditions, particularly burns. While toothpaste may have a cooling effect, one study showed that it can worsen burns. Instead, keep the skin moist with petroleum jelly and, for more severe burns, seek medical attention, said Kevin Sharghi, assistant professor of dermatology at Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine. And while toothpaste may help shine and whiten nails because of the abrasive properties in some

brands that contain baking soda, for instance, it can cause irritation for those with skin allergies or sensitivities. There are over-the-counter products you can use for pimple prevention or treatment, according to the American Academy of Dermatology: ■ Adapalene, a retinoid, helps prevent clogged pores and reduces inflammation. It also regulates oil production, and treats and prevents pimples. ■ Azelaic acid helps kill acne-causing bacteria and reduces the production of keratin, a protein that forms the outer layer of skin. Azelaic acid helps prevent the buildup of dead skin cells that can clog pores, contributing to acne. ■ Benzoyl peroxide, an antibacterial agent, helps manage mild to moderate acne. Over-the-counter products may contain up to 10 per cent benzoyl peroxide,

but users should start with 2.5 per cent to avoid unwanted side-effects, including dryness and irritation, the AAD said. ■ Salicylic acid exfoliates the skin and can reduce redness and swelling, and unclog pores, helping to control blackheads and whiteheads. “These ingredients target acne-causing bacteria, inflammation and sebum production, allowing them to treat and prevent breakouts,” said Marisa Garshick, a dermatologist. If over-the-counter products are not helping, she said, talk to a dermatologist about prescription options. **The bottom line:** Toothpaste is not recommended for skin care. Instead, use over-the-counter or prescription medications that are intended to treat acne and other dermatologic conditions, dermatologists said. *The Washington Post*

Not ready for a knee replacement?

New treatment might be able to repair damaged cartilage instead

ANDREW ZALESKI

Alicia McHatton was in Kailua-Kona, on Hawaii’s big island, when she received the phone call that would change her life. It was April 2023, and for the previous eight months, McHatton, a neonatal nurse at the University of California, had lived with incessant pain in her left knee. The popping and clicking she felt, resulting from a torn piece of cartilage lodged behind her kneecap, made it difficult to move around. At just 39 years old, she didn’t want to have a full knee replacement. Over the phone, her doctor proposed something else: How would she feel about coral? “I am a huge outdoor freak and I thought the idea of putting coral in my knee sounded amazing,” recalls McHatton. The coral is part of a product called Agili-C, approved in 2022 by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration and developed by CartiHeal, an Israeli company. It is made from a calcium carbonate derived from the exoskeletons of coral that acts as a scaffold in the body to help regenerate bone and tissue. After drilling into her left femur bone, doctors inserted a small, cylindrical piece of Agili-C. The results nine months later? “I have zero pain,” she says.

ALTERNATIVE SURGERIES

Many North Americans like McHatton deal with chronic knee pain. The culprit nearly always is injured cartilage — the elastic, almost Jell-O-like substance that protects the joints and bones of the human body. More than 30 million Americans suffer from osteoarthritis, a wear-and-tear condition that occurs when cartilage withers away, a defect especially prevalent in the knee. The last-resort treatment for those with bum knees is replacement surgery. Indeed, total knee replacement is now the most common in-patient surgery for people over 45. But why replace a knee if just the cartilage can be repaired instead? That line of thinking has led to new techniques flipping the script on how to mend troublesome knees. “We’re not going to stop arthritis,” says Cassandra Lee, chief of the division of sports medicine at UC Davis Medical Center, as well as the orthopedic surgeon who operated on McHatton. “But can we push that knee replacement way down the road? That is, I think, the ultimate goal.” Cartilage has no blood supply and therefore cannot regrow naturally. It doesn’t contain nerves either, which means people with significant damage don’t know about



Millions of North Americans suffer from knee pain, which doesn’t always respond to treatment. Medicine is now able to offer alternatives that are less invasive than knee replacement surgery. GETTY IMAGES

it in the absence of accompanying symptoms such as aching joints, a hobbled gait, or discomfort that doesn’t fade after ingesting ibuprofen. Cartilage is also remarkably tough. “It can support the weight of a car on the area of a coin. It’s an insanely strong material,” says Benjamin Wiley, a chemistry professor at Duke University. Its unique nature, however, makes it tricky to repair. Defects usually begin as small divots like potholes on a road. Various methods exist for trying to fix these gaps, but each has its problems. **NEW WAYS TO FIX CARTILAGE** Wiley and colleague Ken Gall, a professor of mechanical engineering and materials science at Duke, are instead trying to re-create cartilage in the lab. They’ve developed

a hydrogel composed of polyvinyl alcohol, a polymer often used in contact lenses, and cellulose fibres. Wiley and Gall hope to get the green light to begin human trials in the United States sometime next year. The coral option was presented to McHatton after a failed surgery — the implanted cartilage didn’t take. The coral plug took only a little more than an hour to put in and cost her \$200 out of pocket (insurance covered the rest). Over time, the coral will be fully absorbed by her bone, and in its place will be a gooey substance composed of stem cells from her femur bone that acts similarly to natural cartilage. Full recovery supposedly takes two years, but McHatton says she’s already back to bike-riding,

hiking and 12-hour shifts at the hospital. Robert Brophy, who heads the Orthopedic Clinical Research Center at the Washington University School of Medicine, says more data is needed to demonstrate that something like a coral plug or a hydrogel should take the place of current methods of reconstituting or replacing damaged cartilage. “We’re attempting to find new and different solutions to a problem that is still challenging and not perfectly solved. Nobody has the Holy Grail yet. That doesn’t mean something in the pipeline isn’t potentially going to get there.” **RELIEF FROM KNEE PAIN** Joe Barron, 54, has undergone 12 knee surgeries since 1987. The 54-year-old’s job as a firefighter in the Lake Tahoe area — where he piles and burns forest debris to reduce the risk of wildfires — has been hard on his knees. “I didn’t know what there was for me, and I didn’t want to have knee replacement,” he says. “I’d kind of given up hope.” After consulting with Lee, he opted for something called the MISHA Knee System. Composed of metal and plastic, it looks like a shock absorber in a car and operates similarly, working to take pressure off the knee joint with each step. In December, he had it implanted on the inside of his right knee. It worked so well he opted to have the same device installed on his left knee. “Most knee surgeries — I’d be months on end recovering,” he says. “To be back out in the woods, pile burning — it was pretty incredible to feel that.” *For The Washington Post*

Today

H: -13 L: -19

P.O.P: 30%

Mainly cloudy.

