

The NEW Lord's Prayer

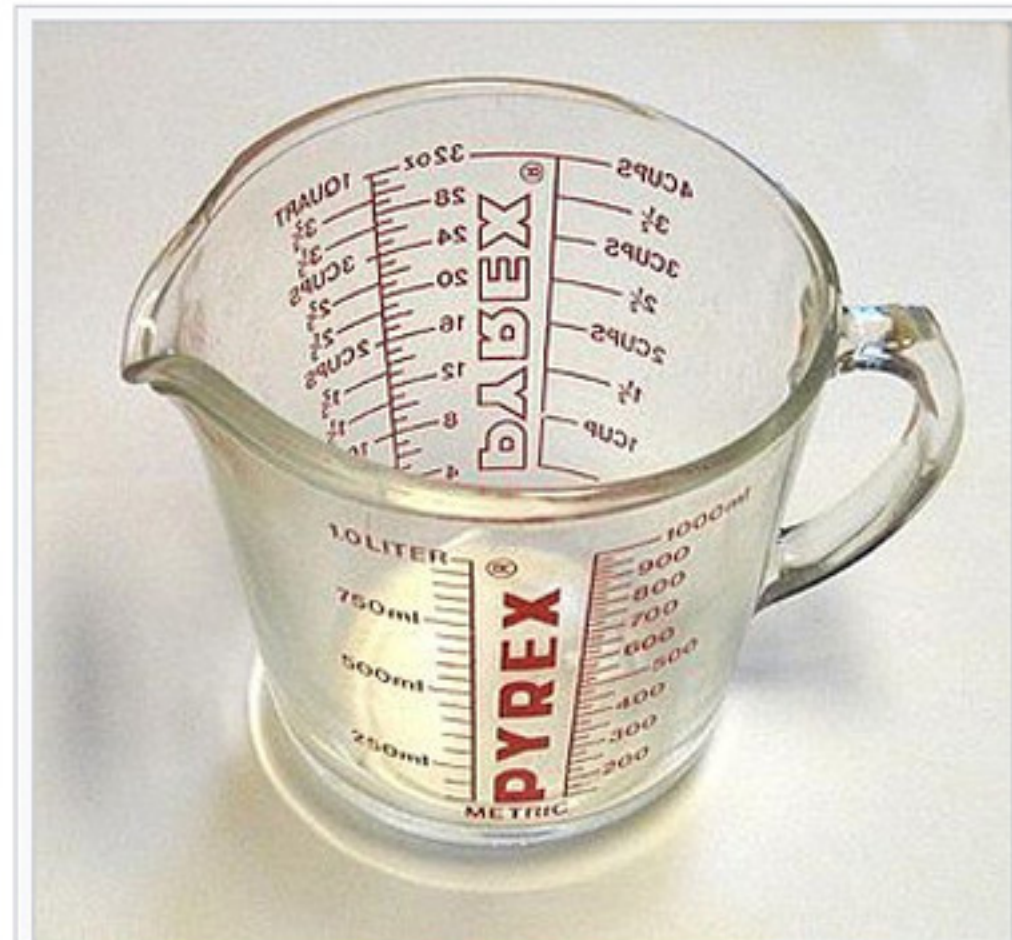
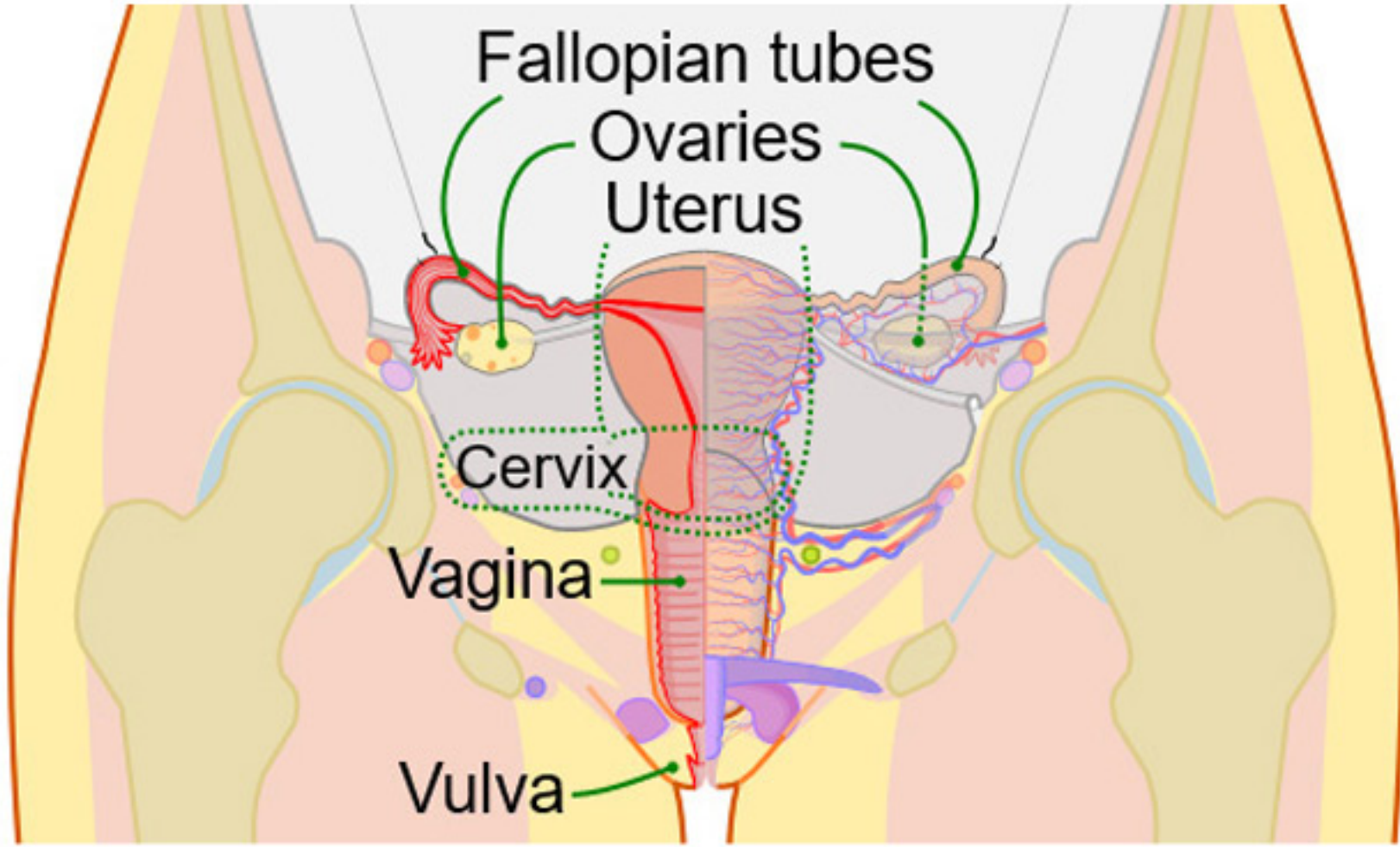
"The Lord" was once at the center, was a useful term to express, beyond belief the aspirations of exulted aspiration.

It began as homage, loyalty to the land "owner," the rules maker. And morphed to be a universal stand in for "a higher power."

But then, again, there is no higher, no lower. There's only the all of us, standing here in our unique place, in our sacred space, holding dear, one another.







A Pyrex borosilicate glass measuring jug



Areca Palm

Metric prefixes in everyday use			
Prefix	Symbol	Factor	Power
tera	T	1 000 000 000 000	10^{12}
giga	G	1 000 000 000	10^9
mega	M	1 000 000	10^6
kilo	k	1 000	10^3
hecto	h	100	10^2
deca	da	10	10^1
(none)	(none)	1	10^0
deci	d	0.1	10^{-1}
centi	c	0.01	10^{-2}
milli	m	0.001	10^{-3}
micro	μ	0.000 001	10^{-6}
nano	n	0.000 000 001	10^{-9}
pico	p	0.000 000 000 001	10^{-12}

Space

From atoms to black holes: the scale of the universe and how we fit in

WRITTEN BY:
Kimberly Krayacich

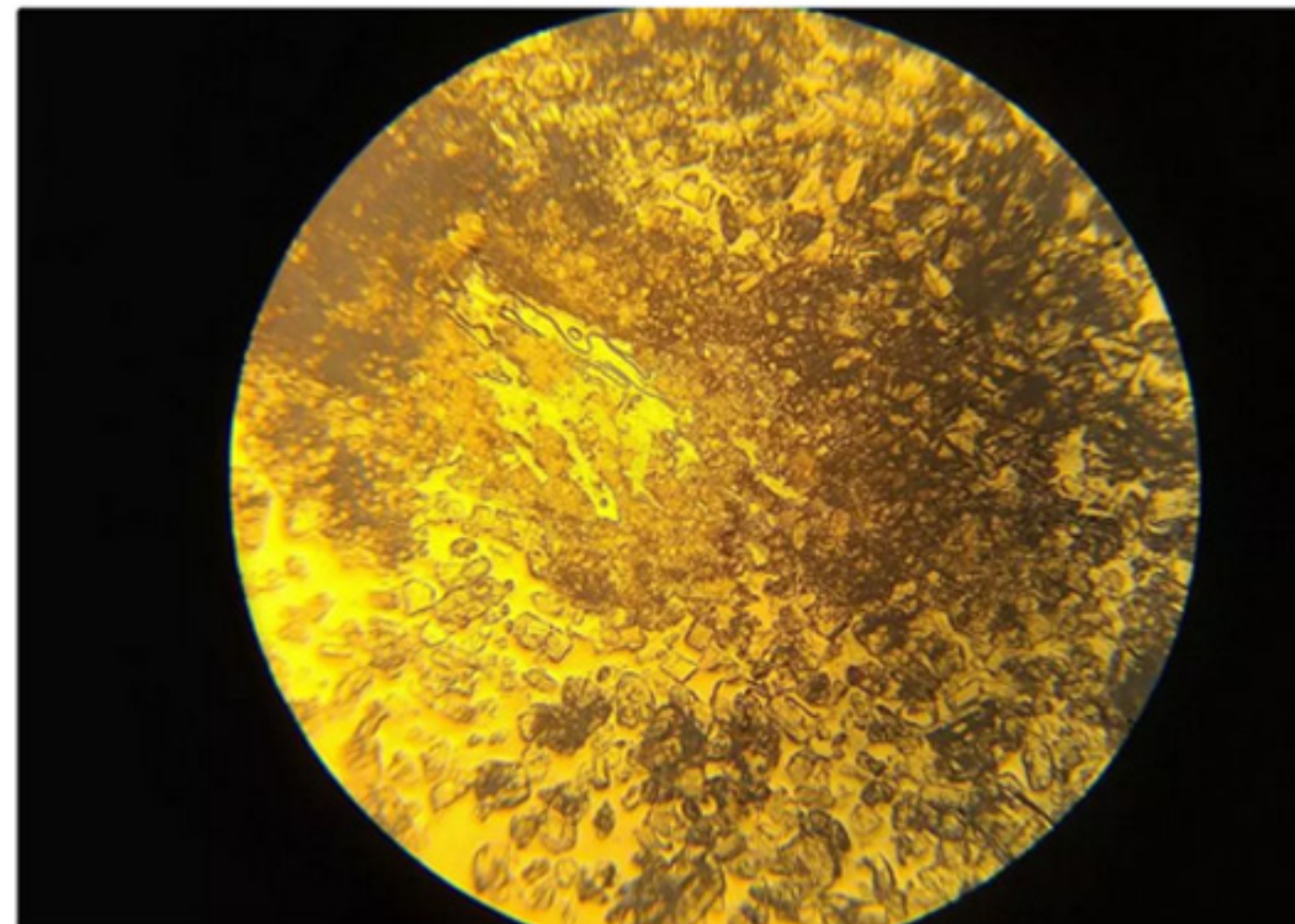
March 18, 2019



Kimberly Krayacich

Kimberly Krayacich is originally from Canada but she grew up in New Jersey. She is a graduate of Amherst College where she studied French and Psychology. Kimberly works as a high school Special Education teacher in Boston and freelance on the side. She loves learning and exploring ideas related to education, travel, technology and likes to read, play squash, and be outside. She has worked as an assistant teacher in a public school in Harlem.

The universe is a massive, mysterious place; our solar system, and specifically the human race, plays only a minor role in the greater span of the universe. The observable universe, 45.7 billion light-years large, is only what humans have been able to discover. But the entire universe is thought to be more than 250 times larger than that. Much of what we do know about the observable universe has been documented by telescopes, such as the Hubble Space telescope, since the universe is too vast for human exploration. Our solar system is one of many solar systems within our galaxy, and our galaxy is only one of many galaxies within our universe. Stacker researchers investigated different structures in the universe and ranked them in order from largest (universe) to smallest (subatomic) and everything in between. These rankings include structures found in outer space, such as nebulae, galaxies, and planets, as well as such things as Mount Everest, human beings, and elements on our home planet Earth. While researching structures or particles that are much smaller than we may have ever thought possible, such as quantum foam, performing research on the depths of space has proven to be much more challenging. Through our understanding of the world around us on Earth, we can use science to deepen our understanding of events that happen on even subatomic levels. The same cannot be said for certain parts of outer space and our universe. Scientists are always learning new things about what's "out there," and no sort of guidebook exists for what to expect. Read on to learn about the scale of the universe.



44 / 50

Size: 800 picometer

Pyre42 // Wikimedia Commons

Glucose is a simple sugar that humans use for energy. Plants produce glucose through photosynthesis and turn it into complex sugars. When humans eat plants or animals that have eaten plants, we break down these complex sugars into glucose.



The elements in our bodies, like **sodium, potassium, calcium, and magnesium**, have a specific electrical charge. Almost all of our cells can use these charged elements, called ions, to generate electricity. Cells control the flow of specific charged elements across the membrane with proteins that sit on the cell surface and create an opening for certain ions to pass through. These proteins are called ion channels. When a cell is stimulated, it allows positive charges to enter the cell through open ion channels. The inside of the cell then becomes more positively charged, which triggers further electrical currents that can turn into electrical pulses, called action potentials. Our bodies use certain patterns of action potentials to initiate the correct movements, thoughts and behaviors.



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I am a research professional in the science industry. I use my expertise in cellular and molecular biology to answer major scientific questions about human health and disease. Skilled in Circadian Rhythms, **Ion Channels**, Patch Clamp Electrophysiology, Organotypic Brain Tissue Culture, Multi-Electrode Array, Fluorescence Microscopy, Mammalian Cell Culture, Mutagenesis, plasmid DNA purification, and Adeno-Associated Viral Vector (AAV) transduction.

How the human body uses electricity

By Amber Plante

Electricity is everywhere, even in the human body. Our cells are specialized to conduct electrical currents. Electricity is required for the nervous system to send signals throughout the body and to the brain, making it possible for us to move, think and feel.

So, how do cells control electrical currents?

The elements in our bodies, like sodium, potassium, calcium, and magnesium, have a specific electrical charge. Almost all of our cells can use these charged elements, called ions, to generate electricity.

The contents of the cell are protected from the outside environment by a cell membrane. This cell membrane is made up of lipids that create a barrier that only certain substances can cross to reach the cell interior. Not only does the cell membrane function as a barrier to molecules, it also acts as a way for the cell to generate electrical currents. Resting cells are negatively charged on the inside, while the outside environment is more positively charged. This is due to a slight imbalance between positive and negative ions inside and outside the cell. Cells can achieve this charge separation by allowing charged ions to flow in and out through the membrane. The flow of charges across the cell membrane is what generates electrical currents.

Cells control the flow of specific charged elements across the membrane with proteins that sit on the cell surface and create an opening for certain ions to pass through. These proteins are called ion channels. When a cell is stimulated, it allows positive charges to enter the cell through open ion channels. The inside of the cell then becomes more positively charged, which triggers further electrical currents that can turn into electrical pulses, called action potentials. Our bodies use certain patterns of action potentials to initiate the correct movements, thoughts and behaviors.

A disruption in electrical currents can lead to illness. For example, in order for the heart to pump, cells must generate electrical currents that allow the heart muscle to contract at the right time. Doctors can even observe these electrical pulses in the heart using a machine, called an electrocardiogram or ECG. Irregular electrical currents can prevent heart muscles from contracting correctly, leading to a heart attack. This is just one example showing the important role of electricity in health and disease.

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The Anthropocene is a proposed, though not yet officially approved, geological epoch dating from the commencement of significant human impact on Earth's geology and ecosystems, including, but not limited to, anthropogenic climate change. Various start dates for the Anthropocene have been proposed, ranging from the beginning of the Agricultural Revolution 12,000–15,000 years ago, to as recently as the 1960s. The ratification process is still ongoing, and thus a date remains to be decided definitively, but the peak in radionuclides (a nuclide that has excess nuclear energy, making it unstable) fallout consequential to atomic bomb testing during the 1950s has been more favored than others, locating a possible beginning of the Anthropocene to the detonation of the first atomic bomb in 1945, or the Partial Nuclear Test Ban Treaty in 1963. In May 2019, the Anthropocene Working Group (AWG) submitted a formal proposal locating potential stratigraphic markers to the mid-twentieth century of the common era. This time period coincides with the start of the Great Acceleration, a post-WWII time period during which socioeconomic and Earth system trends increase at a dramatic rate, and the Atomic Age.

Independent Review on the Economics of Biodiversity

led by Professor Sir Partha Dasgupta.

From: HM Treasury; Published: 2 February 2021, Last updated: 20 August 2021

The Dasgupta Review is an independent, global review on the Economics of Biodiversity led by Professor Sir Partha Dasgupta (Frank Ramsey Professor Emeritus, University of Cambridge). The Review was commissioned in 2019 by HM Treasury and has been supported by an Advisory Panel drawn from public policy, science, economics, finance and business. The Review calls for changes in how we think, act and measure economic success to protect and enhance our prosperity and the natural world. Grounded in a deep understanding of ecosystem processes and how they are affected by economic activity, the new framework presented by the Review sets out how we should account for Nature in economics and decision-making.

Our economies, livelihoods and well-being all depend on our most precious asset: Nature.

We are part of Nature, not separate from it. We rely on Nature to provide us with food, water and shelter; regulate our climate and disease; maintain nutrient cycles and oxygen production; and provide us with spiritual fulfilment and opportunities for recreation and recuperation, which can enhance our health and well-being. We also use the planet as a sink for our waste products, such as carbon dioxide, plastics and other forms of waste, including pollution.

Nature is therefore an asset, just as produced capital (roads, buildings and factories) and human capital (health, knowledge and skills) are assets. Like education and health, however, Nature is more than an economic good: many value its very existence and recognise its intrinsic worth too.

Biodiversity enables Nature to be productive, resilient and adaptable. Just as diversity within a portfolio of financial assets reduces risk and uncertainty, so diversity within a portfolio of natural assets increases Nature's resilience to shocks, reducing the risks to Nature's services. Reduce biodiversity, and Nature and humanity suffer.

We have collectively failed to engage with Nature sustainably, to the extent that our demands far exceed its capacity to supply us with the goods and services we all rely on.

We are all asset managers. Individuals, businesses, governments and international organisations all manage assets through our spending and investment decisions.

Collectively, however, we have failed to manage our global portfolio of assets sustainably. Estimates show that between 1992 and 2014, produced capital per person doubled, and human capital per person increased by about 13% globally; but the stock of natural capital per person declined by nearly 40%. Accumulating produced and human capital at the expense of natural capital is what economic growth and development has come to mean for many people. In other words, while humanity has prospered immensely in recent decades, the ways in which we have achieved such prosperity means that it has come at a devastating cost to Nature. Estimates of our total impact on Nature suggest that we would require 1.6 Earths to maintain the world's current living standards.

The Review calls the imbalance between our demands and Nature's supply the 'Impact Inequality'. Those demands are affected by the size and composition of our individual demands, the size of the human population, and the efficiency with which we both convert Nature's services to meet our demands and return our waste back into Nature. Nature's supply is affected by the 'stock' of natural assets and its ability to regenerate.

Our unsustainable engagement with Nature is endangering the prosperity of current and future generations.

Biodiversity is declining faster than at any time in human history. Current extinction rates, for example, are around 100 to 1,000 times higher than the baseline rate, and they are increasing. Such declines are undermining Nature's productivity, resilience and adaptability, and are in turn fuelling extreme risk and uncertainty for our economies and well-being. The devastating impacts of COVID-19 and other emerging infectious diseases – of which land-use change and species exploitation are major drivers – could prove to be just the tip of the iceberg if we continue on our current path.

Many ecosystems, from tropical forests to coral reefs, have already been degraded beyond repair, or are at imminent risk of 'tipping points'. These tipping points could have catastrophic

*A roly-poly monochromatic beetle. A fan-throated lizard. A rice rat that may be an example of island gigantism. And two crocodile-faced dinosaurs. These are some of the more than 550 [EXTINCT] species that researchers at the Natural History Museum in London discovered in 2021. The rest of the new finds included 90 beetles, 52 wasps, 13 moths, eight algae, six parasitic worms and five plants. Two ancient mammals were also among 2021's haul: Scientists discovered the remains of an oversized rodent, *Megalomys camerhogne*, also called a rice rat, which once lived along the Caribbean; they also uncovered a Jurassic mouse-like creature now called *Borealestes cullinensis* that would have scampered at dinosaurs' feet in what is today Scotland some 166 million years ago.*

England museum scientists discover more than 550 new species in 2021

By [Patrick Pester](#) published about 16 hours ago

The museum's 2021 haul includes massive dinosaurs and tiny shrimp-like crustaceans.



Two new species of spinosaurid dinosaurs discovered on the Isle of Wight, named 'Hell heron' and 'Riverbank hunter'. (Image credit: Anthony Hutchings)

A roly-poly monochromatic beetle. A fan-throated lizard. A rice rat that may be an example of island gigantism. And two crocodile-faced dinosaurs. These are some of the more than 550 species that researchers at the Natural History Museum in London discovered in 2021, despite COVID-19 restrictions.

The museum's largest discoveries were two carnivorous dinosaurs dug up on the Isle of Wight in the United Kingdom. The extinct spinosaurids, which sported crocodile-like mubs, were affectionately named "hell heron" and "riverbank hunter," respectively. Another new U.K. dinosaur species was named "chief dragon," even though it was the size of a chicken, Live Science previously reported.

"It's been a fantastic year for the description of new dinosaurs, especially from the U.K.," Susannah Maidment, a senior researcher at the museum, said in a statement. "Although we've known about the U.K.'s dinosaur heritage for over 150 years, the application of new techniques and new data from around the world is helping us to uncover a hidden diversity of British dinosaurs."

The COVID-19 pandemic restricted the museum's access to international field sites and other museums. Despite this, researchers, curators and scientific associates of the museum managed to describe 552 new plant and animal species from Earth's past and present.

More than half of the new species were part of a group of crustaceans called copepods, which accounted for 291 of the discoveries. These shrimp-like animals live in water and provide food for larger animals such as fish, according to the museum's statement.

Retired museum researcher Geoff Boxshall and his colleague in South Korea, Il-Hoi Kim, described the new copepods this year from a massive batch collected over more than 60 years by French researchers Claude and Françoise Monniot.

"The huge Monniot collection was made available to Il-Hoi Kim and myself, and as we are both recently retired, we theoretically had time to finally go through it," Boxshall said. "However, the collection was so enormous it was somewhat daunting — but then COVID-19 happened."

Boxshall completed a series of papers describing the copepods as a "lockdown project" when he was unable to enter the museum. The rest of the new finds included 90 beetles, 52 wasps, 13 moths, eight algae, six parasitic worms and five plants.

Two ancient mammals were also among 2021's haul: Scientists discovered the remains of an oversized rodent, *Megalomys camerhogne*, also called a rice rat, which once lived along the Caribbean; they also uncovered a Jurassic mouse-like creature now called *Borealestes cullinensis* that would have scampered at dinosaurs' feet in what is today Scotland some 166 million years ago.

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{worth repeating ...*Aug 21, 2018, 8:57 AM*}

Did you think the composition of the atmosphere would stay steady state forever the same, so you could endlessly suck up the oxygen and spew out shit? With around two-to-three trillion planets in our galaxy, all with atmospheres different than your own, you thought yours wouldn't change as you fart like a fat-fuck mythical fairy chopping down the globe's purifying forest lungs and clogged your own with momentary high drug laden smoke? Did you believe in the primacy of primates? That, of course, ipso facto it's a given that the fittest apes, like you, somehow divinely deserve to reign over the planet for longer than the terrible reptiles did. That your social political structure gave you a controlling God's blessing say, and you are free to do whatever the hell you want for His Glory. That somehow your insatiable avarice for more junk justifies the 150-200 species of plant, insect, bird and mammal that become extinct every day. Are your planned obsolescence creature comforts really worth the hundreds of millions of humans exterminated in genocides in the 20th century, the tens of millions of humans being exterminated in your name in Yemen today? Did you think your book learning college education diluted mind would give you a survival advantage over cockroaches and ants when they drop the nuclear bomb? Did you think you could live a ceaseless more want, neurotic mess of an unconscious plastic augmented life and fade away into the sunset living happily ever after? You be wrong. You be wrong on so many dimensions.

PS: I hate to be the one to spring it on you, but there is no such thing as unconditional love of all sentient beings. Not in this world.

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Sustainable Development Goals

The **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)** or **Global Goals** are a collection of 17 interlinked global goals designed to be a "blueprint to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all".^[1] The SDGs were set up in 2015 by the **United Nations General Assembly (UN-GA)** and are intended to be achieved by the year 2030. They are included in a UN-GA Resolution called the **2030 Agenda** or what is colloquially known as **Agenda 2030**.^[2] The SDGs were developed in the **Post-2015 Development Agenda** as the future global development framework to succeed the **Millennium Development Goals** which ended in 2015.

The 17 SDGs are: (1) No Poverty, (2) Zero Hunger, (3) Good Health and Well-being, (4) Quality Education, (5) Gender Equality, (6) Clean Water and Sanitation, (7) Affordable and Clean Energy, (8) Decent Work and Economic Growth, (9) Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure, (10) Reduced Inequality, (11) Sustainable Cities and Communities, (12) Responsible Consumption and Production, (13) Climate Action, (14) Life Below Water, (15) Life On Land, (16) Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions, (17) Partnerships for the Goals.

Though the goals are broad and interdependent, two years later (6 July 2017) the SDGs were made more "actionable" by a **UN Resolution** adopted by the General Assembly. The resolution identifies **specific targets** for each goal, along with indicators that are being used to measure progress toward each target.^[3] The year by which the target is meant to be achieved is usually between 2020 and 2030.^[4] For some of the targets, no end date is given.

To facilitate monitoring, a variety of tools exist to track and visualize progress towards the goals. All intention is to make data more available and easily understood.^[5] For example, the online **publication** **SDG Tracker**, launched in June 2018, presents available data across all indicators.^[5] The SDGs pay attention to multiple cross-cutting issues, like gender equity, education, and culture cut across all of the SDGs. There were serious impacts and implications of the **COVID-19 pandemic** on all 17 SDGs in the year 2020.^[6]

Sustainable Development Goals



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Mission statement	"A blueprint to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all people and the world by 2030"
Type of project	Non-Profit
Location	Global
Owner	Supported by United Nations & Owned by community
Founder	United Nations
Established	2015
Website	sdgs.un.org



Sustainable Development Goal 11

Sustainable Development Goal 11 (SDG 11 or Global Goal 11), titled "sustainable cities and communities", is one of 17 Sustainable Development Goals established by the United Nations General Assembly in 2015. The official mission of SDG 11 is to "Make cities inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable".^[1] The 17 SDGs take into account that action in one area will affect outcomes in other areas as well, and that development must balance social, economic and environmental sustainability.^[2]

Sustainable Development Goal 11 is divided into 10 targets and 14 indicators at the global level. The seven "outcome targets" are ^[3]:

- **11.1** – "Adequate, safe, and affordable housing and basic services and upgrade slums"
- **11.2** – "Safe, affordable, accessible, and sustainable transport systems"
- **11.3** – "Enhance inclusive and sustainable urbanization and capacity for participatory, integrated and sustainable human settlement planning and management in all countries"
- **11.4** – "Strengthen efforts to protect and safeguard the world's cultural and natural heritage"
- **11.5** – "Reduce the number of deaths and the number of people affected by disasters and decrease the direct economic losses relative to global gross domestic product caused by disasters"
- **11.6** – "Reduce the adverse per capita environmental impact of cities, including by paying special attention to air quality and municipal and other waste management"
- **11.7** – "Provide universal access to safe, inclusive and accessible, green and public spaces"

The three "means of achieving" targets are ^[4]:

- **11.a** – "Support positive economic, social and environmental links between urban, peri-urban and rural areas by strengthening national and regional development planning"
- **11.b** – "Increase the number of cities and human settlements adopting and implementing integrated policies and plans towards inclusion, resource efficiency, mitigation and adaptation to climate change, resilience to disasters, and develop and implement, in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030, holistic disaster risk managements at all levels"
- **11.c** – "Support least developed countries, including through financial and technical assistance, in building sustainable and resilient buildings utilizing local materials"

Targets, indicators and progress

- 2.1 [Target 11.1: Safe and affordable housing](#)
- 2.2 [Target 11.2: Affordable and sustainable transport systems](#)
- 2.3 [Target 11.3: Inclusive and sustainable urbanization](#)
- 2.4 [Target 11.4: "Protect the world's cultural and natural heritage"](#)
- 2.5 [Target 11.5: "Reduce the adverse effects of natural disasters"](#)
- 2.6 [Target 11.6: "Reduce the environmental impacts of cities"](#)
- 2.7 [Target 11.7: "Provide access to safe and inclusive green and public spaces"](#)
- 2.8 [Target 11.a: "Strong national and regional development planning"](#)
- 2.9 [Target 11.b: "Implement policies for inclusion, resource efficiency and disaster risk reduction"](#)
- 2.10 [Target 11.c: Support least developed countries in sustainable and resilient building](#)

Sustainable Development Goal 11



Mission statement	"Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable"
Commercial?	No
Type of project	Non-profit
Location	Global
Owner	Supported by United Nations & Owned by community
Founder	United Nations
Established	2015
Website	sdgs.un.org

SDG 11 has 10 targets to be achieved, and this is being measured with 15 indicators. The seven "outcome targets" include safe and affordable housing, affordable and sustainable transport systems, inclusive and sustainable urbanization, protection of the world's cultural and natural heritage, reduction of the adverse effects of natural disasters, reduction of the environmental impacts of cities and to provide access to safe and inclusive green and public spaces. The three "means of achieving" targets include strong national and regional development planning, implementing policies for inclusion, resource efficiency, and disaster risk reduction in supporting the least developed countries in sustainable and resilient building.

3.9 billion people—half of the world's population—currently live in cities globally. It is projected that 5 billion people will live in cities by 2030.^[6] Cities across the world occupy just 3 percent of the Earth's land, yet account for 60–80 percent of energy consumption and 75 percent of carbon emissions. Increased urbanization requires increased and improved access to basic resources such as food, energy and water. In addition, basic services such as sanitation, health, education, mobility and information are needed. However, these requirements are unmet globally, which causes serious challenges for the viability and safety of cities to meet increased future demands. SDG 11 represents a shift in international development cooperation from a focus on poverty as a rural phenomenon to recognizing that cities, especially in the global south, are facing major challenges with extreme poverty, environmental degradation and risks due to climate change and natural disasters ^[8]. Despite its ambiguous targets and goals, is still an important tool for addressing urban challenges and calls for actors to develop realistic, locally defined indicators and outputs to fit the urban context of specific cities to promote more sustainable, inclusive and equal cities.



STORYTELLING

Making big ideas accessible worldwide

INITIATIVE

Highlighting outstanding initiatives

EDUCATION

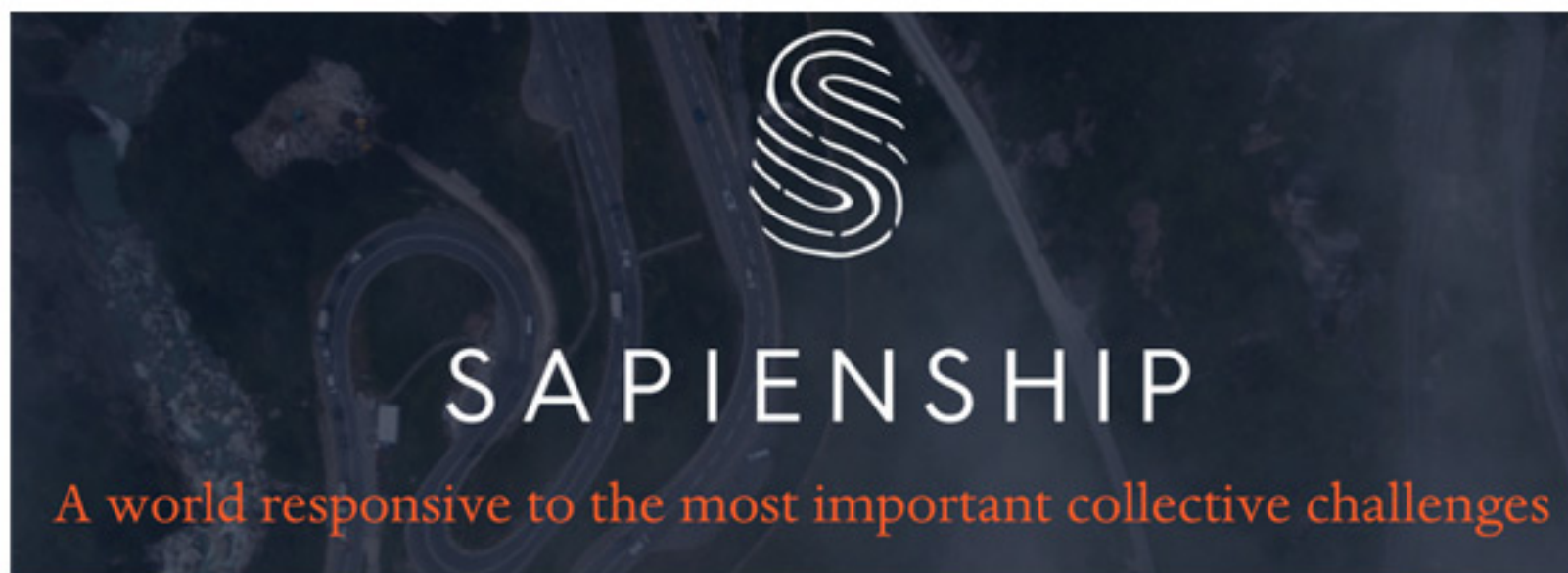
Supporting tomorrow's adults

COMMUNITY

Exploring challenges as global citizens

DECISION MAKERS

Flagging urgent global challenges



Sapienship is a multidisciplinary organization co-founded by Yuval Noah Harari and Itzik Yahav in 2019.

It advocates for global responsibility through its mission: to clarify the global conversation, to focus attention on the most important challenges, and to support the quest for solutions.

There are many challenges facing the world today, and Sapienship highlights three: technological disruption, ecological collapse, and the nuclear threat.

To follow Sapienship's journey as it develops, and to contact the company about possible collaborations, please visit [sapienship.co](https://www.sapienship.co).



Coming soon...

'Sapiens: A Graphic History' Series

A radical adaptation of the bestselling book Sapiens into a graphic novel, in collaboration with the genre's leading artists

Sapiens Live -- An Immersive Experience

A mixed reality and live-action experience that will launch in a cultural capital in 2023

Big Secrets of History (working title) -- A Children's Book Series

A new book series for pre-teens, to be launched in 2022 in collaboration with schools

Ancestors (working title) - A Fictional Series

A fictional television series exploring the lives of early humans

Sustainable Investments

In 2021, Sapienship has made financial investments related to tackling the biggest global challenges — with an emphasis on ecological collapse. A third of the investment sum has been dedicated to innovations in animal-free food products, including cultured meat and lab-grown milk.

Preparing for life after school

The concept: A medium-length workshop for high-school students, exploring their own future and the skills that can help them cope with life outside the educational system

Healthy conversations around big ideas

The concept: A long-term social media campaign for teachers, students and the general public, which uses thought provoking questions to facilitate effective global conversations around the most important topics facing humanity in the 21st century. | Knowledge Nuggets provides educational material for workshops and classes on a variety of topics, ranging from human history and the evolution of the brain to AI and fake news - launching January 2022

Decision Makers

Flagging urgent global challenges
Coming soon...

*While **Edmond de Rothschild** was not always supportive of an inclusive government - he suggested in 1931 that "We must hold them (the Arabs) down with a strong hand" - he acknowledged the importance of co-governance and peaceful coexistence, stating that "the struggle to put an end to the Wandering Jew, could not have as its result, the creation of the Wandering Arab."*



Crest of Rothschild family

Yad Hanadiv (The Rothschild Foundation)

is a Rothschild family philanthropic foundation in Israel.

Yad Hanadiv defines its mission as: Dedicated to creating resources for advancing Israel as a healthy, vibrant, democratic society, committed to Jewish values and equal opportunity for the benefit of all its inhabitants, carrying forward the philanthropic tradition of the Rothschild family.

Yad Hanadiv's grantmaking is focused on the areas of education, environment, academic excellence, and Arab community.[2] It funds and operates Ramat Hanadiv[3] Memorial Gardens and Nature Park and is participating in renewal of the National Library of Israel, including the construction of a state-of-the-art, 21st-century National Library for the State of Israel.[4] Initiatives include advancing precision medicine in Israel,[5][6][7][8] promoting humanities research and teaching,[9] upgrading teachers' professional development,[10][11] Arab employment,[12][13] advancing excellent Arab students in Science and Technology,[14] advancing marine ecosystems and river rehabilitation.

History: Yad Hanadiv memorializes Baron Edmond James de Rothschild ("Hanadiv Hayadua" - "The well-known benefactor"), and continues the spirit and legacy of the Rothschild Family. The Foundation was established in its current form in 1958. Its first Chairperson was Dorothy de Rothschild, who served in this position until 1988. In 1989 Lord Rothschild (Jacob) was appointed Chair. In 2018 the Hon. Hannah Rothschild assumed the position of Chair and Lord Rothschild became Yad Hanadiv's President. Ariel Weiss is the Foundation's Chief Executive.

Projects: Yad Hanadiv was instrumental in the construction of the Knesset building and The Supreme Court of Israel, and in the establishment of Israeli Educational Television,[17] The Open University, The Centre for Educational Technology, Centre for Science Education (HEMDA),[18] MANOF Youth Village, The Jerusalem Music Centre at Mishkenot Sha'ananim, The Institute for Advanced Studies, The Water Research Institute at the Technion, The Environment and Health Fund, The Israel Institute for School Leadership (Avney Rosh), the GuideStar Israel database of non-profit organizations, and other institutions.

Ongoing projects

- The Academic Excellence Programme aims to help world-class academic research to thrive in Israel.
- The Environment Programme at Yad Hanadiv was established just over a decade ago with the aim of improving the resilience and health of Israel's natural, agricultural and urban ecosystems.
- Arab Community - Yad Hanadiv established its programme area dedicated to advancing the Arab Community over a decade ago, in keeping with its mission to work towards equal opportunity for the benefit of all Israel's inhabitants.
- The Education Programme is working to upgrade in-school professional development of Israeli teachers – to influence the quality of teaching, and ultimately of student learning at scale.
- National Library of Israel - Yad Hanadiv, in cooperation with the Government of Israel, is supporting renewal of the National Library that will enable it to fulfil its 21st century mission: openness and accessibility of the Library holdings to communities of scholars and the public at the Library's new home and via the Internet.
- Ramat Hanadiv - Yad Hanadiv funds and operates Ramat Hanadiv Memorial Gardens and Nature Park and has entered into a partnership with the Government and the Library in a project of renewal of the National Library of Israel.

Baron Abraham **Edmond Benjamin James de Rothschild**; 19 August 1845 – 2 November 1934) was a French member of the Rothschild banking family. A strong supporter of Zionism, his large donations lent significant support to the movement during its early years, which helped lead to the establishment of the State of Israel, where he is simply known as "the baron Rothschild", "HaBaron", or "Hanadiv" (Eng: The generous one)

Zionism

He became a leading proponent of the Zionist movement, financing the first site at Rishon LeZion. In his goal for the establishment of a Jewish homeland, he promoted industrialization and economic development. In 1924, he established the Palestine Jewish Colonization Association (PICA), which acquired more than 125,000 acres (50,586 ha) of land and set up business ventures.

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Edmond James de Rothschild



Born	Edmond James de Rothschild 19 August 1845 Boulogne-Billancourt
Died	2 November 1934 (aged 89) Boulogne-Billancourt
Resting place	Ramat HaNadiv (Israel) Père Lachaise (France) (1935–1954)
Nationality	French
Spouse(s)	Adelheid von Rothschild (m. 1877)
Children	James Armand de Rothschild Maurice de Rothschild Alexandrine de Rothschild
Parent(s)	James Mayer Rothschild Betty de Rothschild

Weather Detail Rain Reports

Report for Calendar Year 2021

30 rain days in 365 calendar days, or **8.3%** (the average is 102 rain days)

Of the **9.02 inches of rain** for the year, **Dec 7 to 31:**
 provided half, **15 rain days**
 with 3.33 inches of rain, or
37% of the total annual rainfall

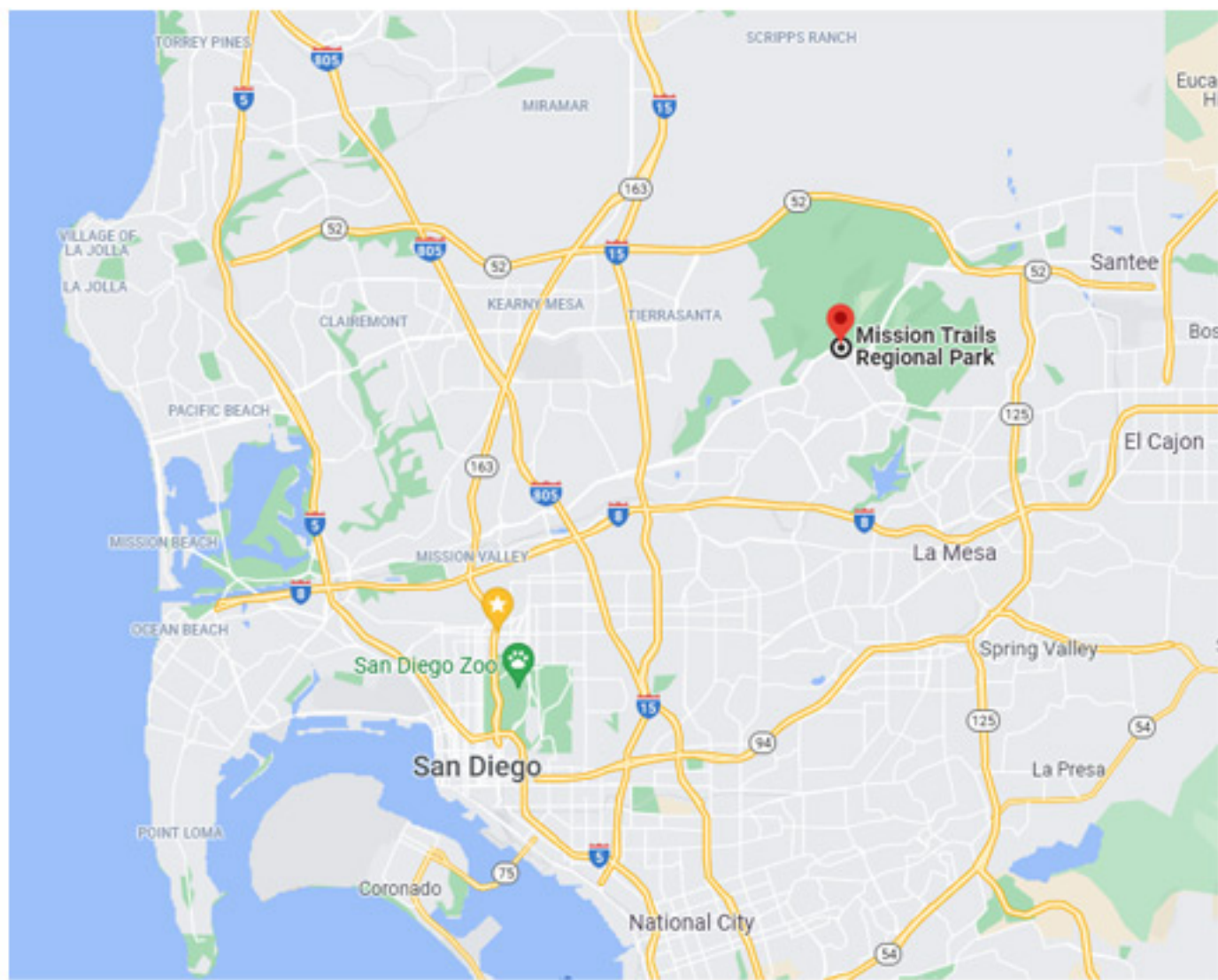
Three storm systems:
 Jan, 1.92 in
 Mar, 1.85 in
 Dec, 3.33 in
 provided 7.1 inches or,
78.7% of the total annual rainfall

San Diego Weather at Mission Trails, CA

Mission Trails, San Diego CA, USA Updated: 01/1/2022 3:25:57 am

Day	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
1	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00
2	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.04	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00
3	00.00	00.00	00.71	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00
4	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.47	00.00	00.00
5	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.23	00.00	00.00
6	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00
7	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.02
8	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.16	00.00	00.00
9	00.00	00.00	00.02	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.24
10	00.00	00.00	00.28	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00
11	00.00	00.00	00.55	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00
12	00.00	00.09	00.04	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00
13	00.00	00.00	00.01	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.01
14	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	01.38
15	00.00	00.00	00.24	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.01
16	00.00	00.18	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.01
17	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.05
18	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00
19	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00
20	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00
21	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.03	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00
22	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.02	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00
23	00.32	00.00	00.00	00.01	00.00	00.02	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.50
24	00.11	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.05	00.00	00.00	00.28
25	00.26	00.00	00.12	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.26	00.00	00.14
26	00.01	00.00	00.04	00.18	00.00	00.00	00.02	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.19
27	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.19
28	00.01	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.18
29	01.20	---	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.12
30	00.01	---	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00	00.00
31	00.00	---	00.00	---	00.00	---	00.00	00.00	---	00.00	---	00.01
Rain Days	7	2	9	3	1	1	1	1	1	4	0	15
Mnth TTL	1.92 in	0.27 in	2.01 in	0.21 in	0.04 in	0.02 in	0.02 in	0.03 in	0.05 in	1.12 in	0.00 in	3.33 in
YTD TTL	1.92 in	2.19 in	4.20 in	4.41 in	4.45 in	4.47 in	4.49 in	4.52 in	4.57 in	5.69 in	5.69 in	9.02 in

San Diego has on average 146 sunny days and 117 partly cloudy days a year. **The average annual precipitation is less than 12 inches (30 cm), resulting in a borderline arid climate.** Rainfall is strongly concentrated in the cooler half of the year, particularly the months December through March, although precipitation is lower than any other part of the U.S. west coast. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Climate_of_San_Diego



Movements for justice, equality, and liberation are adapting and evolving toward a new social justice.



The Builders: Chicanx Moratorium Across the Generations

More than 50 years ago, tens of thousands of Mexican Americans marched in East Los Angeles for social justice and against the Vietnam War, proudly identifying themselves as “Chicanos.” Today, movement veterans are passing the leadership baton to young Chicanos and Chicanas, who in turn are adapting existing tools and strategies for modern-day racial justice struggles. Carlos Montes of the Brown Berets, an original participant of the 1970 march, has embraced the involvement of LGBTQI Chicanx people, and his younger counterpart, 23-year-old Isabel Gurrola, has learned that the secret to Montes’ longevity as an activist is to uphold unity while engaging in self-care. —Sonali Kolhatkar

The Resisters: Abolition Through the Ages

“To reform or abolish police?” is the question facing racial justice activists—and slavery abolitionists grappled with a similar question. Organizations like Critical Resistance, which have for years taken an abolitionist approach to prisons and policing, are seeing a newfound interest in their work since the Black Lives Matter movement expanded. But, according to the group’s co-founder Dylan Rodriguez, police reforms have been tried—and have failed, since they are “counter-abolitionist.” Just as Black-led abolitionists demanded full racial justice and equality alongside an end to slavery, today’s abolitionist leaders are asking us to rethink the idea of safety and security by imagining a world without police and incarceration. —Sonali Kolhatkar

The Reformers: Three Companies Change Business-as-Usual for Employees with Kids

Patagonia’s on-site child care center at its Ventura, California, headquarters has been a valuable asset for both company operations and the Patagonia philosophy. The program goes beyond just having someone keep an eye on employees’ children. “Our child care is in business to raise children who care about our home planet as a complement to also taking care of children while their parents work,” says Tessa Byars, the company’s internal communications manager. Patagonia’s Great Pacific Child Development Center was established in 1983 to provide support for mothers, some of whom were still nursing, as they returned to work. The company, which provides both paternity and maternity leave, also encourages fathers to participate at the center. The development center has made a tangible difference for the 900 employees at the headquarters. Women now hold about half of company leadership positions.

The Healers: Radical Healing and Self-Love One Step at a Time

“Have you ever practiced radical self-care?” asks Kamaria Blackett-Munir, a physical therapist in New York. “I have, and all I needed was a set of earbuds and some space to walk,” she says, referring to her journey of mental and physical fitness as a member of GirlTrek. Describing itself as a “movement of 1 million Black women,” GirlTrek promotes self-care and community through walking. According to Chief of External Affairs jewel bush, the organization faced the twin pandemics of COVID-19 and racist police violence by building resources for members, such as “100 radical ideas for self-care,” launching a series of conversations on Black women’s health and wellness, and a Black History Bootcamp walk-and-talk podcast. “We walk to heal our minds, bodies, and to reclaim the streets of our communities,” bush explains. “We walk to protest racism, police brutality, and white supremacy.” And, as Blackett-Munir discovered, “The benefits of doing something for me eventually overflowed to my family.” Her husband and children now join her regularly on her walks. —Sonali Kolhatkar



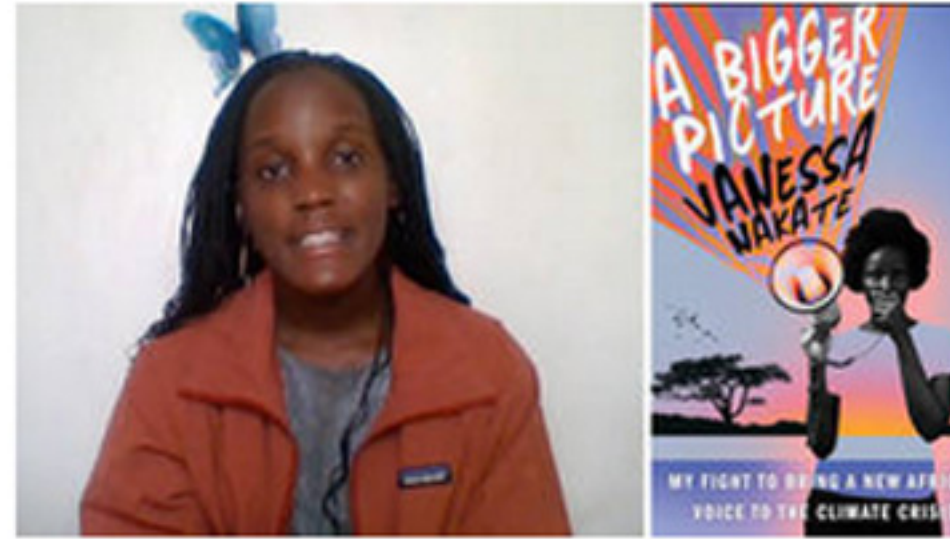
“We walk to heal our minds, bodies, and to reclaim the streets of our communities,” says jewel bush of GirlTrek. “We walk to protest racism, police brutality, and white supremacy.” Photo courtesy of GirlTrek

MONDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2021



“This Isn’t a Natural Disaster”: Climate Scientist Michael Mann on Deadly Tornadoes in 8 States

At least 100 people are feared dead after 30 deadly tornadoes devastated towns in eight states, from Kentucky to Arkansas, in a supercell thunderstorm that raged more than 200 miles, leaving behind scenes some compared to a war zone. President Biden has declared a major federal disaster and called for an investigation into the role climate change played in the storms. We speak to climate scientist Michael Mann about the role of climate change in the storms and climate denialism among Republican leaders. “Make no mistake, we have been seeing an increase in these massive tornado outbreaks that can be attributed to the warming of the planet,” says Mann, director of the Earth System Science Center at Penn State University.



“A Bigger Picture”: Ugandan Activist Vanessa Nakate on Bringing New Voices to the Climate Fight

We go to Kampala, Uganda, to speak to climate activist Vanessa Nakate on the occasion of her first book being published, “A Bigger Picture: My Fight to Bring a New African Voice to the Climate Crisis.” In an extended interview, she describes the challenges of being a young Ugandan woman from a continent that contributes less than 4% of the world’s carbon emissions yet suffers the worst consequences of the climate crisis and is often ignored by the Global North. “There won’t be climate justice if specific groups of people are being left behind,” says Nakate, founder of the Africa-based Rise Up Movement. “We are facing the same storm, but we are definitely in different boats.”



Vanessa Nakate ✓

18.3K Tweets



Vanessa Nakate ✓

@vanessa_vash

Born again Christian, Climate Activist @Riseupmovt @1MillionActivi1 A BIGGER PICTURE autumn 2021 You can preorder at linktr.ee/abiggerpicture

Planet Earth riseupmovementafrica.org Joined May 2019

1,779 Following 232.1K Followers

Pinned Tweet

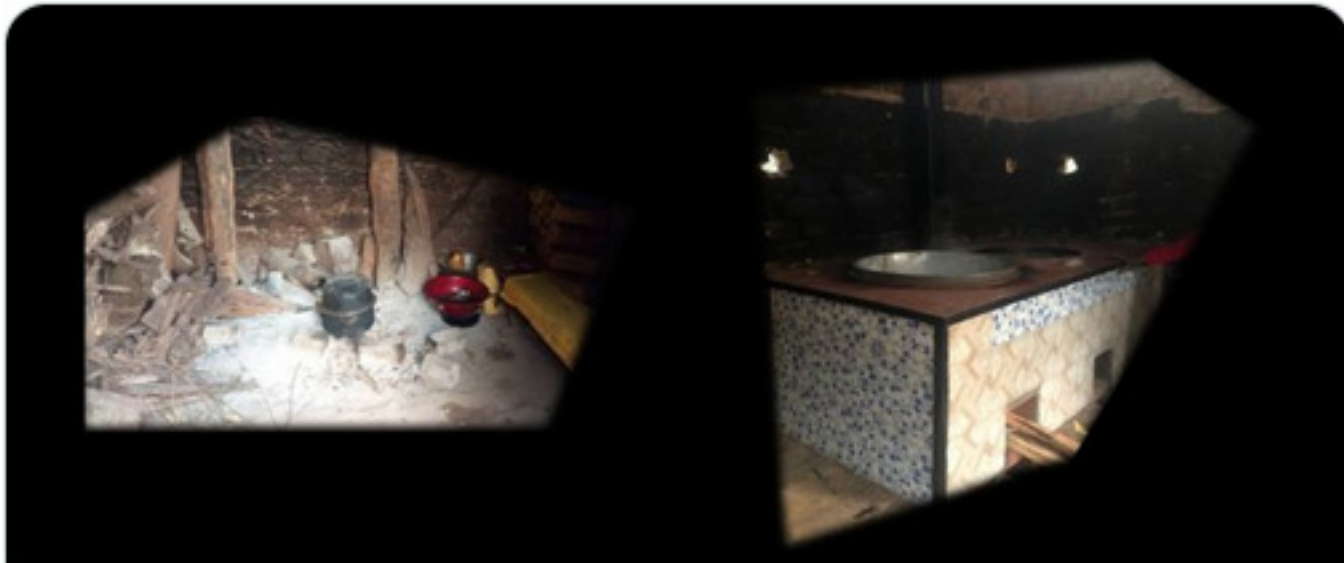


Vanessa Nakate ✓ @vanessa_vash · Oct 11, 2020

I started a solar and stove project in schools. I believe that if we are united, if we work together, we will be able to transform this world and make it a better place.

Help me reach my target of 45,000 CHF at gofundme.com/f/green-school

Thank you for your support and generosity



gofundme.com

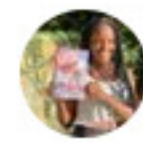
Green Schools with Vash, organized by Tim Reutemann

Last year, I started a project that involves the installation of solar systems and institutional... Tim Reutemann needs your support for ...

135

816

2.9K



Vanessa Nakate ✓

@vanessa_vash

School strike for climate: Week 154



1:00 AM · Dec 10, 2021 · Twitter for iPhone

758 Retweets 15 Quote Tweets 3,543 Likes



From a shy little girl in Kampala to a leader on the world stage, *A Bigger Picture* is part rousing manifesto and part poignant memoir, and it presents a new vision for the climate movement based on resilience, sustainability, and genuine equity.

We are on the front line but we are not on the front page.

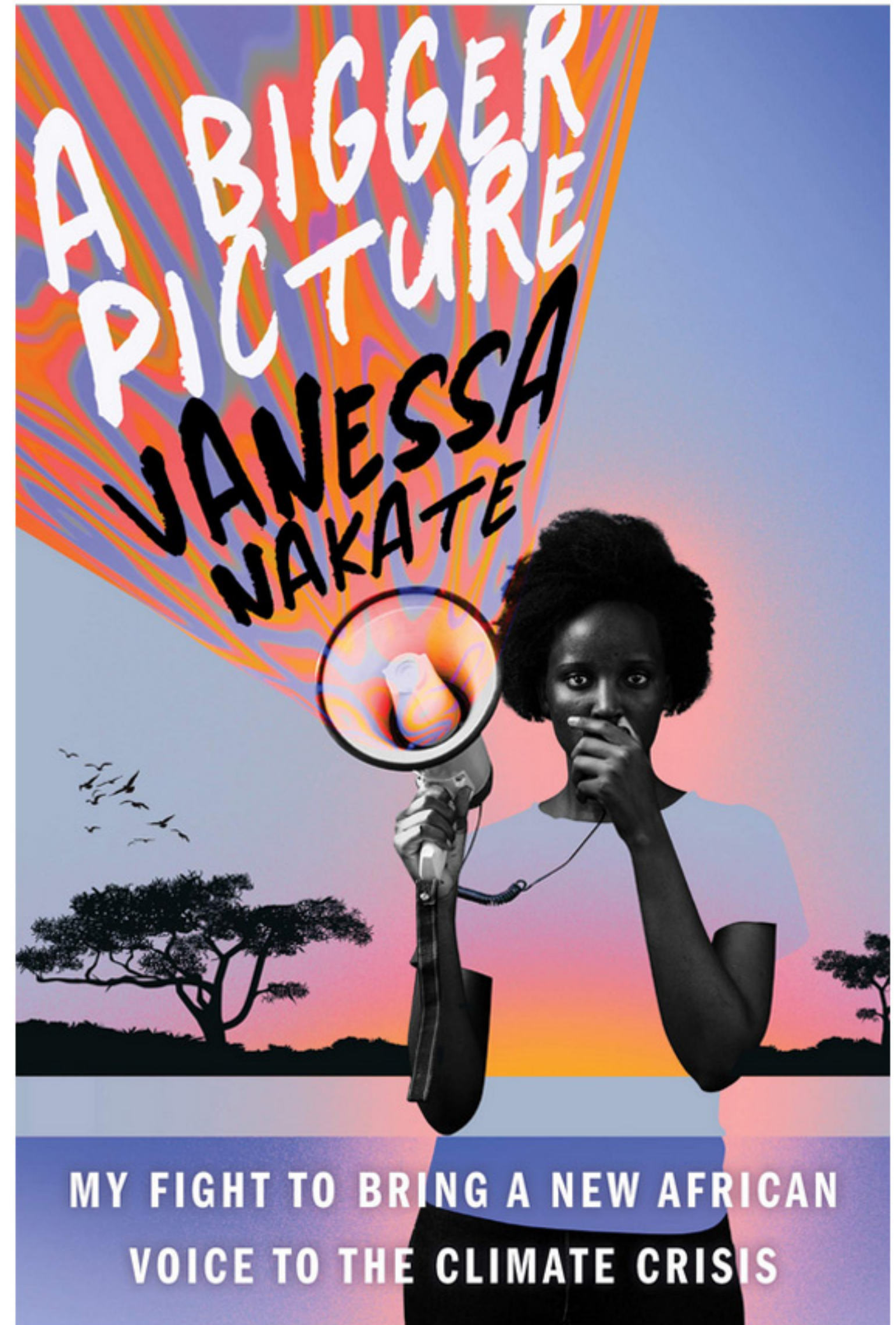
When it comes to speaking or writing about climate change, voices and stories of people of colour and from the Global South are often omitted, even though these communities often contribute the least to the problem and suffer its consequences the most. Vanessa shows that without addressing this important gap, without highlighting the real and immediate danger communities like hers and so many others face, we have no hope of making progress in the race to save our planet.

Vanessa is an exceptional young person who has seen the effects of climate change play out first hand. As a shy girl growing up in Kampala, she began to notice that the huge climate problems the African continent was facing were being completely ignored on the global stage; problems like the destruction of the Congo rainforest, sharply rising temperatures and subsequent droughts which leave the agricultural sector incredibly vulnerable.

Witnessing this suffering caused by global warming propelled Vanessa into action and despite risks to her personal safety she became the first climate striker in Uganda at just twenty-one years old. In *A Bigger Picture* she traces the links between the climate crisis and anti-racism, feminism, education, economics and even extremist radicalization. In telling the inspiring personal story of how she found her voice, Vanessa shows readers that no matter your age, location or skin colour, you can be an effective activist.

1MILLION ACTIVIST STORIES

Rise up for the people and the planet



← Prof Michael E. Mann ✓
146.1K Tweets

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HARDCOVER, EBOOK, AND AUDIO



THE NEW CLIMATE WAR shows how fossil fuel companies have waged a thirty-year campaign to deflect blame and responsibility and delay action on climate change, and offers a battle plan for how we can save the planet.



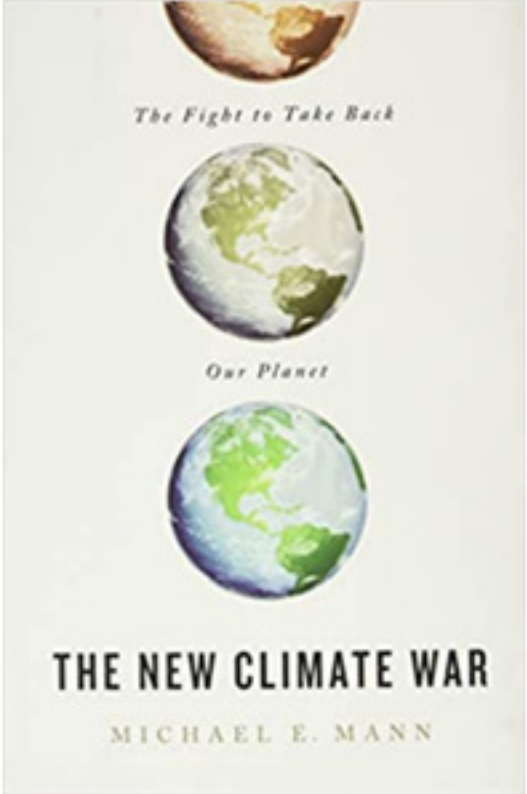
Follow

Prof Michael E. Mann ✓
@MichaelEMann

Scientist & author; Distinguished Prof of Atmospheric Science & Director of Earth System Science Center, Penn State; National Academy of Sciences; Tyler Prize

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Joined October 2011

1,521 Following 196.5K Followers



A renowned climate scientist shows how fossil fuel companies have waged a thirty-year campaign to deflect blame and responsibility and delay action on climate change, and offers a battle plan for how we can save the planet.

Recycle. Fly less. Eat less meat. These are some of the ways that we've been told can slow climate change. But the inordinate emphasis on individual behavior is the result of a marketing campaign that has succeeded in placing the responsibility for fixing climate change squarely on the shoulders of individuals.

https://twitter.com/MichaelEMann

Prof Michael E. Mann (@MichaelEMann) · Twitter

"Alex Jones suggests Biden caused lethal Kentucky tornado with 'weather weapon' in latest unhinged rant" by @IoDodds for The Independent:
www.independent.co.uk/n...



This graph falsely purporting to depict a decrease in the strongest tornadoes is making the denialist rounds again. Those tweeting it are either deeply ignorant or intentionally seeking to deceive. Here's what actual tornado experts have to say about it:
www.livescience.com/416...

I discussed the deadly recent tornado outbreak and the role played by climate change with Joshua Johnson (@NBCJoshua) on the @NBCNewsNow #NowTonight Show:
www.youtube.com/watch?v...

Fossil fuel companies have followed the example of other industries deflecting blame (think "guns don't kill people, people kill people") or greenwashing (think of the beverage industry's "Crying Indian" commercials of the 1970s). Meanwhile, they've blocked efforts to regulate or price carbon emissions, run PR campaigns aimed at discrediting viable alternatives, and have abdicated their responsibility in fixing the problem they've created. The result has been disastrous for our planet.

In The New Climate War, Mann argues that all is not lost. He draws the battle lines between the people and the polluters-fossil fuel companies, right-wing plutocrats, and petrostates. And he outlines a plan for forcing our governments and corporations to wake up and make real change, including:

- > **A common-sense, attainable approach to carbon pricing- and a revision of the well-intentioned but flawed currently proposed version of the Green New Deal;**
- > **Allowing renewable energy to compete fairly against fossil fuels**
- > **Debunking the false narratives and arguments that have worked their way into the climate debate and driven a wedge between even those who support climate change solutions**
- > **Combatting climate doomism and despair-mongering**

With immensely powerful vested interests aligned in defense of the fossil fuel status quo, the societal tipping point won't happen without the active participation of citizens everywhere aiding in the collective push forward. This book will reach, inform, and enable citizens everywhere to join this battle for our planet.

Twitter · 7 hours ago

Twitter · 8 hours ago

Twitter · 9 hours ago



The Path to a Livable Future: A New Politics to Fight Climate Change, Racism, and the Next Pandemic

by **Stan Cox**

Foreword by: Zenobia Jeffries Warfield

An urgent call for the political transformation needed to address the common causes of climate change, COVID-19, and racism.

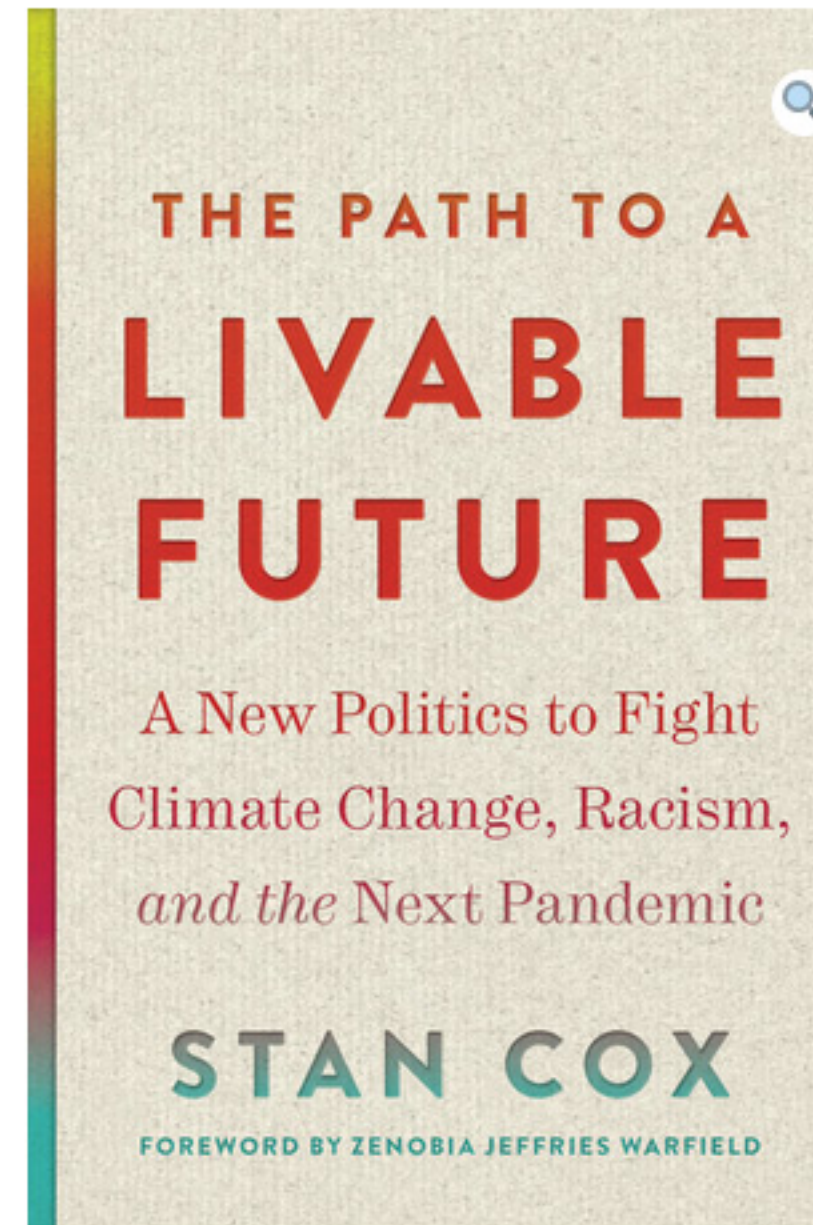
2020 was a year defined by crisis. For decades, scientists have been sounding the alarm about the urgency of addressing climate change, but it took COVID-19 to demonstrate clearly that the future of human life on Earth is interconnected and at risk. While the virus quickly spread across the globe, extreme weather events compounded the suffering and economic catastrophe. In the U.S., public demonstrations of outrage over the murder of George Floyd expanded to include a growing awareness of the pandemic's disproportionate impact on communities of color. In cities around the world, people took to the streets to protest racial inequity in all of its forms.

In *The Path to a Livable Future*, Stan Cox makes plain the connections between the multiple crises facing us today, and provides an inspired vision for how to resolve them. With a deeply informed, clear to-do list, Cox shows us how we can work together to address the climate emergency, white supremacy, and our vulnerability to future pandemics all at once. Our future depends on it.

"An iconoclast of the best kind, Stan Cox has an all-too-rare commitment to following arguments wherever they lead, however politically dangerous that turns out to be."—Naomi Klein

"Cox lays out a refreshingly grounded roadmap for the survival of all life on earth, based on up-to-date science, and anchored in the racial justice imperative."—Leah Penniman, co-founder of Soul Fire Farm, author of *Farming While Black: Soul Fire Farm's Practical Guide to Liberation on the Land*

"Above all, he shows that a healthy, just, sustainable future is possible if we reduce our ecological footprint and share the earth's gifts equitably. For this we need to organize, resist, imagine, and forge another path together."—Vandana Shiva, author of *Who Really Feeds the World?: The Failures of Agribusiness and the Promise of Agroecology*



"... some big titles will address emergencies that have outlived Trump. *The Path to a Livable Future* by Stan Cox, explores the connections among the many crises of the past year and a half."—Dorany Pineda, Los Angeles Times

Who Really Feeds the World?: The Failures of Agribusiness and the Promise of Agroecology

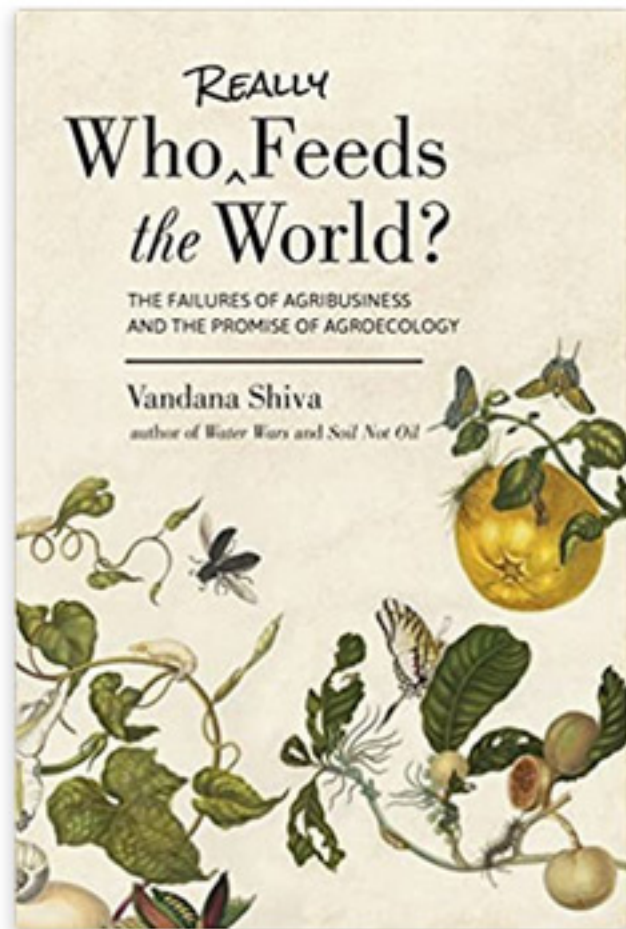
Paperback – June 28, 2016

by [Vandana Shiva](#) (Author)

Debunking the notion that our current food crisis must be addressed through industrial agriculture and genetic modification, author and activist Vandana Shiva argues that those forces are in fact the ones responsible for the hunger problem in the first place. *Who Really Feeds the World?* is a powerful manifesto calling for agricultural justice and genuine sustainability, drawing upon Shiva's thirty years of research and accomplishments in the field. Instead of relying on genetic modification and large-scale monocropping to solve the world's food crisis, she proposes that we look to agroecology—the knowledge of the interconnectedness that creates food—as a truly life-giving alternative to the industrial paradigm. Shiva succinctly and eloquently lays out the networks of people and processes that feed the world, exploring issues of diversity, the needs of small farmers, the importance of seed saving, the movement toward localization, and the role of women in producing the world's food.

Vandana Shiva (born 5 November 1952) is an Indian scholar, environmental activist, food sovereignty advocate, ecofeminist and anti-globalisation author. Based in Delhi, Shiva has written more than 20 books. She is often referred to as "Gandhi of grain" for her activism associated with the anti-GMO movement.

Shiva is one of the leaders and board members of the International Forum on Globalization (with Jerry Mander, Ralph Nader, and Jeremy Rifkin), and a figure of the anti-globalisation movement. She has argued in favour of many traditional practices, as in her interview in the book *Vedic Ecology* (by Ranchor Prime). She is a member of the scientific committee of the Fundacion IDEAS, Spain's Socialist Party's think tank. She is also a member of the International Organization for a Participatory Society. She received the Right Livelihood Award in 1993, an award established by Swedish-German philanthropist Jakob von Uexkull, and regarded as an "Alternative Nobel Prize"



Vandana Shiva



Shiva in 2014

Born	5 November 1952 (age 69) Dehradun, Uttar Pradesh (present-day Uttarakhand), India
Alma mater	Panjab University, Chandigarh University of Guelph University of Western Ontario Indian Institute of Science Indian Institute of Management Bangalore
Occupation	Philosopher, environmentalist, author, professional speaker, social activist
Awards	Right Livelihood Award (1993) Sydney Peace Prize (2010) Mirodi Prize (2016) Fukuoka Asian Culture Prize (2012)

This Colorado 'solar garden' is literally a farm under solar panels

November 14, 2021 - 5:00 AM ET

KIRK SIEGLER



This year, the garden produced more than 8,000 pounds of produce, while the panels above generate enough power for 300 local homes.

When Byron Kominek returned home after the Peace Corps and later working as a diplomat in Africa, his family's 24-acre farm near Boulder, Colo., was struggling to turn a profit. "Our farm has mainly been hay producing for fifty years," Kominek said, on a recent chilly morning, the sun illuminating a dusting of snow on the foothills to his West. "This is a big change on one of our three pastures."

That big change is certainly an eye opener: 3,200 solar panels mounted on posts eight feet high above what used to be an alfalfa field on this patch of rolling farmland at the doorstep of the Rocky Mountains. Getting to this point, a community solar garden that sells 1.2 megawatts of power back into the local grid wasn't easy, even in a progressive county like his that wanted to expand renewable energy. When Kominek approached Boulder County regulators about putting up solar panels, they initially told him no, his land was designated as historic farmland. "They said, land's for farming, so go farm it," Kominek says. "I said, well, we weren't making any money, you all want to be 100% renewable at some point so how about we work together and sort this out." They eventually did, with help from researchers at nearby Colorado State University and the National Renewable Energy Lab, which had been studying how to turn all that otherwise unused land beneath solar panels into a place to grow food.

With close to two billion dollars devoted to renewable power in the newly passed infrastructure bill, the solar industry is poised for a win. But there have long been some tensions between renewable developers and some farmers. According to NREL, upwards of

two million acres of American farmland could be converted to solar in the next decade. But what if it didn't have to be an either or proposition? What if solar panels and farming could literally co-exist, if not even help one another. That was what piqued Kominek's interest, especially with so many family farms barely hanging on in a world of corporate consolidation and so many older farmers nearing retirement. Last year, Boulder County updated its land use code. And soon after Kominek installed the solar panels on one of his pastures. They're spaced far enough apart from one another so he could drive his tractor between them. Still, when it came time to plant earlier this year, Kominek was initially skeptical. But he soon discovered that the shade from the towering panels above the soil actually helped the plants thrive. That intermittent shade also meant a lot less evaporation of coveted irrigation water. And in turn the evaporation actually helped keep the sun-baked solar panels cooler, making them more efficient.

By summer, Kominek was a believer.

Walking the intricately lined rows of veggies beneath the panels, he beams pointing out where the peppers, tomatoes, squash, pumpkins, lettuces, beets, turnips, carrots were all recently harvested. The farm is still bursting with chard and kale even in November. "Oh yeah, kale never dies," Kominek says, chuckling.

Kominek's farm, rebranded as Jack's Solar Garden (Jack is his grandfather's name), is part of a burgeoning industry known as agrivoltaics. It's a relatively new field of research and Kominek's farm is one of only about a dozen in the United States known to be experimenting with it. But **agrivoltaics is drawing particular interest in the West, now in the grips of a 22 year megadrought.** "Around the western US, water is the reason to go to war," says Greg Barron-Gafford, a University of Arizona professor who is considered one of the country's foremost experts in the field. "Water is the reason we have to have real big arguments about where we're going to get our food from in the future," he says.

Barron-Gafford's research in the Arizona desert showed some crops grown underneath solar panels needed 50% less water. He and other scientists have their eyes on the infrastructure bill and are pushing to get some of the estimated \$300 million included in it for new solar projects to go toward agrivoltaics. "If you really want to build infrastructure in a way that is not going to compete with food and could actually take advantage of our dwindling resources in terms of water in a really efficient way, this is something to look at," Barron-Gafford says. Researchers say there needs to be financial incentives for family farmers to add solar to their portfolio, if solar gardens like Byron Kominek's are really going to take off and become mainstream.

In Kominek's case, he literally bet the farm in order to finance the roughly \$2 million solar arrays. "We had to put up our farm as collateral as well as the solar array as collateral to the bank," he says. "If this doesn't work, we lose the farm." But farming is all about taking on risk and debt, he says. And early on anyway, it's looking like his bet could pay off. "That humming [you hear] is the inverters making us money," he says, pointing toward an electric converter box mounted near a row of kale. A series of wires carry the power out to the county highway and onto the local Xcel Energy grid.

The inverters here generate enough power for 300 homes to use in a year. Kominek hopes to soon grow enough food beneath the panels to maybe feed as many local families.

Colorado's farm of the future? Boulder County farmer hoping to produce food and 'juice'



There are exciting plans for the local enterprise and the benefits for the community are huge. Aside from a variety of crops under and around the solar panels, the vision of the farm includes a pollinator habitat for beehives on-site, public art installations, collaborative research efforts, educational tours, free energy to low-income households and down the road, community supported agriculture (CSA).

Kominek's grandfather, Jack, moved to the land in 1972. The 24-acre homestead was his "retirement farm" after 30 years of farming on 120 acres in Broomfield. Jack passed away in 1980, but the land has remained in the family.

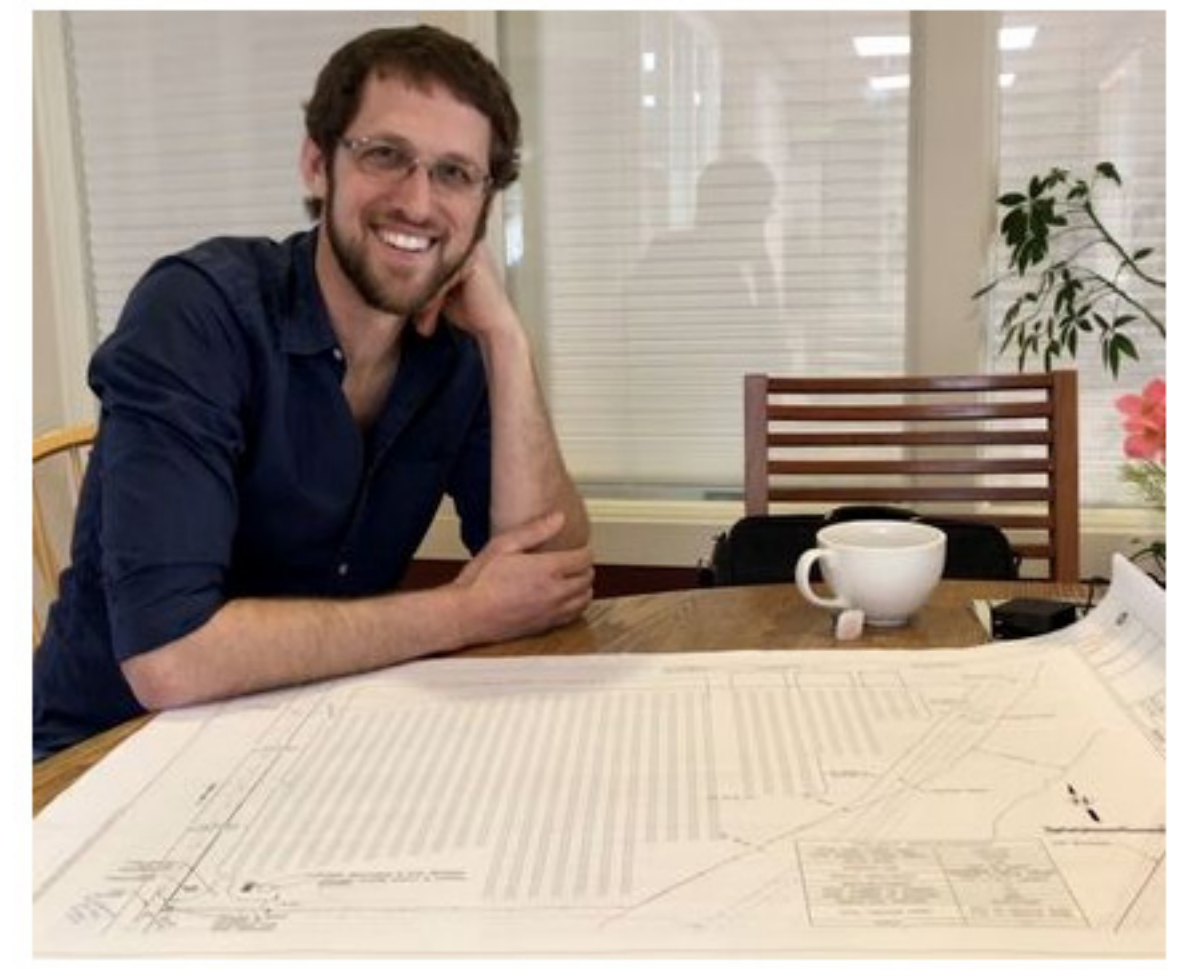
After earning his master's degree in environmental engineering, Kominek joined the Peace Corps and then became a U.S. diplomat with the U.S. Agency for International Development in Zambia and Mozambique concentrating on forestry and wildlife conservation. Following the completion of his job as a diplomat, Kominek and the dog he adopted from Africa hiked the Appalachian Trail. In 2016 Kominek settled on his family's farm.

Kominek said, "We've been doing hay farming forever and the family basically pours money into the farm trying to keep it afloat even though we're not getting any revenue back from it. So I was wondering how can we make revenue from it?" With his background in engineering, a penchant for environmental consciousness, and farming blood in his veins, Kominek felt the call to build a solar garden.



<https://www.coagrivoltaic.org/our-story>

Since the beginning of Jack's Solar Garden, there has been a desire for a public facing educational component to bring students and community members out to the farm to learn about agrivoltaics. Now this public entity has been created as the nonprofit side of Jack's Solar Garden called the Colorado Agrivoltaics Learning Center



Jack's Solar Garden founder, Byron Kominek displays schematic plans for turning what was once a family hay farm into a community agrivoltaic farm, supporting solar energy, crops, and research.

What will 2022 bring in the way of misinformation on social media? 3 experts weigh in

December 27, 2021 7:58am EST

© [Anjana Susarla](#), Michigan State University, [Dam Hee Kim](#), University of Arizona, [Ethan Zuckerman](#), UMass Amherst

At the end of 2020, it seemed hard to imagine a worse year for misinformation on social media, given the intensity of the presidential election and the trauma of the COVID-19 pandemic. But 2021 proved up to the task, starting with the Jan. 6 insurrection and continuing with copious amounts of falsehoods and distortions about COVID-19 vaccines.

To get a sense of what 2022 could hold, we asked three researchers about the evolution of misinformation on social media.

Absent regulation, misinformation will get worse

While misinformation has always existed in media – think of the [Great Moon Hoax of 1835](#) that claimed life was discovered on the moon – the advent of social media has significantly increased the scope, spread and reach of misinformation. Social media platforms have morphed into [public information utilities](#) that control how most people view the world, which makes misinformation they facilitate a fundamental problem for society.

There are two primary challenges in addressing misinformation. The first is the dearth of regulatory mechanisms that address it. [Mandating transparency and giving users greater access to and control over their data](#) might go a long way in addressing the challenges of misinformation. But [there's also a need for independent audits, including tools that assess social media algorithms. These can establish how the social media platforms' choices in curating news feeds and presenting content affect how people see information.](#)



A cutout display at a protest highlighted the connection between social media and the real-world effects of misinformation. Caroline Brehman/CQ-Roll Call, Inc. via Getty Images

The second challenge is that racial and gender biases in



Research shows that people who have flow as a regular part of their lives are happier and less likely to focus on themselves. Yulkapopkova/E+ via Getty Images

Why does experiencing 'flow' feel so good? A communication scientist explains

January 4, 2022 8.07am EST

Richard Huskey, University of California, Davis

Psychologist Mihály Csíkszentmihályi's research on flow started in the 1970s. He has called it the "secret to happiness." Flow is a state of "optimal experience" that each of us can incorporate into our everyday lives. One characterized by immense joy that makes a life worth living. In the years since, researchers have gained a vast store of knowledge about what it is like to be in flow and how experiencing it is important for our overall mental health and well-being. In short, we are completely absorbed in a highly rewarding activity – and not in our inner monologues – when we feel flow.

What it is like to be in flow?

People often say flow is like "being in the zone." Psychologists Jeanne Nakamura and Csíkszentmihályi describe it as something more. When people feel flow, they are in a state of intense concentration. Their thoughts are focused on an experience rather than on themselves. They lose a sense of time and feel as if there is a merging of their actions and their awareness. That they have control over the situation. That the experience is not physically or mentally taxing. Most importantly, flow is what researchers call an autotelic experience. Autotelic derives from two Greek words: autos (self) and telos (end or goal). Autotelic experiences are things that are worth doing in and of themselves. Researchers sometimes call these intrinsically rewarding experiences. Flow experiences are intrinsically rewarding.

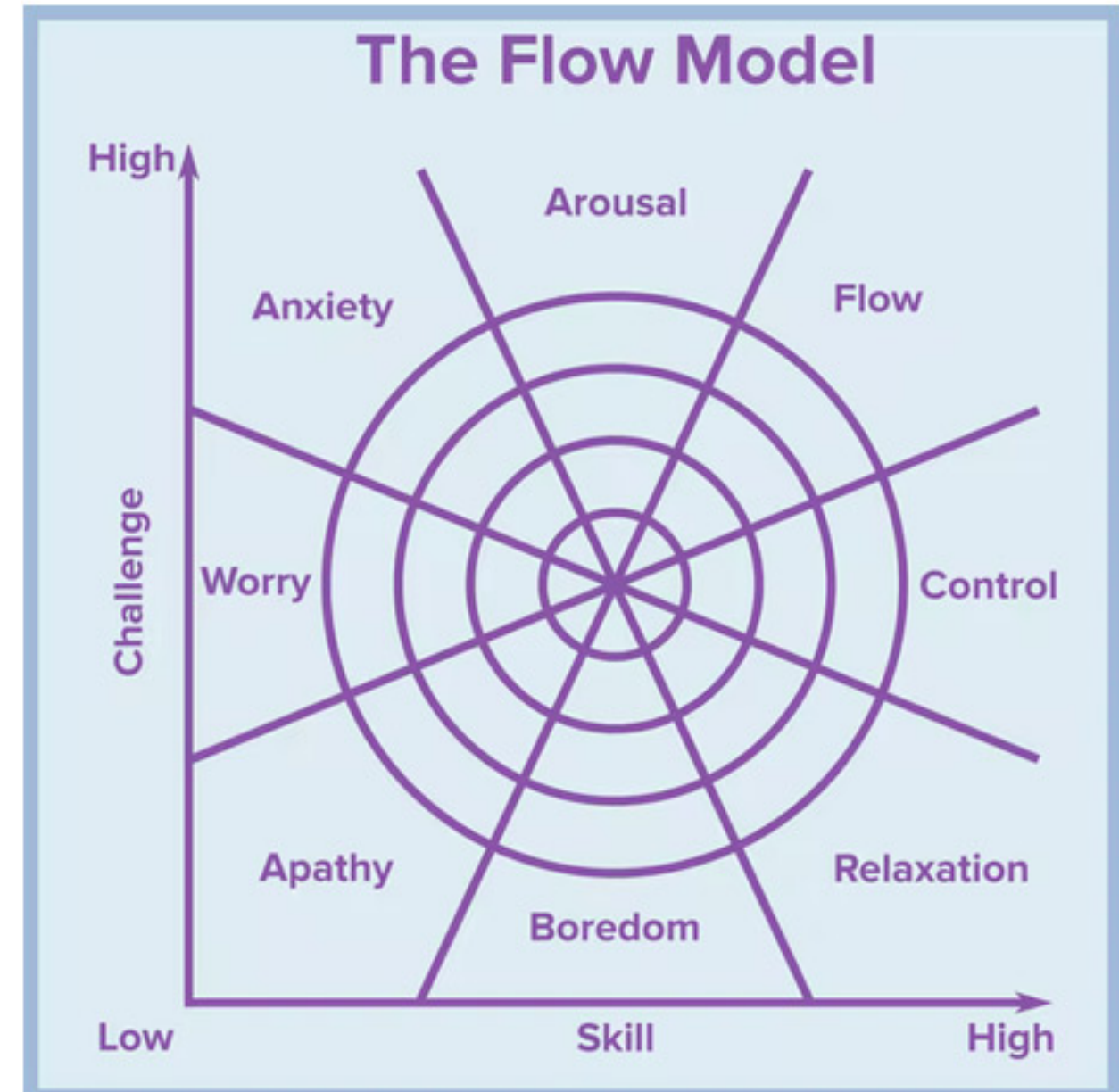
Flow occurs when a task's challenge and one's skills at the task are both high.

Why is it good to feel flow?

Earlier I said that Csíkszentmihályi called flow "the secret to happiness." Why is that? For one thing, the experience can help people pursue their long-term goals. This is because research shows that taking a break to do something fun can help enhance one's self-control, goal pursuit and well-being.

A recent study also shows that flow helps people stay resilient in the face of adversity. Part of this is because flow can help refocus thoughts away from something stressful to something enjoyable. In fact, studies have shown that experiencing flow can help guard against depression and burnout.

Research also shows that people who experienced stronger feelings of flow had better well-being during the COVID-19 quarantine compared to people who had weaker experiences. This might be because feeling flow helped distract them from worrying.



Flow occurs when a task's challenge – and one's skills at the task – are both high.

Simplicity (SEE: [Complexity](#))

Simplicity/Complexity

Something easy to understand or explain seems simple, in contrast to something complicated. Alternatively, as [Herbert A. Simon](#) suggests, something is simple or complex depending on the way we choose to describe it.

Simplicity ON THIS SIDE OF Complexity (innocence)

"When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put the ways of childhood behind me," 1 Corinthians 13:11

"No man knows the value of innocence and integrity but he who has lost them," William Godwin

Simplicity ON THE OTHERSIDE OF Complexity (experience)

"For the simplicity on this side of complexity, I wouldn't give you a fig. But for the simplicity on the other side of complexity, for that I would give you anything I have." — Oliver Wendell Holmes Sr.

"I apologize for such a long letter - I didn't have time to write a short one." — Mark Twain

(SEE: William Blake's [Songs of Innocence and of Experience](#))

[Simple Gifts, a Shaker song](#)

'Tis the gift to be simple, 'tis the gift to be free
'Tis the gift to come down where we ought to be,
And when we find ourselves in the place just right,
'Twill be in the valley of love and delight.

