

The CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR WEEKLY

*“The object of the Monitor is to injure no man,
but to bless all mankind.”*

– MARY BAKER EDDY

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CONTENTS

FROM THE EDITORS

A new editor, an enduring commitment 1

HUMANITY BEHIND THE HEADLINES

Immigration built this Punjab village into ‘Mini US.’
But has it led to a good life? 1

‘We are ... being demonized’: Federal workers grapple with
a demoralizing assault 2

Farming in France is on the decline.
Who will feed the French? 3

NUMBERS IN THE NEWS 4

THE EXPLAINER

Could time be up for ‘spring forward, fall back’?. 5

POLITICAL CURRENTS

Trump decries ‘anti-Christian bias.’ Which religions are
targeted in US? 6

PEOPLE MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Bebali Foundation helps revive forgotten textiles –
and livelihoods 7

POINTS OF PROGRESS 8

COVER STORY

Who owns the history of Indian Boarding schools? 9

PERSPECTIVES ON THE WORLD

A vote for safety in Latin America. 12

The drivers of a better AI 12

Reporting on animals, learning about love: One reporter’s
journey 12

GLOBAL NEWSSTAND. 13

HOME FORUM

My own treasure island 14

A CHRISTIAN SCIENCE PERSPECTIVE 14

ARTS AND CULTURE

China-Japan distrust has been tough to shake.
Tourism might be the best chance. 15

Grab your hat and marmalade:
Paddington is headed to Peru 16

Q&A with Lia Block, a race car driver in the all-female
F1 Academy 16

BOOKS FOR GLOBAL READERS

She punctures pretension on left and right. 17

Earth’s green evolution gave rise to everything from
dinosaurs to dandelions 18

A ‘sweet natured’ hare wins the heart of a writer 19

IN PICTURES

A second chance and a callback to the wild 19

SUDOKU 20

CROSSWORD 21

A new editor, an enduring commitment

At a tumultuous time for both American democracy and journalism, we mark a new beginning with the passing of the baton between editors. But it's our founder's mission, not a name on the masthead, that leads us forward.

The Christian Science Monitor was forged in a crucible of yellow journalism. The press in that era vilified our founder, Mary Baker Eddy. And yet, when she established a daily newspaper in 1908, she did not use it to retaliate against her adversaries but to uplift the standard of journalism and the tenor of public discourse. In our first issue, she wrote, "The object of the *Monitor* is to injure no man, but to bless all mankind."

She lived that precept before she gave it to us as a mandate for our journalism. Her commitment, and ours over the past 116 years, gives our mission credibility and staying power amid today's uncertainty and division. It anchors us amid the churning seas of human events, as it always has.



BY CHRISTA
CASE BRYANT
EDITOR

There's a great hunger for journalism to speak the truth today. And we are committed to that. There's nothing I loved more as a reporter than digging for the facts – whether in the Constitution or in a spreadsheet of government data or in the dirt being sifted by archaeologists on a dusty hilltop in Israel.

But our commitment goes further; it gets to the spirit in which we approach our work.

The Bible advises "speaking the truth in love" (Ephesians 4:15). This kind of love upholds the right of every individual to self-government, reason, and conscience, qualities our founder extolled. Our goal is not to tell you what to think, but to give you the essential knowledge and understanding you need to come to your own well-reasoned views.

And so, our mission – grounded in both truth and love – impels us to discern the motives that shape events, and the shifts in thought that drive human progress through higher ideals of justice, mercy, and wisdom.

We share with you, our readers, an extraordinary opportunity to uplift our view of this moment in history. To see more clearly what is shifting, and why – and where the path forward lies. We couldn't do it without you. So thank you for embarking on this next chapter of Monitor journalism with us. ■

GILZIAN, INDIA

Immigration built this Punjab village into 'Mini US.' But has it led to a good life?

By Aakash Hassan / Contributor

Anarrow road through blooming yellow mustard fields and wheat paddies reveals a cluster of terraced double-story houses, white facades contrasting with colorful compound walls. But behind the locked gates, there is mostly silence.

Half of the village's homes are deserted, their residents having migrated long ago to the United States. The village, called Gilzian, is known locally as "Mini U.S."

So as Prime Minister Narendra Modi arrived in Washington Feb. 12 to discuss, among other issues, immigration, Gilzian's residents watched closely. President Donald Trump has promised to deport historic numbers of unauthorized immigrants, and while Mexico and other Latin American countries have dominated media coverage of immigration, Indians make up the third-largest group of unauthorized immigrants to the U.S., at least according to recent Pew Research Center estimates.

On Feb. 5, Gilzian watched as the first plane of Indian deportees landed in the nearby city of Amritsar. It was a somber day here in "Mini U.S.," but America's deportation policy is also forcing locals to reconsider what it means to have a good life, and how to achieve it.

"It was heartbreaking to see Indians handcuffed and deported back on a U.S. Air Force plane," says Malkeet Singh, who left Gilzian in 1979, eventually settling in New York in 1994. He returned here last year to retire, but his two sons still live in the U.S.

"The people who try to migrate through the U.S. have to endure a lot of hardships," he says. "They often have to sell their land, take loans, and mortgage their houses. They do all of this for their American dream: to live the best possible life."

Based on local census data, an estimated 95% of the people who migrated out of Gilzian are now living in the U.S., says the elected village head Sukhwinder Singh. (None of the Singhs in this story are related.) The money they send back to Gilzian has transformed what was once a "sleepy, dusty hamlet of mud houses to sprawling mansions and paved roads," adds Mr. Singh, cruising through town in his white SUV.

When India-U.S. immigration makes the news, it's often in relation to the highly coveted H-1B visas, of which Indian nationals are the primary recipients, mostly for science or technology fields. But that's not the full picture. In Gilzian and beyond, generations of Indians have followed their own, often winding paths to the U.S.

Sheesha Singh was among the first wave of people who left Gilzian for "the American dream." It was 1977, and his first stop was Kabul, Afghanistan. After a few years doing odd jobs, he eventually made it as far as what was then East Germany before he was detained by police and deported back to India.

But his "heart was still dreaming for the U.S.," he says. In 1985,

WHY WE WROTE THIS

The Indian government has signaled a willingness to cooperate with the Trump administration on the deportation of unauthorized immigrants, threatening to disrupt the lives of thousands of Indians. In one village, where U.S. migration has led to both prosperity and loneliness, locals must reconsider what makes a good life.

he again ventured on a similar route and reached the U.S.-Mexico border in five months. He settled in New York as a taxi driver. When he got U.S. citizenship in 1996, his family joined him.

Once a year, Mr. Singh visits Gilzian, where he has built a big double-story house with eight bedrooms, but finds it “boring” and “dull” with hardly anyone to interact with. All his relatives and friends are settled throughout the U.S.

Indeed, decades of migration have led to loneliness in the village.

Charanjeet Kaur, whose two sons are living in the U.S., says that when a child is born in Gilzian their mother prays for them to reach the U.S., and when they make it, she prays for them to acquire their resident documents. “When they ultimately settle down in the U.S., mothers then keep praying for their return,” she says. “But most people do not return.”

If anything, immigration seems to be growing. Pew Research Center data shows the estimated population of unauthorized Indian immigrants in the U.S. increasing from 325,000 in 2007 (when the overall unauthorized immigrant population peaked) to 725,000 in 2022.

Even Mr. Singh, the former cab driver who became a U.S. citizen in the '90s, feels that India-U.S. migration has gotten out of control, with young Gilzian residents coaching each other on taking what's sometimes called the “Dunki route” – a multicountry journey named after a local idiom meaning “to hop from place to place.”

“People are spending huge amounts [of money] on the Dunki route,” says Mr. Singh. “It has become a kind of culture.”

This money could instead be spent within India to create different job opportunities – and fill Gilzian's empty houses.

But “living life in the U.S. ... also makes people feel superior and [more] important than those living back in India,” says Mr. Singh. “It comes with the status of being a resident of the world's most powerful nation.”

Indian migration expert Professor S. Irudaya Rajan, of the International Institute of Migration & Development, in Kerala, shares this concern. “People want to make quick money, become rich, and that is why they are spending huge sums to reach the U.S.,” he says. “If they invest that much money in India, they will not only get a good job but also create job opportunities for others.”

Yet many villagers say they're chasing an overall quality of life that only the U.S. can provide – even if it takes years to get there.

Kulbeer Singh, an 18-year-old who has taken a \$30,000 loan and mortgaged agricultural land to move to the U.S., says he feels frustrated by Mr. Trump's immigration policy. He's planning to ride out the next four years in Europe, assuming he can find work.

“His [President Trump's] term will be over by then,” he says, “and hopefully the new president of the U.S. will have an easy policy on migration.” ■

WASHINGTON

‘We are ... being demonized’: Federal workers grapple with a demoralizing assault

By Story Hinckley, Caitlin Babcock, and Sarah Matusek / Staff writers

As an engineer with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Michael Garrett says he has always known he could double his salary in the private sector. But when he became a federal employee over a decade ago, Mr. Garrett (not his real name) was thinking about more than money.

“[I] chose the federal government because of job stability and to have a healthy work-life balance,” says the engineer, who, like other federal employees, asked to remain anonymous so he could speak candidly. Beyond the personal benefits, he had a sincere desire to serve the greater good: “I felt like I could make a difference.”

But now, he says bluntly, all that is being ripped away. In place of job security and patriotic pride, government workers like him are experiencing “nothing short of chaos.”

In just a few weeks since coming into office, President Donald Trump and his new Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE), led by billionaire Elon Musk, have upended the federal bureaucracy – and with it, the lives of more than 2 million federal workers. Following through on a campaign promise to “drain the swamp,” with a stated goal of slashing as much as \$2 trillion from the U.S. budget, Mr. Musk's team has moved with a speed and ruthlessness that has left the federal workforce reeling.

Many say they feel they are being treated unfairly, even villainized, for jobs that have never been lucrative or easy.

“Many of us have had offers to go to the private sector,” says a U.S. Treasury employee. “We choose not to, because this is how we've decided we can best serve our country, and we want to serve our country. And we are kind of being demonized. ... We are being made out to be an enemy.”

“Before the inauguration, we thought DOGE was a joke,” adds a U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) employee. “But it's not funny at all anymore.”

The first sign that DOGE was indeed serious came via a memo to department and agency heads Jan. 27, mandating that all federal employees return to in-person work. For many federal workers, 80% of whom are located outside the nation's capital, that would mean a long, expensive commute (Mr. Garrett lives 45 minutes away from the nearest Army Corps of Engineers office). For others, their office may not even have space to accommodate them. The FDA employee, for example, was hired to work remotely in 2022 and doesn't have an assigned desk.

Is it spam? Will I really be paid?

Then came the infamous “Fork in the Road” email – the same subject line Mr. Musk used when culling the workforce at Twitter, which he renamed X. It offered all federal employees, with certain exceptions, a deferred resignation option, which would give them full pay and benefits through Sept. 30. To accept, workers were instructed to send an email from their government account to human resources at the Office of Personnel Management (OPM). “Type the word ‘Resign’ into the ‘Subject’ line of the email. Hit ‘Send,’” instructed the email.

About 75,000 employees accepted, according to OPM – less than the 5% to 10% Mr. Musk was hoping for. A federal judge paused the buyout program following a lawsuit from unions calling it an “unlawful, short-fused ultimatum.” But the judge later ruled that the unions were not directly impacted by the directive and lacked the standing to challenge it.

“It's not a good deal,” said Randy Erwin, president of the National Federation of Federal Employees, prior to the judge's decision. The labor union represents some 110,000 workers, ranging from Veterans Affairs personnel to wildland firefighters. “It is reckless to offer resignations to virtually the entire federal government at once.”

Among the federal employees interviewed by the Monitor, not one said they seriously considered the offer, nor did any know of

WHY WE WROTE THIS

As Elon Musk's Department of Government Efficiency tries to slash the federal bureaucracy, many who chose careers in public service say it's an intensely difficult time – with consequences for America as well as for themselves.

any colleagues who had accepted it. Several said that at first they assumed the Jan. 28 email was a phishing attempt or spam, since it came with an external sender warning. Democratic lawmakers on Capitol Hill immediately warned that since the offer had no congressional authority behind it, there was no guarantee anyone would actually be paid. Mr. Garrett says colleagues have been reminding one another in group text messages that Mr. Musk made similar promises to Twitter employees that he didn't fulfill.

"We have no guidance," says the Treasury employee. As a supervisor, he says he feels especially helpless when it comes to easing younger workers' uncertainty. "They're like, 'I just moved my whole family out here. Am I getting fired?' And I have nothing to tell them."

USAID in the crosshairs

No agency has been impacted more severely so far than the U.S. Agency for International Development, which the Trump administration is trying to shut down almost entirely, folding a small number of its 10,000 employees into the State Department. As soon as it became clear what was happening, a senior employee says she had colleagues asking if it was safe to go into the office. "They were worried about what might happen to them," she says.

It wasn't long before they didn't have the option: USAID employees were locked out of their Washington headquarters the first week of February, and the website was initially replaced with a one-page notice saying all employees had been placed on administrative leave unless otherwise notified. On Feb. 8, a judge issued a temporary restraining order pausing the administration's actions against the agency, leaving employees in limbo.

