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Waves of missiles eliminate air defenses and military sites

Trump calls on Iranian civilians to 'take over' once the attacks end

IRGC commander among raft of top leaders 'eliminated,' IDF says

Khamenei dead in U.S.-Israel attack to topple Iran's regime

TRUMP: NO LETUP UNTIL MISSION DONE

'Freedom for the people' is goal, president says

BY NATALIE ALLISON AND TARA COPP

President Donald Trump told The Washington Post on Saturday that his main concern is "freedom" for the Iranian people as the U.S. launched military strikes in the country in a bold daytime attack that struck hundreds of missile and air defense sites and eliminated layers of leadership in the Iranian regime, most significant among them the country's longtime supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei.

"Khamenei, one of the most evil people in History, is dead," Trump posted to Truth Social. "This is not only Justice for the people of Iran, but for all Great Americans."

"This is the single greatest chance for the Iranian people to take back their country," Trump added.

The multiday operation against Iran began around 1 a.m. Eastern time with a salvo of ship-launched Tomahawk cruise missiles and air-launched munitions from U.S. Air Force and Navy jets, after repeated warnings by Trump of a possible attack in response to Iran's nuclear program. The strikes are expected to last at least through the weekend, a U.S. official said.

The Pentagon has so far disclosed very little about the operation — called Epic Fury — and the

SEE **IRAN** ON **A10**

ABBAS ZAKERI/MEHR NEWS/WANA/REUTERS

AYATOLLAH ALI KHAMENEI | 1939 - 2026

Supreme leader wielded ultimate political, religious authority

BY WILLIAM BRANIGIN

Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, the Shiite Muslim cleric who played a behind-the-scenes role in Iran's Islamic revolution, served two terms as president in the 1980s and dominated the country for more than three decades as supreme leader, was killed Saturday as Israel and the United States launched a joint attack on Iran. He was 86.

Khamenei

President Donald Trump announced the death in a Truth Social post, calling the ayatollah "one of the most evil people in History." He did not share additional details, but four Israeli security officials said Ayatollah Khamenei was killed in an Israeli airstrike at his compound in Tehran.

The strike came near the outset of a joint attack aimed at decimating Iran's nuclear program and military and fueling a change in government. Black smoke billowed over the compound Saturday, although it was not immediately clear whether the supreme leader was there at the time. The strikes were aimed at top military and civilian leaders, including the ayatollah, Israeli sources said.

In announcing the attack, the second by Israeli and U.S. forces since June 2025, Trump publicly urged Iranians to "take over your government" once the operation ended. He had previously called on Iranians to rise up and pledged U.S. backing after widespread an-

SEE **KHAMENEI** ON **A12**

REUTERS

FROM TOP: Rescuers on Saturday at a school in Minab, Iran, where Iran's foreign minister said dozens of children were killed. A satellite image shows damage from Ayatollah Ali Khamenei's compound in Tehran following the airstrikes that killed him.

Push from Saudis, Israel helped move Trump to attack Iran

BY MICHAEL BIRNBAUM, JOHN HUDSON, KAREN DEYOUNG AND NATALIE ALLISON

President Donald Trump launched Saturday's wide-ranging attack on Iran after a weeks-long lobbying effort by an unusual pair of U.S. allies in the Middle East: Israel and Saudi Arabia, according to four people familiar with the matter, as Israeli and U.S. forces teamed to topple Iranian Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei after nearly four decades in power.

Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman made multiple private phone calls to Trump over the past month advocating a U.S. attack, despite his public support for a diplomatic solution, the four people said. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, meantime, continued his long-running public campaign for U.S. strikes against what he views as an existential enemy of his country.

The combined effort helped lead Trump to order a massive aerial campaign against Iran's leadership and military, which in its initial hour led to the death of Khamenei and several other senior Iranian officials.

The attack came despite U.S. intelligence assessments that Iran's forces were unlikely to pose an immediate threat to the U.S. mainland within the next decade. Saturday's attack on Iran was a break from decades of U.S. decision-making to hold back from a full-scale effort to depose the regime of a country of more than 90 million people. It also marked a stark shift from Trump's own previous military forays, which until now have been far narrower in scope.

SEE **TRUMP** ON **A11**

Most Americans say they can afford little beyond the basics

BY LAUREN KAORI GURLEY AND ISABELLE GIBSON

Health care, new cars and new homes feel unaffordable to most Americans, a Washington Post-ABC News-Ipsos poll shows.

Most Americans say that they can afford basic necessities like their current housing costs, groceries, utilities and gasoline. But large numbers across income levels also say larger expenses and the cost of things associated with an enjoyable life — including taking a weeklong vacation — are out of reach. Overall, 53 percent of adults say they have just enough money to maintain their standard of living, nearly identical to a year ago, while roughly half, or more, say that discretionary spending on going out to dinner, vacations and new cars is unaffordable.

The findings, based on a survey of more than 2,500 Americans between Feb. 12 and 17, show why so many Americans — and politicians — cite affordability as a top concern, in spite of a booming stock market and solid consumer spending.

Inflation, which has fallen significantly below scorching post-pandemic levels, continues to

SEE **AFFORDABILITY** ON **A5**

Musk, named in Epstein files, now claims to support victims

BY FAIZ SIDDIQUI

During an explosive feud with President Donald Trump last spring, Elon Musk reached for the nuclear button. "Time to drop the really big bomb," he wrote on X in June, "@realDonaldTrump is in the Epstein Files."

"The truth will come out," the Tesla CEO added. He later deleted the posts and reconciled with Trump. In the months since, Musk has issued a steady drum beat of X posts calling for the arrest or prosecution of people linked to Jeffrey Epstein, a convicted sex offender who cultivated relationships with powerful figures in tech, finance and politics.

But when the Justice Department released what it said were millions of pages of documents in January from its investigation of the deceased financier, Musk featured prominently in the files.

The entrepreneur had repeated email exchanges with Epstein, as did Kimbal Musk, his brother and fellow Tesla board member, the documents show. Elon Musk's messages included inquiries about parties. Musk and Epstein also discussed arranging to meet

SEE **EPSTEIN** ON **A6**

THE REGION
Unmarked graves probed at a Virginia site where slaves once toiled. **B12**

BUSINESS
A seat at L.A. Olympics will cost fans a lot more than it used to. **B6**

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DHS shutdown could go on for a while — because voters aren't paying attention

@PKCapitol
PAUL KANE

Government shutdowns usually need a pressure point to force a compromise that brings them to their end.

There's no sign of any such pressure point in the current shutdown, which has left the Department of Homeland Security shuttered.

Unlike the six-week shutdown in the fall, when every agency lacked funding authority, more than 95 percent of agencies now have their full-year budgets. National parks are open with full services, passports are being processed without shutdown-related delays, and the troops are under no threat of losing their pay.

ICE and Border Patrol agents, who work under the DHS umbrella, also have no need to fear missed paychecks, because the massive domestic policy bill President Donald Trump signed in July surged money into those immigration enforcement agencies.

Plenty of other agencies, ranging from FEMA to the Federal Aviation Administration to the Secret Service, are twisting in the wind, however. And Transportation Security Administration workers will miss their first checks in the next few days.

But there's little indication the American public is at all concerned with the state of affairs: Lawmakers who returned to the Capitol on Tuesday, after a more than 10-day stint at home, said that the DHS shutdown was not registering as a top concern with constituents.

Several Democrats said if the DHS funding came up, it was in relation to constituents' concerns about the actions of Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents, who engaged in violent and deadly clashes this winter in Minneapolis.

"The bulk of them have been about concern for ICE, about ICE killing people, about the brutality that we are seeing ICE do," said Rep. Teresa Leger Fernandez (D-New Mexico).

It is Democrats who hold the key to ending the shutdown; the Republican controlled Senate needs Democratic votes to fund DHS. But after two Americans were killed by DHS agents in Minneapolis, Democrats have demanded several reforms in exchange for their help.

Democrats want new accountability measures, including forbidding ICE agents from wearing masks and needing proper warrants in carrying out their raids to be codified into law. Republicans have generally opposed those asks, while countering with their own demands that local governments no longer serve as "sanctuary cities" and coordinate their activities with ICE.

Facing a Feb. 14 funding deadline, both the House and Senate adjourned more than a day early for the annual Presidents' Day recess, providing a week-and-a-half window for lawmakers to travel abroad to security conferences and spend time with constituents at home.

The House returned to session Tuesday afternoon, then adjourned again Wednesday morning so that Democrats could trek 50 miles west of the Capitol for their annual policy retreat. Republicans will leave in a couple weeks for their own retreat at a Florida resort.

The Senate, as is its modern custom, left session just after lunchtime Thursday.

No serious negotiations have been held yet to broker a deal. Democrats have suggested they are in no hurry to come to the negotiating table, and, if anything, are being encouraged to hold out longer.

Most congressional offices produce weekly reports on issues their constituents express concern about through calls, emails and texts. It's an imperfect model but it lets lawmakers know what has constituents so concerned that they will pick up a phone or tap out an email.

According to an estimate from the office of Sen. Andy Kim (D-New Jersey), his aides fielded more than 4,000 contacts from constituents from Feb. 9 through Feb. 20, which was the week building up to the DHS shutdown and the week immediately after funding lapsed.

More than a third of those calls were related to opposing Trump on immigration issues or opposed to funding DHS until constraints had been placed on ICE. Only a tiny fraction called to push for reopening DHS.

A senior aide to another Senate Democrat, requesting anonymity to discuss the office's private data, said that callers, by about an 8-to-1 margin, urged the senator to stand up to Trump on ICE matters rather than pushing to quickly reopen the Homeland Security agencies.

Democrats say their constituents have been lighting up their phones and email inboxes like this ever since the strict enforcement actions started last spring.

"We received more calls in our office regarding ICE than any other subject over the last year," Sen. Angela Alsobrooks (D-Maryland) said. "And the intensity was tremendous as the inhumanity stuck out to people, the cruelty. And so that was the number one issue."

It's not just Democrats; Republicans say they heard no concerns from their constituents about the shutdown during the recess.

"Number one, after being home for a week, it was mail service, three to one, over everything else combined," said Sen. Mike Rounds (R-South Dakota).

"Nobody even brought it up to me. I don't think there's a bite to it yet. Which does not make it a good sign," Sen. Josh Hawley (R-Missouri) said.

Hawley corrected himself to note that, over more than 10 days around Missouri, two people did bring up the shutdown: TSA agents in St. Louis's airport.

"Hey, you know, we're really worried about this, we have families, we're worried about not getting paid," one agent told the senator, who said he replied, "Yeah, this is terrible, this is a travesty."

In Tuesday's State of the Union address, Trump tried to turn up the political heat, briefly blaming Democrats, almost an hour into his marathon speech, for shutting down the department.

"They have closed the agency responsible for protecting Americans from terrorists and murderers. Tonight, I'm demanding the full and immediate restoration of all funding for the border security, homeland security," Trump said, before pivoting more broadly into accusations that Democrats do not want to protect Americans from violent undocumented migrants.

It will take more time to see if Trump's talk will prompt action. So far, without any pressure, Congress has taken a slow-walking approach to this issue.

Many Democrats think it's time for Republicans to cave to end the DHS shutdown, especially now that polls have shown that immigration — a policy area that Trump has previously used to his advantage — is becoming a clear political weakness for Republicans.

"[Trump's] numbers are in the tank and Republicans need to recognize that," Leger Fernandez said. "What you need to have is, rather than having a handful of Democrats in the Senate say the pain is too much, you have those handful of Republicans in the Senate and in the House say the pain is too much."

Having a polling advantage might not be enough for Democrats, however. During last fall's shutdown, polls consistently showed voters blamed Trump and congressional GOP majorities more than Democrats, who were fighting to extend health care tax subsidies.

Despite winning the political side of the battle, eight Senate Democrats grew concerned about food stamp benefits that Trump threatened to cut off and airline safety because of the high callout rates from TSA and FAA workers. They voted to advance a simple funding bill that gave time for Congress to pass a large package that originally funded every agency.

A similar situation could play out this time, especially after Hawley said Republicans are not going to give in. He wants Democrats to find "another way to prosecute" the ICE showdown.

In the current environment, he said, the only thing likely to force a deal is growing protests from unpaid federal workers and so many "sick" airport workers that it becomes dangerous to fly.

"I don't want to get to that," Hawley said, "and I don't wanna get to the point where we have mass chaos in airports."

ALEX WONG/GETTY IMAGES

Travelers wait in the Transportation Security Administration checkpoint line at Reagan National Airport on Monday. TSA workers' pay will begin to be impacted this week.

CORRECTION

• A headline with a Feb. 27 Metro article about D.C. police facing criticism for allegedly assisting ICE incorrectly said ICE arrests led to a lawsuit. The allegations outlined in the article were new filings in an ongoing lawsuit.

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In tragedy-torn Uvalde, an election opens new wounds

BY TEO ARMUS

BRENDA BAZÁN/FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

Memorial crosses honor the 19 children and two teachers killed on May 24, 2022, during a shooting at Robb Elementary School in Uvalde, Texas, last week.

BRENDA BAZÁN/FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

U Supporters of Brandon Herrera, a Republican congressional candidate for Texas's 23rd District, listen to him speak on Wednesday.

SAMUEL CORUM/GETTY IMAGES

Rep. Tony Gonzales, the incumbent being challenged by Herrera, has faced calls to drop out of the race.

UVALDE, TEXAS — Down the road from the site of one of the deadliest school shootings in history, the man known to his 4 million subscribers as "the AK Guy" laid out the singular reason he wanted to represent the area in Congress: guns.

"I'm [supposed to be] represented by a conservative," the candidate, Brandon Herrera, told a few dozen people at a campaign stop here this week. So "why is my Texas Republican voting with Nancy Pelosi and Joe Biden on a gun control bill?"

Herrera, a 30-year-old firearms manufacturer, said he had been content rallying for the Second Amendment at statehouses and on his YouTube channel. That changed in 2022, when Rep. Tony Gonzales (R) — the area's current congressman — became one of a few Republicans to vote for a federal gun control law inspired by the school shooting.

Herrera went onto challenge Gonzales two years ago, coming within 354 votes of securing the nomination.

Now, after another tragedy that has rocked this town in the South Texas scrublands, he may be better positioned to win the party's nod.

Gonzales's campaign in the last week has been rocked by allegations that he engaged in an affair with a longtime staffer, who grew up in Uvalde and then lit herself on fire outside her home here. The congressman has denied any sort of inappropriate relationship.

Speaker Mike Johnson (R-Louisiana) called the accusations "very serious," and at least eight of Gonzales's Republican colleagues in the House have called on him to drop out of the race or resign. Gonzales and his congressional office did not respond to multiple requests for an interview. He told reporters on Capitol Hill last week that he would continue to "work every day for the people of Texas."

Here in Uvalde, a community of 15,000 people that has endured more than its fair share of heartache, that episode has transformed the GOP primary into a raw, emotional contest that will leave deep wounds no matter what. The backyard where Gonzales's aide lit herself on fire is two blocks from a memorial at what remains of Robb Elementary, where 19 children and two teachers were killed in 2022.

"These are both things that run deep," said Carlos Lopez, the local Democratic Party chair. "People are flabbergasted."

Herrera's firm adherence to the Second Amendment — he has designed a rifle he calls the "AK-50" — may be an added advantage to winning over GOP primary voters here in Texas's sprawling 23rd District, which covers an area twice the size of West Virginia.

The area stretches about 800 miles along the border from the San Antonio suburbs to El Paso, including many rural communities where guns are sacrosanct and where the Uvalde shooting did little to change that.

But some of Herrera's own conduct has also drawn scrutiny, including joking about veterans' high suicide rate and videos on YouTube in which he has fired Nazi-made weapons and shot a gun while yelling: "for the Fatherland!"

(Herrera has said his jokes about veterans were an example of dark humor and characterized shooting the Nazi-made guns as a way "to learn about history.")

"These guys have made big mistakes that are going to cost them both. It's probably going to cause a lot of Republican voters to be upset or disgusted about different things," said Brendan Steinhauser, a GOP strategist in Texas who has been attacked by Herrera online.

Steinhauser — and plenty of Democrats — say that regardless of who wins the nomination, those incidents could give Democrats more of an opening in November, even though the district was redrawn by the state GOP last year to give their party more of an edge. President Donald Trump won the newly drawn district in 2024 by nearly 15 points.

"If you're trying to defend yourself for having an affair with your staffer and the poor woman committed a horrific and tragic suicide, or you're defending yourself for shooting Nazi weapons and calling them 'the original ghetto blaster' ... it does not put the GOP in a good position, to put it mildly," he said.

Herrera, who has hosted a campaign event at a gun range near the site of the El Paso Walmart shooting, said in an interview that he would edge out Gonzales on policy, including on guns — the reason that he had entered the contest to begin with.

He said that the bipartisan gun bill Gonzales supported — which expanded criminal background checks for some gun buyers, barred more domestic-violence offenders from purchasing firearms and funded programs to let authorities to seize guns from troubled individuals — would not have prevented the Robb shooting, which was carried out with a legally purchased weapon.

"There's no detriment to having a representative that values the Constitution above special interests — above D.C. money and above interests that are outside of the district," he said. "I'm happy to not only support the Second Amendment, but the First Amendment, the Fourth Amendment — all the things my opponent has failed to do."

At least some voters in Uvalde appeared to agree.

"I don't like [Gonzales] voting against the gun issues," said Terri Black, a nurse in her late 50s who had come to see Herrera speak and answer questions — in front of a banner branded with his logo — on the patio of a furniture store.

Her husband, Charlie Black, a rancher also his late 50s, said he thought that Gonzales was not as conservative as he made himself out to be.

"We have the freedom to bear arms, and he [Herrera] will protect that," Black added. "Our country is built on that."

A third candidate, Quico Canseco — who represented the 23rd District in Congress from 2011 to 2013 — has largely trailed the two in fundraising but could push the contest into a runoff.

Though allegations about an affair Gonzales may have had with his staffer, Regina Ann Aviles-Santos, had persisted locally for months, they exploded on Capitol Hill and in national circles when another former aide of his — and then Aviles-Santos's estranged husband — released text messages purporting to confirm the affair.

One series of messages provided to The Washington Post by Adrian Aviles documented an increasingly sexual conversation between his wife and the congressman in the early hours of May 9, 2024, in which he pressed her on her favorite sex position and she repeatedly pushed back on his advances. (His lawyer, Bobby Barrera, said Aviles owned the phone line and thus had access to the text messages; Gonzales has declined to answer questions on whether they were authentic.)

"Then send me a sexy pic," Gonzales, whose contact was saved as only "TG," wrote to her shortly after midnight.

"I swear my life has been a Telenovela for the past seven days," she answered. "You don't really want a hot picture of me."

"Yes I do," he wrote back. "Hurry"

More than a year after those messages were purportedly sent, Santos-Aviles — by then estranged from her husband — poured gasoline on herself and then lit herself on fire in her Uvalde backyard, according to a police report. She told officers she decided to self-immolate after learning her husband was having an affair, the report said. She died the next day.

A friend of hers told a police detective that "Regina's supposed affair" had strained the couple's marriage and led to Aviles's affair, according to the report.

None of the dozen or so Republicans who voted at Uvalde County's one early polling location on Wednesday afternoon would acknowledge publicly that they voted for Gonzales.

But Dawn Swapp, 70, said Santos-Aviles's death was the deciding factor to back Herrera. "I didn't like what happened with the girl — if he had an affair with her and then she killed herself, that's horrible," she said.

The only Gonzales voter who agreed to answer questions — on the condition their name not be published — said Gonzales' slightly more moderate brand of politics was a better fit for the district.

Notwithstanding the circumstances, a primary victory for Herrera would make a statement about guns.

Some Democrats predicted that the school shooting would have bolstered their party here, but Uvalde County — which is more than 70 percent Hispanic — got redder in that fall's elections. In 2024, Gonzales won nearly double the votes Herrera did in Uvalde County and then edged him out by about 250 votes — or 10 points — in the June runoff locally.

"We get on with our lives, and it's sad that we're not vocal," said Uvalde County Commissioner Ronnie Garza, a Democrat. He said that a mix of big money behind Republicans, gerrymandering and a lack of political motivation meant that many voters seemed to forget about the massacre, even a few years later.

"Some people would like to put this away and move on," he added. For them, "it's kind of like a scab. You keep scratching it, and it can't heal."

Kadia Goba in Washington contributed to this report.

Trump allies claim victory, see Paramount deal as blow against 'fake news'

BY WILL OREMUS, LIAM SCOTT, CAT ZAKRZEWSKI AND SCOTT NOVER

ANNA MONEYMAKER/GETTY IMAGES

The $110 billion purchase of Warner Bros. Discovery by David Ellison's Paramount Skydance could broadly impact CNN.

Hours after Netflix sent shock waves through the media and entertainment world by withdrawing its $83 million bid for most of Warner Bros. Discovery, Laura Loomer celebrated on X in all-caps: "VICTORY."

The far-right influencer, who has called herself President Donald Trump's "loyalty enforcer," had spent months denouncing Netflix over its ties to former president Barack Obama and urging Trump to "kill" the megamerger that would have given the streaming giant control over CNN, HBO and more. Netflix's withdrawal Thursday evening cleared the way for David Ellison's Paramount Skydance to instead take the reins of the cable network, whose coverage the president has labeled "fake news."

Paramount's triumph in a bidding war for Warner Bros. Discovery is a game-changing business move — one that will add HBO, the DC Comics universe, the Harry Potter and Star Trek franchises, and a slew of other TV channels and movie studios to a vast father-and-son empire that already includes Oracle, Paramount Pictures, CBS News and a chunk of the new American TikTok. In an email sent to staff on Friday, and obtained by The Washington Post, Ellison said the "historic" merger would create "the next-generation global media and entertainment company."

Among power players in politics and media, Paramount's swoop is also widely viewed as a win for the right amid a broader push to rein in what many conservatives view as a liberal slant in the media and entertainment industries. And in Washington, questions have swirled as to what role was played by a president who famously relishes dealmaking.

As recently as Thursday morning, Netflix CEO Ted Sarandos appeared at the White House amid reports that he would meet with Trump personally as he sought to save a deal the Silicon Valley streaming giant first struck with Warner Bros. in December. But things unraveled quickly from there.

A senior White House official told The Post on Friday that Trump never met with Sarandos. Two other people familiar with the situation, who spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss sensitive negotiations, said Sarandos was set to meet instead with White House Chief of Staff Susie Wiles, but that fell through, too, though he did ultimately sit down with Attorney General Pam Bondi.

Soon after, Warner Bros. announced that it had deemed Paramount's rival bid a "superior proposal." By that evening, Netflix had withdrawn its bid, and on Friday, Paramount inked its deal to buy Warner Bros. for $110 billion.

The fallout could be far-reaching.

On Friday morning, staffers at CNN exchanged frantic messages in group chats as they confronted their future with Paramount, which some employees worried would align the iconic cable news brand with Trump. In an afternoon town hall, CNN CEO Mark Thompson sought to quell fears that Ellison and his tech mogul father, Trump ally Larry Ellison, would impose their politics on the network's coverage, saying that a lot remained uncertain but that he held the outlet's independence dear.

Seth Stern, director of advocacy at the Freedom of the Press Foundation, told The Post that Paramount's win appeared to underscore an effort by the administration to "steer transactions to allies to ensure that news outlets that have historically been critical of the president or even have just been honest about his policies and his personal conduct will be more kind to him."

Asked about suggestions that Trump told Netflix its merger would be looked upon unfavorably, White House spokesman Kush Desai said, "That is inaccurate."

Netflix spokeswoman Emily Feingold also said on Friday that dropping its bid was pure business. "Our decision not to increase our offer reflects our disciplined financial approach and our clear assessment of value, and was not driven by regulatory considerations of any kind," she said via email.

The acquisition swap would bring CNN under ownership cozier to the administration. Trump, an avid consumer of TV news and social media, has had a long relationship with Larry Ellison, the co-founder of Oracle. The president previously praised both father and son as "friends" and "big supporters of mine" who he hoped would "do the right thing" with CBS.

Having backed Trump during his first administration, the elder Ellison has benefited from his loyalty in the second term. Oracle became a major investor in a TikTok deal blessed by the White House. Trump-appointed regulators approved the merger of his son's company, Skydance, with Paramount. When Netflix announced its deal to buy most of the Warner Bros. Discovery portfolio last year, Trump said that he would be "involved" in determining whether the government would green-light the sale.

David Ellison and his father have been repeat visitors to the White House during Trump's second term. Late last year, the former pledged to administration officials that he would make sweeping changes at CNN if he bought the company, according to the Wall Street Journal. On Wednesday night, the younger Ellison also attended Trump's State of the Union as a guest of Sen. Lindsey Graham (R-South Carolina), a close ally of the president. The visit highlights how the younger Ellison, a former Biden donor, has made himself a regular fixture in Trump's Washington as he and his father have amassed control of a growing empire of media and tech companies.

Netflix's bid drew vocal opposition online from Loomer, a staunch Trump ally and former congressional candidate, who played up the company's ties to former president Barack Obama. She noted that Barack and Michelle Obama's production company, Higher Ground, struck a deal with Netflix in 2018. And Susan Rice, Obama's former national security adviser and U.N. ambassador, sits on the company's board. Other prominent right-wing influencers, including far-right activist Jack Posobiec and conservative podcaster Benny Johnson, lobbed similar criticisms.

The past week, Loomer posted on X criticizing comments that Rice made on a recent podcast appearance. Rice warned that corporations and institutions that had decided to "take a knee to Trump" would face accountability under future Democratic leadership — a sentiment Loomer called "anti-American."

"President Trump must kill the Netflix-Warner Bros. merger now," Loomer posted on Feb. 21, tagging the president and Federal Communications Commission Chairman Brendan Carr.

Hours later, Trump shared Loomer's post on his own social network, Truth Social, and added, "Netflix should fire racist, Trump Deranged Susan Rice, IMMEDIATELY, or pay the consequences."

In a phone interview Friday, Loomer claimed credit for the deal falling through, saying she believed Trump had killed it after Netflix refused to fire Rice, though she declined to say whether she had spoken with Trump directly. She said Paramount's acquisition is a win for conservatives everywhere.

"I don't know the Ellisons personally, but I have never seen the Ellisons promoting 'woke' identity politics and communism," she said.

A person familiar with Netflix's thinking, who spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss sensitive negotiations, said Trump never told the company directly that it had to dismiss Rice, nor did he signal that he planned to intervene to stop the deal. The person said Netflix's meeting Thursday with Justice Department officials went well.

The night before Paramount launched its hostile takeover bid of Warner Bros. in December, David Ellison was spotted at Trump's Kennedy Center Honors. The company also hired a slew of Trump-aligned lobbyists, including top antitrust officials from the Trump administration, Makan Delrahim and Rene Augustine.

In August, Skydance merged with CBS News parent company Paramount in an $8 billion deal that was heavily scrutinized by federal regulators. In October, Paramount then purchased opinion journalist Bari Weiss's website, the Free Press, for $150 million and named her editor in chief of CBS News.

Weiss's nearly five-month tenure at CBS News has been polarizing — and has some CNN staffers concerned about what's to come for their network, they told The Post. Under Weiss, employees have described a culture clash with their new boss, who has overseen layoffs and a wave of departures, including "60 Minutes" correspondent Anderson Cooper and veteran producer Mary Walsh.

"We've been told to aim our reporting at a particular part of the political spectrum. Honestly, I don't know how to do that," Walsh wrote Friday in a farewell email obtained by The Post. "CBS Evening News" executive producer Kim Harvey rejected Walsh's allegation in a note to show staff.

In a Thursday email to CNN staff, Thompson encouraged staffers to focus on their work. "Despite all the speculation you've read during this process, I'd suggest that you don't jump to conclusions about the future until we know more," Thompson wrote in the email obtained by The Post. Beyond that note, a CNN spokesperson told The Post that the company is "not saying much publicly at this point."

At a CNN town hall on Friday afternoon, Thompson took questions from staffers about CNN's editorial independence.

"We should be making the case that our audiences' expectations of CNN are absolutely rooted in that tradition of news which doesn't come with some corporate spin to it," Thompson said, according to partial transcripts shared with The Post.

Still, multiple CNN employees, who spoke on the condition of anonymity because their employer did not authorize them to comment, described a climate of apprehension at the network.

In Washington, one staffer described scenes of newsroom leaders going in and out of one another's offices for closed-door meetings on Friday. "For the first time I am seriously considering aggressively looking elsewhere," the staffer wrote in a message to The Post.

"Group chats have definitely been blowing up," another CNN reporter wrote in a message to The Post. "As is typical, dark humor abounds."

Jeremy Merrill contributed to this report.

Silicon Valley reels after Pentagon's Anthropic decision

Hegseth calls AI firm a security risk; rival groups pledge to fill in gaps

BY ELIZABETH DWOSKIN, IAN DUNCAN, TARA COPP AND FAIZ SIDDIQUI

KEVIN WOLF/AP

Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth said Anthropic was a "supply chain risk to national security" after the company refused to allow its tech to be used for domestic surveillance and autonomous weapons.

The Trump administration's declaration that AI company Anthropic would be cut off from all government contracts shook the tech industry, hardening political and cultural battle lines across Silicon Valley over military use of artificial intelligence.

President Donald Trump ordered government agencies to "immediately cease" using Anthropic's technology, in a post on Truth Social on Friday, and Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth labeled the company a "supply chain risk to national security" in his own post on X, after the company refused to allow its technology to be used for domestic surveillance and autonomous weapons.

The Trump administration's decision on Anthropic appeared to put the company on course to lose billions of dollars of potential revenue, although the start-up said in a blog post late Friday that it would challenge Hegseth's designation in court.

The firm's conversational assistant, Claude, is being deployed or tested in at least five government agencies, including the Pentagon, the Department of Health and Human Services, the Department of Homeland Security and the Department of Energy, according to recent disclosures of AI use mandated by law and an executive order.

Friday's aggressive moves by the Trump administration put all of Silicon Valley on notice that tech companies seeking Pentagon contracts risk massive political and business fallout if they don't back administration policies and cede control of how their technology is used. Rivals of Anthropic, including Elon Musk and other tech allies of Trump, seized on the conflict to pledge that their own companies would not question Pentagon policies, positioning themselves as loyal patriots.

Conflict has bubbled between Anthropic and the Trump administration since last year. The company leveraged its relationship with investor Amazon to become the first company to be integrated into classified systems.

But Anthropic, co-founded in 2021 by CEO Dario Amodei, his sister Daniela and other former employees of ChatGPT-maker OpenAI, also rankled tech allies of Trump by positioning itself as more safety conscious than other AI developers. (Amazon founder Jeff Bezos owns The Washington Post, which has a content partnership with OpenAI.)

In the fall, Trump's AI and crypto czar, David Sacks, accused Anthropic of attempting to manipulate the government with "fearmongering" about AI technology. Around the same time, Semafor reported that Anthropic displeased the White House by raising ethical objections to how the administration wanted to use its technology, including for surveillance.

Those tensions flared into an unprecedented public fight between the Pentagon and the tech company last week. Frantic talks between the two sides continued right up until Hegseth's announcement late Friday that he was declaring Anthropic a risk to national security, according to an X post from Emil Michael, the Pentagon's technology chief, and a person familiar with the talks.

Michael was on the phone with Anthropic, suggesting that the company agree to allow analysis of some bulk data on Americans at the same moment Hegseth said in his X post that Anthropic had been designated a supply chain risk, according to the person, who spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss the talks.

Anthropic said in a statement responding to Hegseth that it would legally challenge his declaration against the company, suggesting that the dispute is far from over. Experts said that Anthropic had strong legal grounds for a challenge.

A company can only be designated a supply chain risk through a legal process, said Steven Feldstein, a senior fellow at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace who researches the use of AI in war. "It isn't legally sufficient to simply proclaim or label [a supply chain risk] and have this be the final word," he said. "It's a major overreach."

Jessica Tillipman, an associate dean at George Washington University's law school, said Anthropic could probably make a strong argument in court that it had been unfairly targeted. "This is on incredibly shaky ground," she said of Hegseth's Friday declaration. "I don't think you have seen a case for more politicized use."

Hegseth's post also asserted that all companies that do business with the U.S. military are now prohibited from doing any commercial activity with Anthropic. Although the legal basis for that sweeping ban was unclear, it could have disastrous consequences for Anthropic, which has received billions of dollars in investment from partners like Amazon, Microsoft and Nvidia that also supply the military. The companies didn't respond to requests for comment.

Should the Pentagon prevail, the U.S. military will need to adapt fast. Claude is deeply integrated into the Maven Smart System, an AI tool built with the technology company Palantir that runs on Amazon's cloud. It provides troops with a unified picture of intelligence streaming in from multiple sensors, said retired Air Force Lt. Gen. Jack Shanahan, who served as the first director of the Pentagon's Joint Artificial Intelligence Center and is now an adjunct senior fellow at the Center for a New American Security, a think tank.

After the U.S. seizure of Venezuelan strongman Nicolás Maduro, an image circulated that showed Claude operating alongside Maven during the operation, Shanahan said, which prompted Anthropic officials to ask Palantir questions about its use in the operation.

Claude is the "single most widely deployed AI system in the U.S. military," Shanahan said. He added that it wouldn't make sense to try to extract the AI tool from all of the Defense Department systems it helps, just as service members are getting skilled with the technology.

In Silicon Valley, debate raged over whether Anthropic should be celebrated for taking a stand, criticized as unpatriotic or scoffed at for being strategically naive.

Right-leaning leaders such as Palmer Luckey, founder of the defense start-up Anduril, and investor Keith Rabois posted in support of the military's decision. Anthropic employees cheered its moves in online posts, and hundreds of employees of Google and OpenAI signed a public letter backing the company's stance.

Anthropic's rivals were poised and at the ready to take advantage of its blunders.

OpenAI chief executive Sam Altman wrote in a memo to all staff late on Thursday that he had been negotiating with the Pentagon, according to a copy reviewed by The Post. The memo was first reported by the Wall Street Journal.

Altman wrote that the dispute between Anthropic and the Pentagon had become "an issue for the whole industry," and that the spat was not about the use of AI but about "control." The country, he said, "absolutely needs help with AI for defense if we want to continue to enjoy peace and prosperity."

But Altman added that he was seeking a deal with the Defense Department that would find middle ground. It would see OpenAI agree to cover any use except those that are "unlawful or unsuited to cloud deployments, such as domestic surveillance and autonomous offensive weapons," he wrote. And he said the company could deploy technical safeguards and personnel "to partner with the government to ensure things are working correctly."

Late on Friday, Altman wrote in a post on X that he had reached such an agreement with the Defense Department to deploy OpenAI's technology in classified U.S. networks.

"Two of our most important safety principles are prohibitions on domestic mass surveillance and human responsibility for the use of force, including for autonomous weapon systems," Altman wrote. The Pentagon "agrees with these principles, reflects them in law and policy, and we put them into our agreement."

Jeremy Lewin, undersecretary of state for foreign assistance, humanitarian affairs and religious freedom, wrote in a post on X that the new OpenAI deal permitted the Pentagon the freedom of "all lawful use" of AI that it had sought from Anthropic. The agreement represented "a compromise that Anthropic was offered, and rejected," he wrote.

Musk, whose company xAI was certified to work with classified military systems this week, also stepped into the fray. "Anthropic hates Western civilization," he wrote in a post Friday on his social network X. Musk and xAI did not respond to requests for comment.

Lewin held up the billionaire as showing a better way for AI firms to engage with the government.

"Elon and xAI have already agreed to the 'all lawful uses' principle — meaning that he's already agreed not to shut off U.S. systems for nonlegal prudential discretionary reasons," Lewin, a former staffer for Musk's government efficiency initiative, the U.S. DOGE Service, wrote on X. "So there's your difference. Anthropic wants to add additional conditions — Elon has agreed to promise he won't pull the plug for our systems."

Aaron Schaffer contributed to this report.

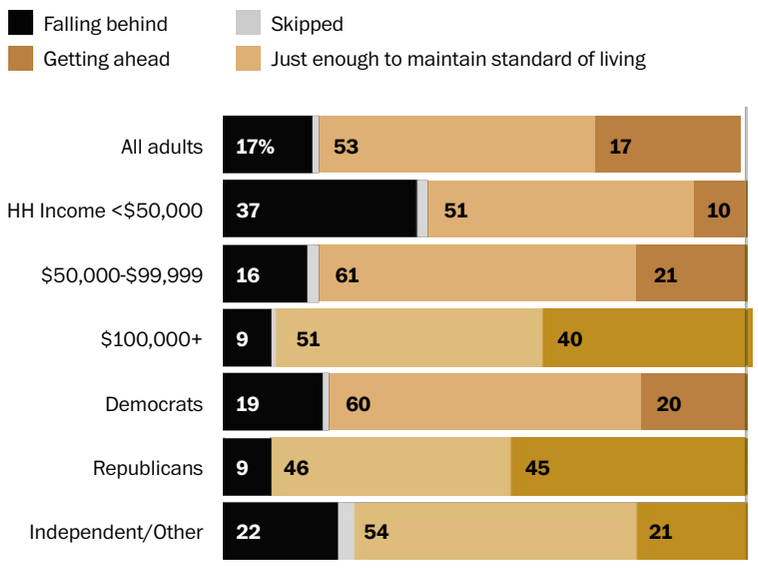
Most renters doubt they could afford a home in the foreseeable future

ERIN HOOLEY/AP

A home for sale last month in Chicago. Affordability has emerged as a major theme ahead of this fall's midterm elections.

Fewer than 3 in 10 say they are getting ahead financially

Q: Which best describes your financial situation?

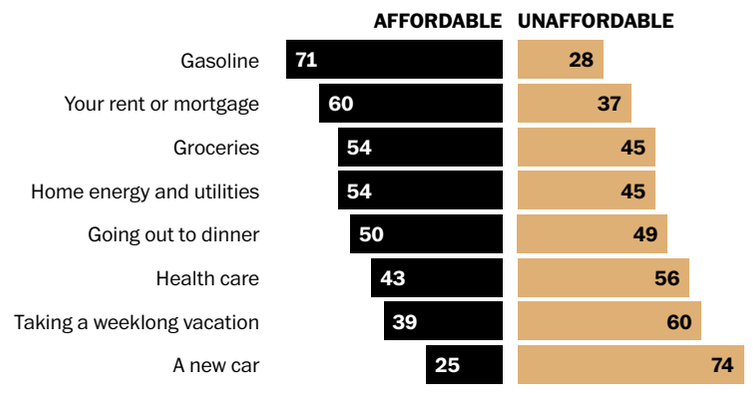


Source: Washington Post-ABC News-Ipsos poll conducted Feb. 12-17, 2026, among 2,589 U.S. adults with a margin of error of +/- 2 percentage points; the error margin is larger among subgroups.

SCOTT CLEMENT/THE WASHINGTON POST

What is affordable these days?

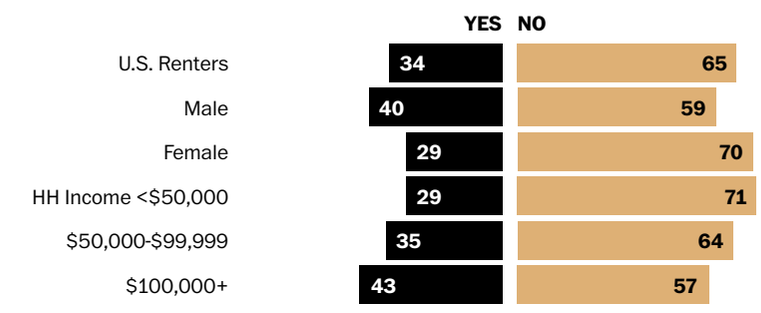
Q: Thinking about your hosuehold budget and the cost of things these days, would you describe each of the following as affordable or unaffordable?



Source: Washington Post-ABC News-Ipsos poll conducted Feb. 12-17, 2026, among 2,589 U.S. adults with a margin of error of +/- 2 percentage points

Nearly 2 in 3 renters don't think they could buy a home they want in the foreseeable future

Q: In the foreseeable future, do you think you will be able to afford to buy a home you would want to live in, or not? (Among U.S. renters)



Note: Percentage skipping question not shown.

Source: Washington Post-ABC News-Ipsos poll conducted Feb. 12-17, 2026, among 681 U.S. renters with a margin of error of +/- 3.9 percentage points; the error margin is larger among subgroups.

ISABELLE GIBSON/THE WASHINGTON POST

Methodology

The Post-ABC-Ipsos poll was conducted Feb. 12-17 among 2,589 U.S. adults. The sample was drawn through the Ipsos KnowledgePanel, an ongoing panel of U.S. households recruited by mail using random sampling methods. The sample is weighted to match population demographics, 2024 turnout/vote choice and political partisanship. Overall results have a margin of error of plus or minus two percentage points.

AFFORDABILITY FROM **A1**

weigh on households, putting some expenses that many Americans associate with a good standard of living firmly out of reach, even for higher earners. Although gas prices fell in 2025, housing, health care, food and new car prices were stubbornly high.

The Post-ABC-Ipsos poll finds 71 percent of adults say gasoline is affordable for them, but 74 percent say a new car is not, including majorities across income groups.

New car and truck prices have soared to record highs in recent months, with the average sticker price for a new car or truck now sitting above $50,000. And annual family premiums for employer-sponsored health care rose 6 percent last year, according to a KFF survey, around double the rate of inflation.

Meanwhile, affordability has emerged as a major theme in the midterms elections. This week, President Trump used his State of the Union speech to tout proposals meant to address voters' affordability concerns, including a federal website offering coupons on some prescription drugs. Democrats have been levying attacks on the Trump administration over the costs of housing, food and health care, and plan to make affordability a central issue in the midterms.

Erick Dorn, 54, who earns more than $150,000 a year, said he's been pleased to find lower grocery and gas prices recently. But his overall financial picture has some dark spots, especially his health care bills, said Dorn, a facilities manager at a private country club in Maryland.

"Every time I turn around health care goes up," said Dorn. "I just had a CT scan done and I pay a lot of money for insurance, but I had to pay $230 out of pocket and then they sent a bill saying this isn't approved by your insurance, so I have to pay $600 more."

Dorn said that while he and his wife are comfortable homeowners, they regularly have to make tradeoffs. Right now, he says they can't afford their usual vacation to the Caribbean, as airfare and all-inclusive resort prices have skyrocketed.

American renters' outlook for homeownership looks particularly grim. While almost 3 in 4 renters say they would like to be homeowners, 65 percent say they won't be able to buy a home they would like in the foreseeable future. That's true even for 57 percent of renters who earn more than $100,000 a year — above the country's median household income of $84,000.

That pessimism persists across education levels and household income, although women are significantly more likely to be pessimistic about homeownership than men.

Roxie Ventura, a 44-year-old human resources director in Southern California who makes more than $100,000 a year, said she's been searching to buy a single family home for the past five years. But most properties she visits are out of her budget, with some available listings starting at around $700,000 for a two-bedroom.

That's partly because most of her expenses feel unaffordable right now — including the $3,000 a month rent she pays for a one-bedroom apartment, her $300 a month health care premium and gas prices at around $4.60 a gallon.

"It just doesn't feel like a hundred grand is enough," said Ventura, who lives alone. "I got a raise but my then healthcare went up, gas prices went up, groceries are going up and they raised my rent. So it still feels like the same situation."

More than half of renters say their rent is unaffordable and about half say they have "a lot" or "some" debt.

People earning less than $100,000 a year are more likely to say that groceries and utilities feel unaffordable, including about 6 in 10 of people who earn below $50,000 a year.

In Louisiana, Tara Cunningham, a 54-year-old law librarian who makes around $80,000 a year, said the cost of living has gotten so high that she avoids buying meat, even from a discount grocery store, and that she puts more on her credit cards, including this month to make up for a one-night hotel stay during Mardi Gras.

"I feel like there's no end in sight to increases," Cunningham said. "The middle class is being squeezed. It seems like there's so much money floating around in the government. Billions for this project, unnecessary things like ballrooms, but we can't have basic things."

Scott Clement contributed to this report.

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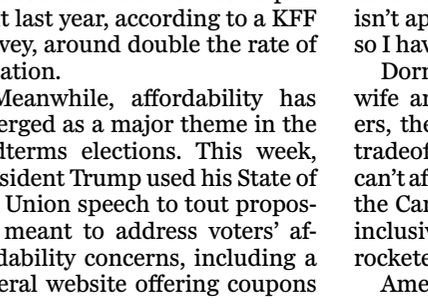
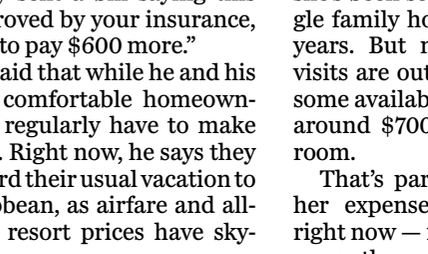
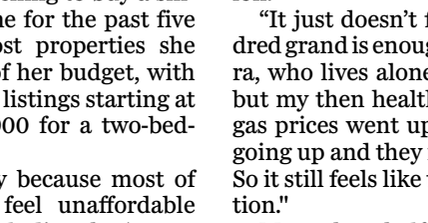
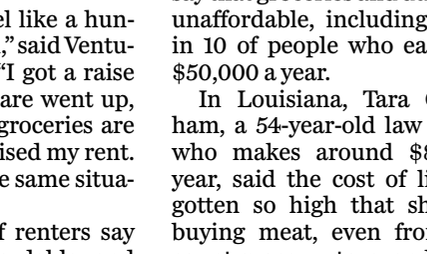
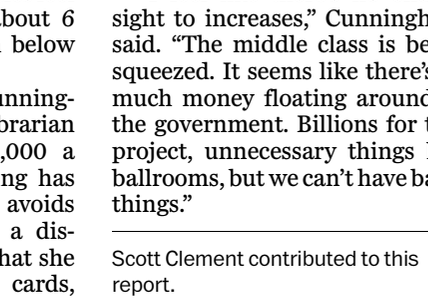

STING
MAY 21–23


GARY CLARK JR.
Christone "Kingfish" Ingram
JUNE 6


YOUNG THE GIANT
Cold War Kids
Almost Monday
JUNE 12


RIVERDANCE 30
The New Generation
JUNE 26–28


HARRY CONNICK JR.
JULY 3

SARAH McLACHLAN
Allison Russell
JULY 5

TROMBONE SHORTY & ORLEANS AVENUE
Mavis Staples
The War And Treaty
JULY 18

CHANCE THE RAPPER
AUG 1

BEETHOVEN'S NINTH SYMPHONY
National Symphony Orchestra
Gianandrea Noseda, conductor
AUG 14

JON BATISTE
National Symphony Orchestra
AUG 21

THE BEACH BOYS
JUNE 7

Songwriters Celebrate
JOHN PRINE
Ft. Emmylou Harris, Margo Price, Patty Griffin, and many more!
JUNE 9

MELISSA ETHERIDGE
WYNONNA JUDD
JUNE 24

THE HUMAN LEAGUE
with Very Special Guests
Soft Cell & Alison Moyet
JUNE 30

DISNEY'S
THE LITTLE MERMAID
IN CONCERT
National Symphony Orchestra
JULY 11

PEPE AGUILAR
JULY 12

ALISON KRAUSS & UNION STATION
featuring Jerry Douglas
JULY 16 + 17

JASON ISBELL AND THE 400 UNIT
Patty Griffin
JULY 30

Wolf Trap Opera
TOSCA
AUG 7

BLUES TRAVELER
GIN BLOSSOMS
Spin Doctors
AUG 11 + 12

JAMES TAYLOR
& His All-Star Band
AUG 30, SEP 1 + 2

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SEP 17

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Musk is in awkward spot as defender of Epstein's victims

EPSTEIN FROM **A1**

on Epstein's island and their assistants arranged a visit for the two at the entrepreneur's rocket maker, SpaceX. On Christmas Day in 2012, Musk wrote to Epstein and asked: "Do you have any parties planned?" He added that "I've been working to the edge of sanity" and wanted to "let loose."

The revelations have thrust Musk in the awkward position of trying to cast himself as a stalwart defender of Epstein's victims while also defending his own interactions with the convicted sex offender. Epstein pleaded guilty in 2008 to two charges of soliciting prostitution, including one involving a minor. He was arrested on federal sex trafficking charges in 2019 and died in federal custody later that year. Judges and lawmakers say that he abused, trafficked and molested scores of girls over decades.

In recent weeks, Musk has taken aim in online posts at other political and business figures over their alleged interactions with Epstein — including LinkedIn co-founder Reid Hoffman, former Trump chief strategist Stephen K. Bannon and billionaire Les Wexner.

"The big difference between you and me, Reid, is that you went and I did not," Musk said in a post on X directed at Hoffman in early February, referring to Epstein's island, adding later, "UNLIKE YOU, I came to my senses and declined to go." Hoffman has acknowledged visiting Epstein's island, as part of work to help the Massachusetts Institute of Technology "fundraise from Epstein," and said that he regretted ever interacting with the sex offender.

Wexner told Congress last month that he had been "duped" by Epstein and was not aware of his crimes. Bannon did not respond to a request for comment. Musk has refrained from making further allegations against Trump and stayed silent about the Justice Department files linking administration figures to Epstein, including Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick, who told Congress last month that he once took his family to lunch on Epstein's island but "did not have any relationship with him."

Musk has written on X that he "REFUSED" to visit Epstein's island, even as the documents show him appearing to seek a visit. "When should we head to your island on the 2nd?" Musk asked Epstein on Christmas Day in 2013, in an apparent reference to a visit for the following January, the documents show.

Musk and his brother, Kimbal Musk, did not respond to requests for comment for this story. Appearing in the documents released by the Justice Department does not indicate wrongdoing.

At times, Musk's attempts to focus on his preferred narrative about Epstein have backfired. Last month, the billionaire reshared an X post from Mohamad Safa, executive director of the human rights group Patriotic Vision. "As someone works in human rights, I've never seen anything like the Epstein files in my 15-year career," Safa wrote. "I don't understand how we're not having a global revolution right now."

After Musk distributed that message to his around 235 million followers on X, Safa responded to point out that the billionaire was overlooking something.

"Elon, you've got it wrong," Safa wrote. "It's a revolution against every person in the Epstein files."

Safa told The Washington Post that the Tesla CEO was wrongly trying to lump himself in with the human rights community demanding accountability in relation to Epstein.

"Elon bought Twitter to mislead the public on global issues, and he is now using it to mislead about his connection to Jeffrey Epstein," Safa said.

After the release of the latest trove of files raised new questions about the extent of Musk's contact with Epstein over the years, Musk issued a late-night statement on X in January in a 1:50 a.m. Eastern reply to a user known as "DogeDesigner."

"No one pushed harder than me to have the Epstein files released and I'm glad that has finally happened," Musk wrote. "I had very little correspondence with Epstein and declined repeated invitations to go to his island or fly on his 'Lolita Express'," he said, referring to Epstein's airplane, "but was well aware that some email correspondence with him could be misinterpreted and used by detractors to smear my name."

WASHINGTON POST ILLUSTRATION; J. SCOTT APPLEWHITE/AP; TOM BRENNER FOR THE POST; ALEX WONG/GETTY IMAGES

MICHAEL LOCCISANO/GETTY IMAGES

Kimbal Musk, above, and his brother Elon are referenced dozens of times in Jeffrey Epstein files released by the Justice Department.

Musk added, "I don't care about that, but what I do care about is that we at least attempt to prosecute those who committed serious crimes with Epstein, especially regarding heinous exploitation of underage girls."

The Justice Department files reviewed by The Post, including dozens that refer to Musk or his brother Kimbal, paint a vastly different picture of Epstein's relationship with the Tesla CEO.

"What day/night will be the wildest party on your island?" Elon Musk asked Epstein in an email from November 2012, as he sought to plan a visit accompanied by actor Talulah Riley — Musk's ex-wife — the files show. A month later, he wrote to Epstein again about partying.

"Do you have any parties planned?" he asked. "I've been working to the edge of sanity this year and so, once my kids head home after Christmas, I really want to hit the party scene in St Barts or elsewhere and let loose."

Musk added, "The invitation is much appreciated, but a peaceful island experience is the opposite of what I'm looking for."

The newly released correspondence appears to show the entrepreneur interacting and making plans with Epstein over a period of more than a year that took place several years after Epstein pleaded guilty in 2008.

In 2013, Musk and Epstein's assistants planned a visit for the disgraced financier to SpaceX, Musk's rocket building company. The visit included a scheduled lunch for Musk and Epstein. Epstein was scheduled to travel with three female assistants — one South African and two Russian — whose passports were vetted by SpaceX, a government contractor, for security clearance reasons, according to the emails. While the visit took place as planned, according to the emails, it was not immediately clear whether the two men met for lunch.

Musk has said he blocked and ultimately "ghosted" Epstein.

The files also show that Kimbal Musk corresponded with Epstein about an apparent romantic partner whom another person warned him not to mistreat. "Jeffrey: Message received wide and clear. ;)" Kimbal Musk replied, in a message on which he copied Epstein.

Years later, Epstein wrote in an email: "I gave another girl to kimball and he is thrilled."

Kimbal Musk said in a statement that Epstein did not introduce him to his romantic partner at the time of the earlier emails, and that she was an adult.

"In 2012 I started dating a woman who was 30 years old," Kimbal Musk posted on X. "I met her through a friend. Epstein did not introduce us. My only meeting with that demon was in his New York office during the day. I never met with him again and I never went to his island."

He added that Epstein subscribed to a newsletter of his, leading his email address to appear in searches of the Epstein files numerous times.

"My heart goes out to the many victims of Jeffrey Epstein, as it does for all who have suffered any kind of sexual abuse or harassment," Kimbal Musk said.

Soon after the Justice Department's release of files in January, the nonprofit organization behind Burning Man, a massive cultural festival held annually in the Nevada desert, announced that Kimbal Musk was no longer on its board of directors. That decision was made by Kimbal Musk "based on other commitments and priorities" and came "well before" the revelations, the organization said.

Elon Musk, meanwhile, continues to face an uphill battle to convince skeptics that his support for Epstein victims is genuine.

Scott Berkowitz, president and founder of RAINN, a nonprofit organization aimed at ending sexual violence, said he did not know what is in Musk's heart, but said one way the entrepreneur could effect change for victims of sexual abuse would be by reining in the Grok chatbot offered by his company xAI, which recently came under fire for allowing the creation of nonconsensual sexualized images of real people.

"RAINN is working to make the country safer from sexual violence. If Elon Musk wants to be a part of that and to use his influence to make life safer, there's a long list of ways that he could be part of the solution," Berkowitz said. "Partner with us to make Grok the model for AI safety and ensure it never creates another nonconsensual image, whether child or adult."

On X, many have lobbed criticism at Musk over his messaging on the Epstein files, seeing it as an effort to reframe the narrative around his involvement.

Given "Elon Musk's involvement with Epstein and his lies about it, it feels dirty to use this platform, which increasingly feels like his own propaganda machine and PR agency" Fred Lambert, the editor in chief of Electrek, an electric vehicle focused publication, said in an X post last week.

Safa, of Patriotic Vision said he is not convinced by Musk's sudden interest in accountability. "He should be investigated like any other individual whose name has been mentioned, regardless of social, political or financial status," Safa said, adding, "Why did he wait until now to speak out?"

Wary of wider conflict, European allies are keeping their distance

BY ELLEN FRANCIS, ANTHONY FAIOLA AND GREG MILLER

BRUSSELS — America's key European allies stressed on Saturday that their forces did not participate in the U.S.-Israeli attack on Iran, refraining from publicly backing President Donald Trump's operation, even as some officials seemed to offer tacit support.

While many of the continent's top leaders would welcome a change in Iran's leadership, they also appeared reluctant to get involved. Officials said they were wary of a spiraling conflict without a clear end that could engulf the region, upend global trade and drag in their own nations.

France, Germany and Britain, once partners with the Obama administration in brokering a deal on Iran's nuclear program, called for a return to negotiations. Talks had continued as recently as this week, until Trump initiated what he called a "massive" campaign on Saturday to "destroy" Iran's missile systems, "annihilate" its military and spur regime change in Tehran.

The attack on Iran presented Europe with a new test in the already-strained transatlantic relations, as the appeals for restraint clashed with Trump's assertion that force would succeed. A drawn-out war could highlight Europe's internal divisions and its difficulty in managing an unpredictable U.S. president — who campaigned on ending wars and had criticized past American military intervention in the Middle East, only to recently unleash military power in Venezuela and Iran.

Still, the Europeans put the onus squarely on Tehran, condemning its retaliation, and they carefully avoided criticizing the U.S. and Israeli barrage that shook Tehran on Saturday.

Paris, Berlin and London were central to crafting the 2015 nuclear deal with Tehran, which Trump abandoned in 2018. But his administration has largely excluded the Europeans from talks this year, following a pattern in other recent U.S. foreign policy interventions, including the capture of Venezuelan leader Nicolás Maduro, and negotiations on Russia's war in Ukraine.

"We have consistently urged the Iranian regime to end Iran's nuclear program, curb its ballistic missile program, refrain from its destabilizing activity in the region and our homelands, and to cease the appalling violence and repression against its own people," leaders of the three European nations said.

As Iran struck back against U.S. bases in the Persian Gulf, European officials promised to protect their personnel and citizens in the Middle East, where countries including France and Britain also have military bases and significant interests.

Officials across Europe said they had few if any clues about Washington's day-after plan should the Iranian government collapse.

"It very much appears that this is now in regime change territory and the question is what do they intend to do afterward," said a senior British official, who like others, spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss sensitive diplomacy.

Others said attempts to gain even vague insights into U.S. planning instead revealed confusion in corridors of the State Department and the Capitol. As the drumbeats of war intensified in recent days, the administration had offered different rationales for an attack, such as support for Iranian protesters who faced a harsh crackdown, or Tehran's refusal to agree to U.S. terms in nuclear talks.

"If you really want regime change, how is that supposed to work," asked a senior German security official. "Our understanding is that up to very high echelons people in D.C. don't know more than we do."

Already, the U.S.-led attack is exposing fault lines in the 27-nation European Union and within NATO, where some nations like Norway and Spain warned against violations of international law, while others, such as Italy and Germany, refrained from criticism.

British Prime Minister Keir Starmer said that while his country had "no role" in the strikes, "We have long been clear — the regime in Iran is utterly abhorrent."

British officials earlier did not address whether the U.S. had permission to use U.K. bases, including Diego Garcia, which is home to a base for U.S. bomber aircraft. The U.S. in recent weeks shifted scores of aircraft to bases in Europe and the Middle East, as Washington demanded Tehran dismantle its nuclear operations in faltering talks.

"Our forces are active and British planes are in the sky today as part of coordinated regional defensive operations," Starmer said in Saturday's speech. "It is vital now that we prevent further escalation and return to a diplomatic process."

French President Emmanuel Macron was more forceful, saying the escalation "is dangerous for all" and "it must stop." He called for a meeting of the United Nations Security Council.

Iran's leadership "must understand that it now has no other option" than to negotiate over its nuclear and ballistic missile program, Macron added, noting that France was "neither warned nor involved."

France and Britain pledged to help defend partners in the region. The two in the past have deployed military assets to intercept Iranian missiles or drones lobbed at Israel.

For another NATO ally, Turkey, which borders Iran, the attacks sparked fears of a spillover, and of a further emboldened Israel. Turkey said Saturday that it would not allow the use of its airspace for the strikes.

Europeans have not forgotten the disastrous legacies of Western interventions in Libya, Iraq or Afghanistan. When President George W. Bush launched a different American war in the Middle East — the 2003 invasion of Iraq — NATO was bitterly split. France and Germany opposed it; Bush went ahead anyway and found European partners to join the coalition.

In Iran, the continent's leaders see a common enemy. A European official said some capitals, which share Washington's goal of preventing Iran from developing a nuclear weapon, are doing a balancing act: privately welcoming the campaign on one hand, and on the other, trying not to contradict the image they have touted of Europe as a defender of international law on Greenland or Ukraine.

The European Union's foreign policy chief, Kaja Kallas, said she spoke to her Israeli counterpart on Saturday and coordinated "with Arab partners to explore diplomatic paths."

While leaders stressed a need for regional stability, some observers noted they did little to question the legality of the attack.

"Not a word about international law," said Gerard Araud, a former French negotiator in Iran nuclear talks, calling the remarks "a de facto endorsement" of the U.S.-Israeli attack.

In Italy — where Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni is one of the European leaders closest to the Trump administration — officials had hoped for a diplomatic solution, but still endorsed American pressure on Iran ahead of the strikes.

"We hope the war will last as little as possible," Italian Foreign Minister Antonio Tajani told reporters on Saturday. Yet it can only end, he added, "should Iran decide to substantially block its nuclear option, and halt the production of missiles."

A government spokesman in Germany, a staunch Israel ally which has taken a hard line on Iran, said Israel provided Berlin with advance notice of the strikes.

Among the few to outright condemn the strikes, as well as Tehran's response, was Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez, who has had strained relations with the Trump administration and is a leading critic of Israel's war in Gaza.

The U.S.-Israeli escalation "contributes to a more uncertain and hostile international order," Sánchez said. "We cannot afford another prolonged and devastating war in the Middle East."

Rachel Ellehuus, director of the London-based Royal United Services Institute, said conservative-led governments or parties in Europe were more supportive of the American strikes, with criticism more likely from the left.

Some viewed the European response so far as indicative of a new dynamic in transatlantic relations, which have been shaken by deep rifts with the Trump administration on everything from trade and Greenland to Russia.

"We saw something a bit different because the U.K. denied the use of [bases in] Diego Garcia, and insisted on more clarity," Ellehuus said. "At the same time, they've been very careful not to criticize the U.S., and I think that's because ultimately, they would also like to see the Iranian regime out of the picture."

It stands in contrast with some past U.S. interventions — such as in Afghanistan — that European and British governments have not directly joined the military campaign in Iran, said Sanam Vakil, director of the Middle East and North Africa Program at Chatham House.

That speaks in part to the strained transatlantic ties. Now that a military operation has begun, however, many European leaders will hope the U.S. and Israel "actually get the job done and don't leave the situation in a terrible mess that Europe will have to pay the price for," Vakil said.

Rifts with Washington aside, she added, Starmer's government also seems "careful to not repeat the mistakes of the 2003 Iraq War that didn't just cost the in terms of lives and dollars, but also cost the United Kingdom in terms of reputation damage."

Faiola reported from Rome and Miller from London.

Democrats demand quick vote to restrain Trump's hand on Iran

Congress is expected to vote on two resolutions to block further action

BY THEODORIC MEYER AND NOAH ROBERTSON

Top Democrats on Saturday called for Congress to return immediately to Washington and vote on whether to halt further military action in Iran, after President Donald Trump foreshadowed a possible extended conflict intended to force regime change in Tehran.

The House and Senate were expected to hold such votes in coming days, but Trump's decision to attack injected fresh urgency into those plans.

"I'll get on the next plane flying," said Rep. Gregory W. Meeks (New York), the top Democrat on the House Foreign Affairs Committee. Senate Minority Leader Charles E. Schumer (D-New York), House Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries (D-New York) and other Democrats also demanded urgent action to restrain the president.

Senate Majority Leader John Thune (R-South Dakota) and House Speaker Mike Johnson (R-Louisiana) did not immediately comment on calls for Congress to return. Both issued statements in support of the strikes, which the U.S. undertook alongside Israeli forces.

The votes will be the latest test of a long-shot — and so far unsuccessful — strategy that Democrats have employed to stop Trump from ordering military strikes without authorization from Congress, including military strikes in at least seven countries, a deadly campaign against suspected drug smugglers from Latin America, and threats against Greenland and Cuba.

Democrats — along with Sen. Rand Paul (R-Kentucky) and Rep. Thomas Massie (R-Kentucky) — have forced votes on a record number of war powers resolutions over the opposition of most Republicans, who control both chambers. They have portrayed them as a way for Congress to reclaim its constitutional power to declare war — but all have failed, and there are signs the strategy is coming under strain.

Sen. John Fetterman (D-Pennsylvania) and Rep. Josh Gottheimer (D-New Jersey) said ahead of **the** strikes they opposed the resolutions. Rep. Jared Moskowitz (D-Florida) said he was willing to vote for such a resolution after strikes began but not while negotiations were ongoing to curb Iran's nuclear program.

"Committed Democrat here," Fetterman wrote Saturday on X. "I'm a hard no. My vote is Operation Epic Fury."

Sen. Tim Kaine (D-Virginia), one of the architects of the war powers strategy, had sought to force a vote on the Iran resolution before the strikes, warning that the U.S. might find itself in a "full-blown war" if lawmakers waited. In a statement Saturday, he called the attacks a "colossal mistake" and demanded the Senate return to vote.

Some Democrats have invoked the specter of the Iraq War — although President George W. Bush sought and received authorization from Congress before the U.S. invasion in 2003. Trump has not asked for authorization to strike Iran or other countries.

"This is one of the most dangerous efforts that Trump is undertaking in the second term: trying to normalize war without Congress, trying to normalize the idea that a president can just do whatever they want when it comes to foreign policy," Sen. Andy Kim (D-New Jersey) said in an interview Saturday.

War powers resolutions are one of the few ways for Democrats — as well as Republicans concerned Trump has not come to Congress — to push back.

The War Powers Resolution, which Congress passed in 1973 over President Richard M. Nixon's veto in response to the Vietnam War, lets a single member of Congress force a vote on withdrawing U.S. forces from a conflict or blocking strikes when hostilities are imminent. But the hurdles to enacting such resolutions are high because the Supreme Court ruled in 1983 that presidents could veto them, which Congress can override only with a two-thirds majority in each chamber. No war powers resolution has ever overcome a veto.

Congress passed two resolutions during Trump's first term: one to cut off U.S. support for Saudi Arabia's war in Yemen and another to block Trump from striking Iran after the U.S. killed a top Iranian general, Qasem Soleimani. Trump vetoed both — but Kaine said he believed the symbolic rebuke had an impact on the administration, which refrained from further provoking Iran.

Republicans have been more reluctant to support such measures since Trump's return to office. Sixteen House Republicans voted for the Yemen resolution in 2019, and six voted for the Iran resolution in 2020, but no more than three have supported a war powers resolution during Trump's second term.

Some Democrats attribute the shift to fear. Sen. Adam Schiff (D-California) said one Republican senator had expressed concern to him that Trump would punish the senator's state if the senator voted for one of the resolutions.

The resolutions that have come closest to passing would have forced the administration to cease hostilities with Venezuela after U.S. forces captured the country's president, Nicolás Maduro. The House version failed 215-215 after Rep. Wesley Hunt (R-Texas) rushed in from the airport to ensure it didn't pass.

Five Republicans — Sens. Lisa Murkowski (Alaska), Susan Collins (Maine), Josh Hawley (Missouri), Todd Young (Indiana) and Paul — voted with Democrats to advance the resolution in the Senate. But Hawley and Young flipped days later after entreaties from the White House — and after Trump derided them, writing on social media that they "should never be elected to office again."

Young said voting for the resolution was ultimately "a fool's errand" because Trump would veto it. He withdrew support after Secretary of State Marco Rubio agreed to testify publicly about the administration's Venezuela strategy.

"We also got him to commit his professional reputation to seek formal congressional authorization should troops have to go back into the country. That's not nothing," Young said in an interview.

Other Republicans have dismissed the argument that even failed votes on war powers resolutions make a difference, saying Democrats are merely venting frustration at a president they despise.

"Messaging is a wonderful thing, but actually doing something is much more powerful," said Sen. James E. Risch (R-Idaho), the chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee.

It's not clear how many Republicans would support the Iran resolutions in addition to Paul and Massie. But one Republican who has not backed other war powers resolutions since Trump returned to office, Rep. Warren Davidson (Ohio), had said he would vote for it unless the administration provides a classified briefing to present its arguments for a strike. "War requires Congressional authorization," Davidson wrote on X. "There are actions short of war, but no case has been made."

Anna Kelly, a White House spokeswoman, said in a statement before the strikes that Trump had been "incredibly transparent with Congress" and would continue to keep lawmakers apprised "as he restores American strength and protects our national security."

Some Democrats have voiced concern that forcing war powers votes could backfire.

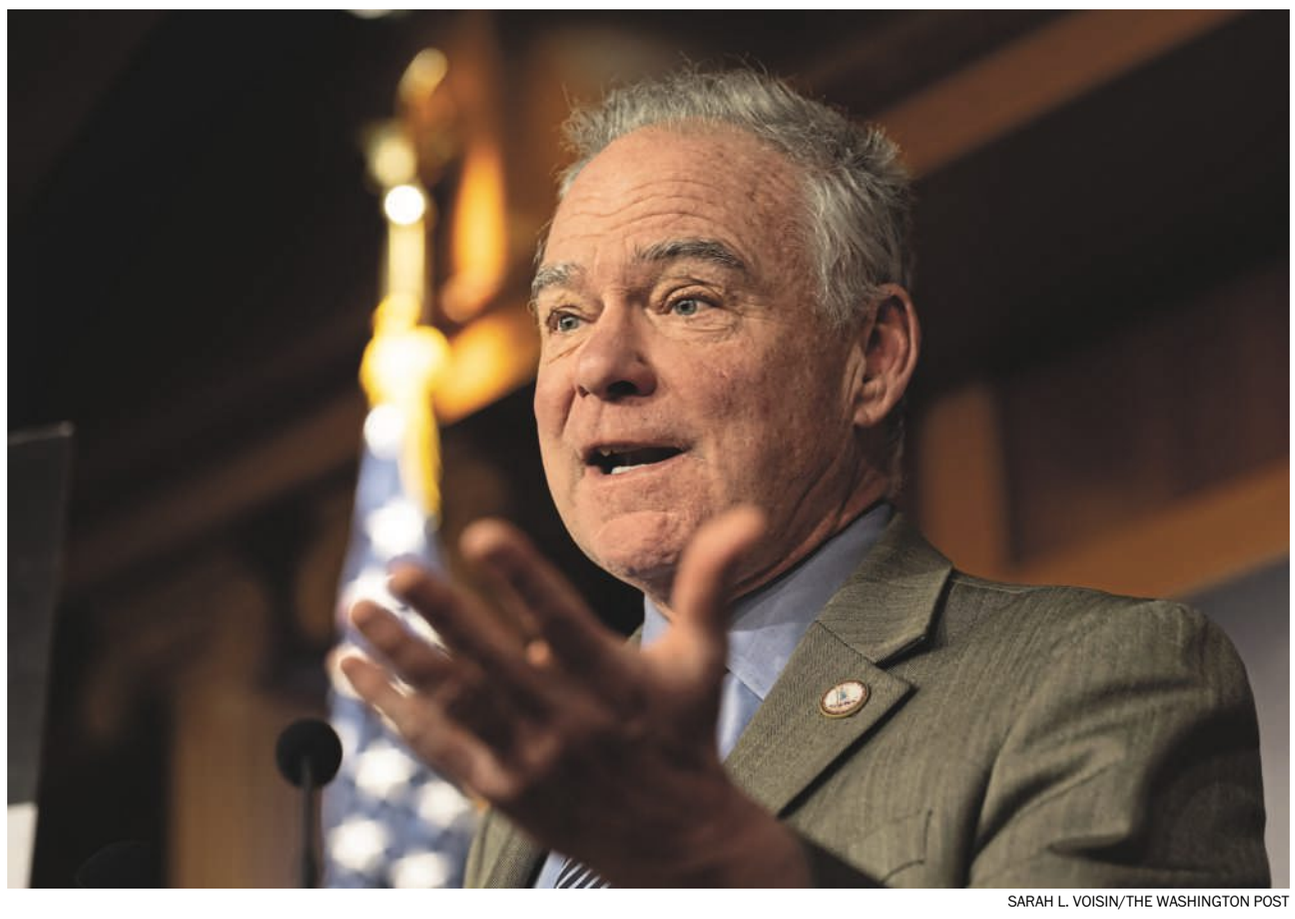
Sen. Chris Coons (D-Delaware), a senior member of the Foreign Relations Committee, said earlier this year that he saw "real risk" in forcing failed war powers votes.

Danish officials made a similar argument last month in a private meeting with senators contemplating a war powers vote to block Trump from attacking Greenland, a semiautonomous territory of NATO ally Denmark. Such a vote would not be particularly helpful as a demonstration of broad U.S. support if it passed only narrowly, they said, according to two people familiar with their remarks.

In an interview before the Iran strikes, Kaine acknowledged concerns that failed votes could give tacit approval to Trump but said he thought it was important to put lawmakers on record.

"The volume level of concern is going up. Trump is having to work it harder to whip votes against these resolutions," Kaine said. "When the volume level of concern goes up on the Republican side, then the behavior starts to adjust."

Kadia Goba contributed to this report.



SARAH L. VOISIN/THE WASHINGTON POST

Sen. Tim Kaine (D-Virginia), shown in January, had sought to force a vote on the Iran resolution before the strikes, warning that the U.S. might find itself in a "full-blown war." In a statement, he called the attacks a "colossal mistake" and demanded the Senate return to vote.

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THE WORLD

With Cuba's oil supply choked off, it's China to the rescue

Beijing-backed solar parks may be producing as much as 10 percent of the island's electricity amid nation's worst energy crisis in decades

NORLYS PEREZ/REUTERS

BY REBECCA TAN AND RUDY LU

As President Donald Trump's effective oil blockade causes Cuba's worst energy crisis in decades, China is helping its communist ally race to capture clean, renewable solar energy.

Chinese exports of solar equipment to Cuba skyrocketed from about $5 million in 2023 to $117 million in 2025 and show no sign of stopping, according to the British energy think tank Ember. Beijing pledged last year to help Cuba build more than 92 solar parks by 2028, and more than half of these projects have come online, authorities say. Satellite imagery from 2025 shows clusters of solar panels springing up over a matter of weeks.

This month, the Cuban government announced that the island had generated more than 900 megawatts of photovoltaic energy in one midday segment for the first time.

China's aid offers rare reprieve for Cuba, where the United Nations warned this month of impending humanitarian "collapse." The effective U.S. blockade on Venezuelan and other oil to the nation of 11 million is worsening its long-standing economic crisis, spreading blackouts, disrupting hospitals and halting public transport.

A spokesman for the Chinese Embassy in Washington said energy cooperation with Cuba has already achieved "fruitful results" and will continue. "We oppose unwarranted interference by external forces and reject any actions that deprive the Cuban people of their right to subsistence and development," spokesman Liu Pengyu said in a statement to The Washington Post.

As the Trump administration steps back from U.S. climate commitments and reinvests in fossil fuels, China is flexing its dominance in renewable energy, using offers of equipment, expertise and financing as geopolitical levers. Chinese solar panels have arrived in Cuba amid a deepening security relationship between Beijing and Havana, which allegedly includes spy stations in Cuba that can gather intelligence on the United States and neighbors, analysts say.

Because Cuba's energy demands are comparatively low, even a small amount of additional input has made a marked contribution.

Solar could now be responsible for as much as 10 percent of Cuba's electricity generation, according to Ember analyst Dave Jones, up from almost nothing a year ago.

That would be among the fastest expansions of solar energy anywhere, Jones said, and place Cuba ahead of most countries — including the U.S. — in the share of electricity generated by sun power.

"Cuba," he said, "is perhaps in the middle of one of the most rapid solar revolutions."

'Making it happen'

One reason Cuba has ramped up so swiftly is that Chinese companies aren't just producing and exporting solar equipment — they have also been facilitating installation. That's different from other countries that have adopted Chinese clean energy technology en masse, such as Pakistan, where the customers have largely been individual households and businesses that buy and install panels on their own rooftops.

"China is not going and installing loads of small sites of solar across the world," Jones said, "so what we're seeing is quite unique to Cuba." Elsewhere, he said, government permissions and contracts for such projects can take months or years. In Cuba, Chinese companies are "just making it happen."

"Chinese companies are actively participating in Cuba's energy transition," Hua Xin, China's ambassador to Cuba, told the state-owned news agency Xinhua in September. "Chinese new energy vehicles are becoming increasingly common on the streets of Cuba, and a growing number of small and micro Cuban businesses are selling Chinese-made new energy products and energy-efficient home appliances."

Still, solar power isn't close to fulfilling Cuba's energy needs. Fossil fuels provided up to 95 percent of Cuba's energy mix as recently as early 2024, according to official figures.

Trump has said he is willing to go to extreme lengths to drive the Cuban communist government led by President Miguel Díaz-Canel to make a deal that would include various concessions to the U.S. China's support is "not going to make enough of a difference" against that pressure campaign, said Evan Ellis, a research professor of Latin American studies at the U.S. Army War College Strategic Studies Institute.

While Chinese officials have repeatedly condemned the Trump administration's actions against Cuba, they are also wary of overstepping "in the backyard of the U.S.," said Yanran Xu, an associate professor of international relations at the Renmin University of China in Beijing.

Publicly, China has framed its support of Cuba's renewable energy sector primarily in economic and humanitarian terms. "But sometimes," Xu said, "the economic argument goes with strategic goals. They overlap."

Pan Deng, a prominent Chinese scholar on Latin America, said this month that China's economic strengths, including in "new energy technologies," make it an essential partner for the region.

"Even if some Latin American countries show political deference to the United States," he wrote in the state-owned Global Times, "their deep economic integration with China means they cannot sever pragmatic cooperation with Beijing."

'Below the radar screen'

In 2023, U.S. officials said China had established an eavesdropping station in Cuba that allowed it to harvest electronic communications in the American Southeast. In 2024, at least four China-linked sites in Cuba appeared capable of collecting intelligence on the U.S., the Washington-based Center for Strategic and International Studies reported.

Beijing has an interest in "the survival of a friendly regime close to the U.S.," Ellis said, but it probably does not want to be seen as intervening so directly that it elicits backlash from Washington. Shipping solar panels is one option that so far has flown "below the radar screen," he said.

Given Cuba's tropical climate and existing energy infrastructure, researchers say, there's still significant room for solar to grow. The Cuban government this month lifted tariffs on solar imports and introduced new incentives for individuals to adopt solar energy.

"There's an easy route for Cuba to continue," Jones said.

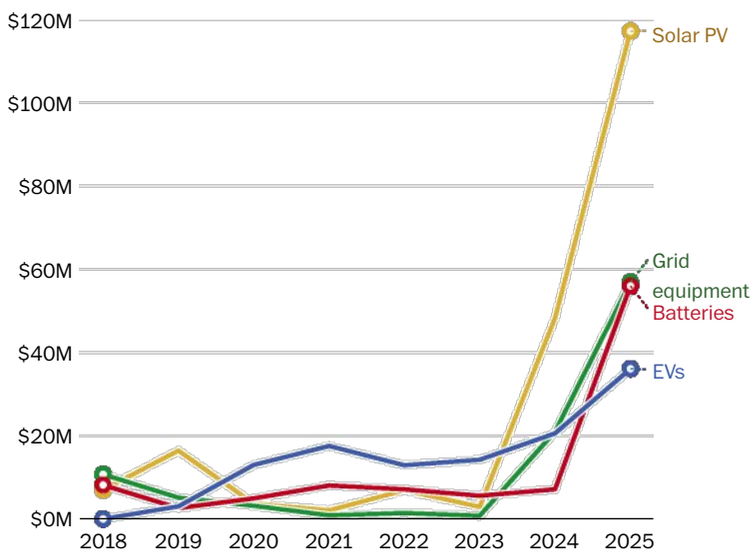
What Cuba needs next is battery systems, which are essential for storing photovoltaic energy for use overnight, when deficits are most acute. Large-scale battery storage is expensive and can be difficult to install. But China is racing to improve the technology, Jones said, and progress in recent months has been "incredible." "According to Ember's data, Chinese battery exports last year hit a record high.

Huiyee Chiew contributed to this report.

ADALBERTO ROQUE/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

TOP: Technicians carry a solar panel on the rooftop of a building in Havana as Cubans scramble to cope with relentless blackouts and energy shortages that are worsening under economic pressure from President Donald Trump. ABOVE: Installation techs lift panels onto the roof of a Catholic church that operates a dining hall for seniors. A spokesman for the Chinese Embassy in Washington said that Beijing's energy cooperation with Cuba has achieved "fruitful results" and is a partnership that will continue.

Chinese clean tech exports to Cuba



Source: China customs data via Ember (China Cleantech Exports Data Explorer)

Hundreds gather near White House, other D.C. sites to protest attack

BY JASMINE GOLDEN AND LIAM SCOTT

LEAH MILLIS/REUTERS

Demonstrators hold Iranian flags during an anti-war protest in downtown Washington on Saturday; demonstrations erupted in several cities across the country.

Ermiya Fanaeian has lived in the United States since she was 1, but still has family in her home country of Iran. On Saturday, as word spread of attacks there by Israel and the United States, she grew concerned about her relatives and other Iranians. She decided to protest the military action.

"It hits close to home," Fanaeian, a 25-year-old PhD candidate in political science at Howard University, said. "I also know that the people in Iran are the ones who are going to experience the most, the biggest consequences from these attacks."

Fanaeian was among hundreds of demonstrators who gathered near the White House and other D.C. sites Saturday afternoon to protest the strikes targeting the Iranian government and the country's missile and nuclear program. Some protesters held signs that read, "No bombs on Iran" and "No New US War in the Middle East."

Less than a half-mile away, near the World War I Memorial, a group of people waving American and Israeli flags chanted, "Thank you Trump," appearing to celebrate the strikes. Earlier in the day, the president told The Washington Post the strikes were an effort to bring "freedom for the people" in Iran.

The protests in the nation's capital joined demonstrations that erupted in New York, Chicago, Denver and other U.S. cities, as well as abroad.

In New York City, where several hundred people marched through Midtown Manhattan, organizers described the demonstration as just the start of a sustained movement to push back against the attack on Iran.

"I'm sick to my stomach about us going into another war," said Aisha Jukaku, 41, an Indian American who is also Muslim.

Fanaeian, an organizer with the Freedom Road Socialist Organization, helped coordinate the protest near the White House with leaders from other groups, including 50501 DC and Code Pink. They initially gathered near 16th and H streets NW by Lafayette Square before marching through the city.

"No hate, no fear, Iranians are welcome here," many in the crowd chanted. "From D.C. to Iran, stop the war, stop the bombs," others said in unison.

"Americans have made it clear that they do not want another war," Mimi Ziad, a 27-year-old with the Palestinian Youth Movement, said in a speech from the bed of a pickup truck. Ziad and other demonstrators drew comparisons between the strikes on Iran and involvement by the U.S. military in other conflicts in recent years.

As the crowd swelled and began to march, Secret Service agents and D.C. police officers were on patrol, with some officers blocking roads to let demonstrators pass through the streets.

D.C. police said earlier Saturday that while there were no known threats to the city, the department is "prepared to increase our presence as needed." The department said it was coordinating with local, state and federal partners.

Metro Transit Police said there will be an increased presence at rail stations in the District for the next several days "in response to military operations abroad."

Saturday's protest drew a diverse crowd of people, including children who walked with their parents. Passersby watched the crowd, including peeking from the windows of the nearby Hay-Adams Hotel.

The chants and speeches were punctuated, at times, by music.

Michael Mendelson, founder of the D.C. Activist Street Band, was joined by others with saxophones, drums and clarinets. "We come out to bring joy to protests," said Mendelson, who held a trombone. "To make our voices heard."

From the White House, about 200 people trekked through downtown Washington, moving past the Department of Veterans Affairs, the American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations and the Renwick Gallery.

Organizers donned lime green vests and directed the crowd along. There were multiple protests occurring in the city, including a March for Democracy, where Amy Trimble began before joining the Iran protest.

"He calls himself the peace president, and he is everything but," said Trimble, a 55-year-old retired marriage and family therapist from San Diego.

As demonstrators marched toward the State Department, Merawi Gerima, an organizer with D.C. Against Trump Agenda Coalition, announced that there were conflicting reports that Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, Iran's supreme leader since 1989, had been killed. The announcement was met with confusion and groans from the crowd, with some skeptical of the reports. Trump later confirmed the killing.

As the crowd arrived outside the State Department shortly after 4 p.m., a round of boos against the Trump administration rumbled through the group.

Hayedeh Seddiqi, 33, waved an Iranian flag. "It's an unjustified war," she said. "Iran wasn't asking for this."

Juan Benn Jr., Tim Craig and Daniel Wu contributed to this report.

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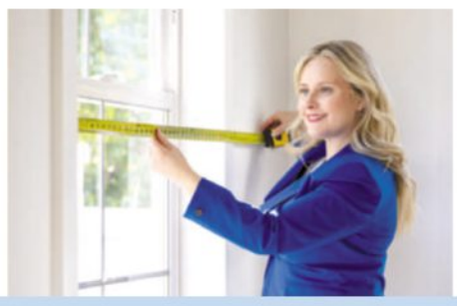

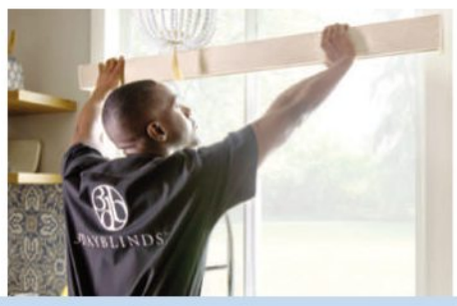

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Strikes likely to last at least through weekend, official says

ALI NAJAFI/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

IRAN FROM **A1**

U.S. military did not provide specifics on how many of its own jets were used or how many targets they struck.

In response, Iran launched broad retaliatory strikes that targeted not only Israel, but also U.S. military sites in Bahrain and other locations sites in Jordan, Kuwait, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates using missiles and one-way, explosive-laden attack drones known as Shaheds, according to videos posted online and verified by The Post.

U.S. Central Command said no U.S. service members had been injured or killed, and no U.S. warship had been hit in Iran's retaliatory strikes.

Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi said dozens of children were killed in an Israeli strike on a girls' school in the Iranian city of Minab, and Central Command spokesman Capt. Tim Hawkins said the matter was being examined.

"All I want is freedom for the people," Trump said in a brief phone interview shortly after 4 a.m., when asked what he hopes his legacy will be as a result of the military action and a push for regime change in Iran.

"I want a safe nation, and that's what we're going to have," the president said, his first reportable remarks after announcing in a 2:30 a.m. video message that the U.S. had launched "major combat operations."

