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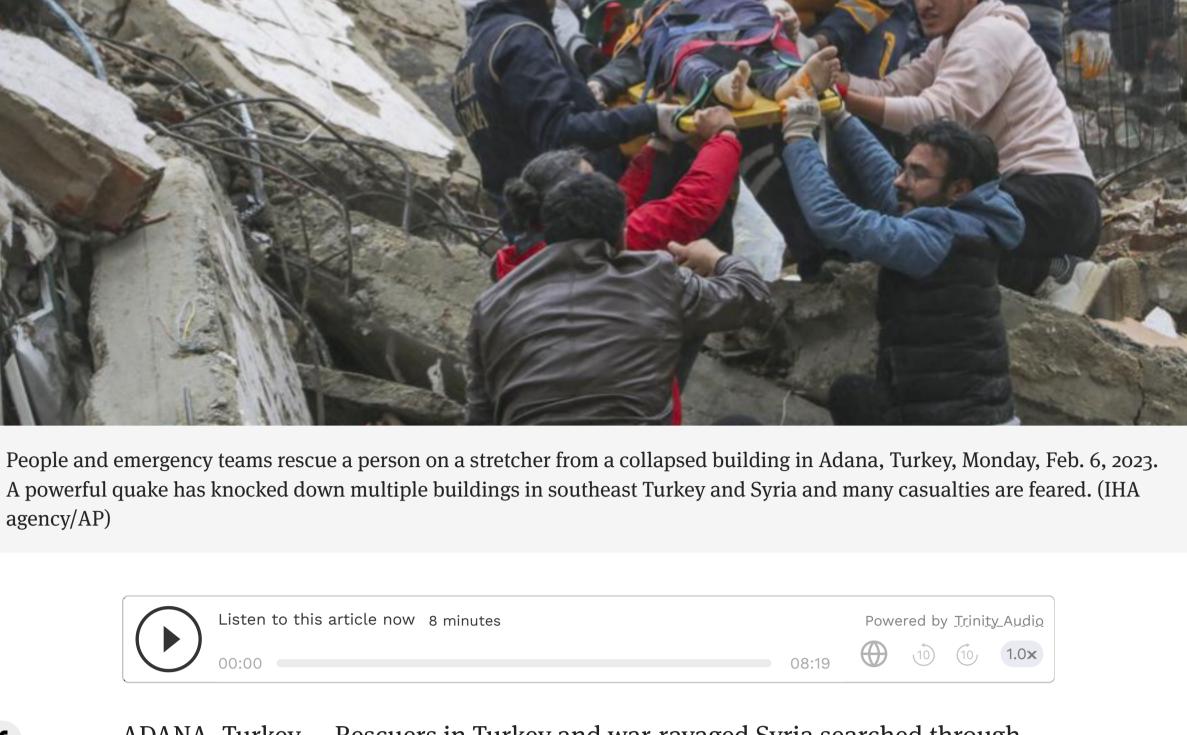
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Powerful quake kills more than 4,000 in Turkey and Syria; officials say Incirlik Air Base avoided major damage By MEHMET GUZEL, GHAITH ALSAYED AND SUZAN FRASER ASSOCIATED PRESS • February 6, 2023