When true simplicity is gained,
To bow and to bend we shan't be ashamed,
To turn, turn will be our delight,
Till by turning, turning we come 'round right.

[William Blake's Songs of Innocence and of Experience](#)

Blake wrote Songs of Innocence as a contrary to the Songs of Experience. "The Lamb" is the counterpart poem to Blake's poem: "The Tyger" in Songs of Experience.

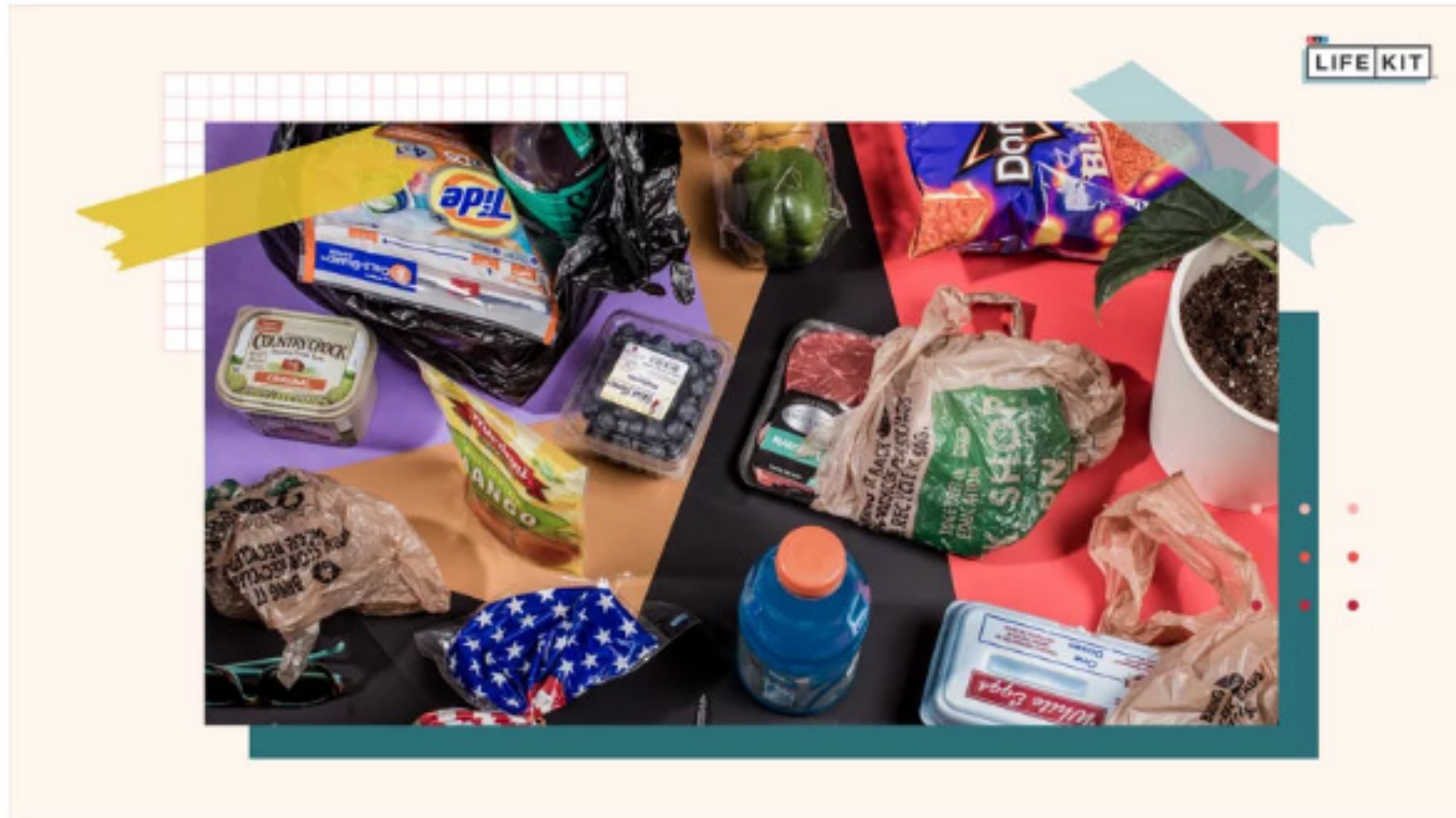
Little Lamb who made thee?
Dost thou know who made thee?
Gave thee life and bid thee feed
By the stream and o'er the mead;
Gave thee clothing of delight,
Softest clothing wooly bright;
Gave thee such a tender voice,
Making all the vales rejoice:
Little Lamb who made thee?
Dost thou know who made thee?

Tyger Tyger, burning bright,
In the forests of the night;
What immortal hand or eye,
Could frame thy fearful symmetry?
What the hammer? what the chain,
In what furnace was thy brain?
What the anvil? what dread grasp,
Dare its deadly terrors clasp!

22 tips for 2022: To cut back on plastic, you need to audit how much you use

January 10, 2022 · 6:00 AM ET

REBECCA DAVIS



Meredith Rizzo/NPR


22 tips for 2022 features a daily action to help you kick-start the new year: <https://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=1064518292&live=1>

Check out more from Life Kit.: <https://www.npr.org/lifekit>



Shilpi Chhotray

@ShilpiChhotray

Mother | Storyteller | Activist  now building [@peoplexplastic](https://www.instagram.com/peoplexplastic) formerly [@brkfreeplastic](https://www.instagram.com/brkfreeplastic)

320 Following 850 Followers

The first step in cutting back on plastic is understanding what you're using, and how much of it.

Do an audit of the plastics in your home to get a sense of how much plastic you use. Then use that information to help you make targeted plans to reduce your plastic use.

"Tally up the different types of plastic packaging used, and go through the trash as well," says environmental activist Shilpi Chhotray: <https://www.breakfreefromplastic.org/communications-hub-team/shilpi-chhotray/>

She notes that you're likely to find a lot of plastic in the kitchen and the bathroom.

Once you have a better understanding of your plastic consumption, you can do your research on what can actually be recycled and potential sustainable swaps you can make.

Read more on how to reduce your plastic and make sustainable swaps: <https://www.npr.org/2021/07/12/1015296355/zero-waste-single-use-plastic-trash-recycle>

22 tips for 2022 is edited and curated by Dalia Mortada, Arielle Retting, Janet W. Lee, Beck Harlan, Beth Donovan and Meghan Keane. This tip is based on an episode reported by Rebecca Davis and produced by Audrey Nguyen.

Watch for these conflicts over education in 2022

January 10, 2022 8:39am EST

Joseph J. Ferrare, University of Washington, Bothell, Kate Phillippo, Loyola University Chicago



Louisiana residents object to mask mandates at a state Board of Elementary and Secondary Education meeting in August 2021. AP Photo/Melinda Deslatte

At school board meetings across the country in 2021, parents engaged in physical altercations, shouted at school board members and threatened them as well. These disagreements entered state politics, too, such as the 2021 Virginia governor's race, which was largely shaped by conflicts over the how issues of race and racism are taught in the K-12 curriculum, and transgender student rights. Our September 2021 article in Educational Policy explains that the short-term conflicts that generate media attention – such as about critical race theory across the nation – are part of long-standing ideological debates about education. These conflicts are about issues such as who deserves academic opportunity, what the parameters of public education are and whether schools and universities ought to promote a positive image of the U.S. or explore its shortcomings. As researchers who study conflicts in education, we see clashes like these continuing into 2022.

1. Virtual education: In 2022, expect conflicts over virtual school offerings to intensify, especially as the omicron variant surges and as some states push toward vaccine mandates for all students. At stake is whether parents should have control over how public funds are spent on educating their children, and the potential effects of diverting those funds away from traditional public schools.

2. Affirmative action: Affirmative action and similar policies in college admissions have always generated controversy, and 2022 will likely be no different. This year, a case that began in 2014 will reach the U.S. Supreme Court. That case, *Students for Fair Admissions vs. Harvard University*, alleges that Harvard's race-conscious admissions policies discriminate against Asian applicants. The case has worked its way through the court system with a national roster of affluent plaintiffs. This group has filed multiple unsuccessful lawsuits across the U.S., including an October 2021 loss in a similar case over admissions at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Similar lawsuits have also sprung up in San Francisco and Boston over school districts' efforts to make access to academically selective public schools more representative of student populations. These suits reflect broader ideological tensions over who deserves a well-funded, elite education and the government's responsibility to protect that access.

3. Teachers unions: In 2022, look to teachers unions to continue to assert themselves in the face of ongoing efforts by parent and advocacy groups to limit their power. Over the past year teachers unions effectively negotiated the implementation of health safeguards against the spread of COVID-19 in Chicago, New York City and Los Angeles. These unions secured protective measures such as virtual instruction, priority vaccine access for teachers, medical and personal leave related to COVID-19, explicit metrics to determine when schools would close, district-provided personal protective equipment for teachers and classroom air filtration systems. While the pandemic dominates union activity at present, and many unions have not negotiated significant concessions, these wins signal unions' strategic and legal capacity to negotiate around issues such as compensation and working conditions. Given current shortages of qualified teachers, unions' negotiation power may intensify.

4. Gifted programs: In 2022, gifted education may become a national debate. So far it has been prominent in New York City, but that may spread. Mayor Eric Adams said he intends to keep gifted programs in place. Gifted programs offer accelerated learning opportunities for students who score at the top of their class on standardized tests. Critics, such as the School Diversity Advisory Group commissioned by former Mayor Bill de Blasio, argue that gifted programs segregate students by race, since research has shown that students of color are underrepresented in these programs. In California, policymakers have unveiled a plan to address this issue by grouping students of different mathematical ability in the same classrooms until their junior year. Only then will students be able to select advanced math courses, such as calculus or statistics. This move may revive the 1980s' so-called "tracking wars," an intense debate over whether students should be offered different levels of curriculum based on their test scores. As other states and districts consider overhauling their own gifted programs, these short-term conflicts will likely add energy to the existing national fight concerning what role the education system should play in addressing inequality in the United States.

In all of these conflicts, be prepared in 2022 for policy advocates to use both conventional and unconventional strategies to advance their efforts. Further, expect those advocates to include politically and economically powerful actors as well as those who rarely have a voice in policy conversations. In our research, which spanned the years 2010 to 2020, we saw conventional conflict actions such as teacher strikes, community protests and lawsuits. However, we also saw the successful use of less common efforts to challenge local, state and federal education policy, such as canceled business investments, classroom sit-ins, a student hunger strike, school board recall votes, teacher panhandling, pointed valedictorian speeches and even college football players' threat to walk out on scheduled revenue-generating games.



CHAPTER VI.

Giving a statement of all the public Schools in the State, Dartmouth College, Literary Institutions, State Institutions, such as Asylum for the Insane, New-Hampshire College of Agriculture and Mechanic Arts, Orphan's Home, State Prison, State Normal School, State Capitol, Reform School and Religious Denominations in the State.

PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

The founders of New-Hampshire believed in universal education. They believed, too, that the idea of a republic was the idea of a people governing themselves. This implied that the people should possess that amount of intelligence and virtue, which are essential to self-government. Our early legislators enacted laws providing for a system of free common schools.

Our present free educational institutions are of the highest value to the State. The maintenance of them involves a great expense and much care, but it is a wise outlay. Knowledge is less expensive than ignorance. Ignorance is a dangerous and costly factor under any form of government, and under a republican, destructive.

The several towns are sub-divided into districts for school purposes. In the sparsely settled districts, the schools are ungraded. In the cities and several of the larger villages, a system of graded schools has been established, embracing Primary, Intermediate, Grammar and High School Departments, with rooms, furniture, books, apparatus and teachers suited to the peculiar wants of each grade. The best graded schools are found in Manchester, Nashua, Great Falls, Dover, Littleton, Concord, Portsmouth, Milford and Claremont.

Towns and cities are required, by law, to raise annually, for support of public schools, three hundred and fifty dollars for each

If You Think Education Is Expensive, Try Ignorance

Derek Bok? Ann Landers? Char Meyers? Robert Orben? John Lubbock? P. B. de La Bruère? Rev. S. C. Morris? Charles Duncan McIver? Albert Einstein? Barack Obama? Anonymous?

Dear Quote Investigator: The cost of attending college has been increasing more rapidly than the rate of inflation for decades in the U.S. Students and parents have been struggling with bills and loan payments. A popular adage offers a provocative perspective:

If you think education is expensive, try ignorance.

These words have been attributed to Derek Bok who was a President of Harvard University and to Ann Landers who was a popular syndicated advice columnist. Would you please explore the provenance of this expression?

[...]

In 1874 a passage in "The Statistics and Gazetteer of New Hampshire" provided a thematic match and also used similar vocabulary, e.g., "educational", "expensive", and "ignorance". However; the passage was prolix:

"Our present free educational institutions are of the highest value to the State. The maintenance of them involves a great expense and much care, but it is a wise outlay. Knowledge is less expensive than ignorance. Ignorance is a dangerous and costly factor under any form of government, and under a republican, destructive."

An album made entirely of endangered bird sounds beat Taylor Swift on a top 50 chart

January 9, 2022 · 5:00 AM ET

MEGAN LIM



PATRICK JARENWATTANANON



Byron Hakanson

A red-tailed black cockatoo is seen sitting on a branch with the moon behind it. The bird is one of more than 50 featured on the album *Songs of Disappearance* that features the sounds of many of Australia's endangered birds.

For most of December, Adele had the top-selling album in Australia, followed by Ed Sheeran, and then there was a collection of absolute bangers that took everyone by surprise.

***Songs Of Disappearance* is an entire album of calls from endangered Australian birds. Last month, it briefly perched at No. 3 on the country's top 50 albums chart – ahead of Taylor Swift.**

Anthony Albrecht produced the album with his arts organization, the Bowerbird Collective. He's a musician and a Ph.D. candidate at Charles Darwin University, where his adviser is professor Stephen Garnett. "I knew it was an ambitious thing to suggest and — I don't know. Stephen's a little bit crazy like me, and he said, let's do this," Albrecht said.

Songs Of Disappearance was released with a university report that found 1 in 6 Australian bird species are now threatened. The album captures 53 of those species. Some sing what you might think of as bird songs, but not all of them. Sean Dooley represents the conservation organization Birdlife Australia.

Though *Songs of Disappearance* did beat out Taylor Swift for one of the top spots on Australia's top 50 chart, a swift was still present in the form of the song from a swift parrot like the one featured above. "Things like the golden bowerbird — it sounds like a death ray from some cheesy '70s sci-fi series," Dooley said. "And then you get to the Christmas Island frigatebird, which the male, it has a flap of skin under its chin that it inflates like a giant red balloon. And so when it's doing these courtship sounds, it looks incredible as well as sounds bizarre."



The purple-crowned fairy-wren is another one of the birds featured on the hit album *Songs of Disappearance*.
Silva Vaughan Jones/Birdlife Australia

There's also the Christmas Island imperial pigeon.

"When people hear that imperial pigeon, they swear that it's a human making silly noises," Dooley said. "They're quite magnificently ridiculous."

Proceeds from album sales directly benefit Birdlife Australia, and Dooley says the increased awareness can make a difference. "When we have community on board, that brings pressure on board to government to do the right thing," he said. "And we know that these conservation actions do work."

The Charles Darwin University and Birdlife Australia report does document successes in protecting endangered birds, the hope being that these tweets go viral, more species could be saved.



Kletr/shutterstock.com

The evolutionary origins of laughter are rooted more in survival than enjoyment

April 13, 2016 3.15pm EDT

Jordan Raine, University of Sussex

Laughter plays a crucial role in every culture across the world. But it's not clear why laughter exists. While it is evidently an inherently social phenomenon – people are up to 30 times more likely to laugh in a group than when alone – laughter's function as a form of communication remains mysterious.

John Cleese once said: "Laughter connects you with people. It's almost impossible to maintain any kind of distance or any sense of social hierarchy when you're just howling with laughter." He might just have hit the nail on the head – even when we're faking it.

One recent philosopher attuned to the affinity between comedy and philosophy was Bertrand Russell. "The point of philosophy," he said, "is to start with something so simple as not to seem worth stating, and to end with something so paradoxical that no one will believe it" (1918). In the middle of an argument, he once observed, "This seems plainly absurd: but whoever wishes to become a philosopher must learn not to be frightened by absurdities" (1912).

<https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/humor/>
Philosophy of Humor

First published Tue Nov 20, 2012; substantive revision Thu Aug 20, 2020

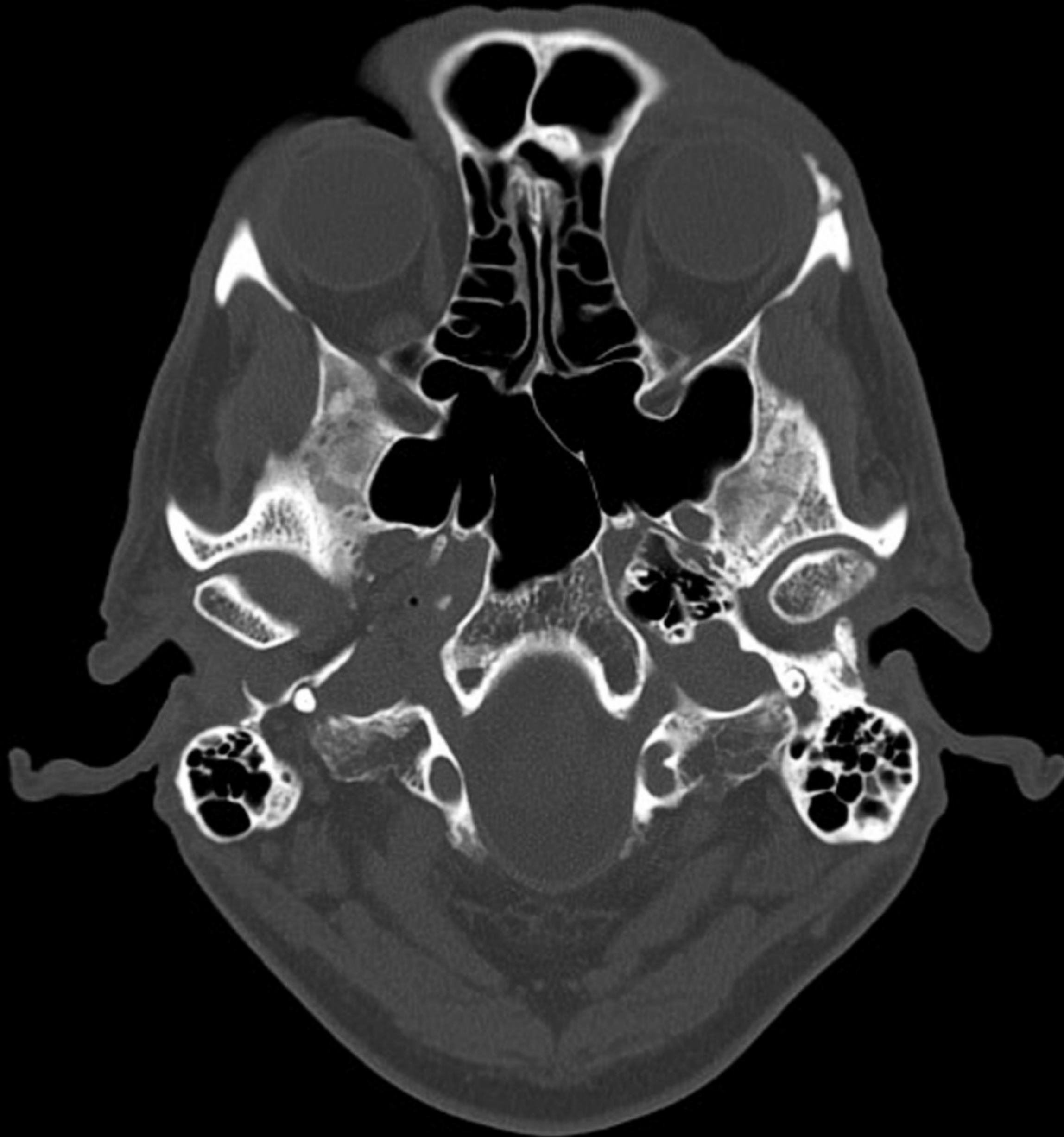
Although most people value humor, philosophers have said little about it, and what they have said is largely critical. Three traditional theories of laughter and humor are examined, along with the theory that humor evolved from mock-aggressive play in apes. Understanding humor as play helps counter the traditional objections to it and reveals some of its benefits, including those it shares with philosophy itself.

2. The Superiority Theory
3. The Relief Theory
4. The Incongruity Theory



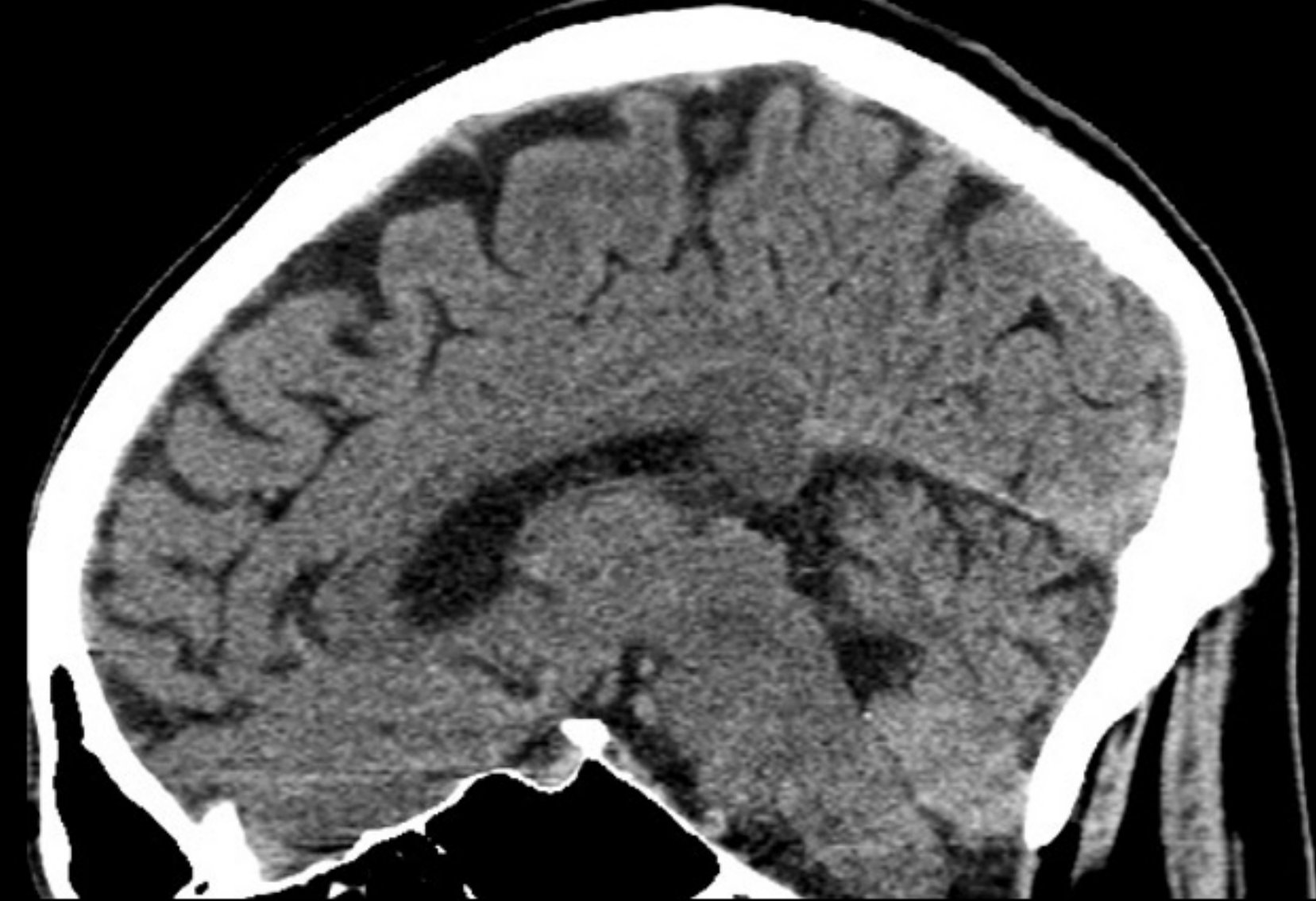
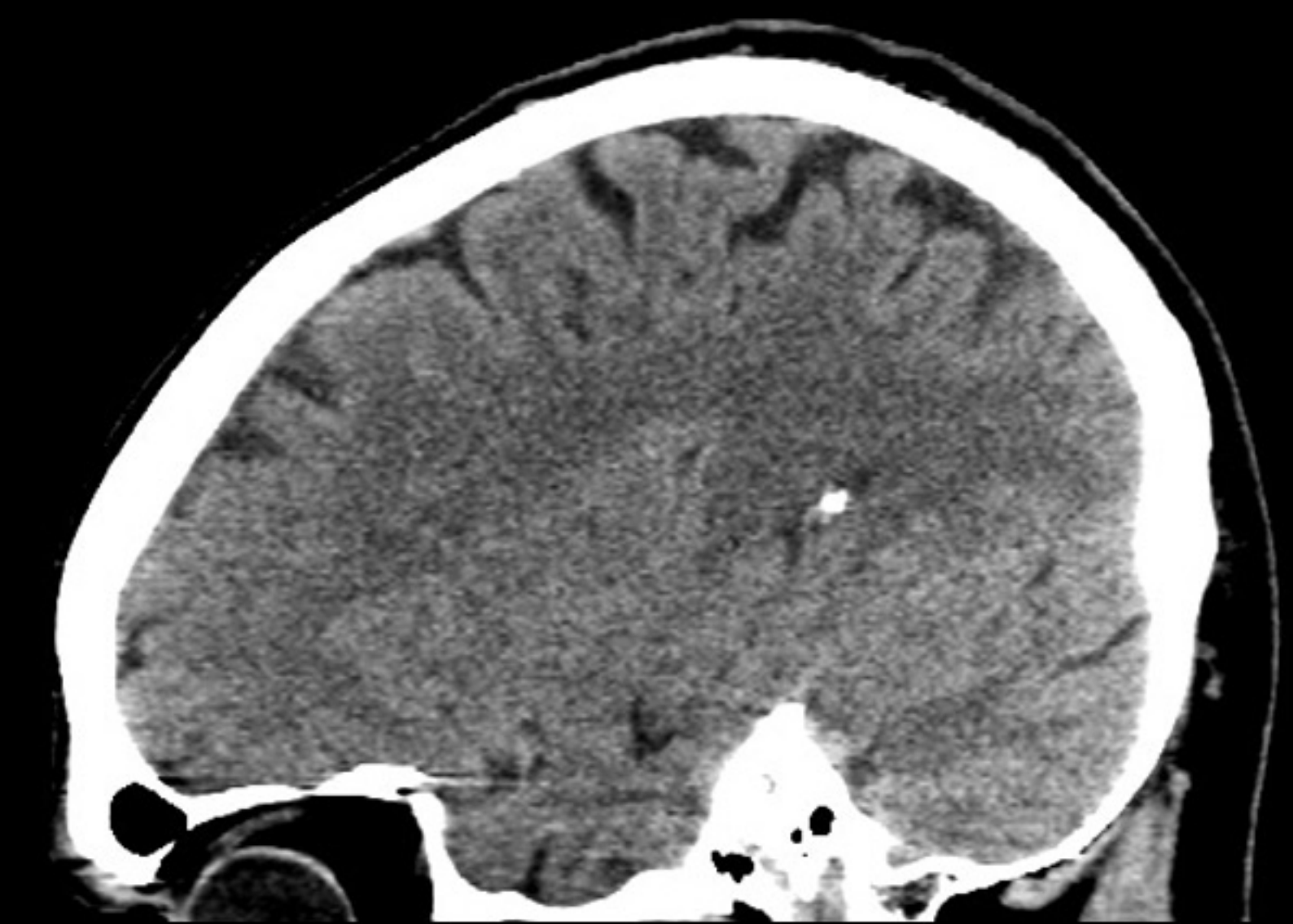
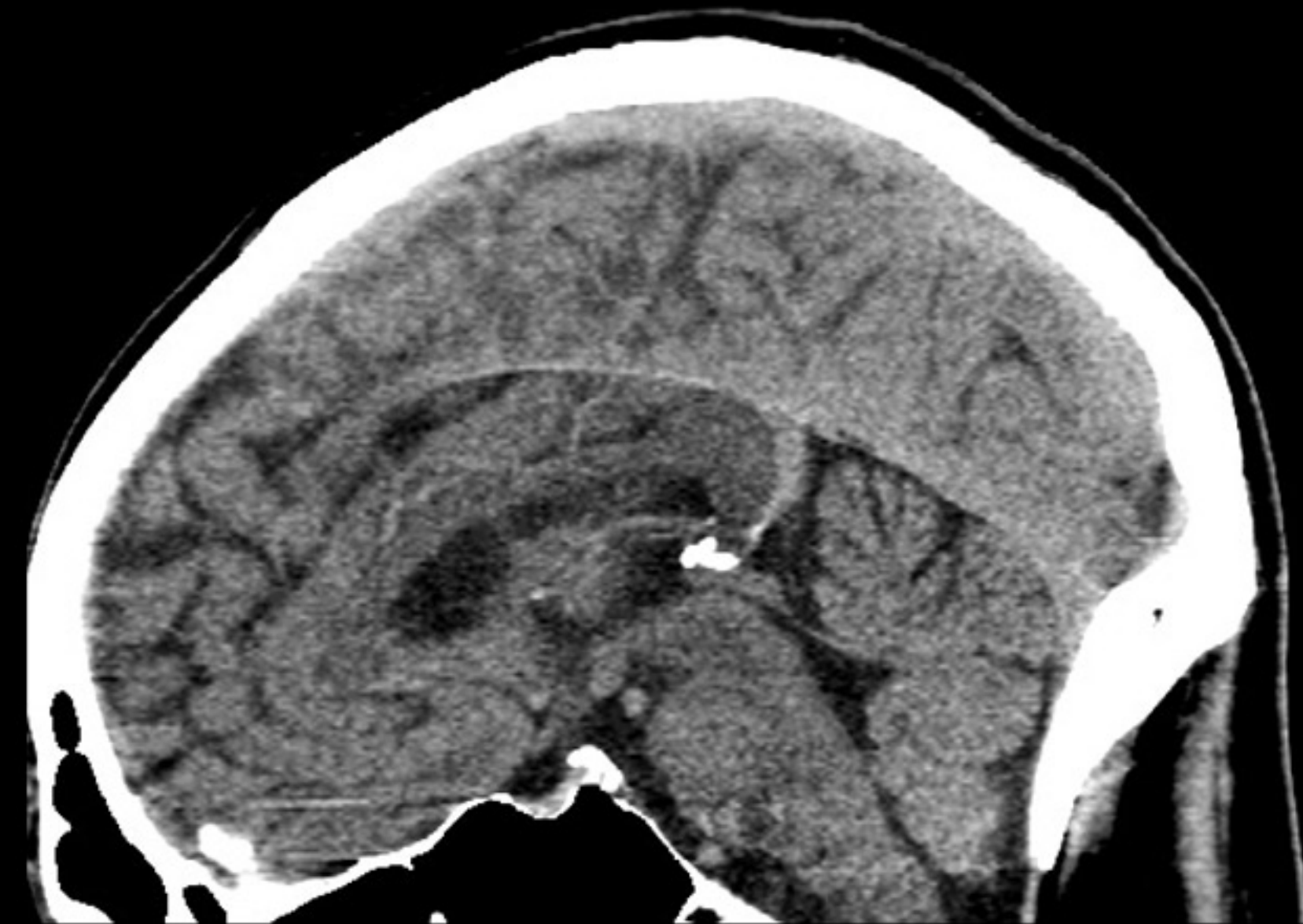
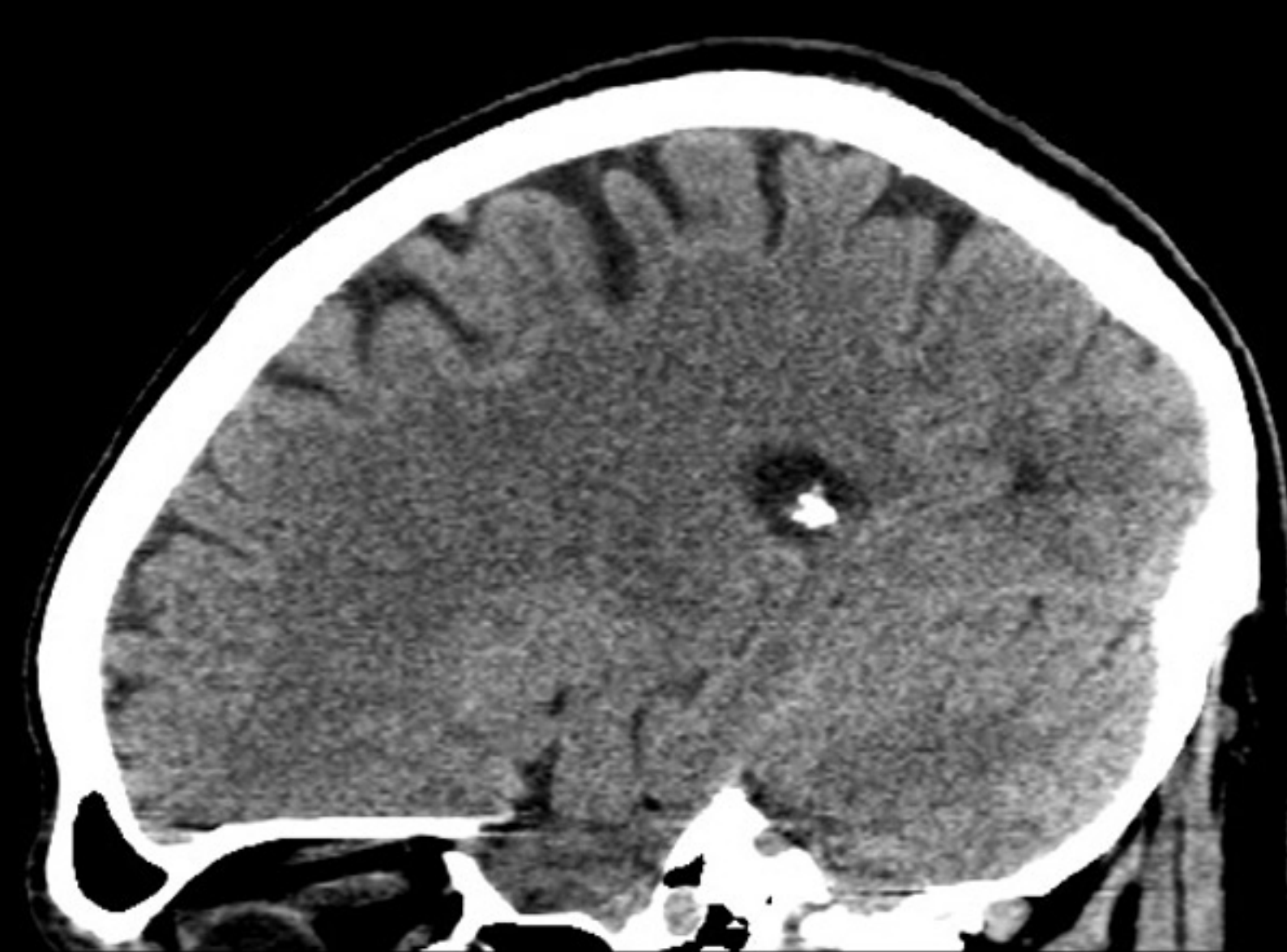
"Never, ever, think outside the box."





CT-head-scans 211225 -- Dan Landrum







Physically removing bad or unwanted memories by altering synapses in the brain may one day be possible. apagafonova/iStock via Getty Images Plus

Where are memories stored in the brain? New research suggests they may be in the connections between your brain cells

January 10, 2022 3:24pm EST

Don Arnold, USC Dornsife College of Letters, Arts and Sciences

All memory storage devices, from your brain to the RAM in your computer, store information by changing their physical qualities. Over 130 years ago, pioneering neuroscientist Santiago Ramón y Cajal first suggested that the brain stores information by rearranging the connections, or synapses, between neurons.

Since then, neuroscientists have attempted to understand the physical changes associated with memory formation. But visualizing and mapping synapses is challenging to do. For one, synapses are very small and tightly packed together. They're roughly 10 billion times smaller than the smallest object a standard clinical MRI can visualize. Furthermore, there are approximately 1 billion synapses in the mouse brains researchers often use to study brain function, and they're all the same opaque to translucent color as the tissue surrounding them.

A new imaging technique my colleagues and I developed, however, has allowed us to map synapses during memory formation. We found that the process of forming new memories changes how brain cells are connected to one another. While some areas of the brain create more connections, others lose them.

Previously, researchers focused on recording the electrical signals produced by neurons. While these studies have confirmed that neurons change their response to particular stimuli after a memory is formed, they couldn't pinpoint what drives those changes.

Our new method of observing brain cell function could open the door not just to a deeper understanding of how memory actually works, but also to potential avenues for treatment of neuropsychiatric conditions like PTSD and addiction.

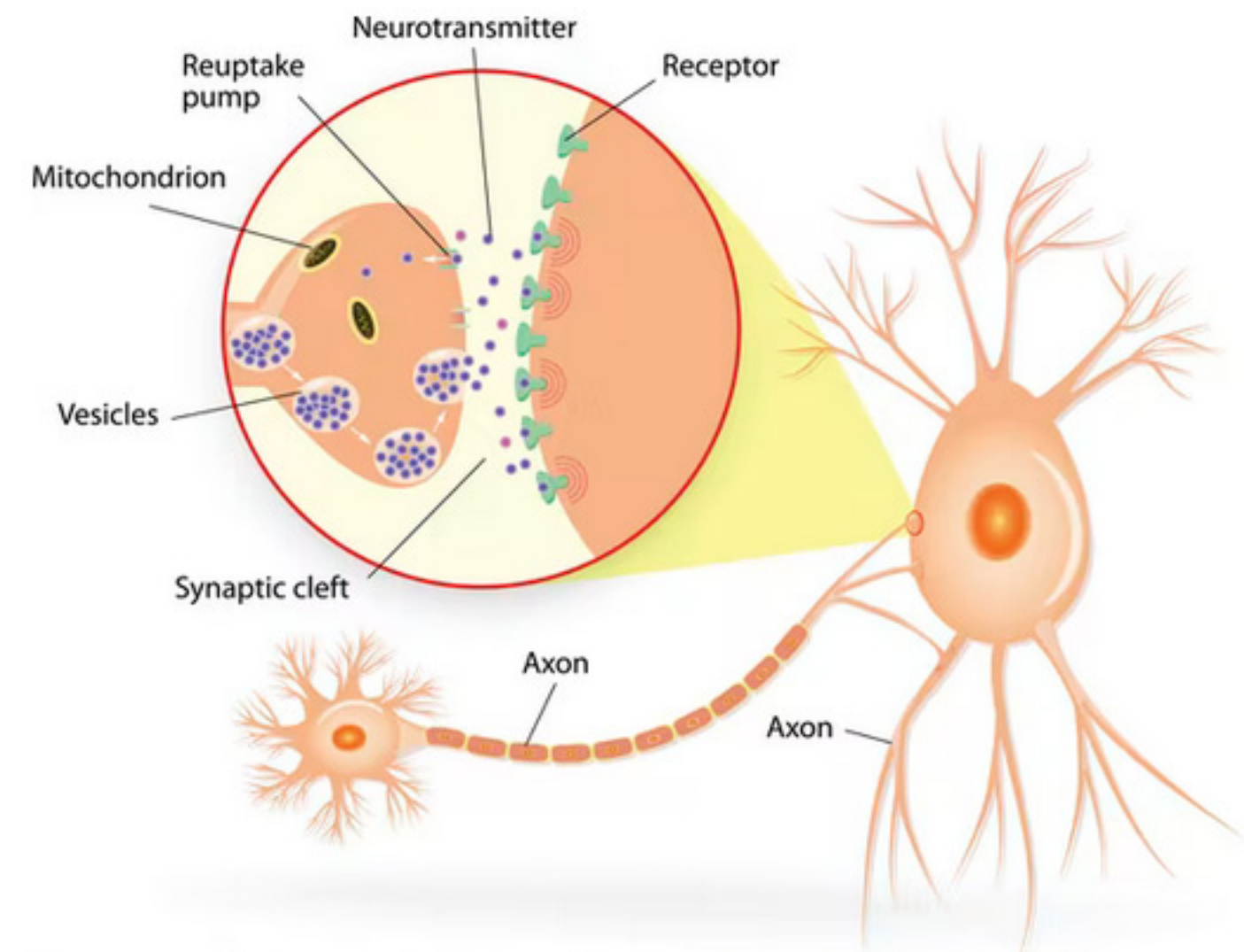
Associative memories tend to be much stronger than other types of memories, such as conscious memories about what you had for lunch yesterday. Associative memories induced by classical conditioning, moreover, are thought to be analogous to traumatic memories that cause PTSD. Otherwise harmless stimuli similar to what someone experienced at the time of the trauma can trigger recall of painful memories. For instance, a bright light or a loud noise could bring back memories of combat. Our study reveals the role that synaptic connections may play in memory, and could explain why associative memories can last longer and be remembered more vividly than other types of memories.

Currently the most common treatment for PTSD, exposure therapy, involves repeatedly exposing the patient to a harmless but triggering stimulus in order to suppress recall of the traumatic event. In theory, this indirectly remodels the synapses of the brain to make the memory less painful. Although there has been some success with exposure therapy, patients are prone to relapse. This suggests that the underlying memory causing the traumatic response has not been eliminated.

Conceptually tied to classical conditioning, prolonged exposure therapy is one way to treat PTSD.

It's still unknown whether synapse generation and loss actually drive memory formation. My laboratory has developed technology that can quickly and precisely remove synapses without damaging neurons. We plan to use similar methods to remove synapses in zebrafish or mice to see whether this alters associative memories.

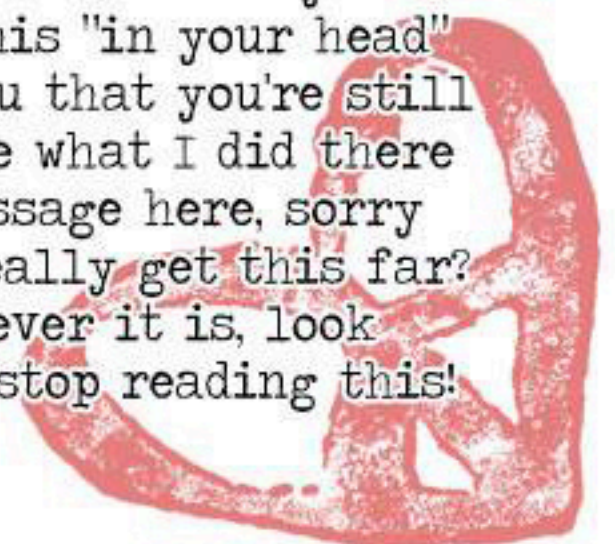
It might be possible to physically erase the associative memories that underlie devastating conditions like PTSD and addiction with these methods. Before such a treatment can even be contemplated, however, the synaptic changes encoding associative memories need to be more precisely defined. And there are obviously serious ethical and technical hurdles that would need to be addressed. Nevertheless, it's tempting to imagine a distant future in which synaptic surgery could remove bad memories.



Synapses comprise the very end of the transmitting neuron, the very beginning of the receiving neuron, and the tiny gap between them. ttsz/iStock via Getty Images Plus

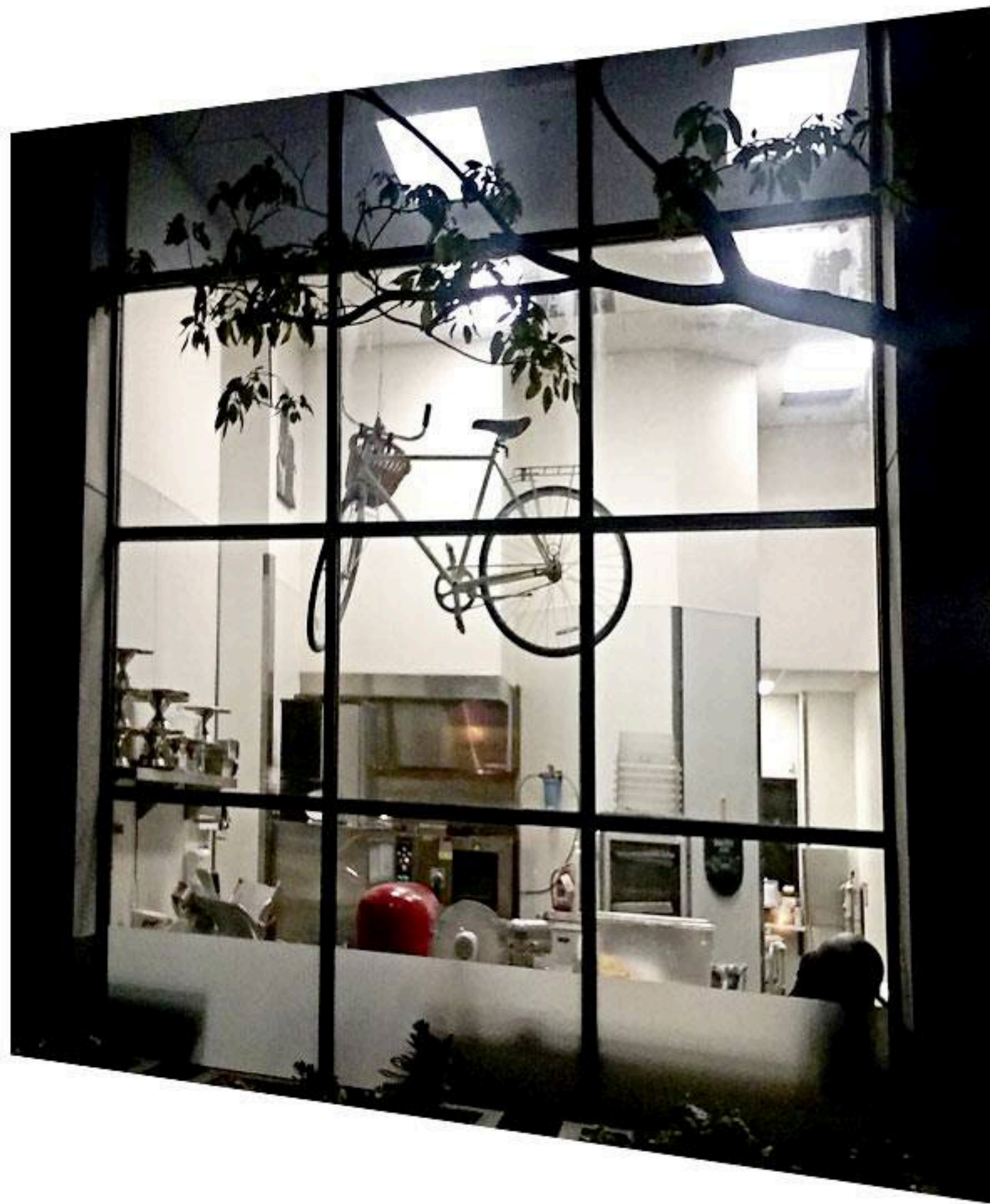


This is a string of symbols that make sounds in your head! Sounds you think of as your inner voice, as you. I have a good idea what the sounds in your head sound like as you read this right now, but have no idea what they mean to you. I type, you interpret. There is no call to action here, but even if I type, "Say this out loud," though I am confident of the sounds reverberating in your head, there is no way of me knowing what you'll do with those sounds. Do you call that free will? I don't know. I'm only making noise here. You decide. It's a funny place -- being inside your head, don't you think? My typing making noise in your head and you keep sitting there scanning and reading the symbols not knowing what's next, thinking I'm in your head, using your voice to tell yourself you have free will. Ha ha ha ... just kidding! You're hypnotized, you're an automaton scanning source symbols assigning meaning via a predetermined set of coded instructions. Intrigued, you can't pull yourself away. I've got you by the short symbols and I've stopped typing a long time ago. There's nobody here but you. Wouldn't it be funny if I wrote a whole book from this "in your head" perspective and finally in the last chapter it occurs to you that you're still sitting here listening to ... listening to nothing really. (See what I did there with bending time in your mind?) Okay, truth -- sorry, no message here, sorry for wasting your time. Hope you were entertained. Did you really get this far? Really?! Are you kidding me? What are you looking for? Whatever it is, look somewhere else. Okay then, here is a call to action for you: stop reading this!



- ❑ Fast
- ❑ Cheap
- ❑ Right

(pick two)





Many people are led to conspiracy theories and extremist views from less extreme positions. Robert Nickelsberg/Getty Images

Radicalization pipelines: How targeted advertising on social media drives people to extremes

January 12, 2022 8:37am EST

Jeanna Matthews, Clarkson University

Have you had the experience of looking at some product online and then seeing ads for it all over your social media feed? Far from coincidence, these instances of eerily accurate advertising provide glimpses into the behind-the-scenes mechanisms that feed an item you search for on Google, “like” on social media or come across while browsing into custom advertising on social media.

Those mechanisms are increasingly being used for more nefarious purposes than aggressive advertising. The threat is in how this targeted advertising interacts with today’s extremely divisive political landscape. As a social media researcher, I see how people seeking to radicalize others use targeted advertising to readily move people to extreme views.

How to protect yourself

What can you do? First, I recommend a huge dose of skepticism about social media recommendations. Most people have gone to social media looking for something in particular and then found themselves looking up from their phones an hour or more later having little idea how or why they read or watched what they just did. It is designed to be addictive.

I’ve been trying to chart a more deliberate path to the information I want and actively trying to avoid just clicking on whatever is recommended to me. If I do read or watch what is suggested, I ask myself “How might this information be in someone else’s best interest, not mine?”

Second, consider supporting efforts to require social media platforms to offer users a choice of algorithms for recommendations and feed curation, including ones based on simple-to-explain rules.

Third, and most important, I recommend investing more time in interacting with friends and family off of social media. If I find myself needing to forward a link to make a point, I treat that as a warning bell that I do not actually understand the issue well enough myself. If so, perhaps I have found myself following a constructed trail toward extreme content rather than consuming materials that are actually helping me better understand the world.



Many people feel that they have “figured out” conspiracy theories for themselves, but in many cases they’ve been deliberately led to them. AP Photo/Damian Dovarganes

the problem, but how are these powerful customized advertising techniques contributing to the divisive political landscape?

<https://theconversation.com/radicalization-pipelines-how-targeted-advertising-on-social-media-drives-people-to-extremes-173568>

Breadcrumbs to the extreme





Stewart Rhodes Explains Oath Keepers Mission

74,899 views • Mar 28, 2010 663 DISLIKE SHARE SAVE ...

Stewart Rhodes Explains Oath Keepers Mission | Mar 28, 2010

<https://youtu.be/f2MJbw0o-B0>

Oath Keepers founder Stewart Rhodes explains Oath Keepers mission during the first annual Oath Keepers Conference in October 2009.

Oath Keepers leader and 10 others charged with 'seditious conspiracy' related to US Capitol attack

By [Hannah Rabinowitz](#), [Katelyn Polantz](#), [Tierney Sneed](#) and

[Holmes Lybrand](#), CNN

Updated 10:41 PM ET, Thu January 13, 2022



(CNN) The Justice Department escalated its January 6 investigation by bringing seditious conspiracy charges against 11 defendants, including the leader of the Oath Keepers, Stewart Rhodes.

The new indictment brings to light planning the Oath Keepers are accused to have done ahead of the Capitol attack, as they allegedly recruited members, stocked up on weapons and organized to disrupt Congress' certification of the 2020 election. Prosecutors say they also continued to plot "to oppose by force the lawful transfer of presidential power" after the Capitol riot failed to block the electoral college vote, according to a Justice Department statement on Thursday.

One Oath Keeper claimed to travel to Washington, DC, for a scouting trip ahead of January 6, according to the indictment. The new court filings also detail accusations that the defendants stashed weapons at a Virginia hotel and that they were prepared to "rapidly transport firearms and other weapons into Washington, D.C." to support the efforts to stop the presidential certification vote.

Rhodes was arrested Thursday in Little Elm, Texas.



The enslaved people who produced sugar before the Civil War did dangerous and grueling work. The Print Collector/Getty Images

Ethical US consumers struggled to pressure the sugar industry to abandon slavery with less success than their British counterparts

January 12, 2022 8:37am EST

Calvin Schermerhorn, Arizona State University

Twenty-two-year-old Sam Watts saw the Virginia coastline vanish while he was aboard a domestic slave ship in the fall of 1831. Andrew Jackson was president, and slave traders had bought Watts for US\$450 (about \$14,500 in 2022 dollars). They were ripping him from multiple generations of his loved ones for a voyage of no return. After the ship docked at New Orleans three weeks later, Edmond J. Forstall, a banker and entrepreneur, purchased Watts for \$950. His new owner put Watts to work making barrels in the new Louisiana Sugar Refinery – the world’s largest operation of its kind at the time. Watts labored under an overseer’s lash, but he may have felt less unfortunate than Louisiana’s 36,000 enslaved people forced to work on plantations producing the sugar that went into his barrels. Growing, cutting and processing domestic sugar cane took an even deadlier toll than producing cotton or tobacco.

Watts’ unpaid work fed a supply chain with tragic human costs. Most Americans today would surely like to think that consumers who knew their sugar was grown and processed by enslaved people living in the United States would refuse to buy it. But the historical record points to a greater opposing force: the rise of American capitalism, which before the Civil War was fueled by unpaid labor.

So sweet, but at what cost to human rights?

Government support for sugar started early on

Louisiana growers started producing molasses in the 18th century and granulated sugar by 1795. Output increased after the U.S. bought Louisiana from France in 1803. The federal government was already protecting domestic sugar with a tariff on imported sugar. By the 1830s, strong demand and creative financing from international investors were also bolstering Louisiana’s sugar sector. The same year Sam Watts was bought and sold, Sen. Henry Clay wrote that “a repeal of the duty would compel the Louisiana planter to abandon the cultivation of the sugar cane.”

Sugar had by then been transformed from a luxury into a wildly popular ingredient that was integral to the American diet. Unfortunately, the historical record indicates that most Americans who bought a quart of molasses or pound of refined sugar crystals either didn’t know or didn’t care very much about the struggles of Sam Watts and tens of thousands of other African Americans like him. Sugar was a prestige item, signaling wealth and refinement.

U.S. growers were competing mainly with the Cuban sugar producers who could still import African captives. Newly enslaved people often arrived on American-owned vessels.

Free African American and white Quaker abolitionists sought to underscore the connection between unrequited toil and the abundance it produced. Before supply chain management existed as a systematic process, those who worked to abolish slavery pointed out that the dollars spent on sugar fed the forced labor and degradation of Black people who made and processed sugar and other commodities. To that end, Quakers formed the Free Produce Society of Pennsylvania in 1827 to combat slavery in supply chains furnishing consumer goods.

Sugar demand climbed

Rather than cut back, Americans consumed more and more sugar.

In Texas, sugar plantation owners used convict laborers to grow and process their sugar cane. Many prisoners forced to make sugar were teens convicted of minor offenses, often by Jim Crow courts.

The 2019 discovery of 95 grave sites of African American sugar workers buried on a prison farm in Texas offered a glimpse of the toll sugar work took on Black workers, many of them children.



A diet high in sugary foods can affect brain development in children. carlosgaw/iStock via Getty Images Plus

How does excess sugar affect the developing brain throughout childhood and adolescence? A neuroscientist who studies nutrition explains

January 11, 2022 8:34am EST

 [Lina Begdache](#), Binghamton University, State University of New York

Excess sugar puts the brain in overdrive

Because glucose is the primary source of energy to the brain, too much sugar can put it into an overdrive mode. When the brain is overstimulated, it can lead to hyperactivity and mood swings. However, these behavioral changes are only the short-term consequences. Some evidence suggests that this brain hyperactivity in adolescents is linked to cognitive deficits in adulthood.

Sugar also has an addictive effect because it stimulates neurons in the brain's reward system, known as the limbic system. When activated, the limbic system generates high emotions such as pleasure, which reinforces further sugar consumption. In addition, within the limbic system there is a tiny structure called the amygdala, which processes emotional information. Overactivation of the amygdala is associated with exaggerated emotions such as fear and anxiety.

Research suggests that there is a strong relationship between high sugar consumption, altered behaviors and poor emotional regulation. Although sugar intake may boost mood momentarily, chronic sugar consumption has been linked with increased risk of mental health problems.

Studies in lab animals also suggest that high consumption of sugar hinders learning and memory. Interestingly, daily intake of sugar-sweetened beverages during teenage years is associated with worsening of performance on a learning and memory task during adulthood. The researchers of that study suggest that this impairment could be due to alterations in gut bacteria.

Considering the mounting body of evidence, the seemingly irresistible sweetness of sugar can translate into a bitter outcome for the developing brain.

<https://youtu.be/LEXBxijQREo>



Why are sugary foods so hard to resist? One reason is that sweets activate the brain's reward system.

When you eat something loaded with sugar, your taste buds, your gut and your brain all take notice. This activation of your reward system is not unlike how bodies process addictive substances such as alcohol or nicotine -- an overload of sugar spikes dopamine levels and leaves you craving more. Nicole Avena explains why sweets and treats should be enjoyed in moderation.



Integrating solar panels with farming can provide partial shade for plants. Werner Slocum/NREL

A 21st-century reinvention of the electric grid is crucial for solving the climate change crisis

January 12, 2022 8:38am EST

 [Charles F. Kutscher](#), [Jeffrey Logan](#), *University of Colorado Boulder*

In the summer of 1988, scientist James Hansen testified to Congress that carbon dioxide from burning fossil fuels was dangerously warming the planet. Scientific meetings were held, voluminous reports were written, and national pledges were made, but because fossil fuels were comparatively cheap, little concrete action was taken to reduce carbon emissions.

Then, beginning around 2009, first wind turbines and then solar photovoltaic panels decreased enough in cost to become competitive in electricity markets. More installations resulted in more “learning curve” cost reductions – the decrease in cost with every doubling of deployment. Since 2009, the prices of wind and solar power have decreased by an astonishing 72% and 90%, respectively, and they are now the cheapest electricity sources – although some challenges still exist.

With the planet facing increasingly intense heat waves, drought, wildfires and storms, a path to tackle the climate crisis became clear: Transition the electric grid to carbon-free wind and solar and convert most other fossil fuel users in transportation, buildings and industry to electricity.

The U.S. is headed in that direction. Early projections suggest the world just wrapped up a record year of renewable electricity growth in 2021, following a record 33,500 megawatts of solar and wind electricity installed in the U.S. in 2020, according to BloombergNEF data. Even faster growth is expected ahead, especially given the Biden administration’s plans to tap high-value offshore wind resources. But will it be fast enough?

The Biden administration’s goal is to have a carbon emissions-free grid by 2035. One recent study found that the U.S. will need to nearly triple its 2020 growth rate for the grid to be 80% powered by clean energy by 2030. (As difficult as that may sound, China reportedly installed 120,000 megawatts of wind and solar in 2020.) **The foundation of this transition is a dramatic change in the electric grid itself. 3 ways to bring wind and solar into the grid**

Hailed as the greatest invention of the 20th century, our now-aging grid was based on fundamental concepts that made sense at the time it was developed. The original foundation was a combination of “base load” coal plants that operated 24 hours a day and large-scale hydropower. Beginning in 1958, these were augmented by nuclear power plants, which have operated nearly continuously to pay off their large capital investments. Unlike coal and nuclear, solar and wind are variable; they provide power only when the sun and wind are available. Converting to a 21st-century grid that is increasingly based on variable resources requires a completely new way of thinking. New sources of flexibility – the ability to keep supply and demand in balance over all time scales – are essential to enable this transition.

There are basically three ways to accommodate the variability of wind and solar energy: use storage, deploy generation in a coordinated fashion across a wide area of the country along with more transmission, and manage electricity demand to better match the supply. These are all sources of flexibility. Across the economy, greater attention to energy efficiency can enable power sector transformation, minimizing costs and improving reliability. Nuclear power is also essentially carbon-free, and keeping existing nuclear plants running can make the transition to renewables easier. However, new nuclear plants in the U.S. are very expensive to build, have long construction times and may prove too costly to operate in a manner that would help firm variable solar and wind.

In our view, the urgency of climate change demands an all-out effort to address it. Having a 2035 emissions goal is important, but the emissions reduction path the U.S. takes to reach that goal is critical. The No. 1 need is to minimize adding carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases to the atmosphere. The world already has the tools to get the grid 80% to 90% carbon-free, and technical experts are exploring a wide range of promising options for achieving that last 10% to 20%.



When in doubt, throw it out – but not in the recycling bin. Basak Gurbuz Derman/Moment via Getty Images

What is wishcycling? Two waste experts explain

January 12, 2022 8:37am EST

👤 [Jessica Heiges](#), [Kate O'Neill](#), *University of California, Berkeley*

Wishcycling is putting something in the recycling bin and hoping it will be recycled, even if there is little evidence to confirm this assumption.

Hope is central to wishcycling. People may not be sure the system works, but they choose to believe that if they recycle an object, it will become a new product rather than being buried in a landfill, burned or dumped. The U.S. recycling industry was launched in the 1970s in response to public concern over litter and waste. The growth of recycling and collection programs changed consumers' view of waste: It didn't seem entirely bad if it could lead to the creation of new products via recycling.

Pro-recycling messaging from governments, corporations and environmentalists promoted and reinforced recycling behavior. This was especially true for plastics that had resin identification codes inside a triangle of "chasing arrows," indicating that the item was recyclable – even though that was usually far from the truth. In fact, only resins #1 (polyethylene terephthalate, or PET) and #2 (high-density polyethylene, or HDPE) are relatively easy to recycle and have viable markets. The others are hard to recycle, so some jurisdictions don't even collect them.

Wishcycling entered public consciousness in 2018 when China launched Operation National Sword, a sweeping set of restrictions on imports of most waste materials from abroad. Over the preceding 20 years, China had purchased millions of tons of scrap metal, paper and plastic from wealthy nations for recycling, giving those countries an easy and cheap option for managing waste materials.

The China scrap restrictions created enormous waste backups in the U.S., where governments had under-invested in recycling systems. Consumers saw that recycling was not as reliable or environmentally friendly as previously believed.

An unlikely coalition of actors in the recycling sector coined the term "wishcycling" in an effort to educate the public about effective recycling. As they emphasize, wishcycling can be harmful.

Contaminating the waste stream with material that is not actually recyclable makes the sorting process more costly because it requires extra labor. Wishcycling also damages sorting systems and equipment and depresses an already fragile trading market. Huge waste management companies and small cities and towns have launched educational campaigns on this issue. Their mantra is "When in doubt, throw it out." In other words, only place material that truly can be recycled in your bin. This message is hard for many environmentalists to hear, but it cuts costs for recyclers and local governments.

We also believe it's important to understand that the global waste crisis wasn't created by consumers who failed to wash mayonnaise jars or separate out plastic bags. The biggest drivers are global. They include capitalistic reliance on consumption, strong international waste trade incentives, a lack of standardized recycling policies and the devaluation of used resources. To make further progress, governments and businesses will have to think more about designing products with disposal and reuse in mind, reducing consumption of single-use products and making massive investments in recycling infrastructure.

Many communities are trying to educate consumers about what not to recycle. City of Asheville, N.C.

Be somewhere
for the thousand years
it takes to know the place



.....

Be a species.
Be 7 generations of a species reincarnate.
Be of the world.
Be one with the world for an epoch or two.

"Think globally, act locally", as Bucky Fuller says.
Be the local go-to guy.
The guy who knows downtown like the back of their hand, as well,
knows the deep back-country, the watershed, the watercourse ways,
the guy who goes 'Botanizing,' as John Muir talks about, just for the hell of it.
(Not to label and catalog other species for exploitation),
go to see and be with, to admire, to adore the dickens out of life
living, yearning to live on, muster on no matter what comes this way.

Be the guy who doesn't sell fishhooks anymore, as Rumi says:

Tending two Shops
Don't run around this world
looking for a hole to hide in.
[...]
Keep open the shop
where you're not selling fishhooks anymore.
You are the free-swimming fish.

In short, be a citizen, good
with pathos-centric caring,
native of the commonwealth.

In this body, in this place!

.....

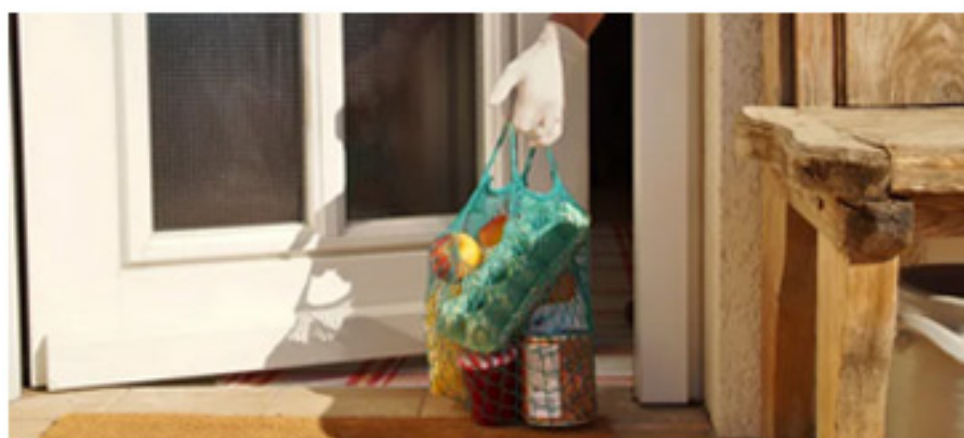
Be somewhere
for the thousand years
it takes to know the place



Could bartering become the new buying in a changed world?

Amid economic uncertainty – and a desire to connect as we distance – bartering is experiencing an unprecedented rise.

Could it stick around?



London-based nurse Marjorie Dunne joined Barter United Kingdom after spending five days in hospital with coronavirus in April. The group helped Dunne through one of the toughest times of her life. “It really helped me out with meals for my family,” says Dunne. “I didn’t have the energy to cook, I was spending a fortune on online grocery shopping and having meals brought to the house was a tremendous help.” Members of Barter United Kingdom, which started on 23 April and had 1,300 members as of early August, swapped curries, roti and cakes for Dunne’s dresses and DVDs.

The increase in bartering is nowhere better exemplified than in Fiji, which inspired Dunne’s London group. The country has a long tradition of barter, known as ‘veisa’. It’s only grown amid Covid-19, and Fijians have harnessed modern technology to connect even more people. “I knew that money would be tight to stretch out and even harder to come by. I asked myself what happens when there’s no more money? Barter was a natural solution to that,” says Marlene Dutta, who started the Barter for a Better Fiji group on 21 April. Its membership is just under 190,000 – more than 20% of Fiji’s population. Items changing hands have run the gamut – pigs for kayaks, a violin for a leather satchel and doughnuts for building bricks – but the most commonly requested items have been groceries and food.

While Fiji’s barter explosion has affected the whole country, other groups across the world have been working at state, city or community levels.

“I invited all of my friends and it just grew. We had 1,000 people in less than 24 hours,” says Veronica Coon, a hairstylist who started her Facebook barter group in Henderson, Nevada, USA on 15 March. It now has more than 5,600 members. The most popular items traded have been hard-to-find groceries like flour, yeast and eggs, as well as baby wipes, disinfecting spray and masks.

More than 20% of Fiji's population has joined the Barter for a Better Fiji group to trade goods



Veronica Coon started a popular Facebook barter group for people to trade goods during the coronavirus pandemic. Courtesy of Veronica Coon

{UPDATE} PublicRadio’s Marketplace | Maria Hollenhorst Oct 6, 2020

Back in March, Veronica Coon, a hairdresser in Henderson, Nevada, started an online barter group to help people trade hand sanitizer, cleaning products, face masks and other products in high demand during the pandemic. It quickly became a community where people not only trade goods, but also offer donations, share information and send words of comfort to people in need.

Six months after it began, Coon said that kind of activity remains, but some of the products people want have changed. “Right now, people are looking for more personal home items,” she said. “People are putting up, ‘I’m looking for patio furniture,’ or ‘I’m looking for a swimming pool and this is what I have to barter.’” However, Coon said certain products have stayed in high demand throughout the pandemic: face masks and disinfecting sprays and wipes. “That’s probably the biggest thing that people ask for,” she said.

With the help of nine admins, Coon said she’s been able to cut down the amount of time she spends moderating the group to about one hour a week. “I try to go on once a week into the Facebook group and just post, ‘How is everyone doing?’” she said. “I feel it’s important to do that, not just as somebody who started the group, but as somebody who really cares. I like going on there and making sure that everybody’s still doing OK.”

A new look at how turmoil is defining the lives and politics of Generation Z

January 18, 2022 · 5:00 AM ET

JUANA SUMMERS



Young people have been on the front lines of activist movements, including on the issue of climate change.

Teens and young adults get a bad rap. They're often called lazy and entitled, with a new generation seen as inextricably glued to their phones and TikTok. And when they speak up about issues, it can be met with an eye roll or a knowing sigh. It's the one that suggests, "Maybe they will get how the world works when they're older." But the veteran pollster John Della Volpe says that everything he was told — and that most people think — about Generation Z is wrong. Della Volpe is the director of polling at the Harvard Kennedy School's Institute of Politics and a former adviser to the Biden campaign, and he explores the evolution of Gen Z in his new book.

Fight: How Gen Z is channeling their fear and passion to save America, covers the coming of age of the 70 million young people in America born in a 20-year period beginning in the mid-1990s. Della Volpe examines the political awakening of this generation that has come largely during the Trump era, as well as what he describes as a "significant mental health crisis," intensified by the state of the country's politics. The forward to *Fight* was written by one of Gen Z's most visible activists, David Hogg, a survivor of the 2018 shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Fla.

Hogg told NPR that older people often thank him for his generation "standing up," eager to pass the baton. But Hogg argued that lasting change requires more than the resolve of young people — it requires a coalition across generations.

Juana Summers: I want to just start here with the basics. You've been leading polling focusing on young people in the United States for more than two decades. What inspired you to write this book?

John Della Volpe: Frankly, I think that everything that I was told and everything that many people think about Gen Z was frankly, wrong. And I wanted to write this book to kind of correct those myths. I think every generation has had its share of angst and turmoil. I'm Gen X, but I don't think there is any generation in 75 years that has been confronted with more chaos, more quickly in their young lives than Gen Z or Zoomers. When we think about this, many of them were born right around 9/11, and it's always been kind of a shadow in their lives. Millions of their parents lost their homes due to the Great Recession. Entering school, they faced lockdown drills, things that my generation had never seen. And the idea of going to a place and being safe never really existed for young people. Just so much chaos, even before COVID-19 and the social isolation of the lockdown, all of this accelerated by social media. All of this happening before they were 25. So that's where they came of age. But rather than melting, it made them harder and made them tougher and made them more focused to do great things for themselves and for the country.

JS: David, in the forward to the book you offer up a rallying cry to other members of your generation. What's your message to them?

David Hogg: While voting is important and it's obviously a very important thing for us to do, it can't be the only thing that we do because our generation is not going to wait for progress. As we've seen from all these movements, especially over the past four years, that young people have played a critical movement and from the March for Our Lives, to calls for racial justice, to everything else. We have to vote, but we also have to remember that change has to be created inside and outside of politics, because real power in politics isn't just generated with a vote. It's generating an issue and a cultural shift around young people and how we perceive the world that we live in and the world that we want to leave behind.

JS: David, what do we need to understand about Gen Z as we look to the future?

DH: I often hear older people come up to me and say, "I'm so thankful that your generation is standing up, and we can finally kind of pass the baton off to you." It can't be that way. It can't. It's going to take every generation working together in order to fix these things. If our older generations or our country is simply putting it on younger people to fix these things, they're never going to get fixed. Because as powerful as we are, it has to be an inter-generational coalition of people that work hand in hand, and don't patronize or talk down to young people, but lead with young people and our vision and ideas for the future.

A new look at how turmoil is defining the lives and politics of Generation Z

January 18, 2022 · 5:00 AM ET

← **Juana Summers** ✓
3,604 Tweets



Juana Summers ✓
@jmsummers

I cover race, justice and politics for @NPR.

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3,599 Following 30.1K Followers

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Hogg told NPR that older people often thank him for his generation "standing up," eager to pass the baton. But Hogg argued that lasting change requires more than the resolve of young people — it requires a coalition across generations.

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Juana Summers ✓ @jmsummers · 4h
What one young person told @dellavolpe: "An older generation would not understand waking up in a classroom & thinking about how easy it would be for someone to shoot it up. The daily weight on an adult's shoulders over bills or taxes is what children feel about living or dying"

NPR Politics ✓ @nprpolitics · 7h
A new look at how turmoil is defining the lives and politics of Generation Z npr.org/2022/01/18/107...

🗨️ 14 🍷 25 📤

🔄 Juana Summers Retweeted
John Della Volpe ✓ @dellavolpe · 4h
I loved the opportunity to sit down with @jmsummers to discuss #FightTheBook — and while every generation deals with trauma, no other one has failed to also see the promise of America when we come together. We need to fix this. #genz

Juana Summers ✓ @jmsummers · 5h
From my interview with @dellavolpe on his new book FIGHT: "I don't think there is any generation in 75 years that has been confronted with more chaos, more quickly in their young lives than Gen Z or Zoomers." twitter.com/nprpolitics/st...

🗨️ 1 🔄 1 🍷 2 📤

Coming of age of the 70 million young people in America born in a 20-year period beginning in the mid-1990s. Della Volpe examines the political awakening of this generation that has come largely during the Trump era, as well as what he describes as a "significant mental health crisis," intensified by the state of the country's politics. The forward to Fight was written by one of Gen Z's most visible activists, David Hogg, a survivor of the 2018 shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Fla.

EDUCATION EQUITY

Oakland high schoolers prepare to 'boycott' over COVID safety

With omicron surging, over a thousand students have signed a petition calling on OUSD to do more to make campuses safer.



by **Ashley McBride**

January 14, 2022



MetWest High School students Nikayla Dean (left) and Ayleen Serrano (right) discuss the petition and strategies for their next steps. Credit: Amir Aziz

Rapidly rising COVID cases among students and staff, increasingly empty classes, and fears about contracting the omicron variant have prompted some Oakland students to threaten to boycott school next week, unless Oakland Unified School District provides increased safety measures.

What started out as a group brainstorm by students at a small school in Oakland has grown into a strike campaign supported by more than a thousand Oakland youth, garnering national attention. Students across the country have organized similar actions.

Their demands? Enough KN95 masks for every student, twice-a-week PCR and rapid testing, and outdoor equipment like tables and umbrellas at every school so students can stay safe and dry during meal times.

The student petition is also calling on the district to resume remote learning if it can't supply the personal protective equipment, outdoor eating spaces, and increased testing by the Jan. 17 deadline. Some teachers, including those who planned a "sickout" on Jan. 7, have said that a temporary return to distance learning would make it easier to keep all of their students on track and cause fewer disruptions for students who are at home sick or quarantined. Serrano, the MetWest student, added that going back to distance learning until the district's supplies come in can be a way to stem the spread of COVID.

"If that takes a week, in that week there's going to be more cases. We just think it's not safe to be at school until we get the safety measures that we need," she said. The petition made on Google Documents went gained traction online after it was shared in a viral tweet from Oaklandside reporter Ashley McBride. MetWest students initially planned for their petition to represent just their school, but decided to share it across the district. It's racked up more than 1,200 signatures from OUSD students. Credit: Amir Aziz

Higher numbers of staff absences have strained schools, but most have been able to remain open. Teacher absences last week hovered around 250 per day district-wide, and on Friday reached 500 when some teachers planned a 'sickout' and purposely called out sick in protest.

At Wednesday's school board meeting, Superintendent Johnson-Trammell said that decisions to close a school, grade level, or classroom would be handled on a case-by-case basis. But before a decision to close can be made, the district evaluates how many campus staff are available to cover classes, and then how many central office staff are available. If both options are exhausted, only then would OUSD move to close a school.

The teacher sickout on Jan. 7 caused 12 schools to send notices to families warning them not to bring their children to school that day, because there wouldn't be enough teachers to teach them. On Jan. 13, another sickout reportedly caused nine schools to close for the day. Some Oakland charter schools, including Oakland School for the Arts, the Lighthouse Community Public Schools network that operates two schools in East Oakland, and Bay Area Technology School, have all had to close or switch to distance learning for a period of time following the winter break and surge in COVID cases.

Sam Davis, who represents District 1 on the school board, met with students Monday to discuss their concerns. Davis, who has a son at Oakland Technical High School, said he worries about what students could lose if schools revert back to distance learning.

EDUCATION EQUITY

On day 1 of student boycott, teachers stage 'sickout' closing 3 Oakland schools

Oakland Unified School District has had student absence rates above 20% in January.



by **Ashley McBride**

January 18, 2022



Elementary school students at Acorn Woodland Elementary make signs during a teacher sickout on Jan. 18, 2022. Credit: Courtesy Acorn Woodland Elementary teachers

Three Oakland schools were closed Tuesday as teachers participated in another 'sickout,' where teachers purposely called in sick, to protest COVID safety conditions at schools. The action was planned to coincide with the first day of a student-led boycott of school over a lack of safety precautions.

Bridges Academy at Melrose and Acorn Woodland, two elementary schools, and United for Success Academy, a middle school, were closed Tuesday as teachers and supporters gathered in front of the schools to hold a rally and car caravan to the downtown school district office. It was the third teacher sickout this month. District officials don't yet have estimates for how many students were absent from school on Tuesday.

Two of the students' demands—covered outdoor eating spaces, and high-quality KN95 masks for all students—are in progress. But the final demand, for more testing, remains unmet. Students are asking for twice-a-week PCR or rapid testing at every school, while teachers have also asked for increased testing for students and staff. "Students are telling us, 'This is what will make us feel more safe,'" said Yael Friedman, a fifth-grade teacher at Acorn Woodland. "If students are demanding this, it's our job as teachers to support them."

Sasha Rockwell, who teaches third and fourth grade at Bridges Academy at Melrose, wants to see OUSD implement a testing policy similar to that of Los Angeles Unified School District. All students and staff in that district were required to test negative before returning to school this term, and must test weekly throughout the month of January, regardless of vaccination status. With frequent, regular testing, more students would be able to stay in class, Rockwell added.

"Students who are positive can be identified and quarantined, and students who may have cold or flu-like symptoms can be identified as not having coronavirus and can stay at school," she said.

Having so many students out makes it more difficult for teachers to keep all of their students learning at the same pace. At Bridges Academy, where on average 7% of students are absent per day, 28% of students have been absent in the past two weeks, Rockwell said.

"On a daily basis, 30 to 50% of students have been absent. We haven't been providing any instruction for them," she said. "We've also really struggled to make school meaningful for those kids who are in school. Do we keep going with the curriculum knowing half the class is going to miss it?"

Teachers have also raised concerns about the KN95 masks that OUSD has been distributing to students. Each student is supposed to receive one mask per day for five days, and then reuse each mask on the same day the following week, for five weeks, which is in line with public health guidance on reusing KN95 masks. But with children, getting five uses out of a mask is more difficult, said Zinia Gan-gopadhyay, a teacher at Acorn Woodland.

"From August through December, we were often replacing masks, even at the fifth-grade level," she said. "It's the difference between what works on paper and what works in practice."

EDUCATION

Students don't want to learn in a 'COVID petri dish.' They're walking out to prove their point.



Christine Fernando

USA TODAY

Published 5:01 a.m. ET Jan. 14, 2022 | Updated 1:13 p.m. ET Jan. 17, 2022



Why teacher burnout is forcing schools to cancel class, pivot to remote learning

As the COVID-19 pandemic wears on, teachers and school staff across the country are facing exhaustion.

As teachers unions and schools battle over in-person and remote learning, students nationwide are demanding a seat at the table. Many have staged walkouts this week. "We are the ones who have been in this environment every day. It's our bodies that we're putting at risk," said Kayla Quinlan, a 16-year-old student activist at Boston Day and Evening Academy. "Students should have a say in what their learning environment looks like, but our voices are always left out."

School officials have also faced pressure to stay open for the sake of students' academic, social and mental well-being. Research has shown extended school closures during the pandemic have exacerbated mental health challenges and worsened learning outcomes.

While specific demands vary, students' requests largely center around allowing remote learning options as an alternative for those who are worried about coming to school, rather than shutting classrooms down altogether. Student coalitions that have advocated for shifting fully to remote have only called to do so temporarily if schools do not enforce stricter COVID-19 precautions, including more frequent testing and higher-quality masks.

Despite surging COVID-19 cases across the country, fueled by the highly contagious omicron variant, Quinlan said many Boston schools have started to take precautions less seriously, often not enforcing masking or social distancing. "It feels like a breeding ground for COVID, like a COVID petri dish," she said. "How are you supposed to feel safe?"

This is why students in Boston and elsewhere in Massachusetts staged a walkout Friday, Quinlan said. Similar student walkouts and protests have happened in New York City, Milwaukee, Seattle and Oakland, California. And after returning to class just two days ago, students in Chicago also staged a walkout Friday morning, led by a new organization called Chicago Public Schools Radical Youth Alliance. The alliance has demanded that the school district and government officials "bring students to the bargaining table" in negotiations with teachers, who refused to come to in-person school for a week. Students also want public apologies for comments officials made about the Chicago Teachers Union during the intense standoff last week.

"We stand with the educators, mentors, adult supports, and parents of our school communities, but most importantly, we stand for ourselves, our peers, & our needs," the alliance said on Twitter last week. "We believe that WE should be the ones to execute, steer, and decide what is best for ourselves, our lives, our health, and our safety."

Around lunchtime Tuesday, hundreds of New York City students walked out of class to call for remote learning options during a wave of cases as the omicron variant rapidly spreads through the city. Samantha Farrow, a 16-year-old student organizer at Stuyvesant High School, called it an "uplifting moment" and said she felt less alone in her fears about COVID-19 cases in schools. Before winter break, she cried to her mother, anxious about going to school with surging cases, especially while living with an immunocompromised family member, she said. **When she returned to school this year, she said, it was "pretty desolate," with half-empty classrooms and missing teachers. Because of staffing shortages, most days have been "non-instructional days" spent reading on her own or scrolling through her phone. She said a remote-learning option will not only help students feel safer but also offer better-quality instruction in classrooms already disrupted by spikes in cases. "Students are the ones having to go to school every day in these conditions," she said. "We have ideas about what can help make this better."**

Several student activists told USA TODAY walkouts nationwide have offered hope and a sense of solidarity after they've felt sidelined by local and district officials in conversations about COVID-19 in schools. "It's encouraging to see that we're not the only ones fighting, that there are people in other states who are fighting for the same cause and we have each other's backs," Farrow said.

In Oakland, students organized a sick-in Thursday and created a petition signed by more than 1,200 students. Ayleen Serrano, a 15-year-old sophomore at MetWest High School, said organizers have gotten emails of support from students in cities across California, including San Jose and Los Angeles, as well as from Florida, Texas and Canada. "It's so exciting to see this spread so far," Serrano said. "I hope what we're doing is inspiring others to use their voices." The string of walkouts this week are part of a renewed period of growth for high school activism, said Joseph Kahne, a professor of education policy at University of California, Riverside. He said much of this spike in student protests came about in response to the 2018 school shooting in Parkland, Florida, George Floyd's murder in Minneapolis in 2020 and concerns about climate change. He hasn't seen such an upswing in student activism since the 1960s and 1970s. "We're living in a tumultuous time, and the stakes are high. Students recognize that these issues will affect them," he said. Protests over COVID-19 policies "add something valuable to our political discourse by letting us hear from the young people these policies affect most."

When her fellow student activists left their classrooms in Boston on Friday, Quinlan didn't join them in the walkout she helped organize. On Wednesday, she found out she tested positive for the coronavirus that causes COVID-19. "I'm really sad that I won't be able to be there showing solidarity with my fellow peers," she said. "There's this sort of painful irony. But this is exactly the reason why we're doing this. We deserve more. We deserve safety. And we are going to fight for change."



Chi-RADS

@chiradsCPS

a thread !! : We as young people of the Chicago Public Schooling system have officially allied ourselves across a multitude of this cities public high-schools. We have established a coalition that will organize, execute, and define the reimagination of our education.

the organization of allied, radical CPS high schoolers from every corner of the city to organize to create an education system that best serves us.

57 Following 7,138 Followers

Chi-RADS

CHICAGO PUBLIC SCHOOL'S RADICAL
YOUTH ALLIANCE



Letter of Declaration from Newly Formed, Chicago Public Schools Radical Youth Alliance (CHIRADS):

To Mayor Lori Lightfoot, CDPH Commissioner Dr. Arwady, and CPS Executive Pedro Martinez,

We, the young people of Chicago Public Schools, have conjoined an alliance across a multitude of high schools and neighborhoods throughout our city in the North, South, East, and West sides. As queer Black and Brown youth, we have officially established an organization steered, executed and operated by youth to respond to the outstanding needs of our communities and to advocate the needs and calls of our cities' young people and community members.

We stand on the grounds of supporting our cities educators, parents, and community members, but most of all ourselves and peers. We believe in the reimagination of our education— to make sure that it is not just the condition of what learning should look like in the eyes of American capitalists. Our education and the process of educating young people should be amongst effectiveness, radiating, loving, caring, and liberating, not just in the binary of what we are conditioned to believe.

Therefore, as a new coalition stemming from recent events that jeopardize the health and education of students and teachers and in effort to provide support, we are calling on Chicago's Mayor Lori Lightfoot, Dr. Allison Arwady of the Chicago Department of Public Health, and Chicago Public Schools Chief Executive Officer Pedro Martinez to listen to the youth in the city at this time.

We are demanding that you:

- Publicly acknowledge your mistakes and apologize for statements you made about members of the Chicago Teachers Union. We stand by our teachers as they serve as mentors and loving presences to many students in the district.
- Bring students to the bargaining table and ensure student voice is prioritized and centered in conversations about the COVID-19 safety plan. We do not condone the performative spaces you provide to students as we are often taken advantage of and tokenized.
- End your use of performative language when attempting to fulfill the Mayor's political agenda. In order to genuinely take into account the best interest of students, ask us directly or include us in conversations.
- Release and be fully transparent about COVID-19 data and what is happening at the bargaining table at all times. We demand the city constantly communicate to the public and take proper responsibility for not doing so earlier.
- Stop applying manipulated data by the school district as evidence in press conferences and other conversations about the COVID-19 safety plan. We find it frustrating that the data from CPS and CDPH constantly contradict each other and we demand this be addressed and proper sources be utilized to back up said claims that in-person learning is the best option for all students.
- Continuously and vigorously advocate for the importance of listening to youth while acknowledging the space that young people create, such as our new organization, to execute the significant decisions of our own education, health, safety, and lives.

As people who sit in positions of power, we expect that you will be responsive and transparent when it comes to the lives that you hold in your hands. As you consistently prove yourselves and your leadership to be incompetent, we as Black and Brown young people are the common denominator of being the most harmed and impacted. We are tired, exhausted, and frustrated and as a result, we will ongoingly and actively be acting upon the basis and soil of this letter. Whether it be of service to our communities or in response to the failures of this institution, we will fight, we will build, and we will love, in whichever forms we deem as necessary.

DISTRICT WIDE STUDENT PETITION

Add a comment or send your name, grade, school at:
districtwidestudentpetition@gmail.com

Dear OUSD, Superintendent Kyla Johnson-Trammel, and School Board Member,

This letter is to inform you that OUSD students are not comfortable going to school with the rising cases of COVID-19. There's a lot of concerns regarding safety measures and how to protect us from COVID-19, especially the highly contagious Omicron variant. We must go back to distance learning until the cases go down again. In order to ensure a safe learning environment, we demand you give us KN95/N95 masks and weekly PCR testing. If these demands are not met, we will be striking by not attending school. We will be striking until we get what we need to be safe.

How it is NOT SAFE

- Increased COVID cases at school
- No access to the recommended mask (N95)
- No designated space for people to eat safely
- No access to weekly testing (PCR or rapid testing)
- Desks are not spaced far enough apart
- No sub coverage when teachers are out sick

Demands:

- We demand OUSD to shift from in-person learning to online learning.

UNLESS YOU Make It Safe:

- We demand KN95/N95 Masks in schools for every student
- 2x a week PCR and Rapid Tests for everyone on campus
- More outdoor spaces to eat safely when it rains

The district has one week, starting Monday, January 10th, to meet our demands. If the demands are not met by Monday, January 17th, students will strike starting Tuesday, January 18th by not going to school. Friday January 21st, we will strike outside the OUSD Building and it will last until the demands are met.

Signed by Concerned Students (OUSD students only):

1. Ayleen Serrano, 10th grade, MetWest High School
2. Ghaida AlFahd, 10th grade, MetWest High School
3. Ximena Santana, 10th grade, MetWest High School
4. Benji Rendon, 10th grade, MetWest High School
5. Nikalya Dean, 10th grade, MetWest High School
6. Tamia Thrower, 10th grade, MetWest High School
7. Remy Navarro, 10th grade, MetWest High School
8. Ana Navarro, 10th grade, MetWest High School
9. Maximus Lazo, 10th grade, Metwest High School
10. Alexander Elizares, 10th grade, MetWest High School

11. Andrea Torres, 10th grade, MetWest High School
12. Noah Orosco, 10th grade, MetWest High School
13. Rio Meyers-Dahlkamp, 10th grade, MetWest High School
14. Emiliano Rodriguez Garcia, 10th Grade, Metwest High School
15. Gisselle Maravilla, 10th grade, Metwest high school
16. Marina Madrid Mercado 11th grade Skyline High School
17. Anderson Lonh, 11th Grade, Oakland High School
18. Joshua Pong, 9th grade, Oakland High school
19. Angel Moeun, 9th grade, Oakland High school
20. Bang Tran, 9th grade, Oakland High School
21. Uzaifah Jamaluddin, 11th Grade, metwest high school
22. Raymond Reynolds, 11thgrade oakland high
23. Davy Danh 10th grade MetWest High
24. River Gregorio, 10th grade, Metwest High School
25. Theodore Rodriguez, 10th grade, Fremont High School
26. Daren Richardson, 10th grade, Metwest High School
27. Tina Ton, 11th Grade, Oakland High School
28. Jocelyn Estevez Juarez, 10th grade, skyline high school
29. Angie Carcamo, 11th grade, Skyline High School
30. Joseph Eisner-Gordon, 10th grade, Metwest High School
31. Laiza Reconco, 11th grade, Oakland High School
32. Leyonna Meza, 11th grade, Skyline High school
33. Flodereign DeGuzman, 11th grade, Skyline High School
34. Devyn Mojica-Estrada, 11th grade, Coliseum College Prep Academy
35. Siurave Quintanilla-Vasquez, 11th grade, Fremont High School
36. Jazmine Pacheco, 9th grade, MetWest High School
37. Florence Perles, 10th grade, MetWest High School
1191. Laurel Yardley, 7th grade, Edna Brewer Middle School
1192. Daniela Aquilera 10th grade, Oakland High School
1193. Yoselin alavez Zaguilan, 9th grade, Fremont high school
1194. kiersten samatra, 12thgrade, oakland technical high school
1195. Marcela Chavac, 10th grade, Fremont High School
1196. Muskaan Grewal, 12th grade, Leland High School
1197. Judith Samayoa, 10th grade, Fremont High School
1198. Lauren McDaniels, 11th grade, Oakland Technical High School of
1199. Ravynne Oliver, 12th grade, Skyline High School
1200. Brigitte Turk, 6th grade, Edna Brewer Middle School
1201. Zamiah Tuma, 8th Grade, Edna Brewer Middle School
1202. Micah Robinson, 7th Grade, Claremont Middle School
1203. Alea Luken, Teacher, Dewey Academy High School
1204. Giselle Campos , 7th Grade, Claremont Middle School
1205. Ashley Perez, 10th grade, Fremont High School
1206. Selia Jeronimo, 10th grade, Fremont High School
1207. Karina Jimenez, 11th grade, Sojourner Truth High School
1208. Anuwaleela Gali Garcia, 6th grade, ufsa
1209. akinita maile, 8th grade, elmhurst
1210. Victor hu, 12th grade, Oakland high school
1211. Bryce james, 12th grade, Skyline High School
- 1212.

EDUCATION

Parents and caregivers of young children say they've hit pandemic rock bottom

Updated January 20, 2022 · 9:47 AM ET ⓘ



ANYA KAMENETZ



Cori Berg is executive director of the Hope Day School early childhood program in Dallas.

Cooper Neill for NPR

"I had a parent tell me to f*** off last week," Cori Berg said. She directs the Hope Day School, a church-affiliated early childhood program in Dallas.

The unhappy mother took her two children out of Berg's center after each of their classrooms were closed for quarantines, saying she'd hire a nanny. Wanting to return, she emailed, called and finally showed up in the middle of the day. Just as Berg had warned her, her spots were taken.

The mother, according to Berg, threw a fit before coming back and apologizing. "She was like a toddler; she was jumping up and down."