Trump spoke to The Post from Mar-a-Lago, his home in Palm Beach, Florida, where he arrived Friday night just hours before the military strikes began. Television news played in the background at the time of the call.

Despite his previous criticism of U.S. involvement in Middle Eastern wars — particularly American lives lost during efforts to topple and install new regimes — Trump on Saturday made the case for the United States helping to bring about regime change in the country. In the video address, Trump urged Iranians once the strikes cease to "take over your government," telling them "this will be probably your only chance for generations."

Trump also acknowledged that U.S. troops were putting their lives at risk in this effort.

"The lives of courageous American heroes may be lost and we may have casualties," Trump said in his taped remarks. "That often happens in war. But we're doing this, not for now. We're doing this for the future, and it is a noble mission."

Less than a year ago, while visiting the Middle East, Trump decried the "so-called nation builders" who "wrecked far more nations than they built."

"And the interventionalists were intervening in complex societies that they did not even understand," Trump said in May at an investment conference in Riyadh, the capital of Saudi Arabia.

HEIDI LEVINE/FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

HAMAD I MOHAMMED/REUTERS

FROM TOP: The site of a girls' school in Minab on Saturday, where, Iran's foreign minister says, dozens of children were killed in an airstrike. Israeli first responders at the scene of damaged building in Tel Aviv on Saturday after an Iranian ballistic missile hit the street. Smoke rises from a burning building Saturday in Manama, Bahrain, hit by an Iranian drone strike.

Now, the president is portraying himself as the one willing to assume substantial risk to save the Iranian people, urging them to "seize control" of their "destiny" with U.S. help.

"No president was willing to do what I am willing to do tonight," Trump declared in the eight-minute video, which he said was filmed shortly after the attacks began in the early hours Saturday. He stood behind a lectern, wearing a white "USA" ball cap, and had removed the necktie he was seen wearing earlier in the evening.

"Now you have a president who is giving you what you want, so let's see how you respond," he said, speaking to the Iranian people. "America is backing you with overwhelming strength and devastating force."

Trump's case to the American people for taking the country to war with Iran has never been urgently articulated.

While the president said the objective of the strikes is to "defend the American people by eliminating imminent threats from the Iranian regime," in his video about the attacks, Trump accused Iran of a litany of sins: from working to build a nuclear weapon to roadside bombs to a campaign of "mass terror" he said the regime has carried out against the U.S. "for 47 years."

Trump invoked the 1979 hostage crisis, in which 66 Americans were taken hostage at the U.S. Embassy in Tehran, and the 1983 bombing of U.S. Marine barracks in Beirut, in which 241 Americans were killed. He said Iran was "probably involved" in the al-Qaeda attack on the USS Cole in 2000 in Yemen.

"I built and rebuilt our military in my first administration," Trump said, "and there is no military on Earth even close to its power, strength or sophistication."

A senior Trump administration official said the U.S. saw "indicators" that Iran was planning to strike U.S. targets overseas "preemptively," intelligence they said influenced Trump's decision to order strikes.

While speaking to The Post, the president did not take additional questions about the scope of ongoing operations or the potential for U.S. troop involvement on the ground. On Thursday, Vice President JD Vance said in an interview with The Post that any operation Trump initiates in Iran would not result in the U.S. becoming involved in a drawn-out war.

"The idea that we're going to be in a Middle Eastern war for years with no end in sight — there is no chance that will happen," Vance said.

Foreign policy experts have warned that, unlike the limited strikes the U.S. launched against Iranian nuclear sites in June, a wider conflict with Tehran could embroil Washington for years.

Trump's views on U.S. intervention in the Middle East have evolved over time, with the president initially expressing support for the Iraq War at its outset more than two decades ago, before months later calling it a "terrible mistake."

He built his political brand as an "America First" president opposed to adventures overseas, decrying the Iraq War during his 2016 campaign and in 2024 pledging a "stop to the endless wars and a return to peace in the Middle East."

"We defeated [the Islamic State] in record time, but we had no wars," Trump said in his November 2024 election night victory speech, referring to his first term. "They said, he will start a war. I'm not going to start a war. I'm going to stop wars."

This is the second major U.S. military operation that has resulted in the toppling of another nation's top leader, following the Jan. 3 raid that resulted in the arrest of Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro, and like in Venezuela, in the hours after the attack uncertainty remained on what Iran's future government would look like.

Amid the Trump administration's military surge of forces to the Middle East, there are now between 30,000 and 40,000 U.S. troops in the region -- including thousands of sailors aboard two aircraft carriers, and hundreds of military aircraft and support fleets of refuelers at allied bases.

More than a dozen U.S. warships were in the Middle East to support the assault, a Navy official told The Post, speaking on the condition of anonymity to provide details that had not been publicly announced.

Ellen Nakashima, Alex Horton and Lior Soroka contributed to this report.

Regional allies argued that now was the time to strike Iran

TRUMP FROM **A1**

Now Trump will bear the risk of the bet he has placed -- that a major military operation conducted from the air can achieve political goals on the ground.

"No president was willing to do what I am willing to do tonight," Trump told Iranians in a video address posted as U.S. bombs rained down on targets across Iran. "Now you have a president who is giving you what you want, so let's see how you respond."

The Saudi push for an attack came as presidential envoy Steve Witkoff and Trump's son-in-law, Jared Kushner, pursued negotiations with Iranian leaders over the country's nuclear and missile programs.

As those talks proceeded, the crown prince issued a statement, following a phone call with Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian, that he would not allow Saudi airspace or territory to be used in an attack on Iran.

In his discussions with U.S. officials, however, the Saudi leader warned that Iran would come away stronger and more dangerous if the United States did not strike now, after amassing the largest military presence in the Middle East since the 2003 invasion of Iraq, said the people, who, like others, spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss the sensitive situation.

Mohammed's position was reinforced by his brother, Saudi Defense Minister Khalid bin Salman, who held closed-door meetings with U.S. officials in Washington in January and warned about the downsides of not attacking, the people said.

The Saudi leader's complicated position likely reflected his desire to avoid Iranian retaliation against his country's vulnerable oil infrastructure, weighed against his view of Tehran as Riyadh's ultimate foe in the region, said those familiar with his thinking. Iran, dominated by Shiite Muslims, and Saudi Arabia, led by Sunnis, have long had an intense rivalry that has generated proxy wars in the region.

Following the initial U.S. attack on Saturday, Iran did retaliate against Saudi Arabia. Riyadh issued a furious statement condemning the attack and calling on the international community to "take all necessary and decisive measures" to confront Iran.

The Saudi Embassy did not respond to a request for comment.

Witkoff and Kushner had their final contacts with Iranian officials in Geneva on Thursday, their third high-level encounter since early February. They walked away believing that Tehran was playing games with them about its need for nuclear enrichment, according to a senior Trump administration official.

"It was very clear that the intent for them was to preserve their ability to do enrichment so that over time, they could use it for a nuclear bomb," the official said.

By Friday afternoon, when Trump arrived in Corpus Christi, Texas, for a campaign rally ahead of Tuesday primaries there, the president's frustration -- and his rhetoric -- was escalating. He repeatedly declared himself "not happy" with Iranian negotiators.

"I've got a lot of things going on now," he told the crowd toward the end of a rambling speech ostensibly focused on energy policy. "We have a big decision to make, you know that. Not easy, not easy. We have a very big decision to make."

Later, he flew to Palm Beach for the weekend, where he mingled with supporters at his Mar-a-Lago resort Friday evening, looking tired but otherwise in good sprits before exiting to his private quarters to record the speech he would give announcing the attack, according to one person who was there and interacted with him.

The decision to launch the attack was in some ways foretold by the massive buildup of U.S. forces over the past two months. But there was little in Trump's record to suggest that he would embrace a war of choice in the Middle East with the goal of regime change.

In explaining his decision, Trump on Saturday reached all the way back to Iran's 1979 revolution. He described the U.S. attacks as payback for decades of conflict with Iran. He cited the 52 Americans held hostage for more than a year after the 1979 takeover of the American embassy in Tehran; the deaths of 241 U.S. service members in 1983 bombing of their barracks in Beirut by Iran-backed Hezbollah during a Lebanese civil war; and the 2000 attack on the USS Cole, a naval destroyer docked in a Yemen, which Trump said Iran "probably" was involved in, although the United States has long attributed the suicide bombing to al-Qaeda.

Earlier Saturday, Trump said that the United States had faced "imminent threats from the Iranian regime." Tehran was continuing to work toward producing a nuclear weapon and development of "long range missiles that ... could soon reach the American homeland."

Both of those assertions have been challenged. Trump himself has vehemently maintained that the U.S. "obliterated" Iran's nuclear program with airstrikes last summer. The International Atomic Energy Agency has said there is no evidence Iran has restarted its uranium enrichment program following those strikes or that it has an active bomb-building plan. In an assessment last year, the U.S. Defense Intelligence Agency cited no indication that Iran was embarking on development of an intercontinental ballistic missile. If it decided to do so, the DIA said, it would take a decade to produce.

Trump directed anti-government Iranians to "take over" their government, but his call included no details. He declared that those within Iran's extensive military and security infrastructure would be given "complete immunity" but provided no explanation how or by whom that would be done.

During both his first and second terms, Trump has said consistently there would be no American boots on the ground in military operations that he launched. Since taking office again, while launching air and missile attacks in seven countries, including Nigeria, Syria, Yemen, Somalia, Venezuela, Iraq and Iran, he largely has kept that promise.

But it remains unclear whether aircraft and missile strikes can achieve his ever-expanding goals — among them new, U.S.-friendly regimes in Iran and Venezuela, an end to Iran-backed militant operations in Yemen and the defeat of Islamic terrorist operations in Nigeria and Somalia.

"History is not kind to efforts to fundamentally alter and restructure the internal politics of a country using the air power alone," said Aaron David Miller, a former U.S. diplomat who worked on Middle East issues for both Republican and Democratic administrations.

"This is very much Trumpian, in the sense that he's tried to split the difference between getting bogged down in an interminable conflict which will undermine the American economy and cost Americans their lives on one hand, and yet bringing to bear the power of the American military in a sort of roll-the-dice operation," Miller said.

Months of planning for the 2003 U.S. toppling of Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein included thousands of invading American forces that remained there for nearly a decade and a large cadre of civilian U.S. officials on the ground to organize a new government.

Top Trump officials — some of whom have been sharp critics of the Iraq effort and other U.S. forays into the Middle East — have insisted in recent days that this time will be different.

Vice President JD Vance on Thursday told The Washington Post that he still considers himself a "skeptic" of foreign military interventions — a description he said still applied to Trump, too. He said there was "no chance" any military operation by the U.S. in Iran would lead to a drawn-out war involving the Trump administration.

Vance on Saturday watched the military operation from the Situation Room at the White House, dialed into a conference line that connected him to the president and his national security team, who were tracking Iran from Mar-a-Lago, according to a person with knowledge of the events. Vance was joined at the White House by Tulsi Gabbard, the director of national intelligence, who has long campaigned against war with Iran. Energy Secretary Chris Wright and Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent were in the Situation Room, too, the person said.

Apart from Trump's Saturday statements once the attack had already started, the president has devoted little time to publicly justifying or explaining war with Iran, a break from previous practice of U.S. leaders.

Democrats on Saturday pushed Trump to explain his case to the American people.

"What was the imminent threat to America?" said Sen. Mark R. Warner (D-Virginia), the senior Democrat on the Senate Intelligence Committee, in an interview. "I don't know the answer."

Warner, who participated in a classified briefing on Tuesday with Secretary of State Marco Rubio and CIA Director John Ratcliffe, said that senior lawmakers were given a "fair description of options" the administration was considering, but that he saw no threat that "would literally be worthy of putting our troops in harm's way."

In the briefing on Tuesday for the Gang of Eight, which includes the leaders of the House, Senate and each chamber's intelligence committees, Rubio indicated to lawmakers that the mission's timing and goals were shaped by the fact that Israel was going to attack with or without the United States, according to a person familiar with the administration's outreach to lawmakers.

"So the only debate that seemed to be remaining was whether the U.S. would launch in concert with Israel, or if the U.S. would wait until Iran retaliated on U.S. military targets in the region and then engage," the person said.

Now the question is what comes next.

For now, Trump says that he hopes that in the face of the death of Khamenei, Iran's security forces and police "will peacefully merge with the Iranian Patriots, and work together as a unit to bring back the Country to the Greatness it deserves." In January, those security forces killed thousands of Iranian protesters.

Trump vowed that "the heavy and pinpoint bombing, however, will continue, uninterrupted throughout the week or, as long as necessary to achieve our objective of PEACE THROUGHOUT THE MIDDLE EAST AND, INDEED, THE WORLD!"

Souad Mekhennet, Ellen Nakashima, Natalie Allison and Noah Robertson in Washington, Matt Viser in Corpus Christi, Texas, and Greg Miller in London contributed to this report.

DEMETRIUS FREEMAN/THE WASHINGTON POST

ANNA MONEYMAKER/GETTY IMAGES

TOP: President Donald Trump met with Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince and Prime Minister Mohammed bin Salman in the Oval Office in November. ABOVE: A video of Trump announcing that the U.S. and Israel had launched an attack on Iran is broadcast Saturday.

Strikes in Iran

Source: Iran's state news agency (IRNA), Iranian Foreign Ministry official

JOHN MUYSKENS, MOHAMAD EL CHAMAA, SIMON DUCROQUET / THE WASHINGTON POST

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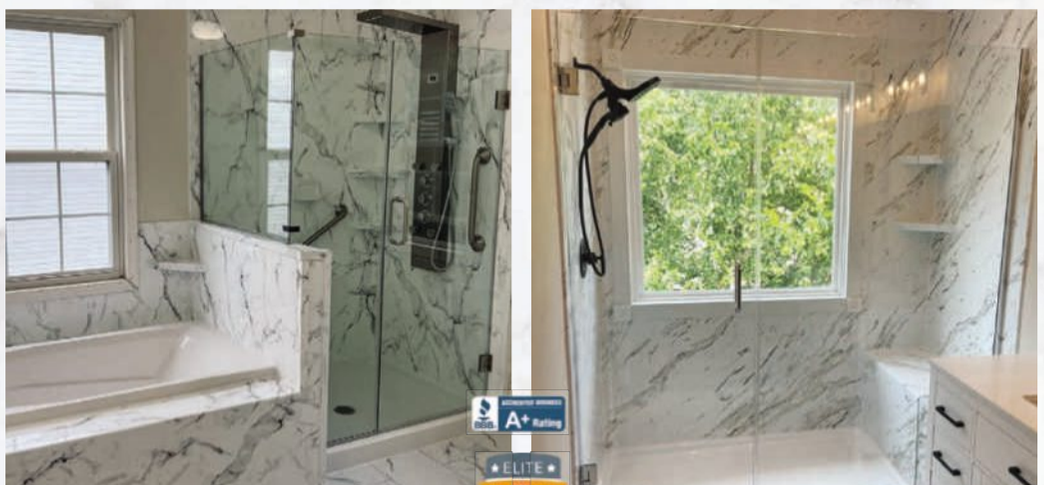

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AYATOLLAH ALI KHAMENEI 1939-2026

He played a behind-the-scenes role in Islamic revolution

KHAMENEI FROM **A1**

ti-government demonstrations broke out in December. Sparked by a severe economic crisis, the protests morphed into mass demonstrations against Iran's entrenched theocratic system. Previously taboo chants of "Death to Khamenei!" were heard in street marches across the country.

Security forces responded by launching a bloody crackdown, killing more than 6,800 protesters and detaining tens of thousands. Ayatollah Khamenei blamed the carnage on Trump, denouncing him as a "criminal" who "openly encouraged" the protesters by promising U.S. military support.

An early follower of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, the austere cleric who inspired the revolution against Iran's U.S.-backed monarchy, Ayatollah Khamenei staunchly opposed the United States and Israel, rejected Western "liberalism," and adhered strictly to fundamentalist social policies.

As supreme leader of Iran since 1989 — when he succeeded Khomeini — Ayatollah Khamenei wielded ultimate political and religious authority in the Islamic republic, outranking the elected president and overseeing the country's armed forces, internal security apparatus, judiciary, state media and foreign policy.

He had the final say on a landmark July 2015 nuclear accord with six world powers, including the United States, that restricted Iran's nuclear program in exchange for the easing of crippling economic sanctions. Although deeply distrustful of U.S. motives, and despite the misgivings of fellow hard-liners, he ultimately endorsed the deal, and it was formally implemented in January 2016.

But he appeared to regret it after Trump pulled the United States out of the agreement in 2018 during his first term and reimposed harsh sanctions. (In retaliation, Iran began disregarding some provisions of the nuclear deal, notably limits on quantity and quality of its production of enriched uranium, but did not renounce its pledge never to acquire nuclear weapons.) Ayatollah Khamenei was especially incensed by the Trump-ordered killing of a top Iranian commander, Qasem Soleimani, in a U.S. drone strike in Iraq in January 2020. He called the killing "a cowardly act," denounced Trump as a "clown" and rejected the U.S. president's calls for new talks, which he said were intended only to boost Trump's reelection bid.

After Trump lost the 2020 election, Ayatollah Khamenei said its chaotic aftermath, marked by Trump's baseless fraud claims, illustrated "the ugly face of liberal democracy" in the United States and made clear the country's "definite political, civil [and] moral decline."

When Iran was convulsed by widespread protests after the September 2022 death in custody of a young woman who was arrested by Islamic "morality police" for a dress-code violation, the supreme leader publicly blamed the United States and Israel and backed a deadly crackdown. How, he wondered, could some people "not see the foreign hand" behind the "rioting."

With his bushy white beard and easy smile, Ayatollah Khamenei cut a more avuncular figure in public than his perpetually scowling but much more revered mentor, and he was known to be fond of Persian poetry and classic Western novels, especially Victor Hugo's "Les Misérables." But like the uncompromising Khomeini, he opposed moderates' efforts to promote political and social reforms domestically and to secure rapprochement with the United States.

Some Iranians who knew Ayatollah Khamenei before he became supreme leader described him as a "closet moderate," Karim Sadjadpour, a leading researcher on Iran with the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, wrote in a 2008 study. Others, however, took him at face value, Sadjadpour said: "a deeply religious, ideologically rigid, anti-American cleric whose politics are stuck in the anti-imperialist euphoria of the 1979 revolution."

In the third decade of his rule, Iran became increasingly repressive, especially after security forces crushed demonstrations against the disputed 2009 reelection of President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad.

Ayatollah Khamenei's image as "an impartial and magnanimous guide" unraveled, exposing him as "a petty, partisan autocrat" dependent far more on his intelligence, security and military apparatus than on the Muslim clergy, Sadjadpour wrote.

AFP/GETTY IMAGES

Ali Khamenei, center, is invested as president of Iran by Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, right, in 1981. Khomeini was succeeded as supreme leader by Khamenei in 1989.

KHAMENEI.IR/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

Ayatollah Khamenei waves to supporters in Kermanshah in 2011 in this government-distributed image.

Ayatollah Khamenei first came to prominence as a strong supporter of the militants who seized the U.S. Embassy in Tehran in November 1979 and held 52 Americans hostage for more than 14 months. He was seriously injured in a 1981 assassination attempt but went on to win the first of two terms as Iran's president less than four months later, becoming the first cleric to hold that post.

Ayatollah Khamenei embraced nuclear energy while insisting that Iran would not seek nuclear weapons, which he declared to be forbidden by Islam. But he adamantly refused to give up Iran's uranium-enrichment program, which he regarded as a hallmark of scientific prowess, independence and national pride.

As supreme leader of Iran, Ayatollah Khamenei oversaw the country's armed forces, internal security apparatus, judiciary, state media and foreign policy.

The July 2015 nuclear accord allowed Iran to continue enriching uranium, but at a sharply reduced level.

Arrests, torture under the shah

Ali Khamenei was born July 17, 1939, in the northeastern Iranian city of Mashhad, where his father was a Shiite cleric of humble means. He was the second of eight children, and he and his family "had a difficult life," sometimes with little to eat but bread and raisins, he said in a biography published on his website.

He was sent to Islamic schools from an early age, and in his late teens, he briefly studied in Najaf, a Shiite shrine city and center of learning in neighboring Iraq. He then went to the Shiite holy city of Qom, about 90 miles south of Tehran, where he studied for six years under Khomeini. But he had to cut short his training at Qom's renowned Islamic seminary in 1964 to return to Mashhad to care for his ailing father, a decision he later said accounted for his failure to attain the highest credentials of Islamic scholarship.

He did, however, learn Arabic, becoming proficient enough to translate several Arabic books into Farsi over the years. They included works of the Egyptian Islamist Sayyid Qutb, an intensely anti-American theorist of Islamic holy war whose writings have also influenced leaders of al-Qaeda.

In the spring of 1963, Khomeini ignited protests against Mohammad Reza Pahlavi, the U.S.-backed shah, that were violently put down by security forces. Ayatollah Khamenei was arrested by the shah's secret police, known as SAVAK, and "spent 10 days under severe torture," according to his official biography. In late 1964, his mentor Khomeini was expelled from Iran and spent more than 14 years in exile, most of it in Najaf.

Between 1963 and 1976, Ayatollah Khamenei was arrested seven times and spent a total of three years in prison before being sentenced to a sort of internal exile in Iranshahr in the far southeastern corner of the country.

With the Islamic revolution underway, he returned to Mashhad and took part in street battles that preceded the shah's departure into exile on Jan. 16, 1979, and Khomeini's triumphant return to Tehran on Feb. 1. Khomeini named Ayatollah Khamenei to a newly formed Islamic Revolutionary Council, a shadowy group that was instrumental in running the country after the last vestiges of the shah's regime collapsed on Feb. 11, 1979.

Then a mid-level Shiite cleric, Ayatollah Khamenei won a seat in the Iranian parliament in 1980 as a member of the Islamic Republican Party, which he helped found, and was appointed by Khomeini to the key post of Friday prayers leader in the capital.

He delivered weekly sermons before large crowds, usually with a rifle in his hands, and built a following as he used his oratorical skills to rail against the Islamic revolution's perceived enemies, notably the United States, "the Great Satan."

During this period, he also served briefly as a deputy defense minister and supervisor of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, a military force fiercely loyal to the supreme leader.

Ayatollah Khamenei narrowly escaped death in June 1981 when a bomb concealed in a tape recorder exploded next to him as he addressed a crowd at a Tehran mosque. Severely injured, he lost the use of his right arm and suffered damage to his vocal cords. The assassination attempt was blamed on the Mujahideen-e Khalq, an Iranian militant group that killed President Mohammed Ali Rajai and four other top officials in another bombing two months later.

Path to the presidency

The ruling party then prevailed on Ayatollah Khamenei to run for president in an October 1981 special election, which he won in a landslide with 95 percent of the vote. He declared in his inaugural address that his victory represented a vote for Islam, for the clergy, for independence and "for stamping out deviation, liberalism and American-influenced leftists."

As president — he was reelected in November 1985 — Ayatollah Khamenei helped guide the country through the brutal Iran-Iraq war of the 1980s. He traveled abroad during that period, flying to Syria to sign a secret economic and military pact, embarking on a six-nation tour of Africa, addressing the U.N. General Assembly in New York and visiting North Korea.

He upset his hosts during a visit to Zimbabwe when he refused to attend a state banquet in his honor because women were at the head table and wine was being served.

Shortly before Khomeini died in June 1989 at age 86 of complications from intestinal surgery, a

CONTINUED ON **A13**

KHAMENEI.IR/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

Ayatollah Khamenei attends a graduation ceremony for armed forces cadets in 2022.

AYATOLLAH ALI KHAMENEI 1939-2026

FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

falling-out with the supreme leader's designated successor, Grand Ayatollah Hossein Ali Montazeri, came to a head. (Montazeri, who died in 2009, infuriated Khomeini by denouncing the mass execution of political prisoners, calling for "political and ideological reconstruction" and criticizing a Khomeini edict that ordered Muslims to kill author Salman Rushdie for blasphemy.) As a result, Khomeini had the 1979 constitution revised so that a cleric with lower religious credentials could succeed him.

Instead of requiring that the supreme leader be a "marja-e taqlid," or "source of emulation," a theological rank associated with grand ayatollahs in Shiite Islam, the revised charter said only that he must be an expert in Islamic jurisprudence and possess "the appropriate political and managerial skills."

That opened the door for Ayatollah Khamenei, who was suddenly elevated to ayatollah from the mid-level "hojatoleslam" rank he held during his presidency. The day after Khomeini's death, Iran's Assembly of Experts, made up of Islamic scholars, elected Ayatollah Khamenei as supreme leader, making him the nation's preeminent religious and political authority.

In his first speech in the post, he struck a self-deprecatory tone, calling himself a man "with many faults and shortcomings and truly a minor seminarian." He said later in his biography that he accepted the position reluctantly.

"I always considered my level too low to accept not only this highly significant and crucial post but also much lower posts like the presidency," Ayatollah Khamenei said. "Even now, I consider myself as a common religious student without any outstanding feature or special advantage."

ISNA/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

Ayatollah Khamenei, seen in 2007, was the driving force behind Tehran's defiance of demands that it halt its enrichment of uranium.

A conspiracy-ridden worldview

As supreme leader, Ayatollah Khamenei was responsible for appointing the commanders of the armed forces, including the powerful Revolutionary Guard Corps, as well as the nation's supreme judicial authority, the director of the state radio and television network, prayer leaders in Iranian cities and — directly and indirectly — the 12 members of the Guardian Council, a top supervisory body that vets candidates for public office and approves legislation.

In international affairs, Ayatollah Khamenei was the driving force behind Tehran's defiance of demands by major world powers that it halt its uranium-enrichment program. The government insisted that the program's purpose was only to supply fuel for nuclear power plants and a medical research reactor. But the United States and its allies suspected that it was secretly intended to provide an option to produce fissile material for nuclear weapons.

The dispute epitomized Ayatollah Khamenei's grievances against the United States and his conspiracy-ridden worldview in which concerns about nuclear proliferation were merely a "pretext" to prevent Iran from achieving scientific advances and real energy independence.

In the hands of Western countries, "knowledge has turned into a means for bullying," Ayatollah Khamenei told a gathering of Iranian nuclear scientists in February 2012. "They know that we are not after nuclear weapons. ... They know this, but they stress the issue in order to stop our movement."

He maintained that stand after the nuclear agreement was announced, dismissing U.S. assertions that the deal — rather than his own policies — blocked Iran's path to nuclear arms.

"Years ago, we issued a fatwa, based on Islamic teachings, forbidding the production of nuclear weapons," Ayatollah Khamenei said in a July 18, 2015, sermon. But Americans "keep lying in their propaganda ... and claim that their threat has blocked the production of [a] nuclear weapon by Iran."

In the same speech, Ayatollah Khamenei said Iran would never stop supporting its allies in the Middle East, including groups labeled terrorists by Washington. He also vowed there would be "no negotiations with America," apart from the nuclear talks. And he blamed the United States for Sunni-Shiite divisions in the Islamic world, saying that it had "launched such criminal organizations as al-Qaeda and Daesh [the Arabic acronym for the Islamic State, or ISIS] in order to deflect the attention of Islamic nations from the Zionist regime."

Although implacably hostile to Israel, which he repeatedly described as a "cancerous tumor" in the Middle East, Ayatollah Khamenei insisted that Iran did not seek to destroy the Jewish state militarily, much less annihilate it with a nuclear weapon. Rather, he said, Iran sought the dissolution of Israel and its replacement by a Palestinian state through a "popular referendum."

But under his leadership, Iran stepped up support for the radical Shiite Hezbollah militia in Lebanon and the Palestinian Islamist group Hamas in the Gaza Strip, apparently in hopes of eventually fomenting a popular uprising that would lead to the collapse of the Israeli government in much the same way that the shah's regime had crumbled in 1979.

Ayatollah Khamenei shunned foreign travel as supreme leader, declined to meet with representatives of Western powers and rarely passed up an opportunity to express his contempt for the United States, which he routinely described as "the global arrogance" and "the devil incarnate."

In an October 2008 speech to students, he declared that "the Iranian people's hatred for America is profound," ascribing this hostility to "the various plots that the U.S. government has concocted against Iran and the Iranian people in the past 50 years." He further warned that "anyone who wished to trample the identity and independence of the Iranian nation would have his hand cut off by it."

He rebuffed overtures from President Barack Obama, including at least two private letters, and he rejected any bilateral negotiations while the United States was "holding a gun" to Iran's head.

On the domestic front, Khamenei intervened decisively in the dispute over the 2009 reelection of Ahmadinejad, rejecting opposition candidates' charges of massive electoral fraud, banning protests and resisting calls for a more open society.

When Hassan Rouhani, a relatively moderate Shiite cleric, was elected president in 2013, Ayatollah Khamenei backed his efforts to revive the Iranian economy by negotiating an end to nuclear-related sanctions, even as he sought to assuage skeptical hard-liners. The July 2014 arrest of Washington Post correspondent Jason Rezaian and his subsequent trial on espionage charges reportedly reflected those internal rivalries. Rezaian was freed 18 months later as part of a prisoner deal linked to the Iran nuclear agreement.

Ayatollah Khamenei had six children with his wife, Khojasteh, whom he wed in an arranged marriage in 1964, when she was 17. Information on survivors was not immediately available, but their son Mojtaba, a hard-line cleric who was born in 1969, was said to play a key role in the Basij, a paramilitary force loyal to the supreme leader that has been used to quell protests.

The ayatollah's siblings included an estranged younger brother, Hadi Khamenei, a reformist cleric who ran afoul of the establishment. He was brutally beaten by Basij members in 1999 after giving a sermon criticizing the supreme leader's powers.

Watchdog: Journalists slain at record level in '25; most were killed by Israel

BY LIAM SCOTT

SPENCER PLATT/GETTY IMAGES

Members of the media and others gather for a 2023 vigil in Lower Manhattan that honored journalists who were killed on the job.

Last year was the deadliest on record for journalists. For the third year in a row, Israel killed more journalists and media workers than any other country amid the war in Gaza, according to a report released Wednesday by the Committee to Protect Journalists.

The report found an increase in the use of drones to kill journalists, with 39 documented cases: 28 by Israel's military in Gaza, five by the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces in Sudan and four by Russia in Ukraine. The CPJ documented just two drone killings in 2023.

Of the 129 journalists killed around the world in 2025, the Israeli military was responsible for 86, about two-thirds of the deaths, the CPJ found. The death toll is the highest since the New York-based press freedom group started tracking the killing of journalists in 1992.

The Israel Defense Forces "strongly rejects the claims" presented in the report, the IDF said in a statement to The Washington Post on Wednesday.

"The IDF does not intentionally harm journalists or their family members, and on the contrary, operates solely against military targets, in accordance with international law, and employs all possible measures to mitigate harm to civilians, including journalists," the statement said. "Any claim of intentional harm to civilians — including family members of journalists due to their professional activity, is completely false."

The second-highest number of killings occurred in Sudan, where nine journalists were killed. Mexico was third with six deaths, followed by Russia with four and the Philippines with three. The Russia tally includes Ukrainian journalists killed by Russian forces in Ukraine.

The Israel-Gaza war is the deadliest conflict on record for journalists, according to the CPJ, with 252 killed as of early January. The CPJ determined that 249 of them were killed by Israel, 209 of whom were Palestinians in Gaza. Hamas killed two Israeli journalists in its Oct. 7, 2023, cross-border attack on Israel.

Israel's offensive in Gaza has killed more than 70,000, the majority of them women and children, according to the Gaza Health Ministry, following the Hamas attack on Israel that killed about 1,200 people Oct. 7, 2023. In the wake of a fragile Israel-Hamas ceasefire brokered by President Donald Trump in October, Israeli strikes in Gaza have continued.

"Attacks on the media are a leading indicator of attacks on other freedoms, and much more needs to be done to prevent these killings and punish the perpetrators," CPJ chief executive Jodie Ginsberg said in a statement. "We are all at risk when journalists are killed for reporting the news."

After an Israeli strike on Nasser hospital in Gaza in August killed journalists Mariam Dagga, Hussam al-Masri, Mohammed Salama, Moaz Abu Taha and Ahmed Abu Aziz — who were all working with prominent news outlets — and prompted calls for accountability from rights groups, the IDF said in a statement that it "regrets any harm to uninvolved individuals and does not target journalists as such."

> *"Attacks on the media are a leading indicator of attacks on other freedoms, and much more needs to be done to prevent these killings."*
>
> **Jodie Ginsberg,** Committee to Protect Journalists chief executive

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said that the attack was a "tragic mishap."

Israel's strikes on Gaza meant Palestinian journalists were covering the same bombardments they were trying to survive. In 2023, 77 journalists were killed in the Israel-Gaza war, 72 of whom were Palestinians killed in Israeli strikes. In 2024, Israel killed 82 journalists in Gaza and three in Lebanon, per the CPJ

Last year, 52 of the 86 journalists killed by Israel were Palestinians in Gaza. The 2025 tally also includes journalists killed by Israel in Iran and Yemen. Meanwhile, one Palestinian journalist was killed by a Palestinian armed group in Gaza in October, by the CPJ's count.

There have been no credible investigations by Israel of these killings since the Israel-Gaza war began with the Hamas attack on Oct. 7, 2023, said Sara Qudah, the CPJ's Middle East and North Africa regional director.

Israel said it opened an inquiry into the strikes on Nasser hospital. It also said it was reviewing a 2023 Israeli attack in Lebanon that killed a Reuters journalist and injured other reporters, including an American, but U.S. lawmakers said in December that Israel has not held the perpetrators accountable.

"Impunity is becoming a pattern and a norm," Qudah told The Post. "Israel is able to target and kill journalists with full impunity, with no investigation and no accountability."

Israel has levied claims, without providing substantial evidence, that some of the journalists it killed were legitimate targets due to accusations that they were working with Hamas, which their outlets have denied. Some journalists were killed in the course of their lives in a war zone, with no sign of targeting. The press freedom group said Israel was undertaking the most "deliberate effort to kill and silence journalists that CPJ has ever documented."

Qudah said she hoped the International Criminal Court would investigate the killings. "Those who killed these journalists and those who ordered the killings of these journalists should be held accountable and prosecuted," she said.

The CPJ includes the killing of a journalist in the index if evidence such as interviews with witnesses or verified footage shows they were killed in the line of work — either accidentally in a conflict zone or on a dangerous assignment, or deliberately because of their reporting. The press freedom group determined that 47 of the journalists killed last year were deliberately killed for their work. Under international humanitarian law, journalists are considered civilians and should not be targeted.

The index includes reporters who gather the news and media workers such as interpreters, drivers and fixers.

The killing of journalists in Mexico and the Philippines underscores systemic safety risks facing reporters in both countries, according to the CPJ: At least one journalist has been killed in Mexico every year for the past decade.

But more than 75 percent of all journalists slain in 2025 were killed in conflict settings, including Gaza, along with Sudan and Ukraine.

Killings have continued into 2026. In January, the Israeli military struck and killed three journalists, including a CBS News contributor, as they traveled in their car south of Gaza City, rescue officials and local reporters told The Post last month.

The IDF said in a statement that its troops had identified "several suspects who operated a drone affiliated with Hamas in the central Gaza Strip, in a manner that posed a threat to their safety." The statement did not clarify how the IDF drew the connection to Hamas, or whether it had identified the targets as journalists.

Lior Soroka contributed to this report.

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BBB ACCREDITED BUSINESS

SUNDAY OPINION

MARIO TAMA/GETTY IMAGES

Members of the Iranian community and supporters in Los Angeles celebrate on Saturday after the U.S. and Israeli attack on Iran began.

Thanks to President Trump, the hour of Iran's freedom is at hand

BY REZA PAHLAVI

Early Saturday morning, U.S. and Israeli forces launched Operation Epic Fury against the regime in Iran. Its leader, Ali Khamenei, was killed, according to the U.S. and Israeli governments. In announcing the strikes, President Donald Trump laid out the grave threats the world's foremost sponsor of terrorism poses to the United States and its allies. He also addressed the Iranian people — the regime's longest-suffering victims — declaring that "the hour of your freedom is at hand."

Mr. President: Thank you. Those words gave the Iranian people strength, and I am certain they will meet this moment.

For nearly half a century, the Islamic Republic has not behaved as a state among states. Instead, it has operated as an expansionist revolutionary enterprise, subverting neighbors' sovereignty, fueling conflicts around the world, and pursuing nuclear weapons and the long-range missiles to deliver them.

The same apocalyptic regime that has oppressed my compatriots since 1979 has also institutionalized a policy of "Death to America." As President Trump rightly noted, the mullahs came to power by storming the U.S. Embassy in Tehran and holding Americans hostage for 444 days.

In the decades since, the regime has continued its campaign against the United States and the free world. The regime's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps is responsible for the deaths of 1,000 or more Americans, including at least 603 U.S. service members through Iranian-supplied roadside bombs.

Beginning in his first term, President Trump responded with moral clarity and decisive action. He withdrew from the irresponsible nuclear deal with Iran, the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action; imposed a sweeping maximum-pressure campaign; and designated the IRGC as a foreign terrorist organization. In 2020, he eliminated Qasem Soleimani, one of the regime's top generals and its chief terrorist.

Yet the Islamic Republic's most heinous crimes have been committed not abroad, but at home.

In January, as millions of Iranians took to the streets demanding freedom, the regime reportedly massacred more than 30,000 of them in just a matter of days. These are not the actions of a legitimate government but an occupying force. Indeed, the struggle in my country today is between occupation and liberation.

For years, my compatriots have called on the free world to stand with them. Now President Trump has answered their call. The Iranian people know they are not alone.

But even with U.S. and Israeli assistance, the final victory will be forged by the Iranian people. They are the boots on the ground. And now, as the regime's machinery of repression is dismantled, the balance of power is finally shifting, giving Iranians the chance to reclaim their destiny.

A free Iran will resume, after decades, its formerly warm ties with the United States. The rebirth of our nation will usher in an era of peace and prosperity, with energy reserves, an educated and entrepreneurial population, and geography that make it a natural hub of regional commerce.

Iran is not Iraq. We will not repeat the mistakes that followed that conflict. There will be no dissolution of institutions, no power vacuum, no chaos. That is precisely why my team of experts produced a transition plan called the Iran Prosperity Project.

This detailed road map for national recovery, including the first 100 days after the regime's collapse and the longer-term reconstruction and stabilization of our country, is backed by many business leaders around the world. The Post's David Ignatius has called the IPP "smarter than anything the U.S. government or Iraqi exiles produced before the 2003 invasion."

Iran's democratic opposition groups — monarchists and republicans, secular and religious minorities, leftists, liberals, and every ethnicity — are united on four foundational principles: Iran's territorial integrity; individual liberties and equality of all citizens; separation of religion and state; and the Iranian people's right to decide a democratic form of government.

Many Iranians, often despite facing bullets, have called on me to lead this transition. I am in awe of their courage, and I have answered their call. Our path forward will be transparent: a new constitution drafted and ratified by referendum, followed by free elections under international oversight. When Iranians vote, the transitional government dissolves.

A democratic Iran would transform the Middle East, turning one of the world's most persistent sources of upheaval into a pillar of regional stability. President Trump's historic Abraham Accords proved that peace between long-standing adversaries is possible when the right conditions exist. A free Iran would extend that breakthrough by immediately recognizing Israel and pursuing a broader regional peace framework linking Iran, Israel and our Arab neighbors in cooperation rather than conflict.

I suggest calling the agreement the Cyrus Accords, for Cyrus the Great, the benevolent ancient Persian ruler whom Thomas Jefferson cited as an inspiration. Such an agreement would replace the regime's ideology of hostility with a foundation for peace.

Unlike the Iranian regime's hatred for America, the people of Iran love America. They are grateful to this exceptional nation for giving my nation a chance at freedom. President Trump and many U.S. lawmakers have expressed solidarity with the Iranian people. For that support, we are deeply grateful.

As our liberation nears, we ask our American friends and the international community to continue standing by our side and to be prepared to recognize a legitimate transitional government when that moment arrives.

History rarely announces its turning points in advance. But moments do come when courage, leadership and solidarity can change the course of nations.

When the Iranian people succeed in reclaiming their freedom in the days ahead, President Trump will be remembered as a leader who stood with them when it mattered most.

God bless America. Long live Iran.

Reza Pahlavi is a leader of the Iranian democratic opposition. He is the eldest son of Mohammad Reza Pahlavi, the last shah of Iran.

The 'God Gap' in politics is a symptom of a deeper problem

BY RYAN BURGE

/THE WASHINGTON POST

One of the defining features of American religion and politics is the "God Gap." This is the idea that Republicans depend on the votes of Christians (particularly White Christians), while Democrats rely on the growing share of Americans who claim no religious affiliation. The data from the 2024 presidential election makes the difference clear.

Among Trump voters, 71 percent were Christians and about 60 percent were White Christians. Meanwhile, supporters of Kamala Harris were almost evenly split between Christians and the nonreligious (42 percent versus 45 percent). When the average American thinks about the political leanings of the average Christian, it's more than likely that they conjure up a Trump supporter.

But as someone who has studied American religion and politics through hundreds of surveys and thousands of data visualizations over the past decade, I must remind people of a simple fact: It hasn't always been this way.

In the early 1970s, a majority of White evangelicals identified as Democrats, and even through the early 1990s, an attendee of a White evangelical church was just as likely to be a Democrat as a Republican. Though about two-thirds of White Catholics were Republican voters in the 2024 presidential election, they were a core part of John F. Kennedy's election in 1960.

In fact, just a few decades ago the most prominent religious group in America was not evangelicals or Roman Catholics. Instead, it was the Protestant mainline, a collection of denominations that defined the center of American political, religious, and cultural life. In the 1950s, America was home to nearly 10 million Methodists. The Episcopal Church could claim nearly a third of all U.S. presidents to that point. Along with the Methodists and Episcopalians, other mainline bodies such as the Presbyterians and the United Church of Christ served as the moral core of American life. These traditions taught religious pluralism, political tolerance, individual rights, and civic engagement. They were a refuge not just for theological doubters but also ideological moderates.

But in an America that always wants to code institutions and individuals as "left" or "right," the mainline refusal to be pushed into one political corner may have led to its ultimate demise. In 1975, 30 percent of all American adults were mainliners. Today that figure stands at just 8.5 percent and will quickly slide to 5 percent as the baby boomers in the pews depart.

I saw this happen not just in the line graphs and bar charts that I make as part of my work as a social scientist but also in my other career as a part-time pastor in the American Baptist Church. When I took over the pulpit in 2006 of First Baptist Church in Mount Vernon, Illinois, there were 50 souls on a good Sunday. This church boasted an average attendance of nearly 300 when the new building was consecrated on the edge of town in the mid-1950s. As I saw the survey data point to a tradition that was fading, I also saw my pews getting emptier every single year. I was doing a lot more funerals than I was baptisms.

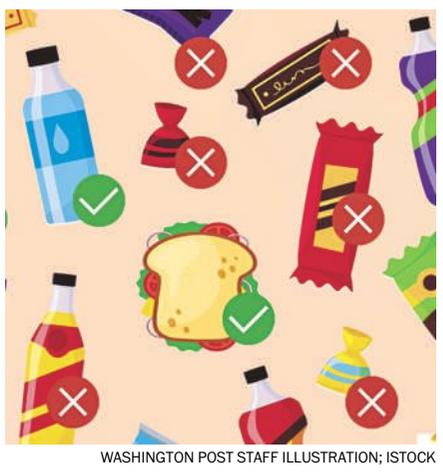
In July 2024, that church — a typical mainline congregation — closed its doors for the final time, and I preached the last sermon in the 156-year history of First Baptist. And I know for certain that more churches will close in the next few years. In fact, it's highly likely that hundreds, if not thousands, will share our fate in the decades to come.

But what is lost when a church like mine is no longer a part of the community? One frequently overlooked aspect of the mainline has always been its ideological diversity. While evangelicals and Catholics have swung to the right in the past few years, mainline congregants have always averaged out to moderate on the ideological spectrum. These are congregations where people learned key civic skills that helped them navigate the larger democracy — including how to disagree politely and how to take responsibility for the broader community.

In a political climate that shuns compromise, we need the mainline more than ever. But unfortunately, this once-proud tradition is a shadow of its former self. And now we are left with right-wing evangelicals and left-wing atheists yelling at each other from the edges of the American religious landscape with little left between. The decline of moderate congregations is not only hurting American religion; it's also hurting American democracy.

Ryan Burge is a professor of practice at the John C. Danforth Center at Washington University in St. Louis and the author of "The Vanishing Church."

A bipartisan win against the No. 1 food stamp purchase



WASHINGTON POST STAFF ILLUSTRATION; ISTOCK

BY PAIGE TERRYBERRY

President Donald Trump, bipartisan unifier? The idea may seem far-fetched, but one of his least discussed yet arguably most important reforms is finding support across the political spectrum.

The action is simple: The administration is finally allowing states to restrict the purchase of soda, sugary snacks and other junk food with the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), more commonly known as food stamps.

A handful of states — Republican- and Democrat-led alike — have wanted to do this for decades. But they needed a waiver from the Agriculture Department, which runs the food stamp program at the national level, and previous administrations refused.

Early last year, that changed. The Trump White House announced that states could put health first, and as I show in a new paper, 30 states and counting are doing just that. They range from Hawaii to Connecticut, Colorado to Wisconsin, and Florida to Texas to name a few. Eighteen have already received federal approval, and at least 12 more have told the administration they'll submit a waiver. Nearly 18 million Americans are on food stamps in these states combined, and they'll all find it more difficult to make unhealthy choices.

The food stamp program may have the word "nutrition" in its formal name, but in practice, it's a dead letter. All told, nearly $1 in every $4 of food stamps pays for sugary drinks, candy or snacks — about $25 billion every year. Soda is actually the No. 1 item bought with food stamps, and taxpayers in 2023 were projected to spend more than $60 billion on those sugary drinks over the next decade.

These foods are proven to contribute to obesity — one of the leading predictors of major health problems in children and adults alike. They increase the likelihood of everything from diabetes to heart disease to a slew of other chronic conditions. Sure enough, research shows that adults on food stamps have a higher obesity rate than their peers. Kids on food stamps have elevated disease risk, too. They also drink 43 percent more sugary beverages than kids who aren't on food stamps.

No wonder 30 states are working to limit junk food. They don't want to fund people's descent into sickness and even death. Just the opposite: They want to help lower-income people make healthier choices that lead to longer, happier lives.

The health benefits are justification enough for this reform. But so are the benefits for health care spending. Seventy-eight percent of food-stamp recipients are also on Medicaid, which means taxpayers are picking up the tab for their obesity-related treatments. Government-run health care programs already spend at least $60 billion a year dealing with obesity and its health complications. Yet as more people eat healthier, they'll probably need less taxpayer-funded health care. That makes this reform a true win-win, improving both public health and the public treasury.

Still, this reform is not without its critics. On both sides of the aisle, there are concerns that the federal government is unfairly restricting individual freedom, and others worry that the way these reforms are implemented can be contradictory.

But that doesn't mean the policy itself is wrong. States are experimenting in different ways to decide what works best for their citizens, reflecting their varying needs and nuances. Putting restrictions on how food stamp dollars can be spent is hardly an imposition on individual freedom, rather, it is an exercise in good stewardship of taxpayer funds. Since food stamps are funded by taxpayers, policymakers have a duty to ensure the money is well spent, especially since unhealthy purchases can theoretically lead to higher Medicaid spending. The old system contributed to not just one but two crises. The government has a duty to correct those wrongs.

Thirty states and counting are doing exactly that. They deserve praise for bringing nutrition back to food stamps, and the Trump administration deserves praise for letting them. Lawmakers are working together to protect taxpayers and make America healthy again. That's a bipartisan achievement worth celebrating.

Paige Terryberry is a senior research fellow at the Foundation for Government Accountability.

OPINION

The Washington Post
AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

EDITORIALS

Trump's Iran gamble

THE UNITED STATES and Israel began a broad and sustained bombing campaign against the Islamic Republic of Iran on Saturday morning. No one knows how this will end, which means the onus is on President Donald Trump to better convey his plans to the nation.

On Jan. 2, Trump said the United States was "locked and loaded" to come to the "rescue" if the Iranian regime reacted to widespread protests lethally. The security services responded by slaughtering perhaps tens of thousands of their own citizens. American and Iranian representatives negotiated for weeks while the U.S. amassed firepower in the Middle East.

On Saturday morning, Trump called Operation Epic Fury a "war" and said the goal was toppling the regime that has controlled Iran since 1979 to usher in "freedom for the people." The president said later in the day that Ali Khamenei, the country's supreme leader since 1989, was killed at his compound in Tehran and that the strikes will continue "as long as necessary to achieve our objective."

It's jarring to hear a clear call for democracy in Iran from an American president who campaigned on preventing open-ended conflicts in the Middle East. Success will likely require more than a bombing campaign.

For a generation, Iran has been the world's biggest state sponsor of terrorism, backing Hamas, Hezbollah, the Houthis and other proxies as they wreaked havoc and killed Americans. The Islamic Republic looks more vulnerable than ever to toppling.

> IT'S TOO EARLY TO CALL THE RISKIEST FOREIGN POLICY DECISION OF THIS TERM A FAILURE OR SUCCESS.

And the U.S. is not going it alone: In addition to Israel's backing, Saudi Arabia condemned Iranian retaliation. Even Canada expressed support, despite Prime Minister Mark Carney's recent feud with Trump. Calls for more negotiations from European countries only underscored their irrelevance.

Iran cannot be allowed to develop a nuclear weapon. Trump insisted that last summer's bunker-buster bombs totally "obliterated" Iran's enrichment program, but now he says it needs to be "totally, again, obliterated." It's always been clear he was exaggerating the success of Operation Midnight Hammer, and Iran has remained unwilling to give up its goal of proliferation. The danger of lobbing some bombs without seeing this through is that Iran's leaders could become more determined than ever to get a bomb to deter future strikes.

The more immediate fear should be what happens to U.S. troops throughout the region. Iran promised "crushing" retaliation as it fired missiles at Israel and at least seven Arab states, striking a U.S. Navy headquarters in Bahrain. Trump acknowledged in announcing the commencement of operations that American forces "may have casualties." Despite the biggest buildup of forces in the Middle East since the Iraq War, it's not clear the U.S. has sufficient stocks of missiles and defensive interceptors to sustain a prolonged air campaign.

It's essential to think through the endgame when deciding to kill the leaders of another country. Trump urged civilians to "take over" the government after the airstrikes finish. "It will be yours to take," he said. "This will be probably your only chance for generations." If only it was that easy.

It's possible a military junta gains control and intensifies repression. It's also possible that a country of 93 million, more than twice the geographic size of Texas, splinters along ethnic lines. That could mean civil war and instability that leads to the intervention of neighboring armies.

It's hard to see how "freedom for the people" can be accomplished in any meaningful sense without some U.S. boots on the ground, at least for a time. Yet Trump appears to lack any appetite for doing so. That might give pause to civilians trying to decide whether to risk their lives by rising up.

Whether Trump has made the right call will hinge on factors now beyond his control. No president has ever intended to get drawn into a quagmire.

The Constitution gives Congress the power to declare war. Short of that, the War Powers Act ensures the legislative branch will get a say on this war of choice. It's essential that the people's elected representatives get to vote on whether these strikes are justified. A comprehensive case has yet to be made, and better late than never.

A win for 11.9 million workers

THE LABOR DEPARTMENT published a rule Friday that would undo egregious attempts during the last administration to classify more workers as employees rather than independent contractors.

At the behest of union bosses seeking to expand their rolls of dues-paying members, President Joe Biden restricted who could be an independent contractor, even though he lacked the votes in the Democratic-controlled Congress to change the law.

The Trump administration announced last year that it would no longer enforce that rule while it drafted a replacement. The new version largely restores the status quo ante for independent contractors while giving employers greater certainty when classifying workers.

This battle centers on the definition of "employee," which believe it or not is unclear in labor law. It has been defined by decades of court decisions and has resulted in the United States having a large class of workers who are not traditional employees.

Independent contractors lack some protections that U.S. labor law requires be granted to employees, and many don't have access to employer-sponsored benefits. They also don't have the right to unionize, which is why organized labor is the strongest supporter of reclassifying independent contractors as employees.

But there are big trade-offs. Independent contractors get the flexibility to work wherever they want, set their own hours and choose which projects they want to work on. Being their own boss gives millions of people the freedom to care for their family.

MIKE BLAKE/REUTERS

A construction worker in California.

Advocates for classifying more self-employed workers as employees are generally speaking on behalf of people who don't want their help. Of the estimated 11.9 million Americans for whom independent contract work is their sole or main job, 80 percent prefer it to traditional employment, according to a 2023 survey from the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

"Gig economy" workers, such as Uber or DoorDash drivers, dominate in the public imagination of what an independent contractor looks like. But that's the minority. The industries or occupations in which independent contracting is most common include real estate, construction, arts, design and personal care. If someone does not want to be an independent contractor, there's nothing stopping them from seeking full-time employment.

Bills such as the PRO Act, which would restrict the right to hire independent contractors, have repeatedly failed to pass. But liberal state governments have enacted various restrictions of their own on worker rights. The strictest passed in California in 2019.

After it went into effect, advocates achieved their goal of fewer people working as independent contractors. But there was no corresponding increase in traditional employment. It just led to fewer people working overall.

The new rule from the Trump administration reflects an understanding of the degree to which labor market flexibility is a key ingredient in America's secret sauce. It's simply easier for American workers to find the best job to match their skills than it is for Europeans to do the same. That's largely because bureaucrats have less say in the matter.

Congress would do the economy a favor by codifying the new rule into law so that the next president cannot repeat Biden's mistake.

The FDA shifts the goalposts on rare disease drugs

MARTY MAKARY appeared for Thursday an interview on CNBC to tout efforts under his leadership at the Food and Drug Administration to speed up approvals for treatments of rare diseases. Instead, he wound up tanking the stock of a biotech company struggling to advance a leading-edge gene therapy drug through the agency's bureaucracy.

The episode is a perfect illustration of what's wrong with the FDA. The agency's leaders might say the right things about liberating drug development from red tape. Yet their actions are making it much harder for innovative companies to take advantage of brilliant new biotechnology — even as China invests heavily to surpass America in the field.

Makary was responding to criticism that the FDA's biologics unit, led by the persnickety Vinay Prasad, has in recent months stymied multiple gene therapy drugs. That included UniQure's experimental therapy for Huntington's disease, the first-ever treatment for the debilitating genetic illness.

That drug generated enormous excitement last September when a small trial found it slowed the progression of Huntington's by 75 percent, compared to historical data on the disease. The agency had agreed to that study design in late 2024 as part of its accelerated approval pathway. But it backtracked in November, claiming that the historical data was not adequate as a control group, leaving the application in limbo.

Makary, in the CNBC interview, defended the decision. Though he didn't refer to UniQure by name, he described its study in detail, concluding, "At the end of the randomization period, it found no benefit, and yet, this is one of the drugs that we were pressured to approve." Unsurprisingly, the company's market value immediately dropped more than 30 percent.

It's highly unusual for an FDA commissioner to discuss drugs with pending applications in the media. It also demonstrates how the agency is raising the bar for firms seeking accelerated approval. These are typically drugs for rare diseases that are extremely difficult to study, both logistically (since there are few patients to participate) and ethically (since it would be wrong to withhold potentially lifesaving medication from people).

Yet Prasad and Makary are insisting that these experimental drugs demonstrate their clinical benefit even when that's not what the FDA agreed to at the outset of these studies. The same thing happened to a gene therapy for a rare disease known as Hunter syndrome, which the agency rejected in early February. Ditto for a rare blood cancer treatment, rejected in January.

Makary dismissed concerns that shifting goalposts will undermine innovation, claiming that some in the media have proclaimed a "fatwa" on Prasad. But that will do little to assure biotech companies that new therapies for rare diseases are good investments.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Marching orders for Gen Z

Theodore R. Johnson's Jan. 29 op-ed, "A student asked how to improve government. My reply was disappointing.," was inspired by an email from a high school student from Dallas. Post Opinions asked readers: "What advice would you give young people about improving government?" Here are some of the responses.

My answer comes from experience: The health of any institution, whether a school, workplace or nation, depends on impartiality. When decision-making bends to convenience, hierarchy or pressure, trust collapses. Good government begins with the courage to insist on fairness even when it is uncomfortable.

Gen Z already understands this. We are not afraid to question authority, to challenge systems that fail us or to demand transparency from those in power. That instinct is not disruptive; it's democratic. The future will be shaped by people who refuse to accept "that's just how things are" and instead ask, "Why should it be this way?"

Improving government doesn't require status, wealth or connections. It requires speaking up, participating locally, scrutinizing decisions and refusing to let complexity intimidate us into silence.

Muhibo Abdalla, *Leicester, England*

You can improve government by having an open mind. We have one mouth and two ears for a reason. Present your case in a diplomatic fashion, devoid of emotion. Listen to what the other person says, leaving emotion out of your intake and without interrupting. You may not agree with each other, but you both hear a new perspective. Make every attempt to reach a middle ground or walk away. You most likely will not change the other person's mind, but arguing will get you nowhere.

Norman St. Amour,
Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania

Start on the local level and focus on one topic that you feel is important or simply right. This will form a basis for learning how the government works. If observation and participation lead to broader discussions and organizing, then improving government from the inside is a possibility. As a young person, I attended every city council meeting over four years, talked to countless people and learned how the Virginia Beach government worked and how it interacted with other cities. Through these connections, I volunteered with the city and with groups working on the issues that drove me. All the while, I built up a network that, though it did not lead to me being elected to an office, did help others be elected and improve the trajectory of my city.

The public is hungry for leadership. Folks are busy living their lives but do appreciate and gravitate toward those who step forward and develop the skills to represent them and the common good.

Georgette Constant, *Norfolk*

I would advise young people to spend less time in places like I am (here, writing online versus talking to others in person).

Government's problems cannot be solved with X posts or put-downs or cancellations. Good government involves ideas from many groups getting masticated and digested — a messy process. By contrast, social media has almost ended true public discourse by replacing it with outrage. The majority of us, who for the most part are in the middle, cannot outcompete the platformed yelling that seems to win both local and national elections and hence crystallizes polarization in institutional form. We need less usage of "efficient" computerized systems that supersede face-to-face contact.

Carl Hastings,
Narragansett, Rhode Island

Register to vote today. Bookmark your local government website for election dates. Check the League of Women Voters' website for candidate questionnaires and information on ballot measures.

Vote in the primaries: That's where the real election is in most places. This means voting in the primary for whichever party is favored where you live — even if it's not "your" party. Down the road, don't be afraid of ranked-choice voting or other potential electoral reforms; be afraid of political parties that claim to be your only choice.

If something in your neighborhood or larger community concerns you, reach out to local officials — a librarian, the city transportation office, whoever might be able to answer a question or field a request. Their job is to help your community (not always you, personally, though).

Volunteer somewhere: library, pet shelter, school, a cleanup group, scouting group, church, food pantry or whatever organization is named on a sign for adopting a road. If no one's name is there, maybe put your family, church, business or other group's name there and clean it up once a month.

Anytime someone claims something outrageous or incendiary against another group or idea, do your own research: How often does this come up? How does it affect you and your community? What choices do people have? Who benefits monetarily from the status quo or from changing it? And, crucially: What else might be more important in your life choices and your community than this issue?

Jon Johnson, *McKinney, Texas*

The single most important thing young people can do is what we all can do, this year and every year: vote. Ideally, they would be digging deeper into each candidate and taking the time to become engaged and educated. But as that may sound overwhelming, they could instead simply pay attention to those around them whom they respect and trust. Many of us are unhappy, yet many of us failed to vote. Republicans are working diligently to try to restrict voting rights. There's a very good reason for that.

Elizabeth Sinclair Cady, *Bowie*

Retire, for everyone's sake

According to the Feb. 15 editorial "Dr. Oz has a point about retirement," it would be fine for Americans to postpone retirement. The editorial stated, "Today, 63 percent are in management, professional, sales or office occupations. These are largely not physically taxing jobs, and healthy people can continue to do them into their late 60s with little issue."

The Mayo Clinic appears to disagree. Callie M. Davies, a sports medicine physician there, cautions, "Sitting for most of the workday, an average of eight hours, raises your mortality risk, meaning you have a higher chance of dying earlier than expected." And, the clinic reports, "Studies that combine many research results show that prolonged sitting — more than eight hours a day — is linked to more than double the risk of developing type 2 diabetes." I retired a decade ago at age 58 and am infinitely more physically fit now that I spend up to three hours a day running, walking, doing resistance exercise and taking yoga classes.

Did the Editorial Board consider the retired workers who provide much-needed day care services at no cost for grandchildren? Did it consider the volunteer hours that retired workers donate to their communities?

Sandy Eisen, *Olney*

Did Dr. Oz miss the Feb. 5 report by the Bureau of Labor Statistics that the number of job openings in the U.S. was down by 966,000 over the year? Encouraging people to continue working past retirement age if they do not need the money is a slap in the face to the younger workers who need us old guys to clear out so they can advance — and a slap in the face to us retirees who remain quite functional, thank you very much. I retired at 60 to free up my job slot, but I kept working until I was 75 as a contractor when I had expertise for specific projects, could mentor newer hires and serve as a bit of institutional memory. I recommend it.

Barbara Meierhoefer, *Arlington*

Do you hear the people sing?

The Feb. 11 Style article "When the audience tries to steal the show on Broadway," about a viral incident in which a man confronted a group of fellow audience members during intermission at "Mamma Mia!," asked, "Is it okay to sing along at a Broadway show?"

The answer is easy and unequivocal. No. The performers on stage do not want to hear you sing, and the people sitting next to you do not want to hear you sing. It's a dreadful distraction that can destroy someone else's enjoyment and experience. Save your enthusiasm for the privacy of your home or car.

Melissa Pollak, *Arlington*

The problem isn't confined to singing. Over 50 years ago, I attended Bob Newhart's show in Las Vegas. Before beginning one of his classic routines, he said to the audience, "I've changed some of the lines in this because I get confused watching everyone's lips moving along with me."

Donald A. Tracy, *Bethesda*

Following Neal Katyal's Feb. 25 op-ed, "Tariffs were illegal. Now Trump wants to delay refunds.," **Post Opinions wants to know:** If you run a business, what opportunities did your company lose because capital was redirected to tariffs? Send us your response, and it might be published as a letter to the editor. **wapo.st/tariff_costs**

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OPINION

DAVID IGNATIUS

Will Trump's Iran strikes end the regime — or put more time on the clock?

REUTERS

After an Iranian strike in Manama, Bahrain, on Saturday.

For more than 45 years, U.S. presidents have wanted to destroy the radical, anti-American regime in Tehran. They always concluded that the risks of war were too great — until President Donald Trump's all-out attack with Israel early Saturday.

Trump said Saturday that the massive airstrikes had killed Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei. Few outside Iran will mourn the demise of a man who spent his career shouting: "Death to America!" and "Death to Israel!" And by this limited definition, Trump's decapitation strategy may have worked. But killing Khamenei, who was aging and infirm, isn't the same thing as regime change. If there's a plan for what's next, I haven't heard any U.S. or Israeli official explain it.

Wars always are easier to start than to finish, especially when you've set a political goal of regime change, rather than a clearly defined military objective. President Vladimir Putin thought he would take Kyiv in a week. Israel thought it would throttle Hamas in a few months. But wars to erase a regime don't work like that.

Once a president launches a war, he feels obligated to finish it successfully. "If you're in it, win it," the generals like to say. That's especially true in this case, where the regime is odious and Trump has urged Iranian citizens to risk their lives to topple it. It may be a war of choice for the United States, but that doesn't mean there's an easy exit ramp ahead.

Trump's preference had seemed, until Saturday, what might be called the "Viking way of war," in and out quickly, using speed and surprise to bring a rapid capitulation. But this war escalated in the first few hours, and by Saturday night fires were raging from Iranian counterattacks on Bahrain, Dubai, Abu Dhabi and Israel. Iran has also closed the Strait of Hormuz, choking oil supplies. Somebody should have posted a sign at the White House above a map of Iran: "This isn't Venezuela."

A Bahraini security adviser told me Saturday afternoon that 14 Iranian drones had struck the port facility that's home to the U.S. Fifth Fleet. In videos from the scene, you can hear the eerie mosquito buzz of a Shahed UAV and then see the burst of flame as it hit its target. That kind of attack usually strikes the other side in wars that America fights. The security adviser said that Bahrainis were puzzled why U.S. forces seemed powerless to stop the drones.

Make no mistake: Trump has announced maximalist goals for this operation. His statement released early Saturday morning was Trumpian rhetoric on steroids: "To the members of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard, the armed forces and all of the police, I say tonight that you must lay down your weapons and have complete immunity. Or in the alternative, face certain death. So, lay down your arms."

Trump called on the Iranian people to rise, once again, against a regime that, by Trump's estimate, slaughtered more than 30,000 protesters in January. "For many years, you have asked for America's help. But you never got it. … Now you have a president who is giving you what you want. So let's see how you respond. America is backing you with overwhelming strength and devastating force. … This is the moment for action. Do not let it pass."

Like Trump and so many Americans, I loathe the Iranian regime. It has spread havoc from one end of the Middle East to the other. One day in April 1983, I missed getting hit by an Iranian car bomb at the American Embassy in Beirut by about 35 minutes. The sooner this regime is gone, the better.

But over the years, I've learned not to misjudge the regime's staying power. When I visited Iran in 2008, I was struck by the fact that police required people in automobiles to wear seat belts. On the road from Tehran to Qom, they had radar guns to catch speeders. This regime spreads chaos, but it's careful, too.

Talking to key European allies of the U.S. late Saturday, I heard an intense desire for a quick negotiated settlement to the war. Most of our allies had thought the attack was a bad idea. Britain denied use of a critical refueling facility at the Diego Garcia base in the Indian Ocean. The United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia were worried and wary. Only Israel seemed a passionate advocate. Now that it's happened, these allies will hope Trump quickly gets a settlement he can call a win. They won't want to stay on the firing line.

What worries me most is that the conflict may put more time on the clock of an Iranian regime that was about to expire. The aging supreme leader was unpopular. Iranians had been jockeying for position in the succession process. The one thing that could rehabilitate the hardline clerical team he represents is his martyrdom.

U.S. Central Command tried to emphasize that the United States was focused on military targets. Centcom said its rockets and missiles were seeking to "dismantle the Iranian regime's security apparatus." A Western security official told The Post that strikes on the headquarters of Iran's intelligence service had killed at least four senior commanders. "Everything is falling apart there — we're seeing it, and feeling it," the official said.

It's good news for Iranians if the regime's apparatus of repression is crumbling. But just as Russia can absorb suffering in warfare, martyrdom is a powerful driver in Iran. I recall a reporting visit to the CIA's Iran Operation Center nearly 20 years ago, when the United States had embraced an earlier vision of regime change. On the wall was a poster of the beloved martyr Imam Hussein — a touchstone for IRGC members and a reminder to CIA officers of the passionate commitment of their adversary.

Mark Fowler, a retired CIA officer who worked on Iran for years, messaged me Saturday: "If the United States has learned anything from its past mistakes, it should use these hard-earned lessons by crafting a smart, bold post-war strategy worthy of the Iranian people's sacrifice, one that supports their pursuit of lasting change."

It would be nice to imagine, with Trump, that this will be a short war. But now that the United States has embarked in earnest on a campaign of regime change, we should understand that it's likely to be a protracted conflict, with many dangerous moments ahead.

In a conflict like this, with such big stakes and unknowable risks, Trump has a special responsibility to explain what he's doing to the American people — and ensure that the United States can stay the course. This is the opposite of "one and done." It may be a worthy fight, but it's likely to be an arduous one.

KATHLEEN PARKER

A 1977 double murder is a warning for the Nick Reiner trial

Shortly after Nick Reiner pleaded not guilty Monday to charges that he murdered his parents, filmmaker Rob Reiner and photographer Michele Singer Reiner, Los Angeles County District Attorney Nathan Hochman said he was still considering the death penalty.

"We will be looking at all aggravating and mitigating circumstances," he said, "and we have invited defense counsel to present to us both in writing and orally in a meeting any arguments that they would like to make."

Nick Reiner's two siblings have said they do not want their brother put to death, if he's convicted. Prosecutors in such cases of course work for the government, not for victims' families, for whom the perpetrator's death sentence can be yet another trauma on top of the loss of a loved one.

Consider a decades-old murder case from Columbia, South Carolina, that has recently resurfaced thanks to a victim's sister who, after years of silent suffering, has become an anti-death-penalty activist.

On Oct. 29, 1977, 14-year-old Carlotta Hartness and 17-year-old Tommy Taylor were in the wrong place at the wrong time — parked in a car when three males were on a drug-and-alcohol-fueled mission to "find a girl to rape," as one of the suspects testified in court. Spotting the teenagers, they drove up and shot Tommy dead. Carlotta was kidnapped and taken to a nearby dirt road, where the trio repeatedly raped and tortured the teen before killing her. One of them returned later to mutilate her body. Two were sentenced to death and executed in 1985 and 1986. The third, who testified against the others, was sentenced to life and died in prison.

Carlotta's parents and their son have died, leaving only Sherrerd Hartness, who was 19 when her sister was killed, to remember and tell what happened to her family during that time.

"My family disintegrated after Carlotta's murder," she told me. She has been coping through the decades ever since, with the anguish and physical toll of both her little sister's murder and her family's cloistered silence. Hartness's father ordered the family never to mention Carlotta's name.

That command and decades of isolated suffering led Hartness, now 68, to a surprising conclusion and advice for prosecutors: Don't make it worse for the alleged perpetrator's family by seeking the death penalty. It almost always leads to appeals and forces the victim's family — who are called murder co-victims — to endure the agony of the killing again.

The death penalty "is the last thing that victim family members need," she wrote in an article for the State newspaper in Columbia. "The months prior to the executions of my sister's murderers were filled with relentless news coverage."

Hartness said she still suffers extreme physical pain, diagnosed as fibromyalgia, related to Carlotta's murder. This condition is not uncommon among victims of psychological or emotional trauma. Each time one of Carlotta's killers was executed, aches and muscle cramps gripped Hartness's body, a physical terror connected not only to the deaths but to the suffering of the perpetrators' families.

MARIO TAMA/GETTY IMAGES

Los Angeles County District Attorney Nathan Hochman after Nick Reiner's arraignment on Monday.

For them, she thinks, it may be worse than for some victims' families. Not only do families of death row inmates have to count down the minutes and seconds until their son, brother, uncle or father is executed but they have to walk into school the next day, or church, or work. This realization led Hartness to oppose the death penalty. "I cannot be a part of something that brings suffering to families like my family suffered," she said.

Hartness's empathy has offended some people, she told me, but she doesn't care anymore. "Let them be offended." While many friends celebrated the executions, she said, "no one was celebrating in my house. We had to relive every detail of my sister's rape, torture and murder."

Hartness said no one called to check on her for weeks before or after the executions. (One neighbor brought a loaf of bread.) Loneliness and lack of support were constants in her life, giving her time to think and contemplate vexing questions — how cycles of crime pass through generations, how childhoods of neglect and abuse create people filled with rage and bereft of coping mechanisms. She yearned to help, to stop the cycles, to interrupt the rage, but how?

Then, in 2015, she read a story about gun violence with an accompanying graphic showing murder victims as stick figures that triggered something deep inside her. "Murder victims are not stick figures," she explained, tearing up. "I understand why they were used, but that day was when things really changed for me."

After decades of silence, she found her voice and began talking — on college campuses, on panels and even to garden clubs. The more she talked, the less her body ached. Though sometimes lonely, Hartness is far from alone. The Justice Department's Office for Victims of Crime reported in 2018 that 1 in 10 Americans will lose a loved one to homicide in their lifetime, co-victims whose suffering doesn't end when a murderer's heart stops.

Killing, whether by a renegade trio of rapists or by the government, isn't the answer, it seems. Not even, Hartness would argue, for an alleged murderer such as Nick Reiner. A life sentence spent suffering for his slain parents surely would be a punishment worse than death.

GEORGE F. WILL

What Trump the wheedler misreads about Russia

Donald Trump continues trying to wheedle Vladimir Putin to end his war to extinguish Ukraine's nationhood short of that outcome. Trump's persistence calls to mind the man Gulliver encountered during his travels: He had spent "eight years upon a project for extracting sunbeams out of cucumbers."

The president misunderstands two things. First, the more blood and treasure Putin expends in Ukraine, the more he wants to win in order to redeem his blunder. This war was supposed to prove Russia's might, and that Ukraine is an ersatz nation. Instead, it has revealed the yawning gap between Russia's pretensions and its capabilities, and has created an incandescent Ukrainian nationalism.

Second, the way for the West to economize violence and military expenditures in the long run is not to prepare for future conflicts with a Russia emboldened by success, but to deepen its diminishment by enabling Ukraine to continue bleeding Russia's army and economy.

Trump, having cast his trained eyes on video of a Moscow military parade, reportedly (according to the Financial Times) told aides that the Russian army looked "invincible." Well.

Ian Bremmer, president and founder of Eurasia Group, a political risk consulting firm, writes that in each of the past two months, Russia has suffered 30,000 to 35,000 casualties. In the past two years, Russia has taken 1 percent of Ukrainian territory at a cost of "157 dead per square kilometer." The four-year Russian death toll is probably at least nine times higher than the 36,000 Americans killed in three years in the Korean War.

The Economist says that in less than four years (June 22, 1941, to May 8, 1945), Russia advanced 1,600 kilometers from Moscow to Berlin. In more than four years, Russian forces in Donetsk, the war's principal cauldron, "have advanced just 60km — the distance from Washington to Baltimore." By the end of 2025, Russia was losing more men than it could recruit, relying on money, not patriotism. Signing bonuses — some equal to the lifetime wages of some Russian workers — equal 90 percent of Russia's budget deficit. Prison terms and personal debts are canceled for recruits. Replacing battlefield casualties required up to 90 percent of 2025 recruits as replacements.

Kenya's intelligence agency says more than 1,000 Kenyans, most of them tricked into signing military contracts to fight in Ukraine, have been needed to supplement the "invincible" Russian army. Britain's defense secretary says recruits from India, Pakistan, Nepal, Cuba, Nigeria and Senegal have been "recruited under false pretenses and press-ganged under pressure without necessarily realizing that they're destined for the Russian meat machine on the front line of Ukraine."

At the opening in Pyongyang of what are called "luxury apartment complexes" — think about that — North Korean dictator Kim Jong Un said the grieving families of North Koreans killed fighting for Russia in Ukraine (an estimated one-third of 12,000 sent in 2024) would be given priority access to the apartments. If you believe that …

Presumably, Trump will tell Americans, when he thinks they deserve to know, his war or other plans for improving Iran. Meanwhile, he is supporting the reelection campaign of Europe's most pro-Putin and aggressively anti-Ukraine leader. In mid-February, Secretary of State Marco Rubio was dispatched to Hungary to intervene in that nation's election, on behalf of its authoritarian premier, Viktor Orban. His party at that moment was, according to trusted polls, behind by 10 points. This was so despite Orban's wielding government-controlled media. Rubio told Orban that Trump "is deeply committed to your success" in the April 12 election.

Orban's government has reported a spate of bomb threats (but no bombs) against Hungarian schools and other institutions. The government says the threats are written in Ukrainian, so Ukraine is to blame. If you believe that …

Rubio's grovel was perhaps supposed to bribe Orban to stop blocking European Union financial assistance to Ukraine. The blocking has, however, continued.

A constant of modern Russian history is the systemic stupidity and toadyism that tyranny breeds. In the 1930s, some of Joseph Stalin's censors, who were more zealous than educated, reportedly (writes Stalin's biographer Stephen Kotkin) forbade radio broadcasts of music by Franz Schubert, who died in 1828, for fear he might be a supporter of Stalin's nemesis, Leon Trotsky, who was born in 1879.

Do not expect those who have risen profitably into Putin's orbit to steer their obsessed benefactor toward what Trump's National Security Strategy, published in December, calls "an expeditious cessation of hostilities in Ukraine." One wonders: Expediting what, exactly?

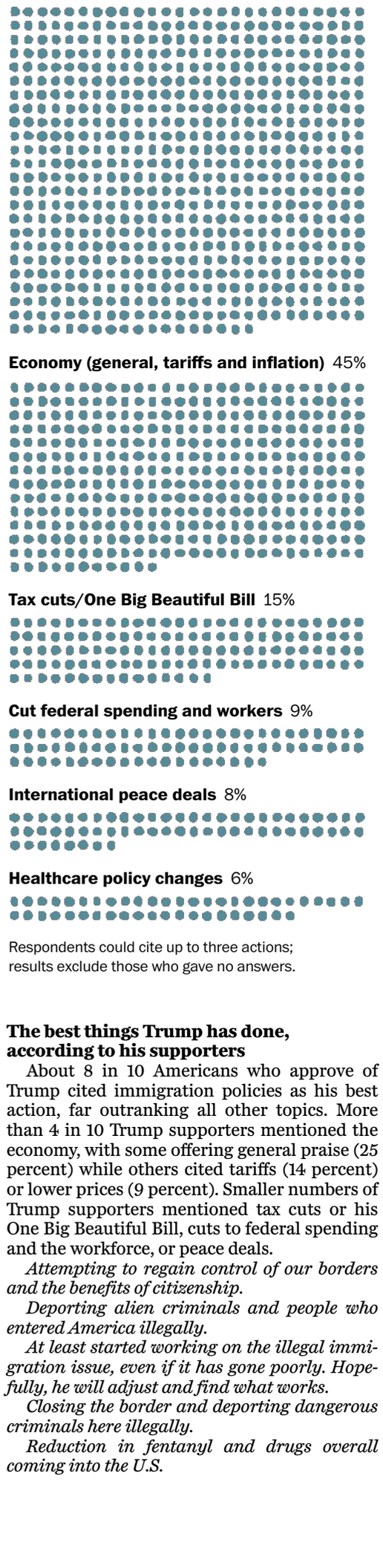
The best and worst of Trump's second term

We asked Americans to tell us which actions the president has taken since returning to office that they most approve and disapprove

BY SCOTT CLEMENT, ERIC LAU AND ISABELLE GIBSON

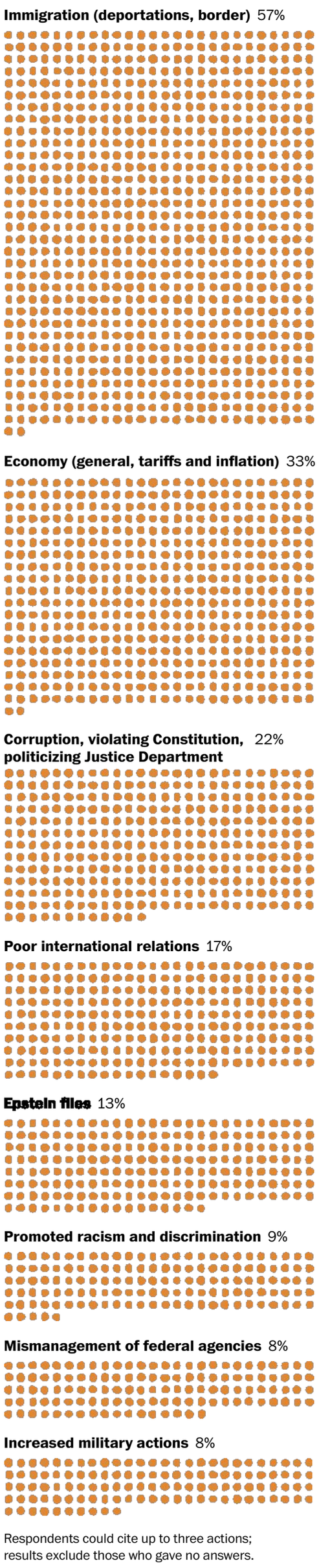
President Donald Trump has taken a torrent of actions in his second term, including issuing more than 220 executive orders, imposing sweeping tariffs, pushing a massive tax and spending bill, and stepping up an immigration crackdown in major cities. It can be difficult to know what things Americans are paying attention to that are potentially shaping their judgment of Trump's job performance. ¶ To figure out which Trump measures stand out to the public, a Washington Post-ABC News-Ipsos poll asked more than 2,300 Americans to name the best and worst things he has done since January 2025. People who support Trump — 39 percent of U.S. adults in the poll approved of his job performance — were asked to describe his best actions, while the 60 percent of Americans who disapproved were asked to name his worst actions. ¶ Here's what Trump's supporters and opponents said. ¶ Participants' answers have been lightly edited for clarity and style.

Share who cited each as one of Trump's best actions in the past year

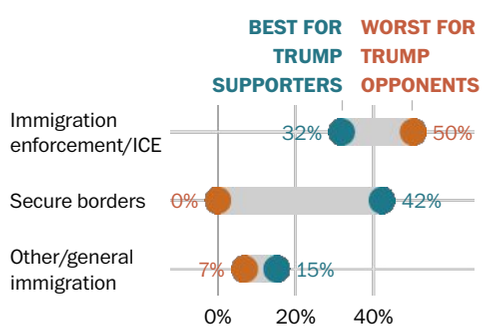


Respondents could cite up to three actions; results exclude those who gave no answers.

Share who cited each as one of Trump's worst actions in the past year



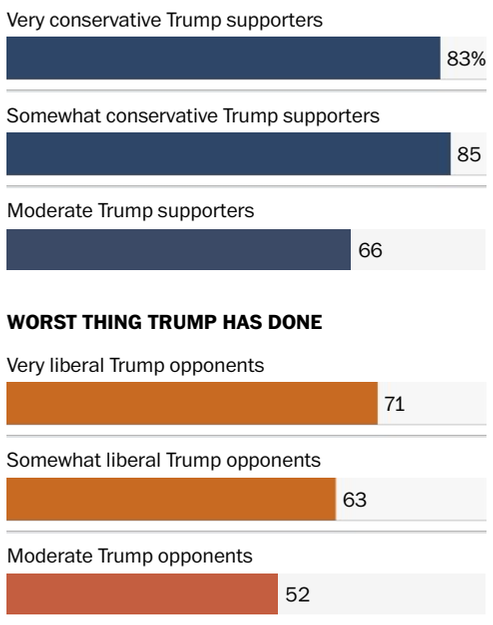
Respondents could cite up to three actions; results exclude those who gave no answers.



Several Trump opponents cited secure borders, but <0.5%

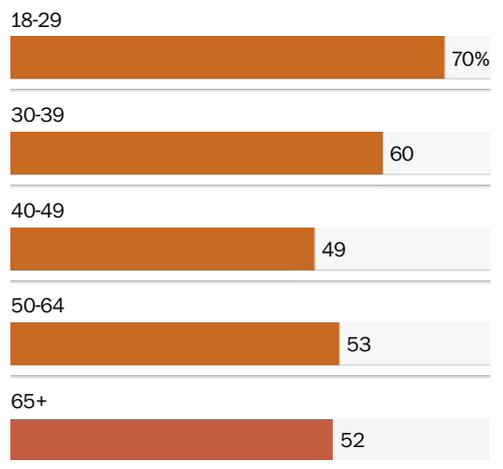
Trump's supporters and opponents focused on different aspects of his immigration policy when describing his best and worst actions. Trump opponents were more likely than his supporters to mention immigration enforcement, 50 percent to 32 percent. Meanwhile, far more Trump supporters mentioned border security, 42 percent, compared with less than 1 percent of opponents.

Immigration is the...



The poll found Americans with clear ideological identities were more focused on Trump's immigration actions. Among supporters, 83 percent who identify as "very conservative" and 85 percent who are "somewhat conservative" mentioned immigration policy as one of the best things he has done, compared with 66 percent of moderate Trump supporters. Similarly, 71 percent of Trump opponents who identify as "very liberal" cited immigration, compared with 63 percent who are somewhat liberal and 52 percent of moderates.

Percentage of **Trump opponents citing immigration** as the worst thing Trump has done, by age group



The survey also found an age gap on immigration among Trump critics. Among those who disapprove of him, 70 percent of those ages 18-29 cited immigration as one of Trump's worst actions, compared with 60 percent of those in their 30s and about half of those 40 and older. Among Trump supporters, younger people were somewhat less likely to cite immigration as one of his best actions.

This pattern aligns with other results from the Post-ABC News-Ipsos poll, which found that younger Americans were more likely than their elders to disapprove of Trump on immigration and his overall job performance. Overall, his approval rating for handling immigration has declined from 50 percent to 40 percent over the past year.

Trump is expected to focus on immigration policies in his State of the Union address Tuesday night. In a sign of his potential focus, on Monday he attended a vigil at the White House that spotlighted victims of crimes committed by undocumented immigrants.

The best things Trump has done, according to his supporters

About 8 in 10 Americans who approve of Trump cited immigration policies as his best action, far outranking all other topics. More than 4 in 10 Trump supporters mentioned the economy, with some offering general praise (25 percent) while others cited tariffs (14 percent) or lower prices (9 percent). Smaller numbers of Trump supporters mentioned tax cuts or his One Big Beautiful Bill, cuts to federal spending and the workforce, or peace deals.

Attempting to regain control of our borders and the benefits of citizenship.

Deporting alien criminals and people who entered America illegally.

At least started working on the illegal immigration issue, even if it has gone poorly. Hopefully, he will adjust and find what works.

Closing the border and deporting dangerous criminals here illegally.

Reduction in fentanyl and drugs overall coming into the U.S.

The worst things Trump has done, according to his opponents

A 57 percent majority of Americans who disapprove of Trump cited immigration policies when asked to describe his worst actions as president. The economy ranked second at 33 percent, with the vast majority of those responses citing tariffs specifically (29 percent).

Twenty-two percent of Trump opponents cited corruption, violating the U.S. Constitution or politicizing the Justice Department. Others criticized his handling of international relations, the Epstein files, management of government agencies or the way he has run the U.S. military.

Detaining and deporting immigrants with no criminal background.

Gave ICE all the power they have.

His Gestapo style of deporting illegal immigrants ... even killing at least two U.S. citizens. We are a "nation of immigrants."

Everything with ICE, deporting immigrants, etc.

Enriching himself and his business while doing nothing to help everyday Americans lower daily costs of food, utilities, insurance, etc.

