



## After midterms, states weighing abortion protections, bans



Protesters hold signs as Barbara DeVane, of the Tallahassee National Organization for Women, speaks outside the Florida Historic Capitol in Tallahassee, Fla., during a rally protesting the Supreme Court's overturning of Roe v. Wade on June 24, 2022.

(AP Photo/Patrick Semansky, File)

By AMY FORLITI and GEOFF MULVIHILL  
Associated Press

**MINNEAPOLIS (AP)** — Democrats hope to use their newfound political control in some states to guarantee that women have access to abortion, while some GOP strongholds may temper their efforts to deepen restrictions after poorer-than-expected results in the midterms. Even after their gains this month, Democrats lack the power to codify abortion rights into federal law. That puts the abortion debate squarely on the states to navigate and rework the patchwork of laws that have been in place since the Supreme Court overturned Roe v. Wade. There will still be a patchwork of policies: In Minnesota, Democrats are planning to add the right to abortion into state law. In the GOP stronghold of Florida, leaders are talking about more restrictions but haven't

settled on a plan. In Pennsylvania, pickups for Democrats mean they can likely stop Republicans from adding anti-abortion language to the state constitution, and in divided states such as Wisconsin, a legislative stalemate remains.

"The real uncertainty is how far states go" with abortion bans, said Mary Ziegler, a professor at the University of California, Davis, School of Law and an expert on the politics of reproduction. Post-midterms, some states might think twice before forging ahead with strict bans.

But, she said, some conservative lawmakers might say: "I don't see a problem here. We're fine. We won our elections and our voters want abortion bans."

The reversal of Roe, which enshrined the right to abortion nationwide, was broadly unpopular among voters.

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# After midterms, states weighing abortion protections, bans

Continued from Front

According to VoteCast, a survey of more than 94,000 voters conducted for The Associated Press by NORC at the University of Chicago, about 6 in 10 say they are angry or dissatisfied by the decision, while about 4 in 10 were pleased. Among Democratic voters, about 6 in 10 say the ruling made them angry.

"Whatever people's personal feelings are on abortion, they are very clear they don't want the government and politicians monkeying around with their health care," said Megan Peterson, executive director of Gender Justice, a Minnesota nonprofit that advocates for equal rights. Minnesota doesn't have any laws guaranteeing access to abortion, but abortion is protected under a 1995 state Supreme Court ruling that cites a woman's right to privacy. After an election that will put Democrats in charge of both legislative chambers and the governor's office for the first time in eight years, House Speaker Melissa Hortman said a priority when the session begins in January will be to codify abortion rights into state law.

In battleground Michigan, voters overwhelmingly approved an amendment that enshrines abortion rights in the state constitution and affirms a person's right to make pregnancy-related decisions about abortion and other reproductive services without interference.

Nevertheless, one priority is to remove a 1931 law that criminalizes abortion from the books, said state Senate Majority Leader Winnie Brinks. Democrats took control of the House and Senate this month. When the new legislature is sworn in, it'll be the first time since 1983 that the party had full control of the state government.

Brinks said Democrats want to eventually advance other legislation focused on reproductive rights.

"The people were very clear that they value their



Abortion rights advocates demonstrate at City Hall in Philadelphia on June 24, 2022.

Associated Press

reproductive freedoms at a very high level and we want to make sure that we affirm that as well," she said. Elsewhere, a legislative stalemate could be on the horizon.

In Wisconsin, Democratic Gov. Tony Evers won reelection while Republicans increased their majorities in the state Legislature, but fell short of their goal of reaching a supermajority capable of overriding vetoes. Republican Assembly Speaker Robin Vos renewed his call to pass a bill allowing for rape and incest exceptions and other changes to the 1849 law, to ensure that the state ban withstands court challenges. But Evers, voicing confidence in a court challenge, said he would veto any bill that keeps the ban in place.

"I don't see a way to solve this legislatively," Evers said. Pennsylvania voters flipped about a dozen seats to Democrats in the state House, which could block Republican efforts to add anti-abortion language to the state constitution.

Nebraska Republicans want to ban abortion, but the GOP appears to have fallen short of securing the 33 seats it needs in the officially nonpartisan, one-

house state Legislature to overcome filibusters. That could make it harder for them to ban abortion, even though they control the Legislature and hold every major statewide office.

Other GOP strongholds are seeing roadblocks to bans. In Kansas, the Legislature retained its strong anti-abortion majorities, but abortion opponents are constrained by a 2019 state Supreme Court decision declaring access to abortion a "fundamental" right under the state constitution.

Voters in August decisively rejected a proposed constitutional amendment to overturn that decision. Abortion opponents instead are looking to other proposals.

Rep. Dan Hawkins, a Wichita Republican who is expected to become House speaker in January, said lawmakers may pursue a law requiring health providers to take all reasonable steps to save the life of an infant born alive, including after an attempted abortion.

"You have to do something that you think has a chance of passing muster," Hawkins said.

Voters in Montana, where Republicans hold a supermajority in the Legislature,

rejected a similar ballot measure Nov. 8. Five days later, a lawmaker there requested a bill be drafted to "establish that an infant born alive is a person." It has yet to be drafted, but another bill already drafted for next year calls for a ban on abortion at all stages of pregnancy.

Kentucky voters rejected a Republican-backed ballot measure aimed at denying any constitutional protections for abortion — highlighting an apparent gap between voter sentiment and expectations of the GOP-dominated Legislature, which imposed a near-total abortion ban.

"The people of Kentucky have spoken and their answer is no — no to extremist politicians banning abortion and making private medical decisions on their behalf," said Amber Duke, interim executive director for the ACLU of Kentucky.

A judge in Georgia this week overturned a ban on abortion starting at about six weeks gestational age, ruling it violated the U.S. Constitution and U.S. Supreme Court precedent when it was enacted in 2019 because Roe was still in effect. But the judge left the door open for the Legislature to revisit the ban.

In Florida, which further cemented its GOP control, the issue was also murky. Florida passed a ban on abortion after 15 weeks with no exceptions for rape or incest during the 2022 legislative session.

Republican Gov. Ron DeSantis won by a landslide and the House and Senate went from firmly Republican to GOP supermajorities in each chamber. The governor and legislative leaders have all said they support new abortion restrictions, but no specific language has been proposed.

Christine Matthews, a pollster who has worked for Republicans, said even among conservative lawmakers, there could be more debates on how far restrictions should go, as there were this year in Indiana and West Virginia, where laws were passed banning abortion throughout pregnancy but with exceptions in cases of rape and incest.

"For the first time, some of these particularly male legislators were grappling with the fact that this is hard, not everything goes one way," Matthews said. "People who support it as being between a woman and a doctor are like, 'Yeah, no kidding.'" □



## Researchers: AI in connected cars eased rush hour congestion

By TRAVIS LOLLER

Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) —

As millions of people travel the interstates this Thanksgiving, many will encounter patches of traffic at a standstill for no apparent reason — no construction or accident. Researchers say the problem is you.

