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MARCH MADNESS!
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Celebrate spring with marbled eggs p25
Gender balance at 2024 Olympics

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The first modern-day Summer Olympics in 1896 included only male athletes. Women first competed in the 1900 Summer Games in France, where 22 of the 997 athletes were female. By the 2020 Summer Olympics in Tokyo, women made up 48% of all athletes.

As part of a greater push for gender equality, the 2024 Summer Games will also have a more balanced competition schedule and provide equal media coverage to women's sports.

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Even so, the mission achieved important goals and was considered a success. The spacecraft's six engines set off before it separated smoothly from the booster, which is called "hot staging." It also traveled farther than ever, and scientists were able to test its engines and open a cargo door remotely.

Bill Nelson, the head of NASA, congratulated SpaceX on the successful test flight. Gwynne Shotwell, the president of SpaceX, called it an "incredible day." SpaceX hopes to make at least five more test flights before the end of 2024.

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President Joe Biden and former President Donald Trump are set to be the Presidential nominees for the nation’s two major political parties on November 5, Election Day. The contest is a rematch of 2020, when Biden, a Democrat, defeated Trump, a Republican.

What happened?
On March 12, Biden became his party’s presumptive nominee after he won the Democratic primary in Georgia. A primary is a nominating contest that a political party holds in many states to determine a candidate to run for President. Hours later, Trump became the presumptive nominee for the Republicans when he won the Republican primaries held in Georgia, Mississippi, and Wisconsin. The Democrats will hold their primaries when he won the Republican primaries held in Georgia, Mississippi, and Washington. The nominations will become official at the parties’ conventions this summer.

Why is this race historic?
This is the first time the same two candidates will run for President in back-to-back elections since 1956. In that race, President Dwight D. Eisenhower, a Republican, ran for re-election against Adlai Stevenson, a Democrat, whom Eisenhower had defeated in 1952. During the rematch in 1956, Eisenhower was again victorious over Stevenson and went on to serve a second term as the 34th US President.

Has an ex-President ever been re-elected?
Grover Cleveland, a Democrat, is the only US President to be re-elected after losing the Presidency. He was elected in 1884 and served as the nation’s 22nd President from 1885–1889. Four years later, Cleveland lost to Benjamin Harrison, a Republican who became the 23rd President. During that time, Cleveland went to work at a law firm in New York City. In 1892, the two ran against each other again. This time, Cleveland defeated Harrison and became the 24th President.

What will happen next?
The Republican convention is scheduled to take place from July 15 to 18 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. The Democrats will hold their convention in Chicago, Illinois, from August 19 to 22. Biden and Trump will campaign against each other until Election Day.

New York City to get tiny forest
A “tiny forest” smaller than a tennis court will be planted on Roosevelt Island in New York City this spring. Officials said the forest, consisting of 1,000 native plants, trees, and shrubs, will help the city’s environment by providing a home to birds and other wildlife, clearing the air, and increasing floodwater absorption.

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Book ban attempts increase

Forty challenge or ban books from schools and public libraries reached an all-time high in 2023, according to a new report released by the American Library Association (ALA) on March 14. When people challenge a book, they try to have it permanently removed from libraries or schools because of its content. The ALA said there were more than 1,247 demands to restrict books last year, the most since the group began gathering data 20 years ago. The demands called for the removal of 4,240 titles, which was a 65% increase from 2022, when 2,571 titles were targeted. The count is based on reports from libraries and the media, and the ALA said the actual number of challenges may be significantly higher.

School officials, parents, and other members of a community challenge books because they include language, political views, or topics they disagree with or find offensive. According to the ALA, 47% of the targeted books had racial or LGBTQ themes. One reason for the increase in challenged books in 2023 is that many individuals and groups called for hundreds of titles to be banned at a time, the ALA reported. The increase in challenges has states divided. In about 12 states, including Florida and Texas, lawmakers are taking measures to make it easier to restrict book access. About 20 other states, including Illinois, have introduced legislation that promotes the “right to read” and would protect libraries from having to take books off their shelves because of challenges. “There’s always going to be books on the shelves that we might not agree with, but they’re there for another reason,” ALA executive Deborah Caldwell-Stone told The New York Times. Caldwell-Stone said she hopes that the number of challenges will begin to decrease as people realize that libraries have a mission to serve everyone. The ALA will release its annual list of the top 10 most challenged books on April 8.

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Biden becomes oldest man to win the White House
Democratic President Joe Biden is the first US President to win the White House at age 78. The word “rocket” began with the something much more down to Earth. Space rockets took their name from the spindle on which wool was wound for spinning. The name was later used for certain fireworks and spacecraft because they are also cylindrical.

WORD OF THE WEEK
ROCKET

An electric bus
Milestone for electric school buses
Thomas Bal Buses, a company that makes school buses, has delivered its 1,000th electric bus.

THE WEEK IN HISTORY
March 24, 2002
History made at Academy Awards
On March 24, 2002, the top acting prizes at the Academy Awards went to Halle Berry for best actress and Denzel Washington for best actor (both shown at right). This was the first time a Black man and Black woman won these awards in the same year, the first best actress award for a Black woman, and the second best actor award for a Black man. “This moment is so much bigger than me,” Berry said.