About this story

Analysis by Scott Clement and Isabelle Gibson. Development by Irfan Uraizee and Eric Lau. Design by Shikha Subramaniam. Editing by Maureen Linke and Betty Chavarria. Copy editing by Shibani Shah.

This Washington Post-ABC News-Ipsos poll was conducted Feb. 12-17 among 2,589 U.S. adults, including 2,309 who answered a question asking those who approve of Trump to describe his best actions and those who disapprove to describe his worst actions. The sample was drawn through the Ipsos KnowledgePanel, an ongoing panel of U.S. households recruited by mail using random sampling methods. The error margin is plus or minus 3.4 percentage points among the sample of 887 adults who approve of Trump and answered the question asking them to describe his best policies, while the error margin is 2.7 points among the 1,422 adults who disapproved of Trump and answered the question on his worst policies.

Respondents who approved of disapproved of Trump but skipped the open-ended question were excluded from this analysis. Full methodological information is available on this page.

Open-ended responses were combined and coded by BTInsights, an AI open-end coding software that sorted responses into similar categories. Each response was then reviewed by a Post polling team member to ensure it was accurately categorized, if necessary, recategorized. Category names were also edited after a review of all codes within each group.

SUNDAY BUSINESS

Want to get a seat at the Los Angeles Olympics? It's going to cost you. **B6**

METRO

The Enola Gay co-pilot's journal, which chronicled Hiroshima, is up for sale. **B12**

The Washington Post
SPORTS
SUNDAY, MARCH 1, 2026

ERIC BOLTE/IMAGN IMAGES

Capitals forward Tom Wilson (43) gets tangled up with the Canadiens' Kirby Dach in Saturday's road loss. Washington had won six of its previous seven games.

Cold in Canada

ASSOCIATED PRESS

MONTREAL — Cole Caufield scored two first-period goals to help propel the Montreal Canadiens to a 6-2 win over the Washington Capitals on Saturday night.

Mike Matheson and Kirby Dach scored in the second period for Montreal, which has recorded at least a point in seven consecutive games (5-0-2).

Nick Suzuki and Jake Evans added empty-net goals in the third, and Suzuki had two assists. Jakub Dobes recorded 27 saves as he improved his record to 9-0-2 over his last 11 games.

CANADIENS 6, CAPITALS 2

Washington's hot streak doused in a Montreal wallop

Caufield now has a team-high 35 goals this season. It took all of 30 seconds for the Canadiens to find the back of the net, marking the fastest game-opening goal by Montreal this season. Jakob Chychrun's point shot was blocked by Caufield, resulting in a breakaway for the forward. His snap shot beat Charlie Lindgren to the glove side.

Alex Ovechkin scored twice for Washington, which had won three straight games and six of seven. The Capitals captain has scored 44 goals and recorded 76 points in just 63 career matchups with

SEE **CAPITALS** ON **B4**

Mammoth at Capitals Tuesday, 7 p.m., Monumental 2

Terps bid goodbye to bid for double bye

MICHIGAN 87, MARYLAND 69

Frese's team falls outside the top four in Big Ten

BY DANA GAURUDER
Associated Press

ANN ARBOR, MICH. — Olivia Olson scored 21 of her game-high 28 points in the first half, and No. 8 Michigan snapped No. 14 Maryland's six-game winning streak with an 87-69 victory in the teams' regular season finale Saturday.

Olson, who finished with a career-high 31 points in an overtime win at Ohio State on Wednesday, added eight rebounds and four assists. Syla Swords had 17 points for the Wolverines (24-5, 15-3 Big Ten), who capped the most successful regular season in program history by leading nearly the entire game.

Mila Holloway had 12 points and six assists and Te'Yala Delfosse added 10 points for Michigan, which will be either the second or third seed in this week's Big Ten tournament.

Oluchi Okananwa's 19 points topped the Terrapins (23-7, 11-7). Yarden Garzon added 14 points, while Isimenme Ozzy-Momodu and Addi Mack each scored 12.

Brenda Frese's squad needed a win to stay in the running for a double bye in the conference tournament. It's just the second time since Maryland joined the Big Ten

SEE **TERRAPINS** ON **B4**

Big Ten second round: Maryland vs. TBD
Thursday, time TBD, BTN

Blue Devils crush Cavs, grab ACC's top seed

DUKE 77, VIRGINIA 51

Evans, Boozer lead way in a statement victory

BY AARON BEARD
Associated Press

DURHAM, N.C. — Isaiah Evans scored 19 points to help No. 1 Duke beat No. 11 Virginia, 77-51, on Saturday, clinching the top seed for the upcoming ACC tournament.

The sophomore hit five three-pointers, three coming in the opening four-plus minutes as the Blue Devils quickly found their long-distance range. Duke made 8 of 13 threes in the opening half and finished 12 for 24 — seven Blue Devils made at least one three — while shooting 49.1 percent overall.

Star freshman Cameron Boozer finished with 18 points despite going just 3 for 9 from the field. The 6-foot-9, 250-pound top NBA prospect nonetheless made a huge impact by commanding double teams, passing out to set up teammates and drawing fouls.

Boozer finished with nine rebounds and four assists. He also made 11 of 12 free throws, all by halftime. And that helped Duke take a 41-26 halftime lead with a margin that would only grow.

As a result, the Blue Devils (27-2, 15-1 ACC) have at least a two-game lead on every ACC team and must win one of their last two games to clinch the outright regu-

SEE **CAVALIERS** ON **B4**

Wake Forest at Virginia
Tuesday, 7 p.m., ACC Network

Mendoza, other QBs take center stage at combine

BY MICHAEL MAROT
Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — Heisman Trophy winner Fernando Mendoza possesses all the traits NFL teams covet in a franchise quarterback.

He's smart, he's mobile and he makes fast reads and quick releases. He has a strong arm and prototypical size. He has three years of starting experience and a national championship, too.

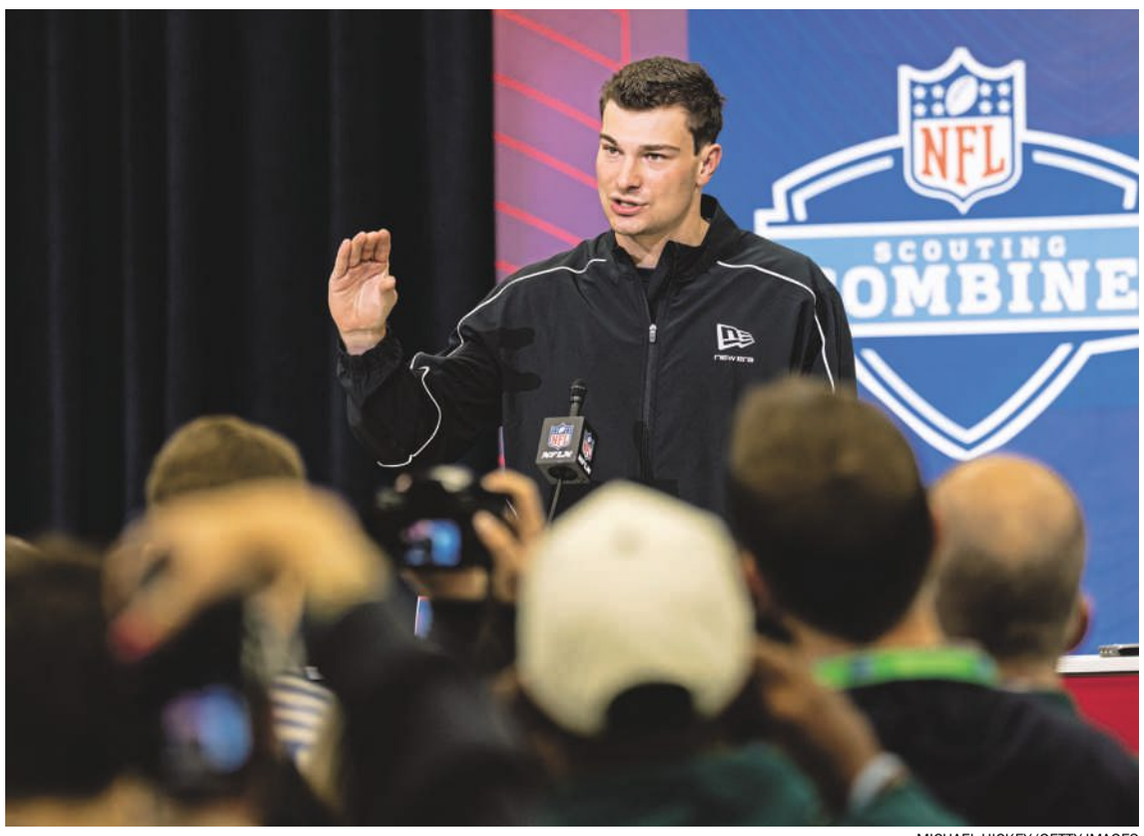
But the once lightly recruited Mendoza learned long ago not to take anything for granted. So if the former Indiana star and overwhelming favorite to be the No. 1 overall pick in April's draft fulfills those expectations, he will embrace the pressure to succeed. And if the quarterback-needy Las Vegas Raiders bypass him, he won't fret. Instead, the Boston-born Mendoza hopes to steal a page from one of his favorite player's game plans.

"Whatever team drafts me, I'm grateful — whether it's the No. 1 pick or whether it's the 199th pick," Mendoza said, denoting the spot Raiders part owner and seven-time Super Bowl champion Tom Brady was selected in the 2000 draft.

Nobody, of course, anticipates Mendoza sliding that far, though stranger things have happened.

Carson Beck began the 2024 season as the favorite to go No. 1, then suffered a late-season elbow injury that required surgery and forced his transfer from Georgia to Miami. When the league's annual scouting combine rolled around last February, Shedeur Sanders and Cam Ward seemed positioned to go at the top. Ward won that battle, going to Tennessee at No. 1, while Sanders had to wait until Cleveland finally took

SEE **COMBINE** ON **B3**



MICHAEL HICKEY/GETTY IMAGES

Indiana's lengthy championship run left Fernando Mendoza with less time to prepare for the combine.

THE DAY IN SPORTS

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Huskies honor a star, then knock off Pirates

Alex Karaban scored 23 points after being added to the Huskies of Honor before his final home game as the No. 6 Connecticut men rallied to upend Seton Hall, 71-67, on Saturday in Storrs, Connecticut.

Solo Ball had 12 of his 14 points in the second half for the Huskies (27-3, 17-2 Big East). Karaban and Ball combined to go 7 for 8 from the foul line in the final minute.

Karaban became the first active U-Conn. men's basketball player to join the Huskies of Honor in a pregame ceremony at Gampel Pavilion.

A.J. Staton-McCray scored 20 points with four three-pointers for Seton Hall (19-10, 9-9). ...

Donovan Atwell had 18 points to lead No. 16 Texas Tech past No. 4 Iowa State, 82-73, in Ames for the Cyclones' first home loss of the season.

Iowa State (24-5, 11-5 Big 12) was 15-0 at Hilton Coliseum before the Red Raiders (22-7, 12-4) came in and ended the streak, building a 20-point first-half run and fighting off a second-half surge by the Cyclones. ...

Milos Uzan had 26 points and six assists, **Joseph Tugler** scored 14, and No. 5 Houston (24-5, 12-4 Big 12) snapped its three-game losing streak with a 102-62 home win over Colorado (16-13, 6-10).

Uzan had 16 points on 5-of-7 shooting in the first half as the Cougars built a 55-29 lead. ...

In area men's action, **Riley Allenspach** and **Masai Troutman** scored 21 points apiece as George Mason (22-7, 10-6 Atlantic 10) snapped a four-game skid with a 71-58 victory over St. Bonaventure at EagleBank Arena.

Dasonte Bowen led the Bonnies (15-14, 4-12) with 16 points. ...

Jadrian Tracey scored a team-high 15 points to lead VCU (22-7, 13-3 Atlantic 10) to an 82-63 blowout of Fordham (16-13, 7-9) in Richmond. ...

Georgetown (13-16, 5-13 Big East) dropped its sixth straight game, a 91-84 loss to Xavier (14-15, 6-12) in Cincinnati. ...

In other local men's games, Howard routed Morgan State, 84-59, on the road; Navy defeated Colgate, 85-69, at Alumni Hall; and American was edged by Boston University, 68-65, at Bender Arena. ...

No. 3 Michigan lost sophomore guard **L.J. Cason** for the rest of the season after he tore the ACL in his right knee Friday. ...

Zahirah Walton had 16 points and 13 rebounds for her third double-double of the season, and the George Mason women secured a share of the Atlantic 10 regular season title with a 65-48 win over Duquesne in Pittsburgh.

Kennedy Harris added 15 points and four steals and **Jada Brown** had 14 points for the Patriots (21-8, 16-2), who are the second seed in the conference tournament.

Gabby Grantham-Medley finished with 12 points to lead the Dukes (11-18, 4-14). ...

In other area women's action, Navy defeated Colgate, 73-63, on the road; American lost, 79-76, at Boston University in overtime; VCU fell, 79-62, at Dayton; and George Washington lost, 72-48, to host Rhode Island.

SOCCER

Bayern Munich's Kane is taking aim at record

Harry Kane is targeting **Robert Lewandowski**'s Bundesliga record of 41 goals in a season after notching another two in Bayern Munich's 3-2 win over Borussia Dortmund.

It was the fourth straight game in which he scored two goals or more, and it took his league tally to 30 in 24 matches so far.

"For sure," the England star replied when asked whether he was going for Lewandowski's record from 2020-21. "I've got to keep doing what I'm doing."

Kane converted another penalty against Dortmund to make it 10 successful spot kicks in the league. Across all competitions this season, the 32-year-old Kane has 45 goals in 37 appearances for Bayern. ...

Romelu Lukaku's first goal of the season with the last kick of the match ended Napoli's winless run in Italy's Serie A.

Lukaku, who had played just 41 minutes this campaign following a serious preseason thigh injury, pounced in the sixth minute of stoppage time to help Napoli win at bottom club Hellas Verona, 2-1. ...

Benfica suspended five fans for racist behavior at last week's Champions League game, in which **Gianluca Prestianni** was accused of racially insulting Real Madrid's **Vinícius Júnior**.

SPOTLIGHT: SOCCER

DANNY LAWSON/ASSOCIATED PRESS

Antoine Semenyo scored in first-half stoppage time as the Sky Blues cut into Arsenal's lead in the English Premier League.

Man. City calls upon another star in triumph

BY STEVE DOUGLAS

MANCHESTER CITY 1, LEEDS 0

Semenyo's first-half strike carries day with Haaland out

Without the injured Erling Haaland, Manchester City relied on the latest goal from recently signed forward Antoine Semenyo to secure a win that kept the pressure on Arsenal in the English Premier League title race on Saturday.

Semenyo did his best Haaland impression by meeting a low cross with a close-range finish for the winner in first-half stoppage time as City held firm to beat Leeds, 1-0, and trim the gap to Arsenal to two points.

It was Semenyo's sixth goal in 11 games since joining from Bournemouth in January.

"We just need to control what we can control," Semenyo said, "win our games and see what happens."

Arsenal hosts Chelsea on Sunday. Both Arsenal and City have 10 games left and look to be the only contenders for the title.

Haaland was unavailable for the trip to Leeds — his city of birth — after suffering what City Manager Pep Guardiola described as a "little injury" in training Thursday. It was the first league match the Norway striker missed this season.

City rode its luck at Elland Road, with Leeds squandering two clear-cut chances in the first half and piling on the pressure late.

Still, City racked up a fourth straight league win and a sixth in a row in all competitions.

Around the Premier League

Mohamed Salah's run of league games without scoring is up to 10.

Fortunately for the Egypt star, his Liverpool teammates had no problem finding the net in a 5-2 thrashing of West Ham that continued the defending champion's midseason recovery.

Hugo Ekitike, Virgil van Dijk, Alexis Mac Allister and Cody Gakpo all scored for Liverpool, which also forced an own goal as the team racked up more than four goals in a league game for the first time this season. ...

Brentford squandered a three-goal lead before scoring a stoppage-time winner to beat relegation-threatened Burnley, 4-3.

And that was only half the drama.

After pulling it back from 3-0 down to 3-3, Burnley striker Zian Flemming had a goal ruled out for the most marginal of offsides. ...

In another goalfest, Everton won at Newcastle, 3-2 — but only after England goalkeeper Jordan Pickford produced a stunning save to keep out Sandro Tonali's long-range volley in stoppage time.

Pickford somehow turned the Italy international's shot onto the crossbar, leading Everton Manager David Moyes to say: "The biggest credit I could give the save would be to say that Tonali's volley was textbook. Probably if he got it he couldn't do any better if he tried again. It was so good, technique, on target.

"It took a wonder save to make it happen."

— Associated Press

TELEVISION AND RADIO

NBA

1 p.m.	**San Antonio at New York** » WJLA (Ch. 7), WMAR (Ch. 2)
3:30 p.m.	**Minnesota at Denver** » WJLA (Ch. 7), WMAR (Ch. 2)
8 p.m.	**Philadelphia at Boston** » WRC (Ch. 4), WBAL (Ch. 11)

NHL

1 p.m.	**Vegas at Pittsburgh** » TNT
6:30 p.m.	**Florida at New York Islanders** » ESPN

MLB SPRING TRAINING

1 p.m.	**Miami vs. Washington** » WJFK (106.7 FM)
1 p.m.	**Baltimore vs. Boston** » MASN, WIYY (97.9 FM)
1 p.m.	**Atlanta (split squad) vs. Minnesota** » MLB Network
3 p.m.	**Colorado vs. Cleveland (split squad)** » MLB Network

NFL

1 p.m.	**Scouting combine, final day** » NFL Network

MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Noon	**Rutgers at Maryland** » Fox Sports 1, WTEM (980 AM)
Noon	**La Salle at Davidson** » USA Network
Noon	**North Texas at Alabama Birmingham** » ESPNU
Noon	**Tulane at South Florida** » ESPN2
1:30 p.m.	**Purdue at Ohio State** » WUSA (Ch. 9), WJZ (Ch. 13)
2 p.m.	**St. Peter's at Marist** » ESPNU
2 p.m.	**Murray State at Bradley** » ESPN2
3:45 p.m.	**Michigan State at Indiana** » WUSA (Ch. 9), WJZ (Ch. 13)
4 p.m.	**DePaul at Marquette** » Fox Sports 1
5 p.m.	**Belmont at Illinois State** » CBS Sports Network
7 p.m.	**Charleston at UNC Wilmington** » CBS Sports Network

WOMEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Noon	**Virginia Tech at Virginia** » ACC Network
Noon	**Duke at North Carolina** » ESPN
Noon	**Texas at Alabama** » SEC Network
Noon	**Ohio State at Michigan State** » Big Ten Network
2 p.m.	**Clemson at Stanford** » WDCW (Ch. 50), WNUV (Ch. 54)
2 p.m.	**Vanderbilt at Tennessee** » ESPN
2 p.m.	**North Carolina State at Pittsburgh** » ACC Network
2 p.m.	**Auburn at Arkansas** » SEC Network
2 p.m.	**Iowa State at Kansas State** » Fox Sports 1
2 p.m.	**Minnesota at Illinois** » Big Ten Network
4 p.m.	**Baylor at TCU** » ESPN
4 p.m.	**Florida State at Wake Forest** » ACC Network
4 p.m.	**Memphis at Texas San Antonio** » ESPNU
4 p.m.	**Notre Dame at Louisville** » ESPN2
4 p.m.	**LSU at Mississippi State** » SEC Network
6 p.m.	**UCLA at USC** » Fox Sports 1
7:30 p.m.	**Connecticut at St. John's** » TNT

AUTO RACING

10 a.m.	**Indy NXT: Grand Prix of St. Petersburg** » Fox Sports 1
Noon	**IndyCar: Grand Prix of St. Petersburg** » WTTG (Ch. 5), WBFF (Ch. 45)
3:30 p.m.	**NASCAR Cup Series: DuraMax Grand Prix** » WTTG (Ch. 5), WBFF (Ch. 45)

GOLF

1 p.m.	**PGA Tour: Cognizant Classic, final round** » Golf Channel
3 p.m.	**PGA Tour: Cognizant Classic, final round** » WRC (Ch. 4), WBAL (Ch. 11)
9 p.m.	**TGL: Jupiter Links vs. Boston Common** » ESPN

SOCCER

7 a.m.	**Scottish Premiership: Celtic at Rangers** » CBS Sports Network
9 a.m.	**English Premier League: Tottenham at Fulham** » USA Network
9 a.m.	**French Ligue 1: Nice at Paris FC** » BeIN Sports
11:15 a.m.	**French Ligue 1: Nantes at Lille** » BeIN Sports
Noon	**Concacaf men's U-20 Championship, group stage: Antigua and Barbuda vs. Dominica** » Fox Sports 2
2 p.m.	**SheBelieves Cup, group stage: Canada vs. Colombia** » TruTV, Universo
2:30 p.m.	**MLS: D.C. United at Austin** » Apple TV+
2:45 p.m.	**French Ligue 1: Lyonnais at Marseille** » BeIN Sports
5 p.m.	**SheBelieves Cup, group stage: Argentina at United States** » TNT, Universo
9:15 p.m.	**MLS: St. Louis City at San Diego** » Fox Sports 1

TENNIS

1 p.m.	**WTA: ATX Open, singles final** » Tennis Channel
6 p.m.	**WTA: Mérida Open, singles final** » Tennis Channel
7 p.m.	**MGM Slam** » WDCW (Ch. 50), WNUV (Ch. 54)
8:30 p.m.	**ATP: Mexican Open, doubles final and Chile Open, finals; WTA: ATX Open and Mérida Open, doubles finals** » Tennis Channel

TRACK AND FIELD

1 p.m.	**U.S. indoor championships** » WRC (Ch. 4), WBAL (Ch. 11)

MEN'S PROFESSIONAL BASKETBALL

Noon	**NBA G League: Windy City at Maine** » NBA TV

PROFESSIONAL HOCKEY

3 p.m.	**American Hockey League: Hartford at Lehigh Valley** » NHL Network

PROFESSIONAL VOLLEYBALL

2 p.m.	**Major League Volleyball: Omaha at Indy** » CBS Sports Network

WOMEN'S COLLEGE GYMNASTICS

4 p.m.	**Big Ten quad meet at Minnesota** » Big Ten Network

COLLEGE SOFTBALL

6 p.m.	**Stanford at Louisville** » ACC Network

PRO BASKETBALL

Former Wizard Jones is released by Mavericks

The Dallas Mavericks waived point guard **Tyus Jones**, one of the players involved in the three-team trade that sent **Anthony Davis** to the Washington Wizards.

The move gives Jones a chance to pursue a deal with a contender needing backcourt help. The 29-year-old made the playoffs three straight seasons with the Memphis Grizzlies from 2021-23.

Dallas now has the flexibility to convert rookie point guard **Ryan Nembhard** to a standard contract. Nembhard is closing in on the maximum number of NBA games allowed for players on two-way deals.

Jones made two starts among eight appearances for the Mavericks, averaging 3.9 points and 3.8 assists.

GOLF

Lowry fires sizzling 63 to seize lead in Florida

Shane Lowry has yet another chance to win at PGA National.

The native of Ireland who now calls South Florida home had a bogey-free round of 8-under-par 63, moving to 13 under and finishing with a share of the lead after three rounds of the Cognizant Classic in Palm Beach Gardens, Florida.

He is tied with **Austin Smotherman**, who battled his way to a 69. Lowry said his goal going into the day — which had tee times moved up because of anticipated bad weather — was just to get into one of the final two groups for Sunday, but he did a little better than that.

"You want to be near the leaders, keep an eye on them and see what they're doing," Lowry said. "If the conditions are like this tomorrow, there [are] low scores out there, so someone could come from the pack. It's not necessarily easy to lead around this golf course. There's a lot of very difficult shots. But I'm up there where I want to be. I've had a few chances to win this tournament, and hopefully I can convert it tomorrow."

Nico Echavarria (66) and **Taylor Moore** (67) were a shot back at 12 under, and **Jimmy Stanger** — who will earn a check on tour for the first time since April 2024, after spending the past two years dealing with serious elbow issues — is alone in fifth at 11 under after shooting a 65. ...

Australians **Hannah Green** and **Minjee Lee** moved to the top of the leaderboard to lead by one stroke after three rounds of the HSBC Women's World Championship in Singapore.

Green, the 2019 Women's PGA Championship winner who also won this tournament in 2024, shot a 4-under 68 and three-time major winner Lee had a 69 to post three-round totals of 11-under 205 at the Sentosa Golf Club.

American **Angel Yin** (68) and South Korea's **Haeran Ryu** (70) were tied for third.

TENNIS

Medvedev handed title in Dubai in a walkover

Daniil Medvedev won his 23rd ATP singles title at the Dubai Championships when **Tallon Griekspoor** withdrew from the final with an injury in the United Arab Emirates.

Griekspoor hurt his left hamstring Friday against **Andrey Rublev** and won their semifinal in two sets but couldn't recover in time for the final.

"I have been better, that's for sure," the Dutchman said at the trophy ceremony. "I went to the hospital this morning and had a couple of scans, which showed something serious. It kept me from coming on court tonight and will keep me from the court in the coming weeks."

Medvedev won his second title of the year after winning Brisbane in January. It was also his second Dubai title after victory in 2023. It's the first time he has won the same event twice.

"That's what is crazy about it," Medvedev said. "I never did it in any city in the world and the first time I do it, it's [via] a walkover."

WINTER SPORTS

In show of dominance, Aicher claims super-G

Emma Aicher dominated the first women's super-G since the Milan Cortina Olympics to earn her fifth career World Cup win as the fight for the season title heated up in Soldeu, Andorra.

The German posted the fastest split times in the first two sections of the Aliga course and became the first with multiple super-G wins this season.

"Feels pretty good, to be honest. I had really fun skiing today," said Aicher, who won silver medals in the downhill and the team combined but didn't finish the super-G at the Games last month.

Aicher finished 0.88 seconds ahead of **Alice Robinson** of New Zealand. Robinson closed the gap to World Cup super-G leader Sofia Goggia to 20 points with three events left, including one Sunday on the same hill.

"It felt good at the top, the flat part. The steep part, the super-G part where the turns were, I mean, it was okay but not ideal," said the German, whose win saw her overtake **Lindsey Vonn** for third place in the super-G standings, 96 points behind Goggia.

Vonn is out since badly injuring her left leg in a frightening crash in the Olympic downhill. ...

Marco Odermatt took a giant step toward retaining his World Cup downhill title this season, leading a Swiss sweep in the first men's race since the Milan Cortina Olympics in Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Germany.

More good news for Odermatt was that his closest challenger, teammate and Olympic gold medalist **Franjo von Allmen**, was not part of the Swiss trio on the podium.

Odermatt just barely edged out **Alexis Monney** by 0.04 seconds, with **Stefan Rogentin** coming 0.98 seconds behind in third. ...

Tobias Wendl and **Tobias Arlt** of Germany clinched their seventh men's doubles World Cup luge overall season title while **Selina Egle** and **Lara Kipp** of Austria claimed the women's doubles crown for the second straight season in St. Moritz, Switzerland.

— From news services and staff reports

Combine reunites running back tandems from Notre Dame and Penn State

BY MICHAEL MAROT

ERIC GAY/ASSOCIATED PRESS

Jeremiyah Love, who set Notre Dame's single-season touchdown record with 21 in 2025, and former teammate Jadarian Price are two of the top running backs in the draft.

INDIANAPOLIS — Former Notre Dame running backs Jeremiyah Love and Jadarian Price rekindled some fond memories at the NFL's scouting combine.

They shared a room — just as they used to when they were college teammates.

Only here, one of college football's best backfield duos is no longer working in tandem. Instead, they're here to showcase their own skills and increase their prospects heading into April's NFL draft.

"I'm going to go out there and be myself, no matter where I go, no matter when my name's called, I'll be Jeremiyah Love," he said before Saturday's workouts in Indianapolis.

"But it's a great honor, seeing if people recognize me, and I plan to go out and prove myself right, prove everybody else right as well."

There certainly is a mutual respect and admiration between Love and Price for what they accomplished together over the past three seasons.

Love rushed for nearly 3,000 yards, finishing No. 7 on Notre Dame's career rushing list despite only 29 starts overall and 71 carries as a freshman. He broke the program's single-season record by scoring 21 total touchdowns in 2025, became the first player in Irish history with two touchdown runs of 90 or more yards and was third in last year's Heisman Trophy balloting.

Price, on the other hand, was more than just capable of providing a second punch. While he excelled when giving Love a break, opposing defenses were never that fortunate.

Price still managed to rush for nearly 1,700 yards and 21 scores and became the first Notre Dame player to have at least two kickoff returns of 100 or more yards.

The result: Both earned all-American honors last season, and they're generally ranked as the two top running backs in this year's draft class.

"Almost every coach and interview I had the past couple days," Price said when asked how many teams have inquired about his play on special teams. "I told them all the same [thing]: I love special teams and I attack it like I attack offense. I'm willing to do anything when it comes to special teams."

Love and Price aren't the only highly regarded running backs being reunited in Indianapolis.

When Kaytron Allen and Nick Singleton walked onto Penn State's campus in 2022, they were billed as one of the nation's top freshman backfields. While they exceeded the hype personally, joining Franco Harris and Lydell Mitchell as the only Nittany Lions teammates to top 2,000 career yards rushing, they didn't achieve the lofty expectations of winning a national championship or even a Big Ten title.

But even in a league where running backs are often pushed down the draft board, Allen and Singleton are still ranked among the top 10 in this year's class. And with some good predraft workouts, it's still possible they could jump back into the top five — spots they occupied not so long ago.

Regardless of where they go, though, former Penn State quarterback Drew Allar believes both would be value picks.

"I definitely think they're the two most complete backs in the country," Allar said, noting Allen finished his career as the school's career leader in all-purpose yards while Singleton set the program's career mark for total touchdowns. "I am excited for them and to see them compete and grow as we move forward in our journeys together. And whoever gets those two guys are going to get guys that are dedicated to the team, very hard workers, and obviously really talented football players."

All four still have something to prove, though.

While Love drew raves for his trademark hurdles and answered some questions about his ability to catch passes in 2025, he believes his blocking skills have been overlooked. Price and Allen still need to show they can carry heavier workloads against bigger, stronger opponents in the NFL and Singleton must prove he is healthy after rolling up to the podium Friday with his broken right foot.

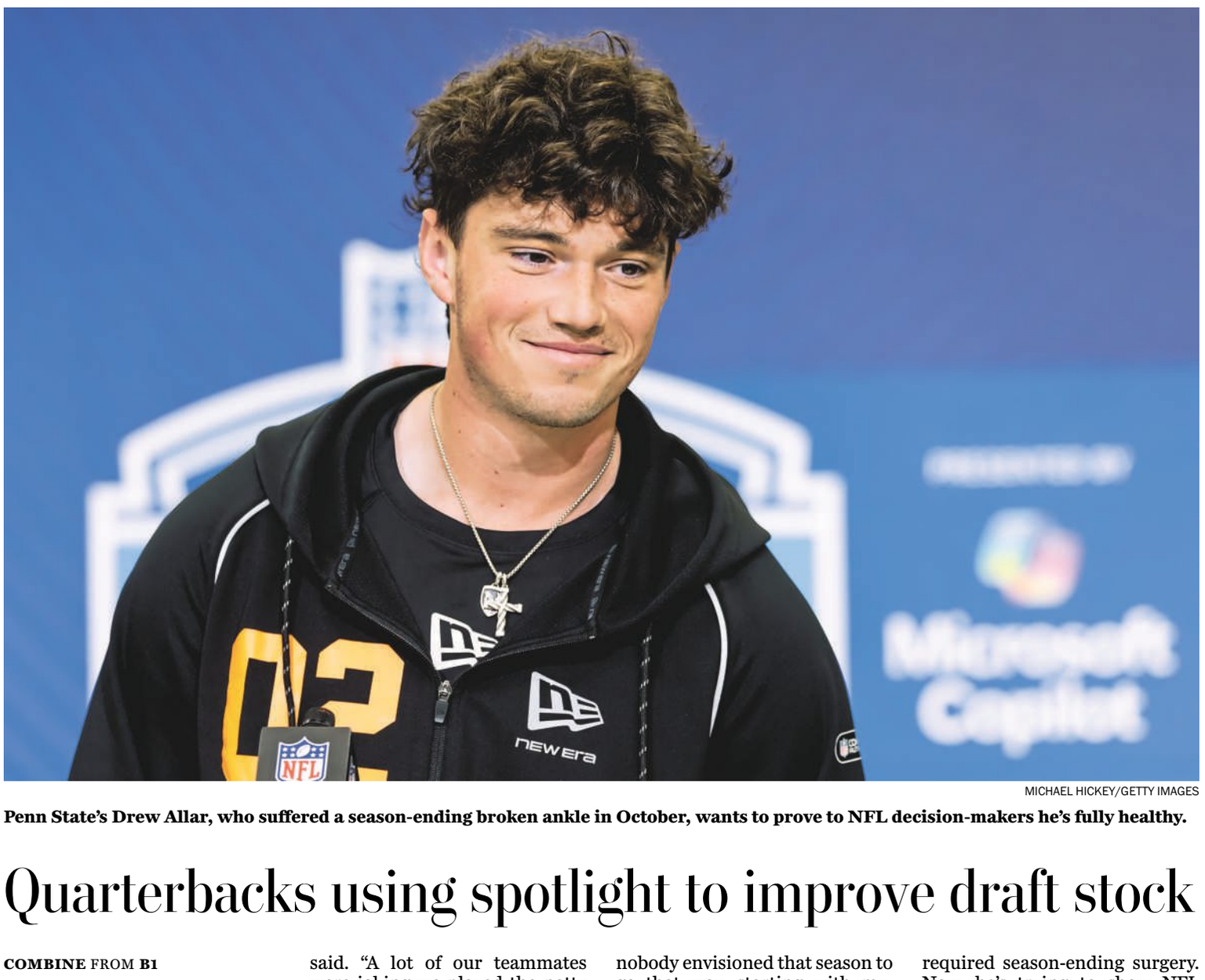
"Obviously, I'm upset that I'm not doing anything right now," Singleton said. "At the same time, I'm still grateful to be out here."

Singleton hopes to shed his walking boot this week and plans to work out during pro day festivities to give scouts a first-hand glimpse of what he can do.

But for one weekend, it felt like old times for this running back quartet.

"The biggest thing that makes me feel comfortable is we were roommates during this process, and we were roommates at Notre Dame on the road," Price said, referring to Love. "So it just feels like an away game for us."

— Associated Press



MICHAEL HICKEY/GETTY IMAGES

Penn State's Drew Allar, who suffered a season-ending broken ankle in October, wants to prove to NFL decision-makers he's fully healthy.

Quarterbacks using spotlight to improve draft stock

COMBINE FROM **B1**

him at No. 144.

This year, though, there seems to be no serious debate. Mendoza is clearly at the head of this class.

He's reaping the benefits. Mendoza recently spent time with two-time Super Bowl-winning brothers Peyton and Eli Manning, as well as Daniel Jones, last season's Colts starter. He even spoke briefly on the phone with Brady during a recent interview with Raiders brass.

And everywhere he went Friday, cameras followed — from the phones popping up at his lectern to the subsequent television rounds he made inside the media room to those filming Mendoza strolling the hallways inside the Indiana Convention Center.

Mendoza didn't throw Saturday because Indiana's 16-game season left him with less time to prepare for the combine than other players. He does intend to throw April 1 at his Pro Day.

"It's been hectic," Mendoza said. "A lot of our teammates were joking we played the natty on Jan. 19, and Jan. 23 we had three days of celebrating with a parade. Then it was all off to training. Everybody was going to Miami, Phoenix, Los Angeles, Chicago to go train. That process of being dispersed so quickly shows why you need to be enabled in the present moment, how much it matters to be in the present moment and how much you've got to really enjoy the good times while they last."

Some of the quarterbacks in this group understand what Mendoza means.

Beck spent last spring and summer rehabbing in an effort to prove he could regain his pre-injury throwing form. The result: He led the Hurricanes to the national championship game in their home stadium, rebuilt his draft stock and now hopes to prove he could be a first-round pick.

"You look at the beginning of the 2024 season, going into it, nobody envisioned that season to go that way, starting with myself," Beck said. "I didn't know I was going to get injured at the end of the season. I didn't know I was going to end up coming back to college for another year. That was never the plan, right? So when the injury happened, I had declared for the draft. I was going to go through the process and from that point, I'm gone. It's like 'Okay, Gunner [Stockton] is next up.' So when I decided to not go to the NFL, it was like, 'I'm going to go somewhere else.' "

Drew Allar is facing a similar comeback attempt, albeit on an expedited schedule.

He returned to Penn State last fall, rather than turning pro, to pursue a national championship. Nothing went right. The No. 2 team in the Associated Press preseason poll faltered early, and the season unraveled quickly, leading to the October firing of James Franklin as coach.

In Franklin's final game, Allar suffered a broken left ankle that required season-ending surgery. Now, he's trying to show NFL scouts he's healthy.

"As soon as I really got back to school and started my rehab process my whole focus has been getting to this point, being healthy enough to have the chance to put myself out there and throw," he said.

Allar, who said he was excited to "cut it loose" at the combine, threw to receivers during drills Saturday, topping 50 air yards on several throws.

For Mendoza, this is a different kind of stage. He's trying to show dozens of teams he has what it takes to follow in the footsteps of Brady and become a franchise's long-term solution at quarterback. First, though, he wants to win the job.

"Right now, I'm unemployed," he said. "So this is my job interview, and like everyone says, it's the most important job interview of your life. So right now, I'm just trying to do everything to hopefully get employed."

MLB NOTES

Jung and Foscue both go on the shelf for Rangers

ASSOCIATED PRESS

ALEX SLITZ/GETTY IMAGES

Third baseman Josh Jung, who hit .251 in 131 games last year, is battling an adductor strain.

Texas Rangers third baseman Josh Jung is expected to miss about 10 days with an adductor strain.

Rangers Manager Skip Schumaker also told reporters, including MLB.com, on Saturday that designated hitter Justin Foscue has a hamstring strain and could miss 10 days as well.

Jung, 28, hit .251 with 14 home runs and 61 RBI in 131 games in 2025. Foscue, who turns 27 on Monday, had only nine at-bats last season, but the righty is contending for a share of a platoon at designated hitter.

Barring a setback, Jung and Foscue are expected to return before Opening Day.

• **TIGERS:** Right-hander Troy Melton is not expected to be available for the start of the season because of inflammation in his right elbow.

Detroit Manager A.J. Hinch told reporters that Melton won't throw for one to two weeks. Melton told the Detroit Free Press he is "not too concerned over anything too long-term."

Melton, 25, was 3-2 with a 2.76 ERA in 16 games, including four starts, as a rookie in 2025. His chances of earning a spot in the rotation took a hit when the Tigers agreed to deals with veteran starters Justin Verlander and Framber Valdez.

Retropolis

Stories of the past, rediscovered.

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The Washington Post

S0129-2x3.25

snow day or school day?

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S0141 2x1

Wizards' bench flexes, but starting five gets outmuscled

RAPTORS 134, WIZARDS 125

BY NOAH TRISTER

Immanuel Quickley finished with 27 points and 11 assists to lift the Toronto Raptors to a 134-125 victory over the Washington Wizards on Saturday night at Capital One Arena.

Brandon Ingram added 24 points for Toronto, which rebounded from back-to-back home losses to Western Conference contenders — the Oklahoma City Thunder and San Antonio Spurs — earlier in the week. The Raptors are fifth in the East, three games clear of the play-in group.

Will Riley scored 19 points for Washington, which lost its fourth straight game after beating the Indiana Pacers twice in a row coming out of the all-star break.

The Wizards remain without recently acquired forward Anthony Davis (finger) and Trae Young (knee, quad), and 7-footer Alex Sarr (hamstring) didn't play, either. Collin Murray-Boyles (thumb) did not play for Toronto.

Washington led by three in the middle of the third quarter before an 11-2 Raptors run capped by Ingram's three-pointer. Toronto was up 98-92 after three and pushed the lead into double digits early in the fourth.

All five Raptors starters scored at least 18 points. RJ Barrett contributed 21, Scottie Barnes chipped in 18 and Jakob Poeltl had 18 with 10 rebounds.

Bilal Coulibaly and Kyshawn George scored 14 points each for the Wizards. Washington shot 16 for 34 from beyond the arc, but Toronto countered by going 42 for 63 inside the arc. The Raptors shot 60 percent overall.

The Wizards signed former Maryland standout Julian Reese to a two-way contract earlier Saturday. He was not active.

Washington lost despite a 64-26 advantage in bench scoring.

— Associated Press

GEOFF BURKE/IMAGN IMAGES VIA REUTERS CONNECT

Bilal Coulibaly (14 points) and the Wizards shot 47 percent from three-point range but allowed the Raptors to shoot 60 percent overall.

WIZARDS' NEXT THREE

vs. Houston Rockets
Monday 7 Monumental

at Orlando Magic
Tuesday 7 Monumental

vs. Utah Jazz
Thursday 7 Monumental

Radio: WTEM (980 AM) or WDCH (99.1 FM) or WJFK (106.7 FM)

Maryland can't keep up with Michigan

TERRAPINS FROM B1

that the team has finished outside the top four.

The Wolverines finished the first half on an 11-2 run for a 46-31 halftime lead. Olson began the run with a three-point play, then grabbed a steal and passed it to Holloway for a layup. Olson hit a three-pointer from the top of the key, took a charge against Okananwa and completed the outburst with a three from the wing.

Olson opened the second half with another three-pointer, and the Wolverines maintained a double-digit lead the rest of the way.

Katelynn Flaherty Yates (2014-18), the Wolverines' all-time leading scorer with 2,776 career points, had her No. 3 raised the rafters at halftime.

JAIME CRAWFORD/GETTY IMAGES

Oluchi Okananwa scored 19 points to lead the way for Maryland, which trailed Michigan by double digits for the entire second half.

Top-ranked Duke overwhelms Virginia

CAVALIERS FROM B1

lar season title.

Thijs De Ridder finished with 16 points for the Cavaliers (25-4, 13-3), who had won nine straight and cracked the NCAA selection committee's preliminary top 16 seeds for March Madness. But Duke — more specifically, Evans — jumped on Virginia while the Cavaliers struggled to make much of anything with the Blue Devils smothering clean looks.

Virginia shot just 29.1 percent, including 7 for 35 (20 percent) on threes.

The Cavaliers fell to 1-32 all-time against the top-ranked team — their only win came in January 1986 against North Carolina — and 0-17 against top-ranked Duke teams.

BEN MCKEOWN/ASSOCIATED PRESS

Cameron Boozer scored 18 points — 11 via free throws — for Duke, which limited Virginia to just 29.1 percent shooting from the floor.

Capitals go cold against the Canadiens

ERIC BOLTE/IMAGN IMAGES

Canadiens forward Kirby Dach (77) scoring one of Montreal's six goals on the night, ending Washington's three-game winning streak.

CAPITALS' NEXT THREE

vs. Utah Mammoth
Tuesday 7 Monumental 2

at Boston Bruins
Saturday 12:30 ABC

vs. Calgary Flames
March 9 7 Monumental

Radio: WJFK (106.7 FM), WFED (1500 AM)

CAPITALS FROM B1

the Canadiens.

Lindgren stopped 19 shots in his first start since Jan. 29.

Washington failed to capitalize on four power-play opportunities.

The Bell Centre remains a tough stop for visiting teams: Montreal improved to 10-3-1 in its past 14 home games.

What's for dinner?
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The Washington Post
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The Washington Post
BUSINESS
SUNDAY, MARCH 1, 2026 · SECTION B

A seat at the L.A. Olympics will cost a lot more than it used to. Are cheap tickets a relic of Games gone by?

PAUL POPPER/POPPERFOTO/GETTY IMAGES

A ticket to the 1932 Olympics in Los Angeles cost $2. The next time L.A. hosted — five decades later, in 1984 — the cheapest tickets cost only $1 more. Now, as L.A. prepares to host again, organizers say only a third of tickets will cost under $100 — and people who remember 1984 aren't sure these Olympics will feel as accessible.

BY JULIE Z. WEIL

The day before the Milan Cortina Olympics started, Sarah Dunlay pulled out an old Ghirardelli chocolate box holding her ticket stubs from the 1984 Olympics.

When Dunlay and her husband, Dennis Kissick, reminisce on the summer the Olympics came to Los Angeles, they note the highlights that many Angelenos still recall — the glorious weather, the remarkable reprieve from L.A.'s normally clogged traffic, the elation as the United States' medal count piled up each day.

She also can hardly believe some of the prices on those old ticket stubs. She saw Olympic exhibition baseball at Dodger Stadium for $6. For $16, she saw the world's best boxers compete. Her track and field tickets cost $33: "It seemed like a lot at the time." (It's a little over $100 in today's dollars.)

"It was all totally fun," Dunlay said. "The spirit of it all, and the pageantry, and people from different countries."

Now, the Olympics are headed back to Los Angeles. When the Milan Cortina Games ended last week, the world began to look ahead to the 2028 Summer Olympics in L.A. But ticket prices will be much higher — organizers have said that only a third of tickets will cost under $100, and another third will cost more than $250. The experience of 1984, when many Angelenos were able to see five or 10 Olympic events, would be costly to replicate in 2028.

Back then, Olympics ticket prices started at $3 (adjusted for inflation, that would be just under $10 today). According to a New York Times article at the time, half the tickets were under $10 — meaning in today's dollars, half of all tickets were cheaper or around the cost of today's cheapest seats, which will be $28. The average ticket cost $17 in 1984, which would be $55 today.

Incomes are higher now, but by that measure too, today's tickets are less afford-

SEE **OLYMPICS** ON **B7**

COURTESY OF SUZANNE EHRMANN

Suzanne Ehrmann at the 1984 Olympics in Los Angeles. A single ticket didn't cost much, but Ehrmann, now 79, says she stretched her budget to see as many sports as she could.

Social Security is the retirement plan Trump should fix

Michelle Singletary
THE COLOR OF MONEY

There's an expression that fraud experts use all the time to warn people about a suspected scam: If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is.

That's how I feel about President Donald Trump's proposal to give millions of workers $1,000 a year to boost their retirement savings.

In his State of the Union address Tuesday, Trump trumpeted the creation of retirement accounts similar to the Thrift Savings Plan (TSP) offered to federal workers. Addressing the millions of Americans currently shut out of workplace savings, the president said he wanted to "remedy this gross disparity."

He said he was going to "ensure that all Americans can profit from a rising stock market."

On paper — or his teleprompter, in this case — expanding the TSP, the federal government's low-fee workplace investment program, sounds like a savvy policy move. While individuals can always build a nest egg on their own, we know that automatic payroll deductions through an employer-sponsored plan significantly boost participation rates.

However, given Trump's poor track record for helping low-wage workers, I'm highly skeptical this promise will ever materialize. Or, if the program is implemented, that it would make a long-term difference.

Recent policy shifts under the current administration have further frayed the social

SEE **SINGLETARY** ON **B7**

Your backyard could be a home. Here's how to do it.

Climate Coach
MICHAEL J. COREN

Proposing new homes in existing neighborhoods once amounted to political suicide for local officials. Today, politicians can't get enough of accessory dwelling units (ADUs): small backyard and attached homes that are gaining popularity across the nation.

California, which has passed 100 housing laws in six years, turned ADUs into VIPs by virtually eliminating city bans, onerous restrictions and fees, and granting "by-right" approval. Eighteen states such as Washington, Arkansas and Maine (and even more cities) have passed laws paving the way for more in a rare show of bipartisanship.

"We're in a very different place than we were 20 to 30 years ago," said Shane Phillips, who works on affordable housing at the Lewis Center for Regional Policy Studies at the University of California at Los Angeles. "It's about as uncontroversial as you can get."

Unsurprisingly, this kind of construction has surged. Los Angeles is at the forefront: The city issued fewer than 100 ADU permits in 2016. In 2022, 1 in 3 new homes — more than 7,000 units — permitted in Los Angeles fell into this category. Outside of California, states from Washington to Arkansas to Massachusetts have followed suit, albeit at a smaller scale.

That's given Americans a new way to cash in on their homes — and offer someone else a

SEE **COREN** ON **B8**

When Los Angeles hosted the Olympics in 1984, tickets were $3. Not anymore.

OLYMPICS FROM **B6**

able. That $10 ticket represented just under an hour of work for the median California worker in 1984. Today, a $100 ticket would cost more than two hours' work at the median California worker's income — and still, 2 in 3 tickets will cost more than that. At the upper end, the L.A. Olympics are already taking $10,000 deposits for private suites.

Dunlay, who just retired from a career in advertising, and Kissick, who works part-time at age 77 as a legal secretary, aren't so sure they'll be in the stands again. Their favorite sport is soccer, and they were disappointed recently to learn that when the FIFA World Cup comes to the U.S. this summer, tickets to see a game in L.A. will be far too pricey for them to afford, with tickets starting at more than $100 and going for as much as $8,680.

"I'm afraid it will be the same for the Olympics. It was easy to get tickets in 1984," Kissick said. In 2028, however, "I'm assuming they're not going to be cheap."

Organizers for the L.A. Olympics say they're committed to Angelenos from all walks of life enjoying the Games' return to their city. But based on the organizers' early framework of ticket prices, and the L.A. area's concentration of extreme wealth, many in the city are doubtful that the Olympics will be for them.

Gigi Gutierrez, a spokeswoman for the games, assures ticket prices will be within reach. "When you have so many Angelenos working on a project, it's kind of the first thing you think of: How are my cousins and my aunts and uncles going to get to the games?" she said. "It's a love letter to our city. So affordability has always been top of mind for us." The Olympic committee has promised to charge $28 for 1 million of the 14 million tickets.

Andrew Zimbalist, a Smith College professor who has written three books on Olympics economics, pointed out that California has more billionaires than anywhere else in the U.S. — about 200. "They want to take advantage of that," he said. "Ticket prices have gone way, way up in all sports. … Since 1984, there's been a sharp increase in income inequality. You have more money at the very top, people who can afford to spend this kind of money."

Stanford economist Roger Noll was living in L.A. back in 1984, teaching at the California Institute of Technology. He went to a soccer match and a team handball game. "It was $3. It was nothing. It was an incredibly small amount of money," he said. Now, he thinks economic conditions make it obvious that that experience won't repeat itself.

"As incomes rise, people spend more money on things like this, and there's a limited amount of space. … It is now getting to the point where you pretty much have to be wealthy to attend anything but very minor events," said Noll, 85. "Almost all the economic gains are accruing to the top third of the income distribution, and they have more discretionary income to spend."

Across all major sports, U.S. ticket prices have soared, with costs for baseball and football games tripling between 1991 and 2023. Teams have increasingly catered to the wealthiest ticket buyers.

Noll thinks the promise to keep a third of tickets below $100 won't help many would-be spectators. "One hundred dollars is a lot."

Some experts take a sunnier view. Victor Matheson, a College of the Holy Cross economist who campaigned against a Boston Olympics, pointed out that many cities have dropped Olympics bids in recent years because they had trouble "convincing local voters that it was in their interest to host a party for rich people from around the world." The L.A. Olympics organizers know they need to entertain Angelenos.

"I think what we'll see is cheap tickets for the things that people don't really want to see, but are still actually great at the Olympics, and wildly expensive tickets for the things that everyone wants to see," Matheson said. "If you're okay with seeing a group stage game in team handball, this is going to be great."

Today's dynamic pricing technology can lead to both cheaper and more expensive tickets, Matheson said, as computers can more precisely tease out customers' willingness to pay.

Gutierrez said that the L.A. Olympics will not use dynamic pricing for the first round of tickets that become available through the ticket lottery in April, but will use the technology for later rounds, once the Olympics committee collects data from initial ticket sales.

"Dynamic ticket pricing … is not bad for the fans at all if you're willing to go all-in following Bulgarian weightlifters and get your Olympic experience that way," Matheson said.

At the last Summer Games, wealthy fans enjoyed ultra-luxe packages, while organizers in Paris walked back their plans to make events like the Opening Ceremonies along the Seine free to all due to security concerns. Still, Paris offered free and low-cost tickets to many.

Ticket prices are set by the local Olympics organizers, and the vast majority of the proceeds go to the host city, with a small slice to the International Olympic Committee. While some recent Olympics — including Rio 2016 and Tokyo 2020 — have been financial disasters for their host cities, which built expensive stadiums and failed to recoup their costs, Los Angeles has vowed to avoid costs to taxpayers.

The last L.A. Olympics set a precedent for that, too. In 1984, the Olympics had been so costly for other recent cities that L.A. was the only one to bid to host. With a novel approach to corporate sponsorships and television rights, and a full portfolio of existing venues instead of pricey new construction, the L.A. Olympics managed to turn a modest profit.

The 2028 L.A. Olympics are expected to cost more than $7 billion, to be paid for by domestic sponsorships and other ventures as well as by ticket sales.

Ronan Evain, the head of the fan group Football Supporters Europe, has become the world leader of criticizing FIFA, but says Olympic pricing is much more reasonable. "You'll have, yes, an expensive, exclusive experience for those that can afford it. And then accessible prices for the others," Evain said. "Given how negative the perception of the World Cup is in relation to ticket prices and the reputational nightmare for FIFA, if I was the Olympics in 2028, I would do the exact opposite. And I think that's the direction they're taking."

John Ellis was 25 and a recent UCLA graduate when the Olympics came to town in 1984. He remembers looking at the lineup with a friend one morning and deciding on the spur of the moment to go to a field hockey game, which had cheap last-minute tickets available. He also splurged for $200 tickets to the Opening Ceremonies, the most expensive tier.

In 2028, Ellis, a real estate appraiser, expects much higher prices. "I went to one of the Dodgers World Series games this year and had to pay $1,000. I'm not happy about it. It's just these major live events — concerts and big entertainment — are just so expensive. But I think they're important," Ellis said. "There's a certain price where I wouldn't go. If I could get in [to the Opening Ceremonies] for $1,000, I would. At $2,000, maybe not."

He'd like to experience that Olympics high again. "It was just such a positive feeling, being there with the other fans, local people and then people from all around the world — it created a common bond."

Suzanne Ehrmann, 79, remembers stretching her budget for that Olympic feeling in 1984. Each ticket alone wasn't much, but she wanted to go to as many sports as she could afford. She saw synchronized swimming, diving, gymnastics. At the conclusion of the marathon, she watched a woman stagger to the finish line. "You could just feel in this stadium everybody was encouraging her to go on. I've never felt that in my life. I don't know how many thousands of people were in the stadium, and every single person was holding their breath and hoping that she would finish. And she did."

"My dad said 'You're crazy, spending all this money,'" said Ehrmann, who was working for her family's picture frame business at the time. Her late husband, who was working in public health at the University of Southern California, was key: He had a free parking spot at USC.

Dennis Smith, who had just finished his first year teaching history in the L.A. public schools in the summer of 1984, bought last-minute tickets for $10 to see the gold medal demonstration baseball match, played at Dodger Stadium, between the U.S. and Japan. He still has the ticket stub showing his seat in right field. He and his mother went to track and field events for all eight days. His father, an accountant, had been a devoted track fan since the day he watched Cornelius Warmerdam set a world record in 1940. His dad was the one who requested the tickets, but died of a heart attack before the games.

Now, Smith is retired after 37 years of teaching, and he's keenly aware of L.A.'s tendency toward exclusive events for the rich. He recently scoffed at a $1,500-a-meal restaurant pop-up.

"I used to go to a lot of Lakers games in the '80s and '90s — that was the Magic Johnson, Karim Abdul Jabar era of the Lakers. It was the hottest ticket in town, and it was still affordable for a high school teacher," he said. Not anymore. "It was easier to afford to go to a sporting event back then than now."

He's not sure if he'll make it to any Olympics events in 2028. In part because of the price. But in part because his heart has changed too since that sunlit summer. "It was really a way of saying goodbye to my dad."

JABIN BOTSFORD/THE WASHINGTON POST

U.S. gymnast Simone Biles holds the Olympic flag next to Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass during the 2024 Summer Games in Paris.

DENNIS SMITH

Dennis Smith bought last-minute tickets for $10 to see the U.S. and Japan play baseball at the 1984 Olympics.

MICHELLE SINGLETARY

Trump's plan to give workers $1,000 for retirement sounds too good to be true

SINGLETARY FROM **B6**

safety net for working-class families. Many of these changes were imposed in the One Big Beautiful Bill Act.

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) will reduce both the number of eligible people and the level of funding, according to an analysis by the Urban Institute.

Trump's tariffs have raised prices on many consumer goods.

Over a million people have abandoned Obamacare this year following the Republican-led expiration of premium subsidies, which is estimated to increase payments by an average of 114 percent, according to a January report from KFF, a nonpartisan health policy organization.

While the administration's policies squeeze the monthly budgets of working-class families, the proposal for a new retirement plan asks those same struggling households to focus on their financial needs decades from now.

A "Trump TSP," because we know the president likes to name things after himself, would require funding for the $1,000 match. But there's a bigger issue. Would workers struggling to pay for housing and health care have the extra money to get the match?

To qualify for the full match, they have to save $2,000 a year. However, if low-income families are having affordability problems with their grocery bill, rent and health insurance, they certainly won't have the funds to stash in a retirement plan.

There is someone I respect who is hopeful this new plan might work, especially if there is an auto-enrollment feature.

Trump's proposal mirrors a long-standing framework championed by Teresa Ghilarducci, who has spent years advocating for a government-backed universal retirement account for workers without employer-sponsored plans. She calls her proposal the Guaranteed Retirement Account.

Ghilarducci, a professor at the New School for Social Research, points to what she calls a "fatal flaw" in our current defined-contribution system. In this model, retirement security depends entirely on a worker's ability to set aside and invest their wages. The problem, she argues, is that millions of people lack access to an employer-managed savings vehicle at their jobs to help make that happen.

According to the Pew Charitable Trusts, nearly half of all private-sector employees — about 57 million people — work for companies that don't provide a workplace retirement account.

Ghilarducci is hopeful because Trump's plan piggybacks on a new retirement savings program established by the bipartisan Secure 2.0 Act of 2022.

Starting in 2027, the federal government is set to provide a 50 percent match for up to $2,000 in employee cash contributions, meaning the government would provide a maximum of $1,000. That money would be deposited directly into the retirement accounts.

The match was created to help low-to-moderate income earners. Single filers would get the match if they make less than $20,500. It phases out completely by $35,500. For married filers, the phaseout begins at $41,000 and ends at $71,000.

Ghilarducci said using the TSP model is a smart way to maximize retirement returns for low-income workers.

"I'm optimistic," she said.

I'd like to have as much hope as she has. But it's unclear where the money for the match would come from or whether Congress would support the funding long term. A similar effort to boost retirement savings for lower-age workers was scuttled during Trump's first term as president.

President Barack Obama had authorized the Treasury Department to create the MyRA (as in "my retirement account") program for workers without access to an employer-sponsored plan. After a trial run, it was rolled out nationwide in 2015. The account was similar to a Roth IRA. People could contribute earned income after taxes, and their earnings wouldn't be taxed. It also wasn't linked to any employer.

Under Trump, the Treasury claimed the program was too costly and unpopular.

Could the same happen to Trump's initiative in a future administration?

We need to figure out how to help lower-wage workers save for retirement. But Trump should be just as fixated on fixing the Social Security safety net.

As of last year, 62 percent of U.S. retirees reported relying on Social Security as a major source of income, according to Gallup's most recent poll.

The Old-Age and Survivors Insurance Trust Fund, which pays retirement and survivor benefits, will be able to pay 100 percent of benefits until 2032, the Congressional Budget Office said in a report released last month. That's a year earlier than the trustees of the Social Security and Medicare trust funds said in their annual report last year.

Money will still be coming in, but a shortfall that isn't closed will require a cut to scheduled benefits.

If Trump were really committed to helping workers, he would be working with Congress to make fixing Social Security a priority.

A $1,000 bonus to millions of workers sounds like it can make a difference, but it's a hollow promise if the government lets a tried-and-true safety net falter. Closing the retirement wealth gap should start with protecting the Social Security system, a program people actually count on to survive.

WASHINGTON POST ILLUSTRATION; PETER W. STEVENSON/THE WASHINGTON POST; ISTOCK

If you have a personal finance question for Michelle, please call 1-855-ASK-POST (1-855-275-7678). Her award-winning column The Color of Money is syndicated by The Washington Post News Service and Syndicate and carried in dozens of newspapers.

ALLISON ZAUCHA/FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

Accessory dwelling units (ADUs), such as this one in Los Angeles, are becoming more popular across the nation. They give Americans a new way to cash in on their homes — and offer someone else a place to live.

MICHAEL J. COREN

Little houses and big returns: What to know about the backyard building boom

COREN FROM B6

place to live.

After B.J. May and his wife married in the fall of 2024, they began searching for a home near where he grew up near Boston. "Right now, the price of a starter home is pretty outrageous," said May, 32. "All the open houses were packed, and all the offers were way over asking." But under a 2024 Massachusetts law, his parents had the right to build a 900-square-foot ADU on their property. By combining a home-equity loan and money saved for a down payment, May could design a custom home with BuildX, a specialized ADU contractor, for the same price as a less suitable house on the market. Eventually, May's parents can relocate to the smaller home, while his growing family can move into the larger one.

"It was exactly what we wanted," said May.

ADUs supply this desperately needed "missing middle," smaller units such as duplexes and small apartment buildings that became less common as single-family zoning took over after World War II. While no panacea for a housing shortage, they help families and retirees make ends meet with rental income, house other family and friends, or downsize. They're also easing the burden on our climate: Every neighborhood ADU is one less unit that might be built in far-flung suburbs (buildings and personal vehicles account for about half of energy-related greenhouse gas emissions in the United States).

The math for homeowners is attractive: A second home on the same lot. Higher home values (35 percent more than comparable homes without an ADU, reports the National Association of Realtors) and rental incomes of $2,000 per month in desirable markets.

But the perils of financing, property management and byzantine regulations can turn it into a money pit.

Here's how to decide if you want to join the backyard housing boom.

When an ADU makes sense

People have been building small units in backyards and inside existing homes as long as we've had homes. Often called granny flats or mother-in-law suites, they are modest: typically about 800 square feet, about one-third the size of the typical U.S. home.

There are three typical types of ADU structures, according to Better Place Design and Build, a California-based contractor. They include stand-alone cottages and lofts; attached units such as garage and rear-yard additions; and internal conversions like basement and attic remodels. Internal renovations are the cheapest ($30,000–$100,000), while detached structures can rival the cost of a standard house.

Where are most ADUs built?

In practice, says Phillips, the economics favor middle-income areas where rents can support construction costs and still offer decent payback periods, often in the five-to-10-year range. Although hard data is scarce, surveys, he adds, suggest two-thirds of ADUs are rented out full-time: some at market rates, and many others at steep discounts. One 2013 survey in Oregon found that about 13 percent of ADUs were rented for *zero* dollars, according to state officials (a Bay Area survey found similar figures). In places like San Diego, where a zoning policy rewards affordable housing, homeowners can build "granny towers," which function like small apartment buildings.

Does it make sense for you? Here's what experts and ADU owners say it takes to make the decision.

Step 1: Decide why you want an ADU (it changes everything)

The purpose of your ADU (and the financial math) changes drastically based on why you're building it: Is it a revenue-generating property? Below-market-rate housing for family and friends? Or a swing-space for your own household? Expect these to change over time. ADUs that start out as rental properties often become home to members of your extended household of every generation from children leaving the nest to grandparents returning to it.

If you're considering Airbnb (and other short-term rentals), get a backup plan: Local ordinances change swiftly, and homeowners underestimate the workload of property management for rentals.

Step 2: Confirm it's legal

Take a look at your local (and state) ADU ordinances. The Mercatus Center at George Mason University offers a national view, but a simple search for "accessory dwelling unit" for your city or county typically turns up government building codes, as well as organizations willing to advise on this (AI tools can summarize these quickly, but verify).

Check your city's ADU rules: lot size, height, maximum square footage, parking, owner-occupancy and fees (some are waived for buildings under a certain size). Cities like Raleigh, North Carolina and San Diego even offer preapproved ADU plans, potentially saving thousands of dollars on fees and designs and months of permit delays.

If you're subject to a homeowners association (HOA), confirm deed restrictions. California, Oregon and Washington passed laws that restrict or override HOA restrictions; that's not true in all states.

A quick call to your city planning department can answer many of these questions. Still facing a recalcitrant local government, despite the law being on your side? YIMBY Law may help you make your case.

Step 3: Do a financial feasibility check

A thorough estimate of costs, timelines, expected revenue and other contingencies will help avoid a six-figure financial quagmire that doesn't pencil out.

A basic feasibility review should include: total project cost (design, permits, construction, utilities, contingencies), rough timeline, realistic rent or family use, sewage and utilities, financing options and a backup plan if costs or revenue don't turn out as expected.

Call a professional contractor or architect, but do a first pass yourself. It's not as intimidating as it sounds. First, type in "ADU calculator," and you will find dozens of options online (some from local governments). Don't take contractor estimates at face value. Check your local market (rents are available on Zillow Rentals or Apartments.com, and your local bank has home equity loan rates). Once you get a ballpark figure, see if you can afford it.

Securing financing is where many ADUs fail. Banks struggle to value unbuilt units, so owners typically finance construction through cash or home equity lines of credit (HELOC). But federal agencies such as the Federal Housing Association and Freddie Mac allow lenders to count rental income from ADUs when qualifying borrowers for loans. After construction, ADU owners may be able to refinance their primary mortgage on the higher value of the home (beware of higher interest rates). Confirm your insurance covers the new structure.

Low-income homeowners can check whether their city or state has an ADU grant or subsidized loan program. An attractive option — if available — is a lease-to-own model: Minnesota company YardHomes builds, owns and manages an ADU for 10 years, sharing rental income with the property owner, then transfers ownership after a decade.

For those with low home equity or appraised values, access to home equity loans is limited. Even for those with access to home credit lines, it can be hard to break even outside of high-rent markets. In suburban Massachusetts, said Buz Artiano of BuildX, the return on investment works only if the ADU serves multiple purposes: family housing now, rental income later. But family dynamics are among the most common reasons ADUs are never built. "Inheritance questions, sibling disputes and the emotional complexity of multigenerational living stall or kill deals before a permit is ever pulled," wrote Artiano.

Step 4: Design your dream ADU

ADUs can be prefabricated sheds or luxury apartments like Aurora Ferrari's net-zero, steel-clad home in the District's Cleveland Park neighborhood.

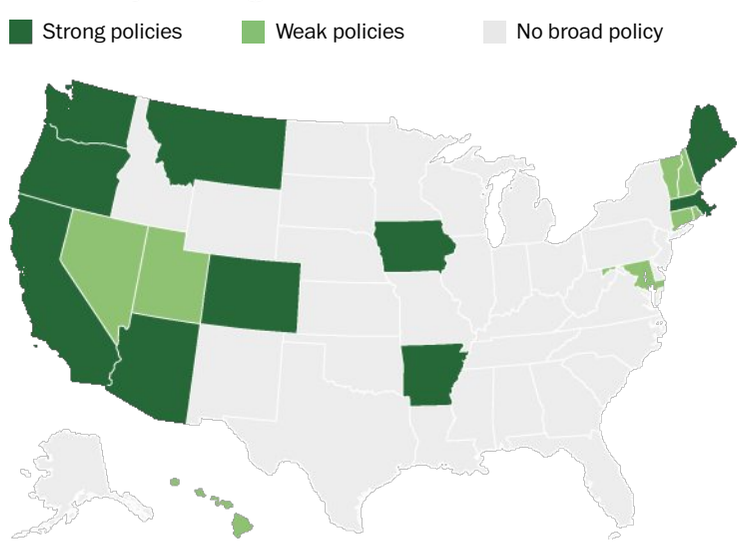
But design decisions are where many ADU projects go wrong. Getting builders and designers involved early in the process can save money and heartache later.

Choices that feel low-stakes — window placement, interior walls, stairs — can quietly lock in constraints and wipe out financial returns. A multigenerational unit must prioritize accessibility (minimal stairs, wide doorways) while rental properties could justify luxury furnishings. Expect an ADU's purpose to change over time. Many serve as rental properties for years before housing aging relatives, and then change again.

May designed his ADU in the Boston area with both luxury finishes such as granite countertops and wheelchair-accessible entryways. His parents have not set a date to move in, but retrofitting later would be prohibitively expensive. "Make sure [the design] makes sense over the long term," he said.

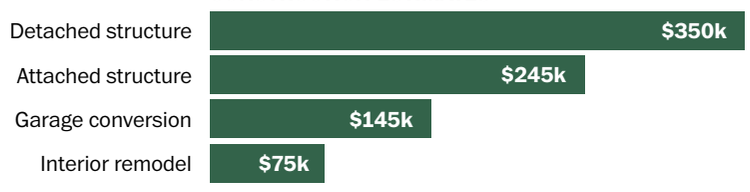
Experienced contractors will understand these constraints and flag trade-offs early. Most carry off-the-shelf ADU designs alongside customized options for nearly any legal lot. Finding a contractor often isn't the hardest part. It's knowing what you're building for — and what you'll need 10 years from now.

States that protect homeowners' rights to build accessory dwellings*



Average cost of accessory dwelling unit in California

CONSTRUCTION ESTIMATES



*"Accessory dwelling units" are small homes on the same lot as a single-family home

Sources: A Taxonomy of State Accessory Dwelling Unit Laws 2025 (map), Better Place Design and Build (chart)

THE WASHINGTON POST

ISTOCK

A quick call to your city planning department can answer many questions about building an ADU.

A bumpy road awaits robotaxis in London's busy streetscapes

The tech must navigate the city's ancient, convoluted layout, plus resistance from cabdrivers

PHOTOS BY KIN CHEUNG/AP

TOP: Frank O'Beirne, who has been driving London's famed black cabs for 14 years, says that self-driving taxis can't replicate the human touch. ABOVE: Wayve CEO Alex Kendall, whose start-up is teaming with Uber for London's robotaxi trials in the spring.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

LONDON — The Ford Mustang Mach-E cruises down a London road choked with traffic, using its onboard AI system to avoid jaywalkers and cyclists and navigate roadwork as it drives to its destination.

The autonomous vehicle from British start-up Wayve Technologies is on a test run ahead of the British government's robotaxi trials set to launch in the spring. Tech firms including U.S. company Waymo and China's Baidu also plan to take part in the pilot program, making London the latest arena in the global robotaxi competition.

While self-driving cabs aren't new, London's ancient road layout and busy streetscapes could pose special challenges for the technology.

There's also skepticism from London's famed black cabdrivers, who must pass a grueling training course known as "The Knowledge," which requires memorizing hundreds of routes and takes years to complete. They have previously opposed technology that has disrupted their industry and protested the arrival of Uber.

Self-driving taxis are "a solution looking for a problem," said Steven McNamara, general secretary of the Licensed Taxi Drivers' Association, which represents black cabbies.

He doubts that robotaxis would have any advantage on London's road network, which is laid out in a convoluted spiderweb that dates to Roman times — unlike the grid layout in U.S. cities such as San Francisco and Phoenix where Waymo operates.

The British capital is notorious for being one of the world's most congested cities, and its streets are already clogged with other modes of transport, including private cars, buses, motor scooters, bicycles and electric rental bikes.

McNamara and many others have noted that robotaxis face another challenge from pedestrians crossing the streets. While jaywalking is illegal in the U.S. and many other countries, it's not an offense in Britain.

"It's virtually impossible to drive anywhere [in London] without somebody walking in front of you," McNamara said. In London, with a population of nearly 10 million, he wondered "how these cars are going to deal with those volumes of people?"

The robotaxi companies say there is room for the new technology.

"I think Londoners are going to love autonomous driving. It's going to be another choice alongside the Tube, cycling, walking," Wayve CEO Alex Kendall said in a recent interview at the company's workshop.

Wayve is teaming up with Uber for the taxi trials, which are part of Britain's move to adopt national regulations for self-driving vehicles. The nation is seeking to position itself as a world leader in the technology.

Chinese tech company Baidu is also teaming up with Uber, as well as its ride-hailing rival Lyft, to operate its Apollo Go autonomous vehicle service in the London pilot.

Waymo, which is owned by Google parent Alphabet, will also take part and plans to launch a London passenger service by the third quarter of 2026, company representatives told reporters in January.

Waymo officials sought to ease concerns that the company would suddenly flood London streets with robotaxis, noting that it has operated 1,000 total vehicles in San Francisco since going into full service in 2024.

"We're not here to replace anyone," Waymo spokesman Ethan Teicher said. "We're here to add another option for people who will choose to take black cabs or other modes of transportation when it suits them and choose to take Waymo, when it makes sense."

Waymo's self-driving Jaguar I-Pace sedans have been spotted doing test runs around London. Wayve's Ford Mustang Mach-E vehicles have also been doing road tests with human backup drivers sitting behind the wheel, ready to intervene if needed.

On a recent demo ride for the Associated Press, Wayve's Ford steered automatically through a three-mile loop in North London without any problems.

Cruising down a straight and open stretch of road, the car maintained a steady pace of 19 mph, a tick under the speed limit.

A traffic light changed as the car approached, forcing it to brake firmly and lightly jolting the passengers forward — the only moment that the driving was less than smooth.

Kendall said Wayve takes a different approach from traditional self-driving technology. It doesn't rely on "high definition" maps and "hand-coded" safety systems rules written by programmers anticipating every scenario.

Instead, it uses an AI trained on millions of hours of data gathered by its cars to learn and understand how the world works.

"This is the key thing for self-driving, because every time you drive on the road, you're going to experience something different," Kendall said. "You can't rely on a self-driving car being told how to behave in every scenario it encounters."

He said Wayve is positioning itself as a technology company providing hardware and software that can be added to any vehicle to make it autonomous. It signed a deal with Nissan in December to build self-driving cars that will go on sale in Japan and North America by 2027.

Kendall wouldn't reveal any more specific details about the robotaxi service it will operate in collaboration with Uber, such as pricing.

Waymo, which has its own app to hail rides, will have "competitive" prices and fares will be in line with the market, officials said in January, while adding that it is often able to "demand more premium pricing."

Experts say there is a role for robotaxis in Britain, but it might be a niche one.

They are best poised to fill gaps in Britain's public transport network, such as serving villages that have lost bus services connecting them to bigger towns and cities because of budget cuts, said Kevin Vincent, director of the Centre for Connected and Autonomous Automotive Research at Coventry University.

There will still be demand for human drivers, especially from out-of-town visitors and tourists, he said.

If you find a "cabdriver who knows the area, you can ask him questions. You feel confident and comfortable you're going where you need to go," which is a service that won't be easily replaced in the short term, Vincent said.

Self-driving taxis can't replicate the human touch, said Frank O'Beirne, who has been driving black cabs for 14 years.

For example, one of his recent fares was a pair of blind passengers going to touristy Leicester Square. He ended up parking at a cab rank and walking them across the street to their destination, a Chinese restaurant that turned out to be in the basement of a casino.

"They would never have found that, ever," on their own, O'Beirne said. "There's nothing like us. I can't see the space where autonomous taxis can operate, really."

From dabblers to day traders, individual investors' impact on Wall Street grows

ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES — For years, individual investors were dismissed by some on Wall Street as "dumb money."

That typically referred to those prone to trading on hype, or chasing trends rather than company or industry fundamentals, or responding late to big market moves.

That's no longer the case. An analysis of where individual investors put their money last year shows they outperformed two of the most popular, professionally managed index funds, SPY and QQQ, whose goal is to mirror the performance of the S&P 500 and Nasdaq 100, respectively.

These investors, also known as retail investors, accounted for $5.4 trillion in trading activity in 2025 across stocks and exchange-traded funds, or ETFs, according to Vanda, an independent data and research firm. That's a nearly 47 percent increase from the previous year and the most going back to at least 2014.

"I personally want to dispel the myth of retail being dumb money, because it's not dumb money anymore," said Joe Mazzola, head trading and derivatives strategist at Charles Schwab, at an investor education event in Anaheim, California, in November that drew around 800 of the financial services company's clients.

Many Americans have long invested in the stock market, although largely hands-off through managed funds in retirement plans, such as a 401(k). But over the past decade, the advent of mobile trading apps, zero-commission trading, stock market-focused communities on social media and online tools for education and research has helped usher in a new era of do-it-yourself trading in stocks, crypto and other investments.

The covid-19 lockdowns were an inflection point. A new crop of investors, many young newcomers using investing apps such as Robinhood, helped drive the "meme stock" frenzy that catapulted the price of GameStop, AMC Entertainment and other stocks.

Meme stocks aside, years of mostly uninterrupted, strong stock market gains provided an attractive backdrop for more people to take up investing. The benchmark S&P 500 has posted an annual loss only three times going back to 2015.

By early last year, the number of people moving money from checking accounts to investment accounts reached its highest levels since 2021, according to a report by JPMorgan Chase. Some may have been younger Americans who could not afford to buy a house and instead put the money in stocks, the report suggests.

All told, money coming into the market from individual investors jumped about 50 percent from 2023 to early 2025, according to the report.

"I would say they are considerably more important as a force in markets right now," said Steve Sosnick, chief strategist at Interactive Brokers. "Markets used to be really dominated by institutional investors, but if you put enough ants together, they can move a very big log."

Buying the dip

Frank Sabia from Encino, California, started dabbling in investing in 2018. Over the years, he's leveled up his market and trading knowledge by joining private investor chat groups online or attending investing seminars like Schwab's.

"I learned a lot more about options strategies and charting and everything from there," he said in an interview in November. "Now I'm independent. I just look for my own trades. I have my own strategy. I hunt on my own."

Sabia, a high school registrar, said he trades in cryptocurrencies and other assets, but that his "bread and butter" is options trading.

That involves trading contracts to buy or sell a stock at a specific price before a specified date. This can be less costly up-front than buying stocks, but it can also be riskier, because options expire and a small move in a stock's price can translate into a big swing in the value of options contracts.

Last April, Sabia opened a Roth IRA account and bought into the market as stocks tanked after President Donald Trump announced a sweeping set of tariffs that were more severe than investors expected. The announcement sent the S&P 500 into a two-day tailspin of more than 10 percent, the type of plunge not seen since the 2020 covid crash.

"I just bought the dip," Sabia said.

He was wasn't alone. Retail investors seized on the market skid, buying more than $5 billion in stocks over the two days, according to Vanda.

"In April, it was retail [investors] that bought the dip," Mazzola said. "They were the ones that were willing to step in front. They saw the opportunity."

Retail investors also had one of their biggest buy-the-dip days of the year on Oct. 10, when the market dropped 2.7 percent after Trump threatened a "massive increase on tariffs" on China.

Retail investors haven't slowed down this year. Their trading activity hit an all-time high on a rolling monthly basis in January, according to J.P. Morgan. They were particularly active in the last week of that month, coinciding with the S&P 500 climbing to an all-time high.

Retail traders also had a hand in turbocharging the price of silver in January to record highs by buying a record amount of silver ETFs, according to data from Vanda.

A recent analysis by Charles Schwab of trading and stock positions by its millions of retail investor clients found they were net buyers of stocks in January, with Microsoft, Netflix and Tesla among the most popular stock buys.

Some take on more risk

Many retail investors have gone beyond stocks or ETFs and into other investment vehicles. Options trading, which can expose them to higher risk, accounted for about $650 billion of retail investors' trading last year and has been mostly rising steadily going back to at least 2019, according to Vanda.

Noah Goodwin, a junior in high school in the Los Angeles suburb of Castaic, started options trading on Robinhood Markets early last year using in his mother's custodial account. It paid off right away.

He bought $148 worth of Nvidia options on Jan. 20, 2025, the same day shares of the tech giant plunged on news of AI advances by Chinese start-up DeepSeek.

Goodwin sold his options later that day.

"I made a $200 profit. My very first trade," Goodwin said in an interview in November.

Not all his trades have gone his way. In July, he thought he could capitalize on market volatility caused by more uncertainty over tariffs, but he miscalculated.

"I lost a lot of money, like probably like around $600 to $800," he said. "So, a horrible month for me."

"For the most part, with only some exceptions, buying the dip has tended to be a very profitable tactic for many retail investors," Sosnick said. But he cautioned that the strategy had led to retail investors making trading decisions without giving full consideration to the risks and rewards.

"The risk to it is that for many of them it's become sort of mechanical," he said.

It's not uncommon for retail investors to strike a balance between higher-risk moves and making trades to build out a long-term investment portfolio.

Andy Hu, a financial analyst in Los Angeles who attended the Schwab event in November, said he had 50 percent of his investment portfolio in the SPDR S&P 500 ETF Trust, a popular fund that aims to track the performance of the S&P 500.

For his short-term trades, he tends to buy microcap stocks, which are very small publicly traded companies that can see big swings in price because of small trading volume.

The approach had his active trading account up by around 20 percent through the first 11 months of last year, he said.

Hu stopped making trades toward the end of last year when a pullback in big tech companies helped drag the S&P 500 to a monthly loss in December, clouding sentiment on Wall Street.

"I haven't made a single trade in the last two months," Hu said.

The Washington Post

Jobs

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The Mirage of the Dream Job

By: Russ Finkelstein

The use of *Dream* Job is one of those terms that both tempts and misleads people. It is the professional equivalent of someone's Instagram photo of them sitting on a lounge chair on a beach in Tahiti while the water gently laps their feet. It makes other people envious while throttling up their aspirations, but they often lack an understanding of what it took for that scenario to unfold. It is the moment of bliss, but doesn't show the 20 hours of middle seat flights, noise coming from nearby beach goers, and bills piling up. It is a snapshot of a perfect tropical moment with no context.

Interestingly, in contrast to our vacationer, one less frequently hears from people who are in a *dream* job, talking or writing about their bliss. This isn't just a collective show of good manners and restraint from those who are ecstatically employed. Rather, this framing most often manifests from one of three groups: 1) career coaches trying to locate a hook to lure you, 2) writers trying to siren call you to their book or article (present author included), **or** 3) an institution trying to fill a role and relying on the dream role framing to ensnare the masses.

Find your *new job* on our *new website*

What people think a *dream* job is…

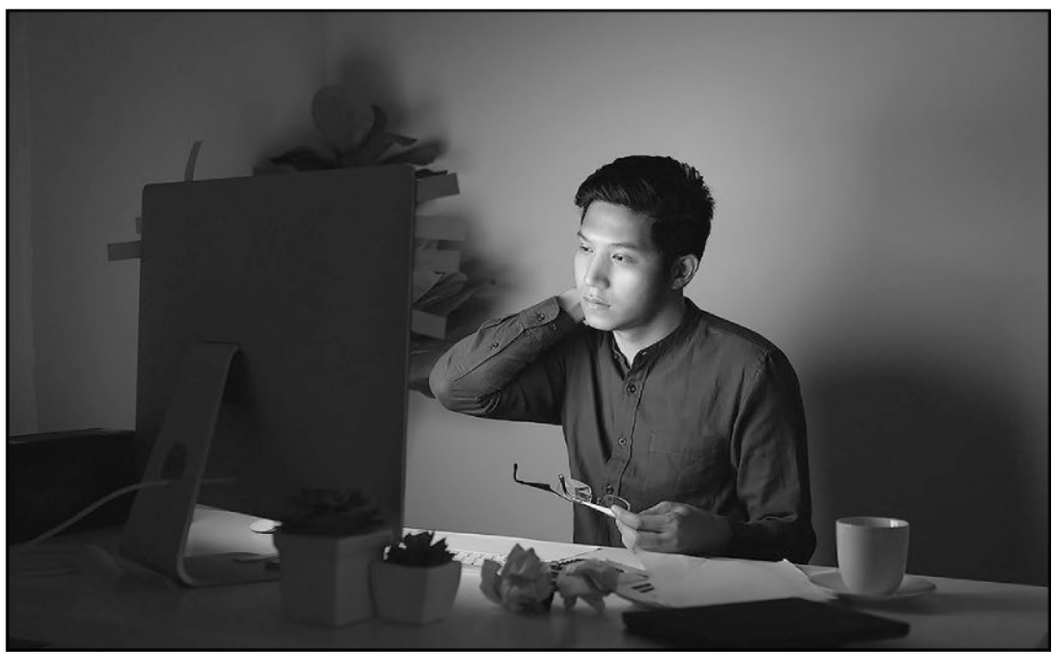
A good example might be the character played by Tom Hanks in the movie BIG. He is a young man transported into the body of an adult who lands a job at a toy company. Every day at work is filled with whimsical play, and he is largely free to be himself. His quirks and/or eccentricities are ultimately greeted with enthusiasm and respect. Most people think of the artist, athlete, founder, or tycoon that gets to do what they love and gets paid handsomely for it.

What a *dream* job really is…

I've had the pleasure to be in conversation with many people who have roles that others consider to be a *dream*. I want to emphasize the following points that are the real-life counternarrative to the *dream* job narrative

- All work has drudgery. Every person has an aspect of their job that they do not like. They may try to minimize the amount of time that they have to spend on this, but typically, some of it can't be passed off to others.
- All work gets repetitive. That which delighted you at one point early on can become really boring - playing your hit single, saying your well-known tag line, practicing a skill, or sharing the pitch about your work. There is a point when people get greatly diminished joy, which can turn into repulsion.
- The people around you, peers or fans, are often an X factor. Those living the *dream* often feel that everyone wants to take from them to gain access to fame, money, opportunities, etc. This can make it harder for you to trust others personally and professionally.

I'm not writing to burst your bubble. Rather, to help you through the words people use that create misleading expectations. When you see



an opportunity that is described as a *dream*, I want you to wake up and pursue answers about your perception in the following areas:

Who will be your boss? What is their management style? How much autonomy do you have at the start? How will you be onboarded and trained? Nothing ruins a great job more quickly than the wrong manager.

What is success in the role? How is it measured? When is it measured? How different are the goal numbers from the status quo? Nothing frustrates people, even those in *dream* jobs, more than unclear goals and expectations, than being told that you've failed to meet an unstated standard.

★What are you prepared to do in service of keeping this dream job alive? Lose time with family and friends, hobbies, or your partner? Be away from home regularly? Many a *dream* comes crashing down to reality because there was a trade-off that the person was unprepared to make.

You can find fulfilling work that meets your needs. Don't set yourself up for this idea of the *dream*. All too frequently, as you approach, you realize that it was all a mirage - like a tropical island in the desert.