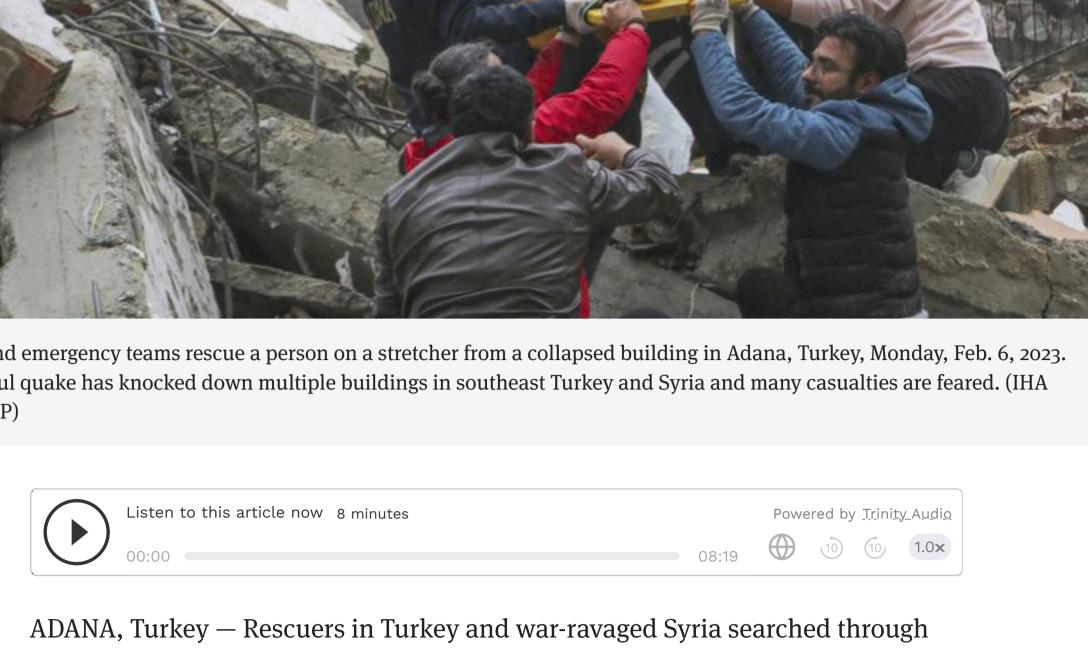
THEATERS



08:19 ADANA, Turkey — Rescuers in Turkey and war-ravaged Syria searched through



the frigid night into Tuesday, hoping to pull more survivors from the rubble after **y** a 7.8 magnitude earthquake killed more than 4,000 people and toppled



thousands of buildings across a wide region. Authorities feared the death toll from Monday's pre-dawn earthquake and aftershocks would keep climbing as rescuers looked for survivors among tangles of metal and concrete spread across the region beset by Syria's 12-year civil war and refugee crisis. No injuries were reported as of Monday afternoon among Defense Department

personnel assigned to Incirlik Air Base, located about 8 miles east of the city of

which hosts the 39th Air Base Wing, appears to have avoided any major damage

Adana, base officials told Stars and Stripes in a statement Monday. The base,

from the quake, officials said, noting the base sits about 124 miles from the epicenter. The wing "sends our heartfelt condolences to the families who lost loved ones as a result of this morning's earthquake," the base statement said. "Our thoughts are with the families and friends of those not yet accounted for."

Survivors cried out for help from within mountains of debris as first responders contended with rain and snow. Seismic activity continued to rattle the region, including another jolt nearly as powerful as the initial quake. Workers carefully pulled away slabs of concrete and reached for bodies as desperate families