THE FIRST REMATCH

The first Presidential rematch was in 1800 between John Adams (above left) and Thomas Jefferson (above right). In 1796, Adams had defeated Jefferson to become the second US President. Four years later, they ran for President again, along with other candidates. This time Jefferson prevailed, becoming the third US President.

ELECTION 2024

National news

Court justices focus on civility
Sonia Sotomayor and Amy Coney Barrett, two of the nine justices of the US Supreme Court (highest court of law), appeared together at a conference in Washington, DC, on March 12 to promote civility in US politics. The two justices, who rarely share the same opinion on court cases, said all the justices speak to one another with respect. “We don’t sit on opposite sides of an aisle,” Barrett said. “We all wear the same color black robes.”

More books are being challenged.
Amsterdam, the Netherlands

Befriending the city’s rats

Some Dutch scientists are calling for Amsterdam to become a rat-friendly city by providing special rodent feeding areas in parks so people can get to know the creatures. Despite their reputation for being dirty, rats are very clean animals and are “very good at recycling,” said scientist Maite van Gerwen.

Italy

Plan to encourage historical festivals

Italy’s government hopes to attract more tourists to quiet hilltop villages and towns by promoting historical re-enactments, including horse races, processions, and made-up military battles. Some of these festivals date back centuries, but as interest in them has grown recently, towns have started inventing new ones. Supporters say the events bring in hundreds of millions of dollars through tourism.

Abidjan, Ivory Coast

Shortage makes chocolate expensive

The International Cocoa Organization said it expects worldwide production of cocoa beans to decrease by 11% this season due to extreme weather and diseases that harm plants. Ivory Coast and Ghana, the top suppliers of the beans, have produced one third less than they did at this time last year. The price of cocoa has risen to record highs, affecting chocolate makers and consumers.

New Delhi, India

Controversial refugee law takes effect

Some people who have been treated badly because of their religion in Pakistan, Bangladesh, and Afghanistan will be given the chance to become Indian citizens as a result of the Citizenship Amendment Act, which has now taken effect. The law has sparked protests, however, because although it will let religious groups such as Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists, and Christians become citizens, Muslims cannot apply.

Lagos, Nigeria

Boosting kids’ art

A gallery is supporting young artists, ages 4 to 17, by helping them sell their artwork around the world. The Children’s Art Gallery accepts artwork from any child. It has discovered artists like 11-year-old Fiyinfoluwa Adeniji, who earned about $650 for two paintings. The gallery works with the children’s families to ensure the money made from art sales goes toward their education, healthcare, and creative pursuits.

Nagakute, Japan

Famous Catbus introduced in park

Electric vehicles designed to look like an iconic film character have been introduced to Ghibli Park, a theme park in Japan. The Catbus, a living bus with 12 legs and a cat’s face, appears in the animated movie My Neighbor Totoro, made by the Studio Ghibli film company. The real-life Catbus has glowing eyes and fur-covered seats. It can transport six passengers at a time and will help people travel through the park.

The Gaza Strip

Aid ship loaded with food arrives

A boat carrying nearly 200 tons of food arrived in Gaza on March 16 to bring some relief to the more than one million people there who are at risk of famine (extreme lack of food) amid the ongoing war between Israel and Hamas. The shipment was organized by the nonprofit World Central Kitchen, which has now begun preparing to send a second boat with more food.

Russia

Putin reinstated for fifth term

Russian president Vladimir Putin won another six-year term in elections held March 15–17. Russia’s election commission said Putin received 87% of the vote, but most of his opponents were barred from running and international leaders said the elections were not fair. Russians opposing Putin stood at polling centers on March 17 to show their dissent.

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Is spring a better season than fall?

What you need to know

- According to the Farmer’s Almanac, spring in the US starts on the day of the vernal equinox in March, when day and night have an almost equal number of hours.
- Weather scientists, however, consider March 1 the beginning of spring.
- The almanac says September’s autumnal equinox is the first day of fall, while scientists use September 1.
- In the US, the average temperature on spring days is about 51°F, and in the fall it’s nearly 54°F.

LAST month, a famous weather-predicting groundhog did not see his shadow—which, according to legend, means an early spring is on the way. Many people celebrated. They’re ready to shed their winter jackets, take in spring’s lush greenery, and enjoy seasonal holidays like Holi, Easter, and Passover. Other people want to skip right ahead to fall, when the trees put on a magnificent show of vibrant gold, orange, and green. It’s the start of the holiday season, which includes Thanksgiving, Hanukkah, and Christmas. Yes—goodbye, cold winter. Spring is all about new beginnings. After a long, dreary winter, there’s nothing better than seeing the first blooms pop up and seeing the bright yellow daffodils blooming. The days are getting longer, and when the brain is exposed to more sunlight, it releases a chemical called serotonin that can boost your mood. In spring, you know summer (and summer break) is coming up, but in the fall, the dark, cold winter is next. Spring also feels like a time of opportunity. You can open your windows, step comfortably outside, go for a bike ride, or head to a farmers market for seasonal produce like carrots, apricots, and strawberries. That spring picnic is calling your name! Yes—spring is a better season than fall!

