

HOLLYWOOD:

THE MANDALORIAN AND GROGU ARE EMBARKING ON A NEW ADVENTURE — TO MOVIE THEATERS. DIRECTED BY JON FAVREAU, AND PRODUCED BY FAVREAU, KATHLEEN KENNEDY, AND DAVE FILONI, A MAJOR MOTION PICTURE ENTITLED *THE MANDALORIAN & GROGU* WILL GO INTO PRODUCTION IN 2024.

THE MANDALORIAN & GROGU WILL LEAD LUCASFILM'S ONGOING FEATURE-DEVELOPMENT SLATE, INCLUDING FILMS HELMED BY SHARMEEN OBAID-CHINOY, JAMES MANGOLD, AND DAVE FILONI, WHO IS ALSO CURRENTLY DEVELOPING <u>AHSOKA</u> SEASON 2, AMONG THOSE IN THE WORKS.

THIS IS THE WAY.



ATLANTA (CDC):

HALF OF ALL STATES ARE SEEING HIGH LEVELS OF RESPIRATORY VIRUS ACTIVITY, NEW FEDERAL DATA UPDATED FRIDAY SHOWS.

CURRENTLY, 25 STATES PLUS NEW YORK CITY AND WASHINGTON, D.C., ARE EXPERIENCING "HIGH" OR "VERY HIGH" LEVELS OF RESPIRATORY ILLNESS ACTIVITY, ACCORDING TO THE CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION (CDC).

WHILE THIS IS HIGHER THAN THE 23 STATES EXPERIENCING "HIGH" OR "VERY HIGH" ACTIVITY LEVELS LAST WEEK, IT IS FEWER THAN THE PEAK OF 38 STATES REPORTING "HIGH' OR 'VERY HIGH' LEVELS THE WEEK ENDING DEC. 30.

RESPIRATORY ILLNESS ACTIVITY IS DEFINED AS PEOPLE GOING TO THE DOCTOR WITH SYMPTOMS INCLUDING FEVER AND A COUGH AND/OR SORE THROAT FROM ANY RESPIRATORY DISEASE INCLUDING FLU, COVID, RSV, AND THE COMMON COLD.



SÄNTIS, SWITZERLAND:

SCIENTISTS IN SWITZERLAND HAVE USED LASERS TO CHANGE THE PATH OF A LIGHTNING STRIKE. THE EXPERIMENT SUGGESTS THAT IN THE FUTURE, LASERS MIGHT BE USEFUL FOR PROTECTING LARGE BUILDINGS FROM LIGHTNING. THE EXPERIMENT WAS CARRIED OUT ON SÄNTIS MOUNTAIN IN SWITZERLAND, NEAR A RADIO AND TV TOWER THAT'S HIT BY LIGHTNING ABOUT 100 TIMES A YEAR. USING A SPECIAL LASER, THE RESEARCHERS WERE ABLE TO GUIDE THE LIGHTNING STRIKE.

LIGHTNING IS A HUGE BURST OF ELECTRICITY THAT JUMPS BETWEEN TWO POINTS – OFTEN BETWEEN THE CLOUDS AND THE GROUND. LIGHTNING CAN BE EXTREMELY POWERFUL AND CAUSE SERIOUS PROBLEMS ON THE GROUND. LIGHTNING STRIKES CAN CAUSE FIRES, DESTROY BUILDINGS, AND KILL PEOPLE. THE DAMAGE FROM LIGHTNING COSTS BILLIONS OF DOLLARS EVERY YEAR. IN THE US, LIGHTNING STRIKES KILLED CLOSE TO 450 PEOPLE BETWEEN 2006 AND 2021.



TOKYO, JAPAN:

A LACK OF POTATOES HAS LED TO A FRENCH FRY SHORTAGE IN JAPAN. THOUGH THE WORLD IS STRUGGLING NOW WITH THE SUPPLIES OF MANY MATERIALS, FRENCH FRIES MIGHT NOT BE ONE YOU'D EXPECT. BUT MCDONALD'S HAS ANNOUNCED THAT BECAUSE OF TROUBLE GETTING POTATOES FROM CANADA, ITS RESTAURANTS IN JAPAN WILL ONLY BE OFFERING SMALL SERVINGS OF FRENCH FRIES.

KFC CHICKEN RESTAURANTS IN KENYA RAN INTO SIMILAR PROBLEMS RECENTLY. THE RESTAURANTS HAD TO STOP SELLING CHIPS AS A RESULT OF PROBLEMS WITH THIS YEAR'S POTATO CROP IN SOUTH AFRICA.



OVERHEAD:

IMAGINE TAKING A FLYING TAXI TO THE AIRPORT, OR HOPPING OVER CROWDED CITY STREETS AT RUSH HOUR, GETTING WHERE YOU WANT TO GO FAR FASTER THAN YOU COULD IN A CAR. BELIEVE IT OR NOT, YOU MIGHT BE ABLE TO DO THESE THINGS IN AN ELECTRIC AIR TAXI SOONER THAN YOU THINK.

AN AIR TAXI IS A SMALL AIRCRAFT – SOMETHING LIKE A MIX BETWEEN A HELICOPTER AND A DRONE – THAT CAN CARRY PEOPLE FROM PLACE TO PLACE. AIR TAXIS DON'T NEED A LONG RUNWAY LIKE PLANES DO. THEY CAN GO STRAIGHT UP AND DOWN, LIKE A HELICOPTER.