Russ Finkelstein is a coach and advisor to social entrepreneurs and jobseekers. He was a co-founder of noted career website **Idealist.org** and is an advisor to the Roddenberry Foundation. He has been honored by LinkedIn as a Generation Z & LGBTQ Influencer. The production of this section did not involve the news or editorial staff of The Washington Post.

A JOBS

Accounts Payable Specialist Pleasants Construction Inc. seeks an AP Specialist to coordinate/perform all aspects of the accounts payable cycle. Min. ed. HS Diploma, Min. exp. 2 yrs in Bookkeeping, Accounting or Sales. Proficient in Excel, Accounting Software & Customer Service. Job loc. Clarksburg, MD. Send resume to cdavis@pleasants.org.

(Accountant) Manage daily operations of ledgers such as payroll, billings, accounts payable & receivable, cost allocations; Use accounting programs such as Quickbooks and Payroll Relief; Financial statements preparation. 40 hrs/week. Master's degree in accounting or related field req'd. Send application to Employer and Job Location: Michael W. Sim & Company, P.C. at 4605 Pinecrest Office Park Dr Suite E, Alexandria, VA 22312

Administrative Assistant (McLean, VA) 01 F/T Open Position. Perform clerical duties for 2 nail salon locs. Maintain & update d/base systms. Coord w/ vendors purchasing supplies to maintain inventory. Manage the scheduling hrs for all employees & independent contractors. Facilitate comm between staff & mgmt. Handle customer & staff complaints & manage owner's calendar. HS Dip/GED reqd, no exp reqd. Email resume to Tien Dat LLC DBA Kosmo Nail Bar, Chesterbrook. Attn: Vu Bao Ngo, CEO at kosmoco@kmnailbar.com

Asst. Prof. & Asst. Dir. Clin Training (Sterling, VA): REQ: PhD OR Master's or frgn equiv deg. in Psych, Clin Psych, Family & Marriage or any rltd fld, w/ course wrk in Psych & Neuro Science issues or rltd sub., & 6 mo. Exp. in job or as Pre-Doc Psych Intrn or rltd pos. Mst've Clin Psych VA License & abl to get same in DC. Trvl DC 25%. Crim bkgrnd ck & verif ref req. Mail CV w/ Ltr to: The Institute for Psychological Sciences, Inc., A. Maza, 45154 Underwood Ln., Sterling, VA 20166 or amaza@divinemercy.edu.

Assistant Manager wanted by Japanese restaurant in Arlington, VA. Must have associate's deg in any majors. Send resume to: Sushi Garden Crystal City LLC, 1235 S. Clark St., Ste 105, Arlington, VA 22202

Auto Service Manager: Oversee daily operations of the auto repair shop; manage service schedules, repair orders, and customer appointments; maintain inventory of parts, tools, and equipment, coordinating with suppliers of tools. Provide customer service and ensuring a positive service experience. Supervise service technicians & sales staff, assign daily tasks, monitor performance, and ensure compliance with shop procedures & safety standards. Handle daily sales records, invoices, inventory management, and basic shop administrative & cost-tracking tasks. Promote services & tire products, recommend options to customers, and support business growth through sales efforts & marketing activities.

Min. Rqmts: High School/ GED. At least 24 months of work experience in management or a related field. Verifiable references. Able to work overtime, including late nights, weekends, and holidays. Non-smoker on worksite. Resumes to job loc: Cosmo Traders LLC., 11700 Baltimore Ave, Beltsville, MD 20705. ATTN: Khawaja Saqibain.

B JOBS

Bakery Assistant (Chantilly, VA) Assist bakers in operating baking machineries & implements. Maintain & sanitize baking utensils, tools, & machinery. Stack & store supplies, & other utensils. 40hrs/wk. Send application to TLJ Chantilly, LLC, 14452 Chantilly Crossing Lane, Chantilly, VA 20151.

B JOBS

Bookkeeper (Falls Church, VA) Compute, class, & rec numerical data to maintain acc & complete financ'l recs. Prep invoices & bills, run checks, post paymnts, prep bank deposits, & monitor cash flow. Asst w/ payroll processing & tax filings under supervision of mngt & ext CPA. Prep monthly & annual financ'l reports for mngt rev. 40 hr/wk. Req'd Assoc in Accting, Finance, or rltd field & 24 mos work exp in rltd fields; OR Bachelor's in Acctg, Finance, or rltd field. Send resume & diploma & transcript to Nothing in Between LLC, 6410C Arlington Blvd, Falls Church, VA 22042

C JOBS

Chef (Thai Restaurant): Perform the preparation, seasoning, and cooking of salads, soups, fish, meats, vegetables, desserts, or other foods in a Thai restaurant. Plan and price menu items, order supplies, and keep records and accounts. 40 hrs/week. Associate degree in any major req'd. Send application to Employer and Job Location: Sampannee, INC. at 2122 P Street NW, Washington, DC 20037.

Chef, Indian cuisine, Alexandria, VA: Cook Indian tandoori dishes, diners and deserts and according to the recipes, Plan, direct and supervise food preparation. 2yrs experience, 40 hrs/week, mail your resume to AS 2010 Restaurant Group LLC, 2010 Eisenhower Ave, Alexandria, VA 22314; Attn. Mr. Sheikh

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Construction Project Coordinator (Greenbelt, MD): Must've HS Diploma & 2yrs exp. in job or any admin supp. job, using MS Office, MS Project & Excel. Verif ref & Trvl to DC (10%) req'd. Send CV: CIH Homes LC, 6305 Ivy Lane, #140, Greenbelt, MD or email lkowalski@cihproperties.com

Construction Project Manager (Multiple openings) – Must Have Bachelor's Deg. & 1 Yr. Related Exp. Driver's Lic. Req. Email resume, address & phone # to HR@seg-inc.com Location: Hamilton, VA

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C JOBS

COOK, SPECIALTY. Cooks foreign style dishes, dinners, desserts, & other foods, according to recipes. Prepares fish, meats, chicken, soups, sauces, vegetables, & other foods prior to cooking. Seasons & cooks food according to prescribed method. Portions and garnishes food. Estimates food consumption & requisitions or purchases supplies. Specializing in foreign cuisines, such as, African, Caribbean/Jamaican. Bakes breads/pastries. H.S. Diploma, 4 yrs Exp. Island Quizine. Job in Windsor Mills, Maryland. 40 hrs.wk, w/ various shifts Send resume to mylegalspace@aol.com

Cultural research & dvlpment org. in Washington, DC seeks Cultural & Recreational Program Director to mnage & o'see dly u'kp & oprat'ns of rcreat'nal area, evnts, actvties & prgrms. Nfrce rules & regs. Host prtcipnts, assess needs, plan evnts & activties w/ avble resrces. Prpare prsnt & o'see prgrm bdgets & strt-egies. Orgnze, lead & prmote intrst in rcreat'nl & cltral actvties eg arts, crfts, sprts, games, cmpng etc. Wrk w/ UH prsnnel, cmunity orgs etc to plan rcreat'nl prgrms. Drct spcial art, crft, hstry & ltrary wrkshps/smnars. Wrk w mngmnt to eval prgrms, fcility, & srvces for rlvnce & crrncy. Cnfr w/ mngmnt & ngage with prtcipnts to hndle/rslve cmplaints &/or sggst'ns for imprvmnt. Full time. $62,088/yr. Min. Reqs: bachelors in Int'l Relations, Int'l Affairs or rltd fld. Will accept single or combo degrees, dipls or prof. credentials equivlnt to US Bachelors in this fld. Send resumes to Marianna Falkova - Executive Director, Ukraine House DC Foundation Inc. 2134 Kalorama Rd NW, Washington, DC 20008

D JOBS

Data Analyst – North Bethesda, MD. Seeking BS in Comp Sci, or a closely-rltd fld. Wage$88,462. Mail CV to Attn: HR/Job [#GCET], Sport Squad Inc, 915 Meeting, Ste 1300, North Bethesda, MD 20852

University of Virginia: Associate Director for Business Intelligence Charlottesville, VA: Manage the Business Intelligence team & help turn broad data streams into actionable information for our business partners who include Advancement leadership, prospect managers, & front-line development officers at the University of Virginia. Master's degree or frgn equiv degree + 5 yrs of data science and/or business intelligence experience. Please apply on-line at https://jobs.virginia.edu/us/en/ & reference Job # R0080286.

Domestic

Jennifer Tipograph looks for Nanny, salary 40518.00/year. Local: 8023 Fenway Road, Bethesda, MD, 20817. The employee will be resp. for: Care for children in private households; Organize and conduct age appropriate recreational activities, such as games, arts and crafts, sports, walks, and play dates; Supervise and assist with homework; Help prepare and serve nutritionally balanced meals and snacks for children; Instruct and assist children in the development of health and personal habits, such as eating, resting, and toilet behavior. Required high school diploma or GED; 24 months of experience as Nanny, General Childcare Provider, Au Pair, Or In Other Related Roles; Special skills as Training In Child Nutrition and Cooking; Training in Children Acquiring Literacy Naturally. Contact: Jennifer Tipograph, 8023 Fenway Road, Bethesda, MD 20817.

E JOBS

RF Engineer, Rockville, MD: Conduct RF network optimization during network rollout phase to max. network connectivity & capacity. Perform site walks/drive tests for pre-construction SINR verification & recommend macro site changes. Conduct LTE traffic mgmt., performance optimization. Require: Bachelor's Degree in Electrical & Electronics Engineering, Telecommunication Engg., Telecomm. & Electronics Engg., or equiv. + 2 yrs. work exp. Perm. US work auth. reqd. Resumes: Telnet, Inc. 7630 Standish Pl, Rockville, MD 20855 or hr@telnet-inc.com

Mechanical Engineer (Fairfax, VA): Perform mechanical/structural dsgn & analysis for custom kitchen & bath cabinetry & residential remodeling projects; interpret techn'l drawings & CAD models; apply materials knowl to construction & finishing methods; collab w/ designers & project teams; maintain engineering documentation and support testing & compliance w/ applicable codes & stds. Bachelor's deg in Mechanical or Aerospace/ Aeronautical Engg, or closely rltd field. Knowl of CAD drafting/modeling & basic mechanical/structural analysis. No state PE licensure reqd. Salary: $87,194/yr; F/T, 40 hrs/wk, M-F. Send resume by mail only to: Samet Kazanci, Fairfax Kitchen and Bath Inc., 9970 Main St, Fairfax, VA 22031.

E JOBS

Executive Director – Mil Mujeres, Washington, DC (Hybrid Position). Duties: Lead a nonprofit organization focused on immigration legal srvcs. Resps incl strategic planning, oversight of legal prgms, fundraising, budgeting, board relations, staff supervsm, community engagement, compliance, & reporting. Reqmts: Bachelor's deg in nonprofit mgmt, law, or rltd; 5 yrs of executive-level nonprofit leadership; bilingual (English/Spanish); exp working w/ immigrant communities & trauma survivors. Salary: $125,000/yr. Job is full-time, M–F, 9 am–6 pm EST. (Hybrid Position). Send résumé and cover letter to hr@milmujeres.org. Ref "Executive Director Position

F JOBS

Financial Processing Analyst: support wire transfer, IRAs, deceased accounts; associate degree (US or foreign equiv.) in Acctg, Fin, Biz Admin rel; OR 2 yrs work exp. Fax CV to 240.747.3378; Lafayette Federal Credit Union (Rockville, MD); Salary $60K

Food Preparation Worker (Multiple Openings) Help cook in preparing food by washing, peeling, cutting & seeding veg. & fruits. Clean, cut & grind meats, poultry & seafood. Clean work area. No Exp., Training or Education req'd. Submit resumes to: Soul Thai Kitchen & Bar 6035 Wilson Blvd., Arlington, VA 22205

General Jobs

Global Operations and Logistics Manager– North Bethesda, MD. Seeking BS in Economics or a closely rltd fld and 5 yrs of operation or general mngmnt exp. Wage$132,018/yr. Mail CV to Attn: HR/Job [#GCYL], Sport Squad Inc, 915 Meeting, Ste 1300, North Bethesda, MD 20852

H JOBS

HVAC Technician's Helper: Help HVAC technician to install & repair heating & air quality systems for home & commercial buildings. Perform duties such as furnishing tools, materials, & supplies to HVAC technician, cleaning work area, machines, & tools, & holding materials or tools for HVAC technician. F/T, $33,280/yr, Resume to L&B Universal, 3852 Dulles South Ct. #G, Chantilly, VA 20151

Healthcare - General

Caregiver (Personal Care Attendant) Managers
Train, supervise, and provide support to caregivers; manage client and caregiver records; liaise between clients, families, and healthcare providers to ensure high-quality, person-centered care. Req'd 2 yrs post-secondary education (degree not req'd) in nursing, health and wellness, physical therapy, psychology, or a related field; foreign edu. equiv. acceptable. Full-time; multiple openings. Send resume to Eden Homecare Center, LLC (d/b/a Eden Home Health Care Center) at 7700 Little River Tpke, Ste. 403, Annandale, VA 22003 or edenhomecare.hr@gmail.com

Hospitalist Physician (Winchester, VA). Multiple openings. Hospitalist Medicine Physicians of Virginia, LLC dba Sound Physicians of Virginia II: Diagnose, treat, & provide inpatient care for hospitalized adult patients. Must possess or be eligible to possess a valid state license to practice medicine in Virginia and have completed three years of residency training in family or internal medicine. Medical degree or foreign equivalent required. To apply, email Maggie McCluney at belong@soundphysicians.com.

Cosmic Healthcare, LLC is looking for Senior Medical Technologists to work in the Aldie, VA area. Positions require:

*Bachelor's degree in Medical Technology, Life Science, or Medical Laboratory Science;
*ASCP Certification or AMT Certification;
*5 years' (60 months) of experience as a Medical Technologist; and
*May be asked to provide services at unanticipated worksite locations.

Please email resumes and cover letter to Neha@cosmichealthcare.us or mail to ATTN: Lakshmi Narra 23099 Red Sunset Place, Aldie, VA 20105. Please refer to job code #CHSMT2 in your cover letter.

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I JOBS

IT Advisor, Technology Consulting - Oracle Services - Oracle Finance - Manager (Multiple Positions) (1688015), Ernst & Young U.S. LLP, Tysons (McLean), VA. Advise clients on how to understand, architect and implement the core applications and technology required to run their business. Requires travel up to 80%, of which 20% may be international, to serve client needs. Employer will accept any suitable combination of education, training, or experience. $216,829.00 per year. For complete job description, list of requirements, and to apply online, go to: ey.com/en_us/careers and click on "Careers - Job Search", "See All", then "Experienced Professionals" (Job Number - 1688015).

K JOBS

El Milagro LLC : Kitchen Helper/ Store Assistant – Assist with food prep; clean/sanitize kitchen & dining areas; dispose trash; stock/ rotate store inventory; assist customers; operate cash register; general cleaning; support kitchen & store ops. Mail CV to 620 Hawkins St, Harrisonburg, VA 22801. $29,765/yr.

L JOBS

Landscape Laborers needed, multiple positions, Ruppert Landscape, LLC, Bristow. Send resume to: 7961 Gainsford Court, Bristow, VA 20136

M JOBS

Manager, Operations Consulting - Operations and Solutions, PricewaterhouseCoopers Advisory Services LLC, Washington DC. Provide consulting services on optimizing operational efficiency and effectiveness. Req Bach's deg or foreign equiv in Bus Admin, Bus Anlytcs, Engg, Industrial Engg or rel + 5 yrs post-bach's, prgrssv rel wrk exp; OR Master's deg or foreign equiv in Bus Admin, Buss Anlytcs, Engg, Industrial Engg or rel + 3 yrs rel wrk exp. 80% telecommtng permitted. Mst be able to commute to dsgntd lcl offc. Domestic and/or international travel up to 80% required. Mult pos avlb. Salary: $195,000 - $203,000/yr. Employee Benefits: https://pwc.to/benefits-at-a-glance. Please apply by sending your resume to US_PwC_Career_Recruitment@pwc.com, specifying Job Code DC4782 in the subject line.

Manufacturing Equipment Technician: maintain, troubleshoot, repair production machinery, equipment; associate degree (US or foreign equiv.) in Industrial Maintenance, Mechatronics, Electrical Eng, Automation rel; OR 2 yrs work exp. CV to weisfender@gmail.com; Five Star Noodle, Inc. (Springfield, VA)

MEAT CUTTER: Cut, trim, weigh, price and wrap meat. Remove skin, feathers, or bones from carcass. Grind meat, beef, and poultry to prepare in cooking form. Receive delivery of meat and store it. Req 24 months exp, 40 hrs work per week. Resume to AQS OXON HILL LLC, 6309 Livingston Rd Oxon Hill, MD 20745.

O JOBS

Nimbl, LLC in Rockville, MD is seek'g an Operations and Outreach Advisor I to prepare manuals, documents, & regulatory paperwork for private flight dprtmnts. 5% Dom Trvl / Overnight Trvl req –Must work in office 3 days/wk for 1st yr. Thereafter 2 days/ wk req in office. Team meetings & conferences will be req. in office as needed. WFH bnft avail. Salary: $64,000.00/ yr. Send resumes to: abarber@go-nimbl.com.

P JOBS

Packaged Application Development Manager (Accenture LLP; Arlington, VA): Manage project execution to ensure adherence to budget, schedule, and scope. Must have willingness and ability to travel domestically approximately 80% of the time to meet client needs. Multiple Positions Available. For complete job description, list of requirements, and to apply, go to: www.accenture.com/us-en/careers [accenture.com] (Job# R00309576). Equal Opportunity Employer – Vets/ Disabled.

Pastor needed for a Methodist Church in Rockville, MD. Requires Master's Degree in Divinity or Theology and Certificate of Appointment for Pastoral Ministry or Ordination. Send resume to: Baltimore Washington Conference of the United Methodist Church, 11711 East Market Place. Suite 1. Fulton, MD 20759

Pastor needed for a Methodist Church in Cheltenham, MD. Requires Master's Degree in Divinity or Theology and Certificate of Appointment for Pastoral Ministry or Ordination. Send resume to: Baltimore Washington Conference of the United Methodist Church, 11711 East Market Place. Suite 1. Fulton, MD 20759

R JOBS

Real Estate Financial Analyst: real estate dev, finance, invest analysis & mgmt. Min bachelor's degree in Finance/Real Estate rel; CV to vlin@capstarco.com; CapStar Realty Group (Gaithersburg, MD); Salary $77K

Recreational Therapist – North Bethesda, MD. Seeking BS in Athletic training, recreational therapy or a closely rltd fld with 3 yrs of athletic training exp. Wage$59,758/yr. Mail CV to Attn: HR/Job [#GCRVM], Sport Squad Inc, 915 Meeting, Ste 1300, North Bethesda, MD 20852

S JOBS

Sales Development Representative
Computer Packages Inc., a global business specializing in Intellectual Property management for 58 years, is seeking a Sales Development Rep. to work at our headquarter office near Washington DC. Responsibilities include: Proactively reach out to potential clients via phone, email, and other channels to generate interest in our products and services. Qualify prospects through thoughtful conversation—understanding their needs, fit, and potential as a client. Identify and prioritize high-potential leads based on company profile, engagement level, and sales-readiness (without relying on automated lead scoring). Schedule product demos or discovery meetings for senior sales reps or product specialists. Follow up on inbound inquiries, marketing campaign leads, and referrals in a timely, professional manner. Maintain accurate records of all outreach efforts, conversations, and outcomes in the CRM system. Collaborate closely with the outside sales and marketing teams to ensure a consistent and informed handoff of qualified leads. Qualifications: Strong communication skills—able to engage prospects in meaningful, consultative conversations. Self-motivated and results-driven, with a strong desire to meet and exceed outreach and conversion goals. Organized and detail-oriented, able to manage follow-ups and multiple conversations without dropping the ball. Comfortable using CRM software to track activity and update prospect records. Positive, professional attitude and the ability to stay persistent without being pushy. Bachelor's degree preferred. Excellent salary and benefits package offered including relocation and tuition assistance. Please send resumes to cpijobs@computerpackages.com
ComputerPackages Inc.
Serving The Intellectual Property Community Since 1968

Senior Project Manager and Procurement
is needed in Manassas, VA to manage procurement & proj execution for HVAC & plumbing construction projs. Responsibilities incl coordinating subcontractors & suppliers, sourcing & evaluating vendors, negotiating contracts & pricing, overseeing proj schedules & budgets, conducting risk assessments, performing site inspections, & ensuring compliance w/ lcl codes & safety regulations. Must have a Master's Deg (or frgn equiv) in Mgmt, w/ emphasis in Biz Analytics – Sply Chain or Engg (any) or ltd. field w/ one (1) year of exp as a Prodt Mgr. or Civil Engineer or Construction. One (1) year of exp must be in AutoCAD. In the alt, we will accept a Bachelor's deg in Mgmt, w/ emphasis in Biz Analytics – Sply Chain or Engg (any) or a ltd. field, w/ six (6) yrs of prog exp in prom mgmt., civil engg or construction. Two (2) yrs of the six (6) yrs of prog exp must incl exp w/ AutoCAD. Trvl within DC, Maryland & Virgina to client sites is req, approx. 20% of the time. We will accept any suitable combo of edu, trng, & exp. All exp may be acquired concurrently. Send resumes to: heather@pressmechanical.com.
Press Mechanical Contractors, Inc. Address: 6933 Gateway Ct., Manassas, VA 20109

Shift Supervisor: Arlington, VA; O.T. Req'd; to apply email resume to Four Friends, Inc. c/o Susan Clementi to susan.clementi@gmail.com

Social Media Coordinator (Falls Church, VA) Plan, dvlp, & exec social-media strats to increase visibility & client engagmnt. Mnge the salon's social-media platforms (Instagram, TikTok, Facebook, Google). Monitor digital perf & prep monthly reps. Respond to customer revs & inquiries online. Research & rec new digital-mrktng trends in beauty industry. 40 hr/wk. Req'd BA in Info tech, Mrktng, Digital Media or rltd field. Send resume & dipl & trans to Nothing in Between LLC, 6410C Arlington Blvd, Falls Church, VA 22042

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S JOBS

Special Legal Consultant (Washington, D.C.) Represent sponsors, lenders, priv. placement investors, eq. investors, developers in cross-border transactions incl. trad. proj. financings, Term Loan A, Term Loan B, priv. placements, acq. financings, holdco portfolio financings, in conn. w/ international projects involv. oil & gas, thermal power, energy transition, digital infrastruct. Advise clients particip. in these transactions, incl. on deal struct. opt., current mkt. practice, corp. & lgl strategy. Prepare and negotiate principal transact. docs., project dev. docs. $420,000 per year. Req'mts: JD or foreign equiv. or Postgraduate Diploma in Legal Practice, licensure as a Special Legal Consultant in the District of Columbia, 5 yrs of exp. in position or 5 yrs of alternate occupational exp. performing complex cross-border project development & finance advisory legal duties. Email resume/ref's to Katina.Whitehead@lw.com, referencing position SLC1. Latham & Watkins LLP.

Sr Engineer - Cloud Platform
Performs the administration and support activities to maintain VMWare Tanzu (Pivotal Cloud Foundry) based infrastructure platform.
Bach, in Comp Sci, Comp Engineering, Elec. Engineering, or closely related & 5 years of exp in performing Cloud Platform installation and configuration of which at least 2 years involved VMWare Tanzu/ Pivotal Cloud Foundry. Based in McLean, VA. Telecommuting Permitted. To apply for this position, please forward your resume to globalsourcing@maximus.com w/ "Sr Engineer – Cloud Platform (VA-4673)" in the subject line. MAXIMUS, Inc.

T JOBS

Next Gen Software Solutions LLC (Multiple Openings) Ashburn, VA. **Bus. Analyst $143,395.00/yr)**: Collab, track, help, supprt, contribute, prep & assist in creating strategies to mitigate or address effectively. **Softw Engr ($175,427.00/ yr)**: Dsgns, research, create & doc detail dsgn specs. **Softw Dvlpr ($150,758.00/yr)**: Dvlp, collab, integrate, ID, conduct & dsgn choices for future softw updts or enhancements. **Systs Analyst ($146,494.00/yr)** Plan, dsgn, help & monitor syst operation to detect pot'l problems. All positions req. trvl/reloc to various unanticipated client locs thruout US w/expenses paid by employer. Standard Company benefits will be offered. Mail resume & position to: Presidents, Next Gen Software Solutions LLC, 45150 Russell Branch Pkwy, Ste 203B, Ashburn VA 20147 or e-mail: vbalina@nxtgenss.com. EOE.

Thai Food Cook Prep ingredients & sauces. Prepare, cook, and garnish Thai dishes. Monitor portion size & presentation of dishes. Create new menu items. Req. 2 yrs of exp. To apply, email beewisainee@gmail.com Kanjana Thai Cuisine LLC dba/ Am Thai by Kanjana 9546 Burke Rd, Burke, VA

V JOBS

Veterinarian: Village Vet PLLC, has multiple openings in Burke, VA, Associate Veterinarian ($92,706.00/yr): Dlvr, Build, Contribute, Educte, Mentr, Imprv, Prfrm, Estblsh, Advcte, Lead, Wrk & Cnstnt strive to enhnce medicl quality. Standard company benefits will be offered. Mail resume & pos to Manager, Village Vet PLLC, 9544 Burke Road, Burke, VA, 22015 or email villagevet.manager@gmail.com. EOE.

W JOBS

Waiter/Waitress (Multiple Openings) Serve meals to patrons. Present menu to diner, suggesting meals, appropriate drinks. Write order on check. Observe diners to respond to any additional requests. Total bills & accept payments. No Exp., Training or Education req'd, Submit resumes to: Pho Anh Duong 7899 Heritage Drive, Annandale, VA 22003

Tech Jobs

Azure Cloud Engineer
Computer Packages Inc., a private software company based near DC is seeking talented individuals with 3+ years of experience architecting, designing and implementing cloud solutions on MS Azure. Azure Certification a plus. Thorough understanding of design principles and best practices for a reliable, efficient and secure cloud environment. You will work with a dynamic team, collaborating and sharing new ideas as we expand our cloud environment & services. Bachelor's degree in related field required. CPI offers an excellent salary and benefits package. The starting salary range is $75,000 - $110,000 commensurate with experience and opportunity for growth. Our benefits include fully paid health insurance, 401k, tuition for related graduate courses and certifications, visa sponsorship and relocation assistance. Please send resume to cpijobs@computerpackages.com
ComputerPackages Inc.
Serving The Intellectual Property Community Since 1968

Tech Jobs

BUSINESS ANALYST: Ashburn, VA & various unanticipated locations throughout the U.S.: Elicit & comprhnd integ prerequisites from legacy sys & gnrt comprhnsv integ Blueprints. Create custom rprts, HCM Core connector, EIB Integ & studio integ. Dvlp payroll & benefit integ within Workday frmwrk. Admin & mng secrty policies& config within Work day to ensure data integ & compliance w/organiztnl secrty stds. Create comprhnsv test plans & scenarios for integ, execute plans during sys integ test & address any defects incl XML parsing issues & REST API Service. Plan & orchestrate integ test and transition to prod envrmnt. Associate's in Sci, Tech, Biz Admin or Engg (any) w/24 mos exp in job off'd or rltd occup is req'd. EMail resume: HR, Amiti Consulting Inc, at hr@amititech.com.

BUSINESS ANALYSTS: Ashburn, VA & various unanticipated locations throughout the US: Anlyz biz rqrmnts & prep BRD. Facilte Agile ceremns, incl sprint plnnng & backlg grooming. Cndct SQL queries for data extrctn, mappng & anlyss & exprt to MS Excel. Dsgn & trk KPIs to measr prjct succss & biz impct. Cndct gap, cost-bnft & ROI anlyss. Prep flw dgrms & prsntatns usng MS PowerPoint & MS Visio. Master's in Sci, Tech, Business Admin, or Engg (any) req'd. Email CV: HR, IT Minds, LLC, at hr@itminds.net

CGI Technologies and Solutions Inc.: Scrum Master in Fairfax, VA (& various unanticipated locs thrghut US): Manage the scrum framework for complex IT projects & facilitates SDLC process for a team of dvlprs. Must be willing to relocate to various unanticipated work locs thrghut US. All offers of emp are contingent upon successful comp of a background chck, which may incl drug screen depending on work assgnmnt. Multiple positions available. Email resume to recruiting@cgifederal.com & ref job code 345727.

CGI Technologies and Solutions Inc.: Scrum Master in Fairfax, VA (& various unanticipated locs thrghut US): Manage the scrum framework for complex IT projects & facilitates SDLC process for a team of dvlprs. Telecomm. permitted up to 75% from assgnd loc. Must be willing to relocate to various unanticipated work locs thrghut US. All offers of emp are contingent upon successful comp of a background chck, which may incl drug screen depending on work assgnmnt. Multiple positions available. Email resume to recruiting@cgifederal.com & ref job code 326073.

CGI Technologies and Solutions Inc.: Programmer/Analyst in Fairfax, VA: Build & code apps &/or modules using languages such as C++, Visual Basic, ABAP, JAVA, XTML, Objective C, HTML 5, & .NET. Telecomm. permitted 100% from any loc in the U.S. All offers of emp are contingent upon successful comp of a background chck, which may incl drug screen depending on work assgnmnt. Multiple positions available. Email resume to recruiting@cgifederal.com & ref job code 354531.

CGI Technologies and Solutions Inc.: Software Developer in Fairfax, VA (& various unanticipated locs thrghut US): Research, dsgn, dvlp, &/or modify enterprise-wide systs &/ or apps soft. Telecomm. permitted up to 60% from assgnd loc. Must be willing to relocate to various unanticipated work locs thrghut US. All offers of emp are contingent upon successful comp of a background chck, which may incl drug screen depending on work assgnmnt. Multiple positions available. Email resume to recruiting@cgifederal.com & ref job code 325458.

CGI Technologies and Solutions Inc.: Software Engineer in Fairfax, VA (& various unanticipated locs thrghut US): Dsgns, dvlps, docmnts, test & debugs apps soft & systs that contain logical & math solutns. Telecomm. permitted up to 75% from assgnd loc. Must be willing to relocate to various unanticipated work locs thrghut the U.S. All offers of emp are contingent upon successful comp of a background chck, which may incl drug screen depending on work assgnmnt. Multiple positions available. Email resume to recruiting@cgifederal.com & ref job code 337594.

CGI Technologies and Solutions Inc.: Software Developer in Fairfax, VA (& various unanticipated locs thrghut US): Research, dsgn, dvlp, &/or modify enterprise-wide systs &/or apps soft. Telecomm. permitted up to 40% from assgnd loc. Must be willing to relocate to various unanticipated work locs thrghut the US. All offers of emp are contingent upon successful comp of a background chck, which may incl drug screen depending on work assgnmnt. Multiple positions available. Email resume to recruiting@cgifederal.com & ref job code 324627.

Tech Jobs

Amarex has openings for Clinical Data Manager in Germantown, MD; Telecommuting permitted 2 days/ wk. Des, dev. & manage EDC sys. & eCRFs for clinical studies. Bach: Stat, Data Sci, Life Sci or rltd fld of study; Exp: 2yrs in pos above or rltd role. Will accept equiv foreign degree; will accept Master's in above major fields of study in lieu of work exp; will also accept any fully equiv combo of edu, trng &/or exp. Salary: $115,939/yr. Send resume: F. Day, Amarex Clinical Research LLC, 789 N Dixboro Rd, Ann Arbor, MI 48105. Attn: LC25-102

Cloud Engineer - Network Security: Job in Chantilly, VA (Full-time telework permitted). Provide implementation and experience during all cloud adoption activities. $211,000 to $315,000/year. Health/ Dental/Vision ins., 401(K), PTO, Life/ Disability Ins. & more. Apply to LaserShip, Inc. https://jobs.ontrac.com/location/phoenix-jobs/47156/6252001-5551752-5308655/4 using req. 8891. You may also email t855384@ontrac.com to apply.

Computer Programmers. Write/ anlyz prgrms for bus transit systm apps; systm design/maintain prgrms for systm reliblity/prfrmnce; Help intro/apply innovtiv algos, keeping up w/ AI; Collab w/ teams/ mangrs to articulate prgrm req.; Run trials on new prods to ensure results; M-F; FT; BS in Comp Sci, Info Systms, or related field; Sig knwldg in prgrming & AI req. Apply: Challenger Transportation, Inc., 3210 Beechcraft Ave, Gaithersburg, MD 20879

CoStar Realty Information Inc has an opening in Arlington, VA for Senior Database Administrator: Build and work with SQL Servers for database administration, replication, upgrade servers, and performance tune queries. To apply, send resume specifying Req#L25-167649 to recruiting@costar.com

Data Scientists/Data Analyst –Multiple openings - Ashburn, VA

DPR Solutions Inc needs professionals: Analyze datasets, build dashboards, , & deliver data-driven insights using SQL, Python, visualization tools. Req: Bachelor's+2yrs exp. Wages: $115939/yr. Relocate to unanticipated site. No International/National travel. Send mail to Ref: CEO, 20130 Lakeview Center Plaza, STE 140, Ashburn, VA, 20147

RiskSpan, Inc. seeks Data Analyst in Arlington, VA to identify, analyze, document and interpret trends or patterns in complex business processes using large scale data analysis software and techniques. Apply at www.jobpostingtoday.com Ref #91160.

comScore, Inc. seeks Data Analyst, Movies in Reston, VA. Analyzing a variety of data sets across all International Movies offerings. 100% telecomm permitted w/in US. Apply at https://www.jobpostingtoday.com/ Ref #83325.

DevOps Engineer sought by Resonate Networks Inc. to crdnte plng, dsgn & day2day ops of prdctn & stgng pltfrms. Own CI/CD strtgy in GitHub Actns; dfne & enfrce SDLC stndrds & imprv pplne relblty & devlpr vl

Tech Jobs

Ld SW Eng – Comcast Cable Comm, LLC, Reston, VA. Prov tech ldrshp in dsgn, dev, & optmzn of sw sys; Reqs: Bach or forgn equiv in CS, Eng or rltd; 7 yrs exp dev sw use C++ & Golang. Apply to: Job_Candidates@comcast.com Ref Job ID# 0775

Lead SWE – Comcast Cable Comm, LLC, Reston, VA. Prvd tech ldrshp in dsgn & dev new SW & web apps; Reqs: Bac/frgn eq in CS, Eng or rltd; 7 yrs exp dev backend SW use Go. Apply to: Job_Candidates@comcast.com Ref Job ID# 0772.

Lead SWE – Comcast Cable Comm, LLC, Reston, VA. Prvd tech ldrshp in dsgn & dev new SW & web apps; Reqs: Bac/frgn eqiv in CS, Eng or rltd; 7 yrs exp dev SW in Agile dev envi use JavaScript, TypeScript, ReactJS & CSS. Apply to: Job_Candidates@comcast.com Ref Job ID# 8906.

Lead SW Eng – Comcast Cable Comm, LLC, Reston, VA. Prvd tech ldrshp in plan & dsgn new SW & web apps; Reqs: Bach or frgn equiv in CS, any Eng or rltd; 7 yrs exp dev frnt-ed SW use JavaScript, TypeScript, React, HTML, CSS, Node.js & Webpack. Apply to: Job_Candidates@comcast.com Ref Job ID# 0331

CAS Severn, Inc. seeks a Network Engineer in Laurel, MD to config, monitor, & maintain computer ntwrk apps; provide tech spprt for electronic devices & equipment; & config & test computer h/w, ntwrk s/w & os s/w. May be placed at var unanticipated worksites in the Washington, DC metro area. Reqs Bachelor's in CS or a rltd field & 2 years' exp administering Microsoft Azure AD accts, Identity Access Mgmt, & DocuSign; writing PowerShell scripts to customize apps; & integrating SSO for apps. Occasional telecommuting permitted. Offered salary: $83,470. To apply, mail resume to Steve Muchow, CAS Severn, Inc., ATTN: NE, 6201 Chevy Chase Drive, Laurel, MD 20707.

Principal Associate, Data Science – positions offered by Capital One Services, LLC (McLean, VA). Exercising more discretion, partner w/ a cross-func team of data scientists, SW enginrs, & prod mgrs to deliver a prod customers love. Position reports to McLean, VA office. Telecommuting permitted in accordance with company policy, but must live within commuting distance of stated office. Please apply online at: https://capitalone.wd12.myworkdayjobs.com/Capital_One/ Reference Job ID: R234999

Principal Data Analyst – positions offered by Capital One, National Association (McLean, VA). Exercsing discrtion at a more sr. level, levrage analytic & tech. skills to innovate, build, & maintain well-mangd data soltions & capbilities to tackle bus. problems. Position reports to McLean, VA office. Telecommuting permitted in accordance with company policy, but must live within commuting distance of stated office. Please apply online at: https://capitalone.wd12.myworkdayjobs.com/Capital_One/, Reference Job ID: R234996

Principal Data Analyst – positions offered by Capital One Services, LLC (McLean, VA). Exrcising discrtion at a more sr. level, levrage analytic & tech skills to innovate, bld, & maintain well-manged data soltions & capbilities to tackle bus. prblms. Position reports to McLean, VA office. Telecommuting permitted in accordance with company policy, but must live within commuting distance of stated office. Please apply online at: https://capitalone.wd12.myworkdayjobs.com/Capital_One/, Reference Job ID: R234963

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Principal Associate, Data Science – positions offered by Capital One, National Association (McLean, VA). Exercising more discretion, partner w/ a cross-funct team of data scientists, SW engs, & prod mgr to deliv a prod. customers love. Position reports to McLean, VA office. Telecommuting permitted in accordance with company policy, but must live within commuting distance of stated office. Please apply online at: https://capitalone.wd12.myworkdayjobs.com/Capital_One/, Reference Job ID: R234947

Project Manager (mult. posit) Prime Partners Engineering. Washington, DC. FT. Req: Bachelor's deg (PM/ Business/Engineering), 5+ yrs proj management/engineering, 2+ yrs engg or utility projs, 2+ yrs utility processes, 5+ yrs multi-project mgmt, 2+ yrs MS Office, Valid U.S. driver's license, field work capable, up to 25% trvl, pass bkgrnd & drug test. $150,426. Bens: health insc. CV/R: email to hr@primepartnersengineering.com

Senior Data Scientist, The United States Pharmacopeial Convention, Rockville, MD. Use exploratory data analysis to spot anomalies, understand patterns, test hypotheses, or check assumptions. Require Master's degree or foreign equivalent degree in Information Systems Management, Information Technology, Business Analytics, Data Science, Mathematics, Computer Science, or a related field, and three (3) years of related work experience. Telecommuting permitted as determined by the employer. Salary: $120,714/yr. Standard company benefits. To apply, please email resume to Sundar Nagarajan at Sundar.Nagarajan@usp.org and reference: MD0029.

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SENIOR QA ATMN ENGRS (Tosca): Resp fr s/w automtn tstng usng Tosca, ALM Tls, JIRA, APIs, Jnkns, IBM RQM, RTC, DEX, etc; smlr. Req : BS or frgn eqv in CS/IT/Buss Admin/Engg(any) or rltd + 5 yrs rvlnt prgsv exp incl 3 yrs exp in autmtn tstng usng Tosca (OR) MS or frgn eqv in abv + 3 yrs exp in autmtn tstng usng Tosca. ft/rtvl/relo. Mail resume: HR, Agile Trailblazers LLC d/b/a CirrusLabs, 11490 Commerce Park Dr, #400, Reston VA 20191

Senior Application DBAs (Systems)
108 Info System, LLC, Reston, VA, seeks Senior Application DBAs (Systems). This is roving employment. Visit https://www.108infosys.com/index.html for reqmnts & to apply online. Or mail resume to 11710 Plaza Americ a Dr, Suite 2000, Reston, VA 20190.

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METRO
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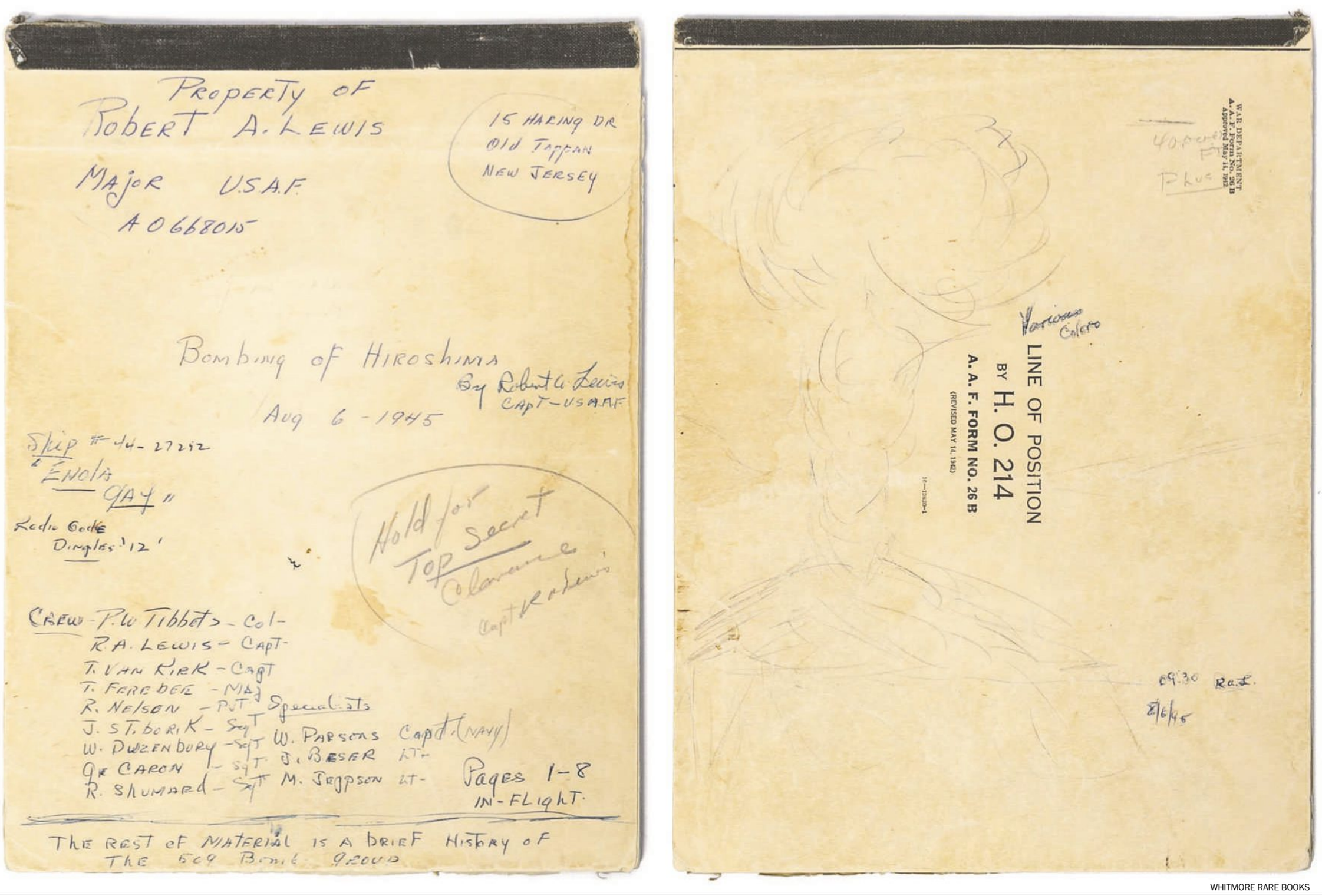
Precip: **20%**
Wind: **N 10-20 mph**

SUNDAY BUSINESS
Tickets at L.A.'s Olympics will cost more than they used to. Are cheap seats a relic of past Games? **B6**

MARYLAND
A federal jury found SCOTUSblog co-founder Thomas Goldstein guilty of tax evasion. **B18**

OBITUARIES
Juan Valdez, 88, was the last U.S. Marine to leave Vietnam in the evacuation on April 30, 1975. **B14**

RETROPOLIS



WHITMORE RARE BOOKS

D.C. tuition program will increase aid

FUNDING FOR THOSE WITH COLLEGE IN THEIR SIGHTS

Aimed at helping families, cap on grants to grow by 50%

BY JONATHAN EDWARDS

Lonnie Monroe-Evans didn't know her worsening headaches were about to jeopardize her children's chance at college.

Doctors diagnosed her with benign brain tumors in 2013. Unable to keep working, she quit her job, cutting her family's income by about half — just as her oldest child was preparing to graduate high school and needed money for tuition.

Monroe-Evans and her husband, Arturo Evans Sr., didn't have it.

Searching for options, Monroe-Evans found a program that helps thousands of D.C. residents each year pay to attend public colleges across the country.

Since then, their three children have received $100,000 through the program. The two oldest have graduated, and the youngest is now a freshman at Norfolk State University.

"There's no way we could have done it" without the support, Monroe-Evans said.

D.C. officials recently announced they are expanding the D.C. Tuition Assistance Grant, known as DCTAG, raising the maximum annual award from $10,000 to $15,000 and the lifetime cap from $50,000 to $75,000 — a 50 percent increase aimed at helping families keep pace with rising tuition and inflation.

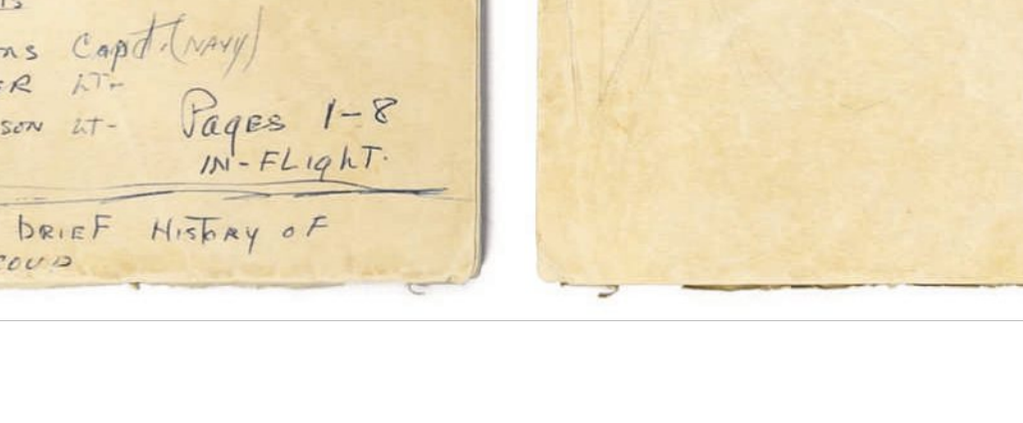
It's the first increase since the program started 25 years ago — when $10,000 had nearly twice the buying power it does today. "Prices on everything have gone up over the last 10 years, but DCTAG stayed the same," D.C. Mayor Muriel E. Bowser (D) said at an event Thursday at Coolidge High School.

With only one public university in the city, D.C. officials created the tuition assistance program more than two decades ago to help students offset the cost of paying out-of-state tuition outside the city. Since 2000, about 37,000 students

SEE TUITION ON B18

'MY GOD WHAT HAVE WE DONE'

Co-pilot on Hiroshima mission kept a journal, which is up for sale



AP

BY MICHAEL E. RUANE

Shortly after dawn on Aug. 6, 1945, Capt. Robert A. Lewis, co-pilot of the Enola Gay, wrote in his notebook that the clouds below him were dispersing and the weather looked good for the rest of the flight to Hiroshima. ¶ "We are now ab0ut 2 hrs from bombs away," Lewis, 26, wrote as the B-29 approached the Japanese city it was about to destroy. "The bomb is now alive. And it's a funny feeling knowing it's right in back of you." ¶ As the attack began, Lewis wrote: "There will be a short intermission while we bomb our target." ¶ What followed was what he called a "blow by blow description" of the dropping of the first atomic bomb, and his famous reaction: "My God what have we done."

SEE HIROSHIMA ON B13

TOP: Capt. Robert A. Lewis wrote his account of the bombing of Hiroshima in real time.
ABOVE: The Enola Gay bomber crew included Lewis, shown standing second from right.

Unmarked graves in Va. are explored

Researchers from a Catholic coalition examine site in Aquia where enslaved people toiled

BY OMARI DANIELS

It started with an email.

Lindsay Alukonis, an archivist with the Diocese of Arlington, reached out to an anthropology professor at Catholic University for help in October 2022. A large, rectangular-shaped anomaly had appeared during a radar survey of a cemetery on land once owned by one of Virginia's earliest families. Researchers were curious: Was it from a chapel, or the foundation of a building?

Last spring, assistant professor of anthropology Laura Masur led a team of 12 Catholic University students on a dig at the site in Aquia, about 39 miles from the nation's capital. As they combed for artifacts and other clues, they stumbled upon something unexpected: unmarked graves. A new mystery began.

The cemetery was once owned by the family of George Brent, an influential Catholic, lawyer and politician in the Virginia colony during the 17th century. He also was an enslaver: His will mentioned 25 people who were property of the Brent family.

Now, Masur and the diocese are trying to identify who is buried in the unmarked graves, including determining whether any were enslaved people, and learn about their lives. They also hope to find any living descendants to start a conversation on how to honor their ancestors.

"I wanted to ensure that, from the beginning, they [the diocese] were ready to engage with issues of reconciliation and engage with members of the descendant community," Masur said in an interview.

Up to 88 burial sites

The earliest Brents arrived in Maryland from England in 1638, with some of the family then moving to Virginia. Margaret Brent — George Brent's great-aunt — was

SEE GRAVES ON B13

WWII DIARY UP FOR SALE

HIROSHIMA FROM **B12**

Between 70,000 and 80,000 people were killed instantly, historians estimate, and thousands more would die in the coming months. Hiroshima was obliterated.

Lewis's account, which he wrote during and after the bombing, has just been put up for sale by Dan Whitmore, a rare book dealer in Pasadena, California, who is handling it on consignment for the wealthy American owner. Asking price: $950,000.

This is the fifth time it has hit the market. It first sold at auction for $37,000 in 1971. Lewis, who was present at the auction, reportedly said he believed it was of great historical value, "and I didn't know what else to do with it."

It last sold in 2022 for $543,000, according to Whitmore's printed description of the notebook.

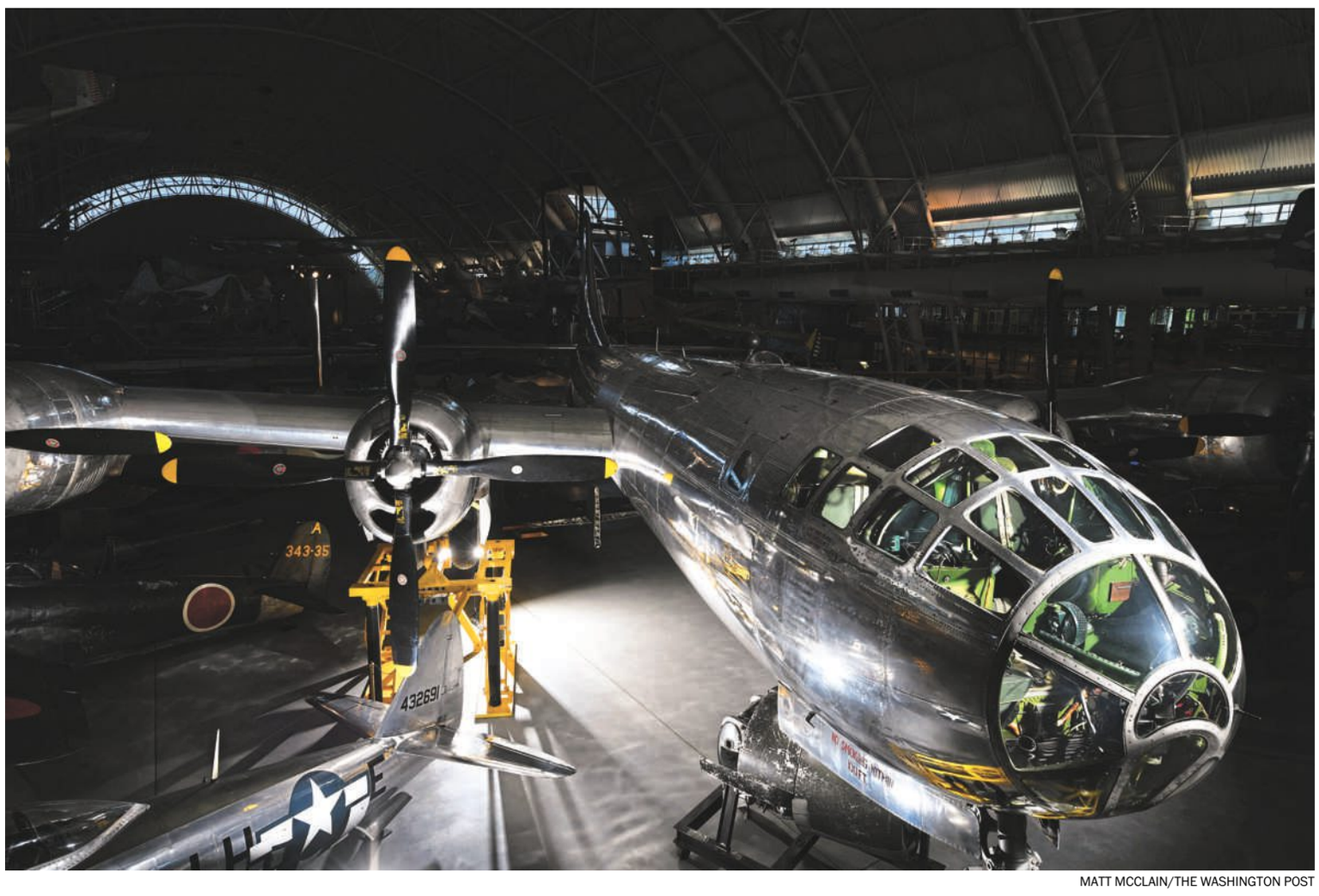
"It's up there as one of probably the most important documents from World War II," Whitmore said in a telephone interview with The Washington Post. "In a lot of ways, it's such a pivotal moment for the entire world in the 20th century."

Lewis wrote his account at the behest of William L. Laurence, a science reporter for the New York Times, who added some minor editing afterward.

Laurence was supposed to fly on the Hiroshima mission, but arrived too late at the bomber's base on Tinian Island, in the Pacific Ocean, according to entries in the notebook. (He was able to go on the atomic bombing mission to Nagasaki three days later.)

Lewis thought the assignment might earn him "a few dollars," according to Enola Gay historians Gordon Thomas and Max Morgan-Witts. The Enola Gay is currently on display at the National Air and Space Museum's Steven F. Udvar-Hazy Center, in Chantilly, Virginia, outside Washington.

The notebook, which is roughly 10 inches by 8 inches, says "Property of Robert A. Lewis ... Bombing of Hiroshima Aug. 6, 1945" on its cover.



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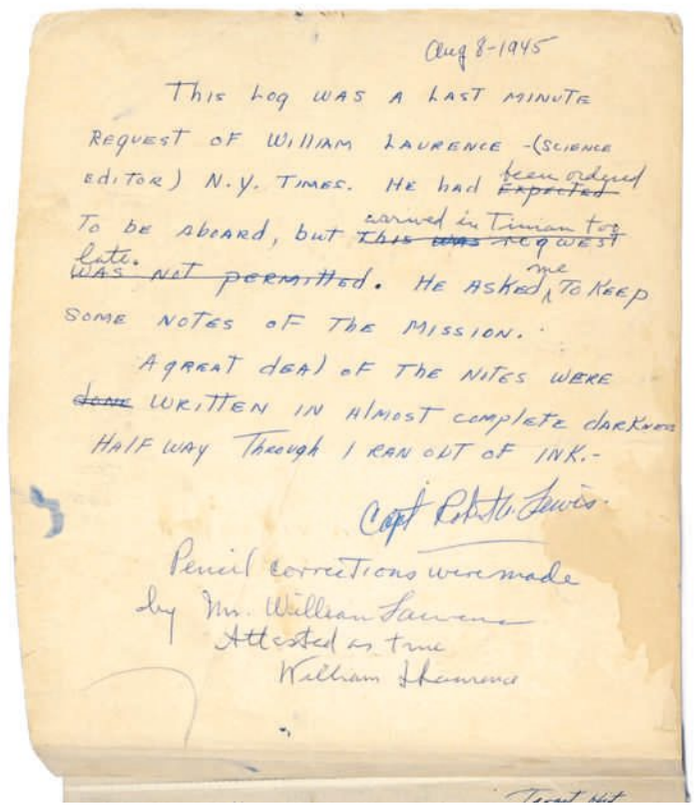


Aug 8-1945

This log was a last minute request of William Laurence -(Science editor) N.Y. Times. He had ~~been ordered~~ ~~Expected~~ To be aboard, but ~~This was~~ arrived in Tinian too late. ~~was not permitted~~. He asked me to keep some notes of the mission.

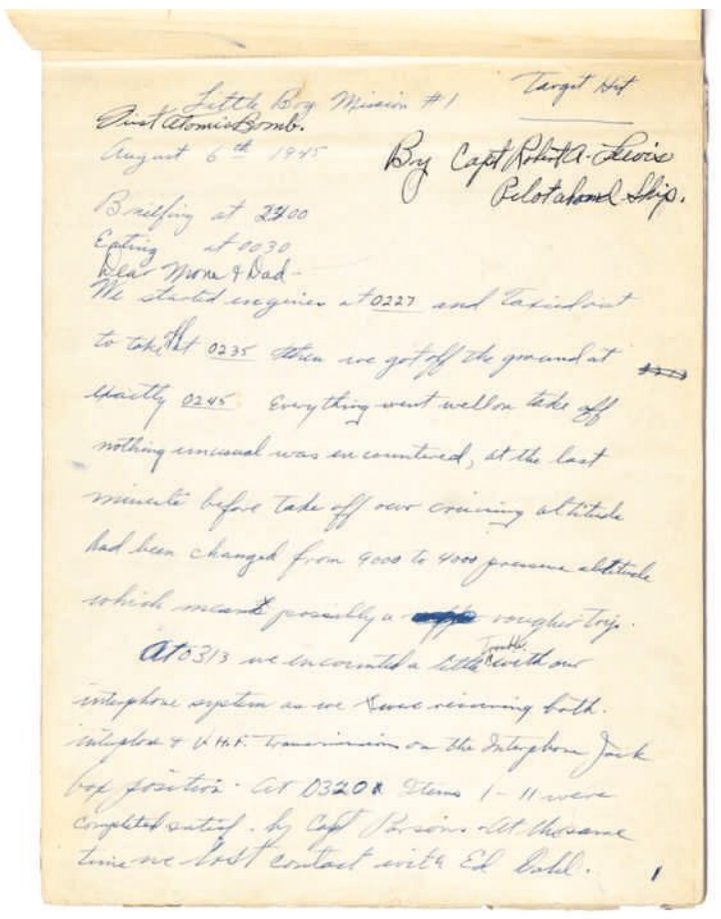
A great deal of the notes were ~~done~~ written in almost complete darkness Half way through I ran out of ink.-

Capt Robt A. Lewis.

Pencil corrections were made by Mr. William Laurence Attested as true William Shemwell

Target Hat

WHITMORE RARE BOOKS



Little Boy Mission #1 Target Hat
First Atomic Bomb.
August 6th 1945 By Capt Robert A. Lewis Pilot aboard Ship.

Briefing at 2300
Eating at 0030
Dear Mom & Dad-
We started engines at 0227 and taxied out to take off 0235 Then we got off the ground at exactly 0245 Everything went well on take off nothing unusual was encountered, at the last minute before take off our ceiling altitude had been changed from 9000 to 9000 pressure altitude which meant possibly a ~~type~~ rougher trip.
At 0313 we encountered a little front with our interphone system as we were receiving both interphone & V.H.F. transmission on the interphone jack box position. At 0320 Items 1-11 were completed satisfactorily by Capt Parsons. At this same time we lost contact with Ed Buell.

WHITMORE RARE BOOKS

TOP: The Enola Gay, a B-29, is on display at the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum's Steven F. Udvar-Hazy Center. ABOVE: Capt. Robert A. Lewis's account of the bombing of Hiroshima has been put up for sale in California for $950,000.

Lewis states that much of his writing occurred in the almost complete darkness of the overnight flight. At one point he ran out of ink and continued in pencil.

The account begins as a letter to his parents: "Dear Mom and Dad."

Lewis lists the name of the plane, "Enola Gay," the 12 men on board, and what appears to be an incorrect radio call sign, "Dimples 12," for the aircraft. The actual call sign was "Dimples 82," according to histories of the mission.

Approaching Hiroshima at 31,000 feet, Lewis wrote, "we ... had about a 4 minutes run on a perfectly open target."

The bomb was dropped at about 8:15 a.m. Hiroshima time. It took 43 seconds to fall to its detonation altitude of 1,890 feet.

Lewis wrote that there was a flash, followed by two shock waves that reached the plane from the blast six miles below.

We "then turned the ship so we could observe the results," Lewis wrote. "And there in front of our eyes was with out a doubt the greatest explosion man has ever witnessed."

"Everyone on the ship is actually dumbstruck even though we had expected something fierce," Lewis wrote, as he looked out the large cockpit windows of the B-29.

A few days later, Lewis added a more reflective page to his account, perhaps on his own or at the urging of Laurence, the reporter, Whitmore said.

The new page was taped into a place in the narrative right after the bombing. The yellowed tape is still there.

"I am certain the entire crew felt this experience was more than anyone human had ever thought possible," Lewis wrote.

"It just seems impossible to comprehend," he wrote. "Just how many ... did we kill? I honestly have the feeling of groping for words to explain this or I might say My God what have we done. If I live a hundred years I'll never quite get these few minutes out my mind."

On the back of the notebook, Lewis drew a sketch of the mushroom cloud that rose after the bomb exploded. "Various colors," he wrote, "40,000 ft plus," referring to the height of the cloud. He then noted the time, "09:30," and date "8/6/45" and his initials "R.A.L."

Lewis, a Brooklyn native who was known as "Bud," was an excellent pilot. He had once taken aviation pioneer Charles Lindbergh up in a B-29, according to Thomas and Morgan-Witts.

Lewis had considered the Enola Gay his plane, and was incensed when the pilot, Col. Paul W. Tibbets Jr., had his mother's name stenciled on the nose of the bomber before takeoff.

Whitmore, the book dealer, said that he plans to exhibit the notebook at the New York International Antiquarian Book Fair, which begins April 30.

"I think that there are collectors in lots of different collecting areas who would find this document really compelling," he said. "I think it's entirely possible that an institution will find a donor or encourage someone to donate it."

"It's up there as one of probably the most important documents from World War II."

Dan Whitmore, a rare book dealer in Pasadena, California

Researchers probe unmarked graves in Va. where enslaved people once toiled

GRAVES FROM **B12**

the first woman in the new colonies to request the right to vote.

George Brent settled in Stafford County on property that would remain in the family's possession until 1841. It is now owned by the Arlington diocese.

The location of the Brent residence was rediscovered in recent decades during an investigation by the Archaeological Society of Virginia. Alukonis said that when she learned of potential burials at the property, she reached out to a geophysicist who later used ground penetrating radar to examine the property. A report said the 2022 survey identified at least 60 and as many as 88 burial sites, many of them unmarked. Prior archaeological digs between 1995 and 2002 also identified unmarked graves inside a brick wall and on a slope that leads toward a swampy area.

The survey results prompted Alukonis to reach out to Masur, who in recent years also led a dig of property around Sacred Heart Chapel in Bowie, Maryland, that found graves of people enslaved by some of the priests and brothers who were building the Catholic church.

After completing the Maryland project, Masur visited the former Brent family property in Virginia about a year and a half ago, where she says she saw a few graves with-

ANNA DONOFRIO/ARLINGTON CATHOLIC HERALD

The cemetery was once owned by the family of George Brent, an influential Catholic in the Virginia colony who was an enslaver.

in a brick wall. There has been a history of vandalism at the site, she said, because of urban legends about the area, including a possible nearby witch's pond.

When Masur returned to the property last spring with her students, she said the team had to be careful when digging next to burials. They got a permit from the state and followed special protocol, such as putting any bone found into a separate bag. (They did not find anything that looked like human bones). While on the site, the team found a wine bottle with the initials "GB" on it, indicating it could have belonged to George Brent, Masur said.

It was on the third or fourth day of the dig when her team realized that there was a depression in the ground associated with a grave marker — temporarily halting their work.

"You never quite know what you're going to find," Masur said. "We were expecting to find a structure, but as we got down deeper, we hit wood and debated whether this was wood from trees or old coffins."

Masur said the team mapped the outline of the depression with GPS, and then removed other sediment in the area. She said they measured and recorded elevations from the unit to document how the depression was lower than the rest of the surrounding ground surface.

The team wasn't able to dig deep enough to identify coffins, Masur said, but saw fieldstone grave markers and other depressions in the ground.

"Thankfully, our excavations showed that at least within the brick walls, the graves are all likely to be very deeply buried," Masur said. "There was little risk of encountering anything sensitive, like a coffin or human remains."

At the end of the dig, Masur and the team of students held a moment of silence. They'd done the same at the beginning of their work on the site.

"I think it's important to have reverence for what we're doing," Masur said. "It's important to remember the humanity of the people who are buried here, even if we don't know who they are."

Masur said evidence indicates that most burials on the property likely occurred between 1670 and 1775.

'A better understanding of history'

Now the work has shifted to learning more about whose remains are at the site.

Alukonis said that she has made several trips to the Library of Virginia in Richmond to find more information on the Brent family and property. But she notes that many court records dating to the 17th century were destroyed during the Civil War.

Somehow, Masur said, a copy of George Brent's will survived.

"One of the big obstacles when looking at Virginia is some of the counties are burned counties, and Stafford is one of those counties," Masur said.

Alukonis, who was on-site during the dig, said it is not yet determined whether the graves belong to enslaved people.

Masur and the diocese are working to find records, family trees and oral histories that may help identify descendants of both the Brents and those that they enslaved.

"Opening up these conversations will help us have a better understanding of the history, and we can accurately represent and respect everybody who was there," Alukonis said.

The diocese contributed "several thousand [dollars]" that Catholic University used for expenses related to the dig, such as an archaeological field technician, and for those working in Catholic University's lab. According to the diocese, as they work with descendants of those who may be buried at the site, there may be further funding devoted to excavation and preservation efforts.

Bishop Michael Francis Burbidge said in a separate statement that he is grateful for the partnership with the university and hopes that descendants come forward so both sides can "more fully honor the lives and legacies of these first Virginians."

"Every grave marks the final earthly resting place of a human person, known and loved by God, who came before us," Burbidge said. "It is our great responsibility as a diocese to conserve, honor, and steward Brent Cemetery as sacred ground."

Masur said that there had been no excavations of the graves yet. She doesn't foresee that happening without unanimous support from descendants of the Brents and the people they enslaved. The site, meanwhile, will be monitored to ensure there is no risk of erosion for the graves.

Masur said she hopes residents come away from this Brent cemetery project with a fuller understanding of the past.

"We try to frame historical figures in one way or another," she said. "These individuals are very complex and we can look at what they've achieved, but we also need to look at what enabled this to happen."

The Guide to Offers
The Washington Post

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OBITUARIES

JUAN VALDEZ, 88

Last Marine to leave Vietnam ushered others out first

BY HARRISON SMITH

2015 PHOTO BY DITA ALANGKARA/AP

Standing on the U.S. Embassy roof as tanks rumbled toward Saigon and gunfire rang out below, Juan Valdez wondered if he and his fellow Marines might have actually been forgotten.

Working through the night, as a mob of desperate people pressed against the compound's gates and spilled over its walls, he had helped evacuate nearly 2,100 Americans and Vietnamese fleeing the collapse of South Vietnam. But after Ambassador Graham Martin was airlifted to safety with the embassy's American flag, the helicopter evacuation had been canceled — the result of a misunderstanding, as air staff didn't realize a group of Marines was still waiting to be picked up.

A call for help went out. And Master Sgt. Valdez waited for what "seemed like an eternity" for the last helicopter to arrive.

When it landed, he nearly didn't make it on board. After telling his 10 fellow Marines to get on, and waiting to ensure they boarded safely, he slipped as he stepped onto the ramp. The helicopter began to take off as one of the Marines, Mike Sullivan, did a head count. They were one man short.

"I remember looking at the ramp, and two hands were over the top of it," Sullivan recalled in "Last Days in Vietnam," an Oscar-nominated 2014 documentary. Master Sgt. Valdez was yanked on board as the chopper departed.

It was 7:58 a.m. on April 30, 1975, just a few hours before the North Vietnamese burst through the gates of the presidential palace, hoisted a Viet Cong flag and celebrated the end of a war that had lasted 20 years, costing the lives of more than 58,000 Americans and untold Vietnamese.

Master Sgt. Valdez, the last Marine to leave Vietnam, was 88 when he died Feb. 15 in Tucson, where he was living. To the leathernecks who served under him, it was only fitting that he was the last of their unit to depart Saigon.

"He was a model leader, always looking after his troops," said one of those Marines, Doug Potratz. "When I went to his house 40 years after the fall of Saigon, he had all our individual ID pictures on the mantel of his fireplace. He never forgot us."

"In some ways he was like a dad to us," said Dave Norman, one of the 11 Marines on the last helicopter out of Saigon. "But in other ways he was like a principal. If you screwed up, you didn't want to be in the principal's office."

Mr. Valdez spent 32 years in the Marine Corps, retiring in 1987 as a master gunnery sergeant. Even then, he remained intimately involved with the Corps, working as a civilian in the housing office of Camp Pendleton, the primary Marine base on the West Coast.

"He was always a Marine, taking care of Marines," Potratz said.

During his first tour in Vietnam, from 1965 to 1967, Mr. Valdez served as a platoon sergeant in an amphibious assault vehicle unit. He returned to the country in September 1974 as the top noncommissioned officer — affectionately known as "Top" — in the embassy's Marine security guard detachment, with a commander, Maj. James Kean, who was based out of Hong Kong before being summoned to Saigon.

1975 AP PHOTO

Following the departure of American combat troops in 1973, the embassy Marines were among the last U.S. service members in Vietnam. "We were there to protect American lives, as well as American property. It was just a day-to-day job," Mr. Valdez said.

As the North Vietnamese advanced toward the capital, he and Kean played a critical role evacuating Americans and their allies. More than 50,000 people were flown out of Tan Son Nhut Air Base before rocket and artillery fire made the flights unsafe. Some 7,000 others were then airlifted as part of Operation Frequent Wind, the final stage of the evacuation, which the U.S. military later called the largest helicopter evacuation in history.

At the embassy, helicopters landed every 10 minutes on the roof or in the parking lot, where Marines chopped down a tamarind tree to expand the makeshift landing zone.

The operation got underway on April 29, 1975, after two of the detachment's young Marines, Darwin Judge and Charles McMahon, were killed in a predawn rocket attack at Tan Son Nhut. Later that day, Armed Forces Radio delivered a not-so-secret signal to indicate that the airlift was on.

"He was a model leader, always looking after his troops. ... He never forgot us."

Doug Potratz, a Marine who was in Vietnam with Mr. Valdez

Juan Valdez, above right, with Kevin Maloney, spent 32 years in the Marine Corps, retiring in 1987.

"The temperature in Saigon is 105 degrees and rising," an announcer intoned. Then the station played the holiday song "White Christmas."

Master Sgt. Valdez and Kean "didn't pull any punches," Potratz said in a phone interview. "They got us in the conference room after Judge and McMahon were killed. They said, 'There are almost 100,000 North Vietnamese surrounding the city. We don't know if they're going to evacuate us or not. But if we die, we die like Marines.' That kind of stuck to us. After that, we stuck together and did the best we could."

As thousands of people rushed to the embassy, Master Sgt. Valdez and other Marines guarded the perimeter. He later recalled lifting people over the gates, helping them inside the compound before realizing there wouldn't be enough helicopters to evacuate everyone.

"Please, at least take my children out," he was told by parents. "I'll stay, but take my little girl now."

Those who were allowed into the compound were searched for weapons — guns were thrown into the embassy pool — before being escorted to a helicopter.

According to Kean's after-action report, some 10,000 people eventually breached the embassy gates. Master Sgt. Valdez and the remaining Marines prepared to be evacuated while locking down the elevators and barricading doors, using fire extinguishers and other equipment to block off the rooftop.

For many, images of the chaotic withdrawal came to symbolize the futility of a war that should never have been prolonged, let alone started.

Mr. Valdez said that the departure was painfully resonant in 2021, when the U.S. withdrawal from Afghanistan ended in chaos and bloodshed. As he saw it, the U.S. had repeated some of the same mistakes in both wars.

"We spent so much money, so many weapons and so many Marine and Army deaths, and for what?" he asked in an interview with Noticias Telemundo. "For what?"

Juan Jose Valdez was born in San Antonio on Aug. 19, 1937. His father was a landscaper, and his mother was a homemaker from Mexico. He enlisted in the Marines in 1955, at age 17.

Mr. Valdez died of pneumonia, said his sons Anthony and Michael Valdez. In addition to his children, survivors include a brother; two sisters; a grandson; and three great-granddaughters.

Late in life, Mr. Valdez participated in frequent reunions with his Vietnam detachment, including in a 2015 trip to Saigon — now Ho Chi Minh City — where a plaque was dedicated to McMahon and Judge, the last Americans killed in action on the ground in Vietnam. The unit's surviving members had reconnected in 2000, when they traveled to Judge's Iowa hometown for a memorial service honoring their fallen comrades.

"For a period I went through survivor guilt," Mr. Valdez said in prepared remarks for the service. "Why wasn't it me instead. Why did I, who had been in country longer, and had already served a previous tour in Vietnam, lived and these two men died. There were, and still are, no easy answers."

But "more than anything else," he added, "we need one another now. Each of us grieves, and when we grieve together, the healing begins."

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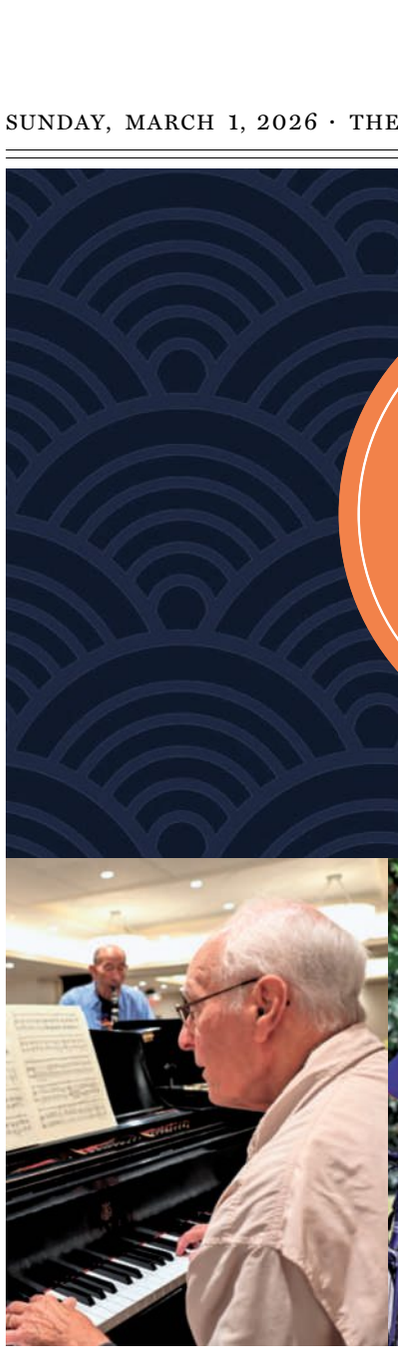

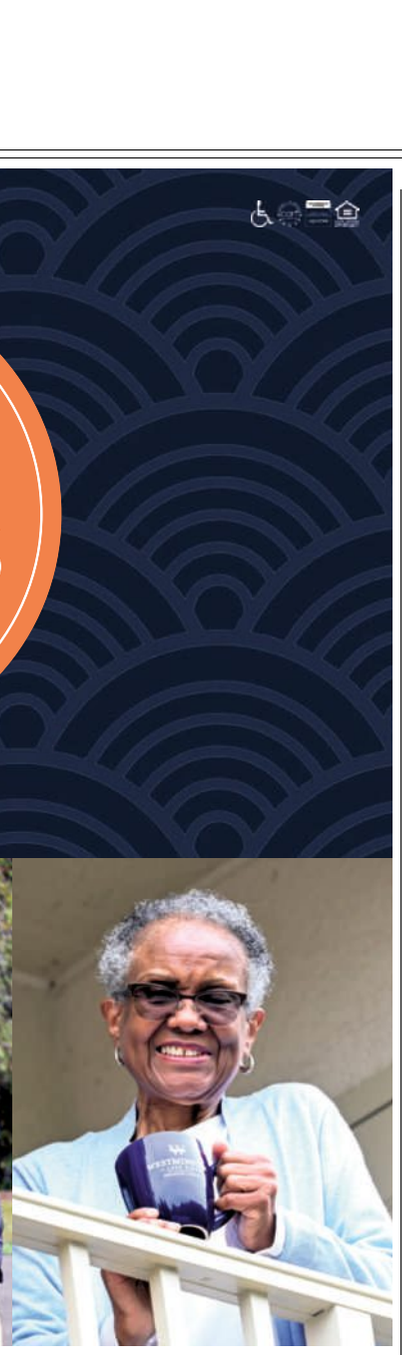

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DEATH NOTICE

BLUME

CHARLES EDWARD BLUME (Age 64)
Charles Edward Blume of Silver Spring, MD passed away Friday February 20.
He is survived by his wife, Dody DiSanto, daughter Francesca Foret, son-in-law Ryan Foret and grandchildren Fiona and Roger Foret. A conservatory-trained classical guitarist, Charles was also a national champion natural bodybuilder for 20 years and made a formidable contribution to the health and wellness of many people. Service will be held at a later date.

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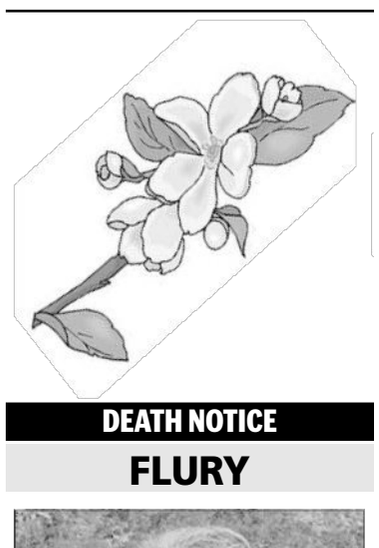
The Washington Post

DEATH NOTICE

ERICKSON

DENNIS ERICKSON "Butch" COL (R), US ARMY
Butch was a larger than life character who valued family and country. Butch passed on February 6, 2026. He grew up in North Dakota, where his parents Dale and Kay, brothers Ronald and Larry predeceased him. Butch is survived by his wife Dorothea, his children Scott, Andra, Kristin (Samit), and Chris, his grandsons Beckett and James, and his siblings Vicky and Rod. A graduate of NDSU and the Army War College, Butch served 27 years as an Army aviator, then as a peacekeeping trainer. Butch was happiest with friends, family, and a beer at a baseball game. Celebration of life March 14th and inurnment at Arlington National Cemetery at a later date.



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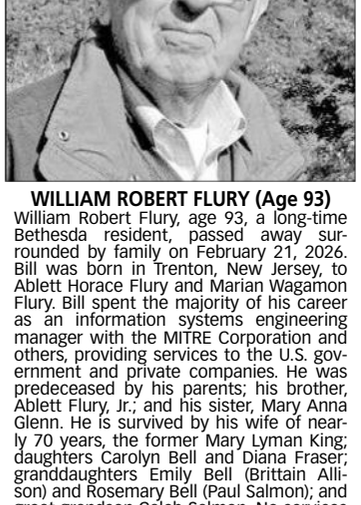
FLURY



WILLIAM ROBERT FLURY (Age 93)
William Robert Flury, age 93, a long-time Bethesda resident, passed away surrounded by family on February 21, 2026. Bill was born in Trenton, New Jersey, to Ablett Horace Flury and Marian Wagamon Flury. Bill spent the majority of his career as an information systems engineering manager with the MITRE Corporation and others, providing services to the U.S. government and private companies. He was predeceased by his parents; his brother, Ablett Flury, Jr.; and his sister, Mary Anna Glenn. He is survived by his wife of nearly 70 years, the former Mary Lyman King; daughters Carolyn Bell and Diana Fraser; granddaughters Emily Bell (Brittain Allison) and Rosemary Bell (Paul Salmon); and great-grandson Caleb Salmon. No services planned at this time. Please visit Pumphrey Funeral Homes website for full obituary.

DEATH NOTICE

KALWEIT

BURKHARD GUNTER KALWEIT
Burkhard Gunter Kalweit, 75, passed away on February 4, 2026, after a battle with Parkinson's disease. He was surrounded by his wife of 54 years, Amy, and his daughter, Jessica. He is also survived by his brothers, Dirk and Andrew; his sister, Sonelint; and one of three beloved golden retrievers.

Born in Germany on May 19, 1950, Burk came to the United States at the age of five. His family settled in Virginia. He earned a Master's degree in Economics from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University and spent his career promoting research in science and engineering.

Burk loved to ski, cycle, and read The Economist. He spent his final year at Bridges by EPOCH, Nashua, NH, where he continued to enjoy watching his Hokies, Commanders, and discovering new blues musicians.

A celebration of his life will be held in June in Corolla, on the Outer Banks of North Carolina. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to The Michael J. Fox Foundation. The family wishes to thank the staff at Bridges and Home Health & Hospice Care, Merrimack, NH who appreciated Burk's famously dry wit until the end.

KELLER

LAURA SIMPSON KELLER
Laura, 75, passed away on Tuesday, February 17th, 2026 in the company of family and friends in Alexandria, VA.

Visitation with the family will be held on Friday, March 6th, from 4 to 6 pm at EVERLY-WHEATLEY FUNERAL HOME, 1500 W. Braddock Rd., Alexandria, VA.

A memorial service will be held for Mrs. Keller at the Rockland Community Church, 2921 Rockland Rd, Front Royal, VA 22630 on Saturday, March 7th at 11:00 am.
https://www.everlywheatley.com/obituaries/

LEFKOWITZ

GARY LEFKOWITZ
Age 76, on February 21, 2026, of Springfield, VA. Beloved husband of Dolores Leonowich Lefkowitz, son of the late Morris and Lillian, father of Jacob (Karen) and Paul (Maria). Brother of the late Eli and Bruce Shuter, and twin brother Michael. Gary grew up in Spring Valley, NY and was a lifelong NY sports fan. Graduated from the University of Pennsylvania and Boston College Law School. Career ERISA law specialist at the Department of Labor. Cherished Hebrew School teacher at Congregation Adat Reyim, taught 5th Grade for 37 years and tutored hundreds of students for Bar & Bat Mitzvah. In recent years, officiated over 600 weddings for former students and Northern Virginia couples. Private internment at Fairfax Memorial Park. Celebration of Life to be held at Congregation Adat Reyim, March 4 at 7 pm, and online adatreyim.org. Donations may be made to Blood Cancer United, bloodcancerunited.org.

DEATH NOTICE

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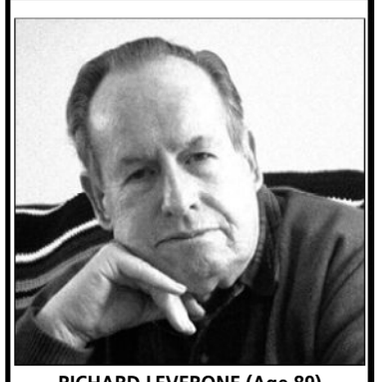

RICHARD LEVERONE (Age 89)
Richard Leverone, age 89, of Arlington, VA, passed away on February 19, 2026, in the comfort of his home. Born in Oakland, CA. Survived by his wife, Helen, of 62 years, son, Thomas (Sheila), daughter, Joanie (preceded in death by husband, Kenn), and seven grandchildren, Shaeleigh, Chance, YiLin, Meagan, Brendan, Kyle, and Maura. Worked for the government at the Office of Personnel Management. He enjoyed playing tennis, pickle ball, chess and spending time with his many friends and family. In addition, he loved to read, plant trees, and eat chocolate donuts. He had a generous heart and a great sense of humor. A mass will be held on Tuesday, March 3, 2026, at 11:00am at St. Ann Catholic Church at 5300 N 10th Street, Arlington, VA. A reception to immediately follow at St. Ann. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to St. Ann Church at https://stannchurch.org/donate/, or, the Marianist Mission at https://marianistmission.marianist.com.

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DEATH NOTICE

ALLEN

RICHARD J ALLEN (Age 96)
Richard James Allen, 69, of Silver Spring passed away on February 18, 2026. He was born in Great Falls, Montana, and as an Air Force brat, Richard grew up there and in Texas, Illinois and Minnesota before settling in the D.C. area.
Richard attended Minnesota State University at Mankato. He worked in a variety of office positions at law firms and international institutions in Washington D.C., and after he and Maura moved to Seattle, he studied Culinary Arts at Seattle Central College. He enjoyed cooking for work and for his lucky friends and family, who appreciated his cuisine and his dry wit.
Richard loved history (especially military history) and music and sailing, as well as camping and fishing in the great outdoors. He was a Commanders and a Seattle Mariners fan.
Richard was predeceased by his father, James Allen, and is survived by his wife Maura Faughnan Allen, and by his mother, Audrey Allen. He will be sorely missed by his adored siblings Bradley Allen, Jeffrey Allen, and Lorraine Lewis and their spouses and his dear nieces and nephews. He was also much loved by the extended Faughnan family, and by his sweet cats.
Richard's life will be celebrated March 3-4 at Hines-Rinaldi Funeral Home in Silver Spring, and at a Mass of Christian Burial at Blessed Sacrament in Washington, D.C. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Humane Rescue Alliance www.humanerescuealliance.org.

BEENE

JOE FRANCIS BEENE (Age 88)
Joe Francis Beene, a devoted family man, distinguished professional, and cherished community member, passed away peacefully on January 20, 2026, at age 88, in Williamsburg, Virginia.