NO—fall colors are gorgeous

It’s time to bring out your best sweaters, favorite boots, and spookiest costumes! The heat of summer is over, and cool, cozy days are ahead. School starts again, and soon you’ll get to see your friends and settle into a comfortable routine. And fall is so distinct. It’s full of beautiful colors, slanting light, yummy spices, changing leaves, and crisp air. It’s also the start of the holiday season with Halloween, Thanksgiving, and more. That makes fall the ideal time to gather with your loved ones and enjoy the season. Go apple picking, stop by a pumpkin patch, or race to the finish at a corn maze. What fun!

Last week, we asked you if private jets should be allowed. Two thirds of you voted in favor of this kind of exclusivity. Travel, while a third voted against it.

NO—spring is not a better season than fall

1. Fall means the warm, sticky days of summer are over, and you’ll get to see school friends again.
2. Fast colors are the best. The turning leaves make you feel like you’re in a painting.
3. It’s the start of the holiday season, which means it’s time to plan your Halloween costume and think about Thanksgiving.

The goal of the big debate is to present two sides of an issue fairly in order to stimulate discussion and allow our readers to make up their minds. The views on this page do not reflect those of The Week Junior, and the page is not funded by third parties.

What do you think?

Now that you’ve read a bit more about this issue, visit kids.theweekjunior.com/polls so you can vote in our debate. Vote YES if you think spring is a better season than fall or NO if you don’t. We’ll publish the results next week.

The big debate

A sea-life storyteller

Dr. Alex Schnell shares what makes the octopus special in a new TV series.

D r. Alex Schnell has spent her career studying sea life, particularly the lives of cephalopods—squid,cuttlefish, and octopus. She is the producer and principal storyteller of the new National Geographic documentary series Secrets of the Octopus. It premieres on NatGeo on April 21 and on Disney+ on Hulu the next day.

Schnell grew up in Sydney, Australia, and told The Week Junior that she spent time after school exploring the sea along the rocky coastline. She studied marine biology in college and then attended the University of Cambridge in England, earning her doctorate in the psychology of cephalopods—the group of animals that include octopus, cuttlefish, and squid. Secrets of the Octopus is the third installment of NatGeo’s Secrets of... franchise, which is in collaboration with renowned filmmaker James Cameron. The first was Secrets of the Whales, followed by Secrets of the Elephant. This new three-part series dives into the remarkable traits of octopuses, such as how they shift in shape and color to avoid predators. Schnell has served as a marine expert for other wildlife film projects, including Planet Earth II, but this was her first time in front of the camera. In it, she takes viewers underwater to see octopuses in their natural habitat and tells stories about how they display human-like thinking.

When Schnell began focusing on octopuses, she said they were seen as mythical sea creatures. Now she enjoys people’s growing fascination with them. Her advice to young people who have a special interest in a topic is to “stay true to your field” and “follow that passion.”

Video game honor

Koji Kondo, who composed the original theme music for Nintendo’s Super Mario Bros., has been inducted into the Academy of Interactive Arts and Sciences Hall of Fame in Las Vegas, Nevada. He is the first composer to receive the honor, which is given to people who have had a significant impact on the video game industry. Kondo, age 63, grew up in Japan and has created the music for other popular games, such as The Legend of Zelda. He said he is happy to know that his music has brought joy to gaming experiences.

Style icon mourned

Iris Apfel, an influential interior designer who became famous in her 80s for her colorful personal style, died on March 1 at age 102. Born in Queens, New York, in 1921, she grew up to run a successful interior design business alongside her husband, with movie stars and nine US Presidents as clients. Apfel’s life was tied to fashion, and in 2005 the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City staged an exhibition of her costume jewelry and clothing. In her 90s, she appeared in campaigns for Kate Spade and MAC Cosmetics. “Fashion should be fun,” she once said.

OVERHEARD

"Writing has always been a way for me to figure out what I'm feeling."

— Grammy-nominated singer and songwriter Norah Jones, age 27

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Epic migration journey

The world’s longest migration is that of the Arctic tern. These birds spend most of their year travelling more than 18,000 miles from the Arctic Circle to the Antarctic Circle, chasing summer weather conditions across the globe. The birds save energy by gliding on ocean breezes, and they can sleep and eat in the air.

Migrating species need protection

A report has pointed to the importance of protecting the world’s migrating species — those that regularly travel to another location in order to survive. Migrating animals might be looking for food, better weather, or a mate. They include mammals such as whales and gorillas; amphibians, like toads; reptiles, including turtles; insects; fish; and birds.

Gorillas are migrating mammals.

It’s difficult to protect migrating species due to the distances they travel. For example, monarch butterflies fly 3,000 miles every fall from northeastern North America to Mexico. The report recommends that countries create protected land areas to give animals a safe route. It also urges governments to do more to solve climate change and reduce noise, light, and plastic pollution.

PLACE OF THE WEEK

Columbia River Gorge, Oregon

The Columbia River Gorge sits near the Cascade Mountain Range in Oregon. The gorge, which is a steep valley between the mountains, is 85 miles long and almost 4,000 feet deep. It was shaped by floods and volcanoes thousands of years ago. In 1986, President Ronald Reagan established part of the gorge as a National Scenic Area, which is protected by the federal government. The area is known for its waterfalls and hundreds of wildflowers like daisies and buttercups. Bobcats, black bears, beavers, pikas, and Northern spotted owls also live there.