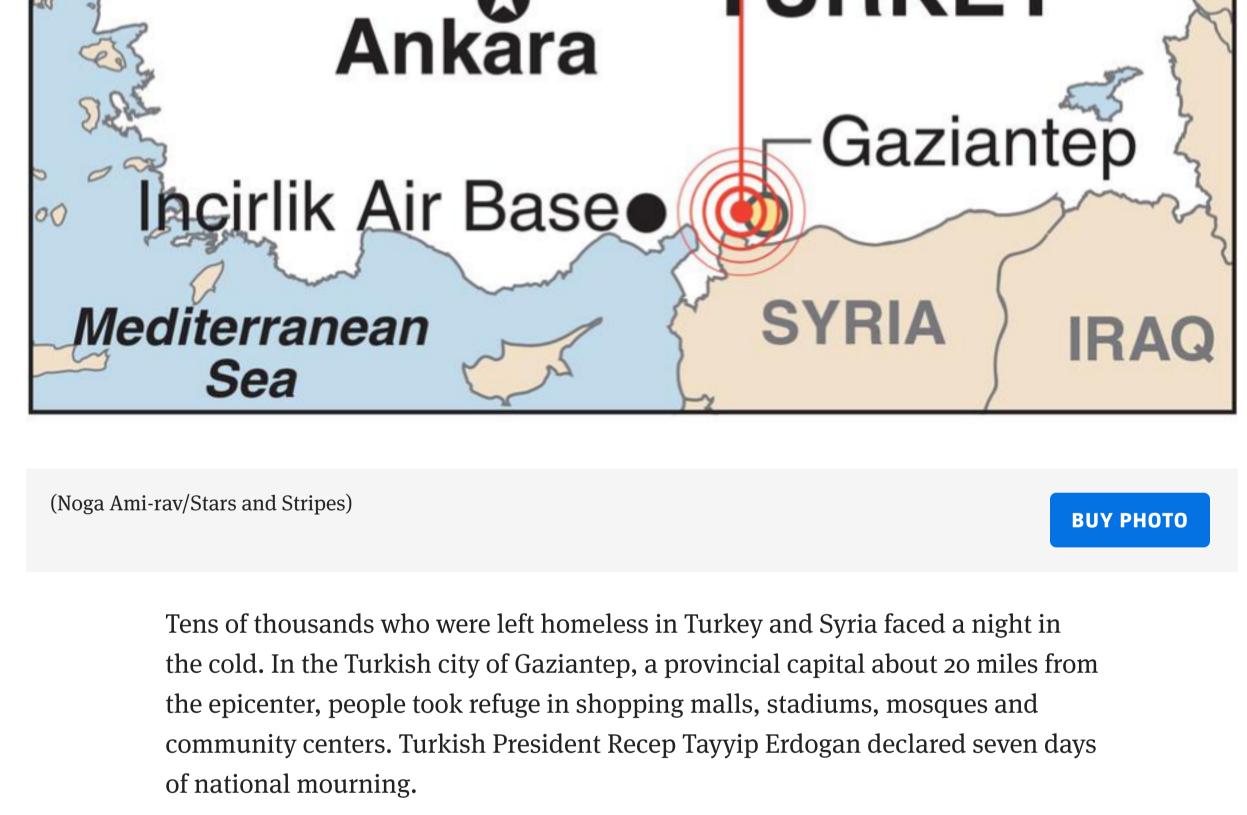
The U.S. military and the U.S. Consulate Adana "stand ready to support our

Turkish allies," the wing said.

waited for news of loved ones.

"My grandson is 1 1/2 years old. Please help them, please. ... They were on the 12th floor," Imran Bahur wept by her destroyed apartment building in the Turkish city of Adana on Monday.

Earthquake centered about 20 miles from BLACK SEA Gaziantep TURKEY



U.S. President Joe Biden called Erdogan to express condolences and offer

Mom left him alone with dog for

seconds, Then This Happened

The quake, which was centered in Turkey's southeastern province of

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and was felt as far away as Cairo.

refugees from the civil war.

northwest Turkey in 1999.

the northeast.

"disastrous."

assistance to the NATO ally. The White House said it was sending search-andrescue teams to support Turkey's efforts.

> It piled more misery on a region that has seen tremendous suffering over the past decade. On the Syrian side, the area is divided between government-controlled territory and the country's last opposition-held enclave, which is surrounded by Russian-backed government forces. Turkey, meanwhile, is home to millions of

In the rebel-held enclave, hundreds of families remained trapped in rubble, the

statement. The area is packed with some 4 million people displaced from other

parts of the country by the war. Many live in buildings that are already wrecked

opposition emergency organization known as the White Helmets said in a

Tatar, an official with Turkey's disaster management authority.

The region sits on top of major fault lines and is frequently shaken by

Kahramanmaras, sent residents of Damascus and Beirut rushing into the street

from military bombardments. Strained medical centers quickly filled with injured people, rescue workers said. Some facilities had to be emptied, including a maternity hospital, according to the SAMS medical organization. More than 7,800 people were rescued across 10 provinces, according to Orhan

The U.S. Geological Survey measured Monday's quake at 7.8, with a depth of 11 miles. Hours later, a 7.5 magnitude temblor, likely triggered by the first, struck more than 60 miles away.