Human drivers just don't do a good job of navigating dense traffic conditions, but an experiment using artificial intelligence in Nashville last week means help could be on the way. In the experiment, specially equipped cars were able to ease rush hour congestion on Interstate-24, researcher Daniel Work said on Tuesday. In addition to lessening driver frustration, Work said less stop-and-go driving means fuel savings and, by extension, less pollution. The professor of civil and environmental engineering at Vanderbilt University is one of a group of engineers and mathematicians from universities around the U.S. who have been studying the problem of phantom traffic jams after a simple experiment in Japan a dozen years ago showed how they develop. Researchers there put about 20 human drivers on



Researchers look at live interstate traffic images and data screens Nov. 17, 2022, in Nashville, Tenn.

a circular track and asked them to drive at a constant speed. Before long, traffic went from a smooth flow to a series of stops and starts. "Phantom traffic jams are created by drivers like you and me," Work explained. One person taps the brakes for whatever reason. The person behind them takes a second to respond and has to brake even harder. The next person has to brake even harder. The wave of braking contin-

ues until many cars are at a standstill. Then, as traffic clears, the drivers accelerate too quickly, causing more braking and yet another jam. "We know that one car braking suddenly can have a huge impact," Work said. Last week's experiment showed that a few cars driving slowly and steadily could have an impact as well, for the better. The experiment utilized 100 cars that travelled in loops on a 15-mile section of I-24

from about 6 a.m. to 9:45 a.m. each morning. Working on the premise that if 5% of the cars on the road were acting together, they could lessen the prevalence of phantom traffic jams, the researchers equipped those 100 cars to communicate wirelessly, sending traffic information back and forth. They also took advantage of the adaptive cruise control that is already an option on many new vehicles. This

technology lets the driver set a car to cruise at a certain speed, but the car automatically slows down and speeds up as needed to keep a safe distance from the car in front. In the experiment, the adaptive cruise control was modified to react to the overall traffic flow including what was happening far ahead using artificial intelligence.

The cars' decision-making occurred on two levels, Work said. At the cloud level, information about traffic conditions was used to create an overall speed plan. That plan was then broadcast to the cars, which used artificial intelligence algorithms to determine the best action to take. The researchers were able to evaluate the effect the connected cars had on morning traffic flow using a special 4-mile stretch of I-24 outfitted with 300 pole-mounted sensors.

The experiment is a project of the CIRCLES consortium, a group that includes several automakers and the U.S. Energy and Transportation departments. Other lead researchers are based at the University of California, Berkeley; Temple University; and Rutgers University-Camden. □

Associated Press

## GOP's McCarthy threatens to impeach Mayorkas over border

By LISA MASCARO

AP Congressional Correspondent

WASHINGTON (AP) —

House Republican leader Kevin McCarthy on Tuesday called on Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas to resign over management of the U.S. southern border with Mexico, warning that the new House GOP majority will open investigations that could lead to impeachment proceedings.

McCarthy, who is positioned to become the new House speaker when the new Congress convenes in January, said the Republican majority would use "the power of the purse and the power of the subpoena" to hold President

Joe Biden's administration accountable for border security.

"If Secretary Mayorkas does not resign, House Republicans will investigate every order, every action and every failure to determine whether we can begin an impeachment inquiry," McCarthy said at a press conference in El Paso, Texas.

"This investigation could lead to an impeachment inquiry," he said.

Standing with fellow House Republicans mostly from Texas, McCarthy said he had spoken with the incoming chairmen of the relevant investigatory committees and given his "full support" to Rep. Jim Jordan, R-Ohio, at the Judi-

ciary Committee and Rep. James Comer, R-Ky., at the Oversight Committee to open investigations.

McCarthy said he expects Mayorkas' resignation by Jan. 3, when the new Congress convenes. Investigations would begin on day one, he said. "Enough is enough," he said.

House Republicans have put border security among their top priorities and Mayorkas among their top officials to investigate and try to remove from office, potentially through impeachment.

McCarthy has not yet secured the votes from House Republicans to become speaker, and he is working swiftly to shore up support before the vote from what

is expected to be a slim, few-seat majority.

The California Republican particularly needs votes from his conservative right-

flank lawmakers, who are eager to begin impeachment proceedings against Mayorkas and other Biden administration officials. □



House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy, of Calif., talks to reporters, Tuesday, Nov. 15, 2022, on Capitol Hill in Washington.

Associated Press



# Walmart manager opens fire in break room, killing 6

By **ALEX BRANDON**  
and **BEN FINLEY**

**Associated Press**

**CHESAPEAKE, Va. (AP)** — A Walmart manager opened fire on fellow employees in the break room of a Virginia store, killing six people in the country's second high-profile mass shooting in four days, police and witnesses said Wednesday.

The gunman, who apparently shot himself, was dead when officers found him, police said. There was no clear motive for the shooting, which also left at least six people wounded, including one critically.

The store in Chesapeake, Virginia's second-largest city, was busy just before the attack Tuesday night as people stocked up ahead of the Thanksgiving holiday, a shopper told a local TV station.

Employee Briana Tyler said the overnight stocking team of 15 to 20 people had just gathered in the break room to go over the morning plan. She said the meeting was about to start, and a team leader said: "All right guys, we have a light night ahead of us," when another team leader, 31-year-old Andre Bing, turned around and opened fire on the staff.

"It is by the grace of God that a bullet missed me," Tyler said. "I saw the smoke leaving the gun, and I literally watched bodies drop. It was crazy."

Officials said on the city's Twitter account that three of the dead, including Bing, were found in the break room. One of the slain victims was found near the front of the store. Three others were taken to hospitals where they died of their wounds.

Walmart said in a statement that Bing was an overnight team leader and had been with the company since 2010.

At first, Tyler didn't think the shooting was real. "It was all happening so fast. I thought it was like a test type of thing. Like, if you do have an active shooter, this is how you respond."

Tyler, who worked with Bing just the night before, said



**A law enforcement investigator wears a protective covering as they work the scene of a mass shooting at a Walmart, Wednesday, Nov. 23, 2022, in Chesapeake, Va.**

**Associated Press**

he did not aim at anyone specific. "He was just shooting all throughout the room. It didn't matter who he hit. He didn't say anything. He didn't look at anybody in any specific type of way." Tyler, who started at Walmart two months ago, said she never had a negative encounter with Bing, but others told her that he was "the manager to look out for." She said Bing had a history of writing people up for no reason.

"He just liked to pick, honestly. I think he just looked for little things to go about, because he had the authority. That's just the type of person that he was. That's what a lot of people said about him," she said. A neighbor, Alicia McDuffie, said police "swarmed the whole street" in the middle of the night and forced their way into Bing's house. Her mother, Vera McDuffie, saw officers approach Bing's front door with a battering ram.

Chesapeake Police Chief Mark G. Solesky said Bing used a pistol, and police said later that he had multiple magazines. Solesky could not confirm whether the victims were all employees. Employee Jessie Wilczewski told Norfolk television station WAVY that she hid under the table, and

Bing looked and pointed his gun at her. He told her to go home, and she left. The attack was the second time in a little more than a week that Virginia has experienced a major shooting. Three University of Virginia football players were fatally shot on a charter bus as they returned to campus from a field trip on Nov. 13. Two other students were wounded.

The assault at the Walmart came three days after a person opened fire at a gay nightclub in Colorado, killing five people and wounding 17. Last spring, the country was shaken by the deaths of 21 when a gunman stormed an elementary school in Uvalde, Texas. Tuesday night's shooting also brought back memories of another at a Walmart in 2019, when a gunman who targeted Mexicans opened fire at a store in El Paso, Texas, and killed 22 people.

A database run by The Associated Press, USA Today and Northeastern University that tracks every mass killing in America going back to 2006 shows that the U.S. has now had 40 mass killings so far in 2022. That compares with 45 for all of 2019, the highest year in the database, which defines a mass killing as at least four

people killed, not including the killer.

The database defines a mass killing as at least four people killed, not including the killer.

According to the database, more than a quarter of the mass killings have occurred since Oct. 21, spanning eight states and claiming 51 lives. Nine of those 11 incidents were shootings.

