

OUR CRITICS PICK THEIR FAVORITES

Which holiday films are our USA TODAY Network movie writers most excited about? They gravitated toward these five:

	Allied	Assassin's Creed	Moana	Passengers	Rogue One: A Star Wars Story	CRITICS' COMMENTS
John Belfuss The (Memphis) Commercial Appeal					✓	Here's hoping 'Godzilla' director Gareth Edwards can bang the dashboard of George Lucas' exhausted space saga with enough energy to relaunch it into hyperspace.
Alex Biese The Asbury Park (N.J.) Press			✓			Voice acting by Dwayne Johnson? Music from 'Hamilton' mastermind Lin-Manuel Miranda? Nov. 23 can't get here soon enough.
Courtney Crowder The Des Moines Register	✓					Director Robert Zemeckis' World War II-era mystery looks to be a suspenseful character study on par with 'Cast Away' and 'Flight.'
Bill Goodykoontz The Arizona Republic				✓		A couple of passengers (Jennifer Lawrence and Chris Pratt) on a long-distance space flight wake up from their sleep chambers 90 years early. Excited to see how those two interact.
Carol Motsinger The Cincinnati Enquirer					✓	Just a few lines from 'A New Hope' inspired this space-opera-meets-heist film, first of the planned 'Star Wars' spinoffs. Much mystery surrounds the story, but the casting appears inspired, featuring some of the best (and most underrated) actors working today.
Brian Truitt USA TODAY					✓	You've got to be pretty sure of your story to bring Darth Vader back on the big screen. But the franchise has proven it's crazy strong in the Force, and returning to the period of the original trilogy — plus adding a new heroine — might as well be pop-culture catnip.
James Ward Visalia (Calif.) Times-Delta and Tulare Advance-Register		✓				There's never been a good movie based on a video game ('Super Mario Bros.' or 'Doom,' anyone?) so it will be interesting to see if A-list actor Michael Fassbender can break the curse.



DANIEL SMITH

Marianne (Marion Cotillard) and Max (Brad Pitt) are fighting on the same side — or are they?

▶ CONTINUED FROM TIT

ALLIED (NOV. 23)

STARS: Brad Pitt, Marion Cotillard, Jared Harris
DIRECTOR: Robert Zemeckis

PLOT: A intelligence officer (Pitt) and resistance fighter (Cotillard) fall in love while on a mission during World War II, but one finds out the other might be a Nazi spy.
THE SKINNY: He has gone *Back to the Future* and went back a few decades for *Forrest Gump*, yet *Allied* gives Zemeckis his first chance to do a World War II picture like the ones he grew up watching. "It was something that, even though I was born after the war, was very much part of my culture," the director says. Even with a bevy of bombing sequences plus Pitt and Cotillard shooting up a Nazi shindig, *Allied* is just as much a romantic thriller as spy adventure. "It's all about war and life and death and the enemy, but the emotional underpinning is how people who love each other deal with the possibility of betrayal."



DISNEY

Moana (voiced by Auli'i Cravalho) sets sail with her loyal pet pig, Pua, in search of a fabled island.

MOANA (NOV. 23)

STARS: Auli'i Cravalho, Dwayne Johnson, Jemaine Clement

DIRECTORS: Ron Clements and John Musker

PLOT: An adventurous youngster (Cravalho) teams with a cocky demigod (Johnson) to navigate their way to a fabled island to save her village.

THE SKINNY: Hawaiian newcomer Cravalho didn't have to study concept art or drawings to help her voice the teenage Moana. "I was able to connect to her in a way that even surprised me," she says. "She slips in and out between being me, but I also think of her as my best friend. Then I can root for her, I can watch her grow throughout the journey." While Moana's father wants her to stay at home, her grandmother pushes the girl to embrace her oceanic destiny. "I wasn't able to have a really close relationship to my grandparents," Cravalho says. "So throughout the film when I see Grandma Tala, who is courageous and believes in Moana 120,000%, I think of my mom."



BARRY WETCHER

Success story Howard Inlet (Will Smith) sees his life shattered by an unspeakable loss.

COLLATERAL BEAUTY (DEC. 16)

STARS: Will Smith, Edward Norton, Helen Mirren
DIRECTOR: David Frankel

PLOT: Emotionally wrecked by his daughter's death, an ad executive (Smith) is on a downward spiral until he's visited by Love (Keira Knightley), Time (Jacob Latimore) and Death (Mirren).

THE SKINNY: Smith's Howard Inlet writes letters to Love, Time and Death, and these mysterious figures show up to chat with him, so there's definitely some DNA of *It's a Wonderful Life* and *A Christmas Carol* baked into the film, Frankel says, adding that the film offers "a peek behind the curtain into people's lives and deeper emotions than we see every day." In addition to provoking questions about how we deal with crises in our lives, it's also unabashedly a Christmas movie. "You see one Santa skating around but there's no Salvation Army people tinkling bells or anything," Frankel says. "At the same time, the spirit and what's important about the holiday resonates."



KERRY BROWN

Callum Lynch/Aguilar (Michael Fassbender) sets off on a journey of self-discovery.

ASSASSIN'S CREED (DEC. 21)

STARS: Michael Fassbender, Marion Cotillard, Jeremy Irons

DIRECTOR: Justin Kurzel

PLOT: Using technology that awakens genetic memories, Callum Lynch (Fassbender) is able to experience the life of his ancestor Aguilar, a member of a society of Assassins during the Spanish Inquisition.

THE SKINNY: Fassbender thought of both roles in the video-game adaptation as distinct characters. Aguilar, who jumps off buildings and does parkour while fighting Templars, is like Clint Eastwood in a spaghetti Western. "He doesn't say a lot and is defined by his actions," the actor says. "He has a cause that he belongs to and he's willing to sacrifice himself." And Cal is very much a selfish lone wolf who has had to fend for himself from a very young age. "His journey is going to be about really finding out that he does belong to something greater." Kurzel says Fassbender's versatility is amazing: "There aren't that many actors who have that emotional range dramatically and at the same time are able to pull off some of these complicated moves."



JAMIE TRUEBLOOD

Aurora (Jennifer Lawrence) and Jim (Chris Pratt) find themselves alone and lost in space.

PASSENGERS (DEC. 21)

STARS: Jennifer Lawrence, Chris Pratt, Michael Sheen

DIRECTOR: Morten Tyldum

PLOT: Two people (Lawrence and Pratt) on a 120-year voyage to a new human space colony wake up 90 years before they're supposed to and face a number of problems aboard their starship.

THE SKINNY: Jon Spaihts says he wrote the screenplay for *Passengers* out of a desire to get sci-fi out of "its bleak dystopian ghetto" and recapture a feeling of "beauty, wonder and aspiration." Part of that comes from the starship itself, "the space-sailing equivalent of an extravagant cruise ship" designed to entice folks to go off-world. But beauty also lies in the dreams of these passengers "to start new lives on a colony world, to begin again and expand human civilization on a new world — kind of like the discovery of the Americas on an interplanetary scale," Spaihts says. "The whole movie stands as a meditation on fate and the extent to which we choose our courses."



UNIVERSAL

Buster Moon (voiced by Matthew McConaughey) teams with rocker Ash (Scarlett Johansson).

SING (DEC. 21)

STARS: Matthew McConaughey, Scarlett Johansson, Reese Witherspoon

DIRECTOR: Garth Jennings

PLOT: Eternally optimistic panda Buster Moon (voiced by McConaughey) hatches a plan for a singing competition to raise money to keep his theater from shutting down.

THE SKINNY: Buster has to juggle a contingent of contestants ranging from a bunch of Japanese pandas he can't understand to a cockney British gorilla who keeps running off, but through it all "he is really a swirling vortex of positivity trying to spin all these plates and keep this thing together," Jennings says. One of his favorite relationships in the movie is between Buster and Ash (Johansson), a talented punk-rock porcupine: He feels she just needs to bright up her gothic style and put on a girly princess dress to be a hit, but the look doesn't fit. "He's a little bit like an embarrassing uncle at the beginning," Jennings says. "It takes him a while to understand what Ash is all about, and it takes Ash a while herself to be that person."

HIDDEN FIGURES (DEC. 25)

STARS: Taraji P. Henson, Janelle Monáe, Octavia Spencer

DIRECTOR: Theodore Melfi

PLOT: A group of African-American women at NASA in the 1960s battling racial and gender inequality prove key to America staying competitive in the space race.

THE SKINNY: Henson's Katherine Johnson is a genius mathematician and Monáe's Mary Jackson is a talented engineer, but Spencer's Dorothy Vaughan could do it all. That's why she knew she had the right stuff for a supervisor title even though she wasn't getting paid for leading a well-regarded computing unit. "She's so unlike me," Spencer says, laughing. A mechanically incline and strong woman, Dorothy was taught how to do everything by her father, including fixing a car and building a motor. And that's what she actually did with a massive NASA IBM computer. "They were having problems with it, and she went and figured out how to program it. She's magnificent in that regard."



HOPPER STONE

Dorothy Vaughan (Octavia Spencer) leads a pioneering group of women pushing the frontiers of space flight.



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PUZZLE ANSWERS

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FASHION

Girl on a (style) train

Who's having a more fabulous fall than Emily Blunt? The English star opened her new thriller, *The Girl on the Train*, to a No. 1 debut, hosted *Saturday Night Live* and is about to take on the title role in Disney's *Mary Poppins Returns* opposite Lin-Manuel Miranda. What did she pack for her recent promo tour? (Hint: It was good.) USA TODAY's **Andrea Mandell** takes a look.

AUG. 18. A SHOW OF SWEET SUPPORT

In one of her first post-baby public appearances, the mother of two stunned in a white cutout David Koma cocktail dress while accompanying husband John Krasinski to his premiere of *The Hollars* (Krasinski directs and stars). Blunt told USA TODAY she's taking on the role of Mary Poppins as a "gift" to her daughters, Hazel, 2, and Violet, 4 months, whom she raises in New York with Krasinski.

SEPT. 14. FOCUSING ON FASHION WEEK

Sitting front-row at New York Fashion Week, it's a no-brainer to wear the designer who invited you. Blunt wore a mod Michael Kors ensemble for her trip.

AUG. 18 BY MICHAEL LOCCISANO, GETTY IMAGES; SEPT. 14 AND OCT. 4 BY DIMITRIOS KAMBOURIS, GETTY IMAGES; SEPT. 20 BY JOEL RYAN, AP; SEPT. 21 BY NEIL MOCKFORD, GC IMAGES; OCT. 6 BY RAY TAMARRA, GC IMAGES; OCT. 15 BY WILL HEATH, NBC



SEPT. 20. SPLASH ACROSS THE POND

Blunt launched *Girl on a Train* in London, where train tracks subbed in for the standard red carpet. She chose a colorful embroidered Alexander McQueen gown at the big premiere. "It's gradually — and I mean 'gradually,' it's certainly not coming in a big wave — but it's gradually becoming less of a shock horror when a film centered around women makes money," Blunt told USA TODAY.



SEPT. 21. HITTING THE PROMO TRAIL

For a promotional stop, Blunt chose separates, donning a sheer Burberry blouse and a printed Sachin & Babi Noir skirt. What can we expect from the future *Mary Poppins*? According to Disney, the Rob Marshall-directed film will take place in Depression-era London and follow the children from the original story, Jane and Michael Banks, who are now grown. (Michael has three children of his own.) They are visited by *Mary Poppins* after a personal loss.

OCT. 4. TAKING HER 'GIRL' TO THE BIG APPLE

The actress streamlined her look for her big NYC premiere, choosing a custom seafoam Prada gown with contrast blue piping.



OCT. 6. LIGHTING UP LATE-NIGHT

Lucky be a lady in Valentino. While visiting *The Late Show With Stephen Colbert*, Blunt wore a nude shell and a brightly hued lace pencil skirt with bold lipstick in a matching hue.



OCT. 15. CITY CHIC

If Blunt was nervous hosting *Saturday Night Live*, you couldn't tell. (But fierce fashion is a known nerves-killer.) The actress opened her *SNL* episode in a lacy sheer black dress and swiftly won over the crowd singing and handing out cookies, puppies and mom hugs.

Contributing: Patrick Ryan

HEALTH

Make Halloween less scary for allergic kids

Teal Pumpkin Project promotes non-food treats without tricks

Kim Painter
Special for USA TODAY

Back in 2012, a Tennessee mom named Becky Basalone had an idea: What if Halloween could be made a little less tricky for kids with food allergies?

Her idea became what is now the Teal Pumpkin Project, a nationwide effort to encourage families — whether their own kids have food restrictions or not — to offer up some non-food treats on Oct. 31. Participation is simple: You just put a teal-colored pumpkin or sign outside your door and offer trick-or-treaters glow sticks, spider rings, Halloween stickers or other non-food goodies, along with or instead of the traditional candies.

Food Allergy Research & Education (FARE), a non-profit advocacy group, first promoted the idea nationwide in 2014 with the help of a viral Facebook post, says Nancy Gregory, senior director of communications. In 2015, about 1 million people visited the group's website to get information, and about 10,000 of them — probably a fraction of participants — put their homes on an interactive map showing teal pumpkin sites, she says.

This year, the group is thinking bigger, Gregory says: "Our goal is to have a home on every block in America with a teal pumpkin. We hope that it becomes a new Halloween tradition."