The second jolt caused a multistory apartment building in the Turkish city of

Sanliurfa to topple onto the street in a cloud of dust as bystanders screamed,

earthquakes. Some 18,000 were killed in similarly powerful earthquakes that hit

according to video of the scene. Thousands of buildings were reported collapsed in a wide area extending from Syria's cities of Aleppo and Hama to Turkey's Diyarbakir, more than 200 miles to

Bitterly cold temperatures could reduce the time frame that rescuers have to save trapped survivors, said Dr. Steven Godby, an expert in natural hazards at Nottingham Trent University. The difficulty of working in areas beset by civil war

In Turkey alone, more than 5,600 buildings were destroyed, authorities said.

Hospitals were damaged, and one collapsed in the city of Iskenderun.

would further complicate rescue efforts, he said.

The vast majority were for Turkey, with a Russian and even an Israeli promise of help to the Syrian government, but it was not clear if any would go to the devastated rebel-held pocket in the northwest.

The opposition's Syrian Civil Defense described the situation in the enclave as

The opposition-held area, centered on the province of Idlib, has been under siege

for years, with frequent Russian and government airstrikes. The territory depends

on a flow of aid from Turkey for everything from food to medical supplies.

Offers of help — from search-and-rescue teams to medical supplies and money —

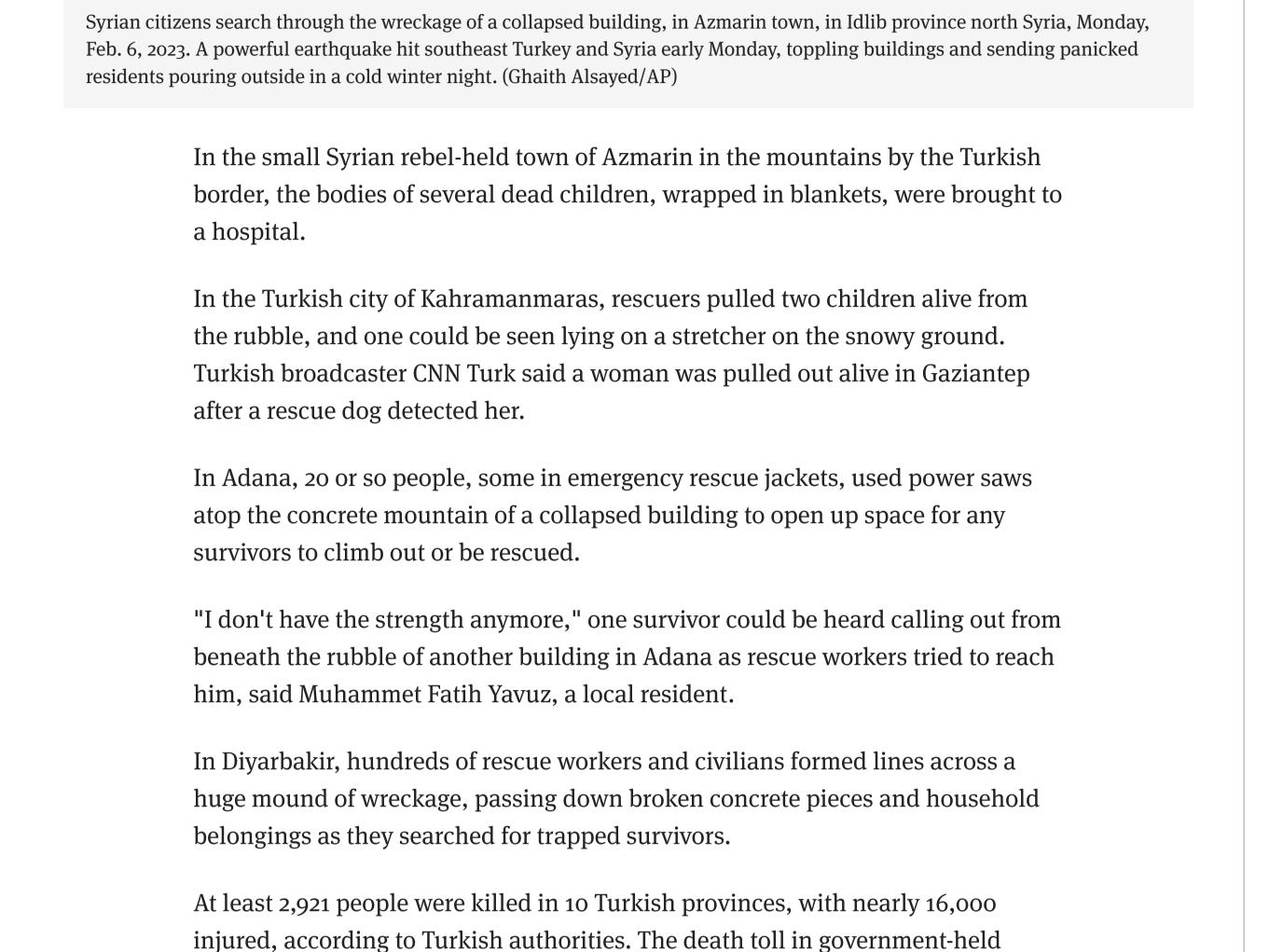
poured in from dozens of countries, as well as the European Union and NATO.