Notably, the database does not include the recent shooting at the University of Virginia because that attack did not meet the threshold of four dead, not including the shooter. President Joe Biden tweeted that he and the first lady were grieving for the victims' families.

"We mourn for those who will have empty seats at their Thanksgiving table because of these tragic events — we must take greater action."

A 911 call about the shooting came in just after 10 p.m. Solesky did not know how many shoppers were inside, whether the gunman was working or whether a security guard was present.

Kimberly Shupe, mother of Walmart employee Jalon Jones, told reporters her 24-year-old son was shot in the back. She said he was in good condition and

talking Wednesday, after initially being placed on a ventilator.

Shupe said she learned of the shooting from a friend, who went to a family reunification center to find out Jones' whereabouts.

"If he's not answering his phone, he's not answering text messages and there's a shooting at his job, you just kind of put two and two together," Shupe said. "It was shock at first, but ultimately, I just kept thinking, he's going to be all right." Walmart said in a statement that it was working with law enforcement and "focused on doing everything we can to support our associates and their families."

In the aftermath of the El Paso shooting, the company made a decision in September 2019 to discontinue sales of certain kinds of ammunition and asked that customers no longer openly carry firearms in its stores. It stopped selling handgun ammunition as well as short-barrel rifle ammunition, such as the .223 caliber and 5.56 caliber used in military style weapons. Walmart also discontinued handgun sales in Alaska.

The company stopped selling handguns in the mid-1990s in every state but Alaska. The latest move marked its complete exit from that business and allowed it to focus on hunting rifles and related ammunition only.

Many of its stores are in rural areas where hunters depend on Walmart to get their equipment.

Tyler's grandfather, Richard Tate, said he dropped his granddaughter off for her 10 p.m. shift, then parked the car and went in to buy some dish soap.

When he first heard the shots, he thought it could be balloons popping.

But he soon saw other customers and employees fleeing, and he ran too.

Tate reached his car and called his granddaughter.

"I could tell that she was upset," he said. "But I could also tell that she was alive." □



## U.K. top court rules against Scottish independence vote plan

By JILL LAWLESS

Associated Press

**LONDON (AP)** — The U.K. Supreme Court ruled Wednesday that Scotland does not have the power to hold a new referendum on independence without the consent of the British government. The judgment is a setback for the Scottish government's campaign to break away from the United Kingdom.

Scottish First Minister Nicola Sturgeon said she would respect the ruling but continue the fight for independence, saying Scotland's "democratic right to choose our own future" was at stake.

The top court ruled that the Scottish Parliament "does not have the power to legislate for a referendum on Scottish independence."

Supreme Court President Robert Reed said the five justices were unanimous in the verdict, delivered six weeks after lawyers for the pro-independence Scottish administration and the Conservative U.K. govern-



**SNP leader and First Minister of Scotland Nicola Sturgeon issues a statement at the Apex Grassmarket Hotel in Edinburgh, Wednesday, Nov. 23, 2022.**

Associated Press

ment argued their cases at hearings in London.

The semi-autonomous Scottish government wants to hold a referendum next October with the question "Should Scotland be an independent country?"

The U.K. government in London refuses to approve a vote, saying the question was settled in a 2014 referendum that saw Scottish voters reject independence by a margin of 55% to 45%. The pro-inde-

pendence government in Edinburgh wants to revisit the decision, though, arguing that Britain's departure from the European Union which a majority of Scottish voters opposed has radically changed the political and economic landscape. Sturgeon argues that she has a democratic mandate from the Scottish people to hold a new secession vote because there is an independence-supporting majority in the Scottish Par-

liament. During Supreme Court hearings last month, Dorothy Bain, the Scottish government's top law officer, said the majority of Scottish lawmakers had been elected on commitments to hold a fresh independence referendum. She also said a referendum would be advisory, rather than legally binding — though a "yes" vote would create strong momentum for Scotland to break away. U.K. government lawyer James Eadie argued that power to hold a referendum rests with the U.K. Parliament in London, because "it's of critical importance to the United Kingdom as a whole," not just Scotland. The Supreme Court justices agreed. They said it is clear that "a Bill which makes provision for a referendum on independence — on ending the sovereignty of the Parliament of the United Kingdom over Scotland — has more than a loose or consequential connection with the sovereignty of that Parliament." □

## Rights group: Israel demolishes school in West Bank hamlet

**JERUSALEM (AP)** — The Israeli military demolished a school in the occupied West Bank on Wednesday, an Israeli rights group said, following a court ruling earlier this year that upheld a long-standing expulsion order against eight Palestinian hamlets in the area.

The move follows on a year of deadly violence and rising tensions in Israel and

the Palestinian territories.

B'Tselem, the rights group, said schoolchildren were inside the classrooms as soldiers arrived ahead of the demolition. Video provided by the group showed a bulldozer tearing down the one-floor structure as soldiers stood guard nearby. COGAT, the Israeli military body responsible for administrative affairs in the

occupied West Bank, said it demolished a building built illegally in an area designated as a closed firing zone.

Israel's Supreme Court in May ruled against the families in the area, known as Masafer Yatta, paving the way for the potential displacement of at least 1,000 people. Rights groups say Israel has been carrying out a gradual demolition of the structures in the area since the ruling, with the school the latest to be torn down. The military declared the area a firing and training zone in the early 1980s. Israeli authorities have argued that the residents only used the area for seasonal agriculture and had no permanent structures there at the time. In November 1999, security forces expelled some 700 villagers and destroyed homes and cisterns, according to rights groups. The legal battle began the following year.

In its ruling in May, the Supreme Court sided with the state and said the villagers had rejected a compromise that would have allowed them to enter the area at certain times and practice agriculture for part of the year.

The families say they have been there for decades, from long before Israel captured the West Bank in the 1967 Mideast war. They practice a traditional form of desert agriculture and animal herding, with some living in caves at least part of the year, but say their only homes in the hard-scrabble communities are now at risk of demolition.

The West Bank has been under Israeli military rule for 55 years. Masafer Yatta is in the 60% of the territory where the Palestinian Authority is prohibited from operating. The Palestinians want the West Bank to form the main part of their future state. □



**Palestinians stand on the remains of a school after it was demolished by the Israeli military, in the occupied West Bank village of Masafer Yatta, Wednesday, Nov. 23, 2022.**

Associated Press

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# U.N.: Children in Haiti hit by cholera as malnutrition rises

By **EVENS SANON** and **DÁNICA COTO**

**Associated Press**

**PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP)** — A cholera outbreak sweeping through Haiti is claiming a growing number of children amid a surge in malnutrition, UNICEF announced Wednesday.

The deadly combination means that about 40% of cholera cases in the impoverished country of more than 11 million inhabitants now involve children, with 9 out of 10 cases reported in areas where people are starving, according to the United Nations agency.

"We have to plan for the worst," Manuel Fontaine, director of UNICEF's Office of Emergency Programs, told The Associated Press on Tuesday during a visit to Haiti.

Cholera has killed more than 200 people since the first deaths were announced in early October, and another 9,300 are hospitalized, according to the Haitian Health Ministry, but experts believe the number is much higher due to underreporting.

UNICEF and Haiti's government are seeking at least



**A patient suffering cholera symptoms is treated at a clinic run by Doctors Without Borders in the Delmas neighborhood of Port-au-Prince, Haiti, Thursday, Nov. 10, 2022.**

**Associated Press**

\$28 million to help feed, hydrate and care for 1.4 million people affected by the crisis, with that number expected to increase as malnutrition worsens, especially in urban areas such as the Cite Soleil slum in the capital of Port-au-Prince, something that hasn't been seen before.

"Cholera and malnutrition are a lethal combination, one leading to the other," Fontaine said.