Piukas are related to rabbits.

Marslins change color when hunting

Striped marlins are one of the top predators in the Pacific and Indian Oceans. Now researchers have learned that the fish change the color of their stripes while hunting, which may help them work together during a hunt.

When hunting in groups, each marlin takes turns attacking prey. This requires the fish to coordinate with one another. A new study analyzed video footage of marlins attacking schools of sardines. The researchers found that a marlin’s stripes would become brighter when it began to attack its prey, then dim back to their normal color after the attack ended.

Experts already knew that striped marlins can change color, but this is the first time the behavior has been linked to hunting. The researchers believe it is a way for marlins to communicate with one another as they hunt. It may also be a way of confusing their prey.

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FUN FACT:

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All about Miami

A magical city of art, culture, and fun

Discover what makes this Florida metropolis so distinctive in the US.

Miami is a city rich in culture and history. Get to know the place that local residents have dubbed “the Magic City.”

History of Miami

The name Miami comes from a Native American name for a local river, “Mayaimi” (“big water”). A small, peaceful tribe called the Tequesta lived in the region that is now Miami for centuries until the Spanish claimed it in about 1566. The Tequesta died as a result of settlement battles and disease brought by Europeans, with few survivors by the 1800s. In 1821, the US acquired Florida from Spain. Ohio native Julia Tuttle moved to the area in 1891, buying land and donating it so others could settle there. In 1895, she convinced railway executive Henry Flagler to extend a train line from Palm Beach south to Miami to attract more people. Called “the Mother of Miami,” Tuttle is the only woman to have founded a major US city.

A growing city

On April 13, 1896, the first train arrived in Miami. The city was incorporated (founded) with 424 registered voters later that year. Flagler soon opened the Royal Palm Hotel, one of the first resorts in the region aimed at drawing tourists and wealthy patrons to Miami’s warm temperatures and scenic beaches. The population continued to grow into the 1900s, reaching 30,000 in the 1920s. To create more usable land, Florida began to drain and clear the Everglades, a wilderness of wetlands, marshes, and forests. The land was advertised nationwide to entice people to move to Miami.

Foods of Miami

Cuban sandwich

Miami’s version of this classic from Cuba features smoked ham, roasted pork, Swiss cheese, pickles, and mustard.

Stone crabs

A local delicacy found off the coast of South Florida, stone crabs have been on the menus of some of the most renowned restaurants in Miami for more than 100 years.

Jerk chicken

A beloved dish in Miami’s large Jamaican and Caribbean community, jerk chicken is prepared by generously coating the chicken in a unique “marmalade” of spices, herbs, and peppers.

Torta helada

This pretty-in-pink cake came to Miami by way of Peru. It gets its bold color from strawberry jelly, although some bakers use peach or orange jelly instead.

Arepas

This South American–inspired dish is made with dough from ground corn and stuffed with fillings like avocado, chicken, and cheese.

Around town

One of the oldest neighborhoods in Miami is Historic Overtown. It was settled in the 1890s by Black workers who built Miami’s railroads and hotels but were not allowed to live in other areas of the city due to racism. Today it has a historic theater and museums honoring Black history and culture. During the Great Depression (1929–1939), Jewish investors who moved to Miami built small, brightly colored Art Deco–style hotels in South Beach. In the 1950s, many people from Cuba fled their country and communism (a social system with no private property), and immigrants from Latin American and Caribbean countries moved to the Riverside area of Miami. It became known as “Little Havana,” named after Cuba’s capital city. Calle Ocho (8th Street) is the center of social and commercial life in Little Havana and is dotted with rooster sculptures.

Miami now

About 450,000 people live in Miami today, and New York City is the only US city that receives more visitors per year. Attractions include beaches, restaurants, shops, Zoo Miami, museums, and distinctive parking garages (including one designed to look like a jigsaw puzzle). The first phase of the Underline—a 10-mile urban park with trails, a public gym, and art spaces located under Miami’s elevated railroad—opened in 2021. Wynwood (also called the Design District) is currently considered one of Miami’s hippest neighborhoods, known for its colorful murals and an outdoor museum featuring street art.

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About 450,000 people live in Miami today, and New York City is the only US city that receives more visitors per year. Attractions include beaches, restaurants, shops, Zoo Miami, museums, and distinctive parking garages (including one designed to look like a jigsaw puzzle). The first phase of the Underline—a 10-mile urban park with trails, a public gym, and art spaces located under Miami’s elevated railroad—opened in 2021. Wynwood (also called the Design District) is currently considered one of Miami’s hippest neighborhoods, known for its colorful murals and an outdoor museum featuring street art.
Did dinosaurs swim to Africa?