U.N. spokesman Stephane Dujarric said 224 buildings in northwestern Syrian were destroyed and at least 325 were damaged, including aid warehouses. The U.N. had been assisting 2.7 million people each month via cross-border deliveries, which could now be disrupted. At a hospital in Idlib, Osama Abdel Hamid said most of his neighbors died when

their shared four-story building collapsed. As he fled with his wife and three

children, a wooden door fell on them, shielding them from falling debris.

"God gave me a new lease on life," he said.



Associated Press writers Zeynep Bilginsoy in Istanbul, Bassem Mroue and Kareem Chehayeb in Beirut, and Kim Tong-hyung in Seoul, South Korea, contributed to this report. Stars and Stripes reporter Jennifer H. Svan contributed to this report.

Alsayed reported from Azmarin, Syria, while Fraser reported from Ankara, Turkey.

areas of Syria climbed to 656 people, with some 1,400 injured, according to the

Huseyin Yayman, a legislator from Turkey's Hatay province, said several of his

family members were stuck under the rubble of their collapsed homes.

"There are so many other people who are also trapped," he told HaberTurk

television by phone. "There are so many buildings that have been damaged.

said at least 450 people died, with many hundreds injured.

People are on the streets. It's raining, it's winter."

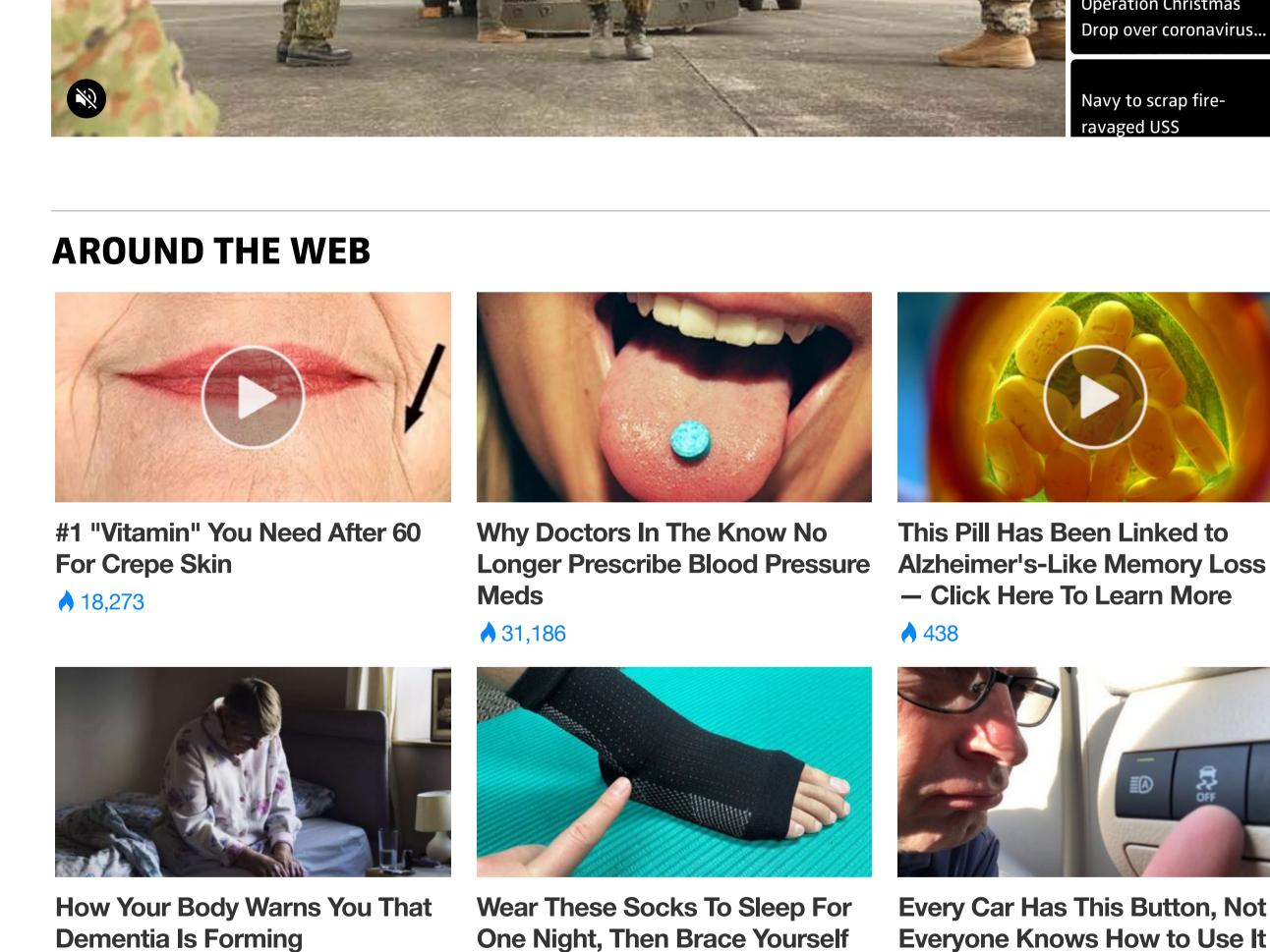
• Aid, rescuers rushed to Turkey, Syria after deadly quake