Born on September 8, 1937, in Nashville, Tennessee, Joe was the beloved son of the late Mildred Lamb Beene and John Francis Beene. He was also preceded in death by his sister, Dianne Beene Luker.
He proudly served his country by joining the Navy at age 18, completing 3 years of active duty followed by 28 years in the Naval Reserves, and retired as a Commander.
Joe's academic achievements were notable. He earned a Bachelor's Degree and a Juris Doctor from the University of Tennessee as well as a Master's Degree in Personnel Management from George Washington University.
His professional career was also distinguished. Joe served as a special agent with the Naval Investigative Service (now known as the Navel Criminal Investigative Service, or NCIS) for 25 years, where he was known for his dedication and integrity. During the last 5 years of his career, he served as NCIS Special Assistant for Legislative & Judicial Affairs (General Counsel). Following his retirement from NCIS, he continued to share his knowledge and passion for the law by teaching Criminal Justice for 20 years at Northern Virginia Community College, eventually becoming the program head of the Administration Of Justice department.
Beyond his professional and academic pursuits, Joe was a man of wide-ranging interests. He enjoyed whitewater canoeing, crafting stained glass Tiffany-reproduction lamps, and was an avid gardener and beekeeper, and certified Master Naturalist. As a Scout Master, he was awarded the prestigious Silver Beaver for his exceptional service to Scouting. Joe also found joy in baking bread and desserts, and in sharing his creations with friends.
A man of faith and community, Joe was an active member of St. Stephen Lutheran Church, the Historic Rivers Chapter of the Viriginia Master Naturalists, the Capital Club of Williamsburg, and the St. Andrew's Society of Williamsburg.
Joe is survived by his loving wife, Joyce Beene; his son, Jeffrey Beene and wife Kathryn Arbeit; his daughter, Beth Shapiro and husband Mike Torrey; and his cherished grandchildren, Zoe Shapiro Torrey and Eli Shapiro Torrey. He is also remembered fondly by his many extended family members and dear friends.
A memorial service to honor Joe's life will be held on March 7, 2026, at 2:00 PM at Williamsburg Landing, 5700 Williamsburg Landing Drive, Williamsburg, VA 23185.
In lieu of flowers, the family kindly requests that donations be made in memory of Joe to the Virginia Master Naturalists organization, a non-profit devoted to the protection and preservation of natural habitats in Virginia: https://www.virginiamasternaturalist.org/give/

GROENE

MICHAEL ROBERT GROENE (Age 63)
Michael R. Groene, a resident of Fulks Run, VA passed away on January 11, 2026 following a heart attack. He was 63 years old.
Michael was born January 30, 1962 in Ames, Iowa, the son of Robert Groene and Alice Groene. He attended northern Virginia grammar and high schools before attending Shepherd College in West Virginia. He received a Bachelor of Science degree in Economics and Business Administration in 1984 from Sheperd.
Also in 1984, Michael joined the economic consulting firm of L. E. Peabody & Associates, Inc. where he spent the next 42 years. Michael was an integral part of L. E. Peabody & Associates, Inc. and his work included numerous fact-finding field trips with the objective of determining a railroad's cost of handling trains over specific line segments. He worked extensively with the Rail Traffic Controller ("RTC") model and developed simulations of short-line, regional and Class I railroad operations. These simulations involved translating real-world railroad operating infrastructure and operating practices into RTC specific simulation inputs. He used the RTC model in support of rate cases before the Surface Transportation Board, as well as for infrastructure investment analyses. But Michael was much more at home outside, working with his horses and on his farm.
Michael is survived by his wife Ginger Moore Groene, his brother, David Groene and his three nieces, Victoria Groene-Zeigler, Alexandra Groene and Katherine Wine. Michael was preceded in death by his parents and his sister, Elizabeth Groene.
Michael leaves behind a legacy of hard work, a zest for life, a tremendous personality, a humorous inner being that will continue to inspire all who had the privilege of knowing him. A celebration of his exceptional life will be held on March 22 of 2026. This will be held at 12378 Hopkins Gap Rd. Fulks Run Va 22830 at high noon.

PIRIE

HIDEKO UMEDA PIRIE "Heidi" (Age 81)
Hideko ("Heidi") Pirie, 81, of Alexandria, VA, passed away peacefully on February 13, 2026.

Born on November 22, 1944, in Kure City, Japan, she was known for her giving nature, superb hospitality, and devotion to running, hiking, yoga, music, and women's sports. Hideko was educated in Japan, came to the United States, and after a successful career of over 25 years, retired from the United States Department of Veterans Affairs (VA).

She married her beloved husband, Robert Pirie, in 1972 in South Weymouth, Mass. Together, they shared fifty-four years of marriage, building a life in Virginia filled with service to our nation's veterans, international travel, the shared love of music and sports, and a wide range of close friends and family.

Known for her exquisite gift of creative design, gourmet-style cuisine, gardening with an Asian flair, cakes and desserts worthy of a Pastry Chef, a devotion to running, and participation in races, including: The Boston Marathon, the NYC Marathon, the San Francisco Women's Marathon, and the Cherry Blossom 10-Miler.

After retirement, Hideko spent her time scaling mountains, tending her garden, entertaining her varied and accomplished friends and neighbors, supporting women's sports, appreciating music, and occasionally enjoying her favorite snack – ice cream. Her legacy of kindness and immense talent will live on.

She is survived by her loving husband, Robert, her sister Katsuko Kinoshita of Osaka, Japan, and many loving family members, friends, and colleagues. She was preceded in death by her parents and brother, Masayoshi Umeda.

Services are private. Donations in honor of Hideko's life can be made to www.womenssportsfoundation.org/support-us/make-a-donation.

REESE

THOMAS HAMLIN REESE III
February 7, 1939 - June 23, 2025
Tom passed at his home in Flagstaff, AZ of natural causes. Born in Cleveland, he lived his teenage years in Arlington, VA where he graduated from Washington and Lee High. He spent three years in the army after which he graduated in 1967 from Univ Maryland with a degree in Economics. Tom is predeceased by his parents, Thomas Reese, Jr of Morganton, NC, Elizabeth (Plant) Reese of San Francisco, and a sister, Marcia Wilson (Reuel) of Ontario, Canada. Survived by brother, Drew (Mindy) of Santa Fe, Tom left behind two sons, Tom (Jen) of Scottsdale, AZ, Glenn (Julie) of Boulder, four grandchildren and ex-wife, Barbara (Rahner) Reese of Bethesda. Tom will be remembered for his special warm character and enthusiastic support for his family, friends, and colleagues. Tom had a lifetime career with USAID. He joined as an Executive Management Intern in 1967 and was sent to the Univ of Pittsburgh where he obtained an advanced degree in Economics. In 1971, he went overseas and lived with family in Indonesia, then Egypt where he helped to design and implement their Population and Health programs. By 1984, he returned to Washington to become Director and Coordinator of the USAID Food for Peace program. Then in 1989, he became Deputy Assistant Administrator for the Asia/Near East Bureau. In 1990, he became USAID Thailand Mission Director where he launched the US Thai Development Program as Thailand transitioned out of USAID. He retired from government service in 1994. Tom loved writing fiction, was an avid runner, skied and hiked. He enjoyed most sharing these activities with his grandchildren.
A private service will be held at a later date. To see full obituary:
www.Norvelowensmortuary.com

When the need arises, let families find you in the Funeral Services Directory.

To be seen in the Funeral Services Directory, please call paid Death Notices at 202-334-4122.

The Washington Post

IN MEMORIAM

STARBIRD

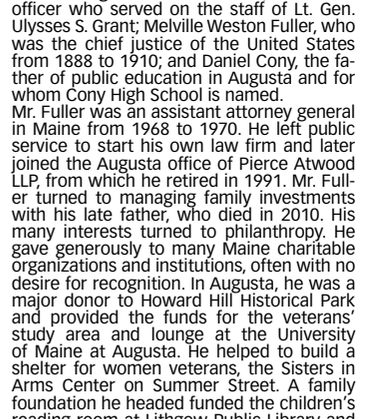
EDWARD ALFRED STARBIRD (Age 85)
COL Edward Alfred Starbird, 85, died 11 February 2026 in Seattle, WA, of natural causes. Born 16 July 1940 at West Point, NY, to Evelyn Wallington Starbird and LTG Alfred Dodd Starbird, he grew up in a military family, stationed in South Dakota, Hawaii, Paris, and Washington, DC. He graduated from Washington and Lee High School (1958) and the U.S. Military Academy at West Point (1962), commissioning as a 2LT in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.
He completed Engineer training at Fort Belvoir, VA, and Airborne and Ranger Schools at Fort Benning, then served with the 78th Combat Engineer Battalion in Germany (1963–66) and in Vietnam (1966–67). After the Engineer Advanced Engineer Course (1968), he married Margaret Leonard and earned an MS in Nuclear Engineering from NC State University, followed by a second Vietnam tour (1970–71).
His 30-year career included two tours with the Army Nuclear Agency; instructor of civil and nuclear engineering at West Point (1974–77); graduate of the Armed Forces Staff College (1974); and National War College (1985); Commander, 326th Engineer Battalion, 101st Airborne Division (1980-83); District Engineer, Nashville, TN (1986-89); and final assignment as I Corps Engineer at Fort Lewis (1989–92). He retired in June 1992 with numerous awards and decorations.
In retirement he lived in Lakewood and Steilacoom, WA, before moving to Bayview Retirement Community in Seattle after a stroke suffered in 2016.
Known for integrity, intellect, humor, and dedication to country and family, Edward was a steadfast leader and problem-solver. He was also a devoted husband and father who showed up for his kids and made sure they had all they might need — from waterskis, to soccer practices, to long lectures about everything from nuclear engineering to politics.
He is survived by his wife of 57 years, Margaret; five children—Charles (Celeste), Margaret Seyler (Joshua), Catharine "Kate" (Melissa Marsh), Edward (Margaret), and Michael (Amalia); 11 grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; his sister Catharine Ward (Morris); and extended family. He was predeceased by his parents and his sister Susan Stout. Services scheduled at a later date.

DEATH NOTICE

FULLER

ROBERT G. FULLER JR. (Age 87)
POTOMAC, MD- Robert Gorham Fuller Jr., a retired lawyer residing in Potomac, Md, and formerly of Winthrop, ME, died on February 14, 2026, at Cogir Senior Living Facility of Potomac.
He was born in Boston, MA, on December 28, 1938, the oldest son of the late Robert G. Fuller and Constance B. Fuller.
After completing his secondary education at Milton Academy in Massachusetts, Fuller graduated from Princeton University in 1961, and the University of Pennsylvania Law School in 1964. He practiced law briefly in southern Maine before returning to Augusta, where the Fuller family had resided for several generations. One Augusta ancestor was Henry Weld Fuller Jr., who built the residence in Augusta now occupied by the Kennebec Historical Society. He was also related to Brig. Gen. Seth Williams, a Civil War officer who served on the staff of Lt. Gen. Ulysses S. Grant; Melville Weston Fuller, who was the chief justice of the United States from 1888 to 1910; and Daniel Cony, the father of public education in Augusta and for whom Cony High School is named.
Mr. Fuller was an assistant attorney general in Maine from 1968 to 1970. He left public service to start his own law firm and later joined the Augusta office of Pierce Atwood LLP, from which he retired in 1991. Mr. Fuller turned to managing family investments with his late father, who died in 2010. His many interests turned to philanthropy. He gave generously to many Maine charitable organizations and institutions, often with no desire for recognition. In Augusta, he was a major donor to Howard Hill Historical Park and provided the funds for the veterans' study area and lounge at the University of Maine at Augusta. He helped to build a shelter for women veterans, the Sisters in Arms Center on Summer Street. A family foundation he headed funded the children's reading room at Lithgow Public Library and he personally funded the rehabilitation section at MaineGeneral Medical Center's Alfond Center for Health in honor of his wife of 23 years, Moira Hastings Fuller, in 2015. The foyer of the Kennebec Valley YMCA is also named in honor of Mr. Fuller and his (late) wife.
Mr. Fuller also endowed a professorship at the University of Pennsylvania law school that bears his name. He and other family members have supported both the Benjamin A.G. Fuller and Harriet Williams Fuller Fund and the Horace Williams Fund, established by Fuller family members and relatives in the 19th-century to assist and support worthy and deserving college-bound students from Augusta. The statue of Daniel Cony in the lobby of Cony High School and the statue of Melville Weston Fuller that stood for several years in Augusta were both given by Mr. Fuller. He donated most of the funds to resurface the multi-sport athletic field at Cony High School, now named "Fuller Field." He became a major donor to the Friends of the Erben Organ in New York City and was most recently involved in supporting academic and private organizations promoting ethical and critical thinking, which he believed to be the foundation of good character and a civil society.
Mr. Fuller spoke fluent French and had many friends among Augusta's Franco-American community. Le Club Calumet gave him its Augusta's 2021 Citizen of the Year award.
After serving briefly as an enlisted Marine, Fuller became a reserve officer in the Judge Advocate General's Corps of the United States Navy. He commanded two reserve units and retired with the rank of Captain.
Mr. Fuller was a serious outdoorsman. Before, as he put it, "the warranty on my knees expired," he often overnight-hiked portions of the Appalachian Trail in New Hampshire and Maine. He explored the foothills of the Atlas Mountains and hiked through the Cotswold countryside in England, and in Iceland. He climbed Mount Katahdin, which he said every good Mainer fit to do so should do.
Mr. Fuller was a stalwart member of the Winthrop Lions Club. He was named Lion of the Year, received the President's Service Award, and was selected as a Melvin Jones Fellow.
Additionally, he was a serious writer. He published a crime novel set in Maine, Unnatural Deaths as well as a graphic short story, "Flashback Morning," that was included in the Milspeak Foundation anthology of the best military-themed short stories published in 1999. His piece "The Christmas Contract" appeared in the Maine Bar Association Journal. Recently, he provided the research for a comprehensive biography of Melville Weston Fuller, entitled Calm Command, written by historian and author Douglas Rooks, and published in 2024.
Universally admired for his intelligence, fair-mindedness, and indefatigable spirit, Fuller's commitment to family, community, and country guided his conscience and can best be summed up by his inscription on the plinth of the Melville Weston Fuller statue: Justice is the guardian of liberty.
Mr. Fuller relocated to the Cogir Senior Living Facility in 2024 to an apartment he jokingly referred to as "Wits' End." Life-long friend, Linda L. Buttrick, joined him and together they enjoyed the care and companionship of many helpers, family, and friends who are now bereft of 'The Captain.'
Mr. Fuller is survived and sorely missed by Linda and her children, Suzanne Caron of Augusta, ME and Jonathan Buttrick of Woonsocket, RI; several step-children from his prior marriage, including Diane Hastings and her husband, Frank Panopoulos, Esq., of Potomac, MD; Linda Frost and her husband, Clifford, Winthrop, ME; Thomas Hastings and his wife, Karen, of Rochester, NH; as well as seven step-grandchildren. He is also survived by a younger brother, Randolph J. Fuller, of Boston, MA; six Fuller cousins; and several extended Fuller family nephews and nieces.
Due to the profound impact that Fuller has made on the lives of so many, he will be honored in both Maryland and Maine. A celebration of life will be held at the church at St. James's Episcopal Church in Potomac on April 29th at 10:30 am. A graveside service will be held in Augusta in early June followed by a reception for all who knew and loved him. The date and time will be announced through the funeral home website at a later date.
Arrangements have been entrusted to Plummer Funeral Home, 16 Pleasant St., Augusta, ME.
Condolences, stories, and photos may be shared at www.plummerfh.com.

POPE



MICHAEL T. POPE (Age 92)
Michael Thor Pope, a distinguished inorganic chemistry professor known for his influential work on polyoxometalates, died peacefully on January 14, 2026, at the age 92, from complications of the flu.

Michael was born in Devon, England, on Good Friday, April 14, 1933, to Mary and Maurice Pope. The family lived in Exeter until the outbreak of WWII when they moved to Countess Wear, a small village on the outskirts of Exeter. Here Michael attended the village primary school and in the spring of 1943 took the 11 plus exam to determine his next school. He did well enough to be awarded a county scholarship, which covered tuition fees, to Exeter School - a prestigious independent school dating back to the seventeenth century. By this time his father was on active service with the Fleet Air Arm and rarely at home. It was up to his mother to make the decision on this offer which she did with advice from trusted and savvy friends.

Family summer holidays were spent on the Helford River, Cornwall in the coastguard cottage where his grandparents lived. Michael kept vivid memories from his life in the villages, from the local personalities to wandering freely and getting into mischief with his curious childhood friends. Michael remembered well the Exeter blitz of May 1942. Staying with friends in Exeter that night, he recollected they seemed to be under the flight path into and out of the city centre where most of the damage was done.

He had an excellent education at Exeter School. By the time WW2 came to an end in 1945, all males were required to undergo 2 years National Service. Most boys' schools had some form of Cadets Corps where they learned drilling, map reading, assembling and disassembling of rifles and machine guns, target shooting and mock battles. In 1951, Michael went up to St Peter's Hall, Oxford and because he was reading science was able to defer his National Service. He graduated with a BA, followed by his DPhil in 1957. Upon graduation, he and his new wife, Ann, moved to Boston so he could complete a postdoctoral degree from Boston University.

Their first child, Gregory, was born upon their return to Oxford in 1959. After working as a research chemist in the UK, Michael, along with Ann and Gregory, moved back to the United States in 1962 — supposedly temporarily — where Michael began what would eventually become a 43-year position as an inorganic chemistry professor, and eventual department chair, at Georgetown University. Daughter Lucy was born in 1965.

Always maintaining his British demeanor, wit and accent, Michael was a kind, modest and gentle man — a well-respected and adored professor, and a mentor to many. In 1990, he received the Senior U.S. Scientist Award from the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation, and in 1999 the Hillebrand Prize from the Chemical Society of Washington. In 2007, Georgetown University created the Michael T. Pope Award for Excellence in Inorganic Chemistry. He is considered one of the leading and most influential polyoxometalate chemists worldwide. His 1983 book entitled "Heteropoly and Isopoly Oxometalates" is the most cited reference in the field. Throughout his career, he held several visiting professorships at prestigious institutions, including the Technical University of Vienna, Université Pierre et Marie Curie in Paris, and the University of Bielefeld in Germany. Michael and Ann routinely opened their home in Northwest DC to international students unable to travel home.

Michael shared 53 years of marriage with his beloved wife, Ann, who preceded him in death in 2011. Their partnership was one of support and deep affection, providing a steady anchor throughout his prolific career. Michael and Ann faced profound personal loss with grace, navigating the passing of Gregory in 1996. After Ann's death, Michael maintained their mutual love of art, classical music, theatre and wildlife.

Michael is survived by his daughter, Lucy, and his three grandchildren, Chloe, Nina and Robert, in whom he took immense pride, and his sister Jane MacEwan — with whom Michael shared a close relationship despite their transatlantic distance — and her family.

Services will be held on Thursday, May 21, at St. Albans Church, in Washington DC. In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to the Washington Humane Society.

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The Washington Post

DEATH NOTICE

MOSES

DAVID LESLIE MOSES

ANU-Museum of the Jewish People and its American Friends mourn the loss of David Moses, beloved son of Ambassador Alfred H. Moses, Honorary Chair of ANU's International Board, Member of ANU and American Friends Boards. Our heartfelt condolences to the entire Moses family.
Irina Nevzlin, Chair
Oded Revivi, CEO
Shula Bahat, CEO, ANU-America
Daniel Pincus, President, American Friends
Gloria Golan, Director, American Friends

PREVAR

JOHN EDWARD PREVAR (Age 79)

John Edward Prevar, Cdr., USN (Ret.) September 10, 1946 – February 23, 2026 John Edward Prevar passed away on February 23, 2026. Born in Washington, D.C., John was raised in Maryland alongside his brother, Dave. From an early age, he developed a deep appreciation for literature. After earning his Master's degree in English, he enlisted in the United States Navy during the Vietnam era. He served his country with distinction, ultimately retiring with the rank of Commander. Following his military career, John began a second chapter in public service with the federal government, continuing his commitment to the nation he valued so deeply. John was a dedicated professional who took pride in his work and was held in high regard by his colleagues. He was known for offering guidance and support to others, always willing to help those seeking to advance in their careers. In December 1982, John married Pamela in Australia. He was a devoted and loving husband and a caring stepfather to Franz. Outside of his professional life, John was a lifelong enthusiast of Prince Valiant , classical music, and opera. He will be deeply missed and loved forever. Services will be private.

DEATH NOTICE

SCHNACKENBERG

MELVIN PAUL SCHNACKENBERG (Age 92)

On Wednesday, January 28, 2026, of Silver Spring, MD. Beloved husband of Margaret Schnackenberg; father of Mark (Connie) Schnackenberg, Michael (Laura) Schnackenberg, Mary Jo Schnackenberg, and Matthew Schnackenberg. Grandfather of Tracy (Anthony) Danieli and son, Hayden, Kyle Schnackenberg, Daniel Schnackenberg, and Thomas Schnackenberg.
A memorial service will be held on Friday, March 13, 2026 at 1:00pm at The Lutheran Church of St. Andrew, 15300 New Hampshire Avenue, Silver Spring, MD 20005.

When the need arises, let families find you in the Funeral Services Directory.

To be seen in the Funeral Services Directory, please call paid Death Notices at 202-334-4122.

The Washington Post

DEATH NOTICE

STERMAN

SIDNEY D. STERMAN (Age 105) WASHINGTONIAN ATHLETE

Sidney David Sterman, a lifelong resident of Washington, DC, died on Tuesday, February 17, 2026, at the age of 105. He is survived by his beloved daughters, Claudia Taylor and Diane Sterman (Bill Bilek), two grandchildren, Alison Wood and Aaron Taylor, a great-grandson, Lukin Wood, and many nieces, nephews and cousins. His cherished wife of 76 years, Eileen Calman Sterman, predeceased him by 44 days. His siblings and close cousin, Beatrice Deane, Violet Bazer, Janet Resh, Alan Sterman and Daniel Marowitz, all predeceased him. Sidney was born on February 13, 1921, at his family's home on Varnum Street in the Petworth neighborhood. He was one of five children of Anna and Jacob Sterman. Growing up beside the 225-acre Soldiers Home campus, he developed many lifetime friends and an early love for the outdoors and for the city. Sid would ride his bike everywhere, including to the Library of Congress to read Hardy Boys mysteries. He attended Barnard Elementary, McFarland Junior High and McKinley Tech High School. An Eagle Scout, he served as an ambassador at the 1937 National Scout Jamboree. He became a DC backstroke champion and worked as Aquatics Director at Camp Letts. His athletic ability, honed by the Boys and Girls Club, led to an athletic scholarship at the University of Maryland, where he played football under Doc Spears and boxed under Coach Rabino, earning his Golden Gloves. Sid made many lifetime friends and became a University of Maryland leader, serving as President of the Men's League and was inducted into the ODK Leadership Honor Society. He was a member of the TEP fraternity and lettered in two sports before graduating in 1947. Sidney was beloved by many friends, colleagues and family as a true, kind, and gentle man. He remained devoted to exercise and the outdoors. Skiing was his greatest passion. At age 83, he was invited to compete in the NASTAR National Alpine Ski Finals in Park City, Utah, and took his last ski runs for his 100th birthday. He was the oldest living former lifeguard of the Ocean City Beach Patrol and skydived with family at aged 90.
Sid enjoyed a long career in institutional food sales, earning respect and making friends before retiring at age 91. He will be dearly missed. A Memorial Service will be held on Sunday, March 1, 2026, at Oak Hill Cemetery, Washington, DC, with a celebration of life following. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to The National Forest Foundation, https://www.nationalforests.org. Arrangements entrusted to TORCHINSKY HEBREW FUNERAL HOME, 202-541-1001.

DEATH NOTICE

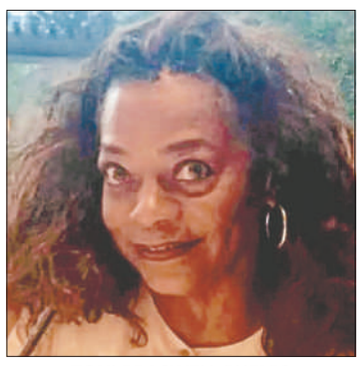
SHIELDS

MAUREEN ANNE SHIELDS (Age 72)

Maureen Anne Shields of Alexandria, Virginia passed away peacefully on January 31, 2026, at the Virginia Hospital Center in Arlington, VA. Mo, as she was affectionately known to family and friends, was born on December 1, 1953, at the Columbia Hospital for Women (Washington, DC). She spent her career as a Federal civil servant (1972 –2011) at The Pentagon. Mo is survived by her brother, Jim Shields; her sisters, Kathleen Kirchner, and Mary Dewald (husband Tommy); her nephew and niece, Robert Dewald and Katie Dewald; and Robert's fiancée, Jennifer Walls. Mo was preceded in death by her beloved parents, Harry and Mary Shields (Alexandria, VA).
A Visitation will take place on Sunday, March 8, 2026, at Demaine Funeral Home, 520 S. Washington Street, Alexandria, VA at 12:00 noon, with a Memorial Service at 1:00 pm followed by a Reception. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to the charity of your choice in Mo's name. For additional details visit
https://www.dignitymemorial.com/obituaries/alexandria-va/maureen-shields-12732248

DEATH NOTICE

BRASWELL PHELPS



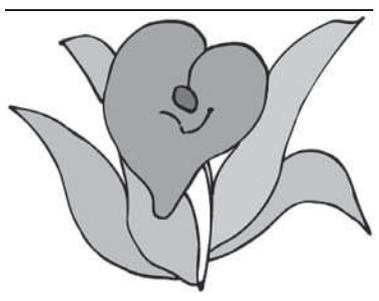
TONI BRASWELL PHELPS

Toni Braswell Phelps, 77, of Alexandria, VA passed away on February 4, 2026. She was born on September 28, 1948 to Ira Braswell and Virginia Alston Braswell of Norfolk, VA. Toni, a Norfolk State University graduate, taught high school English for 51 years at Fairfax County & Alexandria City Public Schools.

She is survived by her children Carmen Phelps, Dr. Kristyn Phelps (Jeremy Schmid), Carlton Phelps, Jr. and Kendra (Christopher) Durand as well as her 4 grandchildren, 5 brothers and sister. She was predeceased by her former husband Dr. Carlton Phelps, Sr. and older brother Ira Braswell, Jr.

"Toni Go" is now at rest. May she rest in peace forever more.

A memorial service will be held at Alfred Street Baptist Church on March 11, 2026 at 11am. There will be a viewing at 10am. The internment will be at Mt Comfort Cemetery in Alexandria, VA. Flowers may be sent to Ft Lincoln Funeral Home.



DEATH NOTICE

BUCK

CYNTHIA ANNE SIDEY BUCK

Cynthia Anne Sidey Buck passed away on December 26, 2025 surrounded by her family after a courageous battle with Acute Myeloid Leukemia (AML).

Born September 3, 1956, Cindy was the eldest daughter of Hugh and Anne Sidey. She spent most of her early years with her three treasured siblings in Potomac, MD. In 1986, Cindy married John Buck. Together, they raised three children: Bayly, John, and Thomas. These three filled her life with endless joy.

Once her children were grown, Cindy took a job at the White House Historical Association, where she was able to indulge her love of history and pride in her father's legacy as a chronicler of the White House and the American presidency.

A memorial service is planned for April 18, 2026 at 10:30 am at St. Alban's Episcopal Church (3001 Wisconsin Avenue NW, Washington D.C. 20016). In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to the White House Historical Association or the National Cathedral Flower Guild.

DEATH NOTICE

CANNON

RUFUS R. CANNON SR.

Peacefully departed this life on Saturday, February 14, 2026. Beloved husband of Mildred S. Cannon; loving father of Rufus R. Cannon, Jr. and Carole C. Broadnax (Johnathan); devoted grandfather of Graylyn and Courtney Broadnax. He is also survived by other relatives and friends. He was preceded in death by his parents, David E. and Carrie Cannon; his sisters, Evelyn Hightower, Gwendolyn Moore, and Thelma Hackett; his brothers, Cecil Cannon, and David H. Cannon. Visitation from 10 a.m. until time of service at 11 a.m. on Wednesday, March 4, 2026, at Episcopal Church of Our Saviour, 1700 Powder Mill Road, Silver Spring, MD 20903. Interment Fort Lincoln Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made in his name to the Alzheimer's Association at www.alz.org.
www.mcguire-services.com

GOODGER

CARL A. GOODGER (Age 83)

Of Fort Washington passed away February 8, 2026, Carl was born in Kingston, Jamaica to Harry and Lola Mae Goodger. He met and married Millicent A. Campbell on November 27, 1965. He worked as a Technician in the service industry for many years, and upon retirement spent his time watching sports.
Carl is survived by wife of 60 years Millicent, sons Troy Goodger (Marcia), Andre (Tara); daughter Charlene Quaine (Keith); seven grandchildren;one great grandchild; siblings Elaine Forbes, Michael Goodger (Ollie), Audrey Kong and Margaret Goodger, and a host of nieces and nephews.
Carl is preceded in death by his parents Harry and Lola Mae Goodger, brother Gerald Goodger, and son Robert Goodger.
A Funeral Mass will be held at 10:00 am., Friday, March 6, 2026 at St. Columba Catholic Church located at 7804 Livingston Rd, Oxon Hill, MD 20745.

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The Washington Post

IN MEMORIAM

GRANTHAM

NANCY ANN GRANTHAM (Age 69)

Nancy Ann Grantham was born in Miami, FL, on January 19, 1956, and died peacefully on October 28, 2025, in Rockville, MD, after a short illness. She spent her final days surrounded by colleagues, friends, and family.

Nancy graduated from Miami High School and later from Harvard University in 1978. For more than 35 years, she was a dedicated and influential leader at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. She began her career in Boston before moving to EPA Headquarters in Washington, DC, where she served as the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator for Public Affairs, a career Senior Executive Service position. Her exceptional skill, integrity, kindness, and professionalism were recognized across many Administrations, earning her multiple Gold Medals for outstanding service. In October 2025, shortly before her passing, Nancy received EPA's Distinguished Career Service Award for her lifetime achievements. A gifted mentor, she encouraged others to excel and left a lasting impact on countless colleagues and to the agency. It is especially heartbreaking that Nancy was preparing to retire from federal service in December 2025.

Nancy is survived by her loving brother, Linden (Lynn) Grantham, and his wife, Brenda; her nephews, Michael and Steven (and his wife, Michelle); her grand-nephew, Wilden; and her grand-nieces, Bianca, Hannah, and Virginia. She was preceded in death by her parents, Ruth and Lynn Grantham; her siblings, Mary and John; and her beloved dog, Skye. A devoted dog lover throughout her life, Nancy cared for many pets who brought her great joy.

Nancy was deeply cherished by friends and colleagues at the EPA and will be profoundly missed. Her family extends heartfelt gratitude to all who visited, offered support, and shared messages on her Kudoboard. Their kindness and presence brought comfort during a difficult time. To collect personal stories and photographs, the family welcomes memories at: RememberingNancyGrantham@gmail.com.

A memorial service is planned for Saturday, April 25, at Grace Episcopal Church in Middleway, WV. Nancy will be interred in the Grace Church cemetery near her parents and extended family.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in her name to Casey House Hospice.

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The Washington Post

DEATH NOTICE

JONES

DAVID CHRISTOPHER JONES (Age 73)

October 8, 1953 – February 20, 2026
David Jones was a Washington Area native and the youngest of 7 children of Helen and Bernard Jones. David graduated from Rock Terrace High School in Rockville in 1978 and then worked for NIH\NIDA as a clerk for 43 years retiring in 2012. While living at Leisure World, David joined the Ceramic Crafters 3 Club and enjoyed new crafts and new friends. He entered his crafts in the Montgomery County Fair for 12 years winning ribbons for his needlepoint, ceramics, and baking.
David is survived by his brothers, Bud and Stephen Jones; his sisters Marge Freeman and Diana Brennan; and his wonderful caretakers, Anat and Ron Alegre.
A gravesite memorial will be held at 2:00 pm on Monday, March 2, 2026 at Gate of Heaven Cemetery, 13801 Georgia Ave, Silver Spring, MD 20906. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Angels Touch Home Care LLC, 317 W. Edmonston Dr., Rockville, MD 20852

RIVERS

DAISY OLIVER RIVERS (Age 91)

Entered into Eternal Rest on Saturday, February 14, 2026. Beloved mother of Jerome Rivers and Regina Rivers-Davis. Also survived by brother, Louis Oliver, Jr. (Cassie); and a host of other relatives and friends. She was preceded in death by her husband, Lawrence B. Rivers, Jr. and son, Lawrence B. Rivers, III. Friends may visit with the family on Monday, March 2, 2026 from 10 a.m. until time of service at 11 am. at Judah Temple AME Zion Church, 14500 Mount Oak Road, Bowie, MD 20721. Interment: Maryland Veterans Cemetery, Cheltenham, MD on Thursday, April 9, 2026 at 11:15 a.m. Services by Hodges & Edwards Funeral Home.

CEMETERY LOTS

National Memorial Park - 2 Plots, Falls Church VA, valued at $15,000 or best offer. Please contact Don at (301) 938-9806

IN MEMORIAM

DEATH NOTICE

DARRAH

DWAINE ALLEN DARRAH

Dwaine Allen Darrah, age 73, of Herndon, Virginia, passed away on February 19, 2026 after a brief illness. Born March 5, 1952 in Charlestown, Indiana, he was the son of the late Beulah Mae Darrah (nee Cartright) and Allen Brooks Darrah. He is survived by his beloved wife of over 50 years, Jackie Darrah (nee Witten), his son, Jeffrey Darrah (Isaac), and daughters Amy Oberson (Greg) and Lindsay Lacey (Justin), five granddaughters, Poppy, Reese, Lucy, Molly, and Penny, and two sisters, Diana Burns (Jim) and Laura Waters as well as an extended family of loved ones and friends.
While at Charlestown High School Dwaine discovered his life-long passion for music and was presented the John Philip Sousa Band Award for outstanding achievement in instrumental music.
At Indiana State University Dwaine was an active member of the fraternity Phi Delta Theta and graduated with a bachelor's degree in political science and a master's degree in international relations.
Dwaine and Jackie were married July 27, 1974 and relocated to the Washington, D.C. area the next year, eventually settling and raising his family in Herndon, Virginia.
Dwaine had a career of over 30 years with the Central Intelligence Agency, including more than a decade leading counterterrorism elements, culminating as Deputy Department Chief of the Counterterrorism Center as well as achieving the rank of Senior Intelligence Service (SIS). He spent years guiding the design and teaching of analytic tradecraft. He was especially proud of his record of recruiting and motivating the very best, and equipping them for greatness, all with a trademark sense of humor. Among the many awards Dwaine received during his career were the George H. W. Bush Award for Excellence in Counterterrorism in 2008, the Meritorious Unit Citation, and numerous Exceptional Performance Awards.
Soon after retiring from the Agency, Dwaine focused on ministry, which he said he had been drawn to since he was in his 20s. He was a founding member of The Surge Community Church where he held the role of Lead Pastor until his passing. The Surge continues to meet every Sunday morning at The State Theatre in Falls Church, Virginia. The two things he looked forward to the most every week were preaching and playing guitar with the band at church. Dwaine was also passionate about following local Washington, D.C. sports teams, vacationing with family in Rehoboth Beach and Cape May, and doting on his grandkids.
Dwaine will be fondly remembered for his groan-inducing dad jokes, use of silly nicknames, and the way he talked to strangers like long-time friends. He got many a restaurant server to share his or her life story by the time the check came.
In lieu of flowers please consider a donation to The Surge Community Church. https://www.surge.church/contributegive.html
Online tributes and photos may be sent at www.adamsgreen.com
Events: Celebration of Life Sunday, March 22, 2026 1:00pm State Theater 220 N Washington St Falls Church, VA 22046

GRUM

JANE GRUM (Age 91)

Jane Patterson Grum of Riderwood Village in Silver Spring, MD passed away peacefully on January 1, 2026 at the age of 91. Jane was born in Madison, TN on September 2, 1934 to Sydney G Patterson and Leila N Patterson. Her father was a career DuPont employee, so Jane and her brother Bob grew up in various towns across the United States, but she always considered Tennessee her home.
Jane attended Vanderbilt University and earned a degree in nursing. Always one to enjoy life, she maintained a busy social schedule and made life-long friends as a sorority sister in Alpha Omicron Pi. During her senior year at Vanderbilt, Jane met her future husband on a blind date arranged by a sorority sister. Allen F Grum was a young Engineer Army Officer stationed at Fort Campbell. They were married after a short courtship in 1956 in Aiken, SC. While living in the Washington DC area, sons Pete and David were born. In the early '60s, the family was stationed in Bordeaux France and Heidelberg Germany and they travelled throughout Europe in a VW bug. The next move for the family, which now included a 3rd son Pat, was to West Point NY, where Stacey and Carrie were born. When Al was deployed to Vietnam, Jane moved their 5 young children to Aiken SC and kept the family happy and healthy while Al was away. The couple made numerous more moves during Al's 34-year military career and at all stops along the way, Jane kept an open door, open arms and open hearts to their many military friends.
She and Al moved back to West Point from 1974 until 1986, and during that time she mentored many Army wives and was an active volunteer. As the children got older, Jane reinvigorated her nursing career and worked on pharmaceutical research and as a Psychiatric Nurse. Jane always felt their years at West Point were some of her happiest. Upon Al's military retirement, the couple moved to Macon GA, where Jane worked as a Staff Nurse at Wesleyan College.
Jane and Al eventually fully retired and moved to Atlanta, GA, before their final move to Riderwood Village in Silver Spring, MD. Jane's true love and main focus was her family, and she thrived as a grandmother of 8 and great grandmother to 2. She and Al enjoyed travelling, taking cruises throughout the world, and keeping up with the many friends they had gathered over the years.
Jane is preceded in death by Allen, who passed away on 17 October, 2024; her parents, Sydney and Leila Patterson, as well as her brother, Bob Patterson. She is survived by her children Allen "Pete" Grum Jr (Jessica Grum), David Grum, Pat Grum (Mary Grum), COL (RET) Stacey Grum Koff (Jonathan Koff) and COL (RET) Carrie (Grum) Doll (RADM (RET) Bruce Doll). Her Grandchildren include Catelyn Koff Wood (Chris Wood), Isabelle Koff, Matthew Koff, Sydney Benton (Danny Peters), Charlie Benton (Rielly Benton), Captain Maxwell Grum (Kami Gorchowski), Nathaniel Grum, and Ian Grum. Her Great Grandchildren include Atlas Benton and Jay Benton.
Jane will be buried at West Point on May 29, 2026. In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be made to the Fisher House Foundation (http://www.fisherhouse.org)

MACDERMOTT

ANDREW MACDERMOTT

It is with full hearts and deep reverence that we celebrate the life of Andrew Charles MacDermott, a man of extraordinary wisdom, enduring strength, great morality and a commitment to the bonds of family and friendship.
Andrew was born on August 11, 1974 to Susan Frank and William Frank (deceased), and also son to William MacDermott (deceased). Though he grew up as an only child, he was always surrounded by friends, family and neighbors.
Andrew graduated from Allegheny College and earned his master's degree in political science from Georgetown University. That led to a distinguished career performing senior roles as a civilian in the Department of State, Department of Defense, Department of the Army and Department of the Navy. His commitment to service was only outpaced by his desire to learn and better understand the communities, relationships, cultures and individuals wherever he found himself.
Though Andrew's journey was completed on February 2, 2026, it was indeed full. It came with love, laughter, travel, food and fun. It came with dedication to this nation with the silent sacrifices made by U.S. Government civilians. It came with integrity, selflessness and caring. His humility, smile and thirst for knowledge will be remembered by all he touched. He is survived by his mother, Susan Frank. In celebration and honor of Andrew, donations may be made to the Dementia Society of America or Feeding South Florida.
A funeral will be held at Jefferson Funeral Chapel, 5755 Castlewellan Drive, Alexandria, VA on Wednesday, March 3, 2026 from 2-4PM.
Checks to the Dementia Society of America should be mailed to: PO Box 600, Doylestown, PA. Online donations can be made at: https://www.dementiasociety.org/donate. Feeding South Florida accepts online donations at: https://feedingsouthflorida.org/donate/

STOETZER

RAYMOND NORMAN STOETZER

Raymond was born in Detroit, MI on March 23, 1932 to Edwin and Frieda Stoetzer and passed away on February 15, 2026. He graduated from Cass Technical High School in 1950, enlisted in the Navy in 1951, and served in Tokyo, Japan at the headquarters of the Far East Naval Command before attending the Naval Academy prep school in Bainbridge, MD and being accepted into the United States Naval Academy, Annapolis, graduating in the class of 1957 and commissioned as an Ensign.

After serving as chief engineer on the USS Laws (DD-558), attending Submarine School, and a tour onboard the USS Segundo (SS-398) out of San Diego where he met his future wife, Barbara Waskowicz, Ray received his master's degree in Naval Architecture and Marine Engineering from MIT. A memorable time there was working with a team searching for the USS Thresher (SSN-593).

Engineering duty brought him to the Board of Inspection and Survey, then to Nav Sea involvement with the Trident Sub program. Ray was most proud of his Navy service and always grateful for the educational experiences he was afforded. He made the most of his abilities and served with a great work ethic and sense of responsibility - always a job well done. He appreciated the shipyard workers, and his time at the Naval Academy was treasured. He was fortunate to have been with 4th Company mates, who became lifelong friends. When memory faded, but he could still attend the Washington DC class luncheons, he might not have remembered all who were there, but upon leaving, would say, "Those are fine people" ...and indeed they are.

In 1976 Ray retired from the Navy to work with Booz Allen Hamilton until 1989 when he joined the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority, there until 2005 - working with a fine group in Metro's earlier days.

Ray is survived by his loving wife of 62 years, Barbara, and their children, Keith (Stephanie) Denver, CO; Stephanie Sanders Mercuro (George) Hamilton, VA; Mark (Vince) Austin, TX and grandchildren, Kendall and Lindsey Stoetzer, Nick Sanders, and "bonus" grandchildren Kelsey Cattler (Owen), Nick, Megan, Christopher, Steven, and Matthew Mercuro, and Ray's sister Elaine Pica in Michigan. Ray was predeceased by his parents, sisters Shirley, Carole, and Margaret, brother Ken, and cherished grandson, Zachary Sanders.

Ray was happy in his home and garden, and he enjoyed and loved his family - making stellar Halloween costumes, building dollhouses, and playing with the grandchildren - roaming the backyard woods with them and singing "Edelweiss" at bedtime. His presence, fine speaking voice, and singing and humming are much missed and gladly remembered. We thank God for the many years we had him. He served the Lord each day of his life by using well the talents given him.

Visitation will be held Sunday, March 8, from 4:00 - 6:00 PM at Fairfax Memorial Funeral Home, 9902 Braddock Rd, Fairfax, VA 22032. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated Monday, March 9 at 11:30 AM at St. Mary of Sorrows Catholic Church, 10500 Zion Dr, Fairfax, VA 22032. Burial at Arlington National Cemetery at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, please consider donating to the Alzheimer's Association, St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, The Salvation Army, or a charity of your choice.
FairfaxMemorialFuneralHome.com

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The Washington Post

THE WEATHER

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A cooler Sunday

It will be partly sunny, and then perhaps a bit cloudier when a front slips through that could produce a passing sprinkle. Temperatures should peak early near 50 degrees to the mid-50s before falling off a bit before sunset. In the evening, chilly air will move in behind the front. It will turn sharply colder overnight as lows settle across the 20s and clouds increase toward morning.

AccuWeather FORECAST

Today
Breezy
48° 29°
REALFEEL®: **40°**
CHANCE PRECIP: **20%**
WIND: **N 10–20 mph**
HUMIDITY: **Moderate**

Monday
Light snow and rain
39° 32°
REALFEEL® **35°**
CHANCE PRECIP: **60%**
WIND: **ENE 6–12 mph**
HUMIDITY: **Low**

Tuesday
Rain and ice
45° 41°
REALFEEL® **36°**
CHANCE PRECIP: **90%**
WIND: **S 7–14 mph**
HUMIDITY: **High**

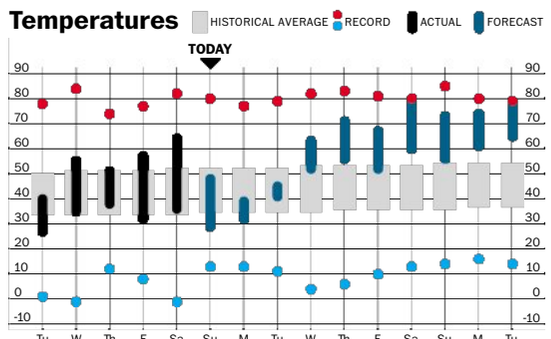
Wednesday
Showers around; warmer
63° 52°
REALFEEL® **64°**
CHANCE PRECIP: **65%**
WIND: **SSW 4–8 mph**
HUMIDITY: **Moderate**

Thursday
Warm with some sun
71° 56°
REALFEEL® **71°**
CHANCE PRECIP: **25%**
WIND: **S 6–12 mph**
HUMIDITY: **Moderate**

Friday
A bit of morning rain
67° 52°
REALFEEL® **66°**
CHANCE PRECIP: **60%**
WIND: **S 4–8 mph**
HUMIDITY: **Moderate**

OFFICIAL RECORD

Temperatures

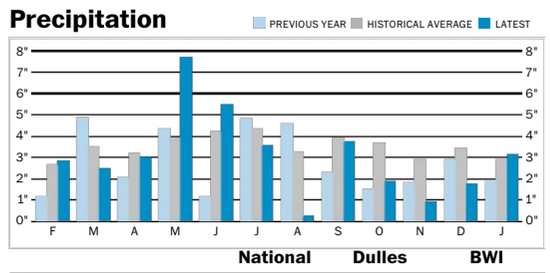


Statistics through 5 p.m. Saturday

	National	Dulles	BWI
High	**64°** 4:00 p.m.	**67°** 3:59 p.m.	**61°** 3:29 p.m.
Low	**36°** 6:00 a.m.	**30°** 6:28 a.m.	**28°** 6:00 a.m.
Historical Average	52°/34°	49°/29°	50°/30°
Record high	82° 1948	70° 1965	71° 1903
Record low	–1° 1934	10° 2014	5° 1934

Difference from 30–yr. avg. (National): this month: **–3.9°** yr. to date: **–4.0°**

Precipitation



	National	Dulles	BWI
Past 24 hours	0.00"	0.00"	0.00"
Total this month	2.57"	2.62"	1.73"
Historical Average (month)	2.62"	2.61"	2.90"
Total this year	5.73"	5.80"	4.60"
Historical Average (year)	5.48"	5.55"	5.98"
Snow, past 24 hours	0.0"	0.0"	0.0"
Snow, season total	9.6"	12.6"	15.6"

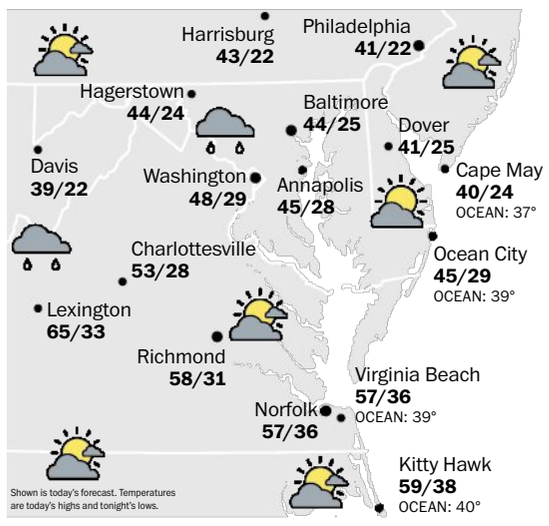
Moon Phases

Mar 3 Full	**Mar 11** Last Quarter	**Mar 18** New	**Mar 25** First Quarter

Solar system

	Rise	Set
Sun	6:41 a.m.	6:01 p.m.
Moon	4:14 p.m.	5:46 a.m.
Venus	7:19 a.m.	7:02 p.m.
Mars	6:16 a.m.	4:58 p.m.
Jupiter	1:16 p.m.	4:02 a.m.
Saturn	7:40 a.m.	7:38 p.m.

REGION TODAY



Pollen: Low
Observed ratings on 2/27

Grass	Low
Trees	Low
Weeds	Low
Mold	Low

Today's Air Quality & UV forecast

Air Quality: Good
Main pollutant: Ozone

UV: Low
1 out of 11+

Blue Ridge: *Shenandoah National Park:* Today, cooler, partly sunny, then turning cloudy. High 51. Winds northwest 6–12 mph. Tonight, mostly cloudy, colder. Low 27. • *Great Smoky Mtns. National Park:* Today, cooler, partly sunny. High 55. Winds west–northwest 8–16 mph. Tonight, cloudy. Low 40. Winds east 7–14 mph.

Atlantic beaches: *Ocean City, MD:* Today, turning cloudy, breezy, cooler. High 45. Winds east–northeast 10–20 mph. Tonight, mostly cloudy, breezy. Low 29. • *Virginia Beach:* Today, turning cloudy, breezy this afternoon. High 57. Winds west 8–16 mph. Tonight, cloudy, windy. Low 36. Winds north–northeast 15–25 mph.

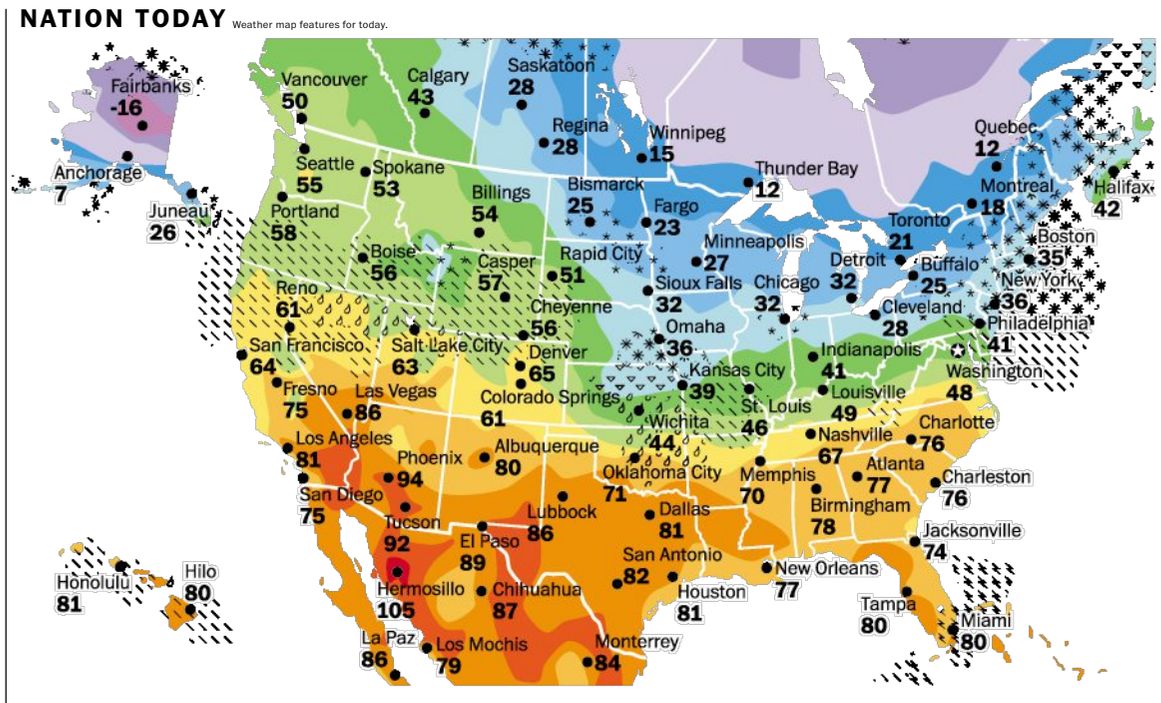
Waterways: *Upper Potomac River*: Today, mostly cloudy. Wind north 7–14 knots. Waves 2 feet or less. Visibility generally clear. • *Lower Potomac and Chesapeake Bay*: Today, partly sunny, then clouds. Wind north 8–16 knots. Waves 1–2 feet on the Lower Potomac; 1–3 feet on the Chesapeake Bay.• *River Stages*: The stage at Little Falls will be around 4.10 feet today, falling to 3.90 Monday. Flood stage at Little Falls is 10 feet.

Today's tides (Shown are High tides in **Bold** and low tides.)

Washington	12:54 a.m.	**6:10 a.m.**	1:06 p.m.	**6:30 p.m.**
Annapolis	**2:55 a.m.**	9:18 a.m.	**4:10 p.m.**	10:13 p.m.
Ocean City	**5:45 a.m.**	12:11 p.m.	**5:58 p.m.**	none
Norfolk	1:23 a.m.	**7:55 a.m.**	2:12 p.m.	**8:14 p.m.**
Point Lookout	5:25 a.m.	**12:01 p.m.**	6:32 p.m.	**11:49 p.m.**

NATION TODAY

Weather map features for today.



Showers · T-storms · Rain · Flurries · Snow · Ice

<–10 –0s 0s 10s 20s 30s 40s 50s 60s 70s 80s 90s 100s 110+

Yesterday's National
High: Imperial, CA **96°**
Low: Warroad, MN **–15°**
For the 48 contiguous states

Yesterday's World
High: Paraburdoo, Australia **110°**
Low: Doaktown, Canada **–53°**
Excludes Antarctica

NATIONAL	Today	Tomorrow
Albany, NY	30/4/sn	26/12/s
Albuquerque	80/46/c	80/47/pc
Anchorage	7/–4/pc	11/–3/s
Atlanta	77/53/s	65/50/c
Austin	84/62/s	84/60/pc
Baltimore	44/25/c	38/30/c
Billings, MT	54/36/s	58/31/pc
Birmingham	78/53/s	77/57/pc
Bismarck, ND	25/10/pc	41/19/pc
Boise	56/43/sh	56/35/r
Boston	35/11/sn	28/18/s
Buffalo	25/12/c	30/25/s
Burlington, VT	19/–2/sf	20/13/s
Charleston, SC	76/49/pc	62/48/c
Charleston, WV	47/30/c	47/42/sn
Charlotte	76/45/s	50/40/sh
Cheyenne, WY	56/35/sn	61/35/sh
Chicago	32/25/c	44/34/s
Cincinnati	43/29/c	44/39/sn
Cleveland	28/20/pc	40/33/pc
Dallas	81/60/s	81/63/pc
Denver	65/39/c	72/36/c
Des Moines	35/27/c	44/34/pc
Detroit	32/17/pc	36/27/s
El Paso	89/53/s	88/57/s
Fairbanks, AK	–16/–41/s	–8/–30/s
Fargo, ND	23/16/pc	41/21/s
Hartford, CT	35/8/sn	28/12/s
Honolulu	81/70/sh	82/71/c
Houston	81/60/s	80/65/pc
Indianapolis	41/28/c	42/39/sn
Jackson, MS	80/51/pc	80/58/c
Jacksonville, FL	74/48/c	74/55/pc
Kansas City, MO	39/33/r	44/41/c
Las Vegas	86/65/pc	77/55/s
Little Rock	70/50/pc	74/58/c
Los Angeles	81/56/s	72/52/s
Louisville	49/34/c	47/43/sn
Memphis	70/54/pc	72/58/pc
Miami	80/68/t	81/69/pc
Milwaukee	27/22/pc	39/33/s
Minneapolis	27/19/pc	40/32/s
Nashville	67/46/pc	59/56/r
New Orleans	77/57/c	77/63/s
New York City	36/20/sn	31/25/pc
Norfolk	57/36/c	38/35/sh
Oklahoma City	71/44/r	64/57/c
Omaha	36/29/sn	45/34/pc
Orlando	78/59/pc	80/61/pc
Philadelphia	41/22/c	37/27/pc
Phoenix	94/63/s	92/60/pc
Pittsburgh	37/19/c	42/33/c
Portland, ME	31/2/sn	22/11/s
Portland, OR	58/40/pc	61/44/s
Providence, RI	35/10/sn	27/13/pc
Raleigh, NC	73/39/pc	46/40/sh
Reno, NV	61/38/sh	57/33/pc
Richmond	58/31/pc	41/31/sn
Sacramento	68/48/c	67/44/c
St. Louis	46/35/c	48/43/sn
St. Thomas, VI	87/76/s	86/75/sh
Salt Lake City	63/44/c	53/42/sh
San Diego	75/57/s	66/55/pc
San Francisco	64/53/c	65/52/sh
San Juan, PR	87/73/s	86/74/sh
Seattle	55/35/s	59/43/s
Spokane, WA	53/31/s	56/33/s
Syracuse	24/9/sn	27/19/s
Tampa	80/61/pc	83/62/s
Wichita	44/36/r	52/47/c

WORLD	Today	Tomorrow
Addis Ababa	75/56/pc	76/55/c
Amsterdam	53/44/sh	59/41/pc
Athens	59/40/s	63/42/s
Auckland	75/60/sh	69/51/s
Baghdad	66/42/pc	65/45/pc
Bangkok	98/80/c	99/79/s
Beijing	42/30/pc	44/31/sn
Berlin	53/35/pc	57/34/c
Bogota	69/50/r	68/49/r
Brussels	54/41/pc	61/41/pc
Buenos Aires	84/68/s	84/71/s
Cairo	64/49/pc	64/50/c
Caracas	73/62/s	75/63/pc
Copenhagen	45/37/pc	47/38/c
Dakar	74/64/c	73/64/pc
Dublin	56/43/r	52/35/pc
Edinburgh	53/48/sh	52/35/sh
Frankfurt	58/36/s	60/36/s
Geneva	54/34/pc	56/34/s
Ham., Bermuda	72/64/t	68/62/c
Helsinki	37/32/sn	37/23/c
Ho Chi Minh City	94/76/pc	93/76/pc
Hong Kong	76/71/sh	79/66/sh
Islamabad	82/52/s	84/55/pc
Istanbul	48/39/pc	53/40/s
Jerusalem	54/40/pc	56/42/s
Johannesburg	76/59/t	82/57/t
Kabul	62/41/s	65/45/pc
Kingston, Jam.	87/73/r	88/74/pc
Kolkata	92/73/pc	93/71/pc
Kyiv	43/32/s	44/33/c
Lagos	90/78/pc	92/79/pc
Lima	79/71/pc	81/71/pc
Lisbon	63/50/pc	56/49/r
London	55/45/r	59/44/pc
Madrid	62/44/pc	61/46/c
Manila	92/78/pc	93/77/c
Mexico City	79/46/s	78/49/s
Montreal	18/–4/pc	18/8/s
Moscow	37/33/r	38/30/c
Mumbai	89/70/pc	91/72/pc
Nairobi	73/61/t	74/61/t
New Delhi	88/61/pc	89/62/pc
Oslo	44/25/pc	39/36/sn
Ottawa	12/–5/s	19/10/s
Paris	56/41/pc	62/41/c
Prague	49/32/c	51/34/s
Rio de Janeiro	82/72/sh	82/71/r
Riyadh	78/53/pc	76/54/pc
Rome	61/47/pc	60/46/c
San Salvador	92/64/pc	90/64/s
Santiago	89/57/s	82/56/s
Sarajevo	66/36/pc	61/38/c
Seoul	54/41/pc	44/36/r
Shanghai	57/51/r	53/44/c
Singapore	91/78/r	90/77/r
Stockholm	39/26/r	40/32/s
Sydney	78/71/r	81/72/c
Taipei City	80/66/sh	84/59/sh
Tehran	61/43/s	58/42/s
Tokyo	61/50/s	55/48/c
Toronto	21/6/pc	27/21/s
Vienna	55/40/pc	53/37/pc
Warsaw	54/33/pc	53/36/pc

Key: **s**-sunny, **pc**-partly cloudy, **c**-cloudy, **r**-rain, **sh**-showers, **t**-thunderstorms, **sf**-snow flurries, **sn**-snow, **i**-ice

Sources: **AccuWeather.com**; US Army Centralized Allergen Extract Lab (pollen data); airnow.gov (air quality data); National Weather Service

* AccuWeather's **RealFeel Temperature®** combines over a dozen factors for an accurate measure of how the conditions really "feel."

D.C. tuition program will expand to give college-bound students more funding

TUITION FROM **B12**

have received more than $715 million in DCTAG funding — money Congress allocates annually — to attend schools across the country, according to the Office of the State Superintendent of Education, which administers the program.

The agency plans to finance the bigger grants using reserves it has built over the past decade. Although the program's congressional allocation has remained at $40 million a year, the agency has typically spent about 75 percent of that amount, allowing it to accumulate some $71 million in unspent funds.

State Superintendent Antoinette Mitchell said the agency now feels comfortable using that cushion to increase awards.

"This is a game changer," Mitchell said in an interview.

For Monroe-Evans, the grant covered much of the tuition gap. The $40,000 her son Arturo Evans Jr. received over 4½ years allowed him to study at the University of Nevada at Las Vegas's hospitality program; he hopes to one day own a hotel. But the Evanses still had to pay $3,000 per semester, forcing the family to seek help from relatives and hold fundraisers. A higher ceiling, she said, would have eased that strain.

Monroe-Evans attended Thursday's event with her husband and three children.

Arturo Evans Jr. spoke to the hundreds of high school students who had packed into the gym. He told them that, given his family's financial woes as he graduated from Cesar Chavez Public Charter Schools for Public Policy, he considered giving up on college.

JONATHAN EDWARDS/THE WASHINGTON POST

Victorya Evans, 17, speaks at Thursday's event. "Prices on everything have gone up over the last 10 years," Mayor Muriel E. Bowser said.

But the D.C. tuition grant kept his plan alive. Now 30, Evans has returned to D.C., where he runs his own housing inspection business.

His baby sister, 18-year-old Armoni Lynn Evans, is in the middle of her second semester at Norfolk State with the help of $10,000 in grant money.

She has already applied for a grant for her sophomore year — this time, for $15,000.

"Remember, DCTAG is here just for us in D.C.," Evans Jr. told the high school students, adding: "The resources are there. Just ask."

Victorya Evans, a 17-year-old senior at Coolidge, said she applied for a tuition grant about a month ago.

Evans, who is not related to Monroe-Evans, has been accepted at Virginia Tech, where she plans to enroll in the fall, the next step toward medical school and a career as a family doctor. Raised by a single mother, Victorya said choosing a college means balancing what's best for her academically with what her mother can afford.

The grant money would make that decision easier. Without it, Evans said, she would have to scramble for scholarships and grants — or go to a less expensive school.

"It would not be within reach without DCTAG," she said.

Prominent lawyer who co-founded SCOTUSblog is convicted of tax evasion

ASSOCIATED PRESS

A prominent Supreme Court litigator who also published a popular blog about the nation's highest court was convicted Wednesday of tax evasion and related charges stemming from his secretive lifestyle as an ultra-high-stakes poker player.

A federal jury found SCOTUSblog co-founder Thomas Goldstein guilty of 12 of 16 counts after a six-week trial in Greenbelt. Jurors deliberated for approximately two days before convicting Goldstein of one count of tax evasion, four of eight counts of aiding and assisting in the preparation of false tax returns, four counts of willful failure to timely pay taxes, and three counts of false statements on loan applications.

Goldstein was charged with failing to pay taxes on millions of dollars in gambling income. Justice Department prosecutors also accused him of diverting money from his law firm to pay gambling debts and falsely deducting gambling debts as business expenses.

Goldstein argued more than 40 cases before the Supreme Court before retiring in 2023. He was part of the legal team that represented Democrat Al Gore in the Supreme Court litigation over the 2000 election ultimately won by Republican President George W. Bush.

Goldstein's indictment a year ago sent shock waves through the legal community in Washington, D.C. Many friends and colleagues didn't know the extent of his gambling.

"He lied to everyone around him," Justice Department prosecutor Sean Beaty said during the trial's closing arguments.

Defense attorney Jonathan Kravis said the government rushed to judgment and failed to adequately investigate the case. Goldstein made "innocent mistakes" on his tax returns but didn't cheat on his taxes or knowingly make false statements on his tax returns, Kravis told jurors.

"A mistake is not a crime," he said.

Beaty described Goldstein as a "willful tax cheat." Goldstein raked in approximately $50 million in poker winnings in 2016, including roughly $22 million that he won playing in Asia, according to Beaty. The prosecutor said the tax evasion scheme "fell apart" when another gambler, feeling cheated by Goldstein, notified the IRS about a 2016 debt owed to the attorney.

"It was a textbook tax-evasion scheme," Beaty said. "And Mr. Goldstein executed that nearly flawlessly."

The trial, which started Jan. 12, included testimony by "Spider-Man" star Tobey Maguire, an avid poker player who enlisted Goldstein's help in recovering a gambling debt from a billionaire.

Goldstein, who testified in his own defense, denied any wrongdoing. He has said he repeatedly instructed his law firm's staff and accountants to correctly characterize his personal expenses. In a 2014 email, he told a firm employee that "we always play completely by the rules."

Goldstein also was accused of lying to IRS agents and hiding his gambling debts from his accountants, employees and mortgage lenders. He omitted a $15 million gambling debt from mortgage loan applications while looking for a new home in Washington, D.C., with his wife in 2021, his indictment alleges.

"He was thinking only of his wife when he left off the gambling debts," Kravis said.

The Washington Post
Arts&Style

SUNDAY, MARCH 1, 2026

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DAVID NEEDLEMAN/
FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

Pamela Joyner's love of art grew into a 'call to action'

The New York collector aims to revive the careers — at times posthumously — of Black artists

BY JAKE KRING-SCHREIFELS

Pamela Joyner is out of wall space. ¶ On a virtual tour of her Chelsea loft, the renowned art collector reveals her gigantic collection of abstract sculptures, installations and paintings, each arranged intimately beside the next in what has become a cross-functional living space, gallery and salon, where she hosts two dozen events each year. ¶ The dense layout "might offend you aesthetically," Joyner acknowledges as she points out towering works from Black artists Leonardo Drew, Suzanne Jackson, Charles Gaines and Firelei Báez, with reverence and adoration. "We think certain artists ought to be seen." ¶ Now retired after a successful business career in private equity, Joyner, 67, is relishing her role as a full-time collector of abstract art by African Americans and members of the global African diaspora. The niche collection, which totals close to 600 works (about half of which live inside her primary Nevada residence), spans about seven decades and began more than 30 years ago, when she purchased a Richard Mayhew painting.

SEE **JOYNER** ON **E7**

He lets music foster genuine conversation

BY CHRIS RICHARDS

Online and off-, music freaks are a motley, opinionated bunch — but if there's any harmony to be felt on social media, it might be that "Track Star" is the most reliably delightful offering in everyone's daily scrolling on TikTok and Instagram. That is, if people could agree on what "Track Star" *is*. A quiz show? The new music journalism? An on-the-street interview series that doesn't feel like an ambush or a stunt? Host Jack Coyne makes his fundamental duty in all of those scenarios sound simple enough: "My job is to talk to people and make people feel good."

He makes it look simple on camera, too. "Name the artist, you win five bucks." That's how Coyne opens most episodes of "Track Star," handing his

SEE **COYNE** ON **E8**

'I've Had It' hosts aren't backing down

BY RACHEL MONROE

In the lead-up to the 2024 election, when Democrats were seeking new liberal messengers, they probably didn't have in mind Jennifer Welch and Angie Sullivan, 50-something best friends from Oklahoma who speak with a twang and look, as Welch describes it, "Fox News-coded." But over the past handful of years, "I've Had It," the pair's funny, angry, gleefully profane podcast, has developed into a powerhouse, building the kind of organic audience that political strategists can never quite manufacture.

"I've Had It," which has featured interviews with people including Barack Obama and Zohran Mamdani, has more than a million subscribers and has ranked among the top 20 podcasts on

SEE **WELCH SULLIVAN** ON **E9**

No dream is too ambitious for Anania

BY SHANE O'NEILL

Anania knows exactly who she wants to be. In fact, she keeps a list of dream roles on her phone. "Because everybody asks me that question," she said.

She would like to play Elphaba in "Wicked," the Witch in "Into the Woods" and Mercutio in "Romeo and Juliet." "I think it would be fun if Hercules Mulligan were a trans woman," she said, referring to the character in "Hamilton."

"And I will be Mary Todd Lincoln one day," Anania said. "I'm just waiting for somebody to call me. I'm already ready. I know it."

It's bold for a 25-year-old actor and content creator to place herself among "Oh, Mary!" guest stars such as Jane Krakowski, Tituss Burgess, Jinkx Mon-

SEE **ANANIA** ON **E6**

ALSO INSIDE

Actor and filmmaker Wagner Moura, star of "The Secret Agent." **E6**

Adam Z. Levy and Ashley Nelson Levy, founders of a thriving nonprofit press. **E7**

Sierra Ferrell, whose genre-bending album won four Grammys. **E8**

Keyla Monterroso Mejia, "The Studio" actor whose quirks fuel her comedy. **E9**

Dining Find caipirinhas and good vibes at this vibrant Adams Morgan restaurant that takes you straight to Rio de Janeiro. **E10**

TELEVISION

PHOTOS BY WARRICK PAGE/HBO MAX

Patrick Ball, left, and Noah Wyle in Season 2, Episode 7 of "The Pitt." The episode gives one of the most detailed depictions on television of a sexual assault forensic exam.

How 'The Pitt' portrayed a rape kit exam with the help of experts

BY YVONNE VILLARREAL
IN LOS ANGELES

The following article contains spoilers for Season 2, Episode 7 of "The Pitt."

The education begins almost immediately. A young woman who has just experienced a sexual assault is in triage, and "The Pitt's" Dr. Robby (Noah Wyle) enlists Dr. Al-Hashimi (Sepideh Moafi) to assist charge nurse Dana Evans (Katherine LaNasa) with the patient.

"We can call for a SANE," another nurse suggests when Dana says she'll be occupied.

"On a holiday? Could be hours," responds Dana, a veteran who knows better, as the Fourth of July shift enters afternoon hours. "We're not going to make this patient wait. And since I'm the only SANE on staff ..."

A what? The quick reference sets in motion what "The Pitt" aims to shed light on: a sexual assault forensic exam, also known as a rape kit exam. The episode delves into the confidential medical procedure to collect DNA and evidence and gives one of the most detailed depictions of the process for television.

But before cameras venture into the room with the patient, Dana gives recent nursing school graduate Emma (Laëtitia Hollard) — and the audience — an overview. A SANE is a sexual assault nurse; they perform forensic exams, collect evidence and hand it over to the police, if a report is made. They also provide resources, support and may even testify in court.

The storyline serves a dual purpose, according to Kirsten Pierre-Geyfman, who co-wrote the episode with the show's creator, R. Scott Gemmill. "We wanted to highlight the very important and incredible work of a SANE, especially in the department setting," she says. "And we also wanted to see the bravery it takes for a survivor to come forward, let alone do a rape kit. ... It's not an easy decision for somebody to make, and it's not an easy process for somebody to go through."

To help construct a realistic and sensitive portrayal of the exam process, "The Pitt's" writing team and actors worked with a number of consultants, including the UCLA Health Rape Treatment Center and Pittsburgh Action Against Rape (PAAR).

"I wanted people to understand the extent of the exam, I think that's a misconception among a lot of people," said Kathleen Sekula, a SANE at Duquesne University in Pittsburgh who also consulted the show's team.

The case in Episode 7, "1:00 P.M.," involves a visibly shaken young woman, Ilana, played by Tina Ivlev. The writing team knew they wanted to detail the process, not the trauma, Pierre-Geyfman said, so the information about what Ilana experienced is minimal: She was at a barbecue with friends when she was assaulted by a male friend.

"The thing that struck me was the fact the other shows might focus on what happened and then dive into that," Ivlev said. "What I loved about this, the minute she starts talking about it, they cut [away]. There's so much underneath it. I wanted it to be similar to real life when you have a traumatic situation happen — sometimes you can be hyperfocused on certain details, then other things are cloudy. Her head is spinning. She's in shock."

As with many of "The Pitt's" cases, the story serves to bolster the emotional arc of the show's health care providers, in this case Dana, who assists with the exam from start to finish as the department's certified SANE nurse. Last season, she was brutally punched in the face by a disgruntled patient while taking a smoke break. That violent attack left her rattled and contemplating an exit from the job, but after taking a few weeks off, she ultimately returned to work — though the assault's lingering impact has sharpened her edges.

"With Dana's arc and her own assault last season," Pierre-Geyfman said. "She's trying to create a little bit of distance between her and her patients, and is really trying to prioritize her nurse's safety. You see her struggle a little bit with that with this patient. She's wanting to do more for her."

On screen, the assessment begins with Dr. Al-Hashimi checking to see if Ilana has any injuries that need immediate attention and getting an intake of prescription medications and any known allergies to medications. Securing two triage rooms to complete the exam as a way to ensure privacy in the busy emergency department, Dana, with help from Emma, begins the evidence collection while carefully outlining the process to Ilana. For starters, once Dana opens the kit, Ilana cannot leave the room but is free to take a break as needed.

FROM TOP: Tina Ivlev plays a young woman who has just experienced a sexual assault, and staff of the Pittsburgh Trauma Medical Center must determine how to handle her case on a holiday shift. Isa Briones in the episode, titled "1:00 P.M."

To avoid contamination, Dana puts on a face shield and opens the kit, which is a rectangle-shaped box that contains items like paper bags to store evidence and swabs for collecting biological samples. The first step requires Ilana to change into a robe, undressing on top of pads placed on the floor so each item of clothing can be packaged into separate bags and collected as evidence. She'll be given new clothes, Dana assures her. Dana raises a large piece of cloth to give Ilana privacy as she completes the process.

Eventually Dr. Al-Hashimi returns to examine Ilana, checking for any pain on her body or need for X-rays or imaging — she notes two areas of bruising to be documented by Dana with photos. Dana seals the camera's memory card in an evidence envelope. Next, with the lights off, Dana runs a black light over Ilana's body. Dana relays that if there's a part of Ilana's skin that glows, she'll swab it with a wet, then dry, cotton swab. Dana next swabs Ilana's mouth — the inside of her cheek and along the gum line — and her finger nails. At various points, Dana is careful to assess Ilana's comfort with each step and uses statements like "This will not define you," while Ilana shows signs of stress about the length of the process.

At one juncture, an advocate from Pittsburgh Action Against Rape, otherwise known as PAAR, arrives to further detail the resources and assistance they can offer, a service that's available regardless of whether a patient decides not to complete the rape kit exam. Throughout the process, Ilana is assured that she can complete the exam even if she's vacillating on whether to file a police report — that decision can be made at a later time and none of it goes on her permanent medical record. But when the exam pivots to external and internal vaginal collection, Ilana panics once she's instructed to place her feet in stirrups to get into position. Dana suggests a break.

"I don't want a break, I want to stop," Ilana proclaims. "He's my friend. He knows all my friends. It was just a dumb — he was drunk. He didn't mean — it didn't mean anything."

It brings a pause to the process, which carries over into Episode 8. In trying to show the scope of the exam, the medical drama takes liberties in its completion time. Sekula said it's rare for an exam to be completed in under three to four hours.

Not all nurses are certified to be a SANE, and certification requirements vary by state, according to Sekula. It's a role that requires extreme attention to detail and thoroughness, as their work bridges the health care and legal systems. While preparing for the episode, Hollard said she marveled at the precise protocols involved and the support that's provided.

"On a technical level, it's so meticulous," Hollard said. "There's so many parts, so many envelopes. You have to take these swabs and they can't touch each other. And the legality of it all — the way this kit is happening is how they would do it with PAAR in Pittsburgh, but that's not the same way they do it in California, or [the way] they do it in different states."

While "The Pitt" is frequently recognized for its hyperrealistic medical procedures, the episode's director, Uta Briesewitz, knew she wanted to film the exam in a way that mirrored the sensitivity health care professionals strive to exhibit, with shots that weren't invasive or fixated on Ilana's body. For example, when Ilana is undressing, the camera is fixed on Dana being mindful to give her privacy even in their close proximity — an out of focus glimpse of Ilana's bare backside comes only when getting a reaction of Emma taking in the weight of the moment. Later, when the blue light is being run down Ilana's body, her hospital gown is carefully placed to avoid exposure. In addition to a SANE consultant being on set to assist with queries about the process, there was also an intimacy coordinator to help with the comfort level of filming the scenes.

"It was a very sensitive line because women can get re-traumatized," Briesewitz said. "I remember one of our more detailed conversations with our SANE nurse was about when Dana had to look with the black light for bodily fluid. How do we make sure she would not miss anything but, at the same time, give the victim the feeling that they're still protected? It was super helpful to have our SANE adviser on set to say the way she would do it. 'One arm comes out of the sleeve, then I hold up her gown this way, and I would do it like that ...'"

LaNasa found her time at the UCLA Health Rape Treatment Center crucial to chart both her character's ease in the room and her sensitivity to the task at hand: "I went back a second time because I knew I was going to have to use the kit. ... I wanted it to look like I had used the kit many times and I knew what I was doing."

Reflecting on the case as a mirror to her character's journey, LaNasa pointed out that Dana never pressed charges against Doug Driscoll, the man who assaulted her.

"It's different in this situation," LaNasa acknowledged. "I thought it was great information that we got out of this, which is that you can go and do a rape kit, you can have the evidence collected, and you don't have to decide on that day when you're traumatized if you want to press charges or not. I think that part of Dana's hypervigilance is probably because there was no justice for her. I think why she's cracked this season is because she didn't take care of herself. She's reeling from that. She let him beat her up. At the same time, she doesn't want Tina's character to feel any pressure, but I think she wants it for her. She wants her to have the ability to change her mind later."

"We're going to hear Dana, later in the season, refer back to this process that these people have to go through, in defense of a sexual assault victim," LaNasa teased. "It's big on her mind. She's been doing it quite a while."

— Los Angeles Times

Boyfriend books a year of travel to his races and nixes other trips

Carolyn Hax

Hi Carolyn: My boyfriend and I have been dating for a year and have a happy relationship where we usually spend the weekends and one weeknight evening together and leave the other days for work and hobbies. We live 40 minutes apart, work opposite schedules and both have dogs and interests and everything else that comes with being middle-aged and settled, so it has been working for us.

The problem is that his hobby is taking over our lives. He is an amateur ultramarathon runner and has gone from dedicating about 10 weekends a year and three hours a day to training to 5 to 7 hours on most days. Most of his weekends and several entire weeks are dedicated to running events. He will run in over 40 marathons this year. For context, the other people I know who do this are almost all married and retired.

Recently, coming home from a road trip for him to run two days of races — which left me completely drained and exhausted — I expressed that I would like to take a couple of trips this year that don't involve marathons. One would be camping with my family for a few days, and another a long weekend somewhere. Nothing extensive.

He told me he has already scheduled up all his vacation time for marathons and won't be able to take any other trips, but he always likes it when I come with him.

Last year my only real "vacation" was to a small city no one would ever travel to as a destination. It cost me $1,000, took up four days of my PTO and all revolved around his running a 60-plus-mile race with my help. When I told him I wanted him to come on the camping trip to meet my family, he happily suggested I go with my ex (who is a good friend).

I don't want to end an otherwise happy relationship, but I also feel like I have a partner who doesn't consider my wishes at all when it comes to his extremely intensive hobby. I feel like I'm dating a sailor who's married to the sea. Is it possible to support him in his pursuits and not lose my own happiness in the process?

— Left Behind in the Race

ILLUSTRATION BY NICK GALIFIANAKIS/FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

Left Behind in the Race: I love that you asked me and I am grateful.

But you have a partner who doesn't consider your wishes at all when it comes to his extremely intensive hobby. That's why you feel that way.

So the first person to talk to is your boyfriend. Ideally this happens in the moment, but as long as you still feel it, there's still time to speak up:

"It bothers me that you didn't consider my wishes at all when you booked a full year of running. I'm glad you like it when I come with, whooie" — gentle sarcasm optional — "but I like it when you come with me, too. I suggested two (2) short trips."

The second person to have some good talks with is you. This is the real inquiry, after the admittedly mostly performative one with your boyfriend. You are telling him how you feel for your reasons, so that you know he knows.

I suppose it's possible he responds in the extreme — either with a major aha moment that he was being inconsiderate and wants to meet you partway, or annoyance at being questioned. Most likely, though, you're going to come away knowing nothing more about him than what you already know: that running is what he wants most.

That means what you're really figuring out is simply how much you can give him unreciprocated without tipping into resentment.

This has always been the case — but the talking and thinking aren't a waste of breath, angst or text. It helps to work through things and say them out loud, because then you're deciding versus defaulting.

It can also reveal other options. For example: With "support him" and "not lose my own happiness," I assume you mean boosting the happiness side of your imbalance, right? But what if you dropped the other side instead? Don't get "completely drained and exhausted" anymore for $1,000 working road trips to small cities "no one would ever travel to as a destination." Stop the support. Not to be punitive, but to get yourself back. Keep your weeknight together and whatever weekends are left.

If nothing else, it gives you a chance to think about what you want from this relationship while you aren't actively, constantly chasing it down. Maybe you won't miss him, maybe you will see the value in being valued, maybe he will miss you. Maybe this reset will be the beginning of a beautiful … something-more-functional-ship. Let the stillness have its say.

Write to Carolyn Hax at *tellme@washpost.com*. Get her newsletter delivered to your inbox each morning at *wapo.st/gethax*.

Join the discussion live at noon Fridays at *washingtonpost.com/live-chats*.

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After so many racist incidents, I'm afraid White people think I'm ugly

Ask Sahaj

SAHAJ KAUR KOHLI

Sahaj is off this week. The following first appeared July 18, 2024.

Dear Sahaj: I have a hard time accepting that White people might find me physically attractive, from my face especially. I am not trying to earn the validation of beauty from White people, but I want to be a contender. I don't want them to rule out that I could be beautiful due to my brown skin or hijab. I don't feel you can have a true friendship without believing the other person is beautiful, as those you love always become beautiful to you.

I also want men to see me as an equal option like White women or any type of woman. Basically, I have a deep fear my brown skin and hijab will make me unattractive to other people. It's not a huge deal if I don't know the person, but I don't want to have this struggle in my close relationships with White people; I want to trust they see my beauty and wholeness.

It's natural to want to feel beautiful and accepted fully for who you are and like your identity markers won't make you disgusting or icky in someone's eyes. I've had so many bad experiences — like being told that South Asian noses look like rat noses in high school, or that I can't be liked by boys because I'm too desi and too "covered" as a Muslim. I don't see myself reflected as love interests in media. White people have said so many unkind and devaluing things to me that I feel they will always view me as inferior. My experiences have lodged these fears within me, even if I know intellectually they are not true. Please help.

— Beauty

Beauty: You need to accept that the messaging about beauty standards you've internalized is rooted in white supremacy and colonialism. These beauty standards don't represent or reflect your skin color, your culture or your physical attributes. This is a much bigger issue regarding power, superiority and worthiness. Of course these standards are going to make you feel unattractive. They weren't created for you; in fact, they are founded on a belief that you, me and other people of color are inferior because of our race.

That's why healing from mainstream beauty standards is a radical act, and it starts with self-love.

I understand having previous experiences that reinforce beliefs that you are unattractive, but you use words like "icky" and "disgusting" that are harsh and riddled with shame. So that raises the question: What do you love about yourself? What factors, other than body image, contribute to your self-esteem? And how often do you spend time actually telling yourself that you are worthy and beautiful? When I work with clients who struggle with these same feelings, I will ask them to spend time looking in a mirror every morning and saying nice things about themselves. This helps build self-compassion and reframe negative self-talk. After all, being able to affirm yourself has to come from within. No matter how much other people find you attractive or love you, if you don't believe you are worthy, then it will never feel true.

Even more, decolonizing your beauty standards can come down to divesting your self-worth from "beauty" altogether. Believing someone is beautiful transcends physical appearance, so I encourage you to consider other qualities that you find beautiful, too. Maybe it's confidence or being able to express unfiltered joy. Maybe it's curiosity or a positive attitude. What makes you feel good about yourself? Focusing on these qualities can increase levels of self-esteem and, by default, can make you feel good about, and in, your body.

As you unlearn these Western ideals of beauty, I encourage you to explore ways to relish in your cultural and ethnic differences and feel pride in them. Maybe it's finding ways to express yourself through style with your hijab or dress. Or maybe it's expanding and diversifying your friend group (through local community or online ones like Brown Girl Therapy) to meet people who look like you. Or maybe it's through being more intentional about your social media and media consumption. Thankfully, there's increased representation in books and media that can help you detach from these standards imposed on you. These changes may also help you feel connected to where — and who — you come from.

Also, I wonder about your saying that "true friendship" means "believing the other person is beautiful." What do you mean by that? Do you really value your friends based on their external beauty, or is it — as I imagine — that you find your friends beautiful after getting to know and like them? I encourage you to challenge your idea of beauty in friendships. I also hear concern that even in your "close relationships" you don't feel a sense of security or chemistry. What does it mean to you — specifically — to have your beauty and wholeness seen in these friendships? I wonder if you have specific needs that aren't being met currently, causing you to feel poorly about yourself. If this is the case, this may require honest conversations about — and even a reevaluation of — your relationships.

Keep in mind that not everyone is going to think you are beautiful. And that's okay! If people don't give you a chance and have biases at first glance, that says way more about them than it does about you and your beauty.

Ultimately, I want you to remember: You deserve to feel beautiful and you are worthy — regardless of looking different from what you have been taught about beauty.

Sahaj Kaur Kohli is a mental health professional and the creator of Brown Girl Therapy and Culturally Enough, communities focused on people with bicultural identities and immigrant parents. You can submit questions at *wapo.st/ask-sahaj*.

Colleague awkwardly solicits money from subordinates for group gifts

Miss Manners

JUDITH MARTIN, JACOBINA MARTIN AND NICHOLAS IVOR MARTIN

Dear Miss Manners: I am 81, and I'm not exactly sure when this problem began, but some people always seem to be looking for slights from others. I am sure they can always find something, but I believe it is the source of much unhappiness.

We invited people to dinner whose company we enjoyed. We sent wedding gifts, birthday gifts and Christmas gifts to people we liked, if we found something we thought they would like.

Did they reciprocate? I don't know. I'm sure many did, but I have no idea who didn't, and I couldn't care less. I enjoyed doing it, and that was my reward. If we enjoyed someone's presence, then that was the reciprocity.