USAID employees then filed a court motion arguing that the administration had not complied with the court order, as some employees were still locked out of their computer systems. The restraining order was extended, and at press time the judge said that a Feb. 21 decision would determine whether the administration's directive could be blocked further.

During the judge's order, the senior USAID employee said she could still log in to the computer system, unlike some colleagues. But she is unsure if she actually has a job.

"I get wanting to try and make sensible cuts," she says. "But this – this isn't the way to do it. It's disrespectful. It's draconian." The past few weeks, she says, "have been a living hell, if you want the truth."

Mr. Trump and Mr. Musk have signaled more cuts are coming, including efforts to eliminate the Department of Education (which would require an act of Congress) and sharply pare back the Environmental Protection Agency and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Across agencies, while the courts sort out the buyout offer, mass firings may be on the way. On Feb. 6, an OPM memo directed agencies to submit names of all underperforming employees by March 7.

Will it make a dent in the deficit?

Critics of DOGE efforts point out that when it comes to the deficit, he's only tinkering around the edges. In 2023, USAID accounted for less than 1% of federal spending; the Department of Education accounts for about 4%. The federal workforce hasn't grown in size since the 1960s, and federal employee compensation makes up less than 7% of the overall budget. By contrast, Social Security, Medicare, and defense account for nearly half of all federal spending.

"If they really want to save money, why would they start with one of the smallest agencies?" says the USAID employee. "It doesn't make sense."

Supporters of Mr. Musk counter that every bit of waste that's prevented saves real taxpayer dollars, and argue that his efforts are finding ways to reduce deficits that the Washington establishment for years has failed to do.

Yet federal employees say DOGE's intended cuts to some of these smaller agencies will have disproportionate effects around

the United States and the world.

Some wonder how Mr. Trump can even expect to carry out all his own priorities with such a hollowed-out workforce. During the president's first term, Mr. Garrett notes, the Army Corps of Engineers helped with building the president's wall along the U.S.-Mexico border. And he worries this downsizing push will severely affect the U.S. government beyond the end of Mr. Trump's own term – particularly when it comes to maintaining a bright and dedicated workforce.

"The individuals who can leave [and find jobs in the private sector] are more likely to – and that will leave many of the folks who are not the best and brightest. So it's a self-fulfilling prophecy," he says.

■ *Story Hinckley reported from Richmond, Virginia; Caitlin Babcock from Washington; and Sarah Matussek from Denver.*

HOUDAN, FRANCE

Farming in France is on the decline. Who will feed the French?

By Colette Davidson / Special correspondent

Jean-Baptiste Maillier kicks through hay and mud as he passes through the open archway into his barn. Inside, a row of hulking Normande cows is lined up head to tail at the milking machine. After a loud beep, one steps onto a metal plate as a set of white tubes descends onto her teats. Fresh milk pours into a plastic receptacle below her.

Here in Houdan, this scene is increasingly rare. Ten years ago, there were 22 dairy farmers in the area. Now, Mr. Maillier is the only one.

French farmers have grabbed headlines in recent months by blocking roads with hay bales and cow manure. They were out again recently, in southwestern France, protesting against a trade deal with Latin America that they say would create unfair competition and threaten their livelihoods.

But behind that anger, a far bigger crisis is brewing for French farming. Half of all its farmers are expected to retire in the next five years, and few young people are signing up to take their place. At stake is not just the survival of French agriculture but also a key part of what it means to be French: its food culture.

Now, the French must decide how far they are willing to go to keep their diverse terroirs alive, says Jean-Pierre Poulain, a professor emeritus of food culture at the University of Toulouse – Jean Jaurès. As food prices rise and cheap imports crowd local goods off the shelf, "Are they willing to spend more on French-made products instead of buying a new cellphone?" he wonders.

At the center of this conversation are young farmers like Mr. Maillier.

A decade ago, at age 28, he left his job at a bank near Paris to take over his family farm here in the Eure-et-Loir region, south of Normandy.

"The freedom, the fresh air – I can be there for my kids when they need me. It's a no-brainer," he says, stroking the brown-and-white speckled head of his favorite cow, Philippine.

In a sense, Mr. Maillier is living the classic French dream – work-

WHY WE WROTE THIS

— TRANSFORMATION —

Food is a key part of French culture.

That means that with French agriculture under threat, the crisis is existential.

ing the land in the bucolic countryside, feeding his children good food, and keeping France's gastronomic heritage alive.

But in 2025, he is an outlier.

"It's becoming more and more rare, this tradition of passing the farm to the next generation," says Patrick Le Guillous, who grows wheat and corn a few miles from Mr. Maillier's farm, and plans to retire next year. "No one wants to put their kids in debt."

Indeed, farmers – especially vegetable and livestock producers – are more likely to live below the poverty line than the rest of the population, despite working longer hours.

A 75% loss since 1970

Meanwhile, high land prices make it difficult for new farmers to break into the industry. Instead, farmland is often snatched up by large companies. The result is a drop in the total number of French farms. In 1970, the country counted 1.6 million farms. Today, that number is closer to 400,000.

"I was born into farming and I always wanted to do this. But it's not an easy job," says Quentin Le Guillous, secretary-general of the French youth farming union, Jeunes Agriculteurs, and Patrick's son. "When we go out and protest to say we don't earn enough, that our working conditions are hard, no one new wants to join us. But if we don't fight for our rights, who will?"

French farmers have protested sporadically for decades, but they have made headlines most recently by banding together with other European farmers over the last 15 months to oppose the EU-Mercosur (Latin American common market) trade agreement. The deal, negotiated between the European Union and five Latin American countries, would remove tariffs on 90% of goods moving between the two regions, potentially saving the EU around \$4 billion in export duties annually.

It was signed in December, but must still be ratified by the EU's member states. And it continues to stir discontent among French farmers, notably those in beef and poultry, who say cheaper imported meat could price local producers out of the market.

A choice on menus: made in France

Still, for the French, locally produced food remains a source of great pride. They may not be going into farming themselves, but they have overwhelmingly supported recent protests.

On a quaint cobblestone street in Houdan, customers file in and out of the Café de la Paroisse during the lunch rush. On the menu board are the letters "VF" – *vienne française* – to show that its steak tartare and entrecôte are made with meat originating in France.

"If we want to eat well, we have to make good choices," says owner Karima Cauvin. "That means supporting our farmers."

Dr. Poulain, the food culture researcher, says the French feel a "real solidarity" with their farmers. This is rooted in a certain pride in their regional terroirs – the most diverse in Europe – and in traditions around food. The Sunday lunch, which often involves lingering over a multiple-course meal with family, is a beloved French ritual. In 2010, UNESCO recognized this style of eating as an essential piece of the world's intangible cultural heritage.

At the same time, however, the French are spending 13% less of their income on food than they did 60 years ago. And while 90% of people say they want to buy more locally produced food, most say price is the most important factor when choosing what they put in their grocery cart, according to a recent poll.

Still, young farmers are continuing their efforts to get more people interested in agriculture jobs. The Jeunes Agriculteurs organizes parties and tractor races to attract new people to the field. It also holds regular "speed dating" events, pairing would-be farmers with loan officers and union leaders.

Down at Mr. Maillier's farm, his 7-year-old son, out of school for the day, works with a friend raking up muddy hay from the barn floor.

"Who knows? Maybe they'll take over the farm one day," he

says of his five children. "But I'm still young. I'm not ready to think about it yet." ■

NUMBERS IN THE NEWS

200 BILLION

Euros, the amount European Union nations will invest in developing artificial intelligence technology, officials declared at the AI Action Summit in Paris in February. Of that, €20 billion will be used to build factories for AI materials.

74

Percentage of weapons used by Mexican cartels that originated in the United States. The findings, from a report by the U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, highlight the persistent flow of weapons across the border fueling violence in Mexico.

0.037

Dollars, the cost to the U.S. Mint to produce a penny – up from \$0.031 the year before. The mint lost \$85.3 million in the 2024 fiscal year on penny production, and President Donald Trump has ordered their production stopped.

10 MILLION

Hindus who took a plunge during the Kumbh Mela festival in northern India over a span of just four hours. Dipping in the water at specific holy sites is believed to absolve worshippers of sin.

55

Percentage growth in revenues for the Thai music industry between 2021 and 2023. Globally, streams of "T-pop" doubled in 2023 on Spotify, a music platform.

15

Years old, the age of Indian chess prodigy Gowrishankar Jayaraj. His village, Marottichal, is known as the Chess Village of India because at least one person in every household is believed to be chess-proficient.

– Nate Iglehart / Staff writer

Sources: Euronews, The Latin Times, The Associated Press, Reuters, The Economist, Al Jazeera

Could time be up for ‘spring forward, fall back’?

Every March, Americans lose an hour of sleep as clocks spring forward to mark the start of daylight saving time. That they get an extra hour to rest in November when clocks shift back to standard time doesn't lessen the grumbling from those who find the decades-old practice disruptive.

But could time be up for the biannual clock switches? In early January, Republican Sen. Rick Scott of Florida reintroduced a bill to “lock the clock” by making daylight saving time year-round; clocks wouldn't be turned back in the fall.

Mr. Scott's Sunshine Protection Act is the latest salvo in a long-running back-and-forth about the value of tinkering with the clocks. In 2022, the Senate passed a bill by the same name by unanimous consent, but it stalled in the House. Before taking office, President Donald Trump had signaled support for ending the time shifts.

Here's a look at the history of daylight saving time in the United States and some efforts underway to end “spring forward, fall back.”

Q: When and why was daylight saving created?

The premise of daylight saving time is simple: Setting clocks forward in the spring, when days are lengthening, allows people to take advantage of daylight in the evening rather than sleeping through it in the morning. That idea goes back to Benjamin Franklin, according to David Prerau, who studied daylight saving time for the federal government and wrote the book “Seize the Daylight.”

While living in Paris in 1784, the founding father observed that he could save on candle wax by waking up an hour earlier. Near the turn of the 20th century, George Vernon Hudson, a British-born New Zealand entomologist, and William Willett, a British builder, separately suggested shifting clocks forward using logic similar to Franklin's.

The idea didn't become policy in the U.S. until the world wars. In both conflicts, the U.S. temporarily adopted daylight saving time to save fuel. Eventually, the Uniform Time Act of 1966 established nationwide daylight saving time.

Q: What are some arguments for and against the time changes?

Proponents of yearlong daylight saving time argue that extra sunlight in the evening slashes energy use and gives people more time to spend outdoors. Some studies have found that daylight saving time lowers crime rates in the evenings. And retailers say that consumers spend less after the clocks shift back in the fall.

Yet it's not clear that pushing clocks forward saves much electricity. A 2008 report by the Department of Energy examined a roughly one-month lengthening of daylight saving time and found that it reduced electricity consumption by only 0.5% daily. Other studies have not found any positive impact, and some suggest that daylight saving time might actually increase energy use.

The U.S. has also tried permanent daylight saving time before. It didn't go well.

In December 1973, amid a nationwide energy crisis, Congress made daylight saving time permanent to save fuel. About 57% of Americans supported the measure, according to Gallup.

That was no longer the case come January. With the sun rising after 8:30 a.m. in much of the country, commuters lamented the change. Parents protested as children walked to bus stops and school in the dark. Broad discontent, and concerns about safety after several early morning traffic deaths, pushed Congress to repeal the law after 10 months.

Many sleep experts have called for transitioning to permanent standard time, which would avoid dark mornings but push summer sunrises to as early as 3:45 a.m. in some places.

“A shift toward permanent daylight saving time ... could disrupt our sleep in the sense of not aligning with our typical circadian rhythms,” says Tony Cunningham, the director of the Center for Sleep and Cognition at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center in Boston.

While polling conflicts on whether Americans prefer year-round standard time or daylight saving time, most people seem to agree that they don't want to keep switching the clocks. A 2022 YouGov survey found that 62% of respondents wanted to axe the practice.

In 2020, the American Academy of Sleep Medicine issued a position statement linking the spring clock transition to an increased risk of car accidents, mood disorders, and adverse cardiac events. Dr. Cunningham

says that although most sleep researchers advocate for year-round standard time, anything would be better than the biannual switches. “The change is essentially forcing jet lag on the entire United States population,” he says.

Mr. Prerau points out that in 2024, a study of over 36 million adults found only a slight uptick in adverse cardiac events during the week after the spring and fall transitions to daylight saving time – a result the authors said was not clinically significant. Some studies, too, have found that the transition causes only a small number of traffic deaths.

Q: What is Mr. Trump's position on daylight saving time?

Mr. Trump made headlines in December with a post on his social media platform, Truth Social, that weighed in on the debate.

“The Republican Party will use its best efforts to eliminate Daylight Saving Time, which has a small but strong constituency, but shouldn't! Daylight Saving Time is inconvenient, and very costly to our Nation,” Mr. Trump wrote.

The post came after Elon Musk, Mr. Trump's choice to lead the new Department of Government Efficiency (not a true federal department), posted on the platform X that he wanted to end the clock switches.

Mr. Trump's post seems to conflict with the efforts of lawmakers who have pushed to make daylight saving time permanent. It also is at odds with some of Mr. Trump's past statements.