For many years, scientists have believed that some dinosaurs could wade and paddle around in the water, but they did not think the creatures were strong swimmers. A recent study of dinosaur fossils discovered in what is now Africa has challenged this theory. The fossils came from a group of dinosaurs called hadrosaurs. They are known as duck-billed dinosaurs because their snouts were shaped like a duck’s bill. These creatures first appeared in what is now North America during a period known as the late Cretaceous, between 100 million and 66 million years ago. The fossils were from the skull, arm, and leg of three hadrosaur species, one smaller and two larger. The team of researchers said Nicholas Longrich, an author of the study, “The duck-billed dinosaurs eventually spread into Europe and Asia by crossing the land. The bones in Africa, however, puzzled scientists because the dinosaurs would have had to cross hundreds of miles of water to get there—but how?” The scientists concluded that the duck-billed dinosaurs must have gotten to Africa by swimming or floating. “The Cretaceous lasted nearly 100 million years. A lot of strange things will happen in that time— including dinosaurs crossing seas,” said Nicholas Longrich, an author of the study. According to the study, the three species of duck-billed dinosaurs found in Africa indicate that the creatures did more than make their way to that continent. They also evolved (changed very slowly over time) there. “These duckbills [may be] the most surprising find of my career,” Longrich said. “If you asked me what kind of dinosaurs we’d find in Africa, a duckbilled is the last thing I would have imagined, let alone three species.”

During much of the Cretaceous period, North America was connected by land to Europe and Asia, and Africa was a huge island separated from Asia and Europe by a sea. Duck-billed dinosaurs eventually spread into Europe and Asia by crossing the land. The bones in Africa, however, puzzled scientists because the dinosaurs would have had to cross hundreds of miles of water to get there—but how? The scientists concluded that the duck-billed dinosaurs must have gotten to Africa by swimming or floating. “The Cretaceous lasted nearly 100 million years. A lot of strange things will happen in that time—including dinosaurs crossing seas,” said Nicholas Longrich, an author of the study. According to the study, the three species of duck-billed dinosaurs found in Africa indicate that the creatures did more than make their way to that continent. They also evolved (changed very slowly over time) there. “These duckbills [may be] the most surprising find of my career,” Longrich said. “If you asked me what kind of dinosaurs we’d find in Africa, a duckbilled is the last thing I would have imagined, let alone three species.”

Dinosaur walking styles

Some dinosaurs were huge, some were fierce, and many were both. According to a new study, however, it wasn’t just these qualities that helped them rule the planet for more than 160 million years—it was also the way they walked. Early dinosaurs walked on their hind legs and were able to run and move quickly. This helped them catch food and avoid predators. And leg of three hadrosaur species, one smaller and two larger. The team of researchers said Nicholas Longrich, an author of the study. “The duck-billed dinosaurs eventually spread into Europe and Asia by crossing the land. The bones in Africa, however, puzzled scientists because the dinosaurs would have had to cross hundreds of miles of water to get there—but how?” The scientists concluded that the duck-billed dinosaurs must have gotten to Africa by swimming or floating. “The Cretaceous lasted nearly 100 million years. A lot of strange things will happen in that time—including dinosaurs crossing seas,” said Nicholas Longrich, an author of the study. According to the study, the three species of duck-billed dinosaurs found in Africa indicate that the creatures did more than make their way to that continent. They also evolved (changed very slowly over time) there. “These duckbills [may be] the most surprising find of my career,” Longrich said. “If you asked me what kind of dinosaurs we’d find in Africa, a duckbilled is the last thing I would have imagined, let alone three species.”

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DID YOU KNOW? Hadrosaurs were named on two legs, and their name “duck-billed” is adapted green.

Most dinosaurs walked but did not swim.
Wow factor
Sergey Shanin zoomed in on a lionfish in the Red Sea in Egypt.

Open wide
JingGong Zhang took this photo of two eels in Japan.

Blending in
In this shot by Dennis Corpuz, a small octopus sits inside a pyrosome in the Philippines.

Vivid view
Enrico Somogyi took this photo of a sea slug and shrimp in the waters off Bali.

Easy being green
Sunbong Jung snapped this picture of a tiny puffer filefish in the Philippines.

Passing through
A blue shark swims off the coast of Spain in this photograph by Isaias Cruz.

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The NCAA men’s basketball tournament will be played in 14 locations before wrapping up in Glendale, Arizona. Most of the women’s tournament will take place in two cities before it moves to Cleveland, Ohio, for the Final Four.

The field is made up of teams that won their conference tournaments and those chosen for the NCAA tournament, also called March Madness. Each spring, the top college basketball teams play in the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) tournament.

What’s happening
Each spring, the top college basketball teams play in the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) tournament, also called March Madness. The field is made up of teams that won their conference tournaments and those chosen for the NCAA tournament, also called March Madness.

Men’s teams to watch
UConn was named the tournament’s overall top-ranked team as they look to become the first back-to-back men’s champion since 2007. Another contender for the title is Purdue, led by senior center Zach Edey (averaging 24.4 points per game). Experts also point to Iowa as a popular pick to make a deep run in the tournament, thanks to their relentless defense. They’ve held their opponents to the fewest points per game in Division 1 basketball. Two high-flying underdogs to watch are Samford and James Madison. They are both among the top 10 highest-scoring teams in the nation, averaging 86 and 84.4 points per game, respectively.

Women’s teams to watch
South Carolina, coming off their second consecutive undefeated regular season, is the top-overall seed. After falling short in the national semifinals last year, they enter this tournament trying to complete the first fully undefeated season since 2016. Iowa, which knocked out South Carolina last season, is among the favorites to be crowned champion, which would be the university’s first title. Their star guard, Caitlin Clark, led the country in points and assists per game this season. Two more teams to watch are defending champion LSU, led by forward Angel Reese, and USC, whose star freshman Julia Watkins scored the second-most points per game this season with 27.