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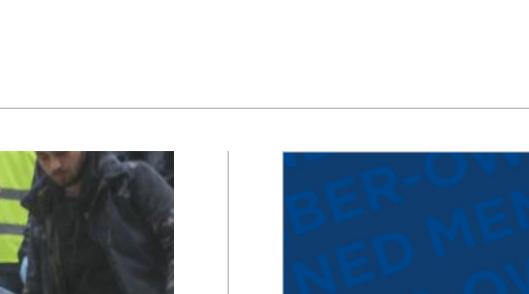
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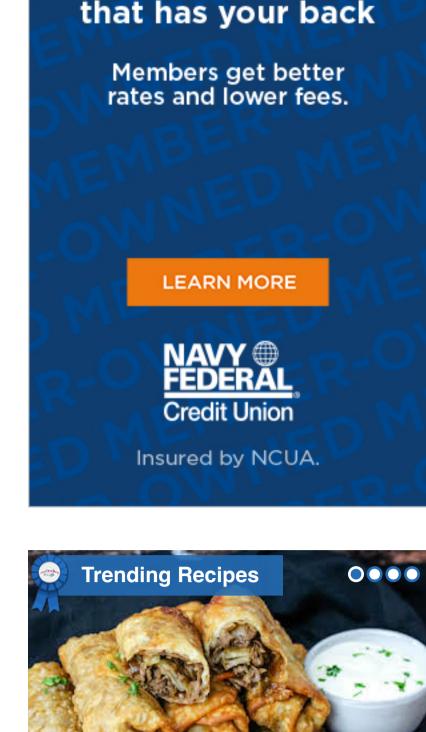
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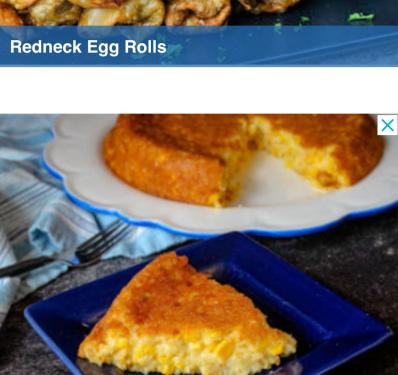
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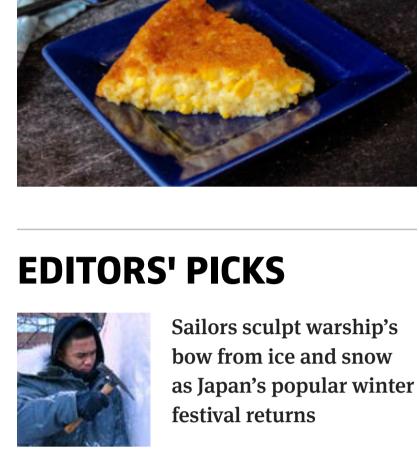