In 2019, Mr. Trump posted on what was then Twitter that “Making Daylight Saving Time permanent is O.K. with me!” It's possible that in his December 2024 post Mr. Trump was using “daylight saving time” colloquially, as many do, to refer to the biannual clock switches.

Q: What efforts are underway to end the time changes?

States currently can opt to use standard time year-round, and Hawaii and Arizona (with the exception of the Navajo Nation) already do so. But using daylight saving time all year requires an act of Congress.

The most recent iteration of the Sunshine Protection Act would also allow states to opt for standard time instead, lawmakers say. At least 20 states have passed legislation that would put them on permanent daylight saving time should a federal law allow it.

The bill has built unusual alliances and might be able to overcome typical partisan divisions. It's sponsored by a coalition of Republicans and Democrats, including close Trump ally Senator Scott as well as Sen. Ed Markey, a liberal Massachusetts Democrat. Still, similar measures have failed before.

As Congress mulls the legislation, Mr. Prerau suggests that Ameri-

WHY WE WROTE THIS

Clocks move forward an hour March 9 for daylight saving time in the United States. We look at the long-standing practice and efforts to “lock the clock.”

cans could ease the spring forward in March through preparation.

“One hour of clock change is no different than going from Chicago to New York,” he says. “And people do that all the time. ... If they plan for it, like a traveler would, [Americans] can minimize their problems.”

– Cameron Pugh / Staff writer

POLITICAL CURRENTS

Trump decries ‘anti-Christian bias.’ Which religions are targeted in US?

By Sophie Hills / Staff writer

Donald Trump says God has a “glorious mission” for America. “We have to make religion a more important factor now,” he said, during remarks at the Feb. 6 National Prayer Breakfast at the United States Capitol.

Later, at a second event, the president announced the creation of an anti-Christian bias task force to be chaired by Attorney General Pam Bondi. Mr. Trump also said God “saved” him last summer, and that his relationship with religion “changed,” when a gunman began shooting at a campaign event. A bullet grazed Mr. Trump’s ear before he was rushed offstage.

Religious liberty has been threatened in recent years, said Mr. Trump.

The task force will “eradicate” anti-Christian targeting and discrimination in the federal government and around the country, the president said, and will “move heaven and earth to defend the rights of Christians and religious believers nationwide.”

In the first weeks of his term, Mr. Trump has earned both praise and criticism from religious leaders.

“In the aftermath of the Biden Justice Department targeting parents attending school board meetings for possible prosecution and the FBI targeting faithful Catholics as a possible domestic threat, it has never been more important to eradicate all forms of targeting, bias, and discrimination based on faith at the federal level,” said Ralph Reed, chairman of the Faith and Freedom Coalition, in a statement.

The day after his inauguration, the Right Rev. Mariann Budde, the Episcopal bishop of Washington, called on Mr. Trump, sitting in the front pew at the National Cathedral, to “have mercy” on immigrants and transgender children. Mr. Trump later said that Ms. Budde was “not very good at her job.”

And 27 religious groups sued the Trump administration in early February, after an earlier suit by the Quakers. These groups argue that their religious liberty is infringed by changes to immigration enforcement guidance to no longer treat houses of worship as “protected areas.”

While Christians around the world face persecution, aggression against Christians in the U.S. is rare, experts say. Some wonder whether the task force will protect all faiths, pointing to the high rates of antisemitic and anti-Muslim incidents in the U.S. How the Justice Department will define anti-Christian bias, and how it will enforce against that, is not yet clear.

Are U.S. Christians frequently targeted?

The most common religious hate crimes in the U.S. are against Jews, followed by hate crimes targeting Muslims. Sikhs also experience more hate crimes than Christians in the U.S., though Jews, Muslims, and Sikhs together make up a much smaller share of the population than Christians. Catholics are the target of more hate crimes than other Christian groups.

Over the past five years, hate crimes targeting Jews numbered more than four times those motivated by anti-Christian bias, according to the FBI hate crime database. Two-thirds of Americans are Christian, and just 2% are Jewish, according to the Public Religion Research Institute in 2024.

To focus the task force on anti-Christian bias deepens the misconception that aggression against Christians is rampant, says Amanda Tyler, executive director of the Baptist Joint Committee for Religious Liberty.

“These claims also undercut the very real Christian persecution that happens in countries around the world,” says Ms. Tyler.

What is religious privilege?

Religious freedom is constitutionally protected. Religious privilege is simply a social advantage, says Ms. Tyler. And it’s one that Christians often enjoy in the U.S. Some people interpret religious freedom to mean religious privilege or dominance, but that runs counter to the principle, she says.

“Just because your particular view is not reflected in law and policy does not mean you are not free to live out ... your religious convictions in the United States,” she says.

Of course, anti-Christian bias does exist, says Dennis Petri, international director of the International Institute for Religious Freedom (IIRF). “There are certainly liberal groups that have a very rigid understanding of the principle of the separation of church and state, of secularism, and of the belief that there should be no public expressions of Christianity whatsoever,” he says.

That can lead to pressure on the government to cut support to faith-based charities, for example. It’s important not to ignore what may be anti-Christian bias, but also not to exaggerate it, Dr. Petri says.

And there have been hate crimes against houses of worship. A shooting at Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Charleston, South Carolina, in 2015, killed nine people. In Pittsburgh, 11 people were killed in an attack on a synagogue in 2018. The Ku Klux Klan bombed the 16th Street Baptist Church in Birmingham, Alabama, Sept. 15, 1963, killing four girls.

Politicians and Christian leaders who say anti-Christian bias is an underacknowledged problem have praised Mr. Trump’s announcement of the new task force.

“It’s never been a tolerance for people of all faiths. There has almost always been an outright hostility that is shown towards people of the Christian faith,” said House Speaker Mike Johnson on a recent podcast episode with Tony Perkins. Mr. Perkins is a former Louisiana state lawmaker and current president of the Family Research Council. Both he and Mr. Johnson commended the president’s announcement.

Does religion get special protections?

Because religious freedom is enshrined in the Constitution, government restrictions on the practice and expression of faith in the U.S. are rare. However, societal discrimination by nonstate actors has increased in recent years, according to a report by the International Institute for Religious Freedom.

“The United States really shows that secularism doesn’t need to be anti-religious,” says the IIRF’s Dr. Petri.

Religious and secular voices can be represented in the public sphere, he says, something he sees as part of democratic debate. That plurality is one protection against a counterintuitive challenge

to religious freedom: politicization of the concept.

When certain groups use the term “religious freedom” to promote their particular agendas, “it takes away a lot of the credibility for religious freedom,” he says.

And in instances around the world in which the state represses a certain religion, it encourages acts of violence by other actors against that particular group.

In the case of the new Department of Justice task force, Ms. Tyler is concerned it might enforce a particular theological view.

It’s not the government’s job to endorse a particular denomination of Christianity, or give support or protection to any one faith, she says. “The government’s job is to stay neutral when it comes to religion and to enforce our laws, including our civil rights laws and protections, to protect everyone from persecution and bias.” ■

PEOPLE MAKING A DIFFERENCE

BALI, INDONESIA

Bebali Foundation helps revive forgotten textiles – and livelihoods

By Anne Pinto-Rodrigues / Contributor

On the Indonesian island of Bali, the central tenet of life is harmony – harmony among people, between people and the environment, and between people and the divine. This philosophy is known as Tri Hita Karana.

“Here, culture, tradition, and the environment are one,” says Made Maduarta, a Balinese local who directs the nonprofit Yayasan Pecinta Budaya Bebali. The organization’s name translates to the Bebali Culture Lovers Foundation; *bebali* is the Balinese term for sacred textiles used in religious ceremonies and rituals.

The nonprofit, popularly known as the Bebali Foundation, works with nearly 60 culturally distinct community groups across 12 islands in eastern Indonesia to revive and keep alive their diverse textile traditions and natural dyeing techniques in an environmentally sustainable way. These communities also happen to be some of the poorest in the region.

“The foundation is the common platform that connects different Indigenous groups in Indonesia to preserve their knowledge,” says Mr. Made, an expert on plants and cultural practices associated with dye-making here.

Through the nonprofit’s partner organization Threads of Life, more than 1,200 weavers, dyers, farmers who grow natural-dye plants, cotton-spinners who make yarn, and knowledge-holders – most of whom are women – work to produce traditional (though nonceremonial) textiles for sale to tourists in Bali and for the global market. The income enables the women to support their families.

“For them, the market is most important,” says Mr. Made, highlighting the importance of the business in motivating communities to preserve their textile traditions.

Each handwoven textile – which takes several months to be completed – is a kind of heirloom whose motifs tell a story that is passed on from one generation to the next. For example, on the island of Sumba, textiles are often woven with the *kaka*, or cockatoo, motif.

Since this bird is mostly observed in groups in the wild, the motif is symbolic of “community” and is a reminder for people to work together to create a harmonious life for all. Similarly, every motif woven into the pieces represents some sort of message or folklore.

An ambassador for communities

Mohamad Widodo, a senior lecturer at the Polytechnic of Textile Technology on the Indonesian island of Java, appreciates the Bebali Foundation’s efforts. The nonprofit “serves as an ambassador of the communities it works with, telling their stories and promoting their culture to the outside world,” Dr. Widodo says. “It has become a trusted and respected partner of the artisans.”

In addition to its work on several remote Indonesian islands, the Bebali Foundation also partners with communities on Bali, helping these villages preserve their culture while also generating income.

In the coastal village of Seraya, the foundation has helped revive the knowledge of natural dyes – colors derived from the roots, bark, or other parts of specific plants. “We had lost almost everything with regards to natural dyes,” says resident Wayan Karya, who recalls the days when weavers used synthetically dyed yarn bought from the market.

Then, in the early 2000s, Mr. Made began visiting the village and interviewing the few older women still around, hoping to understand the natural-dye recipes used in the past. He not only gathered information but also worked on improving the traditional recipes to produce a better-quality color. These enhanced natural dyes have made the textiles produced by the cooperative in Seraya immensely popular; they sell at a premium.

“People come from other villages to buy our textiles,” says Mr. Wayan, who heads the cooperative. Registered in 2003 with 10 weavers and dyers, the cooperative today has more than 50 members. Weavers use the traditional backstrap loom to produce Seraya’s famous textiles, including the multihued *rangrang*, which has an interlocking zigzag pattern.

“By reviving traditional textiles and giving us the opportunity to make a living out of it, the foundation has helped improve the quality of our lives,” Mr. Wayan says.

The scenario was different in the village of Sidemen, where natural dyes were being widely used when Mr. Made first met Ida Ayu Ngurah Puniari in 1996.

A set of *bebali* textiles can be used for a long time and by many people within a community, a fact that created a gap in the production of the textiles. The knowledge of how to make them was lost for about 50 years, until the foundation encouraged Ms. Ngurah – whose father had been a Hindu high priest – to document available information.

Using knowledge gathered from her father before his death, Ms. Ngurah wrote a book about *bebali* textiles. The foundation published it in the Indonesian language in 2003, and it was translated into English a year later. Proceeds from the book sales were used to support weaving activities in the village.

“We are very happy about our association with the foundation,” Ms. Ngurah says. “Thanks to their efforts, more people now know about *bebali* textiles and their importance.”

Another important aspect of the Bebali Foundation’s work is to regularly conduct knowledge-sharing workshops, in which weavers, dyers, and others from the communities come together to convey ancestral information about weaving techniques, dye recipes, motifs, and everything else related to traditional textiles and culture.

The first workshop was on the remote island of Lembata in 2005, drawing nearly 100 people from eight islands. The foundation records the knowledge gathered from these workshops and various field trips in an information management system so that future generations of Balinese – or others interested in the textiles and the communities that produce them – can access it.

Benefiting culture and nature

The foundation researches and experiments with natural-dye plants and recipes to extract the best colors. One such plant is the Morinda (*Morinda citrifolia*), whose roots provide the red color seen in many traditional Indonesian textiles.

Dyers usually wait about seven to 10 years before harvesting the roots of the Morinda tree. In most cases, the tree is cut down to harvest the roots.

To prevent the needless destruction of Morinda trees, the foundation experimented with growing saplings in polythene bags in its nursery and harvesting the roots after about eight to 10 months. The results were promising. “The small root produces a good red,” Mr. Made says.

If adopted in communities, the technique could save hundreds of Morinda trees each year.

The nonprofit also maintains an herbarium of nearly 360 local plants, most of which are used to make dyes.

“The foundation’s work benefits both culture and nature,” says Anthony Cunningham, an Australian ethnobotanist who advised the nonprofit in its early years. In Dr. Cunningham’s experience, it takes nearly a decade to determine whether a development project is successful. “The Bebali Foundation has passed this test,” he says. ■

POINTS OF PROGRESS

1. United States and Austria

Accessibility is becoming a priority for urban planning, changing how cities are designed and incorporating assistance for those with disabilities.

Vienna won this year’s European Commission award for prioritizing accessibility: Nearly all metro stations and transit stops use tactile guidance systems, low-floor vehicles, and multisensory emergency systems. Cartagena, Spain, won third prize for its assistance to people with disabilities bathing at popular beaches, and for reserved accessible seats at public events.