Find out more
Use these brackets to follow the men’s and women’s tournaments. Predict which team you think will win each game and who will be the semifinalists and champions. To learn more about teams and players, visit ncaa.com.

Most of the women’s tournament will take place in two cities before it moves to Cleveland, Ohio, for the Final Four.
Bringing books to life

The Rabbit Hole in North Kansas City, Missouri, is a museum filled with 3D versions of art from popular children's stories.

The museum was created by Pete Cowdin and Debbie Pettid, who used to own and operate a local children's bookstore. Like the Rabbit Hole, the shop was filled with 3D art related to books. Pettid said a goal for the museum is "to connect people to children's books and their creators in fun and discoverable environments." Visitors enter through a burrow belonging to an original character, Fox Rabbit—a fox raised by bunnies. He is known as the museum's "true founder" and "guiding spirit." Each book highlighted inside the Rabbit Hole was chosen based on factors that include its importance in the history of American children's literature and whether its creators might inspire "an interesting exhibit and experience," spokesperson Emily Hane told The Week Junior. Illustrations brought to life include the great green room from Goodnight Moon and the city from the cover of Where the Sidewalk Ends, plus characters such as Madeline and the Caps for Sale peddler. Everything was made by an in-house team of designers, artists, and fabricators, Ibanez said, and there are plans to add more elements. Along with the exhibits, the Rabbit Hole has a bookstore, print shop, story lab, and maker space. Ibanez said the overall hope is that visitors to the museum "will be inspired to pick up, share, and read a book to appreciate the artistry and culture of children’s literature."

A new immersive museum celebrating children's books has opened in North Kansas City, Missouri. The Rabbit Hole is located in a 99-year-old warehouse and has more than 30 exhibits featuring characters and scenes from beloved stories. The museum was created by Pete Cowdin and Debbie Pettid, who used to own and operate a local children's bookstore. Like the Rabbit Hole, the shop was filled with 3D art related to books. Pettid said a goal for the museum is "to connect people to children's books and their creators in fun and discoverable environments." Visitors enter through a burrow belonging to an original character, Fox Rabbit—a fox raised by bunnies. He is known as the museum's "true founder" and "guiding spirit." Each book highlighted inside the Rabbit Hole was chosen based on factors that include its importance in the history of American children's literature and whether its creators might inspire "an interesting exhibit and experience," spokesperson Emily Hane told The Week Junior. Illustrations brought to life include the great green room from Goodnight Moon and the city from the cover of Where the Sidewalk Ends, plus characters such as Madeline and the Caps for Sale peddler. Everything was made by an in-house team of designers, artists, and fabricators, Ibanez said, and there are plans to add more elements. Along with the exhibits, the Rabbit Hole has a bookstore, print shop, story lab, and maker space. Ibanez said the overall hope is that visitors to the museum "will be inspired to pick up, share, and read a book to appreciate the artistry and culture of children’s literature."

Series highlights nature sounds

A new documentary series is revealing the special ways animals communicate in nature. Earhsounds, which is on Apple TV+, relied on advanced technology to uncover different noises, including ones that human ears usually don’t pick up. To create the show, more than 3,000 hours of audio were recorded in the wild.

Earhsounds was filmed across 20 countries on all seven continents. Executive producer Sam Hodgson told The Week Junior that the goal of the show was "to sort of eavesdrop" on animals and "hear our planet like never before." Among the animals highlighted are grunting koalas, a frog choir, howler monkeys, echidnas, and other species. The series features non-animal sounds, such as the buzz of crickets, a group of dolphins, each with its own whistle.

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Princess Peach: Showtime! is a dramatic new action-adventure game. It is out now exclusively for the Nintendo Switch.

Fans of Super Mario games know Princess Peach as one of Mario’s friends and the ruler of the Mushroom Kingdom. In games released in the US in the 1980s and early 1990s, she was called Princess Toadstool. Back then, her main role was being kidnapped by the villain Bowser and rescued by Mario. Since then, Peach has starred in her own games and the ruler of the Mushroom Kingdom. In games released in the US in 2002, a Super Princess Peach, and has been a playable character in games such as Mario Kart and Super Smash Bros.

Showtime! begins with Peach visiting the Sparkle Theater with friends to see a new show. Before it gets started, a portal character in games such as Mario Kart and Super Smash Bros. is rescued by Mario. Since then, Peach has starred in her own games and the ruler of the Mushroom Kingdom. In games released in the US in 2002, a Super Princess Peach, and has been a playable character in games such as Mario Kart and Super Smash Bros.

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Learn to play pickleball

Give this popular and social sport a try with these tips.

Pickleball is a sport that combines elements of tennis, badminton, and ping-pong and is played on a court. It’s a simple game for beginners to learn and can be played competitively. It is also the fastest-growing sport in the US. If you’ve wanted to try playing it—or improve your game if you already play—here’s how you can get started.

Get what you need

The only equipment you need for pickleball is a paddle and the Whiffle-like ball that’s used in the game. Pickleball courts are much smaller than tennis courts—20 feet wide by 44 feet long. To find a court to play on, use the Pickleball+ app, or go to the USA Pickleball Association’s court locator website. With an adult’s supervision, you can even use sidewalk chalk to make a court in an empty driveway. Be sure to wear sunscreen and sunglasses or a cap to shield your eyes from the sun.