Wind: SE, 9kmh

Tomorrow

H: -5 L: -15

P.O.P: 20%

Mainly sunny.

Wind: W, 8kmh

Wednesday

H: -9 L: -18

P.O.P: 40%

Scattered flurries.

Wind: W, 10kmh

Thursday

H: -13 L: -17

P.O.P: 30%

Cloudy, sunny breaks.

Wind: S, 9kmh

Friday

H: -14 L: -21

P.O.P: 30%

Mix, sun and clouds.

Wind: N, 12kmh

North America Weather

The Weather Network

CANADA Today Tomorrow

Comfort Indexes

Air Quality

Ultraviolet

ALBERTA Today Tomorrow

Alberta Roads

Today's Sun

WORLD Today Tomorrow

Today Tomorrow

Yesterday's Extreme Temperatures

Hot spot in Canada: 10.8°C [51.4°F] St. Alban's, NL

Cold spot in Canada: -36.3°C [-33.3°F] Rabbit Kettle, NT

TV TIMES TONIGHT - MONDAY, NOVEMBER 25														MOVIES	TALK	SPORTS	KIDS
C	B	5 PM	5:30	6 PM	6:30	7 PM	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10 PM	10:30	11 PM	11:30		
3	4	CTV	News (N) Live	News (N)	CTV News Calgary at 6 (N) Live	Tracker (N)		The Traitors Canada (N)		9-1-1: Lone Star		Rescue: Hi-Surf		CTV (N)	News (N)		
3	38	OMNI	News (N)	Celebrity (N)	Celebrity (N)	News: Arabic	Punjabi (N)	News (N)	News: Arabic	OMNI News (N)	Cantonese (N)	News (N)	Cantonese	News-Punjabi	Focus Punjabi		
3		ABC	4 News Now Special Edition (N)		NFL Football Baltimore Ravens at Los Angeles Chargers (N) Live					(15) 4 News Now (N)		(15) Judy	Judy Justice	ET (N)	Inside Ed. (N)		
3	9	CBC	Baking Show		News (N)	News (N)	Coronation (N)	Schitt's Creek	Murdoch Mysteries (N)	Diana: The Ultimate Truth (N)	The National (N)			News (N)	Still Standing		
2	2	Global	News (N)	Global (N)	Global News Hour at 6 (N)	The Goldbergs	ET (N)	NCIS: Origins (N)		Neighbor (N)	Poppa's (N)	NCIS "Knight and Day" (N)		Global News at 11 (N)			
3	5	CITY	The Kelly Clarkson Show		CityNews at 6 Calgary (N)	FamFeud (N)	FamFeud (N)	Brilliant Minds (N)		Movie				CityNews (N)	(35) J.Kimmel (N)		
3		CBC-F	(4:00) On va se (...)	Silence	TJ Alberta (N)	Téléjour. (N)	Stat (N)	Discussion (N)	Dumas (N)	Pour Marnie (N)		Le téléjournal (N)		Sports (N)	On va se le dire		
3		CMT	Cheers	Cheers	The Office	The Office	The Office	Workaholics	Workaholics	Becker	Becker	Wings	Wings	The Office	The Office		
3		CBS	KREM 2 News at 4 (N)		News (N)	CBS News (N)	KREM 2 News at 6 (N)	Dateline		Neighbor (N)	Poppa's (N)	NCIS "Knight and Day" (N)		NCIS: Origins (N)			
3		CTV2	Bob Heart	News-Rinaldo	Primetime (N)	How It's Made	Big Bang	etalk (N)	The Voice (N)			The Conners	The Conners	Primetime	(35) J. Fallon (N)		
3		PBS	Odd Squad	Xavier Riddle	America	The Good Road	PBS News Hour (N)	WA. Grown	Inland (N)	Antiques Roadshow		Antiques Roadshow		POV (N)			
3		NN	Canada Tonight With Travis Dhanraj (N)			The National (N)		The National (N)		The National (N)		The National (N)		The National (N)			
3		NBC	NonStop (N)	NonStop (N)	NonStop (N)	NBC News (N)	NonStop (N)	NonStop (N)	Jeopardy! (N)	Wheel (N)	The Voice (N)			Brilliant Minds (N)			
3		TREE	PeppaPig	PeppaPig	(15) Blaze	(40) Thomas	Rubble	(40) Binky	(05) Franklin	PeppaPig	Bubble	(45) Rivets	(10) Ready, Various	(20) Max & Ruby	(45) Blue		
3		HGTV	Don't Hate Your		Unsellable Houses		Don't Hate Your (N) (F)	Good Bones (N)		Hunters (N)	Hunters (N)	Don't Hate Your		Good Bones			
3		YTV	(4:00) Snow Day ("22)		Loud House	Loud House	Snow Day ("22) Michaela Russell, Ky Baldwin.			Loud House	Loud House	Danger Force	Danger Force	Sponge Bob	SpongeBob		
3		TSN	(4:00) Sports (N)	Breaking (N)	NFL Cntdwn (N) / (15) NFL Football Baltimore Ravens at Los Angeles Chargers (N) Live					SC With Jay Onrait (N) Live				SportsCentre (N) Live			
3		FOX	Two Half Men	Last Man	Modern Family	Big Bang	Young Sheldon	Young Sheldon	Suits	9-1-1: Lone Star		Rescue: Hi-Surf		News (N)	(35) FamFeud (N)		
3		W	The Mistletoe Inn ("17) David Alpay, Alicia Witt.				To Have and To Holiday ("24) Robert Bazzocchi, Eric Close.			Mistletoe Murders (N)		Outlander		(20) A Tiny Home Christmas			
3		TLC	90 Day Fiancé: The Other Way		90 Day: Other Corona shares details about her breakup with Ingl. (N)	I Love a Mama's Boy (N)				90 Day Fiancé: Other Way (N)		90 Day: Other Corona shares details about her breakup with Ingl.					
3		FOOD	(4:00) Holiday Baking		Holiday Baking "Friendsgiving"		Holiday Baking (N)		Top Chef Canada (N)	Beat: Holiday		Holiday Baking Championship		Top Chef Canada			