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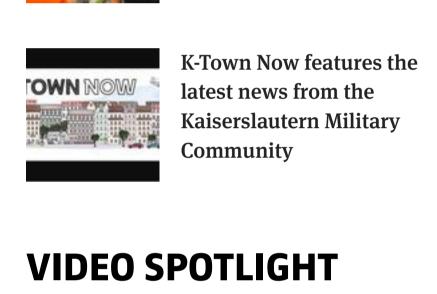




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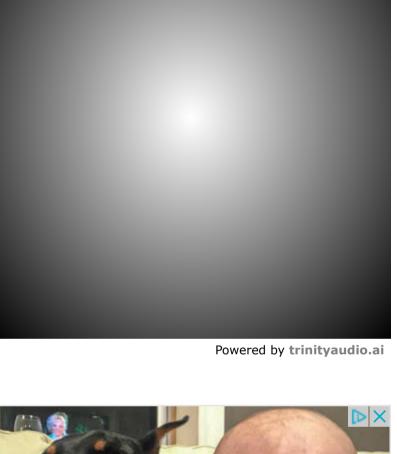
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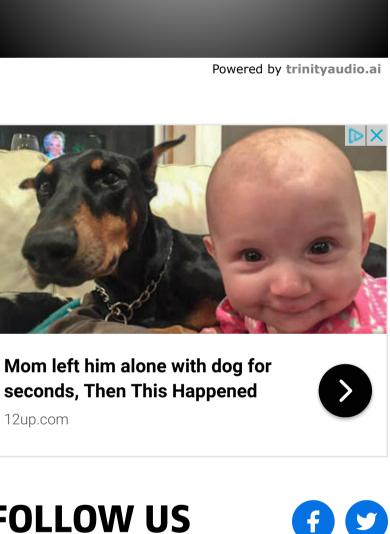
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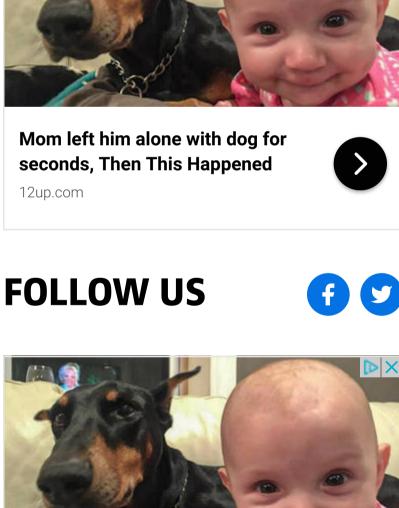