On a recent morning at the Gheskio medical clinic in Port-au-Prince, nurses, doctors and social workers tended to malnourished children who also were fighting cholera.

"This is a challenge for us," said Dr. Karine Sévère, who runs the clinic's cholera department. "When the children are malnourished, it takes more time for them to recover."

She estimates that malnutri-

tion cases have increased by at least 40% in recent weeks, with nurses feeding children soup in the morning and rice, beans, meat and vegetables in the afternoon to help them gain weight. It's food that not many parents can afford in a country where about 60% of the population earns less than \$2 a day.

Roselord David, 40, says she and her five children had to flee Cite Soleil after war-

ring gangs set her house on fire. They temporarily lived in a public park and then moved in with her sister as she continues to struggle to find food for her children.

A social worker who spotted her emaciated 5-year-old daughter at the park urged David to take her to the clinic.

"They told me she was suffering from malnutrition," David said in a quiet voice, embarrassed to confide her family's problems in the clinic packed with patients. Nearby, a 15-year-old teenage boy was sleeping, an IV in his thin arm.

His friend, Island Meus, said she was taking turns with his mother to care for him.

"He sometimes goes without food," she confided, adding that he occasionally eats a bowl of rice with plantains when his family can afford it.

Haiti's government recently requested cholera vaccines, but there's a worldwide shortage of them and 31 countries are reporting outbreaks, so it's unclear if and when they will arrive. However, Fontaine said Haiti would be given priority. □

# Dominican sugar imports tied to forced labor rejected by U.S.

By **DÁNICA COTO**

**Associated Press**

**SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP)** — The U.S. government announced Wednesday that it will detain all imports of sugar and related products made in the Dominican Republic by Central Romana Corporation, Ltd. amid allegations that it uses forced labor.

A U.S. Customs and Border Protection investigation found that the company allegedly isolated workers, withheld wages, fostered abusive working and living conditions and pushed for excessive overtime, the agency said in a news release.

"Manufacturers like Central Romana, who fail to abide by our laws, will face consequences as we root out

these inhumane practices from U.S. supply chains," said AnnMarie Highsmith with the CBP's Office of Trade. Central Romana said in a written response to

The Associated Press that it received the news about the import ban with "great astonishment."

"In recent decades we have invested millions of

dollars to improve the working and living conditions of our employees in agricultural areas, guaranteeing decent wages and increased benefits, training and education workshops, as well as training in human rights and duties of our workers," it said.

Central Romana, which has long faced those types of accusations, is the Dominican Republic's largest sugar producer in an industry that exports more than \$100 million worth of products to the U.S. every year. One of Central Romana's owners is the Florida-based Fanjul Corp.

The announcement was cheered by activists who have long decried the treatment of tens of thousands of workers who live

and work on sprawling sugarcane fields, many of them Haitian migrants or descendants of them.

"This is needed to improve their situation," Roudy Joseph, a labor rights activist in the Dominican Republic, said in a phone interview. "We've been asking for improvements for decades."

The Associated Press last year visited several sugarcane fields owned by Central Romana where workers complained about a lack of wages, being forced to live in cramped housing that lacked water and restrictive rules including not being allowed to grow a garden to feed their families since transportation to the nearest grocery store miles away was too costly. □



**A youth plays near the machine where the sugar cane is weighed in the Lima batey, or neighborhood, in La Romana, where Central Romana Corporation, Ltd. operates its sugar operations in Dominican Republic, Nov. 17, 2021.**

**Associated Press**



## Ban Uni Man pa Cria Nos Muchanan foundation organizing fundraising Walk & Run

**ORANJESTAD -** Gilbert Wernet, representative for Gianni's Group, during a press conference this week explained that they are organizing their first Walk & Run to raise funds for the Ban Uni Man pa Cria Nos Muchanan foundation – Let's Join Hands to Feed Our Children.

Wernet explained that all proceeds of the sale of tickets for the Walk & Run will be donated 100% to the foundation. The foundation provides breakfast to school children in need. Wernet said that currently, there are around 816 children in Aruba that receive their breakfast from them every day.

"This is a pretty high amount, and this means that it is difficult to find the funds to support this", he said.

This is the reason why the Gianni's Group sat together with John Fun, who is the president of the Ban Uni Man pa Cria Nos Muchanan foundation, and presented the idea of the Walk & Run. This will take place on the 13th of December, starting at the parking lot by Costa Linda hotel in Eagle Beach, going to the Divi Phoenix, and then back to the start. The Walk & Run



will begin at 5pm.

The entire Aruban community as well as our beloved visitors, family, friends and colleagues are invited to participate in this noble cause.

To participate, tickets can be obtained for adults or for children 6 to 12 years old. An adult ticket pays for a child's breakfast for two weeks, and a children ticket covers one week's breakfast. Tickets can be obtained at Gianni's Group, Amore Mio, Garden Fresh, Citgo Boulevard,

Citgo Essoville, Superfood, Botica Aloe and Botica Santa Cruz.

Wernet said that they will also have some Door Prizes where the participants in the Walk & Run can win a weekend stay, dinner for two, and other prizes.

John Fun, president of the foundation, indicated that his foundation provides breakfast daily to children in need, at their school, which currently they are helping 816 children.

A few months ago, they

came out publicly because when the school year started, they began utilizing their reserves and realized that they will not have enough funds to cover the needs of the children this year. For this reason they sent a letter to schools to request to reduce the group of children who receive free breakfasts. However, as soon as their plight became public, the community came into action and approached them with help, and among them, Gianni's Group organized the Walk & Run with all proceeds going to the foundation.

"Naturally we are very thankful, because this is going to help the children directly. We want to stimulate the community to join us, because aside from it being something to help the community, it is also an activity to do with your family, walk 5k which is good for your health, and afterwards there are going to be different activities to have fun", Fun expressed.

Aruba Bank will also have a stand available for those who are interested in making a donation.

Fun commented that the foundation began in 2001, which means that they have been operating for 21 years and it always went

well. He also said that back when they began, they sent a letter to all workers of the hospital asking if they wanted to help a child, with a donation of 25 florins per month. Back then more than 100 workers accepted to give a hand to help feed the children, and slowly, local companies and clubs began also donating funds.

Before the Covid-19 pandemic, the foundation had 635 children registered for help, but after the pandemic the amount increased to 816, creating financial problems for the foundation. He said that each child has an average cost of 600 florins per year. "We are now feeling the crunch, but thankfully companies like Gianni's help us continue so we can reach the end of the school year helping the children", Fun said.

"I am glad that the foundation can do something good for our community and especially for our children", Fun said.

He also said that in their own way they contribute to the wellbeing of underprivileged children, and that it is true that a child who ate breakfast before school learns better.

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# LOCAL



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## Papillon: the butterfly effect of magnificent food

**PALM BEACH** — Do you remember the film “Papillon” starring Steve McQueen? Papillon restaurant is the island’s example where ‘life imitates art.’ The décor, especially the rest-rooms, was inspired by the movie. For more than a decade this restaurant has built a reputation with the fusion of classic French cuisine, Dutch and Caribbean flavors. Welcome in the world of wonders where ambiance, taste and service come together and you feel you are being welcomed in the home of the owner and her team.

“We find it really important that our guests have fun; can relax while listening to live music while their taste buds are being tickled by France, The Netherlands and the Caribbean. We offer a unique fusion of dishes and a night not to forget,” says owner Tina. She points out that all Covid-protocol is in place here, they are very keen on hygiene and offer outside dining on a cozy, elegant terrace with social distancing in place and right on the high-rise strip.