3		A&E	(4:00) Hoarders-Clean (N)		Hoarders (N)			Hoarders		(05) Road Wars	(35) Road Wars	(05) Hoarders					
3		SNW	NBA Basketball Toronto Raptors at Detroit Pistons (N) Live			Sportsnet (N)		NBA Basketball Brooklyn Nets at Golden State Warriors (N) Live				Misplays		Sportsnet (N)	Sportsnet		
3		CNN	Erin Burnett OutFront (N) Live		Anderson Cooper 360 (N) Live	The Source With (N) Live		CNN NewsNight (N) Live		Laura Coates Live (N) Live		Anderson Cooper 360		Erin Burnett OutFront			
3		SN360	World Chase Tag		WWE Monday Night RAW (N) Live					Plays	Misplays	WWE Monday Night RAW					
3		SHOW	FBI		FBI		FBI		FBI			FBI		FBI			
3		SLCE	Neighbor	Neighbor	True Crime (N)	True Crime (N)	True Crime (N)	True Crime (N)	Real Murders (N)	Neighbor	After Midnight (N)		True Crime	True Crime	True Crime		
3		STZZW	Movie	(35) Finding a Family ("11) Kim Delaney.	(05) Finding a Family ("11) Kim Delaney.	(05) Scott Pilgrim vs. the World ("10) Michael Cera.				Unforgiven ("92) Gene Hackman, Clint Eastwood.		(15) 21 Bridges ("19)					
3		DISC	Mayday		The Last Woodsmen (N)	Destinations of (N)		Expedition Files (N)		Suits		Suits		The Last Woodsmen			
3		CTVDR	Chicago Fire		Chicago Fire	Chicago Fire	Chicago Fire	Chicago Fire		Chicago Fire		Chicago Fire		Chicago Fire			
3		BRAVO	Below Deck		Below Deck Sailing Yacht	Below Deck Sailing Yacht (N)	Watch What	Below Deck Sailing Yacht	Watch What	Below Deck Sailing Yacht	Watch What	Below Deck Sailing Yacht		Below Deck Sailing Yacht			
3		TOON	Teen/ (15) Teen	Teen/ (45) Teen	Teen/ (15) Teen	Teen/ (45) Teen	Teen/ (15) Teen	Teen/ (45) Teen	Teen/ (15) Teen	Teen/ (15) Teen	Teen/ (45) Teen	Batman	Batman	Batman	Batman		
3		FAM	LEGO Friends	LEGO Dream	*** Horses of McBride ("12) Kari Matchett, Aidan Quinn.		Ladybug	Sailor (N)	We Are Family			Ruby and the Well		*** Horses of McBride ("12)			
3		PCH	The Conners	The Conners	Superman & Lois (N)	Animals (N)	Funny Kids (N)	Atlanta News First at 10pm (N)	Inside Ed. (N)	GMFB: Overtime (N)		Seinfeld		Seinfeld	Last Man		
3		CTVCo	Children Ruin	Big Bang	Big Bang	Big Bang	The Conners	Young Sheldon	Young Sheldon	Young Sheldon	Young Sheldon	Big Bang	Big Bang	Big Bang	Acting (N)		
3		TCM	(3:45) **** Some Like It Hot		*** Taps ("81) George C. Scott, Timothy Hutton.			(15) **** Mystic Pizza ("88) Annabeth Gish, Julia Roberts.		(15) **** Colleen ("36) Dick Powell, Ruby Keeler.							
3		HIST	History's Greatest Mysteries		M*A*S*H "Goodbye, Farewell and Amen" Hawkeye has a breakdown.			Prison		The Curse of Oak Island		Prison (N)	Prison (N)	Forged in Fire (N)			
3		CTVSci	Star Trek		Superman & Lois (N)		Star Trek		Star Trek	Castle		Castle		Superman & Lois			
3		AMC	(2:30) **** The Green Mile ("99) Tom Hanks.		*** Cast Away ("00) Helen Hunt, Tom Hanks.					*** Big ("88) Elizabeth Perkins, Tom Hanks.							
3		DTOUR	Border	Border	Border	Border	When Ghosts Attack	Ghost Hunters		Ghost Adventures		When Ghosts Attack		Ghost Hunters			
3	32	YESTV	The Middle (N)	Mike (N)	Murdoch Mysteries (N)	Wheel (N)	Jeopardy! (N)	Bull (N)	Huntley	Hear, Love (N)	Life Today (N)	Hagee (N)	Heartland (N)				
3		TLN	M*A*S*H	M*A*S*H	M*A*S*H	Crazy Rich Agents	Incredible Homes	M*A*S*H	M*A*S*H	M*A*S*H	For the Love	Dream of Italy	A Taste of	Cehf Sang			
3		MUCH	Ridiculousness	Ridiculousness	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	The Simpsons	Futurama	American (N)	American Dad!	Ridiculousness	Ridiculousness	Ridiculousness	Ridiculousness	The Simpsons	Futurama	
3		MTV	How It's Made	How It's Made	Ridiculous (N)	Ridiculous (N)	Ridiculous (N)	Ridiculous (N)	Ridiculousness	Ridiculousness	Ridiculousness	Ridiculousness	Ridiculousness	Ridiculousness	Ridiculousness	Ridiculousness	
3		VISN	Murder, She Wrote		Sister Boniface Mysteries	Hack Your Age		theZoomer		Murdoch Mysteries		*** The Belles of St. Trinian's ("54) George Cole, Alastair Sim.					
3		TV5	Vroum: une brève (N)		La guerre des trônes	39-45 en sol canadien (N)		La secte	(40) Mystères	(10) C dans l'air (N)	(15) Afrique (N)	(45) Journal (N)	(15) 39-45 en sol canadien				
3		APTN	Moosemeat	Corner Gas	Wild Rose (N)	Horse Warr (N)	The Wild Ones	Tribal		APTN News (N)	APTN	Northern Exposure		Angelique's Isle ("18)			
PAY-TV• MONDAY, NOVEMBER 25														MOVIES	TALK	SPORTS	KIDS