The people who take care of and educate children under 5 years old – both parents and providers – are in a special kind of hell right now. These children are too young to be vaccinated, and it's difficult for them to wear masks consistently. Many child care directors, like Berg, are still following 10- or 14-day quarantines, closing entire classrooms after a single positive test, which has caused nonstop disruptions given the current record numbers of COVID-19 cases. Recently, Berg's infant room had "double decker" quarantines: closed for two weeks, back for one day, closed for another two weeks.

Meanwhile, caregivers told NPR they can't get a hold of enough rapid tests, and they're struggling to apply the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's safety guidance. Center directors say they have few substitutes to cover for those out sick, and early childhood educators typically don't have union protection. Providers say they are spending out of pocket on equipment like masks and gloves.

Parents, meanwhile, are losing their tempers, losing sleep and losing jobs when the child care they pay for is canceled, over and over. About 1 in 6 parents told pollsters they had experienced either a school or a day care shutdown in the past few weeks, in a national poll from Axios and Ipsos released Jan. 11.

The Practice of the Wild (Vimeo: 52m41s)

A profile of the poet and ecologist Gary Snyder. He has been a Zen monk, a fire lookout, and a confidant of beat authors like Jack Kerouac, and Allen Ginsberg — also a back country hiker, writer and essayist. The interviewer is Montana poet and novelist [Jim Harrison](#).

The Wilderness Vs. The Wildness About Us

Adam Frank | February 21, 2017 (NPR)

According to [Gary Snyder](#), the wild is all around us, ...

"So we can say that New York City and Tokyo are 'natural' but not 'wild.' They do not deviate from the laws of nature, but they are habitat so exclusive in the matter of who and what they give shelter to, and so intolerant of other creatures, as to be truly odd. Wilderness is a place where the wild potential is fully expressed, a diversity of living and nonliving beings flourishing according to their own sorts of order."

{Homage to Gary Snyder's Practice}

*Nature only happens in place. Wild or not.
Nature is everywhere and every thing, yet
without the space in place ... no nature. No life.*

The Gated Community

(fear is frozen, and the bearer of death)

Nature constrained is cultivated, domesticated, fractured by fence posts and private property.

City Nature is busy, frenetic, a party orgy of selfish, exclusive of all but me & mine and my desires. A city is never finished, always wants more.

Nature as City, subservient to a ruthless slave dependent hierarchy of a master class imagined uppity, all fashion trendy – all botoxed lips and plastic tits. Square box prison steel bars and broken glass.

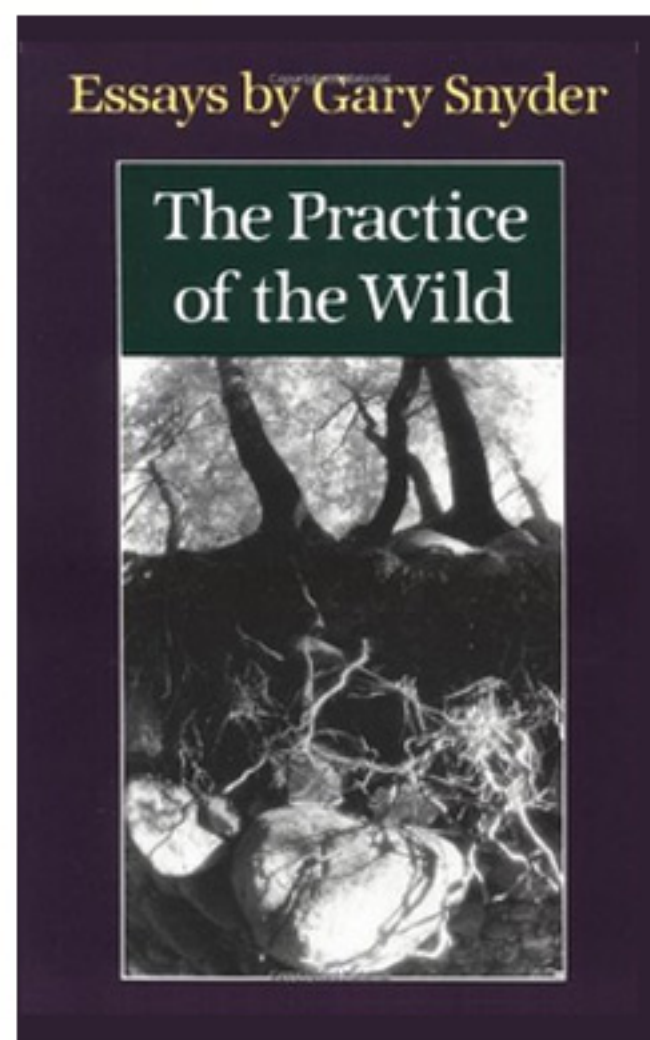
The Open Source

(soil is alive, and the bearer of life)

Nature as wilderness is true, a form of democratic governance that includes all sentient beings.

Nature wild is inclusive, invitingly honest and open. Brutal/Gentle, gracious. Satisfied. Satisfied to be under the old Oak tree. Satisfied to hunt & gather. Circle round acorns nestling in old rich earth.

Wilderness is juicy grizzly bear scat, tornado driven wildfires, meandering rivers, sharp rocks, mild forgiving grassy meadows, red worms in loose loamy soil, June beetles flying crazy, rabbits escaping foxes, hawks swooping raccoons, screech Owls bringing tiny Texas blind snakes home with them to clean-up the nest – burrowing into the debris at the bottom to snack on critters like ants, termites or larvae. Symbiotic parenting? Until the tiny snakes are eaten by the owlets (and they don't survive well once the nest is vacated). Perhaps, a commensal relationship, where one species reaps a benefit and the other does its best to deal with the situation. [Like the domesticated human Proletariat.]



A California redwood forest has officially been returned to a group of Native tribes

January 26, 2022 · 12:03 PM ET

RACHEL TREISMAN



Save the Redwoods League has donated more than 500 acres of redwood forestland to the InterTribal Sinkyone Wilderness Council, a coalition of Native tribes that have been connected to the land for thousands of years.

Max Forster/Save The Redwoods League

A conservation group is returning guardianship of hundreds of acres of redwood forestland to a coalition of Native tribes that were displaced from the land generations ago by European American settlers. Save the Redwoods League purchased the 523-acre area (known as Andersonia West) on the Lost Coast of California's Mendocino County in July 2020. It announced on Tuesday that it had donated and transferred ownership of the property to the InterTribal Sinkyone Wilderness Council, a consortium of 10 Northern California tribal nations focused on environmental and cultural preservation.

The forest will be renamed "Tc'ih-Léh-Dûñ" — which means "fish run place" in the Sinkyone language — as "an act of cultural empowerment and a celebration of Indigenous resilience," the league said in a release. The tribal council has granted it a conservation easement, meaning use of the land will be limited for its own protection.

"Renaming the property Tc'ih-Léh-Dûñ lets people know that it's a sacred place; it's a place for our Native people. It lets them know that there was a language and that there was a people who lived there long before now," said Crista Ray, a tribal citizen of the Scotts Valley Band of Pomo Indians and a board member of the Sinkyone Council. She is of Eastern Pomo, Sinkyone, Cahto, Wailaki and other ancestries.

The council and the league say their partnership will protect the environment by preventing habitat loss, commercial timber operations, construction and other development. They plan to rely on a mix of Indigenous place-based land guardianship principles, conservation science, climate adaptation and fire resiliency concepts to heal and preserve the area. "We believe the best way to permanently protect and heal this land is through tribal stewardship," said Sam Hodder, resident and CEO of Save the Redwoods League. "In this process, we have an opportunity to restore balance in the ecosystem and in the communities connected to it, while also accelerating the pace and scale of conserving California's iconic redwood forests."

People involved with the partnership stress that it's not just the protection of the land that matters — it's also the restoration of the property to descendants of its original inhabitants. Notably, the Sinkyone Council has designated Tc'ih-Léh-Dûñ as a tribal protected area. "This designation recognizes that this place is within the Sinkyone traditional territory, that for thousands of years it has been and still remains an area of importance for the Sinkyone people, and that it holds great cultural significance for the Sinkyone Council and its member tribes," said Priscilla Hunter, a tribal citizen of the Coyote Valley Band of Pomo Indians and chairwoman of the Sinkyone Council who is of Northern Pomo and Coast Yuki ancestries.

The land donation can be contextualized as part of the broader "land back" movement, an intersectional effort to return Indigenous lands — and autonomy — to Indigenous communities, especially public lands like national parks. Research shows that forced relocation and the loss of historical lands has made Native Americans more vulnerable to climate change.

And this isn't the first time the league has donated land to the Sinkyone Council — it donated a nearby 164-acre plot of redwoods back in 2012, marking the first time Save the Redwoods entered into a conservation agreement with a tribal entity.

Indigenous people worldwide play a key role in environmental stewardship. According to a 2021 United Nations policy brief, they represent some 5% of the world's population, but effectively manage roughly 20% 25% of the Earth's land. Much of their land is in areas that hold 80% of the planet's biodiversity and about 40% of protected lands.

Vaccines are a tool, not a silver bullet. If we'd allowed more scientific debate, we would have realized this earlier

More than two years since COVID-19 emerged, our kit of solutions – and the mindset needed to use them – is too small. It's time to listen to the science in a broader way

NORMAN DOIDGE

[...]

This military metaphor seems second nature in medicine. We are always in a “war against cancer,” or “combatting” heart disease, Alzheimer’s, and AIDS. But this way of thinking only became common in medicine several hundred years ago, after the philosopher Francis Bacon argued the goal of science should change from what it had been – “the study of nature” – to the very practical “conquest of nature.” Soon physicians were speaking of “conquering” disease, with “magic bullets.” We increasingly left behind the original Hippocratic mindset of medicine as an extension of nature, which involved working with it, as an ally, wherever possible – not to conquer, but to heal, often with the help of the patient’s own healing capacities.

[...]

This, in medicine, is called the problem of “**medical reversal.**” An approach thought to be helpful is proven to be harmful, and vice versa. Sometimes two studies can contradict each other even on the same day. Physician-scientist Vinayak Prasad, of UC San Francisco, argues it is the most important problem facing medicine today. The problem of medical reversals didn't disappear the day the virus landed on our shores. We had not only a virus problem, but a medical reversal problem.

[...]

They found two things of note. The first was that “VE [vaccine effectiveness against getting infection] against Omicron was only 37% > 7 days following a third dose.” That doesn't mean that those in the other 63 per cent who did get the infection might not have got some protection from severe infection, but the authors were unable to measure protection from severity from the data that had.

The second finding was more dramatic: “We also observed negative VE against Omicron among those who had received 2 doses compared to unvaccinated individuals.” Translation: Negative VE means that the vaccinated got more infections than the unvaccinated.

That “negative finding” they noted, had already been observed elsewhere. “In the Danish study, there was no significant protection against Omicron infection beyond 31 days” after the second dose of the Pfizer. The Danes also found significant negative VE estimates 91-150 days after the second dose.” The Danish study showed those vaccinated with the Pfizer had a 76.5 per cent greater chance of getting infected than unvaccinated people. With the Moderna, the vaccinated had a 36.7 per cent greater chance of getting infected than the unvaccinated after 90 days.

[...]

“There could be risks if boosters are widely introduced too soon, or too frequently, especially with vaccines that can have immune-mediated side-effects (such as myocarditis, which is more common after the second dose of some mRNA vaccines, or Guillain-Barre syndrome, which has been associated with adenovirus-vectored COVID-19 vaccines [like the AstraZeneca or Johnson & Johnson]). If unnecessary boosting causes significant adverse reactions, there could be implications for vaccine acceptance that go beyond COVID-19 vaccines.”

[...]

When the head scientists of the FDA Vaccine Review committee and colleagues raise such questions, it can't be dismissed as fringe fear-mongering. Shortly after, Dr. Gruber and Dr. Krause quit the FDA because the Biden administration was putting pressure on them to approve boosters before the vaccine committee had even met. The standard practice for approval is for the agencies to convene panels of outside experts to review the data openly, weigh risks and benefits, and take votes. But in December, the FDA and CDC leadership three times took the extraordinary step of not convening those experts for key booster meetings, in essence going around them because committee members had warned that the science supporting boosters for younger people was weak to non-existent, and they had safety concerns. Dr. Paul Offit, perhaps the most high profile provaccine physician-scientist in America, who was on the FDA panel told The Atlantic, he wouldn't advise a booster for his healthy son in his 20s, or a healthy male in his teens, because the risks of myocarditis (higher in males) outweigh the benefits. Dr. Offit rejects the CDC's and FDA's all-or-nothing approach to children's vaccination. Vinayak Prasad, the UCSF epidemiologist, says if you put the Danish, Ontario, U.S., and Kaiser studies about Omicron together, “it's time to face the reality about the vaccines.” “Two doses of vaccine does nothing or almost nothing to stop symptomatic SARS-CoV-2,” he says. “Three doses barely does anything, and the effect will likely attenuate over time.” He says, “Booster mandates make no sense. ... Boosting should happen in populations where it further reduces severe disease and death – a.k.a. older and vulnerable people.”

[...]

From the very beginning, some scientists have wondered whether our goal – the conquest and eradication of the virus – was the right one. As Michael Cordingley reminds us in his book *Viruses*, in each millilitre of seawater there are about 10 to 100 million viruses, and this was a respiratory virus, free-floating, all around us, likely to shape shift and mutate. Could we, conquerors of nature, really overwhelm an enemy so omnipresent and agile?

[...]

As we have seen, as part of the reappraisal, there's an increasingly new goal being articulated by most public-health experts, that it's not “eradication of the virus,” but it is keeping hospitalizations and deaths down, but also, working with the virus. The chairman of the Israeli Association of Public Health Physicians, professor Hagai Levine, said, “Because Omicron is so contagious, our efforts to stop its spread are probably pretty futile. ... We are not going to stop this wave.” Then he dared to say, “We have been trying to dodge the bullet for two years, and in Israel we have been successful to some extent. But most of humanity is still alive after contracting COVID.”

[...]

Also reappraising is Bill Gates himself. He admitted this past November, “We need a new way of doing the vaccines.” He also accepted that our focus had been too narrow. “We didn't get much in the way of therapeutics ... way less than should have been the case.” Consider how different our narrative is now. More and more officials are saying openly what the authors of the Great Barrington Declaration – the ridiculed view of 60,000 public health scientists and physician signatories – said some time ago: Our goal is not eradication of the virus, or a one-size-fits-all policy, but lessening of deaths in the vulnerable through focused protection, and focused vaccination. The immunity we have will be a mix of vaccine immunity and natural immunity, depending on the person. The new plan – to live with the virus and get back to living a normal life – is a departure from the pure Baconian “conquest of nature,” and harkens back to the ancient, Hippocratic, notion that we must work with nature as an ally, in a kind of collaboration.

[...]

Since nature can indeed be both “the enemy,” but also is our very foundation, and potential ally and friend, no narrative that excludes either side of this friend and foe duality can ever do justice to medicine and healing. If the abandonment of Hippocrates was the first medical reversal, we are seeing in its return, a reversal of a reversal. It's been a blow to our Baconian narcissism to be upended by nature these past two years. That thin-skinned Baconian within seems almost offended to admit that protection has come not only from scientific advances, but from natural immunity. Others might see this as a reassuring reminder that natural processes are not always and only the enemy. We shall find out, as we observe the unvaccinated, to what extent natural immunity, accumulating in waves of infection over time, does or does not protect, for the current or future variants. Till then, let's give infallibility the day off. We have some ingenuity and some tools in our tool kit, none perfect, but if we use the whole kit, instead of just the hammer, we might be better for it. That goes for how we treat the virus, and how we treat each other. And for those scientists among us – those strange creatures, always reappraising! – there is comfort in knowing that after two years of hard work, we have a new narrative, or picture of our situation, which though imperfect, is more nuanced and likely closer to the truth.

####END####

Thich Nhat Hanh, who worked for decades to teach mindfulness, approached death in that same spirit

January 21, 2022 7.03pm EST

Brooke Schedneck, Rhodes College



Zen Buddhist monk Thich Nhat Hanh praying during a three-day requiem for the souls of Vietnam War victims in 2007. Hoang Dinh Nam/AFP via Getty Images

Thich Nhat Hanh, the monk who popularized mindfulness in the West, died in the Tu Hieu Temple in Hue, Vietnam, on Jan. 21, 2022. He was 95.

In 2014, Thich Nhat Hanh suffered a stroke. Since then he was unable to speak or continue his teaching. In October 2018 he expressed his wish, using gestures, to return to the temple in Vietnam where he had been ordained as a young monk. Devotees from many parts of the world had continued to visit him at the temple.

As a scholar of the contemporary practices of Buddhist meditation, I have studied his simple yet profound teachings, which combine mindfulness along with social change, and which I believe will continue to have an impact around the world.

Peace activist: In the 1960s, Thich Nhat Hanh played an active role promoting peace during the years of war in Vietnam. He was in his mid-20s when he became active in efforts to revitalize Vietnamese Buddhism for peace efforts. During his years in the U.S. he met Martin Luther King Jr., who nominated him for the Nobel Peace Prize in 1967.

Being aware of the present moment: Thich Nhat Hanh first started teaching mindfulness in the mid-1970s. The main vehicle for his early teachings was his books. In “The Miracle of Mindfulness,” for example, Thich Nhat Hanh gave simple instructions on how to apply mindfulness to daily life.

In his book “You Are Here,” he urged people to pay attention to what they were experiencing in their body and mind at any given moment, and not dwell in the past or think of the future. His emphasis was on the awareness of the breath. He taught his readers to say internally, “I’m breathing in; this is an in-breath. I’m breathing out; this is an out-breath.”

Hanh’s mindfulness practices don’t advocate disengagement with the world. Rather, in his view, the practice of mindfulness could lead one toward “compassionate action,” like practicing openness to others’ viewpoints and sharing material resources with those in need. For Thich Nhat Hanh, however, mindfulness was not a means to a more productive day but a way of understanding “interbeing,” the connection and codependence of everyone and everything. In a documentary “Walk With Me,” he illustrated interbeing in the following way:

Thich Nhat Hanh’s lasting impact:

Thich Nhat Hanh will have a lasting impact through the legacy of his teachings in over 100 books, 11 global practice centers, over 1,000 global lay communities and dozens of online community groups. The disciples closest to him – the 600 monks and nuns ordained in his Plum Village tradition, along with lay teachers – have been planning to continue their teacher’s legacy for some time.

They have been writing books, offering teachings and leading retreats for several decades now. In March 2020, the Thich Nhat Hanh Foundation, along with Lion’s Roar, hosted an online summit called “In the Footsteps of Thich Nhat Hanh” to make people aware of his teachings through the disciples he trained.

Although Thich Nhat Hanh’s death will change the community, his practices for being aware in the present moment and creating peace will live on.

Thich Nhat Hanh

Email

Twitter

Facebook

Thich Nhat Hanh, the monk who popularized [mindfulness in the West](#), [died in the Tu Hieu Temple in Hue, Vietnam, on Jan. 21, 2022](#). He was 95.

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[meditation](#), I have studied his simple yet profound teachings, which combine mindfulness along with social change, and which I believe will continue to have an impact around the world.

Plum Village

With a deep mindful breath, we announce our beloved teacher Zen Master Thich Nhat Hanh has passed away peacefully on 22nd January, 2022.



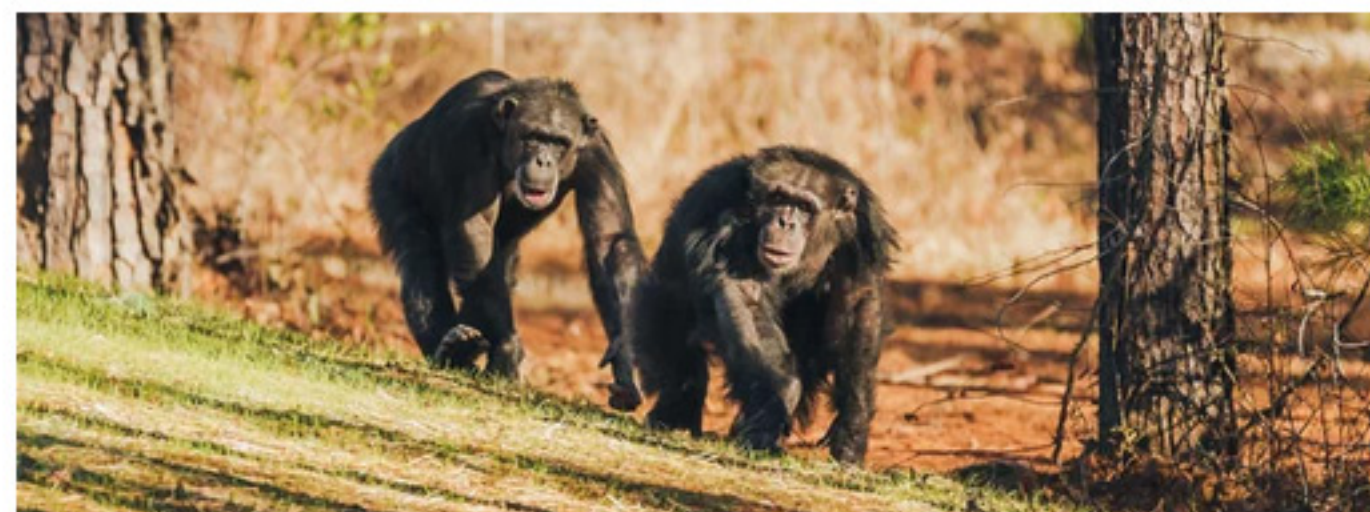


NIH is 'largely finished' moving its former research chimps to a sanctuary

January 27, 2022 - 5:00 AM ET



NELL GREENFIELDBOYCE



Two chimpanzees roam the grounds of Chimp Haven in Louisiana. Many former research chimpanzees have been sent to retire at the sanctuary.

At Chimp Haven we believe we're not that different, humans and chimpanzees. Chimps have personalities, emotions and relationships, just like us, and we're on a mission to connect them to the happy healthy lives they deserve. That's why we're providing and promoting personalized care for chimpanzees (most of whom were retired from biomedical research) by helping them, for their remaining years, live a good life – the chimp life.

More than a refuge, Chimp Haven offers 200 acres designed entirely for chimpanzees. Here, chimps can roam woodland and wide-open spaces; feast on fresh fruits and veggies; and thrive in large families. Here, they're living the chimp life.

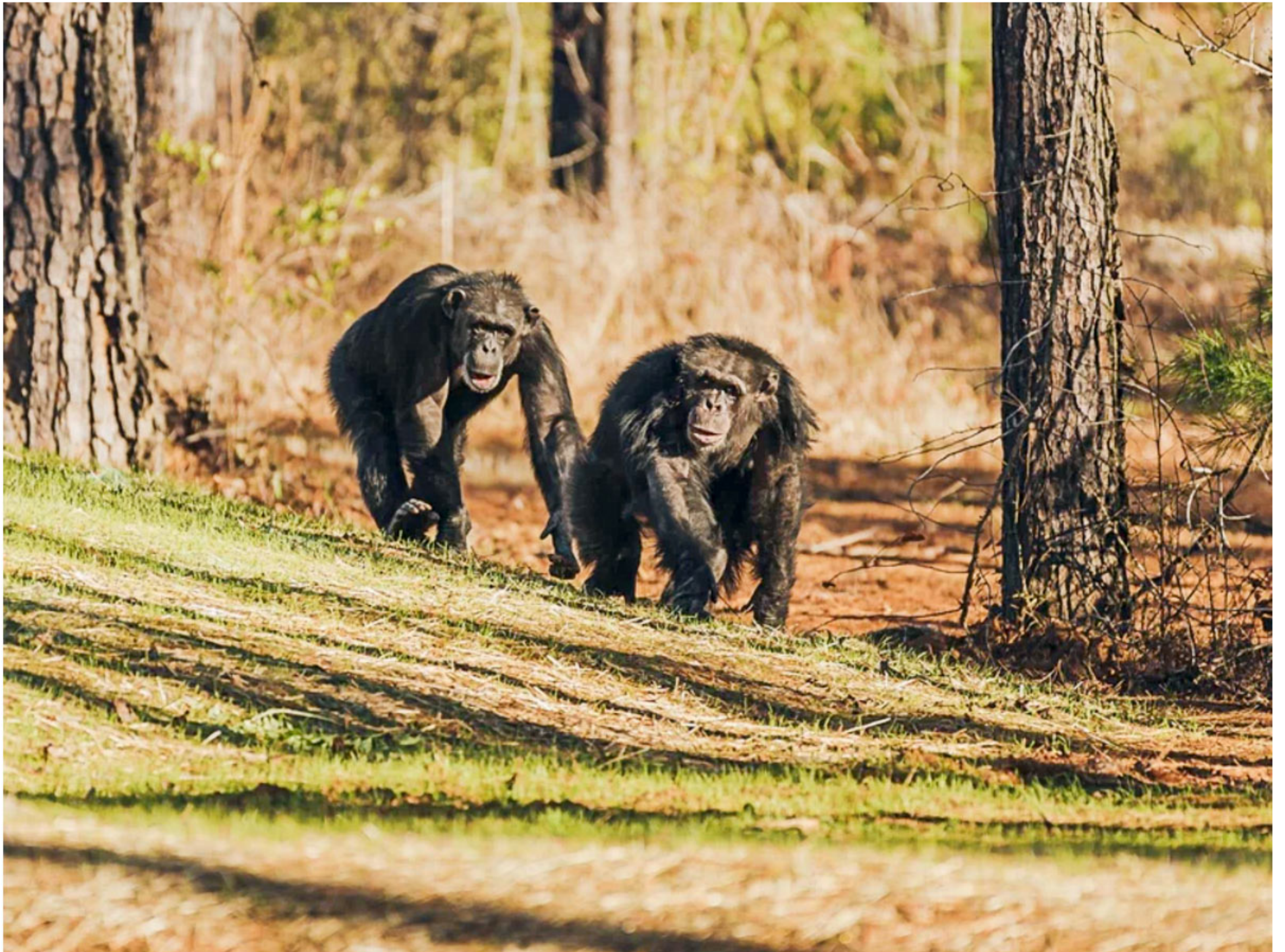
Chimp Haven is the world's largest chimpanzee sanctuary. Located on 200 beautiful forested acres, the sanctuary is dedicated to providing the very best life for more than 300 chimpanzees formerly used in biomedical research and working with urgency to bring those still waiting in research facilities home to sanctuary.

The NIH has been working to retire all of its hundreds of research chimps since 2015, when it announced that it was ending invasive biomedical research on this species. That move came after the agency had already been reducing this type of research with chimps, which are close biological relatives to humans.

The effort to move former research chimps to the sanctuary quickly became complicated by the fact that many aging chimps have diseases that could be exacerbated by stressful life changes.

Since 2017, an average of 36 NIH chimps a year have been transferred to Chimp Haven, according to co-founder of Chimp Haven, Amy Fultz. There, 330 chimps live on a 200-acre property that includes natural, wooded areas surrounded by moats. A staff of more than 50 employees does nothing but care for the chimps and enrich their lives.

"Chimpanzees in the wild live in groups of 20 to over 100 chimpanzees. Our average group size right now at Chimp Haven is 11. So we do work towards integrating the chimpanzees into those larger groups," says Fultz. But all of this social planning takes a lot of thought and a large amount of coordination between Chimp Haven and the sending facility.



FAMILY

The expanded child tax credit briefly slashed child poverty. Here's what else it did

January 27, 2022 - 5:00 AM ET

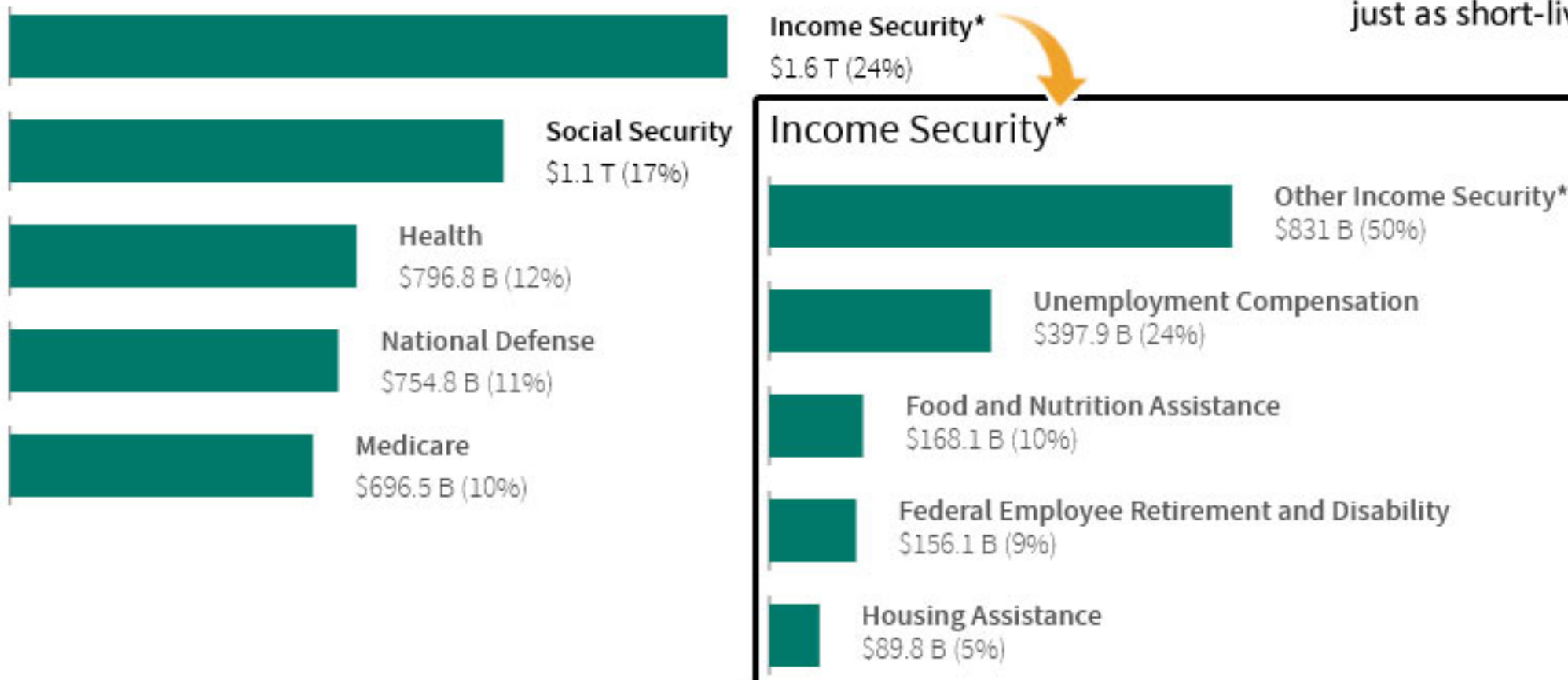


The benefit reached more than 61 million children across more than 36 million households in December

In March 2021, Congress blew the doors off a pre-existing child benefit known as the child tax credit. As part of the American Rescue Plan, lawmakers made three key changes: Congress chose to disburse half of the benefit in monthly payments, Lawmakers increased the benefit per child per year, finally, Congress closed a hole that prevented roughly one-third of the nation's children and half of all Black and Hispanic children from fully benefiting – because their families earned too little income.

The Tax Policy Center estimates that, by the end of tax season, families will have received an average of \$4,380 from the 2021 version of the child tax credit – compared to the \$2,310 they got under the previous version.

Spending by Source Categories and Agency in 2021



THE CORONAVIRUS CRISIS

With One Move, Congress Could Lift Millions Of Children Out Of Poverty

- The payments cut monthly child poverty by roughly 30%
- The expansion gave more help to millions of kids who needed it most
- Families spent the extra cash on basic needs
- The monthly payments slashed food insufficiency by a quarter
- There's no evidence the money drove caregivers to quit working

The expanded credit also cost a lot more taxpayer money

The expansion of the child tax credit – and the social benefits that come with it – obviously come with a cost, too.

According to the Tax Policy Center, the price of reverting to the old child tax credit for 2022 would be around \$125.5 billion, whereas the more generous benefit of 2021, which doesn't exclude or limit families for earning too little income, would cost about \$100 billion more.

Unless Congress can find a way to agree on an extension of the expanded child tax credit – and cost is a big concern for many of its critics — the policy now reverts back to its previous iteration.

This also means much of the progress achieved with the monthly benefit – including dramatic reductions in child poverty and food insufficiency – could be just as short-lived as the policy itself.

Joni Mitchell joining Neil Young in protest over Spotify

By DAVID BAUDER today



Joni Mitchell arrives at the 2015 Clive Davis Pre-Grammy Gala in Beverly Hills, Calif. Feb. 7, 2015. Joni Mitchell said Friday, Jan. 28, 2022 she seeks to remove all of her music in Spotify in solidarity with Neil Young, who ignited a protest against the streaming service for airing a podcast that featured a figure who has spread misinformation about the coronavirus.

NEW YORK (AP) — Joni Mitchell said Friday she is seeking to remove all of her music from Spotify in solidarity with Neil Young, who ignited a protest against the streaming service for airing a podcast that featured a figure who has spread misinformation about the coronavirus.

Mitchell, who like Young is a California-based songwriter who had much of her success in the 1970s, is the first prominent musician to join Young's effort.

"Irresponsible people are spreading lies that are costing people their lives," Mitchell said Friday in a message posted on her website. "I stand in solidarity with Neil Young and the global scientific and medical communities on this issue."

Following Young's action this week, Spotify said it had policies in place to remove misleading content from its platform and has removed more than 20,000 podcast episodes related to COVID-19 since the start of the pandemic.

But the service has said nothing about comedian Joe Rogan, whose podcast "The Joe Rogan Experience" is the centerpiece of the controversy. Last month Rogan interviewed on his podcast Dr. Robert Malone, an infectious disease specialist who has been banned from Twitter for spreading COVID misinformation.

Rogan is one of the streaming service's biggest stars, with a contract that could earn him more than \$100 million.

Young had called on other artists to support him following his action. While Mitchell, 78, is not a current hitmaker, the Canadian native's Spotify page said she had 3.7 million monthly listeners to her music. Her songs "Big Yellow Taxi" and "A Case of You" have both been streamed more than 100 million times on the service.

In a message on his website Friday, Young said that "when I left Spotify, I felt better."

"Private companies have the right to choose what they profit from, just as I can choose not to have my music support a platform that disseminates harmful information," he wrote. "I am happy and proud to stand in solidarity with the front line health care workers who risk their lives every day to help others."

There was no immediate response to a request for comment from Spotify.

<https://www.npr.org/2022/01/21/1074442185/joe-rogan-doctor-covid-podcast-spotify-misinformation>

But audio can be a powerful way to spread misinformation because of all the qualities that make the format so compelling to listeners, said Valerie Wirtschafter, a senior data analyst at the Brookings Institution. "The podcaster is in your ear," she said. "It's a really unique relationship in that respect, and so the podcaster gains a level of authority and a level of credibility among listeners."

Wirtschafter says as more people become aware of how misinformation spreads online, audio deserves the same scrutiny as social media. She has studied how the "Big Lie" that the 2020 presidential election was stolen from Donald Trump spread on political podcasts in the lead-up to the insurrection at the U.S. Capitol. She found that half the episodes of the most popular shows released between Election Day and Jan. 6, 2021, contained misleading or false claims about voter fraud and election integrity.

"We're not talking about fringe ideas," she said.
"These are the most popular podcasts in the United States."

What the Joe Rogan podcast controversy says about the online misinformation ecosystem

January 21, 2022 · 5:11 AM ET



Joe Rogan, the comedian, TV commentator and podcaster, reacts during an Ultimate Fighting Championship event in May 2020.

An open letter urging Spotify to crack down on COVID-19 misinformation has gained the signatures of more than a thousand doctors, scientists and health professionals spurred by growing concerns over anti-vaccine rhetoric on the audio app's hit podcast, The Joe Rogan Experience. The medical and scientific experts slammed Rogan's track record of airing false claims about the coronavirus pandemic, vaccines and unproven treatments, calling it "a sociological issue of devastating proportions." Spotify, they say, has enabled him.

In a December episode of his podcast, Rogan interviewed Dr. Robert Malone, a scientist who worked on early research into the mRNA technology behind top COVID-19 vaccines, but who is now critical of the mRNA vaccines. Malone made baseless and disproven claims, including falsely stating that getting vaccinated puts people who already have had COVID-19 at higher risk.

The episode immediately raised alarm bells for Katrine Wallace, an epidemiologist at the University of Illinois Chicago's School of Public Health, who signed the letter. She is part of a community of experts who debunk medical misinformation on social media, and she says she received hundreds of messages from followers about Rogan's Malone interview.

Their friends and family were sending it to them as evidence that the vaccines are dangerous and that they shouldn't get it," she said. "It provides a sense of false balance, like there's two sides to the scientific evidence when, really, there is not. The overwhelming evidence is that the vaccines are safe and that they're effective."

Rogan's reach worries health experts

Wallace was particularly worried because Rogan, a stand-up comedian and TV personality, has such a big audience. While Spotify does not disclose how many people listen, his show ranked as the platform's most popular podcast globally for the last two years. And he's worth a lot to the company: In 2020, he signed an exclusive licensing deal with Spotify reportedly worth \$100 million. "We are in a global health emergency, and streaming platforms like Spotify that provide content to the public have a responsibility not to add to the problem," Wallace said.

So why haven't podcasts gotten the same kind of attention as social networks?

For one thing, it's a fragmented medium. Podcasts exist across lots of different platforms and apps. It's also harder to ferret out falsehoods and hate speech in podcasts compared with posts written on Facebook and Twitter.

But audio can be a powerful way to spread misinformation because of all the qualities that make the format so compelling to listeners, said Valerie Wirtschafter, a senior data analyst at the Brookings Institution. "The podcaster is in your ear," she said. "It's a really unique relationship in that respect, and so the podcaster gains a level of authority and a level of credibility among listeners."

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"These are the most popular podcasts in the United States."

Long-haul COVID

by: Suzanne Stratford / Updated: Jan 26, 2022

<https://fox8.com/news/coronavirus/ne-ohio-hospitals-see-alarming-number-of-kids-with-covid-long-haul-syndrome-months-after-virus/>

CLEVELAND (WJW) – An alarming number of children in Northeast Ohio and across the country are developing a mysterious ailment called COVID Long-Haul Syndrome for weeks or even months after they've recovered from the virus. "Even mild COVID, they get better, but then they don't get better," says Dr. Amy Edwards, a Pediatric Infectious Disease Specialist at University Hospitals Rainbow Babies and Children's Hospital. "Some of these kids had COVID a year or more ago and they're still struggling with symptoms."

Some of the debilitating symptoms include headaches, migraines, chronic recurring fever, chest pain, heart palpitations, stomach pain, diarrhea, chronic dizziness, back pain and limb pain, **but by far the most common symptom is chronic fatigue.**

.....

By: Maya Rodriguez | Jan 27, 2022

<https://www.thedenverchannel.com/news/national/clinical-trial-now-underway-to-target-long-haul-covid>

Most people who get COVID recover from it, but about 30% of people infected do not. Many are left with damage to their mitochondria, the so-called "rechargeable battery," which leads to fatigue.

.....

Eight long-haul symptoms of COVID-19

By Charlotte LoBuono | 10 hrs ago

https://www.news-daily.com/features/health/eight-long-haul-symptoms-of-covid-19/collection_f57769f2-8673-5519-8d41-3547535eeded.html#1

- Altered sense of smell and taste
- Difficulty breathing
- Memory issues
- More frequent blood clots
- Trouble sleeping
- Lightheadedness
- Strain after physical or mental work
- Chest pain and heart palpitations

Tackling the unknowns of long-haul COVID-19

<https://www.fredhutch.org/en/news/center-news/2022/01/long-covid-research.html>

January 26, 2022 • By Sabrina Richards

Fred Hutch and UW researchers are working together to better understand and treat the syndrome

One thing Dr. Eric Chow, a working group member and UW infectious diseases fellow who studies the damage that respiratory viruses can do outside the lungs, hopes come from the studies is more predictability. **Right now, clinicians struggle to determine whose symptoms will last, and whose will resolve.** A better understanding of long COVID-19 subgroups will help clinicians guide patients toward the best therapies for them.

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How long-haul COVID is shaping the workforce / *marketplace.org* /

Jan 24, 2022

<https://www.marketplace.org/shows/marketplace/how-long-haul-covid-is-shaping-the-workforce/>

We'll also tackle how the fourth wave of the pandemic is particularly troublesome for small businesses — and for global manufacturing.



A year after the old peak, more people by far in San Diego County are getting COVID, but far fewer are getting acutely sick or dying.

Nearly 5 times as many San Diegians are getting COVID, now the Omicron variant, than a year ago.

But there are only 1/3 as many hospitalizations, and less than 1/7th the deaths.

San Diego	Cases	Avg/7day	Hospitalizations	Avg/7day	Deaths	Avg/7day
1/7/2021	185,062	3,570	6,177	38	1,771	33
1/26/2021	232,970	1,891	9,725	160	2,534	45
12/28/2021	420,089	2,397	19,058	12	4,461	3
1/26/2022	681,885	9,027	20,520	50	4,643	6

Considering COVID Long-Haul Syndrome, you still don't want to get the virus at all.

Most people who get COVID recover from it, but about 30% of people infected do not.

Some of the debilitating symptoms include headaches, migraines, chronic recurring fever, chest pain, heart palpitations, stomach pain, diarrhea, chronic dizziness, back pain and limb pain, but by far the most common symptom is chronic fatigue.

An alarming number of children across the country are developing COVID Long-Haul Syndrome for weeks or even months after they've recovered from the virus. "Even mild COVID, they get better, but then they don't get better," says Dr. Amy Edwards, a Pediatric Infectious Disease Specialist. "Some of these kids had COVID a year or more ago and they're still struggling with symptoms."

Omicron drives US deaths higher than in fall's delta wave

By CARLA K. JOHNSON yesterday



Omicron, the highly contagious coronavirus variant sweeping across the country, is driving the daily American death toll higher than during last fall's delta wave, with deaths likely to keep rising for days or even weeks.

The seven-day rolling average for daily new COVID-19 deaths in the U.S. has been climbing since mid-November, reaching 2,267 on Thursday and surpassing a September peak of 2,100 when delta was the dominant variant.

Now omicron is estimated to account for nearly all the virus circulating in the nation. And even though it causes less severe disease for most people, the fact that it is more transmissible means more people are falling ill and dying.

"Omicron will push us over a million deaths," said Andrew Noymer, a public health professor at the University of California, Irvine. "That will cause a lot of soul searching. There will be a lot of discussion about what we could have done differently, how many of the deaths were preventable."

The average daily death toll is now at the same level as last February, when the country was slowly coming off its all-time high of 3,300 a day.

With more than 878,000 deaths, the United States has the largest COVID-19 toll of any nation.

During the coming week, almost every U.S. state will see a faster increase in deaths, although deaths have peaked in a few states, including New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Iowa, Maryland, Alaska and Georgia, according to the COVID-19 Forecast Hub.

New hospital admissions have started to fall for all age groups, according to CDC data, and a drop in deaths is expected to follow.

"In a pre-pandemic world, during some flu seasons, we see 10,000 or 15,000 deaths. We see that in the course of a week sometimes with COVID," said Nicholas Reich, who aggregates coronavirus projections for the hub in collaboration with the CDC.

"The toll and the sadness and suffering is staggering and very humbling," said Reich, a professor of biostatistics at University of Massachusetts, Amherst.



McKenna Brown, 10, turns her head away as she receives a Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine at Pucci's Pharmacy in Sacramento, Calif., Tuesday, Jan. 25, 2022. California is showing signs that it may have turned the corner on the latest omicron wave of the coronavirus pandemic, with cases falling and hospitalizations short of the overwhelming deluge that officials had predicted just weeks ago. (AP Photo/Rich Pedroncelli)

After 2 years, growing calls to take masks off children in school

January 28, 2022 · 6:00 AM ET



ANYA KAMENETZ



Kerry Dingle is a mother of two. She thinks masks should be optional for kids in schools and child care. And that makes her feel pretty lonely in Silver Spring, Md. "As soon as you question 'Is it a good idea to put a 2-year-old in a mask all day?' you're suddenly a psychotic, anti-vax right-winger," she says. "Which really couldn't be further from the truth."

Dingle says she loves vaccines and thinks everyone should have them. "And the fact that high-risk people can protect themselves with vaccines and boosters now is fantastic and means that they should do that. And we should stop burdening little kids with protecting other people." Her 3-year-old son is in a preschool that mandates masking, although the children are almost always outdoors. "He keeps the cloth mask on, but he sucks on them and he chews holes through them," she says. "Really, within five minutes of him putting it on, it's wet." Her 6-year-old son, a first-grader, has a tic disorder that she says is exacerbated by a mask. "He makes facial movements that pull it down." He kept getting in trouble for it until Dingle asked his pediatrician for a letter explaining that, but she says his teachers still correct him all day long.

Across the country, about two-thirds of large school districts currently require students to wear masks. Most commonly, those masks are cloth. And cloth masks, experts say, are insufficient to contain the spread of the omicron variant.

Where one goes with those two pieces of information is, increasingly, a pandemic Rorschach test.

Balancing children's needs and pandemic safety:

A post-masking consensus may be closer than it appears.

In November, before the omicron variant had emerged in much of the U.S., Randi Weingarten, the president of the American Federation of Teachers, wrote a letter to U.S. Education Secretary Miguel Cardona and the CDC director, Rochelle Walensky, asking for a masking off-ramp. She said classroom teachers were reporting "that the constant use of masks impedes the learning process" and that parents "have expressed dismay about their child's overall well-being after wearing a mask continually for well over a year and a half." AFT spokesperson Andrew Crook told NPR that the national teachers union still supports a path away from school mask mandates. "You can't do it right now because of omicron, but yes, with a metric and guidance you can have an off-ramp." Danny Benjamin at the ABC Science Collaborative also believes that mask mandates can be safely relaxed, post-surge — assuming high vaccination rates — meaning 100% for adults and at least 70% for students. "Any family that wants to protect their child should simply vaccinate their child, and at that point the risk of COVID is substantially less than the risk of flu," he says. On Jan. 25, a group of physicians and scientists announced a national campaign to "restore normalcy" in children's lives by putting them first in line for the lifting of restrictions, including mask mandates, once the omicron wave has subsided.

Dr. Jeanne Noble, who directs COVID-19 response for the UCSF Emergency Department at the University of California, San Francisco, is part of the coalition. "Kids don't need to be masked. Full stop. They have minuscule risk of serious illness or death from COVID," she says. She and colleagues are suggesting that especially vulnerable children continue to mask while other vaccinated children can safely go without.



Drawings of children wearing masks adorn a hallway at Stark Elementary School on Sept. 16, 2020, in Stamford, Conn.

CONSIDER THIS FROM NPR

The Omicron Wave Is Receding. What Happens Now?

January 28, 2022 · 5:00 PM ET

 10-Minute Listen



Julio Francisco waits for people to show up wanting a COVID-19 test on January 13, 2022 in Miami, Florida.

Joe Raedle/Getty Images

Cases rates are dropping, but the number of people dying each day is not. Many hospitals are still overwhelmed. NPR's Will Stone reports.

Deaths are a lagging indicator — meaning they, too, will soon fall as the omicron wave continues to recede. What does the next phase of the pandemic look like? NPR's Allison Aubrey explains why some public health experts think the coronavirus may not disappear — but become easier to live with.

In the meantime, workplaces are still reeling from the surge as employees call out sick or must quarantine. NPR's Andrea Hsu says **it's even worse than last winter's pre-vaccine surge.**

Behind the 11 Oath Keepers charged with sedition are many more who have been trained by the US military

January 27, 2022 8:29am EST

Mia Bloom, Sophia Moskalenko, Georgia State University



Stewart Rhodes must stay behind bars until his trial. Philip Pacheco/Anadolu Agency/Getty Images

The Oath Keepers may number in the thousands, yet we believe they present a greater threat than their membership suggests. This is partly because the Oath Keepers actively recruit current and retired members of the armed forces. An increase in radical ideology among members of the U.S. military makes it a fertile ground for recruiting by groups such as the Oath Keepers.

Why it matters: As well as posing a risk due to their weapons training, active and former military personnel pose a greater threat as members of right-wing militia groups. Unlike civilians, military people must take an oath, pledging allegiance to their country and the institutions of democracy enshrined in the Constitution.

When they align with groups like the Oath Keepers and plan an attack on the U.S. government, these military personnel betray their oath. This kind of hypocrisy is known in psychology as cognitive dissonance – an uncomfortable psychological state that arises when one's actions contradict one's self-image, causing a motivation to "double-down" to justify one's actions. It is the reason that painful, embarrassing or humiliating initiation rites are often effective in radicalizing new members. The additional psychological cost of cognitive dissonance may mean military members of the Oath Keepers are more committed to their new allegiance after they turn away from their old one.

While the Oath Keepers wish to present themselves as the ultimate masculine alphas, some of the real power lies with the women supporting their efforts. The number of men arrested over the Jan. 6 riot outnumber that of women. Of the 11 charged with seditious conspiracy, only one – Jessica Watkins, a former army ranger who at the time of the attack identified as an Oath Keeper – is a woman. However, **women play key support roles from behind the scenes, raising money, disseminating propaganda and even recruiting new members.**

After Rhodes was arrested, Kellye SoRelle, a former attorney, was named as "acting president" of the Oath Keepers. **The hidden face of extremism is often female**, as our previous research on the subject has shown. In Jihadi groups, women were crucial for fundraising, disseminating propaganda and recruiting men for the cause. Women in Jihadi organizations, like al-Qaeda recruiter Malika el Aroud, were able to shame men into participating in the conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan.

On her website, minbar.sos, Aroud exhorted men to step up to prove that they were real men. We see comparable dynamics in American right-wing extremist groups and the ways in which women weaponize toxic masculinity. Some analysts have predicted that membership in the Oath Keepers will decline as a result of the indictments. But those indicted number a only a few; the real concern is that the men and women who make up the Oath Keepers' rank and file could continue to recruit while the leaders remain behind bars.



Kellye SoRelle says she is acting as President of the Oath Keepers in Rhodes' absence. (credit: Facebook)

GRANBURY, Texas (CBSDFW.COM) – An attorney from Granbury said on Friday, January 14 that she is now acting as President of the Oath Keepers after the extreme right-wing group's leader was arrested yesterday. **Kellye SoRelle, a family lawyer from Granbury**, issued a statement to CBS News earlier today, stating that she would serve as the loose-knit group's leader until Rhodes was released and proclaimed his innocence. "I am currently acting as President of Oath Keepers in lieu of Mr. Rhodes until he is released. He is not guilty of any of the outlandish charges and the organization stands with Mr. Rhodes. I would like for the political parties and politicians to stop dividing the people and using us to promote agendas for their own personal financial gain," SoRelle said. Her statements echoed those made by one of Rhodes' lawyers, Jon Moseley, who blamed his client's arrest on political pressure from Democrats. According to SoRelle's website, she volunteered for Lawyers for Trump in November 2020 and was assigned to assist the group Michigan where she was involved in legal challenges to the election results. Before Rhodes' arrest, SoRelle had been serving as the general counsel for the Oath Keepers.



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Into the Depths

May 28, 2022 - May 2023

This course is a sacred inquiry into the depths of Hatha Yoga, a year-long odyssey of the soul in which we pursue together the essence of this ancient art. Using a carefully curated selection of readings (both from inside and outside the yoga tradition) we contemplate the mythic movement of awakening. We trace that movement beyond the signs and symbols in which it is traditionally expressed, to understand Hatha Yoga as the embodiment of an awakened spirit, one that encompasses and transcends all sectarian distinctions.

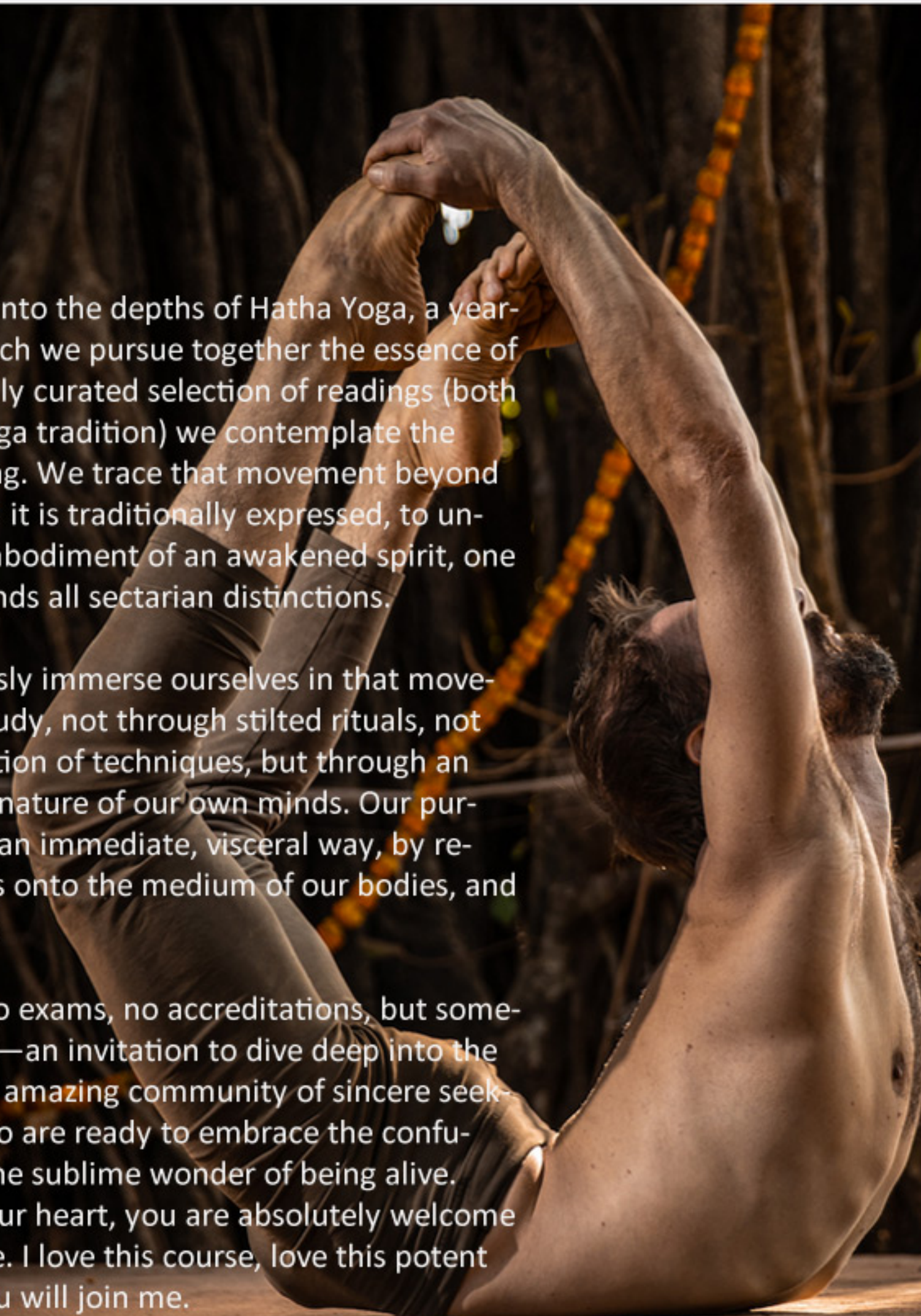
Most importantly we consciously immerse ourselves in that movement, not through scholarly study, not through stilted rituals, not through the mechanical repetition of techniques, but through an unrelenting reflection into the nature of our own minds. Our purpose is to know Hatha Yoga in an immediate, visceral way, by re-mapping traditional metaphors onto the medium of our bodies, and then turning the soil of insight.

There are no requisites here, no exams, no accreditations, but something finer and more profound—an invitation to dive deep into the inner tradition of yoga with an amazing community of sincere seekers from around the world, who are ready to embrace the confusion, the heartache, and also the sublime wonder of being alive. If this pulls on the strings of your heart, you are absolutely welcome to join. For more info look here. I love this course, love this potent shared reflection, and hope you will join me.

with love,
Ty

Into the Depths

an immersion like no other





ONE YEAR OF YOGIC REFLECTION

Free Trial

Log In



Join me for the second iteration of this unique experimental course, where we explore the archetypal movement of Hatha Yoga and uncover the enchanted experience of the world that it invokes. The movement in question can be found in both Eastern and Western contemplative traditions that recognize the body as a sacred nexus of spiritual wisdom. We engage these traditions to touch the timeless wisdom of yoga, and begin to know it from the inside.

More than a course of study, this immersion takes us deep into reflection, and asks us to become intimate with ourselves. Our intention is to connect to our own source of internal guidance and support, to liberate ourselves from dependence on external authorities, and begin to know ourselves in the original sense.

My mentor Richard Freeman once said that "Yoga is freedom from religion." This course can be seen as a sustained unraveling of that enigmatic statement, and an uncovering of the embracing, loving, affirming and creative energy behind it.

Through a combination of talks, asana tutorials, guided meditations, assigned readings, reflective journal prompts and peer study groups we'll dive deeper together, and together we'll evolve.



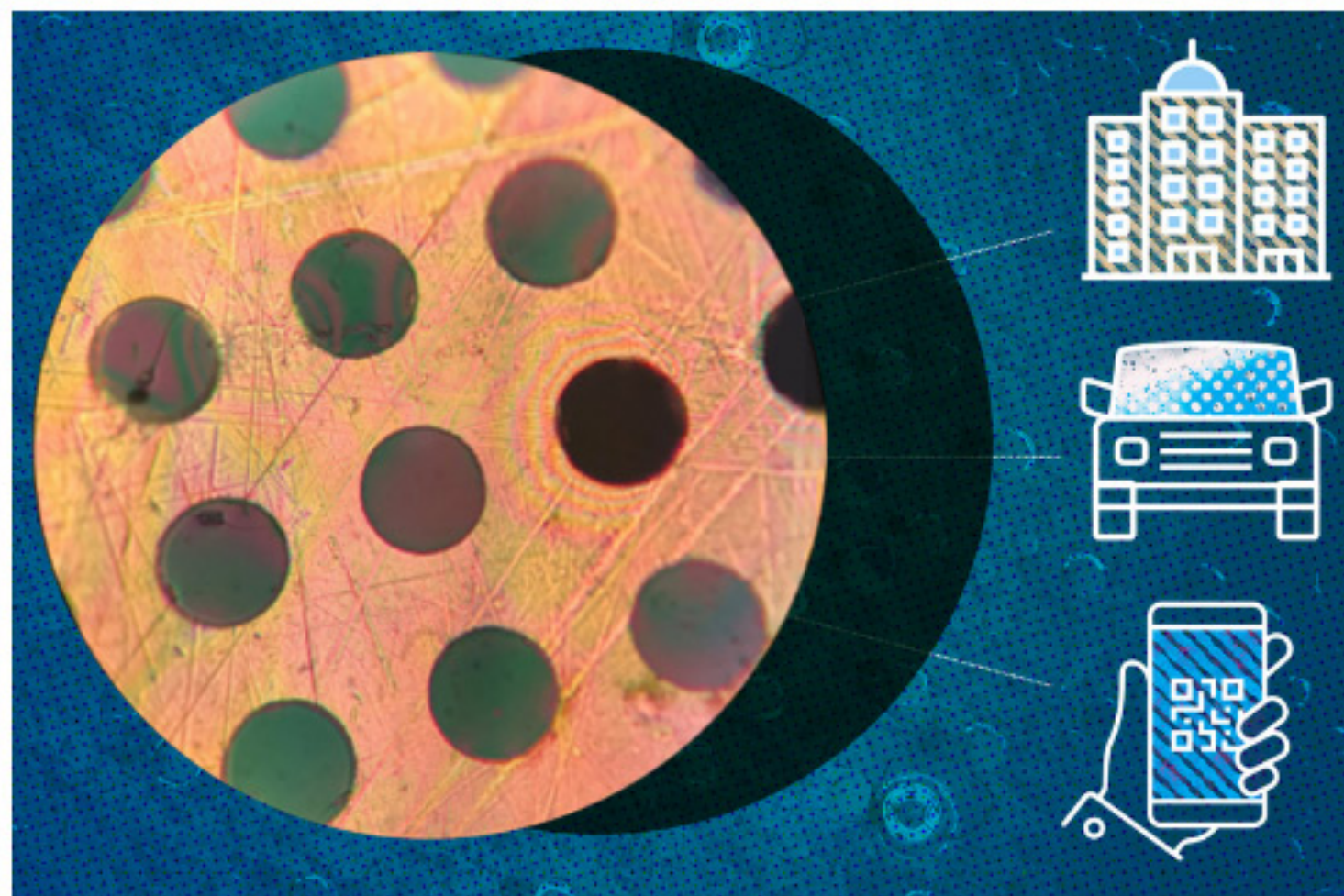
When her father died in 1952, Elizabeth II — then just 25 years old — became the Queen of England.

New lightweight material is stronger than steel

The new substance is the result of a feat thought to be impossible: polymerizing a material in two dimensions.

Anne Trafton | MIT News Office

February 2, 2022



The new material is a two-dimensional polymer that self-assembles into sheets and could be used as a lightweight, durable coating for car parts or cell phones, or as a building material for bridges or other structures.

Image: polymer film courtesy of the researchers; Christine Daniloff, MIT

Using a novel polymerization process, MIT chemical engineers have created a new material that is stronger than steel and as light as plastic, and can be easily manufactured in large quantities. The new material is a two-dimensional polymer that self-assembles into sheets, unlike all other polymers, which form one-dimensional, spaghetti-like chains. Until now, scientists had believed it was impossible to induce polymers to form 2D sheets.

Such a material could be used as a lightweight, durable coating for car parts or cell phones, or as a building material for bridges or other structures, says Michael Strano, the Carbon P. Dubbs Professor of Chemical Engineering at MIT and the senior author of the new study. “We don’t usually think of plastics as being something that you could use to support a building, but with this material, you can enable new things,” he says. “It has very unusual properties and we’re very excited about that.”

Light but strong

The researchers found that the new material’s elastic modulus — a measure of how much force it takes to deform a material — is between four and six times greater than that of bulletproof glass. They also found that its yield strength, or how much force it takes to break the material, is twice that of steel, even though the material has only about one-sixth the density of steel.

Matthew Tirrell, dean of the Pritzker School of Molecular Engineering at the University of Chicago, says that the new technique “embodies some very creative chemistry to make these bonded 2D polymers.”

“An important aspect of these new polymers is that they are readily processable in solution, which will facilitate numerous new applications where high strength to weight ratio is important, such as new composite or diffusion barrier materials,” says Tirrell, who was not involved in the study.

Another key feature of 2DPA-1 is that it is impermeable to gases. While other polymers are made from coiled chains with gaps that allow gases to seep through, the new material is made from monomers that lock together like LEGOs, and molecules cannot get between them.

“This could allow us to create ultrathin coatings that can completely prevent water or gases from getting through,” Strano says. “This kind of barrier coating could be used to protect metal in cars and other vehicles, or steel structures.”

Strano and his students are now studying in more detail how this particular polymer is able to form 2D sheets, and they are experimenting with changing its molecular makeup to create other types of novel materials.

The research was funded by the Center for Enhanced Nanofluidic Transport (CENT) an Energy Frontier Research Center sponsored by the U.S. Department of Energy Office of Science, and the Army Research Laboratory.

These eye-popping, hand-painted trucks rule Pakistan's roads

Around the world, trucks are essential everyday vehicles. In Pakistan, trucks are also canvases for dazzling works of art. Truck art has served a social good too, and helped recover missing children.



Painter Irfan Mohammad works on a truck at a sprawling workshop in Rawalpindi, Pakistan.

Tiny homes, big dreams: How some activists are reimagining shelter for the homeless

February 6, 2022 · 6:01 AM ET

GILES BRUCE



Gene Cox speaks with Brenda Konkel, president of Occupy Madison and executive director of Madison Area Care for the Homeless OneHealth. Occupy Madison provides tiny houses for people experiencing homelessness in Madison, Wisconsin.



Interior and exterior views of a home under construction in a tiny home village operated by Occupy Madison in Madison, Wisconsin, December 2021.

Occupy Madison – Tiny Houses & More!

Changing the world, one tiny idea at a time

<https://occupymadisoninc.com/about/history/>

January 2013: Occupy Madison recently formed a non-profit to pursue solutions for people facing homelessness in Madison. The search continues while people are forced to live illegally in our city.

Conclusion: NO LEGAL PLACE TO GO!!!!



This city-owned tiny home village, which opened in November, 2021, was built in an industrial development on the outskirts of Madison, Wisconsin.



Conestoga huts house 22 formerly homeless people at this tiny home village in Madison, Wisconsin, located at the site of a shuttered bar.

An experimental depression treatment uses electric currents to bring relief

February 6, 2022 · 6:01 AM ET

LESLEY MCCLURG



electricity in the form of rTMS could become one of the vital tools used to help people with mental illness

Nolan Williams demonstrates the magnetic brain stimulation therapy he and his colleagues developed, on Deirdre Lehman, a participant in a previous study of the treatment.

Depression is the world's leading cause of disability, partly because treatment options often result in numerous side effects or patients do not respond at all. And there are many people who never seek treatment because mental illness can carry heavy stigma and discrimination. Studies show untreated depression can lead to suicide.

"I was suicidal," said Emma, a 59-year-old Bay Area resident. NPR is not using her full name at her request because of the stigma of mental illness. "I was going to die." Three years ago, Emma's psychiatrist urged her to enroll in a study at Stanford University School of Medicine designed for people who had run out of options. On her first day, scientists took an MRI scan to determine the best possible location to deliver electrical pulses to her brain. Then for a 10 minute block every hour for 10 hours a day for five consecutive days, Emma sat in a chair while a magnetic field stimulated her brain.

"I think we're finally on the verge of a paradigm shift in how we think about psychiatric treatment, where we'll supplement the conventional chemical imbalance and psychological conflict models with a new brain circuit model."

At the end of the first day, an unfamiliar calm settled over Emma. Even when her partner picked her up to drive home, she stayed relaxed. "I'm usually hysterical," she said. "All the time I'm grabbing things. I'm yelling, you know, 'Did you see those lights?' And while I rode home that first night I just looked out the window and I enjoyed the ride."

The remedy was a new type of repetitive transcranial magnetic stimulation (rTMS) called "Stanford neuromodulation therapy." By adding imaging technology to the treatment and upping the dose of rTMS, scientists have developed an approach that's more effective and works more than eight times faster than the current approved treatment. A coil placed on top of Emma's head created a magnetic field that sent electric pulses through her skull to tickle the surface of her brain. She says it felt like a woodpecker tapping on her skull every 15 seconds. The electrical current is directed at the prefrontal cortex, which is the part of the brain that plans, dreams and controls our emotions. "It's an area thought to be underactive in depression," said Nolan Williams, a psychiatrist and rTMS researcher at Stanford. "We send a signal for the system to not only turn on, but to stay on and remember to stay on."

A recent randomized control trial, published in *The American Journal of Psychiatry*, shows impressive results are possible in five days of treatment or less. Almost 80% of patients crossed into remission — meaning they were symptom-free within a month. This is compared to about 13% of people who received the placebo treatment. "The more exciting applications, however, are due to the rapidity," said George. "These people [the patients] got un suicidal and undepressed within a week. Those patients are just clogging up our emergency rooms, our psych hospitals. And we really don't have good treatments for acute suicidality." He is hopeful the changes stick. More larger studies are needed to verify how long the new rTMS treatment will last.

At least for Emma, the woman who received Stanford's treatment three years ago in a similar study, the results are holding. She says she still has ups and downs but "it's an entirely different me dealing with it." She says the regimen rewired her from the inside out. "It saved my life, and I'll be forever grateful," said Emma over the phone, her voice cracking with emotion. "It saved my life."

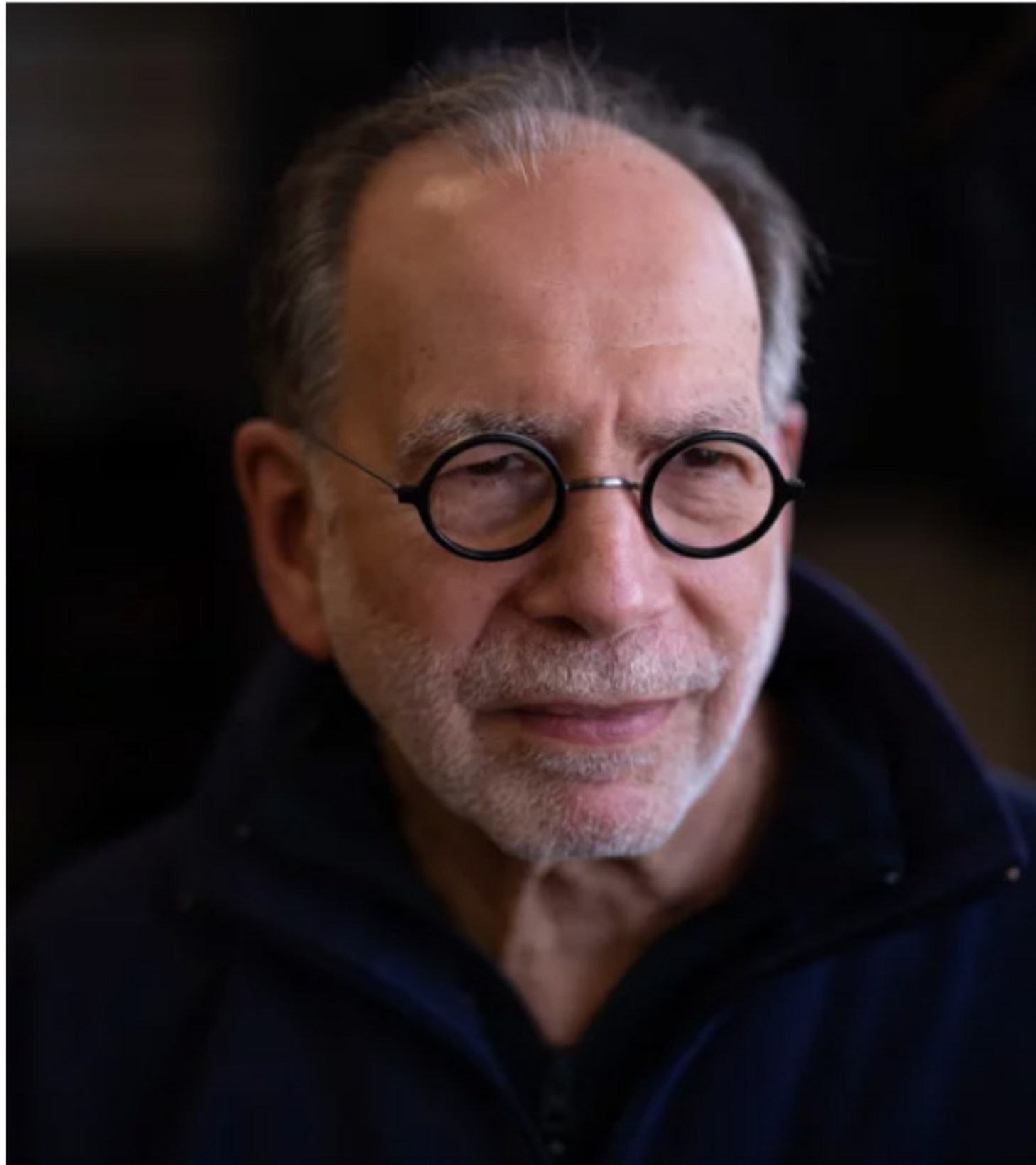
Stanford's neuromodulation therapy could be widely available by the end of this year — that's when scientists are hoping FDA clearance comes through. The technology is licensed to Magnus Medical, a startup with plans to commercialize it. The next step is studying how rTMS may improve other mental health disorders like addiction and traumatic brain injury.

A brain circuit tied to emotion may lead to better treatments for Parkinson's disease

February 7, 2022 · 5:01 AM ET



JON HAMILTON



Paradoxical kinesia is a phenomenon familiar to Peter Strick, chair of neurobiology and scientific director of the University of Pittsburgh Brain Institute. He and a team of other scientists hypothesize that there is a brain circuit that remains intact in Parkinson's patients that can be switched on in moments of intense emotion.

Paradoxical kinesia refers to the sudden ability of a person with Parkinson's to move quickly and fluidly, the way they did before the disease eroded a brain area involved in movement.

Peter Strick, professor and chair of neurobiology at the University of Pittsburgh and scientific director of the University of Pittsburgh Brain Institute, has assembled a team of prominent scientists to find the biological underpinnings of paradoxical kinesia. The team hopes what they learn will lead to new treatments for Parkinson's, which affects nearly one million people in the U.S.

Strick's collaborators plan to focus on two circuits in the brain that appear to control voluntary movement. One is damaged by Parkinson's, leading to symptoms including tremor, freezing, and poor balance and coordination. "Our hypothesis is that there's another circuit that's intact, and that this circuit isn't affected in Parkinson's disease," Strick says. Strick's team believes this other circuit can be switched on by strong emotions, including positive ones. "It's engaged by our sense of reward, by the joy of doing something," he says.

A monkey model from a drug gone bad

Parkinson's gradually kills or disables cells that make dopamine, a chemical messenger associated with both movement and feelings of pleasure, reward, and joy. The drug L-DOPA can replace dopamine. But its effect tends to wane over time and higher doses can produce side effects, like involuntary movements. Deep brain stimulation can also reduce symptoms like tremor, but requires surgery and carries risks. So scientists have been searching for ways to improve treatments by studying monkeys, whose brains control movement much the way human brains do.

Any new treatment is obviously a long way off. In the meantime, doctors and patients have been trying other approaches that may use the placebo effect to help people with Parkinson's.



Homes overlook a forest in the wildland-urban interface in Arizona. Marius von Essen

The fastest population growth in the West's wildland fringes is in ecosystems most vulnerable to wildfires

February 7, 2022 11.07am EST

👤 [Krishna Rao](#), *Stanford University*, [Alexandra Konings](#), *Stanford University*, [Marta Yebra](#), *Australian National University*, [Noah Diffenbaugh](#), *Stanford University*, [Park Williams](#), *University of California, Los Angeles*

The view from the foothills of the Sierra Nevada in Southern California can be beautiful – pine forests and chaparral spill across an often rugged landscape. But as more people build homes in this area, where development gets into wild land, they're facing some of the highest risks for wildfires in the country.



Mountain glaciers are under threat from global warming. Phunjo Lama/AFP via Getty Images

Mountain glaciers hold less ice than previously thought – it's a concern for future water supplies but a drop in the bucket for sea level rise

February 7, 2022 11.01am EST

👤 [Mathieu Morlighem](#), *Dartmouth College*

Mountain glaciers are essential water sources for nearly a quarter of the global population. But figuring out just how much ice they hold – and how much water will be available as glaciers shrink in a warming world – has been notoriously difficult.

For Valentine's Day, the Bronx Zoo lets you name a roach after your sweetheart

February 12, 2022 · 1:33 PM ET

RINA TORCHINSKY



A face only a mother could love: a Madagascar hissing cockroach (*Gromphadorhina portentosa*)

VW Pics/Universal Images Group/Getty Images

Zoos across the U.S. are breaking into the Valentine's Day gift market, offering swarms of opportunities to name cockroaches after loved ones — or, maybe, an ex.

The Bronx Zoo's Name a Roach program, now in its 11th year, offers an unusual way to show your undying love. For \$15, you can name a Madagascar hissing cockroach after your special someone. The money benefits the Wildlife Conservation Society, a nonprofit organization, the zoo's website says. You'll get a certificate to memorialize the gift.

"There's two things we're sure will last forever; True Love and Roaches," the site reads.

Build-A-Bear is selling Valentine's Day stuffed animals for (millennial) adults only

But the San Antonio Zoo's Cry Me a Cockroach fundraiser is geared toward naming after the ones who "really made 2021 difficult," such as an "ex-partner, boss, or bestie."

The Texas zoo offers a selection of living things to name: It costs \$5 to name a leafy green, \$10 for a roach and \$25 for a rodent. And, warning, this next part may not be for everyone: Those who upgrade their donation can watch a video of their newly named creature being fed to an animal.



Artwork from the Black Lives Matter memorial has a new home: the Library of Congress

February 12, 2022 · 7:18 AM ET



JONATHAN FRANKLIN



Banners and signs are hung on a fence at Lafayette Square near the White House, during ongoing protests against police brutality and racism in June 2020. The Library of Congress has digitized some of the pieces of artwork, signs and photographs once displayed on the fence.

The fence that once stood between protesters and the White House at Lafayette Park during the summer of 2020 (also known as the Black Lives Matter memorial), displayed hundreds of signs, posters and artwork left by protesters following the murder of George Floyd. While authorities took down the fence in early 2021, activists made it their mission to preserve every artifact — knowing that each sign represents a part of the nation's history. Now, thanks to the help of activists and archivists, the pieces of artwork that once served as a memorial of the movement are being displayed in a new online exhibit on the Library of Congress' website. According to the Library, more than 30 pieces of artwork are now available online.



Nadine Seiler poses with a piece of artwork that was once displayed on the Black Lives Matter fence near the White House. The Library of Congress has created an online exhibit of the artwork that was once displayed on the fence.

LIBRARY Library of Congress
@librarycongress

A year ago, volunteers removed Black Lives Matter signs from a fence near the White House where they had garnered national attention as a rallying point for protests.

Some of those hundreds of signs have since been collected by the Library & @HowardU.

blogs.loc.gov/loc/2022/01/pr...



2:00 PM · Feb 3, 2022 · Hootsuite Inc.

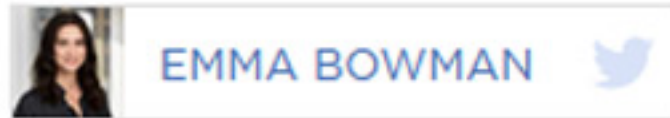
30 Retweets 6 Quote Tweets 116 Likes



The Rams' Cooper Kupp makes the Super Bowl winning touchdown catch over the Cincinnati Bengals' Eli Apple

Eminem takes a knee during the Super Bowl halftime show

February 13, 2022 - 9:44 PM ET



It could be seen as an act of solidarity with Colin Kaepernick and other players who have kneeled during the national anthem to protest racial injustice and police brutality.

Eminem took a knee as he performs during the Super Bowl halftime show.

Valerie Macon/AFP via Getty Images

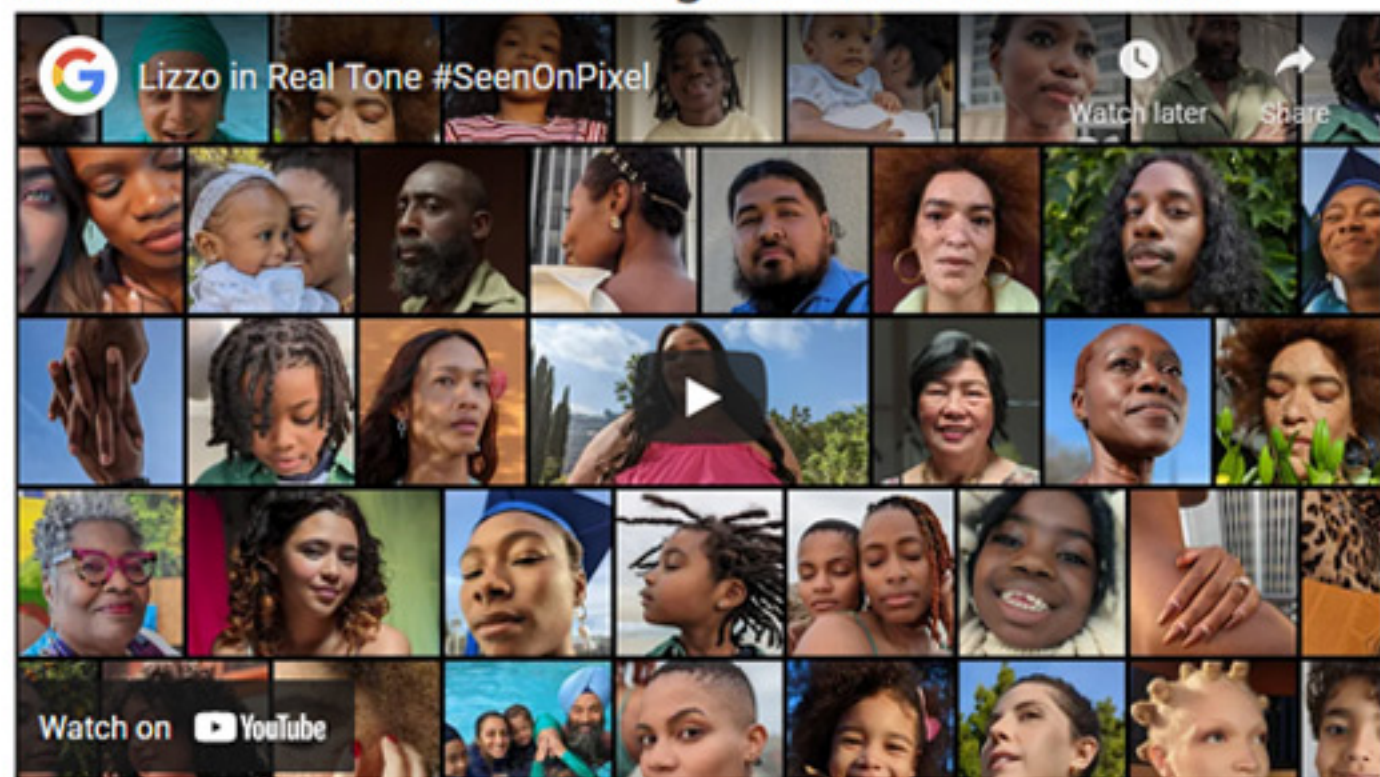
In what appeared to many fans as a protest statement, the rapper Eminem took a knee for about 50 seconds at the end of his solo set at the Super Bowl halftime show.

The best (and worst) Super Bowl commercials: Lizzo, cranky Zeus and more

February 14, 2022 · 1:06 AM ET

ERIC DEGGANS     

Best nod to Black folks: Google's "Lizzo in Real Tone"

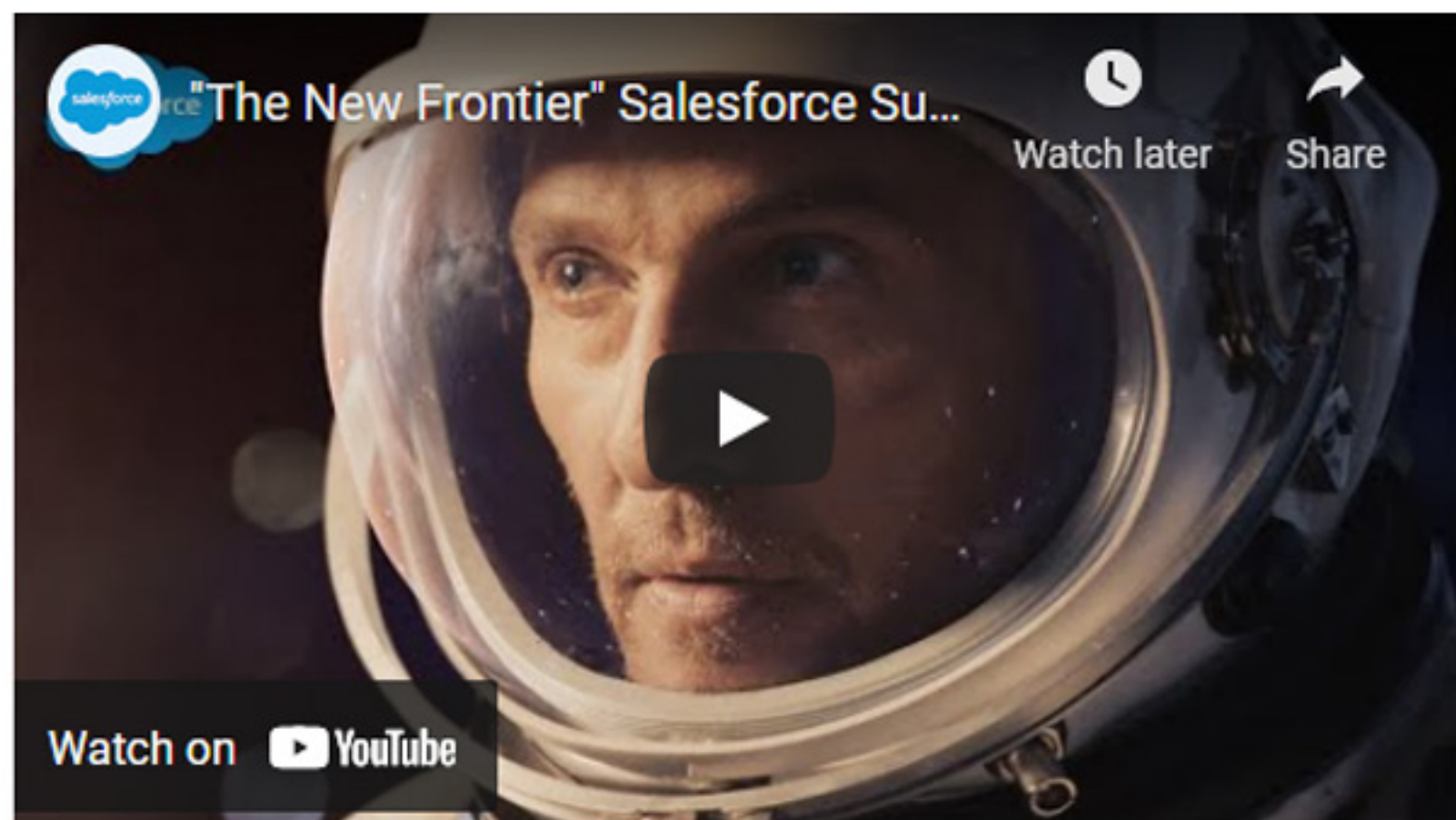


Best use of a celebrity, Part 1: BMW USA's "Zeus & Hera"



Arnold Schwarzenegger and Salma Hayek play the Greek gods Zeus and Hera in a Super Bowl ad for BMW.

Best low key shade without talking specifics: Salesforce's "The New Frontier"



I am all here for commercials offering low-key shade to others without naming them outright. Which is why I liked Salesforce's ad, featuring Matthew McConaughey in a hot air balloon sticking it to Mark Zuckerberg and Elon Musk by telling viewers, "while the others look to the metaverse and Mars, lets stay here and restore ours...Cause the new frontier? It ain't rocket science. It's right here." It's also a commentary shading public support of rich technocrats' space ambitions — which also warms my heart coming from a company that can afford millions to air a Super Bowl commercial.

"The New Frontier" Salesforce Super Bowl Ad

Join #TeamEarth w/ Matthew McConaughey & Salesforce

<https://youtu.be/tlp251KCz6k>

"The New Frontier" Super Bowl commercial asks everyone to join #TeamEarth. Salesforce and Matthew McConaughey say the nature of business is changing. #TeamEarth are companies and people who believe that business is about more than profit for a few — business needs to be accountable to every person and the planet we share. Join #TeamEarth: <https://Salesforce.com/teamearth>

<https://youtu.be/egfsj9j3g0U>

<https://sea-trees.org>

SeaTrees - Reforest the Ocean

- 00:59 We've lost half the world's coral reefs
- 01:01 in the last 50 years, half the world's mangrove forests,
- 01:03 half the world's kelp forest,
- 01:06 you name it and we've messed it up.
- 01:12 I realized that I had to make a change
- 01:15 and dedicate my life to trying to fix this problem,
- 01:18 and that was the start of SeaTrees.





Team Earth has landed.

Some folks these days are fascinated with the metaverse and Mars.

But here on #TeamEarth, we have our gaze fixed a little closer to home.

We believe that business is the greatest platform for change, and success should be for everyone on Earth and the planet itself.

Because the new frontier? It's right here.

[JOIN #TEAMEARTH](#)



In trust we trust.

We are accountable to our stakeholders. We build trust through the integrity of our technology, transparency, deep listening, delivering on commitments, and leading with ethics and integrity.

[LEARN HOW TRUST IS IN OUR DNA](#)

**It's not time to escape.
It's time to engage.**

Equality for all.

We believe in creating equal access, opportunities, and rights for everyone. We strive to be active allies, working toward a more equal, just, and inclusive world.

[SEE OUR EQUALITY COMMITMENT](#)

<https://www.1t.org/>

<https://www.salesforce.com/plus/series/Ecopreneurs>

https://trailhead.salesforce.com/en/content/learn/trails/champion_workplace_equality

<https://trailhead.salesforce.com/en/users/czhang/trailmixes/building-ethical-and-inclusive-products>

<https://www.salesforce.com/company/teamearth/#teamearth>



Trailmix by [Christina Zhang](#)

Building Ethical and Inclusive Products

Build technology with intention. Learn how to create products with ethics, accessibility, and inclusion at their core.



Trail

Cultivate Equality at Work

Reflect on the value of diversity and inclusion at work and what you can do to promote equality

THE ECOPRENEURS

Meet the everyday people stepping up to create extraordinary climate solutions.



[1t.org](#)

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A platform for the trillion tree community.

Conserving, restoring and growing 1 trillion trees by 2030: We drive change by mobilizing the private sector, facilitating multi-stakeholder partnerships in key regions, and supporting innovation and ecopreneurship on the ground. 1t.org is part of the World Economic Forum's efforts to accelerate nature-based solutions and was set up to support the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration 2021-2030.



Module

Ethics by Design

Learn about ethical design and how to incorporate it into technology development.

+ 300 POINTS



Module

Responsible Creation of Artificial Intelligence

Remove bias from your data and algorithms to create ethical AI systems at your company.

+ 400 POINTS



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Learn about ethical design and how to incorporate it into technology development.

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Module

Business Value of Equality

Understand the societal and business value of having a diverse, inclusive workforce.

+ 300 POINTS

[Understand the Importance of Diversity and Inclusion at Work](#)

~10 mins



[Explore the Salesforce Strategy for Promoting Workplace Equality](#)

~25 mins



[Learn About the Salesforce Equality Groups](#)

~10 mins



Study finds Western megadrought is the worst in 1,200 years

February 14, 2022 - 11:04 AM ET



NATHAN ROTT



Water levels at Lake Powell, the nation's second-largest reservoir, have dropped by more than 150 feet in the ongoing megadrought.

Shrunk reservoirs. Depleted aquifers. Low rivers. Raging wildfires. It's no secret that the Western U.S. is in a severe drought. New research published Monday shows just how extreme the situation has become. The Western U.S. and Northern Mexico are experiencing their driest period in at least 1,200 years, according to the new study published in the journal *Nature Climate Change*. The last comparable — though not as severe — multi-decade megadrought occurred in the 1500s, when the West was still largely inhabited by American Indian tribes. Today, the region is home to tens of millions of people, massive agricultural centers and some of the fastest-growing cities in the U.S. — all in an area where there's less water available than there was in the past, partially due to human-caused climate change.

"We have a society that's relying on there being the amount of water there was in the 1900's," said the study's lead author Park Williams, a bioclimatologist at the University of California, Los Angeles. "But now with the number of water molecules available to us declining, it really is time for us to get real about how much water there is for us to use."

Williams looked at tree-ring data from thousands of sites to conduct the research. They sampled data collected from live trees, dead trees and wood beams preserved at Native American archeological sites. The tree rings gave Williams an insight into drought events dating back to the year 800 AD, around the same time Charlemagne was being crowned Emperor of Rome. He identified four other megadroughts in that time period, the most notable being a 23-year drought that ended in the late 1500's. There were hopes during a wet 2019 that the current megadrought was following a similar pattern, Williams said. "And then from summer 2020 through all of 2021, it was just exceptionally dry across the West...indicating that this drought is nowhere near done." It's time to "pull out all the stops" and plan for less water

Western water managers were again hopeful for a change at the beginning of this winter. Record-breaking snowfall in California's Sierra Nevada and big snow storms blanketed the Northern Rockies in December. But a hot, dry start to the year has since dropped snowpack levels to below average in many places. Lake Mead and Lake Powell, the country's two largest reservoirs, are only filled at about one-third of their total capacity. Communities, ranchers and farmers have depleted groundwater stores to meet demands. Federal water managers declared the first-ever water shortage along the Colorado River last year, triggering cuts to some of the river's 40 million users. It was a recognition "that the hydrology that was planned for years ago — but we hoped we would never see — is here," said Bureau of Reclamation Commissioner Camille Touton. "The Colorado River Basin no longer has the privilege of time," said Kim Mitchell, Senior Water Policy Advisor at Western Resource Advocates, an environmental nonprofit, after hearing about the new research. "It's imperative for water managers in the West to incorporate a smaller [Colorado] River into future operations, and pull out all the stops in scaling up basin-wide conservation. Incremental solutions just won't be enough."

Human-caused climate change contributes to drought

Existing management guidelines for the Colorado River are set to expire in 2026. The seven states that draw from the watershed are negotiating with the federal government, Native American tribes and Mexico over what future management should look like. Last December, Nevada, Arizona and California agreed to take less water from the Colorado River in an effort to prop up Lake Mead, and more cuts could follow. "This is a wake-up call for everyone," Adel Hagekhalil, general water manager for the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, told KUNC. "For all of us. We are facing a new normal when it comes to climate change."

Researcher Williams said roughly one-fifth of the current megadrought can be attributed to human-caused climate change. Greenhouse gas emissions are warming the world, speeding evaporation, and disrupting weather patterns. He described water patterns in the West as a yo-yo — sometimes high, sometimes low. Climate change has put that yo-yo on an escalator, heading down, he said, "and we cannot let ourselves get tricked by a few wet years into giving up on the progress we've been making."