Like any true American tradition, this one now has commercial tie-ins. FARE has licensed Teal Pumpkin Project products, from foam pumpkins to painting kits, for sale at partner retailers such as CVS, Michael's, Party City and Oriental Trading Company. The organization gets a cut for its research, education and advocacy programs.

But the more immediate beneficiaries are kids like Alexa Oganov, 5, of Middletown, N.J. The kindergartner has allergies to peanuts, tree nuts and eggs, says



SERGEI OGANOV

WANT TO PARTICIPATE?

- ▶ Paint or buy a teal pumpkin and put it where trick-or-treaters can see it. Or just put out a sign. Free downloadable versions are available at foodallergy.org/teal-pumpkin-project.
- ▶ Get some non-food treats. Suggestions from FARE include glow sticks, bracelets, necklaces, whistles, kazoo's, noisemakers, bubbles, vampire fangs, playing cards and bookmarks.
- ▶ If you choose to offer candy, too, put it in a separate bowl. Offer both options to all trick-or-treaters — and do not be surprised if children with no restrictions take the non-food items, participants have said.



FOOD ALLERGY RESEARCH & EDUCATION
Put out a teal pumpkin or a sign and offer non-food treats.

her mom, Michelle Oganov. "Before the Teal Pumpkin Project, we would go trick-or-treating, she would get candy and

Anastasia, 2, left, and Alexa Oganov, 5, try out their Halloween costumes at their home in Middletown, N.J. Alexa has food allergies, and the Teal Pumpkin Project has made the holiday more fun and exciting for her, her parents say.

that he and his parents would sort through at home, says his mother, Kati Ohlmeyer.

"Year after year, I would say 75% were things he couldn't eat," she says.

But now, as many as 10 houses in their neighborhood — most of them with no allergic children of their own — put out teal pumpkins, Ohlmeyer says.

The embrace of this new tradition, she says, is just one sign of what she sees as a bigger shift. When Ian was little, she says, "there was a real lack of understanding about the seriousness of food allergies. We have experienced a major shift in people's awareness, their acceptance of it and their willingness to make accommodations."

An estimated 1 in 13 children have food allergies, she says, and parents are getting used to keeping their needs in mind.

And it's not just kids with allergies who benefit when food-free treats are available. So do kids with diabetes and those with gluten sensitivity and other food intolerances, says Ohlmeyer, who is a registered dietician.

An extra bonus: when offered non-food treats at Halloween and other occasions, kids without any such issues also might consume less sugar.

But Natalie Wilensky of Chevy Chase Village, Md., says the main reason she puts out a teal pumpkin — and thinks of children with food restrictions when she bakes a birthday cake or takes a treat to school — is to teach her unaffected son Jacob, 7, to think of others too.

"I want to teach him kindness and empathy and compassion for other kids," she says.

Tracy Amin of Seattle also wanted to build empathy in her children when she hosted a teal-pumpkin painting party and promoted the idea in her neighborhood last year. This year, daughter Preston, 7, and son Tanner, 4, who have no food restrictions, offered to make finger puppets to give out to trick-or-treaters.

Says Amin, "They are really taking it upon themselves to help other kids."

TRAVEL

DISPATCHES



GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

Las Vegas scored the highest in visitor satisfaction in a new survey.

Travelers love these cities

Among the U.S. destinations that make travelers the most satisfied are Las Vegas, Austin, Orlando, New York — and Columbus, Ohio. That's according to JD Power's inaugural assessment of most popular vacation spots in the United States.

The study found a direct link between traveler satisfaction and the money spent at the locale: Happy travelers spend \$277 more than the average traveler on restaurants, souvenirs and more. Those travelers who were not so satisfied spent \$250 less per trip than the average traveler, the study found.

JD Power has for years gathered opinions on electronics, cars, health care and other segments of society consumers want to rate.

Out of a possible 1,000 index points, the cities with the highest overall satisfaction scores for traveling were: Las Vegas with 827; Austin, 818; Orlando, 814; New Orleans and Miami, tied with 814; New York 805; and Columbus, 799.

Columbus scored high for its infrastructure, food and beverage scene, and affordability.

Travelers also rated their top foodie and beverage cities. Their choices were: New Orleans, Oahu, in Hawaii, New York, San Antonio and Las Vegas.

For best hotels they chose Las Vegas, New Orleans, Orlando, Miami and Fort Worth. Best entertainment destinations were Orlando, Las Vegas, Anaheim, Oahu and New Orleans.

The study was based on responses between February and July 2016 from more than 26,000 travelers who visited a U.S. metropolitan city between December 2015 and July 2016.

Nancy Trejos



DELTA AIR LINES

Delta Air Lines workers' new looks were designed by Zac Posen.

Delta unveils new uniforms

Delta Air Lines gave a first look at long-awaited new crew uniforms for more than 60,000 workers Tuesday during a "fashion show" rollout in the company's hometown, Atlanta.

To help create the new uniforms, Delta turned to celebrity New York fashion designer Zac Posen, whose work has included outfits for first lady Michelle Obama, Gwyneth Paltrow and Rihanna.

Delta's new uniforms will go to all of the company's front-line workers, though it's the customer-facing uniforms for flight attendants and airport-based customer service agents that will be the most visible to passengers. Pilots are not included in this round of uniform updates. The last broad overhaul of uniforms for Delta's front-line workers came in 2006.

Delta called the new design "contemporary," saying the update "fuses together bold color palettes and classic styles, while paying homage to the heritage and iconic design from decades past."

Designer Posen said it was "thrilling" to be asked by Delta to help the carrier achieve a new look and called it a "lifelong dream come true" to be able to help design uniforms that will soon be worn worldwide by employees of an "iconic" U.S. airline.

Ben Mutzabaugh



PHOTOS BY ASHLEY DAY, USA TODAY; ABOVE, A TASTING FLIGHT AT HI-WIRE BREWING

ASHEVILLE

LOCAL BEER AND GLOBAL TASTES IN ONE SOUTHERN SCENE

North Carolina city mixes art and innovation with a side of Southern charm

Ashley Day
USA TODAY

ASHEVILLE, N.C. On one side of the bar, primitive tools and shield-like menu boards evoke medieval times. Opposite sit framed pictures of Tom Selleck and Sloth from *The Goonies*, who also are painted in a mural on the building's exterior. The sun has just set and though it's our third brewery stop, Burial Beer Co. is the first to become crowded and chaotic.

The bartender sets down a tasting flight of four, details the brews, then adds a fifth glass — "and *that* is the saison you forgot," he shares before getting back to the demanding crowd.

I light up and look back at my newfound friends, Brewgrass festivalgoers whom I've just told that everyone in Asheville offers up extra tastes when I'm indecisive, and I didn't even know he'd taken my flight card.

A cook at Rhubarb offered a sample of the gnudi last night when I opted for duck confit after an extended ordering dilemma; a woman next to me at Chai Pani let me try her fried okra after I didn't believe my server's recommendation (they were right); and the veteran beer travelers and I have been sharing tastes from Hi-Wire Brewing to Twin Leaf to here at Burial.

It's no secret that Asheville is the place for beer lovers in the Southeast, but those who have visited will tell you the scene is travel-worthy for anyone in America, with 20 breweries and counting — the second most per capita behind Bend, Ore.

"It's like the Napa Valley of beer," says Adam Charnack, owner and operator of Hi-Wire Brewing. "People look to Asheville as this cultural bright spot in the area, and there's a lot of really talented people doing cool things. We're a really artistic community, and I think food and beer fit that, and culturally beer's a big part of that."

What sets this beer town apart is that it's as much, if not more, of a dining destination. Asheville is as innovative and diverse as it is warm and welcoming. In one day I have pizza with local shrimp at All Souls, Brussels sprouts battered in local beer at Village Social, raw local trout at Cúrate and a sour ale aged with local coffee at The Funkatorium. On another, I try Indian chaat (street food) at Chai Pani, Korean dumplings at Gan Shan Station, American sake at Ben's Tune-Up (a beer garden made entirely of recycled materi-



The duck confit is a good choice at Rhubarb.

"It's like the Napa Valley of beer. ... We're a really artistic community, and I think food and beer fit that."

Adam Charnack, owner and operator of Hi-Wire Brewing (als), and coconut brown ale in a brewery with ping pong tables and foosball inside at Twin Leaf Brewery.

Here, as much thought goes into the barbecue, doughnuts and tacos as the farm-to-table fare, Spanish tapas and steakhouses. It's still a capital of the South with its own biscuit chain, Biscuit Head, perfectly good vegetables deep fried as menu sides, and an old-school soda fountain preserved inside a former Woolworth's store (now home to an art gallery). But international specialties have taken root.

"They have Himalayan and

Mediterranean and French and Indian and southern — it's so eclectic for a town this size," says visitor Tommy Davis of Ringgold, Ga. "Normally you have to go somewhere like New York, Atlanta or Chicago to get the variety of restaurants here."

Of course, Americana abounds. The city channels Portland, Ore., at Trade & Lore, a coffee shop where hipsters can pay extra for the effort of a manual brew and stay for spoken word on a stage above the dining area; Brooklyn with kombucha on tap all around town; and Austin with its trademark barbecue spot, Buxton Hall Barbecue, gracing national headlines and drawing lines.

"It's really wonderful to be in a place where nobody's resting on their laurels," says Katie Button, chef of Cúrate and The Nightbell, and a cookbook author as of this month. "There are so many people doing so many interesting things here in a community that supports really unique, independent businesses."

Only here, Poppy Handcrafted Popcorn offers tasting flights of six of its rotating flavors (like vanilla berry); One World Brewing includes home-brewer recipes on the rotating taps in its nano-brewery beneath Farm Burger downtown; the city's first hard cider company, Noble, is on almost every beverage menu I perused.

Beyond the menu, Asheville remains an appealing destination with Appalachian beauty, quirky culture and art, and exceptionally friendly locals. It's also perfect for a fall visit with stunning foliage and plenty of patios to enjoy it.

The beer garden at Ben's Tune Up is made entirely of recycled materials like this container.

10BEST: Shops to spin a good yarn

Knitting and yarn stores aren't mere retailers. Many are also cozy way stations with classes, supplies and a place to relax and work on your next scarf, afghan or fiber-art masterpiece. Some have even become travel destinations in their own rights, says **Amy Singer**, editor and publisher of Knitty.com. "The ones that are thriving have found ways to provide something unique." She shares some of her favorite shops with **Larry Bleiberg** for USA TODAY.

FANCY TIGER CRAFTS DENVER

This full-service shop is fully versed in the needle arts, with yarn and fabric, along with notions and accessories. "If something is wonderful and rare or brand new, they will likely get it first," Singer says. "They're inspiring and creative and very unique and comprehensive in what they carry." fancytigercrafts.com

A VERB FOR KEEPING WARM OAKLAND

This Bay Area store with a memorable name has built its reputation as a leader in natural dyed yarn and fabric — the shop owner has even written a book on the topic. "It's their signature, trademark thing. It's not common. It's more work and less predictable, and they know so much about it," Singer says. "These are people with big, huge hearts." averbforkeepingwarm.com

CHURCHMOUSE YARNS AND TEAS BAINBRIDGE ISLAND, WASH.

Singer calls this cozy Puget Sound retailer a destination shop, selling tea and accessories, along with indie-produced yarns and products from larger companies. It's not uncommon to see knitters working on projects on the 35-minute ferry ride from Seattle. "There are people who come just to see them, and I think it's worth the trip. The shop is a perfect jewel, in a jewel of a town." She also likes their knitting patterns, which have an elegant, modern appeal. churchmouseyarns.com

PURL SOHO NEW YORK

A pioneer in the modern yarn shop movement, this Manhattan store has expanded over the years from a closet-size space to stretching across multiple storefronts. It has collaborated with Martha Stewart and is known for a clean, elegant, upscale designs — "without being obnoxious," Singer says. "It's the grand dame of yarn shops, the place you go when you go to New York." purlsoho.com

KNIT PURL PORTLAND, ORE.

In a city packed with knitting shops, this store stands out for producing its own line of Japanese-inspired yarn and patterns called Shibui Knits. "The colors are amazing," Singer says. It also has a system of matching yarn weights, which can be a challenge for knitters. "You can combine yarns and have some assurance that what you make is the right size." knit-purl.com

HILL COUNTRY WEAVERS AUSTIN

With a name that sounds like a folk band, this legendary store has been roping in crafters since 1981 with a huge selection and knowledgeable staff. Although it still caters to weavers, its largest market is knitters, Singer says. "The shop has been there forever. They have a huge rambling place." hillcountryweavers.com

MORE 10BEST
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See lists for travel ideas online.



FANCY TIGER CRAFTS

Denver's Fancy Tiger Crafts stocks not only yarn and fabric, but also notions and accessories.



JIMMYBEANSWOOL.COM

Many knitters pilgrimage to Jimmy Beans Wool in Reno, founded by Laura Zander.

WEBS NORTHAMPTON, MASS.