C		5 PM	5:30	6 PM	6:30	7 PM	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10 PM	10:30	11 PM	11:30		
34	E!	NUMB3RS		Million.	Million.	Sullivan's Crossing		Happy's (N)	Night Court (N)	E! News (N)	TMZ	TMZ Live		Sullivan's Crossing			
35	CRVM1W	(30) The Swan Princess: Far Longer Than Forever	(35) **** The Color Purple ("23) Taraji P. Henson, Fantasia Barrino.							I Don't Know Who You Are ("23)		(45) The Blind ("23) Aron von Andrian.					
36	CRVM2W	Movie	(45) **** Hack saw Ridge ("16) Sam Worthington, Andrew Garfield.			(10) Law & Order				The Americans	(50) Tales From the Territories	(40) In Flames ("23) Omar Javaid.					
37	CRVM3W	(10) Ru ("23) Chantal Thuy, Chloé Djangi.	(40) Dancing Through Christmas ("21)	(45) **** Hack saw Ridge ("16) Sam Worthington, Andrew Garfield.						Get Millie Black (N)		Euphoria		Game of Thrones			
38	HBO2	(05) As You Like It ("06) Bryce Dallas Howard, Kevin Kline.	(20) A Revolution on Canvas ("23)														
39	WSBK	Big Bang	Big Bang	WBZ News 8p (N)		News (N)	Living	48 Hours		Flip Side	Flip Side	Big Bang	Housewife	Housewife	Person (N)		
40	KTLA	News (N)	NBA Basketball LA Clippers at Boston Celtics From TD Garden in Boston. (N) Live			News (N)	Unscripted			Superman & Lois (N)	Animals (N)	Funny Kids (N)	News (N)	(45) Sports (N)			
41	WGN	WGN Evening News (N) Live		Superman & Lois (N)		Animals (N)	Funny Kids (N)	WGN News at Nine (N) Live		News (N) Live	GN Sports (N)	Young Sheldon	Big Bang	Two Half Men	Last Man		
42	WPX	Sports (N)	Big Bang	Superman & Lois (N)		Animals (N)	Funny Kids (N)	PIX11 News at Ten (N)		Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Friends	Two Half Men	Big Bang	Young Sheldon		
43	STARZ1W	Movie	(50) **** A Mighty Wind ("03) Bob Balaban.	(25) **** Best in Show ("00)						**** The Hangover ("09) Bradley Cooper.	(45) Spartacus: Blood and Sand	(45) Black Sails					
44	NGEO	To Catch a Smuggler		To Catch a Smuggler		Witches: Truth (N)		Lawless Island		To Catch a Smuggler		Witches: Truth		Lawless Island			
45	H2	Modern Marvels		Proof-There	Proof-There	Dark Marvels		Beyond Oak Island		Proof-There	Proof-There	Dark Marvels		Beyond Oak Island			
46	MY5	NCIS: Los Angeles		JAG		NCIS: New Orleans		Hawaii Five-0		Hawaii Five-0		NCIS		NCIS			
47	MTIME	(4:30) *** The Time Traveler's Wife ("09) Rachel McAdams.		*** Harriet ("19) Janelle Monáe, Cynthia Erivo.						*** The Time Traveler's Wife ("09) Rachel McAdams.							
48	ADSM	American Dad!	American Dad!	Bob's Burgers	Bob's Burgers	Family Guy	Family Guy	King of the Hill	King of the Hill	Rick and Morty	Rick and Morty	Chicken	Royal Crackers	Family Guy	Family Guy		
49	LIFE	True Crime (N)	True Crime	Hawaii Five-0		Hawaii Five-0		Hawaii Five-0		Hawaii Five-0		Hawaii Five-0		Hawaii Five-0			
50	DOCU	Heaven's		The Fifth Estate		Killer Cases		Killer Cases		The Detectives		Killer Cases		Killer Cases			
51	FAMJR	Fabulous (N)	CareBears	Smurfs/ Smurfs	GrizzlyAnd	Mike/ Mike	BraveBun	Justin Time	Fabulous	Chip&/ Chip&	Mike/ Mike	Mike/ Mike	Arthur	Arthur	Daniel Tiger		
52	WILDB	Just Add	Just Add	The	(40) Born	(30) Dwight	(40) Dwight	(30) Afraid?	(40) Afraid?	Goosebumps	Goosebumps	JohnnyT	JohnnyT	The Deep	The Deep		
53	ABCSB	The Fosters		8 Simple Rules	Man-Plan	Life in Pieces	Life in Pieces	Fresh-Boat	Fresh-Boat	The Fosters		Good Trouble		Baby Daddy	Baby Daddy		
54	AP	Animal Cops: Phoenix		North Woods Law		Lone Star Law		Dr. Jeff: Rocky Mountain Vet		The Vet Life		Lone Star Law		North Woods Law			
55	BBCW	BBC News	HARDtalk	BBC News	Business	Newsday	Business	Newsday	Business	Newsday	Business	BBC News	Business	BBC News	Business		
56	DJV	Will & Grace	Will & Grace	Raymond	Raymond	Taxi		Cheers	Cheers	Will & Grace	Will & Grace	Mork & Mindy	Dear John	Taxi	Taxi		
57	CNBS	Shark Tank		Shark Tank		Shark Tank		Shark Tank		Shark Tank		Capital Connection (N) Live		Squawk Box Europe (N) Live			
58	GOLF	PGA TOUR	School of Golf	School of Golf	School of Golf	PGA Tour Golf The RSM Classic, Final Round						PGA Tour Golf The RSM Classic, Final Round					
59	SCH	(4:30) Who Is Killing the Cheer...		Love You	(45) ROMI ("23) Alexa Barajas, (P)	(15) I Lived With a Killer		Love You	(45) Manifest West ("22) Lexy Kolker.	(15) There's Always Hope							