### Fresh oysters, caviar and wild boar

You are on vacation, life is to enjoy! If you want something special, a different flow than the usual then Papillon is the place to go. Foodies are in heaven here with classic French dishes such as Foie Gras, Frog Legs, fresh Oysters coming in on a weekly basis from Holland, Escargots, Dover Sole à la Meunière flown in from Europe and filleted at the table, Duck Breast seared on the skin, roasted and braised Lamb in Balashi beer and slow braised Wild Boar Shank. Do not leave without trying the exclusive recommendation: Caviar! All of



this combined with an extensive wine list from around the world makes Papillon a must-do on your Aruban vacation.

### Let the music play!

We will give you another reason to visit: on Monday's and Friday's the famous Marisela who enchants you with her acoustic performance accompanied by percussion only; on Thursday's and Saturday's you can enjoy the tunes of live sax player Jairo and on Sunday's and Tuesday's Jose Herrera will enchants you with his keyboard talent. The musicians interact with the guests, requests can be send in, the live tunes definitely add to the experience.

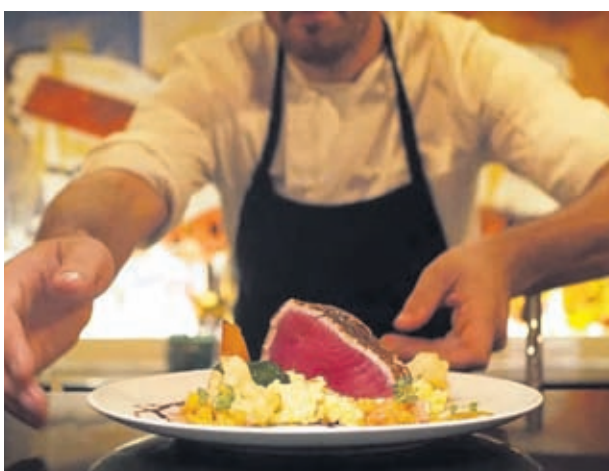
### Vegetarian vibes present

Impressive vegetarian/vegan dishes are set

up especially for the guests by the chef and Meredith from Vegan Aruba. “We offer vegan choices that are really good and tasty. Our daily soup is always vegan too.” What are you waiting for, make sure to pay a visit to this elegant yet laid-back restaurant while on Aruba. You are most welcome! Papillon Restaurant is located at The Village across the Hilton Aruba Caribbean Resort & Casino and within walking distance of all other major hotels.

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## The Aruba Tourism Authority honor loyal visitors at Manchebo Beach Resort & Spa

Recently, Kimberley Richardson of the Aruba Tourism Authority had the great pleasure to honor Aruba's loyal and friendly visitors as Goodwill Ambassadors of Aruba. The Goodwill Ambassador certificate is presented on behalf of the Minister of Tourism, as a token of appreciation and to say 'Masha Danki' to persons whom have visited Aruba for over 20 years consecutively.

This time, I was given the wonderful pleasure to honor couple **Mr. Ronald & Mrs. Coby Hogerwerf** from the Netherlands.

Couple Hogerwerf stated that they love the island very much, especially for its year-round sunny weather, nice sandy beaches and picturesque sunsets, its peacefulness and beauty, Aruba's history and culture, and Aruba's warm and friendly people whom have become like family to them.

Ms. Richardson together with the representatives of the Manchebo Beach Resort & Spa presented the certificate to the honorees, handed over some presents and also thanked them for choosing Aruba as their favorite vacation



destination and as their home-away-from-home. □

## The Aruba Tourism Authority honor loyal visitors at Marriott Aruba Ocean Club

Recently, Kimberley Richardson of the Aruba Tourism Authority had the great pleasure to honor Aruba's loyal and friendly visitors as Goodwill Ambassadors of Aruba. The Goodwill Ambassador certificate is presented on behalf of the Minister of Tourism, as a token of appreciation and to say 'Masha Danki' to persons whom have visited Aruba for over 20 years consecutively.

This time, I was given the wonderful pleasure to honor couple **Mr. Richard & Barbara Beach** from Florida, United States. It is incredibly beautiful to see that Aruba has so many loyal visitors, and we ensure to always make them feel welcomed and appreci-



ated whenever they visit us in Aruba.

Couple beach stated that they love the island very much, especially for its year-round sunny weather, nice sandy beaches and picturesque sunsets, its peacefulness and beauty, its safety, and Aruba's warm and friendly people whom have become like family to them.

Mr. Beach even made an Aruba song and sang it for us!

Ms. Richardson together with the representatives of the Marriott Aruba Ocean Club presented the certificate to the honorees, handed over some presents and also thanked them for choosing Aruba as their favorite vacation destination and as their home-away-from-home. □

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# Aruba Beach Tennis Championship 2022 was phenomenal

Aruba Beach Tennis Championships ended last Sunday with an epic weekend at Bushiri Beach. The very last match (men's professional finals) of the entire Aruba Beach Tennis Championships ended at 2 a.m. on Monday, November 21.

Every pro semi-final and final game went to 3 sets. Every single game was an exhilaratingly close match. It could have gone either way.

The stadium at Bushiri Beach was completely full with the most explosive energy and excitement. Spectators of the event stayed until the very end.

Spectacular Steel Drum Show and Carnival dancers entertained the crowd in between games.

The professional players were battling it out for the \$60,000 prize pool money.

Results from the pro matches.

Pro women doubles (check & trophy)

1<sup>st</sup> Patricia Diaz (VEN) & Rafaella Miller (BRA)

2<sup>nd</sup> Sofia Cimatti (ITA) & Nicole Nobile (ITA)

Pro women MVP (check & trophy)

Winner: Nicole Nobile (ITA)

BIG3 (check & hoodie)

Winner: Patricia Diaz (VEN) & Rafaella Miller (BRA)

Pro men doubles (check & trophy)

1<sup>st</sup> Nicolas Gianotti (FRA) & Mattia Spoto (ITA)

2<sup>nd</sup> Nikita Burmakin (RUS) & Tomasso Giovannini (ITA)

Pro men MVP (check & trophy)

Winner: Dorian Beccacioli (ITA)

BIG3 (check & hoodie)

Winner: Nicolas Gianotti (FRA) & Mattia Spoto (ITA)





## Sea Bunita Sea Bo Mes had a show for International Children's Day

**ORANJESTAD –** Last Sunday, the 20th of November, International Children's Day, Foundation Sea Bunita Sea Bo Mes held a show emphasizing inclusion, which was one of the themes for this year's International Children's Day.

The show consisted of a group of children and young people with a lot of enthusiasm to show Aruba all that they can do through singing, dancing, acting and modeling, celebrating the International Children's Day together. Sea Bunita Sea Bo Mes – Be Beautiful, Be Yourself in Papiamentu – is an organization that focuses on education, inclusion and integration for children with special needs.

Minister of Tourism and Public Health, Mr. Dangui Oduber had the honor of modeling together with Nina Andrea in the Mi Mesun Heroe (My Own Hero) show. The minister said that the entire event was a "beautiful show, where the goal was to bring awareness to each and every one of us regarding the importance of inclusion. Every child has the same rights to protection, appropriate education, health care, fair treatment and someone to listen to them".

Mr. Oduber congratulated all the organizers for this special event, and he also took the opportunity to remind the community that children's rights are our duty. The event was a beautiful initiative, where every child spent a nice time with their family and loved ones. □



**Wednesday November 16th was a special day for Dovy Blasberg, the charming curly haired youngest son of Rabbi Ahron and Chaya Blasberg, the directors of Chabad Aruba.**

The tables and balloons were set up for a party at the Chabad Jewish Center in Salina Cerca and the excitement was in the air.