I assume they would have declined our invitation if they didn't enjoy our company as well. I am not a mind reader, so I can't determine what reason someone might have for not reciprocating. And I suppose I was too busy enjoying my life to try to keep score.

I think having expectations of how others may respond to anything, and issuing invitations with expectations attached, can only lead to disappointment.

By all means, continue to enjoy your life. Miss Manners will not stop you. In general, she agrees that people are too quick to look for slights.

But feeling appreciated for kind gestures and hoping that invitations will be reciprocated is not a new, unusual or irrational problem. Too much one-sidedness can deplete both enthusiasm and resources — and wanting a roughly reciprocal relationship is not unreasonable.

So continue your blissful and altruistic existence, but in doing so, please be patient with those you deem less enlightened — the ones who like to know if their generosity was appreciated (or received at all). They are not the problem.

Dear Miss Manners: A tenured colleague routinely solicits the faculty to contribute to group gifts. This colleague sends the requests not only to those of us with tenure, but also to subordinates whose jobs are dependent on the approval of tenured faculty members (including the solicitor). My colleague's email solicitation "suggests" the amount to be contributed ($50 for a gift, for example) and asks that contributions not be made anonymously. The email states that the sender wants to be able to "confirm" the contribution.

Those of us with tenure can safely ignore the requests or simply make anonymous contributions, but those without job protection do not share that luxury. Is there a way around this conundrum?

Yes. Tell your colleague to stop it. As you are a colleague and not a subordinate, you are in a position to be able to appeal to this person's sense of equity.

Forcing people who work for you to give you and others presents is unethical. Appeal to your colleague's better instincts as an educator and discourage this practice immediately.

Dear Miss Manners: When is the proper time to attach an anniversary band to your wife's wedding band?

While you are still married.

New Miss Manners columns are posted Monday through Saturday on *washingtonpost.com/advice*. You can send questions to Miss Manners at her website, *missmanners.com*. You can also follow her @RealMissManners.

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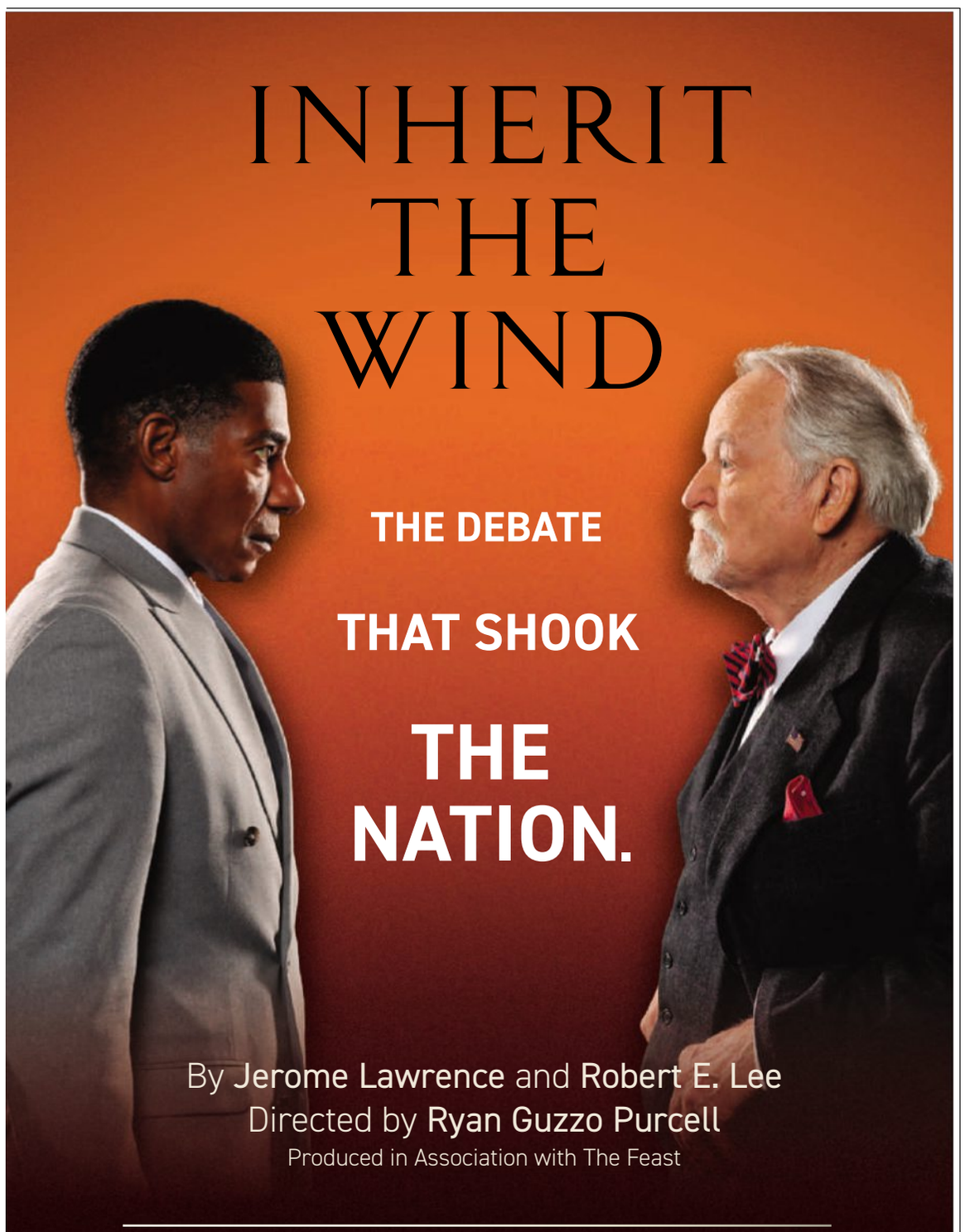

My grandson has no motivation, and his mother only enables him

Asking Eric

R. ERIC THOMAS

Dear Eric: My 26-year-old grandson has never held a job. Three years ago, he earned a master's degree. Despite his achievement, he engages in all-night computer gaming, sleeps during the day and lacks motivation to seek employment.

His father is out of the picture, and his mother, my daughter, maintains him in every way. She loves him and seems hesitant to address the situation directly.

While she works and manages the household, I occasionally assist, which I don't mind doing. However, I feel that my assistance inadvertently reinforces his destructive behavior. I would appreciate any suggestions on how to help this individual break free from his detrimental routine.

— Concerned Grandfather

Grandfather: You have the opportunity, as someone who is a helpful, consistent presence, to have a frank conversation with your grandson. I'd encourage you to take it. You can ask: "What is your plan for employment? Are there obstacles standing in your way? Would you like some advice? Are there specific areas in which you'd like my help?" And then listen to his answers. They'll be very telling, one way or another.

He may tell you he's looked and he can't find anything. He may say that it was different for you when you were his age, and you don't understand what he's facing. It surely was different, but we all have the privilege of and the obligation to live in reality.

Go into this conversation with curiosity rather than demands, knowing that his expectations may not match your expectations. He will trust you more as a coach, mentor and resource if you listen to what his goals for himself are and help him chart a path toward achieving those goals.

Similarly, you might ask your daughter if she's open to opinions about her son. It does sound like this is an enabling situation. But removing the enabling without identifying a goal is just going to cause conflict.

The three of you are all adults who are capable of making your own decisions. Sometimes we have to let our loved ones make a choice that doesn't benefit them — this goes for your daughter and your grandson. However, you can have the most impact by working with her and with him to set new goals for employment and engagement in the house's affairs and then holding him to them.

Dear Eric: I am a mother of two adult men. One of which is doing great and is living the single life. The other one is also doing good. He has his own business. My issue is that my son with his own business was engaged and they both decided to call it off.

Now I can't seem to be happy when I hear about others who are getting married or even having children, whether it be family or people in general I don't even know.

Looks like both sons are set in their lives and I fear I will not have the joy of being an in-law or grandparent. I guess what I'm asking is for some advice to help me move on. I know you're probably going to suggest therapy, which I don't want.

— Unhappy

Unhappy: It is always a little bit of a challenge when people write, "Don't tell me to go to therapy," because I'm like, "Well ... but that's the answer." However, I can respect your request and give you some other options.

First is acceptance. Acceptance doesn't mean "liking" or "wanting" or even "not being mad about." Acceptance is you saying, "This is what is right now." That right now is crucial because your wants could change, your sons' romantic lives could change, anything could change. So, it's important to say, "I don't have what I want right now," because it helps prevent you from spiraling out into forever.

Secondly, you don't have to be happy for other people who are getting married or having children. You can send well wishes and be done with it, or you can ignore the announcements altogether.

Thirdly — and this kind of circles back to the beginning, but please hear me out — think about what your feelings of not having in-laws and grandchildren bring up in you, what they might be connected to in your past and other ways that you can get emotional satisfaction in life. Maybe you want a closer relationship with your sons, maybe you want to be a meaningful presence in a child's life through volunteering, fostering or joining an intergenerational community. Maybe you're grieving your son's broken engagement. It's all possible and all valid.

You don't have to get into it with a therapist, if you don't want to. But you do have to get into it with yourself, because unpacking these feelings will help you understand yourself better and find contentment.

Send questions to R. Eric Thomas at *eric@askingeric.com* or P.O. Box 22474, Philadelphia, PA 19110. Follow him on Instagram and sign up for his weekly newsletter at *rericthomas.com*

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POST *NEXT*

The people shaping our society in 2026

BY WASHINGTON POST STAFF

Post Next 50 isn't about who's arrived. It's about what's coming. Because knowing who is influential is the first step to understanding what our future holds. ¶ Every year, power shifts in politics, culture, technology and the quiet corners where influence grows. Post Next 50 launched in 2025, and it is our annual look at the people who are actively reshaping how America thinks, works, connects and creates. ¶ This isn't an award. There are no trophies or rankings — just reporting. Washington Post journalists, drawing on deep sourcing, have selected the 50 people who will define the stories of 2026. The ones already driving the next headlines, whether you're rooting for them or not. They're not all household names (yet). But together, they represent where power is headed and how it's shaping our society. ¶ Eight of our arts and culture picks are profiled here. In the weeks to come, we'll publish profiles of others selected for Post Next 50, spanning the worlds of sports, policy, health, business and technology, and national affairs. See the full list at *wapo.st/postnext50*.

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POST*NEXT* 50

PHOTOS BY DAVID URBANKE/FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

Anania, host of the popular talk show "Gaydar," has also performed onstage, including a standout role in "Saturday Church," a musical about New York's ballroom scene.

'Gaydar' host sets sights on Broadway fame

ANANIA FROM **E1**

soon and John Cameron Mitchell. But if you've seen Anania onstage, it doesn't sound crazy.

Since arriving in New York in 2023, Anania has appeared off-Broadway in the Stephen Flaherty musical "Lucky Stiff" and in "Saturday Church," a musical about New York's ballroom scene. In "Saturday Church," Anania gave a standout performance, no small feat in a cast that was chock-a-block with verve and nerve.

When Sam Pinkleton — who directed the Broadway smash "Oh, Mary!" — saw Anania in "Saturday Church," he knew he wanted her to audition for the Broadway production of "The Rocky Horror Show." The show, which begins previews in March, will be Anania's first Broadway credit.

"I just think she's a total original," Pinkleton wrote via text message. "She captures the anarchic spirit of 'Rocky Horror' while somehow bringing her own thing, with guts and heart."

Anania's career as an online personality has made auditioning for stage roles easier. "I'm not walking into rooms feeling desperate, which is a really nice feeling," she said.

"One of the biggest advantages of being in the content creation sphere and being in the musical theater sphere is that I know my worth much more," she said. "I know what the money should look like. I know what they're making, I know what I should be making."

In 2020, when she was still studying musical theater at Emerson College, Anania started making TikTok videos. "It was basically sharing mutual aid funds and talking about political issues and my comedy was kind of a second-place thing," she said. "I was trying to make funny videos rather than be a comedian."

When she hit 100,000 followers a few months after she began posting, she started taking it seriously. When she hit 1 million shortly after, she got a manager. Today, content creation is her main source of income.

"I used to work three jobs, so I'm really grateful for my silly, made-up job now," Anania said. Before she found TikTok success, she worked as landscaper, a Starbucks barista and at a J.C. Penney in her hometown of Davenport, Iowa.

Since 2024, Anania has hosted "Gaydar," a funny and frenetic internet talk show in which she quizzes guests on LGBTQ+ culture, though the answers are always secondary to the jokes. Based on how well a guest does, Anania decides if they are "gay, straight or homophobic." (The "homophobic" designation is usually given ironically to LGBTQ+ guests.)

"What's so refreshing about her comedy is that it's communal, but not permissive," wrote comedian Drew Afualo, a comedian who has collaborated with Anania. "She can reach a cis, straight, White audience with her incredible wit and humor and educate them while doing so but can also firmly remind them they are a guest in her house."

"Gaydar" guests have included Chappell Roan, Brandi Carlisle, and Ilana Glazer.

When the "Gaydar" team suggested booking Zohran Mamdani, Anania hadn't heard of him. She wasn't certain that she wanted to book a politician. "But when I did the research on him, I was like, 'Okay, yeah, he's probably going to get my vote anyway. Let's get him on the show," she said. Mamdani appeared on "Gaydar" several weeks ahead of the mayoral primary, before he had risen to national prominence.

His episode ended up being good for his campaign and good for "Gaydar."

"I am very grateful that he came on and showed up in the way that he did," Anania said of Mamdani's appearance. "What I'm most proud about is that a lot of people were introduced to him through our show," she said. "And he's funny," she added. "And cute. Oh, my God, he's so gorgeous."

Anania's political principles have occasionally meant passing on certain jobs and collaborations.

"There's been a couple of things that I've been saying no to because I'm trying to actively follow the BDS list," she said, referring to the movement to boycott, divest and sanction Israel in response to its actions in Palestine. "It's 99 percent on principle and then 1 percent that I would feel bad letting down my audience."

With an impending Broadway debut and more "Gaydar" episodes on the way, it seems unlikely that her fans will be let down by her this year.

"Five years ago, I never would have imagined that I'd be in the position I'm in right now," she said.

"But in terms of my career, I'm at the beginning of it," she said.

"I'm excited to see what's next. I think I still have a lot to do."

For 'Secret Agent' actor, Brazil's past is personal

BY JADA YUAN

One of the most beautiful moments in "The Secret Agent" is pure Wagner Moura.

The 49-year-old Brazilian superstar, who just nabbed his first Oscar nomination, plays a scientist on the run from his country's brutal military dictatorship in Kleber Mendonça Filho's celebrated period film set in 1977. Reeling from the news that there's a bounty on his head, his character stumbles into the street — and right into Carnival. And for one cathartic moment he joins in, dancing the samba even as his whole world crumbles beneath him.

Moura knows the pull of Carnival well. It's where he fell in love with his wife, photographer Sandra Delgado, with whom he now lives in Los Angeles with their three sons. "I think that's what happened in that scene, is that he gave himself to that collective joy and happiness and cultural love," he said.

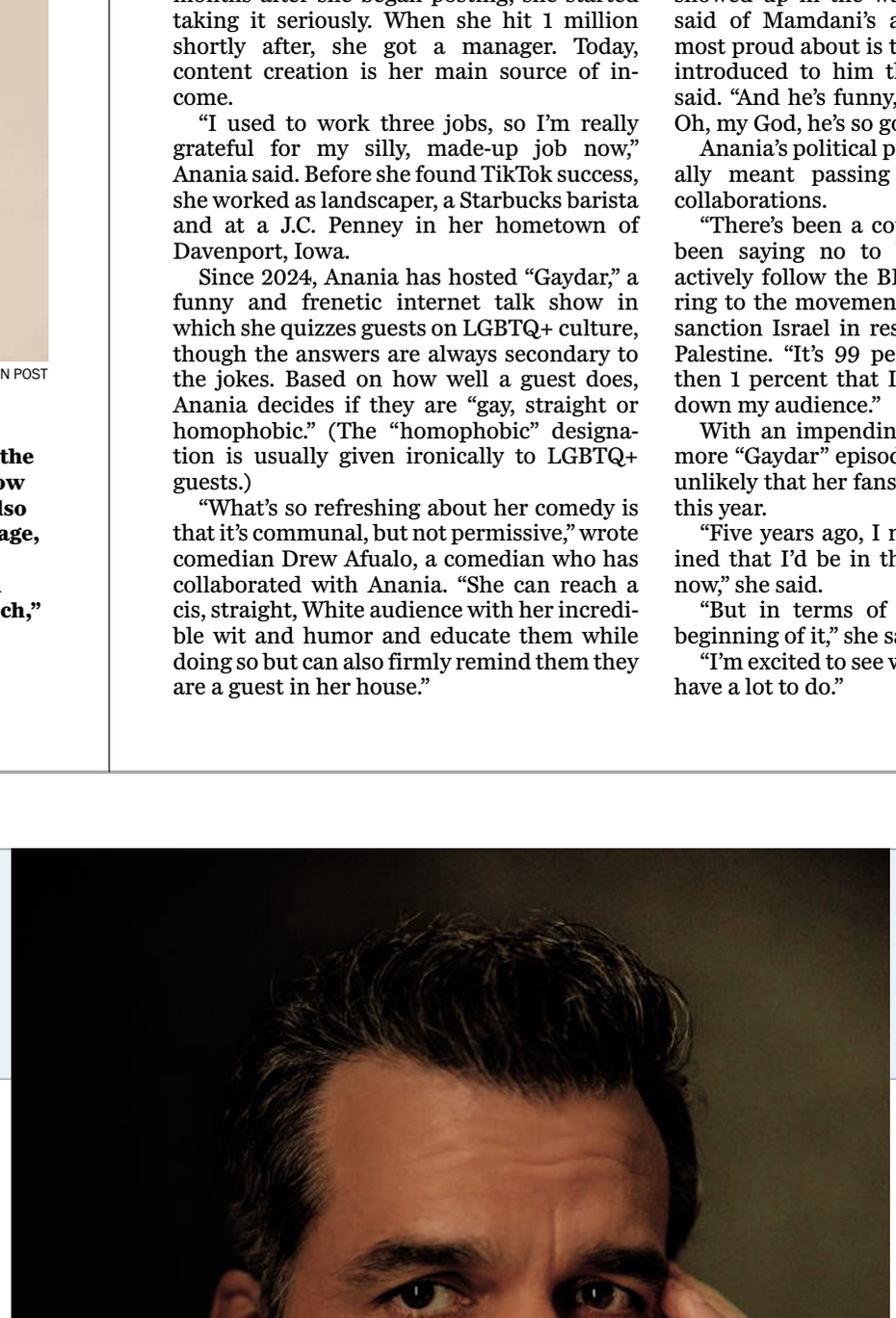
"The Secret Agent" is Moura's first time acting in his home country and his native language of Portuguese in over a decade. That's partly because his career in the U.S. took off after he played Pablo Escobar in Netflix's Spanish-language hit "Narcos," and partly, he says, because of persecution from the conservative dictator Jair Bolsonaro (now serving 27 years in prison for an attempted coup in 2022), who Moura said made it "impossible" to be an artist in Brazil.

Mendonça Filho made the movie with Moura, his friend of 20 years, in mind. "I was very confident he would carry the film with his charisma," he said. Moura is the first Brazilian nominated for an Oscar for best actor, the first Brazilian to win a Golden Globe for a lead actor and the first South American to win best actor in the Cannes Film Festival's nearly 80-year history.

Being political is central to who Moura is. He studied journalism before getting into theater — experience he put to use playing a hardened war reporter in Alex Garland's "Civil War." This summer, he'll be touring European theater festivals with an interactive adaptation of Henrik Ibsen's "An Enemy of the People" he co-wrote. His directorial debut, "Marighella," about a Afro-Brazilian freedom fighter in the '60s, he says, was blocked from release for two years by Bolsonaro. Soon, he'll be directing his second feature, "Last Night at the Lobster," what he describes as an "anti-capitalist" Christmas story about laid-off fast-food employees.

As he's promoted "The Secret Agent," Moura — who got his U.S. citizenship during the Biden administration and calls himself "a proud American" — proved himself an actor who doesn't just support causes by wearing ribbons but will bluntly and publicly stand up for his political beliefs. He doesn't hesitate to call the war in Gaza "genocide" or decry the "racism" of ICE activities. "I think that immigration is part of the foundation of this country. But regardless of how you think politically … you cannot treat human beings like that," he says.

For now, he'll be waiting to see if "The Secret Agent" can pull off the Oscar success of 2024's "I'm Still Here," another movie about the human toll of the military dictatorship, and make it two Brazilian international feature wins in a row. When that movie, from director Walter Salles, won, Moura says with great delight, Brazilians took to the streets like they'd just won the World Cup.



AUSTIN HARGRAVE/FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

Being political is central to Wagner Moura's identity. The actor studied journalism before getting into acting and soon plans to direct an "anti-capitalist" film, his second feature.

POST*NEXT* 50

DAVID NEEDLEMAN/FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

Pamela Joyner in front of "The Rivers Are Always Abundant for You" (2023) by Sydney Cain, an up-and-comer whose paintings in her New York loft "stop me in my tracks," she says.

Collector wants to give Black artists their due

JOYNER FROM **E1**

He quickly became a friend and mentor, introduced her to other Black artists, and eventually set her on a path of philanthropic and "mission-driven" work for excluded and underappreciated voices.

"The way I have operated in business and the way I have operated in the art world are exactly and precisely the same," Joyner says. "They are focused on excellent outcomes."

Though art collecting began as a hobby, it gained a clear directive in 2009, after Nicholas Serota — then director of the Tate Modern — asked Joyner to hop on a plane to London. The Tate Liverpool had just finished its well-received Afro-Modern exhibition, and Serota, aware of the depth of African work she'd amassed, wondered if she could fill in more of the museum's blind spots. Joyner hadn't really thought of her growing archive as a formal collection, but when Serota made the request, her perspective shifted.

"I took it as a call to action," she says. "I said, 'Okay, we're going to have a mission and vision around this collection.'"

The mission itself was simple: "Try to influence the full arc of the art historical canon so that overlooked artists of African descent take their rightful place." Over the last 15 years, Joyner has leaned on her Harvard MBA and marketing acumen to employ strategies that service that mission — purchasing work, showing it, lending it to museums, and making sure each piece lands in the permanent record through catalogues and publications. Since 2014, she's expanded that effort even further by creating an artist residency in partnership with the Nevada Museum of Art, and serving as a trustee at the Art Institute of Chicago, MoMA and the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, among other prestigious organizations.

Growing up in Chicago as the daughter of two teachers, Joyner said she "always had an appreciation for things that are beautiful," frequently visiting museums and admiring the classical performing arts. But it was an early experience at the Art Institute seeing Georges Seurat's "A Sunday Afternoon on the Island of La Grande Jatte" that forged a deep connection to visual art. The iconic work, part of the museum's large collection of French impressionist paintings, fueled her imagination — and later, a love affair with Paris. "I don't remember a time when I did not know and love that painting," she says.

Around the time she began collecting, Joyner pivoted her interest to abstract artwork. Throughout the 1960s and 1970s, Black artists had little currency if they didn't fit within specific parameters and styles. "The traditional art world didn't assign validity to Black artists working with abstraction because there was just more comfort with the idea of Black creators creating images that were identifiably Black," Joyner says. As a maverick herself, Joyner was drawn to abstract creatives like Mayhew, Sam Gilliam, Frank Bowling and Jack Whitten, who refused to be put in a box — and, as a result, had little or no documentation of their work and intertwined careers.

Without an art education background, Joyner leaned on various Black scholars and cobbled together archival material from unrecorded shows. She championed the abstract community by working with publishers (including Gregory R. Miller & Co., who also published "Four Generations: The Joyner/Giuffrida Collection of Abstract Art") to produce various monographs, which help make up her home's own large art book library. More recently, she's opened up her collection to Brazilian artists ("Outside of Nigeria, Brazil has the largest Black population on the planet," she says) and remains a vigilant, discerning purchaser.

"You have to hit the streets. You've got to go to a lot of galleries. You've got to go to a lot of museums," she says. "You have to train your eye, have a sense of what appeals to you, but have a sense of the various visual languages."

The work is ongoing and often rewarding, especially when, in her role as trustee, she can gently prompt curators with a simple, "Have you considered … ?" and a name they may have missed. She isn't trying to impose her taste; she wants to nudge the experts. That includes encouraging them to look at both veteran artists and up-and-comers, like Sydney Cain, whose representational paintings hanging in her New York loft give off "an otherworldly faculty" and "stop me in my tracks," Joyner says.

It's a feeling that doesn't get old. "The paintings do take you to another place," she adds. "Every time you stand in front of one of these, you see something that you had not seen before."

Over the next year, Joyner wants to devote more time to programming her three residencies, which provide space for pairs of artists as well as a dedicated museum show. She wants to focus on filling gaps in the collection and continuing to publish monographs of new artists. And, maybe most importantly, she wants to think about legacy, about the hundreds of rotating works that sit in storage and take up nearly every inch of her wall space. They've all prompted a very familiar and predictable boomer anxiety: "What are we going to do with all of this stuff?"

ARSENII VASELENKO/FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

Adam Z. Levy and Ashley Nelson Levy left New York and founded Transit Books in California, where they felt a new freedom to take risks. It's paid off — their nonprofit press is thriving.

Tiny publisher uncovers global hidden gems

BY SOPHIA NGUYEN

When, over a decade ago, Adam Z. Levy and Ashley Nelson Levy left New York, packing up a U-Haul and heading out west, the move may have seemed a little perverse. "We knew we wanted to work in books — but we were leaving jobs in books, in the book capital of the country," Ashley said.

The couple settled in Oakland, California, where they launched Transit Books from their two-bedroom apartment. They felt emboldened, like they had more space — geographically, psychologically — to take risks.

"We were really struck by how much less stratified, how much less hierarchical it is out here," Adam said.

Today, Transit occupies the possibly unique position of being a nonprofit press with a roster including both a Nobel laureate and a TikTok sensation. The Levys predicted the former, warning their distributors almost annually that this really might be Jon Fosse's year. (The Norwegian writer won in 2023.) The latter, "I Who Have Never Known Men" by Jacqueline Harpman, caught them off-guard. When they found the 1995 novel in the catalogue of a French publisher and brought out a new edition in 2022, they felt lucky just to get positive notice in the New York Review of Books. Then the sci-fi dystopia, about 40 women imprisoned in an underground cage, went viral — unheard of for a work in translation. It has sold 500,000 copies to date.

Those successes helped them weather the turbulence of the last few years — including when, last spring, they were one of dozens of small publishers who had their federal funds slashed. More than that: Transit is thriving. The Levys moved the press out of their home and into an office in Berkeley, California, where they've created a gathering place for the local literary community. They also hired more staff, bringing their headcount to four full-time employees. "We're an empire," Ashley joked.

They're constantly seeking to expand Transit's aesthetic boundaries. "If we think of the list as a container, we're always thinking about ways that we can push against the sides and grow that vessel," Adam said. Their 20 new titles in 2026 will include works originally written in Tamil and Faroese. They're also kicking around the idea of venturing into new forms and genres, like noir.

Meanwhile, the Harpman hive should rejoice: After being "embroiled in some small press bidding wars," Adam said, Transit has acquired three more of her books, previously unavailable in English. The pitch for the new trio of novellas, out next summer? Imagine a younger sibling to "I Who Have Never Known Men," but transposed to France circa World War II. Fans, the Levys predict, will be delighted.

POST*NEXT* 50

‘Track Star’ host created go-to music talk show

COYNE FROM **E1**

headphones over to passersby on the sidewalks of his native New York City. The goal is for these guests to identify the musicians they hear, one after another, each tune a smidge more obscure than the one prior, with the cash prize doubling for each correct answer.

Coyne is happy to give the money away, but his real hope is that these strangers might start sharing their tastes, their emotions, their memories. “If you get someone’s defenses to drop,” he says, “you can get them to start talking about their lives.”

Once “Track Star” started making serious ripples across social media in 2023, famous strangers became eager to talk about their lives, too. First Olivia Rodrigo, then Ed Sheeran, then Maren Morris, then Sombr. Before long, “Track Star” had joined the ranks of “SubwayTakes” and “Hot Ones” as a necessary stop on the social media talk show circuit. “Why do these superstar people want to be a part of this?” Coyne remembers thinking shortly after Rodrigo’s appearance opened the starry floodgates. “We know it’s fun, but do they have time for this?”

They do. By the end of 2025, “Track Star” was filming nearly 10 episodes a week, in addition to having recently launched a podcast and an in-studio performance series in its newly refurbished Manhattan offices. The show had also upped its celestial wattage, hosting icons of American song, including Mariah Carey and John Fogerty, as well as superstar New Yorkers, including Elmo and Zohran Mamdani — the latter making headlines a few days before being elected mayor of New York City for failing to recognize Billy Joel’s “New York State of Mind.” (“You know,” Mamdani said to Coyne, his face reconciling a grimace and a smile, “as a politician, it’s important to be honest.”)

Coyne isn’t out here to stump people. His first attempt at a quiz show was called “Public Opinion” — which is now the name of “Track Star’s” parent company, an entity that Coyne runs with his brother Kieran and their friend Henry Kornaros. The Coynes grew up fascinated with the infrastructure of New York, eagerly soaking up dinnertime stories from their mother, who worked for the Metropolitan Transportation Authority. Hoping to start a media outlet that focused on his hometown, Coyne was more interested in manholes than the Ramones. But when his trivia questions kept flummoxing contestants, he decided to change course.

“People might not know much about New York City, but music is universal,” Coyne says. “I’m getting a lot more from this person when I’m playing them Billy Joel than when I’m asking them how tall the Empire State Building is.”

By “a lot more,” Coyne means their humanity. “Track Star” does this terrific trick of putting its guests in a state of wonderment that seems to exist only on the precipice of recognizing an old favorite song. It’s almost the inverse of how “Hot Ones” uses spice as truth serum. Instead, this process — the anticipation, the listening, the searching of memory, the flood of recall — makes “Track Star’s” guests lower their guards and spill their guts. “People are just more comfortable with you once they hear a song they know,” Coyne says. “Even when you’re talking to Mariah Carey.”

And while the Mariah-tier guests haven’t hurt, “Track Star’s” continued success is rooted in the invisible precision of its design. It’s a micro-show that allows for at least two different surrogate experiences. First, we play along with the guest, wondering what we’re about to hear, hoping we don’t take too long to figure it out. “I love the visual element, the physical element of handing someone the headphones,” Coyne says, “of them putting them on and physically entering the game space.” As viewers, we’re also entering the guest’s headspace, hearing what they hear, even as the street life hums around them. The intimacy is instantaneous.

Half a blip later, once the contestant has correctly named that tune, the audience becomes Coyne, the humble game show host hoping to be schooled in the mysterious tower of song. Instead of pretending to be a record store clerk or Alex Trebek, Coyne asks questions that feel so broad, they border on naive. He’s as eager to learn about this music as we are. “And I try to do that even when I *do* know the music,” Coyne says. “I just think it’s an interesting way of asking questions. ‘Why?’ ‘Tell me about it.’ Even if it’s something stupid, like, ‘Are the Beatles good?’ I always want to lead with curiosity.”

This mix of inquisitiveness and exactitude is probably what sets Coyne apart from all the other overconfident music influencers on TikTok supplanting traditional forms of music journalism. But that doesn’t mean the principals at Public Opinion are interested in turning “Track Star” into the next MTV or Rolling Stone. If anything, it’s the other way around. In January, Public Opinion announced an investment partnership with former Rolling Stone CEO Gus Wenner.

“It’s about creating the next way to tell a story,” says Kornaros. Kieran Coyne agrees. “We’re in the era of user-generated content, so our job is less to be an authoritative voice and more to be this vehicle for people in the streets to express themselves,” he says. “That’s why we called the company Public Opinion. As we get bigger and we become a voice in the music industry, it’s keeping the voice of the public in there.”

Amplifying that public voice requires being out in public, which suits Jack Coyne just fine. “We interviewed Ed Sheeran right here,” Coyne says, pointing at a patch of sidewalk outside Public Opinion’s offices. Coyne is happy to chat with everyone who strolls past: a neighbor gathering signatures for a petition, a firefighter from the station across the street. Having initially set out to make a show about New York City, he much prefers making a show about the people of New York City.

Then, a rap-obsessed tourist from Zurich appears trying to locate the spot where Coyne once interviewed the hip-hop producer Pete Rock. “This is legendary,” the tourist says. “Wow. ‘Track Star.’” Coyne and the tourist chop it up about De La Soul, the Alchemist, Common and more. Maybe this is what sets Coyne apart from everyone else on social media. He doesn’t want to live inside our screens. He wants to live out here.

DAVID NEEDLEMAN/FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

“People might not know much about New York City, but music is universal,” says Jack Coyne, who quizzes passersby about music on “Track Star.”

STEVE SCHOFIELD/FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

Whimsical singer chose a winding road to the stage

BY QUINN MORELAND

When singer-songwriter Sierra Ferrell took the stage at the 2025 Grammy Awards to accept her trophies for her sophomore studio album “Trail of Flowers” — which won four total, including best Americana album — her whimsical stage aesthetic, facial piercings and tattoos were a welcome departure from the genre’s traditional stylings.

“I’m definitely a genre-bender, and I do it at my own pace, not to fit a narrative,” Ferrell said. “It’s just who I am.”

On the album, the 37-year-old artist crafted a distinct sound that blended classic elements of country, bluegrass, jazz and vaudeville with melodic guitar pop and psychedelia. Ferrell, whose singing voice recalls notes of Dolly Parton, Loretta Lynn and Amy Winehouse, uses these textures to explore the woes of modern existence. Her track “American Dreaming” details the struggle to find stability amid a capitalist culture.

Born and raised in West Virginia, Ferrell spent her early 20s as a nomad, busking on street corners and freighthopping across the country. She eventually landed in Nashville, where label executives caught wind of her live shows at local venues, which occasionally featured circus performers. Ferrell released her studio debut album, “Long Time Coming,” in 2021. Sold-out tour dates followed, as did gigs at the Grand Ole Opry, a Billboard-charting collaboration with country star Zach Bryan and an emerging artist of the year win at the Americana Honors and Awards.

In 2026, Ferrell will bring “Trail of Flowers” to festivals overseas. In the meantime, she’s been casually writing new music with friends. “Artists never stop working, in a way,” she said. “Whenever we’re left to our own devices, we just create in one form or another.”

Ferrell says that she has enough songs in the bank to record an album “tomorrow,” but she’s in no rush. “I’m taking this moment to reflect a lot and process and live in one place for a second,” she says, adding that she’s resolving to prioritize her physical and mental health in 2026. “I want to heal more this year so that I can help other people heal.”

“I’m definitely a genre-bender, and I do it at my own pace, not to fit a narrative,” says singer-songwriter Sierra Ferrell, whose album “Trail of Flowers” won four Grammys.

POST*NEXT* 50

Podcast hosts aim barbs at Trump and Democrats

WELCH SULLIVAN FROM **E1**

YouTube. It has also spurred a spin-off podcast, "IHIP News," focused on the political events of the week. The women's experience as liberals in a red state has given them thick skins, as well as plenty of ammunition for their expletive-laden excoriations of President Donald Trump and his base.

Of late, though, they've been directing some of their sharpest barbs at the Democratic establishment. In doing so, they're tapping into an insurgent, antiestablishment energy that has won them plenty of fans, as well as a substantial contingent of critics. (Welch, in particular, has become a favorite target of Fox News.) Not that they're bothered much. "When you believe in what you're saying, you're willing to fight for it. I've never been somebody that really cared what other people think," Sullivan said, letting out a raspy laugh. "Jennifer says I have a broken give-a-f--- meter."

The two became friends 20-odd years ago when Sullivan hired Welch, an interior designer, for a project. It wasn't immediately clear that they'd hit it off: Welch was an outspokenly liberal atheist, while Sullivan taught Bible study at a megachurch. But they both had young children, challenging marriages and an appreciation for plainspoken truth-telling. In the morning, one would call the other and say, "Let's burn" — code for "let's both sit on our porches, smoke a cigarette, and talk through whatever's going on," Sullivan writes in their 2025 memoir, "Life Is a Lazy Susan of Sh*t Sandwiches." Over the years, Sullivan's politics and faith shifted, a journey the pair detail in their book. (Welch jokes that the only person her friend worships these days is Rachel Maddow.)

When "I've Had It" launched in 2022 — the duo credit their children for persuading them to start a podcast — politics wasn't the main focus. The pair had a following that stemmed from a short-lived Bravo reality show, "Sweet Home Oklahoma," that featured Welch's interior design business. The original plan was to entertain their fan base (largely "women our age and a lot of gays," according to Welch) with complaints about petty grievances: bridezillas, Instagram etiquette, badly behaved toddlers. Then, in the ramp-up to the 2024 election, their disdain for Trump increasingly became part of the conversation.

"My politics will ooze out of me very quickly, and that's been true my whole life," Welch said. "I just can't help but speak about it."

Their podcast network worried that political talk would prove divisive and advised them to tone it down. Instead, as Welch and Sullivan spoke more frankly, their listenership grew. In a world saturated with mealy-mouthed pundits and politicians spouting focus-grouped talking points, listeners were apparently eager for something more direct, unapologetic and occasionally crude. The show's fan base grew in unexpected directions: One day, Welch's son called to let her know that Hasan Piker, the leftist Twitch streamer beloved by young men, was praising "I've Had It." (Piker has since made multiple appearances on the show.) These days, their audience is roughly divided between men and women, with a broad range of ages.

As "I've Had It" took off, Sullivan and Welch were welcomed into worlds they never dreamed they'd have access to. They flew to Washington to interview Kamala Harris, with whom they hit it off. (Harris told them she'd had it with women's underrepresentation in Congress.) They were invited to the Democratic National Convention and to a Los Angeles fundraiser for Joe Biden hosted by George Clooney. At times, they found this peek behind the curtain disillusioning. Welch grew privately concerned that Biden was too old to run again and, later, that Harris was erring by running to the middle. Not wanting to fuel the opposition, the podcaster bit her tongue but has since become more overtly critical of the Democratic Party, pushing back against the influence of corporate money and candidates who refuse to condemn the war in Gaza or who don't defend trans kids.

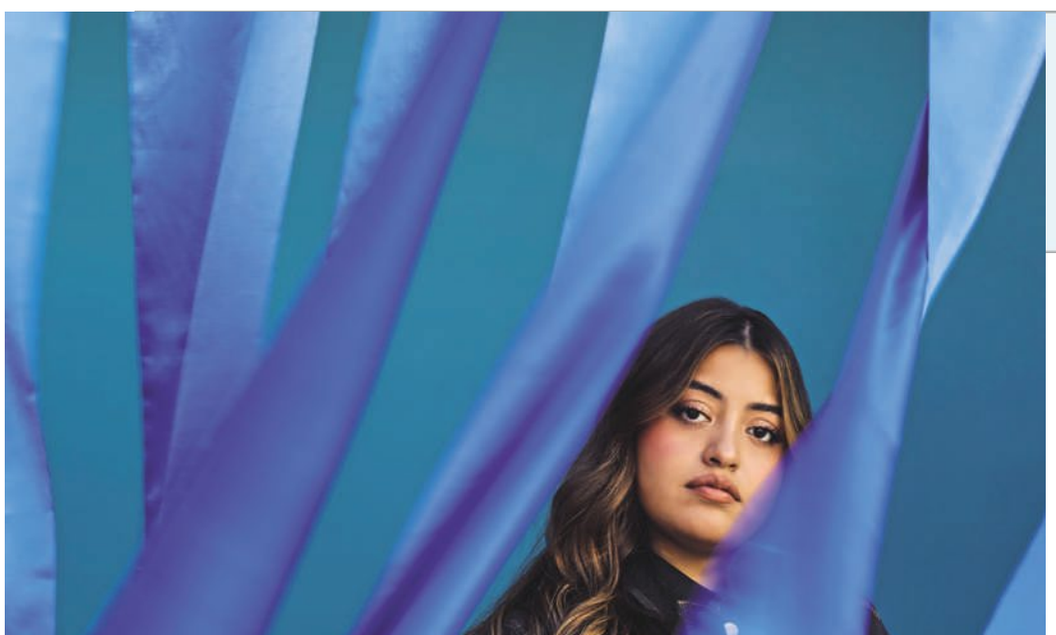
When Sen. Cory Booker (D-New Jersey) appeared on "I've Had It" for the second time in October, she pressed him on whether he'd call Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu a war criminal. He deflected, calling the question "loaded and hot." Booker's inability to give a straight answer was "the thing that Democrats get so frustrated with where we are right now," she said. The moment struck a nerve: Two members of Congress emailed their appreciation, and at least one prominent politician canceled an upcoming appearance.

Welch and Sullivan dismiss concerns that their antagonism toward some Democrats is helpful to Trump, arguing that unscripted moments, even the spicier ones, are just what their side needs. "These Democratic politicians need to go on podcasts and learn how to speak like normal people. They need to be pressed in a way that they're not pressed on CNN or MSNBC, because the way we view media now has completely changed," Welch said. "Democrats are going to have to get rid of focus groups, they're going to have to quit polling, and they're going to have to quit this controlled messaging, because it feels conservative."

After a lifetime living in a red state, Welch moved to New York City last fall. Sullivan hopes to follow her soon. In the lead-up to the midterms, Welch is releasing "Not Today, Fascists," a book she hopes will help Democrats "navigate the MAGA climate to win and win big." With that in mind, both women are encouraged by the new cohort of up-and-coming politicians who draw their energy from the grass roots, not the corporate class. And while their newfound fame surprises them, they're hoping more podcasts follow in their wake. What the left needs is not one dominant Joe Rogan-like figure, Welch said, but "a lot of 'I've Had Its,'" an ecosystem of authentic voices sharing their sometimes divergent views. "We need to be — What is that phrase? Everything, everywhere—"

Sullivan smiled as she completed her best friend's thought: "And all at once."

Angie Sullivan, left, and Jennifer Welch's experiences as liberals in a red state have given them thick skins and plenty of ammunition against President Donald Trump on their gleefully profane podcast "I've Had It," but lately they've directed ire at the Democratic establishment.



RAMONA ROSALES/FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

'The Studio' breakout star embraces her quirkiness

BY SOPHIA SOLANO

People tell Keyla Monterroso Mejia that she reminds them of someone they know — maybe a cousin or a friend — on account of what she calls her "normal face." This familiarity is an acting superpower, but it's also not entirely accurate. Monterroso Mejia's comedy is unique, fueled by all the quirks she used to try to hide.

Her big break came in 2021 via "Curb Your Enthusiasm" as the flailing fledgling actress Maria Sofia Estrada. There, she was all slapstick, half-moons of white under huge dark pupils that give her an air of innocence, of a shrugging *I'm just trying my best,* even as she scrappily fights Cheryl Hines's character to the floor.

That seven-episode arc was enough to offset a multiyear slog of failed auditions, launching her at spacecraft pace from near anonymity to, as of September, the stage at the Emmys. The 27-year-old has since made appearances, almost always as an overly confident yet hilariously incompetent employee, in Keke Palmer's "One of Them Days," Will Ferrell's "You're Cordially Invited" and Quinta Brunson's "Abbott Elementary." It was Brunson, the creator, lead actress and executive producer of "Abbott Elementary," who personally recommended Monterroso Mejia to Seth Rogen. He cast her as his character's assistant in his award-sweeping hit "The Studio."

Monterroso Mejia still can't believe her luck. A daughter of Mexican and Guatemalan immigrants, she grew up in Southern California but well outside the entertainment power hubs of Los Angeles. She won't keep the numbers of "very important people" like Brunson in her phone because she's "afraid to butt-dial them." Her sentences bubble with phrases like "I never could have imagined" and "in my wildest dreams."

Those wild dreams are manifesting; 2026 brings her return to both "Abbott Elementary" and "The Studio," along with other unannounced projects. She hopes to try her hand soon at drier, darker comedies.

For now, she knows her real superpower.

"I was embarrassed of it, of all these quirks and things that make me me," she said. "I was like, 'People aren't going to like that. What does that even look like in a character?' In reality, it's authenticity. That's what people are looking for."

Keyla Monterroso Mejia knows her acting superpower is authenticity. She's used it to great effect in shows like "Curb Your Enthusiasm" and is eyeing darker comedies next.

PHOTOS BY SCOTT SUCHMAN/FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

From left, Madeline Martin, Carey Oakes and Cameron Orr dine at the chef's counter. The compact dining room at the Brazilian-themed Cana in Adams Morgan can feel like a festive cocoon.

Cana is a bright and sunny portal to Rio de Janeiro

Elazar Sontag

When Cana reaches capacity, the dining room buzzes with energy. Such is the power of cachaça, the essential and irresistible Brazilian sugar cane spirit that courses through each round of tropical cocktails passed across the bar. And of the right music. Rhythms of bossa nova and Brazilian funk cascade from overhead speakers into the narrow Adams Morgan space. Nearly every restaurant promises to immerse you in *something*. Cana delivers, sending diners hurtling happily to Rio de Janeiro.

The restaurant's marbled bar is wrapped in dark Brazilian oak, and comfy booths are lined with coral-green cushions. The small kitchen is tiled in earth tones. Walls are hung with prints of iconic Brazilians across disciplines — a soccer player, a composer, a poet. Wherever a gap on the wall, a Brazilian flag has been planted. Who can we thank for this vibrant portal to South America? Two Serbian friends.

Co-owners Radovan Jankovic and Marko Bogdanovic met in 2016 while working at the since-closed Kapnos Kouzina in Bethesda, and went on to open the restaurant Residents in Dupont Circle, before splitting off in 2022. At the time, Jankovic was in a relationship that regularly brought him to Rio, where he became inspired by botecos, the no-frills, low-cost drinking hangouts that serve as a cornerstone of Brazilian social life. He and Bogdanovic opened Cana in late 2024, intent on bringing some of these good vibes to D.C.

Jankovic worked with Brazilian architect Thales Maia to design the space, visiting mills in Rio until he found a wood he loved, which now makes up counters, backboards and bookcases filled with more than 1,000 vinyl records he scavenged at flea markets to spin at a DJ booth set to one side of Cana's entrance. Shutters cover all of the restaurant's windows. By day, it is a cocoon. By night, light comes mostly from flickering votive candles.

Cana is simply too pretty and comfortable to evoke a divey neighborhood hangout, but as stewards of one of only a few Brazilian restaurants in town, the co-owners are careful to keep their food familiar. "We're not like, trying to modernize Brazilian food," Jankovic says, but instead trying to "execute those staples and classics as best as possible." Chef de cuisine Nico Cezar and his kitchen team do these classics well. Estrogonofe de cogumelos, a stroganoff made with maitake mushrooms, is an unapologetic celebration of beige, tasting of rosemary, showered in fresh herbs, and served with rice and strands of fried potato.

I was doubtful when a server told me the recommended cook on a lamb picanha was medium or medium-well, but I should have had faith. From my perch at a booth near the open kitchen, I watched as the meat disappeared into a grill box lit with Japanese charcoal, where a steady drip-drip of rendering fat sent plumes of smoke into the air.

The lamb came to the table in still-rosy medallions, accompanied by a mound of farofa, a mulchy toasted cassava flour. I dipped each piece of meat, reveling in the slight gaminess of the lamb and the faint sweetness of the cassava. I was glad to see farofa again soon after, sprinkled over a coil of linguiça, the sausage sourced from a Brazilian butcher in Wheaton and piled high with pickled and caramelized onions.

The mix of cultures in the kitchen — Cezar is Filipino American, while a sous chef and several line cooks are Brazilian — leads to some fresh interpretations. Heart of palm, a Brazilian staple that receives about as much respect in the American kitchen as frozen peas, is made to feel special. The hearts are charred and arranged in a wreath with honey nut squash and pumpkin seed pesto, garnished with edible flower petals and careful dots of the mascarpone-like cheese catupiry.

A side of rice folded with bits of broccolini is a simple play on a homey Brazilian broccoli-rice medley, but it gave me fond flashbacks to a rice bowl at the chic Los Angeles cafe Sqirl. Large prawns bathed in chili crisp come with heads so crunchy they are best tossed back like potato chips.

Not all of Cana's comfort food is equally comforting. I recently checked in on a dish of grilled octopus and fried yucca balls that I first ate a year ago, and it remained so salty that it burned like vinegar on the way down. Pastel de camarão, flaky empanadas filled with shrimp, were mostly air and dough.

The vividness that distinguishes Cana — the unrestrained flavors, the Imax-level sound system — can also start to grate. When the lights are all the way down and the music is up, the restaurant can tip from moody to clubby. In these moments, Cana feels less like a great restaurant with a bar than a great bar that serves food. In fairness, this is clearly a draw for the crowd that shows up late in the night, snacking lightly and drinking plenty. (Jankovic says business is split evenly between food and beverage sales.)

A pre-sunset reservation ensures good light and a calmer environment. For the night-out crowd, the kitchen closes at 11 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays, but the bar pours cachaça straight through until 1:30 a.m.

What most connects Cana to its faraway inspiration is an undying love of caipirinhas, the muddled combination of lime, sugar and cachaça favored as Brazil's national drink. Here, fresh sugar cane juice stands in for cane sugar, a little extra labor that adds dimension to the simple cocktail. Of the many caipirinhas that landed on my table over three dinners and a brunch, my favorite was the passion fruit, served with a few thick lime wedges that made the drink more puckering and intense with each sip.

Clusters of pulpy seeds gave the same slippery satisfaction of boba as I caught them with my straw. My glass overflowed with pebble ice, as if providing relief from the unrelenting heat of a tropical sun. Stepping back through Cana's dark-curtained door at the end of the night, smothered in a puffer jacket and a big scarf, felt like tearing away from the thrill of a concert, blinking furiously as reality returned to focus.

Cana

★★½ (Good/Very Good)

2412 18th St. NW

barcanadc.com

202-839-0624

Don't miss: Lamb picanha, hearts of palm (palmito e abóbora), mushroom stroganoff (estrogonofe de cogumelos), brocollini rice (arroz de brócolis).

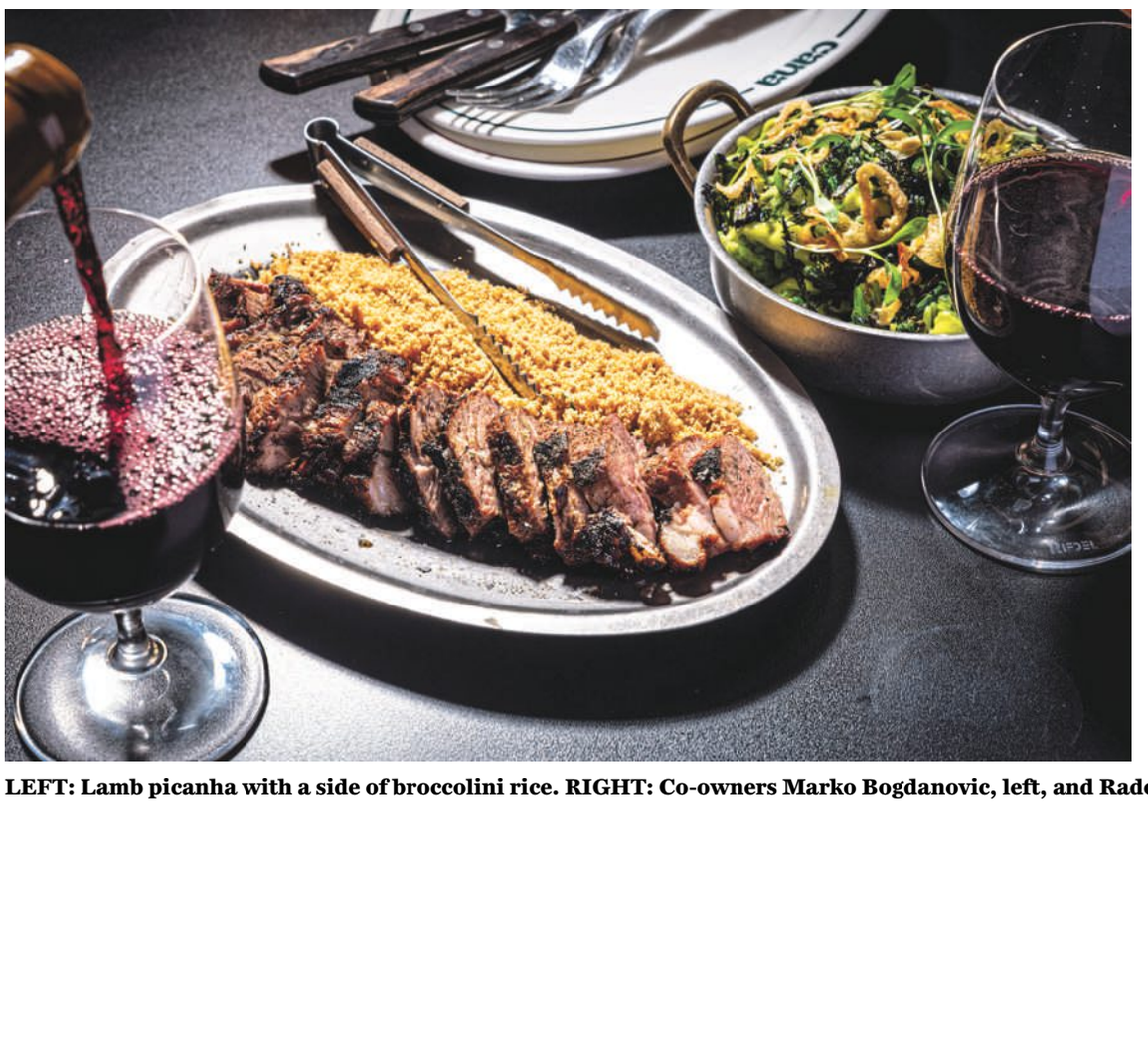
Skip: Shrimp empanadas (pastel de camarão), charred octopus (polvo).

Prices: Sides and small dishes $7 to $20, larger dishes $23 to $41.

Sound check: 80 decibels/Must speak with raised voice (volume tends to be lower during brunch).

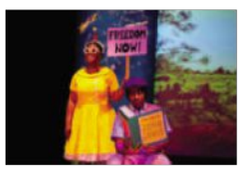
Accessibility: Several steps to entrance, no wheelchair ramp.

Dietary considerations: Allergens are not listed on menus; few meat-free dishes are available.



LEFT: Lamb picanha with a side of broccolini rice. RIGHT: Co-owners Marko Bogdanovic, left, and Radovan Jankovic were inspired by Rio de Janeiro's no-frills, low-cost drinking hangouts known as botecos.

the GUIDE to the Lively Arts

SHOW NAME	DATES & TIMES	DESCRIPTION	DETAILS	PRICE	ADDITIONAL
THEATRE					
Nothing Up My Sleeve By Aaron Posner & Dendy Magic by Dendy Directed by Aaron Posner	February 11–March 15	This dazzling one-man show pulls back the curtain on the history of magic while exploring master illusionist Dendy's own path to becoming a magician. Featuring captivating storytelling, jaw-dropping tricks, and mind-bending surprises, this exhilarating world premiere will leave audiences believing in magic again.	**Round House Theatre** **4545 East-West Highway** **Bethesda, MD** **240.644.1100** **RoundHouseTheatre.org**	From $50 (free for students ages 13 - college)	Dendy and acclaimed director Aaron Posner reunite after their hit collaboration on THE TEMPEST
CHILDREN'S THEATRE					
 **"HERO: The Boy from Troy, A New Musical About Young John Lewis"** First Woman, LLC	Friday, March 6, 7 p.m.	This musical journey tells how heroes of the Civil Rights movement inspired young John Lewis to protest injustice and get into "good trouble." Your family will love Lewis' inspiring life story told through this charming musical! 45 minutes.	**The Alden Theatre** **McLean Community Center** **1234 Ingleside Ave.,** **McLean, Va., 22101** **703-790-0123, TTY:711** **aldentheatre.org**	$25/$20 Seniors	Free parking!
MUSIC - CONCERTS					
FREE Noontime Cantata Series Washington Bach Consort	Mon, Mar 2, 2026 12:10 PM Tues, Mar 3, 2026 12:10 PM	Take a break from your busy workday and join us for a FREE Noontime Cantata! **Dana Marsh** directs Bach's *Ich will den Kreuzstab gerne tragen*, BWV 56, featuring **Edmund Milly**, *bass*. Organ: Ciacona in E Minor, BuxWV 160, Dieterich Buxtehude and Praeludium in G Minor, Vincent Lübeck, **Paula Maust,** *organist*.	**Monday: St. Mark's Capitol Hill, 301 A Street SE, DC** **Tuesday: Church of the Epiphany, 1317 G Street NW, DC** **bachconsort.org** **202.429.2121**	Free!	Mon: 10 minute walk from Capitol South Metro Station Tues: 1 block from Metro Center Metro Station
National Concert Band of America From the Roots	Sunday, March 8 at 3 p.m.	From origin to evolution: the diverse voices behind America's musical identity.	**West Springfield High School** **nationalconcertband.org**	FREE, but ticket required.	Free parking. Enter through Door 5.
PASSIO Passion Plays Festival	Fri 3/13 at 7:30pm; Sat 3/14 at 7:30pm; Sun 3/15 at 2:30pm	Sacrifice and resilience intertwine through global musical traditions, illuminating survivors and creators in jazz, baroque, Indian, North African, and classical song.	**Dupont Underground** **19 Dupont Cir NW - WDC** **www.inseries.org**	$30-$65	Box Office: 202 204-7763
MUSIC - CHAMBER					
Metal and Gut: Two "Violas of Love" Daniel McCarthy and the Viola d'Amore	Friday, Mar 6, 2026 7 PM, DC Saturday, Mar 7, 2026 7 PM, VA	With its haunting resonance and expressive warmth, the viola d'amore stirred deep emotion in Baroque operas and cantatas. Multi-instrumentalist **Daniel McCarthy** showcases both historical versions of the instrument, joined by **David Ross,** *baroque flute*; **Julie Bosworth**, *soprano* & **Marc Bellassai,** *harpsichord.*	**Friday: Live! At 10th & G** **945 G St, NW, DC** **Saturday: St. Paul's Episcopal Church** **228 S. Pitt St, Alexandria, VA** **bachconsort.org** **202.429.2121**	General Admission: $45, 18 & under: $10, 40 & under: $20	Fri: $15 Garage Parking Sat: $5 Garage/ Street Parking
MUSIC - CHORAL					
Yearn Duruflé's Requiem and more	Saturday, March 7, 2026, at 5:00 p.m.	Cantate Concert Choir presents themes of separation and yearning with Maurice Duruflé's haunting "Requiem," Alan Hovhaness's "From the End of the Earth," Shruthi Rajasekar's "A Heart in Port," and Samuel Coleridge-Taylor's "By the Waters of Babylon."	**St. Paul's United Methodist Church** **10401 Armory Avenue** **Kensington, MD 20985** **Box Office: 301-986-1799** **www.cantate.org**	Tickets $20-45 in advance. Children 17 and under FREE	Featuring baritone James Rogers, mezzo-soprano Magdalena Wór, and organist Marvin Mills.
OPERA					
FOR WOMEN SERVING TIME Passion Plays Festival	Fri 3/20 at 7:30pm; Sat 3/21 at 7:30pm; Sun 3/22 at 2:30pm	A new opera blends jazz, opera, and Faure's Requiem into a Brechtian exploration of female incarceration in America, balancing humor, wit, and aching melody.	**Dupont Underground** **19 Dupont Cir NW, WDC** **www.inseries.org**	$30 - $65	Box Office: 202-204-7763
ONLY THE AIR Music by J.S. Bach	Fri 3/6 at 7:30pm Sat 3/7 at 7:30pm Sun 3/8 at 2:30pm	A searing reimagining of arias and choruses from Bach's ST MATTHEW PASSION in a one-of-a-kind experience combining music, movement & reflection.	**Dupont Underground** **19 Dupont Cir NW** **www.inseries.org**	$30-$65	Part of PASSION PLAYS FESTIVAL
Princes, Queens and Demons Russian Opera Gala	Saturday, February 28 at 7:30 p.m. Sunday, March 1 at 3:00 p.m.	Arias, duets and ensembles from Tchaikovsky's "The Queen of Spades," Borodin's "Prince Igor" and Rubenstein's "Demon," and from other Russian operas, with supertitles	**Bender JCC of Greater Washington** **6125 Montrose Rd.** **Rockville, MD** **www.belcantanti.com**	$40 each, group price $35 each in groups of 10 or more	Tickets sold online and at the door
The Pearl Fishers Georges Bizet	Sat., March 14, 2026 at 6:00pm	Don't miss soprano Emily Pogorelc as Leïla; baritone Will Liverman as Zurga; tenor Anthony León as Nadir; and bass-baritone Christian Simmons as Nourabad. Bizet's early opera explores friendship and love and is best known for the famous duet "Au fond du temple saint."	**Lisner Auditorium** **730 21st Street NW** **(202) 364-5826** **concertopera.org**	Starting at $45!	Subscriptions start at $82
MUSIC - RECITALS					
Dominic Fiacco, ***Organ Virtuoso*** *Baroque, French Romantic, 20th-Century*	Sunday, March 8, 2026 3:00pm	Continuing our Free Concert Series, we are thrilled to welcome young organ virtuoso **Dominic Fiacco** for a program that traces a rich arc of organ music from Buxtehude's prelude through French Romantic and early 20th-century works by Guilmant, Roger-Ducasse, Tournemire, and Duruflé.	**St. Ann Catholic Church** **4001 Yuma St, NW** **At Tenley Circle** **1 Block from Tenleytown Metro** **stanndc.org/music**	FREE & OPEN TO PUBLIC	Hear what our treasured Létourneau organ can do

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The Washington Post

S0129-6x2.75

Answers to last week's puzzle.

X GAMES (FEB. 22)

I	O	N	S	■	T	A	P	S	■	■	B	E	G	S	■	M	A	M	A
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The intersections of the five pairs of crossing countries spell **ASPEN**.

Answers to last week's L.A. Times Sunday puzzle.

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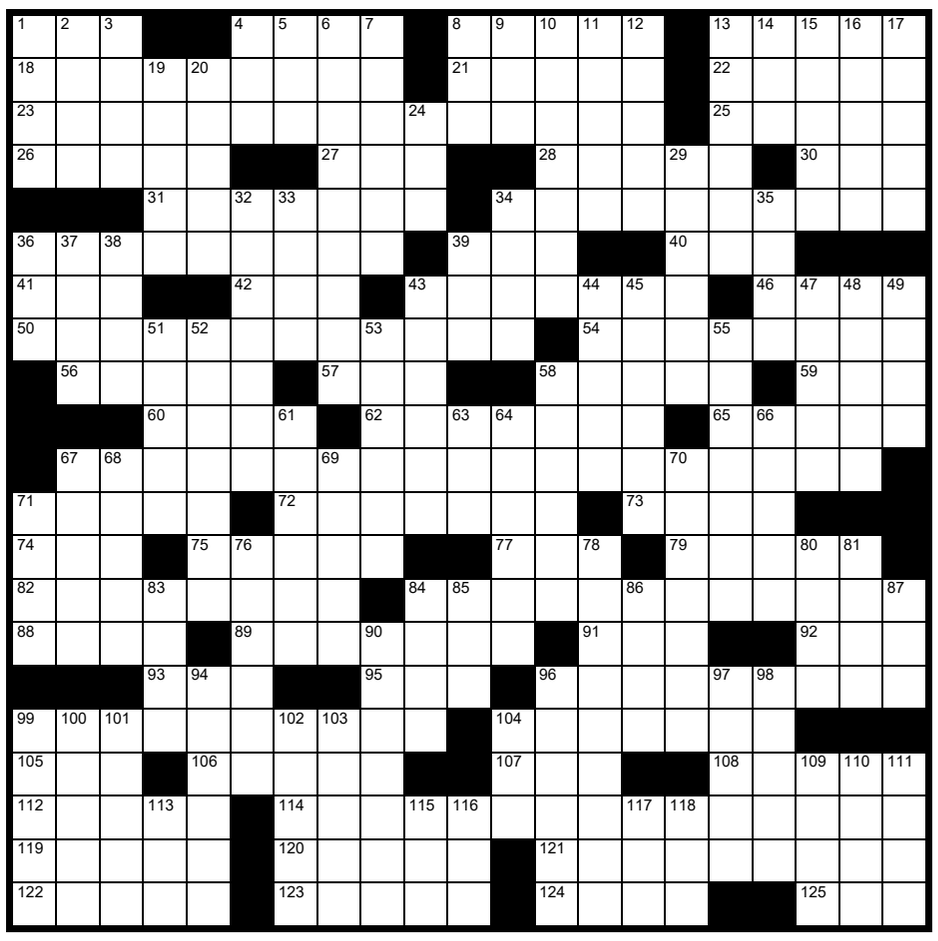
D	A	B	■	C	L	A	R	A	■	H	I	F	I	S	■	W	E	E	P	S
E	R	I	C	■	O	L	A	Y	■	■	N	B	D	■	■	■	C	A	L	I
G	U	S	H	■	U	S	C	■	S	A	T	E	■	A	S	P	I	R	I	N
A	B	O	A	R	D	■	K	I	T	C	H	E	N	S	T	A	P	L	E	S
S	A	N	K	A	■	O	S	C	A	R	■	R	E	T	I	R	E	■	■	■
■	■	■	A	C	D	C	■	E	V	E	S	■	T	A	L	K	■	F	A	B
T	I	C	K	E	R	T	A	P	E	■	O	U	I	■	E	E	Y	O	R	E
U	T	A	H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

2/22/26

CROSSWORD

"I'LL GO FIRST" BY EVAN BIRNHOLZ



ACROSS

1 "Daria" network
4 Wrinkled Jamaican fruit
8 Commerce pact from 1994 to 2020
13 Like the Mexica people's old empire
18 Beaver State resident
21 Buddy Guy's genre
22 It's often called the last wild river in France
23 *Duration limitations or, after I go first, legends of an opera house in NYC teach poet Eliot to sing?
25 Lodging by the highway
26 Hybrid garment worn in field hockey games
27 Historical division
28 To whom Michael says, "Don't ever take sides with anyone against the family again" in "The Godfather"
30 Legislative measure
31 Former Chrysler car with a noble in its name
34 *Deeds of penance or, after I go first, bacon and beef covering Tolkien's treelike beings?
36 Hazards by a hive
39 Greek counterpart of the Roman goddess Aurora
40 "Burned" music items
41 Short notices?
42 "The Hangover" dentist
43 Puzzled plaint
46 Small power sources
50 *Series of small dishes in restaurants or, after I go first, tech giant's metal wildebeests?
54 2014 legal drama featuring Robert Duvall in an Oscar-nominated title role
56 Brown-____ (suck-up)
57 "You hate to see it"
58 Really
59 Set of personalized instructions?
60 White blanket material?
62 Hamstring muscle-strengthening exercise
65 Most of Earth's surface
67 "I've moved on" ... or what you might say about each phrase I changed to make a starred answer after moving a two-letter word to the front
71 Cold dessert portmanteau
72 Many a "Downton Abbey" servant
73 "You've got a deal!"
74 Spot for a napkin
75 Apply to
77 _edar Rapids c_ll_ge
79 A night's tale?
82 Cold spell
84 *Streaker named for an English astronomer or, after I go first, Highlander at a so-so bowling venue?
88 Bit of Filipino cash
89 WWII vessel named for a Midwestern place
91 Feel lousy
92 Quarterback Manning
93 Low-____ milk
95 Piglets' parent
96 Presents exchanged for other presents
99 *Some product pitchers or, after I go first, announcement to an entire Arizona city that guitarist Paul was victorious?
104 Victimized by a gym shorts-based prank, say
105 "____ Maria"
106 Aquatic Disney princess
107 Natural rock deposit
108 "Ocean," in a spiritual leader's title
112 Android transmissions
114 *Emotional regulation program or, after I go first, nasty representative from Berlin, say?
119 Old floorboard noise
120 In first place
121 Widely accessible books
122 Greek labor party?
123 Denials at the Kremlin
124 Playpen visitor
125 Mononymous K-pop star

DOWN

1 Some playdate organizers
2 Demanding journey
3 Officially nix
4 One, in Oaxaca
5 Liquor in a Southside
6 Light weaponry?
7 Emcees' deliveries
8 Nets' and Hornets' org.
9 "Jurassic World Rebirth" actor Mahershala
10 It's a blast
11 Bright aquarium fish
12 Intelligence for a spy, e.g., or one providing intelligence for a spy
13 Ingredient in some Nutty Crunchers bars
14 Where you may see lions
15 Industry mogul
16 Build, as a monument
17 Gallic Wars combatants
19 Word following "Derry" or "Gilmore" in teen show titles
20 Four pairs
24 Dashed or bolted
29 List of legal proceedings
32 Settings for ordering croque monsieurs
33 Opposed from the start?
34 Rock collection
35 "Man of the field," in Genesis 25:27
36 "Pow!"
37 Utopia of scripture
38 This, in Spain
39 Bird related to the rhea
43 Financially obligated (to)
44 Backtracking maneuver
45 "____ play!" ("Simple!")
47 Build upon
48 Shriver's counterpart in the 1972 election
49 Lightly burn
51 Analyze, as 107 Across
52 Emitted
53 Gas unit
55 Rock collection?
58 South American pseudocereal
61 Outer layers of an Oreo
63 Sparkling stone
64 Dance of Cuban origin
66 Aconcagua's range
67 Copy, as an artist does
68 Optimists' high things
69 Textile factory devices
70 Vintage Ford autos
71 Acrobat's move
76 David once on the Supreme Court
78 "The Birdcage" screenwriter
80 Veriton computer maker
81 Sign of rotting
83 Remote location, often
84 Ganymede, to Jupiter
85 "Yuck!"
86 Get off the ground
87 "____ the Damn Season" (Taylor Swift song released during the 2020 holidays)
90 Seclude
94 Mendenhall Valley's state
96 Small attic
97 Pine family tree
98 Saying you might remember
99 Stick in a box
100 "There are two sides to ____ story"
101 Subj. that teaches about birth control
102 "El Libertador" Bolívar
103 Teeny-____
104 He wrote in 1845, "Of puns it has been said that those most dislike who are least able to utter them"
109 Springing jump
110 "No ifs, ____ ..."
111 Little, to a little one
113 Road-surfacing stuff
115 "Shaken, ____ stirred"
116 ETA-predicting device
117 Make a query
118 "Bill ____ the Science Guy"

HOROSCOPE

BY GEORGIA NICOLS

Happy Birthday | March 1: You are imaginative, sensitive and thoughtful. Your easygoing charm and poise appeal to others. This year holds exciting changes and increased personal freedom. Let go of whatever is impeding your progress and growth. Seek out new opportunities and be ready to act fast. Expect to travel and expand your horizons.

Moon Alert: There are no restrictions to shopping or important decisions today. The Moon is in Leo.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
This is a pleasant, playful day because you are in harmony with yourself. Therefore, you can do whatever you want to do! It's your choice. Group activities are favored; however, if you want to relax on your own, you can do that, too.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
Today you'll feel happiest if you can relax at home among familiar surroundings. A conversation with a parent could be significant. You might want to entertain. Younger, creative people might want your attention.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
This is a good day to stop and take stock. Give yourself some breathing space. People admire you now, which is something you can use to your advantage. Opportunities through others might come your way. You can boost your wealth.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
Enjoy talking to people from different backgrounds today, because philosophical revelations and religious beliefs will intrigue you. Issues related to medicine, the law and travel will also interest you. Look for ways to expand your world.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
Your good fortune is strong today because, with the Moon in your sign, you are a bit luckier than the other signs. You can test this out by asking for permission or approval for something. If you're going to ask, you might as well do it when life is in your favor.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
Although you want to be low-key, a gaggle of planets opposite your sign are encouraging you to interact with others, especially spouses, partners and close friends. Plus, fiery Mars is stirring your work ethic. It's your call.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
You like to schmooze with others because you are a sociable sign. Today interactions with a friend (probably a female friend) will please you. You will feel personally rewarded and satisfied by getting a lot done. This is a work-hard, party-hard day.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
People notice you today. In fact, some will know personal details about your private life. Meanwhile, you're in the mood to play and do exactly what you want. Social outings, sports events, fun activities with kids, romantic escapades — you name it — it's on the menu.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
You are the traveler of the zodiac, and today you need to get outta Dodge. You need adventure. If you can't travel, then be a tourist in your own town. Discover something new, even from your armchair.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
Short trips, discussions with siblings, relatives and neighbors, plus a chance to learn something new, will please you today. Some of you might focus on financial matters — banking, inheritances and boosting your income.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
Today the Moon is opposite your sign, which means you have to go more than halfway when dealing with others. Be accommodating and courteous. You might want to lighten up a bit.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
This is an excellent day to buy wardrobe goodies for yourself. Because the sign of Pisces rules the feet, you like to be well shod. New boots and new shoes lift your spirits.

Engagements | Weddings
Anniversaries

To place an announcement:
email: weddings@washpost.com
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Contact The Weddings DropBox at: weddings@washpost.com
Or call 202.334.5736, toll free 877.POST.WED, fax 202.334.7188

All materials must be received by Monday at 1 p.m.

L.A. TIMES SUNDAY PUZZLE

EDITED BY PATTI VAROL AND JOYCE NICHOLS LEWIS

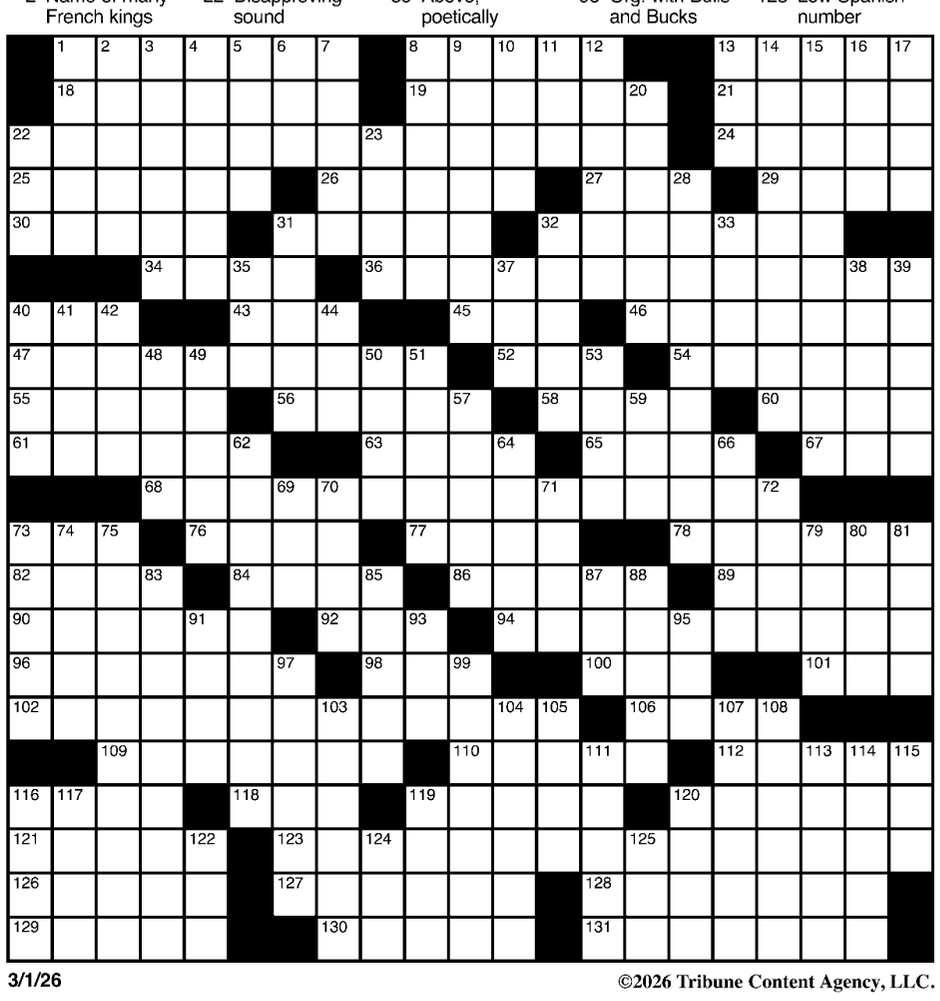
"CELL DIVISION"
BY MATT REVIS & KATIE HALE

ACROSS

1 Plant with edible sprouts
8 Bouldering spot
13 Kemper of "The Office"
18 Pointed beards
19 Homes for the higher-ups?
21 Eerie haunted hayride sounds
22 Part of the hiring process for stenographers?
24 Take illegally
25 Brings together
26 Horror film subjects, maybe
27 Brit's bathroom
29 Three-pointer
30 Supermodel Beckford
31 Blather on and on
32 Like some jeans
34 Party hard
36 Stage production about the lives of autoworkers?
40 Wire service co.
43 Chest muscle, briefly
45 Swindle
46 Kitchen set
47 Need for the queen of hearts to get past security?
52 Candy from a novelty dispenser
54 Waxy compound
55 "Aida," for one
56 Sherbet serving
58 Way in
60 PC maker
61 Glossy fabrics
63 Antihistamine target, perhaps
65 Fair-hiring org.
67 Overhead trains
68 Picture-perfect brioche?
73 Make calls?
76 Corporate symbol
77 "Eh, __ difference"
78 Fixes, as loose ends
82 Stain on Santa's suit
84 King of cinema
86 Sound of impact
89 Heavenly food
90 Bleak
92 "__ we good?"
94 Escape capsules for rent?
96 Word on some film awards
98 Clairvoyance, e.g.
100 White lie
101 Spam sender
102 Investigation into how E.T. got away?
106 "Well, shoot!"
109 English noble title
110 Did a fall chore
112 Poetic feet
116 Molt
118 Armed conflict
119 Do the dishes?
120 Release
121 Eagle's claw
123 Silicon Valley game changers, or an alternate title for this puzzle
126 Back street
127 More pale
128 Stepped inside
129 Silly one
130 Razz
131 Whatsits

DOWN

1 Anguish
2 Name of many French kings
3 Consideration
4 Greek goddess of 118-Across
5 "We should!"
6 Tina of "Only Murders in the Building"
7 According to
8 House in "Encanto"
9 Ferrari Formula One driver Charles
10 Bargain basket items, for short
11 Old-timey "Darn you!"
12 "You doing all right?"
13 Flightless Australian bird
14 Slowed down
15 Bay leaf source
16 Memo phrase
17 Best Championship Performance, e.g.
20 Covered in white, in a way
22 Disapproving sound
23 Storm rescue op
28 Potpourri ingredient
31 House of Lords members
32 Like bowling alleys
33 "__ that precious?"
35 College app datum
37 Bucket partner
38 Coral island
39 Shouts
40 Sci-fi craft
41 Family nickname
42 "Law & Order: SVU" co-star
44 Atlanta-based govt. agency
48 Actor Bana
49 Lock setting
50 Sioux City state
51 Self-starters
53 Rapper of "KPop Demon Hunters"
57 Court statements
59 Above, poetically
62 Exceptionally attractive person, slangily
64 Bay on Florida's west coast
66 Ascend
69 Teamwork inhibitor
70 Novelist Jaffe
71 Cold cuts counter
72 Jump
73 Graphic that typically has two insets
74 Sponge
75 Mushroom that can be a burger
79 Snooty one
80 Click a backward arrow, maybe
81 Erstwhile
83 Twisters
85 Say hello to
87 "Woof"
88 Car in a Beach Boys song
91 Oracle
93 F1 neighbor
95 Org. with Bulls and Bucks
97 Beethoven composition
99 St. Patrick's Day events
103 Least
104 Much political humor
105 Scrapes (out)
107 Like some car windows
108 Wiley of "The Handmaid's Tale"
111 Scored an own goal
113 Called on a dairy farm
114 Stocks partner
115 Org. with a big returns department
116 Alone
117 Nativity headgear
119 Seed in some healthy smoothies
120 "What are you __?"
122 Dec. 31
124 Michael of "SNL"
125 Low Spanish number



3/1/26

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MOVIE DIRECTORY

(!) No Pass/No Discount Ticket

Sunday, March 1, 2026
www.washingtonpost.com/movies

DISTRICT

AMC Georgetown 14
3111 K Street NW
Scream 7 (R) CC: 1:30-4:30-7:30-10:30
How to Make a Killing (R) CC: 12:45-3:30-7:45-9:35
Good Luck, Have Fun, Don't Die (R) CC: 6:00
Pillion (NR) CC: 5:00-8:00
K-Pops! (PG-13) CC: 4:05-7:00-9:50
Dreams (NR) CC: 11:45-7:20-10:25
Send Help (R) CC: 12:00-7:30-10:20
I Can Only Imagine 2 (PG) CC: 11:45-4:45
Midwinter Break (PG-13) CC: 10:00
EPiC: Elvis Presley in Concert (PG-13) CC: 4:15-7:00-10:30
Psycho Killer (R) CC: 5:30
The Revenant 10th Anniversary: The IMAX Experience (R) CC: 2:00
Scream 7: The IMAX Experience (R) CC: 5:30-8:30
Pegasus 3 11:50-5:45-8:45
GOAT 3D (PG) CC: 4:00-6:30
Scream 7 (R) CC: 12:20-2:45-3:30-6:30-9:30
Good Luck, Have Fun, Don't Die (R) OC: 12:50
Crime 101 (R) CC: 12:45-4:00-6:15-9:40
K-Pops! (PG-13) OC: 1:10
Wuthering Heights (R) CC: 2:00-5:15-8:30
Send Help (R) OC: 3:10
Midwinter Break (PG-13) OC: 2:20
EPiC: Elvis Presley in Concert (PG-13) OC: 1:35
Psycho Killer (R) OC: 2:55
GOAT (PG) CC: 1:00-2:30-9:00
Wuthering Heights (R) OC: 9:15

Alamo Drafthouse Cinema - DC Bryant Street
630 Rhode Island Avenue NE
Interview with the Vampire: The Vampire Chronicles (R) 7:15
Malcolm X (PG-13) 11:15AM
Scream 7 (R) 12:40-3:50-7:00
How to Make a Killing (R) 12:55
A Better Tomorrow - Hong Kong Cinema Classics (NR) 8:00
2026 Oscar Nominated Shorts - Live Action (NR) 2:05-7:45
2026 Oscar Nominated Shorts - Animation (NR) 10:25-5:10
Scream 7 (R) 2:55
How to Make a Killing (R) 10:55-3:50-6:45
GOAT (PG) 12:05-3:45-6:00
Pillion (NR) 10:25-1:20-4:20-6:30
Send Help (R) 11:05-3:05-6:15
Scream 7 (R) 1:50-4:55
Wuthering Heights (R) 12:20-4:05-7:30

Angelika Pop-Up at Union Market
550 Penn Street NE - Unit E
Dreams (NR) 12:00-2:20
A Better Tomorrow - Hong Kong Cinema Classics (NR) 4:30-7:00
2026 Oscar Nominated Shorts - Live Action (NR) 12:10-4:50
2026 Oscar Nominated Shorts - Animation (NR) 2:50-7:30
Wuthering Heights (R) 12:30-3:35-6:45

Avalon Theatre
5612 Connecticut Avenue
A Private Life (R) 2:10-4:35
Arco (PG) 10:30AM
The Secret Agent (R) 7:00
Frankenstein (R) 11:00-4:15
It Was Just An Accident (PG-13) 1:45-7:30

Landmark Atlantic Plumbing Cinema
807 V Street Northwest
Scream 7 (R) 4:50-6:30-7:30
Wuthering Heights (R) 1:30-4:20-7:10
Hamnet (PG-13) 1:00-3:40
Frankenstein (R) 6:20
The Perfect Neighbor (R) 1:45
Train Dreams (PG-13) 4:00
2026 Oscar Nominated Shorts - Live Action (NR) 1:30-4:10-7:00
2026 Oscar Nominated Shorts - Animation (NR) 2:10-4:40-7:20
Scream 7 (R) 2:00

Regal Gallery Place
701 Seventh Street Northwest
Minions (PG) 10:50-2:25
La La Land (PG-13) 12:10-3:20-6:20-9:40
Scream 7 (R) 10:00-12:50-3:40-6:30-9:20-12:00
How to Make a Killing (R) 2:30-5:10-7:50-10:35
Good Luck, Have Fun, Don't Die (R) 10:10-1:20-4:30-7:40
Crime 101 (R) 3:00
Send Help (R) 10:40-1:35-7:20-10:10
Wuthering Heights (R) 12:40-2:20-3:50-5:30-7:10-8:40-10:20
EPiC: Elvis Presley in Concert (PG-13) 11:20-2:00-4:25-6:50-9:25
Avatar: Fire and Ash 3D (PG-13) 4:50-9:00
Psycho Killer (R) 6:40
Scream 7 (R) 10:30-11:30-1:10-4:10-4:40-7:00-7:30-10:00-10:30
GOAT (PG) 10:20-11:00-1:00-1:30-3:30-4:00-6:00-8:30
Crime 101 (R) 11:40-6:10-9:30
Send Help (R) 4:20
Wuthering Heights (R) 11:10AM
Midwinter Break (PG-13) 11:50AM
Psycho Killer (R) 9:10
Scream 7 (R) 1:40

Smithsonian - Lockheed Martin IMAX Theater
601 Independence Avenue SW
Aircraft Carrier: Guardian of the Seas 3D 5:00
We, the Marines (NR) 12:15-4:00
Extreme Weather 11:15AM
Space: The New Frontier 10:30-2:15
T.Rex 3:15
The Revenant 10th Anniversary: The IMAX Experience (R) 6:15

MARYLAND

AFI Silver Theatre Cultural Center
8633 Colesville Road
Three Days of the Condor (R) 3:30
Short Film Program 10:00AM
Documentary Film Program 11:50-1:45
3 Faces (Se rokh) 1:15
The Secret Agent (R) 7:15
Christy 8:00
Sanatorium 3:40
A Poet 4:45
Aontas 6:00
2026 Oscar Nominated Shorts - Live Action (NR) 8:30
2026 Oscar Nominated Shorts - Animation (NR) 6:30
2026 Oscar Nominated Shorts - Documentary 1:30