"We actually have to change our relationship with water."

TD Bank freezes 2 personal accounts that had \$1.1 million paid into them to support Canadian trucker protests

Sam Tabahriti 3 hours ago



The Freedom Convoy has been protesting in Canada for several weeks. Ted Shaffrey/AP

Toronto-Dominion (TD) Bank has frozen two personal bank accounts that had \$1.1 million paid into them to support trucker protests in Canada, Reuters reported. The protests have been ongoing since January 22, with members of the Freedom Convoy gathering across Canada in opposition to the country's vaccine mandates for cross-border drivers.

The agency reported that one of the two frozen accounts received a lump sum of C\$1 million through GoFundMe. The bank said it was unsure of the origin of the payment. The rest of the money was sent to a second account through numerous bank transfers.

Insider reported in early February that GoFundMe took down a page that had \$10 million donations destined to the group. Since then, donations have been given through GiveSendGo, a Christian crowdfunding site, which said it would not comply with the Ontario Superior Court order to freeze all funds, per Reuters.



Anna Shen, works at University of Wisconsin - Madison

Answered 1 year ago

Givesendgo is an extremist crowdfunding site masquerading as a Christian site. They have raised money for Kyle Rittenhouse and the Proud Boys leader Enrique Tarrio. One of the terrorists from the Capitol attack is currently raising money for her legal defense on this site. Paypal cut ties with this site today.

1.5K views · View upvotes

← GiveSendGo
10.4K Tweets

WHO IS IN YOUR CROWD? SHARE WITH THEM.



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The number one Free Christian crowdfunding platform. Raise money for anything that shares Hope in the world. [GiveSendGo.com](https://www.givesendgo.com)

📍 Boston, MA 🌐 [GiveSendGo.com](https://www.givesendgo.com) 📅 Joined July 2011

4,085 Following 75.4K Followers

← Jacob Wells
1,751 Tweets



Jacob Wells
@jacobawells

Jesus Follower! Husband, Father, Veteran, Entrepreneur.

📍 Massachusetts, USA 🌐 [GiveSendGo.com](https://www.givesendgo.com) 📅 Joined December 2011

63 Following 208 Followers

U.S. poultry producers harden safety measures as bird flu spreads

February 11, 2022 · 10:39 AM PST

By Tom Polansek

CHICAGO, Feb 11 (Reuters) - U.S. poultry producers are tightening safety measures for their flocks as disease experts warn that wild birds are likely spreading a highly lethal form of avian flu across the country. Indiana on Wednesday reported highly pathogenic bird flu on a commercial turkey farm, leading China, South Korea and Mexico to ban poultry imports from the state. The outbreak put the U.S. industry on edge at a time that labor shortages are fueling food inflation.

The disease is already widespread in Europe and affecting Africa, Asia and Canada, but the outbreak in Indiana, which is on a migratory bird pathway, particularly rattled U.S. producers. A devastating U.S. bird-flu outbreak in 2015 killed nearly 50 million birds, mostly turkeys and egg-laying chickens in the Midwest. The United States is the world's largest producer and second-largest exporter of poultry meat, according to the U.S. government.



A caged hen feeds at an egg farm in San Diego County in this picture taken July 29, 2008. REUTERS/Mike Blake

Reuters

[U.S. poultry producers harden safety measures as bird flu spreads](#)

1 day ago



Can humans get the avian flu?

These viruses occur naturally among wild aquatic birds worldwide and can infect domestic poultry and other bird and animal species. Avian flu **viruses do not normally infect humans**. However, sporadic human infections with avian flu viruses have occurred.

<https://www.cdc.gov/flu/avianflu>

[Information on Avian Influenza - CDC](#)

Deseret News

[New bird flu outbreak in Indiana: What you need to know](#)

2 days ago



Can you survive the avian flu?

You may be given an antiviral medicine such as **oseltamivir (Tamiflu)** or zanamivir (Relenza). Antiviral medicines help reduce the severity of the condition, prevent complications and improve the chances of survival.

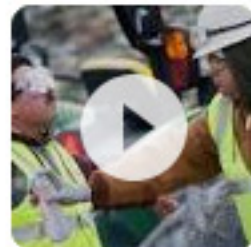
<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/bird-flu>

[Bird flu - NHS](#)

IndyStar

[Bird flu found on poultry farm in Indiana, nearly 30,000 turkeys killed to contain spread](#)

2 days ago



Netflix Paid Anna Sorokin A Large Lump Sum To Adapt Her Story For Television In 'Inventing Anna' Series

By [Valerie Complex](#)

February 12, 2022 8:30pm

Anna Sorokin (born 23 January 1991) is a Russian-German convicted fraudster. Between 2013 and 2017, while living in the U.S., she pretended to be a wealthy German heiress under the name Anna Delvey in order to defraud banks, hotels, and wealthy acquaintances. She was convicted of multiple counts of attempted grand larceny, larceny in the second degree, and theft of services in relation to these offenses in 2019.

Anna Sorokin aka Anna Delvey, the fake German heiress, was paid a hefty sum for her story in a Shonda Rhimes-created series titled, *Inventing Anna*. Of the \$320,000 Sorokin received from Netflix she paid 199,000 in restitution, 24,000 in state fines, and 75,000 in attorney fees. After she paid the restitution, the courts let her keep what little is left. *Inventing Anna* is currently streaming on Netflix.



Our favorite Winter Olympic photos, so far

February 12, 2022 · 7:51 AM ET

MARCO STOREL



China goalkeeper Jieruimi Shimisi (Jeremy Smith) (45) reaches for a goal by United States' Brian Oneill during a preliminary round men's hockey game at the 2022 Winter Olympics, Thursday, Feb. 10, 2022, in Beijing.



Nathan Chen, of the United States, competes in the men's free skate program during the figure skating event at the 2022 Winter Olympics, Thursday, Feb. 10, 2022, in Beijing.

Jeff Roberson/AP



Switzerland's Silvana Tirinzoni yells to her sweepers during a women's curling match against Britain at the Beijing Winter Olympics Thursday, Feb. 10, 2022, in Beijing.

Brynn Anderson/AP



Skiers fall while competing during the women's 7.5km + 7.5km Skiathlon cross-country skiing competition at the 2022 Winter Olympics, Saturday, Feb. 5, 2022, in Zhangjiakou, China.

John Locher/AP

Our favorite Winter Olympic photos, so far

February 12, 2022 · 7:51 AM ET

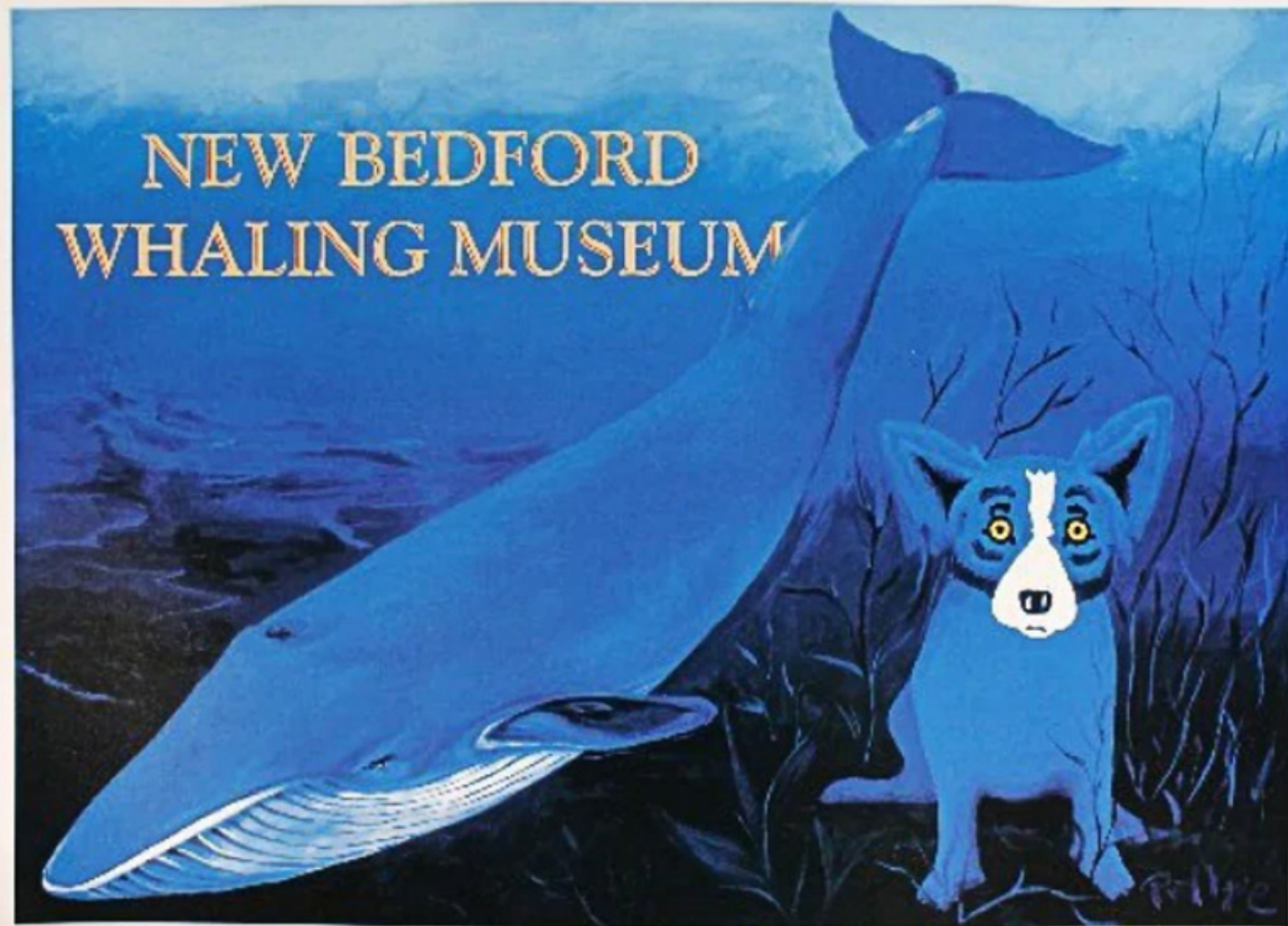
MARCO STOREL



USA's Alexa Knierim and USA's Brandon Frazier compete in the pair skating free skating of the figure skating team event during the Beijing 2022 Winter Olympic Games at the Capital Indoor Stadium in Beijing on February 7, 2022.

The Blue Dog Meets the Blue Whale by George Rodrigue

\$100.00



This limited edition print, *"The Blue Dog Meets the Blue Whale"* by George Rodrigue, from the artist's visit to The New Bedford Whaling Museum in 2000.

New Bedford Whaling Museum exclusive print with the artist's rendition of our very own KOBO alongside his signature Blue Dog.

Limited quantity of numbered prints.
Edition size 500.
18" x 24"

Unframed prints available:
unsigned: \$100.00
signed by artist: \$750.00
signed by artist and framed: \$1000.00



George Rodrigue Art
@George_Rodrigue

Official fan Twitter account for George Rodrigue (1944-2013), artist and creator of the Blue Dog series, run by Rodrigue Studio Also follow [@RodrigueFdn](#) [#artsed](#)

131 Following 2,627 Followers



Saying “No, thanks!” to the myth of Thanksgiving

The story of the POKANOKET is the story of Thanksgiving



<http://www.columbia.edu/~lmg21/BC3180/Irving/philip.htm>

PHILIP OF POKANOKET: AN INDIAN MEMOIR

from *The Sketch-Book of Geoffrey Crayon, Gent.* (1819–20)

by Washington Irving

IT IS to be regretted that those early writers, who treated of the discovery and settlement of America, have not given us more particular and candid accounts of the remarkable characters that flourished in savage life. The scanty anecdotes which have reached us are full of peculiarity and interest; they furnish us with nearer glimpses of human nature, and show what man is in a comparatively primitive state, and what he owes to civilization. There is something of the charm of discovery in lighting upon these wild and unexplored tracts of human nature; in witnessing, as it were, the native growth of moral sentiment, and perceiving those generous and romantic qualities which have been artificially cultivated by society, vegetating in spontaneous hardihood and rude magnificence.

In civilized life, where the happiness, and indeed almost the existence, of man depends so much upon the opinion of his fellow-men, he is constantly acting a studied part. The bold and peculiar traits of native character are refined away, or softened down by the leveling influence of what is termed good-breeding; and he practices so many petty deceptions, and affects so many generous sentiments, for the purposes of popularity, that it is difficult to distinguish his real from his artificial character. The Indian, on the contrary, free from the restraints and refinements of polished life, and, in a great degree, a solitary and independent being, obeys the impulses of his inclination or the dictates of his judgment; and thus the attributes of his nature, being freely indulged, grow singly great and striking. Society is like a lawn, where every roughness is smoothed, every bramble eradicated, and where the eye is delighted by the smiling verdure of a velvet surface; he, however, who would study nature in its wildness and variety, must plunge into the forest, must explore the glen, must stem the torrent, and dare the precipice.

These reflections arose on casually looking through a volume of early colonial history, wherein are recorded, with great bitterness, the outrages of the Indians, and their wars with the settlers of New England. It is painful to perceive even from these partial narratives, how the footsteps of civilization may be traced in the blood of the aborigines; **how easily the colonists were moved to hostility by the lust of conquest; how merciless and exterminating was their warfare.** The imagination shrinks at the idea, how many intellectual beings were hunted from the earth, how many brave and noble hearts, of nature's sterling coinage, were broken down and trampled in the dust!

Such was the fate of PHILIP OF POKANOKET, an Indian warrior, whose name was once a terror throughout Massachusetts and Connecticut. He was the most distinguished of a number of contemporary Sachems who reigned over the Peguods, the Narragansetts, the Wampanoags, and the other eastern tribes, at the time of the first settlement of New England; a band of native untaught heroes, who made the most generous struggle of which human nature is capable; fighting to the last gasp in the cause of their country, without a hope of victory or a thought of renown. Worthy of an age of poetry, and fit subjects for local story and romantic fiction, they have left scarcely any authentic traces on the page of history, but stalk, like gigantic shadows, in the dim twilight of tradition.

A man in upstate New York is fighting to keep his emotional support pig

February 11, 2022 · 1:53 AM ET

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Wyverne Flatt, who is fighting to keep his pot-bellied pig Ellie as an emotional support animal, poses for a photograph at his home in Canajoharie, N.Y.

Hans Pennink/AP

CANAJOHARIE, N.Y. — Ellie the potbellied pig snuggles up to Wyverne Flatt when he watches TV and sometimes rolls over to let him pet her belly. The 110-pound pig is "family," Flatt says, an emotional support animal who helped him through a divorce and the death of his mother. Officials in his upstate village of Canajoharie see it very differently. To them, the pig is a farm animal Flatt is harboring in the village illegally. The case could soon be headed to a criminal trial. But it has already caught the attention of pig partisans who believe the animals should be respected more as companions instead of just a food source.

"I could never dream of giving away somebody who's part of my family," Flatt said recently as he patted the pig in his kitchen. "She's very smart. She's more intelligent than my dogs. I think she can kind of hone in on you when you're feeling bad because she'll want to come in and snuggle with you."

Ellie is a knee-high Vietnamese potbellied pig with a black coat and hooves that clack on the floor as she walks from her kitchen food dish. Flatt was living in South Carolina when he got the pig in 2018, when she was "about as big as a shoe." She came north with Flatt in 2019 when he moved to Canajoharie, a modest village on the Mohawk River dominated by the husk of the old Beech-Nut food plant. Flatt, 54, bought a fixer-upper near the business center of the village with plans to remodel it and maybe open a restaurant on part of the ground floor. He also has two dogs and two cats. A village code officer told Flatt he was housing Ellie illegally in October 2019 during a visit for a building permit request. When the village noticed Ellie was still there six months later, Flatt was formally notified he was violating the local code barring farm animals in the village. Violation of a zoning code is a misdemeanor under state law, according to court filings.

Both sides have dug in since then.

Flatt says the village is picking on his pig, which he says is clean and smart. Several of his neighbors have signed affidavits saying they like Ellie. Village Mayor Jeff Baker said the board has no comment while the court case is pending. But an attorney for the village wrote in a court filing that the pig is a potential public health hazard. She argued that if "every citizen were to openly scoff at the Village zoning codes ... we would live in a lawless society." Ellie's fate could hinge on federal housing guidance that says municipalities should provide a "reasonable accommodation" when a person can demonstrate an animal provides emotional support for a disability-related need. Flatt's attorney argues that his client meets that test, saying that Ellie allowed Flatt to get off his medication and cope with his anxiety. The village has argued in court filings it is willing to make reasonable accommodations, but that Flatt never met the standard. A note from a nurse practitioner saying Ellie helped Flatt get off of medication is in dispute. And while he keeps in his wallet a laminated card illustrated with a headshot of Ellie saying she is a "registered emotional support animal," the village's attorney said it was obtained online for a fee with no formal legal process. "Defendant provided no legitimate proof that he is a person under disability, and no proof that his disability was remedied by having an emotional support animal, nor that the particular animal — a pig — was the only suitable remedy for his condition," attorney Kirsten Dunn wrote in a filing last year.

Flatt said he's received offers from people to house Ellie outside the village, but he wants to fight to keep her. "I'm hoping this sets a precedent that people start understanding that these are pets," he said. "These are not something you go home and slaughter and eat."

Kids with autism struggle to adapt to adulthood. One doctor is trying to change that

February 12, 2022 · 7:00 AM ET

NOAM LEVEY



Dr. Mai Pham is an internist and former senior Medicare and Medicaid official with degrees from Harvard and Johns Hopkins universities, but she still struggled to find care for her son with autism, Alex Roodman.

Training doctors to understand disabilities

Primary care physicians — a convenient option for many families — could fill some of those gaps if the doctors had better training, said Kristin Sohl, a pediatrician who teaches these skills at the University of Missouri. "We've got to make this accessible so that people can have access to what they need when and where they need it," Sohl said.

But many physicians feel ill-equipped to provide this care.

In one survey, just 40% said they were very confident that their care for patients with disabilities was as good as their care for other patients. Only about half strongly agreed that they welcome patients with disabilities.

Training remains one barrier. Even though as many as 16 million Americans have autism or another intellectual or developmental disability, the subject is a small part of the curriculum at most medical schools.

"It's a little bit like hot potato. Is the school supposed to counsel me? Is the pediatrician supposed to counsel me? ... Am I supposed to figure that out?" said Dr. Mai Pham, Alex's mother. "I think he always believed we were on his side. But he could also see that we were sometimes helpless."

Another obstacle, Sohl and others say, is a tendency in American health care to simply refer patients to specialists. "It's so hierarchical," Sohl said. Changing that has become Pham's life's work. She quit her job at a major health insurer in 2020 to start the Institute for Exceptional Care. The nonprofit aims to overhaul the way doctors are trained and paid so they can spend more time with patients with disabilities, instead of rushing through visits because of billing pressures. "We've made huge investments in the science and in some ways the clinical aspects of care," Pham said. "But we haven't thought about how to make any of that sustainable."

Pham said that this is particularly important because so many patients are aging — and developing medical conditions such as diabetes, heart disease and dementia. "How you communicate to someone like my son or how you manage chronic conditions for him will need to be different," Pham said. "The health system hasn't thought about that." **Help for Alex ultimately came from a specialist. Adler Werner, whom Pham found through friends, became what Pham described as an "autism coach," helping the family understand what Alex was experiencing.**

Adler Werner, now a cognitive behavioral therapist, focused on empowering Alex so he could appreciate his strengths and develop tools to navigate challenging tasks like communicating verbally and managing stress. "What we want to be doing is working with young people to allow them to understand their differences, accept and own them, not have them be seen ... as character flaws," Adler Werner explained. "Alexander is really extraordinary and unbelievably interesting."

I caught up with Alex not long ago in Vermont. He's at a program that helps teenagers like him develop skills to live independently. He's taking math at the University of Vermont. He has been rock climbing and hiking with classmates in the Green Mountains. Alex said he has been enjoying himself. "I'm learning about muscles I never knew I had," he said.

Pham and her husband have been cheered by his progress. But they still worry about what's ahead for Alex in a health care system that's unprepared for him.

Uber adds passengers, food orders amid omicron surge

February 10, 2022 - 6:28 AM ET

PETER GRANITZ



Uber announced an 83% jump in revenue last quarter, and the company recorded a record number of users despite the spread of the omicron variant.

Ride-hailing giant Uber reported more riders last quarter and a boost in food deliveries as people ventured out - and ordered in - despite the spread of the omicron variant. The company announced in its 4th quarter earnings call Wednesday it had more than 118 million active users - its highest number ever. Gross Mobility Bookings, the total amount of ride-sharing trips, increased 67% year on year.

Company CEO Dara Khosrowshahi called omicron a "temporary deterrent" to demand at the end of December, but he said the company was bouncing back from the variant and "our results demonstrate just how far we've come since the beginning of the pandemic."

"The Omicron impact on our Mobility business has come and gone relatively quickly," Khosrowshahi said. "Even faster than global case counts." He told investors Wednesday that bookings were up 25% last week month-on-month.

The business also saw an uptick in food delivery, with orders up 34% compared to the same period last year.

Lyft, meanwhile, recorded a 49% increase in riders over the year, but registered a slight dip in users in the last three months of 2021.

"Despite short-term headwinds from omicron, we remain optimistic about full-year 2022," CEO Elaine Paul said in a Lyft earnings call Tuesday.

The news of increased rides in 2021 on both platforms came as Dr. Anthony Fauci, the White House Chief Medical Advisor, offered an optimistic view of the future course of the pandemic. Fauci told the Financial Times Wednesday the U.S. is emerging from the "full-blown phase" of the pandemic, and "I hope we are looking at a time when we have enough people vaccinated and enough people with protection from previous infection that the Covid restrictions will soon be a thing of the past."

A number of governors have announced they're easing those restrictions now, including New York Gov. Kathy Hochul. As of Thursday, private businesses in New York will no longer be required to enforce vaccine and masking rules.

Germany's dependence on Russian gas is front and center in the Russia-Ukraine crisis

The U.S. and allies have promised oil and gas sanctions against Russia if it invades Ukraine — a potential blow to Russia's economy and a serious threat to Europe's fuel needs. Also, truckers protesting in Canada are waving Confederate flags and swastikas. See those and more of today's top stories.



A Russian warship sails through the Bosphorus Strait past Istanbul en route to the Black Sea on Wednesday.

EDUCATION

A top researcher says it's time to rethink our entire approach to preschool

February 10, 2022 · 6:05 AM ET



ANYA KAMENETZ



Dale Farran has been studying early childhood education for half a century. Yet her most recent scientific publication has made her question everything she thought she knew. "It really has required a lot of soul-searching, a lot of reading of the literature to try to think of what were plausible reasons that might account for this." And by "this," she means the outcome of a study that lasted more than a decade. It included 2,990 low-income children in Tennessee who applied to free, public prekindergarten programs. Some were admitted by lottery, and the others were rejected, creating the closest thing you can get in the real world to a randomized, controlled trial — the gold standard in showing causality in science.

Farran and her co-authors at Vanderbilt University followed both groups of children all the way through sixth grade. At the end of their first year, the kids who went to pre-K scored higher on school readiness — as expected. But after third grade, they were doing worse than the control group. And at the end of sixth grade, they were doing even worse. They had lower test scores, were more likely to be in special education, and were more likely to get into trouble in school, including serious trouble like suspensions. "Whereas in third grade we saw negative effects on one of the three state achievement tests, in sixth grade we saw it on all three — math, science and reading," says Farran. "In third grade, where we had seen effects on one type of suspension, which is minor violations, by sixth grade we're seeing it on both types of suspensions, both major and minor."

That's right. A statewide public pre-K program, taught by licensed teachers, housed in public schools, had a measurable and statistically significant negative effect on the children in this study.

Farran hadn't expected it. She didn't like it. But her study design was unusually strong, so she couldn't easily explain it away. "This is still the only randomized controlled trial of a statewide pre-K, and I know that people get upset about this and don't want it to be true."

[...]

Where to go from here

The United States has a child care crisis that COVID-19 both intensified and highlighted. Progressive policymakers and advocates have tried for years to expand public support for child care by "pushing it down" from the existing public school system, using the teachers and the buildings.

Farran praises the direction that New York City, for one, has taken instead: a "mixed-delivery" program with slots for 3- and 4-year-olds. Some kids attend free public preschool in existing nonprofit day care centers, some in Head Start programs and some in traditional schools.

But the biggest lesson Farran has drawn from her research is that we've simply asked too much of pre-K, based on early results from what were essentially showcase pilot programs. "We tend to want a magic bullet," she says.

"Whoever thought that you could provide a 4-year-old from an impoverished family with 5 1/2 hours a day, nine months a year of preschool, and close the achievement gap, and send them to college at a higher rate?" she asks. "I mean, why? Why do we put so much pressure on our pre-K programs?"

We might actually get better results, she says, from simply letting little children play.

COVID-19 takes serious toll on heart health—a full year after recovery

Giant study shows striking rise in long-term heart and vessel disease

9 FEB 2022 • 3:00 PM • BY [MEREDITH WADMAN](#)

From very early in the pandemic, it was clear that SARS-CoV-2 can damage the heart and blood vessels while people are acutely ill. Patients developed clots, heart inflammation, arrhythmias, and heart failure. Now, the first large study to assess cardiovascular outcomes 1 year after SARS-CoV-2 infection has demonstrated that the virus' impact is often lasting. In an analysis of more than 11 million U.S. veterans' health records, researchers found the risk of 20 different heart and vessel maladies was substantially increased in veterans who had COVID-19 1 year earlier, compared with those who didn't. The risk rose with severity of initial disease and extended to every outcome the team examined, including heart attacks, arrhythmias, strokes, cardiac arrest, and more. Even people who never went to the hospital had more cardiovascular disease than those who were never infected. The results are "stunning ... worse than I expected, for sure," says Eric Topol, a cardiologist at Scripps Research. "All of these are very serious disorders. ... If anybody ever thought that COVID was like the flu this should be one of the most powerful data sets to point out it's not." He adds that the new study "may be the most impressive Long Covid paper we have seen to date."

Others agree the results of the study, published in *Nature Medicine* on 7 February, are powerful. "In the post-COVID era, COVID might become the highest risk factor for cardiovascular outcomes," greater than well-documented risks such as smoking and obesity, says Larisa Tereshchenko, a cardiologist and biostatistician at the Cleveland Clinic, who recently conducted a similar, much smaller analysis. She cautions that the new study will need to be replicated, and that it was retrospective, possibly introducing inaccuracies such as incorporating faulty diagnoses from patient records. "It looked back. We have to do prospective studies to calculate accurate estimates." Nor do researchers know how the virus orchestrates this long-term damage. But they think the cardiovascular risks and the constellation of symptoms collectively known as Long Covid (which include brain fog, fatigue, weakness, and loss of smell) could have common roots.

"This is clearly evidence of long-term heart and vascular damage. Similar things could be happening in the brain and other organs resulting in symptoms characteristic of Long Covid, including brain fog," says senior author Ziyad Al-Aly, a clinical epidemiologist at Washington University in St. Louis and chief of research at the VA St Louis Health Care system.

The researchers drew on the largest set of electronic health records in the United States, at the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). They analyzed data from nearly 154,000 people who contracted COVID-19 between March 2020 and January 2021, and who survived at least 30 days after becoming infected. They also identified two control groups: 5.6 million people who sought VA care during the pandemic but were not diagnosed with COVID-19, and 5.9 million people who sought VA care in 2017.

One limitation of the study is that the veteran population skews older, white, and male: In all three groups, about 90% of patients were men and 71% to 76% were white. Patients were in their early 60s, on average. The researchers controlled for the possibility that the people who contracted COVID-19 were already more prone to developing cardiovascular disease. They found that "COVID is an equal opportunity offender," Al-Aly says. "We found an increased risk of cardiovascular problems in old people and in young people, in people with diabetes and without diabetes, in people with obesity and people without obesity, in people who smoked and who never smoked."

COVID-19 boosted the risk of all 20 cardiovascular ailments studied, including heart attacks, arrhythmias, strokes, transient ischemic attacks, heart failure, inflammatory heart disease, cardiac arrest, pulmonary embolism, and deep vein thrombosis. For example, **veterans who had had COVID-19 faced a 72% higher risk of heart failure after 12 months than those in a control group who didn't test positive. That translated to nearly 12 more infected people per 1000 developing heart failure than those in a control group. Overall, the investigators found 45 more infected people per 1000 developed any of the 20 conditions than did uninfected controls.**

Because the researchers used statistical tools to try to correct for the scarcity of women and people of color in the study, the results are likely to be relevant for those groups, too, says Elizabeth Ofili, a preventive cardiologist at Morehouse School of Medicine who focuses on disparities in heart disease between men and women. "The correction for gender and race goes a long way," she says.

Just how the virus causes long-term damage to the heart and blood vessels remains a matter of debate and active research. One possible mechanism is inflammation of the endothelial cells that line the inside of the heart and blood vessels, Al-Aly says. But the researchers also include a laundry list of potential mechanisms, including lingering damage from direct viral invasion of the heart muscle; elevated levels of proinflammatory chemical messengers called cytokines that lead to scarring of the heart; and persistent virus in sites not effectively dealt with by the immune system. "The putative mechanistic pathways are still in the realm of speculation or hypothesis," Al-Aly says.

The authors say their findings suggest millions of COVID-19 survivors could suffer long-term consequences, straining health systems for years to come. "Governments and health systems around the world should be prepared to deal with the likely significant contribution of the COVID-19 pandemic to a rise in the burden of cardiovascular diseases," they write in the paper. **Al-Aly adds: "What really worries me is that some of these conditions are chronic conditions that will literally scar people for a lifetime. It's not like you wake up tomorrow and suddenly no longer have heart failure."**



A painting by Nicolas Poussin titled 'The Athenian Plague' shows people dying of the plague. Bettmann / Contributor via Getty Images

The Ancient Greeks also lived through a plague, and they too blamed their leaders for their suffering

February 16, 2022 8:17am EST

 Joel Christensen, Brandeis University

Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, as a scholar of ancient Greek literature, I have returned again and again to the Greek historian Thucydides to try understand the historical parallels to the American response to the health crisis.

Thucydides – a onetime general and historian of the Peloponnesian War, a generationlong struggle between Athens and Sparta – presents one of the most famous accounts of a plague from antiquity.

Then, as now, the story forms the backdrop for tragedy and conflict as Thucydides focuses on the emotional impact of living through a plague.

[...]

Leading for the public good

The Athenians lost the war with Sparta not because of the plague, but the plague did reveal the fault lines beneath the surface of Athenian culture. As Katherine Kelaidis, a scholar at the National Hellenic Museum, frames it, the disease was a moral test of the physical and political structures of Athens.

The Athenians lost tens of thousands of their citizens and soldiers and uncounted numbers of enslaved peoples and resident aliens, but they continued to fight for another 20 years. In the end, political factions and civil strife undermined their efforts to defend their state.

{PHOTO: Two young scientists wearing protective masks and caps working on their computers that have an image of the coronavirus. Amid despair, the pandemic has shown the remarkable work of scientists.}

COVID-19 has shown the deep divisions among Americans, the lack of concern many of our neighbors show for one another, the fragility of the public health system and the limits of the leadership to meet collective challenges. But it has also shown the remarkable speed and creativity of scientists and the benefits of collaboration across international boundaries in helping us meet the unexpected.

Ancient Greek history and literature can help us understand the long-term social impacts of disease. They also show how fractious politics can undermine even heroic responses to public health challenges.



Friends and family light candles for COVID-19 victims during a memorial and vigil in Wilkes-Barre, Pa. Aimee Dilger/SOPA Images/LightRocket via Getty Images

Plague in an Ancient City, Michiel Sweerts, c. 1652–1654



The Plague of Athens was an epidemic that devastated the city-state of Athens in ancient Greece during the second year (430 BC) of the Peloponnesian War when an Athenian victory still seemed within reach. The plague killed an estimated 75,000 to 100,000 people, around one quarter of the population, and is believed to have entered Athens through Piraeus, the city's port and sole source of food and supplies. Much of the eastern Mediterranean also saw an outbreak of the disease, albeit with less impact. The plague had serious effects on Athens' society, resulting in a lack of adherence to laws and religious belief; in response laws became stricter, resulting in the punishment of non-citizens claiming to be Athenian. Among the victims of the plague was Pericles, the leader of Athens. The plague returned twice more, in 429 BC and in the winter of 427/426 BC. **Some 30 pathogens have been suggested as having caused the plague.**

List of epidemics

This is a list of the largest known epidemics and pandemics caused by an infectious disease. Widespread non-communicable diseases such as cardiovascular disease and cancer are not included. An epidemic is the rapid spread of disease to a large number of people in a given population within a short period of time; in meningococcal infections, an attack rate in excess of 15 cases per 100,000 people for two consecutive weeks is considered an epidemic. Due to the long time spans, the first plague pandemic (6th century–8th century) and the second plague pandemic (14th century–early 19th century) are shown by individual outbreaks, such as the Plague of Justinian (first pandemic) and the Black Death (second pandemic).

Chronology

Events in ***boldface*** are ongoing.

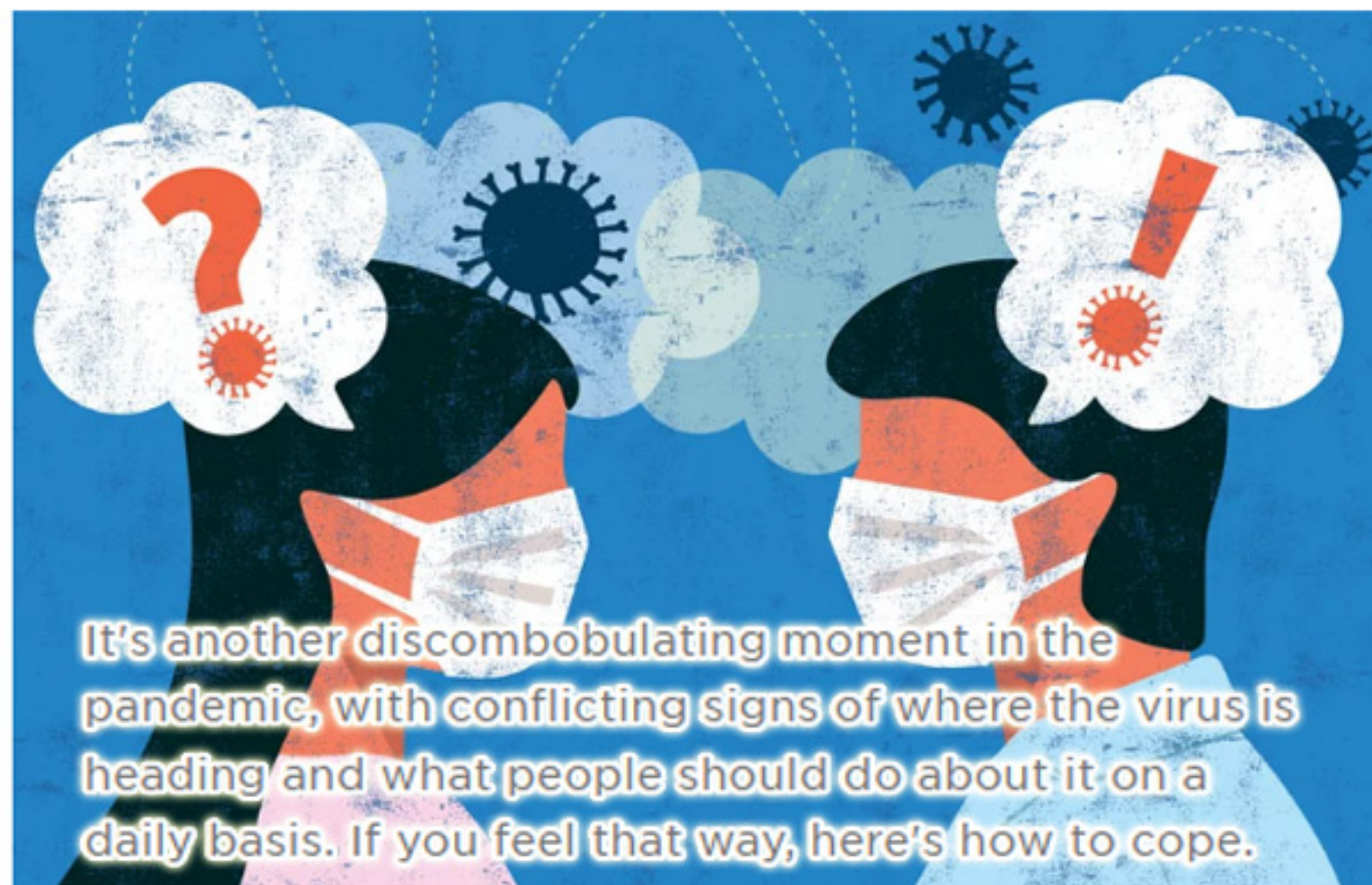
Event	Date	Location	Disease	Death toll (estimate)
Black Death (start of the second plague pandemic)	1346–1353	Eurasia and North Africa	Bubonic plague  Yersinia pestis bacterium	75–200 million (30–60% of European population)
1918 influenza pandemic ('Spanish flu')	1918–1920	Worldwide	Influenza A virus subtype H1N1  H1N1 virus	17–100 million
Plague of Justinian (beginning of first plague pandemic)	541–549	Europe and West Asia	Bubonic plague	15–100 million
HIV/AIDS pandemic	1981–present	Worldwide	HIV/AIDS  Human immunodeficiency virus	36.3 million (as of 2020)
COVID-19 pandemic	2019–present	Worldwide	Coronavirus disease 2019 / COVID-19  SARS-CoV-2 virus	5.8–23 million+ (as of February 9, 2022)
Third plague pandemic	1855–1960	Worldwide	Bubonic plague	12–15 million (India and China)

Epidemics by Death Toll (date)

Black Death	1346–1353
1918 influenza pandemic	1918–1920
Plague of Justinian	541–549
HIV/AIDS pandemic	1981–present
COVID-19 pandemic	2019–present
Third plague pandemic	1855–1960
Cocoliztli epidemic	1545–1548
Mexico smallpox epidemic	1519–1520
Russia typhus epidemic	1918–1922
Influenza pandemic ('Asian flu')	1957–1958
Hong Kong flu	1968–1970
Cocoliztli epidemic	1576–1580
Persian Plague	1772–1773
Japanese smallpox epidemic	735–737
Naples Plague	1656–1658
Third cholera pandemic	1846–1860
Italian plague	1629–1631
Influenza pandemic	1889–1890
Sixth cholera pandemic	1899–1923
Russian flu	1977–1979
Spain plague epidemic	1596–1602
Fourth cholera pandemic	1863–1875
Europe smallpox epidemic	1870–1875
Congo Basin African trypanosomiasis epidemic	1896–1906
Encephalitis lethargica pandemic	1915–1926
Great Plague of Seville	1647–1652
Ottoman plague epidemic	1812–1819
Russia typhus epidemic	1812
Fifth cholera pandemic	1881–1896
Swine flu pandemic	2009–2010
Uganda African trypanosomiasis epidemic	1900–1920
Chinese plague epidemic	1633–1644
Great Northern War plague	1710–1712
Pacific Northwest malaria epidemic	1829–1833
First cholera pandemic	1817–1824
Great Plague of Marseille	1720–1722
Second cholera pandemic	1826–1837
Great Plague of London	1665–1666
>> Plague of Athens	429–426 BC
1681 Prague plague epidemic	1681
United States typhoid fever epidemic	1861–1865
Malaria outbreak in Ceylon	1906–1936
Great Plague of Vienna	1679
Ireland typhus epidemic	1817–1819

If you're finding this stage of the pandemic especially confusing, you're not alone

Updated February 15, 2022 · 5:48 PM ET



The omicron surge is declining fast in the U.S. One state after another is lifting their mask mandates. But more than 175,000 people are still catching the virus, and more than 2,200 people are still dying from COVID-19, every day. And federal officials say it's too soon to loosen restrictions.

Is your head spinning? Are you feeling anxious?

It's not surprising, according to psychologists, sociologists and medical anthropologists. "It's very confusing," says Ayelet Fishbach, a professor of behavioral science at the University of Chicago. "You wake up in the morning and and you wonder: 'Maybe we are over it and no one told me.' Or maybe: 'It's terrible and I should not do my shopping in person.'" And that, Fishbach says, leaves many people struggling to know: Should I keep wearing my mask? When can I safely take it off? Should I go to a party, or skip it to stay safe? And maybe even feeling more distressed than ever. "This kind of situation makes people feel very uncomfortable," she says.

Part of the problem is the conflicting, ever-changing advice people are hearing from different political leaders. "The sense that you're standing on shifting sands

Part of the problem is the conflicting, ever-changing advice people are hearing from different political leaders. "The sense that you're standing on shifting sands does put you in an awkward situation about: 'What do I do? And, what don't I do? And what they told me yesterday may be different from what they're telling me today,'" says Monica Shoch-Spana, a medical anthropologist at the Johns Hopkins Center for Health Security. Not quite endemic. The confusion is compounded by the fact that a pandemic is unlike other traumatic events, such as natural disasters, in important ways, Shoch-Spana says. There are no obvious cues people can judge for ourselves to assess the risk. That leaves people to figure things out for themselves, without much clear guidance, seemingly indefinitely. "That's what makes this situation unique. With hurricanes and natural disasters, there's a beginning, a middle and an end," said C. Vaile Wright of the American Psychological Association. "This still has no end."

Many experts are predicting the pandemic may be on the way to becoming endemic, meaning COVID cases will typically be less severe, and the disease's impact on society will be more predictable and hopefully far less disruptive to daily life. But the virus is still far from becoming endemic yet. And even when and if it does, it won't be gone. It'll still be infecting, sickening and killing people. So people will still have to navigate day-to-day decisions about risk. That could easily vary over time, and in different seasons, and depending on your own underlying immunity and health status.

Plus, of course, there's the ongoing threat of new variants.

"I think of the pandemic at this point kind of like an old horror movie where you keep thinking that your nemesis, the evil person chasing you, is dead. And they always seem to come back and be there right with you," says Jay Van Bavel, a psychologist at New York University.

"And that's what's happened with these mutations. Every time we think we're moving into normal life, again there's a setback," Van Bavel says.

Coping with lurking fears

But there are strategies people can use to cope, the experts say. First of all, take a calm look at your own situation. People who are at greater risk because of factors such as their age or underlying health conditions will need to continue to take more precautions. And the risk will vary depending on variables such as how much the virus is still spreading where you live and the vaccination rate there. And then, as you continue to try to make good decisions about your risk, one strategy is to do everything possible to get a good night's sleep, exercise regularly

Are you worried about inflation or a falling stock market shrinking your savings?

January 26, 2022 · 6:10 PM ET



We want to hear from you!

NPR

With inflation climbing and the stock market in decline, retirees and many other people are getting hit with a double whammy.

NPR wants to know how you're being affected by falling stock values or the rising price of gas, food, and utilities.

Of course, we can't predict where the stock market is going or if inflation is here to stay, but are you concerned all this may change your plans for retirement or impact you in other ways?

Sharing your story will help reporters understand what Americans are grappling with financially right now. We may contact you to see if you'd like to do an interview for a story.

Please tell us your story by filling out the form below.

Name *

First Name

Last Name

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We do not share your personal info. And if we want to reach out to you regarding a story a phone number is very helpful!

It's not just home prices. Rents rise sharply across the U.S.

February 14, 2022 · 10:04 AM ET



CHRIS ARNOLD



A for rent sign in Palo Alto, California. Across the country rents are on the rise, in part due to a historic shortage of homes either to rent or buy.

The cost of renting a place in Orlando rose nearly 30% just last year alone, according to a survey by the real estate firm Redfin. Cities in Florida, New York, and New Jersey are seeing particularly steep jumps in rent. As is Austin, Texas, with the biggest one year gain of 40%. The survey, it should be noted, tracks new listings for apartments.

"That doesn't literally mean that every person in Austin is going to see their rent go up 40 percent," says Redfin's Chief Economist Daryl Fairweather. "But it means that **if you are on the market right now looking for an apartment or home to rent, the prices will be 40 percent higher than they were the year before.**"

Some of the forces driving rents higher differ from city to city. Fairweather says a lot of technology workers have been moving to Austin and the migration of more people there is pushing up both rents and home prices. In New York City, rents are rebounding after falling earlier in the pandemic.

But she says rents are rising more than usual just about everywhere.

"The root cause of the problem is a lack of supply," Fairweather says. "We have not built enough homes to meet demand." There a bunch of reasons for that. One of the biggest, she says, is restrictive zoning. Especially in higher-cost parts of the country, zoning rules make it hard to build cheaper smaller houses or apartments that are tightly packed together.

Meanwhile, Fairweather says more millennials in their late 20s and early 30s feel like they're done with roommates or their parents' basement. "Millennials are the biggest generation," she says. "We're forming households, and we want a place of our own and that is causing an increase in demand."

Redfin's survey looks at the **50 largest U.S. cities**. On average, it found the rents landlords were seeking for available homes and apartments rose 3% in 2020, which is about normal for recent years. But then **last year, they rose 14%**.

Government data show that the rent Americans are actually paying — not just the change in price for new listings — rose 3.8% over the past year. But, while less dramatic, that consumer price index also shows rents have been rising more than usual the past few months.

Home prices rose faster than ever in 2021. The typical home gained \$50,000 in value

January 20, 2022 - 2:46 PM ET



CHRIS ARNOLD



New homes under construction in Mebane, N.C., earlier this month. A historic shortage of homes for sale has been pushing prices sharply higher. So builders are trying to ramp up projects.

Home values rose faster than ever in 2021. The median sales price for an existing home was \$346,900, up a whopping 17% from the prior year.

That made things tough for people looking to buy a house for the first time.

But for those who already own the roof over their head, the typical American homeowner saw a gain of \$50,200 in home equity, or housing wealth, in just a single year.

"The price increase is a record," says Lawrence Yun the chief economist for the National Association of Realtors which just came out with the new numbers. He adds that the rise in home values is "even stronger than the days of subprime lending." Yun is referring to the ruinous lending practices that fueled the housing bubble and led to the financial crisis 15 years ago. Back then prices were getting artificially boosted because people were paying more than they could actually afford. But Yun says reforms put in place by Congress since then insure that people can afford the home loans they get. So something very different is happening now.

"We are facing a major housing shortage," Yun says. "In December, we saw record low inventory, an all time low, there's simply not enough homes available for sale."

Meanwhile, during the pandemic, millions of people working from home have wanted more space and have been trying to buy homes. Record low supply, coupled with strong demand, has pushed prices up quickly and dramatically. But Yun expects price gains to moderate this year, perhaps to around 4% to 5%. "The price gains will begin to normalize," he says. "And people should not anticipate another year of this double digit rate of appreciation."

Still, the housing market will remain out of balance so long as the supply of homes is so constricted. **After the financial crisis, many homebuilders went out of business, and for a decade the builders that were left did not build enough homes given population growth.** In fact, estimates are that the U.S. is short several million homes. And building more won't happen overnight.

Homebuilders say they are facing major headwinds including, in many places, a lack of available land, labor, building materials, and overly restrictive zoning.

"Policymakers could help by reducing lumber tariffs," says Robert Dietz, the chief economist of the National Association of Homebuilders. He says local and state governments could also help get more affordable homes built by, "enacting zoning reform to allow builders to build with greater density." He says workforce development programs to train construction workers are needed too.



What happens when the voices of a few drown out the views of the many? Ed Jones/AFP via Getty Images

Canadian trucker protests show how the loudest voices in the room distort democracy

February 16, 2022 8:15am EST

Matthew Jordan, Sydney Forde, Penn State

After Canadian truckers upset with vaccination mandates made their way to Ottawa, they parked their vehicles near Parliament and started making noise — lots of it — blasting their air horns day and night, disturbing the repose of citizens at home, work and in school. The local reaction was swift. Hundreds of noise complaints prompted Ottawa police to issue tickets and declare a state of emergency. The noise of air horns continued, undeterred. Some residents fled the city; on Feb. 7, 2022, fed-up Ottawans filed a class-action lawsuit calling for quiet. A lawyer representing organizers of the convoy — an amalgamation of conservative activists, anti-government agitators and conspiracy theorists — claimed that blasting hundreds of 105-decibel horns was merely “part of the democratic process.” However, Justice Hugh McLean ruled for the plaintiffs. “Tooting a horn,” he declared, “is not an expression of any great thought I’m aware of.”

As scholars who study media and democracy, we believe the defendants are correct to argue that they should be able to protest and contribute to an ongoing debate. However, not all voices are pitched the same. Amplified by technology, it’s easy for a loud and relentless minority to dominate the soundscape and drown out all other points of view.

Controlling noise to keep the peace: States curbing noise in defense of citizens’ right to be left alone is nothing new. In 44 B.C., Julius Caesar ruled that “no one shall drive a wagon along the streets of Rome or along those streets in the suburbs where there is continuous housing.” By the Middle Ages, most cities had a range of bells, chimes and sound signals that were used to communicate, and people who lived there understood when they should and should not be used. During the Industrial Revolution, all kinds of new noises produced by technology disrupted the peace, requiring new laws to curtail factories, steam engines and their whistles, clanging bells, and the roaring crowds that packed cities.

By the early 20th century, as automobiles started taking over the soundscapes, cities and states around the globe created new laws that balanced drivers’ need to use horns with residents’ need to be left alone in their homes. Noise is always a social problem when people have to share space. Democratic deliberation, which involves speaking, listening and often quietly thinking, depends on such community norms. Amplification technology distorts conversations, making it possible for a few voices to drown out the many.

Media megaphones: Connected by digital telecommunication technologies, today’s vast democracies are just as vulnerable to problems caused by a different sort of amplification in local public spaces: media amplification. *Fifty years ago, the convoy and its noise would have likely remained a local ordinance issue. Instead, the story has morphed into an international incident thanks to amplification by digital and traditional media networks.* Conservative media have been framing the truckers as a grass-roots movement with overwhelming support — working-class heroes fighting the repressive state. Fox News has devoted significant coverage to the protests, while right-wing media influencers like Ben Shapiro have latched onto the “silent minority versus the state” storyline, disseminating it to their huge followings.

Money can also amplify, and reporters have traced much of it back to international groups utilizing hacked Facebook pages. One Bangladeshi marketing firm specializing in computational propaganda easily exploited Facebook’s lax oversight — and the way its algorithm rewards divisive content — to pump up the volume on misinformation about the legality of mandates, provoking a sense of grievance that allowed it to raise millions in dark money. *The amplification has distorted the public health conversation and the reality of public opinion.* Over 80% of Canadians and 90% of Canadian truckers are vaccinated. Meanwhile, Canada’s biggest trucking alliance, the CTA, has denounced the noisy agitators: “CTA believes such actions — especially those that interfere with public safety — are not how disagreements with government policies should be expressed.”

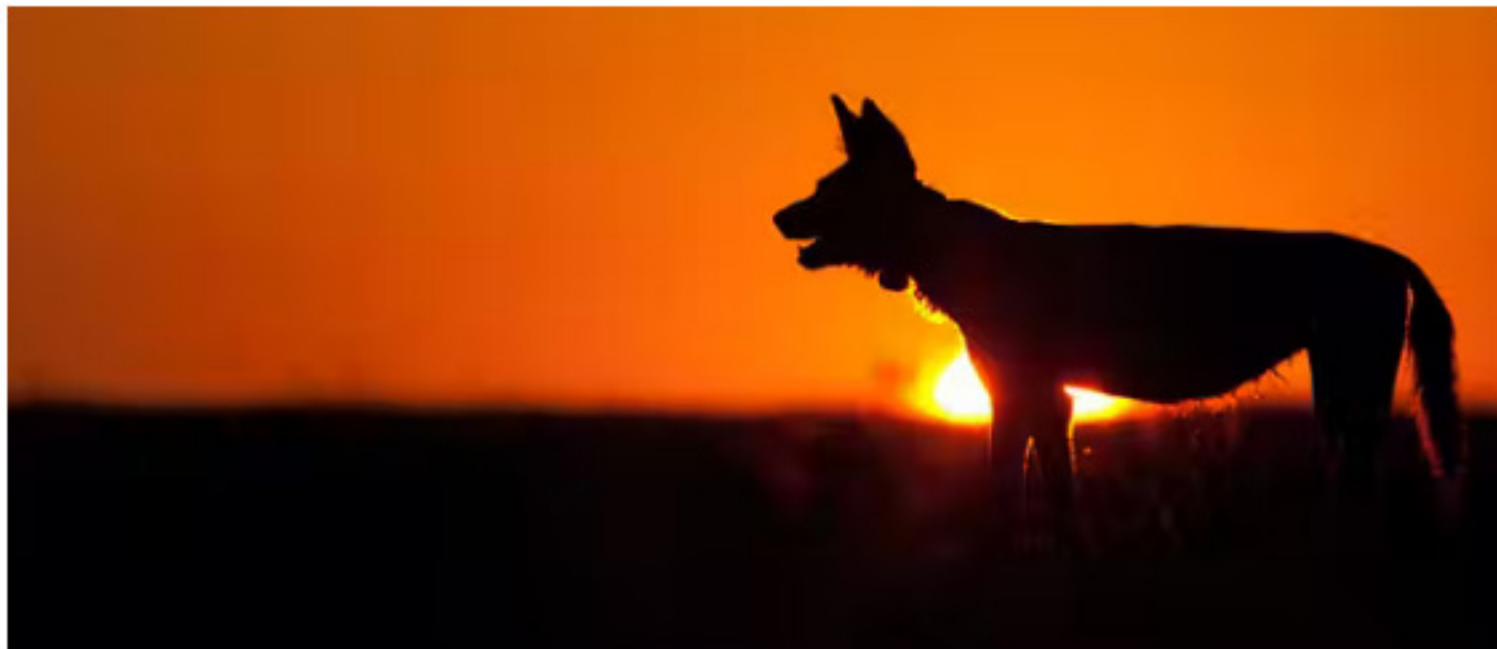
Many truckers in Canada, including the nearly 1 in 5 who have South Asian heritage, do not feel heard. Sagroop Singh, the president of the Ontario Aggregate Trucking Association, where more than half of truckers are South Asian, stated, “We don’t even know who the organizers of this protest are. Nobody asked us if we agree with their demands.” Many truckers think this incident has prioritized the divisive rhetoric of American and international far-right groups over their voices, diverting the conversation away from important issues for Canadian truckers, like road safety and higher wages. Like speaking, listening is also a right

In a pluralistic democracy, it is important that all voices be heard.

But the truckers who occupied Ottawa and a growing number of sites along the border using noisy intimidation aren’t merely asking to be heard; they are drowning out dialogue and stoking fears of a violent insurrection.

Freedom of speech should not only be measured by an absence of limits on who can speak: Along with the right to be heard is what filmmaker Astra Taylor has called “the right to listen.” You can’t hear other voices in a pluralistic democracy if a disruptive minority, amplified by money and noise-making technology, has the dial on their amp turned up to 11.

When the loudest voice in the room is rewarded with disproportionate media attention, it negates the rights of others. Having a conversation about ways to lower the decibels isn’t a matter of censorship. It’s about balancing a shared soundscape so that a full range of voices can be heard.



Wild dogs are usually with their pack mates. Scott Creel, CC BY-ND

African wild dogs cope with human development using skills they rely on to compete with other carnivores

February 16, 2022 8.15am EST

Scott Creel, Montana State University

Large carnivores in Africa are important from ecological, economic and cultural perspectives, but human activities put them at risk. Increasingly, lions, hyenas and African wild dogs are restricted to protected areas like national parks. Within these limited areas, they must compete for the same food sources. Competition is, of course, nothing new. For several million years, African wild dogs have evolved within a set of large carnivores that all prey on the same large herbivore species, like wildebeest and warthogs. Wild dogs are lanky, long-distance hunters that always live in groups, usually of eight to 10 adults. Cooperation with pack mates allows them to hunt prey much larger than themselves. Weighing in at about 40-62 pounds (18-28 kilograms), wild dogs have been shaped by the necessity to compete with larger species like the lion and spotted hyena.

Meeting the African wild dog: In the late 1980s, I was studying dwarf mongooses in Tanzania's Serengeti National Park when an extraordinary thing happened. While I sat on the roof of an ancient Land Rover watching mongooses on a nearby termite mound, a wild dog trotted past. And then another, and another. Wild dogs had been missing from most (perhaps all) of the Serengeti for years due to a combination of intense competition from larger carnivores and outbreaks of rabies. But here they were, back again. Over the next year, I occasionally followed the dogs to watch them hunt on the shortgrass plains, where they were constantly shadowed by spotted hyenas. Several hyenas often trailed the dogs even as they set out to hunt, and hyenas quickly aggregated when the dogs killed a gazelle or wildebeest – often alerted by the unmistakable sound of vultures plummeting through the air in their own race to the fresh carcass.

Although they are half the size, wild dogs do not easily give up a kill to hyenas. A pack of wild dogs making a coordinated attack on one or two hyenas can easily drive them off. But hyenas are also social animals, and researchers found that the dogs generally lost their kills to hyenas when their numbers were equal. Given the large population of hyenas in Serengeti, they took nine out of 10 kills that the dogs made. And lions are simply too dangerous to fight, so the big cats could always take over a kill from the dogs, and kill them surprisingly often. My colleagues and I spent six years in the 1990s observing wild dogs in the Selous Game Reserve, confirming the Tanzania Wildlife Department's belief that this large ecosystem was a major stronghold for the species. We found that the density of wild dogs in Selous was very good, at least partly because wild dogs were better able to avoid problems with lions and spotted hyenas in the miombo woodland of Selous than in plains of the Serengeti. It was more evidence that not only could they survive outside of grasslands like in the Serengeti, but African wild dogs found advantages to other kinds of environments. By the mid-1990s, a scientific consensus was emerging that the persistence of wild dogs in an area depends at least partly on their ability to avoid losing food to hyenas or being killed by lions.

Being bottom dog can pay off: Many studies, including our current research in Zambia, have confirmed that wild dogs are adapted to "live in the cracks" of a landscape where they are outnumbered and outsized by spotted hyenas and lions. In the short term, wild dogs move quickly away from an encounter with lions – or an experimental playback of their roars over a loudspeaker – in a straight line that would be unusual under other circumstances. Over the long term, wild dogs avoid areas that are heavily used by larger competitors, even though this requires them to hunt in areas with fewer prey. But there may be a benefit to being at the bottom of the competitive hierarchy. Compared to most species, all of the large African carnivores live in small and isolated populations that must remain connected to maintain genetic diversity. But humans have now modified more than half of the Earth's terrestrial surface, cutting lines of movement and increasing the isolation of protected areas. Despite this general pattern, some species are better adapted than others to maintain connections between ecosystems. Our research has used advances in genetic sequencing to test how well connected wild dogs and lions are in several ecosystems across Zambia and Tanzania. The basic idea is that well-connected populations remain genetically similar, but poorly connected populations become genetically distinct from one another over time.

[...]

While it is still too early to know if this pattern will apply to other species, it suggests that eons of dealing with lions and hyenas have provided the wild dog with tools that help them maneuver through the unforgiving landscapes that humans create outside of national parks.

US could see a century's worth of sea rise in just 30 years

By SETH BORENSTEIN today



As high tide laps against the sea wall tourist walk down the Battery in Charleston, S.C. Friday, Nov. 13, 2020. According to a U.S. federal report released on Tuesday, Feb. 15, 2022, seas lapping against America's coastlines are rising ever faster and will be 10 to 12 inches higher by the year 2050 with major U.S. Eastern cities regularly hit with costly sunny day flooding. (AP Photo/Mic Smith, File)

America's coastline will see sea levels rise in the next 30 years by as much as they did in the entire 20th century, with major Eastern cities hit regularly with costly floods even on sunny days, a government report warns. By 2050, seas lapping against the U.S. shore will be 10 to 12 inches (0.25 to 0.3 meters) higher, with parts of Louisiana and Texas projected to see waters a foot and a half (0.45 meters) higher, according to a 111-page report issued Tuesday by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and six other federal agencies.

"Make no mistake: Sea level rise is upon us," said Nicole LeBoeuf, director of NOAA's National Ocean Service. The projected increase is especially alarming given that in the 20th century, seas along the Atlantic coast rose at the fastest clip in 2,000 years. LeBoeuf warned that the cost will be high, pointing out that much of the American economy and 40% of the population are along the coast. However, the worst of the long-term sea level rise from the melting of ice sheets in Antarctica and Greenland probably won't kick in until after 2100, said ocean service oceanographer William Sweet, the report's lead author.

Warmer water expands, and the melting ice sheets and glaciers adds more water to the world's oceans. The report "is the equivalent of NOAA sending a red flag up" about accelerating the rise in sea levels, said University of Wisconsin-Madison geoscientist Andrea Dutton, a specialist in sea level rise who wasn't part of the federal report. The coastal flooding the U.S. is seeing now "will get taken to a whole new level in just a couple of decades." "We can see this freight train coming from more than a mile away," Dutton said in an email. "The question is whether we continue to let houses slide into the ocean."

Sea level rises more in some places than others because of sinking land, currents and water from ice melt. The U.S. will get slightly more sea level rise than the global average. And the greatest rise in the U.S. will be on the Gulf and East Coasts, while the West Coast and Hawaii will be hit less than average, Sweet said. For example, between now and 2060, expect almost 25 inches (0.63 meters) of sea level rise in Galveston, Texas, and just under 2 feet (0.6 meters) in St. Petersburg, Florida, while only 9 inches (0.23 meters) in Seattle and 14 inches (0.36 meters) in Los Angeles, the report said.

While higher seas cause much more damage when storms such as hurricanes hit the coast, they are becoming a problem even on sunny days. Cities such as Miami Beach, Florida; Annapolis, Maryland; and Norfolk, Virginia, already get a few minor "nuisance" floods a year during high tides, but those will be replaced by several "moderate" floods a year by mid-century, ones that cause property damage, the researchers said. "It's going to be areas that haven't been flooding that are starting to flood," Sweet said in an interview. "Many of our major metropolitan areas on the East Coast are going to be increasingly at risk."

The western Gulf of Mexico coast, should get hit the most with the highest sea level rise — 16 to 18 inches (0.4 to 0.45 meters) — by 2050, the report said. And that means more than 10 moderate property-damaging sunny-day floods and one "major" high tide flood event a year. The eastern Gulf of Mexico should expect 14 to 16 inches (0.35 to 0.4 meters) of sea level rise by 2050 and three moderate sunny-day floods a year. By mid-century, the Southeast coast should get a foot to 14 inches (0.3 to 0.35 meters) of sea level rise and four sunny-day moderate floods a year, while the Northeast coast should get 10 inches to a foot (0.25 to 0.3 meters) of sea level rise and six moderate sunny-day floods a year. Both the Hawaiian Islands and Southwestern coast should expect 6 to 8 inches (0.15 to 0.2 meters) of sea level rise by mid-century, with the Northwest coast seeing only 4 to 6 inches (0.1 to 0.15 meters). The Pacific coastline will get more than 10 minor nuisance sunny-day floods a year but only about one moderate one a year, with Hawaii getting even less than that.

And that's just until 2050. The report is projecting an average of about 2 feet of sea level rise in the United States — more in the East, less in the West — by the end of the century.

What is trimetazidine, the drug found in Russian skater Kamila Valieva's system?

February 15, 2022 - 9:01 PM ET



VANESSA ROMO

Russian figure skater Kamila Valieva was allowed to compete in the women's short program at the 2022 Winter Olympics on Tuesday despite having failed a drug test. The 15-year-old athlete tested positive in December for trimetazidine, a drug typically prescribed to much older patients suffering from angina and other heart-related conditions.



Political Satirist And 'Wait Wait... Don't Tell Me!' Panelist P.J. O'Rourke Dead At 74

The prolific author re-fashioned the irreverence and “Gonzo” journalism of the 1960s counterculture into a distinctive brand of conservative and libertarian commentary.

AP **AP**

02/16/2022 12:08am EST | Updated 14 hours ago



His writing style suggested a cross between the hedonism of Hunter S. Thompson and the patrician mockery of Tom Wolfe: Self-importance was a reliable target

P.J. O'Rourke died Tuesday morning from complications of lung cancer. He was 74.

NEW YORK (AP) — P.J. O'Rourke, the prolific author and satirist who re-fashioned the irreverence and “Gonzo” journalism of the 1960s counterculture into a distinctive brand of conservative and libertarian commentary, has died at age 74, the cause was complications from lung cancer.

Patrick Jake O'Rourke was a Toledo, Ohio, native who evolved from long-haired student activist to wavy-haired scourge of his old liberal ideals, with some of his more widely read takedowns appearing in a founding counterculture publication, Rolling Stone. His career otherwise extended from serving as editor in chief of National Lampoon to a brief stint on “60 Minutes” in which he represented the conservative take on “Point/Counterpoint”; to frequent appearances on NPR's game show “Wait Wait... Don't Tell Me!”

P.J. O'Rourke reflects on life in the sixties | Feb 4, 2015

<https://youtu.be/keJYlkxbieg>

P.J. O'Rourke with Annabelle Gurwitch at Live Talks Los Angeles | Feb 10, 2014

<https://youtu.be/WawrMQEvsxY>

“Most well-known people try to be nicer than they are in public than they are in private life. PJ was the only man I knew to be the opposite. He was a deeply kind and generous man who pretended to be a curmudgeon for public consumption,” tweeted “Wait Wait... Don't Tell Me!” host Peter Sagal. “He told the best stories. He had the most remarkable friends. And he devoted himself to them and his family in a way that would have totally ruined his shtick had anyone ever found out,” Sagal said.

Like other longtime conservatives, O'Rourke's loyalties were tested by the rise of Donald Trump. O'Rourke had little use for Democratic candidate Hillary Clinton in 2016, but he found he could live with what he called her “lies and all her empty promises. “It's the second worst thing that can happen to this country. But she's way behind in second place. I mean, she's wrong about absolutely everything, but she's wrong within normal parameters,” he said on NPR.

“I mean, this man (Trump) just can't be president,” he said. “They've got this button, you know, in the briefcase. He's going to find it.”

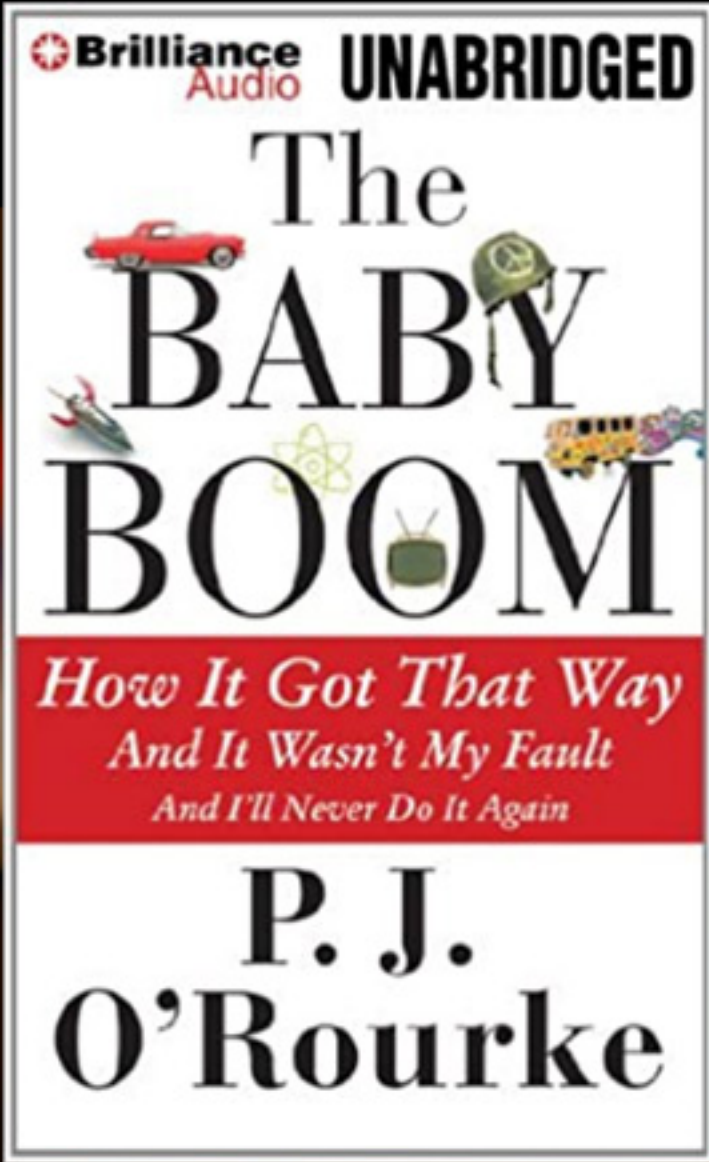
Gonzo journalism



Gonzo journalism is a style of journalism that is written without claims of objectivity, often including the reporter as part of the story using a first-person narrative. [Wikipedia](#)

Father: Hunter S. Thompson unlv.edu

<https://youtu.be/keJYlkxbieg>



<https://youtu.be/WiH1HqxNedY> | <https://theconversation.com/can-religion-and-faith-combat-eco-despair-173177>
<https://www.gtu.edu/projects/s360>



What is the role of philosophers and people of faith in this bigger discussion around the environment and sustainability? **Rita D. Sherma** is co-chair of a research initiative aimed at bringing the beliefs of religion, spirituality and ethics to the study of sustainability.



Can religion and faith combat eco-despair?

February 17, 2022 8:11am EST

Rita D. Sherma, Graduate Theological Union

There's a growing belief that teachings from religious faiths belong in the discussion around environmental protection.

All American presidents have lied – the question is why and when

February 16, 2022 3:15pm EST

Michael Blake, *University of Washington*



Critics of President Joe Biden have accused him of lying. Most American presidents have been accused of deception. Win McNamee/Getty Images

Those who dislike a president tend to emphasize the frequency or skill with which he lies. During the Trump administration, for instance, *The Washington Post* kept a running database of the president's lies and deceptions – with the final tally running to over 30,000 falsehoods. President Joe Biden's critics have insisted that he, too, is a liar – and that the media is complicit in ignoring his supposed frequent deception of the American people.

The frequency of these criticisms would seem to indicate that most people do not want a president who lies. And yet a recent study of presidential deception found that all American presidents – from Washington to Trump – have told lies, and knowingly so, in their public statements. The most effective of presidents have sometimes been effective precisely because they were skilled at manipulation and deception.

As a political philosopher with a focus on how people try to reason together through political disagreement, I argue that what matters most is not whether a president lies, but when and why he does so.

Presidents who lie to save their own public image or career are unlikely to be forgiven. However, those who appear to lie in the service of the public are often celebrated.

President Biden, President Trump and truth

It is likely that President Trump lied more than most presidents. What is striking about his lies, however, is that they have tended to be told to defend his own self-image or political viability rather than in service of some central political good. Indeed, some of President Trump's more implausible lies seemed best understood as tests of loyalty; those in his circle who repeated his most obvious lies demonstrated their loyalty to President Trump in doing so. Most recently, he has attacked as disloyal those members of the Republican Party who have not repeated his false claims about electoral fraud.

Recent studies indicate that President Biden, thus far, has not shown himself equal to President Trump in his deceptiveness. He has, however, made deceptive and misleading claims on a number of topics, ranging from the costs of particular policies to his own history and early life. These lies seem somewhat unlike those told by Lincoln and by Roosevelt; they seem generally told in the interests of making a rhetorical point more powerful rather than as necessary means to an otherwise unobtainable political goal. They seem, in that respect, less morally justifiable than these earlier falsehoods.

A justification for these lies might be found with reference to practices which – like warfare or politics – necessarily involve conflict and gamesmanship. No one would expect honesty from the enemy side during warfare, and perhaps one should not from opponents in politics either. Some political philosophers have thought that, when politics becomes an adversarial game, politicians might be forgiven when they seek to deceive the other party. President Biden might rely upon this idea, and could note that the Republican Party is less open to bipartisan negotiation than at any time in its history.

Even this last justification, however, may not be enough. Lying to one's political opponents might be permitted in an adversarial context. The lies told by presidents are often addressed to constituents, and such deception seems harder to justify.

And finally, even the most important of lies must be believed for it to be justifiable; a lie that is immediately recognized as such is unlikely to achieve the goal justifying that lie. This is an increasingly difficult burden. Modern presidents find it more challenging to lie without having their lies recognized as untrue than presidents serving before the advent of social media and dedicated fact-checking.

If presidents must sometimes lie to defend important political values, then, it seems as though the good president must be both able to lie and able to lie well.

Want better child care? Invest in entrepreneurial training for child care workers

February 17, 2022 8:12am EST

Anne Douglass, UMass Boston



Entrepreneurial leadership values expertise from providers, educators and parents. SDI Productions/E+ via

Christine Heer – a veteran preschool teacher – had long harbored a passion to run a nature-based preschool. So in 2015 she opened Sprouts Farm and Forest Kindergarten in central Massachusetts.

Diana Stinson did something similar in 2018 when she co-founded Nature Explorers Preschool, which is housed on a wildlife sanctuary on Cape Cod.

Five months into the COVID-19 pandemic, Dottie Williams, a Boston child care provider, was invited to testify before Massachusetts lawmakers. She spoke about how child care providers were helping children adapt during the pandemic.

In the fall of 2021, as very young children exhibited anxiety about playing with other children without a mask – something they had previously been taught was unsafe – Emilee Johnson wrote a children’s book about how to stay safe.

All of these early educators have one thing in common – they were all trained in entrepreneurial leadership.

A different kind of leadership: As a researcher who studies how to develop effective leadership skills among early childhood educators, I know that entrepreneurial leadership training is not like other kinds of leadership training. For instance, it doesn’t emphasize hierarchy. Rather than elevate the expertise of administrators and authorities, it recognizes the expertise of those who work directly with children – that is, the child care providers, educators and parents.

When directors and administrators of early learning centers are trained in entrepreneurial leadership, innovation becomes a bigger part of what they do. They build relationships that value “curiosity, questions, and reflections about current practices,” according to a 2021 federal report. Staff members contribute ideas to improve teaching practices, enhance program quality, implement strategies for improving workplace culture, promote equity and welcome feedback from parents.

Benefits to children: Children benefit when early educators are trained in entrepreneurial leadership, research shows. This is largely because classroom quality is connected to the improved workplace culture, parental engagement and support for experimentation – all things brought about by entrepreneurial leadership. The quality of leadership and the organizational climate set by early educational leaders are “critical variables” for the quality of early education.

Entrepreneurial leadership training transforms how early educators think. It leads them to redefine leadership. They begin to see leadership as collaborative and purpose-driven rather than hierarchical.

Some early educators use their new skills and confidence to open new schools, as Stinson and Heer did. Some develop new resources for educators, as Johnson did. Some become highly effective advocates, as Williams has. But most early educators trained in this form of leadership return to their programs to make seemingly small but powerful changes that result in better care and education for children.

Opportunities limited: Despite the positive effects of entrepreneurial leadership training, it’s not widely available. One survey found only 35 leadership programs for early educators in the entire country. Of those, 32 focus on the “positional responsibilities” of directors and administrators.

As the pandemic continues to disrupt early care and education programs, with reduced student enrollment and teachers leaving the profession because of fears of exposure to COVID-19, resources must be used wisely. Investing in entrepreneurial leadership training for early educators is one way to make sure that happens.

Shiffrin responds to those 'who have so much apparent hate'

By HOWARD FENDRICH 32 minutes ago



BEIJING (AP) — Not long after Mikaela Shiffrin skied off-course for the third time in five races at the Beijing Olympics, she wondered aloud to reporters about what sort of vitriol might be directed her way.

“There’s going to be a whole chaotic mess ... that people are saying about how I just fantastically failed these last couple weeks in the moments that actually counted,” the two-time gold medalist at other Winter Games said after failing to finish the slalom run of the two-leg Alpine combined on Thursday. “It’s really strange, but I’m not even afraid of that right now. Maybe that’s because I have zero emotional energy to give anymore.”

WELL KIDS... FEED 'EM WHAT YOU
WANNA FEED EM. SELF PITY,
SADNESS... LET THE TURKEYS
GET YOU DOWN. THERE WILL
ALWAYS BE TURKEYS. OR GET UP,
AGAIN. AGAIN. AGAIN. AGAIN.
AGAIN. AGAIN. AGAIN.
GET UP BECAUSE YOU CAN,
BECAUSE YOU LIKE WHAT YOU DO
WHEN ITS NOT INFESTED WITH
THE PEOPLE WHO HAVE SO MUCH
APPARENT HATE FOR YOU. JUST
GET UP. IT'S NOT ALWAYS EASY,
BUT IT'S ALSO NOT THE END OF
THE WORLD TO FAIL. FAIL TWICE.
FAIL 5 TIMES. AT THE OLYMPICS.
(ENTER ME...)

WHY DO I KEEP COMING BACK?
GOSH KNOWS IT HURTS MORE
THAN IT FEELS GOOD LATELY. I
COME BACK BECAUSE THOSE
FIRST 9 TURNS TODAY WERE
SPECTACULAR , REALLY HEAVEN.
THAT'S WHERE I'M MEANT TO BE
AND I'M STUBBORN AS S**T.
SO LET'S GO FOR SOME TEAM
EVENT TRAINING TOMORROW, AND
THEN THE FINAL ALPINE RACE OF
THIS OLYMPICS ON SATURDAY.

LOOK OUT FOR @PAULAMOLTZAN
@TOMMYFORD RIVER,
@AJHURTI , @LUKEDWINTERS
AND MYSELF... (OR IF YOU ARE
PLAYING THE SIDE OF HATER
TODAY, IGNORE ME BUT
DEFINITELY LOOK OUT FOR THEM!



Mackintosh raincoats

To avoid confusion under the non-British readers: the words "Mackintosh raincoat" do not refer to raincoats produced by the Mackintosh company exclusively. The popularity of raincoats from the Mackintosh company was so high in the early years that the word Mackintosh became synonymous for any type of raincoat in the UK. In this article I will refer to raincoats produced by the Mackintosh company, similar looking rubberized raincoats produced by its competitors, as well as long raincoats made out of vinyl, plastic, or PVC, as Mackintosh raincoats.



Vintage rubber mackintosh | ...
pinterest.co.uk



1950s Coats and Jackets Hi...
pinterest.com



Rain fashion, Raincoats for ...
pinterest.com



400 Macs ideas | ...
pinterest.co.uk



History of Vintage Rainco...
vintagedancer.com



Rubberised satin | Rain...
pinterest.com



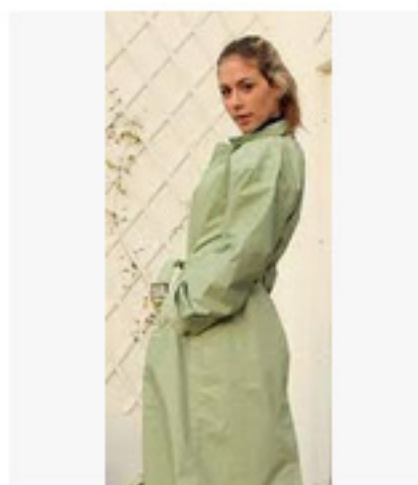
Mackintosh raincoats in ...
rainwearpassion.com



Mackintosh raincoat, Rain...
pinterest.co.uk



Vintage fashion
pinterest.com



Rain wear, Clothes, Mack...
pinterest.com



1950s Uk Macintosh Magazine Ad...
pixels.com · In stock



1950s Uk Macintosh Magazine Ad...
pixels.com · In stock



Same Old Man - (Traditional arranged by S. Weber)

It's the same old man sittin' at the mill
mill turns round of its own free will
yes I'm certainly glad to be home
New York city can carry on alone

My mind is failing, my body grows weak
my lips won't form the words to speak
I'm floatin away on a boatful of pain
you'll hear my sad cry but won't see me again

It's the same old lady hanging out her wash
now she's wearing a **Macintosh**
she's hangin' out her hose in the middle of the rain
I thought New York City had gone insane

Hey little leaf lyin' on the ground
now you're turnin' slightly brown
why don't you hop back on to that tree
and turn the colour green the way you oughta be

Mexico's avocados face fallout from violence, deforestation

By MARK STEVENSON today



MEXICO CITY (AP) — With clever Super Bowl ads, an irresistible fruit and apparently insatiable appetite from U.S. consumers, Mexico's avocado producers have so far been able to separate avocados from the conflictive landscape that produces them — at least until a threat to a U.S. agricultural inspector essentially shut down their exports last week. But as producers continue to suffer extortion from organized crime, and loggers continue to chop down pine forests to clear land for avocado orchards, another threat looms: Campaigns for greener competition and perhaps even a boycott. Most advocates for more sustainable avocados stop short of calling for an outright boycott. "They (avocados) are a very large portion of either their country or regional economy and, you know, banning them entirely would not be advantageous" for already struggling local farmers, said Gareth Elliott, a New Jersey restaurant manager who runs the Facebook page "Blood Avocados." "But if there were more environmental studies and they were grown in a responsible manner, we could solve this together."

So far, the association of Mexican avocado producers and packers has taken little action to solve the problems, nor has its U.S. promotional arm, Avocados from Mexico, even as growers in Mexico report having to pay thousands of dollars in protection payments to drug gangs for each acre of orchard. Those who don't pay are threatened with having their families kidnapped, murdered and returned in pieces. The producers' associations have bought multimillion-dollar Super Bowl commercials, but they have never bothered to come up with a serious certification program to assure consumers the avocado they buy has not involved protection money to drug cartels — the same cartels flooding the United States with deadly fentanyl pills counterfeited to look like Xanax, Adderall or Oxycodone. Nor have they come up with a plan to certify that the avocado sold at a U.S. supermarket wasn't planted on illegally logged mountainsides that used to hold pine forests, threatening local water supplies. Neither group responded to requests for comment on the issue. Mexico's president has suggested the suspension of avocado imports was part of a conspiracy against his country.

That kind of certification and information program is what many activists want. "I think it could also help bring up awareness," said Elliott, who said many people now may not be conscious of the issue. "Bringing it out to the consumer that how they purchase things speaks a lot louder to American policy or even global policy, than sometimes protests will." But Elliott's reluctance to boycott might vanish if illegal logging and planting of avocados reaches into the core of the monarch butterfly reserves in the western state of Michoacan.

So far planters have only nibbled around the buffer zones of the mountaintop pine forests where the butterflies spend the winter before heading back to the United States and Canada. At present, the mountaintops are too cold and too high for avocados, but with climate change that, as everything else, may change. "The Monarch butterflies ... they don't have another option to hibernate elsewhere," Gareth said. "I don't think the Americans are going to want to say goodbye to monarch butterflies. "I think that would be the likely be the line they'll draw, or at least they'll say, 'I'll have more expensive avocados.'"

Chef J.P. McMahon, who runs the Aniar, Cava and Tartare restaurants in Ireland, has already started advocating avoiding avocados. Avocados are "perceived as something healthy, and the contrast to what it is actually doing" to the environment and society, "you couldn't get further, it's poles apart, it's absolutely not," McMahon said. McMahon has tried to promote more sustainable, locally produced guacamole recipes based on kale or mashed-up sunchokes. It has been an uphill struggle: He has received angry messages from growers in Mexico saying they need the income and diners and chefs who want avocados at brunch. "Still, I hold to my guns," he said. "The environmental disaster, the deforestation caused, to feed the avo-on-toast craze made me feel so disgusted that I decided to stop eating them altogether," McMahon wrote in November. "Almost five years later I do miss avocados, but I won't be part of the exploitation of land and people to satisfy a crave." And there are other countries without Mexico's land disputes, water shortages, drug cartel extortion, sensitive species and illegal logging problems that might try to supplant Mexico's now-dominant 80% share of U.S. imports by offering more sustainable avocados. Peru, Colombia and Chile all have their own problems, but drug cartel extortion of growers isn't one of them.

"Colombian exporters see the United States as a market with great potential," said Juliana Villegas, vice president of exports for the trade promotion agency ProColombia. "There are some enormous opportunities and advantages for avocado production in Colombia." "We are in the privileged position, given our agricultural land" Villegas said. "It is very large. Right now we have millions of acres available without deforestation. I think that is an advantage we have to seize on." Any sustained ban on avocado exports might actually benefit the Mexican families who can no longer afford the fruit because of international demand. But the loss of income would be devastating for Mexican farmers, who — like those in most countries in Latin America — have spent almost five centuries looking for a miracle crop that would pull them out of poverty.

Sugar, rubber, bananas, natural dyes, coffee, cacao — the stuff of which chocolate is made — all came and went, but never really fulfilled that promise. Either they were only practical on large plantations with slave labor, or they could be grown more cheaply elsewhere or plant diseases and synthetic substitutes spelled disaster for the crops. For Mexico, the avocado has been that miracle crop for almost 25 years. A farmer with only a few acres of avocado trees can send his children to college, or buy a new pickup truck to get his product to market and avoid middlemen, something no other crop has been able to offer.

But it's not consumers in the United States who are on the front lines: Many lonely, threatened activists in Mexican villages are fighting illegal logging and the expansion of avocado orchards on former forest land.

Activist Guillermo Saucedo tried to institute farmers' patrols to detect illegal logging and unauthorized avocado orchards in Villa Madero, Michoacan, last year. He got as many as 60 or 70 people to participate in the patrols, starting in May. But on Dec. 6, Saucedo was kidnapped, beaten and threatened by drug cartel gunmen who either protect or invest in avocado orchards.

This week, Saucedo said he detected a huge water retention pond of the kind dug by avocado growers in a hamlet near Villa Madero, but he doesn't believe the government will stop them.

"The National Guard don't do anything," Saucedo said. "The only thing that can stop them is the people themselves, by protesting."

US paves way for resumption of Mexico avocado exports

By MARK STEVENSON yesterday



A worker selects avocados at a packing plant in Uruapan, Mexico, Wednesday, Feb. 16, 2022. Mexico has acknowledged that the U.S. government has suspended all imports of Mexican avocados after a U.S. plant safety inspector in Mexico received a threat.

MEXICO CITY (AP) — The U.S. Embassy announced Friday that Washington is lifting a ban on inspections of Mexican avocados, freeing the way for exports to resume. The suspension of inspections had threatened Mexico's \$3 billion annual exports and raised the possibility of price increases for U.S. consumers.

Ambassador Ken Salazar said in a statement the decision came after Mexico and the United States agreed "to enact the measures that ensure the safety" of agricultural inspectors who are in charge of making sure Mexican avocados don't carry diseases or pests that would harm U.S. orchards. Salazar did not describe those measures or whether they would address reports of Mexican growers and packers playing fast and loose with sanitary measures designed to protect U.S. production.

The inspections were halted last week after one of the U.S. inspectors was threatened in the western state of Michoacan, where growers are routinely subject to extortion by drug cartels. The U.S. Department of Agriculture said Thursday that the inspector had received a threat "against him and his family." It said the inspector had "questioned the integrity of a certain shipment, and refused to certify it based on concrete issues."

Michoacan is the only Mexican state certified as pest-free and able to export avocados to the U.S. market. There have been frequent reports that some packers in Mexico are buying avocados from other, non-certified states, and trying to pass them off as being from Michoacan.

Michoacan is the only Mexican state certified as pest-free and able to export avocados to the U.S. market. There have been frequent reports that some packers in Mexico are buying avocados from other, non-certified states, and trying to pass them off as being from Michoacan.

There were signs that supplies may have tightened since the inspection suspension was announced last Saturday and that the damage to Mexico's violence-plagued avocado industry may be lasting: It could prompt companies that import avocados to look beyond Mexico, which currently supplies about 92% of U.S. imports of the fruit.

Peru, Colombia and Chile already ship avocados to the United States, but in quantities that are only a tiny fraction of Mexico's production. That may change. "I was talking with a few buyers of avocado domestically, and on toward the future, they they know they need to diversify suppliers," said Miguel Gómez, professor of applied economics and management in the Cornell SC Johnson College of Business. "The issue is that they realized that it would be very risky to depend on a single source."

Exports from Mexico were largely responsible for the huge increase in U.S. avocado consumption in recent decades because they made the fruit available year-round, most famously during the Super Bowl. The Mexican harvest is January through March, while U.S. production runs from April to September.

U.S. per capita consumption of avocados tripled since 2001 to 8 pounds per person in 2018.

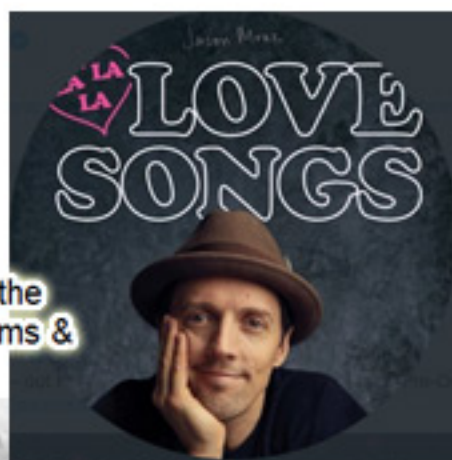
While there is concern about the deforestation and violence that have resulted from the avocado boom in Michoacan, it is unclear whether Americans would be willing to pay more for avocados produced by growers who do not pay protection money demanded by drug cartels in Michoacan.

The connection to U.S. consumers is hardly theoretical: That protection money goes to the same cartels flooding the United States with deadly fentanyl pills counterfeited to look like Xanax, Adderall or Oxycodone. Synthetic opioid overdoses killed about 60,000 Americans last year.

"It's requiring Americans to really ask themselves, do they want to pay more to have a quality product or do they want to kind of look the other way and be able to slice their toast accordingly?" said Desirée LeClercq, a professor of employment law at Cornell's School of Industrial and Labor Relations. "And I think that consumers are becoming more educated on how these products are made. But whether or not that's going to trickle into consumer behavior, I think has yet to be seen."



Jason Mraz Team @MrazTeam tweets from the @jason_mraz team ✨ (also @mrazfamilyfarms & @jasonmrazfdn news) jasonmraz.com 36 Following 32.2K Followers



November 7, 2019

The Shitty of Oceanside

When District 2 City Councilman **Chris Rodriguez** was running for office, he personally emailed me this message:

*I will be humbly running for District 2 City Council. Politics is not my forte but I'm all about fighting for Our City and area w so much potential impact if the **wrong individual** gets elected.*

We did not vote for Chris Rodriguez. And last night he proved to everyone why he was always the **wrong individual** by opening the motion to Vote Yes on re-zoning agricultural land for new housing developments. This motion is NOT fighting for our city or our area. It's the opposite. His vote dramatically changes the environment while lining his pockets with greedy money.



youtube.com
Jason Mraz - I Won't Give Up (Track Commentary)
Jason Mraz reveals the story behind "I Won't Give Up." Revisit the "I Won't Give Up" music video new...

Jason Mraz Cultivator • Coffee Lover

Jason is a song poet whose career began in the coffee houses of San Diego in 1999. He became an orchard owner in 2004 and developed a fondness for farming. Some people collect cars. Jason collects fruit trees.

Chris, the newest member of City Council, has **openly pushed for Council Member pay-raises** & has documented receipts receiving money from Integral, the developer in the case. Direct influence should have recused him from the vote. This is yet another example of money directly influencing policy; another case of an Elected Official voting for his own personal interests at a huge cost to his constituents & in opposition to their wishes. When a governing body is bought & paid for by money giants, poor communities don't stand a chance. Being an elected official is a public service. **Chris does not serve his public.** It's also worth mentioning that he is a real estate CEO. I can't speak for Jack Feller or Mayor Weiss who also voted in-favor of the project, but I can say this is a sad day for Oceanside residents to learn that our City Council is still corrupted.

**Dear Chris,
When the last tree is cut down, the last fish eaten, and the last stream poisoned, you will realize that you cannot eat money.**

To the residents, neighbors & concerned citizens who voiced their opposition, thank you for taking the time to address the city. The opposition definitely outnumbered those in-favor, but it wasn't enough to influence the vote. North River Farms was entitled at 11:15pm last night after a lengthy hearing which included Councilman Chris Rodriguez yelling at his constituents, **ending in a 3-2 vote in favor of the new development**, a project that was unanimously denied by the City Planning Commission in June.

This is a sad day for Oceanside.

If I could *look for the good* in all of this, it's that corruption has shown its face & reminded us that voter engagement does matter.

Farm Store



Box of Avocados

— Organic —

[Read more](#)



Box of Passion Fruit

— Organic —

[Read more](#)



Frinj Coffee

— Organic —

[Visit Frinj Coffee](#)

Estimated 73% of US now immune to omicron: Is that enough?

By CARLA K. JOHNSON 59 minutes ago



The omicron wave that assaulted the United States this winter also bolstered its defenses, leaving enough protection against the coronavirus that future spikes will likely require much less — if any — dramatic disruption to society. Millions of individual Americans' immune systems now recognize the virus and are primed to fight it off if they encounter omicron, or even another variant. About half of eligible Americans have received booster shots, there have been nearly 80 million confirmed infections overall and many more infections have never been reported. One influential model uses those factors and others to estimate that 73% of Americans are, for now, immune to omicron, the dominant variant, and that could rise to 80% by mid-March.

This will prevent or shorten new illnesses in protected people and reduce the amount of virus circulating overall, likely tamping down new waves. Hospitals will get a break from overwhelmed ICUs, experts agree. "We have changed," said Ali Mokdad, a professor of health metrics sciences at the University of Washington in Seattle. "We have been exposed to this virus and we know how to deal with it."