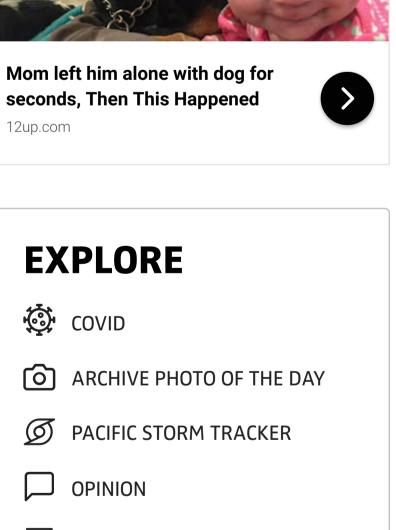
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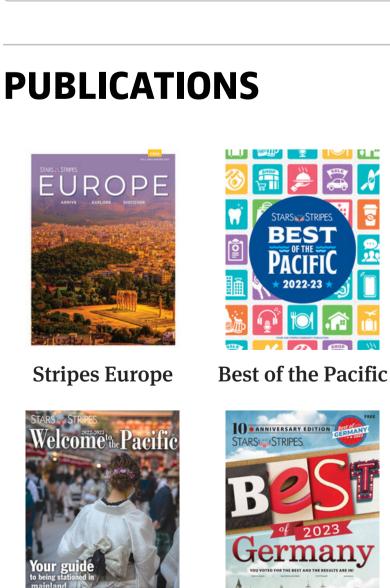


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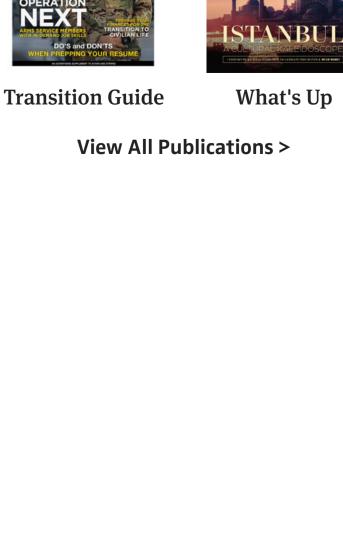
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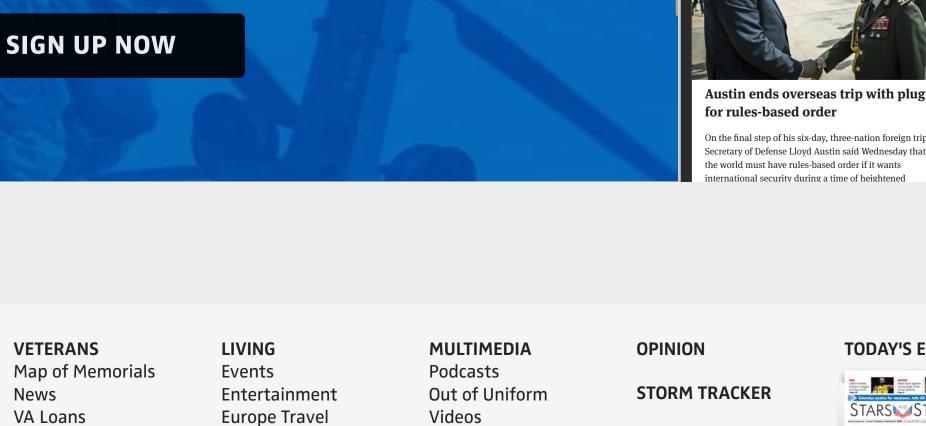
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