AMC Academy 8
6198 Greenbelt Road
Scream 7 (R) CC: 1:30-3:00-6:00-7:30-9:00-10:30
Dracula (R) CC: 1:15-7:00
How to Make a Killing (R) CC: 4:20-10:30
GOAT (PG) CC: 1:45-4:00-9:30
Crime 101 (R) CC: 12:40-4:00-7:15-9:50
Send Help (R) CC: 6:50-10:10
Wuthering Heights (R) CC: 1:00-4:10-7:20-10:30
GOAT 3D (PG) CC: 5:00-7:00
Avatar: Fire and Ash 3D (PG-13) CC: 12:50-7:40
Send Help 3D (R) CC: 4:15
Scream 7 (R) OC: 4:30
Send Help (R) OC: 1:10

AMC Annapolis Mall 11
1020 Annapolis Mall Road
Zootopia 2 (PG) CC: 11:10-2:00-5:00
Scream 7 (R) CC: 10:30-1:30-4:25-7:20-10:15
How to Make a Killing (R) CC: 11:00-1:50-4:40-7:30-10:50
Crime 101 (R) CC: 12:20-3:40-7:10-10:10
Send Help (R) CC: 2:15-8:00-10:30
GOAT (PG) CC: 10:00-1:10-3:50-6:30
Wuthering Heights (R) CC: 10:00-11:50-3:15-6:40-10:00
I Can Only Imagine 2 (PG) CC: 10:10-1:00-4:00-6:50-9:40
Midwinter Break (PG-13) CC: 9:55AM
EPiC: Elvis Presley in Concert (PG-13) CC: 1:20-4:15-7:00-9:50
Avatar: Fire and Ash 3D (PG-13) CC: 10:00AM
Psycho Killer (R) CC: 10:40
GOAT 3D (PG) CC: 9:05
Send Help 3D (R) CC: 5:10
Scream 7 (R) CC: 12:30-2:30-3:25-5:25-6:20-7:50-8:20-9:15
EPiC: Elvis Presley in Concert (PG-13) OC: 10:20AM
Scream 7 (R) OC: 11:30AM

AMC Center Park 8
4001 Powder Mill Road
Scream 7 (R) CC: 1:00-4:00-10:00
How to Make a Killing (R) CC: 12:45-4:45-7:30-10:15
GOAT (PG) CC: 7:15-10:00
Crime 101 (R) CC: 1:30-3:30-6:45-9:45
Wuthering Heights (R) CC: 12:30-3:45-6:30-9:45
GOAT 3D (PG) CC: 1:15-4:00
Scream 7 (R) OC: 7:00

AMC Columbia 14
10300 Little Patuxent Parkway
Scream 7 (R) OC: 2:00
Avatar: Fire and Ash 3D (PG-13) OC: 12:00
Fruitvale Station (R) 7:15
The Woman King (PG-13) 4:00
Scream 7 (R) CC: 1:00-4:00-7:00-10:00
Umamusume: Pretty Derby - Beginning of a New Era 4:00-9:55
How to Make a Killing (R) CC: 1:10-9:40
Good Luck, Have Fun, Don't Die (R) CC: 6:15
Crime 101 (R) CC: 12:30-7:30
GOAT (PG) CC: 4:20-9:30
Pillion (NR) CC: 1:25-4:10-6:55-9:35
K-Pops! (PG-13) CC: 7:05-10:00
Send Help (R) CC: 9:50
Wuthering Heights (R) CC: 12:00-3:15-6:30-9:45
I Can Only Imagine 2 (PG) CC: 3:10-6:10-9:10
Midwinter Break (PG-13) CC: 12:30
EPiC: Elvis Presley in Concert (PG-13) CC: 4:00-6:45-9:30
Psycho Killer (R) CC: 9:30
A Better Tomorrow - Hong Kong Cinema Classics (NR) 4:00-7:00
The Revenant 10th Anniversary: The IMAX Experience (R) CC: 2:00
Scream 7: The IMAX Experience (R) CC: 6:00-9:00
Pegasus 3 12:50-6:50
GOAT 3D (PG) CC: 1:45-6:55
Zootopia 2 (PG) OC: 12:15
Scream 7 (R) CC: 5:00-8:00
Good Luck, Have Fun, Don't Die (R) OC: 3:00
Crime 101 (R) OC: 4:10
K-Pops! (PG-13) OC: 4:15
Send Help (R) OC: 1:15
EPiC: Elvis Presley in Concert (PG-13) OC: 1:15

AMC Magic Johnson Capital Center 12
800 Shoppers Way
Fruitvale Station (R) 2:40-7:15
The Woman King (PG-13) 4:00
Zootopia 2 (PG) CC: 3:20-6:10-9:30
Scream 7 (R) CC: 12:10-2:45-4:45-5:45-7:45-8:30-8:45
Good Luck, Have Fun, Don't Die (R) CC: 9:45
GOAT (PG) CC: 4:00-6:45-9:20
Crime 101 (R) CC: 12:15-12:30-2:20-5:45-9:40
K-Pops! (PG-13) CC: 12:25-3:40-6:40-9:10
Send Help (R) CC: 12:30-3:30-6:30-9:30
Wuthering Heights (R) CC: 5:10-6:05-9:00
I Can Only Imagine 2 (PG) CC: 1:10-3:15
Avatar: Fire and Ash 3D (PG-13) CC: 1:00-5:15-9:30
Scream 7: The IMAX Experience (R) CC: 12:45-3:45-6:45-9:45
GOAT 3D (PG) CC: 2:10

AMC Montgomery 16
7101 Democracy Boulevard
Send Help (R) CC: 1:00-4:20-7:10-9:50
Fruitvale Station (R) 7:15
Avatar: Fire and Ash (PG-13) CC: 9:00
The Woman King (PG-13) 4:00
Zootopia 2 (PG) CC: 12:30-3:30
Sinners (R) CC: 10:00
Scream 7 (R) CC: 1:20-4:15-7:20-10:15
Umamusume: Pretty Derby - Beginning of a New Era 2:00-4:45-6:00-7:30-8:45-10:20
How to Make a Killing (R) CC: 1:15-4:10-7:10-10:15
Crime 101 (R) CC: 12:15-6:30-9:50
Pillion (NR) CC: 1:40-4:10-7:30-10:00
K-Pops! (PG-13) CC: 7:00-9:50
F1 The Movie (PG-13) CC: 1:30
Hamnet (PG-13) CC: 12:00
One Battle After Another (R) CC: 12:20
I Can Only Imagine 2 (PG) CC: 12:00
Kokuho (NR) 5:10
EPiC: Elvis Presley in Concert (PG-13) CC: 1:10-4:00-6:40-9:15
Psycho Killer (R) CC: 5:00-10:10
A Better Tomorrow - Hong Kong Cinema Classics (NR) 4:00-7:00
GOAT (PG) CC: 12:10-2:40-5:20-6:50-9:30
Scream 7 (R) CC: 12:00-6:00-8:00-9:00
Good Luck, Have Fun, Don't Die (R) OC: 12:30
Wuthering Heights (R) CC: 12:45-3:40-7:00-9:40
Crime 101 (R) OC: 3:40
I Can Only Imagine 2 (PG) OC: 3:15
Midwinter Break (PG-13) OC: 2:45
Scream 7 (R) 3:00

AMC Rio Cinemas 18
9811 Washingtonian Center
Scream 7 (R) CC: 2:00-5:00-8:00
GOAT (PG) CC: 11:00-4:10-9:30
Wuthering Heights (R) CC: 11:15-2:45-6:10-9:30
Fruitvale Station (R) 4:30
The Woman King (PG-13) 7:00
Zootopia 2 (PG) CC: 1:00
Scream 7 (R) CC: 1:00-4:00-7:00-10:00
Umamusume: Pretty Derby - Beginning of a New Era 11:15-3:00-6:00-9:00
How to Make a Killing (R) CC: 1:15-4:00-6:45-9:30
Good Luck, Have Fun, Don't Die (R) CC: 10:00
Crime 101 (R) CC: 11:30-3:00-6:30-10:00
Pillion (NR) CC: 11:00-1:45-4:30-7:15-10:00
K-Pops! (PG-13) CC: 12:15-3:15-6:15-9:15
Send Help (R) CC: 12:45-3:45-6:45-9:45
Dreams (NR) CC: 11:00-1:45
I Can Only Imagine 2 (PG) CC: 12:30-3:30-6:20-9:15
Midwinter Break (PG-13) CC: 11:30AM
EPiC: Elvis Presley in Concert (PG-13) CC: 11:00-1:45-4:30-7:15-10:00
Psycho Killer (R) CC: 11:15-1:50-4:25-7:00-9:45
Avatar: Fire and Ash 3D (PG-13) CC: 2:15
A Better Tomorrow - Hong Kong Cinema Classics (NR) 4:00-7:00
The Revenant 10th Anniversary: The IMAX Experience (R) CC: 2:00
Scream 7: The IMAX Experience (R) CC: 11:00-6:00-9:00
Pegasus 3 11:45-6:30-9:45
GOAT 3D (PG) CC: 1:35-6:45

AMC St. Charles Town Ctr 9
11115 Mall Circle
Scream 7 (R) CC: 11:00-12:15-2:00-3:30-5:00-6:00-8:00-9:00
How to Make a Killing (R) CC: 12:00-2:45-5:30-8:15
GOAT (PG) CC: 12:45-6:30-9:15
Crime 101 (R) CC: 12:00-3:30-8:00
Send Help (R) CC: 12:15-3:15-6:15
Wuthering Heights (R) CC: 12:30-4:00-7:30-9:00
I Can Only Imagine 2 (PG) CC: 11:45-2:45-5:45-8:45
Avatar: Fire and Ash 3D (PG-13) CC: 11:30-3:45-7:00
GOAT 3D (PG) CC: 3:15

Cinemark Egyptian 24 and XD
7000 Arundel Mills Circle
The Strangers - Chapter 3 (R) 1:30
Scream 7 (R) 10:25-10:45-11:10-1:15-1:35-4:05-4:25-4:50-6:55-7:15-7:40-9:45-10:00-10:05-10:30-12:00; 10:55-1:45-4:35-7:25-10:15; 10:30-1:20-4:10-7:00-9:50; 2:00
Dracula (R) 1:35
How to Make a Killing (R) 1:30
Good Luck, Have Fun, Don't Die (R) 12:50
GOAT (PG) 10:40-1:20-1:45-4:00-6:40-7:20-10:20-12:00; 1:20
Crime 101 (R) 10:25-5:00-8:15; 1:40
Send Help (R) 1:10
Wuthering Heights (R) 10:30AM
I Can Only Imagine 2 (PG) 1:05
Psycho Killer (R) 12:50
The Strangers - Chapter 3 (R) 10:35-4:00-6:30-10:10-12:00
Zootopia 2 (PG) 10:05-10:15-4:40
Scream 7 (R) 11:05-1:55-4:45-7:35-10:25
Umamusume: Pretty Derby - Beginning of a New Era 11:10-1:55-4:40-7:25-10:10
How to Make a Killing (R) 10:45-4:15-7:25-9:50-12:00
Good Luck, Have Fun, Don't Die (R) 10:25AM
Send Help (R) 10:20-4:00-6:50-9:40
Wuthering Heights (R) 4:00-7:15-8:20
Solo Mio (PG) 10:15AM
I Can Only Imagine 2 (PG) 10:40-3:55-6:45-9:35
Midwinter Break (PG-13) 10:00-3:45-9:30
Avatar: Fire and Ash 3D (PG-13) 11:05-7:10-9:00
Psycho Killer (R) 10:20-3:20-5:50-10:30-12:00
Iron Lung (R) 10:15-1:15-4:15-7:20-9:20
A Better Tomorrow - Hong Kong Cinema Classics (NR) 4:00-7:00
Twenty One Pilots: More Than We Ever Imagined (NR) 3:20-6:00-8:40
Pegasus 3 10:10-1:15-4:20-7:25-10:30
The King's Warden 12:55-7:10-10:10
Thaai Kizhavi 3:55-6:45-9:55
The Kerala Story 2: Goes Beyond (NR) 1:00-4:05
Vishnu Vinyasamm (NR) 12:30-6:15

Cinépolis Gaithersburg
629 Center Point Way
A Better Tomorrow (Ying hung boon sik) (R) 2:00
Titanic (1997) (PG-13) 12:30
Scream 7 (R) 12:00-1:00-4:10-5:00-7:20-8:00
How to Make a Killing (R) 12:00-3:00-6:00
GOAT (PG) 11:00-3:00-5:00-7:00-7:45
Send Help (R) 1:30-4:30-7:30
Crime 101 (R) 11:30-3:00-6:30
Wuthering Heights (R) 11:30-3:00-6:30
I Can Only Imagine 2 (PG) 1:00-4:00-6:00

Greenbelt Cinema
129 Centerway
EPiC: Elvis Presley in Concert (PG-13) 7:45
2026 Oscar Nominated Shorts - Animation (NR) 5:00
2026 Oscar Nominated Shorts - Documentary 7:15
EPiC: Elvis Presley in Concert (PG-13) 5:15

IPIC Pike & Rose
11830 Grand Park Avenue
Avatar: Fire and Ash (PG-13) 12:15-2:00-6:30
Scream 7 (R) 12:00-3:15-6:30-9:45
GOAT (PG) 1:00-4:00-7:00-9:30
How to Make a Killing (R) 11:30-4:15-7:30-10:30
Crime 101 (R) 11:45-2:30-7:15-10:15
Shelter (R) 11:00-10:45
Send Help (R) 12:30-3:45-6:45-10:45
Wuthering Heights (R) 12:45-3:30-6:00-10:00
Midwinter Break (PG-13) 10:45
Psycho Killer (R) 4:45-7:45

Landmark Bethesda Row Cinema
7235 Woodmont Avenue
Crime 101 (R) 12:30-3:30-7:10
Wuthering Heights (R) 1:30-4:30-7:30
Hamnet (PG-13) 12:15-6:45
The Secret Agent (R) 6:30
EPiC: Elvis Presley in Concert (PG-13) 3:00-5:15-7:40
2026 Oscar Nominated Shorts - Live Action (NR) 1:15-4:10-7:15
2026 Oscar Nominated Shorts - Animation (NR) 1:45-4:40-7:35
GOAT (PG) 1:00-2:30-4:00-5:00-7:45
Midwinter Break (PG-13) 4:15
EPiC: Elvis Presley in Concert (PG-13) 12:45
GOAT (PG) 12:00

Landmark at Annapolis Harbour Center
2474 Solomons Island Road Unit H-1
Scream 7 (R) 1:30-4:00
Good Luck, Have Fun, Don't Die (R) 7:15
GOAT (PG) 12:30-1:40-3:50-6:50
Crime 101 (R) 12:40-3:40-6:30
Send Help (R) 2:10-4:40-7:20
Wuthering Heights (R) 1:00-4:20-7:25
I Can Only Imagine 2 (PG) 4:15-7:30
EPiC: Elvis Presley in Concert (PG-13) 1:20-7:10
Billy Idol Should Be Dead 4:00
2026 Oscar Nominated Shorts - Live Action (NR) 1:15
2026 Oscar Nominated Shorts - Animation (NR) 3:55-6:45
Scream 7 (R) 7:00
I Can Only Imagine 2 (PG) 12:50
EPiC: Elvis Presley in Concert (PG-13) 4:30

Phoenix Theatres Marlow 6
3899 Branch Avenue
The SpongeBob Movie: Search for SquarePants (PG) 12:05-2:30-4:45-7:00
The Strangers - Chapter 3 (R) 9:35
Scream 7 (R) 11:15-12:15-2:00-3:00-4:45-6:00-7:30-9:00
GOAT (PG) 12:45-3:10-5:45-8:00
Crime 101 (R) 12:30-3:40-6:45
GOAT 3D (PG) 11:00-1:30-3:55-6:30-9:00

Regal Cinemas Majestic Stadium 20 & IMAX
900 Ellsworth Drive
Scream 7 (R) 6:00
How to Make a Killing (R) 9:25
GOAT (PG) 11:15AM; 1:50-4:25-7:10-9:55
Crime 101 (R) 11:40-2:55-6:20-9:45
I Can Only Imagine 2 (PG) 1:00
Bendito Corazon (NR) 5:50-10:00
Vishnu Vinyasamm (NR) 3:30-6:55
Minions (PG) 10:35-1:05
La La Land (PG-13) 10:45-1:50-5:00-8:05
Zootopia 2 (PG) 10:35-1:20
Scream 7 (R) 10:20-10:55-12:10-1:10-1:40-3:10-4:05-4:35-7:00-7:30-8:30-9:00-10:00
Umamusume: Pretty Derby - Beginning of a New Era 1:25-4:15-6:55-9:40
How to Make a Killing (R) 10:30-1:05-3:45-6:40
Good Luck, Have Fun, Don't Die (R) 11:20-2:30
Pillion (NR) 11:50-2:40-5:40-10:10
Send Help (R) 11:35-2:20-5:15-8:05
Wuthering Heights (R) 12:00-3:10-6:30-9:50
I Can Only Imagine 2 (PG) 10:15-3:45-6:30-9:25
Kokuho (NR) 11:55-8:25
Midwinter Break (PG-13) 10:45AM
EPiC: Elvis Presley in Concert (PG-13) 11:00-1:30-4:10-6:50-9:30
The President's Cake (PG-13) 10:30-1:10-4:00-6:45-9:35
Avatar: Fire and Ash 3D (PG-13) 3:55-8:20
Psycho Killer (R) 11:05-1:25-3:50-6:25-9:10
A Better Tomorrow - Hong Kong Cinema Classics (NR) 4:00-7:00

Regal Hyattsville Royale
6505 America Boulevard
Minions (PG) 12:40-3:30
Avatar: Fire and Ash (PG-13) 4:50-9:10
La La Land (PG-13) 12:20-3:45-7:10-9:50
Zootopia 2 (PG) 11:30-2:10
Scream 7 (R) 11:50-1:00-2:50-3:30-5:40-6:30-7:00-9:30-10:00
Good Luck, Have Fun, Don't Die (R) 6:20
GOAT (PG) 12:30-1:50-3:10-4:30-5:50-8:40
Undercard 11:00-2:00-4:45-7:35-10:35
Send Help (R) 12:50-3:50-6:50-9:40
Wuthering Heights (R) 12:00-3:20-6:40-10:10
I Can Only Imagine 2 (PG) 11:40-2:20-5:10-8:00-10:30
The President's Cake (PG-13) 12:45-3:40-6:25-9:15
Iron Lung (R) 7:20-10:20
Bendito Corazon (NR) 12:10-2:30-5:00-7:30-10:50
Scream 7 (R) 12:40-4:00-8:30
Good Luck, Have Fun, Don't Die (R) 9:30
GOAT (PG) 11:10AM

Regal Laurel Towne Centre
14716 Baltimore Avenue
Minions (PG) 10:00-10:30
La La Land (PG-13) 12:00-3:10-6:15-9:20
Scream 7 (R) 10:50-11:50-12:30-1:50-2:50-3:30-4:50-5:15-5:50-6:30-7:50-8:15-9:30
How to Make a Killing (R) 4:30-7:30
Crime 101 (R) 12:00-3:40-7:10-8:45
Send Help (R) 12:20-2:40-6:40-9:30
Wuthering Heights (R) 11:30-2:50-6:00-9:15
Solo Mio (PG) 10:40AM
EPiC: Elvis Presley in Concert (PG-13) 1:10-4:00
Avatar: Fire and Ash 3D (PG-13) 1:00
Psycho Killer (R) 12:10-5:30
Bendito Corazon (NR) 5:10-8:00
GOAT (PG) 10:25-11:20-1:30-2:15-3:15-6:10-7:40-9:00

Regal Rockville Center
199 East Montgomery Avenue
Minions (PG) 10:00-12:30
La La Land (PG-13) 1:45-5:00
Zootopia 2 (PG) 12:00-2:45
Scream 7 (R) 10:00-11:00-1:00-2:00-4:00-5:00-7:00-8:00-9:00
How to Make a Killing (R) 2:30-5:15-7:50
Crime 101 (R) 12:45-4:15-7:30-8:30; 10:30AM
Send Help (R) 10:00-11:30
Wuthering Heights (R) 10:15-1:20-4:30-7:45-9:00
EPiC: Elvis Presley in Concert (PG-13) 10:30-1:00-3:30-6:00
Iron Lung (R) 5:40-8:45
A Better Tomorrow - Hong Kong Cinema Classics (NR) 3:00-5:45
Night King 12:15-3:15-6:15
Pegasus 3 11:15-2:15-5:30-8:40
GOAT (PG) 10:45-1:15-3:45-6:30-8:15
EPiC: Elvis Presley in Concert (PG-13) 8:30

Regal Waugh Chapel
1419 South Main Chapel Way
Scream 7 (R) 11:15AM
Psycho Killer (R) 5:05
Minions (PG) 12:40
La La Land (PG-13) 12:00-3:10-6:20-9:30
Scream 7 (R) 12:10-2:10-3:05-5:00-6:00-8:00-9:00
How to Make a Killing (R) 1:00-9:50
GOAT (PG) 10:30-11:30-2:20-4:50-7:40-10:10
Crime 101 (R) 11:40-3:00-6:30-9:45
Send Help (R) 3:50-6:50-9:40
Wuthering Heights (R) 10:40-1:55-3:10-6:40-9:50
I Can Only Imagine 2 (PG) 11:00-2:00-4:50-7:50
EPiC: Elvis Presley in Concert (PG-13) 11:10-1:50-4:30-7:10-9:50
Avatar: Fire and Ash 3D (PG-13) 11:25AM
Psycho Killer (R) 7:30-10:05
A Better Tomorrow - Hong Kong Cinema Classics (NR) 4:00-7:00
Scream 7: The IMAX Experience (R) 10:25-1:10-4:05-7:00-10:00

Regal Westview
5243 Buckeystown Pike
Scream 7 (R) 10:20AM; 11:40-12:20-1:10-2:30-3:00-5:20-5:50-7:40-8:05-8:35-9:00
How to Make a Killing (R) 10:45AM
GOAT (PG) 2:55
Crime 101 (R) 1:10-5:40-8:50; 11:30AM
Send Help (R) 4:25-7:10
Wuthering Heights (R) 9:50; 10:00-1:05-4:20
I Can Only Imagine 2 (PG) 11:00-1:45-10:00
The President's Cake (PG-13) 9:55-12:40-3:15-8:20
Psycho Killer (R) 7:25; 9:55
Bendito Corazon (NR) 2:50
Minions (PG) 10:20-12:35
La La Land (PG-13) 10:05-1:00-4:00-7:00-10:00
Zootopia 2 (PG) 10:25-4:10
Scream 7 (R) 10:50-1:40-4:30-7:10-10:00
How to Make a Killing (R) 1:15-3:45-6:15
Good Luck, Have Fun, Don't Die (R) 11:35AM
GOAT (PG) 9:50-11:50-2:20-4:50-5:45-6:45-9:15
Wuthering Heights (R) 7:20
EPiC: Elvis Presley in Concert (PG-13) 11:20-1:50-4:15-6:50-9:20
The President's Cake (PG-13) 5:05
Avatar: Fire and Ash 3D (PG-13) 2:45-6:55
A Better Tomorrow - Hong Kong Cinema Classics (NR) 4:30-7:15
The Revenant 10th Anniversary: The IMAX Experience (R) 12:30
Scream 7: The IMAX Experience (R) 9:50-3:50-6:40-9:30

Xscape Theatres Brandywine 14
7710 Matapeake Business Drive
Spider-Man 2 (2004) (PG-13) 1:00-4:00-7:00
The Strangers - Chapter 3 (R) 4:55-7:25
Zootopia 2 (PG) 12:00-2:40-6:10
Scream 7 (R) 12:30-1:10-1:50-2:30-3:10-3:50-4:30-5:50-6:30-7:10-7:50
GOAT (PG) 1:00-1:40-3:30-6:00-6:40
Crime 101 (R) 12:10-6:20
Shelter (R) 2:35-7:15
Undercard 1:30-7:00
Send Help (R) 1:35-4:15-6:55
Wuthering Heights (R) 12:35-6:45
I Can Only Imagine 2 (PG) 12:05-2:25
Psycho Killer (R) 12:15-5:05
Scream 7 (R) 5:10
GOAT (PG) 4:05
Crime 101 (R) 3:20
Undercard 4:20
Wuthering Heights (R) 3:35

VIRGINIA

AMC Courthouse Plaza 8
2150 Clarendon Boulevard
Zootopia 2 (PG) CC: 1:25
Scream 7 (R) CC: 1:15-2:20-4:10-5:15-7:00-8:15-9:00-9:50
How to Make a Killing (R) CC: 12:30-4:00-6:30-10:00
GOAT (PG) CC: 3:45
Crime 101 (R) CC: 12:45-3:15-6:40-9:10
Send Help (R) CC: 7:00
Wuthering Heights (R) CC: 12:30-3:05-6:15-9:25
I Can Only Imagine 2 (PG) CC: 3:30-6:15-9:00
Midwinter Break (PG-13) CC: 1:00
GOAT 3D (PG) CC: 12:35-6:20
Send Help 3D (R) CC: 4:10-9:45

AMC Hoffman Center 22
206 Hoffman Street
Scream 7 (R) OC: 12:30; 2:30-5:30; 3:30-6:30-9:30
GOAT (PG) CC: 5:30-9:00
Crime 101 (R) CC: 12:00-3:15-6:30-9:45
Pillion (NR) OC: 4:15
Send Help (R) CC: 4:00-8:30
Wuthering Heights (R) CC: 8:30; 12:15-3:30-6:45-10:00
Pegasus 3 1:15-7:00
GOAT 3D (PG) CC: 1:30-4:00-6:30
Send Help 3D (R) CC: 1:00-10:00
The Kerala Story 2: Goes Beyond (NR) 8:00
Zootopia 2 (PG) CC: 12:00-2:45
Fruitvale Station (R) 7:15
The Woman King (PG-13) 4:00
Dracula (R) CC: 8:45
Mercy (PG-13) CC: 1:30-3:00
Good Luck, Have Fun, Don't Die (R) CC: 10:00
The Housemaid (R) CC: 8:00-9:45
Scream 7 (R) CC: 1:00-4:00-7:00-10:00
Umamusume: Pretty Derby - Beginning of a New Era 12:15-3:30-6:15-9:00
How to Make a Killing (R) CC: 1:15-4:15-6:45-9:30
Pillion (NR) CC: 1:30-7:00-9:45
Solo Mio (PG) CC: 4:45-5:45
K-Pops! (PG-13) CC: 12:00-3:00-5:45
Dreams (NR) CC: 12:00-2:45
One Battle After Another (R) CC: 12:30
I Can Only Imagine 2 (PG) CC: 1:30-4:15-7:00-9:45
Kokuho (NR) 12:45-7:30
Midwinter Break (PG-13) CC: 5:30
EPiC: Elvis Presley in Concert (PG-13) CC: 12:00-2:30-5:00-7:30-10:00
Psycho Killer (R) CC: 1:30-4:00-6:30-9:00
Avatar: Fire and Ash 3D (PG-13) CC: 4:15-8:30
A Better Tomorrow - Hong Kong Cinema Classics (NR) 4:00-7:00
The Revenant 10th Anniversary: The IMAX Experience (R) CC: 2:00
Scream 7: The IMAX Experience (R) CC: 6:00-9:00

AMC Potomac Mills 18
2700 Potomac Mills Circle
Scream 7 (R) CC: 11:30-4:30-7:30-10:30; 11:00-2:00-5:00-8:00-11:00; 1:30
GOAT (PG) CC: 11:15-2:00-4:45-7:30-10:15
Crime 101 (R) CC: 12:00-3:30-7:45-9:45-10:45
K-Pops! (PG-13) OC: 12:00
Send Help (R) CC: 11:15-2:15-5:15-8:15-11:00
Wuthering Heights (R) CC: 11:30-2:45-6:00-9:15
One Battle After Another (R) CC: 11:45AM
EPiC: Elvis Presley in Concert (PG-13) OC: 4:45
Fruitvale Station (R) 7:15
The Woman King (PG-13) 4:00
Zootopia 2 (PG) CC: 12:30-3:15
Sinners (R) CC: 6:30
Scream 7 (R) CC: 1:00-4:00-7:00-10:00
Umamusume: Pretty Derby - Beginning of a New Era 6:45
Good Luck, Have Fun, Don't Die (R) CC: 11:15-2:30-5:45
How to Make a Killing (R) CC: 2:15-5:00-7:45-10:30
K-Pops! (PG-13) CC: 3:00-6:00-9:00
Marty Supreme (R) CC: 9:40
Hamnet (PG-13) CC: 11:00-2:15
Solo Mio (PG) CC: 11:30AM
I Can Only Imagine 2 (PG) CC:

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TREEMONISHA

March 7, 8, 15 Lisner Auditorium, Washington, DC

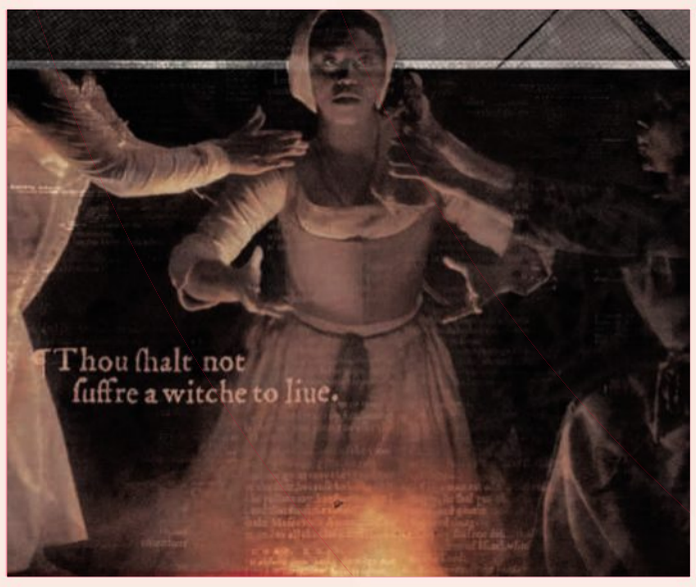
Damien Sneed and Kyle Bass bring Scott Joplin's forgotten opera into a new era under the direction of legendary mezzo-soprano Denyce Graves.

Viviana Goodwin
TREEMONISHA

Justin Austin
REMUS

Kedrick Armstrong
CONDUCTOR

Denyce Graves
DIRECTOR



THE CRUCIBLE

March 21, 23, 25, 27, 29 Lisner Auditorium, Washington, DC

Robert Ward's Pulitzer Prize-winning opera, based on Arthur Miller's Tony Award®-winning play, puts truth on trial.

J'Nai Bridges
ELIZABETH PROCTOR

Ryan McKinny
JOHN PROCTOR

Robert Spano
CONDUCTOR

Francesca Zambello
DIRECTOR

WEST SIDE STORY

May 8, 9, 10 Lyric Baltimore, Baltimore, MD

May 14, 15 The Music Center at Strathmore, North Bethesda, MD

Experience the Leonard Bernstein, Stephen Sondheim, and Arthur Laurents' Tony Award®-winning classic on a grand scale featuring Jerome Robbins choreography.

Shereen Pimentel
MARIA

Ryan McCartan
TONY

Marin Alsop
CONDUCTOR

James Lowe
CONDUCTOR

WASHNATOPERA.ORG

Timothy O'Leary
General Director

Francesca Zambello
Artistic Director

Robert Spano
Music Director

The Washington Post
TRAVEL
SUNDAY, MARCH 1, 2026 · SECTION F
EZ EE

ILLUSTRATION BY XENIYA UDOD FEMAGORA/THE WASHINGTON POST; ISTOCK

Throwing shade at the window gazers

Fliers have strong opinions about whether blinds should be drawn

BY HANNAH SAMPSON

Jeffrey Morgenthaler was flying home from Grand Cayman in January when he noticed something distressing: The view was "gorgeous," but he was the only one enjoying it.

"Every single other window is closed," the Portland, Oregon, bartender and author said. He took his observation to social media.

"Can we re-normalize leaving the windows open on daytime flights?" he asked in a post on Threads. "I'm flying over the beautiful Caribbean in a dark metal tube right now."

The reactions poured in. Many were pro-darkness. Some were hostile. Someone asked what Morgenthaler thought he would see from 35,000 feet.

"Am I crazy?" the 54-year-old said in an interview. "I just think it's very beautiful! It's the miracle of flight and it's stunning out there! It's the planet Earth!"

With his question, Morgenthaler unknowingly waded into a debate that has been raging in public discourse for years. "Why Window Shades Should Be Kept Closed On Your Next Flight," reads a headline on the travel blog View From the Wing. The Wall Street Journal chronicled "The Showdown at the Window Seat" in 2019. A take from Slate: "Flying is better with an open window shade." Guides to window shade rules abound.

On social media, feelings run hot. Tales fly

SEE **SHADE** ON **F2**

Newer seating policies don't sit well with families

BY HANNAH SAMPSON

Shea Bartlett was walking to the gate at Miami International Airport to board her Delta flight last month when she got an alert that she and her daughter had been upgraded to seats with more legroom. Nice, she thought.

But when they tried to board, Bartlett, who works in communications, learned that there had been an issue with the new seats, so they had been changed again — to spots in different rows. Bartlett's daughter is 4, and the D.C. resident had paid to make sure their original seats would be together.

The original seats were no longer available, so Bartlett said the gate agent told her to speak to the flight attendant on the plane. The flight attendant told her to ask other passengers to switch.

"I just burst into tears, which is super embarrassing," said Bar-

SEE **SEATING** ON **F3**

Whatever became of the $150 hotel room?

BY ANDREA SACHS

For Skift's annual company meeting in New York, Rafat Ali tries to put the participants in Manhattan hotels. Last year, his team scoured the city for reasonable rates but came up empty. Each room cost hundreds of dollars, so all but one of the attendees were sent across the river, to New Jersey. The last-minute guest got stuck by the Lincoln Tunnel, in a modest property charging luxury prices during the popular fall tourism season.

That spot, the Yotel, "used to be cheap, and now, of course, it's too much," said Ali, the founder and CEO of Skift, which specializes in travel news and research. "It was like $400 or $500 a night."

Hotel rates rise with inflation, a simple fact of economics. Goods and services — from the price of eggs for the breakfast buffet to the hourly wage of housekeepers

SEE **HOTELS** ON **F4**

PASSPORTS
The renewal process has never been easier. **F2**

ADULTS ONLY
Sorry, kids. Vacations are going child-free. **F3**

RICK STEVES
The southern Andalucía region is the soul of Spain. **F6**

It takes only six minutes to renew your passport. Here's how.

BY NATALIE B. COMPTON

The last time I renewed my passport, about a decade ago, I spent the day fighting for parking and waiting in lines as I bounced between a Walgreens (for photos) and a dreary government building in Los Angeles. The time before that had also been a chore; I remember sitting in a Fresno, California, post office with my mom, poring over our paper documents to make sure we filled out everything perfectly.

But since those applications, the State Department has brought the process up to speed for the digital age.

In 2021, President Joe Biden signed an executive order to allow Americans to renew their passports online, eliminating the need for physical documents and paper checks to be sent through the mail. Over the next few years, the government experimented with a pilot program before officially launching online renewals in 2024. More than 6 million Americans have used the option, and last year more than 43 percent of all renewal applications were made online.

In January, it was finally time for me to try the new system myself. It took six minutes to fill out the renewal form online, and 17 days later my fresh booklet showed up in my mailbox. No expediting fees, no lines. I even took my own photo from the privacy of my living room. Now I can't stop spreading the good word: Renewing your passport has never been easier — you just have to do it online.

Here's how.

NATALIE B. COMPTON/THE WASHINGTON POST

Reporter Natalie B. Compton received her new passport 17 days after applying online.

Who's eligible for online renewal?

To use the online renewal system, applicants must be U.S. citizens or nationals at least 25 years old, among other requirements listed on the State Department website, including:

- Applicants must have already had a passport with 10-year validity.
- Applicants must be applying for a regular passport, and they must possess their current passport. (It cannot be lost, stolen, damaged or mutilated.)
- Applicants can't request a change to their name, gender, date of birth or place of birth.
- Applicants can't be traveling internationally for at least six weeks from the day they submit their application.
- Applicants must have a U.S. state or territory mailing address.
- Applicants can pay with a credit card or debit card, and must be able to upload a digital passport photo.
- The applicant's recent passport must have been issued between nine and 15 years before the application date.
- The applicant's passport must be expiring within one year or have expired less than five years ago.

If you don't meet these criteria, you may still be able to renew by mail or in person at a passport agency or center.

Also important: Through the online system, you can renew only the type of passport you already have. For example, you can't be the holder of a passport book but request a passport card instead. You'll have to request new document types by mail.

How much does it cost?

The cost of a passport book is $130. A passport card costs $30. Applicants can also pay for faster mailing of their finished passport (one- to three-day delivery for $22.05).

What do you need?

To streamline the application process, have your current passport handy as well as a credit or debit card, a digital photo of yourself that meets the State Department requirements, your Social Security number, and information for an emergency contact. And before you get started, double-check you are on the official .gov website — there are impostor websites out there that will charge you extra fees.

How long does it take?

You can apply only for a routine passport renewal online; there is no expedited service (yet — that could change in the coming months). The processing time estimate is four to six weeks, and the actual application process can be done in about 10 minutes.

I submitted my application for renewal on Jan. 21 and got an email saying I should receive my passport on March 9. It actually came in the mail 17 days later, on Feb. 7. My husband applied the same day I did, and his passport arrived the same day as mine.

You may get yours back even faster. I've heard from dozens of travelers who have used online renewal, and most said they got their passports in about two weeks. Many said their wait time was even shorter, sometimes within a week of applying.

How do you take your photo?

I have a checkered history with ID photos — some flattering, some more mug shot — and was delighted to have the option to take them myself. (Or rather, take 50 myself and pick the best one.) Before you do a DIY photo shoot, take a look at the State Department website for best practices. The main tips include:

- Your photo must be in color and have a white background (such as a white wall).
- Your photo must have been taken within the last six months.
- You can't wear glasses or hats, but you can wear head coverings for religious or medical purposes.
- You can smile, as long as it looks natural.
- Your photo must be high resolution, not blurry or pixelated.
- Your photo must have a file size between 54 kilobytes and 10 megabytes, and it must be saved as a JPG, JPEG or HEIF file (if you use a mobile device to take your photo, it will automatically save in one of these formats).
- You cannot use any kind of filter or retouching tools to alter your appearance.

The agency also says you should ask someone else to take the photo for you. What this really means is: Don't take a selfie with your phone's front-facing camera. Selfies often turn out with the wrong angle and don't capture the proportions of your face quite right. If you're using a phone to take the photo, you'll have to use the back camera, which is more accurate.

I used a tripod and a self-timer to take my own photo after studying the "good" and "bad" examples the State Department provides (and watching a few TikTok videos about posing; pro tip: Crane your neck forward and smize!). The agency also offers a tool that evaluates your photo before you submit your application and flags any glaring errors. If your photo is denied by the passport specialist after you apply, you'll be notified by email and given the opportunity to submit a new photo.

A last word of warning: Don't go too hard on the glam. You could have a problem at the airport if your post-redeye reality does not resemble the hot doppelgänger in your passport photo. Seriously.

Alternatively, you can visit a professional to take your passport photo (for example, at a camera shop, AAA office, the post office, UPS or FedEx, or drugstores such as CVS); just ask them to share a digital file to upload with your application.

Let common sense dictate your window-shade etiquette

SHADE FROM F1

about people reaching across passengers to lower their shades. But keeping them closed is a "borderline sociopathic trend," according to some. Others say having the window open while people try to sleep is "diabolical."

Even the president of the United States has weighed in, kind of. According to media reports, President Donald Trump recently said at the National Prayer Breakfast that he doesn't sleep on planes and prefers "looking out the window, watching for missiles and enemies, actually."

Marisel Salazar, a cookbook author and food and travel writer, posted a picture on Threads of a bright window and part of an arm in the row in front of her on a December flight. She said the glare was bothering her and others around the man, but she didn't ask him to lower his shade — and wasn't sure if etiquette would even allow for that. She put on sunglasses to ward off a headache and kept her own shade closed.

"It's pretty annoying to be wide awake and not be able to do anything else on an airplane because somebody else is causing a disturbance," Salazar told The Washington Post. She called the reaction to her post "viral and divisive" — skewed toward the crowd who believed whoever paid for the ticket had the control — and eventually turned the comments off.

"People are extremely passionate about it," she said. "I think it's like the new reclining seat."

Window etiquette

Etiquette expert Jacqueline Whitmore, a former flight attendant, said there are no strict rules about the position of a window shade, just personal preference and common sense. But it's clear who gets to make the call, she said: The person sitting in the window seat has the "responsibility or privilege" of controlling the shade.

If neighboring passengers in the middle or aisle seats are suffering from the glare, she said it's fine to politely ask the person by the window if they could lower their shade. If they can tell there's an issue with the light, most people will accommodate the request, she said.

One irritating habit travelers should avoid: constantly opening and closing the window. "That's something you really shouldn't do," Whitmore said.

It's okay to ask if someone is willing to open their window, too, as long as they're not sleeping. Maybe the pilot just announced you'll be passing over something picturesque and you'd like to try to sneak a peak. No guarantees, though.

"If you feel like you're missing out, I would just say book a window seat," Whitmore said.

Rich Henderson, a Philadelphia-based flight attendant for a major U.S. airline and a host of the podcast "Two Guys on a Plane," said passengers sometimes ask flight attendants if they can intervene to get shades lowered, but he prefers that customers try to work it out between themselves.

"You try first and I'll come in as backup as needed," he said.

Henderson said he's witnessed the debate between "some people who want darkness and some people who don't" for the nearly 13 years he's been in the profession.

"Both sides of the spectrum are so die-hard about it," he said.

Those favoring the dark often want to see the screen of their electronics better, or sleep to readjust to a time zone even in broad daylight. Fans of open windows praise the views, but also say the position helps them deal with claustrophobia, anxiety or motion sickness.

Henderson likes the windows on the Boeing 787 Dreamliner, which can be electronically dimmed to varying degrees rather than just open or shut.

"Just dim it a little; you can still look out the window and you're not bothering anyone," he said.

Henderson said that when he flies as a passenger, he's glued to the window at takeoff and landing to observe the conditions and make sure there's nothing that would need immediate attention.

"At cruise, the window is shut," he said.

'Best practice'

The Federal Aviation Administration does not regulate window shade position, though individual airlines might make requests. United, for example, said in a statement that it encourages customers to open their shades before takeoff and landing but does not have a requirement in place.

Delta may ask passengers in exit rows to keep their shades up for "safety visibility," the airline said in a statement.

"Flight attendants are safety professionals and may request a window shade to be opened or closed during specific events and ask that customers comply with these requests," the carrier said.

Delta noted that most airlines in Europe and Asia require window shades to be open when the plane takes off and lands so crew members can see conditions outside and so people's eyes can adjust to the outside light in case of an emergency.

The International Air Transport Association, a global trade group, said it is "best practice" to have open shades during the taxi, takeoff and landing portion of flights. That position "allows all cabin occupants including the cabin crew to improve situational awareness and be aware of any external emergency situation which may require evacuation."

'A new thing'?

Morgenthaler said he has noticed a greater shift toward in-flight darkness in the past few years, as well as flight attendants asking passengers to close their windows as they leave to keep the plane cool. He's noticed the trend particularly on U.S. flights.

"This just seems like a new thing where everybody seems to want to sit in the dark and play on their phones," he said. He's been asked "many times" to close his window and abides by generally accepted norms of air travel.

"If [the sun's] blazing in and making everything hot, pull the shade down," he said. "I understand what the rules of etiquette are. I'm not a monster."

Kelly Meng, 27, a cooking and lifestyle content creator, was on a January flight from Chicago to Tokyo that stayed sunny as it headed over the Arctic. She recounted in a video on TikTok how exactly one person on the plane — who had the window seat in her row — refused to fully dim their window, even after a flight attendant asked.

A man in the middle section of the plane held an airline pillow up to the side of his face for nearly an hour to block out the sun, Meng said in an email.

"I am usually an avid aisle-seat lover," she said. "But this has made me reconsider for long-haul flights."

TRAVEL

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For some travelers, getting away from it all includes avoiding kids

BY ETHAN BECK AND HANNAH SAMPSON

Jack Lord is no stranger to traveling with family. But on a recent trip to New York with his kids and grandkids, he returned home to Sedona, Arizona, exhausted.

"Quite frankly, we needed a vacation after the stay," said Lord, 70, a forensic pathologist who works in health care innovation. "Kids just have a lot of energy."

It was a far cry from a trip that he and his wife took in 2024 to the Naviva resort in Punta Mita, Mexico. The Four Seasons property boasts coastal forest, luxury bungalows — and an adult-only policy.

For some travelers, getting away from it all includes escaping the noise and needs of children. The idea isn't without controversy: Parents have been chided for going to Disney theme parks without their kids. Nearly every week, a new debate erupts on social media when an annoyed passenger suggests airlines offer child-free flights. A California hotel's decision to ban kids sparked a statewide debate over age discrimination.

Still, resorts and cruise lines are eager to capture the no-kid market, with some companies recently pivoting to serve the niche group of grown-ups who want to be surrounded solely by other adults.

Oceania Cruises, an upscale line with nine ships, announced in January that it was restricting sailings to those 18 and older as it entered "a new era of tranquility and sophistication at sea." Even Carnival Cruise Line, a famously family-focused brand, started dabbling in adult-exclusive sailings last year with more planned this year.

"It is a differentiator," said Colleen McDaniel, editor in chief of Cruise Critic. "And for some cruisers, that is exactly the kind of lure that would get them to a particular cruise line."

Viking and Virgin Voyages, major cruise lines with longtime adult-only policies, have seen steady growth, keeping in line with the overall cruise market, according to Larry Pimentel, the cruise executive in residence at Florida International University. Both cruise companies make their child-free status a major part of their marketing, sometimes cheekily. Virgin Voyages, which launched in 2021, featured an ad full of sad, angry children singing about being excluded from their ships.

There is also a vast selection of kid-friendly cruises and resorts that carve out space for adults, setting aside pools, events and dining options exclusively for the 18-plus crowd.

NAVIVA, A FOUR SEASONS RESORT

The Naviva resort in Punta Mita, Mexico, is among those eager to capture the adult-only market.

ANDREA SACHS/THE WASHINGTON POST

Virgin Voyages makes a point to advertise its child-free status to potential customers.

Paws Up, a Montana resort, started planning its adult-only Green O section before the pandemic. Manager director Steve Hurst — who prefers adult-only vacations when he travels — heard from traveling couples who wanted a more isolated, quiet experience, sparking the idea.

"It's really important for my wife and I to have that time, to feel like we can remember what brought us together in the first place," said Hurst, 53. "These very romantic settings, such as the Green O, certainly lend to that and bring that feeling back. But also you want to be an adult a little bit. You just want to take a break from all the kids' engagement and have your own time."

Some resorts have moved away from accepting everyone — leading to controversy. The Alila Marea resort in Encinitas, California, announced last year that it would be transitioning to an adult-only resort, leading to controversy about whether it's legal to refuse service to people under 18 in the state. (A maximum of two people are allowed in a room, and children are allowed at specific events only as part of an "adults-focused" policy).

The transition to an adult-only environment has gone smoother elsewhere. When Mike and Cindy Watts sought to reopen the spa resort Castle Hot Springs, they thought about how to build a tranquil environment in the Arizona desert and settled upon restricting service to adults. It's also opened up different activities that might not be suitable for the whole family, said Kevin Maguire, the general manager at Castle Hot Springs, including e-bike explorations, ATV tours and horseback riding.

Coming from an early career working in hotel restaurants in Boston, Maguire particularly appreciates that the resort's Harvest restaurant is based on an exploratory farm-to-table model.

"You can do some really good kids' culinary adventures if you wanted to, if the kids wanted to," Maguire said. "But most kids don't. Some want their grilled cheese with the crust cut off."

There are risks to starting an adult-only resort or cruise line. Intentionally limiting the customer base might thwart growth. But for Viking, which began transitioning to an adult-only cruise model in 2013, the policy helped set it apart while fueling growth in both its river and ocean cruises.

With destination-inspired cultural performances, TED Talks and even resident historians, Viking has targeted travelers who are 55 years old and over. Focusing on travelers who are at similar life stages is how Richard Marnell, executive vice president of marketing at Viking, believes the operator has become the largest adult-only cruise line.

"Being able to travel with like-minded travelers, you have central things that are immediately relatable to each other, a shared history, a perspective on life," said Marnell, 59.

But adult-only destinations aren't always dominated by older demographics. Whereas Viking attempts to cultivate a highbrow experience, Virgin Voyages' four vessels are "an edgy, popular product, particularly appealing to couples," said Pimentel, complete with a tattoo parlor, various options for live music and drag performances.

McDaniel, of Cruise Critic, said the line has become popular with older millennials and Gen X travelers.

On paper, Virgin seemed like the ideal fit for Jasmine Kovalevich, 20, a student at Pennsylvania's Mercyhurst University who typically travels with her cousin. The two like to connect with other young adults, which left them disappointed that their Virgin trip was largely populated with older adults. Still, Kovalevich remains curious about adult-only travel.

"The idea of kids is overstimulating when you're just trying to like relax and have a good time," said Kovalevich, noting that she'd be open to going on another adult-only cruise. "I'm not a big kid person. I'm not gonna lie."

Ruffled feathers for budget travelers when children are given separate seats

SEATING FROM F1

tlett, who pointed to the stress of the situation and pregnancy hormones for her emotions. Another passenger offered to swap so Bartlett, who was 23 weeks pregnant at the time, could sit with her daughter.

For years, parents have been driven if not to tears, then to stressed-out pleas and angry social media rants when their young kids have been given seats next to strangers on a plane. The reasons vary: Some parents purchased the lowest fares that allow seat selection only for an extra fee. Some booked last-minute with few available seats left. Some paid to choose seats with their kids but got reassigned after an aircraft shuffle.

Lawmakers have sought to address the issue since 2016, as airlines added fees for options that were once included in the base fare. But no regulation is in place yet to force airlines to keep families together without charging extra for the privilege. Airlines try to resolve the issues in advance, or urge families to work it out on the plane, but it's not clear how often families end up waiting for another flight if they can't find seats together — or how much hassle they endure in the process.

"To me, it's ridiculous that we're still talking about this a decade later," said William McGee, senior fellow for aviation and travel at the American Economic Liberties Project, who has advocated for fee-free family seating for more than 10 years.

A rule, still under review

Congress told the Department of Transportation in 2016 to review the issue and direct airlines to put family-friendly policies in place, "if appropriate." McGee called that language a loophole and said no regulation came of the directive.

In 2024, the bill that funded the Federal Aviation Administration included stronger language, prohibiting airlines from charging fees for kids younger than 14 to sit next to a parent. The bill directed the Department of Transportation to get the ball rolling with a proposed rule, the first step in a lengthy process.

"Many airlines still don't guarantee family seating, which means parents wonder if they'll have to pay extra just to be seated with their young child," then-Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg said in a news release announcing the rule in August 2024. "Flying with children is already complicated enough without having to worry about that."

A year and a half — and a new administration — later, the rule is still in regulatory purgatory. According to the Transportation Department, it remains under review.

"DOT is considering the feedback received from all stakeholders, including passengers and airlines," the department said in a statement. In December, Transportation Secretary Sean P. Duffy announced a plan to make travel more family-friendly with an emphasis on more modern amenities in airport terminals. The seating rule did not get a mention in that initiative.

Under pressure from the Biden administration, some airlines changed their policies to guarantee adjacent seats for kids under 13 and a guardian. Those commitments are outlined on a family seating dashboard that launched in 2023.

Delta, for example, says on its website that the airline "strives to seat family members together upon request" and tells families to call a reservations number if they can't get seat assignments together on the website or app. Spokesman Drake Castañeda said that if a parent and child would be separated in an upgrade, the upgrade should not go through. It would be up to a gate agent to help move seats around if someone's new assignment did separate them from a minor.

ILLUSTRATION BY NATALIE VINEBERG/THE WASHINGTON POST; ISTOCK

Still, McGee said, the voluntary moves are not enough.

"I'm not saying they go out of their way to make this a mess," McGee said. "But they don't always take care of this problem. We see ample evidence of it all the time. That's why we have regulations, that's why we have laws in this country."

Southwest enters the mix

Despite the individual policies, passengers still complain about experiences on multiple U.S. airlines. The bulk of the ire lately has been directed at Southwest, which moved away from its former open-seating policy that allowed families with young kids to board early enough that they could usually find seats together.

Southwest moved to assigned seating in late January, with a range of amenities that go along with each price point. Those who pay the cheapest price have to wait until they check in to get a seat assignment. But by that time, no adjacent options may be left. In the past couple weeks, multiple families have said they were shocked to find that kids as young as 2 had been assigned seats apart from their parents.

The Department of Transportation said in a statement that it was "aware of the specific concerns regarding Southwest's recent transition to assigned seating and is monitoring how these changes impact the ability of families to stay together during the boarding process."

Southwest spokesman Chris Perry said if a parent who books a basic fare isn't happy with their seat assignment, they should speak with a customer service agent at the gate to see whether it can be changed.

"We still make every effort to make sure families can sit together," he said.

Chloé Gibbs, 32, of Houston, has been flying Southwest all her life. But when she tried to check into a flight a couple of weeks ago to return from visiting her parents in Midland, Texas, she wasn't able to. And then she realized her 2-year-old and 4-year-old were assigned seats in different rows from her and from each other. She was also traveling with an infant as a lap baby.

Gibbs believes her fares were in the cheapest category — her mother had booked the tickets — but said everyone had been seated next to each other on the flight from Houston. When she called the airline to ask for help, she said, the agent chastised her for not upgrading her seats so she could choose where her kids would sit. She said another customer service worker told her she couldn't pick a seat because of the lap baby.

At the airport, Gibbs, a content creator and marketing director for a nonprofit, was directed to the gate agent. "I'm like sweating, like literally drenched in my sweatshirt I was so stressed out," she said. She said the employees were kind, tried to help figure out how to avoid the issue with the lap baby in the future and ultimately put her in the last row with her kids. She posted a video on TikTok warning parents to upgrade their tickets to be guaranteed seats with their kids.

She said the ordeal has added a wrinkle to a planned fall trip to Chicago.

"Now we're like, do we even want to fly with Southwest?" she said. "It doesn't even seem to be worth it anymore."

Hot takes galore

Families who scramble to find seats together on the plane — typically when they didn't pay extra to choose seats — often spark debate when their situation is detailed on social media.

Cari Garcia, a food blogger from Miami, was waiting for a 7 a.m. JetBlue flight from Fort Lauderdale to Los Angeles in January when she saw a fellow passenger realize that his family's seats were spread around the plane. She posted on Threads after the man said he would just rearrange their seats on the plane so the young kids could sit with the adults in their party.

Her Threads post "spiraled out of control," she said, with some people saying they would refuse to switch seats in that scenario and some placing blame on the airline for not putting the kids with adults.

"I completely agree that families should, if you're booking the seats together and buying all the seats in one go, they should automatically be seated next to each other," she said.

Still, she pays extra to choose seats when she flies with her 9-year-old son.

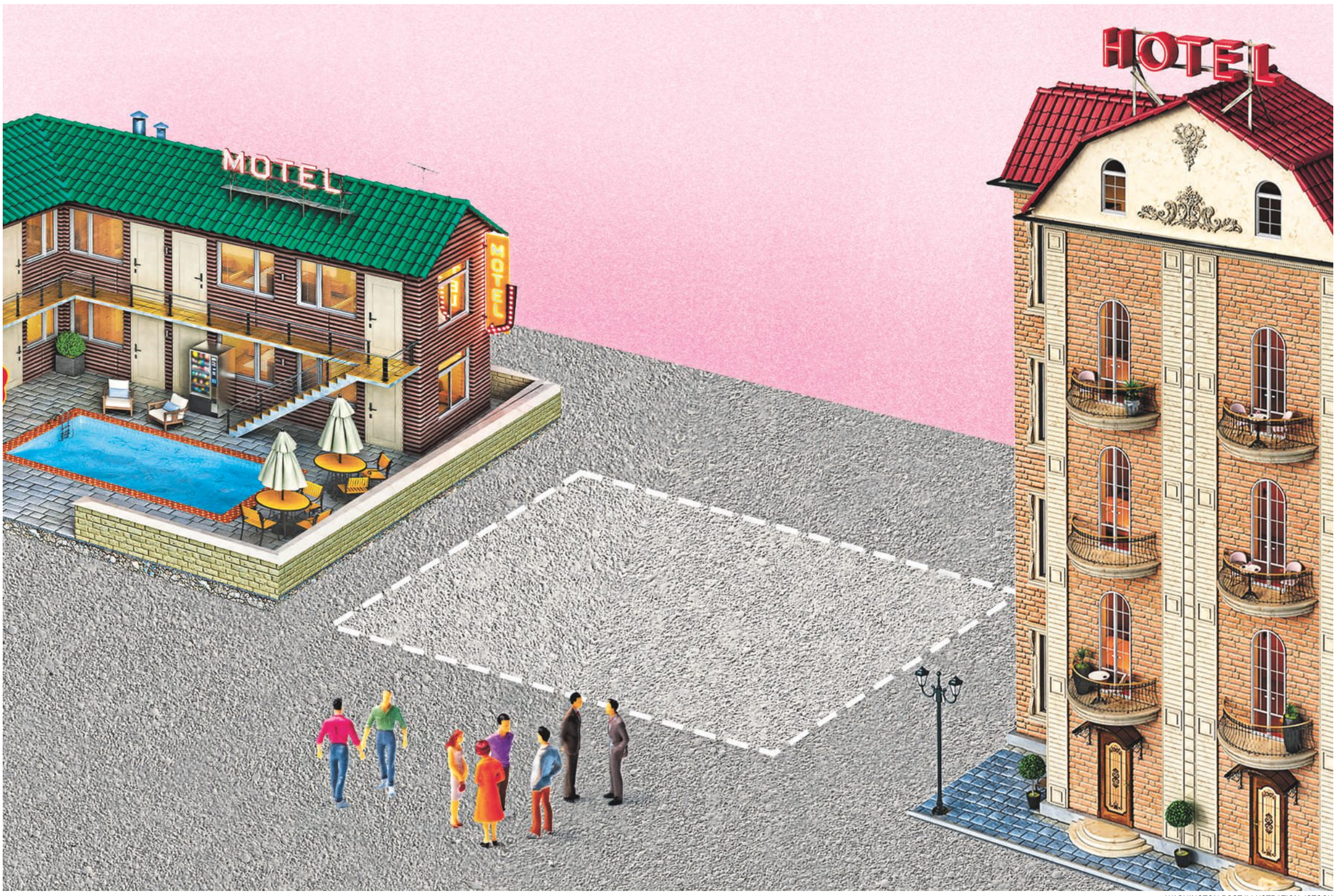
"I would rather pay for my peace of mind than to kind of leave it up in the air," she said.

Cory Watilo, a Tampa-based software designer for a Silicon Valley start-up, posted on X last month when Southwest assigned seats to his wife, Tara, and kids after he did not pay extra for specific seats.

"I figured worst-case scenario they would at least put the 2-year-old next to my wife, but instead he got put into a separate row entirely," Watilo said in an interview with The Washington Post. Commenters called him cheap and a bad father. Some headlines inaccurately said that the mother and son were separated on the plane. In fact, his wife asked someone to swap seats and that person agreed with no issue.

In a comment on X, Watilo said there should be automatic seating assignment rules written in code for minors who are traveling with adults. He told The Post he wanted to make sure Southwest knew about the flaw in the system and said he thinks public awareness and scrutiny — and not necessarily more regulation — will push the airline to address the issue.

"This is one of those situations where I'm pretty sure anyone with some common sense or decency should be like: A 2-year-old should sit with their parents," he said.



WASHINGTON POST ILLUSTRATION; ISTOCK

Finding midrange hotel rooms is a challenge

HOTELS FROM **F1**

— cost more, so properties adjust their rates accordingly. The midscale segment, which caters to travelers who have graduated from budget but are still several pay grades from luxury, is especially vulnerable.

"What used to cost $100 now costs $150 and what used to cost $150 now costs $200," said Jan Freitag, national director for hospitality market analytics at CoStar. "That's just a way of life."

According to CoStar, the average daily rate of U.S. hotels jumped from $131.56 in 2019 to $160.49 in 2025. Some destinations surpass the national average, such as New York City ($333.81 a night), Boston ($232.51) and Miami ($224.24).

Freitag said that, in all but the high-end sector, the increase in hotel prices is below the inflation rate, so room rates, when adjusted for inflation, are less today than they were several years ago.

But ultimately, you are spending more money for the same standard room with the same basic amenities at the same chain hotel. You're not getting a more spacious room or finer linens, though you might get stuck with a resort fee. (The price is for hotel only, not including taxes or resort fees, which vary wildly by destination.)

The new reality can force travelers to reassess their trips or retrench. Hotel insiders say guests are adapting to the changes by downgrading to cheaper hotels, sacrificing location and amenities, paying more but shortening their trips, or shifting their vacation mindset from an affordable getaway to a splurge.

Of course, bragging about your stay at a Best Western or Holiday Inn won't impress your friends like a Four Seasons or Ritz-Carlton would, even if your bill is exorbitant.

Where did the old $150 rate go?

The midscale hotel of late hasn't gone away; it's just moved on to richer pastures.

"The $150 price point is really difficult to find in the hotels you used to find it in," said Connor Vanderholm, CEO of Topline, a revenue management company based in Idaho.

Vanderholm, whose firm sets the rates for about 200 U.S. hotels, said accommodations in smaller or less prominent markets still charge around $100 for, say, a TownePlace Suites or Fairfield Inn, an "upper midscale" brand. (Chain hotels are filed under a dizzying number of categories, from budget to luxury and every subgroup in between.) In emerging or established destinations, however, you may have to raise your budget or lower your expectations.

"Five years ago, you were able to find $120 rates at a Marriott property in downtown Boise," Vanderholm said. "But now, you'll find $250 rates because demand has changed."

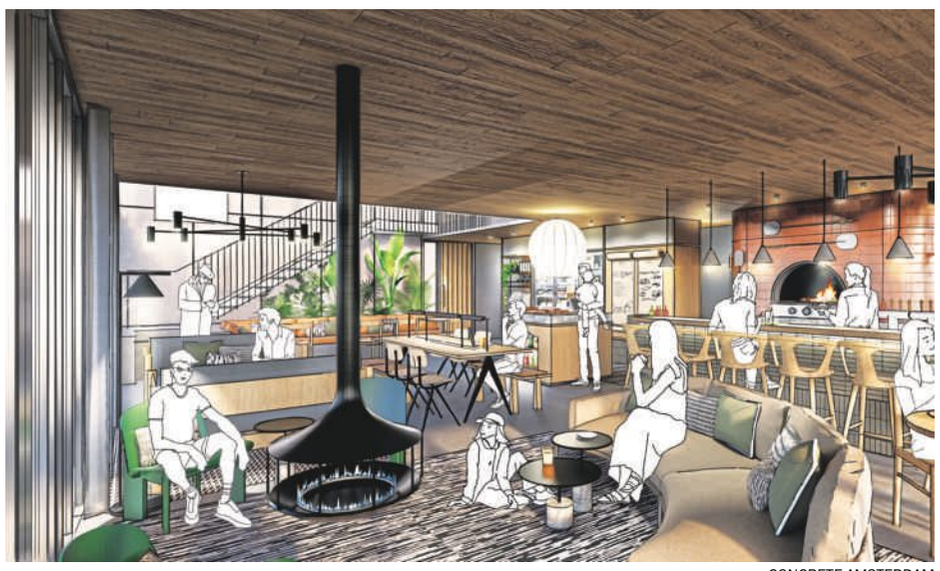
During a trip to Las Vegas — where the average daily rate is $183.52, according to the city's convention and visitors authority — Ali became acutely aware of the existential threat to the middle-tier segment. He ordered hot water for tea and was informed by his hotel's room service that it would cost $17. The sticker shock from a pot of water was the catalyst for his December article, "How U.S. Lodging Abandoned the Middle Class."

In the piece, he states that the hospitality industry is ignoring the "$120-$150 family road-trip hotel with character." He described the slighted group as the "orphaned middle of the development pipeline" and lamented the dilemma of the midrange traveler.

They must choose between "expensive for what it is" and "cheap but risky," or spending more than they care to or downgrading to a level they don't care for.

CARLA SPARTOS/THE WASHINGTON POST

A pod at Nolita Express Hostel in Lower Manhattan was $152.10 a night in the fall.



CONCRETE AMSTERDAM

A rendering of Bamboo Hotels' lobby, which will feature a terrazzo-style pizza oven, a craft cocktail bar and flexible co-working nooks.

"The $150 price point is really difficult to find in the hotels you used to find it in."

Connor Vanderholm, CEO of Topline, a revenue management company based in Idaho

Searching for the elusive midscale hotel

Last month, I asked Google AI to find me an NYC hotel for $150 in June. It replied that this task would be "challenging," but still gave it a shot.

My virtual assistant recommended a three-star hotel in Great Neck, Long Island; a pair of chain hotels on Staten Island; and a DoubleTree in Fort Lee, New Jersey. The sole Manhattan property on its list, the Jane Hotel in the West Village, was sold in 2022 and turned into a private club and eurohostel.

On review sites and social media, guests such as Katharine Shilcutt warned others to avoid the property, citing such reasons as "the bait-and-switch remodeling, the mosquitoes, the hazmat crew and the sense that you're infringing on the wealthy private club-goers who have taken over what used to be an amazingly charming and eccentric New York hotel."

An even greater obstacle was the $199 rate that Shilcutt said she paid in October.

Meanwhile, Chekitan S. Dev, a distinguished professor at Cornell University's Nolan School of Hotel Administration, conducted a real online search for NYC hotels. He pulled up a mix of independent one-star accommodations, motor lodges, hostels and a private bedroom called Hello Paris.

These are reasonable options, Dev said, if "you just want a place to put your head down for the night and you're not worried about some strange noises or maybe an occasional wild animal."

Randall Carroll, a business law professor at the University of Mississippi in Oxford, had better success down south. After a powerful ice storm in January, he spent two weeks in hotels waiting for the utility companies to restore the power and water in his home. Not one of the midscale chain hotels exceeded $150. Many were, in fact, less.

"The $150 hotel is on the endangered species list, but it's not yet extinct," he said. "There's groupings of them, and they tend to

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

be where the living is cheaper."

Some brands are staying true

In conversations about midscale hotels, hotel consultants often mention Choice Hotels and Wyndham Hotels & Resorts, many of whose brands — Days Inn, Super 8, La Quinta and Microtel — typically charge $80 to $130, according to Scott Strickland, Wyndham's chief commercial officer.

Several Hilton brands also occupy the middle tier. Of the 15 brands listed on the company's most recent Securities and Exchange Commission filing, Tru by Hilton had the lowest average nightly rate, at $121.82. CoStar's Freitag described Tru, which launched in 2017, as "a massive success."

Three years ago, Hilton unveiled Spark, which it classifies as "premium economy." The rates for the company's 19th brand are normally less than Tru, said Alexandra Jaritz, a Hilton senior vice president.

Spark follows the hermit crab's playbook, moving into well-worn structures. The inaugural property occupies a former Days Inn in Mystic, Connecticut. For the first weekend of March, it cost half as much ($114) as the Hampton Inn and Suites Mystic, also a Hilton brand.

"It's their way of addressing a more tired, aging property," said Freitag, adding that the properties are nicely renovated and a good value with breakfast included.

Nicholas Curcio, a budding hotelier and MBA student at MIT's Sloan School, is unimpressed with the current midrange offerings.

For years, the former investment banker has jumped in his car and driven thousands of miles for the pure thrill of it. On these cross-country adventures, he has been consistently disappointed by the lodging options. The accommodations in the $100 category, he said, often have stained carpets, smell of pool chlorine or cigarettes and serve powdered eggs or frosted flakes for breakfast.

Properties one tier up have better quality and design, but the stay will put you to sleep — and not in a good way. "It's a very cookie cutter, highly standardized, highly corporatized product that is not interesting," Curcio said.

Last year, Curcio, 28, teamed up with two CitizenM executives to reimagine the midscale hotel. Their creation, Bamboo Hotels, will feature modular construction assembled like giant Lego pieces and a Japandi aesthetic, a fusion of Japanese and Scandinavian minimalism. Hipster amenities will include a cold plunge, sauna and airstream food truck on the rooftop terrace, and Xbox and a drop-down projector in the rooms. Curcio said they plan to debut their hotel by 2027.

"If we can successfully create a true home base for digital nomads, adventure seekers and the design-focused 'Instagramable' crowd, we can create a strong community among road trippers at a national scale," said Curcio, the company's CEO.

Curcio said their target rate is $130 a night, but the price could inch north in destinations with strong demand, such as Olympic National Park in Washington state, slated to be the site of the first Bamboo.

Tricks to finding a midscale hotel

So how can the midscale traveler stay in their lane and avoid the off-ramp to economy lodgings?

Hotel experts say check the calendar. Avoid high season and dates when special events are rolling through the area, such as the World Cup or Taylor Swift. For destinations popular among leisure travelers, visit during the week; for places frequented by business travelers, go over the weekend.

Sign up for a hotel's loyalty program, especially the big three: Hilton, Marriott and IHG. Use those discounts for AAA members, seniors or military. Be open to staying in noncentral locations with downscaled amenities.

For reservations, Vanderholm suggested starting your search at least three months out, when hotels will set rates high then slowly drop them if rooms are not selling as anticipated.

Once you book a room, he said to watch for falling prices or cheaper rates at other properties. Depending on the hotel's policy, you can rebook or cancel within 24 hours of your arrival. If you find a better price through a third-party site, contact the hotel, which should offer a price-match guarantee. Some companies, such as Hilton and Marriott, will add a 25 percent discount to the matched rate.

Vanderholm also recommends booking on a Sunday, when revenue managers are off and a computer algorithm is in charge of setting prices. Come Monday, he said, the staff may push the rates back up.

For day-of bookings, he said to call the hotel directly and tell the reservationist you noticed their competitors were charging $150 or less. Ask them straight out, "Can you cut me a deal?"

WASHINGTON POST ILLUSTRATION

Who gets the best room in a vacation rental?

By The Way Concierge

NATALIE B. COMPTON

Traveling has always come with complications. Our By The Way Concierge column will take your travel dilemmas to the experts to help you navigate the unexpected.

"I own a couple timeshare weeks at great vacation spots. When I'm inviting a friend, should I feel obliged to give them the (larger) owner's suite? Or should they be thankful to be invited and enjoy the guest suite? (The owner's suite usually has a more luxurious bathroom, a better view, a sitting area, etc.)." — Susan K., Arlington, Virginia

We had a ritual on family trips when I was growing up: We'd arrive at our vacation rental, my parents would do a quick survey of the rooms, claim the one to their liking, and the kids would get the leftovers. We knew that the person who arranged the trip was entitled to the better room. I would assume the same rules apply in your timeshare situation, but just in case, I took your question to travel and etiquette experts.

Terika L. Haynes, owner of Dynamite Travel, told me room selection quandaries are "something that happens a lot," no matter what kind of accommodation — timeshare, vacation rental, hotel rooms, etc. People often deal with the delicate dance in different ways; sometimes it's as easy as whoever paid gets dibs, or someone may offer to pay more for the better room if they're splitting a house on a group trip.

In your case, Haynes said her answer depends on a few questions. Namely, how often do you go to the timeshare? If it's a rare treat for you, then absolutely take the suite. But if you feel like you go all the time and want to be generous, "maybe you want to make that guest's visit extra special," Haynes said.

Either way, "don't feel obligated," she added.

Lisa Richey, founder of the American Academy of Etiquette, was recently in your guest's situation. "A friend invited me to Sundance and insisted on giving me the bigger, more luxurious room," she said. "It was a memorable gesture and it was from her heart."

But Richey also noted there's no formal rule that says a host must give up the owner's suite.

"When you are inviting someone to join you — the invitation really is the gift," she said. "The guest is there to spend time with you and enjoy the experience."

Alison M. Cheperdak, author of "Was it Something I Said? Everyday Etiquette to Avoid Awkward Moments in Relationships, Work, and Life," says to think about it like you were at home. Would you give up your bedroom if you have a guest room available? Probably not!

Cheperdak and the others I polled had one caveat: if your guest has any kind of mobility issue, major health concerns or some other needs that could benefit from a bigger room, that could be a worthy push to offer them the suite.

Whatever you pick, etiquette coach Jules Hirst stresses that proper etiquette is all about making sure your guest feels "welcome, comfortable and thoughtfully considered." The fact that you are even sending this question in the first place means that your manners are likely impeccable.

So enjoy your timeshare, you deserve it.

Have a travel dilemma for By The Way Concierge? Send it to us at *wapo.st/4l0kQNS*.

ISTOCK

GUEST COLUMN

Hill towns steeped in the soul of Spain

BY RICK STEVES

This is a syndicated advice column from Rick Steves, guidebook author, TV host and European travel expert. You can find more from Rick at ricksteves.com.

When my travel dreams drift off to Spain, they often include visions of Andalucía, the southernmost part of the country, which feels more quintessentially Spanish than perhaps anywhere else. With a string of whitewashed hill towns, sunny skies, vibrant festivals and tempting tapas, Andalucía is the soul of Spain — almost stereotypically so.

Most tourists hit Andalucía's three great cities — Granada, Córdoba and Sevilla — or the Costa del Sol. But for something more authentic, I like exploring the region's interior along the Route of the White Hill Towns (Ruta de los Pueblos Blanchos). The middle-size towns that dot this undulating route are more accessible and friendlier than the big cities, but still pack a wallop of traditional Spanish culture. Whether crouching in a ravine or perched atop a hill, each town — painted white to stay cool in scorching summers — has a personality and a story of its own.

Exploring these hill towns is best by car, as only two of my favorites are easily accessible by public transportation: Arcos de la Frontera (by bus) and Ronda (by train).

Arcos de la Frontera is a photographer's feast. It smothers its hilltop, tumbling down its back like the train of a wedding dress. The fairy-tale old center is a labyrinthine wonderland, where you can viewpoint-hop all the way through town and feel the wind funnel through the narrow streets as cars inch around tight corners. Around town, I like to peek discreetly into private patios. These wonderful, cool-tiled courtyards, filled with plants, pools and happy family activities, are typical of the region.

Arcos' name (*de la frontera* means "on the frontier") and main church are reminders of the Reconquista, the centuries-long fight to take Spain back from the Muslim Moors. After Christian forces retook Arcos, its mosque was demolished, and a church was built on its ruins. Today, these hill towns — no longer strategic — are just passing time peacefully.

From Arcos, a short drive takes you to Ronda. With nearly 35,000 people, it's the most substantial and entertaining home base on the route.

Ronda's main attractions are its gorge-spanning bridges, an intriguing old town and one of the oldest bullrings in Spain (built in 1785). The arena's columns corral the action, creating a kind of neoclassical theater. But the real joy here lies in exploring Ronda's backstreets and taking in its beautiful balconies, wispy gardens and panoramic views. Walking the streets, you feel a strong local pride and a community where everyone seems to know everyone. The town can get crowded with tourists day-tripping in from the nearby Costa del Sol — but in the evening locals reclaim their streets and squares, and a thriving tapas scene takes over.

Ronda's breathtaking perch above a deep gorge, while visually dramatic today, was practical and vital when it was built. For the Moors, it provided a tough bastion, one of the last to be conquered by the Spaniards in 1485. The ravine divides Ronda into its old Moorish town and the relatively modern new town, which was built after the Reconquista. The two towns were connected by a bridge in the late 1700s.

The dramatic road linking Arcos and Ronda cuts through the Sierra de Grazalema Natural Park, famed throughout Spain for its lush and rugged mountain scenery. Within the park lie the towns of Zahara de la Sierra and Grazalema.

Of the two, Grazalema is the better overnight stop. It's another postcard-pretty town, offering a royal balcony for a memorable picnic, a square where you can watch old-timers playing cards and plenty of quiet, whitewashed streets to explore. Shops sell the town's beautiful handmade wool blankets and good-quality leather items from nearby Ubrique. While the nearby Sierra de Grazalema Natural Park is known as the rainiest place in Spain, the clouds seem to wring themselves out before they reach the town — I've only ever had blue skies here.

Tiny Zahara is a delight for those who want to hear only the sounds of the wind, birds and elderly footsteps on ancient cobbles. Set in a tingly spot under a Moorish castle, it has a spectacular view over a turquoise reservoir. The town had long been a strategic stronghold for the Moors, and Spanish Reconquista forces considered it the gateway to Granada. Today, its castle is little more than an evocative ruin with a commanding view.

In any of these towns, evening is prime time. The promenade begins as everyone gravitates to the central square. The spotless streets are polished nightly by the feet of families licking ice cream. The whole town strolls — it's like "cruising" without cars. Buy an ice cream, join the parade, and soak up the essence of Spanish life.

TOP: A panoramic view of Mijas village in Spain's Costa del Sol region. The area's towns are teeming with traditional Spanish culture. BELOW, FROM LEFT: An alley lined with traditional whitewashed buildings in Arcos de la Frontera; a cobbled street there serves as an alfresco dining spot; and San Pedro church in Arcos de la Frontera. The church was built centuries ago after the Reconquista.