It was Dovy's third birthday and this was a special birthday. In Judaism the third birthday signals a major transition in a child's education. For the first three years of life, the child is a

## Dovy's Upshrnish

receiver, absorbing the surrounding sights and sounds, and the parents' loving care.

At the age of three, when our forefather Abraham concluded there must be a Creator, a child's education takes a leap. He or she is now ready to produce and share their unique gifts. For a Jewish boy, this transition is marked with a ceremony. It is an age-old custom to allow a boy's hair to grow untouched until he is three years old. On his third Jewish birthday, friends are invited to a haircutting ceremony—called an upshernish. The child's peyot (biblically prescribed sidelocks) are left intact—the initiation into his first mitzvah (Biblical commandment). From this point on, he is taught to wear a kippah (skullcap) as a recognition of G-d above, and tzitzit (fringes), and is slowly trained to recite blessings and the Jewish Prayers. The Tzitzit 4 cornered garment with fringe string tassels is a physical representation of the Torah's 613 commandments.

The world now begins to benefit from the Torah study, mitzvot, and good deeds of this young child.

As Dovy stood up proudly on his stage to sing Jewish songs and read the Hebrew letters, he was joined by family and friends from the Jewish community of Aruba.

At the conclusion of the ceremony many of the guests were honored with cutting a lock of Dovy's hair signaling the end of his babyhood



and beginning of his formal Jewish education which was followed by lively dancing.

Guests enjoyed a delicious Kosher buffet dinner, and a video presentation showing Dovy's no no journey. □





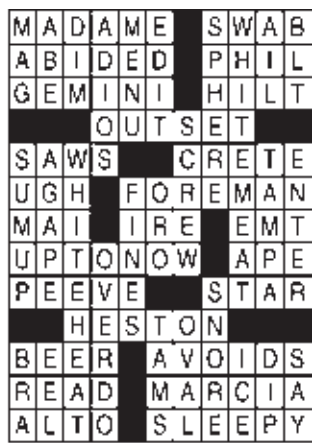
# CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

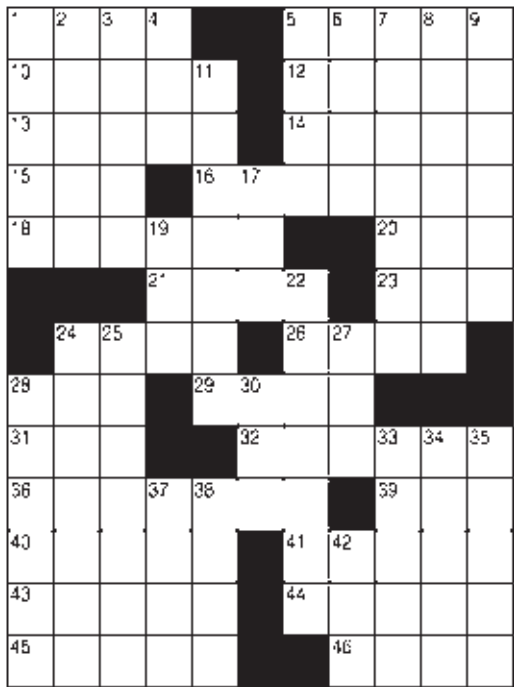
- ACROSS**
- 44 Of the kidneys
  - 1 Plunge
  - 5 Mall businesses
  - 45 Lion features
  - 10 Knuckle-head
  - 46 Pistols and rifles
  - 12 Baseball's Joe
  - 13 Fab Four drummer
  - 14 Bold poker bet
  - 15 Take in
  - 16 Soup containers
  - 18 Sikh's headdress
  - 20 Perfect serve
  - 21 Lotion additive
  - 23 Homer's neighbor
  - 24 Simple
  - 26 Mysterious loch
  - 28 Tiara feature
  - 29 Ernst's art
  - 31 Keats work
  - 32 Thanks-giving staple
  - 36 Slow movers
  - 39 Holiday lead-in
  - 40 Commercial cow
  - 41 Some messages
  - 43 Without aid

## DOWN

- 1 Historic event
- 2 Parting word
- 3 Cruise vessel
- 4 Fireplace item
- 5 Teacher's reward
- 6 Golf target
- 7 Site of Joan of Arc's victory
- 8 Some royals
- 9 Felt
- 11 Added up
- 17 One, for Juan
- 19 Hotel feature
- 22 Ultimate consumer
- 24 Brain part
- 25 "Nature" essayist
- 27 Anvil setting
- 28 Cheering call
- 30 Feasted
- 33 Sandra's "Speed" co-star
- 34 French spa city
- 35 Cries
- 37 Fork feature
- 38 Noted Virginia family
- 42 Ryan of movies



Yesterday's answer



11-24

AXYDIBAA XR  
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

11-24

## CRYPTOQUOTE

XZNIJH UTHZMIF HCRH IPIU  
HCTLNC CI CRF R PIYW DQRIJ  
CIRYH, ZH MTLIF CTJF R  
YRHCIY JRYNI RQTLUH TS  
NYRHIZHFI, - R.R. QZJUI

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: THINK WHERE MAN'S GLORY MOST BEGINS AND ENDS, AND SAY MY GLORY WAS I HAD SUCH FRIENDS. — WILLIAM BUTLER YEATS

# Shoppers hunt for deals but inflation makes bargains elusive

By ANNE D'INNOCENZIO and CORA LEWIS  
AP Business Writers

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Consumers holding out for big deals and some much-needed relief from soaring costs on just about everything may be disappointed as they head into the busiest shopping season of the year.

While retailers are advertising sales of 30%, 50% and 70% off everything from TVs to gadgets, many items will still cost more than they did last year because of inflation and finding a true bargain may prove to be a challenge.

From September through October, shoppers paid roughly 18% more for furniture and appliances than they did a year ago, according to a recent major data analysis by analytics company DataWeave, which tracks prices for hundreds of thousands of items across roughly three dozen retailers including Amazon and Target. For toys, they paid roughly 2% more.

Things looked a bit better for consumers shopping for clothing they paid nearly 5% less compared with last fall, according to DataWeave. Meanwhile, prices held steady for footwear.

"It's just a weird time for everybody to figure out what is the right price, and what is the real price," said Nikki Baird, vice president of strategy of Aptos, a retail technology firm. "Consumers are really bad at discount math, and retailers are fully aware of it and do everything they can to



Shoppers looking for bargains enter an OshKosh children clothing store, Monday, Nov. 21, 2022, in Miami, Fla.

Associated Press

take advantage of it."

William Wang, 24, who teaches high school math, says he's more likely to notice price increases on everyday items like his quesadilla that now costs \$8 at his local deli than for gifts he's going to spend money on once a year.

"I do feel like everything's more expensive," said the Brooklyn, New York, resident. "But I mainly keep track of it with small items, like food."

The latest government retail sales report shows retail sales rose last month even when adjusting for inflation.

That underscores some resiliency among shoppers heading into the Black Friday weekend, the kickoff to the season.

But cracks are forming.

Third-quarter earnings results from major retailers show shoppers aren't willing to pay full price and waiting for deals. Kohl's, Target and Macy's all not-

ed Americans have also slowed their spending in the past few weeks.

It's a dramatic change from last year's holiday period when shoppers began their holiday items as early as October for fear they wouldn't get what they needed amid pandemic-infused clogs in the supply chain.

They were also flush with cash from government stimulus money. Retailers were struggling to bring in items so they didn't need to discount as much.

