

# The Washington Post

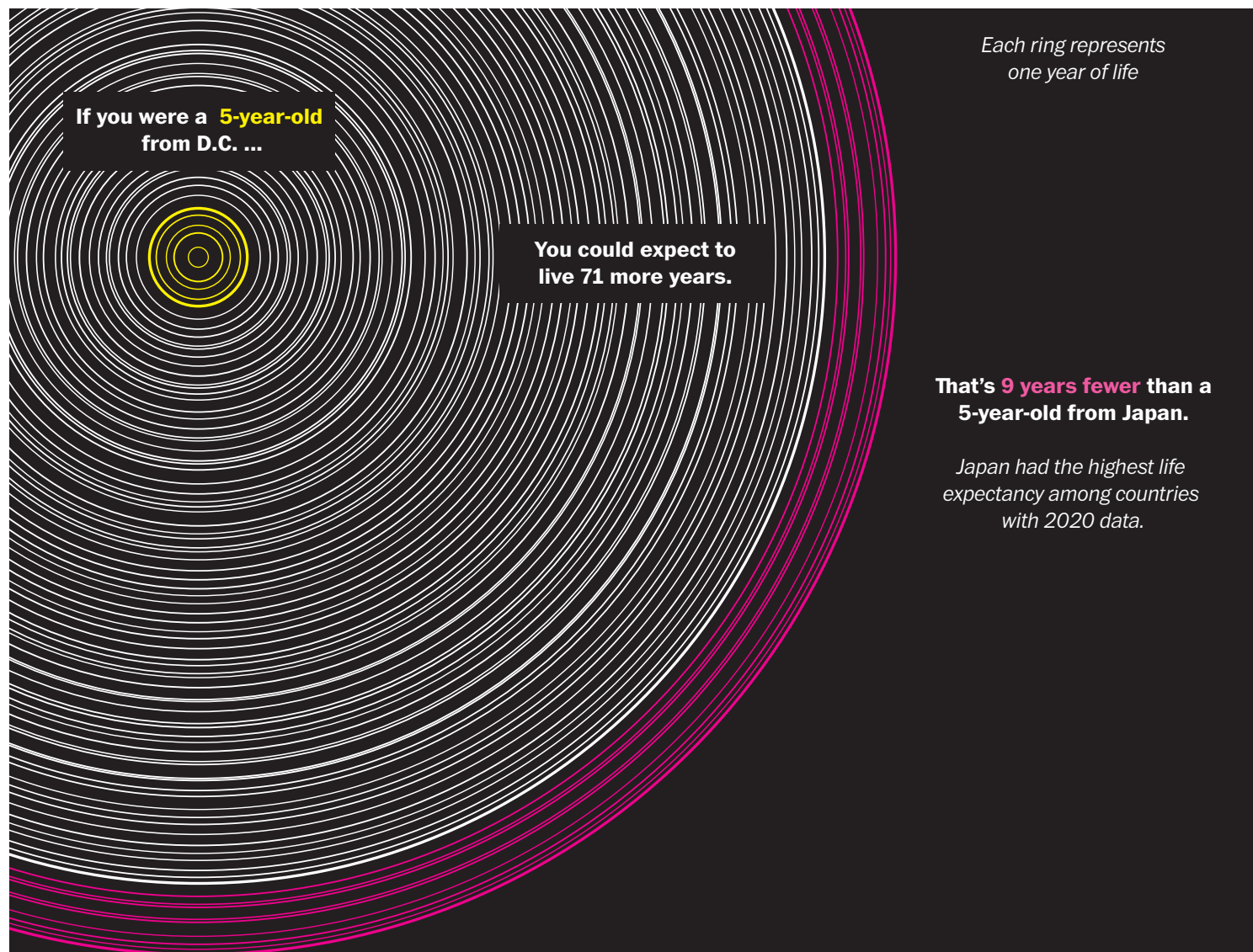
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SUNDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2023 • \$5