You don't go to Webs, located in a warehouse, for its charming setting, Singer says. Instead, this destination shop attracts knitters with its huge selection and volume discounts. "They have great deals. You go there because they have everything." yarn.com

JIMMY BEANS WOOL RENO

For many knitters, Jimmy Beans is a pilgrimage, a famous online retailer with a welcoming brick-and-mortar shop. Customers love the company because it supports charities and sponsors special events like *Downton Abbey* knit-alongs. "They have a huge collection of stuff. People are very excited about going there in person," Singer says. jimmybeanswool.com

THE PURPLE PURL TORONTO

Singer deliberately chose her apartment's location to make this her LYS (local yarn shop), where she buys supplies, socializes and works on projects. The store carries Canadian yarns and offers a full range of knitting, crochet, felting and spinning supplies. "They're really good people and they have all the basic necessities: a café and sitting room to knit," she says. thepurplepurl.com

STEVENBE MINNEAPOLIS

Shop owner and designer Steven Berg is a rock star of the knitting world, operating out of a restored firehouse with a crystal chandelier. The glam shop offers classes from top-name designers. "It's like Hollywood in the middle of Minnesota," Singer says. "Steven uses lots of super-brights and crazy colors." stevenbe.com

EXPERIENCE TRAVEL AMERICA

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Theme parks offer Halloween tricks or treats

Arthur Levine
Special for USA TODAY

Virtually all theme parks present Halloween events. But none reach the horrific heights of Halloween Horror Nights at the two Universal Studios in Orlando and Hollywood. It doesn't hurt that Universal's baddies are all name-brand: It's not any old zombie lurching at you; it's a walker from *The Walking Dead*. It's not just a guy in a mask threatening to stab you, it's Michael Myers of *Halloween* infamy.

For its 26th HHN, Universal Studios Florida presents nine haunted houses. The event runs on select nights through October 31 and requires separate admission from the daytime park. (Individual tickets cost \$104.99.)

Universal's horror-meisters draw on a wide palette of multi-sensory shenanigans to immerse guests in their tricked-out mazes. Throughout the haunted houses, guests have to feel their way through hung pieces of rope, string, plastic sheets and other items. They also have to endure blasts of air, heat and other sensory ticklers.

One of the newest haunted houses is based on three seasons of the anthology series *American Horror Story*, and incorporates especially striking sets. For example, a scene showing the Countess character (played by Lady Gaga in the TV show) inside an art deco elevator was evocative.

If *American Horror Story* is HHN's best maze, *The Exorcist* comes in a close second. As the haunting *Tubular Bells* theme song from the groundbreaking 1973 movie plays, you make your way into a note-perfect facsimile of possessed Regan MacNeil's brick home. Universal included many of the film's highlights, including (spoiler alert) Regan and her levitating bed.

Universal Studios Hollywood also presents Halloween Horror



KEVORK DJANSEZIAN, UNIVERSAL STUDIOS

Nights on select evenings through November 5. The separately ticketed event costs \$89 at the gate.

Four of Hollywood's six mazes are similar to those in Florida, while the other two are clones of houses that Florida presented last year: *Freddy vs. Jason* and *Halloween*. *The Walking Dead* has taken up permanent residence at Universal Studios Hollywood with a haunted house that is open at HHN as well as during the day all year long.

The park also incorporates its Studio Tour, which is repurposed as Terror Tram for the nighttime event. Horror maven Eli Roth has developed an original story for this year's attraction in which killer clowns terrorize guests on the studio's backlot.

DISNEY DOES IT MILD

While Universal goes for the jugular with sneak-attack haunted mazes and other scream-worthy shenanigans, the Disney parks tone down the terror and keep the seasonal proceedings family-friendly. In case there was any doubt, Florida's Disney World calls its event Mickey's Not-So-Scary Halloween Party.

The nighttime event is held on select dates through October 31 at the Magic Kingdom. It requires a separate ticket from daytime admission. (Prices run as high as \$105 per person.) Visitors, including adults, are encouraged to come in costume, and Disney does out candy at trick-or-treat stations throughout the park.

Special features include Mickey's Boo-To-You Halloween Parade, which includes costumed

Characters from *The Purge* are on the loose throughout Universal Studios Hollywood's park-wide scare zone.



ALI NASSER, DISNEY

characters such as the evil queen from *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs*. Disney re-themes the fireworks that explode over Cinderella Castle.

Many of the park's rides and attractions are open, including the classic Haunted Mansion.

The Disneyland Resort calls its holiday celebration Halloween Time. It also runs through October 31. Unlike Disney World, which charges extra, the California park includes some of its not-so-scary features with general admission.

At Disneyland Park, the Imagineers add an overlay of *The Nightmare Before Christmas* to the original Haunted Mansion. Jack Skellington, Oogie Boogie and other characters from Tim Burton's quirky film join the attraction's usual gaggle of ghosts.

The iconic Space Mountain also gets in on the Halloween fun. By changing out the onboard soundtrack and incorporating projections of apparitions onto the indoor ride's domed ceiling, Disney transforms the coaster into Space Mountain Ghost Galaxy.

Also on select nights through October 31, Disneyland will offer a separate-ticket nighttime event. It too will feature trick-or-treating, and the Headless Horseman will ride down Main Street U.S.A.

Disney offers a more G-rated experience. Visitors are encouraged to come in costume, and candy is doled out at trick-or-treat stations throughout the park.

Early female pilots take off in 'Horizon'

Daring real-life women take on the challenge

Patty Rhule
Special for USA TODAY

Charles Lindbergh's epic solo non-stop flight from New York to Paris in 1927 inspired a few daring women to seek a page in the history books by trying to become the first woman to fly across the Atlantic.

Laurie Notaro's new novel, *Crossing the Horizon* (Gallery Books, 441 pp., ★★★☆ out of four), focuses on three of those real-life women: Ruth Elder, a small-town beauty queen hoping to blaze her way across the skies to a better life; heiress and actress Elsie Mackay, who defies her family's expectations to become a pilot; and Mabel Boll, a wealthy widow hoping to be a trans-Atlantic passenger to add luster to her tabloid fame as Queen of the Diamonds.

Notaro, author of *The Idiot Girls' Action-Adventure Club*, has a compelling story to tell, but it sometimes comes off as overloaded as one of Mabel's planes.

Elsie and Ruth are terrific characters, ditching society's expectations and at least one inconvenient spouse, and shrewdly dodging press inquiries while plotting their flight paths. The headstrong Elsie must thwart her beloved father's demand that she not fly while she works as an interior designer in the family's cruise line business. Flirtatious Ruth charms her way into a risky flight that doesn't quite go according to plan but launches her to a new stratosphere of celebrity.

The women cross paths and sometimes poach one another's

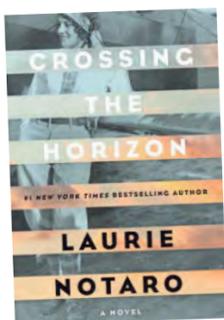


TOPICAL PRESS AGENCY/GETTY IMAGES
Elsie Mackay made eight films as Poppy Wyndham before her death during an attempt to fly across the Atlantic.

pilots, men who are as intriguing as their female co-pilots. Harrowing scenes from the cockpit are a reminder of the daring and skill these pilots had. Notaro's narrative of the pleasures Elsie finds in the air soar with emotion.

But too much storyline is spent on the tiresome Mabel, who is no aviatrix. Initially portrayed as comic relief, Mabel becomes sad and repellent by book's end as her drunken attacks on her on-again, off-again lover/partner grow more frequent. It is always good to end on a high note, and *Crossing's* final 100 pages really cook. A doomed flight, a late-night confession to a priest and the appearance of a Ouija board and Sherlock Holmes creator Sir Arthur Conan Doyle whip the closing chapters to a fascinating, if melancholy, ending.

Some smart editing and a lot less Mabel would have helped this well-researched novelization take flight.



1927 PHOTO BY AP
Ruth Elder beside her Stinson monoplane before she attempted to fly from New York to Paris. Elder and her co-pilot crashed into the sea after a flight of 2,623 miles and were rescued.



1928 PHOTO BY AP
American socialite Mabel Boll, known as the Queen of Diamonds, with Charles Levine, the owner of the Columbia plane in which she hoped to fly across the Atlantic from Harbour Grace airfield, Newfoundland.

You'll root for Chang's Wangs vs. 'the World'

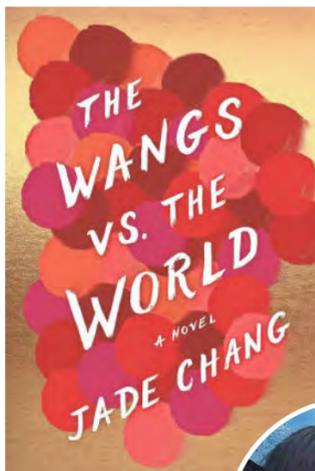
Emily Gray Tedrowe
Special for USA TODAY

This much is clear from the first page of Jade Chang's bright and funny debut novel: *The Wangs vs. the World* (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 368 pp., ★★★☆ out of four) is not your parents' immigration novel. Charles Wang, the incorrigible patriarch of the title family, cares nothing about assimilating into the America where he built — and is on the brink of losing — a mega-fortune in the cosmetics industry.

Neither he nor his second wife, or his three children — Saina, an art-world celebrity; Andrew, a would-be comedian; and Grace, a belligerent teenage fashion-blog star — struggle to "fit in" or waste time worrying what Americans think of their Chinese-ness. All are too busy scrambling up to the peak of success and then out of the trough of despair. American Dream? This family chases the Wang Dream.

When the 2008 financial crash hits, Charles loses his makeup empire as well as his bank accounts, Bel Air estate, and his dignity. Borrowing his aged housekeeper's hand-me-down Mercedes, he and wife Barbra flee the bank assessor and head east, where they'll pick up Andrew from college and Grace from boarding school, both kicked out for lack of tuition. Andrew wakes up slowly to his family's new economic reality: "He was going to have to work! Actually work. For money. Money that he would need to pay for things like rent and phone bills and air-conditioning — or maybe air-conditioning was free?"

But Charles' cross-country road trip has a purpose: First, the family will bunk up at Saina's upstate New York cabin, where she's been hiding out after a career-ending scandal. Next, he'll use hidden funds for a triumphant return to China to reclaim ancestral



TERESA FLOWERS PHOTOGRAPHY
Author Jade Chang

land, a Hail Mary that only Charles believes can work. This backstory — involving World War II's Japanese occupation of China — is a risky choice for Chang with its complicated detail, but pays off in the novel as intriguing history and as a crazy quest only Charles could devise.

In alternating chapters, each Wang grapples with the meaning behind money and what he or she will do now that it's gone. They bicker, suffer truck-stop fast food, and often make one another — as well as readers — laugh out loud.

Even if their father manages to get his land back, what would this imperious urban CEO do with it? One of his children tries to picture him on a patch of farmland, "demanding that some poor peasant boy make his cappuccino bone-dry, asking villagers if there was a better restaurant in town." Chang's lively portrayal of this sibling trio — spoiled, funny and loyal — is one of the novel's most appealing aspects.

If the middle section of the book drags a bit, this sharply comic novel is still more than worth it. When the Wangs take on the world, we all benefit.

Emily Gray Tedrowe is the author of *Blue Stars*.

Patterson gets his hands dirty in 'Filthy Rich'

David Holahan
Special for USA TODAY

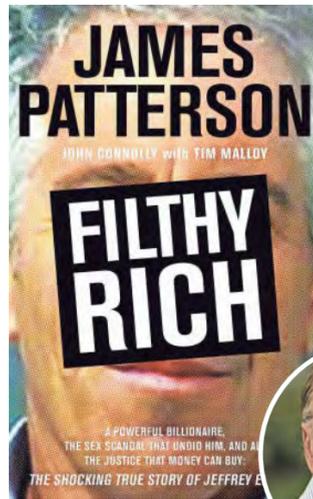
James Patterson, that human fiction factory, has churned out another book, only this time it's a real-life whodunit. Or perhaps, since the reader learns on page 2 who did it (and did soft time eight years ago), this potboiler is more of a "why-did-he-get-off-so-lightly?"

Jeffrey Epstein, 63, of Palm Beach, Manhattan, and the Virgin Islands is, indeed, filthy rich. One supposition on how he got so, based on unnamed sources in *Filthy Rich* (Little, Brown, 320 pp., ★★★☆ out of four), is that he crafted tax-avoidance schemes for filthy-rich clients.

What is clear is that Epstein hung out with a diverse cast of characters, among them Prince Andrew, Stephen Hawking and bra billionaire Les Wexner (of Victoria's Secret). He also spent time with impecunious teenage girls who were engaged to "massage" him. Mary (not her real name) made as much money in an hour at Epstein's mansion as she could over several weeks at Mickey D's. She was 14.

The reader should be warned that this is not a seemly saga. Keep a can of Lysol handy. The testimony of Epstein's "masses" to police meanders from soft porn to more graphic fare and goes on page after page. These sections make up the longest stretches in a book otherwise organized into many scanty chapters, a few barely a page.

The point of lengthy verbatim accounts appears to be, in part, to shame Epstein, whom the authors believe (journalists John Connolly and Tim Malloy co-wrote the book with top-billed Patterson) didn't get the punishment he deserved. The book makes a solid case for that assessment. Most of the women who told their stories to the police never got to testify in the half-hearted (at best) prosecution of Epstein, including "Alison, who claimed that she had been raped,"



DAVID BURNETT
Author James Patterson

Patterson et al write. She also told police that Epstein bought her a new car. Such sordid details also serve to fill out a modest-size opus.