Michael Liersch, head of advice and planning at Wells Fargo, said this holiday shopping season, it's more likely that things will "appear discounted or feel discounted, or it will seem like there are big offers" but that between inflation and "shrinkflation" when manufacturers quietly shrink package sizes without lowering the price it's often not the case.

That trend played out in a recent spot check by DataWeave of different items. For example, a Cuisinart two-speed blender, listed at \$59.99 but discounted at 25%, was available for \$44.99 at grocery chain Fred Meyer.

But it was still more expensive than last year's blender, available for \$39.99, after a 20% discount off a lower list price of \$49.99. □

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# WHO, CDC: A record 40 million kids miss measles vaccine dose

**LONDON (AP)** — The World Health Organization and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention say measles immunization has dropped significantly since the coronavirus pandemic began, resulting in a record high of nearly 40 million children missing a vaccine dose last year.

In a report issued Wednesday, the WHO and the CDC said millions of children were now susceptible to measles, among the world's most contagious diseases.

In 2021, officials said there were about 9 million measles infections and 128,000 deaths worldwide.

The WHO and CDC said continued drops in vaccination, weak disease surveillance and delayed response plans due to COVID-19, in addition to ongoing outbreaks in more than 20 countries, mean that "measles is an imminent threat in every region of the world."

Scientists estimate that at least 95% of a population needs to be immunized to protect against epidemics; the WHO and the CDC reported that only about 81% of children receive their first dose of measles vaccine while 71% get their second dose, marking the lowest global coverage rates of the first measles dose since 2008.

"The record number of children under-immunized and susceptible to measles shows the profound damage immunization systems have sustained during the COVID-19 pandemic," CDC director Dr. Rochelle Walensky said in a statement. □

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# 'Strange World' explores big themes in bold colors

By **JOCELYN NOVECK**  
AP National Writer

Is Searcher Clade the most millennial dad in all of animated moviedom? He has that telltale hipster beard. A sensitive voice sorta like Jake Gyllenhaal. And he feeds his kid avocado toast, with an egg on top. Oh wait, that IS Gyllenhaal in "Strange World," Disney's pleasantly entertaining, gorgeously rendered but slightly heavy-handed meditation on climate change and father-son dynamics. The actor charmingly voices a character drawn to look so much like him, you almost expect an animated Swiftie to come around, asking for that infamous scarf back. (Sorry, but it's been a Taylor Swift kind of month.)

The very name "Searcher" sounds vaguely millennial, too, but actually it's a reference to both the blessing and the curse of the Clade family, a storied clan of explorers. In a prologue, we see the young Searcher set out on a family expedition led by his dad, burly Jaeger Clade, whose life goal is to find what's beyond the forbidding mountains that ring their homeland, Avalonia. But before they get there, young Searcher discovers something shocking. It's a group of plants that



This image released by Disney shows, clockwise from foreground center Meridian Clade, voiced by Gabrielle Union Searcher Clade, voiced by Jake Gyllenhaal, Jaeger Clade, voiced by Dennis Quaid, Callisto Mal, voiced by Lucy Liu, Ethan Clade, voiced by Jaboukie Young-White in a scene from the animated film "Strange World."

seem to be lit up, glowing from an unseen energy. What is this magical crop? Searcher argues that they need to bring it back to Avalonia, where it could serve many uses. But Jaeger (voiced with appropriate gruffness by Dennis Quaid) refuses to turn back. He tosses his young son his compass and continues by himself. Twenty-five years go by.

Wait, what? Dad stays away for 25 years? This is truly deficient parenting, and it's no wonder that when grownup Searcher has his own son, Ethan (an adorable character sweetly voiced by Jaboukie Young-White), he's a helicopter parent, doting on the boy a bit too much. Grandpa

is still lionized in town with a large statue attesting to his exploits. But Searcher tells Ethan that despite his fame, Grandpa was a majorly absentee dad.

Let's pause to consider the themes at play. We have climate change issues in the form of "pando," the crucial energy source that Searcher now farms and has modernized Avalonia. And we have three generations of men: the very different Jaeger and Searcher, a boomer and a millennial if you will, and then young Ethan, trying to find his way. There's much dialogue here about breaking from expectations to forge your own path.

But maybe that's the point if it's not a major plot point,

nor is it a sneeze-and-you-miss it moment like, for example, that quick glance in "Beauty and the Beast" in 2017 that was heralded as the first Disney "gay moment." It's just a given that when Ethan talks about his crush, he's talking about Diazo, a boy, and nobody, not his parents nor his crusty old granddad, bats an eyelid. It's also refreshing that the Clades are a biracial family, and that too, is not discussed.

The movie, it must be said, is definitely about men, despite the welcome but underused presences of Gabrielle Union as Searcher's wife, Meridian a fearless pilot and Lucy Liu as Callisto, president of Avalonia, it is Callisto who gets things

moving, plot-wise, when she arrives at Searcher's front door in her pando-powered airship with a stark warning: the pando crop is failing. Everywhere. Searcher must come help. Now.

Reluctantly, the homebody Searcher hops aboard. Someone on the ship asks him immediately if he can, like, forge an autograph from his more-famous dad. Aargh. In any case, the ship travels down to the roots that power pando. Meanwhile, Searcher soon discovers that Ethan has stowed away on the ship, eager for his own adventure (and more Jaeger-like than Searcher would want to admit).

Meridian has followed, and now they're on a family trip. And who should turn up but Jaeger himself? He has some explaining to do. Turns out he got stuck in a stunning, scary, strange underworld. And it's beautiful. Directors Don Hall and Qui Nguyen have created a stunning universe of psychedelic colors and creatures, most memorably in hues of deep pinks and purples. Wondrous creatures emerge, and also one of the cutest little blobs you've ever seen, the aptly named Splat, who befriends Ethan. □

# 'I don't dance': Daniel Craig nonetheless has moves in ad

By **SIAN WATSON**  
Associated Press

While promoting his latest movie, "Glass Onion: A Knives Out Mystery," Daniel Craig said dancing doesn't come naturally to him but he couldn't resist a pitch from "Thor: Love and Thunder" director Taika Waititi. The pair collaborated on a recent Belvedere vodka ad, which was the James Bond actor swinging his hips and shimmying down hotel corridors while showing off tattooed biceps and a devastating pout. "It was hard work because I don't dance. So, the fact is, we had an amazing choreographer to JaQuel Knight who came in and I worked

with him for a couple of days," Craig told The Associated Press. "I just went for it. You don't get chances like that very often."

"In for a penny, in for a pound" he added. His latest acting project, "Glass Onion," follows a party of sycophants and friends of billionaire Miles (Ed Norton) who find themselves trapped on an island with a murderer on the loose.

As with the first "Knives Out" movie, director Rian Johnson has assembled an all-star cast including Janelle Monáe, Kate Hudson, Leslie Odom Jr., and Dave Bautista. Craig's detective Benoit Blanc is the only returning

character with the British actor saying he works as hard as he can to get back into the headspace of the Southern sleuth. Especially given Blanc's trademark accent.

"I'm on it all the time, all the time," he joked. "I have to work really hard at it, but once it's in, it's in and then it is part of me."

And does this include slipping into character and adopting Blanc's Southern drawl round the dinner table with his family which includes wife Rachel Weisz? Not a chance.

"My family's not that nice, I'm not allowed to do that," he laughs.

The film, which also stars

Kathryn Hahn, Jessica Henwick and Madelyn Cline, will receive a limited theat-

rical release this week before screening internationally on Netflix on Dec. 23. □



This image released by Netflix shows Kate Hudson, from left, Jessica Henwick, Daniel Craig and Leslie Odom Jr. in a scene from "Glass Onion: A Knives Out Mystery."