In North Carolina, a recent conference focused on creating inclusive environments that accommodate sensory sensitivities. The city of High Point shared its journey to becoming a Certified Autism Destination, a designation granted by a global certification group. Real estate brokers learned what caregivers look for when caring for a family member with disabilities. And interior designers shared how soft, natural light; subdued colors; and interactive elements like sensory walls or swings can create an autism-friendly home.

DISABILITY INSIDER, DISABILITY SCOOP

2. Mexico

Mexico enshrined animal welfare rights in its constitution, making it one of only 10 countries that include such recognition of nonhuman animals. While all Mexican states have laws protecting animal rights, most legislation does not include farm animals. That left livestock in the country’s rapidly growing meat industry vulnerable to mistreatment.

Three amendments prohibit animal abuse, mandate that schools include animal welfare in their curricula, and direct the federal government to enact a broad welfare law. Marking the culmination of years of activism, Congress is now required to write the federal legislation.

In 2021, Mexico became the first nation in North America to ban the use of animals in cosmetic testing. And in 2017, it criminalized dogfighting.

VOX, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, HUMANE WORLD FOR ANIMALS

3. Norway

Oslo is pioneering a future for emissionless construction vehicles.

Diesel-burning construction machines contribute about a fifth of greenhouse gases in the city. But since 2019, Norway’s capital has made strides toward replacing them with those burning biofuels and running on electricity.

Biofuels still produce pollutants, but some 98% of the city’s construction sites were free of fossil fuels in 2023. And now, a 2025 municipal mandate requires that all construction projects exclusively use electric vehicles. Their share in Oslo more than doubled in the past two years, which has also contributed to quieter operations.

New vehicles can expand the market, and the trend is taking hold elsewhere: Stockholm raised the minimum share of electric construction vehicles for its project redeveloping the city’s meatpacking district from 10% to 50%, and the Netherlands recently built the world’s first fast-charging station for heavy-duty electric machinery.

This past fall, registrations in Norway of private electric cars outnumbered internal combustion engine cars for the first time.

THE GUARDIAN, KLIMA OSLO

4. Zambia and Malawi

A movement to repair solar panels prevents e-waste and creates local jobs, increasing the longevity for components of Africa’s booming solar economy. Since 2014, the continent’s solar capacity has increased tenfold. Yet the average life of products from lanterns to small home systems is only three years, according to a paper by the University of New South Wales and the charity SolarAid.

SolarAid trains people in Zambia and Malawi to diagnose and repair solar equipment. In Zambia, 10 repair agents work with a team of seven repair technicians who are able to fix more complex breakdowns. In the last fiscal year, SolarAid’s teams across Zambia and Malawi repaired 2,422 solar products.

Tobias Hanrath, a professor of engineering at Cornell University whose students have worked on photovoltaic panel repairs in New York, says that for Americans the challenge is changing a throwaway culture to one of repair and reuse.

REASONS TO BE CHEERFUL

5. Nepal

The Supreme Court struck down a law that would have allowed development in protected areas. Last July, lawmakers passed legislation intended to be investment-friendly, empowering the government to allow infrastructure and tourism projects such as roads, hydroelectric plants, and hotels.

The Supreme Court’s ruling continues its track record of supporting human rights and speaks to “its commitment towards upholding its values,” said Babu Krishna Karki, an environmental activist.

Nepal’s landscape includes a dozen national parks that, along with several other protected areas, make up one-fifth of the country. The nation’s forest cover nearly doubled between 1992 and 2016, and populations of endangered animals such as tigers and rhinos have ticked upward in the past several decades.

MONGABAY, AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE, NATIONAL TRUST FOR NATURE CONSERVATION

– Cameron Pugh and Troy Aidan Sambajon / Staff writers

Who owns the history of Indian Boarding schools?

A bitter controversy in Kansas illustrates a painful chapter of U.S. history. Can peoples like the Shawnee find healing?

By Devon Haynie / Special contributor

FAIRWAY, KAN.

Chief Ben Barnes of the Shawnee Tribe based in Miami, Oklahoma, spends a lot of time thinking about Kansas. There, in a small town called Fairway, three red-brick buildings sit aging on land once allotted to his tribe. These Federal-style structures are what remain of what was once called the Shawnee Indian Manual Labor Boarding School. It was among the earliest of a federally supported system of residential schools intended to assimilate Indigenous children into American culture – and force them to leave their own behind.

Like Mr. Barnes, many members of the Shawnee Tribe can trace their ancestry to those who once lived in what he calls a “child work camp.”

Today the site is owned by the Kansas Historical Society, a state agency. Now called the Shawnee Indian Mission State Historic Site, it is run by officials in the city of Fairway. With funding help from a local foundation, these partners help run a decades-old museum in one of the 19th-century-era buildings.

Five years ago, Mr. Barnes began to cooperate with the Kansas Historical Society, and later he accepted a seat on the local foundation’s board as officials were planning a significant renovation and expansion.

Together, each group was eager to transform the site. They all wanted to build a state-of-the-art museum and tell the story of the boarding school better. The Shawnee would play a significant part throughout this process, and have a permanent role.

But this enthusiastic cooperation eventually turned into an abyss of mistrust.

Until recently, the history of U.S. boarding schools for Indigenous children has mostly been forgotten. But here in Kansas and other places where such school buildings still stand, there’s momentum to delve more deeply into this dark part of America’s past. Mr. Barnes, like other Native leaders around the country, has begun to learn details about his ancestors that he hadn’t known before.

When historians came in to study the Shawnee Indian Manual Labor Boarding School’s archives, their findings made his relatives of older generations come alive for him, in important and complicated ways. And the more he learned, the more he found he could not share the vision the other parties had for commemorating a common past.

For very practical reasons, plans for the site aimed to include opportunities to raise awareness and much-needed funds. And since the site was already a National Historic Landmark for a number of reasons, the other partners wanted to expand the kinds of civic events it hosted, such as yoga classes, concerts, a fall festival, and

Christmas tree sales. A large pavilion for these activities was being considered.

These ideas appalled Mr. Barnes. Then, he discovered, there were YouTube clips posted by local paranormal investigators who had rented space. They were holding a séance on the site, speculating whether they were communicating with spirits of Indigenous children.

On top of that, he had concerns about the overall upkeep at the site, and he began to grow concerned about the conditions of the buildings.

Mr. Barnes soon resigned from the foundation’s board and withdrew Shawnee participation from the project.

Today he is urging Kansas state legislators to transfer ownership of this site to his tribe – a measure lawmakers are currently considering. His own plan is to turn all three buildings into a museum that would address all chapters of the mission’s history. The darkest chapter, the history of the boarding school era, would be told from a tribal perspective.

“We have a responsibility. It’s not just honoring the dead, but we have to speak on their behalf, take care of their concerns while they’re on the other side and we’re here,” Mr. Barnes says.

“I find myself having to do that with these people that went to the mission, whether they survived or not. Yes, the majority survived, but none of them, none of them *really* survived.”

■ ■ ■

CHIEF BARNES ALSO spends a lot of time thinking about Dave Deshane.

He was Mr. Barnes’ great-great-great-grandfather. He had a son, Peter Deshane, the chief’s great-great-grandfather.

Historians had been delving deeper into the former boarding school’s records. One of them sent Mr. Barnes what he’d found about the Deshanes.

In the 1850s, he found, Peter Deshane was repeatedly escaping from the boarding school.

Each time, the missionaries who ran the residential school on Shawnee “Indian land” would go out to retrieve him, knowing he usually just went back home. But the boy’s father eventually told them to stop. He would take care of the problem himself.

When Peter ran away again, his father tied his son’s hands to a horse’s tail and dragged him back to the mission. Peter never ran away again.

The story has shaken Mr. Barnes. “I saw the names, and like, man, this is my people,” says Mr. Barnes, who simply recognized them from family trees. “So that was pretty heavy, to read about your people.”

He had to wrestle with his own ambivalence. “I saw the story through the kid’s eyes at first – what that betrayal must have felt like,” he says. “It took some time to really digest what the perspective of the father must have been.”

It’s also difficult to digest the larger history of American policy governing boarding schools for Indigenous children. For the Shawnee, the history of these policies is indeed a dark history – and part of the American story long ignored.

Between 1819 and 1969, about 400 federally funded boarding schools operated nationwide, according to a landmark 2024 report by the U.S. Department of the Interior. At least 18,600 Indigenous children attended these schools, and at least 973 died while living there, the study found – some of them buried in unmarked graves.

“Though it is uncomfortable to learn that the country you love is capable of committing such acts, the first step to justice is acknowledging these painful truths and gaining a full understanding of their impacts so that we can unravel the threads of trauma and injustice that linger,” wrote former Interior Secretary Deb Haaland, revealing that her maternal grandparents and great-grandfather had

WHY WE WROTE THIS

DIGNITY

Last year, the U.S. government apologized for trying to erase Native American culture. Native tribes like the Shawnee want to tell this history from their perspective.

been forcibly separated from their families and culture.

Acknowledging such painful truths, too, is the first step to healing. After the report was released, she helped lead a 12-city “tour of healing” in which Native American peoples could publicly share with the U.S. government such threads of trauma inflicted for almost two centuries.

In October last year, President Joe Biden issued an official apology for this U.S. policy toward Indigenous peoples.

“The federal Indian boarding school policy, the pain it has caused, will always be a significant mark of shame, a blot on American history,” Mr. Biden said on tribal land at the Gila River Indian Community in Arizona.

“I formally apologize as president of the United States of America for what we did,” he said. “It’s long overdue.”

Not all schools started out the same, however. Early ones, like the Shawnee mission school during its first years, were church-run day schools located on reservations. Attendance was voluntary, and sometimes Native leaders requested schools for their reservations.

But that changed as federal officials began to shape these schools with policies of family separation and assimilation, focusing specifically on children.

If Indigenous peoples were really going to integrate into American Protestant society, the country would need to seek the “complete isolation of the Indian child from his savage antecedents,” according to one Bureau of Indian Affairs report to the Interior Department in 1886.

This family separation policy included stripping incoming students of nearly every aspect of their identity. They were given English names. Speaking their native languages and wearing traditional clothes was forbidden. They were taught Christianity and banned from following Indigenous practices.

The founder and head of the notorious Carlisle Indian Industrial School in Pennsylvania, Brig. Gen. Richard Pratt, put the policy bluntly: “All the Indian there is in the race should be dead. Kill the Indian in him, save the man.”

By 1891, Congress authorized federal agents to forcibly remove Indigenous children from their homes, sending them – often against their families’ wishes – to distant off-reservation schools like Carlisle, where conditions were often brutal. Military drills were routine, and abuse was widespread.

Mr. Barnes still wrestles with what Dave Deshane did to his son Peter. But in a way, the enormity of Indigenous history in the U.S. can make him understand, if just a bit.

“You have the father who’s looking at the world, through adult eyes, and saying, ‘Son, you don’t know what this world’s like. I’m sorry. This is the least worst option for you. You think this is bad for you, but you don’t know what bad is.’”

■ ■ ■

WHEN NATHAN NOGELMEIER took a job as Fairway’s city administrator eight years ago, he thought he knew what to expect.

Most days would be spent on budgets, City Council meetings, and staff management in Fairway – a small, affluent, and mostly white community of 4,000.

Instead, he’s found himself in what can feel like a crash course in the Shawnee mission’s history.

Mr. Nogelmeier started working for the city in 2003 – essentially as a part-time Parks and Recreation director. “I was immediately fascinated with the Shawnee Indian Mission,” he says. And when his job became full time in 2005, “One of the first things I wanted to do was to beef up our programs that we partnered on at the mission.”

As part of his job, he would facilitate some of the sponsored events at the historic site. These included overnight “Daddy and Me” campouts. “There was something about being on the grounds at night, you know, just knowing its history and knowing that it was

untouched,” Mr. Nogelmeier says.

“When you walk on the site and you look around, and you look at the buildings, you look at the trees that are there, it’s significant. Like, you just feel it,” he says. “I was not aware of that history up until about three years ago, when I really started digging into the history of the site.”

But as the conflict with the tribe began to escalate, his boss, part-time Mayor Melanie Hepperly, tasked him with making the case that Fairway and the state of Kansas should continue to maintain control of the mission site – a position backed by the Fairway City Council.

(Patrick Zollner, executive director of the Kansas Historical Society, declined to comment on the dispute, referring questions to Mr. Nogelmeier. The agency’s official position is that the city, state, and foundation should continue their partnership.)

“Whether or not you agree with the detail and scope of what they’ve done, the Kansas Historical Society has maintained those three buildings for nearly 100 years,” says Mr. Nogelmeier, who is now, in effect, the government’s spokesperson when it comes to Chief Barnes’ efforts to take control of the site.

“They are in charge of 16 sites across the state,” he says. “I’m not sure that the tribe would be able to match that level of expertise.”

Yes, renting buildings to paranormal investigators trying to conjure former students was regrettable, Mr. Nogelmeier says. But hosting mission-run events with other paranormal groups was simply a moneymaking effort, and the city halted them when it realized they could be offensive. (Later, the city and foundation realized such events violated historical society rules.)

Mr. Nogelmeier also worries that if the Shawnee take ownership of the land, the full history of the mission site might be lost.