ISTOCK

RICK STEVES

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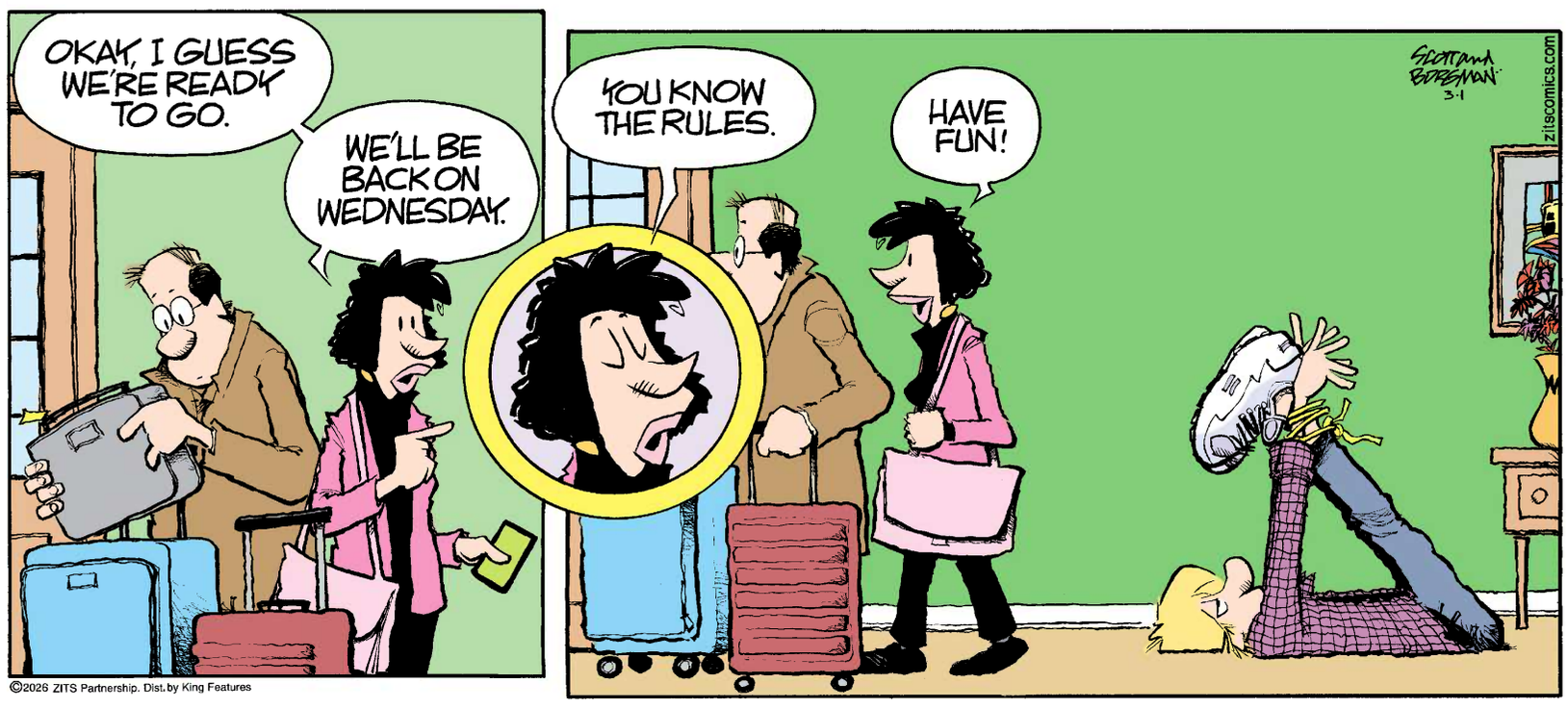
By Jerry Scott & Jim Borgman



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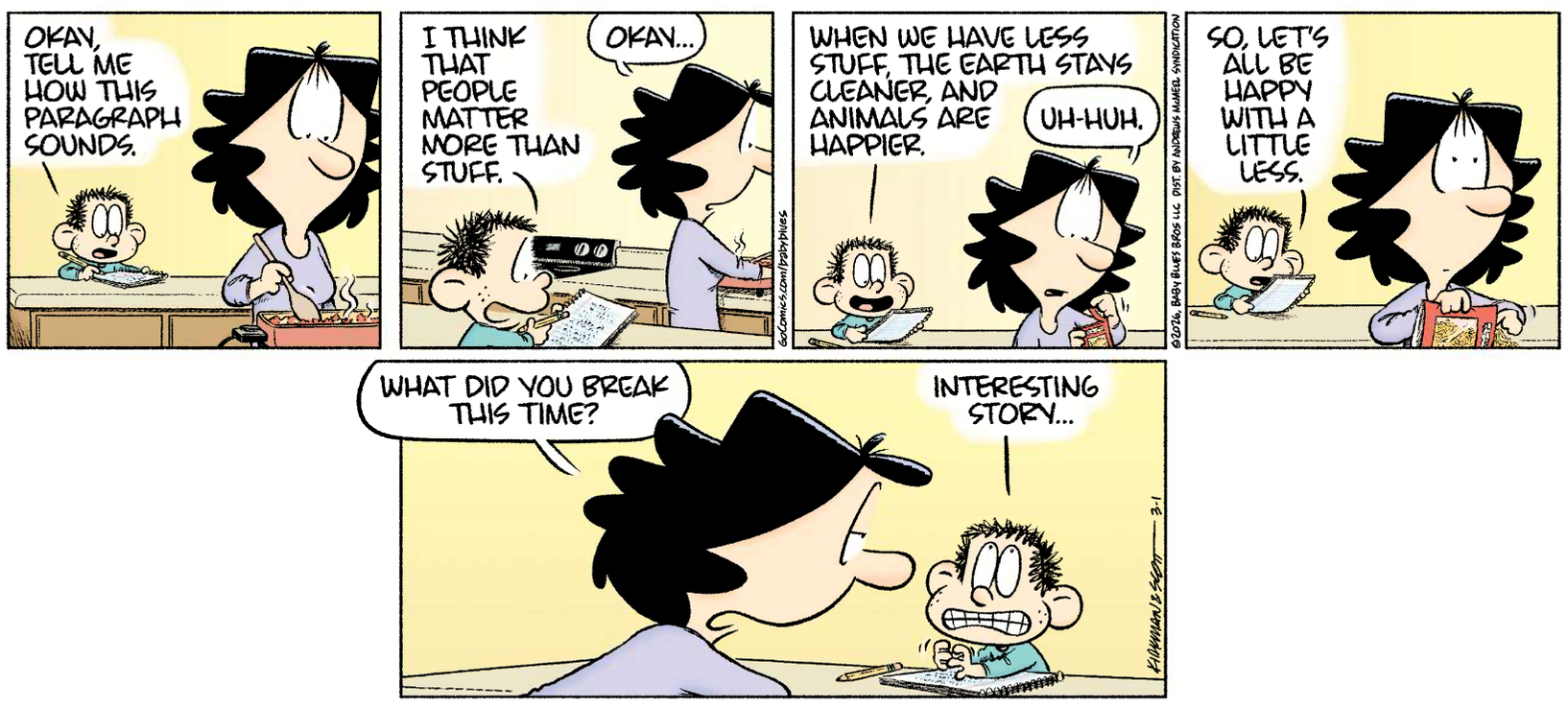

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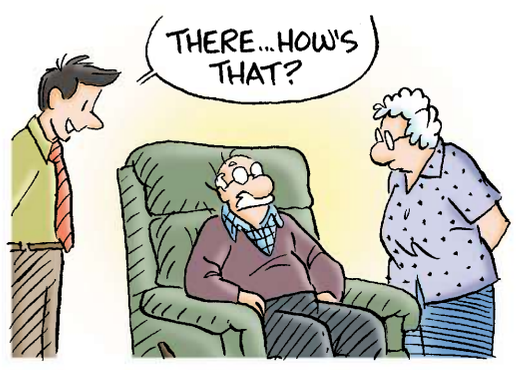

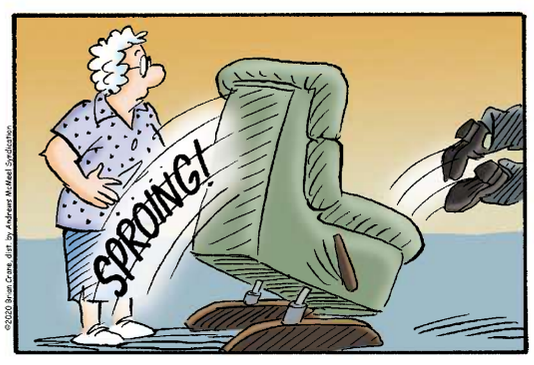

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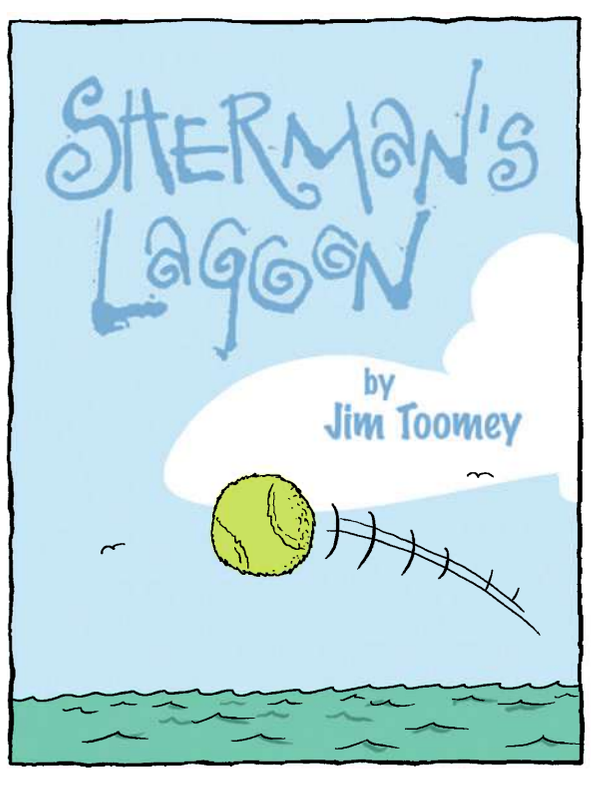

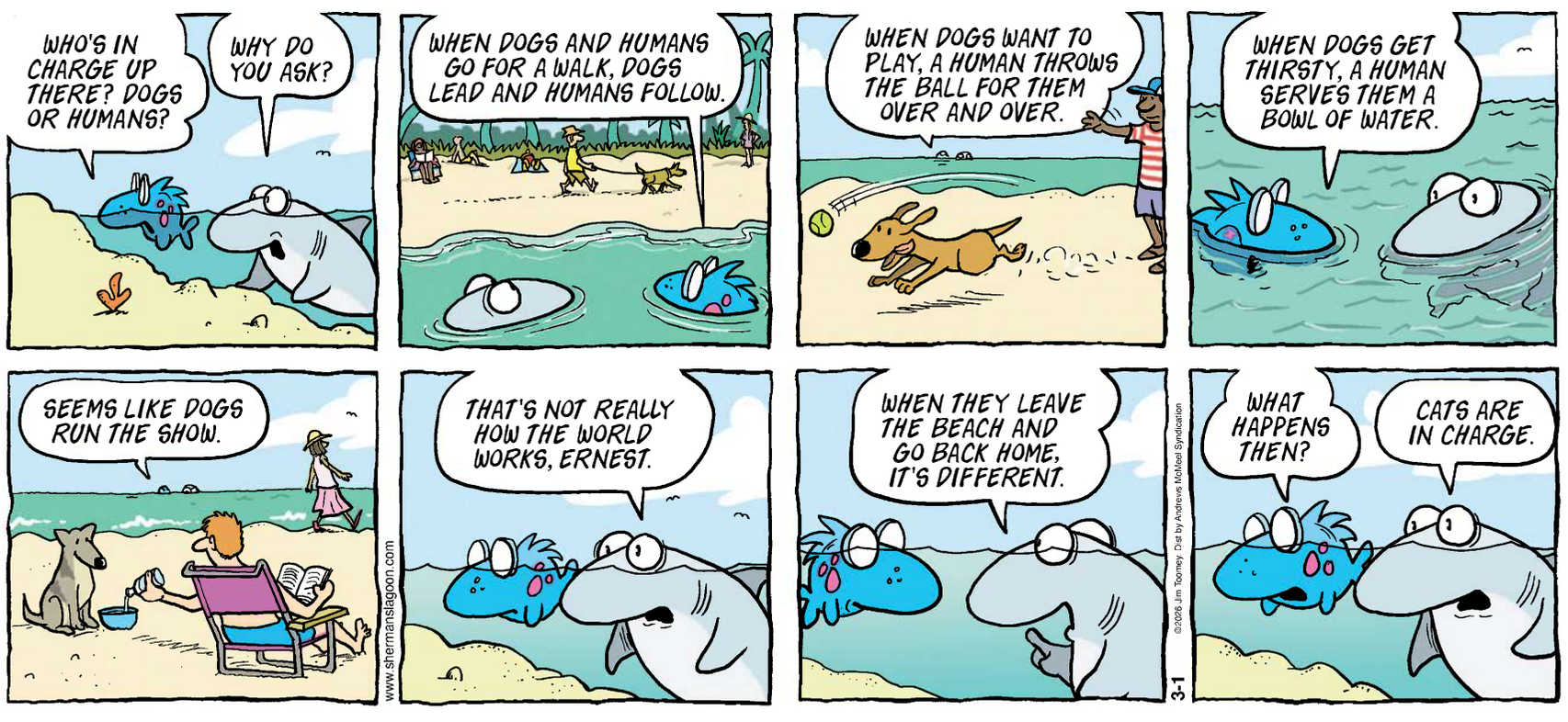

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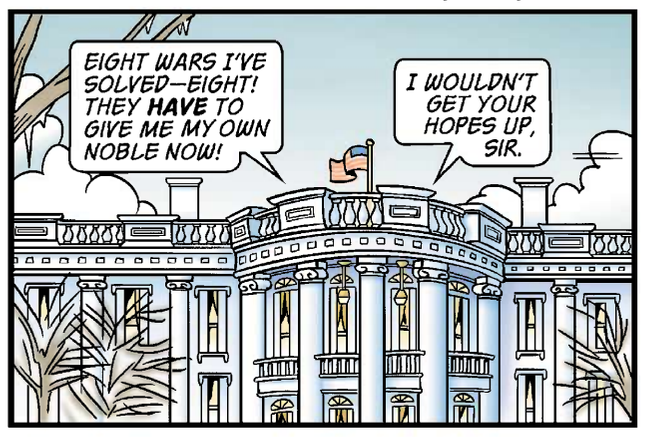

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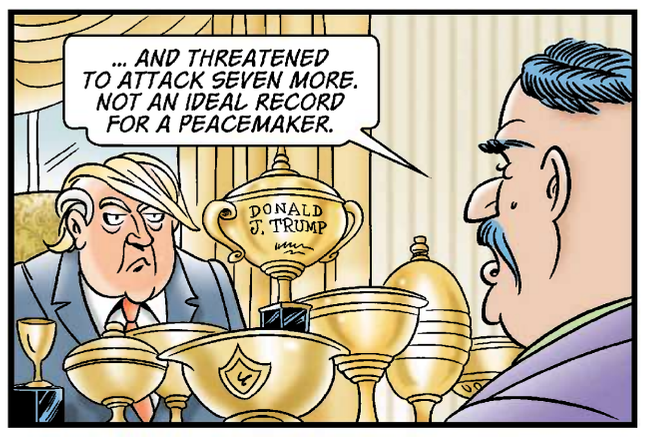

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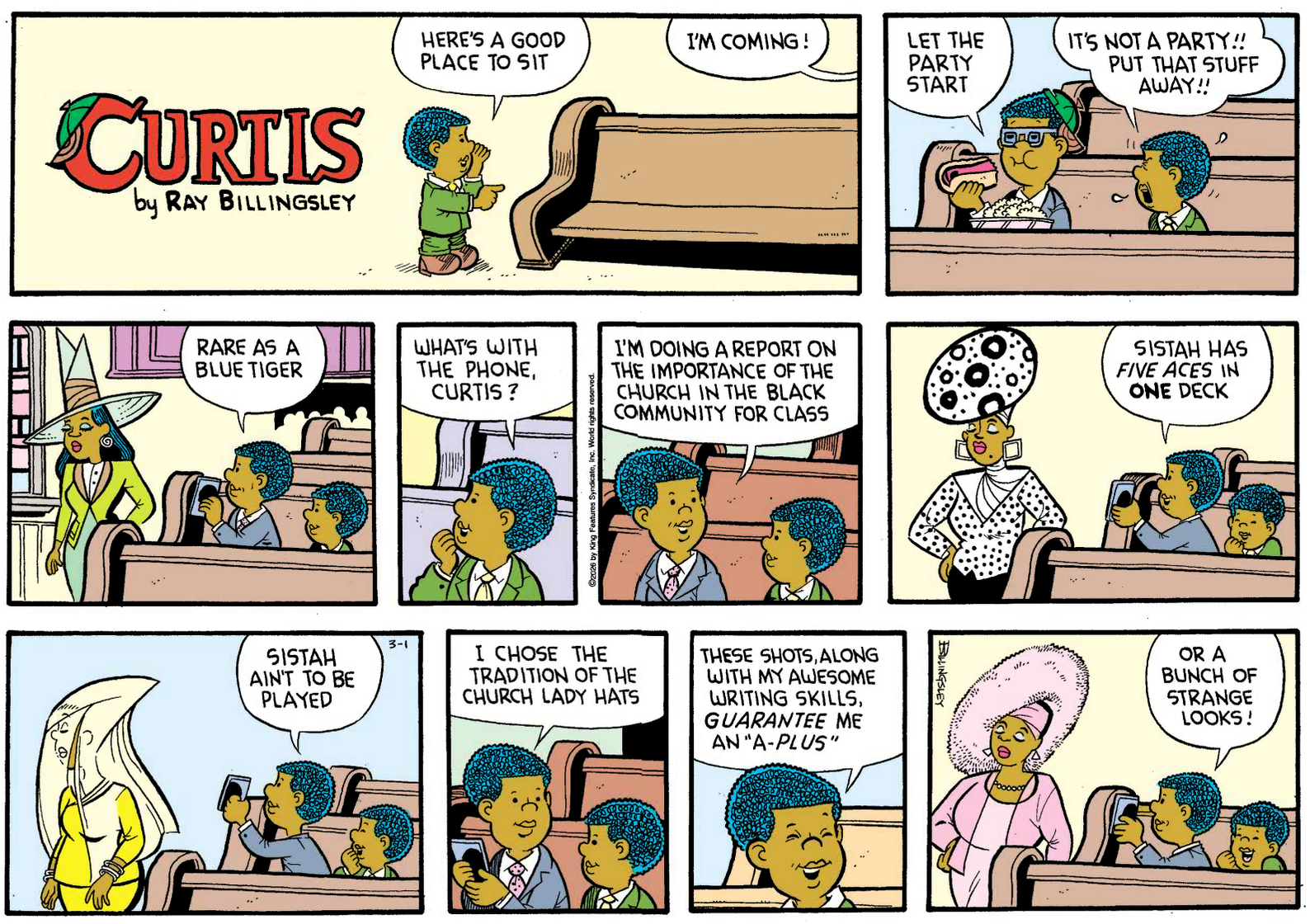

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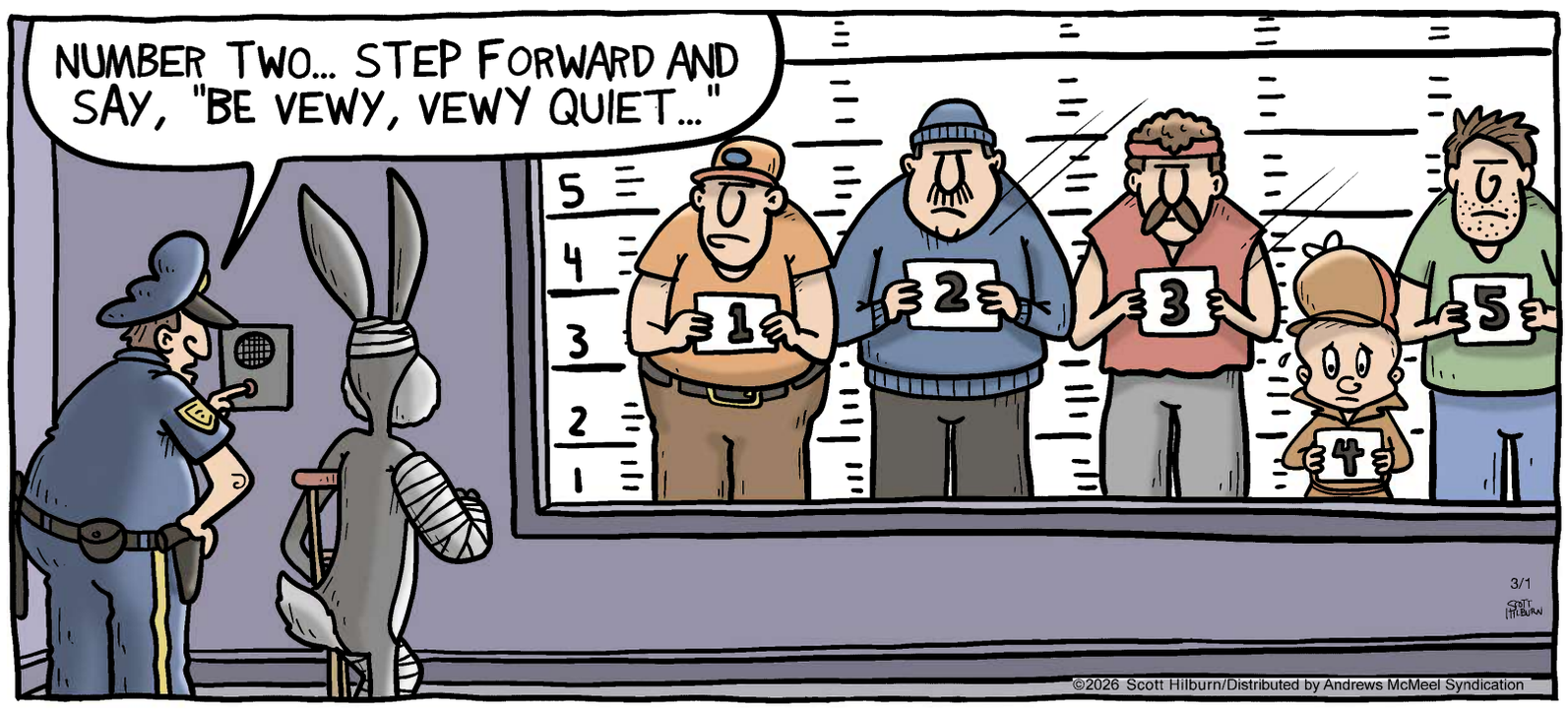

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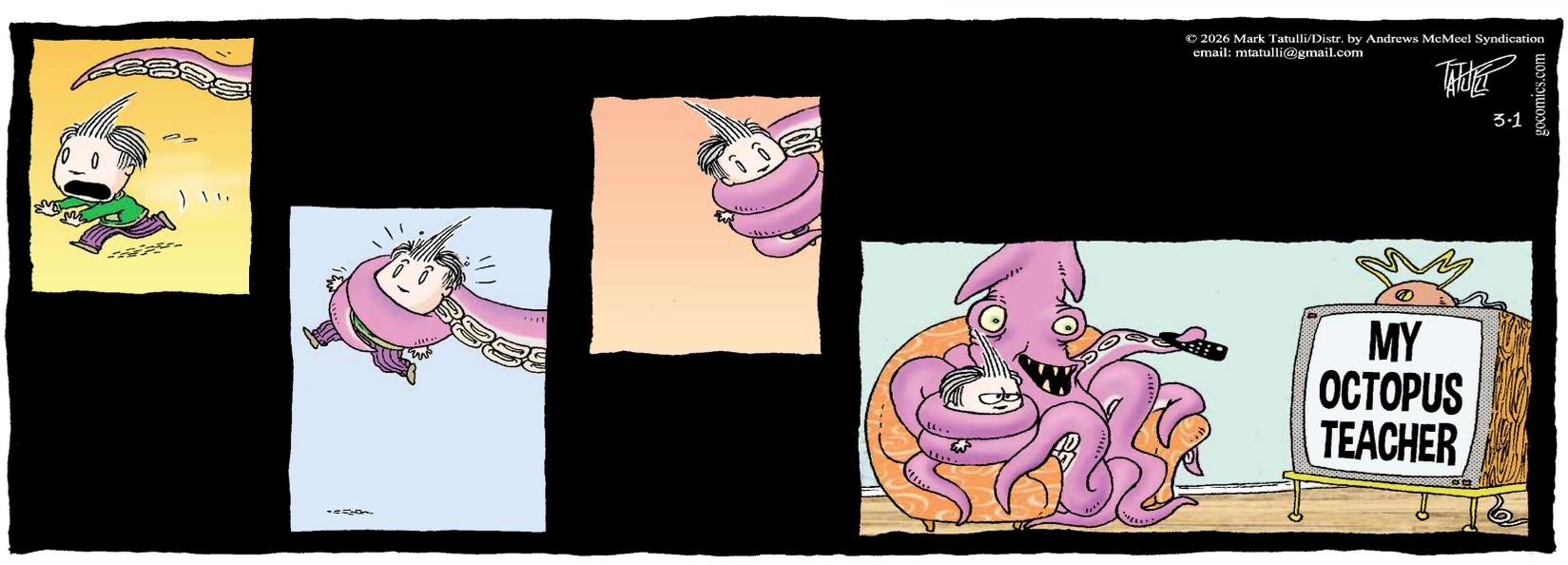

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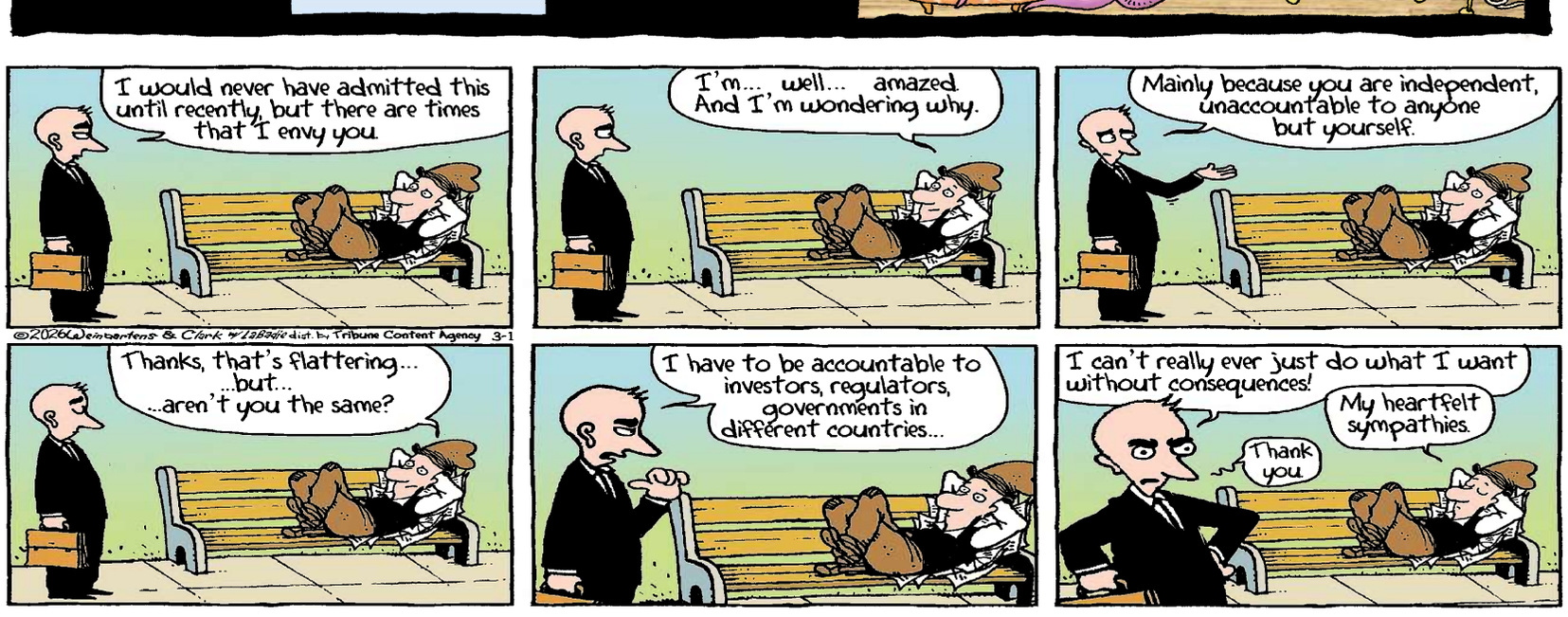

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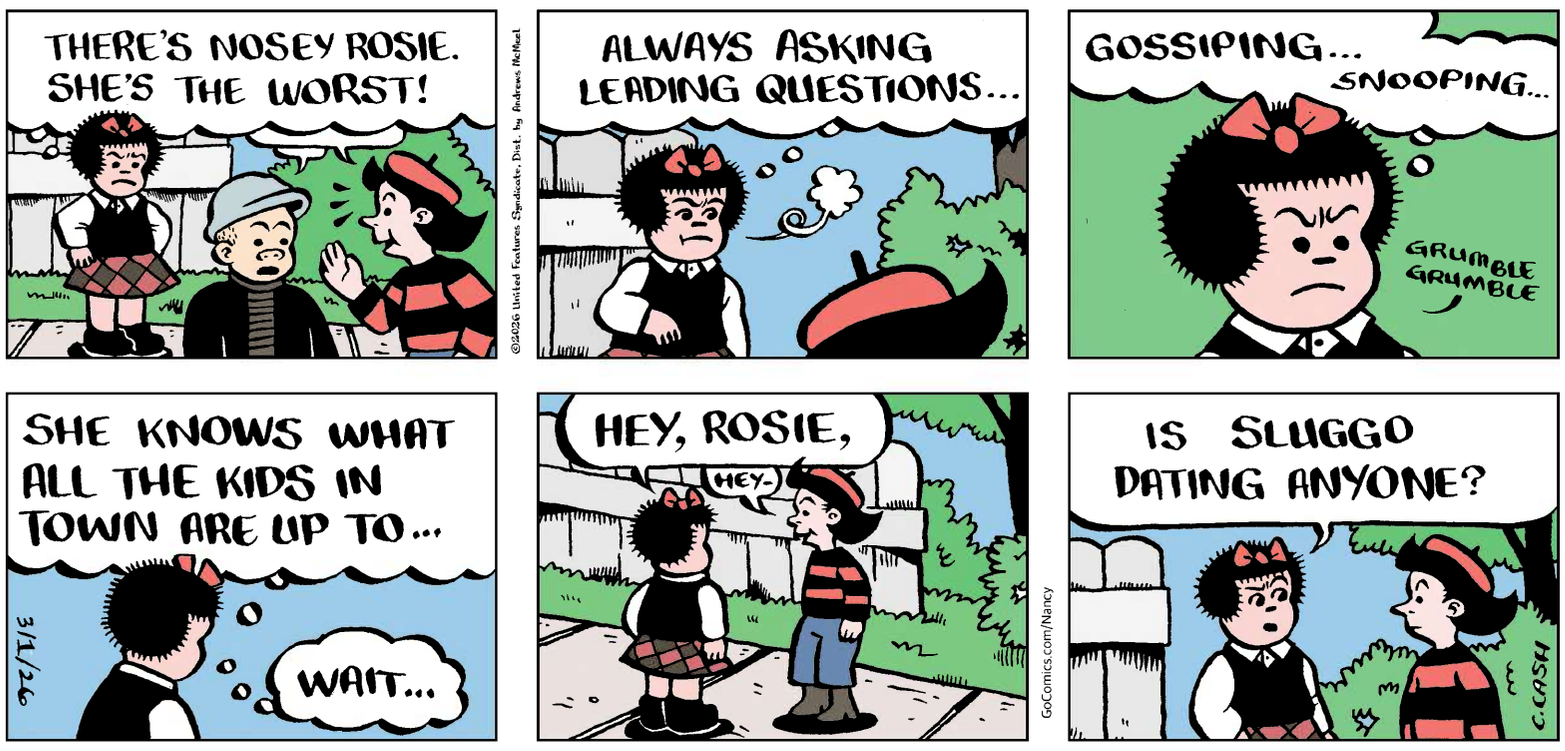

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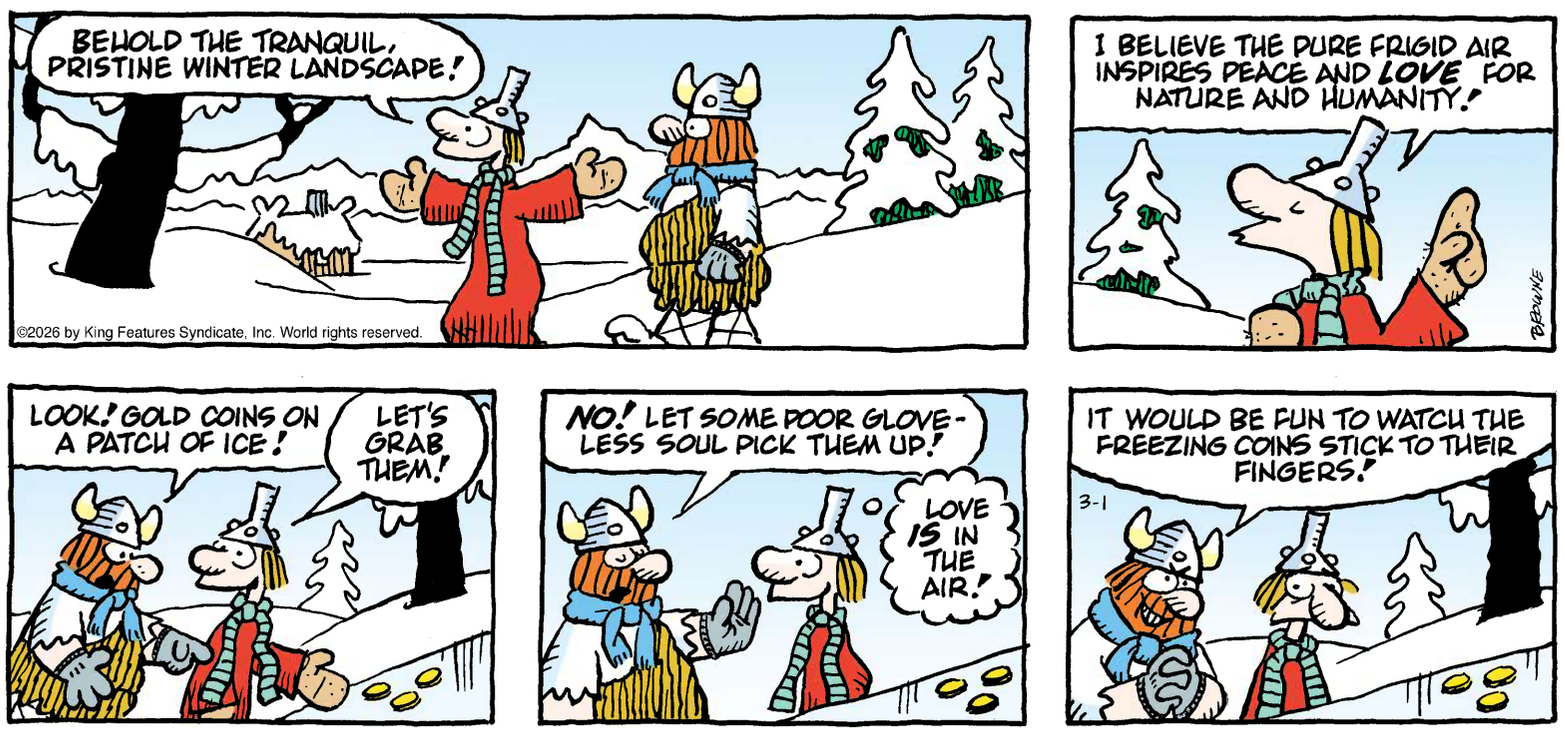

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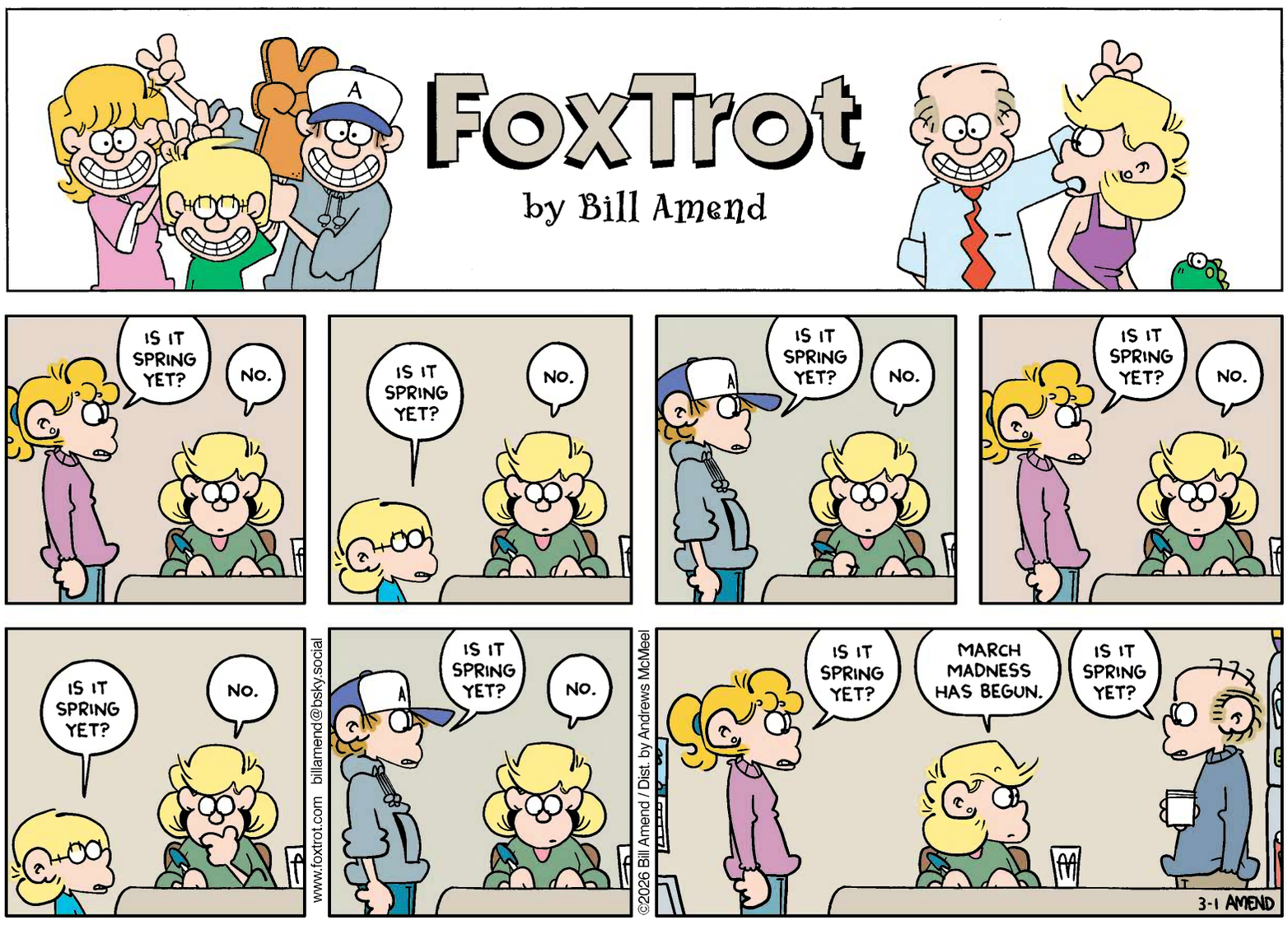

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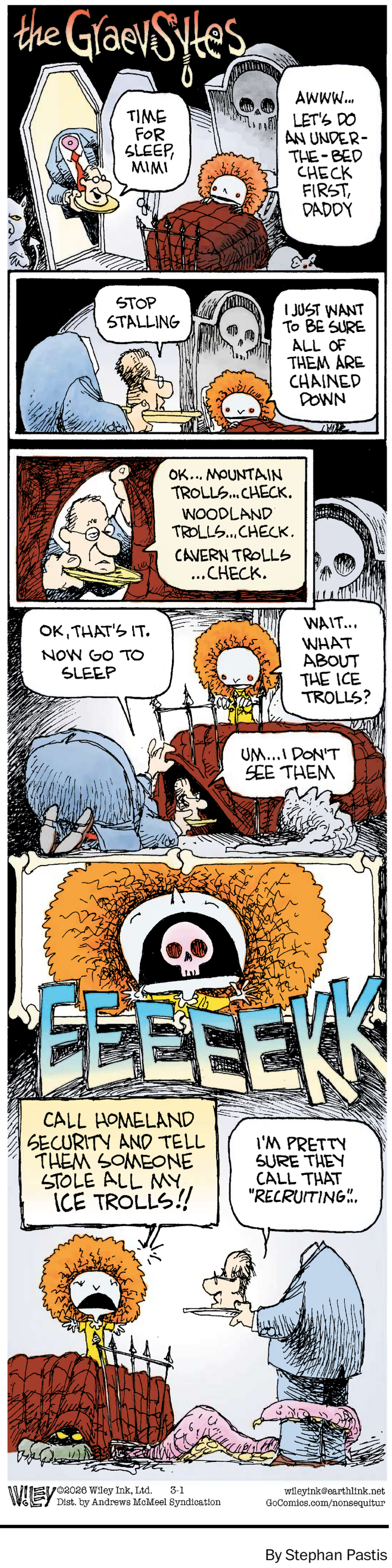

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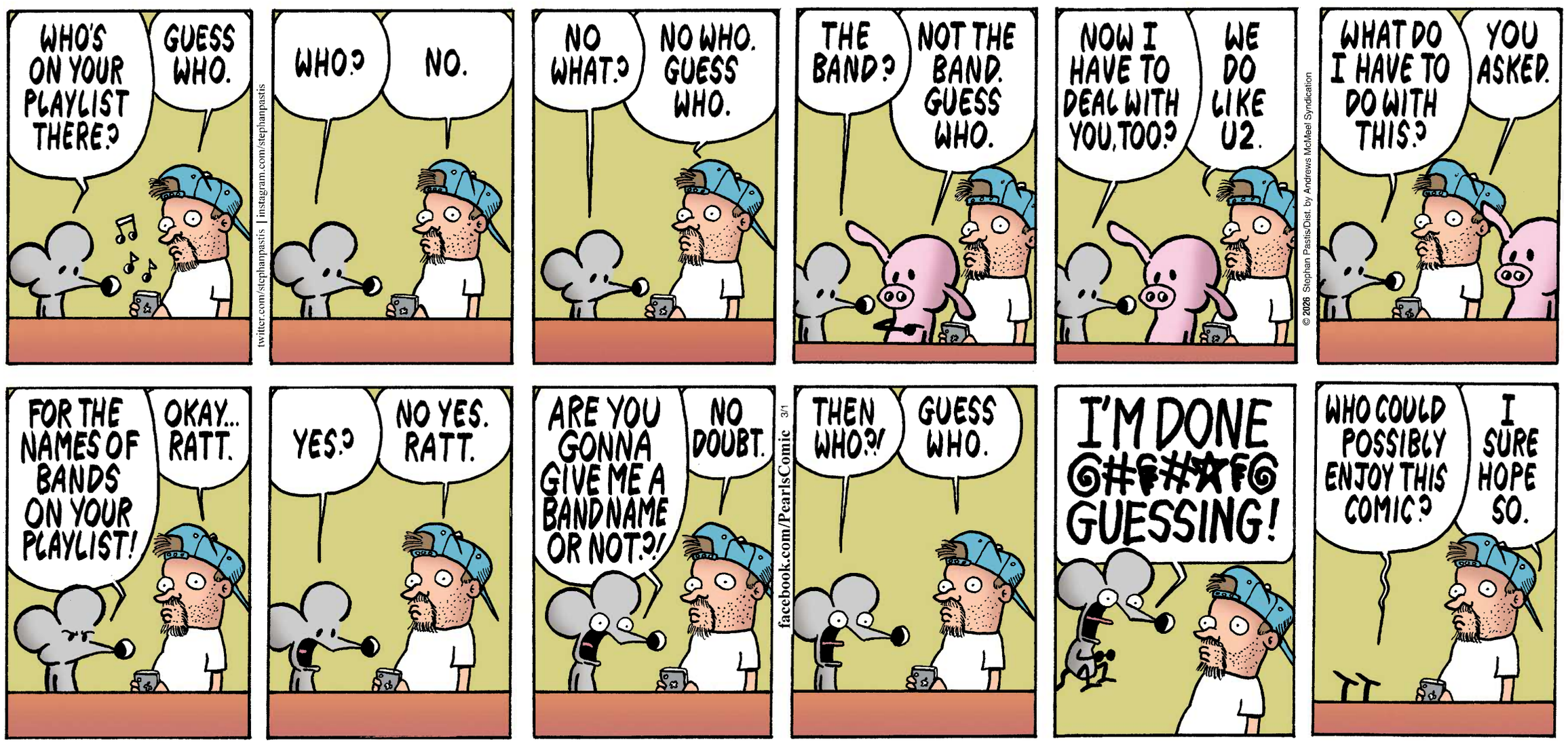

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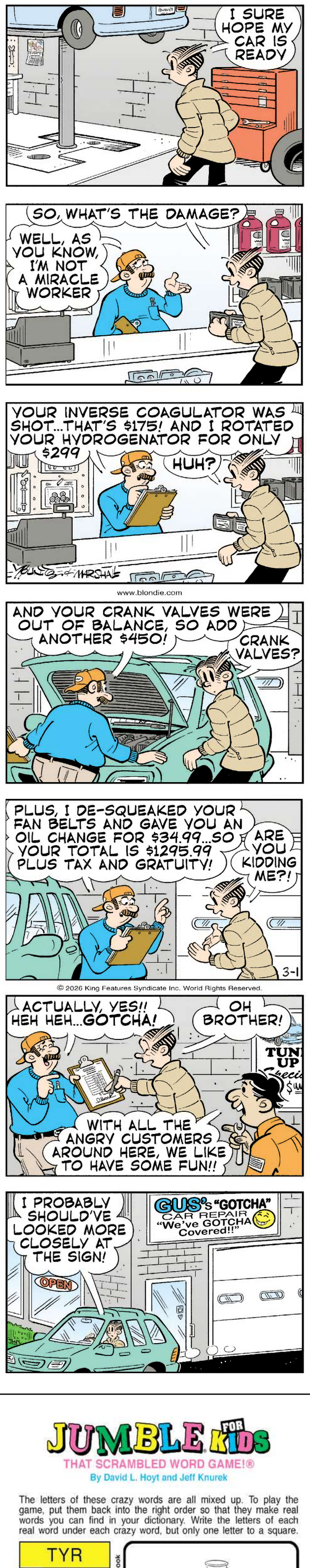

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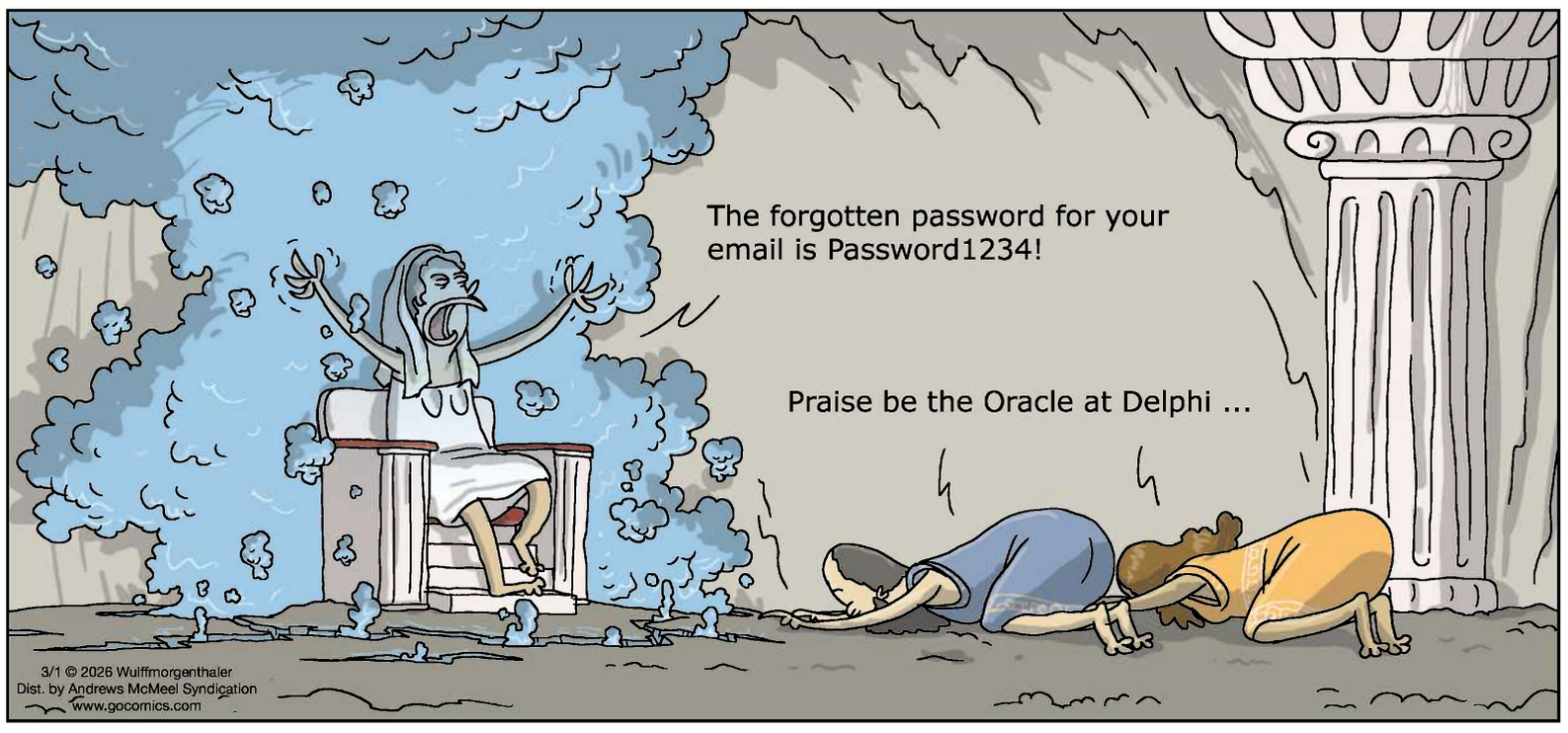

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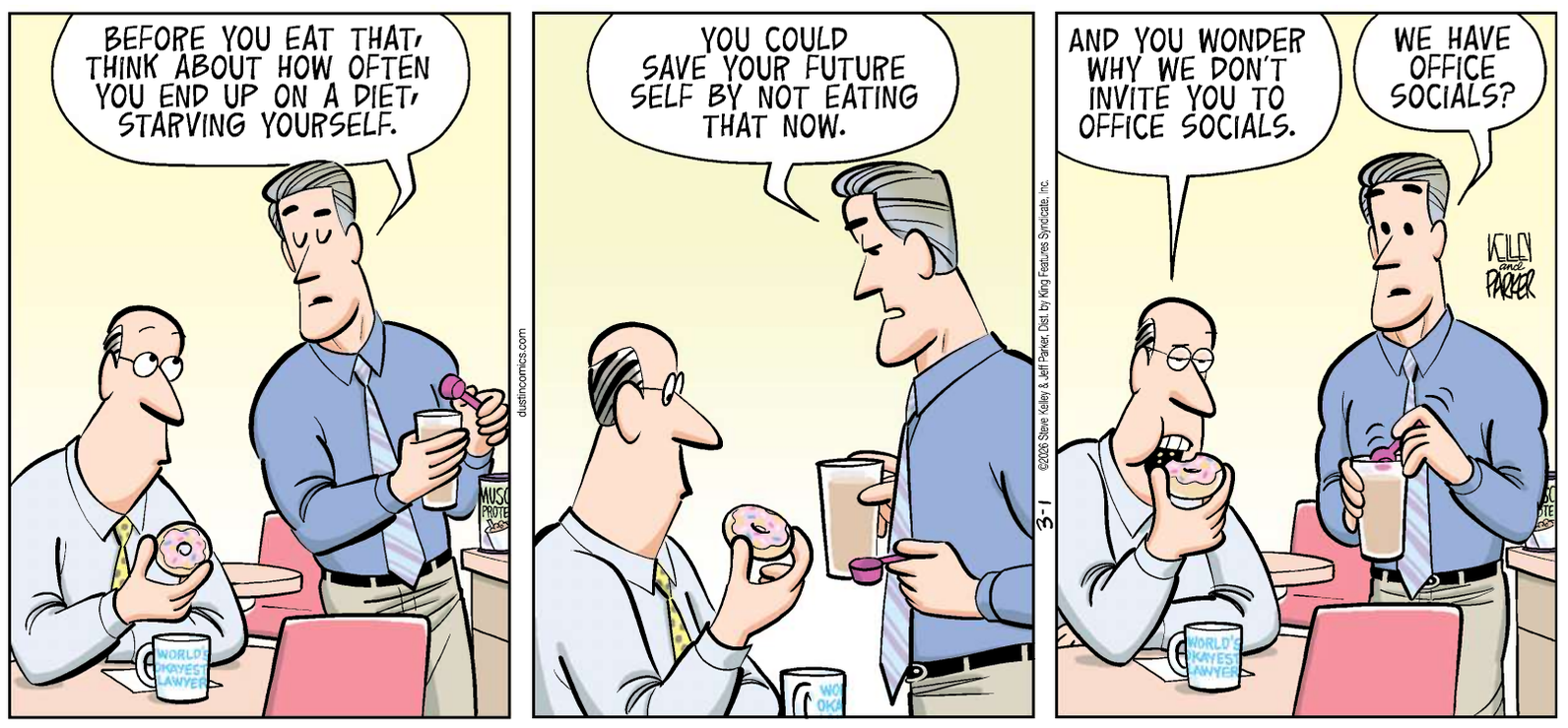

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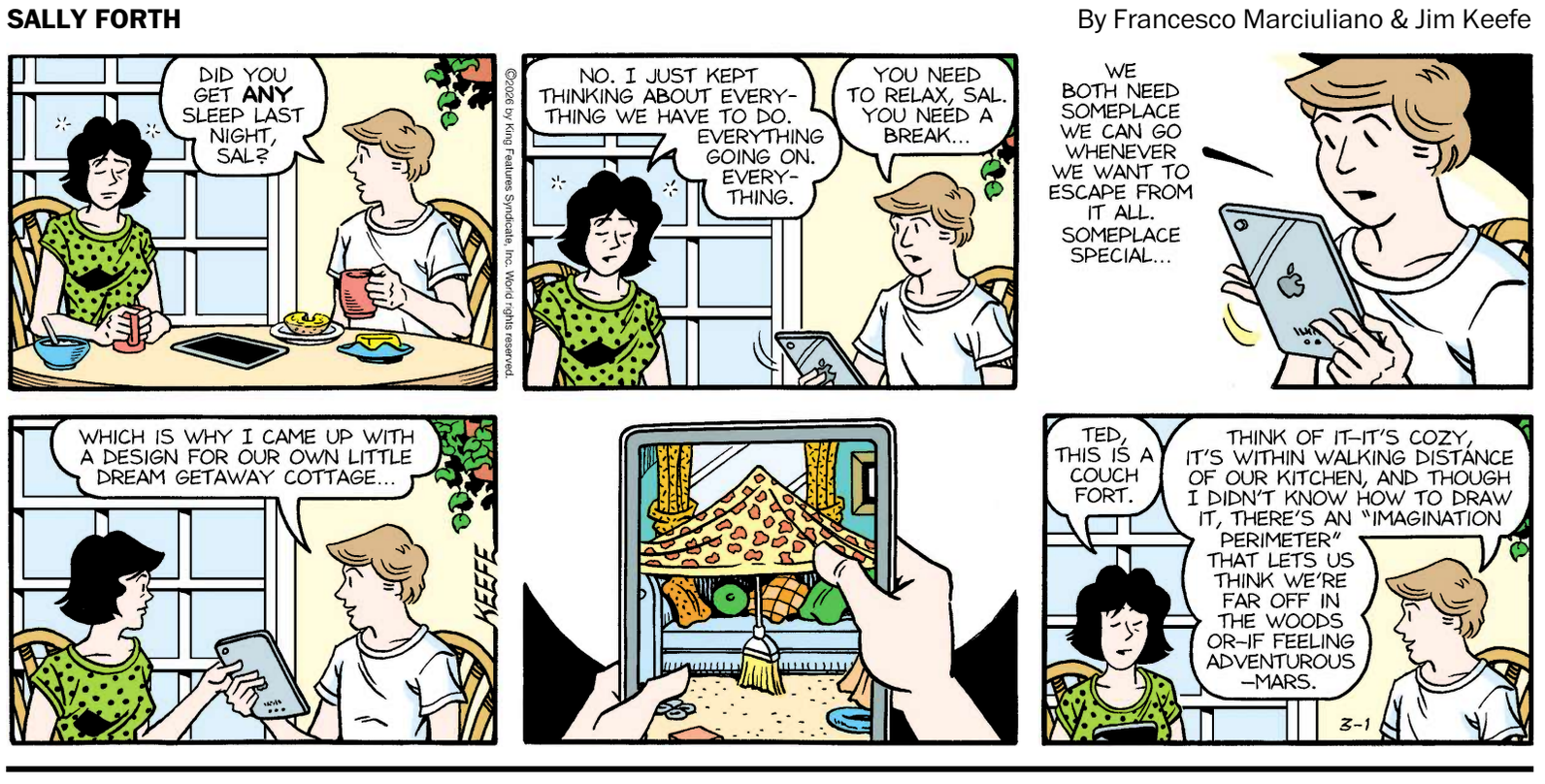
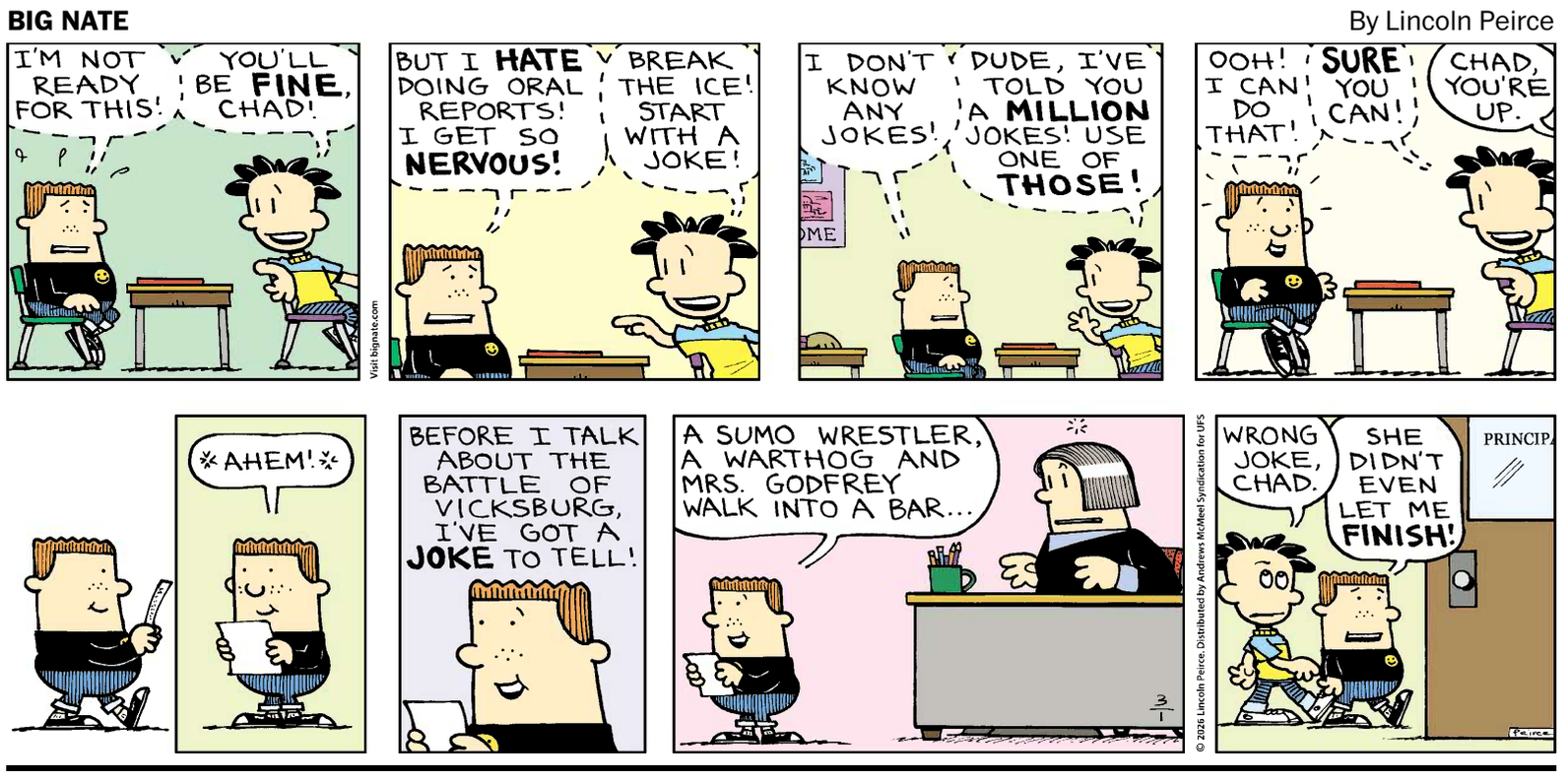


BIG NATE

By Lincoln Peirce



JUMBLE FOR KIDS

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME!®

By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

The letters of these crazy words are all mixed up. To play the game, put them back into the right order so that they make real words you can find in your dictionary. Write the letters of each real word under each crazy word, but only one letter to a square.

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Hey! Why are you mimicking me?

Hey! Why are you mimicking me?

WHEN THE KITTEN IMITATED EVERYTHING HIS SISTER DID, HE WAS A ---

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Now you're ready to solve today's Jumble For Kids. Study the picture for a hint. Play around with the letters in the circles. You'll find you can put them in order so that they make your funny answer.

Print answer here:

ANSWER (HOLD UP TO MIRROR)

Jumbles: try tuck pick road

Answer: Copy cat

REPLY ALL LITE

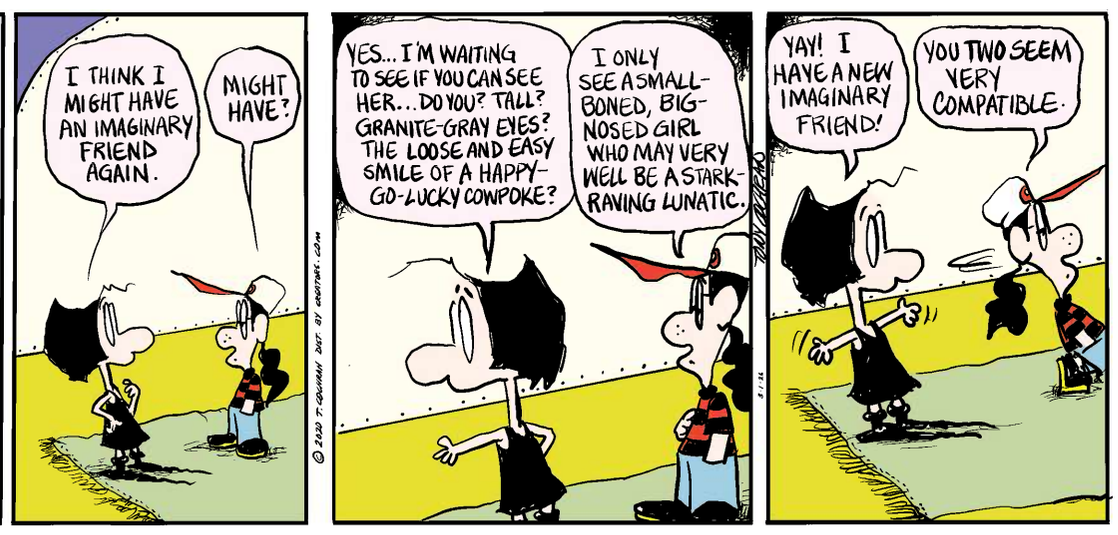
By Donna A. Lewis

LOOSE PARTS

By Dave Blazek

Agnes

by TONY COCHRAN

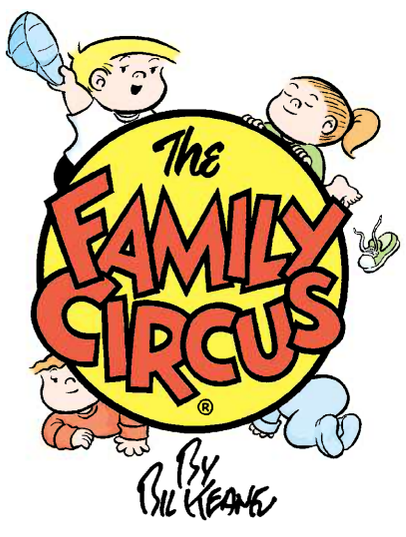


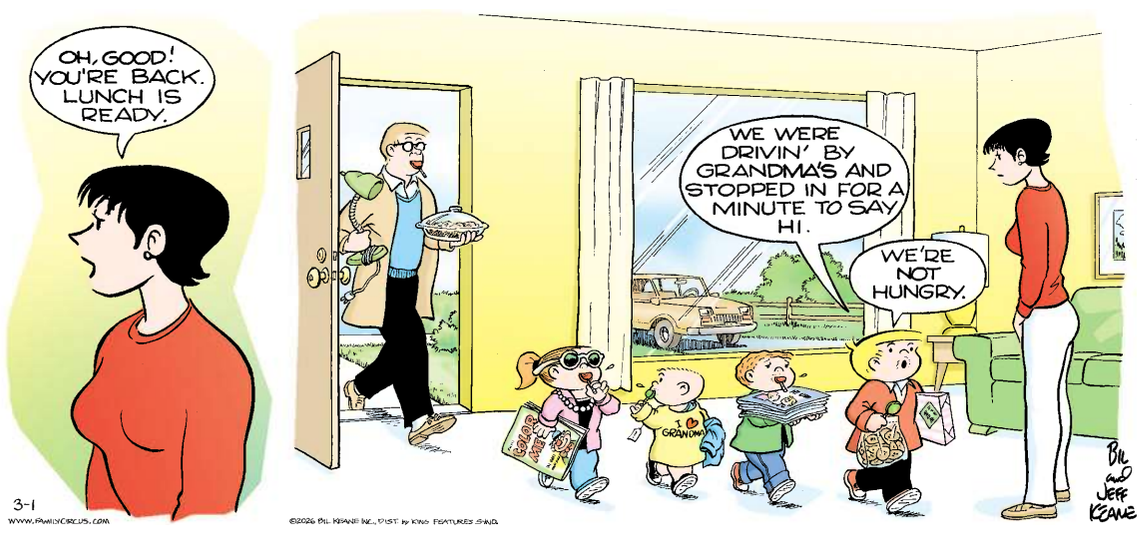
Rhymes with Orange

by HILARY B. PRICE

The Family Circus

By Bil Keane



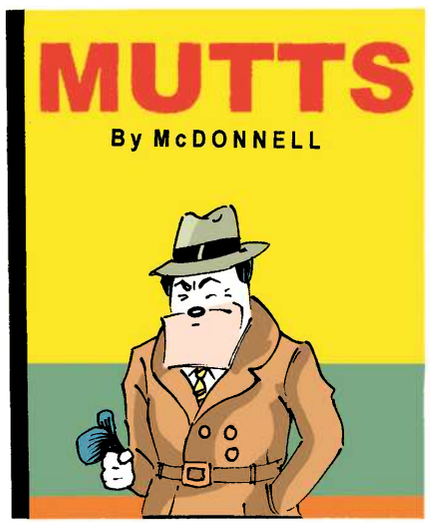


Speed Bump

by DAVE COVERLY

Mutts

By McDONNELL

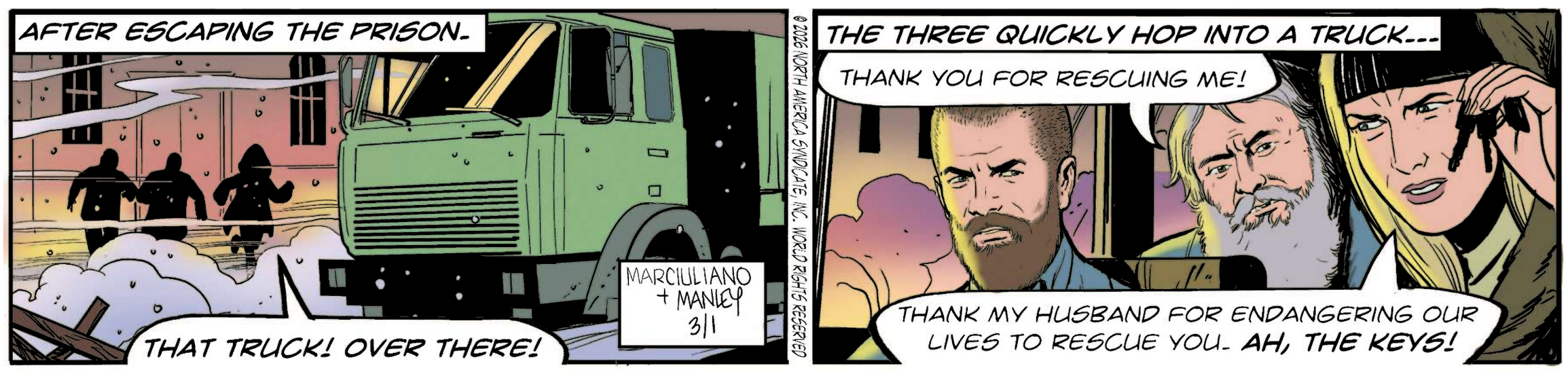


Flash Gordon

By Dan Schkade

Judge Parker

By Francesco Marciuliano & Mike Manley



Prince Valiant

HAL FOSTER'S

BY SCHULTZ AND YEATES

VAL HAS INFILTRATED BRISCOLA'S STRONGHOLD, FREED SANARC AND THE OTHER TRAVELER MEN, AND HAS FASHIONED AN ENTRY PORTAL FOR HIS COMPANIONS WAITING OUTSIDE.

THE TRAVELERS MAY NOT BE VETERAN WARRIORS, BUT THEY HAVE THE GREAT INCENTIVE OF CREATING A SAFE HAVEN FOR THEMSELVES. THEY CLIMB INTO THE CASTLE WITH HIGH EXPECTATIONS, TRUSTING IN THE KNIGHT LEADING THEM.

ELSEWHERE IN THE CASTLE, ALETA, HER PART IN THE PLOT DISCOVERED, SITS BOUND TO VALMORA, THE USURPED LADY OF BRISIGHELLA. VALMORA WHISPERS: *"I MUST APOLOGIZE FOR MY DOUBTS OF YOUR ACTIONS ON MY BEHALF, WHICH I STILL DO NOT UNDERSTAND...*

"OH, IF ONLY I HAD BEEN CLEVER, AND CONCEALED A WEAPON ON MY PERSON!" ALETA REPLIES: *"ALL WILL BE MADE CLEAR IN GOOD TIME. BUT, FOR NOW, KNOW THAT I HAVE A BIT OF CLEVERNESS ON MY PERSON. WHICH, WITH A LITTLE MORE SLACK AND TWISTING...*

" ...SHOULD SERVE US WELL! ARE YOU WITH ME, LADY VALMORA?"

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WHILE, AS LUCK WOULD HAVE IT, A CONFUSED PAGE MOUNTS A SELDOM-USED STAIRWELL, JUST IN TIME TO SEE A HORDE OF INVADING WARRIORS COMING FROM ABOVE. VAL'S JIG IS UP!

NEXT: Chaos!

4647 YEATES 3/1/26

T.Y. '25

©2026 Andrews McMeel Syndication Written by Steve McGarry and illustrated by Luke McGarry

KidToon

3/1

Lions spend as much as 20 hours a day resting!

They conserve their energy during the hottest hours of the day and are most active in the cooler hours just before dawn and after sunset.

They also need time to digest the high-protein meat that they eat.

Koalas are even lazier because they can sleep up to 22 hours a day!

TRUE but STRANGE

ZZZZZ...

LAZY LIONS!

Can you complete these words? Each contains a "lion."

1: An adult male horse: _ _ _ _ LION

2: A large military unit: _ _ _ _ _ LION

3: A very wealthy person: _ _ _ LION _ _ _ _

4: A vibrant orange-red color: _ _ _ _ _ LION

5: A weed with a bright yellow flower: _ _ _ LION

Answers: 1) STALLION 2) BATTALION 3) MILLIONAIRE 4) VERMILION 5) DANDELION

Use the News

How many different types of animals can you find in today's paper? Don't forget to check the comics!

Slylock Fox

A promoter came to Forestville pitching an amusement park, asking officials for upfront money in return for future profit-sharing. Slylock Fox advised them to inspect the roller coaster model first. Why?

Solution -- Slylock suspects a scam. The model shows the last hill taller than the one before it, but roller coasters lose energy as they go. Each hill must be lower than the last, or the cars can't climb it. The flawed design suggests the proposal lacks real engineering.

WEBER/SOTH

A NO-BRAINER! LET'S MAKE $$$!

BIGGER BETTER BOASTER COASTER

Spot six differences between these panels.

Answer -- Duck, tree, cat, branch arm, hat and footprint.

BONNIE and BOOBOO

BONNIE, WILL I HAVE TO EAT MY CAKE WITH A **FORK** WHEN GRANNY VISITS US?

SHE'S A STICKLER FOR MANNERS, SO, **YUP!**

...WELL, IN THAT CASE...

...HOW'S ABOUT ANOTHER PIECE TO PRACTICE WITH?

3-1

YOUR DRAWING

Today's terrific artist is Emilia, age 8

Submit your drawing to **www.slylockfox.com**

Have fun solving a new comic puzzle every day at www.slylockfox.com

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Hank Ketcham's Dennis the Menace

In Your Dreams

I'VE GOT SOME **HORRIBLE** NEWS!

?

MY DAD'S JOB IS TRANSFERRING HIM TO **ANOTHER STATE!**

REALLY?

I CAN'T BELIEVE IT!

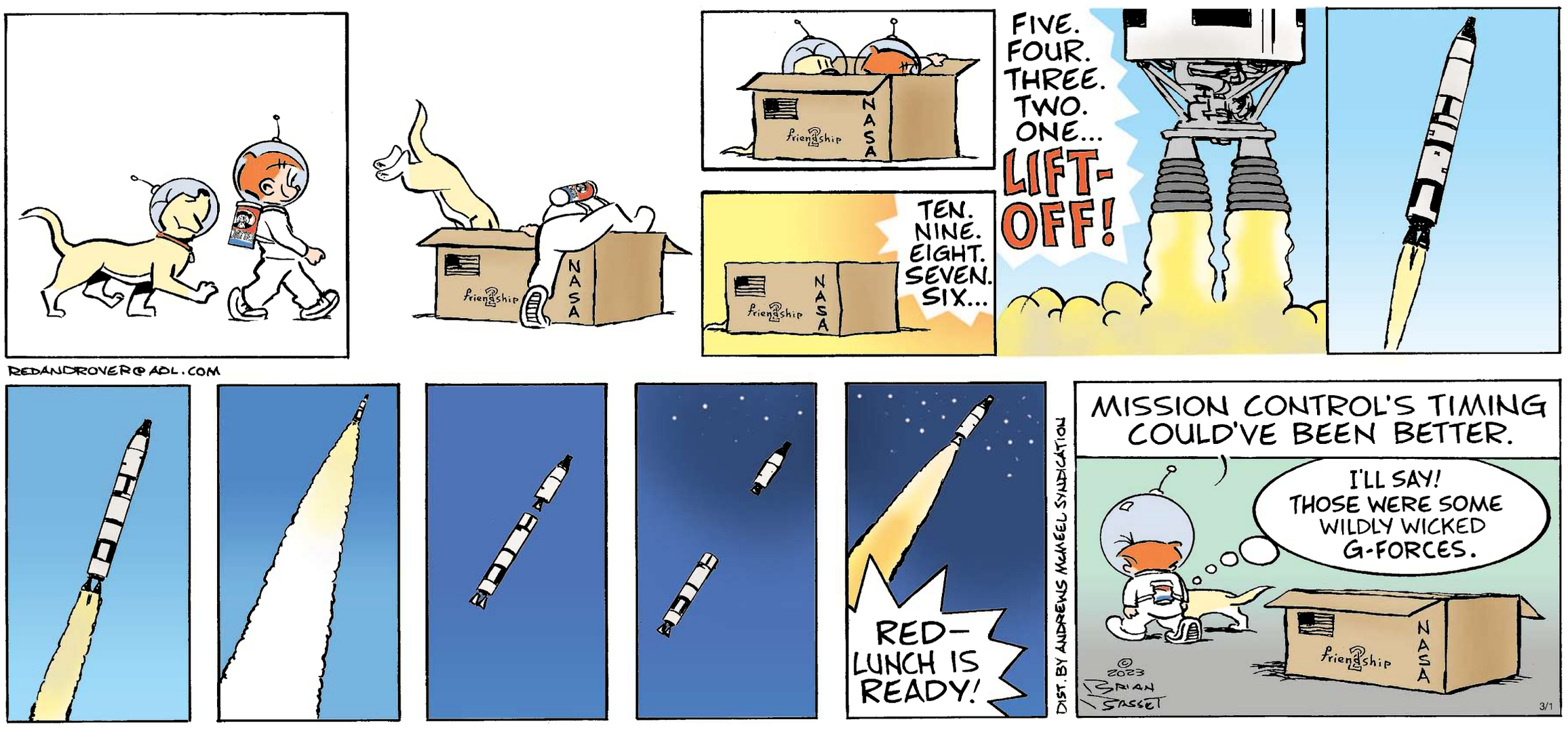
WE'RE GOING TO BE MOVING THE END OF THE MONTH!

I **KNEW** IT WAS TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE.

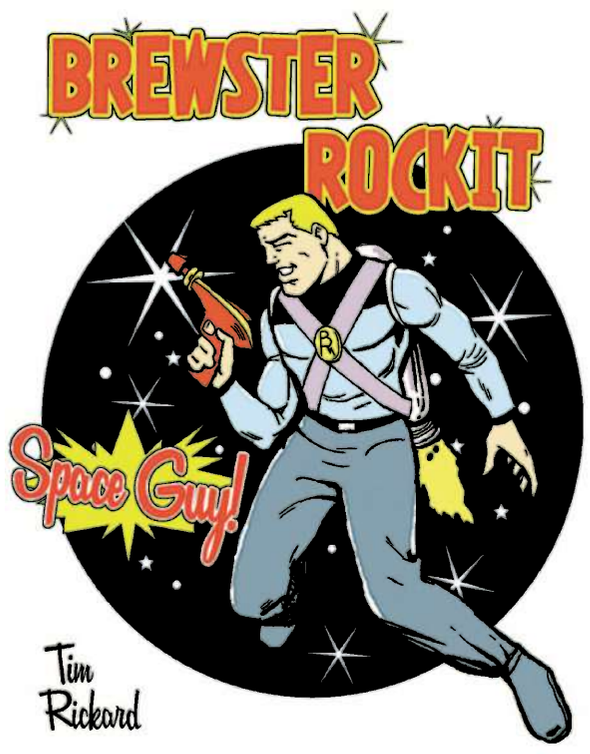
WWW.COMICSKINGDOM.COM ©2026 by North America Synd. R.Feydenand/S.Ketcham 3-1

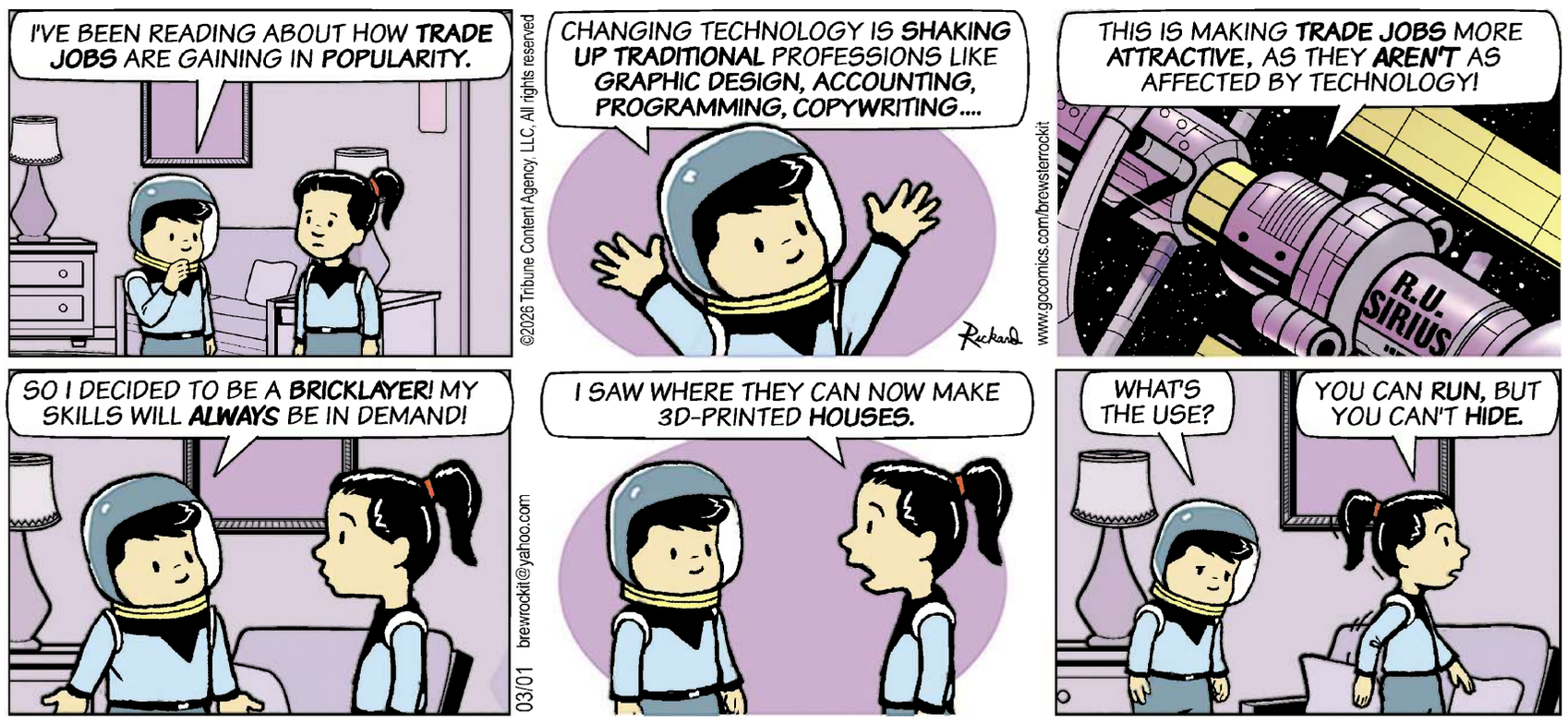
RED AND ROVER

By Brian Basset

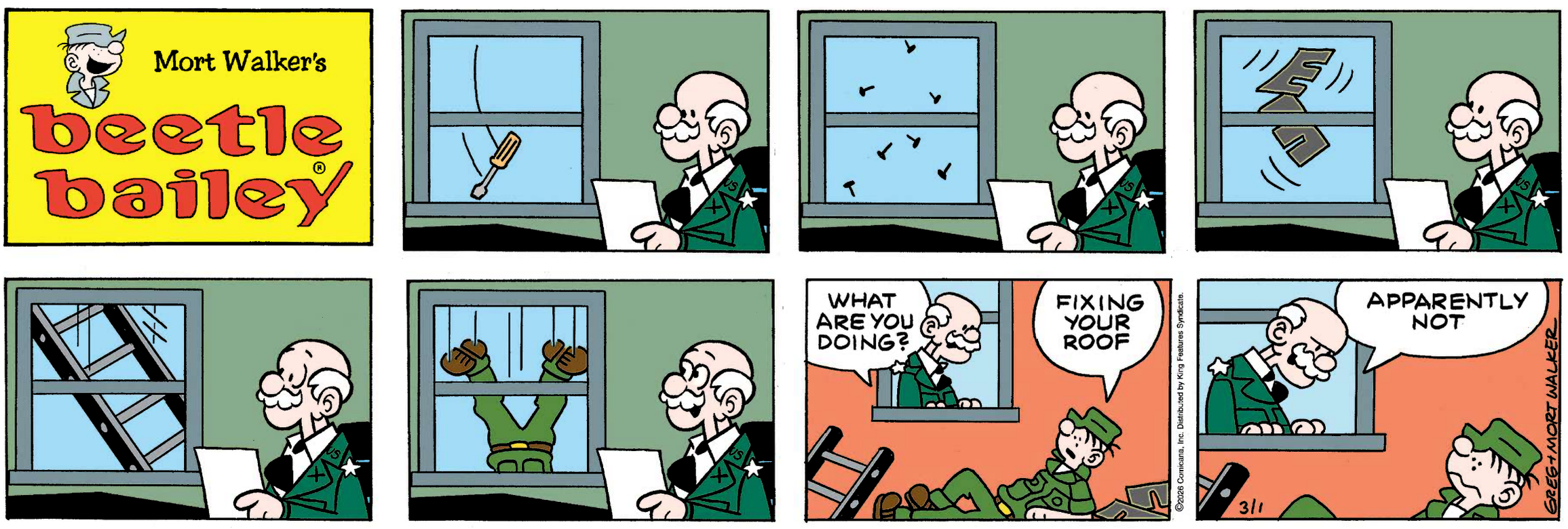


BREWSTER ROCKIT



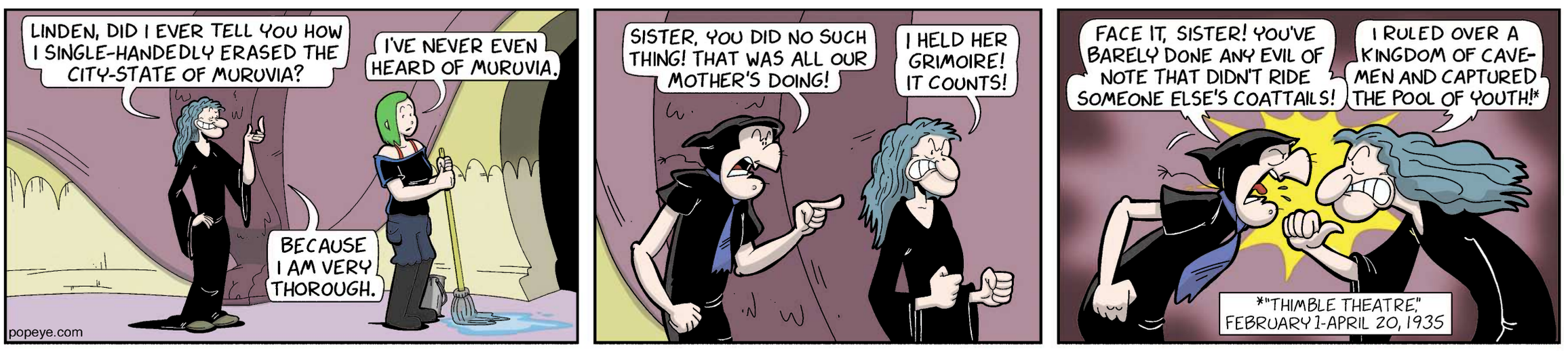


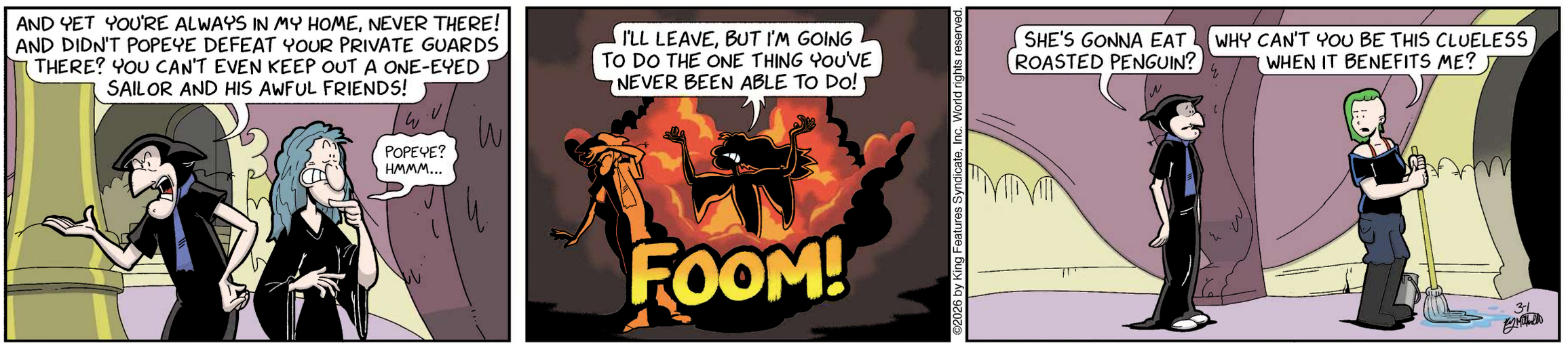
BEETLE BAILEY



POPEYE

By Randy Milholland





SAMURAI SUDOKU

(c) www.djape.net

	9	8		4		5	3						5	3		9		2	6	
5								2				6								9
		7	3	5	6	1								9	6	2	5	3		
	8		2		5		1						1		4		6		2	
	5			3			2						6			1			3	
	7		8		4		5						7		2		3		8	
		3	4	8	9					1					9	6	1	8		
9																				3
	2	5		7					2	3	7					4		7	9	
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		8	3	7	4					2					5	8	9	1		
	5		7		1		9						9		8		6		4	
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	7		6		2		1						8		4		3		5	
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Level of Difficulty: 3 (on a scale of 0-5)

How to Play

The rules of Samurai Sudoku are the same as in the popular Sudoku puzzles that appear in the daily comics section.

As with standard Sudoku, the Samurai version requires no math, just logic, reasoning ... and an iron will. The goal is to fill in each column, row and 3X3 box with the digits 1 through 9 without repeating any. The twist in Samurai Sudoku is that the digits that appear in the overlapping boxes must work for both puzzles.

A piece of advice to get you started: Don't focus completely on one grid at a time. Keep the whole puzzle in mind as you go, because filling in a number in one grid could give you clues to another. What's important to understand is this: Each Samurai puzzle is ONE puzzle, not five separate Sudoku puzzles that just overlap each other. Occasionally people claim that, for example, the "bottom right" 9X9 puzzle had more than one solution. Well, yes it may, but the entire puzzle can be solved in only one way. Never resort to guessing! For more tips, go to http://www.djape.net/sudoku/wp/?p=144.

Last Sunday's Solution

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

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

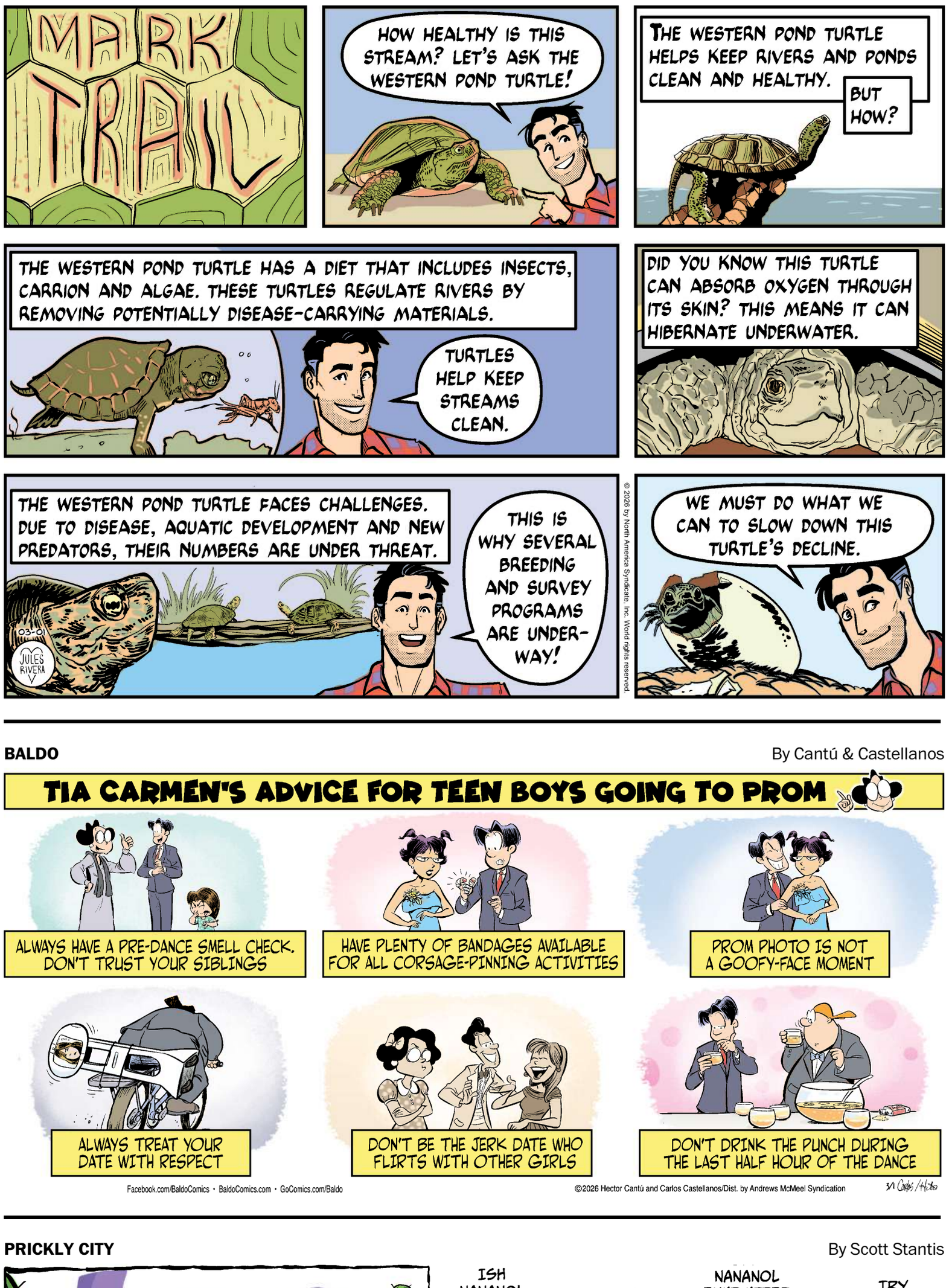
			5	4	6	8	2	7
			7	2	8	9	1	3
			9	3	1	5	6	4

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

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

CLASSIC PEANUTS

By Charles Schulz



BALDO

By Cantú & Castellanos

PRICKLY CITY

By Scott Stantis