Understand the game

Pickleball is played by using your paddle to serve the ball over the net to your opponent. It can be played between two opponents, but it’s commonly played as doubles (a team of two players on each side of the net). It can be played to a point limit, which is typically 11. The side leading by two points wins.

Find a class

First, you can check whether your local recreation department offers youth pickleball classes or find out from your physical education teacher whether pickleball lessons will be taught during gym class in school. You can also ask a trusted adult if any family or friends play pickleball and can teach you the game. To understand some of the basics, you can watch the video at tinyurl.com/TWJUS-Pickleball.

Learn the rules

As you play pickleball, you’ll learn the rules of the game. For example, unlike tennis, in pickleball you’ll serve the ball underhanded. You’ll also find that after being served the ball, you must allow it to bounce on the ground once before hitting it back. You’ll learn new lingo, too, like “the kitchen” (the “no volley” zone on both sides of the net where no hitting the ball is allowed). Finally, to improve your game, practice—and have fun!

Court etiquette

Avoid collisions When you’re playing doubles, you don’t want to bump into your teammate. Make a plan to simply yell out “mine” or “yours” to determine who’s going to hit the ball.

Respect other games If you need to chase after a ball that’s ended up on another court, remember to wait for a pause in their game to retrieve it.

Practice good sportsmanship Pickleball can get competitive, but remember that it’s still a game. Keep a positive attitude and if a call is in question, give the point to the opposing side. Finally, when the game is over, meet at the net to tap paddles like experienced players do.

Create eggs with a marble effect

What you’ll need

- Eggs
- Medium bowl and white vinegar (optional)
- Rimmed baking sheet or shallow baking pan
- Shaving cream
- Spatula
- Food coloring (neon or deep colors work best)
- Skewer or straw (to stir food coloring)
- Paper towels
- Wire cooling rack

Instructions

1. Have an adult help you hard-boil eggs and let them cool. Optional step: Place the hard-boiled eggs in a bowl and pour the vinegar over them. Soak them for about 15 minutes and then dry them off. This will help the egg absorb more dye for brighter colors.
2. Fill the baking pan or sheet with a thick layer of shaving cream (or whipped topping—see “Tips”) and smooth it out with the back of a spatula.
3. Add a few drops of food coloring in one or more colors to one corner. Drag the skewer or straw through the food coloring to make stripes or swirls.
4. Dip the egg into the cream and roll it so it gets fully covered. Try to do this in one motion so the colors don’t blend and get muddy.

5. Set the egg onto a paper towel or wire cooling rack to dry for at least 20 minutes until the cream has completely dried.
6. Use a paper towel to dab off the excess cream. You can add more drops in different colors to another section of the cream on the baking sheet and repeat steps 4 through 6. If you like, you can re-dip a dried dipped egg to add another layer of color.

Tips

- If you plan on eating the eggs, you can use store-bought whipped topping (like Cool Whip) instead of shaving cream. Store the eggs in the refrigerator.
- To prevent food dye from staining your fingers, wear rubber gloves or use tongs to lift the eggs out of the cream.
Keyword crossword

Once you have completed the crossword, transfer the letters in the yellow boxes, in order, into the boxes below to get the answer to the Keyword question.

**ACROSS**
1. Sport with equipment that includes the parallel bars
2. Pathway between sections of seats in a theater
3. South American animal with very soft wool
4. A circus performer may swing on
5. It flows from a pen
6. Furniture tested three times by Goldilocks
7. Punctuation mark between items in a list
8. Odd and unusual
9. Segment of every insect behind the head and thorax
10. Fingernails
11. Eared marine animal with a telltale fin
12. Female equivalent of a nephew
13. What a circle is called when it is drawn inside of another circle
14. In this coded list of spring-cleaning supplies, every letter has been replaced with a substitute. The same substitutions are used throughout the list. Hint: Every U here is an uncoded U. Use the letter patterns you find to crack the code.
15. Hit or miss
16. Traditional lumberjack tool
17. They’re sometimes referred to as “shades.”
18. Sound that might alert firefighters
19. Traditional lumberjack tool
20. Sound that might alert firefighters

**DOWN**
1. It’s a sin in French and a sin in Spanish
2. Female equivalent of a nephew
3. Female equivalent of a nephew
4. Figure out the answer to
5. Kind of rattles
6. Feared marine animal with a telltale fin
7. Simple flotation device that might be inflatable
8. Segment of every insect behind the head and thorax
9. “That’s why they pay me the big .”, (money)
10. Punjab
11. Highways, streets, and so on
12. Red-haired Muppet with a high, giggly voice
13. “It was a roaring crowd.”
14. It was a roaring crowd.
15. It was a roaring crowd.

**Hit or miss**
Place an X or O in each empty square so there are never more than three X’s or O’s together in a row, column, or diagonal. Hint: If you find three in a row of one letter, you can put the other letter into the spaces at either end.

**CODE CRACKER**

In this coded list of spring-cleaning supplies, every letter has been replaced with a substitute. The same substitutions are used throughout the list. Hint: Every X here is an uncoded U. Use the letter patterns you find to crack the code.