Backed by a "dream team" of lawyers — among them Alan Dershowitz and Ken Starr — Epstein pleaded guilty to state felony offenses for solicitation of prostitution and the procurement of minors for prostitution. By doing so he avoided the possibility of facing much more serious charges.

Epstein received an 18-month sentence but served barely a year. His agreement with federal prosecutors also set up a procedure that allowed his many victims to sue in civil court for compensation. He was branded a sex offender and is required to register with authorities wherever he goes.

In jail, Epstein was granted "work release," which allowed him to leave prison six days a week for 16 hours a day, Patterson writes. He opines that the deal Epstein and his minions finagled from the American legal system was "so sweet it could have rotted all the teeth in South Florida."

Having skewered his subject, Patterson, who got his start as an advertising executive, devotes his final 15 pages to the promotion of one of his fictional books. This is odd but somehow a fitting end to a somewhat disjointed hodgepodge.

BOOKS

New and noteworthy

USA TODAY's Jocelyn McClurg scopes out the hottest books on sale each week.

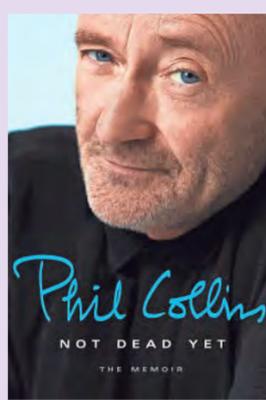


1 Not Dead Yet

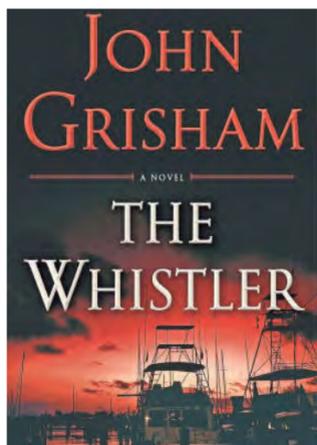
by Phil Collins (Crown Archetype, non-fiction, on sale Tuesday)

WHAT IT'S ABOUT: A memoir by the popular drummer/singer, whose mega-hits include *Sussudio* and *One More Night*.

THE BUZZ: Can Collins beat Bruce Springsteen on the charts — USA TODAY's Best-Selling Books list, that is? The Boss' *Born to Run* landed at No. 2 on Oct. 6.



ELSA, GETTY IMAGES



2 The Whistler

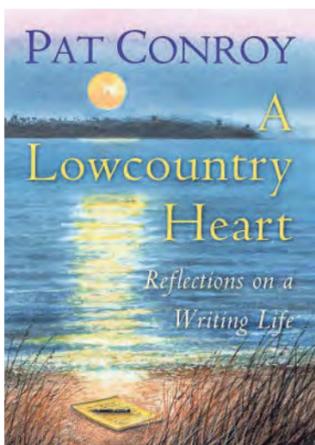
by John Grisham (Doubleday, fiction, on sale Tuesday)

WHAT IT'S ABOUT: In Florida, lawyer Lacy Stoltz investigates a claim that a corrupt judge has gotten rich through a casino built on Native American land.

THE BUZZ: Grisham has had 20 No. 1 USA TODAY best sellers, including last year's *Rogue Lawyer*.



Grisham



3 A Lowcountry Heart: Reflections on a Writing Life

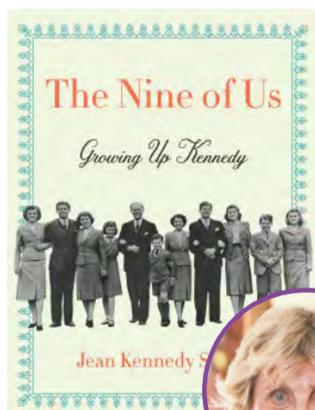
by Pat Conroy (Nan A. Talese/Doubleday, non-fiction, on sale Tuesday)

WHAT IT'S ABOUT: Collects non-fiction writings by the author, as well as remembrances from his friends.

THE BUZZ: Conroy, whose popular books included *The Great Santini* and *The Prince of Tides*, died in March of pancreatic cancer at age 70.



Conroy



4 The Nine of Us: Growing Up Kennedy

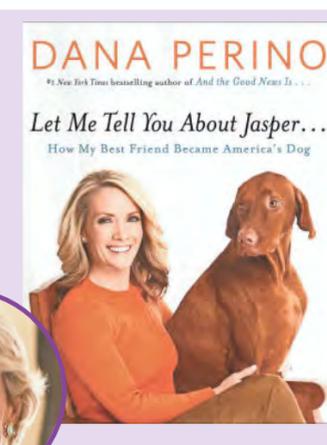
by Jean Kennedy Smith (Harper, non-fiction, on sale Tuesday)

WHAT IT'S ABOUT: The last surviving child of Joseph and Rose Kennedy looks back at her famous family, which included brothers Jack, Bobby and Teddy.

THE BUZZ: Interest in the Kennedys never seems to wane, as evidenced by a steady stream of books and TV and film projects, including this December's *Jackie*, starring Natalie Portman as widowed first lady Jacqueline Kennedy.



Kennedy Smith



5 Let Me Tell You About Jasper

by Dana Perino (Twelve, non-fiction, on sale Tuesday)

WHAT IT'S ABOUT: Jasper, a Vizsla, has become a star in his own right thanks to his nickname — "America's dog" — and now he gets a book.

THE BUZZ: In this crazy election year, Perino, a co-host of *The Five* on Fox News, makes the case that Jasper and other dogs can bring help bring together a divided nation.

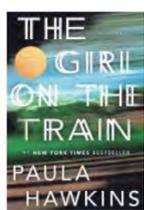


Dana Perino has set lofty goals for her Vizsla, Jasper, and other dogs.

GRISHAM BY BILLY HUNT; CONROY BY USA TODAY; KENNEDY SMITH BY GETTY IMAGES

BOOK BUZZ
NEW ON THE LIST
AND IN PUBLISHING

Films boost fiction: *The Girl on the Train* may have been a disappointment at the box office, but sales of the book that it's based on sure aren't. The book marks its fifth consecutive week at No. 1, equaling its previous record of consecutive No. 1s in 2015 on USA TODAY's Best-Selling Books List. And *Girl* is not the only book adapted to film to continue to have strong sales on the list. There's *Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children* at No. 8, *A Man Called Ove* at No. 12, *The Light Between Oceans* at No. 21, *Me Before You* at No. 48 and the coming-to-theaters-soon *Inferno* at No. 15.



Rogue reading: Stealing the plans for the Death Star is the Rebels' main mission of the upcoming movie *Rogue One: A Star Wars Story*, but the new *Star Wars* novel *Rogue One: Catalyst* puts a human face on the Empire's super-weapon of mass destruction. Out Nov. 15, author James Luceno's *Catalyst* (Del Rey) acts as a lead-up to the film (in theaters Dec. 16) by focusing on two characters who play important roles in the construction of the Death Star, talented scientist Galen Erso and ambitious Imperial officer Orson Krennic. Also receiving an introduction: *Star Wars* heroine Jyn Erso.

Pablo Hidalgo, a creative executive in Lucasfilm's *Star Wars* Story Group, promises that the book will answer some of the questions about the history of the moon-size Death Star, which annihilated the planet Alderaan — and later was blown up by Luke Skywalker — in 1977's original *Star Wars* film.



Mary Cadden and Brian Truitt

READ AN EXCERPT
BOOKS.USATODAY.COM

USA TODAY BEST-SELLING BOOKS
BOOKLIST.USATODAY.COM

THE TOP 10 Rank this week Rank last week (F) Fiction (NF) Non-fiction (P) Paperback (H) Hardcover (E) E-book Publisher in italics

1	1	The Girl on the Train Paula Hawkins	Psychological thriller about the disappearance of a young married woman (F) (P) <i>Riverhead</i>	6	3	The Hammer of Thor Rick Riordan	Youth: Magnus Chase and his friends have to get Thor's hammer out of enemy hands; second in series (F) (H) <i>Disney-Hyperion</i>
2	—	Order to Kill Vince Flynn, Kyle Mills	CIA operative Mitch Rapp is on a mission to keep Pakistani nukes out of the hands of terrorists (F) (E) <i>Atria/Emily Bestler Books</i>	7	—	Skinnytaste Fast and Slow Gina Homolka, Heather K. Jones	Subtitle: "Knockout Quick-Fix and Slow-Cooker Recipes for Real Life" (NF) (H) <i>Clarkson Potter</i>
3	—	Small Great Things Jodi Picoult	A black nurse is asked by white supremacists not to touch their newborn — who goes into distress (F) (E) <i>Ballantine</i>	8	8	Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children R. Riggs	Jacob, 16, discovers the crumbling ruins of an old home that may still be inhabited (F) (P) <i>Quirk Books</i>
4	6	Killing the Rising Sun Bill O'Reilly, Martin Dugard	Subtitle: "How America Vanquished World War II Japan" (NF) (H) <i>Henry Holt and Co.</i>	9	7	Born to Run Bruce Springsteen	Memoir: Rocker opens up about his career and personal life, including his struggle with depression (NF) (H) <i>Simon & Schuster</i>
5	2	Two by Two Nicholas Sparks	Ad man Russell Green finds himself jobless and a single father to a 6-year-old (F) (H) <i>Grand Central Publishing</i>	10	11	Harry Potter and the Cursed Child J.K. Rowling, et al.	Albus Potter and Scorpius Malfoy try to find their places in Hogwarts the way their fathers did before them (F) (H) <i>Scholastic</i>