GARFIELD



BIG NATE



PEANUTS



BABY BLUES



PICKLES



CRABGRASS



FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE



ROSE IS ROSE



OFF THE MARK



THE ARGYLE SWEATER



CORNERED



LOOSE PARTS



ADAM@HOME



SHERMAN'S LAGOON



MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM



LUANN



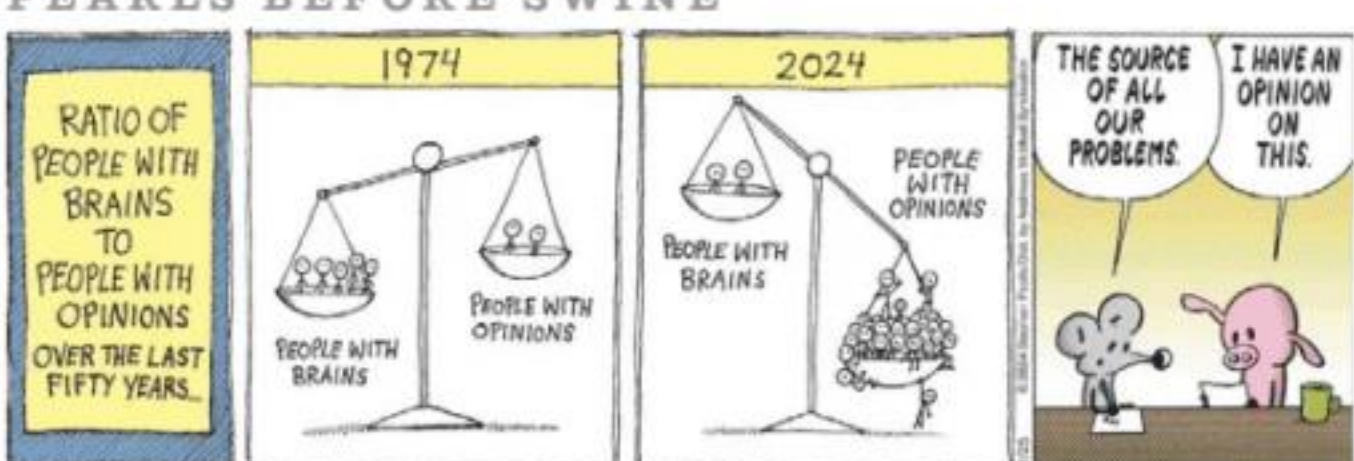
POOCH CAFE



CRANKSHAFT



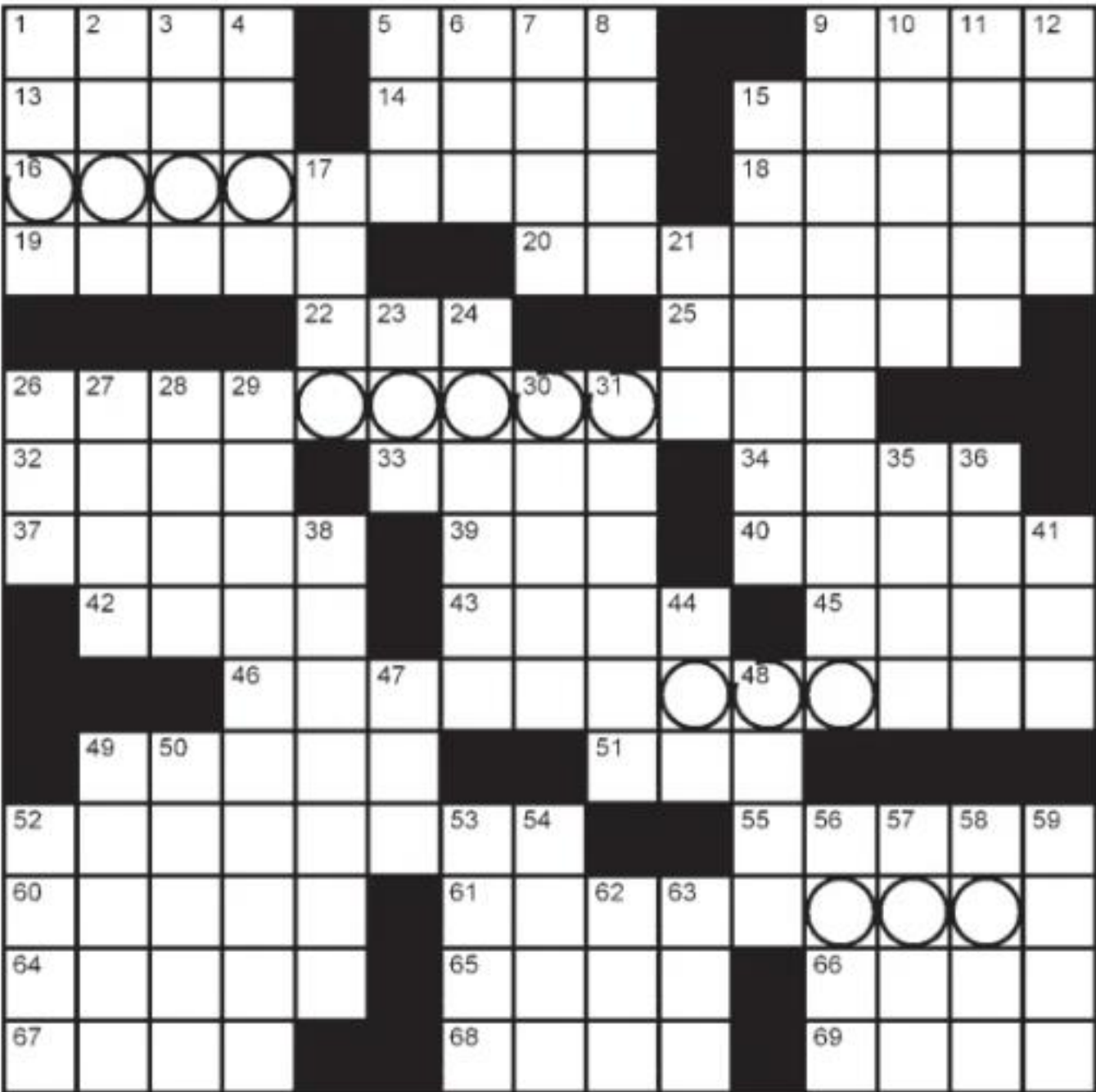
PEARLS BEFORE SWINE



LIO



UNIVERSAL CROSSWORD



WONDERWORD

By DAVID QUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

DAME MAGGIE SMITH (1934-2024)

Solution: 11 letters

H O N O R E T T O P Y R R A H
A T F A B E V E R L E Y G O O
S R N Q A M E N I C H R I S L
C E M U M Y H O U S E I S L
R B N A A Y B R I T I S H E Y
E O O R S Y B O T M T O N R W
E R T T R T M S C E O V A T O
N E N E O L R G R K I B T C O
A G W T O U O A B E B F A A D
T A O N M N C H W E O R L M R
I L D B A T C D Y G L P I A O
O O R G O T H E L L O O E R F
N I A A I C O N I C R H V D X
A L K W E C N E L L E C X E O
L R O S S E F O R P O I S E D

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Abbey, Actress, BAFTA, Beloved, Beverley, British, Chris, Cinema, Downton, Drama, Emmy, Excellence, Harry Potter, Hogwarts, Hollywood, Honor, Hook, Iconic, London, McGonagall, Mum, My Aunt, My House, Natalie, National, Othello, Oxford, Poise, Professor, Quartet, Regal, Robert, Room, Screen, Sister Act, Toby, Umbria, View, Witch

UNIVERSAL

Sudoku Puzzle

Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9 inclusively.

11/25

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1 3 7
7 4
2 4 8 9 6 7 3
1 8 6 7 4
7 8 2 9 6
6 3 9 5 8
6 4 7 9 5 2 1
7 5
2 1 6

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★☆☆☆☆

7 LITTLE WORDS

Find the 7 words to match the 7 clues. The numbers in parentheses represent the number of letters in each solution. Each letter combination can be used only once, but all letter combinations will be necessary to complete the puzzle.