The coronavirus — the current variant or future ones that are sure to pop up — remains a dangerous germ. It is still infecting more than 130,000 Americans and killing more than 2,000 every day. Tens of millions of people remain vulnerable. And there will be future outbreaks. The notion of a "herd immunity" that could stop the virus has slipped away under the harsh reality of new variants, waning immunity, and the rejection of vaccines by some Americans. But the coronavirus is no longer new. Two years ago it arrived in a nation where nobody's immune system had seen it before. The entire population — 330 million people — were immunologically naive, that is, susceptible to infection.

With varying degrees of relief and caution, many Americans are starting to return to their pre-pandemic lifestyles. As mask mandates ease, workers return to offices and flights fill up, experts are trying to understand whether this return to normal can last, or if another setback is looming. To address that, researchers are trying to answer questions about the virus, the vaccine, and how our bodies respond: How fast is booster protection waning against omicron? How long does protection from infection last? How many mild infections were never reported? How many people got infected but had no symptoms? To find clues, they use health data from other countries such as Britain, Denmark, South Africa and Qatar to project what could be in store.

Scientists at Johns Hopkins University Bloomberg School of Public Health estimate that about three out of four people in the United States will have been infected by omicron by the end of the surge. Still, while the population is better protected, many individuals are not. Even by the most optimistic estimates for population immunity, 80 million or so Americans are still vulnerable. That's about the same as the total number of confirmed infections in the U.S. during the pandemic.

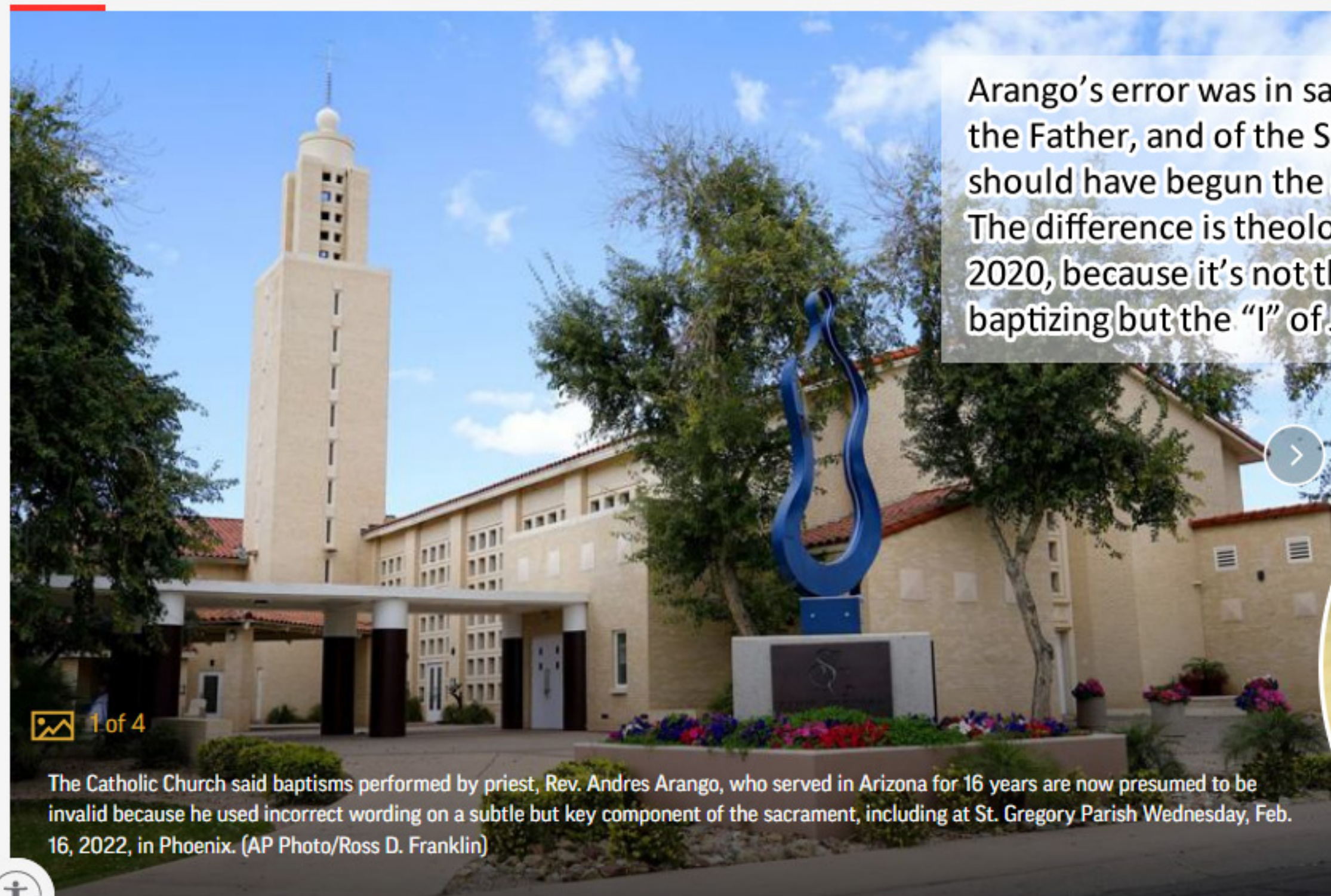
"The 26% who could still get omicron right now have to be very careful," Mokdad said.

Andrew Pekosz, a virus researcher at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, is concerned that people — particularly unvaccinated omicron survivors — may have a false sense of security. "In an ideal world, unvaccinated individuals infected with omicron would be lining up for a vaccine shot," he said. Also, estimating protection is far from an exact science. It's a moving target, as immunity wanes and new variants circulate. Protection varies widely from person to person. And it's impossible to know for sure how many people are protected at all. The IHME model estimates a wide range — from 63% to 81% of Americans.

"We've reached a much better position for the coming months, but with waning immunity we shouldn't take it for granted," Mokdad said.

Baptisms by Arizona priest presumed invalid due to error

By JACQUES BILLEAUD, LUIS ANDRES HENAO and GIOVANNA DELL'ORTO today



1 of 4

The Catholic Church said baptisms performed by priest, Rev. Andres Arango, who served in Arizona for 16 years are now presumed to be invalid because he used incorrect wording on a subtle but key component of the sacrament, including at St. Gregory Parish Wednesday, Feb. 16, 2022, in Phoenix. (AP Photo/Ross D. Franklin)

Arango's error was in saying, "We baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit," when he should have begun the sentence by saying, "I baptize you." The difference is theologically crucial, the Vatican ruled in 2020, because it's not the "we" of the congregation doing the baptizing but the "I" of Jesus Christ, working through the priest.



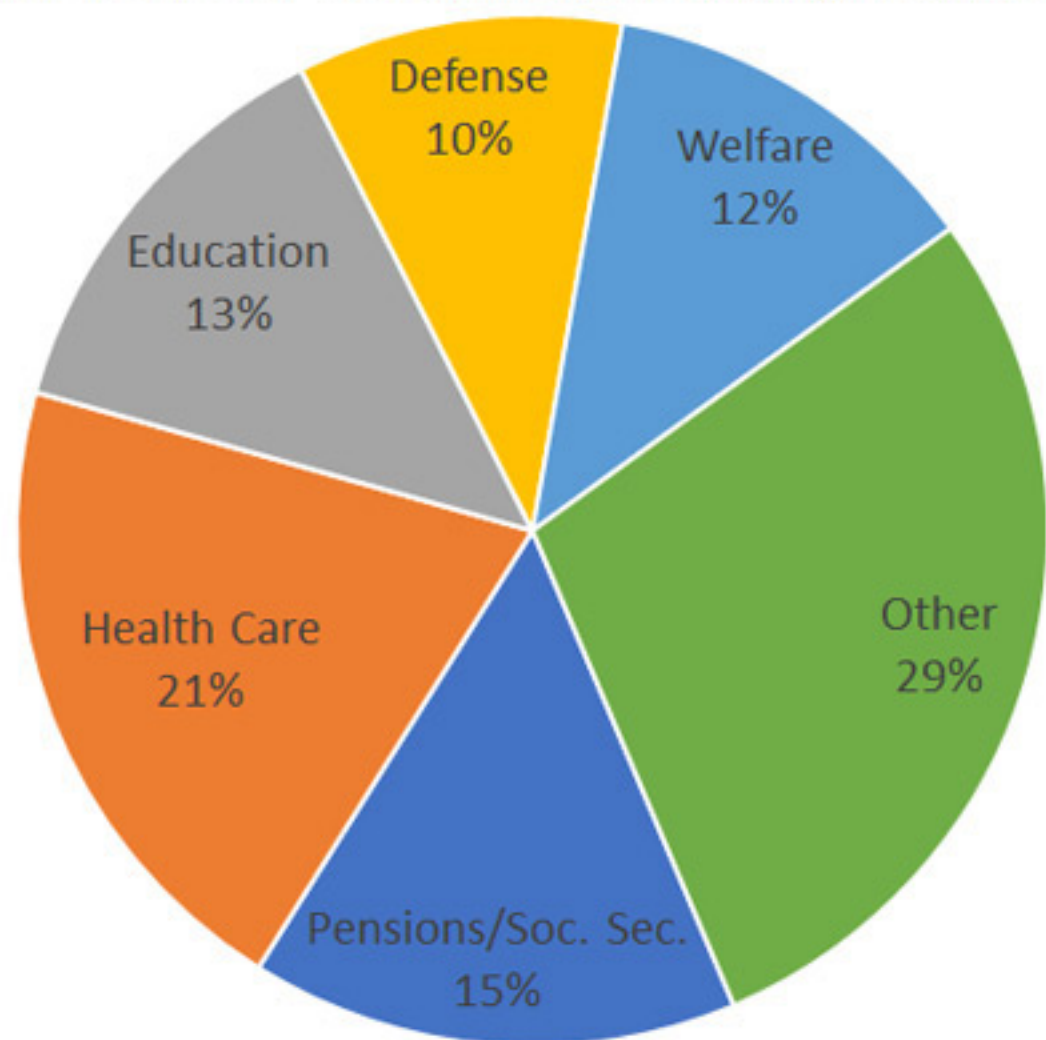
In this photo provided by Andrea Reyes is Rev. Andres Arango, right, with Reyes, during a Baptism in the Jordan River, in Israel, in July 2017. Reyes, a lifelong St. Gregory parishioner, became friends with Arango during a church trip to Israel and has kept in contact since he resigned. The Diocese of Phoenix estimates that thousands of baptisms were affected by the incorrect phrasing used by the Rev. Arango, who served in three parishes from September 2005 until his resignation Feb. 1, 2022. (Andrea Reyes via AP)

PHOENIX (AP) — The priest was beloved by his parishioners — yet for years he made a one-word ritual mistake, repeatedly, that has caused confusion and anxiety for thousands of Catholics in the Phoenix area now worrying that they were improperly baptized.

Under scrutiny are baptisms performed by the Rev. Andres Arango, who served in Arizona for 16 years. Catholic officials estimate that thousands of baptisms are now presumed to be invalid because he used incorrect wording, and they say those affected may need to be re-baptized. Some may feel obliged to have other church ceremonies performed again, even including marriage.

Government spending in the United States is the spending of the federal government of the United States, and the spending of its state and local governments.

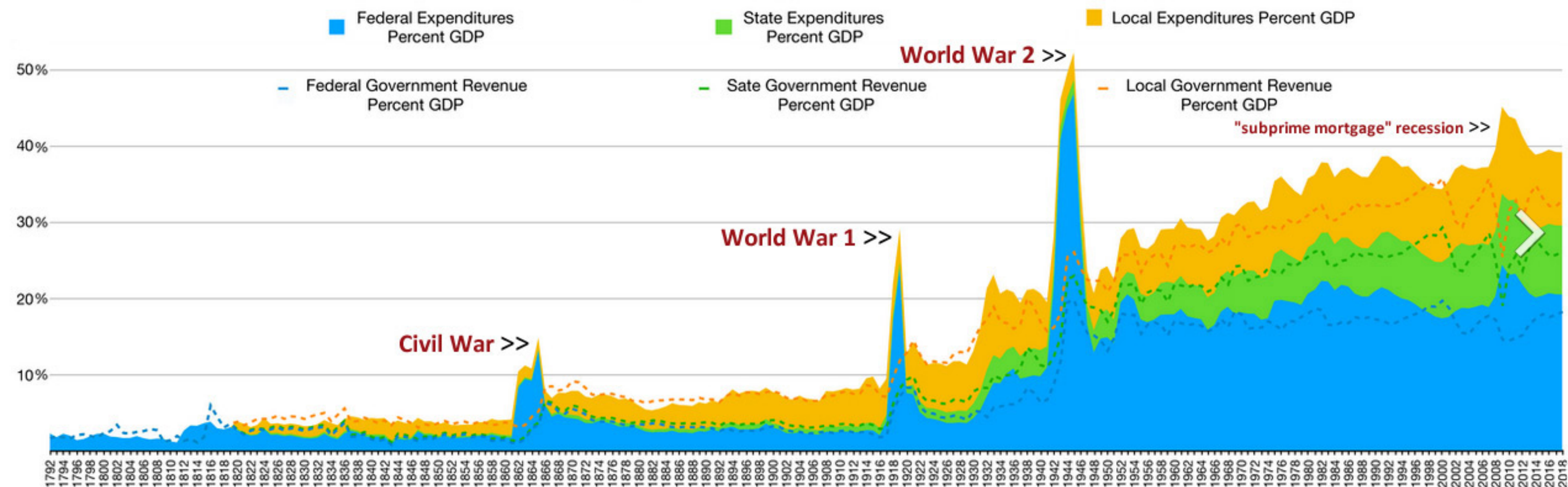
2020 Total U.S. Government Spending Breakdown



At the beginning of the 20th century, the majority of government spending in the United States took place at the local level. However, federal spending increased relative to state and local spending as a result of World War I and World War II, and by the 1930s, state and local government spending accounted for less than one half of government spending. By 2019, federal spending was more than 20% of GDP, while state and local spending hovered around 17% of GDP. As a result, in recent years, state and local governments account for approximately 45% of total government expenditures. **State and local government spending is typically spent in 6 broad categories: elementary and secondary education, higher education, health, welfare, police and safety, and transportation. Over the last few decades, funding for education at the state level has fallen, while funding for health has more than doubled.**

The federal government spent \$6.6 trillion in fiscal year 2020 — or \$19,962 per person. Medicare, Social Security, defense and veterans, debt interest, support to businesses, plus assistance like stimulus checks and unemployment insurance accounted for 73% of spending. The nation spent 91% more than it collected in revenue, creating a \$3.1 trillion deficit in fiscal year 2020.

Total Government Spending and Revenue as a % of GDP





POLITICS

3.7 million more kids are in poverty without the monthly Child Tax Credit, study says



BUSINESS

A burning cargo ship full of Porsches and VWs is adrift in the mid-Atlantic



CULTURE

George Takei got reparations. He says they strengthen the integrity of America



STORYCORPS

A granddaughter passes on the legacy of 'Granny Hayden,' a midwife born into slavery



WORLD

Canadian police arrest 2 leaders of the protesting truckers

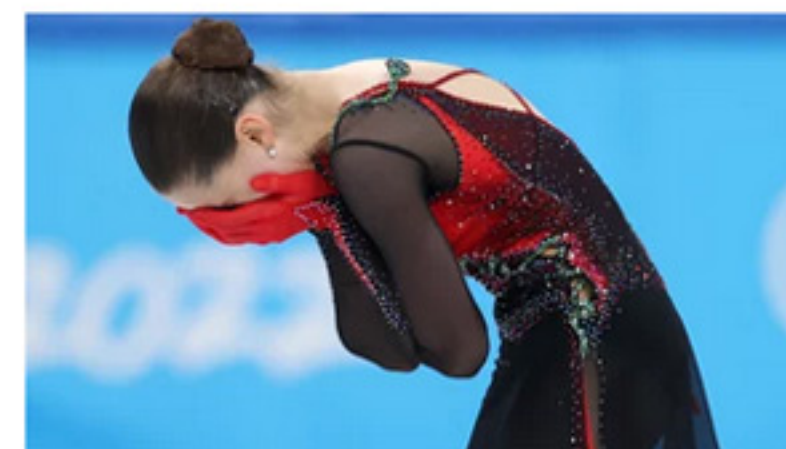


NATIONAL

Families are suing a West Virginia school district for holding a Christian assembly

THE 2022 WINTER OLYMPICS

After Valieva: 5 questions for a doping expert about fixing a messy system



SHOTS - HEALTH NEWS

Restaurant work has become more stressful than ever. Could a staff therapist help?

CPR NEWS

NATIONAL

Americans are fleeing to places where political views match their own

America is growing more geographically polarized — red ZIP codes are getting redder and blue ZIP codes are becoming bluer. People appear to be sorting.



NATIONAL SECURITY

Why the U.S. keeps raising public alarms on Russia



 **net·i·zen**

/ˈnedəzən/

noun **INFORMAL**plural noun: **netizens**

a user of the internet, especially a habitual or avid one.
 "we look at how the new generation of commercial Web browsers can help Netizens surf the world"

Who are called netizens?

The term netizen is a portmanteau of the English words internet and citizen, as in a "citizen of the net" or "net citizen". ... **It describes a person actively involved in online communities or the Internet in general.**

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Netizen>

[Netizen - Wikipedia](#)

The term Netizen commonly also implies an interest and active engagement in improving the internet, making it an intellectual and a social resource, or its surrounding political structures, especially in regard to open access, net neutrality and free speech. The term was widely adopted in the mid-1990s as a way to describe those who inhabit the new geography of the internet. **Internet pioneer and author Michael F. Hauben is credited with coining and popularizing the term.**

In general, any individual who has access to the internet has the potential to be classified as a netizen. In the 21st century, this is made possible by the global connectivity of the internet. People can physically be located in one country but connected most of the world via a global network.

There is a clear distinction between netizens and people who come online to use the internet. A netizen is described as an individual who actively seeks to contribute to the development of the internet.[citation needed] Netizens are not individuals who go online for personal gain or profit, but instead actively seeks to make the internet a better place.

A term used to classify internet users who do not actively contribute to the development of the internet is "lurker". Lurkers cannot be classified as netizens, as although they do not actively harm the internet, they do not contribute either.

Michael Frederick Hauben was an American Internet theorist and author. He pioneered the study of the social impact of the Internet. Based on his interactive online research, in 1993 he coined the term and developed the concept of Netizen to describe an Internet user who actively contributes



The international nonprofit organisation Reporters Without Borders awards an annual Netizen Prize in recognition to an internet user, blogger, cyber-dissident, or group who has helped to promote freedom of expression on the internet. The organisation uses the term when describing the political repression of cyber-dissidents such as legal consequences of blogging in politically repressive environments.

SEE also:

Digital citizen – citizens (of the physical space) using the Internet as a tool in order to engage in society, politics, and government participation

Netiquette – social conventions for online communities

Cyberspace – the new societal territory that is inhabited by Netizens
 Active citizenship – the concept that citizens have certain roles and responsibilities to society and the environment and should actively participate

List of Internet pioneers – those who helped erect the theoretical and technological foundation of the Internet (instead of improving its content, utility or political aspects)

Participatory culture – a culture in which the public does not act merely as consumers and voters, but also as contributors, producers and active participants



White-tailed deer are one of the few wild species that scientists have found to be infected with the coronavirus – at least so far. Andrew C/WikimediaCommons, CC BY

Deer, mink and hyenas have caught COVID-19 – animal virologists explain how to find the coronavirus in animals and why humans need to worry

February 17, 2022 8.04am EST

 [Sue VandeWoude](#), [Angela Bosco-Lauth](#), [Christie Mayo](#), [Colorado State University](#)

In April 2020, tigers and lions at the Bronx Zoo made the news when they came down with COVID-19. In the months following these surprising diagnoses, researchers and veterinarians found SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19, in nearly a dozen other species, both in captivity and in the wild. **How are so many animals catching the coronavirus? And what does this mean for human and animal health?**

We are veterinary researchers who investigate animal diseases, including zoonotic diseases that can infect both humans and animals. It is important, for both human and animal health, to know what species are susceptible to infection by the coronavirus. Our labs and others across the world have tested domestic, captive and wild animals for the virus, in addition to conducting experiments to determine which species are susceptible.

The list of infected animals so far includes more than a dozen species. But in reality, infections may be much more widespread, as very few species and individual animals have been tested. This has real implications for human health. Animals can not only spread pathogens like the coronavirus, but also can be a source of new mutations.

[...]

Finally, to understand how the coronavirus affects animals, researchers have been conducting carefully controlled exposure experiments. These studies evaluate how infected animals shed the virus, whether they have clinical symptoms, and whether and how much the virus mutates in different species. The risk of contracting SARS-CoV-2 from an animal is, for most people, far lower than being exposed to it by another human. But if the coronavirus is living and spreading among animals and occasionally jumping back to humans, this process – known as spillover and spillback – poses its own threats to public health.

First, infection of animals simply increases the concentration of SARS-CoV-2 in an environment. Second, large populations of animals that can sustain the infection can act as a reservoir for the virus, maintaining it even if the number of infections in humans decreases. This is particularly concerning with deer that live in high numbers in suburban areas and could transmit the virus back to people.

Finally, **when SARS-CoV-2 spreads from humans to animals, our laboratory's own work indicates that the virus very rapidly accumulates mutations.**

Viruses adapt to the unique characteristics – body temperature, diet and immune composition – of whatever animal they are living in by mutating. The more species infected, the more mutations occur. It's possible that the new variants emerging in people could infect new animal species. Or it's possible that new variants could initially arise from animals and infect humans.

The story of SARS-CoV-2 in animals isn't over yet. According to the CDC, six of every 10 human infectious diseases can be spread from animals to people, and around three-quarters of new or emerging infectious diseases in people come from animals. Research has shown that investing in the study of zoonotic diseases could vastly reduce the costs of future pandemics, and this type of complex research has historically been underfunded. Yet despite this, in 2021, the CDC allocated only \$193 million toward the study of emerging zoonotic infectious diseases – less than a quarter of 1 percent of the CDC's total budget.

There are still many unknowns about how viruses transfer between humans and animals, how they live and mutate in animal populations and the risks of species-jumping viruses. The more researchers know, the better health officials, governments and scientists can prepare and prevent the next pandemic.

California bill would have citizens enforce weapons ban

By JULIE WATSON and ADAM BEAM yesterday



DEL MAR, Calif. (AP) — California Gov. Gavin Newsom proposed Friday letting private citizens in his state sue gun makers to stop them from selling assault weapons just as Texas lets its residents sue abortion providers to stop the procedures, then essentially dared the U.S. Supreme Court to treat both issues the same.

At a news conference in the coastal town of Del Mar, north of San Diego, Newsom said he thought the Texas law was wrong and the Supreme Court's decision in December to let it stay in effect while it's appealed was "absurd" and "outrageous."

"But they opened up the door. They set the tone, tenor, the rules. And either we can be on the defense complaining about it or we can play by those rules. We are going to play by those rules," Newsom said. He later added: "We'll see how principled the U.S. Supreme Court is."

The unique Texas law, approved last year, bans all abortions once a fetal heart-beat is detected, usually around the sixth week of pregnancy. The law does not let the government enforce it. Instead, private citizens can sue abortion providers or anyone who "aids and abets" the procedure. The theory is that because the government can't enforce the law, then abortion advocates can't sue the state to block it. That makes it much harder to challenge in court.

A bill in the California Legislature unveiled Friday would do the same thing. But instead of abortion providers, it would let people sue gun-makers and others who sell, make or distribute assault-style guns in the state.

California has banned the sale and manufacture of many assault-style guns for decades. But last year, U.S. District Judge Roger Benitez overturned that law, ruling it was unconstitutional while comparing an AR-15 rifle to a Swiss Army knife as "good for both home and battle." The ruling incensed Newsom and he vowed to fight back.

California's proposed legislation is exactly what gun rights groups feared would happen if the Supreme Court allowed the Texas law to stay in effect. That's why the Firearms Policy Coalition opposed that law at the high court. The group said Friday it would go to court if necessary to block the California proposal.

Earlier this week the families of nine victims of the Sandy Hook Elementary School shooting in Connecticut announced they have agreed to a \$73 million settlement of a lawsuit against Remington, the maker of the rifle used to kill 20 first-graders and six educators in 2012. The case was watched because of its potential to provide a roadmap for victims of other shootings to sue firearm-makers.

California Democratic Assemblymember Rebecca Bauer-Kahan, introduced AB 2571, which would limit the type of firearms advertising and marketing that can be geared toward children. She and Newsom said the gun industry is using social media and children's books, mascots, apparel and guns decorated to appeal to kids.

They specifically criticized a company called **Wee1 Tactical**, which markets the JR-15, patterned after the popular adult AR-15 assault-style semi-automatic rifle.



The company's website says its goal is to "safely help adults introduce children to the shooting sports." The company's logo is a skull sucking on a baby pacifier and it is on hats, shirts, patches and stickers. "How the hell did they think that's OK?" Newsom asked.

The company did not immediately respond to a telephone message and email seeking comment.

Americans are fleeing to places where political views match their own

February 18, 2022 - 7:30 AM ET



The Wootens — (from left) Nate, Tiffany, Mya and Cole — recently moved from red Indiana to Austin, a dark blue spot in the otherwise-red Texas.

There's a private Facebook group with nearly 8,000 members called Conservatives Moving to Texas. Three of them are sitting at a dinner table — munching on barbecue weenies and brownies — in the Dallas/Fort Worth Metroplex. None are vaxxed. And they love it here. "As soon as I drove into Texas, literally, as soon as I could get into the state and stop at my first truck stop for gas it was, like, 'This is wonderful,'" says Lynn Seeden, a 59-year-old portrait photographer from Orange County, Calif. "People weren't wearing masks — nobody cared. It's kind of like heaven on earth." She says when the state of California forced her to close her photography studio over COVID-19 restrictions, she and her husband, a retired newspaper editor, knew it was time to "escape."

America is growing more geographically polarized — red ZIP codes are getting redder and blue ZIP codes are becoming bluer. People appear to be sorting.

"We felt very out of place and very uncomfortable at times," says Tiffany Wooten, a 43-year-old stay-at-home mom whose family recently relocated from conservative Indiana to liberal Austin. "We were looking at blue cities because we wanted to be with our own people." The trend seems to be quickening as conservatives flee places with strict COVID-19 rules.

In the modern era, Texas has fashioned itself into a sort-of breakaway red-meat republic — banning books and restricting abortion, blocking mask mandates, and building its own border fence. It retains this national image in spite of the fact that its five largest counties went for President Biden.

But more and more Trump followers are flocking to red Texas in search of the promised land. "People are asking, 'Tell me about the most conservative towns. Where should I be moving?'" says Seeden, of the people who post comments on the Conservatives Moving to Texas page.

Moving to areas with people you agree with has advantages "Yeah, we were open to moving, but Texas is a really red state," Tiffany says. "Still, I was thinking in my mind, 'How much worse can it get? We're in Indiana.' Fortunately for them, husband Nate, a construction executive, landed a new job in Austin. The Texas state capital is known for its liberal politics — the blueberry, as they say, in the red cherry pie. "We feel good here, we feel safe here," Tiffany says.

In fact, the COVID-19 protocols that drove some Californians to escape to North Texas are a plus for the Wootens in Austin. "It does feel like people take (mask wearing) more seriously here than they did in Greenfield," says Nate Wooten. "Just being considerate of other people. Even if you're vaccinated and you go somewhere, still wear a mask." What a difference a new city makes. Twelve-year-old Mya Wooten is taking a social justice class at her private school in downtown Austin, an opportunity they would not have found in Greenfield. Mya says a recent assignment was to pick an issue to protest. "It was ocean pollution, women's rights, or LGBTQ rights," she says. "So my topic was women's rights, and I made a poster of an open woman's mouth and it said, 'I have the right to be heard.'"

By moving to Austin, the Wootens joined The Big Sort. They made Greenfield a tad less purple, and Austin a smidgeon bluer. Tiffany sometimes wonders if they've done the right thing.

Americans have been 'sorting' politically for years



Conservatives from Southern California and elsewhere — (from left) Karen Bates, Bridget Melson, Lynn Seeden, Curt Seeden and Shirley Husar — found a more agreeable political environment when they moved to North Texas.

Queen Elizabeth II tests positive for COVID; mild symptoms

By JILL LAWLESS 24 minutes ago



LONDON (AP) — Queen Elizabeth II tested positive for COVID-19 on Sunday and is experiencing mild, cold-like symptoms, Buckingham Palace said, adding that the 95-year-old monarch would carry on working.



Jill Lawless @JillLawless

I cover culture, society and politics for The Associated Press in London. Ex-Ulaanbaatar and Toronto. Interests include Iceland, Mongolia and looking at things.

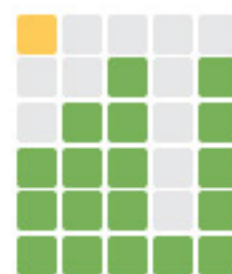
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Jill Lawless @JillLawless · Feb 17

Pride goes before a fall.
Wordle 243 6/6



UK: People with COVID in England won't need to self-isolate

By JILL LAWLESS an hour ago

LONDON (AP) — People with COVID-19 won't be legally required to self-isolate in England starting in the coming week, the U.K. government has announced, as part of a plan for "living with COVID" that is also likely to see testing for the coronavirus scaled back.

Prime Minister Boris Johnson said ending all of the legal restrictions brought in to curb the spread of the virus will let people in the U.K. "protect ourselves without restricting our freedoms." He is expected to lay out details of the plan in Parliament on Monday.



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"I'm not saying that we should throw caution to the winds, but now is the time for everybody to get their confidence back," Johnson told the BBC in an interview broadcast Sunday.

Britain's Prime Minister Boris Johnson rubbing his hair to get ready for a interview during the Munich Security Conference in Munich, Germany, Saturday, Feb. 19, 2022. (AP Photo/Matt

Women are the stars (and the victims) of the Beijing Olympics

February 19, 2022 · 4:33 AM ET

BRIAN MANN

BEIJING — When Eileen Gu, the freestyle skier from California who competes for China, winning two gold medals and a silver, she was introduced as "the princess" of the Beijing Games.

The Chinese media has dubbed Gu the 'snow princess.' The 18-year-old is a remarkable athlete — spinning and twisting through the air above the halfpipe.

She's also the breakout star of these Winter Olympics, dominating news coverage inside China and emerging as an international sports brand.

"Huge honor to be the first free skier to podium in three events as a woman," Gu told reporters at the packed news conference. "It also makes me very hopeful about what the next generation can accomplish."

This is the kind of story Olympic officials love to highlight. Women have made enormous gains from the first Winter Games a century ago when only a handful of women competed.

Nearly half of the athletes in Beijing are women: IOC spokesman Mark Adams says gender balance is now nearly equal. "We have a record number — 45.4% women — competing [in Beijing]," he said. That gradual evolution reflects work by international sports officials who added a new women-only event this year, the monobob sled competition, as well as more mixed events where men and women compete together. "It sends a signal from the IOC [International Olympic Committee] to the national Olympic committees that they need to build up the capacity of their women teams and invest in their women's teams, their women's athletes," Adams said.



Gold medalist Eileen Gu, competing for China, poses on the podium during the venue ceremony after the freestyle skiing women's freeski halfpipe

Who holds the power in international sport? But while participation and representation of women at the Olympics have improved, critics point out there's a dark side to how women are treated at the Games. Women have fewer events, which means fewer chances to medal. They typically earn less money. There are also far fewer women coaches and top sports executives.

"It is super important to ... push the boundaries," Gu says

Gu, the star skier, said this week she believes progress is needed in other sports as well. "Extreme sports we all know are heavily dominated by men and it has not had the kind of representation and sporting equity that it should," Gu said. "I think that as a young biracial woman, it is super important to ... push the boundaries. That's what paves the paths for the next generation of girls." Gu said she's made the decision to focus more of her time away from skiing, writing a book and enrolling at Stanford University.

One footnote about gender balance at these Games. While women compete in fewer events than men, the majority of U.S. gold medals at these Winter Olympics have been won by American women, in events where they competed alone or in mixed sports with male partners.



U.S. speed skater Erin Jackson skates to victory to win the gold medal in the Women's 500-meter on Feb. 13 at the Winter Olympics.

Figure skating age debate also exposes body image challenges

By SALLY HO today



Kamila Valieva, of the Russian Olympic Committee, reacts after the women's free skate program during the figure skating competition at the 2022 Winter Olympics, Thursday, Feb. 17, 2022, in Beijing

Four minutes of intense exertion is extremely difficult for even the best athletes in the world, so it's no surprise that skaters may go to extremes if they think it can help their performance.

"We're not supposed to see pain and vulnerability and all that, so it's hard to understand," says Luke Corey, a sports medicine dietitian at the Mayo Clinic. **"We want bigger, better but at what cost?"**

Valieva's case shows that the youngest skaters may be especially vulnerable to such pressures from adults pushing a win-at-all-costs approach, Cain-Gribble said. Raising the minimum age would help.

"You need to be at an age where you're able to make decisions and think on your own and be accountable and be able to know what is right and what is wrong," she said, "and not just be relying on those people that are in charge of you."

U.S. pairs skater Ashley Cain-Gribble believes a higher age limit would be helpful for the sport she nearly left due to body shaming over her strength and height. The 26-year-old is 5-foot-6, making her significantly taller than many of her peers.

"Give skaters a chance to allow their body to develop naturally," Cain-Gribble said. "I know that I didn't really come into my own body until many later years."



Ashley Cain-Gribble and Timothy Leduc, of the United States, compete in the pairs short program during the figure skating competition at the 2022 Winter Olympics, Friday, Feb. 18, 2022, in Beijing.

Happy Tuesday! Why numbers like 2/22/22 have been too fascinating for over 2,000 years

February 17, 2022 10:10am EST

Barry Markovsky, University of South Carolina



Is "Tuesday" as special as some corners of the internet seem to think? articular/iStock via Getty Images Plus

"Tuesday" is a simple example of a popular form of arithmetical shenanigans: numerology, the pseudoscientific practice of attaching supernatural significance to numbers. Numerology can be traced back 2,500 years to the Greek mathematician Pythagoras, with alternative systems appearing elsewhere, including China and the Middle East.

Numerology may look mathematical, but it's more akin to palmistry and reading tea leaves. It has been popularized through magazines, books, movies, television

programs, websites and other social media. Assessing the extent of numerology's popularity is difficult, but the belief that certain numbers are good or bad is common. For example, **nearly a quarter of Americans say 7 is lucky.**

This Feb. 22, the world hits an unprecedented milestone. It's the date itself: **2/22/22. And this so-called "Tuesday" falls on a Tuesday, no less.**

It's true the number pattern stands out, impossible to miss. But does it mean anything? Judging by the thousands of commemorative products available for purchase online, it may appear to.

"Tuesday" carries absolutely no historical significance or any cosmic message. Yet it does speak volumes about our brains and cultures.

I'm a social psychologist who studies how paranormal claims and pseudoscience take hold as popular beliefs. They're nearly always absurd from a scientific perspective, but they're great for illustrating how brains, people, groups and cultures work together to create shared meaning.

The brain has evolved a fantastic capacity to find meanings and connections. Doing so once meant the difference between survival and death. Recognizing paw prints in the soil, for example, signified dangerous predators to be avoided, or prey to be captured and consumed. Changes in daylight indicated when to plant crops and when to harvest them.

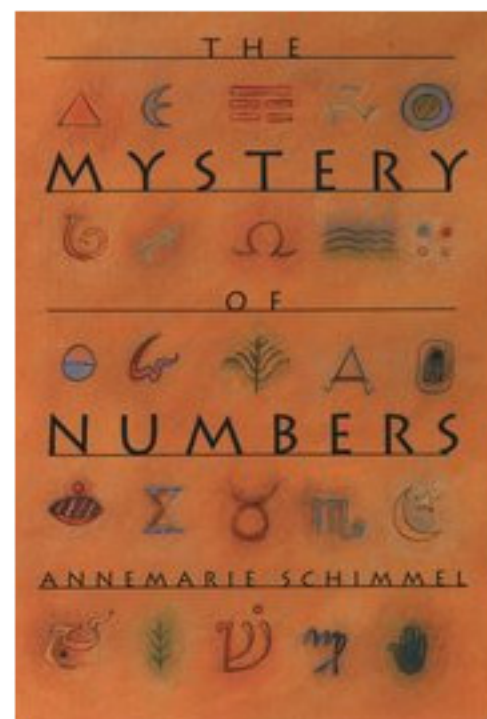
Even when survival isn't at stake, it's rewarding to detect a pattern such as a familiar face or song. Finding one, the brain zaps its synapses with a little shot of dopamine, incentivizing itself to keep finding more patterns.

When a number sequence seems to jump out at us, this is an example of **apophenia: perceiving meaningful connections between unrelated things. The term was first developed to characterize a symptom of schizophrenia.**

Another example of apophenia is astrology, which visually connects stars into constellations. These are the familiar Zodiac signs such as "The Ram," Aries; or "The Archer," Sagittarius. Each sign is linked to meanings associated with its respective object. For example, people born under the sign of Aries are believed to be stubborn like rams. But those signs don't exist in the sky in any physical sense, and the system fails scientific tests.

[...]

As for "Tuesday," I'll conclude by plumbing its "hidden meaning." Take the three roots of 02, 22 and 2022. We arrive at $2 + 4 + 6 = 12$, and the destiny number 3. Some numerologists associate this number with optimism and joy. Though I may reject the messenger, I'll accept that message.



Apophenia

Apophenia (/æpəʊ'fi:niə/) is the tendency to perceive meaningful connections between unrelated things. The term was coined by psychiatrist Klaus Conrad in his 1958 publication on the beginning stages of schizophrenia. He defined it as "unmotivated seeing of connections [accompanied by] a specific feeling of abnormal meaningfulness". He described the early stages of delusional thought as self-referential over-interpretations of actual sensory perceptions, as opposed to hallucinations.

Apophenia has also come to describe a human propensity to unreasonably seek patterns in random information, such as can occur while gambling.

Examples include Pareidolia, Gambling, Statistics and Finance

Pareidolia is a type of apophenia involving the perception of images or sounds in random stimuli. A common example is the perception of a face within an inanimate object—the headlights and grill of an automobile may appear to be "grinning". People around the world see the "Man in the Moon". People sometimes see the face of a religious figure in a piece of toast or in the grain of a piece of wood. There is strong evidence that the use of psychedelic drugs tends to induce or enhance pareidolia. Pareidolia usually occurs as a result of the fusiform face area—which is the part of the human brain responsible for seeing faces—mistakenly interpreting an object, shape or configuration with some kind of perceived "face-like" features as being a face.

Gamblers may imagine that they see patterns in the numbers that appear in lotteries, card games, or roulette wheels, where no such patterns exist. A common example of this is the gambler's fallacy.

In statistics, apophenia is an example of a type I error – the false identification of patterns in data. It may be compared to a so-called false positive in other test situations.

The problem of apophenia **in finance** has been addressed in academic articles. More specifically, *within the world of finance itself, the examples most prone to apophenia are trading, structuring, sales and compensation.*

Causes: Although there is no confirmed reason as to why it occurs, there are some respected theories.



Klaus Conrad was a German neurologist and psychiatrist with important contributions to neuropsychology and psychopathology. He joined the Nazi Party (NSDAP) in 1940. He was best known as a professor of psychiatry and neurology, and director of the University



Models of pattern recognition: Pattern recognition is a cognitive process that involves retrieving information either from long-term, short-term or working memory and matching it with information from stimuli. However, there are **three different ways in which this may happen and go wrong, resulting in apophenia: Template matching, Prototype matching and Feature analysis**, which suggests the stimulus is first broken down into its features and then processed. This model of pattern recognition says that the **processing goes through four stages:** detection, pattern dissection, feature comparison in memory, and recognition.

Evolution: one of the explanations put forth by evolutionary psychologists for apophenia is that it is not a flaw in the cognition of human brains but rather something that has come about through years of need. The study of this topic is referred to as error management theory. One of the most accredited studies in this field is Skinner's box. This experiment involved taking a hungry pigeon, placing it in a box and releasing food pellets at a random times. The pigeon received a food pellet while performing some action; and so, rather than attributing the arrival of the pellet to randomness, the pigeon repeats that action, and continues to do so until another pellet falls. As the pigeon increases the number of times it performs the action, it gains the impression that it also increased the times it was "rewarded" with a pellet, although the release in fact remained entirely random.

Apophenia in Art: *A Beautiful Mind* is a 2001 American biographical drama film based on the life of the American mathematician John Nash, a Nobel Laureate in Economics and Abel Prize winner. The film was directed by Ron Howard, from a screenplay written by Akiva Goldsman. It was inspired by



Pattern recognition is the chronic genetic disorder of the financial industry, writes "Ibn Gosset"



UTOPE-ia

Wilmott, Volume 2012, Issue 60, pages 28-37, July 2012

10 Pages • Posted: 26 Apr 2014 • Last revised: 6 Apr 2017

Babak Mahdavi-Damghani

University of Oxford - Oxford-Man Institute of Quantitative Finance

Date Written: September 27, 2012

Abstract

The financial industry is at the heart of our economy and fittingly comes under much scrutiny. Indeed, as a result of social and political pressure, particularly since the recent subprime crisis, more rigorous regulations have been imposed on both "authorized firms" and "approved persons" via the SEC and the FSA. It is hoped that these restrictions will continue to secure fair and honest practices within the industry, as well as restoring the public's confidence in bankers.

This article will outline one risk that institutions like the SEC and the FSA have not regulated heavily enough but must address promptly if trust in them is to be preserved. This is the Unfortunate cost Of Pattern rEcognition (UTOPE), technically known as apophenia.

Keywords: Psychology, Apophenia, Unfortunate cost Of Pattern rEcognition, UTOPE, Behavioural Finance

PSYCHOLOGY

Apophenia

Apophenia is the technical name for, what some may consider, a problem with human nature: that is, seeing meaningful patterns when they do not exist. This might be best illustrated with a fairly bizarre phenomenon, pareidolia,¹ i.e., seeing faces in toast/clouds/crisps, and so on. When someone believes that they see their preferred deity depicted in their morning repast

and it is not always clear that these traders and structurers understand that the patterns they are seeing may sometimes be spurious.

In this article the issue will be further explained, along with the moral and legal ramifications. As well as this, possible remedies will be suggested; however, it will be concluded that, although apophenia is certainly a dangerous problem, there is not necessarily a clear solu-

survival method that has developed to help animals avoid these adverse situations is the ability to recognize patterns.⁴

Human beings tend to be more adept at noticing patterns and acting on them than other animals. For instance, understanding the dynamics of seasons gave rise to one of the greatest technological advancements of the human species: agriculture. Pattern recognition helps most

-ia

The problem is that the rules laid out by the FSA or the SEC do not stress enough the moral and biological ramifications of the ways one chooses to present information to clients. As such, front-office employees do not get the opportunity to be guided with respect to these ramifications

Pattern recognition is the chronic genetic disorder of the financial industry, writes "Ibn Gosset"



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About

Ibn Gosset is a "nom de plume".

Experience



Quant Analyst

"Not allowed to divulge"

Nov 1959 - Present · 62 years

David Gosset



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Previously I was a research staff member and manager of the Theory of Quantum Algorithms group at the IBM T.J. Watson Research Center. Before joining IBM I held postdoctoral fellowships at IQC/Waterloo, and at Caltech. I completed my PhD in Physics in 2011 at MIT under the supervision of Eddie Farhi. I did my undergraduate degree in physics and math at UBC.

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Pattern recognition is the chronic genetic disorder of the financial industry, writes "Ibn Gosset"



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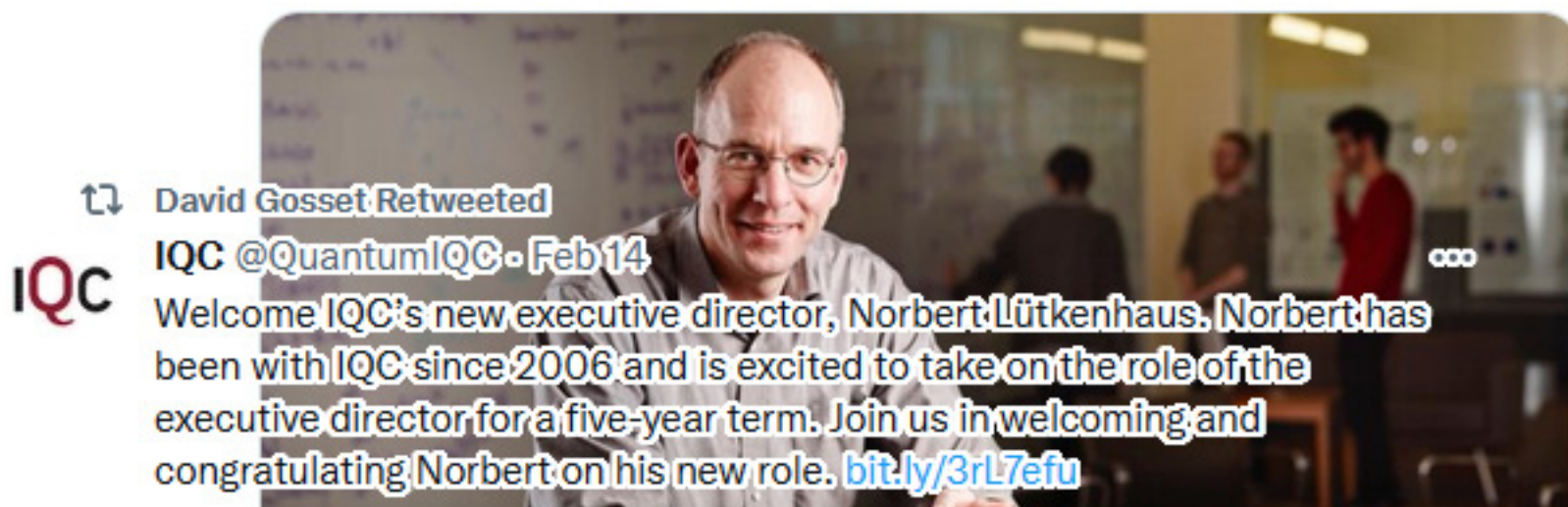
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David Gosset joined the Institute for Quantum Computing (IQC) as an Associate Professor in the Department of Combinatorics and Optimization at the University of Waterloo on August 1, 2018.

Gosset received his PhD in Physics from MIT in 2011 under the supervision of Edward Farhi. His doctoral work focused on the power and limitations of quantum adiabatic algorithms. This spurred his interest in the computer science perspective on physics and its application to models of computation, the computational complexity of quantum many-body systems, and quantum algorithms.



2 13 86

<https://youtu.be/1Y5RGit16uE>

3,557,122 views • Nov 14, 2021

INNERVISION

"AI is a rare case where we need to be proactive in regulation instead of reactive."

"AI is a fundamental existential risk for human civilization and society as a whole, I don't think people fully appreciate that,"

Elon Musk

[Artificial Intelligence]

<https://youtu.be/1Y5RGit16uE>

3,557,122 views • Nov 14, 2021

08:17 > let's talk about the energy piece and rooftop solar and storage

First of all it's important to appreciate that the earth is almost entirely solar powered today in the sense that the sun is the only thing that keeps us from being at roughly the temperature of cosmic background radiation which is three degrees above absolute zero so one per sun would be a frozen dark ice ball the amount of so the amount of energy hits the side that reaches us from the sun is tremendous it's it's over 99 plus of all energy that earth has then there's there's there's this energy we need to use to run civilization which to us is big but compared to the amount of energy that reaches us from the sun is tiny so it's very easy like it actually doesn't take much if you wanted to power the entire united states with solar panels um it would take um a put a fairly small corner of nevada texas utah anywhere you only need about 100 miles by 100 miles of solar panels it's probably the entire united states and then the the batteries you need to store that energy to make sure you have 24/7 power is one mile by one mile, one one square mile that's that's that's it i showed the graph of the image of this where uh this is what 100 miles about 100 miles looks like it's like a little square on the us map and then one there's a little pixel inside there and that's the size of the battery pack that you need to support that real tiny.



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**Recall District Attorney Chesa Boudin
on June 7, 2022**

Real Time with Bill Maher Episode 590

Streamed live on Feb 18, 2022

<https://youtu.be/hyKB3Y--77w>

08:31 Bill Maher: What are what are the radical policies?

08:34 Brooke Jenkins: That gangs don't exist,
that they're a social constructs,
that he's not going to use gang charges ...



Brooke Jenkins

@BrookeJenkinsSF

Wife, Mother, Dedicated Prosecutor and Advocate. Volunteer for [@safersfnoboudin](#)

San Francisco, CA [safersfwithoutboudin.com](https://www.safersfwithoutboudin.com) Joined April 2018

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Brooke Jenkins @BrookeJenkinsSF · Feb 18

See me discuss how the BOE recall affects the Boudin recall on overtime.

Real Time with Bill Maher @RealTimers · Feb 18

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Why a progressive prosecutor just left D.A. Chesa Boudin's office and joined the recall effort

Heather Knight | Oct. 24, 2021

Sitting on a bench in Golden Gate Park on a recent afternoon, Brooke Jenkins made clear the city's raging debate over crime and how District Attorney Chesa Boudin responds to it is more complicated than left versus right.

Jenkins, a former homicide prosecutor, just quit. Her last day was Oct. 15. She's now one of 59 attorneys — more than 40% of the lawyers in the office — to depart since Boudin took office in January 2020. Thirty-seven resigned, 11 retired and an additional 11 were fired, the office said. But Jenkins' decision to speak out about what she views as chaotic management, high turnover and ideologically driven decisions at the D.A.'s office sets her apart in the normally tight-lipped criminal justice community. And so does her new role: volunteering for the campaign to recall her former boss.

Jenkins, 40, is Black and Latina and — like Boudin — describes herself as a progressive prosecutor who has long sought alternatives to incarceration. She told me she agrees with the central tenet of Boudin's campaign: that the criminal justice system is racist and needs reform. But she disagrees with what she sees as Boudin prioritizing ideology and politics over the day-to-day handling of cases, which she said has yielded an unorganized office, plummeting morale and bad outcomes for victims and their families.

It's important to note that this is personal for Jenkins. One of those families was her husband's — devastated by the slaying last year of his 18-year-old cousin and what the family views as an ineffective prosecution of his alleged killers.

"The D.A.'s office now is a sinking ship," she said. "It's like the Titanic, and it's taking public safety along with it."

Since taking office 21 months ago, Boudin has become one of the most polarizing public figures in San Francisco — so much so that a recall of him is likely to qualify for the ballot after the campaign filed 83,487 signatures Friday, 32,000 more than needed.

...

The first public option health plan in the U.S. struggles to gain traction

February 21, 2022 · 5:04 AM ET

MARKIAN HAWRYLUK

KAISER HEALTH NEWS

With prospects dim for the U.S. to adopt a single-payer Medicare-for-All program, health care reform advocates turned instead to an insurance plan designed by the government that could compete with private insurance plans sold on the health care exchanges. The idea behind this "public option" is that it could ultimately expand health care access by making a lower-cost plan available to consumers.

But the public option plan, though backed by Presidents Joe Biden and Barack Obama, also has gone nowhere due to political opposition in Congress.

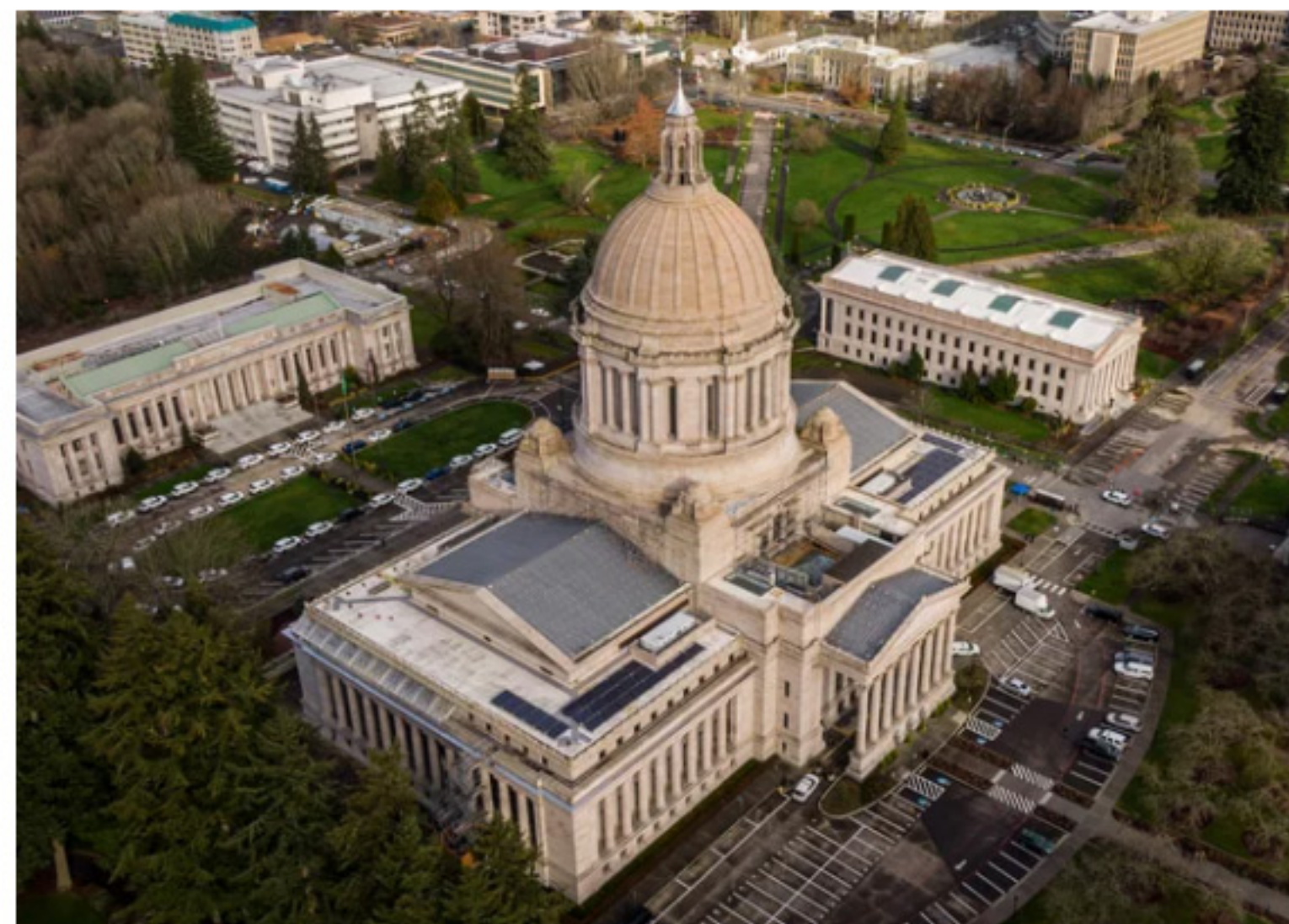
Some states have picked up the banner and are creating their own public option plans. But they, too, are facing formidable opposition from the health care establishment, which is resisting the pressure to reduce costs on the back end so that consumers can pay less.

Washington State, in its second year of offering the nation's first public-option health insurance plan, has learned an important lesson: If you want hospitals to participate, you're probably going to have to force them.

The Washington public option is more of a public-private partnership: The plan was designed by the state but is offered by private insurance companies. Anyone buying their own policy on the state's health insurance marketplace can sign up for a public option plan, and depending on their income, may receive significant subsidies from the federal government to lower its cost.

But two years in, the plans are available in only 25 of the state's 39 counties, enrollment numbers have been underwhelming, and state leaders blame hospitals.

"The plans had a hard time getting networks put together because the hospitals wouldn't play," said state Rep. Eileen Cody, the Washington legislator who introduced the public-option bill in 2019. "They're a big part of the problem."



In this aerial view from a drone, the Washington State Capitol is seen on Jan. 17, 2021 in Olympia, Wash.

Officials from the Washington State Hospital Association said that more hospitals than not are voluntarily participating in public-option plans. But, they noted, **the public option relies on cutting payments to hospitals to control costs and ties reimbursement to Medicare rates, which don't cover hospitals' cost of providing care.**

"If patients opt to join a public-option plan rather than private insurance, over time it could create financial challenges, especially for small, rural providers operating on thin margins," said Chelene Whiteaker, senior vice president of government affairs for the hospital group.

Washington State legislators last year voted to mandate that hospitals contract with a public-option plan if public-option plans weren't available in each county in 2022. That mandate will go into effect for 2023.

KHN (Kaiser Health News) is a national newsroom that produces in-depth journalism about health issues. It is an editorially independent operating program of KFF (Kaiser Family Foundation).

More contagious version of omicron spreads in U.S., fueling worries

February 21, 2022 · 7:00 AM ET



The virus, known as BA.2



Thousands of people test positive for the coronavirus in the U.S. daily, and a small but growing fraction of them are for the more contagious omicron variant BA.2.

As the omicron surge continues to decline in the U.S., infectious disease experts are keeping a close eye on an even more contagious version of the variant that could once again foil the nation's hopes of getting back to normal.

The virus, known as BA.2, is a strain of the highly contagious omicron variant that appears to spread even more easily — about 30% more easily.

Because BA.2 quickly overtook the original omicron in South Africa and other countries and has even caused a second omicron surge in Denmark, researchers have been bracing for the same thing to happen in the U.S. "A lot of us were assuming that it was going to quickly take off in the United States just like it was doing in Europe and become the new dominant variant," says Nathan Grubaugh, an associate professor of epidemiology at the Yale School of Public Health. So far that hasn't happened. Instead, BA.2 has slowly, but steadily spread even as the omicron surge continued to dissipate. The fear is that spread may be on track to rapidly accelerate in the near future.

BA.2 has now been found from coast to coast and accounts for an estimated 3.9% all new infections nationally, according to the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. It appears to be doubling fast.

"If it doubles again to 8%, that means we're into the exponential growth phase and we may be staring at another wave of COVID-19 coming in the U.S.," says Samuel Scarpino, the manager director of pathogen surveillance at the Rockefeller Foundation. "And that's of course the one we're really worried about. We're all on the edge of our seats," he says.

Some experts think it's unlikely BA.2 will trigger a massive new surge because so many people have immunity from prior infections and vaccination at this point. "The most likely thing that's going to happen is that it might extend our tail, meaning it might slow down the decrease in cases. But it's probably not going to lead to a new wave of cases," says Grubaugh.

Omicron is still infecting more than 100,000 people and killing about 2,000 people every day in the U.S. So even though BA.2 doesn't appear to make people sicker than the original omicron, just slowing down the decline in new cases would translate to more serious illness and death. And adding to the concern, one of the remaining antibody treatments for COVID-19 may be less effective against BA.2, according to recent research.

"There are going to be plenty of people getting sick and ending up on respirators and dying because of BA.2," says Dr. Jeremy Luban, a virologist at the University of Massachusetts Medical School, especially among the millions who still aren't vaccinated.

Although vaccination and prior infection does appear to protect people against BA.2, this version of the virus seems somewhat better at evading the immune system that the original omicron was. This increases the concern that it could drive a growth in new cases.

And while Luban agrees the most likely scenario is that BA.2 will just extend the omicron wave, he says it's impossible to rule out the possibility of another surge.

"It may be that the virus has to get to somewhere like 5-7%, and then all of a sudden once it has a foothold like that, it will take off," Luban says.

Especially if that happens just as mask mandates and other restrictions are being lifted across the country and people are really letting down their guard.

"There is this lurking threat of BA.2. And we need to make sure this isn't going to be a problem before we roll back all the mandates, before we tell everybody that it's safe," Scarpino says.

Otherwise, the nation could get blindsided yet again.

9 moments that resonated at the 2022 Beijing Winter Olympics

February 21, 2022 · 6:21 AM ET

JACLYN DIAZ  TOM GOLDMAN  BRIAN MANN

Nathan Chen stuns in men's figure skating; *Pairs figure skaters from China take gold*; **Eileen Gu** is a breakout star; **Erin Jackson** takes gold after almost missing the Games; *"Don't count the old girl out"* -- 36-year-old U.S. snowboarder **Lindsey Jacobellis**; 35-year-old **Shaun White** lays down a final run to retire; an Olympics without politics or protest *with one notable exception* -- Beijing Olympics spokesperson **Yan Jiarong**; **Kamila Valieva** falters while another Russian doping scandal clouds the Olympics.

Skier Mikaela Shiffrin faces failure with grace



Team USA's Mikaela Shiffrin competes in the mixed team parallel quarterfinals on Feb. 20.

PURPLE ROADS À MONTRÉAL IN WHICH I WALK THE LENGTH OF EVERY STREET ON THE ISLAND OF MONTRÉAL FOR WANT OF ANYTHING BETTER TO DO

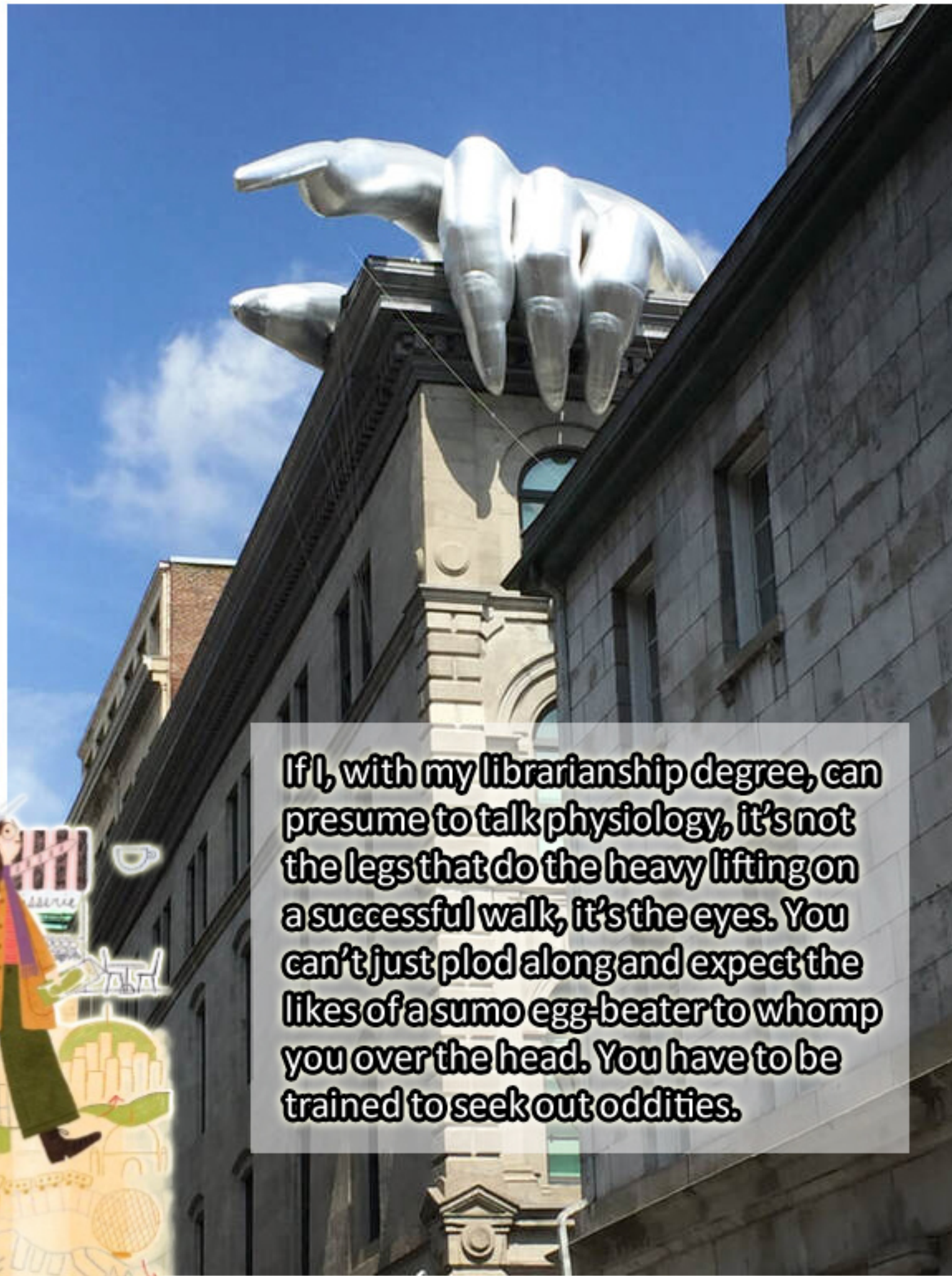
The Globe and Mail

ROAMING PLAN

Montreal • Berlin • Saint-Denis

23 Feb 2022

Phyllis Rudin lives in Montreal.



If I, with my librarianship degree, can presume to talk physiology, it's not the legs that do the heavy lifting on a successful walk, it's the eyes. You can't just plod along and expect the likes of a sumo egg-beater to whomp you over the head. You have to be trained to seek out oddities.





PURPLE ROADS À MONTRÉAL

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The Globe and Mail

ROAMING PLAN

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I'M BACK BABY

8/3/2021 <https://purpleroads.weebly.com/home/im-back-baby>

0 Comments

After about two years forced hiatus from my walking project, thanks to Mr. Covid and incidentally getting hit by a truck and ending up in the ER on one of my walks, I'm back to criss-crossing the streets of Montreal.

If I, with my librarianship degree, can presume to talk physiology, it's not the legs that do the heavy lifting on a successful walk, it's the eyes. You can't just plod along and expect the likes of a sumo egg-beater to whomp you over the head. You have to be trained to seek out oddities.



The Human Foods Horses Can and Cannot Eat.

Generally, horses can eat human foods such as fruits and vegetables like apples(without the core), raisins, carrots, bananas, celery, cucumbers, and grapes. However, they can't eat human foods containing caffeine, chocolates, fruit seeds, pits, and things containing garlic or onion.

Many individuals may think that a horse can only be fed grass and hay, yet it's quite the opposite. There's a lot of treats that are beneficial to their well-being and which they will love.



Surprisingly, chocolate is one of the most dangerous snacks you can feed your horse as its theobromine is known to cause colic, seizures, and internal bleedings in horses. Providing it large amounts of cocoa can be fatal.

Anything containing (trimethylxanthine), otherwise known as caffeine, should be avoided at all times for the fact that it can alter your horse's heart rhythm, causing it to become irregular.

Can horses eat human oats?

Horses can eat human oats, and it's healthy for them. The only difference is the oats for humans don't have the hulls. Horse oats are either whole oats (oat including the hull) or crimped oats (with the hull busted open).

Can humans eat horse oats?

No, humans shouldn't eat horse oats because they contain the hull of the oats, even if they're crimped or rolled. If you were desperate, you can soak or crush horse oats and eat them.

Why can't humans eat horse meat?

Humans can consume horse meat, and many people worldwide do; it's a cheap source of lean protein. In the United States, it's illegal to sell horse meat for human consumption. However, horse meat was legal to eat in the U.S. in the past, and it was readily consumed in desperate times, like during the Civil War.

Can horses eat peanut butter?

Your horse may be able to consume peanut butter safely, but I wouldn't risk feeding it to my horse. Peanut butter is high in fat and doesn't provide any benefit to your horse. Some people give their horses a small amount without any negative effects, but there are plenty of other choices, so why risk giving peanut butter to your horse?



New Food & Yard Waste Recycling Rules

Summer 2022

[California State Senate Bill 1383](#) (SB 1383), requires the reduction of organic waste disposed of in landfills. Organic waste is food scraps and food-soiled paper from kitchens and food operations and yard waste such as garden and landscape waste, organic textiles and carpets and wood waste.

Reason for Changes

According to the Environmental Protection Agency, organic waste accounts for a significant portion of California's waste stream. Left to decompose in landfills, the organic waste releases methane, a gas that traps the sun's heat, warms the atmosphere and contributes to global warming and climate change. Organic waste in landfills also emits air pollutants such as fine particulate matter (PM 2.5), which contributes to health conditions like asthma. To address this issue, then-Governor Jerry Brown, signed Senate Bill 1383 into law which targets the reduction of pollutants, including methane. Cities throughout California must meet the new reduction limits through organic waste reduction.



Homes Serviced by the City



As a result of this enormous planning effort, changes to yard waste collection for City of San Diego serviced residences will begin in the summer of 2022 and will be phased in. Exact dates for implementation at each residence (or neighborhood) is still to be determined. Please follow these protocols until otherwise notified:

- Residences with bi-weekly yard waste collection who currently have a green automated, City-provided curbside bin, **please continue to discard yard waste only** until notified when you can include food scraps in your green bin and when your weekly organic waste recycling collection will start.
- Residences with yard waste collection who do not have a green automated curbside bin but use manual bins that they provide themselves, **please continue to discard yard waste only** until a green bin is delivered to you from the City and are notified when you can include food scraps and when your weekly organic waste recycling collection will start.
- Residences with no curbside green bin yard waste collection will be notified when organic waste recycling collection will start.

The City will notify your home when a green bin and food waste kitchen pail will be delivered, and when organic waste recycling collection service will begin.

In addition to curbside organic waste recycling collection, all residences currently have the option to turn their kitchen scraps and yard waste trimmings into compost by having their own-at-home backyard composting or worm composting bin. Learn more about our discounted compost bin voucher offer, backyard composting education resources and free workshops [here](#).

The COVID Symptoms Scaring Doctors Most

Everything to know about Long COVID.

BY HEATHER NEWGEN

FEBRUARY 22, 2022

FACT CHECKED BY  ALEK KORAB



COVID cases are dropping and the surge is peaking in many areas, but the pandemic isn't over. Avoiding the virus is important because it affects people differently. For some, it results in mild illness. For others, it can cause prolonged symptoms and health complications lasting months, which is now referred to as Long COVID. According to Penn State College of Medicine, more than half of the 236 million people diagnosed with COVID-19 since December 2019 will experience post-COVID symptoms up to six months after recovering.

"Long COVID refers to the long-term side effects or complications someone may develop after recovering from a COVID-19 infection," says Marchese. "Many people with mild symptoms recover fully from COVID-19 after a few weeks, especially those who are vaccinated. However, Long COVID may cause some effects to persist for four weeks or more. Long COVID often manifests in older people or those with serious medical conditions but can occur in young, otherwise healthy individuals as well."

How Long Are People With Long COVID Contagious?

Woman being sick having flu lying on sofa looking at temperature on thermometer. Sick woman lying in bed with high fever. "There is still limited information on how long people with Long COVID remain infectious, but persistent fevers tend to be less common after recovery from COVID-19," says Marchese. "Fever is a typical indication that someone may be infectious, which is a sign that Long COVID is less infectious after recovery. Current data suggests that people with lingering symptoms may be infectious for up to two weeks after infection, but likely not much longer than that."

At What Point Do You Know You Have Long COVID?

"COVID-19 typically causes shortness of breath, fevers, and general fatigue as its most significant effects," says Marchese. "You will likely know once you start to feel better that you are recovering from COVID. However, some symptoms—such as cough, loss of smell or taste, headaches, nausea, dizziness, and muscle pains—can linger for weeks or months after major symptoms subside. The severity of symptoms will differ for each person, so it's important to seek medical attention if any symptoms persist or worsen more than a few days after they begin."

How Long COVID Happens

"COVID-19 causes inflammation throughout the body that can damage sensitive tissues in the lungs, kidneys, and heart," says Marchese. "After someone recovers from the initial viral infection, the damage caused by inflammation can still produce symptoms indicative of long-term harm. More research is needed before we fully know how and why COVID-19 affects the body for so long after infection, and why it occurs in some people and not others. Some early reports suggest that a high viral load early in the infection or the presence of certain medical conditions, such as type 2 diabetes, might increase the risk of Long COVID."

Who is at Risk for Long COVID

Marchese explains, "Data is still limited on who develops Long COVID and why, but so far the groups have been very diverse. We know that about 20-30% of children who get COVID-19 will have Long COVID, even those who don't present with symptoms but test positive for the virus. In adults, more than half of those diagnosed with COVID-19 will experience Long COVID up to six months after recovering. However, the vaccinations have shown to be incredibly effective at preventing Long COVID and reduces the likelihood of long-term effects by about 90%."

Potential Long-Term Effects of Long COVID

"Long-term COVID-19 damage to sensitive organs can lead to potentially life-threatening conditions," says Marchese. "In addition to long-term breathing or heart problems, Long COVID may cause chronic kidney impairment, strokes, and damage to the nervous system in a condition known as Guillain-Barré syndrome. Blood clots are one of the most significant issues for those fighting Long COVID. Clots can affect the brain, lungs, heart, and kidneys, shutting down vital body functions necessary for life. Even small clots can damage capillaries and weaken blood vessels that can cause bleeding in the future."

How to Stay Safe Out There

Follow the public health fundamentals and help end this pandemic, no matter where you live—get vaccinated or boosted ASAP; if you live in an area with low vaccination rates, wear an N95 face mask, don't travel, social distance, avoid large crowds, don't go indoors with people you're not sheltering with (especially in bars), practice good hand hygiene, and to live your healthiest life, don't visit any of these [35 Places You're Most Likely to Catch COVID](#).



What college students do during and after spring break can affect the number of COVID-19 cases on campus. Paul Hennessy/SOPA Images/LightRocket via Getty Images

COVID-19 cases on campus could surge after spring break unless students take certain precautions

Published: February 23, 2022 8.36am EST

 **Naveen K. Vaidya**, San Diego State University

In a new study published in Scientific Reports, researchers found that breaking up spring break into small breaks instead of the traditional nine-day vacation can help reduce COVID-19 cases on campus by 2% to 37% when students return. To learn more, The Conversation reached out to Naveen K. Vaidya, a co-author of the study and an expert in mathematical modeling, to predict how infectious diseases spread and to get his take on whether a traditional spring break this year will be safe.

What happened in 2021 at colleges that offered a regular spring break?

Many of them had surges after spring break, but the levels varied. The size of the surge depended on several variables. One of the most important factors was how many students from campus traveled and, if so, whether they went to a destination with a high prevalence of COVID-19 cases. But data from spring 2021 only offers limited insight because most universities offered online or hybrid classes at the time, so not all colleges had students returning from spring break to campus. Plus, many implemented post-spring-break protocols, such as two-week quarantines and mandatory regular testing. The first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine had begun to be administered before spring break last year. Also, the delta variant, which significantly affected younger people, was already circulating in other places in the world and was about to surface in the U.S.

middle range of Spring Breaks: March 5th through 21st, 2022 and beyond

Some schools canceled the traditional spring breaks, and some attempted to curb the expected bump in COVID-19 cases when students returned to campus. For example, the University of California at Berkeley required students who lived on campus to quarantine for 10 days after spring break. The University of California, Davis reduced student travel by offering a \$75 gift card to students to have a “staycation” on campus during spring break. About 2,500 students took the university up on its offer. Post-spring break surges were reported on college campuses in states such as Florida, Indiana, Michigan and New York.

Is spring break safe for this year?

We don’t know. Spring break itself is not the problem, but it can become problematic based on other variables, such as how many students travel and whether they go places where there is a relatively high prevalence of COVID-19 cases.

Based on those variables and our model simulations, breaking up spring break into shorter breaks instead of the regular nine-day break could reduce COVID-19 cases between 2% and 37%. However, the actual percentage will likely be influenced by the presence of the more transmissible omicron variant and by the fact that many more people are vaccinated than at this time last year.

What kinds of destinations should students avoid?

If students travel, they should consider going to places where the prevalence of COVID-19 cases is relatively low and the portion of people who are vaccinated is relatively high. People can check with government websites or other sources, such as the Johns Hopkins University & Medicine’s Coronavirus Resource Center, to see the status of vaccination rates in a particular place.

A vacation plan with more outdoor activities will be beneficial because the virus is less likely to be transmitted outdoors. Coming into contact with fewer people and wearing masks during travel can also help reduce exposure to COVID-19.

Do you expect COVID-19 cases to spike at campuses when students return?

Yes, that is what is predicted by our model and what many universities experienced last year. However, it should be noted that students might have already been vaccinated, probably even with a booster, as mandated by many universities, which can also lessen the spread of the coronavirus.

Also, two years of the pandemic, to some extent, might have taught people to observe safer practices when they are in a crowd, such as keeping their distance from people, wearing a mask properly and washing their hands frequently.

While some spikes of COVID-19 are expected following spring break, policy changes by colleges, such as incentives for students who avoid travel, sending frequent emails reminding students to wear a mask and reduce contacts, and a few days of quarantine with frequent testing upon return, may help curtail potential surges.

Catherine Spalding (December 23, 1793 – March 20, 1858), in 1813, aged nineteen, was elected leader of six women forming a new religious community, the Sisters of Charity of Nazareth, at a time when no education for girls, private health care, or organized social services existed on the Kentucky frontier. On January 6, 2003, the Louisville Courier-Journal named her the one woman among sixteen "most influential people in Louisville/Jefferson County history."

Catherine Spalding was born on December 23, 1793 in Charles County, Maryland. At the age of three, her family moved to Nelson County, Kentucky. Her mother died shortly thereafter. Her father incurred heavy debts and deserted both financial obligations and his family. Her aunt and uncle, Thomas and Elizabeth Spalding Elder, raised the five Spalding children with ten children of their own. At sixteen, Catherine went to live with her cousins, Richard and Clementina Elder Clark for three years until she joined the newly founded Sisters of Charity of Nazareth.

Mother Catherine's legacy is embodied in her Sisters, which is international now in membership and in ministries of education, care of the sick, impoverished, and orphan, and in advocacy groups for social justice in five nations of North America, Asia, and Africa.

Mother Catherine has been called the founder of social work in Kentucky. Under her leadership, schools and hospitals in Kentucky were founded, including Nazareth Academy (1814), St. Vincent's Academy (1820), St. Catherine's Academy - Lexington (1823), Presentation Academy (1831), St. Vincent's Orphan Asylum (1832), St. Joseph's Hospital (1836), and St. Francis' School at Owensboro (1850).

Spalding University in Louisville is named after Mother Catherine Spalding. The Spalding Family Scholarship was established in 1967 by Hughes Spalding as a living memorial to her, and is awarded annually to a student who shows financial need.

In 2015 a statue of Mother Catherine was unveiled, which is the first statue of a historic woman in public space in Louisville, Kentucky. The statue is located in front of the parish office on South Fifth Street downtown.



TECH • SOCIAL MEDIA

Meet the Obscure Financier Behind Donald Trump's Media Company



BY **BLAKE SCHMIDT, FELIPE MARQUES AND HEATHER PERLBERG / BLOOMBERG**

OCTOBER 22, 2021 8:55 AM EDT

From a WeWork office in Miami, an obscure financier by the name of Patrick Orlando has become an unlikely power behind what is, for a meme-stock minute, the ultimate MAGA stock: the nascent media company of former President Donald J. Trump.

Orlando's firm is set to be the money behind Trump Media and Technology Group, the former president's attempt to fight back against Big Tech. Trump says he plans to start with a social network called Truth Social but has broader ambitions to create a conglomerate—with news, streaming and technology businesses to compete with CNN and Disney+.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Trump_Media_%26_Technology_Group

The company will go public through a merger with **Orlando's Digital World Acquisition Corp.**, and if all goes according to plan, it'll happen before the 2022 mid-term elections, enabling Trump to reach millions of supporters after he was kicked off Twitter and Facebook for inciting insurrection in the Capitol.

Whether Trump can successfully pull off his next business venture was, for the moment, almost beside the point. The surge represented the convergence of two powerful forces—one financial, the other political—in a markets-meet-social-media craze akin to the wild run in GameStop earlier this year.

The deal brings together an unlikely cast of characters.

Orlando, a former Deutsche Bank AG derivatives trader, started banking firm Benessere Capital almost a decade ago. He's also co-founded a sugar-trading company and worked for a sugar processor.

Most recently he's embraced blank check companies. Orlando is also the chief executive officer of Yunhong International, a SPAC incorporated in the Cayman Islands and whose offices are in Wuhan, China. Yunhong raised \$60 million last year and was meant to merge with battery manufacturer Giga Carbon Neutrality, but the deal was scrapped in September.

Orlando didn't reply to calls and an email from Bloomberg asking for comment.

Digital World raised \$293 million in September from a group of hedge funds including D.E. Shaw, Saba Capital Management, Highbridge Capital Management and Palm Beach, Florida-based Lighthouse Investment Partners.

Unlike most SPACs it doesn't have PIPE investors, or private investment in public equity. They buttress SPAC mergers by helping enable a deal to go through even when early investors decide to redeem their shares.

Digital World's board is light with people with media expertise.

Its Chief Financial Officer is Luiz Philippe de Orleans e Braganca, a member of Brazil's national congress. He's frequently referred to as a "prince" because of his claim to the defunct Brazilian throne as a descendant of Emperor Pedro II.

Braganca, who's called for a return to the monarchy in Brazil, has worked as a director for Time Warner's AOL Latin America division.

"This new platform will fight the tyranny of Bigtechs," Braganca, 52, said in an Instagram post that included a photo of himself and Trump.

MEDIA

Trump's social media app launches a year after his Twitter ban

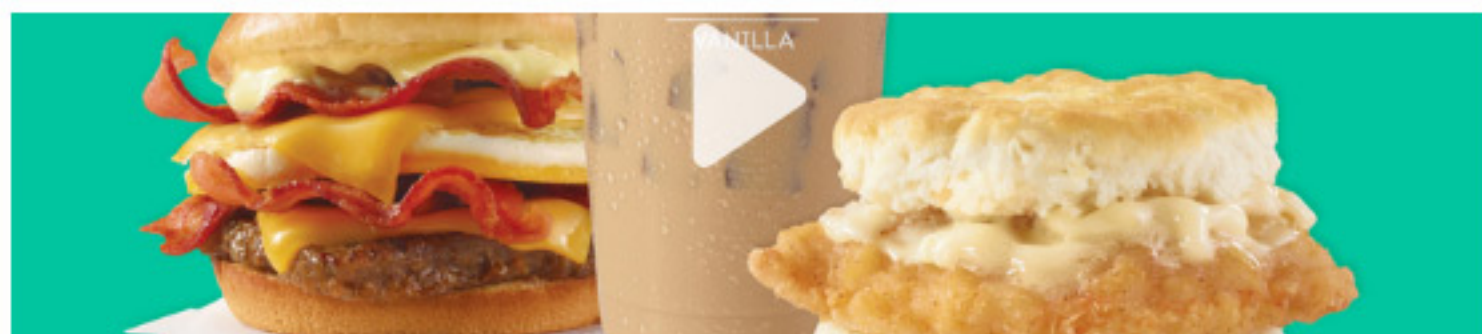
February 22, 2022 · 12:20 AM ET

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Billionaire **Carl Icahn** targets McDonald's over pig welfare

By [Julia Horowitz](#), [CNN Business](#)

Updated 7:53 AM ET, Mon February 21, 2022



London (CNN Business) Legendary investor Carl Icahn is known for his aggressive campaigns to shake up Corporate America. Now, he's leveraging his reputation to tackle an issue close to his heart: the welfare of pigs. McDonald's (MCD) said Sunday that Icahn had nominated two new directors to its board. The move "relates to a narrow issue regarding the company's pork commitment," the fast food chain said in a statement. "I really do feel emotional about these animals and the unnecessary suffering you put them through," Icahn said in an interview with Bloomberg last week. "A pig has a good brain and it's a feeling animal."

Icahn, who served as an inspiration for the larger-than-life character Gordon Gekko in the film "Wall Street," has previously targeted companies such as Yahoo, Dell (DELL) and Netflix (NFLX). The goal in those cases was to make more money. His latest campaign involves pushing McDonald's to require all of its US-based pork suppliers to abandon the practice of keeping pigs confined in crates so small they can't turn around. Icahn has stated that he holds only 200 shares in the company, according to McDonald's. The stake would be worth just over \$50,000 based on Friday's closing price.

McDonald's first promised in 2012 to phase out the use of the crates, also known as gestation stalls, for pregnant sows. On Sunday, it said that by the end of 2022, 85% to 90% of its US pork will come from sows that aren't housed in gestation crates. It expects to meet a target of 100% by the end of 2024. The company pushed back on the proposal from Icahn, who it said has "asked for new commitments," including exclusively sourcing "crate free" pork. "While the company looks forward to promoting further collaboration across the industry on this issue, the current pork supply in the US would make this type of commitment impossible," McDonald's said. McDonald's sources 1% of pork produced in the United States, and does not own any sows itself, it added. The company also said **it is "noteworthy" that Icahn is the majority owner of Viskase, which makes and supplies packaging for the pork industry, but has "not publicly called on Viskase to adopt commitments similar to those of McDonald's 2012 commitment."**

Icahn told Bloomberg that he got involved again because McDonald's "never delivered" on its commitment one decade ago. "We're not going to fool around with them anymore," he said.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Carl_Icahn

Carl Celian Icahn (born February 16, 1936) is an American financier. Icahn takes large stakes in companies that he believes will appreciate via changes to corporate policy and he then pressures management to make changes that he believes will benefit shareholders. He was one of the first activist shareholders and is credited with making that investment strategy mainstream for hedge funds. In the 1980s, Icahn developed a reputation as a **"corporate raider"** after profiting from the hostile takeover and asset stripping of Trans World Airlines. Icahn is on the Forbes 400 and has a net worth of approximately \$17 billion to \$22 billion.



Icahn & Trump

Icahn endorsed Donald Trump in the 2016 United States presidential election. He also announced the formation of a super PAC pledging \$150 million to push for corporate tax reform, in particular of tax inversions, which occur when corporations move their headquarters from the U.S. to take advantage of lower tax rates elsewhere.

On December 21, 2016, it was announced that Icahn would serve as Special Advisor to the President on Regulatory Reform under President Donald Trump and that Icahn would aid Trump in an "individual capacity" rather than as a federal employee, and that he would not have "specific duties" and therefore would not have to relinquish his business interests while serving as an advisor to Trump. [93] Icahn stepped down from this role on August 18, 2017 citing a desire not to interfere with the work of Neomi Rao as Administrator of the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs.

In February 2018, Icahn avoided a \$6 million loss by selling some of his holdings in a steel-price sensitive stock just days before the Trump administration announced a 25% tariff on steel imports.

When the President had Icahn interview Scott Pruitt during consideration of his nomination as Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, Icahn specifically asked Pruitt about his position on the EPA's Renewable Fuel Standard. Icahn spoke directly to President Trump and to Gary Cohn about his proposed changes to the ethanol rule. CVR Energy, in which Icahn has 82% ownership, would save \$205.9 million a year if Icahn's proposal was adopted. The Sugar Land, Texas oil refinery benefited when President Trump made an exception to his regulation freeze to expand the tax advantage of master limited partnerships. CVR Energy's stock doubled after President Trump's election, increasing \$455 million in value.

What can Missouri kids do when politics interfere with school safety? They can walk out.

KCUR | By [Gina Kaufmann](#)

Published February 20, 2022 at 6:00 AM CST



When Columbia Public Schools dropped its mask mandate the first time, kids walked out in protest. The temporary mandate they won has now expired, too.

In December, as Columbia Public Schools headed into winter break, students and teachers got word that they'd be returning — post holiday — without a mask mandate. This was at the height of the omicron variant surge, and Quinn Felts, a sophomore at Hickman High School, got an uneasy feeling that stuck with him through the break. [...]

That sentiment connects Felts and his classmates to a whole movement of high school walkouts in the United States. Generations of fed-up students have come to the same conclusions as the teens at Columbia's Hickman High School, and their walkouts have prompted significant change. So says historian Dawson Barrett, author of "Teenage Rebels: Successful High School Activists From the Little Rock Nine to the Class of Tomorrow."

"On paper, high school students have effectively no power," Barrett explains. "They have to listen to their parents and to their teachers. Many of them have to listen to their bosses. And then of course, they can't vote. That's really the big reason that walkouts are such a popular tactic for students. They're expected to sit at their desks. The one form of rebellion they have is to get up and walk out."



Student walkouts have inspired change so enduring and pervasive we now take it for granted. Until the 1970s, Barrett says, American schools required boys to wear their hair short and girls to come to school in dresses. "Those were the rules," he notes. "On the whole that's different today, and that's not because society magically changed, but because countless high school students organized protests and received detentions and suspensions for challenging those rules." [...]

Barrett reminds me that it's been less than two years since young people watched and in some cases participated in "probably the most widespread protest in U.S. history." He's talking about the Black Lives Matter uprising in cities and small towns across the country in the summer of 2020. That teens are applying what they learned in a vacuum of adult leadership on the social crises of our times isn't surprising. The only unusual thing about last month's student walkouts in Missouri is that students at Hickman High School didn't defy the rules. They demanded rules. And their reluctant elders, eventually, succumbed.

Last week, I got a message from Felts letting me know that the district had once again let the mask mandate expire. He'd been confident, before, that if the mandate lapsed again, the students would simply walk out again. But faced with the reality of what felt like defeat, the students became demoralized. Felts told me the overriding sentiment was that it hadn't worked the first time, so why bother.

Barrett hasn't followed the protests in Missouri all that closely, but he considers them to have been quite successful. "To have pushed anything to the school board, particularly with the school board having to defy government above them, that's not nothing," Barrett says. "I know why it feels like nothing. I'm a historian so everything is long term. But you live in the present, and everything feels like it's not working."

The story of change favors the historian's perspective: having to fight for the same change more than once is the rule, not the exception. Barrett defines a successful protest as one that causes people in power to feel pressure. It can be hard to know, in real time, whether that's happened.

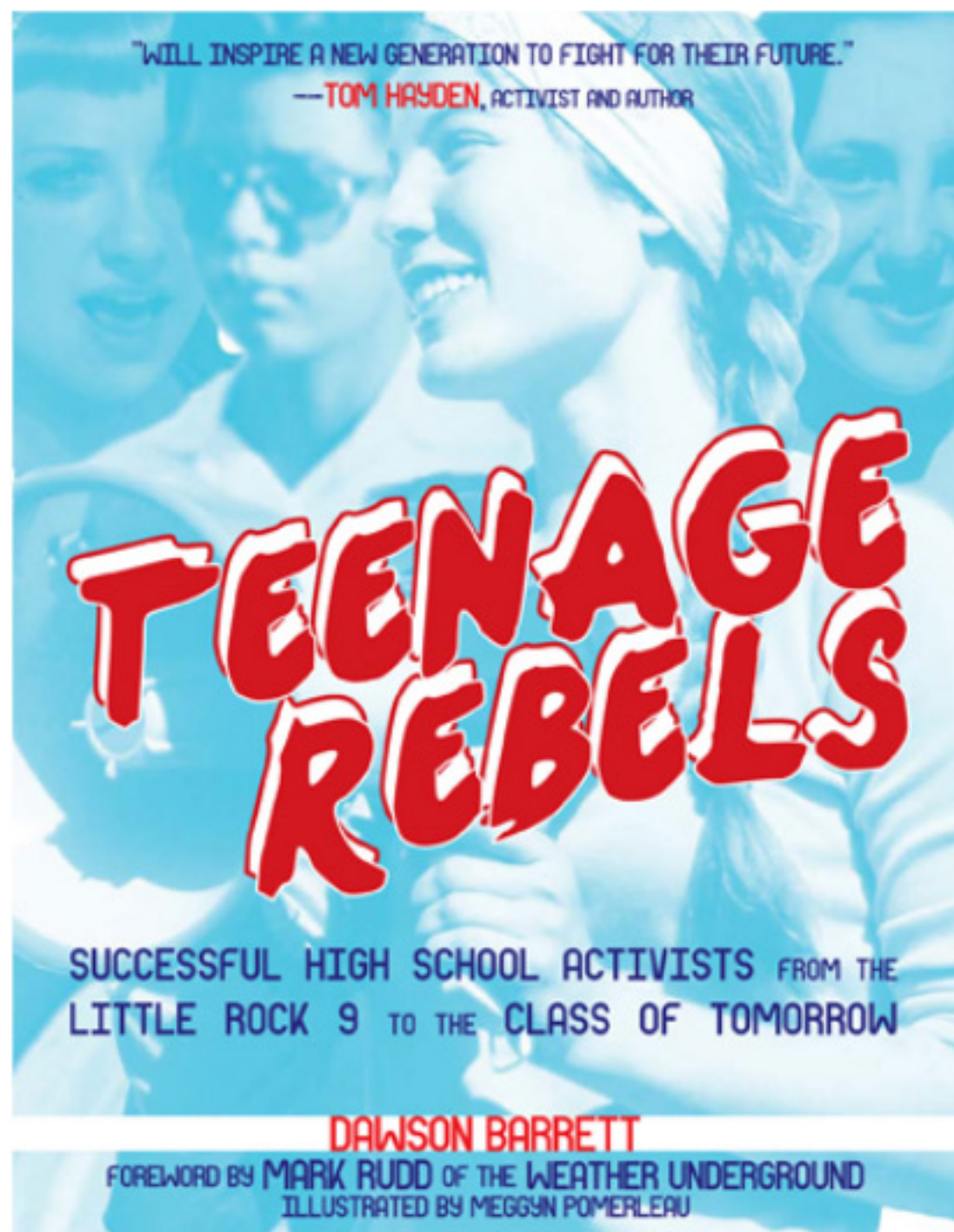
"Look at the famous 1960s lunch counter sit-ins," Barrett instructs. "For months, civil rights activists who were mostly high school and college students, they got nothing but beatings and arrests and harassment, and the store owners kept saying over and over that they would never be swayed by protests, that they would never desegregate their lunch counters. But then, after about six months, many of them did desegregate their lunch counters. The students won, but for every day of that campaign, until the last one, it was a loss. So if they had stopped even a day early, we might not know that story that way."