**Three for all**
Sort this list into three familiar three-part phrases, like THREE-RING CIRCUS or SALT LAKE CITY. (Need a hint? Check the bottom of the page.)

**UP POINT STAND GOOD FREE**

**That’s unbelievable!**

The Week Junior published an article about Alex the rabbit, who is a certified therapy rabbit. Alex has been bringing joy to people for nearly 250 years and has helped many people feel better.

**A hopeful hippo for President**

Later this year, people across the country will be voting for the next US President. One candidate who will be running in the election is Timothy, a hippopotamus from the San Antonio Zoo in Texas. In his campaign, Timothy has promised that every US citizen would be able to have at least one nap per day. He also wants all schools and offices to have a mandatory snack time to make people happier and more productive.

**Real or fake?**

One patron’s fake?...
I am so impressed with the winners of this year’s Regeneron Science Talent Search (p2). Out of thousands of entries to the nation’s most prestigious STEM competition, 10 talented high school students received the top prizes. The submissions, which were judged on criteria such as scientific rigor and original thinking, focused on artificial intelligence, cancer treatment, and other complicated subjects. I can only imagine how much time, thought, and effort the students put into completing the projects. They—and everyone who competed—should be congratulated for their dedication, determination, and desire to improve the world. I agree with Maya Ajmora, the president of the organization that has been overseeing the awards for nearly 80 years. She said, “The remarkable intellect and ingenuity of these students serves as an inspiration for us all.”

Andrew Barbatich
Editor-in-Chief

Helen Keller International

Disability rights activist Helen Keller co-founded this organization in 1915. It provides crucial health services, such as eye examinations to prevent vision loss for children and adults in need. It also fights hunger by distributing vitamin supplements and food to communities. The group has reached about 73 million children in 20 countries. Find out more at helenkellerint.org.

Charity of the Week

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Big benefits of therapy dogs

“I believe the unconditional love and affection of dogs can be powerful in helping children deal with stress and anxiety. That’s why I worked to bring Indy, a therapy dog, to my school twice a week. I spoke to experts, dog breeders, and other schools that had successfully implemented such a program and created a proposal that would work for my school. I then presented it to my principal, who was very supportive. I think every school can benefit from having a therapy dog on campus.”

Shrey, 11, Massachusetts

Your dream for the nation

Ben, age 8, of Maryland likes that in a democracy people get to vote and be involved. He hopes that all people have the freedom to vote because it’s important for their voices to be heard. As a reader of The Week Junior, you may have opinions about your hopes for the US. If so, we want to hear them! Go to kids.theweekjunior.com/activities to download a form, like the one at right. Fill it out, then have an adult email it to us at hello@theweekjunior.com. We’ll feature some of the submissions on this page in future issues.

Willie, 11, Massachusetts

Celebrating reading

“I read two books from the Read Across America feature. I thought Frindle, set in New Hampshire, was a page-turner! I gave it a five-star review! The Marvellous, set in Louisiana, was very good too. I would recommend it, 10/10.”

Lorenzo, 9, Illinois

“I loved reading The Hoboken Chicken Emergency from The Week Junior’s 50 Books for 50 States list for Read Across America.”

Sutton, 8, New Jersey

Puzzle answers (from page 26)

Keyword answer: gard2.

Code cracker: Piano player.

Three for all: There’s no such thing as a free lunch.

Quiz answers (from page 30)

1. False. They thought dinosaurs were not strong swimmers.

2. False. They wear smart mouthguards.

3. True

4. False. They thought dinosaurs had four legs.

5. True

6. False. They thought dinosaurs were not strong swimmers.

7. True

8. True

9. False

10. True

11. True

12. False

Email your news, views, and photos to hello@theweekjunior.com.
Quiz

How much of this week’s news can you remember?

1. What is the new museum The Rabbit Hole?
   a) Miami, Florida?

2. True or false? Many years ago, scientists thought dinosaurs were strong swimmers.
   True

3. What is the "guiding spirit" of the new museum The Rabbit Hole?
   False

4. True or false? For many years, scientists have believed dinosaurs were strong swimmers.
   False

5. True or false? Rugby players in the UK wear smart helmets to prevent head injuries.
   True

6. What sea creature has marine biologist Dr. Alex Schnell spent her career studying?
   True

7. True or false? A striped marlin changes the color of its stripes during a hunt.
   True

8. True or false? Over 3,000 hours of audio has been recorded for EarthSounds.
   True

9. Who won first place in this year’s Regeneron Science Talent Search?
   a) Harp  b) Piano  c) Violin

10. True or false? Over 3,000 hours of audio was recorded for the series EarthSounds.
    True

11. Who is the only US President to be re-elected after previously being voted out of office?
    a) Benjamin Harrison  b) Grover Cleveland  c) Dwight Eisenhower

12. What has the Worcester Public Library been accepting as payment for late fees?
    a) California  b) Georgia  c) Illinois

13. True or false? A striped marlin changes the color of its stripes during a hunt.
    True

14. What has the Worcester Public Library been accepting as payment for late fees?
    True

15. Who is the only US President to be re-elected after previously being voted out of office?
    c) Dwight Eisenhower

ANSWERS CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 29.
Mountain goats, which are closely related to gazelles and African antelopes, are the symbol of Glacier National Park in Montana.