CLUES

SOLUTIONS

1 Hasbro sleuthing game (4)

2 baffled state (10)

3 running beside each other (8)

4 they collect stamps (9)

5 Stadium of football Patriots (8)

6 very basic water vessel (4)

7 pocket-sized Apple device (6)

UE CL ZL ALL NT

EME EL LLE RA POR

IPH FT PUZ PA TS

ONE GI TTE SS PAR

Answers: 1. CLUE 2. PUZZLE 3. PARALLEL 4. PASSPORTS 5. GILLETTE 6. RAFT 7. IPHONE

11/25

KENKEN

THE LOGIC PUZZLE THAT MAKES YOU SMARTER.

Instructions: Each row and each column must contain the numbers 1 through 4 (easy) or 1 through 6 (challenging) without repeating. The numbers within the heavily outlined boxes, called cages, must combine using the given operation (in any order) to produce the target numbers in the top-left corners. Freebies: Fill in single-box cages with the number in the top-left corner.

EASY

CHALLENGING

9x 2÷
3- 1- 2÷
2÷ 6+
20x 9+ 2÷ 2÷
72x 2÷ 6
7+ 14+
12x 1- 10+
15x 5- 10x 4

CELEBRITY CIPHER
by Luis Campos
Celebrity Cipher cryptograms are created from quotations by famous people, past and present. Each letter in the cipher stands for another.

" X C B T B L E E R I B X C L U Z M G R N X
W M N Z C X B T X C M X J M U X M Y B
M O M F M W W X C B P M T Y U B E E . "
— J C T L E X L U M M H H W B Z M X B

Solution: "There is something about laughter that can take away all the darkness." — Christina Applegate

TODAY'S CLUE: M equals O

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TODAY'S SOLUTIONS:

WONDERWORD: GOSFORD PARK

3 1 2 4
1 3 4 2
2 4 1 3
4 2 3 1

4 2 3 6
3 4 1 5
6 5 4 2
5 1 2 3
2 3 1 4
3 6 2 5
4 1 5 3
5 2 3 4
6 4 1 2
7 3 2 1
8 6 4 5
9 5 3 2
10 4 1 6
11 2 7 8
12 5 9 1

Driftwood by Olivia Mitra Framke and Sally Hoelscher, edited by David Steinberg

ACROSS

1 Tangy garnish for a key lime pie

5 Frolic

9 Price

13 Stroke of inspiration

14 Birthstone for most Libras

15 2014 Olympics city

16 It whistles when it's ready for English breakfast (In this answer, see letters 1-4)

18 Sole pattern

19 Info from covert ops

20 Olive-based spread

22 Vegas opener?

25 — Kim (fashion model and journalist)

26 "The People's Princess" (... letters 5-9)

32 Bit of land in the sea

33 Leafy green

34 "Well, you see ..."

37 Nike competitor

39 SCOTUS justice who had a dissent collar

40 Holey item in the kitchen

42 Flour in naan

43 Hygienic hotel freebie

45 Honors for Lil Nas X and Dolly Parton: Abbr.

46 Bond theme song by Duran Duran (... letters 7-9)

49 Danger

51 And so forth: Abbr.

52 Union-made relation?

55 Overact

60 "The real treasure was the friends we made — the way"

61 Unlikely to pose (... letters 6-8)

64 Tools for collecting leaves

65 Tons

66 Delight

67 Ring around the pupil

68 Polo shirt brand

69 Many millennia

DOWN

1 Tubular pasta

2 Utopia

3 Coveted spot on a crowded bus

4 Grab

5 Go bad

6 Choose

7 Milkshake choice

8 "Forgive me," e.g.

9 Soccer shot from the edge of the pitch

10 Place where researchers might do a deep dive

11 Cerulean, for one

12 All competitor

15 Sound systems

17 Jazz great Fitzgerald

21 Insta post

23 "I thought you'd never ____!"

24 Few and far between

26 Day, in Spanish

27 "Insecure" star Rae Landed

29 Sweet, smooth stone fruits

30 Arm joint

31 Cancel

35 Prefix meaning "somewhat"

36 Ellipse's shape

38 Money for a rainy day

41 Class that teaches idioms, for short

44 Houseplant holder

47 — at ease

48 Taiwanese tech giant

49 Word before "bear" or "Express"

50 Spindly mushroom

52 Garment for a certain Diwali celebrant

53 Dark purple berry

54 Harris running mate

56 Old-time spell caster

57 Capital on a fjord

58 Every now and —

59 Features of hurricanes and potatoes

62 (I'm a cow!)

63 Takeoff guess: Abbr.

LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

HOROSCOPE FOR NOVEMBER 25

BY EUGENIA LAST

HAPPY BIRTHDAY: Take the initiative and pour your energy into your health and financial wellness. Step outside your comfort zone and utilize new connections and insights to add stability and security to your life.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Refuse to let uncertainty disrupt your plans. Reflect on similar events, and you'll devise a system or strategy that gives you the freedom to move forward. Build a future based on what you know, and progress and expansion will follow. 3 stars

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Slow down, accumulate your thoughts and digest the possibilities that depend on how you press forward. The desire to expand your ideas and take a risk will backfire. 3 stars

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Someone will offer hype and hope, but more is needed. Listen to the sales pitch; follow the dots closely, and you'll soon see where they lead. Take what validates you and set your game plan. 5 stars

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Give your emotions a rest and let logic take over. Discover what moves you creatively and start a project that allows you to use your imagination and skills to explore moneymaking opportunities. 2 stars

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Be open to learning rather than to doing the work for someone else's benefit. Let your talent shine through, and don't hesitate to present what you can do to those in a position to help you flourish. 4 stars

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Establish your position, and don't limit your budget. Someone will be happy to dismantle your plans or to lead you in a direction that benefits them more than you. Focus on what's best for you and incorporate whatever is necessary to help you reach your goal. 3 stars

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Discovering, learning and applying the latest technology to your work will raise standards and turn you into a role model everyone looks to for guidance. A mental or physical journey will offer insight and new dimensions to your goal. 3 stars

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): A change of routine will soothe your soul. Look before you leap, and then embrace what comes your way. Implement ideas that engage your brainpower to step up and offer food for thought. Engage in conversations that let your imagination flourish and encourage you to pursue your dreams. 4 stars

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Increase your investments and put more thought and time into raising your standards and daily routine. A healthy outlook and regimen will boost confidence and encourage a positive outcome. Be open regarding your intentions and replenish any relationship or work ethic that requires a jump-start. 4 stars

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): A change at home will help you unleash your creativity and embark on something that improves your life by increasing functionality. A uniform approach and organized surroundings will help you see clearly and diminish any uncertainty you harbor. Don't give in to someone's negativity. Follow your heart. 2 stars

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Dig in and get things done. Refuse to let what others do or say dictate how you proceed. Change only what isn't working for you. Concentrate on what you do best and apply it to what needs doing. Your leadership ability will shine through and help you gain respect. 5 stars

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Refuse to let the negativity you face drag you down. Distance yourself from anyone trying to lead you astray, tempt you with excessive behavior or discourage you from taking the path that brings you peace of mind and stability. Attend events that resonate with you, and you'll meet someone special. 3 stars

BIRTHDAY BABY: You are energetic, proactive and sensitive. You are understanding and flexible.