These buildings were also once the location of one of Kansas’ early territorial capitols. The site was a supply station on the Santa Fe and Oregon trails and later barracks for Union soldiers after the school closed for good during the Civil War.

“The Shawnee Tribe definitely has a story to tell about the Shawnee Indian Mission,” Mr. Nogelmeier says. “But there were 21 other tribes with students here. Don’t they deserve an equal say?”

From 1839 to 1862, about 60 to 120 students attended the school annually, ranging from ages 5 to 23. Though the Shawnee made up about 40% of the students, 21 other tribes, including the Kaw, sent their children there as well. A few white students, the children of staff, as well as Black enslaved students also attended the school.

The Kaw Nation, the original inhabitants of this part of Kansas, also opposes the Shawnee plan to take over the site. In January 2024, the Kansas House held a hearing on the bill, which eventually died in committee. Ken Bellmard, the Kaw Nation’s government affairs director, was among those who testified against it.

“It might have been theirs for 20 years as a boarding school, but it was ours from time immemorial,” Mr. Bellmard says in an interview with the Monitor. “If they’re giving the land back, it should go to us.”

The issue of possible unmarked graves on the site has given the dispute its most visceral edge. Before the early partnership with the Shawnee collapsed, Mr. Barnes had begun to press the issue as paramount.

Hundreds of unmarked graves were discovered on Indigenous residential school sites in Canada around this time. Tribes there had used ground-penetrating radar to survey school properties. Like those in the U.S., these boarding schools in Canada were meant to strip Indigenous children of their traditional cultures and make them Canadians. In public comments, Mr. Barnes said he also wanted to use radar to do the same.

There is no evidence that there are unmarked graves, or any graves, at the Shawnee Indian Mission State Historic Site. Still, the issue is complicated. When the boarding school was operational in the 19th century, it spanned 2,000 acres, compared with its present 12. Three tribal cemeteries sit just outside its original borders, areas now dotted with large, upscale homes.

Mr. Nogelmeier and Mayor Hepperly were taken aback when Mr. Barnes raised the idea of a search. This had never been an issue before, and they assumed all children had been buried in the tribal cemeteries located relatively close to the former mission site.

Eventually the Kansas Historical Society agreed to move forward with such a radar search. However, Mr. Barnes then balked, arguing the society's plans to survey the site did not have sufficient tribal input.

There may be another reason. If a survey found the graves of Kaw children on the mission site, for example, the Shawnee effort to own the site could be complicated.

■ ■ ■

OF THE THREE BUILDINGS of the former Indian Manual Labor Boarding School property, only one, the East Building, is open to the public. The first floor of that building has one room dedicated to the Indigenous boarding school era.

Last updated by the Kansas Historical Society 25 years ago, the displays include relics of daily life: a set of well-worn tools once gripped by young hands, the iron bell that summoned students to meals, a brittle Bible translated into Shawnee. The exhibit also displays the wooden pulpit they may have gazed up at during Methodist services.

Displays hung on white walls veined with cracking plaster touch on the tribe's history. But there's no information about the consequences of the boarding schools, no names and faces of children who went there, and no mention of the Shawnee today.

Upstairs, there are five rooms with equally dated exhibits. Divided thematically, they focus on federal Indian agents who represented the U.S. government, pioneer life in the 19th century, and the site's role during the Civil War.

Other exhibits commemorate one of the Kansas Territory's early legislatures, which met here. And there is plenty of information about the Shawnee mission's founder, Methodist minister Thomas Johnson, a slaveholder from Virginia.

The history of the mission can be traced to 1825, when the U.S. government forced the Shawnee out of Missouri, moving them farther away from their ancestral homeland in the Ohio Valley. In exchange, they were given 1.6 million acres in eastern Kansas – then called Indian Territory.

In 1830, likely seeing it as a means of survival, a Shawnee chief invited a missionary to the reservation to help educate members of his tribe in the ways of white Americans. He could not have foreseen the complex history that would follow.

After the Reverend Johnson arrived, the new minister oversaw the construction of the Shawnee Methodist Mission and began a day school for the tribe's children. By 1839, he had attained federal approval and funding to build a larger manual-labor boarding school to enroll students from several tribes.

Days were grueling: six hours of study and six hours of "vocational training." Girls worked in kitchens and sewed; boys farmed, did carpentry, and practiced blacksmithing.

Students worked for free. Any money they made from sales to the community, then a bustling frontier post, went back to the school – and likely into Johnson's pockets. Tuition was taken from tribal education funds provided by the U.S. government.

Some missionaries viewed their students with a measure of disgust. One teacher referred to Indigenous children as "debased savages" and "heathens," according to "Annals of the Shawnee Methodist Mission," a publication by the Kansas Historical Society.

By 1859, pro-slavery settlers were battling antislavery settlers for dominance and land – in a time called "the era of Bleeding Kansas." Johnson, now very wealthy and a high-profile public figure, was fiercely advocating to make Kansas a slave state.

That same year, facing intimidation by land-hungry settlers, the

Shawnee signed another treaty ceding most of their Kansas reservation to the government, leaving the area around the mission to the Methodist church. Little by little, the tribe made its way to modern-day Oklahoma, the new Indian Country.

The school closed in 1862, during the Civil War. In 1865, Johnson was shot to death by unknown assailants at his home.

The mission fell into private hands and began to deteriorate until the 1920s. Then a group of women preservationists in Fairway lobbied the state to save it.

After a legal battle that reached the U.S. Supreme Court, Kansas acquired the former Shawnee mission property in 1927. In 1968, the site became a National Historic Landmark – the highest federal recognition of a property's historical significance.

■ ■ ■

ON JULY 9, 2022, CHIEF BARNES was among the first to speak at the federally sponsored Road to Healing tour organized by former Interior Secretary Haaland.

The purpose of her department's landmark study on America's Indian boarding schools, she said, was to take the first step to justice by acknowledging painful truths.

It was also a first step to healing, she believed.

Mr. Barnes has spent a significant part of his life trying to revive the Shawnee language and religious practices. He is among just a few who still can speak some Shawnee. So when he stood before the audience at Riverside Indian School in Anadarko, Oklahoma, the first stop on the federal government's Road to Healing tour, he spoke in his native tongue to open his address before switching to English.

"The legacy of boarding schools and removal from families is real, present, and existential," he said. "Coming just to Riverside and other schools is not going to be enough. ... There needs to be a national system for them to bear testimony and send testimonies in it. ... That needs to be the norm because for a lot of our people, they don't want to be anywhere close to the site of their rape. And I apologize for that word. I apologize for that word, but that's what it was."

That makes healing difficult, especially after centuries of violence in a country with an official policy of cultural erasure. The story of the former Indian Manual Labor Boarding School in Kansas is not just central to Shawnee history, he argues. It is central to America's, woven into the fabric of a nation built on the dispossession of Indigenous peoples.

This is why he is battling for his people to control the National Historic Landmark site in Fairway, where the school's three buildings still bear the dark history of the Shawnee in Kansas.

"We understand how a monument can become sacred, but for whatever reason, we find difficulty that Shawnee people can find this place sacred," Mr. Barnes says. "What makes it sacred? The fact that it still stands makes it sacred. The fact that those stories need to be told makes it sacred." ■

THE MONITOR'S VIEW

A vote for safety in Latin America

Faced with the highest rates of violent crime in the world, leaders in Latin America have turned to increasingly harsh tactics in recent years to rein in drug cartels and gangs. For a while, their people went along. Declining homicide rates have meant children can play in public parks again.

But on Feb. 9, when voters in Ecuador forced a runoff between the two top presidential contenders, they effectively hit pause on the region's embrace of hard-line approaches to law and order. Polls show that most Ecuadorians support emergency measures to make streets safer, but many reject what they see as attempts by politicians to manipulate them through fear.

As the main opposition candidate, Luisa González, said, "We do not want a state of war, but a state of peace that is built with social justice."

Latin America has gone through periods of *mano dura* (iron fist) rule before. The current wave caught on with the rise of Nayib Bukele in El Salvador. Under a nearly three-year-long state of emergency, he has suspended rights and deployed a military dragnet to incarcerate tens of thousands of young men without due process. The homicide rate plunged, and regional leaders took note. Honduras soon followed suit.

So has Ecuador. Upended by 22 criminal groups, the country has had one of the world's highest increases in its homicide rate. Since being elected in November 2023 to finish a vacated term, President Daniel Noboa has deployed the military in the streets, curbed freedoms to enable mass incarceration, and imposed curfews.

Ecuadorians applauded. In a referendum last April, 80% of voters backed Mr. Noboa's strategy.

But their enthusiasm has since waned. The country was under a state of emergency for more than 250 days last year – and has been again since January. In the first election contest, Mr. Noboa and Ms. González finished less than a percentage point apart, each winning 44% of the ballot. A runoff is set for April.

The turn in public opinion in Ecuador may reflect an understanding among ordinary citizens in Latin America that security ultimately requires strengthening the rule of law rather than suspending it. ■

THE MONITOR'S VIEW

The drivers of a better AI

A global summit on artificial intelligence in February was as freewheeling and inquisitive as the researchers making AI breakthroughs. India's leader, for example, spoke of "re-skilling our people" for an AI-driven future. France warned against too much red tape on AI too soon.

"If we regulate before we innovate, we won't have any innovation of our own," President Emmanuel Macron told France 2 television.

Many leaders at the Paris summit promised big investments in AI research or guarantees of electricity for the computer chips driving AI. The United Kingdom's technology secretary, Peter Kyle, told Politico that trends in AI "are being set by the power of the technology itself."

So far, the power behind AI is mainly the intelligence, creativity, and curiosity expressed by those lifting the technology to new

levels. That fact hung over the summit – and was made clear to the world – after the Chinese company DeepSeek revealed its latest AI model in January.

DeepSeek's advances in cost efficiency stunned competitors. Yet the biggest surprise was how the founder, engineer Liang Wenfeng, broke through mental barriers in a China that has long prized profits and simple refinement of technology invented elsewhere.

Mr. Liang chose an open-source approach that allows outsiders to contribute, rather than rushing to commercialization. He sees accessibility and affordability as gifts to users. "Giving is actually an extra honor," he told the Chinese news outlet 36Kr.

He says attracting users is not the purpose. Rather, achieving the highest possible breakthroughs in AI is the goal.

In 2023, Mr. Liang started a research lab that hired more than 100 young engineers – as well as graduates in literature – who have the "confidence" to be original rather than imitative. China, he said, must "become a contributor, rather than just a free rider" in technology.

His style is more followership than leadership. "Everyone has his or her own unique growth experience and ideas, and there is no need to push him or her," said Mr. Liang. He gives workers a "luxury" that few in China enjoy – the freedom to experiment and a collaborative culture, a former DeepSeek researcher told MIT Technology Review.

Innovation, said Mr. Liang, "requires curiosity and creativity," and the quest for new ideas by "high-density" talent is the company's "moat" against competitors.

"The most important thing now is to participate in the wave of global innovation," he said. During this summit on AI, that spirit of exploration was exactly what world leaders were trying to find. ■

BEHIND THE SCENES

Reporting on animals, learning about love: One reporter's journey

Research suggests that animals possess richer inner lives than many people may realize. Might that inform how our relationship will evolve? A Monitor writer went deep, and then joined our podcast to talk about how she approached her reporting and what she came away with.

By Clayton Collins / Director, editorial innovation
and Mackenzie Farkus / Associate multimedia producer

The ways humans engage with animals can vary. At our best, we take seriously our collective role of caring steward. That means being willing to learn.

Research into animal consciousness – animals' inner lives – keeps delivering new insights. This is not about anthropomorphizing animals.

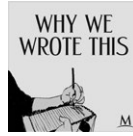
"What's happened over the last couple of decades is that people realized, 'OK, well, maybe ascribing human thought and understanding is missing a key reality,'" says the Monitor's Stephanie Hanes. "But so is assuming that these animals don't have thoughts."

Stephanie recently reported on new research, and then joined our "Why We Wrote This" podcast to talk about it. Her reporting left her feeling hopeful.

“People are delighted by the natural world, and I do see ... people wanting to integrate into it in a more holistic way,” Stephanie says. “And that’s [a] win-win, because the more we understand this amazing, diverse, sparkling world ... around us, the more people are willing to change their own behavior to benefit and be part of that. ... It’s this wonderful empathy cycle that is building love throughout the world.” ■

PODCAST

Staff writer Stephanie Hanes recently joined the Monitor podcast “Why We Wrote This” for a discussion exploring new research on animal consciousness.



Find the full interview at www.CSMonitor.com/WhyWeWroteThis.

GLOBAL NEWSSTAND

THE JAPAN TIMES / TOKYO

Do Chinese overtures to Japan signal a true warming?

“As the trade war between the U.S. and China heats up, Beijing is turning to its familiar playbook, using softer language to court American allies and partners while offering things like greater cooperation and more dialogue – part of its ongoing divide-and-conquer strategy,” writes columnist Edo Naito. “Those unfamiliar with this pattern – which Japan has experienced for decades – mistake the shift in tone as a sign that China is genuinely open to better relations. ... Japan has seen a dozen different cycles of freezing, followed by a period of warmer relations. ... Each new cycle typically began when China faced domestic challenges ... or external issues like major trade disputes. ... But do not be deluded; ... we could see [another] freeze as fast as *sakura* blossoms fall.” (See related story “China-Japan distrust has been tough to shake. Tourism might be the best chance.” on page 34.)