THE REST

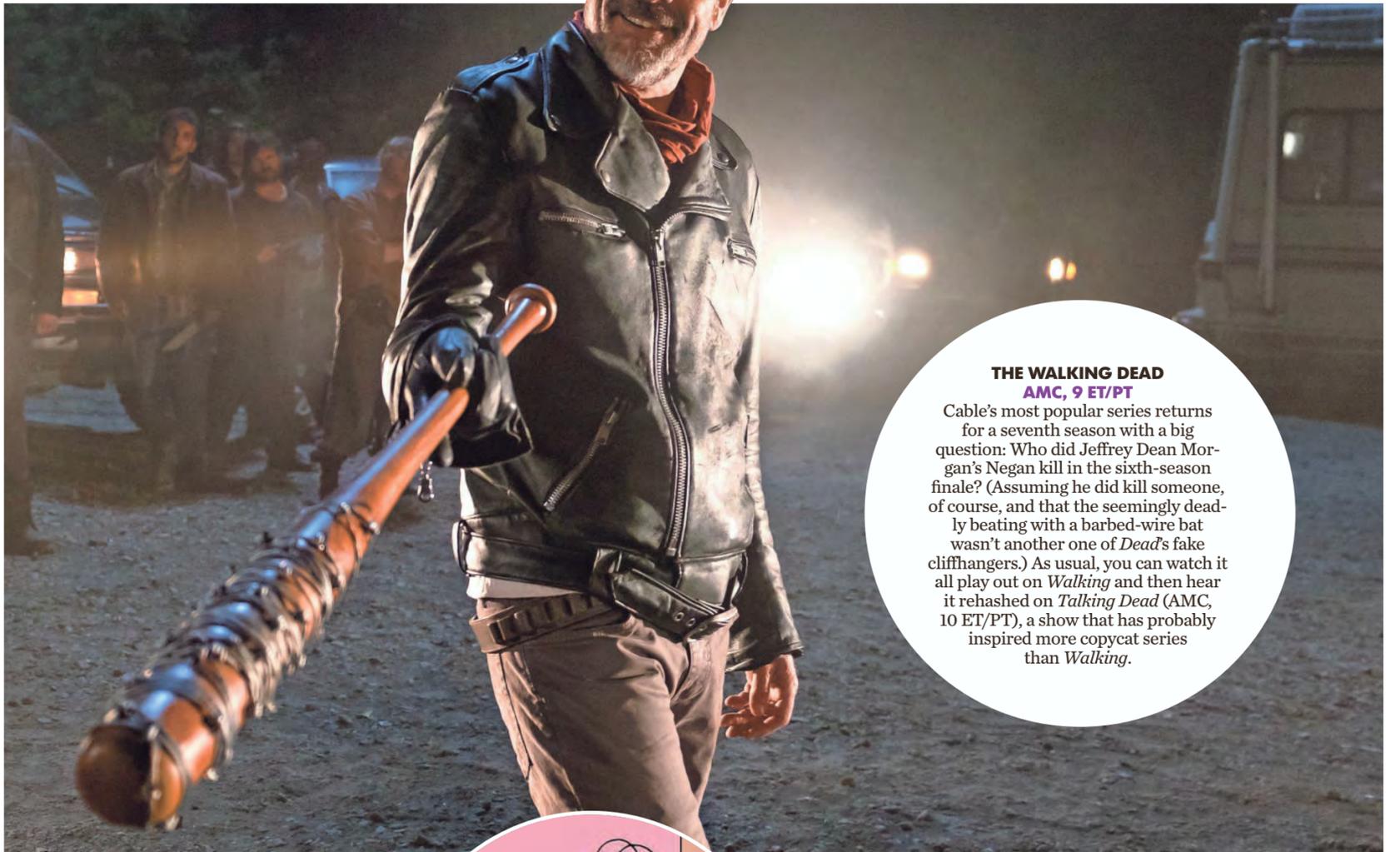
11	—	Crimson Death Laurell K. Hamilton	Vampire hunter Anita Blake has to track down a vampire who may be allowing rogues to run wild; 25th in series (F) (E) <i>Berkley</i>
12	14	A Man Called Ove Fredrik Backman	A man finds his solitary world shattered when a family moves in next door (F) (P) <i>Washington Square Press</i>
13	10	Home Harlan Coben	Ten years after two young boys from wealthy families are kidnapped, only one returns home (F) (E) <i>Dutton</i>
14	—	Filthy Rich James Patterson, John Connolly with Tim Malloy	Subtitle: "A Powerful Billionaire, the Sex Scandal that Undid Him, and All the Justice that Money Can Buy: The Shocking True Story of Jeffrey Epstein" (NF) (E) <i>Little, Brown</i>
15	19	Inferno Dan Brown	Robert Langdon enters a mysterious world centered on Dante's "Inferno" (F) (P) <i>Anchor</i>
16	5	Missing James Patterson, Kathryn Fox	Craig Gisto and his team at Private Sydney investigate the disappearance of a CEO (F) (E) <i>Grand Central Publishing</i>
17	—	The Fix Up Kendall Ryan	Sterling Quinn wants to take his friendship with Camryn Palmer to the next level, but she resists (F) (E) <i>Kendall Ryan Books</i>
18	22	Room on the Broom Julia Donaldson, Axel Scheffler	A witch in search of her hat welcomes myriad creatures onto her broom (F) (P) <i>Puffin</i>
19	4	Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets: The Illustrated Edition J.K. Rowling, art by Jim Kay	Youth: Harry continues to learn magic at Hogwarts; second in series; illustrated version (F) (H) <i>Arthur A. Levine</i>
20	18	Commonwealth Ann Patchett	The story of six kids in a blended family from childhood into adulthood (F) (E) <i>Harper</i>
21	21	The Light Between Oceans M.L. Stedman	A lighthouse keeper and his wife find a baby washed up in a boat and decide to keep her (F) (E) <i>Scribner</i>
22	—	Precious and Grace Alexander McCall Smith	Precious Ramotswa and Grace Makutsi help a woman find pieces of her early life in Botswana; 17th in series (F) (E) <i>Pantheon</i>
23	—	Star Wars Ahsoka E.K. Johnston	Youth: Ahsoka wants to continue her fight against the Empire despite setbacks (F) (H) <i>Disney Press</i>
24	—	Be Obsessed or Be Average Grant Cardone	Millionaire entrepreneur explains how an obsession with goals can lead to success (NF) (H) <i>Portfolio</i>
25	23	Woman of God James Patterson	A woman poised to make history by becoming the first female pope is surrounded by enemies (F) (H) <i>Little, Brown</i>
26	25	Hollow City Ransom Riggs	Youth: Jacob Portman and his friends try to find a cure for their beloved headmistress (F) (P) <i>Quirk Books</i>
27	30	The Girl Who Lied Sue Fortin	Roisin discovers a secret kept by her former friend Erin for more than a decade and is determined to make her pay (F) (E) <i>HarperImpulse</i>
28	9	The Trespasser Tana French	Antoinette Conway tries to solve a murder case while dealing with harassment from her fellow detectives (F) (E) <i>Viking</i>
29	—	Going Down Fast Carly Phillips	Maxie Sullivan has to ask for help from her childhood friend and a man she has always loved, Lucas Monroe; second in series (F) (E) <i>CP Publishing</i>
30	41	Hillbilly Elegy J. D. Vance	Subtitle: "A Memoir of a Family and Culture in Crisis" (NF) (H) <i>Harper</i>
31	26	Little Blue Truck's Halloween Alice Schertle, art by Jill McElmurry	Children: Little Blue Truck picks up his friends for a Halloween costume party (F) (H) <i>Houghton Mifflin Books for Children</i>
32	32	The Woman in Cabin 10 Ruth Ware	Lo Blacklock sees a woman thrown overboard on a luxury cruise, but no one believes her (F) (E) <i>Gallery/Scout Press</i>
33	—	Saving Sophie Sam Carrington	Sophie's life may be in danger after a night out with friends who she can't remember (F) (E) <i>Maze</i>
34	16	Today Will Be Different Maria Semple	A wacky day in the unsettled life of Eleanor Flood and her third-grader, Timby, set in Seattle (F) (E) <i>Little, Brown</i>
35	13	Witness to a Trial John Grisham	Judge Claudia McDover oversees her first murder case; prequel to upcoming novel "The Whistler" (F) (E) <i>Doubleday</i>
36	37	Ghosts Raina Telgemeier	Children: Two sisters look for ghosts after moving to a new town (F) (P) <i>Scholastic</i>
37	—	Thug Kitchen 101: Fast as F-- Thug Kitchen	Vegan cookbook with focus on quick recipes and explanations about ingredients (NF) (H) <i>Rodale Press</i>
38	—	Behind the Beautiful Forevers Katherine Boo	A portrait of families trying to improve their lives in a slum in India's largest city (NF) (E) <i>Random House Trade Paperbacks</i>
39	53	Milk and Honey Rupi Kaur	Poetry collection that is divided into four chapters that explore four pains (F) (P) <i>Andrews McMeel Publishing</i>
40	43	The Last Mile David Baldacci	Amos Decker looks into a case with similarities to his own life, when a convicted killer on Death Row gets a reprieve after another man confesses to the crime (F) (P) <i>Grand Central Publishing</i>
41	44	StrengthsFinder 2.0 Tom Rath	Lifetime strategies for using your talents (NF) (H) <i>Gallup</i>
42	12	Twelve Days of Christmas Debbie Macomber	Julia Padden tries to win over her cranky neighbor Cain Maddox with kindness (F) (H) <i>Ballantine</i>
43	—	Beard Science Penny Reid	Jennifer Sylvester tries to blackmail Cletus Winston; third in series (F) (E) <i>Cipher-Naught</i>
44	—	Sugar Free Sawyer Bennett	Beckett North has to decide if he'll risk his fortune and family for Sela Halstead; third in series (F) (E) <i>Loveswept</i>
45	20	Is This The End? David Jeremiah	Subtitle: "Signs of God's Providence in a Disturbing New World" (NF) (H) <i>Thomas Nelson</i>
46	—	The Four Agreements Don Miguel Ruiz	Subtitle: "A Practical Guide to Personal Freedom" (NF) (P) <i>Amber-Allen</i>
47	54	Library of Souls Ransom Riggs	Youth: Jacob and Emma go on a rescue mission; third in series (F) (H) <i>Quirk Books</i>
48	50	Me Before You Jojo Moyes	An unlikely love story in which a young woman helps care for a 35-year-old quadriplegic (F) (P) <i>Penguin</i>
49	—	Bastard Out of Carolina Dorothy Allison	Ruth Anne Boatwright finds herself trapped by her violent stepfather in the rural south (F) (E) <i>Penguin</i>
50	55	The Fever Code James Dashner	Youth: In this prequel to "The Maze Runner," Thomas builds the Maze and the Gladders meet (F) (H) <i>Delacorte</i>

WHAT AMERICA'S READING®

The book list appears every Thursday. For each title, the format and publisher listed are for the best-selling version of that title this week. Reporting outlets include Amazon.com, Amazon Kindle, Barnes & Noble.com, Barnes & Noble Inc., Barnes & Noble e-books, BooksAMillion.com, Books-A-Million, Costco, Hudson Booksellers, Joseph-Beth Booksellers (Lexington, Ky.; Cincinnati, Charlotte, Cleveland, Pittsburgh), Kobo, Inc., Powell's Books (Portland, Ore.), Powells.com, R.J. Julia Booksellers (Madison, Conn.), Schuler Books & Music (Grand Rapids, Okemos, Eastwood, Alpine, Mich.), Sony Reader Store, Target, Tattered Cover Book Store (Denver).

SCREEN CHECK

TONIGHT ON TV



JEFFREY DEAN MORGAN BY GENE PAGE, AMC

THE WALKING DEAD AMC, 9 ET/PT

Cable's most popular series returns for a seventh season with a big question: Who did Jeffrey Dean Morgan's Negan kill in the sixth-season finale? (Assuming he did kill someone, of course, and that the seemingly dead-beating with a barbed-wire bat wasn't another one of *Dead's* fake cliffhangers.) As usual, you can watch it all play out on *Walking* and then hear it rehashed on *Talking Dead* (AMC, 10 ET/PT), a show that has probably inspired more copycat series than *Walking*.

CRITIC'S CORNER

Robert Bianco
@BiancoRobert
USA TODAY



THE SIMPSONS FOX, 8 ET/PT

We all know the journalistic world is in turmoil — we just didn't know the troubles would reach the seemingly untouchable Kent Brockman. But they have, and for help he's turning to Dan Rather, who lends his voice to this latest *Simpsons*.



Homer and *The Simpsons* just keep chugging along.

FOX



ANNE MARIE FOX, HBO

INSECURE HBO, 10:30 ET/PT

This terrific new comedy takes a closer look at how race plays into the way we view ourselves and one another. Issa (the fabulous Issa Rae, who co-created the show with Larry Wilmore), is determined to make up for a mistake at work, even though she feels she's being judged more harshly for it than her white co-workers would have been. And Molly (Yvonne Orji) is offering up some judgments of her own to a fellow black employee who, she says, needs to "switch it up."

It's office politics aplenty for Issa and Molly on *Insecure*.

CHAT WITH ROBERT



AMAZON PRIME VIDEO

USA TODAY's Robert Bianco chats with readers Mondays at 2 p.m. ET at facebook.com/USATODAY. Read edited excerpts below, email questions to askbianco@usatoday.com or tweet them to [@biancorobert](https://twitter.com/biancorobert) and visit him live online.

Q It seems to me that I am hearing more "f-bombs" on TV recently than ever before. Yes, they are bleeped, but everyone knows what is being said. The increasing vulgarity is definitely disappointing to me.

A Well first, if you're hearing those words bleeped, you're not watching streaming, premium cable or, with increasing frequency, basic cable — as they all throw that bomb with abandon. I don't like the lazy or excessive use of the word for shock or "look how adult we are" value alone. (Amazon's *Goliath* is a prime offender, though vulgarity is just one of its offenses.) But while everyone may not talk like that, there's no denying many people do — or that a word that was once seldom used in public is now commonly heard on the streets, in ballparks and in most places Americans gather. TV has to reflect reality, and the reality is very few people say "damn,"

"heck" and "fudge" anymore, as much as some of us might wish they did.

Q I watched CW's *Supergirl* (the Superman episode) for the very first time this week and I enjoyed it very much. Is there any chance CW is planning on a *Superman* spinoff? It's been too long since my favorite superhero appeared on television.

A And it may be a long time before he reappears. *Superman* is DC Comics' most valuable property — and for the moment, the company plans to use that character sparingly on TV. (You're seeing him on *Supergirl* because DC and Warner Bros. wanted to give the show a boost as it shifted to CW from CBS.) In TV these days, all plans are subject to change — but for now, DC seems more interested in getting a *Superman* movie franchise off the ground.

There's no shortage of salty language from the mouth of crusty attorney Billy McBride (Billy Bob Thornton) and Amazon's *Goliath*.

PUZZLES

Answers placed on Life page 2
Play more puzzles at puzzles.usatoday.com
Puzzle problems? Contact us at feedback@usatoday.com

CROSSWORD

BY Fred Piscop

CROWD SCENE

ACROSS

- 1 Chin dimple
- 6 Sushi bar libation
- 10 Ponzi scheme, e.g.
- 14 Show broadcaster
- 15 "The same," in footnotes
- 16 Bearded Smurf
- 17 Jets or Sharks, in "West Side Story"
- 19 Fuse units
- 20 Antinuclear treaty
- 21 VMI athletes
- 23 Satyrical feeling
- 25 Ogden Nash creation
- 26 Campaigners' bloopers
- 30 Solidarity leader
- 33 Keep clear of
- 34 Carrots, on some snowmen
- 35 "2 Broke Girls" network
- 38 Owls' prey
- 39 Batmobile rider
- 40 La ___ Tar Pits
- 41 21-Down email suffix
- 42 Grant's 1860s counterpart
- 43 Intensely emotional
- 44 Fired upon
- 46 Some rodeo workers
- 47 Cause to see red
- 49 Sabot or brogan
- 51 University of Wyoming city
- 54 Spring bloomers
- 59 Peephole's place
- 60 Blended family of old TV
- 62 Birds raised for their red meat
- 63 Toaster waffle brand
- 64 Agassi of tennis
- 65 Ready for harvest
- 66 Any of the Simpsons
- 67 All of the "noble" elements

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10/23

DOWN

- 1 Closing credits list
- 2 Diet brand word
- 3 Causes an unearned run
- 4 Putt distance units
- 5 Increased by 200 percent
- 6 Speaks with one's hands
- 7 Attorneys' org.
- 8 Hose problem
- 9 Barely defeat
- 10 Quarter of the deck
- 11 Cinematographer's staff
- 12 Datebook entries (Abbr.)
- 13 Shot with lots of English
- 18 Cross-shaped letters
- 22 YSL part
- 24 Quarter, slangily
- 26 Doubleheader half
- 27 Like a diehard fan
- 28 Market researcher's feedback source
- 29 Shakespearean "Phooey!"
- 31 Sale tag phrase
- 32 Spy novelist Deighton
- 34 Chevy model of old
- 36 "Feel the ___" (Sanders slogan)
- 37 Puts into words
- 39 Pied Piper follower
- 40 H.S. course with a lab
- 42 Freshman's home, most likely
- 43 Run-down hotel
- 45 Car in a Halloween parade
- 46 Warm and snug
- 47 Catkin-bearing tree
- 48 Watts of "The Impossible"
- 50 Was attired in
- 52 "Yeah, sure"
- 53 Descartes' "therefore"
- 55 Harry Potter friend Lovegood
- 56 Some defensive linemen
- 57 Plot measure
- 58 "___ a Lady" (Tom Jones hit)
- 61 In the past

Answers: Call 1-900-988-8300, 99 cents a minute; or, with a credit card, 1-800-320-4280.