“Restrictions exist for sure, but that’s exactly why we need to create our own scene. We always need ‘wild dances.’ We always need to dance outside of set rules. **Loong Wu**”



Rave attendees dance in an abandoned air raid shelter in Guangzhou. Ads promoting raves are cryptic, with only a date, a DJ lineup and cost of admission. **FANG QI/VIA THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

THE ‘WILD DANCES’ OF CHINA

The country’s underground raves go from street techno to quotes from Chairman Mao

ELSIE CHEN
and **DAKE KANG**

CHANGCHUN, CHINA Crouch through the small metal door and walk down the dark tunnel, and even before you step into the abandoned air raid shelter the air reverberates with pounding techno beats. Young Chinese holding booze and cigarettes shake and sway in a red-lit passageway, below a big screen rolling through quotations from Chairman Mao.

This is an underground rave in China, part of a subculture growing in hidden corners of the nation’s cities, even as its political and cultural mainstream grow increasingly controlled, staid and predictable.

For Chinese ravers, these gatherings — often called “ye di,” or “wild dances” — not only offer a rare space for unfettered fun, but signal resistance to the narrowly prescribed future a rigid society expects for them.

By day, Xing Long works in the office of a state-owned company in Changchun, an industrial city in China’s northeastern rust belt region.

By night, he’s a DJ and underground rave organizer, a side gig that offers an escape from the humdrum of reviewing corporate contracts.

“My job cannot make me feel I fulfilled my values,” he said. “Going to work is like executing a prewritten program.”

Chinese young people face intense pressure and high expectations from the society around them. In recent years, facing bleak economic prospects, Chinese youth culture has been swept by a series of viral slang terms to describe frustration and hopelessness: “996” — the brutal 9 a.m. to 9 p.m., six days a week work schedule many companies ask of employees. “Involution” — an endless treadmill of pointless competition that fresh graduates face. “Lying



Xing Long, a DJ and underground rave organizer, tests his audio gear ahead of a rave at a friend’s bar. **DAKE KANG/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**



A DJ who goes by the stage name Kuro plays music at a rave last month. **DAKE KANG/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

flat” — the growing trend among young people of giving up all ambition and aiming to do as little as possible.

Techno dance parties are an escape from all of that for people like Xing. Every time he walks into a rave, the 31-year-old said, his brain “jolts awake like a bang.”

Xing began going to raves in Shenzhen, a southern city with a population of 17 million, but when

he moved home in 2021 he realized no one else was organizing them.

Xing said that the underground techno scene fascinated him because it’s “real” even if not perfect, bad, not in the right order, or broken.

“It’s not a beautiful thing that was deliberately produced into a mould to present to the mainstream.”

Space for culture and creativity

has been shrinking in China as the authorities have ramped up censorship of concerts, shows and other cultural events. Comedians have been silenced after joking about topics considered politically sensitive. A growing number of independent bookstores and creative spaces have shut down under pressure, while state-sanctioned media promotes uplifting, often saccharine narratives.

Yet the raves are free from all those limitations because they sprout in grey zones. Hidden from view, they skirt formal approval processes, neither supported nor suppressed by the state.

Feng Zhe, 27, a rave organizer in Shenyang, a northeastern city about 644 kilometres from Beijing, said raves are about “refusing to be disciplined by society.”

“This is probably not how the world functions nowadays,” he said, adding that societies want to make people follow their rules and be useful but “underground culture is useless.”

“Most people are going to be repressed,” Feng said.

But for most organizers, the real meaning of rave culture is simply having fun. Loong Wu, a 26-year-old student, started organizing raves in 2021 out of boredom.

“My original intention was just to break through the boredom,” she said. “When you are truly enjoying it, you don’t think about meanings.”

On one recent Saturday, civil servants, students, an ex-firefighter, girls with dyed hair and a man with a full face mask and goggles filed into a bar tucked behind a flower shop in downtown Changchun to attend one of Xing’s raves.

They danced to fast-paced industrial techno spun by Du Jizhe, a local part-time DJ who works in HR by day.

He said it’s the natural soundtrack of auto manufacturing cities like Changchun and Detroit, which prides itself on being

the birthplace of techno. For Du, techno evokes childhood memories of the auto factory where his father worked.

“Techno is basically industrial noise like hammering and mechanical sounds,” Du said. “These noises exert a subtle influence on people’s ears in industrial cities.”

Chen Xiangyu, a fashion student in an oversized black T-shirt with hair dyed blond, a black leather choker, a lip piercing and smoky eye makeup, said raves are a pure release.

“The first time I came, I thought to myself, I don’t know anyone, no one knows me, so nobody’s paying any attention to how I dance, so long as I’m happy, it’s all good,” she said. “I shouldn’t care too much about what others think.”

Even at raves, illegal drugs are rarely seen in China, but promoters still face risks from authorities who have little patience for unapproved social gatherings.

Advertisements promoting raves are often cryptic, with only a date, a DJ lineup and the cost of admission. Sometimes, the location won’t be revealed until an hour ahead of the party. Some organizers require guests to cover their phone’s camera with a sticker.

Loong Wu said her requirements for a rave spot were no CCTV cameras, no security and no nearby residents. Even those aren’t a guarantee — local police once busted one of her raves in an industrial port.

“It was pathetic how few such places exist in the city,” she said.

Frustrated with how hard it was to find a good rave spot, she once organized a public party where she put her DJ equipment on a cart and pushed it through city streets as revellers danced alongside.

“Restrictions exist for sure, but that’s exactly why we need to create our own scene,” she said. “We always need ‘wild dances.’ We always need to dance outside of set rules.”

The Associated Press

BRITAIN GETS BUBBLY

In a warming world, England's sparkling wines are challenging French champagne

WILLIAM BOOTH

DORCHESTER, ENGLAND Not too long ago, if you asked a French bon vivant if they would like a nice glass of British bubbly, they may have laughed, as in, surely you jest.