AL JAZEERA / DOHA, QATAR

Northern Gaza is not the home it once was

“For 15 months, I was displaced from my home in northern Gaza,” writes poet Nour Elassy. “... [When I returned after the ceasefire,] the joy was laced with agony. Although our home is still standing, it has suffered damage from nearby bombings. ... Everything that once made this place liveable is gone. There is no water, no food. ... It looks more like a graveyard than our home. ... The world calls the movement of Palestinians back to the north a ‘return’, but to us, it feels more like an extension of our exile. ... We have been allowed to return, but only to see wholesale destruction, to start over from nothing, with no guarantees that we will not be displaced again.”

ARAB NEWS / JEDDAH, SAUDI ARABIA

Women and girls are suffocating in Afghanistan

“It has been almost three and a half years since the fall of the republic in Afghanistan,” writes Ajmal Shams, vice president of the Afghanistan Social Democratic Party and former deputy minister in the pre-Taliban government. “... The doors of schools, colleges, universities and other educational institutions are permanently closed [to women]. ... The same goes for places of work. ... Taliban officials argue that the development of ... a framework for Afghan girls and women’s education is underway. These efforts are supposedly to align the education system with Islamic Sharia. ... In reality it is aimed at serving their political interests.”

EURONEWS / LYON, FRANCE

Europe must court Asian countries to stay competitive

“More than half of all new cars sold in China are now plug-in vehicles or hybrids,” writes author Nicolas Tenzer. “... Europe must counteract [this dominance] to remain competitive. ... It must also secure its access to raw materials. ... Building strong partnerships with resource-rich nations [in eastern Asia] such as Mongolia ... must be a priority in the face of Chinese (and Russian) efforts to secure access to important minerals. ... [Ukraine also] holds over €11 trillion worth of rare earths. ... [If Europe supported] an agreement [to end the war in Ukraine] that did not allow Ukraine to regain its entire territory ... [that] would be seen as a sign of weakness by ... Asian countries, which would turn away from Europe. ... The EU and its members need to fight for themselves by prioritising strategic partnerships with resource-rich countries.”

THE INDIAN EXPRESS / CHENNAI, INDIA

DeepSeek shows what’s possible for other nations

“A small [artificial intelligence] startup from China, DeepSeek, ... spooked big tech investors on Wall Street [in January] with its generative AI chatbot, a direct rival to ChatGPT,” writes columnist Anuj Bhatia. “It introduced a new approach to building AI models with fewer resources. ... DeepSeek’s approach holds a lesson for India. ... India has not yet had a golden moment in tech. ... [But] any nation that manages to scale up AI, democratise it, and generate developer interest ... is the one that will control the narrative and lead the AI arms race. ... India could jump in if it plays its cards right.”

– Compiled by Jacob Posner / Staff writer

My own treasure island

Overlooked places can yield a midwinter's tide of riches – if we're paying attention.

A beach in high summer is predictable: hot sun, murmuring surf, a bright expanse of sand filled with people, towels, beach chairs, and the scent of sunscreen. But an off-season beach often holds surprises – even treasure. Sometimes a lot of it.

My wife and I live in a northern latitude that would seem to limit what TV meteorologists deem “beach days,” but we have humbler criteria. A good beach day is sunny, without too much wind or too many people. New Year's Day, for example, is now a tradition for us – and for others, too, judging from the clumps of ski-parkaed and woolly-capped beachgoers we encounter.

Have you ever seen it snow at the beach? Snowflakes sift onto the wave tops and disappear. The onshore breeze keeps snow from accumulating much. Instead, it forms long thin lines on the sand, too sparse and dry to make a decent snowball. The whoosh of breaking waves sounds the same in midwinter as it does in midsummer. It's part dystopian, part delightful.

Add to that the occasional cinematic thrill of horses splashing through the surf. Dogs are also welcome off-season, and they are mostly ecstatic and a blur. Owners of long-haired breeds seem wistful, if not a bit morose, as they lead their happily drenched and sand-coated charges back to the parking lot. *That* will be a smelly ride home.

Spring provides the most surprises at the beach. Winter storms may have profoundly altered the shoreline, erasing a sandbar here, adding a new one there, or sculpting a long sand cliff along the high-tide line. The ribs of a 19th-century shipwreck dramatically appear and disappear from season to season.

You can pretend that the weather is warmer than it truly is and shed your shoes and socks at the base of the boardwalk steps. The sand is damp and not unpleasantly cool, but it's best to walk into the wind going out so that it's at your back when you turn for home.

Harsh wind and high tides also bring summer detritus to the surface. I take a bag with me whenever I go to the beach. Trash bugs me, and I can do something about it.

I had a bag handy one sunny March day during the pandemic, when my wife and I decided to visit the beach. The winter had been long and gray.

It wasn't long before we started spotting them: brightly colored sand toys, newly revealed. We found little shovels, a pail, a plastic sieve. There were metal toy vehicles, too, that their young owners had surely been warned *not* to bring to the beach. And sand molds, lots of them: blue fish, red lobsters, yellow turtles, even a small crenellated mold with which a determined child might fashion a wall for a doomed sandcastle. Soon, my shopping bag was filled to bursting. Oh, there was trash, too. But mostly it was toys. We'd never seen this happen before.

There's an ancient limestone formation in Wyoming, the Green River Formation, that is world famous for the Eocene-era fossils it contains in abundance – fish, turtles, and alligators, as well as insects, birds, and leaves.

We seemed to have stumbled upon a similar sedimentary layer of beach toys. They were everywhere, often in groups.

Now it was time to go home, and we scuffled back to the boardwalk. But what about the toys? They would have been a bonanza for our kids, years ago, but we had no use for them

now. “Let's line them up on the sand for kids to help themselves,” I proposed. That felt right in our hearts, but not in our heads. It was March, after all. We went with our hearts.

We were still clapping sand off our treasures and setting them in a long line when a young woman came down the steps leading two young boys.

“Would you like some beach toys?” we said. We hadn't even emptied the bag yet.

She was as grateful as her charges. She'd left the house so quickly, she said, that she'd forgotten to bring things for the boys to play with. She thanked us. We put on our shoes and left, pleased that our treasure was falling into the right hands.

I suspect that the entire cache migrated back onto the beach that day, and that not all of it returned home with its new owners. Some of it was lost, abandoned, and reburied, to emerge later and begin the cycle again. A few might even become bewildering fossils someday.

My wife and I took an early-morning beach walk the other day, before many others had arrived. I saw something in the sand at my feet and bent down to pick it up, ready with my trash bag. It was a small sand mold, a bright yellow turtle.

It looked familiar. This time, I took it home.

– Owen Thomas

A CHRISTIAN SCIENCE PERSPECTIVE

The change of thought that brings progress

Behind progress, a change of thinking leads the way. First comes an openness to a change, and then a commitment to clothe our thoughts with the new idea, the adjusted outlook.

It's encouraging where the Bible says, “I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my soul shall be joyful in my God; for he hath clothed me with the garments of salvation, he hath covered me with the robe of righteousness” (Isaiah 61:10).

This shows clearly how fine and beautiful one's quality of thought can be. Clothed in God's, divine Spirit's, salvation and righteousness, we're naturally joyful – and intimidated by nothing.

Each day, we can dress our thoughts and acts in the qualities and inspiration Spirit gifts us. Spirit expresses in us spiritual qualities such as love, insight, and power, and this is such a loving thing for Spirit to do. “Spirit duly feeds and clothes every object, as it appears in the line of spiritual creation, thus tenderly expressing the fatherhood and motherhood of God,” says Monitor founder Mary Baker Eddy in “Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures” (p. 507).

So, at Spirit's prompting, we can willingly and gladly change our mental garments and advance forward! Each time Spirit's inspiration is received, its light reveals new views and powerful truths.

An encouraging example of this is seen in the experience of a blind man who was sitting along a road when Christ Jesus walked by. He called out to Jesus. Jesus then asked him to come to him. “And he, casting away his garment, rose, and came to Jesus,” the Bible says (Mark 10:50).

“Casting away his garment” could be seen as an abandonment of his old life and familiar state of thought, so that he could receive what Jesus had for him. He asked Jesus for healing, and then, immediately, he could see. Leaving his old life, he walked

forward, following Jesus.

It is divine inspiration, rather than speculative fears of future suffering and lack, that leads the way forward. “Mere speculation or superstition,” explains Science and Health, “appropriates no part of the divine vesture, while inspiration restores every part of the Christly garment of righteousness” (p. 242).

What we wear mentally can, at each new tick of the clock, be Christly. The Christ may be defined as the inspiration that Spirit constantly and lovingly provides everyone. The Christ reveals the presence of God, Love – and ourselves shining forth as completely spiritual and perfect expressions of this holy presence.

We can wear praise for all that God, good, is and is doing. Only God deserves to have residence in thought.

While store-bought clothing dulls and weakens with wear, the Christly inspiration that Spirit provides, when worn often, even in the harshest conditions, becomes more beautiful and valuable to us, and we see more of its durability.

Like the man who was healed by Jesus, we must be willing to cast away our old garment, our fears, and clothe ourselves in Christly light and inspiration. Toward true progress, both personal and worldwide, such inspired changes of thinking always lead the way.

– Mark Swinney

ARTS AND CULTURE

TOKYO

China-Japan distrust has been tough to shake. Tourism might be the best chance.

By Ann Scott Tyson / Staff writer

Kazuro Inagaki is a bit of an anomaly in the world of Tokyo rickshaw pullers.

Until recently, he didn't advertise the fact that he had spent four years living in Beijing and spoke fluent Mandarin. But now, as he hustles for business outside the Senso-ji Buddhist temple on a chilly afternoon, it has become his strongest asset.

The ranks of mainland Chinese visitors coming to Japan nearly tripled last year to 7 million, chipping away at decades of antagonism between the countries and helping make 2024 a banner year for tourism. Tourism spending is now Japan's second-biggest export category after cars, and has surpassed electronic components and steel.

A sharp decline in the value of Japanese currency has contributed to the boom, yet Chinese travelers say they are drawn to the island for reasons that go beyond the favorable exchange rate. They express an open-mindedness and, by the end of their travels, an affinity for Japan that is often missing amid the historic animosity and ongoing territorial disputes between the two countries.

“It's very clean and has a good environment,” says Wang Boling, as he strolls past shops selling Japanese fans, paintings, and wooden sandals. On his first trip to Japan, Mr. Wang, from China's eastern Shandong province, is on a tour with 24 co-workers from a battery factory.

WHY WE WROTE THIS

When is a vacation more than a vacation? When it counters everything you've been taught to hate about another country. The surge of Chinese travelers into Japan may be creating much-needed ambassadors.

“I might well come back,” he says.

Such views are unusual, given how negative Chinese public opinion is about Japan, and vice versa. Indeed, generations of Chinese have viewed Japan as an enemy, with many elders still harboring resentment over atrocities committed by Japanese soldiers during World War II. A December poll found that nearly 90% of respondents in both China and Japan have a “poor or relatively poor” impression of the other country.

The results represent “the worst deterioration in public sentiment seen in the twenty years of this poll,” wrote Yasushi Kudo, president of The Genron NPO, a Tokyo-based organization that conducted the poll with the Beijing-based China International Publishing Group. In an online statement, Mr. Kudo called the findings “a warning” to Beijing and Tokyo.

Yet the poll also found one bright spot. Chinese citizens who had traveled to Japan had far more positive views than those who had not. Among those who had visited, 55% of Chinese polled said they had a “good” or “relatively good” impression of Japan, compared with less than 3% of those who had never visited.

Ariel Wang, a graduate student from Shanghai on her third visit to Japan, underscores the importance of this familiarity.

“I have a good feeling towards Japanese people. They are very hospitable,” she says, as she models a Japanese kimono together with her classmate Vita Wu. “They help us find our way and even lead us there – they are really polite.”

Ms. Wu nods. Visiting Japan for the first time, she has found herself enamored.

“I like the art and culture in Japan,” says Ms. Wu, who is teaching herself Japanese greetings. “We like Japanese TV shows and romantic movies.”

But as they snap photos of each other in their silken kimonos, the students are acutely aware that their fondness for Japan is rare among Chinese. They won't be posting the kimono images online in China, they say, lest they spark a public backlash.

Meanwhile, Mr. Inagaki, the rickshaw puller, is leveraging his Mandarin and making connections on Chinese apps. As a graduate of the Beijing Language and Culture University, he enjoyed living in China and now regularly interprets for Chinese visitors and businesspeople. While he says some Japanese are resentful about the flood of Chinese tourists, as well as higher hotel prices, many see advantages.

“It's good for us tour guides,” he says. ■

Grab your hat and marmalade: Paddington is headed to Peru

In his latest adventure, the charming bear is off to rescue a relative.

“**P**addington in Peru” points the franchise about an émigré bear living in London toward a new direction – home.