Associated Press



## Jury: NCAA not to blame in ex-USC football player's death

By BRIAN MELLEY

Associated Press

**LOS ANGELES (AP)** — In a verdict that could affect countless claims by athletes who sue sports organizations for head injuries, a Los Angeles jury on Tuesday rejected a lawsuit seeking \$55 million by the widow of a former USC football player who said the NCAA failed to protect him from repeated head trauma that led to his death.

Matthew Gee, a line-backer on the 1990 Rose Bowl-winning squad, endured an estimated 6,000 hits as a college athlete, lawyers for his widow said. They alleged those impacts caused permanent brain damage, and led to cocaine and alcohol abuse that eventually killed him at age 49.

The NCAA, the governing body of U.S. college sports, said it had nothing to do with Gee's death, which it said was a sudden cardiac arrest brought on by untreated hypertension and acute cocaine toxicity. Hundreds of wrongful death and personal injury lawsuits have been brought by college football players against the NCAA in the past decade, but Gee's was the first one to reach a jury. The suit alleged that hits to the head led to chronic traumatic encephalopathy, a degenerative brain disease known by the acronym CTE.

Judge Terry Green told jurors in Los Angeles Superior Court they "made history"



In this March 18, 2015, file photo, an NCAA logo is displayed at center court as work continues at The Consol Energy Center in Pittsburgh, for the NCAA college basketball second and third round games.

Associated Press

in the first case of its kind. The verdict likely gives the NCAA more leverage in future cases, said Dan Lust, a sports law attorney and professor at New York Law School. "Any plaintiff's attorney is going to think twice before putting all the chips on the table and pushing them to the middle and saying, 'We're going to take our case to trial and see what happens,'" Lust said. Alana Gee choked up as the verdict was read and had tears in her eyes afterward. She told one of her lawyers that she didn't understand how the jury came to the decision, but thanked the seven women and five men on the panel personally as they left the courtroom. She declined to comment afterward.

Gabe Feldman, a sports law professor at Tulane University, said proving Gee died specifically from in-

visible injuries suffered at USC and not something that occurred before or after his college career was always going to be challenge, especially when he had so many other health problems. That was further complicated by the NCAA argument that they did the best they could for safety with the information they had at the time, and that players assumed the risks of an inherently dangerous sport. "Given the unpopularity of the NCAA and a sympathetic plaintiff, and the jury still ruled against the plaintiff, that's fairly telling," Feldman said. "This was a calculated risk by the NCAA taking this to trial knowing that this could possibly be a bellwether case that could potentially provide a roadmap to hundreds or thousands of other plaintiffs."

The jury had to vote at least

9-3 to reach a verdict on questions asking whether the NCAA did something or failed to do something that increased risks to Gee and whether it failed to take measures that would have minimized risks to Gee without altering the sport of football. The panel voted 11-1 and 10-2 answering those questions in favor of the NCAA.

"We feel deep sympathy for the Gee family right off the bat," said NCAA attorney Will Stute. "But we feel like this verdict is a vindication of the position we've taken in all these cases, which is the science and medicine in Matthew Gee's circumstance did not support causation."

Stute had argued that medical evidence is not clear on what causes CTE, and what the impacts are from that disease.

Attorneys for Gee said CTE, which is found in athletes and military veterans who suffered repetitive brain injuries, was an indirect cause of death because head trauma has been shown to promote substance abuse. Alana Gee had testified that the college sweetheart had 20 good years of marriage before her husband's mental health began to deteriorate and he became angry, depressed and impulsive, and began overeating and abusing drugs and alcohol.

The NCAA said the case hinged on what it knew at the time Gee played, from 1988-92, and not about

**FIFA WORLD CUP Qatar 2022**

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CTE, which was first discovered in the brain of a deceased NFL player in 2005. Gee never reported having a concussion and said in an application to play with the Raiders after graduating that he had never been knocked unconscious, Stute said. □

## World Series champion Astros' full share a record \$516,347

**NEW YORK (AP)** — A full postseason share for the World Series champion Houston Astros totaled a record \$516,347 from a player pool of \$107.5 million, also a record in the first season the playoffs were expanded to 12 teams. The Astros split \$38.7 million into 59 full shares, 14.14 partial shares and \$940,000 in cash awards, the commissioner's office said Wednesday.

The amount of the winner's

share topped the previous mark of \$438,902 for Houston in 2017 and the pool topped last year's prior high of \$90.47 million.

A full share for NL champion Philadelphia came to \$296,255.

The Phillies divided \$25.8 million into 72 full shares, 15.03 partial shares and \$20,000 in cash awards.

Full shares for other playoff teams this year were:

\$152,709 for San Diego, \$145,820 for the New York

Yankees, \$45,795 for Cleveland, \$44,878 for Atlanta, \$42,221 for Seattle, \$36,148 for the Los Angeles Dodgers, \$10,351 for St. Louis, \$10,007 for Toronto, \$9,480 for the New York Mets, \$8,387 for Tampa Bay.

The pool includes 60% from the first two games of each Wild Card Series, the first three games of each Division Series and the first four games of each League Championship Series and the World Series. □



The Houston Astros celebrate their 4-1 World Series win against the Philadelphia Phillies in Game 6 on Saturday, Nov. 5, 2022, in Houston.

Associated Press





New York Jets quarterback Zach Wilson (2) is sacked by New England Patriots defensive end Deatrich Wise Jr. (91) and linebacker Josh Uche (55) during the second half of an NFL football game, Sunday, Nov. 20, 2022, in Foxborough, Mass.  
Associated Press

## Jets bench Zach Wilson, Mike White to start vs. Bears

By DENNIS WASZAK Jr.  
AP Pro Football Writer  
FLORHAM PARK, N.J. (AP) — Zach Wilson has gone from being the future of the New York Jets franchise to an underachieving bench-warmer.

Coach Robert Saleh announced the decision Wednesday to sit Wilson

and replace him with Mike White as the starting quarterback Sunday against the Chicago Bears.

"Zach's career here is not over," Saleh said, adding that the plan is to have the second-year quarterback "reset" with the hope Wilson plays again this season. "This is not putting a

nail in his coffin."

Joe Flacco will serve as White's backup, and Wilson will not be active against the Bears.

"We haven't wavered in our belief that he's going to be the future of this franchise," Saleh said.

Saleh didn't commit Monday to having Wilson under center this week after the second-year quarterback's dismal performance in the Jets' 10-3 loss to the Patriots in New England. The No. 2 overall pick in the draft last year was 9 of 22 for a measly 77 yards with several wayward throws. The Jets managed just 2 total yards on seven possessions in the second half.

Saleh said he'll evaluate the quarterback position on a day-to-day basis, and added the entire offense must be better.

"His decision-making has been fine, his practice habits and all that stuff have been fine," Saleh said of Wilson. "But there are some basic fundamental things that have gotten really out of whack for him. This is just an opportunity for him to sit back, focus on those things, find a way to reconnect with all the different things we fell in love with during the draft process.

"And it's something I feel he's going to be able to do." Wilson has taken a lot of criticism this week not only for his play on the field, but how he handled his postgame news conference. When asked if he thought he and the offense let down the defense which sacked Mac Jones six times Wilson replied curtly: "No. No."

It appeared to be a lack of accountability and rubbed some inside the Jets' locker room the wrong way. Rookie wide receiver Garrett Wilson vented after the game, without using names, saying the offense had a "sorry" performance and "hopefully, this is a wakeup for some people in the facility." □

# Happy THANKSGIVING

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Nov  
24th**

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\$10

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&  
7pm to 9pm

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