Not anymore. English sparkling wines are winning gold medals in blind tastings and routinely competing with (and occasionally besting) wines from the fabled champagne houses in France.

You probably can guess why: climate change.

Since the 1990s, the average temperature in Britain has risen by 1C, or 1.8 F. All 10 of the warmest years in the United Kingdom have occurred since 2003 — with 2022 the hottest year on record.

While this kind of warming may appear subtle in the drizzly English countryside, the grapes can certainly feel it.

"It doesn't sound like a lot, does it? One degree?" said meteorologist Stephen Dorling, who studies British viticulture. But it makes all the difference to a Pinot Noir vine, which needs 14 C, not 13 C, to thrive.

A generation ago, Britain had no discernible wine industry. Today the growth is explosive. There are now more than 1,000 vineyards and 400 winemakers in the south of England.

The area has the same fast-draining, chalky soil found in France's Champagne region, and so British growers are cultivating their expertise in the big three grape varieties that make sparkling wine: Chardonnay, Pinot Noir and Pinot meunier.

"You couldn't even imagine growing these grapes in England before," said Tommy Grimshaw, head winemaker at Langham Wine Estate in Dorset.

Grimshaw and a crew were harvesting in October, snipping off the deep purple bunches from the trellis and carefully placing the grapes in crates, which were quickly moved to the winery. In the sheds, the grapes were loaded into a pneumatic press, which uses a kind of inflatable balloon to gently but properly smush them. The juice then goes into tall stainless steel settling vats and then to oak barrels imported from France. Later they go into green glass bottles.

Langham produces a "low intervention" sparkling wine — no filtration, indigenous yeast only. The winery has regularly medalled at the International Wine and Spirit Competition, and was named wine producer of the year in 2020.

Judges praised its blanc de blanc as "balanced, complex and crisply textural, displaying fine bubbles."

There has been some celebration, even schadenfreude, at the rise of drinkable bubbly in a country that so relishes competition with France, and where generations of gentry have consumed vast reservoirs of champagne.

Winston Churchill was devoted to the 1928 Pol Roger. The British Royal Family now regularly serves English sparkling at state banquets (alongside French grand cru wines).

Chapel Down winery pulled a cheeky stunt last year, setting out a table in the French city of Reims, disguising its own bottle with a label reading "Chapelle en Bas" and encouraging passersby to compare it to a local favourite, Moët et Chandon Brut Imperial.

According to the British winery, 60 per cent of a small sample preferred the English version.

The headline in the Daily Mail tabloid read: "It's enough to make the French fizz with rage! English sparkling wine triumphs over champagne in blind taste test."

English sparkling wines, as good as they are getting, will never be "champagne," a name reserved for the effervescent wines from the region in northeast France, where strict rules for production apply.

Britain is more anything goes. The government announced recently that it would allow English sparkling wines to forgo the use mushroom-shaped corks and foil covers on bottle necks, if they wish. Such a move would be unthinkable in France.

The story is still very David and Goliath. England produced 8.3 million bottles of sparkling wine last year. France did almost 300 million bottles.

English sparkling wine is mostly produced by the "traditional method," just like its French counterpart, with a price point aimed at the mid-range market. Because the industry is new, English vintners can't compete with the French houses selling older, very expensive vintages.

But British winemakers are in a planting frenzy, as some classic regions in France may soon be almost too warm.

Justin Langham, who owns the Dorset estate that carries his family name, cautioned that climate change isn't a surefire win for British wine.

Langham, who has been farming all his life, planted his first 30 acres of grapes in 2009. Last year,



The Langham Wine Estate in the U.K. grew from 30 to 85 acres in 2024. England's bubbly is now routinely competing with, and sometimes besting, French champagnes. PHOTOS: AYESHA KAZIM/FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

he had a bumper crop. This year, while the individual grapes were bursting with the acidity and sugar that make a fine sparkling wine, the overall yield was low.

"You can get a concentration of flavours in a smaller crop," he said. "The quality will be good this year, just not as much of it."

This is what climate change produces: warmer weather, yes, but more fickle, more extreme weather — alternating droughts and downpours, stubborn heat waves and freaky frosts.

England is typically rainy but less so in summer. During this year's growing season, which ran from April to October, vineyards in southern England were soaked. Sunshine was an infrequent visitor. The yield at the Langham Estate was down 70 per cent from average.

What happens with too much rain? "Mildew and disease," Langham said.

Wind is tricky, too. A little breeze is good. It pollinates the flowers and produces the fruit. Wind is also good for drying the grapes after a spot of rain. But too much wind?

"Not good," Langham said.

"We are in a warming trend, which is nice for England, which allows us to grow the varieties of

grape that are very popular," Dorling said. "But this comes with greater variability. And these two things are happening at the same time, which is helpful and unhelpful."

Climate change giveth and taketh.

As the planet continues to warm, will they soon be growing grapes in Scotland, as terrifying as that might sound? Quite possibly, said Dorling, who as head of innovation for WeatherQuest helps businesses cope with climate change.

"Sweden is a new wine frontier now," he said.

Climate change, overall, is proving challenging to what is now a global industry. The International Organization of Vine and Wine reported that in 2023 "extreme climatic conditions and widespread fungal diseases severely impacted many vineyards worldwide, culminating in a historically low global wine production ... and represented the lowest output since 1961."

The French, of course, are hyper-alert to the changes in the weather. France's Ministry of Agriculture said production at Champagne vineyards is expected to fall by 16 per cent this year.

"Increasingly intense extreme weather events, such as heat waves

or torrential rains, are causing significant damage," the Research Institute for Agriculture, Food and the Environment in France reported in March.

The French houses are doing all they can to continue to produce great champagne, including harvesting grapes a month earlier than they used to.

The champagne houses, too, are quite capable of crossing the English Channel themselves.

Two famous ones, Taittinger and Pommery, have been planting vines in England. Last month, Taittinger hosted the Duchess of Edinburgh at its new winery in Kent, and announced the first 100,000 bottles of Domaine Evremond, English sparkling wine, to be sold in March for around \$67 a pop.

Vitalie Taittinger, the first female president of Maison Taittinger since its 1734 founding, said in remarks to the media that the forthcoming vintage will be "very elegant, but with no comparison with champagne."

Asked what he imagined the famous French houses thought of their British challengers, Langham gave a shrug.

"They have a changing climate. We have a changing climate. We're both going to have to adapt."

The Washington Post



Chardonnay, Pinot Noir and Pinot meunier are the big three grapes that make sparkling wine. "You couldn't even imagine growing these grapes in England before," said Tommy Grimshaw, above. *