The red-chapeau’d bear with a blue duffle coat hasn’t changed much from the first film nearly 11 years ago. Innocent and charming as ever, Paddington (voiced by Ben Whishaw) still has his passions set on adventure, friendship, and a good marmalade sandwich. Meanwhile members of his adoptive family, the Browns, are growing up – and even apart from each other.

While “Paddington in Peru” likely won’t reach the viral success of “Paddington 2” – which famously toppled “Citizen Kane” as the best reviewed film on Rotten Tomatoes – the third film based on the books by Michael Bond is a lighthearted, highly entertaining adventure.

The new movie closely mirrors the plot and structure of the second. That makes sense, considering Paul King, who directed the first two films but stepped aside to direct “Wonka,” is credited as a writer. Newcomer Dougal Wilson makes his directorial debut here.

The plot kicks off when the Reverend Mother (a delightful Olivia Colman), who runs the Home for Retired Bears, pens a dire message to Paddington about his beloved Aunt Lucy. Primed with a passport as a newly minted British citizen, Paddington sets off with the Brown family for Peru, only to discover that Aunt Lucy has disappeared into the Amazon rainforest. Their quest to unravel the mystery of her disappearance unexpectedly leads them on a treasure hunt for the golden city of El Dorado.

Tagging along for the expedition are riverboat captain Hunter Cabot (Antonio Banderas) and his daughter Gina (Carla Tous). Captain Cabot, haunted by the literal ghosts of his past, seems more like Captain Ahab in his obsession with finding El Dorado’s mythical gold.

Banderas can’t rival Hugh Grant’s turn as shapeshifting personality Phoenix Buchanan in the second outing, but he convincingly leans into the vibe of a charming and audacious boat captain. His character’s arc exploring legacy and the importance of family yields both laughs and tender moments.

The Cabots help the movie shine in ways fans of the series will find familiar and comforting. Part of Paddington’s charm is that he always sees the best in people – and helps them see the best in themselves, too.

Although Colman’s off-kilter sister act steals the show, other performances also stand out. Hugh Bonneville again makes for an entertaining Henry Brown, an insurance executive who takes seriously a directive by his new boss to embrace risk. Emily Mortimer replaces Sally Hawkins as Mary Brown, and slides smoothly into her role as a quirky and loving mother and wife.

There are also some big laughs, including a version of a

famous Buster Keaton stunt, and an obvious reference to the hillside opening of “The Sound of Music.” Hayley Atwell’s minor role as a thrill-seeking American insurance client is also a crackup.

For all its delights, the film does have a few weaknesses. Some scenes – particularly those in the jungle – feel overwrought in terms of CGI use.

The younger characters – the Brown children and Gina – get pushed aside for their zanier elders, and their character development suffers. The film also lacks the fun side characters, such as Judge Gerald Biggleswade (Tom Conti) and chef Knuckles McGinty (Brendan Gleeson), who rounded out “Paddington 2.”

Most seriously, the movie doesn’t tackle the poignant conversations about migration and the immigrant experience, which the second film handled skillfully. The issue does come up: There’s some discussion about Paddington’s mixed sense of belonging now that he’s officially a British citizen. And his return to Peru inspires some feels toward the end of the film. But it’s a somewhat superficial glossing over of an emotionally complex topic that, in today’s political climate, warranted a deeper dive.

Still, “Paddington in Peru” is a worthy addition to the beloved franchise. Buoyed by strong performances and the everlasting charm of Paddington’s unflappable British manners, it’s a supremely entertaining story for Hollywood’s favorite marmalade-loving bear.

■ “*Paddington in Peru*” is rated PG for action, mild rude humor, and some thematic elements.

Q&A with Lia Block, a race car driver in the all-female F1 Academy

In the 75 years of Formula One’s history, only five women have ever had the opportunity to drive 200 mph while battling two times the g-force astronauts experience during takeoff. However, a recent Netflix docuseries called “Formula 1: Drive To Survive” – Season 7 debuts March 7 – has drawn more women to the sport, growing the Formula One female fan base from 8% to 40% in just six years. These fans have called attention to the lack of women behind the wheel.

One driver rising through the ranks is Utah-born racer Lia Block. She won the 2023 two-wheel-drive American Rally Association championship by drifting a Subaru BRZ through forests and off-road tracks. After becoming the youngest winner in ARA history, she promptly threw herself into an entirely new league: the F1 Academy. The academy is an all-female entry-level racing series. It was created in 2023 by Formula One to pioneer a track for young women in motorsports.

In a recent video call with the Monitor’s Brooke Holder, Ms. Block, the daughter of the late 23-time rally winner Ken Block and professional rally racer Lucy Block, shared her journey through the world of racing and how the recent expansion of Formula One has helped diversify the sport. The interview has been lightly edited and condensed.

Q: Since you were young watching races and are now on the race-track as a driver, how do you think the world of motorsports has changed over the past 10 years?

There’s a lot of ways you could answer that question, but I think for me growing up behind the scenes, social media has really changed the way that people view motorsports and how drivers get



ON FILM
BY TROY AIDAN SAMBAJON
AND CAMERON PUGH

[chosen by teams] in F1 and all the way down. That's a big reason why I'm in F1 Academy today, because of the social reach I have in the U.S. market.

I think the younger kids who are watching motorsports find out [about] these people and personalities from TikTok or Instagram. People connect a lot more with the drivers than the motorsport as a whole because they have someone to ... watch during the races. Especially with "Drive To Survive" ... sucking everybody into motorsports because they see behind the scenes and they see the people's personalities of who are driving.

Q: How are Formula One fans responding to women drivers in the F1 Academy series?

It's a bit different for everybody, but so far ... [it] has been pretty positive. Sometimes people don't understand this is an entry-level series and we're not trying to go and be F1 drivers the next year. But ... there's been so much support, and it's great to go into a paddock [the garages where teams work on the cars before and during the race] and see young girls coming to the races, which you probably wouldn't have seen five, 10 years ago. I think F1 Academy is such a great way for a new generation to come in because it shows women in motorsport on a huge stage racing [at the same circuits as] F1 on a race weekend. That is humongous! You get so many more eyes, and maybe there's a 5-year-old girl watching this [saying], "Oh, that's what I want to do when I grow up!"

Q: With your mom and dad both being rally car drivers, they probably have had a big influence on how you race. But who else has mentored or influenced you on the track?

Definitely my parents. I mean, they're the main reason I grew up around motorsport, and the whole reason I'm here today is because of them. Growing up, my idol was [French driver] Michèle Mouton. She really broke down the barriers for females in motorsport.

Going forward being a role model, I hope to show girls the same thing that I was shown from Michèle. I got to spend a couple of days with her and pick her brain about her feelings about racing against men back then [in the 1970s and 1980s]. She said it was really hard for her because nobody wanted her in that space and definitely nobody wanted to get beat by her. But she just kept pursuing and proving everybody wrong. That's what F1 Academy's about, and that's what I hope to do in the future.

Q: How does the F1 Academy support young women?

For me personally, this sport has been great in the way that they spread the love to every driver. They're supporting young girls in [go-kart racing] championships all over the world, doing these pop-ups trying to find talent, and just trying to get themselves out there in a way to let other young girls know [about opportunities] not just as a driver, but as an engineer, as a mechanic, or a reporter. There are so many jobs in motorsport that are open, but I think it's just about getting the word out there.

Q: What do you hope to achieve in racing?

Since I started racing I've always wanted to go for the top – the world championship, whether that's World Rally Championship, Formula One, or World Rallycross. I've always wanted to race against the boys. I've never thought that I couldn't, so I think F1 Academy is a great way for girls to start and then move up and start racing with everybody because we can obviously do it. I mean I've been beating boys my entire life. I want to keep going in that way, and wherever my opportunities take me, I just want to keep climbing up the ladder. ■

She punctures pretension on left and right

Once a card-carrying liberal, this writer got fed up with running afoul of the left's sacred cows.

By Roy Rivenburg / Contributor

As resident jester at the maverick journalism outlet The Free Press, Nellie Bowles scours the news for the absurd and hypocritical, and then skewers the best of the worst in her column, TGIF.

For instance, when Joe Biden warned in his farewell address that billionaires wield too much power, Ms. Bowles scoffed that he only meant Republican plutocrats. "Me, I'm balanced," she wrote. "I love all our oligarchs, on both sides. ... I want our political battles to be fought on warring yachts off the coast of Croatia."

The lampooning, along with her book, "Morning After the Revolution" – which argues that progressive politics and mainstream journalists "went berserk" in the early 2020s – have turned Ms. Bowles into a darling among conservatives and disenchanting Democrats.

"If I had to read just one thing all week to both amuse me and inform me without predictable bias, I'd pick Nellie's TGIF column – so smart, so funny," says comedian Bill Maher, who has hosted her on his HBO talk show.

But Ms. Bowles' political views defy easy categorization. "My personal politics are totally chaotic," she tells the Monitor. "Best described as strong opinions, loosely held. But that's why I'm a journalist and now mostly a satirist. If I had good political answers to the conundrums of the day, I'd be off doing that."

For most of her 36 years, Ms. Bowles was a "happy liberal," a sixth-generation San Franciscan whose beliefs were as synonymous with the city as fog and cable cars. At her high school, an elite boarding academy near Santa Barbara, she led the gay-straight alliance. With a penchant for steel-toed Doc Martens and rainbow stickers, she was initially the only out-of-the-closet student.

Ms. Bowles didn't intend to be a journalist. Hoping to write popular science books, she majored in psychology and comparative literature at Columbia University.

She soon realized, however, that "I was very bad at science research." Still wanting to write, she cajoled her way into an internship at the San Francisco Chronicle and "On Day 1, I knew this was my career," she says.

Seven years later, in 2017, she snagged the brass ring, joining the San Francisco bureau of The New York Times to cover tech and culture. But a cup of Goldfish crackers and a sojourn in Seattle helped turn her dream job to disillusionment.

Things began crystallizing in 2020, around the time that protesters transformed six blocks of Seattle into a cop-free zone. Amid conflicting accounts on whether the takeover created Camelot or chaos, Ms. Bowles wanted to report on merchants suing the city for withdrawing police and fire protection from the neighborhood. Several Times colleagues questioned her motives, cautioning that such an article would put her "on the wrong side of history," she recalls.

"For me," she says, journalism is about "following your curiosity," not censoring facts that undermine pet political causes. She went ahead with the story, which ended up on the newspaper's front page.

Ms. Bowles' love life also raised hackles. Two years earlier, during a trip to New York, she had rendezvoused over fish-shaped crackers with Bari Weiss, a Times opinion editor and writer, to discuss a news tip. "I fell in love immediately," Ms. Bowles says. A

relationship ensued and blossomed into romance.

Some co-workers were aghast. Although Ms. Weiss leans left on a number of issues, her conservative stances on others made her “a perennial political piñata, with just about everyone taking a whack,” as a magazine put it. Citing bullying by colleagues, Ms. Weiss quit the paper shortly before Ms. Bowles’ Seattle story was published. Ms. Weiss’ resignation letter, which also alleged a betrayal of journalistic standards, went viral. As the uproar unfolded, Ms. Bowles suggested they “get out of Dodge,” telling Ms. Weiss, “There’s this place called California, and it’s sunny, it’s beautiful, and people are so nice ... and politics is like the 10th thing they care about.” So the couple moved to Los Angeles, got married, and began plotting their future.

When Ms. Weiss envisioned launching a big media company, Ms. Bowles thought the idea was “delusional,” but nevertheless opened an account for her on Substack, a publishing platform popular with exiled journalists. Debuting in January 2021, it took off swiftly, she says.

Meanwhile, Ms. Bowles went on leave from the Times and began her book, which was “more or less a list of stories I wanted to write for The New York Times, but knew I couldn’t.” The topics included a “Toxic Trends of Whiteness” class, a homeless encampment “run by BMW-driving socialists,” and the hollowness of land acknowledgments. (You’re not giving the land back to Native Americans, she sniffs; it’s more like, “Let’s remember that people were slaughtered here on the soil under this beautiful Craftsman house, and then let’s continue on and have dessert.”)

Less than a year into the project, Ms. Bowles quit the paper and joined her wife’s venture as the flagship columnist. The Free Press has since racked up investors, expanded staff, and branched into podcasts and live events. Boasting over a million subscribers (145,000 are paying), it’s a bright spot in today’s media sphere.

With TGIF, Ms. Bowles is sort of a modern-day Mort Sahl, a political comedian of the 1950s and ’60s. But instead of walking onstage with a newspaper and riffing on headlines like Mr. Sahl, she walks on a treadmill beneath her shoulder-high computer screen while hunting for material to satirize. She test-drives her “rants” over dinner, and finalizes the roundup each Thursday.

Although most of her foils are progressives, she’s not averse to roasting conservative kahunas, including Elon Musk (“Normally you have to kill people to get that powerful”) and President Donald Trump, whose inauguration meme coins are “like tiny Ponzi schemes; the price goes up as long as people keep buying.”

Ms. Bowles acknowledges missing the in-depth reporting that marked her newspaper career, but with a 2-year-old daughter and infant son, such stories are harder to pull off.

“Once the kids are in school, I’ll go back to feature writing,” she says.