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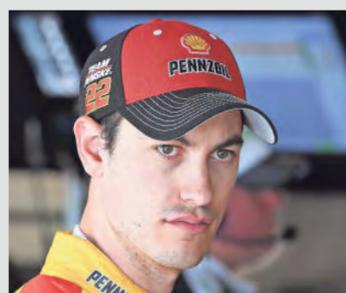


USA TODAY SPORTS™

QUOTE OF THE DAY

“THE LAST TIME I CHECKED, THIS THING IS CALLED A RACE. AND I BELIEVE RACERS RACE.”

Joey Logano, on the strategy of driving up front rather than at the back of the pack in order to avoid a big wreck at Talladega Superspeedway, which is notorious for crashes and the site of Sunday's Alabama 500. Logano is tied for the cutoff slot in the final race of the second round of the Chase for the Sprint Cup.



JOHN DAVID MERCER, USA TODAY SPORTS

SPORTSLINE

FIRST WORD
Is Louisville QB Lamar Jackson practicing for something?"

A tweet from the "Sports Illustrated" Snow account on Lamar Jackson, who had three touchdown passes and one scoring run in Louisville's 54-13 victory against North Carolina State. Jackson has 34 TDs, giving him more touchdowns than 88% of Football Bowl Subdivision teams this season.



JAMIE RHODES, USA TODAY SPORTS

NUMBERS OF THE DAY

\$54,494.59

Amount of the meal bill from Nick and Sam's Steakhouse that Cowboys defensive end Tyrone Crawford posted on Imgur. Mike Fisher of Scout.com spoke to safety Barry Church, who said, "The rookies took care of everything," though veteran wideout Dez Bryant denied that was the case.



AUSTON MATTHEWS BY USA TODAY SPORTS

3.05

Goals per game NHL teams are averaging after the season's first nine days, according to Hockey-reference.com. If that rate holds, it would mark the first time teams have climbed above three goals per game since 2005-06.

TWEET OF THE DAY

@TwentyER
Prank this morning in my office! But they didn't know we were buddies from awhile back #Bills

Ed Reed, about goats put in the office of the NFL's greatest of all time safety/Bills first-year assistant defensive backs coach.

LAST WORD



BENNY SIEU, USA TODAY SPORTS

"IT FEELS LIKE SOMEBODY YOU KNEW ALL YOUR LIFE. SOMEBODY YOU WATCHED GROW. IT'S VERY SPECIAL TO HAVE SOMEBODY FROM YOUR HOMETOWN THAT YOU WATCHED THRIVE ALL THESE YEARS TO SUCCEED."

Samantha Perkins, a manager at Buffalo Wild Wings in Starkville, Miss., on Cowboys rookie quarterback Dak Prescott. The quarterback played at Mississippi State, and fans fill up the restaurant on Dallas game days to watch him.

Edited by Joe Rayos

USA SNAPSHOTS®

Pak bids farewell



25
LPGA tournaments won by Hall of Famer Se Ri Pak, who retired this year after nearly 19 years in professional golf.

SOURCE: LPGA
ELLEN J. HOLLOWAY AND JANET LOHRKE, USA TODAY



GENNA MARTIN, AP

Seahawks QB Russell Wilson stays busy at all times. "The biggest goal is to be able to influence and change the world," he says.

Seahawks' Wilson is all business on, off field

QB works to cement football legacy, empire

Josh Peter
@joshlpeter11
USA TODAY Sports

LOS ANGELES Russell Wilson summoned the four men.

It was Oct. 5, the middle of a week off for the Seattle Seahawks, when Wilson huddled with them here. They sat on the terrace outside an English-countryside-style manor off a winding road on a steep hill, where Wilson lives part time.

"We're going to win," Wilson said. "That's the focus. Everything we do, win."

The men nodded. None of them plays for the Seahawks.

They are core members of what Wilson calls "my team" — business partners, a manager, a publicist and the head of photo and video for Wilson's brand management company — assembled to help him build an empire. With aspirations that would make Warren Buffett proud, Wilson has founded two companies, acquired equity in three others and started a charitable foundation that this year helped raise more than \$1 million for Seattle Children's Hospital.

At 27, he is aiming for more than Super Bowls.

"The biggest goal is to be able to influence and change the world," he told USA TODAY Sports. "That's the real truth of it all."

And the truth of it all is, Wilson knows people are concerned these outside interests could distract him and, as a result, hurt the Seahawks. That Wilson, even though he has helped lead the Seahawks to a 4-1 record this season heading into their game against the Arizona Cardinals on Sunday, is spreading himself too thin.

"I get that all the time, all the time," Wilson said. "But those are the people that don't know me."

Wilson's assistant arrived with lunch at 3:45 p.m. Wilson said it had been eight hours since he'd had breakfast. Between forkfuls of spaghetti bolognese, he recounted a day that sounded as packed as two-a-days.

A two-hour morning workout. Rehab on an injured left knee. Massage therapy. A trip to Legendary Entertainment for a meeting at the movie studio about an undisclosed project. Film study to follow that night. But that afternoon, sitting on his terrace and barely acknowledging the spectacular view, Wilson reviewed the 2017 collection for his menswear company.

He calls himself a clothes addict and said he'd taken 2,000 photos of clothes before starting the menswear company, Good Man Brand. During the afternoon meeting, as a business partner talked about the company's 2016 launch and the clothes selling at Neiman Marcus and Nordstrom, Wilson smiled.

"And we've been killing it," he said, referring to sales.

Wilson has been killing it, too.

He already has a Super Bowl ring, a singer and supermodel wife (Ciara) and all-pro credentials: Since Wilson took over as the Seahawks' starting quarterback as a rookie in 2012, the team has gone 50-19, reached the Super Bowl twice and in 2014 won the first Super Bowl title in franchise history.

He is founder and CEO not only of Good Man Brand but also West2East Empire, which Wilson describes as a creative brand management company. At the same time, he has acquired equity interest in Luvo, a frozen-food company that promotes healthy eating; Juice Press, an organic food retailer; and *The Players' Tribune*, a sports website where he is a senior editor. His net worth is \$120 million.

Pete Carroll, the Seahawks head coach, said he initially had concerns that Wilson was taking on too much.

"There was some stuff going on right at the very beginning in particular," Carroll said. "But he's always come through...."

"He never forgets what's No. 1 to him, and he takes care of business in a great way."

'CLASSIC MULTITASKER'

Wilson traces his juggling skills back to North Carolina State, where he played his first three seasons of college football. He also played for the baseball team and took a heavy load of classes because he'd promised his father he'd earn a bachelor's degree in

three years.

He recalled the grueling spring schedule: Wake up at 4:20 a.m. Football workouts from 5 to 7. Class from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Then baseball practice or a game on a team that was competitive in the Atlantic Coast Conference.

"Russell is the classic multitasker," said Kenny Dichter, CEO and founder of Wheels Up, a private aviation company, and one of Wilson's business partners.

Or as Mark Rodgers, Wilson's agent and attorney, put it, "Russell doesn't feel good unless he's got three, four balls in the air."

Seeking guidance, Wilson has befriended entrepreneurs Chad Hurley, co-founder of YouTube, and Arianna Huffington.

"I think Russell has the passion and the patience that would ultimately allow some of these ventures to see success," Hurley said.

"He's surrounded himself with great people."

Huffington, who met Wilson after she sold the *Huffington Post* to AOL in 2011 for more than \$300 million, said the Seahawks quarterback transcends football.

"Obviously, he's an incredibly gifted and talented athlete," she said by email. "But another important talent is his ability to articulate his core values and, in what is I'm sure a very busy and noisy life, live by them in a such a thoughtful and deliberate way."

"Though I have to say I don't approve the hashtag Russell has used: #NoTime2Sleep. I hope he's put that one to bed!"

Wilson said he's able to stay on top of his job as a quarterback and his budding empire in part because he generally gets no

more than five hours of sleep a night. The exception is the night before a game, he said, when he typically sleeps 10 hours.

"I'm so relaxed because I know I've put all the work in," he said.

Carroll said he's struck by Wilson's ability to manage everything.

"He's very capable and comfortable in a lot of different settings," he said. "He's able to mix and spread around the different things that he's pursuing and supporting or the businesses that he's connected with. He can make sense of all."

ONE BRICK AT A TIME

Wilson traces his budding empire building to his youth, when his parents fostered big dreams. His father conducted imaginary interviews after little Russell won a mythical Super Bowl, and his mother kept him thinking about the future. After Russell won an actual Super Bowl ring with the Seahawks in 2014, Wilson said, she asked him, What's next?

"I have a big picture in mind, but the key to it all is being in the moment," Wilson said. "Not thinking about it necessarily too far down the road. I can see it, see where I want to go. I know I have my goals, I know I have my marks that I want to hit."

"But being truly in the moment and knowing what it takes to get there and to do it all, you have to build one brick at a time. To build a house, you have to lay one brick at a time."

As afternoon crept toward evening, Wilson headed for his next meeting. Film study would follow. He continued to juggle the demands of being an NFL quarterback and a business entrepreneur, and Rodgers said the off-field empire hinged in part on Wilson's on-field performance.

"The attention that he gets and the success that he gets on the field will lead to opportunities that you may not have if you're not successful, if you're not in the limelight," Rodgers said. "If Russell Wilson was a third-string quarterback on a losing National Football League team, some of these opportunities wouldn't avail themselves."

For those who fear it will end in failure, Wilson had a ready answer.

"Failure's not an option," he said.



KIRBY LEE, USA TODAY SPORTS

Russell Wilson's Seahawks are 4-1 and lead the NFC West. He has five TD passes.

COLLEGE FOOTBALL



Texas falters again, this time vs. Kansas State

Paul Myerberg

@paulmyerberg
USA TODAY Sports

ANALYSIS Texas has been 3-4 (or worse) eight times in the last 60 years. The Longhorns have been 3-4 in each of Charlie Strong's three seasons with the program. It's one way to measure how disappointing Strong's tenure has been since he began with such hope and fanfare in early 2014.

The latest loss, a 24-21 decision at Kansas State, paints UT's failures in bright colors. The Wildcats controlled the clock, overcame two second-half mistakes — a painful fumble near the goal line and a costly interception — and eventually wore down the Longhorns.

Meanwhile, Texas was unable to take advantage of any opportunity, failing to notch a single point off Kansas State's three total turnovers. It all seemed familiar.

Again with a losing record heading into the end of October, the Longhorns are left scrambling to reach bowl eligibility; any hopes of winning the Big 12 Conference were extinguished weeks ago. Is this what the program signed up for in 2014?

Obviously not. Hence the calls for Strong's removal, which will hit a new fever pitch this weekend and continue through what might be his final weeks in the position.

Here are the rest of Saturday's winners and losers across the Football Bowl Subdivision.

WINNERS

Alabama: While LSU and Auburn are yet to come before December, it feels as though Alabama passed the toughest test remaining on its schedule with a win against Texas A&M. Give some credit to the Aggies, who looked the part of a top-10 team. But the Tide are on a different level and seem destined for an unbeaten record leading into the Southeastern Conference championship game.



Kansas State's Justin Silmon, right, rushed for 58 yards in the Wildcats' 24-21 win against Malik Jefferson, left, and Texas. The Longhorns are 3-4 and out of contention for the Big 12 title.

SCOTT SEWELL, USA TODAY SPORTS

Wisconsin: The Badgers broke a two-game losing streak with a win at Iowa, adding another level of intrigue to the race in the Big Ten West Division. UW can step closer to booking a spot in the conference title game by beating Nebraska this week.

Lamar Jackson: After a sluggish performance in last weekend's win against Duke — at least according to his ridiculous standard — Jackson was back up to his old tricks against North Carolina State, scoring four touchdowns in the first half and accounting for 431 yards overall to solidify his grasp on the top spot in the Heisman Trophy race.

LOSERS

TCU: Half the story is about West Virginia, which made another statement in its quest for national recognition by blitzing TCU. The other half of the tale is of the Horned Frogs, a trendy preseason pick in the Big 12 Conference. Not quite: TCU is 4-3, long finished in the College Football Playoff picture and now in danger of being a Big 12 also-ran.

Texas A&M: Winning the SEC West Division now demands that A&M run the table and Alabama lose twice. So that's not going to happen. The Aggies are still in the mix for a New Year's Six

bowl as the No. 2 team in the conference by ranking, but that's little solace after coming up short against the Crimson Tide.