When I ask Barrett what he'd say to the students of Hickman High School about how effective their actions had been, now that the mask mandate in their school has once again been dropped, he makes another point that, to me, feels equally important. "It isn't just about winning and losing. Right and wrong still matter," he says. "Win or lose, actions matter."

DAWSON BARRETT

“Hopefully these stories will inspire a new generation to fight for their future...”

When in January 2022 Barrett was asked what he'd say to the Columbia, Missouri students of *Hickman High School* about how effective their actions had been, now that the mask mandate in their school has once again been dropped, **"It isn't just about winning and losing. Right and wrong still matter,"** he says. **"Win or lose, actions matter."**



TEENAGE REBELS: SUCCESSFUL HIGH SCHOOL ACTIVISTS FROM THE LITTLE ROCK NINE TO THE CLASS OF TOMORROW

Geared toward young adult readers, *Teenage Rebels* provides a glimpse into the laws, policies, and political struggles that have shaped the lives of American high school students over the last one hundred years.

Through dozens of case studies, Dawson Barrett recounts the strikes, marches, and picket lines of teens all over the U.S. as they demand better textbooks, start recycling programs, and protest the censorship of student newspapers. With historically-influenced artwork and accessible writing, this book is for anyone who has ever challenged the rules and wished for a better world.

TEENAGE REBELS

Microcosm Publishing (2015)

“It’s nothing new that high school students are left out of the political process. They’ve even been left out of most histories of student movements, which focus on colleges—although they led many brave battles in the face of fire hoses in Birmingham and rifles in Johannesburg. In this lucid book, Dawson Barrett corrects that omission. Hopefully these stories will inspire a new generation to fight for their future and not settle for the present. Climate change, unemployment, inequality, all these injustices are stealing from the future.”

— Tom Hayden, author of the PORT HURON STATEMENT

Hollywood relies on China to stay afloat. What does that mean for movies?

February 21, 2022 · 9:00 AM ET

Heard on Fresh Air



"China has made it clear that it wants to censor films that are being made in America and released around the world, not just movies that are being released into their home market." --Erich Schwartzel



Audience members sit separately for social distancing at a cinema in China's eastern Zhejiang province in July 2020.

In his new book, *Red Carpet: Hollywood, China and the Global Battle for Cultural Supremacy*, Schwartzel writes about China's growing influence on Hollywood. He contends that China has watched as Hollywood films helped sell America to the world — and it wants to do the same. "As China has broadened its ambitions on the world stage and tried to become a bigger and bigger player in global politics, it has seen how culture can play a huge role in helping that effort," Schwartzel says.

China is already a powerhouse at the box office: In 2020, it overtook North America as the world's largest film market, and Schwartzel says that movie studios are increasingly reliant upon Chinese audiences to break even. "It comes to the point where even on some of the biggest films that make tons of money around the world, like a *Fast & Furious* film or a *Marvel* superheroes movie, getting into China and making money there ... can mean the difference between profit and loss," he says.

But before a film can be shown in China, it must first get past Chinese government censors. And Schwartzel notes that the Chinese government has been quick to punish studios that take on topics it doesn't want the Chinese public to see or that it feels will make China look bad.

"No studio in Hollywood today would touch a movie that concerns a storyline involving the Uyghurs or Xinjiang or issues involving Taiwanese independence or demonstrations in Hong Kong," Schwartzel says. "Because of the economic muzzle that China has on the studios today, those things are just complete non-starters."

On how Hollywood studios rationalize the censorship

The economics have made it something of a no-brainer, because China's box office has grown as America's box office has flatlined. ... Pre-COVID, around 2008 or 2009, when studios started to wake up to how much money could be made at the Chinese box office, something else very important happened, which is that the DVD market collapsed. And it can be hard to remember this in an era where we're all streaming, but for many years, DVD sales, because they were so cheap to make and profitable to sell, really kept the lights on at a lot of studios. And so when the DVD market collapsed, studios were scrambling to find a way to make up for that lost revenue when China entered the picture.

I think a lot of studio executives, if they were on the line, would say that they censor movies for all kinds of markets. They censor movies for airplanes. It's a market reality they have to respond to. But what we've seen with China over the past decade is a scale of censorship that is unlike anything Hollywood has had to reckon with, and also a playbook of censorship that goes far beyond cutting a scene for a movie before it goes into a certain country. China has made it clear that it wants to censor films that are being made in America and released around the world, not just movies that are being released into their home market.




Queen Elizabeth. October 15, 2020

World expresses outrage, plans stronger Russia sanctions

By RAF CASERT and FOSTER KLUG an hour ago



 1 of 13

European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen, speaks during a press statement on Ukraine, at EU headquarters in Brussels, Thursday, Feb 24, 2022. Russian troops launched a wide-ranging attack on Ukraine on Thursday, as President Vladimir Putin cast aside international condemnation and sanctions and warned other countries that any attempt to interfere would lead to "consequences you have never seen." (Kenzo Tribouillard, Pool Photo via AP)

BRUSSELS (AP) — World leaders expressed a raw outrage shrouded by an impotence to immediately come to the aid of Ukraine to avoid a major war in Europe, condemning Russia's attack on its neighbor as the European Union and others promised unprecedented sanctions to hit the Kremlin.

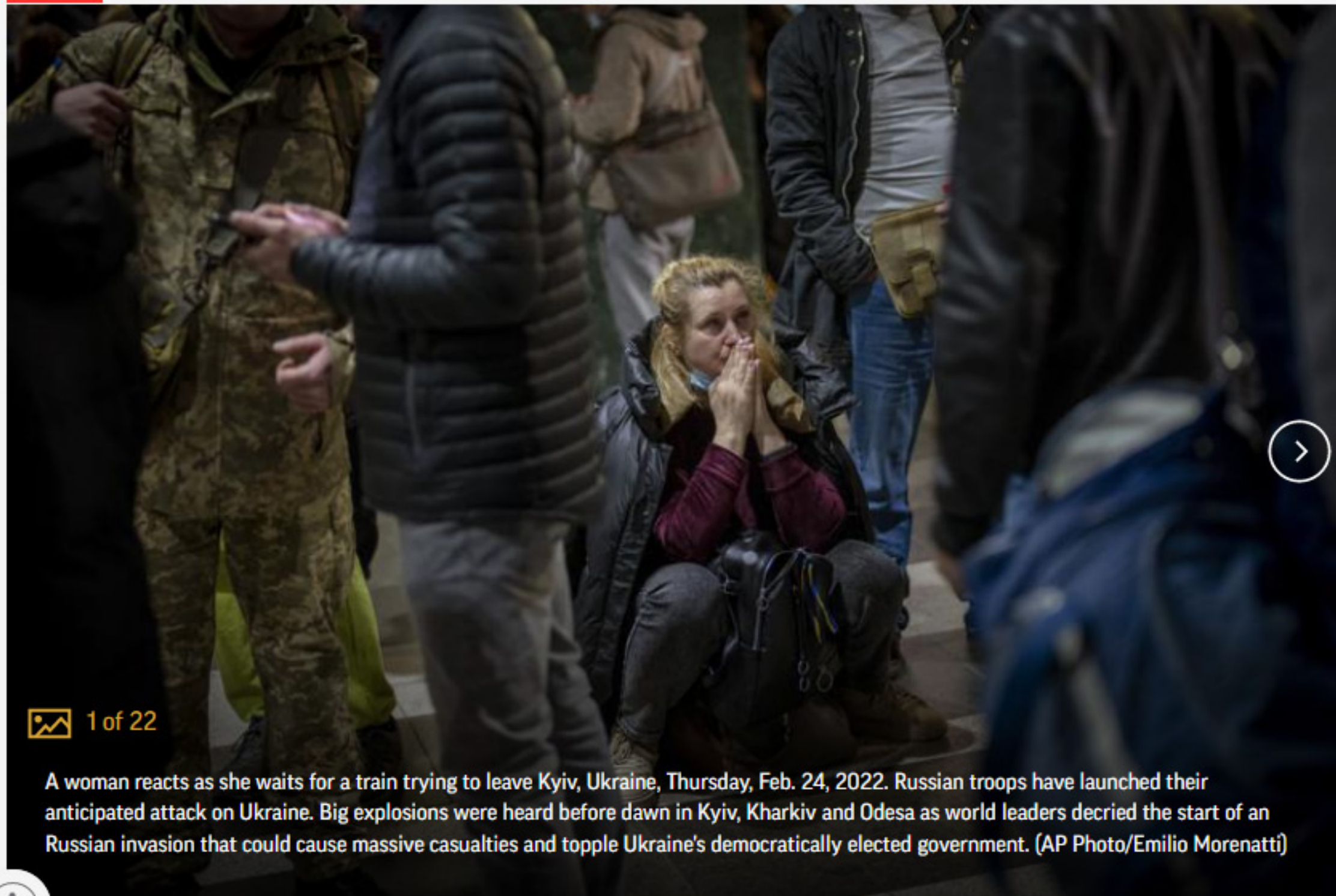
NATO has moved to beef up its eastern flank facing Russia and planned a virtual leaders' summit for Friday after President Vladimir Putin warned anyone listening that any interference would "lead to consequences you have never seen in history."

The attack touched all sectors of society across the globe. The director of the Africa Centers for Disease Control and Prevention openly worried that global attention will now shift even further from helping the world's least vaccinated continent respond to COVID-19.

"The conflict in Ukraine definitely will draw attention, political attention, towards that crisis," John Nkengasong said.

Russia attacks Ukraine, 'shattering' European peace

By YURAS KARMANAU, JIM HEINTZ, VLADIMIR ISACHENKOV and DASHA LITVINOVA 2 minutes ago



1 of 22

A woman reacts as she waits for a train trying to leave Kyiv, Ukraine, Thursday, Feb. 24, 2022. Russian troops have launched their anticipated attack on Ukraine. Big explosions were heard before dawn in Kyiv, Kharkiv and Odesa as world leaders decried the start of a Russian invasion that could cause massive casualties and topple Ukraine's democratically elected government. (AP Photo/Emilio Morenatti)



KYIV, Ukraine (AP) — Russia launched a wide-ranging attack on Ukraine on Thursday, hitting cities and bases with airstrikes or shelling, as civilians piled into trains and cars to flee. Ukraine's government said Russian tanks and troops rolled across the border in a "full-scale war" that could rewrite the geopolitical order and whose fallout already reverberated around the world.





Ukraine attack leaves Baltics wondering: Are we next?

By LIUDAS DAPKUS and KARL RITTER an hour ago



1 of 7

People gather at The Memorial of Victims of Communism to mark the European Day of Remembrance for Victims of Stalinism and Nazism, also known as Black Ribbon Day, in Tallinn, Estonia, Thursday, Aug. 23, 2018. To Estonians, Latvians and Lithuanians, Russia's belligerence toward Ukraine has some worried that they could be the Kremlin's next target. The tensions are bringing back memories of dictatorship and oppression. (AP Photo/Raul Mee)

VILNIUS, Lithuania (AP) — Viewed from Paris, London and Washington, the events unfolding in Ukraine may seem like a new Cold War taking shape in Europe.

From the Baltic countries, it looks much worse.

To Estonians, Latvians and Lithuanians — particularly those old enough to have lived under Soviet control — Russia's belligerence toward Ukraine has some worried that they could be the next target. The escalating tensions which preceded an attack Thursday brought back memories of mass deportations and oppression.

The Baltic countries have expressed strong support for Ukraine. Baltic leaders have traveled to Kyiv recently to show their solidarity and have sent both weapons and humanitarian aid to Ukraine.

Estonia, which celebrates its independence day on Thursday, is taking a strong stance in the conflict, but not because it fears for its security, said former President Kersti Kaljulaid, the first woman to hold that office. "We are doing it because we find it is our moral obligation," she said. "We very strongly feel that ... every nation should have the right to decide their future."

While the Baltics are direct neighbors of Russia, she said other European countries should be equally worried about the crisis in Ukraine. "Frankly speaking, I don't think it concerns the Baltics more," she said. "If you look from Kyiv, it's the same distance to Berlin as Tallinn."

'It's too late': Russian move roils UN meeting on Ukraine

By JENNIFER PELTZ and EDITH M. LEDERER today



Ukraine's Ambassador to the United Nations Sergiy Kyslytsya, holds up a phone as he speaks an emergency meeting of the U.N. Security Council Wednesday, Feb. 23, 2022, at U.N. headquarters. (UNTV via AP)

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — The emergency U.N. Security Council meeting was meant as an eleventh hour effort to dissuade Russia from sending troops into Ukraine. But the message became moot even as it was being delivered.

While diplomats at U.N. headquarters were making pleas for Russia to back off — “Give peace a chance,” Secretary-General Antonio Guterres implored — Russian President Vladimir Putin went on television in his homeland to announce a military operation that he said was intended to protect civilians in Ukraine.

Putin warned other countries that any effort to interfere with the Russian operation would lead to “consequences they have never seen.”

The council, where Russia holds the rotating presidency this month, gathered Wednesday night hours after Russia said rebels in eastern Ukraine had asked Moscow for military assistance. Fears that Russia was laying the groundwork for war bore out about a half hour later.

“It’s too late, my dear colleagues, to speak about de-escalation,” Ukrainian Ambassador Sergiy Kyslytsya told the council. “I call on every one of you to do everything possible to stop the war.” [...]

By the end of the night Wednesday, as explosions were heard in Kyiv and other cities across Ukraine, Guterres’ appeal to “give peace a chance” had become a darker and more desperate plea.

“President Putin, in the name of humanity, bring your troops back to Russia,” the secretary-general said in remarks to reporters. “In the name of humanity, do not allow to start in Europe what could be the worst war since the beginning of this century.”

Live updates: Russia says it destroyed 74 Ukraine facilities

By The Associated Press 12 minutes ago



Demonstrators hold placards and flags as they attend a protest outside the Russian Embassy, in London, Wednesday, Feb. 23, 2022. Ukraine urged its citizens to leave Russia as Europe braced for further confrontation Wednesday after Russia's leader received authorization to use military force outside his country and the West responded with a raft of sanctions. (AP Photo/Alberto

The latest on the Russia-Ukraine crisis:

PARIS — French President Emmanuel Macron says France and its European allies did everything to try to head off the attack on Ukraine. He said that they will show “no weakness” in their response.

BRATISLAVA, Slovakia — The Slovak government has authorized the deployment of up to 1,500 soldiers to help guard the border with Ukraine following Russia’s attack on Slovakia’s eastern neighbor.

ROME — Italian Premier Mario Draghi says Russia’s attack on Ukraine has made dialogue with Moscow “impossible.” He is demanding that Putin “immediately stop the bloodshed and withdraw military forces.”

HELSINKI — Latvian authorities say three Russian television channels will have their right to broadcast in Latvia suspended for several years with immediate effect. They cited the channels’ incitement to hatred against Ukraine, justification of war and spreading of disinformation on Ukraine, Latvia and other countries. NATO member Lithuania, which has borders with Russian ally Belarus and Russia’s exclave of Kaliningrad on the Baltic Sea, has declared a state of emergency which gives authorities, among other things, the right to check and inspect vehicles, persons and luggage in the border area.

GENEVA — The head of the U.N. refugee agency is warning of “devastating consequences” of Russia’s military action in Ukraine and calling on neighboring countries to keep their borders open for people fleeing the fighting. The head of a Nobel Peace Prize-winning anti-nuclear group says a warning from Russian President Vladimir Putin to anyone who might meddle in Russia’s attack on Ukraine amounted to a threat to “launch a nuclear war.”

KYIV, Ukraine — Mykhailo Podolyak, an adviser to Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, says that “Russia’s key goal is clear: to oust the Ukrainian leadership and stir up as much panic as possible.”

ANKARA, Turkey — Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan says Russia’s military actions in Ukraine violate international laws and amount to a “heavy blow” to regional peace and stability. Ukraine’s ambassador to Turkey has called on the NATO member country to close its airspace and to shut down the straits at the entrance of the Black Sea to Russian ships.

LONDON — British Prime Minister Boris Johnson says Russian President Vladimir Putin has “unleashed war in our European continent” and Britain “cannot and will not just look away.”

BUCHAREST, Romania — The president of Romania has condemned Russia’s “reprehensible” attack on Ukraine and said that Russian President Vladimir Putin “threatens the peace of the entire planet.”

PRAGUE — Czech President Milos Zeman, who has been a leading pro-Russian voice among European Union leaders, has condemned Russia’s invasion of Ukraine as “an unprovoked act of aggression.”

BRUSSELS — NATO’s secretary-general says Russia has launched war on Ukraine and shattered peace on the European continent. Jens Stoltenberg called for a summit of NATO alliance leaders for Friday. NATO has agreed to beef up its land, sea and air forces on its eastern flank near Ukraine and Russia.

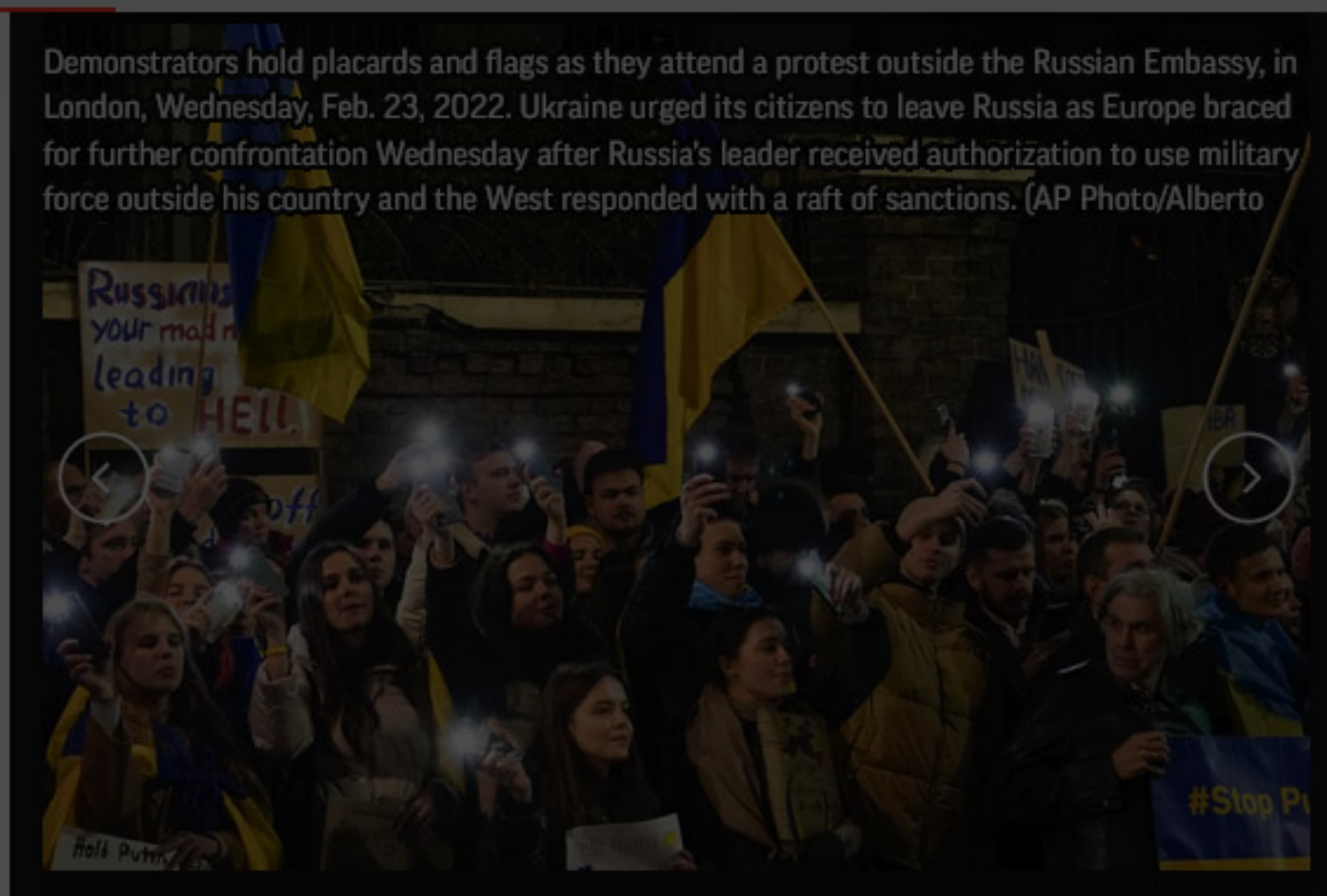
BERLIN — German Chancellor Olaf Scholz has condemned Russia’s attack on Ukraine, calling it a “dark day for Europe” and expressing his country’s “full solidarity with Kyiv.”

JERUSALEM — Israeli Foreign Minister Yair Lapid has condemned Russia’s attack on Ukraine as “a grave violation of the international order.”

Live updates: Russia says it destroyed 74 Ukraine facilities

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LONDON — British Prime Minister Boris Johnson says Russian President Vladimir Putin has “unleashed war in our European continent” and Britain “cannot and

BEIJING — China’s customs agency on Thursday approved imports of wheat from all regions of Russia, a move that could help to reduce the impact of possible Western sanctions imposed over Moscow’s attack on Ukraine.

The two governments announced an agreement Feb. 8 for China to import Russian wheat and barley after Russian President Vladimir became the highest-profile foreign guest to attend the Beijing Winter Olympics.

China’s populous market is a growth area for other farm goods suppliers, but Beijing had barred imports until now from Russia’s main wheat-growing areas due to concern about possible fungus and other contamination.

Russia is one of the biggest wheat producers but its exports would be vulnerable if its foreign markets block shipments in response to its attack on Ukraine.

Thursday’s announcement said Russia would “take all measures” to prevent contamination by wheat smut fungus and would suspend exports to China if it was found.



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NPR: Want to support the people in Ukraine? Here's how you can help
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Sunflower of Peace

The nonprofit organization is raising money to prepare first aid medical tactical backpacks for paramedics and doctors on the front lines. Each backpack is designed for groups of 5 to ten people and includes an array of first aid supplies — such as bandages, anti-hemorrhagic medicine and medical instruments, according to the organization's Facebook page.



Sunflower of Peace
@sunflowerofpeace

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Sunflower of Peace

February 19 at 11:50 AM · 🌐

Sunflower of Peace has officially started the fundraiser to prepare first aid medical tactical backpacks. In 2014-2016 those backpacks helped paramedics and doctors on the front lines save hundred and hundred of lives. Those were the bags they didn't leave out of their sight as they had everything to preserve a person's life and get them to proper medical care alive. It meant the world to them then and it will mean the world to them now.

Please, donate any amount: big or sma... [See more](#)



Katya's fundraiser for Sunflower of Peace

Fundraiser for Sunflower of Peace by Katya Malakhova

Sunflower of Peace has officially started a fundraiser to prepare first aid medical tactical backpacks for parame... [Continue reading](#)

\$136,514 raised of \$145,000

48

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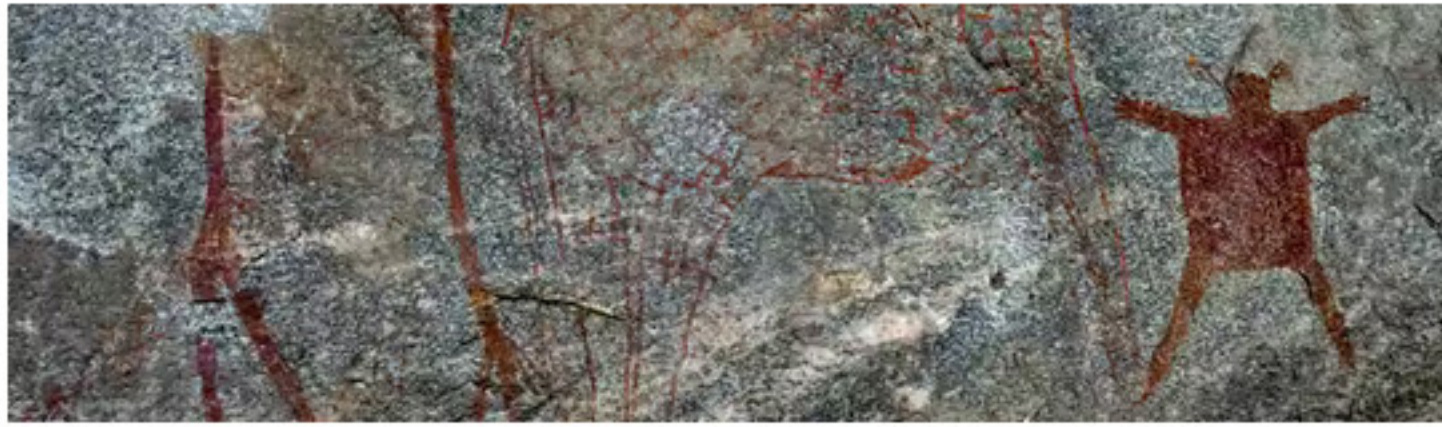
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Together with artifacts from the past, ancient DNA can fill in details about our ancient ancestors. Nina

Ancient DNA helps reveal social changes in Africa 50,000 years ago that shaped the human story

Published: February 23, 2022 11.03am EST

Elizabeth Sawchuk, *University of Alberta*, Jessica Thompson, *Yale University*, Mary Prendergast, *Rice University*

Every person alive on the planet today is descended from people who lived as hunter-gatherers in Africa.

The continent is the cradle of human origins and ingenuity, and with each new fossil and archaeological discovery, we learn more about our shared African past. Such research tends to focus on when our species, *Homo sapiens*, spread out to other landmasses 80,000-60,000 years ago. But what happened in Africa after that, and why don't we know more about the people who remained?

Our new study, conducted by an interdisciplinary team of 44 researchers based in 12 countries, helps answer these questions. By sequencing and analyzing ancient DNA (aDNA) from people who lived as long ago as 18,000 years, we roughly doubled the age of sequenced aDNA from sub-Saharan Africa. And this genetic information helps anthropologists like us understand more about how modern humans were moving and mingling in Africa long ago.

DNA weighs in on a longstanding debate: We found that people did in fact change how they moved and interacted around the *Later Stone Age transition*. Despite being separated by thousands of miles and years, all the ancient individuals in this study were descended from the same three populations related to ancient and present-day eastern, southern and central Africans. The presence of eastern African ancestry as far south as Zambia, and southern African ancestry as far north as Kenya, indicates that people were moving long distances and having children with people located far away from where they were born. The only way this population structure could have emerged is if people were moving long distances over many millennia.

Additionally, our research showed that almost all ancient eastern Africans shared an unexpectedly high number of genetic variations with hunter-gatherers who today live in central African rainforests, making ancient eastern Africa truly a genetic melting pot. We could tell that this mixing and moving happened after about 50,000 years ago, when there was a major split in central African forager populations. We also noted that the individuals in our study were genetically most like only their closest geographic neighbors. This tells us that after around 20,000 years ago, the foragers in some African regions were almost exclusively finding their partners locally. This practice must have been extremely strong and persisted for a very long time, as our results show that some groups remained genetically independent of their neighbors over several thousand years. It was especially clear in Malawi and Zambia, where the only close relationships we detected were between people buried around the same time at the same sites. We don't know why people began "living locally" again. Changing environments as the last Ice Age peaked and waned between about 26,000-11,500 years ago may have made it more economical to forage closer to home, or perhaps elaborate exchange networks reduced the need for people to travel with objects.

Alternatively, new group identities may have emerged, restructuring marriage rules. If so, we would expect to see artifacts and other traditions like rock art diversify, with specific types clumped into different regions. Indeed, this is exactly what archaeologists find – a trend known as regionalization. Now we know that this phenomenon not only affected cultural traditions, but also the flow of genes. As always, aDNA research raises as many questions as answers. Finding central African ancestry throughout eastern and southern Africa prompts anthropologists to reconsider how interconnected these regions were in the distant past. This is important because central Africa has remained archaeologically understudied, in part because of political, economic and logistical challenges that make research there difficult. Additionally, while genetic evidence supports a major demographic transition in Africa after 50,000 years ago, we still don't know the key drivers. Determining what triggered the Later Stone Age transition will require closer examination of regional environmental, archaeological and genetic records to understand how this process unfolded across sub-Saharan Africa.

Finally, this study is a stark reminder that researchers still have much to learn from ancient individuals and artifacts held in African museums, and highlights the critical role of the curators who steward these collections. While some human remains in this study were recovered within the past decade, others have been in museums for a half-century. Even though technological advances are pushing back the time limits for aDNA, it is important to remember that scientists have only just begun to understand human diversity in Africa, past and present.

The first step to preparing for surging climate migration? Defining it

February 23, 2022 · 5:00 AM ET



ARI SHAPIRO



MATT OZUG



WYNNE DAVIS



Anywhere from tens of millions to a billion people could become climate migrants by 2050, according to a report from the RAND Corporation. The number varies widely depending on the definition used.

Workers place geo-textile bags to prevent river erosion on the banks of Padma River in Bangladesh

There are calls to better define what constitutes "climate migration" amid concern that policies are not keeping up with the growing issue and countries are failing to properly help those fleeing disasters. Anywhere from tens of millions to one billion people could become climate migrants by 2050, according to a recent report from the RAND Corporation. The number varies so widely depending on the definition used. "They may be reacting to rapid-onset shocks, such as extreme storms, or slow-onset and gradual stressors, such as drought or heat," the report reads.

Jay Balagna is a disaster risk management expert at the RAND Corporation and one of the co-authors of the report. He said while climate migration existed on a spectrum — anything from rising sea levels to people leaving domestic conflicts exacerbated by drought — having a definition was still important. "This is already happening. We know it's already happening ... We've seen it start to happen at either end of the spectrum," Balagna said.

Distinguishing who is a climate migrant and who isn't can make a difference when it comes to the privileges, rights and respect that they're granted, Balagna said, in the same way that different types of refugees are covered under international laws and treaties. For the report, the RAND Corporation focused on Bangladesh, Kiribati, Kenya, Norway, Vanuatu and the United States to examine current climate migration and related policies. "Movement isn't inherently bad," Balagna said. "It can be good or it can be bad. But what makes it good is the policy that facilitates it, that ensures that it happens in a safe and just way, and in a way that doesn't impact host communities too much, either." He said the best kinds of policies didn't just focus on the immediate impact after a catastrophic event, but also accounted for the long-term needs essential to people fleeing them. "One kind of policy that might help would be something that enables people, when they move, to maintain the sorts of social structures that exist in their original home," Balagna said. "[That] facilitates movement, perhaps, to places where they have family. Facilitates movements to places that they're employable."

Kayly Ober is the senior advocate and program manager of the climate displacement program at Refugees International. In issues of climate displacement, Ober said governments needed to work on development planning for medium and long-term impacts. She said this included helping those who can't or don't need to move yet, with measures like better irrigation systems in areas that are experiencing shifting rainy seasons, or help in sourcing alternative crops resistant to extreme weather like droughts or floods.

Ober said good policy also recognized that some people would need to leave the livelihoods they've known and find a completely new job in a new place. "When folks in the rural parts of the world are having these sorts of environmental or climatic challenges, they often go to urban centers because that's where opportunity lies," Ober said. "So it's also about urban development and urban planning. Ensuring that people have access to safe infrastructure, safe shelter, that they're able to have access to social services in the city, that they're able to have jobs that are not so precarious." Making sure the receiving areas can support incoming migrants in terms of housing, schools and physical infrastructures like sewer systems and electrical grids was also important, Balagna said.

Bangladesh is one of the few countries taking a good approach, he said. "They call it their National Strategy on the Management of Disaster and Climate Induced Internal Displacement," Balagna said. "It does things like enshrining certain rights for people who are displaced by climate-related factors to ensure that their movement is handled in a just way that doesn't burden host communities, but also that allows them to thrive wherever they end up."

The world's insect population is in decline — and that's bad news for humans

February 24, 2022 · 1:09 PM ET

Heard on Fresh Air

DAVE DAVIES



A bee sucks nectar from a flower in Berlin, Germany. Bee populations are in decline in industrialized nations across the globe.

Sean Gallup/Getty Images

Habitat loss, pesticides and climate change are threatening insect populations worldwide. In 2019, Biological Conservation reported that 40% of all insects species are declining globally and that a third of them are endangered.

And while it may sound nice to live in a world with fewer roaches, environmental writer Oliver Milman says that human beings would be in big trouble without insects. That's because insects play critical roles in pollinating plants we eat, breaking down waste in forest soil and forming the base of a food chain that other, larger animals — including humans — rely upon.

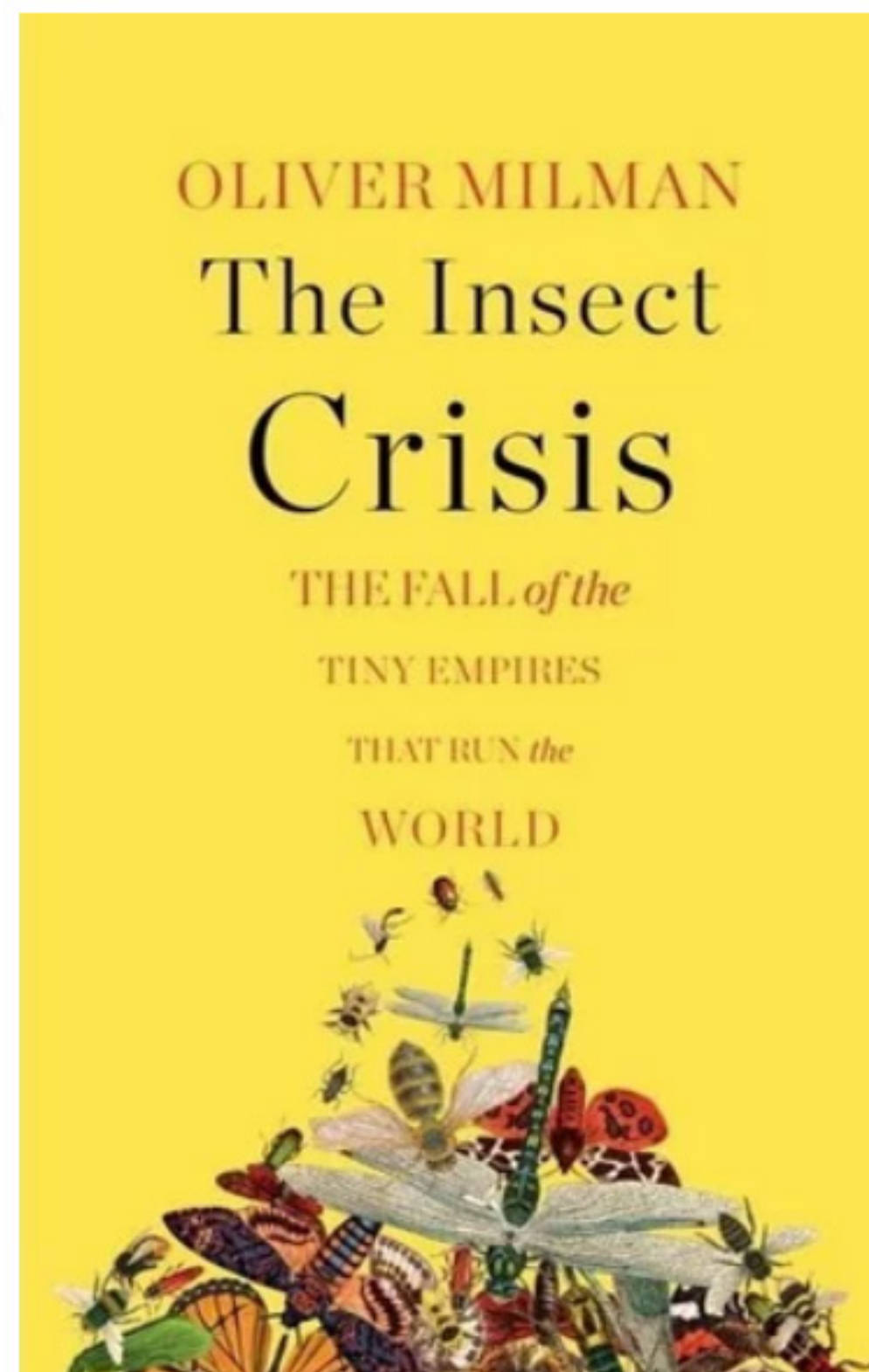
"It would be an extremely dire place to live in — and certainly not something we should ever aim for," Milman says of an insect-free existence. "You would certainly have mass starvation [and] societal unrest It'd be a place where there would be rotting feces and corpses everywhere because dung beetles and other insects that break down those materials would be gone."

 36-Minute Listen



Milman charts the troubling decline of insects in his new book, *The Insect Crisis: The Fall of the Tiny Empires That Run the World*. He says that while it's impossible to know exactly what's happening with every insect species in the world, the overall trends are not good: The monarch butterfly population in North America has plummeted in the past 40 years, for instance, and a **U.N. assessment done in 2019 found that half a million insect species are under threat of extinction, some in the coming decades.**

"The world, our surroundings, would be far quieter, far duller, far drabber without insects," he says. "When you start kind of digging down into these figures looking at the research, it's clear that there's something seriously amiss. ... **There is a consistent decline in most insect populations, and that spells major trouble for them but also for us.**"



J&J, distributors finalize \$26B landmark opioid settlement

By GEOFF MULVIHILL 37 minutes ago



Keith Lewis disposes of used syringes at a needle exchange run by Camden Area Health Education Center in Camden, N.J., Thursday, Feb. 24, 2022. Four companies involved in the opioid industry are finalizing settlements over the addiction crisis in the U.S. in deals that could total \$26 billion over 18 years.

CAMDEN, N.J. (AP) — Drugmaker Johnson & Johnson and three major distributors finalized nationwide settlements over their role in the opioid addiction crisis Friday, an announcement that clears the way for \$26 billion to flow to nearly every state and local government in the U.S.

Taken together, the settlements are the largest to date among the many opioid-related cases that have been playing out across the country. They're expected to provide a significant boost to efforts aimed at reversing the crisis in places that have been devastated by it, including many parts of rural America.

Johnson & Johnson, AmerisourceBergen, Cardinal Health and McKesson announced the settlement plan last year, but the deal was contingent on getting participation from a critical mass of state and local governments.

Friday was the deadline for the companies to announce whether they felt enough governments had committed to participate in the settlement and relinquish the right to sue. The four companies notified lawyers for the governments in the case that their thresholds were met, meaning money could start flowing to communities by April.

California Gov. Gavin Newsom's proposed budget calls for using \$50 million of the state's expected \$86 million share this year for youth opioid education and to train treatment providers, improve data collection and distribute naloxone, a drug that reverses overdoses.

In Florida's Broward County, home to Fort Lauderdale, the number of beds in a county-run detoxification facility could be expanded from 50 to 70 or 75, said Danielle Wang French, a lawyer for the county.

"It's not enough, but it's a good start," she said of the settlement.



Martha Chavis, president and CEO of Camden Area Health Education Center speaks during an interview with The Associated Press in Camden, N.J., Thursday, Feb. 24, 2022. Four companies involved in the opioid industry are finalizing settlements over the addiction crisis in the U.S. in deals that could total \$26 billion over 18 years. (AP Photo/Matt Rourke)



John Minchillo/AP

UKRAINE INVASION — EXPLAINED

Russia vetoes a UN Security Council resolution that denounces the invasion of Ukraine

"You can veto this resolution but you cannot veto our voices," the U.S. ambassador to the UN told her Russian counterpart following the vote.

- **U.S. sanctions on Russian oligarchs miss the richest of the rich**

Russia on Friday vetoed a United Nations Security Council resolution denouncing its invasion of Ukraine while China, India, and the United Arab Emirates abstained from the vote.

The remaining 11 council members voted in favor, allowing the draft resolution to be taken up by the 193-member UN General Assembly.

Anti-war sentiment grows in Russia despite govt crackdown

By DASHA LITVINOVA and VLADIMIR ISACHENKOV yesterday

Shocked Russians turned out by the thousands Thursday to decry their country's invasion of Ukraine as emotional calls for protests grew on social media. Some 1,745 people in 54 Russian cities were detained, at least 957 of them in Moscow.





Shocked Russians turned out by the thousands Thursday to decry their country's invasion of Ukraine as emotional calls for protests grew on social media. Some 1,745 people in 54 Russian cities were detained, at least 957 of them in Moscow.



People protest in front of Ukraine's embassy to Romania in Bucharest on Feb. 24, 2022.

Daniel Mihailescu/AFP via Getty Images

Opinion: Our world's chilling return to authoritarianism

February 26, 2022 · 7:59 AM ET

Heard on Weekend Edition Saturday



SCOTT SIMON



@nprscottsimon



Ukrainian citizens hold posters and national flags during a demonstration in support of Ukraine outside the Russian Embassy in Lima, Peru, on Friday.

Ernesto Benavides/AFP via Getty Images

Authoritarian regimes have proliferated all around the globe, and human rights crimes abound. Just a generation after so many walls were brought down, it is hard not to feel that the world has plunged back into darkness.



Loud, sudden noise behind you in the dark saying,

"Don't be scared, don't be scared, don't be afraid."

*The mainstream media during a global pandemic
when totalitarian authoritarianists are on the rise,*

giving you a rise. Giving you a start. "Jump to it!"

China is Russia's best hope to blunt sanctions, but wary

By JOE McDONALD yesterday

BEIJING (AP) — China is the only friend that might help Russia blunt the impact of economic sanctions over its invasion of Ukraine, but President Xi Jinping's government is giving no sign it might be willing to risk its own access to U.S. and European markets by doing too much.

Even if Beijing wanted to, its ability to support President Vladimir Putin by importing more Russian gas and other goods is limited.

Relations with Moscow have warmed since Xi took power in 2012, motivated by shared resentment of Washington, but their interests can conflict. While their militaries hold joint exercises, Putin is uneasy about the growing Chinese economic presence in Central Asia and Russia's Far East.

"China-Russia relations are at the highest level in history, but the two countries are not an alliance," said Li Xin, an international relations expert at the Shanghai University of Political Science and Law.

In response to the invasion, Washington, Britain, the 27-nation European Union and other Western allies have announced or promised sanctions against Russian banks, officials, business leaders and companies, as well as export controls aimed at starving Russia's industries and military of high-tech products.

Xi's government might support Putin within those limits — and Chinese companies might use the situation to pursue better deals — but will balk at openly violating sanctions and being targeted for penalties, experts said.

"China doesn't want to get so involved that it ends up suffering as a result of its support for Russia," said Mark Williams, chief Asia economist for Capital Economics.

Chinese trade with Russia rose to \$146.9 billion last year, but that is less than one-tenth of China's total \$1.6 trillion in trade with the United States and EU.

FILE - Chinese President Xi Jinping, right, and Russian President Vladimir Putin talk to each other during their meeting in Beijing, Feb. 4, 2022. China is the only friend that might help Russia blunt the impact of economic sanctions over its invasion of Ukraine, but President Xi Jinping's government is giving no sign it might be willing to risk its own access to U.S. and European markets by doing too much. (Alexei Druzhinin, Sputnik, Kremlin Pool Photo via AP, File)



{Found after the storm}



Cases of highly pathogenic bird flu detected in Delaware and Michigan

BY TORI B. POWELL

FEBRUARY 25, 2022 / 6:40 PM / CBS NEWS



Goose love, in sickness and in health

02:26

What is the real meaning behind the euphemism "depopulated"?

<https://easierwithpractice.com/what-is-the-real-meaning-behind-the-euphemism-areas-are-depopulated/>

by Alex Heath · 2020-06-12

In this case, the real meaning can be related to "people are killed" in a war, it could also be "killing animals".

Delaware and Michigan are the latest states to report cases of the highly pathogenic avian influenza, the U.S. Department of Agriculture confirmed. The virus, also known as the bird flu, does not pose an immediate threat to the public, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Cases were confirmed in a commercial poultry flock in New Castle County, Delaware, and in a non-commercial backyard flock in Kalamazoo County, Michigan. Officials in both states have quarantined the affected premises. **The birds will be "depopulated"** in order to prevent the disease from spreading, and they will not enter the food system, the USDA said.

The department's inspection service is working with Delaware and Michigan animal health officials.

According to the CDC, birds can catch the flu when they come into contact with the "saliva, nasal secretions or feces" of an infected bird. The flu is considered to be "very contagious among birds" and has the potential to kill certain domesticated species like chickens and turkeys.

Although human cases of avian viruses are rare, some have been reported, the CDC said. Humans can become infected when enough of the virus gets into their eyes, nose or mouth. Humans cannot get the disease from poultry or eggs that are properly handled and cooked to an internal temperature of 165 degrees Fahrenheit, the USDA said. Once a person is infected, symptoms range from conjunctivitis, fever, diarrhea and vomiting to severe respiratory illness and neurological changes, the CDC said.

Over the past decade, the bird flu has become more common and spread to more places across the world, the CDC said. Since the start of 2022, multiple states, including Maine, New York, Virginia and South Carolina, have detected the virus. In Indiana, more than 150,000 birds have been affected by the virus, according to the Indiana Board of Animal Health.

Prior to the 2022 outbreak, the last time a case was reported in the U.S. was in 2016, according to the CDC.

Despite the national outbreak, the CDC said it is still safe to eat "properly handled and cooked poultry." No human cases have been detected in the U.S.



Morisano: "Was I that guy who was talking a good game about progress, diversity, women's empowerment ... because there was nothing at stake?"

Bailey: "Why would you hate us if we have nothing that you want?"

Morisano: "Was this part of my racism, my legacy, that remained hidden away in my unconscious?"

Bailey: "There's always a question of intent when Black folks and white folks do business together."

Morisano told Teichner, "The emotion was a lot harder than I thought it was gonna be, and Mashama can talk about how many times I cried and how many times she cried."

"It was less than him!" she laughed.

"I don't think Mashama and I are fixing anybody's problems," he laughed. "I don't think we're fixing Savannah's problems, the South's problems, America's problems. We're not even fixing our own problems! What we're really doing is just creating a dialogue and almost like a safe space for a dialogue between each other, and that's the best we can do, you know, I think."



A story about the trials and triumphs of a Black chef from Queens, New York, and a White media entrepreneur from Staten Island who built a relationship and a restaurant in the Deep South, hoping to bridge biases and get people talking about race, gender, class, and culture.

In this dual memoir, **Mashama Bailey and John O. Morisano** take turns telling how they went from tentative business partners to dear friends while turning a dilapidated formerly segregated Greyhound bus station into The Grey, now one of the most celebrated restaurants in the country. Recounting the trying process of building their restaurant business, they examine their most painful and joyous times, revealing how they came to understand their differences, recognize their biases, and continuously challenge themselves and each other to be better.

Through it all, Bailey and Morisano display the uncommon vulnerability, humor, and humanity that anchor their relationship, showing how two citizens commit to playing their own small part in advancing equality against a backdrop of racism.

Artist Shirley Woodson: Life captured in bold strokes



FEBRUARY 27, 2022 / 10:18 AM / CBS NEWS



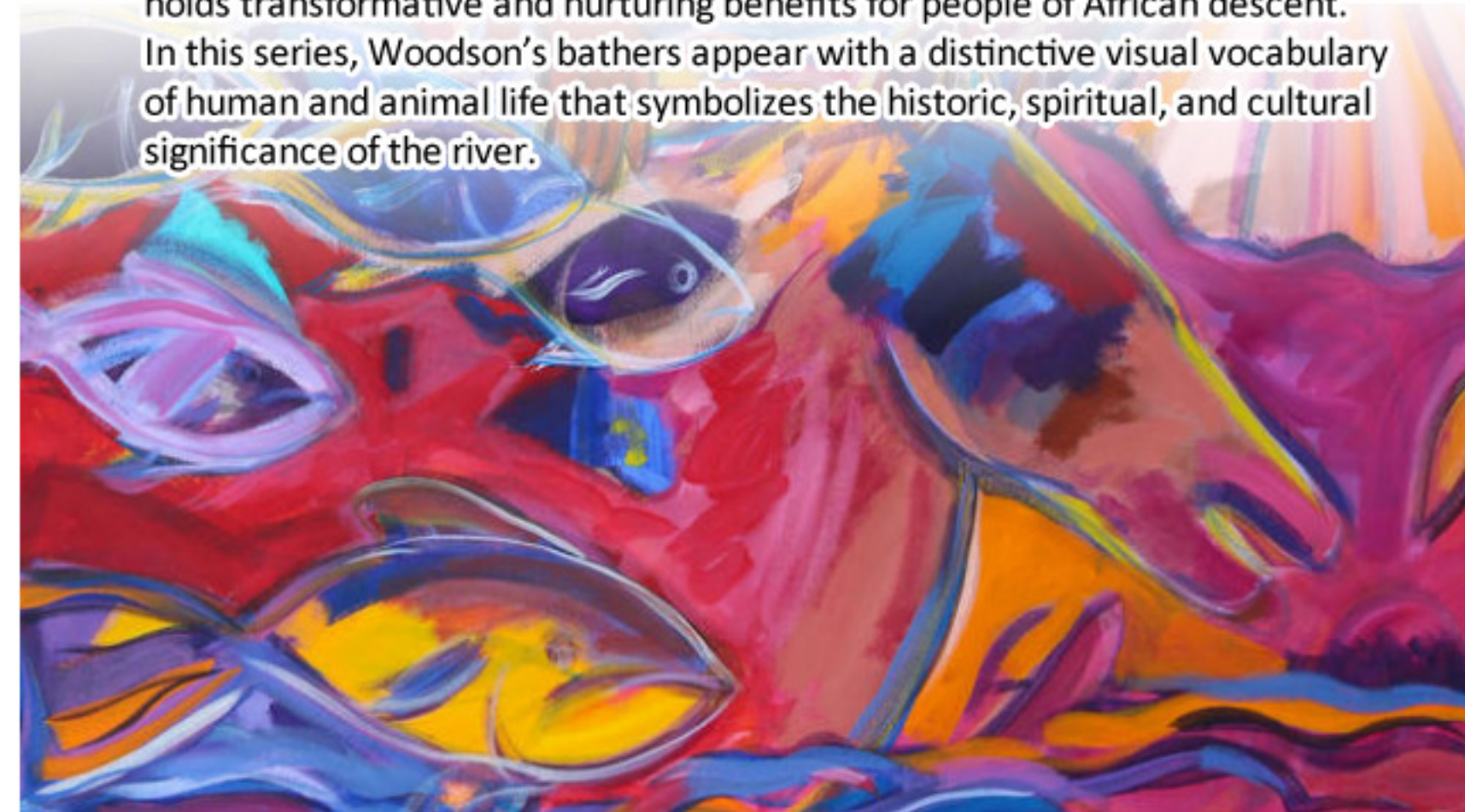
00:17 > I want the viewer to step into the work and to become engaged with the work, I can certainly get their attention with bright colors ... 00:44 > ...the black arts movement was a part of the of the civil rights movement and the civil rights movement was about what we're doing now. If you lived in detroit you were there.

Shirley Woodson: Shield of the Nile Reflections



Dec 18, 2021 – June 12, 2022

Renowned Detroit artist, educator, and advocate Shirley Woodson's solo exhibition *Shield of the Nile Reflections* presents her vibrant, dream-like paintings of Black bathers in rivers, honoring the diasporic myth that the Nile holds transformative and nurturing benefits for people of African descent. In this series, Woodson's bathers appear with a distinctive visual vocabulary of human and animal life that symbolizes the historic, spiritual, and cultural significance of the river.



Detail from Shirley Woodson's "I'll Be Watching You No. 2" (1996). Acrylic on canvas.

CBS correspondent Rita Braver, "When I saw your work, I thought, this is done by some wild woman. She much be just *out there*. And then, I met this lovely school-teacher. What's going on?"

"Well, I multi-task," she laughed. And now, this 85-year-old-multi-tasker's work is being celebrated in her first one-woman show at her hometown museum, the Detroit Institute of Arts.

The exhibit, composed of paintings that Woodson made over three decades, is called "Shield of the Nile Reflections," which she says highlights the river's importance to civilization. Describing her 1984 work "Shield of the Nile No. 2," Woodson said, "I wanted to place these figures in an environment of healing, of restoration, of pleasure -- all the things that water represents."

"On the one hand, it's so great that you have a solo exhibition at what is maybe the most prestigious art gallery in Detroit. On the other hand, what took them so long?"

"Well, they're not the only ones," Woodson laughed. "It's about survival. It's about keeping those goals that you have in play, and proceeding, moving forward."



Janice K. Jackson ✓

@janicejackson

CEO, @HopeChicagoEdu. Devoted parent, teacher and forever a principal. Former CEO, Chicago Public Schools.

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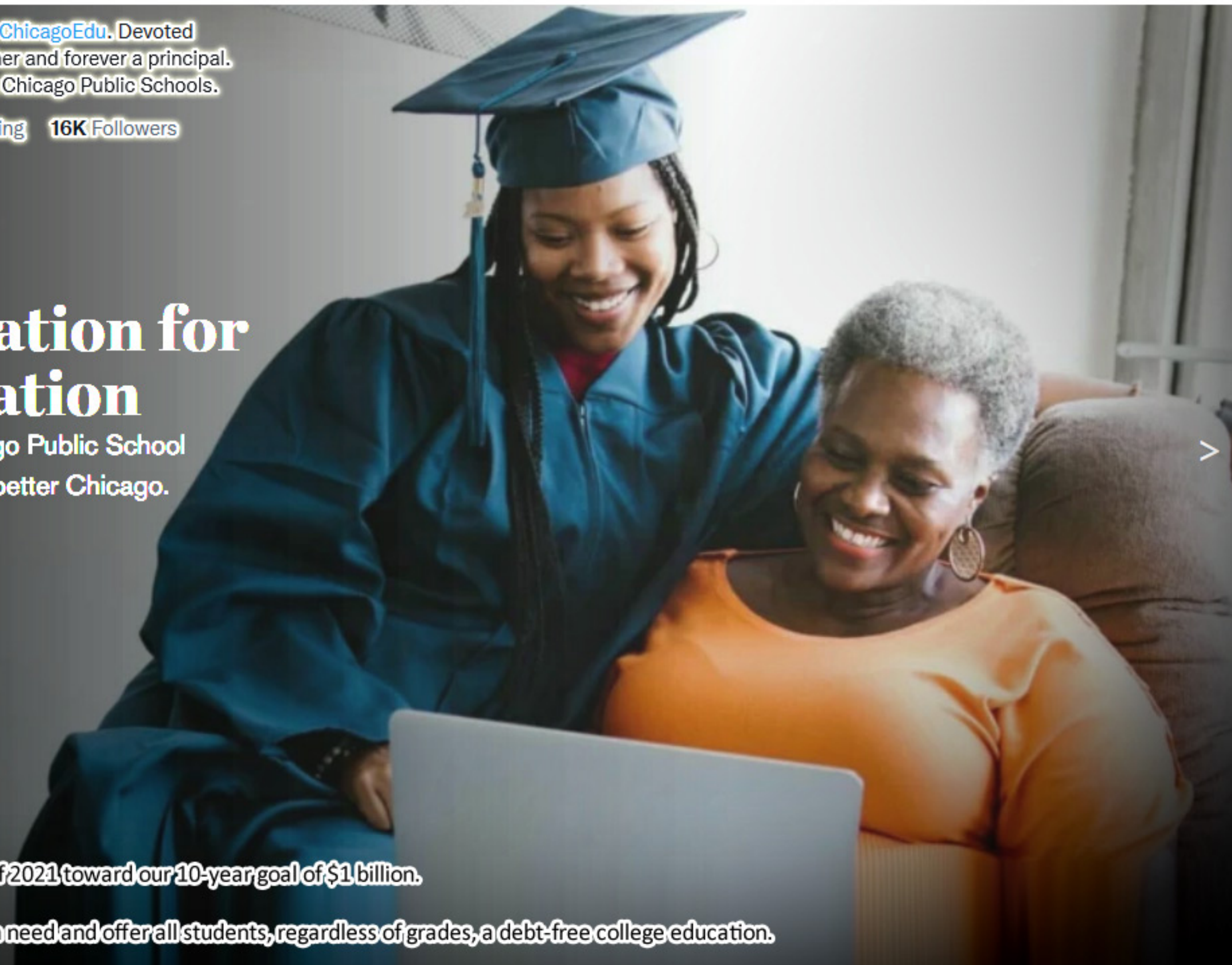
Chicago high school students hopes for a college education far exceed their abilities to pay for it. Enter businessman Pete Kadens and former Chicago Public Schools CEO Janice Jackson, whose initiative, Hope Chicago, aims to redress inequities in a young person's access to higher education.

Higher Education for Every Generation

We're raising \$1 Billion for Chicago Public School graduates and their families for a better Chicago.

Give Hope

- 1) Raise our first \$100 million in the fall of 2021 toward our 10-year goal of \$1 billion.
- 2) Identify schools & communities most in need and offer all students, regardless of grades, a debt-free college education.
- 3) Identify parents or guardians who want to go back to school and participate in our two-generation model, in order to boost completion rates and build family success.
- 4) Engage existing providers by forging partnerships with community providers and universities to support our scholars and get every one of them over the finish line.
- 5) Integrate our unique approach into the post-secondary ecosystem and drive broad change in the sector to make college more affordable and accessible to all.

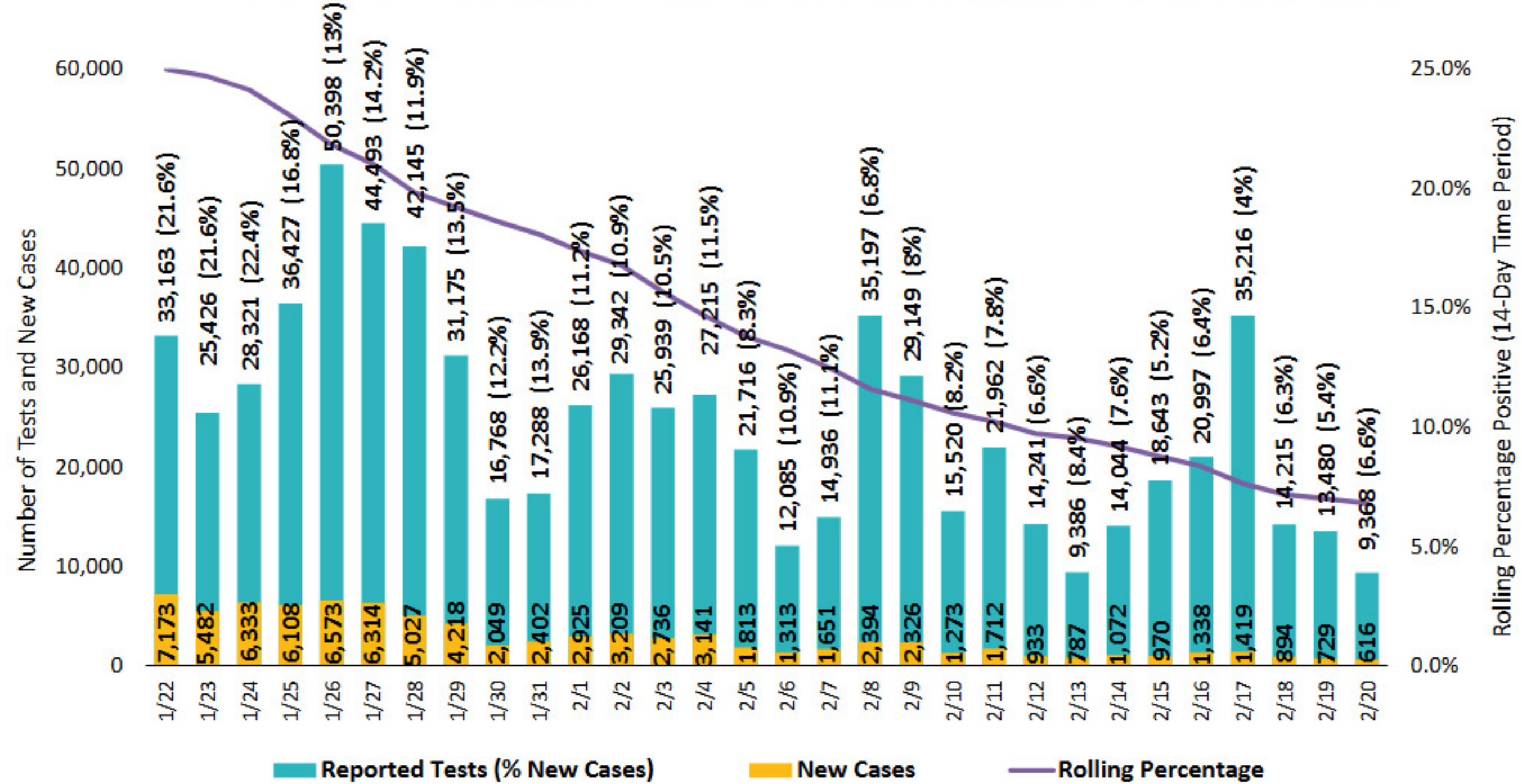


covid test positivity rate san diego

COVID-19 Percentage Positive



Percentage of Positive COVID-19 Cases Among Tests by Date Reported



Data are preliminary and subject to change. *Received batch of prior tests. 14-Day rolling percentage positive = cases among San Diego County residents / all tests, including San Diego County residents and non-residents. Total number of tests = 10,025,320; 2/20/2022 rolling average = 6.8%.
 Starting 1/20/2022, frequency of test data reporting reduced to Tuesdays and Fridays due to high volume of records.
 Prepared by County of San Diego, Emergency Operations Center, 2/23/2022.

Dr. Abraar Karan, an infectious disease physician at Stanford University, looks at how many tests are coming back positive, what's known as the test positivity rate. **If there is a sustained test positivity rate below 1% – without an uptick – Karan says "the chance of resurgence or community outbreaks is much, much lower."** Test positivity can be found for many counties in the government's Community Profile dataset or on a state health department's COVID-19 dashboard. "With high community incidence right now, I would not be removing my mask in indoor settings," says Karan of his community.



San Diego County, CA

Updated on February 27

RISK LEVEL **VERY HIGH**

VACCINATION PROGRESS



% Vaccinated >

93.6% 1+ DOSE

Daily new cases >

32.2 PER 100K

Infection rate >

0.69

Positive test rate >

6.4%

Cases

DAILY NEW CASES

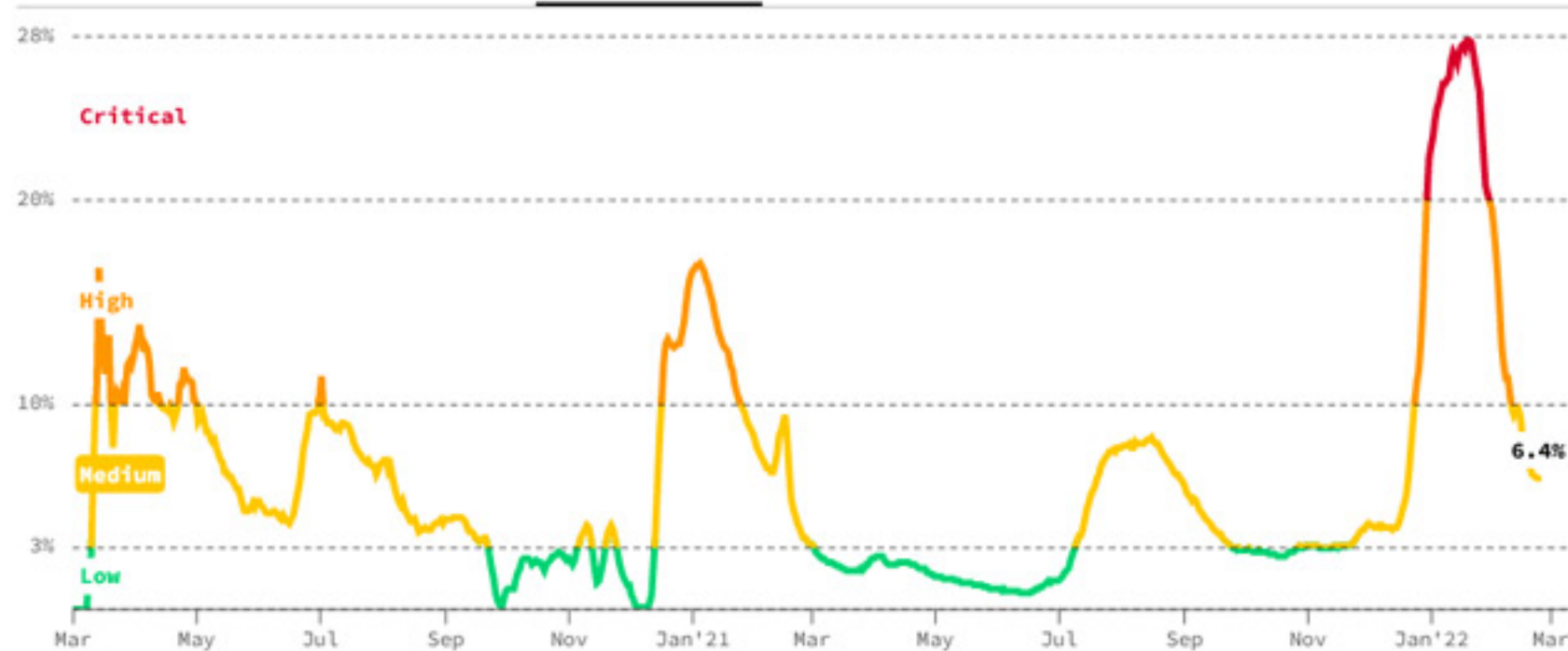
32.2 PER 100K

INFECTION RATE

0.69

POSITIVE TEST RATE

6.4%



PAST 30 DAYS

Cases >

Hospitali... >

Deaths >



San Diego County, CA is more vulnerable than 79% of U.S. counties.

Communities with higher vulnerability have pre-existing economic, social, and physical conditions that may make it hard to respond to and recover from a COVID outbreak.

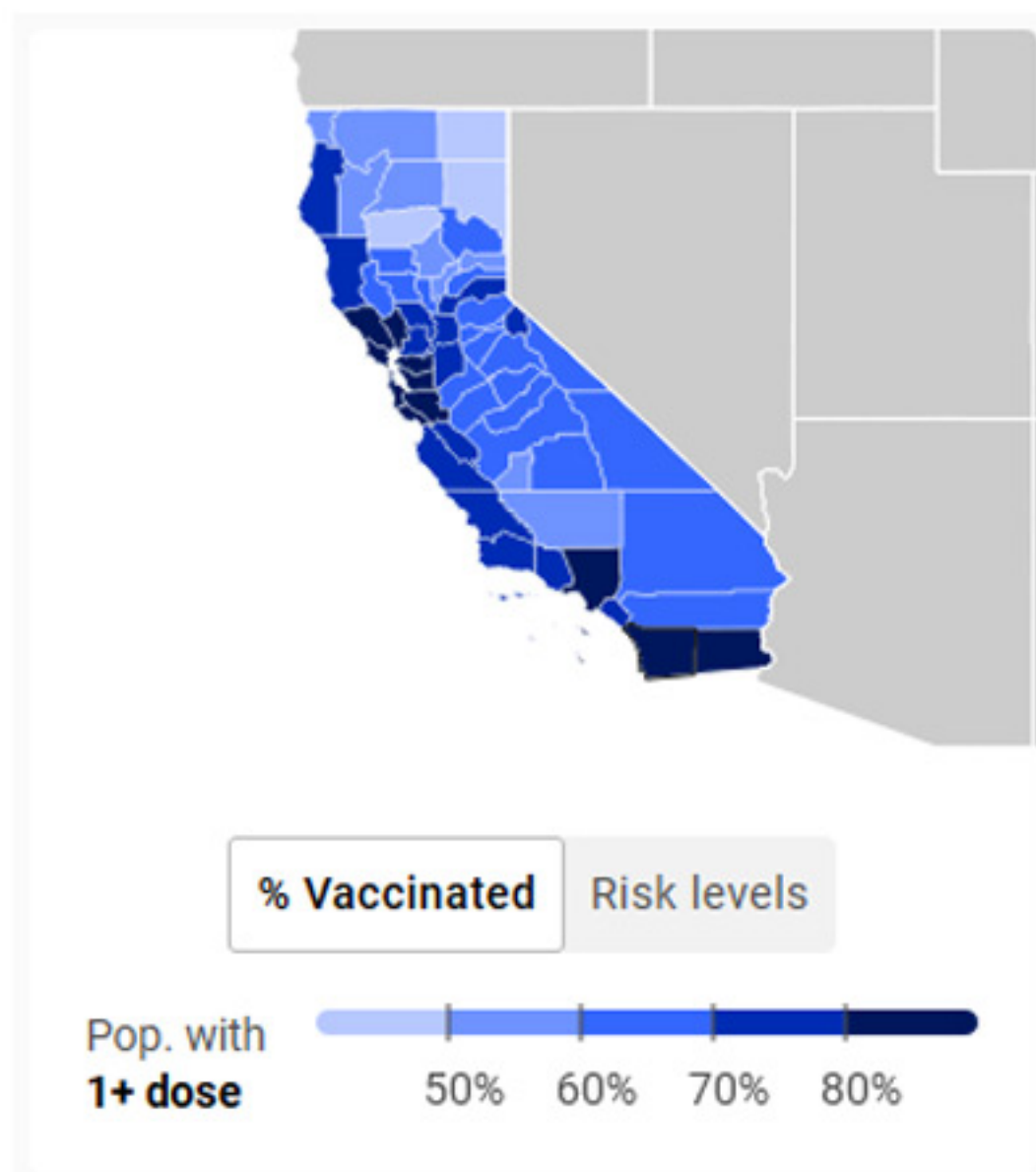
San Diego County, California has reported having 612 staffed adult ICU beds. 353 are filled by non-COVID patients and 134 are filled by COVID patients. Overall, 487 out of 612 (80%) are filled. *This suggests some ability to absorb an increase in COVID cases.*

A significant percentage (6.4%) of COVID tests were positive, meaning that San Diego County, California's testing meets WHO minimums but needs to be further expanded to detect most new cases.

In San Diego County, California, 3,125,828 people (**93.6%**) have received at least one dose, 2,439,566 (**73.1%**) have received at least two doses or a single Johnson & Johnson dose, and 934,732 (**28.0%**) have received a booster shot.

Anybody who is at least 5 years old is eligible to be vaccinated.

Fewer than 0.001% of people who have received a dose experienced a severe adverse reaction.

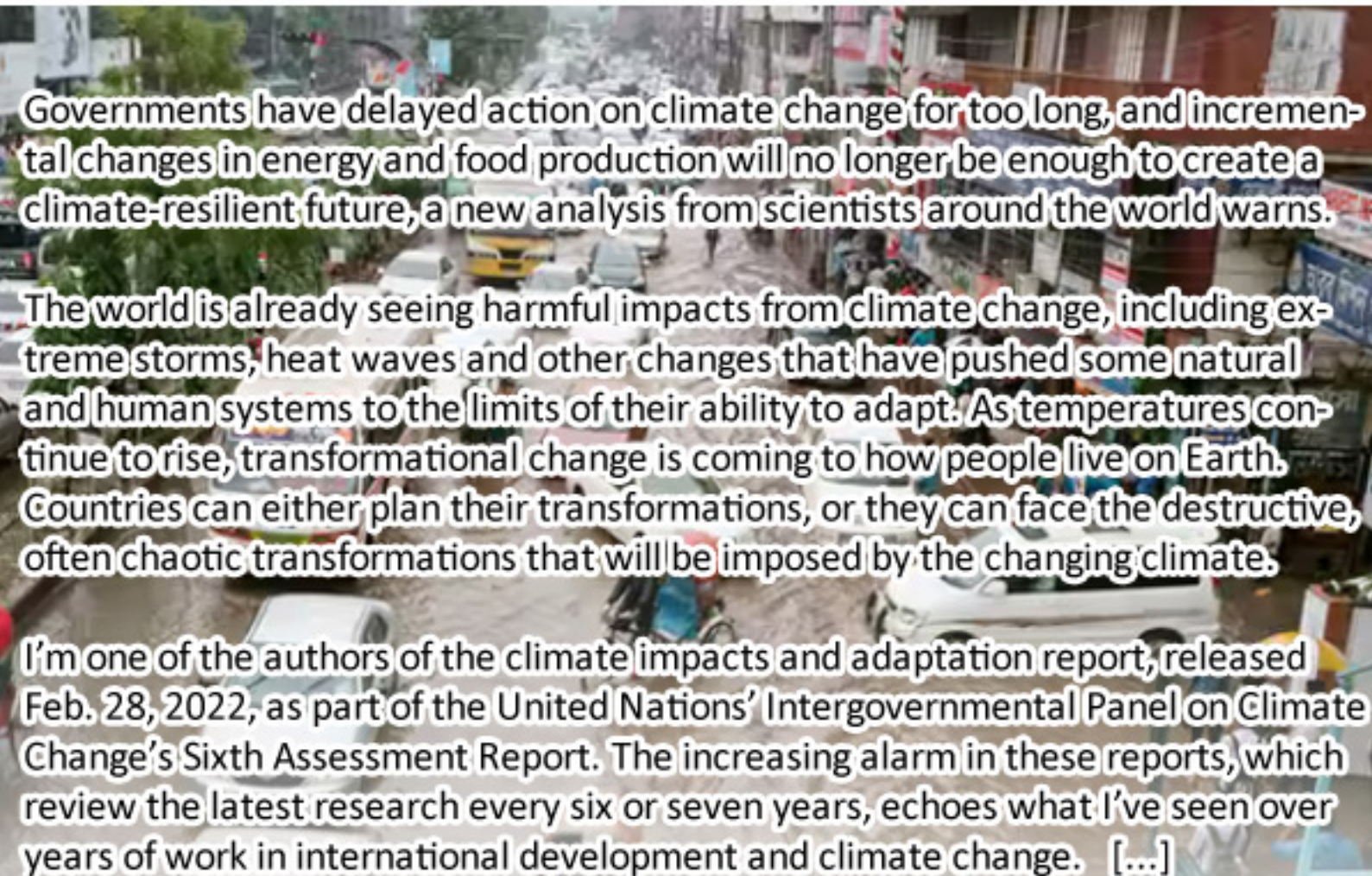


Transformational change is coming to how people live on Earth, UN climate adaptation report warns: Which path will humanity choose?

Published: February 28, 2022 6.01am EST

Edward R. Carr, Clark University

Weather and climate extremes are already here, and communities will have to adapt. Michael Hall via Getty



Governments have delayed action on climate change for too long, and incremental changes in energy and food production will no longer be enough to create a climate-resilient future, a new analysis from scientists around the world warns.

The world is already seeing harmful impacts from climate change, including extreme storms, heat waves and other changes that have pushed some natural and human systems to the limits of their ability to adapt. As temperatures continue to rise, transformational change is coming to how people live on Earth. Countries can either plan their transformations, or they can face the destructive, often chaotic transformations that will be imposed by the changing climate.

I'm one of the authors of the climate impacts and adaptation report, released Feb. 28, 2022, as part of the United Nations' Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's Sixth Assessment Report. The increasing alarm in these reports, which review the latest research every six or seven years, echoes what I've seen over years of work in international development and climate change. [...]

The impacts of a warming future will compromise the achievement of societal goals like ending poverty and malnutrition, in the United States and abroad.

The world is not helpless in the face of these risks. If countries, communities and individuals recognize the need for transformation, they can identify what they want to transform and what they want to preserve. They can ask who will be most affected by such transformations, and then plan for and manage these impacts, bringing as many people as possible into a climate resilient future. This does more than secure material safety. It changes people's relationship with each other and the environment.

There are emerging examples of transformational adaptation to climate change that show what is possible.

There are emerging examples of transformational adaptation to climate change that show what is possible. In Australia, farmers who adopted regenerative agriculture practices, which help to store more carbon in the soil, found that the health of their soil increased. This allowed the farmers to buffer their fields against drought and floods. They also became more collaborative and ecologically aware, and they articulated more holistic goals for their farming that went beyond income to well-being and conservation.

Preservation vs. transformation: A false choice The slow global response so far makes it clear that addressing climate change is fundamentally a problem of people and their motivations. Some politicians and others promote false choices between expensive adaptation and the status quo. But arguments that mitigating climate change is too expensive obscure the fact that people pay for this losing battle against the transformative impacts of climate change all the time.

Focusing on the status quo also sidesteps the thorny politics of deciding what aspects of our current lives, societies and economies should be preserved and what can and should be transformed. Shifting from cars to public transportation can improve access jobs and amenities for lower-income populations. At the same time, housing near transportation can be priced out of reach. Building a seawall might protect properties along one part of the coast while shifting erosion to communities with fewer resources. What countries and communities decide to transform, and how, will depend greatly on who gets to participate in these decisions. Their outcomes, in turn, will have significant implications for justice and equity.

Reactive approach hides the accumulating costs. But the status quo isn't cheap in the long run, and studies show that the harm from more drastic warming would be extensive.

The Urban Climate Change Research Network, an international consortium of scientists, estimates that the current cost of adaptation for urban areas alone is between \$64 billion and \$80 billion each year. The same assessment found the annual costs of inaction are likely to be 10 times as large by midcentury. The longer countries wait to mitigate climate change, the fewer transformational options they will have. The choice is not between expensive transformation and no-cost status quo. The difference lies in how people will pay, how much they pay, and how often they pay. If we do not choose the transformations we want, environmentally imposed transformations lurk very near for some, and eventually for all.

The IPCC assessment offers a stark choice: **Does humanity accept this disastrous status quo and the uncertain, unpleasant future it is leading toward, or does it grab the reins and choose a better future?**



The IPCC has finalized the second part of the Sixth Assessment Report, *Climate Change 2022: Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability*, the Working Group II contribution to the Sixth Assessment Report. It was finalized on 27 February 2022 during the 12th Session of Working Group II and 55th Session of the IPCC.

Read the report here: <https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/wg2/>

Climate Change 2022:

Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability

The Working Group II contribution to the Sixth Assessment Report assesses the impacts of climate change, looking at ecosystems, biodiversity, and human communities at global and regional levels. It also reviews vulnerabilities and the capacities and limits of the natural world and human societies to adapt to climate change.

Working Group II Sixth Assessment Report trailer - English

285 views • Feb 28, 2022

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I so melancholy ache

("my dear Matna" as my grandfather called her)
for this planet, and all of her inhabitants.

In late 1999, Terence McKenna described his thoughts concerning his impending death: *"I always thought death would come on the freeway in a few horrifying moments, so you'd have no time to sort it out. Having months and months to look at it and think about it and talk to people and hear what they have to say, it's a kind of blessing. It's certainly an opportunity to grow up and get a grip and sort it all out. Just being told by an unsmiling guy in a white coat that you're going to be dead in four months definitely turns on the lights. It makes life rich and poignant. When it first happened, and I got these diagnoses, I could see the light of eternity, à la William Blake, shining through every leaf. I mean, a bug walking across the ground moved me to tears."*

The Guardian tell us,

"Insects have declined by 75% in the past 50 years - and the consequences may soon be catastrophic."

So, yes, each next moment becomes all the more precious, doesn't it?
I mean, me too, though my health is relatively good, in mass, all of our planet's inhabitants' is not ... a bug walking across the ground can easily move me to tears.

Opinion

Why Vladimir Putin has already lost this war

Yuval Noah Harari

Mon 28 Feb 2022 01:00 EST

The Russians may yet conquer Ukraine. But Ukrainians have shown in the past few days that they will not let them hold it



Weapons training near Kharkiv on Sunday: 'The last few days have proved that Ukrainians definitely don't want to live under a new Russian empire.' Photograph: Evgeniy Maloletka/AP

Less than a week into the war, it seems increasingly likely that Vladimir Putin is heading towards a historic defeat. He may win all the battles but lose the war. Putin's dream of rebuilding the Russian empire has always rested on the lie that Ukraine isn't a real nation, that Ukrainians aren't a real people, and that the inhabitants of Kyiv, Kharkiv and Lviv yearn for Moscow's rule. That's a complete lie – Ukraine is a nation with more than a thousand years of history, and Kyiv was already a major metropolis when Moscow was not even a village. But the Russian despot has told his lie so many times that he apparently believes it himself.

When planning the invasion of Ukraine, Putin could count on many known facts. He knew that militarily Russia dwarfs Ukraine. He knew that NATO would not send troops to help Ukraine. He knew that European dependence on Russian oil and gas would make countries like Germany hesitate about imposing stiff sanctions. Based on these known facts, his plan was to hit Ukraine hard and fast, decapitate its government, establish a puppet regime in Kyiv, and ride out the impotent rage of western sanctions. But there was one big unknown about this plan. As the Americans learned in Iraq and the Soviets learned in Afghanistan, it is much easier to conquer a country than to hold it. Putin knew he had the power to conquer Ukraine. But would the Ukrainian people just accept Moscow's puppet regime? Putin gambled that they would. After all, as he repeatedly explained to anyone willing to listen, Ukraine isn't a real nation, and the Ukrainians aren't a real people. In 2014, people in Crimea hardly resisted the Russian invaders. Why should 2022 be any different?

With each passing day, it is becoming clearer that Putin's gamble is failing. The Ukrainian people are resisting with all their heart, winning the admiration of the entire world – and winning the war. Many dark days lie ahead. The Russians may still conquer the whole of Ukraine. But to win the war, the Russians would have to hold Ukraine, and they can do that only if the Ukrainian people let them. This seems increasingly unlikely to happen.

Each Russian tank destroyed and each Russian soldier killed increases the Ukrainians' courage to resist. And each Ukrainian killed deepens the Ukrainians' hatred. Hatred is the ugliest of emotions. But for oppressed nations, hatred is a hidden treasure. Buried deep in the heart, it can sustain resistance for generations. To re-establish the Russian empire, Putin needs a relatively bloodless victory that will lead to a relatively hateless peace. By spilling more and more Ukrainian blood, Putin is making sure his dream will never be realised. It won't be Mikhail Gorbachev's name written on the death certificate of the Russian empire: it will be Putin's. Gorbachev left Russians and Ukrainians feeling like siblings; Putin has turned them into enemies, and has ensured that the Ukrainian nation will henceforth define itself in opposition to Russia.

Nations are ultimately built on stories. Each passing day adds more stories that Ukrainians will tell not only in the dark days ahead, but in the decades and generations to come. The president who refused to flee the capital, telling the US that he needs ammunition, not a ride; the soldiers from Snake Island who told a Russian warship to "go fuck yourself"; the civilians who tried to stop Russian tanks by sitting in their path. This is the stuff nations are built from. In the long run, these stories count for more than tanks.

The Russian despot should know this as well as anyone. As a child, he grew up on a diet of stories about Russian bravery in the siege of Leningrad. He is now creating more such stories, but casting himself in the role of Hitler.

The stories of Ukrainian bravery give resolve not only to Ukrainians, but to the whole world. They give courage to the governments of European nations, to the US administration, and even to the oppressed citizens of Russia. If Ukrainians dare to stop a tank with their bare hands, the German government can dare to supply them with some anti-tank missiles, the US government can dare to cut Russia off Swift, and Russian citizens can dare to demonstrate their opposition to this senseless war.

Unfortunately, this war is likely to be long-lasting. But the most important issue has already been decided. The last few days have proved to the entire world that Ukraine is a real nation, that Ukrainians are a real people, and that they definitely don't want to live under a new Russian empire. The main question left open is how long it will take for this message to penetrate the Kremlin's thick walls.



Russian President Vladimir Putin chairs a meeting with his advisors on economic issues at the Kremlin in Moscow on February 28, 2022.



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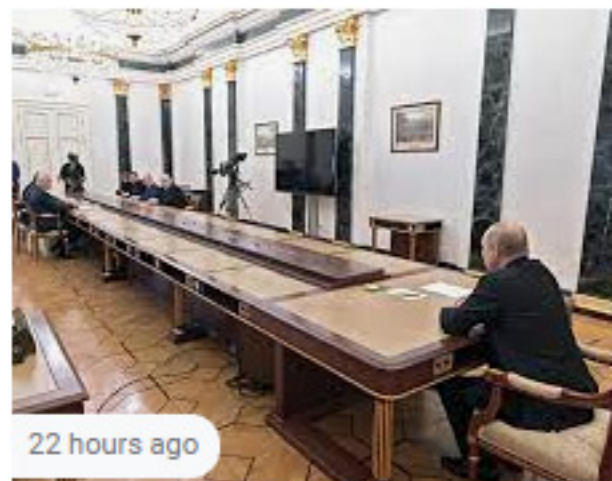
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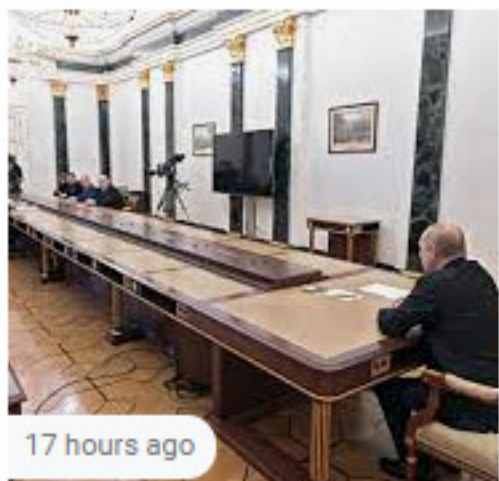
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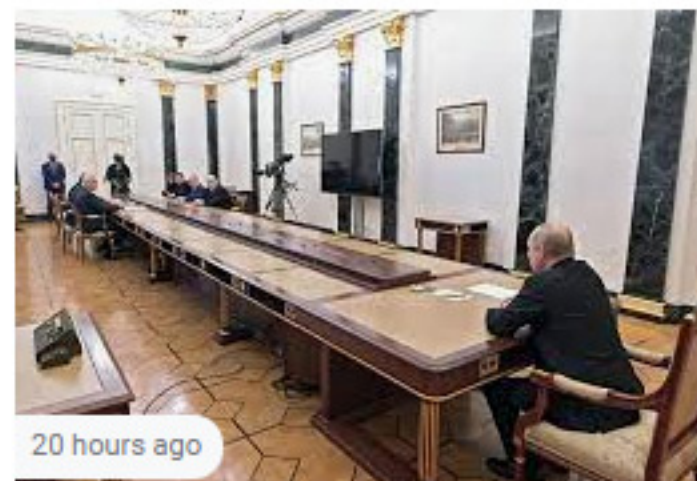
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Anonymous (ID: v30prqfV) 02/28/22(Mon)19:31:46 No.364282187

How will europe's ruler spin this as a bad thing to their global warming indoctrinated populace?

Anonymous (ID: NCnlpZq/) 02/28/22(Mon)19:34:19 No.364282639

>>364281910 (OP)

Oh fuck, this is the actual happening, ghost bitches, airsofts and old photos be damned. Will Biden give him the Ghadafi treatment?

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Anonymous (ID: BmwEbhaC) 02/28/22(Mon)19:32:58 No.364282401 >>364282746 >>364287021 >>364292188 >>364293333

Damn I was hoping they would switch to BTC.

Anonymous (ID: 7kHHEwWJ) 02/28/22(Mon)19:33:04 No.364282419 >>364282667 >>364282838 >>364283949 >>364284674 >>364288344 >>364291665

>>364281910 (OP)

De-dollarization lmao, this is going to fuck the dollar so hard wow. I can't believe this backfired so tremendously.

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Anonymous (ID: C4TsEtnf) 02/28/22(Mon)19:35:03 No.364282760

>>364281910 (OP)
plan Xi incoming, i see i see

Anonymous (ID: VSF7oHn) 02/28/22(Mon)19:35:26 No.364282838 >>364283195

>>364282419
>I can't believe this backfired so tremendously.
russia has been working with china for CIPS for a while. everyone knew this was coming.

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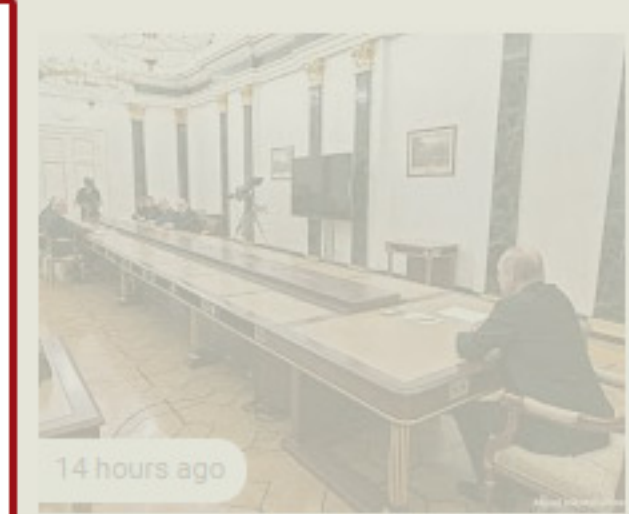
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Anonymous (ID: yQo2ph1L) 02/28/22(Mon)19:34:26 No.364282667 >>364283023 >>364283661 >>364284008 >>364290836 >>364292759 >>364292999 >>364293386

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14

>>364282419

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Reading Putin: Unbalanced or cagily preying on West's fears?

By NOMAAN MERCHANT and VLADIMIR ISACHENKOV today



FILE - In this image made from video released by the Russian Presidential Press Service, Russian President Vladimir Putin addresses the nation in Moscow, Russia, on Feb. 24, 2022. Putin is raising fears that he has become more reckless, more committed to restoring the USSR, perhaps more likely to set off a world-altering war. There's no way to determine from a distance whether the Russian president is becoming unstable or if he is simply preying on the West's fears. (Russian Presidential Press Service via AP)

WASHINGTON (AP) — For two decades, Vladimir Putin has struck rivals as reckless, impulsive. But his behavior in ordering an invasion of Ukraine — and now putting Russia's nuclear forces on high alert — has some in the West questioning whether the Russian president has become dangerously unstable.

In recent days, Putin has rambled on television about Ukraine, repeated conspiracy theories about neo-Nazism and Western aggression, berated his own foreign intelligence chief on camera from the other side of a high-domed Kremlin hall where he sat alone. Now, with the West's sanctions threatening to cripple Russia's already hobbled economy, Putin has ordered the higher state of readiness for nuclear weapons, blaming the sanctions and what he called "aggressive statements against our country."

The uncertainty over his thinking adds a wildcard to Russia's war on Ukraine. Western officials must confront Putin as they also wonder whether he comprehends or cares about cataclysmic consequences — or perhaps is intentionally preying on the long-held suspicions about him. An aide to French President Emmanuel Macron, who spoke with Putin on Monday, said the Russian leader answered Macron "without showing irritation, in a very clinical and a very determined manner."

"We can see that with President Putin's state of mind, there is a risk of escalation," added the aide, who spoke anonymously in line with the French presidency's practice on sensitive talks. "There is a risk of manipulation from President Putin to justify what is unjustifiable."

Foreign leaders have long tried to get inside Putin's head and have been wrong before. And Putin in this crisis is showing many of the same traits that he has displayed since becoming Russia's leader. Putin has directed invasions of neighbors, unspooled conspiracy theories and outright falsehoods, and ordered audacious operations like interfering in the past two U.S. presidential elections.

Putin's perceived self-insulation was highlighted in recent official meetings broadcast by state television. He faced foreign leaders and close aides from the opposite end of a long table. No Russian official who spoke gave a dissenting view. "He's not had that many people having direct inputs to him," said Sen. Mark Warner, a Virginia Democrat who chairs the Senate Intelligence Committee. "So we're concerned that this isolated individual (has) become a megalomaniac in terms of his notion of himself being the only historic figure that can rebuild old Russia or recreate the notion of the Soviet sphere."

Rep. Chris Stewart, a Utah Republican who sits on the House Intelligence Committee, said he had not seen evidence prior to the Ukraine invasion to suggest Putin was behaving irrationally, and he noted that other world leaders in history have been dismissed by outsiders as irrational. Putin, he said, has "an incredible appetite for risk when it comes to Ukraine."

James M. Acton, co-director of the Nuclear Policy Program at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, said he did not believe nuclear war was imminent but there was real potential for escalation. Another possibility was Putin would use increasingly brutal non-nuclear tactics in Ukraine.

Acton suggested finding an "off-ramp" that might allow Putin a perceived victory. In 1962, during the Cuban missile crisis, the U.S. secretly agreed to remove nuclear missiles from Turkey in exchange for the Soviets pulling back from Cuba.

But, Acton added, "I'm not entirely clear whether he in his own mind knows what an off-ramp looks like right now."

Jeffrey Lewis, an expert on nuclear policy at the Middlebury Institute of International Studies, said he wasn't immediately worried about a nuclear escalation. But one danger of sending public signals about nuclear weapons is that they can be difficult to interpret, Lewis said, just as the world is trying now to understand Putin's latest moves and intentions.

"He is isolated and making poor decisions and losing," Lewis said. "And that is dangerous."

Russia pummels Ukraine's No. 2 city and convoy nears Kyiv

By YURAS KARMAU, JIM HEINTZ, VLADIMIR ISACHENKOV and DASHA LITVINOVA
14 minutes ago



This handout photo released by Ukrainian Emergency Service shows a view of the damaged City Hall building in Kharkiv, Ukraine, Tuesday, March 1, 2022. Russian shelling pounded civilian targets in Ukraine's second-largest city, Kharkiv, Tuesday and a 40-mile convoy of tanks and other vehicles threatened the capital — tactics Ukraine's embattled president said were designed to force him into concessions in Europe's largest ground war in generations. (Ukrainian Emergency Service via AP)



A volunteer of Ukraine's Territorial Defense Forces walks by a damaged armored vehicle at a checkpoint in Brovary, outside Kyiv, Ukraine, Tuesday, March 1, 2022.