Then again, TGIF typically attracts three times as many eyeballs as her Times articles, she notes. “It’s so much fun.” ■

Earth’s green evolution gave rise to everything from dinosaurs to dandelions

A paleontologist traces the cooperation among plants, animals, and ecosystems.

By Richard Horan / Contributor

Paleontologist and science writer Riley Black aims to give evolutionary biology the narrative drive and verve of fiction. In her latest work, “When the Earth Was Green,” Black selects 15 geologic epochs and certain keystone species to create a journey of the sights and sounds, textures and smells, actions and reactions of plants, animals, and habitats.

Her goal is not just to describe the interplay among species, but also to show that biology is about what comes next. Organisms and ecosystems are always affecting one another, and each geologic iteration makes way for biological adaptations and changes, up to and including extinction.

As a paleontologist, Black is naturally drawn to dinosaurs and what happened to them. But she goes back – way back – to explore how the proliferation of plant life supported dinosaurs and enabled them to grow into the massive creatures that have captured our imaginations.

She describes how photosynthesis predated the appearance of plants by millions of years.

She writes, “Plants have only ever borrowed the ability, an accidental gift when ingestion turned into an ability to change components of Earth’s abiotic makeup into living, growing tissue. The greening of the planet was so widespread that it opened opportunities for some plants to give up on photosynthesis altogether, instead taking a little from the great trees around them to thrive in the shade.”

“When the Earth Was Green” moves around the planet, era by era, from Oman to Ohio, New Mexico to New Zealand, offering slices of life from the grasslands to the oceans. The writing is often evocative: “The carbon dioxide and methane released from deep within the planet have fed a new warming pulse, another chapter in the seemingly endless summer of the dinosaurs.”

Also enjoyable are the entertaining descriptions of plant and animal interactions similar to those we’ve witnessed in our own lives.

For example, how cats and catnip became an item: “*Machairodus* [a type of saber-toothed cat] is just a few chews into the swath of low-growing catnip before she leans into a deep stretch, pushing her chin low to the ground as her massive mitts slide through the clumps of catnip. It just feels so good.” The plant has developed a compound to ward off insects that just happens to also attract felines.

In another example, Black writes about how tree resin turns into amber. A mosquito becomes trapped in the sticky resin and then becomes entombed, preserving the fossil record: “The minerals infiltrate and replace her [mosquito] tissues, beginning to copy them and even fill the tiny cavities in her body. Her body is acting as a mold for what’s becoming a mineralized cast.”

There are also snippets in the book that validate our own present-day causes and concerns, like No Mow May: “Those invertebrates that don’t perish for the season, leaving behind their eggs for the spring, have no choice but to shelter in place, and the evolution of trees and shrubs that shed their leaves have been among the happiest accidents in the long history of forests.”

Black is able to convey both the elemental randomness and the singular persistence of life from the beginning of time. In the end, “When the Earth Was Green” offers a few new twists on Charles

Darwin's dangerous idea: "Evolution doesn't set the beat so much as follow it, however. Survival doesn't just depend on what a species is today, but what it might become tomorrow." ■

A 'sweet natured' hare wins the heart of a writer

Chloe Dalton rescues a newborn hare and finds herself more open to the wonders of nature.

By Heller McAlpin / Contributor

In times of great stress, people often find comfort in the natural world, sometimes by forging unexpected connections with wild creatures. This has resulted in a bounty of beautiful books, including Helen Macdonald's "H is for Hawk," Amy Tan's "The Backyard Bird Chronicles," and Catherine Raven's "Fox and I," along with Craig Foster's documentary film, "My Octopus Teacher."

Chloe Dalton's "Raising Hare" is a welcome addition to these stories of transformative, interspecies trust-building. It follows a classic narrative: a busy city person with a demanding job who, due to circumstances beyond her control, is forced to stop and smell the flowers. During the pandemic lockdown, Dalton, a London-based political adviser who traveled frequently for work, retreats to her country home, a converted barn that "stood alone in a broad expanse of arable farmland, quartered by streams and hedgerows and interspersed with stands of woodland."

One cold winter day, walking along an unpaved track, Dalton comes upon a newborn hare – a leveret – lying helpless on a grass strip. She wavers about interfering with nature, but when she returns hours later, the tiny creature is still there. She carries it home, wrapped in handfuls of grass, which she hopes will protect it from her scent.

Uncertain how to proceed, Dalton consults several animal experts, who tell her unequivocally that hares, unlike rabbits, cannot be domesticated. She had no intention of taming the leveret, merely of rescuing it, "But it seemed that I had committed a bad error of judgment." Too late to turn back, she bottle-feeds it a powdered milk formula meant for kittens, which gives her the rare "luxury of observing the leveret at close quarters" in its "trembling, milky ecstasy."

"Raising Hare" is filled with fascinating information gleaned from both close observation and research. Although rabbits and hares belong to the same order of animals, Lagomorpha, hares are generally twice the size of rabbits, and the two species never interbreed. Unlike rabbits, hares are capable of carrying two litters simultaneously in serial, overlapping pregnancies – a feat called superfetation.

While children's literature is filled with anthropomorphized rabbits, including Beatrix Potter's Peter Rabbit, Margery Williams' Velveteen Rabbit, and Margaret Wise Brown's Runaway Bunny, hares are somewhat rarer. Dalton points out two notable, unflattering exceptions: the mad March Hare in Lewis Carroll's "Alice's Adventures in Wonderland," and Mark Twain's "jackass rabbit" in "Roughing It."

Through trial and error, Dalton learns what works and what doesn't. Corralling the leveret in a makeshift pen for its protection is upsetting to the sensitive creature. So, too, are male visitors, loud noises, and bright lights. Rather than forcing her houseguest to adapt, Dalton changes her habits to accommodate the animal. She refrains from turning on lights at dusk and even installs a door for the leveret to go in and out to the walled garden at will.

From the outset, her plan is to release the animal back into nature once it's weaned, and to give it as much freedom as possible in the meantime. She resists naming it, because "to name the hare was to proclaim it a pet." This leads to some narrative challenges, especially when – spoiler alert – new generations of leverets enter the picture.

Dalton finds that the hare she's sheltering is neither mad nor jackass. Charmed by the growing leveret's "gentle temper and unwavering sweetness," she becomes a champion of these crepuscular creatures, which are most active at dawn and dusk.

She is alarmed by how vulnerable they are to predators like hawks, owls, buzzards, and snakes, but also to murderous farm machinery and hunters. On average only 25% of leverets reach adulthood, and few live past three or four years.

In Britain, hundreds of thousands of hares are shot each year for recreation – "the only game species not protected by a closed hunting season."

Well aware that her "new spirit of attentiveness to nature" aroused by the hare is an old story, Dalton makes it fresh with often gorgeous descriptions of the silent hare's highly expressive ear positions, its meticulous cleanliness, and its lustrous fur coat, which changes coloration with the seasons.

"Raising Hare" is an open-ended rather than a "hare today, gone tomorrow" tale. Lacking the expected, traditional narrative arc that ends in loss, its final chapters drag a bit. But Dalton's paean to her "wondrous," life-changing communion with this animal offers many exquisite moments, including her description of hares leaping and cresting the tops of tall grasses in the fields surrounding her house "with a smooth flowing motion, [like] dolphins of the meadow." ■

IN PICTURES

A second chance and a callback to the wild

Story by Sarah Matusek / Staff writer

KEENESBURG, COLO.

At a distance, the snowy Rocky Mountains line the horizon like lace. Otherwise, it's hard to tell this is Colorado, given the tigers, lions, leopards, and other foreign carnivores.

This isn't a zoo, and don't let the fencing fool you. This is The Wild Animal Sanctuary, where more than 450 animals brought to Colorado's eastern plains get a second chance to roam. The sanctuary spans over 1,200 acres and rehabilitates captive exotic and endangered animals. For some, this might be the first time their paws have touched grass.

Below the elevated walkway where visitors watch, a jaguar patrols the edge of a fence. The nonprofit says Manchas was a neglected pet in Mexico, confused about his identity after he was raised by the family's dogs. Other rescues have come from Bolivian circuses, an Iowa mall, and a shuttered Puerto Rican zoo. About 150 came from the cages of the Netflix show "Tiger King."

In the view of Austin Hill, public relations director at the sanctuary, the need to rescue animals can result from owners' warped priorities. "People were trying to mistake human want for animal need," he says.

Perhaps some exceptions are the lions that hail from a zoo in Ukraine. Rescued from Odesa, they were spared Russia's war.

Rehabilitation takes time. And progress, when it comes, appears in behavior. For the big cats, for example, roaming is a welcome sign. Roaring is also good. So is falling asleep on one's back, with legs limp and stomach exposed. The cats would do that only, the humans here assume, if they felt safe.

One lioness, spotted on a recent tour, is in just this pose with her jaw gone slack. During the Monitor's second visit in December, most of the sanctuary's bears were missing from the scene. They were busy hibernating, dreaming bear dreams.

The sanctuary expands beyond just this site, and includes a wild mustang refuge in Colorado's northwest. Overall, the nonprofit has about 100 staff members and some 160 volunteers. From a safe distance, workers here build rapport with the animals.

Mr. Hill can name the rescues at first glance, as if ticking off the roster of a favorite football team. Foxes with tails that float behind them, light as scarves, frolic in a ditch. That's Benedict, Suzette, Pickles, and Pancake.

The sanctuary provides over 100,000 pounds of food a week at its peak. Meals are offered at random times to replicate an authentic habitat. Another callback to the wild comes in sound.

The lions start a call-and-response – thunder from their throats. The conversation builds, with groans and grunts and heaving sighs, rattling the valley and its birds. Several seconds pass till I remember how to breathe. ■

SUDOKU

Sudoku difficulty: ★★★☆

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

How to do Sudoku

Fill in the grid so the numbers 1 through 9 appear just once in each column, row, and three-by-three block.

Crossword and Sudoku solutions

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P	A	D	L	I	E	S	A	M	I	C	E	L	I	E	P	I	P	E	L	I	N	E	S	O	D	E	F	A	L	S	E	N	A	V	S	F	A	L	S	E	O	L	E	D	A	I	S	A	C	K	P	A	N	L	O	G	S	I	N	A	I	P	A	N	O	E	G	O	D	E	S	K	R	E	P	S	E	G	O	T	E	R	B	S	G	U	Y	S	A	S	E	T	V	E	R	B	S	R	A	M	D	E	A	B	D	I	C	A	T	E	D	O	W	E	A	B	D	I	C	A	T	E	D	T	E	A	G	A	I	T	S	A	R	I	E	R	R	E	R	E	D	G	E	H	E	A	D
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8	1	5	7	3	6	4	9	2
4	7	2	5	8	9	1	3	6
3	9	6	2	1	4	7	5	8
9	3	8	4	2	5	6	7	1
6	2	1	8	7	3	9	4	5
5	4	7	6	9	1	2	8	3
7	8	3	1	4	2	5	6	9
2	6	4	9	5	8	3	1	7
1	5	9	3	6	7	8	2	4

Crossword

Across

- 1. Prattles away
- 5. Cut out, say
- 9. Steno book
- 12. How not to run?
- 13. Mickey and Minnie, for two
- 14. Make things up
- 15. Information channels
- 17. Commemorative poem
- 18. Drench
- 19. Patched up, in a way
- 21. Incorrect
- 24. Turndowns
- 26. Flamenco exclamation
- 27. Lecturer's spot
- 29. Burlap bag
- 33. Ship's journal
- 34. Egyptian peninsula
- 36. Lost Boys leader
- 37. Dorm room furniture
- 39. Iron-pumper's units
- 40. Inflated self-image
- 41. They go with gals
- 43. Winning smile, perhaps
- 45. Parser's parts
- 48. Batter or butter
- 49. "You ___ it to yourself"
- 50. Renounced formally
- 56. Boston party drink?
- 57. Horse's stride
- 58. Calcutta clothing
- 59. Misspeak
- 60. Drop-off point
- 61. President

Down

- 1. Disparity
- 2. "___ missing something here?"

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8		9	10	11
12					13					14		
15				16						17		
			18					19	20			
21	22	23				24	25					
26				27	28				29	30	31	32
33				34				35		36		
37			38		39					40		
			41	42					43	44		
45	46	47					48					
49				50	51	52				53	54	55
56				57					58			
59				60						61		

© Lovatts Puzzles

- 3. Early jazz
- 4. Takes an oblique course
- 5. Discharge, as light
- 6. Deafening noise
- 7. Wintry coating
- 8. Cross
- 9. Sound of a drip
- 10. Capitol Hill helper
- 11. Legal document
- 16. Music festival city in England
- 20. Biblical beast of burden
- 21. Sheep pen
- 22. Vera often follows it
- 23. Trip components
- 24. Inverted sixes
- 25. High-priority label
- 28. Bright and breezy
- 30. King Kong kin
- 31. It may be rattled
- 32. Clove hitch or sheepshank
- 35. Author Asimov
- 38. Frequent 007 adversary
- 42. Gas bill info
- 44. Hollywood hit
- 45. Election selection
- 46. Water bearer
- 47. Raise
- 48. Ceremonial event
- 51. Already turned
- 52. Really get into
- 53. Edison's monogram
- 54. Big slice of history
- 55. Past do?