Stanford: The preseason favorite in the Pac-12 Conference is 4-3, with all three defeats coming in league play. The latest was the ugliest loss yet: Colorado secured bowl eligibility in a 10-5 win, controlling the line of scrimmage against a program that has long prided itself on physicality.

Air Force: Once 4-0 with a win against rival Navy, the Falcons have since dropped three games in a row, with the latest a 34-27 double-overtime setback to Hawaii.

NFL

Steelers can beat Patriots without Big Ben

Jarrett Bell

jbelle@usatoday.com
USA TODAY Sports



A quick preview as Week 7 rolls on in the NFL.

Pressure's on: Landry Jones. As if trying to fill the shoes of injured quarterback Ben Roethlisberger isn't enough, there's the matter of outdueling Tom Brady. With the Patriots secondary weakened, there's a window of opportunity for a Steelers offense that is so explosive. Jones, making his third pro start, will be surrounded by ample weapons. But he had better connect with Antonio Brown, who has never caught a touchdown pass from anyone other than Big Ben. The Steelers pass defense ranks 30th in the NFL. And now comes Brady.

Who's hot: Sam Bradford. Consider his changing fortunes. In May, Bradford saw the writing on the wall as the Eagles drafted their quarterback of the future. Now he heads back to Philadelphia as quarterback of the NFL's only undefeated team, completing an NFL-best 70% of his passes (among qualifiers who don't include Brady). And knock on wood: The 2010 No. 1 overall pick whose career was derailed twice by torn anterior cruciate ligaments with the Rams has remained healthy. Funny how things can happen. If Teddy Bridgewater doesn't suffer a gruesome knee injury during the preseason, Bradford is never traded from the Eagles to the Vikings (5-0) and Philadelphia's Carson Wentz might not be a rookie of the year candidate. Bradford, so miffed when Wentz was picked that he demanded a trade and skipped a few days of offseason



CHUCK COOK, USA TODAY SPORTS

Steelers quarterback Landry Jones is set to make his third career start, filling in for Ben Roethlisberger.

work, is the central figure in several reunions this weekend. Others include Jack Del Rio, who takes his Raiders to Jacksonville, where he had his first head coaching gig; Hue Jackson, who searches for his first win as Browns coach at Cincinnati, where he was offensive coordinator the last two years; and Brock Osweiler, the new Texans quarterback, who goes back to Denver, where he had an imprint on a Super Bowl 50 title run by filling in for injured Peyton Manning.

Key matchup: Brian Orakpo vs. Anthony Castonzo. Andrew Luck has been sacked (23 times), hit (47) and pressured (36% of passes) more than any other quarterback in the NFL. Now he

leads the Colts to Tennessee, where Dick LeBeau has a defense that has been crushing quarterbacks lately, with 12 sacks the last two games. Orakpo is the ring-leader, with his seven sacks ranked third in the NFL. Castonzo, meanwhile, is the blindside protector who has the type of struggles that prompt questions about his confidence level.

Next man up: Geno Smith. With Ryan Fitzpatrick heaving an NFL-high 11 interceptions for the floundering Jets (1-5), the door was opened for Smith to finally seize the starting role that he lost last year when he suffered a broken jaw from a sucker punch by then-teammate IK Enemkpali in the locker room. So he has the job

back that he won in a competition against Fitzpatrick before the crazy stuff of last year. Yet the circumstances under which Smith takes the reins for Sunday's game against the Ravens are hardly ideal. The Jets have lost four in a row and are scoring an NFL-low 15.8 points per game. Key target Eric Decker is lost for the season. Matt Forte is averaging a career-low 3.5 yards per carry as the rushing attack has tanked. Amid all that, Smith gets to show whether he has progressed from the inconstant thrower who has averaged a career completion rate of 57.9%.

Rookie watch: Hunter Henry. Since Week 3, the second-round tight end from Arkansas has been the Chargers' leading receiver. It's been that type of year for San Diego, which has encountered a slew of injuries to go with its rash of close losses. Henry, though, heads into Sunday's game at Atlanta as a representative of what might be San Diego's best draft class under general manager Tom Telesco, with first-round pick Joey Bosa finally making an impact and fifth-round linebacker Jatavis Brown filling in for injured Manti Te'o. Sixth-round punter Drew Kasar, who flubbed the hold on a potential game-tying field goal at Oakland, bounced back last week to earn AFC special-teams player of the week honors.

Stomach for an upset: Seahawks at Cardinals. After a 1-3 start, Bruce Arians' team has climbed back to .500 but is still desperate. A victory at home Sunday night would cut Seattle's lead in the NFC West to one game. Then again, a Seattle win would be only a mild upset. The Seahawks have won three consecutive games against Arizona and return with their offense hitting its stride after sputtering the first two games.

TOP 25

How Amway Coaches Poll teams fared

No. 1 Alabama (8-0) defeated No. 6 Texas A&M 33-14. Next: at No. 23 LSU, Nov. 5.

No. 2 Ohio State (6-0) at Penn State. Next: vs. Northwestern, Saturday.

No. 3 Clemson (7-0) did not play. Next: at No. 15 Florida State, Saturday.

No. 4 Michigan (7-0) defeated Illinois 41-8. Next: at Michigan State, Saturday.

No. 5 Washington (6-0) vs. Oregon State. Next: at No. 18 Utah, Saturday.

No. 6 Texas A&M (6-1) lost to No. 1 Alabama 33-14. Next: vs. New Mexico State, Saturday.

No. 7 Louisville (6-1) defeated North Carolina State 54-13. Next: at Virginia, Saturday.

No. 8 Baylor (6-0) did not play. Next: at Texas, Saturday.

No. 9 Nebraska (7-0) defeated Purdue 27-14. Next: at No. 10 Wisconsin, Saturday.

No. 10 Wisconsin (5-2) defeated Iowa 17-9. Next: vs. No. 9 Nebraska, Saturday.

No. 11 Houston (6-1) at SMU. Next: vs. Central Florida, Saturday.

No. 12 Florida (5-1) did not play. Next: vs. Georgia, in Jacksonville, Saturday.

No. 13 West Virginia (6-0) defeated TCU 34-10. Next: at Oklahoma State, Saturday.

No. 14 Boise State (7-0) defeated BYU 28-27 on Thursday. Next: at Wyoming, Saturday.

No. 15 Florida State (5-2) did not play. Next: vs. No. 3 Clemson, Saturday.

No. 16 Oklahoma (4-2) at Texas Tech. Next: vs. Kansas, Saturday.

No. 17 Arkansas (5-2) at No. 24 Auburn. Next: vs. No. 12 Florida, Nov. 5.

No. 18 Utah (7-1) defeated UCLA 52-45. Next: vs. No. 5 Washington, Saturday.

No. 19 Tennessee (5-2) did not play. Next: at South Carolina, Saturday.

No. 20 Western Michigan (8-0) defeated Eastern Michigan 45-31. Next: at Ball State, Nov. 5.

No. 21 North Carolina (6-2) defeated Virginia 35-14. Next: vs. Georgia Tech, Nov. 5.

No. 22 Mississippi (3-3) at No. 23 LSU. Next: vs. No. 24 Auburn, Saturday.

No. 23 LSU (4-2) vs. No. 22 Mississippi. Next: vs. No. 1 Alabama, Nov. 5.

No. 24 Auburn (4-2) vs. No. 17 Arkansas. Next: at No. 22 Mississippi, Saturday.

No. 25 Navy (5-1) defeated Memphis 42-28. Next: at South Florida, Saturday.

No record-setters yet still best

Warriors have plenty of talent to win another title

Kevin Spain
@kevin_spain
USA TODAY Sports

NBA teams will play 1,230 games from the end of October until the middle of April. The players will travel millions of miles, log thousands of minutes and hope they get the right bounce, basket or turnover that helps their team win enough games to make the playoffs.

How this season will go is anyone's guess. So we decided to make a guess.

The USA TODAY Sports NBA desk is making its predictions for each team's record — knowing such an exercise will result in ridicule or praise, depending on which fan base you've insulted or exalted.

We make the picks using no formulas. Just taking into consideration how teams finished a year ago, what offseason moves they made, injuries, age and coaching.

We don't recommend using these projections for wagering, unless you're betting against us. OK, we don't recommend that either. This is strictly for fun. No, seriously, it is.

PACIFIC DIVISION

We feel pretty strongly that the Golden State Warriors won't win 73 games. Now, we're not suggesting they're going to be a bad team — on the contrary, we have the Warriors with the NBA's best record. But chasing the record for wins last season took a toll. This year's team might take a minute to come together with the addition of Kevin Durant and the loss of several key big men. But in the end, the Warriors have the talent to win it all for the second time in three years. We have the Los Angeles Clippers again being a strong second in the division. They are a solid team that has potential to reach the Finals. But time is running out on the Clippers doing so. The Sacramento Kings, Phoenix Suns and Los Angeles Lakers will battle for the bottom and don't project much for the fan bases to be excited about — except for the Kings, who at least have a new arena.

SOUTHWEST DIVISION

No franchise in the NBA during this era has been more consistent than the San Antonio Spurs, our pick to win this division again. Tim Duncan retired, and Pau Gasol was added to the roster. Kawhi Leonard continues to get better, and nobody is more consistent as a coach than Gregg Popovich. Much like the Clippers, the Memphis Grizzlies are a team that has been together for several seasons and at some point needs to take that next step. The re-signing of Mike Conley and up-tempo style of new coach David Fizdale could get Memphis into contention for a host playoff spot. The Houston Rockets might be the highest scoring team in the league with James Harden running Mike D'Antoni's offense. They might not stop anyone, but you should get League Pass if for no other reason than to watch their games. The Dallas Mavericks and New Orleans Pelicans round out the division. They're two teams that could be better than our projections, but everything has to go just right.

NORTHWEST DIVISION

Not since the John Stockton-Karl Malone era has the Utah Jazz gone into a season with so much intrigue. A solid roster and an underrated coach have excitement building in Salt Lake City. One caveat is the Jazz begin with several key injuries — most notably Gordon Hayward's that could keep him out until the middle of November — that could hurt them early. If they hang on, they could close strong if everyone returns. Pushing the Jazz will be last season's surprising team, the Portland Trail Blazers, who under the excellent play of Damian Lillard surprised everyone at making a playoff run after the roster was gutted from the year before. The Oklahoma City Thunder are in transition with the losses of Kevin Durant and Serge Ibaka. They are an interesting team with Rus-



The Warriors are fully loaded with Kevin Durant, center, and Stephen Curry, right.

BEN MARGOT, AP

sell Westbrook leading a group that has Victor Oladipo and Steven Adams looking to take big steps. The Minnesota Timberwolves should be better and way more fun to watch but might be a year or two away from being serious playoff contenders. The Denver Nuggets are still building under coach Mike Malone.

ATLANTIC DIVISION

It's hard to pick against the Toronto Raptors, the team that pushed the Cleveland Cavaliers to six games in the Eastern Conference finals. They re-signed DeMar DeRozan, and with Kyle Lowry, those two have been one of the most solid backcourt tandems in the league. Nipping at their heels will be the Boston

Celtics, who under Brad Stevens has gotten better and better, and the addition of Al Horford gives them the closest thing to a star they've had since the late 2000s. Then there are the New York Knicks, the team that has the city cautiously optimistic. They have a solid starting lineup around Carmelo Anthony and should be much better. The only issue is depth and too many players with a history of injury problems. If they stay healthy, they could do way better than our projection, but a few injuries could make them much worse. The Brooklyn Nets and Philadelphia 76ers are teams going in opposite directions, but neither will be very competitive this season. At least with the Sixers, the future ap-

pears to be bright.

CENTRAL DIVISION

If you don't believe in LeBron James by now, you're never going to. All things considered, last season could have been his finest yet, and it has been three years since he won an MVP award. That might just change this season. James might push the Cavs hard to not just win the Eastern Conference, but they also could make a push for the NBA's best overall record. The Detroit Pistons are our pick for a continued resurgence and the second spot in this division. Stan Van Gundy has gotten his group of guys to buy in, and they look like they will be one of the more fun teams to watch. The Indiana Pacers are the tren-

dy pick by some to finish second in the East, but we're not ready to go that far. We like the Pacers to be a playoff team and love Paul George's game. But they'll be playing a different style from what they've played in the last few seasons without coach Frank Vogel, so it might take a while for them to be what they hope to be. The Milwaukee Bucks were a surprise team two seasons ago and could be again, but we're in wait-and-see mode with Giannis Antetokounmpo running point and the injury to Khris Middleton. We don't see good things for the Chicago Bulls at all. With Jimmy Butler, Rajon Rondo and Dwyane Wade all in the lineup, they're going to struggle shooting the ball. Team defense dropped off a year ago, and the Bulls didn't get younger in the offseason.

SOUTHEAST DIVISION

Yes, the Atlanta Hawks are depending on Dwight Howard to revert to his younger days — a return to Superman, if you will. But this is an unselfish team that has good ball movement and multiple scoring options. Mike Budenholzer is a good coach, coming from the Spurs organization, who has the team on the same page. Two years ago the Hawks had the best record in the East and made it to the conference finals. We look for them to win this division pretty handily. So we're going out on a limb a bit with the Washington Wizards. John Wall is one of the most underrated guards in the league, but Bradley Beal has yet to live up to expectations. Still, we think Scott Brooks as coach might be just what the Wizards need to get back in the playoffs. The Charlotte Hornets are a franchise at a crossroads. If things don't go well, there could be mass changes in the offseason. But if everything falls just right, they could be a solid playoff team. At some point, you figure the Orlando Magic will be in the playoff picture. All those top draft picks over the years ... Well, a new coach in Vogel might be the beginning of a positive future, but the Magic are not there yet. The Miami Heat will go into the season without Wade for the first time in more than a decade. With the news that Chris Bosh can't play because of blood clots, the Heat are in rebuild mode.