KYIV, Ukraine (AP) — Russian strikes pounded the central square in Ukraine's second-largest city and other civilian targets Tuesday and a 40-mile convoy of tanks and other vehicles threatened the capital. Ukraine's embattled president accused Moscow of resorting to terror tactics to press Europe's largest ground war in generations.

With the Kremlin increasingly isolated by tough economic sanctions that have tanked the ruble currency, Russian troops advanced on Ukraine's two biggest cities on Day 6 of an invasion that has shaken the 21st century world order. In Kharkiv, a strategic eastern city with a population of about 1.5 million, explosions tore through the region's Soviet-era administrative building and residential areas. A maternity ward relocated to an underground shelter.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy called the targeted attack on Kharkiv's main square "frank, undisguised terror," blaming a Russian missile and calling it a war crime. "Nobody will forgive. Nobody will forget. ... This is state terrorism of the Russian Federation."

Western nations have increased weapons shipments to Ukraine to help its forces defend themselves — but have so far ruled out sending in troops.

As far-reaching Western sanctions on Russian banks and other institutions took hold, the ruble plummeted, and Russia's Central Bank scrambled to shore it up, as did Putin, signing a decree restricting foreign currency.

But that did little to calm Russian fears. In Moscow, people lined up to withdraw cash as the sanctions threatened to drive up prices and reduce the standard of living for millions of ordinary people.

The economic sanctions, ordered by the U.S. and other allies, were just one contributor to Russia's growing status as a pariah country.

Russian airliners are banned from European airspace, Russian media is restricted in some countries, and some high-tech products can no longer be exported to the country. International sports bodies moved to exclude Russian athletes — in the latest blow Tuesday, Russians were barred from international ice skating events.

A free-for-all but no crippling cyberattacks in Ukraine war

By ALAN SUDERMAN and FRANK BAJAK an hour ago



RICHMOND, Va. (AP) — Russia has some of the best hackers in the world, but in the early days of the war in Ukraine, its ability to create mayhem through malware hasn't had much of a noticeable impact. Instead, it's Ukraine that's marshaled sympathetic volunteer hackers in an unprecedented collective global effort to make the Kremlin pay for making war on its neighbor. It's a kind of cyber free-for-all that experts say risks escalating a moment already fraught with extraordinary danger after Russian President Vladimir Putin put his nuclear forces on alert.

Many cybersecurity experts believe the Kremlin, at least for now, prefers to keep Ukraine's communications open for the intelligence value. Whatever the reasons, the conflict's early days have been marked by lower-level cyberattacks that appear to be done both by freelancers and state actors.

Prior to the invasion, hackers knocked offline or defaced Ukrainian government websites and wiped some servers with destructive malware. **Now, an ad hoc army of hackers — some marshaled online by Ukraine's SBU security service — are claiming credit for takedowns and defacements of Russian government and media sites.** A volunteer group calling itself the IT Army of Ukraine has more than 230,000 followers on a Telegram channel and is constantly listing targets for hackers to hit, like Russian banks and cryptocurrency exchanges.

On Monday, Ukraine's SBU made its recruitment of allied volunteer hackers official. "CYBER FRONT IS NOW OPEN! Help Ukrainian cyber experts hack occupant's platforms!" it said on its Telegram channel, asking for tips on vulnerabilities in Russian cyber defenses, including software bugs and login credentials.

"It is the first time that states have openly called for citizens and volunteers to cyberattack another state," said Gabriella Coleman, a Harvard anthropology professor who has charted the rise of hacktivism.

The move mirrors Ukraine's reliance on its citizens for other areas of defense. "It shouldn't be surprising that Ukraine is dipping into all possible resources to fight off the Russians, a much stronger foe. Just like civilians are coming out to fight in the street, it doesn't surprise me that they are trying to call forward civilians to support this through the digital space," said Gary Corn, a retired Army colonel who served as general counsel to U.S. Cyber Command.

One hacker group that first appeared last year, the Belarus Cyber Partisans, claimed Monday to have disrupted some rail service in Belarus, the northern neighbor of Ukraine from which several prongs of Russia's military attacked. The group has been trying to frustrate Russian troop and hardware movements through Belarus. Sergey Voitekhovich, a former Belarusian railway worker who runs a rail-related Telegram group, told The Associated Press that the Cyber Partisans' digital sabotage Sunday paralyzed train traffic in Belarus for 90 minutes. He said electronic ticket sales were still not functioning as of Monday evening. The Cyber Partisans hack was intended to disrupt Russian troop movements in Belarus and was the second such action in a little over a month. Voitekhovich said the current attack delayed two Russian military trains bound for Belarus from the Russian city of Smolensk. His story could not be independently verified. Voitekhovich chatted with the AP from Poland. He said police pressure had forced him to leave Belarus.

As partisans on both sides vow more serious cyberattacks, experts say there are real risks of the situation spiraling out of control. **"De-escalation and peace will be hard enough on their own without outsourced hacking to worry about,"** said Jay Healey, a cyberconflict expert at Columbia University who has long been opposed to letting the private sector "hack back" against Russian or other state-backed cyber aggression. **Making things more complicated: potential "false flag" operations in which hackers pretend to be someone else when launching an attack, a specialty in cyber conflicts. Attribution in cyberattacks is almost always difficult and could be even more so in the fog of war.**

Microsoft President Brad Smith said in a statement Monday that such attacks on civilian targets "raise serious concerns under the Geneva Convention." Smith noted that the cyberattacks — like a series of similar attacks in mid-January — "have been precisely targeted, and we have not seen the use of the indiscriminate malware technology that spread across Ukraine's economy and beyond its borders in the 2017 NotPetya attack," referring to a "wiper" that caused more than \$10 billion of damage globally by infecting companies that do business in Ukraine with malware seeded through a tax preparation software update.

"I've been pleasantly surprised so far ... that Russia has not launched more major cyberattacks against Ukraine," Senate Intelligence Committee Chairman Mark Warner said at an event Monday. "Do I expect Russia to up its game on cyber? Absolutely."

Big tech grapples with Russian state media, propaganda

By DAVID KLEPPER and AMANDA SEITZ 2 hours ago



FILE - This combination of images shows logos for companies from left, Twitter, YouTube and Facebook. Russia's invasion of Ukraine is forcing big tech companies to decide how to handle state-controlled media outlets that spread propaganda and misinformation on behalf of the invaders. (AP Photo/File)

WASHINGTON (AP) — As Russia's war in Ukraine plays out for the world on social media, big tech platforms are moving to restrict Russian state media from using their platforms to spread propaganda and misinformation.

Google announced Tuesday that it's blocking the YouTube channels of those outlets in Europe "effective immediately" but acknowledged "it'll take time for our systems to fully ramp up."

Other U.S.-owned tech companies have offered more modest changes so far: limiting the Kremlin's reach, labeling more of this content so that people know it originated with the Russian government, and cutting Russian state organs off from whatever ad revenue they were previously making.

The changes are a careful balancing act intended to slow the Kremlin from pumping propaganda into social media feeds without angering Russian officials to the point that they yank their citizens' access to platforms during a crucial time of war, said Katie Harbath, a former public policy director for Facebook.

Meta, which owns Facebook and Instagram, announced Monday that it would restrict access to Russia's RT and Sputnik services in Europe, following a statement by European Union President Ursula von der Leyen over the weekend that officials are working to bar the sites throughout the EU.

Google followed Tuesday with a European ban of those two outlets on YouTube.

The U.S. has not taken similar action or applied sanctions to Russian state media, leaving the American-owned tech companies to wrestle with how to blunt the Kremlin's reach on their own.

The results have been mixed.

RT and other Russian-state media accounts are still active on Facebook in the U.S. Twitter announced Monday that after seeing more than 45,000 tweets daily from users sharing Russian state-affiliated media links in recent days, it will add labels to content from the Kremlin's websites. The company also said it would not recommend or direct users to Russian-affiliated websites in its search function.

Last week, U.S. Sen. Mark Warner of Virginia sent letters to Google, Meta, Reddit, Telegram, TikTok and Twitter urging them to curb such Russian influence campaigns on their websites.

"In addition to Russia's established use of influence operations as a tool of strategic influence, information warfare constitutes an integral part of Russian military doctrine," Warner wrote.

Ordinary Russians are already feeling the economic pain of sanctions over Ukraine invasion

Published: February 28, 2022 8.59pm EST

Peter Rutland, Wesleyan University



As the ruble crumbles, are the wheels falling off the Russian economy? AP Photo/Pavel Golovkin

The daily life of ordinary Russians – not just the country’s political elite or super rich oligarchs – is already being impacted by economic measures imposed by the international community in response to the invasion of Ukraine.

As a scholar of Russia’s political economy, I was surprised by the speed and severity of the Western economic response to the invasion of Ukraine. Whereas the sanctions that the West imposed after the annexation of Crimea in 2014 were generally quite ineffective – at best slowing Russian gross domestic product growth by 1% a year – this time they appear to be having an immediate impact. Just days into the conflict, we are seeing images of long lines of Russians attempting to get cash out of bank ATMs.

In the past few days, the U.S. has frozen the assets of the Russian central bank in Western jurisdictions – an unexpected move – and excluded most Russian banks from the SWIFT bank clearing system, which processes trillions of dollars’ worth of transactions every day.

This means Russian individuals and businesses will not be able to access any foreign bank accounts that they have. The Central Bank of Russia has tried to reassure the public, stating that the national bank transfer system can handle domestic transactions and that credit cards issued by Russian affiliates of Western banks should work inside Russia.

But the package of sanctions is seen by economists such as Sergei Aleksashenko and Sergei Guriev as unprecedented in its scope.

Prices head north as ruble heads south

As news of the sanctions filtered out, Russians rushed to withdraw cash from ATMs and to dump rubles for other currencies, fearing a further depreciation of the national currency. A classic bank run appears to be underway, with the ruble losing 29% of its value and exchange booths offering 100 rubles to the dollar. Russia’s central bank is doing everything it can to shore up the value of the ruble.

The falling ruble pushes up the price of imports, which make up over half the consumer basket. Inflation in Russia was already a sensitive issue prior to the invasion of Ukraine, running at 8.7%. In 2021, global food prices rose 28%, and Russia imposed price caps and export duties on some basic food items.

The new sanctions will severely impact the living standard of ordinary Russians. A survey conducted in July 2021 found that around 75% of Russians spent around half their income or more on food, and that was before the recent price surge.

All in all, this amounts to a grim scenario for Russian consumers and businesses. The economy is likely to plunge into recession, and many Russians are already experiencing the effects of the sanctions.

Revenue from oil and gas exports will continue to flow, and that will provide Putin with enough funds to maintain the state’s security apparatus and put down popular unrest. However, worsening personal economic circumstances might affect how Russians view the war. **In the past, Putin has tried to pass the blame for economic pain on to the West, but there is a chance that this time around, Russians might hold him to account.**

Satellite images show 40-mile-long Russian military convoy nearing Kyiv

February 28, 2022

Nicole Werbeck

PHOTOS by Maxar: Maxar Technologies is a space technology company headquartered in Westminster, Colorado, United States, specializing in manufacturing communication, Earth observation, radar, and on-orbit servicing satellites, satellite products, and related services.

Satellite images show a Russian military convoy north of Kyiv.



New satellite images show a large military convoy north of Kyiv, Ukraine extends for almost 40 miles. It is considerably longer than 17 miles as initially reported this morning by Maxar Technologies. Based on additional imagery collected, the Russian military convoy stretches from near Antonov airport in the south to the northern end of the convoy near Pryborsk. | Fires seen north of Ivankiv, Ukraine. | Along parts of the route, some vehicles are spaced fairly far apart while in other sections military equipment and units are traveling two or three vehicles abreast on the road north of Ivankiv, Ukraine. | Military convoy southeast of Ivankiv, Ukraine.



At cartel extermination site; Mexico nears 100k missing

By **MARÍA VERZA**

yesterday

Forensic technicians excavate a field on a plot of land referred to as a cartel "extermination site" where burned human remains are buried, on the outskirts of Nuevo Laredo, Mexico, Tuesday, Feb. 8, 2022. The insufficiency of investigations into Mexico's nearly 100,000 disappearances is evident. There are 52,000 unidentified people in morgues and cemeteries, not counting places like this one, where the charred remains are measured only by weight.

(AP Photo/Marco Ugarte)

NUEVO LAREDO, Mexico (AP) — At the Nuevo Laredo site -- to which The Associated Press was given access this month -- the insufficiency of investigations into Mexico's nearly 100,000 disappearances is painfully evident. There are 52,000 unidentified people in morgues and cemeteries, not counting places like this one, where the charred remains are measured only by weight.

And people continue to disappear. And more remains are found.

"We take care of one case and 10 more arrive," said Oswaldo Salinas, head of the Tamaulipas state attorney general's identification team.

Meanwhile there is no progress in bringing the guilty to justice. According to recent data from Mexico's federal auditor, of more than 1,600 investigations into disappearances by authorities or cartels opened by the attorney general's office, none made it to the courts in 2020.

Still, the work goes on at Nuevo Laredo. If nothing else, there is the hope of helping even one family find closure, though that can take years.

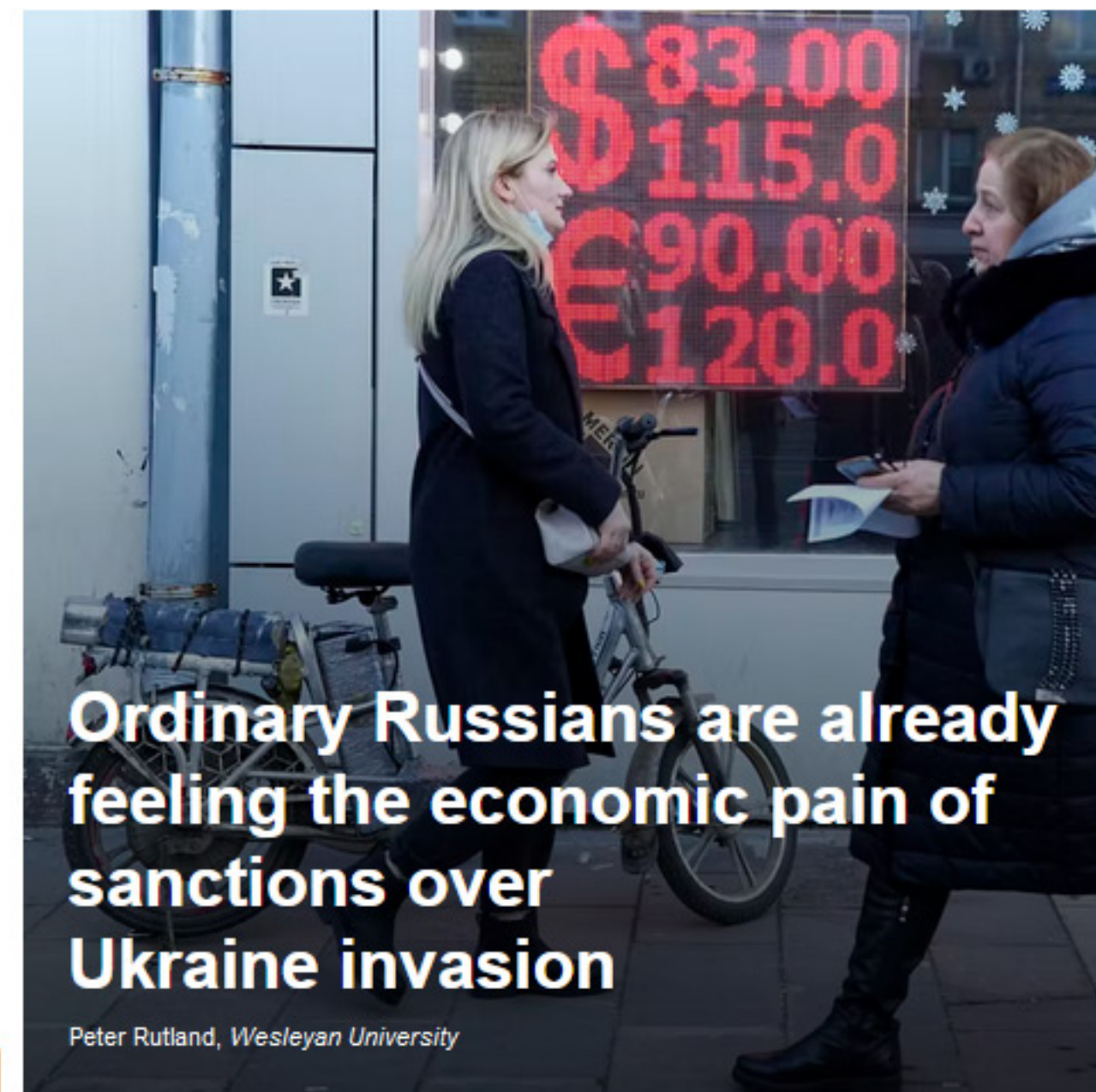


A technician organizes bone fragments at the forensic lab in Ciudad Victoria, Mexico, Friday, Feb. 4, 2022. (AP Photo/Marco Ugarte)



Can wealthy nations stop buying Russian oil?

Amy Myers Jaffe, Tufts University



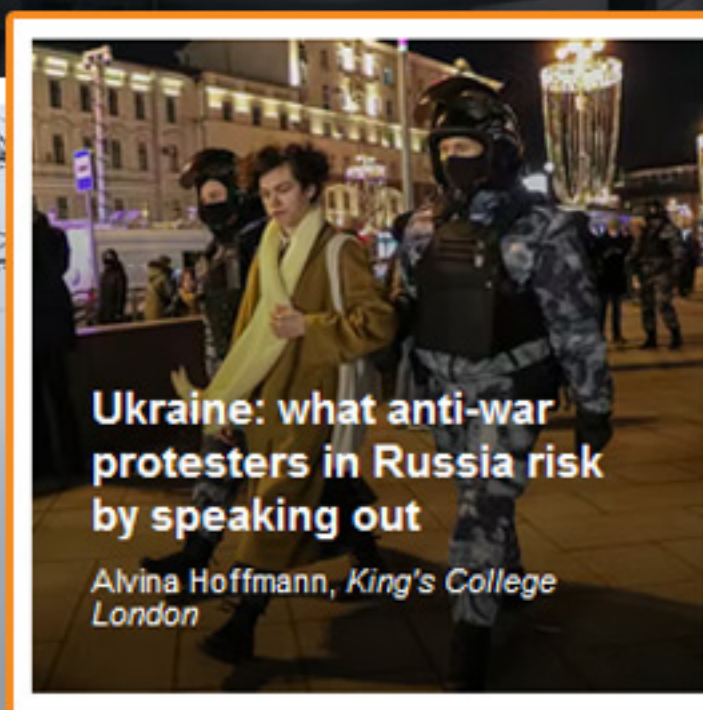
Ordinary Russians are already feeling the economic pain of sanctions over Ukraine invasion

Peter Rutland, Wesleyan University



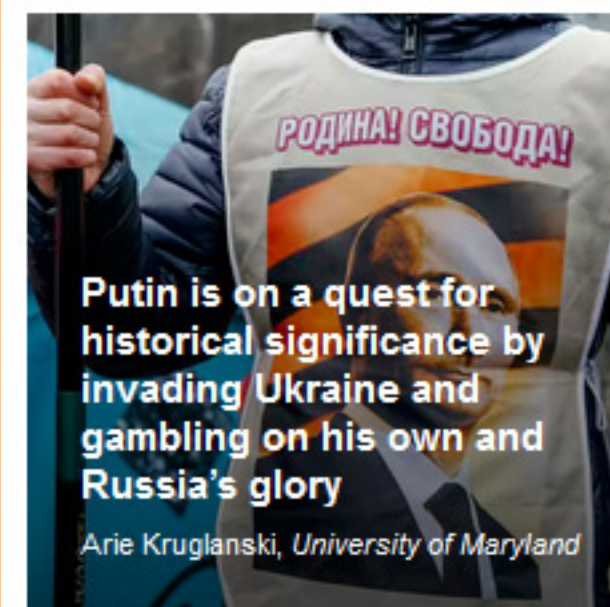
Ukraine war follows decades of warnings that NATO expansion into Eastern Europe could provoke Russia

Ronald Suny, University of Michigan



Ukraine: what anti-war protesters in Russia risk by speaking out

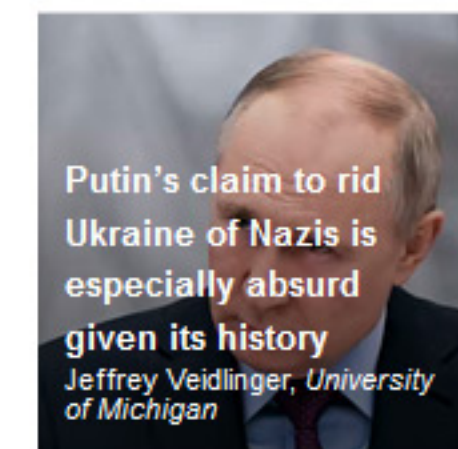
Alvina Hoffmann, King's College London



Putin is on a quest for historical significance by invading Ukraine and gambling on his own and Russia's glory

Arie Kruglanski, University of Maryland

Editor's Picks



Putin's claim to rid Ukraine of Nazis is especially absurd given its history

Jeffrey Veidlinger, University of Michigan

Since 2014, in a series of laws and amendments on public assemblies, the right to protest has been virtually fully criminalised. Putin has imposed increasingly harsher restrictions on who can organise a protest, where people can protest and when. This dark history explains why the current anti-war protests have so far been small, less coordinated and scattered. But they haven't lost momentum – on February 28, Navalny's movement called for a campaign of civil disobedience against the war.

The Russian political apparatus has been systematically dismantling opposition movements, creating a climate where any form of protest is met with oppression. **But the vocal and growing dissent to Putin's war suggests the tide might be turning.** However, it is most likely that meaningful political change will come from Russia's political and economic elite as they begin to respond to the sanctions and Russia's isolation from the international sphere.

Holy wars: How a cathedral of guns and glory symbolizes Putin's Russia

Published: March 2, 2022 8:28am EST

 **Lena Surzhko Harned**, Penn State

A curious new church was dedicated on the outskirts of Moscow in June 2020: The Main Church of the Russian Armed Forces. The massive, khaki-colored cathedral in a military theme park celebrates Russian might. It was originally planned to open on the 75th anniversary of the Soviet Union's victory over Nazi Germany, in May 2020, but was delayed due to the pandemic.

Conceived by the Russian defense minister after the country's illegal annexation of Crimea in 2014, the cathedral embodies the powerful ideology espoused by President Vladimir Putin, with strong support from the Russian Orthodox Church.

The Kremlin's vision of Russia connects the state, military and the Russian Orthodox Church. As a scholar of nationalism, I see this militant religious nationalism as one of the key elements in Putin's motivation for the invasion of Ukraine, my native country. It also goes a long way in explaining Moscow's behavior toward the collective "West" and the post-Cold War world order.

Angels and guns

The Church of the Armed Forces' bell tower is 75 meters tall, symbolizing the 75th anniversary of the end of World War II. Its dome's diameter is 19.45 meters, marking the year of the victory: 1945. A smaller dome is 14.18 meters, representing the 1,418 days the war lasted. Trophy weapons are melted into the floor so that each step is a blow to the defeated Nazis. Frescoes celebrate Russia's military might through history, from medieval battles to modern-day wars in Georgia and Syria. Archangels lead heavenly and earthly armies, Christ wields a sword, and the Holy Mother, depicted as the Motherland, lends support.

'Russian World'

Putin and the head of the Russian church, Patriarch Kirill, have resurrected these ideas about empire for the 21st century in the form of the so-called "Russian World" – giving new meaning to a phrase that dates to medieval times. For church and state, the idea of "Russian World" encompasses a mission of making Russia a spiritual, cultural and political center of civilization to counter the liberal, secular ideology of the West. This vision has been used to justify policies at home and abroad.

Russian Orthodox Church Patriarch Kirill, center, attends a ceremony consecrating the Cathedral of Russian Armed Forces outside Moscow.

The Great Patriotic War

The Great Patriotic War has a special, even sacred, place in Russians' views of history. The Soviet Union sustained immense losses – 26 million lives is a conservative estimate. Apart from the sheer devastation, many Russians ultimately see the war as a holy one, in which Soviets defended their motherland and the whole world from the evil of Nazism. Under Putin, glorification of the war and Stalin's role in the victory have reached epic proportions. Nazism, for very good reasons, is seen as a manifestation of the ultimate evil.

The rhetoric of this militant religious nationalism has been on display as Russia threatened to and ultimately did invade Ukraine. During a speech on Feb. 24, 2022, Putin bizarrely called for the "de-nazification" of Ukraine. He also spoke of fraternal relationships between Russian and Ukrainian people and denied the existence of the Ukrainian state. In his view, Ukraine's sovereignty is an example of extreme, chauvinistic nationalism. Putin's claim that Ukraine's government is run by Nazis is absurd. However, the manipulation of this image makes sense in the framework of this ideology. Painting the government in Kyiv as evil helps to paint the war in Ukraine in black and white.

Messianic mission

Tangible geopolitical issues may be driving Putin's war in Ukraine, but his actions also seem motivated by a desire to secure his own legacy. In his vision of "Great Russia," restored to its former size and influence, Putin is a defender who must vanquish its enemies. The Russian president himself appeared in earlier versions of the cathedral's frescoes, along with Minister of Defense Sergei Shoigu and Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov. However, the mosaic was removed after controversy, with Putin himself reportedly giving orders to take it down, saying it was too early to celebrate the country's current leadership.

Patriarch Kirill, who has called Putin's rule a "miracle of God," said the new cathedral "holds the hope that future generations will pick up the spiritual baton from past generations and save the Fatherland from internal and external enemies." This volatile religious nationalism manifests itself in the militarism unfolding in Ukraine.

On Feb. 24, 2022, the day the invasion began, Patriarch Kirill called for a swift resolution and protection of civilians in Ukraine, while reminding Orthodox Christians of the fraternal connection between the two nations. But he has not condemned the war itself and has referred to "evil forces" trying to destroy the unity of Russia and the Russian Orthodox Church.

President Zelensky is weaponizing an actor's charm, passion and wit



JOHN DOYLE > TELEVISION CRITIC

PUBLISHED YESTERDAY



On the TV show his character remained skeptical, noting that playing the role of president involved a lot of faking it. The character declined to give fake smiles or fake gravitas. He saw his election as a moral project – and now the man who created and played the role defines morality itself in a mad, dangerous world.

Volodymyr Zelensky as Vasily Petrovich Goloborodko, president of Ukraine in Servant of the People.

We didn't pay enough attention to the series *Servant of the People* when it was on Netflix here for a while. Multiple episodes can now be found on YouTube with a varying quality of English subtitles, along with some badly dubbed episodes. Even those are worth studying because they reveal a lot about President Volodymyr Zelensky of Ukraine, and how he became the epitome of courage, strength and leadership.

In an early episode, the newly elected president of Ukraine, a schoolteacher named Vasily Goloborodko (Zelensky) is being told by an aide how to behave as president. "Stand here with socks straight!" the aide barks. "Smile. Don't slouch, chin higher!"

It's uncanny to see now: The man who would become the real and galvanizing president of his country, is being taught how to be presidential. The entire narrative of Zelensky's career is in fact a strange case of art and performance intersecting with reality. You couldn't make it up – except Zelensky did and then lived it as actuality.

His role in *Servant of the People* arrived after years spent in the theatre as an actor, writer, improv artist and administrator. This wasn't where he was supposed to be, after getting a degree in economics and a law degree. But he'd fallen in love with the theatre as a student and led a popular comedy troupe that specialized in political satire.

On the TV show he played a high-school history teacher, a bit earnest but liked by his students. One day, while talking to a colleague, he unleashes a rant about corruption in politics. Unknown to him, a student is watching, records the rant and puts it on YouTube. It's a big viral hit because he's articulating the frustrations of ordinary people. One thing leads to another and he's elected president. After several seasons playing the role and becoming one of the best-known people in Ukraine, Zelensky ran for the actual presidency. He didn't hold press conferences and attended only one TV debate. Instead, he campaigned through YouTube and Facebook statements. In the political chaos of the time, 2019, it worked. The fiction of *Servant of the People* had become a template for Zelensky's own existence, an ordinary person bringing truth, honesty and an incorruptible grace into politics.

What the world sees now, that defiance, directness and wit – "I need ammunition, not a ride." – is utterly authentic but created out of a curious amalgam of stagecraft, charm, insolence and zeal to truly nail the role of wartime president and commander. He knows how to give an inspiring talk; he knows how to deliver rebukes with pith and resonance. He knows how to look, what he needs to wear and how to command his body to emanate relaxed assuredness. He knows exactly where the camera can spot fakery and how to avoid that.

Of course, he's not the first actor to enter politics. Ronald Reagan used his skills to become a politician known as "the Great Communicator" – but that title now properly belongs to Zelensky. Arnold Schwarzenegger entered politics as a populist, right-wing, slash-the-spending exponent and gradually moved toward the centre. It took him years to communicate well.

Zelensky is different, unique. He was a successful performer doing everything from stage work to appearing on Ukraine's *Dancing with the Stars*, to providing the voice of Paddington in the Ukrainian versions of the movies *Paddington* and *Paddington 2*. Now, he has an actor's absolute comfort as the protagonist, knowing it is literally the role of a lifetime – lives depend on him – and that the actor-as-person has become one with the portrayal. But in his soul, perhaps, he is less an actor than satirist, with a clear-eyed view on hypocrisy and obfuscation. As with any impressive performance, a good deal depends on the other actors in the immediate environment. In this case, on the world stage, that's Vladimir Putin, whose stagecraft has deserted him – or he's relying on out-of-date advice about constructing a strongman image. He looks isolated, literally, when he meets his team or others, from the remote end of a vast table. He looks lifeless. He looks like something from the past, surrounded by landline phones that are antiques outside of Russia.

None of this analysis of Zelensky's skills is meant to diminish his courage, grace and passion for Ukraine. It is only to note his essential genius. He created and produced *Servant of the People*, a droll satire anchored in real-life concerns, about an ordinary man thrust into the presidency. Then at the right moment, he weaponized the satire and merged it with real life. Now, he's obliged to rise to the occasion, a bloody turning point in European history, no less, using an un-earthly level of artistry.

Jesus on the Main Line

<https://youtu.be/qXFAZWOr9vA>

Precious Lord

Oh Jesus is on that mainline
Tell Him what you want
Jesus is on that mainline
Tell Him what you want
Jesus is on that mainline
Tell Him what you want
Call Him up and tell Him what you want

Well, the line ain't never busy
Tell Him what you want
Wo, that line ain't never busy
Tell Him what you want
Well, the line ain't never busy
Tell Him what you want
Keep on calling Him up
And tell Him what you want

Well, if you want His kingdom
Tell Him what you want
If you want His kingdom
Tell Him what you want
If want His kingdom
Tell Him what you want
Call Him up, call Him up, call Him up, call Him up
You can call Him up and tell Him what you want

Well, if you're sick and want to get well
Tell Him what you want
Well, if you're sick and you want to get well
Tell Him what you want
If you're sick and you want to get well
Tell Him what you want
Call Him up and tell Him what you want
And if you're feeling down and out
Tell Him what you want

And if you're feeling down and out
Tell Him what you want
And if you're feeling down and out
Tell Him what you want
And if you're feeling down and out
Tell Him what you want
Call Him up and tell Him what you want

Oh Jesus is on that mainline
Tell Him what you want
Jesus is on that mainline
Tell Him what you want
Jesus is on that mainline
Tell Him what you want
Call Him up, call Him up, call Him up, call Him up
Call Him up and tell Him what you want

FRANKLIN
1960
RECORDINGS



0:05 / 3:39



Polly Wolly Doodle

"**Polly Wolly Doodle**" is a traditional American children's song. It was sung by **Dan Emmett's Virginia Minstrels**, who premiered at New York's **Bowery Amphitheatre** in February 1843,^[1] and is often credited to Emmett (1815–1904).^{[2][3]}

It was known to have been performed by the **Yale Glee Club** in 1878,^[4] and was first published in a **Harvard** student songbook in 1880.^[*citation needed*]

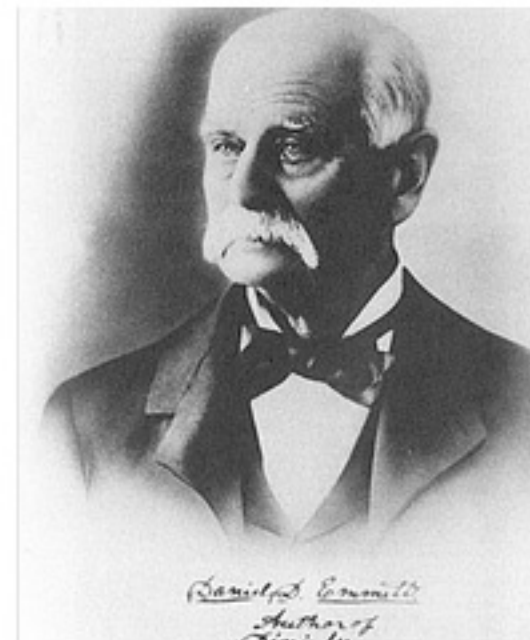
Notable recordings

- 1917: **Harry C. Browne**^[6]
- 1926: **Gid Tanner and the Skillet Lickers** (as "Polly Wolly Doo").^{[7][6]}
- 1939: **Carter Family** (as "Polly Wolly Doodle All Day")^[6]
- 1940: **Shirley Temple**
- 1961: **Bing Crosby** included the song in a medley on his album *101 Gang Songs*.
- 1962: **Alvin and the Chipmunks** on their album *The Chipmunk Songbook*
- 1964: **Burl Ives**^[6]
- 1976: **Leon Redbone** on his album *On the Track*
- 1979: **Boney M.** (as "Hooray! Hooray! It's a Holi-Holiday")^[6]
- 1989: **Wee Sing Fun 'n' Folk**
- 2002: **VeggieTales** on their album on CD, *Bob and Larry's Backyard Party*
- 2003: **The Cheeky Girls** (as "(Hooray, Hooray) It's A Cheeky Holiday")
- 2009: **Alexandra Burke** (as "Start Without You")

Appearances in film and television

- Shirley Temple** sings "Polly Wolly Doodle" in the 1935 film *The Littlest Rebel*.
- The song is featured in two **Frank Capra** films: *You Can't Take It with You* (1938) and *Pocketful of Miracles* (1961).
- The song is the theme of the 1938 *Donald Duck* short film *Good Scouts*.
- Clark Gable** sings the song while *wildcatting* in the 1940 film *Boomtown*.
- Woody Woodpecker** sings the song while driving his car in the opening scene of the 1947 short film *Well Oiled*.
- TV show *Father Knows Best*. This episode originally aired 12 September 1956.
- The song appears at the 2:19 mark of Sam Peckinpah's 1969 *The Wild Bunch*, sung by **Strother Martin**.
- Julie Andrews** sings the song in the opening faux-musical set piece of *S.O.B.* (1981)
- The **Kidsongs** kids sing the song in the 1987 video "A Day at the Circus".
- The **Juke Box Puppet Band** performs the piece in an episode of *Shining Time Station*
- Mr. Hollywood** sings the song constantly in episodes of *2 Stupid Dogs*.
- The song is played in a get-well card in the *Monk* season 4 episode "Monk Stays in Bed" (2005).
- In the *Even Stevens* episode, "Little Mr. Sacktown", Beans *armpit farts* to the tune of "Polly Wolly Doodle".
- In the video game *Red Dead Redemption 2*, NPC's can occasionally be heard playing the song on a banjo.

Daniel Decatur Emmett was an American songwriter, entertainer, and founder of the first troupe of the blackface minstrel tradition, the Virginia Minstrels. He is most remembered as the composer of the song "Dixie".



*Oh, I went down South for to see my Sal
Singing Polly Wolly Doodle all the day
My Sal she am a spunky gal
Singing Polly Wolly Doodle all the day*

*Fare thee well, fare thee well
Fare thee well my fairy fay
For I'm goin' to Louisiana for to see my Susi-anna
Sing Polly Wolly Doodle all the day*

*Oh a grasshopper sitting on a railroad track
Singing Polly wolly doodle all the day
Just picking his teeth with a carpet tack
Singing Polly wolly doodle all the day*

A musical biographical film of Daniel Emmett life's was produced in 1943, titled *Dixie*, starring **Bing Crosby** and **Dorothy Lamour**. Crosby appears in blackface during several musical numbers.



Polly Wolly Doodle in *Student's Songs*, Cambridge Mass. 1884

3 Oh! I came to a river, an' I couldn't get across;
Sing, "Polly," etc.
An' I jumped upon a nigger, an' I tho't he was a hoss;
Sing, "Polly," etc. — CHO.



STABLECOIN

SEN. ELIZABETH WARREN
Massachusetts (D-MA)

S



aren't backed by anything but hype.

<https://money.usnews.com/investing/cryptocurrency/slideshows/what-is-the-best-stablecoin-list>

A stablecoin is a type of cryptocurrency that relies on a more stable asset as a basis for its value. Most commonly, people refer to stablecoins as linked to a fiat currency, such as the U.S. dollar, but they can also have value linked to precious metals or other cryptocurrencies. Feb 2, 2022

<https://youtu.be/nBd7iJTT7M>

Senator Elizabeth Warren spoke at a Senate hearing concerning the broadening usage of stablecoins in the cryptocurrency market. In her opening statement, Senator Warren expressed concerns that stablecoins were being used for criminal activity.

<https://www.finextra.com/blogposting/21787/top-10-stablecoins-2022>

Binance USD is one of the most popular stablecoins in the crypto market. These stablecoins are generated from the Binance company. It is basically the Binance crypto being pegged to fiat cash, more specifically, the US dollar. Feb 10, 2022

Smoke and Mirrors

<https://time.com/nextadvisor/investing/cryptocurrency/what-are-stablecoins/>

7 best stablecoins list:

- Tether (USDT)
- Dai (DAI)
- Binance USD (BUSD)
- TrueUSD (TUSD)
- USD Coin (USDC)
- TerraUSD (UST)
- Digix Gold Token (DGX)

Warren, a former law professor at Harvard, warned that the reserve assets supporting the peg for top centralized stablecoins could be smoke and mirrors. She said she fears systemic consequences for the financial system if there is a run on stable tokens, and demanded regulators “get serious about clamping down before it is too late.”

<https://www.yahoo.com/video/warren-calls-clampdown-defi-stablecoins-150606464.html>

Stablecoins must be regulated to safeguard the financial system. “Stablecoins provide the lifeblood of the DeFi ecosystem,” Senator Elizabeth Warren said. “In DeFi, people need stablecoins to trade between different coins, to trade derivatives, to lend, to borrow money — all outside of the regulated banking system.

Warren took explicit aim at an open decentralized finance sector. “DeFi is where the regulation is effectively absent [...] it’s where the scammers and the cheats and the swindlers mix among part-time investors and first-time crypto investors,” she said “Shoot, in DeFi, someone can’t even tell if they’re dealing with a terrorist.”

https://youtu.be/_OFC3VyOIQo

Elizabeth Warren Voices Concern That Stablecoins Can Become ‘Significant Risk’ To Financial System | Feb 21, 2022

Warren was not alone in offering a scathing appraisal of decentralized finance and stablecoins. Hilary Allen, Professor of Law, American University Washington College of Law, likened DeFi to a “shadow banking system” threatening systemic risks should its growth be allowed to continue.”

“I don’t think DeFi can grow without stablecoins,” Allen said. “It’s critical that stablecoins not be allowed to fuel that growth,” she added. Dec 16, 2021

IDIOM: late 16th century: from French *idiome*, or via late Latin from Greek *idiōma* 'private property, peculiar phraseology', from *idiousthai* 'make one's own', from *idios* 'own, private'.

A mother walking 3 kids home from school passing me by unnoticed, saying, "Not the brightest bulb in the bunch, uh, not the brightest crayon in the box. You know, those are called idioms. I usually don't get them right, but I use them a lot!"

Not pulling a full wagon.
Not the brightest star in the sky.
The light's on but no one's home.
Not the brightest bulb in the box.
A few screws short of a hardware store.
Not the sharpest knife in the drawer.
A few cards short of a full deck.
A few fries short of a Happy Meal.
About as sharp as a marble.
Only has one oar in the water.
Smart as a bag of rocks.
A hamburger short of picnic.
The elevator doesn't go all the way to the top floor.
A few peas short of a casserole.
A few keys short of a piano.
Not the brightest bulb on the Christmas tree.
The gates are down and the lights are flashing, but the train isn't coming.
As smart as a stick.
Fell out of the stupid tree and hit every branch on the way down.
An intellect rivaled only by garden tools.
Has an IQ of room temperature.
Couldn't pour water out of a boot with instructions on the heel.
Not the sharpest crayon in the box
Not the the sharpest tool in the shed
They are depriving some village of its idiot.
A few threads short of a sweater.
Driveway doesn't quite reach the road.
The battery is not fully charged.
Dumber than a bag of hammers.
A few bricks short of a full load.
A few clowns short of a circus.
A few beers short of a six-pack.
Dumber than a box of hair.
All foam no beer.
As smart as bait.
Forgot to pay his brain bill.
The antenna doesn't pick up all the channels.
Missing a few buttons on his remote control.
Proof that evolution CAN go in reverse.
Receiver is off the hook.
Has a leak in the skylight.
Too much yardage between the goal posts.
Not all the soldiers are marching in line.
Dumber than paint.

Half a bubble off plumb.
Donated his brain to science before he was done with it.
A few shades beyond blonde.
A few watts short of a light bulb
Running on 3 cylinders.
Has the parachute but is missing the ripcord.
Would lose a debate with a doorknob.
Has an IQ lower than plant life.
All volume, and no content.
Wouldn't know if they were on foot or horseback.
The wheel is spinning but the hamster is dead.
The cheese slid off the cracker.
Doesn't have all the chairs at the table. .
A shining example of why you should avoid inbreeding.
A few pecans short of a fruitcake.
Would argue with a signpost.
If you gave them a penny for thoughts, you'd get change.
Dumb as a salt shaker.
Has a mind like a steel trap: rusty and illegal in 37 states.
Knitting with only one needle.
The result of too much chlorine in the gene pool.
Not the quickest bunny in the forest.
The hard drive is spinning but the OS hasn't been installed.
Not exactly burning all thrusters.
A few colors short of a rainbow.
The boat doesn't have all the oars in the water.
A few ships short of a fleet.
A monosynaptic cretin (Don't understand it? 'nuff said)
A few noodles short of a chow mein.
A few bristles short of a broom.
Doesn't know whether to scratch his watch or wind his butt.
Hasn't seen the ball since kickoff.
The relative IQ of a deck chair.
A poster child for birth control.
A few players short of a team.
Couldn't hit the floor if he fell on it.
A few sheep short of a flock.
Not the brightest light in the harbor.
One plate short of a tea set.
A few kangaroos loose in the top paddock.....
A few slices short of a sandwich.....
A few sausages short of a BBQ
If her IQ was any flipping lower we'd have to water her.
A few more braincells and he would be a cabbage

Boebert heckled Biden about deaths in Afghanistan while he mentioned his son's cancer

March 1, 2022 - 11:32 PM ET



DEIRDRE WALSH



Rep. Lauren Boebert, R-Colo. (left), and Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene, R-Ga., stand with fellow lawmakers as they listen to President Biden's State of the Union address.

Colorado Republican Rep. Lauren Boebert heckled President Biden during his State of the Union speech as he was describing the death of his son Beau Biden, an Iraq War veteran who succumbed to brain cancer.

The Colorado Republican's outburst during the high-profile State of the Union was similar to an incident in 2009 when Rep. Joe Wilson, R-S.C., yelled, "You lie!" at then-President Barack Obama about his health care plan. Wilson apologized afterward but then went on to fundraise off of the controversy.

Jan 6 panel says Trump broke laws to overturn election

The New York Times

Jan. 6 Committee Lays Out Potential Criminal Charges Against Trump

2 hours ago



CNN

Trump and right-wing lawyer were part of 'criminal conspiracy' to overturn 2020 election, January 6 committee alleges

7 hours ago



CNN ✓
13.4M subscribers

Former President Donald Trump and a right-wing lawyer, [John Eastman](#), were part of a "criminal conspiracy" to overturn the 2020 presidential election, the House select committee investigating the January 6 Capitol riot alleges in a court filing Wednesday.

[#CNN](#) [#News](#)

John C. Eastman is an American lawyer who is the founding director of the Center for Constitutional Jurisprudence, a public interest law firm affiliated with the conservative think tank [Claremont Institute](#).^{[1][2]} He is a former professor and dean at the [Chapman University School of Law](#).^[3] He ran unsuccessfully as a Republican for [California's 34th congressional district](#) in 1990, and for the office of [California Attorney General](#) in 2010.^[1] He is a former law clerk to Supreme Court Justice [Clarence Thomas](#).

Eastman participated in the [attempts to overturn the 2020 United States presidential election](#).^{[4][5][6][7]} During President Donald Trump's last efforts before the certification of [Joe Biden's Electoral College](#) victory, Eastman incorrectly told Vice President [Mike Pence](#) in an [Oval Office](#) meeting on January 5, 2021, that Pence had the constitutional authority to block the certification.^{[8][9]} Pence did not accept Eastman's argument. Eastman also sent to Republican senator [Mike Lee](#) a [six-point plan of action](#) for Pence to throw out the electors from seven states to keep Trump in power, which Lee rejected.^[10] On January 6, 2021, Eastman presented a speech at the [White House Trump rally](#) that preceded the [2021 United States Capitol attack](#). On January 13, 2021, Eastman retired from the [Chapman University](#) faculty after creating controversy by speaking at the Trump rally.^{[11][12]}

Previously during the presidential campaign, Eastman wrote a controversial [op-ed](#) in August 2020 which erroneously suggested that then-presumed Democratic nominee for U.S. Vice President [Kamala Harris](#) was not an American citizen and thus not legally eligible for the position.^{[13][14][15]}

John C. Eastman



Eastman in 2013

Born	Lincoln, Nebraska, U.S. ^[citation needed]
Education	University of Dallas (BA) University of Chicago (JD) Claremont Graduate School (PhD)
Political party	Republican
Spouse(s)	Elizabeth Eastman

Hugh Brannum: Mr. Green Jeans

During World War II, he enlisted in the US Marine Corps and joined a Marine band led by Bob Crosby.[3][4] After the war, he joined the Four Squires, later moving to Fred Waring and His Pennsylvanians; Waring's group had a regular radio show on NBC, where Hugh met fellow Marine Bob Keeshan, who was working at the network, and who later hired Brannum for Captain Kangaroo. Before his time on Captain Kangaroo, he hosted a local children's TV series called Uncle Lumpy's Cabin, seen weekday afternoons at 5 on WJZ-TV, (now WABC-TV) in New York City during the 1951 season. Mr. Green Jeans earned his moniker from his distinctive apparel, a pair of farmer's overalls (later, jeans and a denim jacket) in his signature green (although, since the show was broadcast in black-and-white for much of its run, this was lost on viewers). He was a talented and inquisitive handyman who provided assistance at the Treasure House. He frequently visited the Captain with the latest addition to his menagerie of zoo animals.



Mr. Green Jeans

TV character

Hugh Brannum (January 5, 1910 – April 19, 1987) was an American vocalist, arranger, composer, and actor known for his role as Mr. Green Jeans on the children's television show Captain Kangaroo. During his days with Fred Waring and his Pennsylvanians, he used his childhood nickname "Lumpy".

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hugh_Brannum

[Hugh Brannum - Wikipedia](#)

Played by: [Hugh Brannum](#)

TV show: [Captain Kangaroo](#)

Aside from Mr. Green Jeans, Brannum played a number of characters on Captain Kangaroo from 1955 to 1984, including the Professor, Greeno the Clown, the New Old Folk Singer, and Mr. Bainter the Painter. His role as Mr. Green Jeans was partly based on stories about a farm kid named "Little Orley" that he told with the Fred Waring orchestra, on the radio and on 78-rpm records under the pseudonym "Uncle Lumpy". According to Bob Keeshan, Mr. Green Jeans was an extension of Brannum's real personality. The shows were performed before a live audience. During one episode of Captain Kangaroo, a lion cub bit Brannum's finger and drew blood. Brannum stuck his bleeding hand into his pocket and never broke character for the remainder of the episode.



Brannum as Mr. Green Jeans with Dancing Bear (Cosmo Allegretti) in 1960.



A burned 'Caution: Children at play' sign remained after a wildfire devastated the town of Berry Creek, Calif., in 2020. Carolyn Cole/Los Angeles Times via Getty Images

US Climate risks are rising – a scientist looks at the dangers her children will have to adapt to, from wildfires to water scarcity

Published: March 1, 2022 8:41am EST

Erica A.H. Smithwick, Penn State

We also need to talk about climate change with each other. If people don't talk about it, they don't act. A Yale survey shows that 72% of Americans think global warming is happening, but only 35% are talking about it. Talking about climate change with friends, our communities and our children in appropriate ways is critical to sparking action.

Adapting to a changing world: The report warns that humanity has a brief but rapidly closing window of opportunity to secure a livable and sustainable future. The risks posed by climate change will be felt differently in different regions, but the most vulnerable people will face the greatest risks.

Water and food security: In North America, the report describes how the ideal climates for many crops and fisheries are shifting northward, leading to reduced productivity of key crops and livestock. The thermal habitat for salmon and trout may decline 5% to 31%, lobster and crab distributions will shift, and shellfish harvests will decline due to ocean acidification. The impacts vary by region, but research shows climate change has generally reduced agricultural productivity growth by around 12.5% in North America since 1961, particularly in drought-prone areas. Rising global temperatures are reducing the snowpack that farms and cities rely on for water, and increased groundwater pumping in response is harming access to fresh water in some areas, particularly in the western U.S.

Coastal and urban economies: Along U.S. coasts and in urban areas, damage from storms and sea level rise, and disruption of trade and transportation networks, are likely to cause substantial social and economic upheaval, the report says. Up to 99% of coral reefs, which provide natural protection from storms, will be lost by the end of the century in the Gulf of Mexico and along the coasts of Florida and the Yucatan Peninsula if temperatures rise just a half-degree Celsius more.

Worsening wildfires [...]

A window of opportunity

The IPCC report concludes that it is unequivocal that climate change has already disrupted human and natural systems and that it threatens human well-being. It also reminds us that we can change it for the better.

Many reports have described pathways to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and reach a "net zero" emissions economy to avoid the worst harm and help communities adapt.

Sites in Beirut, Benghazi and Brownsville, Texas, make a most-endangered list | Neda Ulaby



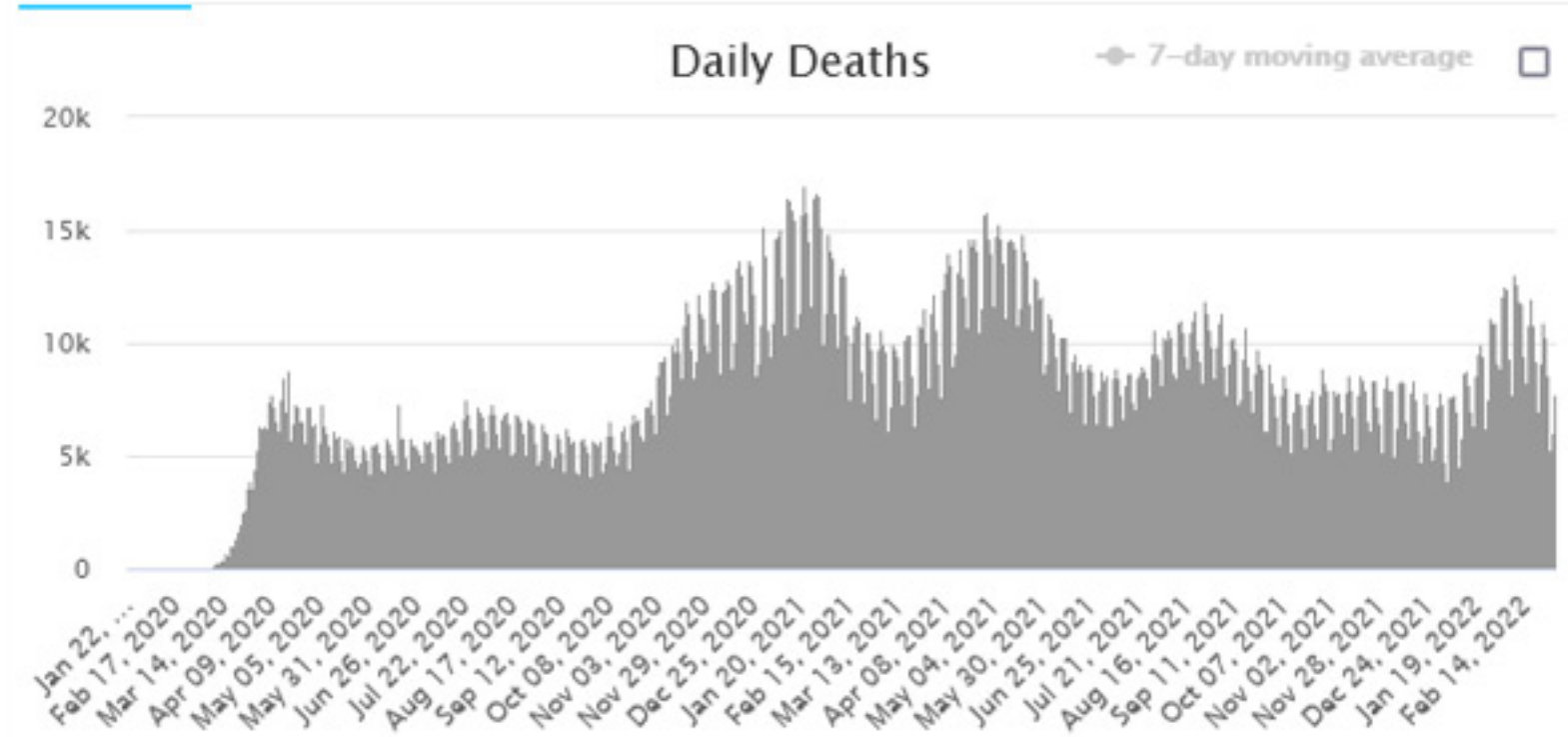
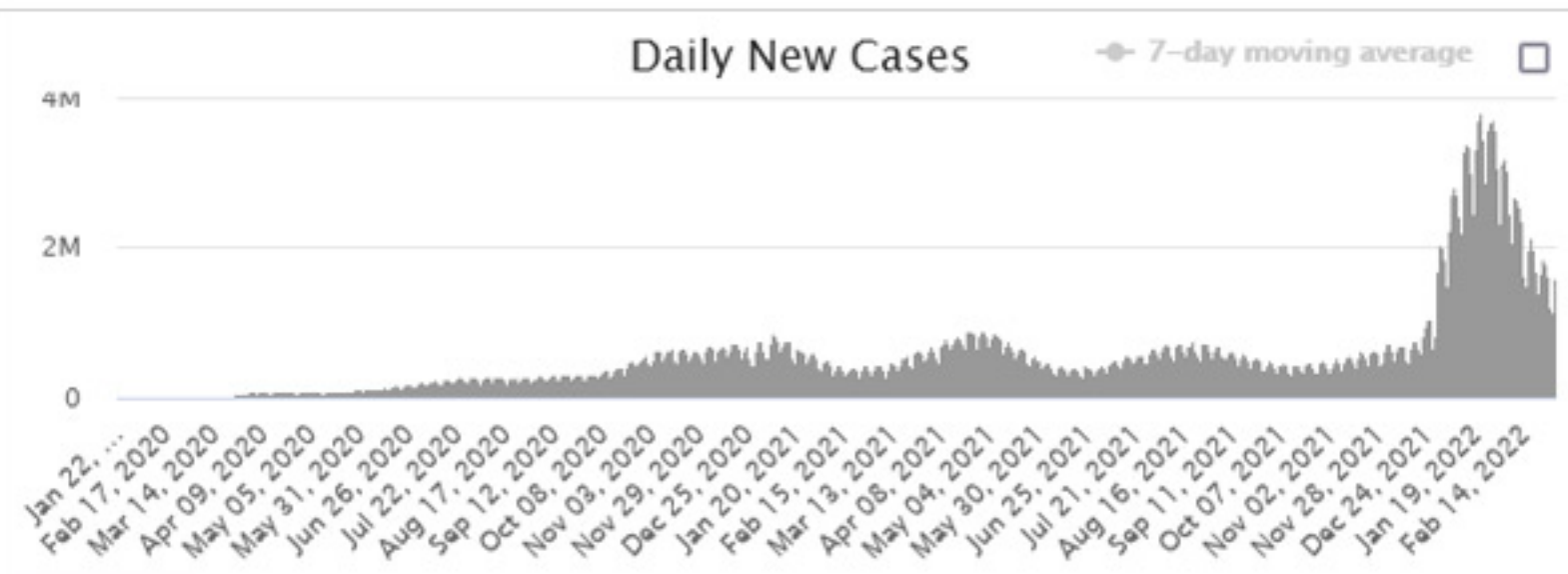
Dragon blood tree at Diksam Plateau, on Yemen's Socotra Island. It's one of the sites included on the 2022 Watch from the World Monuments Fund.

Coronavirus Cases:

440,895,188

Deaths:

5,994,909



Country, Other	Total Cases	New Cases	Total Deaths	New Deaths	Total Recovered	New Recovered	Active Cases	Serious, Critical	Tot Cases/ 1M pop	Deaths/ 1M pop	Total Tests	Tests/ 1M pop	Population
World	440,895,188	+615,654	5,994,909	+2,550	373,732,476	+739,106	61,167,803	75,815	56,563	769.1			
USA	80,770,604		979,725		53,945,789		25,845,090	7,161	241,661	2,931	952,687,698	2,850,385	334,231,210

USA State	Total Cases	New Cases	Total Deaths	New Deaths	Total Recovered	Active Cases	Tot Cases/ 1M pop	Deaths/ 1M pop	Total Tests	Tests/ 1M pop	Population
USA Total	80,770,604		979,725		53,945,789	25,845,090	244,018	2,960	952,687,698	2,878,188	
California	8,984,980		86,020		N/A	N/A	227,397	2,177	147,736,697	3,739,013	39,512,223
Texas	6,638,405		85,620		N/A	N/A	228,943	2,953	60,408,640	2,083,352	28,995,881
Florida	5,854,285		70,247		4,268,222	1,515,816	272,575	3,271	54,197,893	2,523,445	21,477,737
New York	5,077,258		67,937		2,882,099	2,127,222	260,994	3,492	101,032,917	5,193,544	19,453,561

#	Country, Other	Deaths/ 1M pop
1	Peru	6,250
2	Bulgaria	5,202
3	Bosnia and Herzegovina	4,775
4	Hungary	4,596
5	North Macedonia	4,337
6	Montenegro	4,269
7	Georgia	4,093
8	Croatia	3,727
9	Czechia	3,611
10	Slovakia	3,406
11	Romania	3,353
12	San Marino	3,289
13	Lithuania	3,191
14	Slovenia	3,047
15	Brazil	3,022
16	Gibraltar	2,999
17	Poland	2,968
18	USA	2,931
19	Latvia	2,862
20	Armenia	2,861

COVID-19 CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC

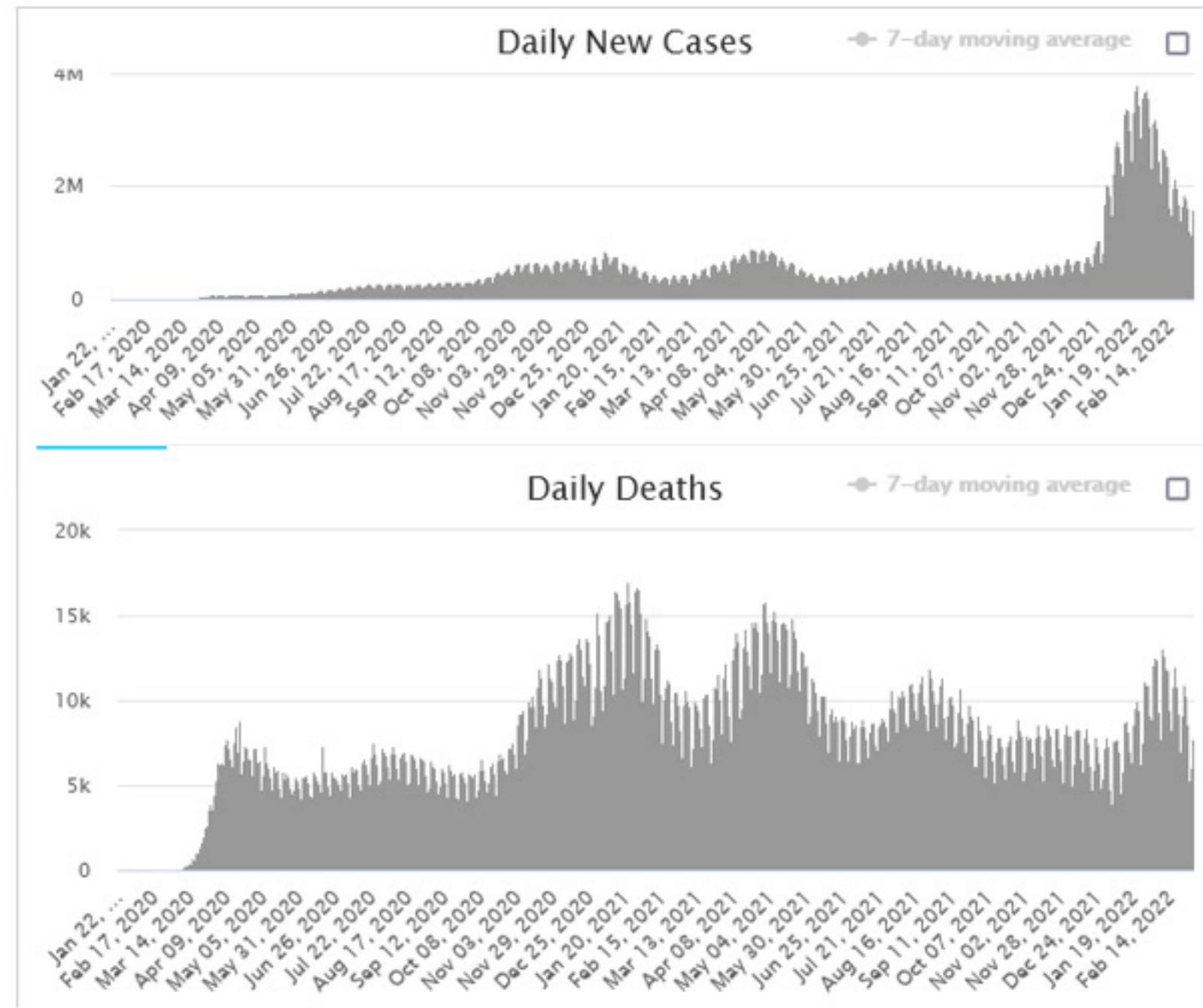
Last updated: March 03, 2022, 11:52 GMT

Coronavirus Cases:

440,895,188

Deaths:

5,994,909



San Diego	Cases	Cases--SDgov	New Cases	7day Cases	Deaths	Deaths--SDgov	New Deaths	7day Deaths
2/28/2022	784,412	738,232	0	1,031	5,018	5,034	0	10
3/1/2022	786,123	739,176	1711	1,276	5,029	5045	11	8
3/2/2022	786,123		0	883	5,034		5	7
3/3/2022	787,499		1376	760	5045		11	6

Starting 1/20/22, this table is updated on Tuesdays and Fridays.

The frequency of test data reporting was reduced due to the high volume of records. Staff members are reviewing test data processes to improve timely, high-quality reporting.

New Tests Reported	%Positive/7day
2/27/2022^= 2,820	
2/26/2022= 10,158	2/23/2022 5.7%
2/25/2022= 14,857	2/27/2022 5.2%
2/24/2022= 18,556	
Average Tests Reported (7 Days) =12,602	
Percentage Positive (7 Days)^^^=5.2%	
Total Tests Since February 14, 2020 = 10,113,531	

Date	92104	daily Avg
1/28/2021	2277	
7/13/2021	2992	4
12/23/2021	4615	10
2/23/2022	8460	62
3/1/2022	8,513	9

<< sustained test positivity rate **below 1%** – without an uptick – "the chance of resurgence or community outbreaks is much, much lower," Dr. Abraar Karan, an infectious disease physician at Stanford University

^Data not received from multiple labs on 2/27/22 due to technical issues with Electronic Laboratory Reporting.

COVID **DEATHS** per 1M pop by State

#	USA State	Total Deaths	Deaths/1M pop	#	USA State	Total Deaths	Deaths/1M pop	#	USA State	Total Deaths	Deaths/1M pop
1	Mississippi	12,115	4,071	20	South Dakota	2,814	3,181	39	California	86,020	2,177
2	Arizona	27,946	3,839	21	Nevada	9,753	3,166	40	Colorado	12,536	2,177
3	Alabama	18,335	3,739	22	Ohio	36,822	3,150	41	North Carolina	22,671	2,162
4	New Jersey	32,966	3,711	23	Kentucky	13,935	3,119	42	Nebraska	3,956	2,045
5	Tennessee	24,550	3,595	24	Missouri	19,083	3,109	43	District Of Columbia	1,319	1,869
6	Louisiana	16,677	3,587	25	Wyoming	1,741	3,008	44	New Hampshire	2,396	1,762
7	West Virginia	6,381	3,561	26	Montana	3,191	2,986	45	Alaska	1,158	1,583
8	Arkansas	10,611	3,516		USA Total	979,725	2,960	46	Oregon	6,652	1,577
9	New York	67,937	3,492	27	Texas	85,620	2,953	47	Washington	11,954	1,570
10	Michigan	34,766	3,481	28	Connecticut	10,443	2,929	48	Maine	2,078	1,546
11	Massachusetts	23,525	3,413	29	Illinois	37,010	2,921	49	Utah	4,436	1,384
12	Indiana	22,928	3,406	30	Iowa	9,171	2,907	50	Vermont	602	965
13	Pennsylvania	43,421	3,392	31	North Dakota	2,199	2,886	51	Hawaii	1,341	947
14	Oklahoma	13,278	3,356	32	Delaware	2,711	2,784	52	Puerto Rico	4,122	1,217
15	Georgia	35,601	3,353	33	Kansas	7,975	2,737	53	Guam	330	
16	New Mexico	6,939	3,309	34	Idaho	4,772	2,670	54	United States Virgin Islands	109	
17	South Carolina	16,928	3,288	35	Maryland	14,146	2,340	55	Northern Mariana Islands	30	
18	Florida	70,247	3,271	36	Wisconsin	13,398	2,301				
19	Rhode Island	3,413	3,222	37	Virginia	18,859	2,209				
				38	Minnesota	12,332	2,187				



FOCUS LOVE ON PEOPLE OF UKRAINE



FRIDAY
8 PM - 9 PM KIEV

IN ENGLISH AND RUSSIAN

Focus on Ukraine

March 4

8:00-9:00PM EET (Kiev)

Focus on Ukraine

There are days so dark and difficult that my impulse is to bury my head in the sand and block out what is happening. Today is one of those days. The situation in Ukraine is so devastating that I can hardly bear to imagine it, even from across the wide ocean. But despite the impulse to deflect darker feelings, and reassure myself that they belong to somebody else, I know in my heart that does not help.

A Ukrainian friend told me the other day that they need a miracle. And I do believe miracles can happen, through sudden shifts of consciousness. So I continue to support this dismal situation by holding space within myself for the suffering of those abroad, staying grounded in my breath, and nurturing my wavering connection to that sublime spring of love that is within us all.

The same Ukrainian friend told me that focusing attention on the situation helps, because people who are there can feel so isolated and unloved, and that disconnects them from the source of strength.

So I invite you to join with me this Friday (tomorrow) at 8pm Kiev time for an hour of focusing attention on the people of Ukraine. My friend Anna and I will guide some meditative practices (in Russian and English) in which we focus loving attention together on the people of Ukraine. This is not an easy thing to do, and you are invited to participate at your discretion, but your attention will be felt and appreciated.

We have no illusion that our effort will end the war, but we aim to make a meaningful response, together, by reminding ourselves of our common humanity, and our kinship in the mysterious love that surpasses all understanding. May we stay connected to the warmth of the human heart, and circle that warmth through our shared spaces, where it can touch and nourish those who need it most.

If you wish to join us, please rsvp [here](#).

warmly,
Ty

The Tunnel of Love

is a section of railway located near Klevan, Ukraine, that links it with Orzhiv. It is a railway surrounded by green arches and is three to five kilometers in length. It is known for being a favorite place for couples to take walks.



The Tunnel of Love

is a section of railway located near Klevan, Ukraine, that links it with Orzhiv. It is a railway surrounded by green arches and is three to five kilometers in length. It is known for being a favorite place for couples to take walks.

*"Now the Tunnel is rightly considered to be the most romantic place in Ukraine."
(UnknownUkraine.com)*



THE PEOPLE ARE PROUD OF UKRAINE

BOGDAN KHMELITSKIY
UKRAINIAN GETHMAN

TARAS SHEVCHENKO
POET, ARTIST, WRITER, ETHNOGRAPHER AND REVOLUTIONARY DEMOCRAT

LESYA UKRAYINKA
UKRAINIAN POET AND WRITER

ANDRIY SHEVCHENKO
THE BEST PLAYER OF UKRAINE

IVAN FRANKO
UKRAINIAN POET AND WRITER

PEOPLE WHO DIED FOR THE EUROPEAN VALUES DURING EUROMAIDAN 2014

JAMALA
UKRAINIAN SINGER AND ACTRESS
IN STOCKHOLM WITH THE " 1944 " SONG
IN 2016 SHE WON THE 61TH CONTEST "EUROVISION 2016" SONG

VITALIY KLITCHKO
HONORARY WORLD BOXING CHAMPION

BOGDAN STUPKA
UKRAINIAN ACTOR

EUROVISION 2017 IN UKRAINE

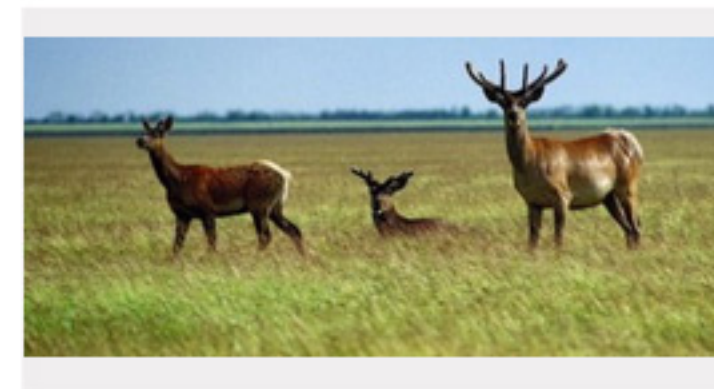
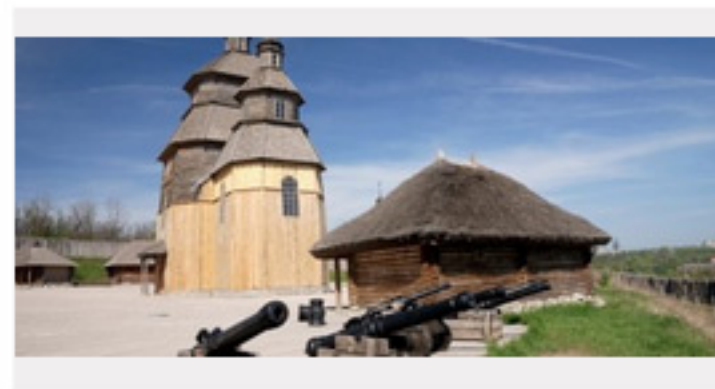
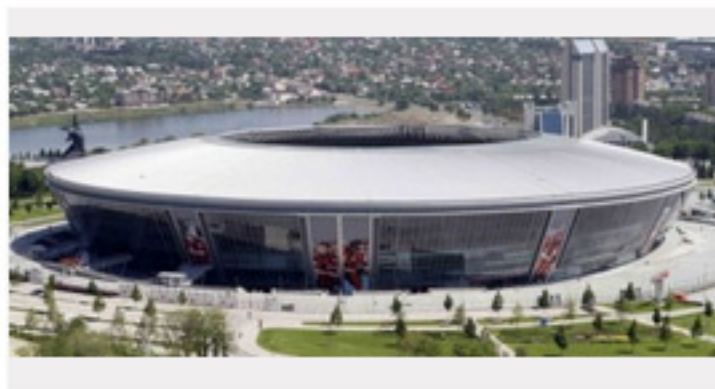
EUROVISION SONG CONTEST

...AND A LOT OF PEOPLE WHOM YOU DO NOT KNOW

All you didn't know about Ukraine

Ukraine is an amazing combination of beautiful traditions and the spirit of freedom of true Cossacks. Moreover, it's delicious cuisine, fascinating and diverse landscapes and wonderful heritage of ancestors. Here you will get a lot of interesting information and facts about Ukraine. We will tell you about things to do and things to see in the Ukraine. We sincerely wish that the site Unknown Ukraine has helped you to learn more about Ukraine. We want Ukraine stopped being unknown. We want you to fall in love with this country as we love it. We want to talk about the cities that will host Euro 2012 in Ukraine: Kiev, Donetsk, Lviv and Kharkiv. Also, we want to talk about holidays that are approaching and the holiday dishes that are prepared for these holidays, about a winter holiday and the fabulous places which worth a visit this winter. We hope that we will be able to make Ukraine better known and more interesting!

Things to see and to do in Ukraine



The Cossacks are a group of predominantly East Slavic Orthodox Christian people who became known as members of democratic, self-governing, semi-military communities originating in the steppes of Eastern Europe (in particular the Dnieper, in the Wild Fields). They inhabited sparsely populated areas and islands in the lower Dnieper, Don, Terek, and Ural river basins, and played an important role in the historical and cultural development of both Ukraine and Russia.

After World War II, the Soviet Union disbanded the Cossack units in the Soviet Army. During the Perestroika era in the Soviet Union in the late 1980s, descendants of Cossacks moved to revive their national traditions. In 1988, the Soviet Union passed a law allowing the re-establishment of former Cossack hosts and the formation of new ones. During the 1990s, many regional authorities agreed to hand over some local administrative and policing duties to their Cossack hosts.

In the 2002 Russian census, 140,028 people declared Cossack ethnicity, while 67,573 people identified as Cossack in the 2010 census. Between 3.5 and 5.0 million people associate themselves with the Cossack cultural identity across the world; Cossack organizations operate in Russia, Kazakhstan, Ukraine, Belarus, and the United States.



Zaporozhian Cossack by
Konstantin Makovsky, 1884



After Ottoman-Polish and Polish-Muscovite warfare ceased, the official Cossack register was again decreased. The registered Cossacks (reiestrovi kozaky) were isolated from those who were excluded from the register, and from the Zaporizhian Host. This, together with intensified socioeconomic and national-religious oppression of the other classes in Ukrainian society, led to a number of Cossack uprisings in the 1630s. These eventually culminated in the **Khmelnysky Uprising**, led by the hetman of the Zaporizhian Sich, Bohdan Khmelnytsky.

As a result of the mid-17th century Khmelnytsky Uprising, the Zaporozhian Cossacks briefly established an independent state, which later became the autonomous Cossack Hetmanate (1649–1764). It was placed under the suzerainty of the Russian Tsar from 1667, but was ruled by local hetmans for a century. The principal political problem of the hetmans who followed the Pereyaslav Agreement was defending the autonomy of the Hetmanate from Russian/Muscovite centralism. The hetmans Ivan Vyhovsky, Petro Doroshenko and Ivan Mazepa attempted to resolve this by separating Ukraine from Russia.

All you didn't know about Ukraine

Ukraine is an amazing combination of beautiful traditions and the spirit of freedom of true Cossacks.

Ukrainian Cossacks: Zaporozhian Cossacks

The Zaporozhian Cossacks lived on the Pontic-Caspian steppe below the Dnieper Rapids (Ukrainian: za porohamy), also known as the Wild Fields. The group became well known, and its numbers increased greatly between the 15th and 17th centuries. The Zaporozhian Cossacks played an important role in European geopolitics, participating in a series of conflicts and alliances with the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth, Russia, and the Ottoman Empire.

Bohdan Khmelnytsky's entry to Kyiv

Ukraine president survived 3 assassination tries in past week: report

Business Insider · 3 hours ago

- **Third Assassination Attempt on Zelensky Fails as Putin Sparks 'Nuclear Terror'**

Yahoo News · 3 hours ago

 [View Full Coverage](#)




The Washington Post

Assassination attempt against Volodymyr Zelensky is foiled, Ukraine says

2 days ago


 **Andrew Neil** ✓
@afneil

President Zelenskyy survives 3 assassination attempts in past week, could face another before weekend. Mercenaries from Kremlin-backed Wagner group and Chechen special forces thwarted after Ukraine tipped off by Russian FSB sources opposed to the invasion.

 Twitter · 12:05 AM

 **Ragıp Soylu** ✓
@ragipsoylu

The third round of the Russian-Ukrainian negotiations may be tomorrow or the day after tomorrow, we are in direct contact, said an adviser to Zelensky

 Twitter · 6:11 AM

 **Alberto Ravell** ✓
@AlbertoRavell

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy says Russian troops are lugging mobile cremation chambers with them, allegedly to dispose of their own dead. www.huffpost.com/entry/zelenskyy-russia-cremation-chambers-ukraine_n_6220ea42e4b0ae4ab9c8e705?utm_campaign=share_twitter&ncid=engmodushpmsg00000004 via @HuffPost

 Twitter · 1:01 AM

 **CanadianPM** ✓
@CanadianPM

Tonight, PM Justin Trudeau and @DeputyPM_Canada Chrystia Freeland spoke with the President of Ukraine, Volodymyr Zelenskyy, to discuss the fire and damages at the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant in Ukraine caused by Russian attacks. Read more: ow.ly/LJ5750I9OkP

 Twitter · 3/3/22 8:05 PM

INSIDER

Ukraine president survived 3 assassination tries in past week: report

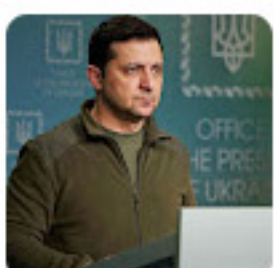
4 hours ago



FOX NEWS

Ukrainian President Zelenskyy avoided 3 assassination attempts since Russia invasion: report

12 hours ago



Newsom proposes mental health courts for homeless people

By DON THOMPSON and JANIE HAR today



California Gov. Gavin Newsom, center, helps clean a homeless encampment alongside a freeway on Jan. 12, 2022, in San Diego. California's governor proposed a plan on Thursday, March 3, 2022, to force homeless people with severe mental health and addiction disorders into treatment.

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP) — California's governor proposed a plan Thursday to offer more services to homeless people with severe mental health and addiction disorders even if that means compelling some into care, a move that many advocates of homeless people oppose as a violation of civil rights.

Gov. Gavin Newsom said at a press conference that he has no intention of rounding people up and locking them away. Instead, he said his plan would offer a way for people to get court-ordered psychiatric treatment, medication and housing, preferably before they are arrested.

Under the plan, which requires approval by the Legislature, all counties would have to set up a mental health branch in civil court and provide comprehensive and community-based treatment to those suffering from debilitating psychosis. People need not be homeless to be evaluated by a court. But if approved, they would be obligated to accept the care or risk criminal charges, if those are pending, and if not, they would be subject to being held in psychiatric programs involuntarily or lengthier conservatorships in which the court appoints a person to make health decisions for someone who cannot.

"There's no compassion stepping over people in the streets and sidewalks," Newsom told reporters at a briefing at a mental health treatment facility in San Jose. "We could hold hands, have a candlelight vigil, talk about the way the world should be, or we could take some damn responsibility to implement our ideals and that's what we're doing differently here." Newsom, a Democrat and former mayor of San Francisco, has made homelessness and housing a focus of his administration as the number of unsheltered people grow across the country. Last year, the Legislature approved \$12 billion for new housing and treatment beds for the homeless and this year Newsom has proposed an additional \$2 billion, primarily to shelter people suffering from psychosis, schizophrenia and behavioral health disorders. It was not immediately clear how much the program might cost, although Newsom proposed in his budget this year more money for mental health services. He has called distressing behavior on the streets heart-breaking and maddening and says residents are right to complain that government is not doing enough.

"At this point there are a million questions and a million things that could go horribly wrong," said Kevin Baker, director of government relations for ACLU California, in an email. He said homeless is caused by skyrocketing housing costs "and we won't solve homelessness, mental health, or substance abuse problems by locking people up and drugging them against their will."

The Western Center on Law and Poverty pointed to a 2020 state audit that found many people put under conservatorship wound up with limited treatment and follow-up. "Forcing people into temporary hospitalization will not help individuals move out of homelessness when there are not enough services or housing units to begin with," it said in a statement.

Still, others say that mandated treatment is necessary for some who are too sick to realize they need care.

In San Francisco, a state law designed to get more people into conservatorships has resulted in just two people being forced into care, said Rafael Mandelman, a city supervisor who has watched helplessly as homeless residents languish outdoors.

He would welcome more money for emergency psychiatric treatment beds and staffing. But he also says there needs to be a major change in both the deployment of resources and in the way judges think. "We also clearly need better systems that are able to respond to the needs of this population much better," he said, "and we need laws that are clear to judges, and that reflect the expectations of the community."

Inmates leaving gangs, stripping tats for jobs, better lives

By MICHAEL TARM 2 hours ago



Erik Eck, a former member of the Latin Kings gang stands in the doorway of his cell at the DuPage County, Ill., Jail displaying tattoos that symbolize his status with the gang, Thursday, Feb. 3, 2022, in Wheaton, Ill. Under penalty of a beating or death, Eck pledged when he joined the Latin Kings in Chicago at 13 to adhere to the gang's first rule: "Once a King, always a King." Tattoos that cover his entire body express fealty forever to the gang, one of the nation's largest.

WHEATON, Ill. (AP) — Under penalty of a beating or death, Erik Eck pledged at age 13 to adhere to the Latin Kings' first rule: "Once a King, always a King." Tattoos that bedeck his entire body express his fealty forever to one of the largest gangs in the U.S. Now 36, the longtime Latin King enforcer is trying to leave anyway. He is seeking to scrub his past by erasing his gang tattoos through a new gang-cessation and jobs program he and 11 other inmates signed up for at a Chicago-area jail.

The Associated Press got exclusive access over two days to the first 12 inmates enrolled in the largely privately funded program at the DuPage County Jail and to their cellblock. For their safety, they're isolated from the jail's 500 other inmates, half of whom are in gangs. Eck, jailed on burglary charges, earned the nickname "Hollywood" on the street for his swagger. But nightmares jarred him awake for days before he recently walked into the jail's new tattoo-removal wing.

"This life is all I've ever known," Eck said about agonizing over his decision to deface the tattoos that have been central to his identity for 20 years. "But it's for the better." He added: "I feel like the change has officially begun."

[...]

Eck wants to create a meaningful life. One more criminal conviction, he said, could send him to prison for life.

There are already signs of his transformation.

Speaking on a recent afternoon, he appeared startled when he realized what pronoun he was using to talk about the Latin Kings.

"I'm saying 'they' not 'we,'" he said, looking at Beary sitting nearby and laughing.

He has stopped answering to his street name, too. When several inmates recently addressed him by it, he bristled.

"My name's Erik," he snapped. "Hollywood? ... I don't know who you're talking about."

As he struggles to reinvent himself, he says he wants nothing to do with his gang persona.

"I want to be able to wake up and not see that person anymore."



Experts believe that infants should get some interactive floor-based physical activity two to three times a day. Sam Edwards/OJO Images via Getty Images

Infants need lots of active movement and play – and there are simple ways to help them get it

Published: March 3, 2022 8.27am EST

 Danae Dinkel, University of Nebraska Omaha

When people set personal fitness goals and establish their physical exercise routines, there's a group of cuddly individuals that is often left out – infants! Historically, infant active movement has been perceived as a personality characteristic. It's assumed that infants are plenty active on their own, without needing adult intervention to encourage movement. However, research is revealing that the choices, behaviors and everyday habits of adults have a big influence on how much infants move.

I'm a physical activity teacher and researcher. For the past five years I've conducted several studies exploring infant movement, seeking to identify what supports the development of lifelong physical activity habits. I've learned that many parents and other caregivers want to encourage infants to actively play and move. However, they often don't know for sure how much physical activity an infant needs, nor do they often recognize how their own behaviors might be limiting an infant's physical activity. Fortunately, there are several easy – and fun – ways to add more physical activity to an infant's daily life.

Why infants need movement – and how much: Study of infant movement is a relatively new field, so there is still a lot to learn. However, one of the field's foundational studies was published in 1972, and it found that increased infant physical activity can improve motor development. More recent research shows that increased infant movement can improve bone health and personal-social development – skills related to improving their independence or interacting with others, such as feeding themselves or waving goodbye.

What are the barriers? While research is ongoing, I and other researchers have identified three major barriers to infant active movement: screen time, restrictive devices and “gendered play” – gender-related stereotypes, beliefs and practices in relation to how children play.

In our 2020 study exploring infant motor development in relation to parents' promotion of play, we found that parents of male infants more often encouraged play that promoted gross motor skills: movement involving the large muscles that support activities like walking, running or kicking. Parents of female infants more often made statements that promoted fine motor skills, which involve smaller movements of the hands and arms and support activities like reaching and grasping. We found that females had significantly higher fine motor skills than male. We've documented additional barriers as well, including time spent eating, tending to the infant's sleeping schedule or other care needs; a need to baby-proof surroundings; or weather and other environmental concerns.

How to support infant movement Fortunately there are many ways to break down these barriers – and none requires buying expensive baby gear.

Encourage tummy time. Explore movement together. Create safe play space. No equipment? Get outside!

To help motivate us, my family is taking the 1,000 Hours Outside challenge, a project encouraging both kids and adults to spend at least as much time outdoors as we do staring at screens. Finally, it need not be up to parents alone. Research has linked social support by siblings and peers, child care providers and teachers with increased physical activity in children.

Trust me: As both a physical activity researcher and a working mother of three, including an 11-month-old just learning to walk, I can attest that when adults and older children play with my baby, it gives me an opportunity to accomplish something on my to-do list, and provides my infant with more opportunities to enjoy moving.

Florida Republicans send 15-week abortion ban to governor

March 4, 2022 · 1:12 AM ET

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Democratic Sen. Lauren Book speaks in favor of her amendment to SB 146, a proposed abortion bill in the Florida Senate on Wednesday in Tallahassee, Fla.

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. — Abortions after 15 weeks would be banned in Florida under a bill Republican senators sent to Gov. Ron DeSantis late on Thursday, capping a bitter debate in the statehouse as a looming U.S. Supreme Court decision may limit abortion rights in America.

DeSantis, a Republican, has previously signaled his support for the proposal and is expected to sign it into law. "I want abortion to be legal, safe and accessible but I fear this bill moves us in the other direction, forcing women with means to travel out of state and those struggling economically to resort to potentially dangerous options," said Sen. Lori Berman, a Democrat.

Americans are divided on abortion. The Supreme Court may not wait for minds to change

The measure comes as Republicans across the country move to tighten access to the procedure after the U.S. Supreme Court signaled it would uphold a similar 15-week abortion ban in Mississippi and potentially overturn *Roe v. Wade*. A decision in that case is expected later this year.

The Florida bill contains exceptions if the abortion is necessary to save a mother's life, prevent serious injury to the mother or if the fetus has a fatal abnormality. The state currently allows abortions up to 24 weeks of pregnancy.

As the measure moved through the GOP-controlled statehouse, debates often grew emotional and revealing, with lawmakers recalling their own abortions and experiences with sexual assault.

This week, Sen. Lauren Book, a Democrat who turned the pain of being sexually abused by her nanny into a career of helping other survivors, tearfully revealed she was also drugged and raped by multiple men when she was a young teenager. She implored senators to allow exemptions for rape, incest or human trafficking. "It's not OK to force someone who's been sexually assaulted and impregnated to carry that pregnancy to term if they don't want too, it's just not," Book said. "And if a woman or a girl needs more than 15 weeks to decide, we should be able to give that to her."

In a separate exchange from when the bill passed the GOP-controlled House last month, Republican Rep. Dana Trubusly told lawmakers she previously had an abortion but has "regretted it everyday since." "This is the right to life and to give up life is unconscionable to me," she said.

Republicans have often said the bill is reasonable because it is not a total ban on the procedure and still gives women enough time to consider whether to get an abortion, even in cases of rape, incest or trafficking.

"The only thing that we're asking in this bill is that whatever decision you make, you do it before the 15 weeks," said Republican Sen. Ileana Garcia.

GOP lawmakers in West Virginia and Arizona have also introduced similar 15-week abortion bans similar to the Mississippi law under review by the Supreme Court. Republicans in other states have modeled legislation after a law in Texas which effectively banned abortions after six weeks.

Before the vote on Thursday, White House officials hosted a roundtable discussion with abortion rights advocacy groups and Democratic state lawmakers about the Florida bill as well as Republican restrictions in other states. In a statement about the meeting, the White House said "In the face of these challenges, administration officials reiterated the administration's commitment to exploring every option to protect reproductive health care."

Elon Musk dares United Autoworkers to try to unionize Tesla

March 3, 2022 - 6:40 PM ET

JACLYN DIAZ



SpaceX owner and Tesla CEO Elon Musk is captured this Dec. 1, 2020, file photo,



Gene Simmons 
@genesimmons

Actually, [@elonmusk](#) makes a solid point to Pres [@JoeBiden](#). The President doesn't mention Tesla, perhaps because Tesla is non-union and moved to Texas, a "right to work" state. Give Elon Musk/Tesla its due. They are game changers and should be heralded.

 **Elon Musk**  @elonmusk · Mar 1

Replying to [@JoeBiden](#)

Tesla has created over 50,000 US jobs building electric vehicles & is investing more than double GM + Ford combined

[fyi to person controlling this twitter]

9:14 AM · Mar 2, 2022 · Twitter for iPhone

5,556 Retweets 309 Quote Tweets 49.7K Likes

Tesla CEO Elon Musk, a vocal union opponent, is now inviting the United Autoworkers to organize his company in an attempt to goad the labor union.

Musk tweeted Thursday that he's able to maintain the Tesla workforce because the company compensates and treats its employees well. Because of this, Musk claimed, he's not worried about union organizing at his company.

"I'd like hereby to invite UAW to hold a union vote at their convenience. Tesla will do nothing to stop them," he tweeted.

Musk was responding to a series of tweets by KISS leader Gene Simmons, who was criticizing President Biden for not mentioning Tesla, a luxury electric carmaker, in his State of the Union address earlier this week. In it, Biden touted Ford and GM's efforts at building electric vehicles. Both automakers are unionized.

Simmons said "The President doesn't mention Tesla, perhaps because Tesla is non-union and moved to Texas, a 'right to work' state. Give Elon Musk/Tesla its due. They are game changers and should be heralded."

Musk responded, saying Tesla hasn't closed its Fremont, Calif., location and has plans of expanding. He went on to say later that Tesla factory workers' compensation, which includes stock options, is the highest in the auto industry. A spokesman for the UAW declined to comment on Musk's tweets, but referred NPR to an ongoing case in front of the National Labor Relations Board involving Tesla and Musk.

Musk's message to the United Autoworkers comes after years of organizing attempts at the Fremont facility. Since 2017, unfair labor practice charges have been filed against Tesla at the National Labor Relations Board, the federal agency in charge of enforcing labor laws and monitoring union organizing drives.

Musk previously got into legal trouble for a tweet he sent in 2018 saying workers could lose their stock options if they unionized. This message was seen as a threat by workers, union activists and a California labor judge. The judge ruled Musk's tweets to be an illegal action against employees' rights to organize.

The UAW and the NLRB has also cited Tesla and Musk for previously firing workers involved in organizing activities, and for other claims.

<https://fortune.com/2022/03/02/biden-elon-musk-tesla-ignored-state-of-union/>

Musk's complaints aren't without reason. According to Bloomberg, Tesla's factory in Fremont, Calif., is the most productive automotive plant in all of North America, producing an average of 8,550 cars a week. Tesla plans to expand its production in the U.S. and elsewhere in this year, too, as the company builds a new factory in Texas, another in Berlin, and expands its existing operations in Shanghai.

<https://www.medrxiv.org/content/10.1101/2022.01.09.22268972v1.full>

Characterizing the performance of a DIY air filter | January 11, 2022
Rachael Dal Porto, Monet N. Kunz, Theresa Pistoichini, Richard L. Corsi,
Christopher D. Cappa, UC Davis

One Sentence Summary: A DIY air cleaner can effectively reduce aerosols in indoor spaces.



A do-it-yourself air purifier in use in a classroom. Douglas Hannah, CC BY-ND

How a nondescript box has been saving lives during the pandemic – and revealing the power of grassroots innovation

Published: March 3, 2022 3:55pm EST

 [Douglas Hannah](#), Boston University

A simple technology with a big effect: As it became clear that COVID-19 was spread through airborne transmission, people started wearing masks and building managers rushed to upgrade their ventilation systems. This typically meant installing high-efficiency HEPA filters. These filters work by capturing virus-laden particles: Air is forced into a porous mat, contaminants are filtered out, and clean air passes through.