THESE EXCITING NEW VEHICLES ARE TAKING A BIG STEP FORWARD. IN JUNE, THE FAA – THE GOVERNMENT GROUP IN CHARGE OF AMERICA'S SKIES – AGREED TO ALLOW A COMPANY CALLED JOBY AVIATION TO START TESTING THEIR NEW AIR TAXI. AN AIR TAXI IS A SMALL AIRCRAFT – SOMETHING LIKE A MIX BETWEEN A HELICOPTER AND A DRONE – THAT CAN CARRY PEOPLE FROM PLACE TO PLACE. AIR TAXIS DON'T NEED A LONG RUNWAY LIKE PLANES DO. THEY CAN GO STRAIGHT UP AND DOWN, LIKE A HELICOPTER.



BY 2025, JOBY HOPES TO START CARRYING PASSENGERS FOR MONEY. THEY'VE TEAMED UP WITH DELTA AIR LINES TO CREATE A PROGRAM TO FLY PEOPLE FROM THEIR HOMES TO THE AIRPORT. THE PROGRAM IS EXPECTED TO START FIRST IN NEW YORK AND LOS ANGELES. JOBY ALSO EXPECTS THEIR AIR TAXIS TO PROVIDE A RIDE-SHARING SERVICE IN THE AIR. JUST LIKE YOU MIGHT USE AN APP TO ORDER A CAR TO PICK YOU UP, YOU COULD USE AN APP TO ORDER AN AIR TAXI.

JOBY'S AIR TAXIS WILL BE FLOWN BY A PILOT, AND CAN CARRY FOUR OTHER PASSENGERS. THEY CAN FLY AS FAST AS 200 MPH (320 KPH) AND CAN GO AROUND 100 MILES (160 KILOMETERS) BEFORE THE ELECTRIC BATTERIES NEED TO BE RECHARGED.

JOBY ISN'T THE ONLY COMPANY DEVELOPING AIR TAXIS. COMPANIES AROUND THE WORLD ARE WORKING ON SIMILAR VEHICLES. FRANCE EVEN PLANS TO USE A FEW AIR TAXIS IN PARIS DURING NEXT SUMMER'S OLYMPIC GAMES.



LEXINGTON:

IN MOVING FROM BOISE STATE TO KENTUCKY, NEW UK OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR BUSH HAMDAN ALMOST TRIPLED HIS SALARY. KENTUCKY WILL PAY HAMDAN \$1.25 MILLION FOR THE 2024 SEASON, ACCORDING TO THE TERM SHEET HE SIGNED UPON ACCEPTING THE JOB. HAMDAN'S SALARY WILL INCREASE TO \$1.35 MILLION IN 2025 AND \$1.45 MILLION IN 2026 AS PART OF A THREE-YEAR DEAL.

HAMDAN'S MOST RECENT BOISE STATE CONTRACT WOULD HAVE PAID HIM \$460,000 FOR THE 2024 SEASON, ACCORDING TO THE IDAHO STATESMAN. HIS UK SALARY DOES NOT MATCH THE \$1.8 MILLION KENTUCKY WAS SCHEDULED TO PAY FORMER OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR LIAM COEN FOR 2024 BEFORE COEN LEFT UK FOR THE TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS, BUT IT STILL REPRESENTS A SIGNIFICANT INVESTMENT FROM THE WILDCATS. ONLY FOUR OTHER SEC PROGRAMS PAID THEIR OFFENSIVE COORDINATOR MORE THAN \$1.25 MILLION LAST SEASON.



GRAND RAPIDS, MI -

A GRAND RAPIDS MAN CREDITED WITH INVENTING A BREAKFAST STAPLE, POP-TARTS, HAS DIED AT AGE 96. WILLIAM "BILL" POST DIED FEB. 10.

ACCORDING TO HIS OBITUARY, POST WAS A KEEBLER PLANT MANAGER IN GRAND RAPIDS IN THE EARLY 1960S WHEN HE WAS APPROACHED BY EXECUTIVES AT CEREAL GIANT KELLOGG'S TO CREATE A BREAKFAST FOOD FOR THE TOASTER.

POST AND A TEAM OF CO-WORKERS THEN DEVELOPED THE EARLY VERSIONS OF SOMETHING HE CALLED FRUIT SCONES, BUT WHICH SOON BECAME POP-TARTS. THEY BECAME AN INSTANT HIT WHEN TEST MARKETED IN CLEVELAND IN LATE 1963. IN 2022, THE TOASTER PASTRY BROUGHT IN ABOUT \$978 MILLION IN U.S. SALES, ACCORDING TO CIRCANA, A CHICAGO-BASED RESEARCH FIRM. BY OCTOBER 2023, U.S. SALES FOR THE YEAR WERE ALREADY AT \$985 MILLION.

FAMILY DESCRIBED POST AS A HUMBLE MAN WHO HAD A "SERVANT'S HEART THAT SEEMED TO OVERFLOW WITH GENEROSITY."



WEATHER —

A significant warming trend is expected into next week after a cold start to the weekend as we look forward to the additional daylight!





COMMERCIAL PROMPT:

- A good source of calcium.
- Over the years, there have been over 54 different animal shapes represented.
- Since 1902, Barnum's Animals have been delighting children of all ages.
- Barnum's Animal Crackers are available in individual snack packs as well as re-closable pouches which is perfect for sharing and storing.