2016-17 NBA PROJECTIONS



Our semi-scientific guess at the standings come April.

PACIFIC

- Warriors **63-19**
- Clippers **56-26**
- Kings **31-51**
- Suns **26-56**
- Lakers **24-58**

SOUTHWEST

- Spurs **59-23**
- Grizzlies **46-36**
- Rockets **40-42**
- Mavericks **40-42**
- Pelicans **34-48**

NORTHWEST

- Jazz **47-35**
- Trail Blazers **46-36**
- Thunder **44-38**
- T'Wolves **39-43**
- Nuggets **35-47**

ATLANTIC

- Raptors **53-29**
- Celtics **50-32**
- Knicks **39-43**
- Nets **20-62**
- 76ers **20-62**

CENTRAL

- Cavaliers **59-23**
- Pistons **46-36**
- Pacers **42-40**
- Bucks **39-43**
- Bulls **31-51**

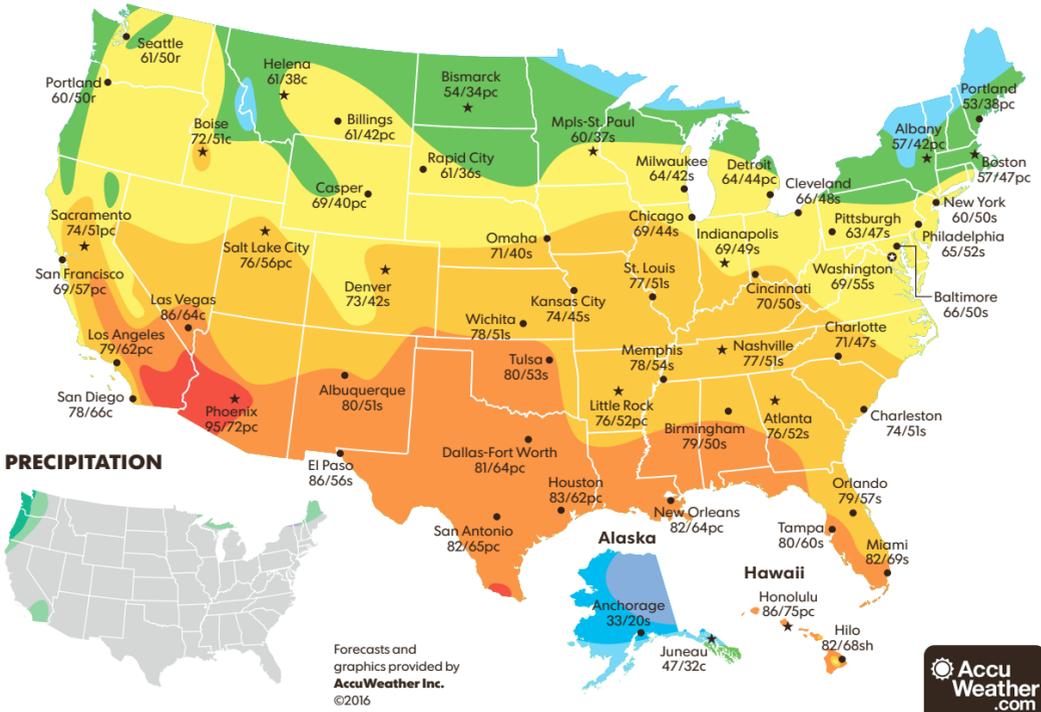
SOUTHEAST

- Hawks **48-34**
- Wizards **44-38**
- Hornets **40-42**
- Magic **35-47**
- Heat **34-48**

WEATHER

WEATHER ONLINE
USATODAY.COM

TODAY'S FORECAST



PRECIPITATION



Forecasts and graphics provided by
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Temperatures (°F) Below 10 10s 20s 30s 40s 50s 60s 70s 80s 90s 100s 110+

Precipitation Thunderstorms Rain Showers Snow Snow flurries Ice / wintry mix

Legend: c Cloudy f Fog i Ice r Rain sf Snow flurries sn Snow w Windy
dr Drizzle h Haze pc Partly cloudy s Sunny sh Showers t Thunderstorms

Note: The forecast highs are for the 24-hour period of that day. Low-temperature forecasts are for the upcoming night.

NATIONAL FORECAST

	TODAY	MON	TODAY	MON
Albany, N.Y.	57/42pc	51/36pc	Providence	59/45s 59/37pc
Allentown, Pa.	63/45s	61/37pc	Raleigh, N.C.	69/50s 75/45s
Atlantic City	65/57s	66/45s	Reno	71/47pc 65/46pc
Augusta, Ga.	76/46s	84/50s	Richmond, Va.	67/52s 73/42s
Austin	83/61pc	85/61pc	Rochester, N.Y.	58/43sh 51/39pc
Bakersfield, Calif.	85/60pc	81/57s	San Jose, Calif.	75/55pc 71/57pc
Baton Rouge	81/54pc	83/55pc	Sarasota, Fla.	81/60s 84/62pc
Boise	72/51c	71/53pc	Savannah, Ga.	74/50s 82/56pc
Buffalo	58/44pc	51/38pc	Shreveport, La.	79/56pc 81/56s
Cedar Rapids	70/39s	59/43s	South Bend, Ind.	66/43s 57/38s
Colorado Springs	76/41pc	75/51pc	Spokane, Wash.	54/44c 62/45c
Columbia, S.C.	74/50s	82/51s	Springfield, Mo.	76/50s 75/53s
Columbus, Ohio	68/49s	60/40s	Syracuse, N.Y.	54/41pc 49/37pc
Dayton, Ohio	69/46s	60/38s	Toledo, Ohio	65/42s 57/34pc
Daytona Beach	76/57s	79/58s	Tucson	91/65pc 89/63c
Des Moines	73/43s	64/48s		
Duluth, Minn.	50/33sh	49/36s	WORLD FORECAST	
Fort Myers, Fla.	81/61s	82/62pc	Athens, Greece	75/61pc 74/58s
Fresno	82/58pc	78/55pc	Baghdad	93/61s 93/63s
Grand Rapids	61/40s	55/35pc	Beijing	58/38s 53/40c
Greensboro, N.C.	70/51s	76/45s	Berlin	47/39pc 51/46sh
Greenville, S.C.	75/49s	82/48s	Buenos Aires	72/56pc 72/59pc
Harrisburg, Pa.	66/51s	63/43pc	Cairo	85/68s 85/69s
Hartford, Conn.	60/44s	57/35pc	Caracas, Ven.	89/77pc 89/78pc
Huntsville, Ala.	79/48s	82/48s	Freeport, Bahamas	80/68s 81/68pc
Jackson, Miss.	82/47pc	83/52pc	Hong Kong	84/78pc 83/78pc
Jacksonville	75/48s	80/52s	Jerusalem	74/57s 74/59s
Knoxville, Tenn.	72/50s	75/48s	Kingston, Jamaica	89/78t 90/78t
Lexington, Ky.	73/50s	67/43s	London	57/47c 55/45sh
Louisville	75/53s	70/47s	Madrid	62/55pc 61/54t
Lubbock, Texas	88/52s	84/58s	Manila	89/77s 89/75s
Madison, Wis.	65/38s	56/39s	Mexico City	74/53pc 74/49pc
McAllen, Texas	92/71pc	94/70pc	Montreal	47/34pc 45/35pc
Mobile, Ala.	79/49pc	83/54pc	Moscow	39/27pc 36/21pc
Myrtle Beach, S.C.	70/54s	77/53s	Nassau, Bahamas	82/71s 84/73pc
Nags Head, N.C.	66/58s	73/55s	New Delhi	94/67s 93/67s
Norfolk, Va.	67/55s	73/50s	Paris	58/51sh 62/50sh
Oklahoma City	80/54s	81/61s	Rome	69/58pc 76/62pc
Palm Springs	90/66c	86/65pc	Sydney	65/53pc 68/55s
Pensacola, Fla.	79/55s	82/58pc	Tokyo	70/55pc 64/56s
			Toronto	58/43pc 50/36pc

YOUR SAY

Tracking the nation's conversation

SECOND LOOK NEW VIEWS ON TALKERS

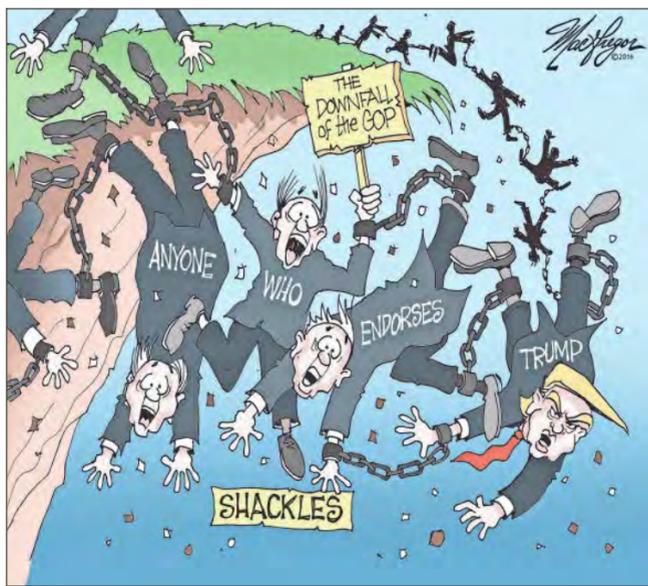
TRUMP WON BIG
Donald Trump won Wednesday's presidential debate by 2-to-1. He spoke over the bully pulpit and defeated the weak moderator. He defeated Hillary Clinton by using his and her time to bowl her over with strong points and didn't let her have rebuttal time. Her strong point was contrasting her 30 years of experience with Trump's. I would say voting for Clinton would be like voting for someone who has had flight training while Trump has never even flown a biplane. I would vote for Clinton simply because she's the best for our nation, but I'd have to give Wednesday's debate to Trump.

Johnnie C. Godwin
Gallatin, Tenn.

PROTECTING CONSUMERS
Congress created the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau with a single leader to respond promptly and decisively in protecting consumers. Multi-member leadership lacks the speed and flexibility needed to keep up with emerging threats and can paralyze an agency completely when vacancies occur. That is why the CFPB is far from unusual. The delay and gridlock of a commission would reduce the bureau's ability to win important consumer victories like the recent Wells Fargo consent order. And the bureau's director hardly wields unchecked power: Every regulation and fine may be challenged in court, and presidents may remove directors who abuse their offices. So far, this structure has served taxpayers well.

Elizabeth Wydra
Constitutional
Accountability Center

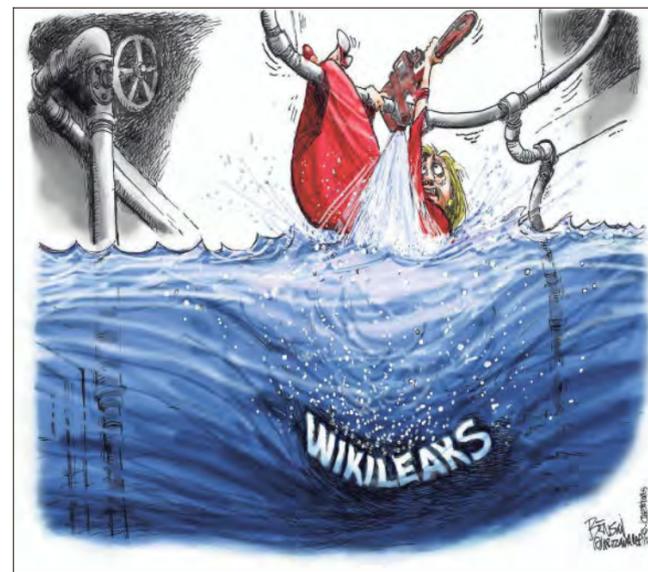
TOON TALK



DOUG MACGREGOR, THE (FORT MYERS, FLA.) NEWS-PRESS



GARY VARVEL, THE INDIANAPOLIS STAR



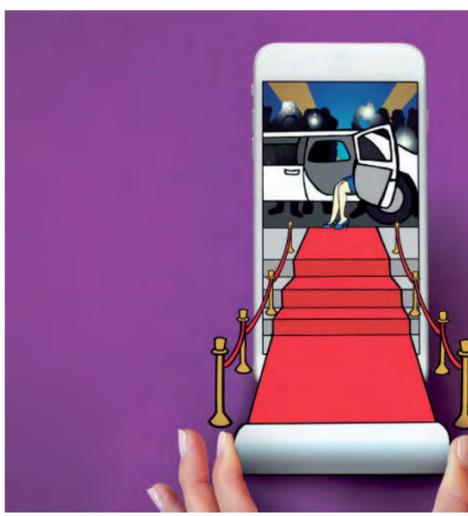
STEVE BENSON, THE ARIZONA REPUBLIC



ANDY MARLETTE, PENSACOLA (FLA.) NEWS JOURNAL

TO COMMENT

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