The efficacy of a building's ventilation system is governed by two factors, though, not just the quality of the filters. The amount of air moved through the ventilation systems matters as well. Experts typically recommend five to six air changes per hour in shared spaces, meaning the entire volume of air in a room is replaced every 45 minutes. Systems in many older buildings can't manage this volume, however.

Portable air filters are an option for augmenting ventilation systems, but they typically cost hundreds of dollars, which puts them out of range for schools and other public spaces that face budget constraints.

This is where the Corsi-Rosenthal box comes in. It's a cube consisting of four to five off-the-shelf furnace filters topped by a standard box fan blowing outward. Once sealed together with tape, it can sit on a floor, shelf or table. The fan draws air through the sides of the cube and out the top. The units are simple, durable and easy to make, and are more effective than simply placing a single filter in front of a box fan. It usually takes 40 minutes, minimal technical expertise and US\$60 to \$90 in materials that are available from any home supply store.

a woman tapes together a cube measuring 2 feet on a side
Building a Corsi-Rosenthal box portable air filter comes down to duct-taping together a set of furnace filters and a box fan. Douglas Hannah, CC BY-ND

Despite this simplicity, though, these homemade units are extremely effective. When used in a shared space like a classroom or hospital ward, they can supplement existing ventilation and remove airborne contaminants, including smoke and virus-laden particles. A raft of recent peer-reviewed research has found portable air purifiers can dramatically reduce aerosol transmission. Other preprint and under-review studies have found **Corsi-Rosenthal boxes perform as well as professional units at a fraction of the cost.**

Origins of the Corsi-Rosenthal box

The formal story of the Corsi-Rosenthal box began in August 2020, when **Richard Corsi, an air quality expert and now dean at the University of California, Davis**, pitched the idea of building cheap box-fan air filters on Twitter. Jim Rosenthal, the CEO of a Texas-based filter company, had been playing around with a similar idea and quickly built the first prototype.



Building a Corsi-Rosenthal box portable air filter comes down to duct-taping together a set of furnace filters and a box fan.



Some school-age children may not even remember what it was like to go to school without masks. Kali9/E+ via Getty Images

Surprise – your kids may be nervous about ditching the mask

Published: March 3, 2022 8.27am EST

Elizabeth Englander, Bridgewater State University, Katharine Covino-Poutasse, Fitchburg State University

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention issued new COVID-19 guidelines on Feb. 25, 2022, to help inform people’s individual decisions about wearing masks. The new guidance recommends masks be worn indoors only in areas of high community risk and allows approximately 70% of people in the U.S. – including some 19 million children – to ditch their masks. Most, but not all, experts agree that these changes are appropriate at this point in the pandemic. Many people, weary of the pandemic and its restrictions, gratefully welcome this step, but relief isn’t universal.

In particular, children may worry about yet another change in the “rules.” After all, U.S. children have been consistently schooled on the importance of mask-wearing, and younger children may even have trouble recalling a mask-free world. So how can adults help children develop coping skills to handle new rules as we navigate changes around mask-wearing guidelines?

Here are nine research-based tips for establishing and negotiating new social rules that can help you and your children reduce stress and anxiety.

- 1) Help children anticipate that mask-wearing has to be adapted to the person and the situation.
- 2) Anticipate times when you may feel uncomfortable.
- 3) Be prepared to encounter unresolvable differences of opinion.
- 4) Emphasize that circumstances change but the principles remain the same.
- 5) Be respectful, kind and caring about others’ decisions regarding their comfort and safety.
- 6) Address your child’s questions before different situations and events.
- 7) Monitor your children’s anxieties.

Take time to check in with your children about their feelings.

- 8) If you are hosting an event, be upfront and communicative about what you are expecting.
- 9) Check in with the other adults.

Emphasizing and modeling empathy and respect for others’ decisions in this pandemic can go a long way toward establishing the kind of normalcy and consistency that helps kids feel less anxious.

Striking new evidence points to seafood market in Wuhan as pandemic origin point

March 3, 2022 · 4:34 PM ET



MICHAELEEN DOUCLEFF



Security guards stand in front of the Huanan Seafood Wholesale Market in Wuhan, China, on Jan. 11, 2020, after the market had been closed following an outbreak of COVID-19 there. Two new studies document samples of SARS-CoV-2 from stalls where live animals were sold.

Evolutionary biologist Michael Worobey helped lead two of the studies and has been at the forefront of the search for the origins of the pandemic. He has spent his career tracking down the origins of pandemics, including the origin of HIV and the 1918 flu.

Back in May, Worobey signed a letter calling for an investigation into the lab-leak theory. But then, through his own investigation, he quickly found data supporting an animal origin.

This week, NPR spoke to Worobey, who's at the University of Arizona, to understand what the data in these new studies tells us about the origin of SARS-CoV-2; how, he believes, the data may shift the debate about the lab-leak theory; and the significance of photos taken five years before the pandemic. Here are key points from the conversation, which has been edited for clarity and length.

Live animals that are susceptible to COVID-19 were in the market in December 2019. Live susceptible animals were held in a stall where SARS-CoV-2 was later detected on a machine that processed animals in the market

Earliest known cases of COVID-19, even those not directly related to individuals who had been in the market, radiate out from the market

NPR: Absurd? How? In the sense that the seafood market is so clearly bull's-eye center of this outbreak?

Yes. And I don't understand how anyone could not be moved, at least somewhat, by that data and then take this idea [of an animal origin] seriously, especially given the other things we've found in these studies.

The virus jumped into people right before the outbreak in the market. It's highly unlikely that the first COVID-19 outbreak would occur at the market if there weren't a source of the virus there.

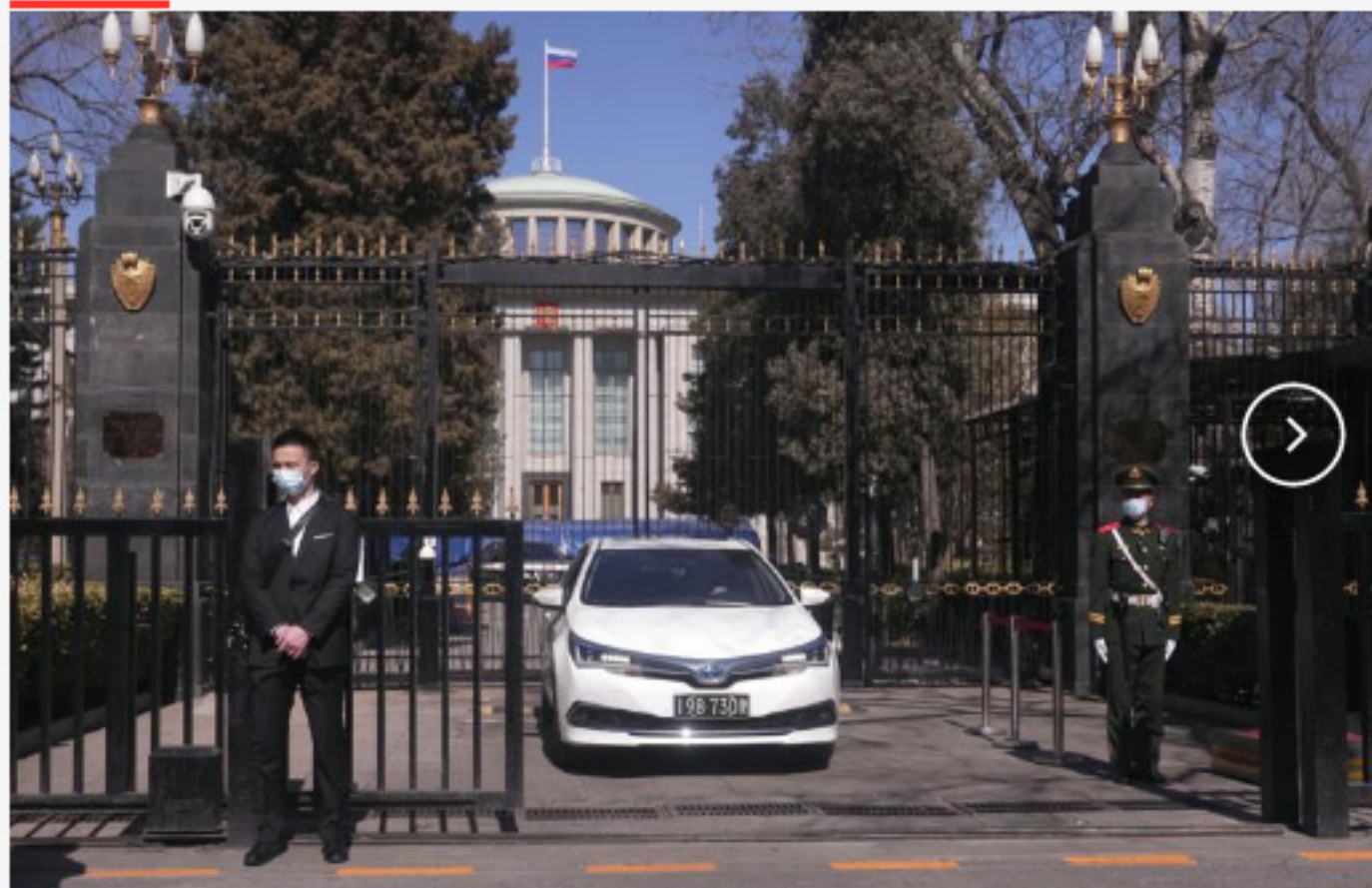
Making these findings brought tears. Sometimes you have these rare moments where you're maybe the only person on Earth who has access to this kind of crucial information. As I just started to figure out that there were more cases around the market than you can expect randomly — I felt that way. And no exaggeration, that moment — those kinds of moments — bring a tear to your eye.



Michael Worobey is a top virus sleuth. He has tracked the origins of the 1918 flu, HIV and now SARS-CoV-2. Worobey is a research professor in the Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology at the University of Arizona.

China seeks to unify public in support for Russia

By ZEN SOO today



A Chinese paramilitary policeman stands guard at the entrance to the Russian Embassy in Beijing on Tuesday, March 1, 2022. As the West condemns Russia, President Vladimir Putin has vocal supporters in China, where the ruling Communist Party tells its people they are a fellow target of U.S.-led harassment. Public sentiment largely reflects the stance of a ruling party that is the closest thing Putin has to a major ally: The war should stop but the United States is to blame.

SINGAPORE (AP) — As the West condemns Russia, President Vladimir Putin has vocal supporters in China, where the ruling Communist Party tells its people they are fellow targets of U.S.-led harassment

“If Russia is destroyed, we will be next. This is for sure,” said Wang Yongchun, a retiree in Beijing. “The United States wants to dominate the world.” Such comments reflect the stance of a ruling party that is the closest thing Putin has to a major ally: The war should stop but the United States is to blame.

President Xi Jinping’s government has tried to distance itself from Russia’s offensive but avoided criticizing Moscow. The government has offered to act as mediator and denounced trade and financial sanctions against Russia. Ruling party control of all Chinese media and intensive internet censorship make it hard to gauge public opinion. But what the party allows online and requires media to publish make clear what it wants the public to think.

Media outlets were told last week to post only pro-Russian content and to censor anti-Russian or pro-Western views, according to a copy of instructions posted on the social media account of the newspaper Beijing News. The post was later deleted. Online and in social media, expressions of sympathy for Ukraine and support for Russia appear but not criticism of Moscow. “When a war begins, is it not the children of ordinary people who serve as cannon fodder?” said a post signed Da Ke Ming Yi on the Weibo social media platform. “Those who died were the children of ordinary people.”

A letter signed by five professors from prominent universities that criticized Russia for attacking a weaker neighbor appeared briefly on social media before being deleted. “We stand against unjust wars,” said the academics from schools including Tsinghua University in Beijing, alma mater of many ruling party leaders. Comments posted by nationalists criticized the professors for failing to stick to the ruling party’s official position of neutrality. **The ruling party has spent decades using school textbooks and the entirely state-controlled media to nurture a sense of nationalist grievance. It accuses the United States of trying to block China’s rise to its rightful position of global leadership.**

State media repeat Beijing’s position that the United States and its European allies are to blame for the Ukraine war because they failed to respond to Russian concerns that its democratic neighbor should be barred from joining NATO, the Western military alliance.

That echoes Chinese complaints that Washington and its allies are interfering in its domestic affairs and issues of national sovereignty, including its claim over Taiwan, territorial disputes in the South China Sea, and in Xinjiang, the far-western region where China has been accused of detaining over a million Uyghurs. Russia’s attack, as a historical event, “is not a good one,” but “people think the conflict between Russia and Ukraine is because the United States stirred up trouble,” said Zheng Bowen, a 38-year-old engineer. The state-run newspaper Capital News exhorted the public to line up with the ruling party: “The nation’s attitude is our attitude.” “China has always upheld a fair and responsible attitude, calling on all parties to exercise restraint and ease the situation, and return to dialogue and negotiation,” it said.

However, the newspaper appeared to support Putin’s demand that Ukraine become a neutral buffer between Russia and Europe and give up the possibility of NATO membership. “Ultimately, Ukraine should be a bridge between East and West, rather than a frontier of confrontation between major powers,” the Capital News said.

Comments online have called for China to support Russia by purchasing its exports of oil, gas and other goods. “Let the Russian Embassy sell their goods on livestream. Let’s show them China’s buying power,” said a comment signed Bao Zou Guang Xiao Pang on Weibo. It received 42,000 likes. *A separate comment advocating that China maintain normal trade with Russia, an implicit rejection of sanctions, received nearly 80,000 likes.* Social media platforms have urged users to act responsibly and say they have removed thousands of postings about the attack on Ukraine.

Douyin, a short-video service operated by the Chinese owner of TikTok, said it deleted more than 3,500 videos and 12,100 comments due to “vulgar, war belittling, sensationalist and unfriendly comments.” The popular WeChat message service also complained about “vulgar posts” that it said have a “negative impact on cyberspace.” It said some users “took the opportunity to publish bad information about international current affairs,” including comments belittling the war such as crass jokes about “gaining course credits by going to Ukraine and fighting in the war” and asking “Ukrainian beauties to come to China,” the platform said. WeChat’s post was later shared by a unit of China’s internet watchdog, the Cyberspace Administration of China.

Weibo said it removed more than 4,000 posts that were vulgar and ridiculed war. It said more than 10,000 accounts were closed. “Peaceful environments do not come easily,” the company said in a social media post. It called on users to “maintain an objective and rational attitude” and take part in discussion “in a reasonable manner.”

'We are desperate for new people': inside a hate group's leaked online chats

Chat logs depict Patriot Front as a tiny group reliant on vandalism and fake social accounts to promote its message

Sergio Olmos

Fri 28 Jan 2022



The white supremacist Patriot Front attends events like the anti-abortion March for Life in Washington, DC, as part of its strategy to recruit new members. Photograph: Kent Nishimura/Los Angeles Times/Rex/Shutterstock

ARREST REPORT (Additional Narrative)

Agency Name Parker County Sheriff's Office	ORI 1840000	Date/Time Arrested 08/02/2020 06:20	Case # 202002252
Arrestee Name ROUSSEAU, THOMAS RYAN		Arrest Number	

AND ACCUSATIONS:

On August 1, 2020 at about 1700 hours I, Deputy B. Wilson responded to the Parker County Courthouse located at 1 Courthouse Square Weatherford, Parker County, Texas in reference to a Criminal Mischief.

I arrived on scene and met with Officers from the Weatherford Police Department. WPD Detectives Lea and Seaton observed three white males placing stickers on two different signs on the Parker County Courthouse lawn.

WPD Officer Clary located the subjects as they were walking down the road and began talking to them. One of the subjects was identified as Thomas Ryan Rousseau W/M DOB 1998.

Officer Clary advised me that Thomas admitted to placing stickers on signs. He stated that he was promoting the group listed on the stickers but was not part of it. Thomas had stickers on his person similar and identical to the ones placed on Parker County Property.

Thomas was instantered on Citation # 009352. He was transported to the Parker County Jail and booked in without incident.

Affiant

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Patriot_Front

Patriot Front is led by **Thomas Ryan Rousseau**, who was a teenager at the time he founded the group. Rousseau had taken control of Vanguard America's web server and Discord channel several weeks prior to the Unite the Right rally, which Rousseau had participated in as the leader of Vanguard America's contingent. Following the bad press arising from the rally, Rousseau left Vanguard. He used the group's domain name to form Patriot Front as an ostensibly new group, and recruit rally participants, although most of Patriot Front's members were former Vanguard members. Rousseau has repeatedly been arrested for posting flyers and stickers which promote the group

<https://www.splcenter.org/fighting-hate/extremist-files/individual/thomas-rousseau>

Thomas Ryan Rousseau grew up in the suburbs of Dallas, Texas, where he attended Coppell High School. While enrolled, he was involved with The Sidekick, the Coppell High School student newspaper where he was the staff cartoonist during his senior year. He also contributed to video production and wrote a number of opinion columns for the paper. This appears to be where the young white supremacist cultivated the propaganda production skills that propelled his rapid ascension into leadership on the racist right, first with Vanguard America and later with his founding of Patriot Front.

In his own words: *"A nation within a nation is our goal. Our people face complete annihilation as our culture and heritage are attacked from all sides."*



Patriot Front requires members to deface murals and monuments dedicated to social justice, such as this mural dedicated to George Floyd. Photograph: Jose F Moreno/AP

{bambooFlamingo (merged): After the Rain}




Friday, March 04, 2022



Russian police have detained thousands of Russians who have taken to the streets to protest the invasion of Ukraine. AP Photo/Dmitri Lovetsky

Economic sanctions may deal fatal blow to Russia's already-weak domestic opposition

Published: March 4, 2022 4.43pm EST

 **Brian Grodsky**, *University of Maryland, Baltimore County*

The West has responded to Russia's invasion of Ukraine by imposing harsh economic sanctions. Most consequentially, key Russian banks have been cut out of the SWIFT payments messaging system, making financial transactions much more difficult. The United States, European Union and others also moved to freeze Russian Central Bank reserves. And U.S. President Joe Biden is weighing a total ban on Russian oil imports.

These sanctions are aimed at generating opposition from both Russian President Vladimir Putin's inner circle and everyday Russians. As a scholar who studies regime change, I believe the risk is that they will actually drive the Kremlin's weak opposition further into obscurity.

A 'punishment logic': Economic sanctions follow a "punishment logic": Those feeling economic pain are expected to rise up against their political leaders and demand a change in policies.

Everyday Russians have already felt the pain from the newest sanctions. The ruble plummeted in value, and Russia's stock market dipped. The effects of Western sanctions were seen in the long lines at ATMs as Russians tried to pull out their cash before it was lost.

But the odds of an uprising are not great. Empirical research suggests that sanctions rarely generate the sorts of damage that compel their targets to back down. Their greatest chance of success is when they are used against democratic states, where opposition elites can mobilize the public against them.

In authoritarian regimes like Putin's, where average citizens are the most likely to suffer, sanctions usually do more to hurt the opposition than help it.

In the first week of the war, Russian authorities arrested more than 7,000 protesters. They ramped up censorship and closed down a longtime icon of liberal media, the Ekho Moskvy radio station. The editor of Russia's last independent TV station, TV Dozhd, also announced he was fleeing the country.

Russia already ranked near the bottom – 150 out of 180 – in the latest Reporters Without Borders assessment of media freedom. And a new law, passed on March 4, 2022, punishes the spread of "false information" about Russia's armed forces with up to 15 years in jail.

Ironically, then, the very sanctions that encourage Russians to attack the regime also narrow their available opportunities to do so.

Ultimately, the opposition seen on the streets in Russia today and perhaps in the coming weeks may be the greatest show of strength that can be expected in the near future.

The West may have better luck using targeted sanctions against those in Putin's inner circle, including Russia's infamous oligarchs. But with their assets hidden in various pots around the world, severely hurting these actors may prove difficult.

Even in the best of circumstances, economic sanctions can take years to have their desired effect. For Ukrainians, fighting a brutal and one-sided war, the sanctions are unlikely to help beyond bolstering morale.


The danger is that these sanctions may also make average Russians another casualty in Putin's war.



These charity leaders teamed up to fundraise on March 3, 2022, for refugees fleeing Ukraine.

How to responsibly donate to Ukrainian causes

Published: March 4, 2022 8.22am EST

 [Beth Gazley](#), *Indiana University*

When Russia invaded Ukraine, I responded like many Americans: by making charitable donations. I was able to make my gift with confidence because I'm a scholar of nonprofits who has studied giving during disasters and other crises. Mostly I've studied how charities help local communities after events like hurricanes and earthquakes, rather than war zones. But I'm also a human being, with friends and colleagues who are Ukrainian. Empathy and a personal connection to a cause are often what motivates donors to act. You can wisely choose causes with the potential to do the most good in the middle of this humanitarian crisis by giving with your head as well as your heart.

Here are the five guidelines I follow in my own giving decisions:

- 1) Send money to organizations, not strangers
- 2) Vet groups you're unfamiliar with before donating to them: Verifying first that the cause is legitimate will make it easier to avoid funding scams.

3) Give to charities with a track record in Ukraine: Some examples include Razom for Ukraine, which leads a variety of cultural and democratization initiatives. Another is **UNICEF, a United Nations agency that protects children worldwide and is in a good position not only to provide immediate relief but also to pressure Russia to allow unrestricted humanitarian access.** Because these groups have already built local relationships, trust and infrastructure, they are likely to be more adept at operating in these dire circumstances than the charities popping up now or those that are still mobilizing from half a world away.

4) Dispatch cash, not goods

In the end, **I supported the International Committee of the Red Cross**, the winner of several Nobel Peace Prizes. Based in Switzerland, it's already operating in Ukraine, and can help today.

I hope that you will consider giving as well, and – like me – you'll stick with your support. The need is going to continue long after Ukraine is out of the headlines.





Daniel Leal/AFP via Getty Images

LIVE UPDATES

Russia announced a cease-fire so residents could safely evacuate. Ukraine says that deal was broken

A reported cease-fire has apparently fallen apart as Ukrainian officials work to get residents out from two cities. Meanwhile, a third round of talks between Ukrainian and Russian delegations is in the works.

THE LATEST: RUSSIA INVADES UKRAINE

MORE >

Local churches shun Vatican's moderate stance on Russia

By NICOLE WINFIELD today



1 of 2

FILE - Pope Francis, left, embraces Russian Orthodox Patriarch Kirill after signing a joint declaration on religious unity in Havana, Cuba on Feb. 12, 2016. The head of the Polish bishops' conference had done what Pope Francis has so far avoided doing by publicly condemning Russia's invasion of Ukraine. Archbishop Stanislaw Gadecki also publicly urged the head of the Russian Orthodox Church to use his influence on Vladimir Putin to demand an end to the war and for Russian soldiers to stand down. "The time will come to settle these crimes, including before the international courts," Gadecki warned in his March 2 letter to Patriarch Kirill. (AP Photo/Gregorio Borgia, Pool)

One of Francis' top communications advisers, the Rev. Antonio Spadaro, however, noted Kirill is "facing a great challenge" to weigh the now-growing list of Orthodox priests, metropolitans and ordinary Ukrainian faithful who are begging him to raise his voice against Putin and change position. In an essay published by the Italian news agency Adnkronos, Spadaro didn't count Francis among them, though he quoted the pope as saying recently that it was "very sad" that Christians were making war.

ROME (AP) — The head of the Polish bishops' conference has done what Pope Francis has so far avoided doing: He publicly condemned Russia's invasion of Ukraine and urged the head of the Russian Orthodox Church to use his influence with Vladimir Putin to demand an end to the war and for Russian soldiers to stand down.

"The time will come to settle these crimes, including before the international courts," Archbishop Stanislaw Gadecki warned in his March 2 letter to Patriarch Kirill. "However, even if someone manages to avoid this human justice, there is a tribunal that cannot be avoided."

Gadecki's tone was significant because it contrasted sharply with the comparative neutrality of the Vatican and Francis to date. The Holy See has called for peace, humanitarian corridors, a cease-fire and a return to negotiations, and even offered itself as a mediator. But Francis has yet to publicly condemn Russia by name for its invasion or publicly appeal to Kirill, and the Vatican offered no comment on the Russian strike on Europe's largest nuclear plant that sparked a fire Friday.

For a pope who has declared the mere possession of nuclear weapons immoral and cautioned against using atomic energy because of the environmental threat posed by radiation leaks, **the silence was even more notable.**



Single mothers are more likely than single fathers to have their debts discharged in court. Heide Benser/Getty

Your chances of getting rid of student loan debt depend on who you are

Published: March 4, 2022 8:20am EST

by [Kelsey Lynne Hess](#), Florida International University, [Andrea C. F. Wolfs](#), Plymouth State University, [Deborah Goldfarb](#), Florida International University, [Jacqueline R. Evans](#), Florida International University

To get rid of student loan debt through bankruptcy, you must prove to the court that paying back your student loans would cause an “undue hardship.” But in our peer-reviewed study of nearly 700 student loan discharge cases spanning 1985 to 2020, we found that judges’ decisions to dismiss student loans are often influenced by personal factors, such as your gender.

To determine whether repaying the student loan debt is causing the debtor to experience an undue hardship, most courts apply three criteria outlined in a case known as “Brunner.”

Under Brunner, to prove they are experiencing an undue hardship, debtors must first demonstrate that repaying their student loans would not allow them to maintain a minimal standard of living. In other words, repaying the debt would prevent them from meeting their basic needs, including food, clothing and shelter. Second, debtors must show that additional circumstances exist that indicate their finances are unlikely to improve. These additional circumstances could include having a medical condition or caring for dependents. Third, debtors must show that they have made good-faith efforts to repay their loans. This includes efforts to make payments on the loans or attempts to consolidate their debt.

Meeting these three criteria is tough. Our data shows that about 38% of the debtors in the cases that we studied received a full or partial discharge of their student loans. But we also discovered other factors regularly come into play in the court’s decisions. Here are three factors that stood out in our research.

1. Being a single mom helps, but not being a single dad
2. Disclosing a medical condition helps men, but not women
3. Not having an attorney hurts your cause

Thanks to ubiquitous crime dramas, it is widely known that those who cannot afford an attorney can have one appointed. Lesser known is that this constitutional right applies only to criminal proceedings. In most civil trials, like bankruptcy proceedings, there is no right to an attorney. When debtors cannot afford an attorney, they often must represent themselves. In student loan bankruptcy proceedings, 33% of debtors represent themselves, often to their detriment. We found that debtors who retained an attorney improved their chances of getting their student loans discharged by at least 60%. This was true whether the debtor was male or female.

If you are thinking about seeking relief from student loan debt, the following suggestions may help:

Develop a strategy that takes your gender into account: For single fathers, it might be advantageous to emphasize your “breadwinning” role, show the court that you have made efforts toward repaying the loans or have tried very hard to get a decent-paying job. For women with medical conditions, provide as much evidence as you can in the form of hospital visits, attempts to declare disability and the like.

Regardless of gender, remember that having an attorney matters: Familiarize yourself with legal aid organizations in your area, which can offer free legal services. Also, be sure to search for other free legal information that can be found on court websites and similar venues.

None of this advice matters if you fail to file a separate case to get your student loans discharged – as is the case with most student loan debtors who file a bankruptcy case. **Without the separate proceeding, students loans cannot be discharged. Around 241,000 people with student loan debt filed for bankruptcy in the U.S. in 2017, but only 447 of those also filed a separate case to get rid of their student loans.** Consult the free legal resources to learn how to file this separate case.

Russia

Wilfred Chan

Fri 4 Mar 2022 12.04 EST

wilfred chan 223 Tweets



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wilfred chan Retweeted



Julia Carrie Wong @juliacarriew · 6h

Igor Shuvalov "used a secret private jet to fly his wife's corgis around the world because 'it's not that comfortable in business class'".

@wilfredchan introduces us to some newly sanctioned Russian oligarchs – and some who should watch their yachts



theguardian.com

Meet the oligarchs: the Russian billionaires whose jets, yachts and ma...
Some of Russia's super rich are finding their assets in the west under threat of sanctions from the US

4

23

31



Meet the oligarchs: the Russian billionaires whose jets, yachts and mansions are now in the crosshairs

In charge of appropriating these assets will be KleptoCapture, a newly announced justice department taskforce, with support from the treasury department, FBI, IRS and other federal agencies. Under US law, the justice department may use civil forfeiture to confiscate the proceeds from foreign crimes, including corruption, when they are found in the United States.

Their efforts will complement those of a transatlantic taskforce announced over the weekend between the United States, France, Germany, Italy, the United Kingdom, Canada and the European Commission. "We are joining with our European allies to find and seize your yachts, your luxury apartments, your private jets. We are coming for your ill-begotten gains," Biden said.

The Feds may have their work cut out. US regulations are lax when it comes to requiring disclosures of real estate transactions by foreign individuals, making the country a prime destination for Russia's uber-rich looking to snap up prime properties without scrutiny.

Other favorite toys of oligarchs like planes and boats are commonly registered through shell companies. And many of those luxury craft have begun traveling toward extradition-free territories such as the Maldives, according to Bloomberg News.



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JUSTICE NEWS

Department of Justice Office of Public Affairs

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wednesday, March 2, 2022

Attorney General Merrick B. Garland Announces Launch of Task Force KleptoCapture

Task Force Will Surge Federal Law Enforcement Resources to Hold Accountable Corrupt Russian Oligarchs

Today, Attorney General Merrick B. Garland announced the launch of Task Force KleptoCapture, an interagency law enforcement task force dedicated to enforcing the sweeping sanctions, export restrictions, and economic countermeasures

the mission of the Task Force will include: the unprovoked military invasion of Ukraine. Task Force KleptoCapture will ensure the full effect of these actions, which have been designed to isolate Russia

Investigating and prosecuting violations of new and future sanctions imposed in response to the Ukraine invasion, as well as sanctions imposed for prior instances of Russian aggression and corruption;

Combating unlawful efforts to undermine restrictions taken against Russian financial institutions, including the prosecution of those who try to evade know-your-customer and anti-money laundering measures;

Targeting efforts to use cryptocurrency to evade U.S. sanctions, launder proceeds of foreign corruption, or evade U.S. responses to Russian military aggression; and

Using civil and criminal asset forfeiture authorities to seize assets belonging to sanctioned individuals or assets identified as the proceeds of unlawful conduct.

Wednesday, March 2, 2022

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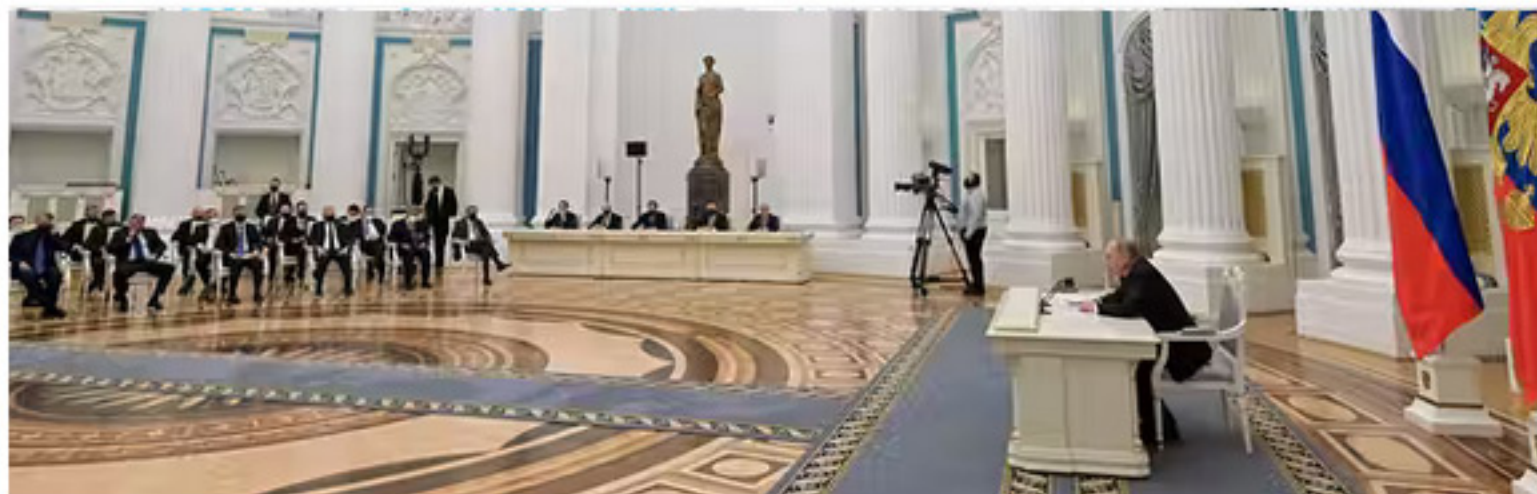
Meet the oligarchs: the Russian billionaires whose jets, yachts and mansions are now in the crosshairs

In charge of appropriating these assets will be KleptoCapture, a newly announced justice department taskforce, with support from the treasury department, FBI, IRS and other federal agencies. Under US law, the justice department may use civil forfeiture to confiscate the proceeds from foreign crimes, including corruption, when they are found in the United States.

Their efforts will complement those of a transatlantic taskforce announced over the weekend between the United States, France, Germany, Italy, the United Kingdom, Canada and the European Commission. "We are joining with our European allies to find and seize your yachts, your luxury apartments, your private jets. We are coming for your ill-begotten gains," Biden said.

The Feds may have their work cut out. US regulations are lax when it comes to requiring disclosures of real estate transactions by foreign individuals, making the country a prime destination for Russian's uber-rich looking to snap up prime properties without scrutiny.

Other favorite toys of oligarchs like planes and boats are commonly registered through shell companies. And many of those luxury craft have begun traveling toward extradition-free territories such as the Maldives, according to Bloomberg News.



Putin has kept most oligarchs at a distance – literally and figuratively. Alexey Nikolsky/Sputnik/AFP via Getty Images

Meet Russia's oligarchs, a group of men who won't be toppling Putin anytime soon

Published: March 4, 2022 5.36pm EST

Stanislav Markus, University of South Carolina

wilfred chan Retweeted



Julia Carrie Wong @juliacarriew · 6h

Igor Shuvalov "used a secret private jet to fly his wife's corgis around the world because 'it's not that comfortable in business class'".

@wilfredchan introduces us to some newly sanctioned Russian oligarchs – and some who should watch their yachts



theguardian.com

Meet the oligarchs: the Russian billionaires whose jets, yachts and ma...
Some of Russia's super rich are finding their assets in the west under threat of sanctions from the US

4

23

31



As a scholar of emerging markets, corporate strategy and the post-Soviet political economy, I have studied the oligarchs in depth.

Meet the oligarchs: the Russian billionaires whose jets, yachts and mansions are now in the crosshairs

I believe we will see increasingly vocal opposition to the war from the oligarchs. At the very least, their willingness to do the Kremlin's dirty work by trying to influence Western politicians will likely subside significantly.

But there are two crucial limits to their influence and ability to affect Putin's behavior.

For one thing, the oligarchs do not work well together. In Russia's "piranha capitalism," these billionaires have mostly sought to outcompete their rivals for government largesse. Individual survival with a view to the Kremlin, not the defense of common interests such as sanctions' removal, has been the oligarchs' modus operandi. The Kremlin, for its part, has promised state support to sanctioned companies, especially in the banking sector.

More importantly, it is the guns, not the money, that speak loudest in the Kremlin today. As long as Putin retains his control over the siloviki – the current and former military and intelligence officers close to Putin – the other oligarchs, in my view, will remain hostages to his regime.

The generals are more likely to sway Putin than the oligarchs – and an economic collapse may be even more convincing still.

Beware the joro spider. Scientists say the giant, but harmless, arachnid is spreading

March 5, 2022 · 5:00 AM ET



The joro spider, a large spider native to East Asia, has become a common sight throughout Georgia and other Southeastern states. But scientists say it may soon spread through the Eastern seaboard.

They're huge, have eight blue-black and yellow striped legs, and could soon move into most of the Eastern Seaboard of the U.S. A study published in the journal *Physiological Entomology* says that the palm-sized joro spider, which has been largely confined to warmer southeastern states for nearly a decade, could soon be expected to colonize regions with colder climates. That's because researchers have discovered the large arachnids have a higher probability of surviving a brief freeze than other closely related species of the same genus.

"People should try to learn to live with them," Andy Davis, a research scientist in the Odum School of Ecology and one of the authors behind the recent study, told UGA Today, a publication by the University of Georgia.

A joro spider can grow to be about 3 inches long, including a large bulbous body with bright yellow stripes. Its underbelly has distinctive red markings, and it weaves large webs that look as if they're spun from golden silk.

It gets its name from Jorōgumo, which in Japanese folklore that can turn itself into a beautiful woman to prey on unsuspecting men.

Despite their startling appearance — and their namesake — Davis noted joros don't appear to be harmful or have much of an effect on local agriculture or ecosystems. In fact, he said, they may be beneficial to native predator birds as an additional food source. And, while they kill their prey using venom, scientists say they are harmless to people and pets because their fangs are usually too small to break human skin.

In other words, try to leave them alone, Davis says.





Follow

Kira Rudyk

@kiraincongress

Member of Parliament, Leader of Political party @GolosZmin, ex-CEO of Ring Ukraine, #animalwelfare #politics #Ukraine #IT #FemaleLeadership

Kyiv, Ukraine t.me/kira_rudyk Joined September 2019

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Holos (Ukrainian: Голос), translated as **Voice or Vote**, is a liberal and pro-European political party in Ukraine. The party won 20 MPs in the 2019 parliamentary election and became part of the opposition in the current Ukrainian parliament. The party split late July 2021, as of September 2021, only nine of the party's 20 seats in the Verkhovna Rada are held by MPs who are loyal to the party; the remaining 11 are held by MPs who have formed a breakaway group called Justice.

At the party congress of 29 July 2021 it was decided to expel seven of the party MPs. The expelled members were dissatisfied with, according to them, the "cementing of Kira Rudyk's control over the party." At the same meeting, 86% of the delegates expressed their confidence in Rudyk as the party leader.

On 2 February 2022, party leader Kira Rudyk stated that a criminal case had been opened against the party regarding its economic activities. In comments on the party's official site Rudyk stated that the case was politically motivated, as Ukraine's State Bureau of Investigation is "systematically attempting to muzzle those who criticise the government while ignoring cases involving 'Ze-friends.'

← Tweet



Kira Rudyk
@kiraincongress

I learn to use #Kalashnikov and prepare to bear arms. It sounds surreal as just a few days ago it would never come to my mind. Our #women will protect our soil the same way as our #men. Go #Ukraine! 🇺🇦



9:37 AM · Feb 25, 2022 · Twitter for iPhone

46.5K Retweets 7,522 Quote Tweets 309.6K Likes



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Member of Parliament, Leader of Political party @GolosZmin, ex-CEO of Ring Ukraine, #animalwelfare #politics #Ukraine #IT #FemaleLeadership

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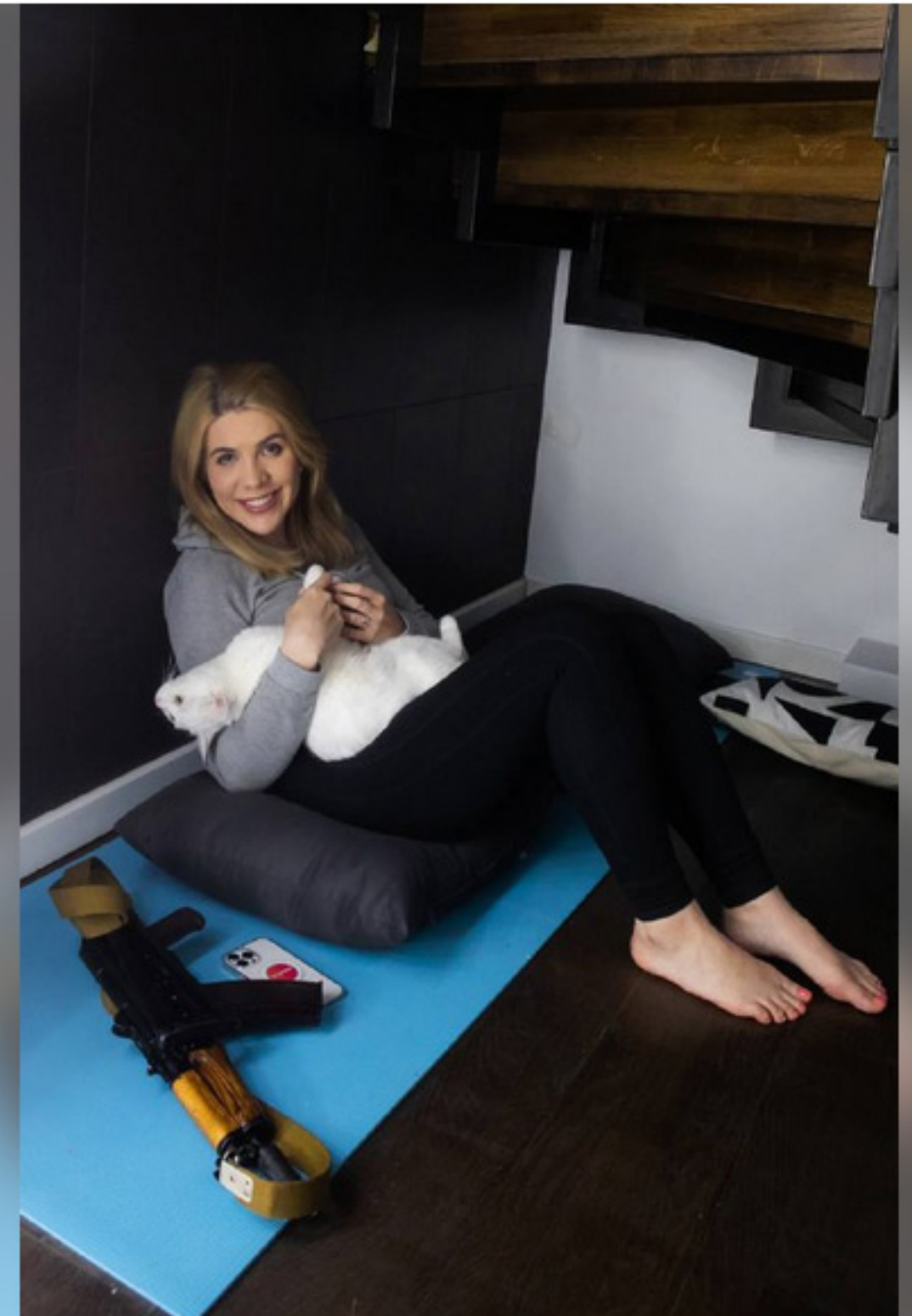
Kira Rudyk

Do you know why Russians are not our friends?
Because friends on the road are not lying around! 💪 🇺🇦

474 👁 13:13





Kira Rudyk



In 10 days, we learned not to worry about airborne alarms.


To hide - yes, but to stop worrying. ❤️ 🇺🇦 ⚡


832 👁 11:03

 **Kira Rudyk** 
@kira_rudyk


4.94K **168** **185** **75**
Subscribers Photos Videos Links


Voice Party leader Kira Rudyk's TG channel.

 Here's about women, careers, business, politics and a little more.

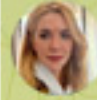
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About Blog Apps Platform

 **Kira Rudyk**



Prague now 🇺🇦 🇷🇺 🇺🇦 691 👁 12:28

 **Kira Rudyk**



Trafalgar Square, London.
Yesterday ❤️ 🇺🇦 🦵 1.2K 👁 02:10

Kira Rudyk

Kira Oleksandrivna Rudyk^[1] (Ukrainian: Кіра Рудик; born 14 October 1985)^[2] is a [Ukrainian](#) politician and current leader of the political party [Voice](#) and since 2019 a member of the [Ukrainian parliament](#).^{[3][4][5]}

Born on 14 October 1985 in [Uzhhorod](#),^[6] Rudyk graduated in 2008 from the Faculty of Informatics of the [Kyiv-Mohyla Academy](#) with a degree in Information Control Systems and Technologies.^[7] She worked in several IT companies in Ukraine and the [United States](#), and went from being a tester to a top manager.^[7]

In 2005 she started her IT career as a software tester at Software MacKiev and in 2010 she moved on to leading functions at [MiMedia](#) (2010—2013, Rudyk worked in the US for 8 months) and [TechTeamLabs](#) (2013—2016).^[7]

In 2016 she became the chief operating manager of [Ring Ukraine](#).^[7] Rudyk served as [COO](#) of Ring Ukraine,^[8] a division of [Ring Inc.](#) purchased by [Amazon](#) in 2018.^[4]

Rudyk participated in the [2019 Ukrainian parliamentary election](#) and was elected as a deputy, contesting the election placed third on the election list of [Voice](#).^[7] After [Svyatoslav Vakarchuk](#) stepped down as the leader of Voice on 12 March 2020, Rudyk was elected to replace him.^{[6][5]}

At the 29 July 2021 Voice party congress seven of the party MPs were expelled from the party.^[9] Five of them had already written statements to leave the party.^[9] These five were dissatisfied with, according to them, the "cementing of Kira Rudyk's control over the party."^[9]

Update on the Russian invasion of Ukraine with Kira Rudyk

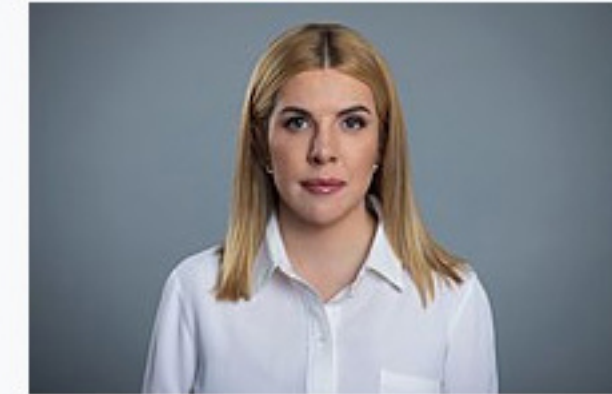
Posted: March 5, 2022 by [KUSI Newsroom](#)



Kira Rudyk

MP

Кіра Рудик



Rudyk in July 2020

People's Deputy of Ukraine

Incumbent

Assumed office

29 August 2019

Leader of Voice

Incumbent

Assumed office

12 March 2020

Faction leader [Serhii Rakhmanin](#) ^[uk]

Preceded by [Svyatoslav Vakarchuk](#)

Personal details

Born Kira Oleksandrivna Rudyk
14 October 1985 (age 36)
[Uzhhorod, Ukrainian SSR, Soviet Union](#)

Political party [Voice](#) (2019–present)

Education [National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy](#)

“The most complicated thing is to explain to children what’s going on. So there is this little game that’s called the turtle game, to explain to them how to act during the attacks,” Rudyk told CNN’s Wolf Blitzer on Saturday. “So you tell them that you go down on your belly, you open up your mouth, you close your ears with your hands, and that’s how you pretend you’re a turtle. And we had to pretend that we are turtles quite a few times today.”



A woman holds a sign reading "We are stronger than he thinks" during Saturday's demonstration in Vienna against the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

See moment that made Clarissa Ward stop reporting and help

<https://youtu.be/4pdNnpCD5Ew>



Saturday, March 05, 2022

CNN on Scene
Kyiv, Ukraine
1:22 PM



BREAKING NEWS

CNN AT SITE OF DESTRUCTION IN KYIV AS RUSSIANS CLOSE IN



NEW DAY



3:10 / 10:18



With the war, a Ukrainian art show gains new meaning

March 5, 2022 | Greg Allen

With the war, "we cannot operate anymore. And our gallery now is a bunker."

Artist Oleksiy Sai created an image of the Donbas region of Ukraine, then ground "bomb craters" into the surface.



Julia and Max Voloshyn, owners of a gallery in Kyiv, were in Miami to exhibit Ukrainian art when first COVID and then the Russian invasion kept them from returning home.



In Miami, an exhibition of works by Ukrainian artists has gained new significance with the Russian invasion. It's a show mounted by the Voloshyn Gallery, which is based in Kyiv. The war has left the Ukrainian gallery owners, Max and Julia Voloshyn stranded in the U.S. and unsure when they'll be able to return home.

They're a young married couple, with a baby. They came to Miami from Kyiv five months ago to present work during Miami's international Art Basel week. After that, they mounted a pop-up show in a Miami warehouse district.

It's a far cry from the gallery the Voloshyns own in Kyiv. Julia Voloshyna says the gallery is in the basement of a historic building near the city center. They opened it in 2016. With the war, she says, "we cannot operate anymore. And our gallery now is a bunker."

In Kyiv, the Voloshyn gallery is now a bomb shelter and refuge for artists and gallery staff.



What Putin's destruction of Grozny in 1999 means for Ukraine now

March 02, 2022

By [Hilary McQuilkin](#) and [Meghna Chakrabarti](#) 



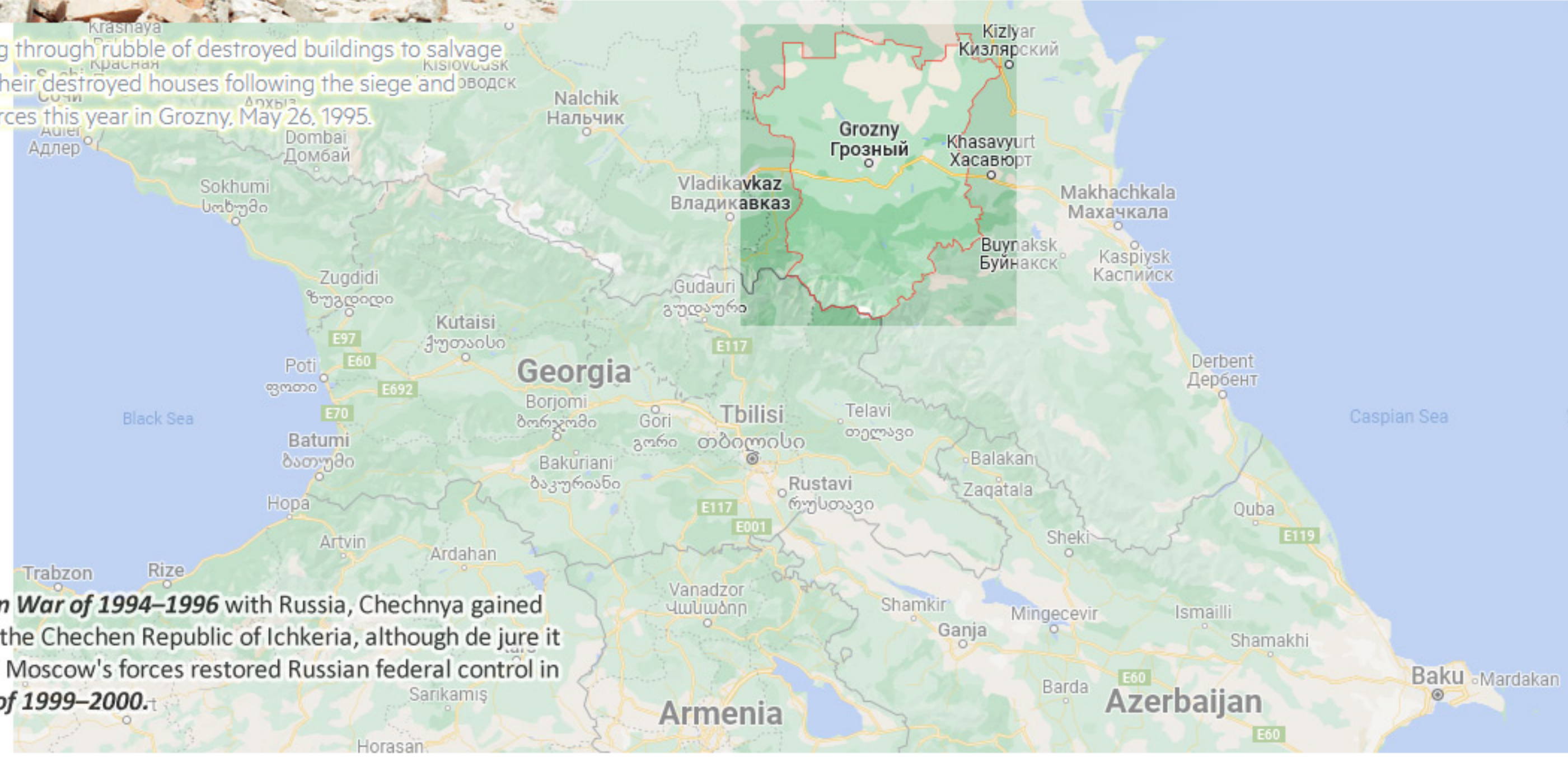
Residents of Grozny dig through rubble of destroyed buildings to salvage whole bricks to repair their destroyed houses following the siege and takeover by Russian forces this year in Grozny, May 26, 1995.

a trained team of Chechen assassins is now in Ukraine to assassinate Zelensky

Britain's Prime Minister said of Vladimir Putin: "His only instinct is going to be to double down and to try and **'Grozny-fy' Kyiv**, if you know what I mean," Boris Johnson said. And what does Johnson mean?

In 1999, Vladimir Putin ordered the complete destruction of the Chechen capital of Grozny. The Russian military laid waste to Grozny, killing tens of thousands of civilians. In Putin's own words, his troops "fulfilled their task to the end." They finished in February 2000 -- a place the U.N. declared the most destroyed city on Earth.


2 March 2022: A group of Chechen assassins sent to kill Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky were "eliminated" after their plot was foiled, said the head of Ukraine's National Security and Defense Council.



Following the **First Chechen War of 1994–1996** with Russia, Chechnya gained de facto independence as the Chechen Republic of Ichkeria, although de jure it remained a part of Russia. Moscow's forces restored Russian federal control in the **Second Chechen War of 1999–2000.**

What Putin's destruction of Grozny in 1999 means for Ukraine now

March 02, 2022

By [Hilary McQuilkin](#) and [Meghna Chakrabarti](#) 



Residents of Grozny dig through rubble of destroyed buildings to salvage whole bricks to repair their destroyed houses following the siege and takeover by Russian forces this year in Grozny, May 26, 1995.

This handout photo released by Ukrainian Emergency Service shows a view of the damaged City Hall building in Kharkiv, Ukraine, Tuesday, March 1, 2022. Russian shelling pounded civilian targets in Ukraine's second-largest city, Kharkiv, Tuesday and a 40-mile convoy of tanks and other vehicles threatened the capital, tactics Ukraine's embattled president said were designed to force him into concessions in Europe's largest ground war in generations. (Ukrainian Emergency Service via AP)

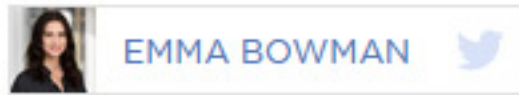
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Following the *First Chechen War of 1994-1996*, Chechnya gained de facto independence as the Chechen Republic of Ichkeria, but remained a part of Russia. Moscow's forces retook Chechnya during the *Second Chechen War of 1999-2009*.

Putin calls sanctions a declaration of war as Zelenskyy pleads for more aid

MARCH 5, 2022 · 4:51 PM ET



Russian President Vladimir Putin, center, issued strong words over the West's sanctions against his country as it continues its invasion of Ukraine. The remarks were issued during a meeting Saturday with employees of national airline Aeroflot.

Russian President Vladimir Putin said the financial penalties imposed on his country by the West amount to a declaration of war as Russia continues its attacks on Ukraine. "These sanctions that are being imposed, they are akin to declaring war," Putin told a group of flight attendants near Moscow on Saturday, according to The Associated Press. "But thank God, we haven't got there yet."

In response to Russia's invasion in Ukraine, Western countries have put severe restrictions on Russia's central bank, barred companies from doing business in Russia, and have begun seizing oligarchs' yachts and luxury properties abroad.

Putin also said that any attempt to install a no-fly zone in Ukraine would cause catastrophic consequences for Europe and the world.

NATO has rejected Kyiv's request for a no-fly zone, reasoning that the step would provoke Russia into a waging a larger war that could pit the U.S. and its allies against the nuclear-armed country.

In a video posted on social media, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy slammed NATO over the decision. "People who die from this day going forward will die, in part, because of you," he said.

Nebraska Sen. Ben Sasse, a Republican, said he interpreted Zelenskyy's message as "close the skies or give us planes," and joined the call for supplying Ukraine with aircraft. But Sasse said a no-fly zone means risking "a battle between nuclear powers that could spiral out of control quickly."

Ukraine's leader makes an appeal directly to members of the U.S. Congress. Zelenskyy spoke with U.S. lawmakers, asking for a ban on buying Russian products — including oil and gas, U.S. congressional leaders said on social media. He also asked for more defense aid, including aircraft.

A source on the call tells NPR's Claudia Grisales that Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer reassured Zelenskyy of bipartisan support for an emergency aid package. "Senator McConnell and I along with the other members on this Zoom are working very hard in a bipartisan fashion to get all the assistance the administration has requested for the Ukrainian people. Together we will get that assistance of over \$10 billion in economic, humanitarian and security assistance to the Ukrainian people quickly," Schumer said on the call.

Schumer released a statement after the call specifically citing a plea for aircraft: "President Zelenskyy made a desperate plea for Eastern European countries to provide Russian-made planes to Ukraine. These planes are very much needed. And I will do all I can to help the administration to facilitate their transfer."

More than 280 lawmakers from both parties and chambers joined the call Saturday, according to Sen. Chris Coons, D-Del., a member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

How do Russia's reasons for war stack up? An expert on 'just war' explains

Published: March 5, 2022 8:39am EST



Two men speak in the backyard of a house damaged by a Russian airstrike, according to locals, in Gorenka, Ukraine, March 2, 2022.

War is always a tragedy. It sometimes seems inevitable. But is it ever justified?

Philosophers, theologians, politicians and military leaders have wrestled with this question for millennia. And to a large degree, they've come to some basic agreements about what makes a war morally defensible: a set of ideas known as the "just war tradition."

Ethics Explainer: Just War Theory

<https://ethics.org.au/ethics-explainer-just-war/>

by The Ethics Centre | 19 JUL 2016

Ultimately, the tradition evolved to encompass six principles to evaluate the justness of a war: legitimate authority, just cause, proportionality, likelihood of success, last resort and right intent.

1. Legitimate authority: Historically, just war analysis began by asking about legitimate authority. Had the war been declared by a responsible sovereign? In the classical just war tradition, the right to wage war was limited to the highest secular authority in a particular political community.

2. Just cause: To be justifiable, a war must also be fought with the aim of accomplishing a just cause. Traditionally, two motives were considered just: self-defense and righting wrongs. Aquinas defined a just war as one fought to "avenge injuries, if some nation or state ... has neglected to punish a wrong committed by its citizens, or to return something that was wrongfully taken."

3. Proportionality: All wars cause harm, but a justifiable use of force cannot cause more harm than the good it hopes to promote.

4. Likelihood of success: The logic of proportionality also requires considering the probability of success. As one contemporary ethicist put it, "'probability' is considerably more likely than a mere 'hope,' 'chance,' or 'possibility.'" There must be a real chance that the use of force can actually accomplish the war's stated aims.

5. Last resort: The principle of "last resort" demands that all other reasonable means of resolving the conflict must be exhausted before going to war.

6. Right intent: Finally, the principle of right intent asserts that the attackers' stated cause must be the actual motivating cause.

[Putin's] Claims about protecting Russian speakers ring hollow as escalating violence endangers Russian-speaking Ukrainian soldiers and civilians. The Kremlin's fast-track process of giving Russian citizenship to Ukrainians in the Donbas jars with claims that Russian citizens must be rescued.

The Kremlin clearly sought a plausible moral justification for its war. Failing to find one, it will likely find itself even more isolated on the world stage.



A woman cries outside a house damaged by a Russian airstrike in Gorenka, outside the capital Kyiv, Ukraine, March 2, 2022.



Tu Youyou shared the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine in 2015. Claudio Bresciani/AFP via Getty Images

Women's History Month: 5 groundbreaking researchers who mapped the ocean floor, tested atomic theories, vanquished malaria and more

Published: March 4, 2022 8:21am EST

👇 [Maggie Villiger](#), [The Conversation](#), [Jia-Chen Fu](#), [Kristoffer Whitney](#), [Suzanne OConnell](#), [Tamar Lichter Blanks](#), [Xuejian Wu](#)

Behind some of the most fascinating scientific discoveries and innovations are women whose names might not be familiar but whose stories are worth knowing. Of course, there are far too many to all fit on one list. But here are five profiles from The Conversation's archive that highlight the brilliance, grit and unique perspectives of five women who worked in geosciences, math, ornithology, pharmacology and physics during the 20th century.

1. Revealing and mapping the ocean floor: As late as the 1950s, wrote Wesleyan University geoscientist Suzanne OConnell, "many scientists assumed the seabed was featureless." Enter **Marie Tharp**. In 1957, she and her research partner started publishing detailed hand-drawn maps of the ocean floor, complete with rugged mountains, valleys and deep trenches. Her discovery of a rift valley in the North Atlantic shook the world of geology – her supervisor on the ship dismissed her idea as "girl talk," and Jacques Cousteau was determined to prove her wrong. But she was right, and her insight was a key contribution to plate tectonic theory. That's part of why, OConnell writes, "I believe Tharp should be as famous as Jane Goodall or Neil Armstrong."

2. Sympathetic observation of bird behavior: **Margaret Morse Nice** was a field biologist who got into the minds of her study subjects to garner new insights into animal behavior. Most famously she observed song sparrows in the 1920s and '30s. "When I first studied the Song Sparrows," Nice wrote, "I had looked upon Song Sparrow 4M as a truculent, meddlesome neighbor; but ... I discovered him to be a delightful bird, spirited, an accomplished songster and a devoted father."

3. A medical researcher in Maoist China: At the height of China's Cultural Revolution, a young scientist named **Tu Youyou** headed a covert operation called Project 523 under military supervision. One of her team's goals was to identify and systematically test substances used in traditional Chinese medicine in an effort to vanquish chloroquine-resistant malaria. Tu followed a hunch about how to extract an antimalarial compound from the qinghao or artemisia plant. By 1971, her team had successfully "obtained a nontoxic and neutral extract that was called qinghaosu or artemisinin." In 2015, she was honored with a Nobel Prize.

4. A mathematician who wouldn't be diverted: Not everyone gets called a "creative mathematical genius" by Albert Einstein. But **Emmy Noether** did. Mathematician Tamar Lichter Blanks wrote about the roadblocks Noether faced as a Jewish woman who wanted to pursue a math career in early 1900s Germany. For a while, Noether supervised doctoral students without pay and taught university courses listed under the name of a male colleague. All the while, she conducted her own research in theoretical physics, contributing to Einstein's theory of relativity. Her most revolutionary work was in ring theory and is still pondered by mathematicians today. Noether died less than two years after emigrating to the U.S. to escape the Nazis.



A 2021 U.S. postage stamp featuring Chien-Shiung Wu. U.S. Postal Service

5. Testing nuclear theories one by one: While sometimes called the "Chinese Marie Curie" in her home country, nuclear physicist **Chien-Shiung Wu** is less well-known in the U.S., where she did the bulk of her work. Rutgers University-Newark physicist Xuejian Wu considered Chien-Shiung Wu (no relation) "an icon" who inspired his own career path.

As a grad student, Wu traveled by steamship to California in 1936, where she fell in love with atomic nuclei research at UC Berkeley, home of a brand new cyclotron. She worked on the Manhattan Project during World War II. Among her many accomplishments, Wu's careful experimental work discovered what's called parity nonconservation – that is, that a physical process and its mirror reflection are not necessarily identical. Her colleagues who focused on the theoretical side of this breakthrough won the 1957 Nobel Prize in physics, but Wu was overlooked.

Emmy Noether

"Noether died less than two years after emigrating to the U.S. to escape the Nazis."

Amalie Emmy Noether (23 March 1882 – 14 April 1935) was a German mathematician who made many important contributions to abstract algebra. **She discovered Noether's theorem, which is fundamental in mathematical physics.** She was described by Pavel Alexandrov, Albert Einstein, Jean Dieudonné, Hermann Weyl and Norbert Wiener as the most important woman in the history of mathematics. As one of the leading mathematicians of her time, she developed some theories of rings, fields, and algebras. In physics, Noether's theorem explains the connection between symmetry and conservation laws.

Noether was born to a Jewish family in the Franconian town of Erlangen; her father was the mathematician Max Noether. She originally planned to teach French and English after passing the required examinations, but instead studied mathematics at the University of Erlangen, where her father lectured. After completing her doctorate in 1907 under the supervision of Paul Gordan, she worked at the Mathematical Institute of Erlangen without pay for seven years. At the time, women were largely excluded from academic positions. In 1915, she was invited by David Hilbert and Felix Klein to join the mathematics department at the University of Göttingen, a world-renowned center of mathematical research. The philosophical faculty objected, however, and she spent four years lecturing under Hilbert's name. Her habilitation was approved in 1919, allowing her to obtain the rank of Privatdozent.

Noether remained a leading member of the Göttingen mathematics department until 1933; her students were sometimes called the "Noether boys". In 1924, Dutch mathematician B. L. van der Waerden joined her circle and soon became the leading expositor of Noether's ideas; her work was the foundation for the second volume of his influential 1931 textbook, *Moderne Algebra*. By the time of her plenary address at the 1932 International Congress of Mathematicians in Zürich, her algebraic acumen was recognized around the world. The following year, Germany's Nazi government dismissed Jews from university positions, and Noether moved to the United States to take up a position at Bryn Mawr College in Pennsylvania where she taught, among others, doctoral and post-graduate women including Marie Johanna Weiss, Ruth Stauffer, Grace Shover Quinn and Olga Taussky-Todd. At the same time, she lectured and performed research at the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton, New Jersey.

Noether's mathematical work has been divided into three "epochs". In the first (1908–1919), she made contributions to the theories of algebraic invariants and number fields. Her work on differential invariants in the calculus of variations, Noether's theorem, has been called "one of the most important mathematical theorems ever proved in guiding the development of modern physics". In the second epoch (1920–1926), she began work that "changed the face of [abstract] algebra". In her classic 1921 paper *Idealtheorie in Ringbereichen* (Theory of Ideals in Ring Domains), Noether developed the theory of ideals in commutative rings into a tool with wide-ranging applications. She made elegant use of the ascending chain condition, and objects satisfying it are named Noetherian in her honor. In the third epoch (1927–1935), she published works on noncommutative algebras and hypercomplex numbers and united the representation theory of groups with the theory of modules and ideals. In addition to her own publications, Noether was generous with her ideas and is credited with several lines of research published by other mathematicians, even in fields far removed from her main work, such as algebraic topology.

Death: In April 1935 doctors discovered a tumor in Noether's pelvis. During the operation they discovered an ovarian cyst "the size of a large cantaloupe". Two smaller tumors in her uterus appeared to be benign and were not removed, to avoid prolonging surgery. For three days she appeared to convalesce normally. On 14 April she fell unconscious, her temperature soared to 109 °F (42.8 °C), and she died. A few days after Noether's death her friends and associates at Bryn Mawr held a small memorial service at College President Park's house. In the months that followed, written tributes began to appear around the globe: Albert Einstein joined van der Waerden, Weyl, and Pavel Alexandrov in paying their respects. Her body was cremated and the ashes interred under the walkway around the cloisters of the M. Carey Thomas Library at Bryn Mawr.

Emmy Noether



Born	<div>Amalie Emmy Noether</div> 23 March 1882 <div>Erlangen, Bavaria, German Empire</div>
Died	<div>14 April 1935 (aged 53)</div> Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania, United States
Nationality	German
Alma mater	University of Erlangen
Known for	Abstract algebra <div> <div><div>Theoretical physics</div></div> <div><div>Noether's theorem</div></div> <div><div>Noetherian ring</div></div> <div><div>Lasker–Noether theorem</div></div> </div>
Awards	<div>Ackermann–Teubner Memorial Award (1932)</div>
	Scientific career
Fields	Mathematics and physics
Institutions	University of Göttingen <div> <div><div>Bryn Mawr College</div></div> </div>
Thesis	<div><i>On Complete Systems of Invariants for Ternary Biquadratic Forms</i> (1907)</div>
Doctoral advisor	Paul Gordan
Doctoral students	Max Deuring <div> <div><div>Hans Fitting</div></div> <div><div>Grete Hermann</div></div> <div><div>Chiungtze C. Tsen</div></div> <div><div>Jacob Levitzki</div></div> <div><div>Otto Schilling</div></div> <div><div>Ernst Witt</div></div> </div>





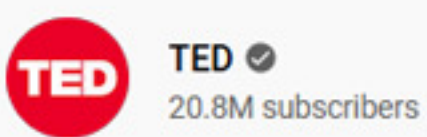
Our hope is that people will look these creatures in the eyes, and be inspired to care, while there is still time.





The War in Ukraine Could Change Everything | Yuval Noah Harari | TED

1,215,128 views • Mar 2, 2022 [Like] [Dislike] [Share] [Save] ...



Concerned about the war Ukraine? You're not alone. Historian Yuval Noah Harari provides important context on the Russian invasion, including Ukraine's long history of resistance, the specter of nuclear war and his view of why, even if Putin wins all the military battles, he's already lost the war. (This talk and conversation, hosted by TED global curator Bruno Giussani, was part of a TED Membership event on March 1, 2022.)

S **Sticky Stranger** 1 day ago

Thank you for your words. I'm from Russia and starting from yesterday there is a law which allows our government throw people protesting against the war in a prison for up to 5 years. It's incredibly that asking for peace in Russia is against the law but no problems if you want to support the war.

[Like] 503 [Dislike] REPLY

View 95 replies

00:04 > Bruno Giussani: We are at the end of day six of the war in Ukraine or, more correctly, of the Russian invasion of Ukraine, launched on February 24 by President Vladimir Putin. We are all shocked and saddened by the events and by the human suffering they are causing. And as we speak, really, a Russian military convoy is headed towards Kyiv, other Ukrainian cities are being bombarded, half a million Ukrainians have already fled to neighboring countries and much more. It's still early days, and it's difficult to predict how the situation will evolve even just in the next few hours. But this is a war that should concern everyone, everywhere. And so today, in this TED Membership conversation, we want to try to give it a broader context with our guest, historian and author, Yuval Noah Harari. Yuval, welcome.

01:03 > Yuval Noah Harari: Hello. Thank you for inviting me.

BG: I want to start from Ukraine itself and its 42 million people and its particular place between the East and the West. What do we need to know about Ukraine to understand this war and what's at stake?

01:21 > YNH: The most crucial thing to know is that Ukrainians are not Russians, and that Ukraine is an ancient, independent nation. Ukraine has a history of more than a thousand years. Kyiv was a major metropolis and cultural center when Moscow was not even a village. For most of these thousand years Kyiv was not ruled by Moscow. They were not part of the same political entity. For centuries, Kyiv was looking westwards and was a part of a union with Lithuania and Poland until it was eventually conquered and absorbed by the Russian Empire, by the czarist empire. But even after that, Ukrainians remained a separate people to a large extent, and it's important to know that because this is really what is at stake in this war. The key issue of the war, at least for President Putin, is whether Ukraine is an independent nation, whether it is a nation at all. He has this fantasy that Ukraine isn't a nation, that Ukraine is just a part of Russia, that Ukrainians are Russians. In his fantasy, Ukrainians are Russians that want to be back in the fold of Mother Russia, and that the only ones preventing it is a very small gang at the top, which he portrays as Nazis, even if the president is Jewish; but OK, a Nazi Jew. And his belief was, at least, that he just needs to invade, Zelenskyy will flee, the government will collapse, the army would lay down its arms, and the Ukrainian people would welcome the Russian liberators, throwing flowers on them. And this fantasy has been shattered already. Zelenskyy hasn't fled, the Ukrainian army is fighting. And the Ukrainian people is not throwing flowers on the Russian tanks, it's throwing Molotov cocktails.

Thousands Detained In Anti-War Protests Across Russia

<https://youtu.be/miUOKotelDs>

Thousands of anti-war protesters in Russia were detained by police on March 6 as demonstrations against President Vladimir Putin's invasion of Ukraine were held across the country. According to the independent protest-monitoring group OVD-Info, more than 4,800 people were detained.

RadioFreeEurope
RadioLiberty

March 6, St. Petersburg

No to war! No to war!

Play (k)



0:44 / 1:24





← **Katerina Kotrikadze**
1,709 Tweets



Katerina Kotrikadze

@katyakotrikadze

TV Rain, Host

📍 New York, USA 🔗 tvrain.ru 🗓 Born March 23, 1984 📅 Joined August 2011

565 Following 11.1K Followers

↻ Katerina Kotrikadze Retweeted



CNN @CNN · 4h

"The society in Russia is divided terribly."

TV Rain news director and anchor @katyakotrikadze tells CNN's @FareedZakaria about the information divide in Russian society and the shutdown of the independent Russian news outlet.



86 301 685

Russian news director and anchor, Ekaterina Kotrikadze, speaks to CNN's Fareed Zakaria about the state of the country's news media after her station, **TV Rain**, shut down due to the Russian government's crackdown on local media over unfavorable coverage of the war in Ukraine.

Ekaterina Besikievna Kotrikadze (Russian: Екатерина Бесикиевна Котрикадзе; born 23 March 1984) is a Russian journalist and media manager, host of the **Dozhd** TV channel and the former head of the information service of the **RTVI** TV channel.^[1]

Ekaterina Kotrikadze was born in **Tbilisi, Georgian Soviet Socialist Republic**. In 2005 she graduated with honours from the **Faculty of Journalism of Moscow State University**.^[2]

Her mother died in the **explosion of house number 19 on Guryanov Street in Moscow in 1999**; their apartment was above the epicenter of the explosion.^[3]

From 2003 to 2005, Ekaterina worked on the **Dangerous Zone** (Russian: Опасная зона) programme on the **TVC** channel.^[4]

In 2006 she returned to **Georgia**.^[5] The first place of work in Georgia was the **Alania** TV channel, where Kotrikadze started from the position of an ordinary reporter, having worked for three years. At the same time, in 2008, she began cooperation on the **RTVI** channel as a correspondent for Georgia.^[4] In 2009 she began working for the Russian radio station **Echo of Moscow**.^[6]

Ekaterina Kotrikadze



Kotrikadze in 2021

Екатерина Котрикадзе

Born	23 March 1984 (age 37) Tbilisi (Soviet Union)
Alma mater	MSU Faculty of Journalism
Occupation	Journalist, news presenter
Employer	Dozhd (2020–)
Spouse(s)	Tikhon Dzyadko
Awards	Redkollegia (2021)
Position held	television presenter (Dozhd, 2020–)

More than 1.5 million Ukrainians have fled their country

This is the fastest-growing refugee crisis in Europe since World War II, the U.N. high commissioner for refugees said.





EUROPE

Russia sets cease-fire for evacuations amid heavy shelling



WORLD

The death toll surpasses 6 million for a pandemic now in its 3rd year



INVESTIGATIONS

As COVID spread in federal prisons, many at-risk inmates tried and failed to get out



POLITICS

Bill Barr won't back a 2024 Trump run, but doesn't quite condemn his former boss



SHOTS - HEALTH NEWS

Delaware is shrinking racial gaps in cancer death. Its secret? Patient navigators



NATIONAL



Press 3 for a pep talk from kindergarteners. A new hotline gives you options for joy



Refugees, mostly women with children, rest inside a tent after arriving at the border crossing, in Medyka, Poland on Sunday.

Press 3 for a pep talk from kindergartners. A new hotline gives you options for joy

Updated March 6, 2022 - 5:34 PM ET
Heard on Weekend Edition Sunday

 ADRIAN FLORIDO   HIBA AHMAD

"I thought, you know, with this world being as it is, we all really needed to hear from them — their extraordinary advice and their continual joy," says Jessica Martin, who teaches the arts program at West Side Elementary, a small school in the town of Healdsburg, Calif.


Call a new hotline for encouraging words from a resilient group of kindergartners. Kids' voices will prompt you with a menu of options: If you're feeling mad, frustrated or nervous, press 1. If you need words of encouragement and life advice, press 2. If you need a pep talk from kindergartners, press 3. If you need to hear kids laughing with delight, press 4. For encouragement in Spanish, press 5.

"Be grateful for yourself"



"Their creativity and resourcefulness is something that we need to emulate, because that level of joy and love and imagination is what's going to save us in the end," Martinsaid. "That this went viral is really testament that we all still have a lot of healing to do," she said. "And you know, with the current situation in Ukraine and all of the other terrors and sadness that we all carry, it's really important that we continue to hold this light."

"If you're feeling up high and unbalanced, think of groundhogs"



FEELING FRUSTRATED? SAD?
MAYBE YOU JUST NEED SOME ENCOURAGEMENT?

GIVE THE PEPTOC HOTLINE A CALL AND
HEAR WORDS OF WISDOM FROM
THE STUDENTS AT WEST SIDE ELEMENTARY

CALL TODAY!
707-998-8410

"It's okay to be different. We all really like you."

On 'Bloody Sunday,' Harris reflects on the current fight for voting rights

March 6, 2022 · 5:54 PM ET

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Vice President Kamala Harris marches on the Edmund Pettus Bridge after speaking in Selma, Ala.,

SELMA, Ala. — Vice President Kamala Harris visited Selma, Alabama, on Sunday to commemorate a defining moment in the fight for equal voting rights, even as congressional efforts to restore the landmark 1965 Voting Rights Act have faltered.

Under a blazing blue sky, Harris linked arms with rank-and-file activists from the civil rights movement and led thousands across the bridge where, on March 7, 1965, white state troopers attacked Black voting rights marchers attempting to cross. The images of violence at the Edmund Pettus Bridge — originally named for a Confederate general — shocked the nation and helped galvanize support for passage of the Voting Rights Act.

Harris called the site hallowed ground on which people fought for the "most fundamental right of America citizenship: the right to vote."

"Today, we stand on this bridge at a different time," Harris said in a speech before the gathered crowd. "We again, however, find ourselves caught in between. Between injustice and justice. Between disappointment and determination. Still in a fight to form a more perfect union. And nowhere is that more clear than when it comes to the ongoing fight to secure the freedom to vote."

The attack on marchers who were advocating for civil rights became a defining moment

There have been new voting restrictions put in place since 1965

A Supreme Court ruling in 2013 opened the door for states to pass more restrictions

The U.S. Supreme Court in 2013 gutted a portion of the 1965 law that required certain states with a history of discrimination in voting, mainly in the South, to get U.S. Justice Department approval before changing the way they hold elections.

The supporters of the end of preclearance said the requirement — while necessary in the 1960s — was no longer needed. Voting rights activists have warned the end of preclearance is emboldening states to pass a new wave of voting restrictions.

The sweeping legislation called the Freedom to Vote: John R. Lewis Act would restore the preclearance requirement and the put nationwide standards for how elections operate — such as making Election Day a national holiday and allowing early voting nationwide — establish rules for redistricting criteria.



Vice President Kamala Harris marches on the Edmund Pettus Bridge after speaking in Selma, Ala., on Sunday.

Adopted a dog during the pandemic? Put a leash on it or pay, if you live in San Diego

March 6, 2022 · 7:30 AM ET

CLAIRE TRAGESER

FROM  **kpbs**



A dog runs at a park in San Diego, Calif.

On a seasonably cool evening, several dogs run off leash on a field filled with kids playing soccer and baseball in the Allied Gardens neighborhood of San Diego. One of the dogs is Ellie, who's owned by Marty Marcus, a local resident who's been bringing his adorable pet to frolic in this area for years. Ellie barks and runs in circles as Marcus talks. "For the most part, the people who come down here do control their dogs," Marcus says. "Yeah, mine is barking a lot. She wants to run and play. And yes, she has bumped into you a few times. But outside of that, most of the dogs down here are reasonably well behaved." But dogs are not allowed off leash at this field, and Marcus knew he was breaking the rules. "The dog still needs exercise, and there are very few dog parks in the area," Marcus says. He says he tried for two years to get a dog park built nearby but failed.

Another dog owner at the park, Regan Rath, says she lets her dog off leash because she can't wait for a dog park to be built. "Nothing's been done to try to establish a dog park in the area and we put a good two years' worth of work into trying to go the proper channels to get a legit dog park and we just hit every road block possible," she says. "We take our chances and we stay away when (ticketing) happens, but then the dog needs to run a week later so we come back."

According to the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animal, about 23 million American households adopted a pet during the pandemic. The Humane Society says it doesn't have exact numbers on how many people adopted dogs but lots of people did. And many of those persons got used to letting their dogs run free at nearly empty parks and school fields. Officials in San Diego, Seattle, Boston and Los Angeles say they're having more issues with off leash dogs, in part because of COVID-19. Now, these cities are aiming to put those dogs back on the leash. **Key among them is San Diego.** The city contracts with the San Diego Humane Society for its animal control services, and the Humane Society says it now has four "park patrol" officers who are giving out about 200 dog-related citations a month. **That's almost triple the number in the early stages of the pandemic.**

One reason San Diego is upping enforcement is that off leash dogs pose a risk, something Belén Hernando knows all too well. Her daughter, Alba, was attacked by a dog at a park last summer. "All of a sudden this dog jumped on her," Hernando says. "We ended up in the hospital, she was traumatized." Alba, who was 3 at the time, had to get stitches, and now struggles with a deep fear of dogs. People insist their dog is friendly and well behaved, but Alba doesn't know that. "It really changed our whole family dynamic and the way we spend our free time, because we couldn't come here because dogs were unleashed," Hernando says. "And then just going to any other park, we found that it happens the same."

One of San Diego's new park patrol officers is Sierra Dockery. On a recent morning, she was driving through a busy park and spotted two people watching their dogs run off leash. "This dog is digging a hole actively," she says. "They're looking at it and not doing anything, but I'll be making contact." ***She drove up to the young couple, hopped out and wrote them each a citation. "Do you know of any dog parks in the area?" she asked the couple. "Because there's like one literally down the street. It's about three minutes from here."***

The couple sheepishly accepted their \$300 tickets and promised they won't break the rules again.



Dogs run in the off-leash area on Fiesta Island in San Diego, Calif.

Republican 'unforced errors' threaten path to Senate control

By STEVE PEOPLES and BRIAN SLODYSKO 22 minutes ago



FILE - The Capitol is seen at sunrise, in Washington, Oct. 15, 2021. Republicans aiming to retake the Senate majority entered this election year with a favorable political climate. But after a series of recent failures to encourage centrist Republicans to run, the pressure is on the GOP to make sure that the party doesn't shift so far to the right that they risk losing otherwise winnable races. (AP Photo/J. Scott Applewhite, File)

...a recent plan that would raise taxes on low-income Americans and seniors, released by the Republican Senate midterm chief, Florida Sen. Rick Scott, is putting GOP candidates in a difficult position across states like Wisconsin, Ohio and Florida. The challenges amount to an early warning sign for Republicans less than two months before the opening Senate primaries of the 2022 election season. With Democrats confronting historic headwinds and the weight of an unpopular president, a Republican Senate majority is easily within reach. But, sensing discord within the GOP, Democrats are suddenly optimistic they may have a path to hold — or even expand — their majority.

Rep. Val Demings, the leading Democrat in the race to unseat Florida Sen. Marco Rubio, acknowledged that her party has struggled to highlight its accomplishments — including sweeping coronavirus pandemic relief and a massive infrastructure package — in the face of President Joe Biden's political woes. But she seized on Scott's plan as a clear contrast for how Democrats and Republicans would govern differently. "This plan is toxic. It would hurt working families. It would hurt seniors. And Rubio's going to own it," Demings said in an interview.

Democratic strategists acknowledge their party's uphill odds in the months ahead. But on paper, at least, the current Senate landscape gives them an inherent advantage. "Frankly, Democrats just need to hold seats in states Biden won," said Jessica Floyd, the president of the pro-Democratic super PAC American Bridge, which launched a \$5 million paid advertising campaign late last week across four states: Arizona, Georgia, Nevada and Pennsylvania. "The map matters." While Biden did win all four of American Bridge's target states, the Democratic president won three of them by 1 percentage point or less and the other by just 2 percentage points. Those margins should give Democrats little comfort.

Meanwhile, escalating tensions among Republican leaders at the highest levels threatens to undercut the party's ambitions. McConnell and former President Donald Trump have long sparred over Republican messaging and candidate endorsements. In some states, Trump favors far-right nominees who struggle in statewide general elections. But for now, a simmering feud between McConnell and Scott has taken center stage. Scott, the leader of the GOP's Senate midterm efforts, released an 11-point plan late last month that would impose a modest tax increase for many of the lowest paid Americans, while opening the door for cutting Social Security and Medicare. The Senate Democrats' political arm released a radio ad within 24 hours declaring, "If Senate Republicans win, we pay the price."

Meanwhile, in Florida, Demings offered a window into the Democrats' challenge by refusing to say whether she wanted Biden to campaign in the state on her behalf when asked. "I grew up poor, Black and female in the South," Demings told The Associated Press. "I've never depended on someone else to do the work for me or someone to give me a pass or come to rescue me." "I'm excited about where we are in this race," she said.


Death toll surpasses 6 million for pandemic now in 3rd year

By DAVID RISING an hour ago



BANGKOK (AP) — The official global death toll from COVID-19 eclipsed 6 million on Monday — underscoring that the pandemic, now entering its third year, is far from over.

The milestone, recorded by Johns Hopkins University, is the latest tragic reminder of the unrelenting nature of the pandemic even as people are shedding masks, travel is resuming and businesses are reopening around the globe.

 1 of 27

FILE - Nurses perform timed breathing exercises on a COVID-19 patient on a ventilator in the COVID-19 intensive care unit at the la Timone hospital in Marseille, southern France, Friday, Dec. 31, 2021. The official global death toll from COVID-19 is on the verge of eclipsing 6 million — underscoring that the pandemic, now in its third year, is far from over. (AP Photo/Daniel Cole, File)

Death toll surpasses 6 million for pandemic now in 3rd year

By DAVID RISING an hour ago

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BAN FILE - Registered nurse Rachel Chamberlin steps out of an isolation room where Fred Rutherford recovers from COVID-19 at the Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center, in Lebanon, N.H., Monday, Jan. 3, 2022. The official global death toll from COVID-19 is on the verge of eclipsing 6 million – underscoring that the pandemic, now in its third year, is far from over. (AP Photo/Steven Senne, File)

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Death toll surpasses 6 million for pandemic now in 3rd year

By DAVID RISING an hour ago

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BAN FILE - Nurse Marie-Laure Satta pauses during her New Year's Eve shift in the COVID-19 intensive care unit at the la Timone hospital in Marseille, southern France, Friday, Dec. 31, 2021. The official global death toll from COVID-19 is on the verge of eclipsing 6 million – underscoring that the pandemic, now in its third year, is far from over. (AP Photo/Daniel Cole, File)

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BAN FILE - Workers in protective gear bury a coronavirus victim during a funeral at a cemetery in Yogyakarta, Indonesia, Thursday, Feb. 17, 2022. The official global death toll from COVID-19 is on the verge of eclipsing 6 million — underscoring that the pandemic, now in its third year, is far from over. (AP Photo/Slamet Riyadi, File)

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BAN FILE - A man runs out of the heat emitting from the multiple funeral pyres of COVID-19 victims at a crematorium in the outskirts of New Delhi, India, Thursday, April 29, 2021. The official global death toll from COVID-19 is on the verge of eclipsing 6 million – underscoring that the pandemic, now in its third year, is far from over. (AP Photo/Amit Sharma, FILE)


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BAN FILE - A worker handles a coronavirus test sample at a private testing site in Beijing, Wednesday, Jan. 26, 2022. The official global death toll from COVID-19 is on the verge of eclipsing 6 million – underscoring that the pandemic, now in its third year, is far from over. (AP Photo/Mark Schiefelbein, File)

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Death toll surpasses 6 million for pandemic now in 3rd year

By DAVID RISING an hour ago

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BAN FILE - A health worker takes a swab sample of a man to test for the coronavirus as others wait to get tested in Ahmedabad, India, Monday, Jan. 17, 2022. The official global death toll from COVID-19 is on the verge of eclipsing 6 million – underscoring that the pandemic, now in its third year, is far from over. (AP Photo/Ajit Solanki, File)

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Death toll surpasses 6 million for pandemic now in 3rd year

By DAVID RISING an hour ago

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FILE - Medical workers in booths take nasal samples from people at a makeshift coronavirus testing site in Seoul, South Korea, Wednesday, Jan. 26, 2022. The official global death toll from COVID-19 is on the verge of eclipsing 6 million – underscoring that the pandemic, now in its third year, is far from over. (AP Photo/Ahn Young-joon, File)

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Death toll surpasses 6 million for pandemic now in 3rd year

By DAVID RISING an hour ago

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BAN FILE - Patients lie on hospital beds waiting at a temporary holding area outside the Caritas Medical Centre in Hong Kong Wednesday, Feb. 16, 2022. The official global death toll from COVID-19 is on the verge of eclipsing 6 million – underscoring that the pandemic, now in its third year, is far from over. (AP Photo Vincent Yu, File)

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BAN FILE - People protest Gov. Gary Herbert during an anti-mask rally outside of the Governors Mansion Saturday, Sept. 12, 2020, in Salt Lake City. The official global death toll from COVID-19 is on the verge of eclipsing 6 million – underscoring that the pandemic, now in its third year, is far from over. (AP Photo/Rick Bowmer, File)

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BAN FILE - People protest mask mandates outside the State Capitol, Wednesday, Feb. 9, 2022, in Hartford, Conn. The official global death toll from COVID-19 is on the verge of eclipsing 6 million – underscoring that the pandemic, now in its third year, is far from over. (AP Photo/Jessica Hill, File)

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BAN FILE - Kindergarten teacher Karen Drolet works with a masked student at Raices Dual Language Academy, a public school in Central Falls, R.I., Wednesday, Feb. 9, 2022. The official global death toll from COVID-19 is on the verge of eclipsing 6 million — underscoring that the pandemic, now in its third year, is far from over. (AP Photo/David Goldman, File)

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BAN FILE - Police use tear gas to disperse anti-vaccine protesters during a rally at Syntagma square in central Athens, on Wednesday, July 21, 2021. The official global death toll from COVID-19 is on the verge of eclipsing 6 million – underscoring that the pandemic, now in its third year, is far from over. (AP Photo/Yorgos Karahalios, File)

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BAN FILE - Truck drivers and others protest COVID-19 pandemic restrictions in Ottawa, Ontario, on Saturday, Feb. 12, 2022. The official global death toll from COVID-19 is on the verge of eclipsing 6 million — underscoring that the pandemic, now in its third year, is far from over. (AP Photo/Ted Shaffrey, File)

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BAN FILE - A Ukrainian family fleeing the Russian invasion arrives at the border crossing in Medyka, Poland, Wednesday, March 2, 2022, after fleeing from the Ukraine. The official global death toll from COVID-19 is on the verge of eclipsing 6 million – underscoring that the pandemic, now in its third year, is far from over. (AP Photo/Markus Schreiber, File)

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BAN FILE - Hundreds of beds are placed inside a sports hall to accommodate Ukrainian refugees fleeing the Russian invasion at the border crossing town of Medyka, Poland, on Tuesday, March 1, 2022. The official global death toll from COVID-19 is on the verge of eclipsing 6 million – underscoring that the pandemic, now in its third year, is far from over. (AP Photo/Visar Kryeziu, File)

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BAN FILE - A patient infected with the coronavirus sits on a bed in the intensive care unit of the Afghan Japan Communicable Disease Hospital, in Kabul, Afghanistan, Monday, Feb. 7, 2022. The official global death toll from COVID-19 is on the verge of eclipsing 6 million – underscoring that the pandemic, now in its third year, is far from over. (AP Photo/Hussein Malla, File)

The milestone, recorded by Johns Hopkins University, is the latest tragic reminder of the unrelenting nature of the pandemic even as people are

Live updates: Australian missiles “on the ground” in Ukraine

By The Associated Press today



1 of 9

People cross an improvised path under a destroyed bridge while fleeing the town of Irpin, Ukraine, Sunday, March 6, 2022. In Irpin, near Kyiv, a sea of people on foot and even in wheelbarrows trudged over the remains of a destroyed bridge to cross a river and leave the city. (AP Photo/Oleksandr Ratushniak)

SYDNEY — Australia’s prime minister has described Russia and China’s closer relationship as opportunistic rather than strategic.

Prime Minister Scott Morrison on Monday labeled the alliance an “Arc of Autocracy” and said Russia and China would prefer a new world order to the one that has been place since World War II.

Morrison has criticized Beijing’s failure to condemn Russia’s invasion of Ukraine and China’s expansion of trade in Russian wheat while other countries are imposing sanctions.

Australia last week promised Ukraine \$50 million in missiles, ammunition and other military hardware to fight Russian invaders.

**Morrison said on Monday:
“Our missiles are on the ground now.”**

'Lost Daughter' wins top prizes at Independent Spirit Awards

By LINDSEY BAHR today



Maggie Gyllenhaal accepts the award for best director for "The Lost Daughter" at the 37th Film Independent Spirit Awards on Sunday, March 6, 2022, in Santa Monica, Calif.

Maggie Gyllenhaal wins big at Spirit Awards

<https://youtu.be/Oyf4Wg1Fi8M>



THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

"Oh man, thank you!"



▶ ⏩ 🔊 2:49 / 2:59