DYING EARLY AMERICA'S LIFE EXPECTANCY CRISIS

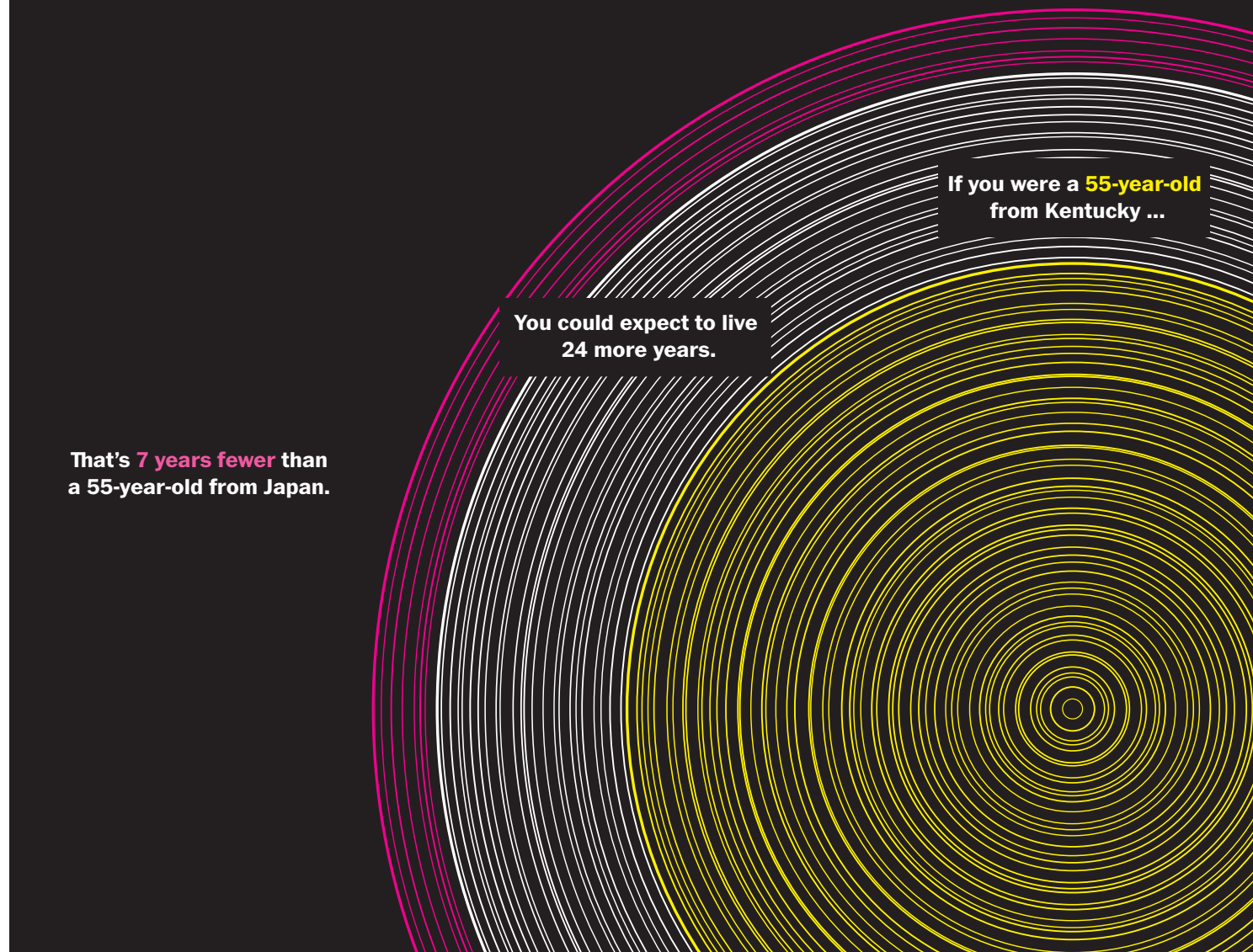
## CHRONIC ILLNESSES ARE KILLING US TOO SOON

The epidemic is exacerbated by economic, political and racial divides

This article is by Joel Achenbach, Dan Keating, Laurie McGinley, Akilah Johnson and Jahi Chikwendiu

The United States is failing at a fundamental mission — keeping people alive. ¶ After decades of progress, life expectancy — long regarded as a singular benchmark of a nation's success — peaked in 2014 at 78.9 years, then drifted downward even before the coronavirus pandemic. Among wealthy nations, the United States in recent decades went from the middle of the pack to being an outlier. And it continues to fall further and further behind. ¶ A year-long Washington Post examination reveals that this erosion in life spans is deeper and broader than widely recognized, afflicting a far-reaching swath of the United States. ¶ While opioids and gun violence have rightly seized the public's attention, stealing hundreds of thousands of lives, chronic diseases are the greatest threat, killing far more people between 35 and 64 every year, The Post's analysis of mortality data found.

SEE LIFE EXPECTANCY ON A16



LESLIE SHAPIRO AND CARSON TERBUSH/THE WASHINGTON POST

## Aid enters Gaza as world leaders gather on crisis

PALESTINIANS WARN ENCLAVE MAY COLLAPSE

U.N. seeks far more relief; Israel ramping up strikes

BY CLAIRE PARKER, RICK NOACK AND YVONNE WINGETT SANCHEZ

CAIRO — Aid trucks arrived in Gaza on Saturday for the first time since the start of the war, entering through Egypt's Rafah border crossing as world leaders gathered in Cairo and Israel said it was increasing its attacks on Hamas.

The convoy to Gaza was carrying "lifesaving supplies," includ-

ing food, water and medicine, U.N. humanitarian chief Martin Griffiths said in a statement, adding that the crisis had reached "catastrophic levels."

Palestinians warned Saturday that the battered enclave, home to 2.3 million people, was about to collapse, with more than half of the population displaced by the fighting. At the same time, Israel said it was ramping up attacks on

SEE GAZA ON A23



LOAY AYYOUB FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

Humanitarian aid arrives through the Rafah crossing into the Gaza Strip on Saturday, two weeks after Hamas attacks touched off war.

## Families of hostages continue waiting in agony after two Americans are freed

BY STEVE HENDRIX AND HAZEM BALOUSA

JERUSALEM — Sasha Ariel was watching the news Friday night — as she has done almost constantly since her sister Karina was kidnapped by Hamas militants Oct. 7 — when she finally heard the alert she'd been praying for: Hamas was releasing two hostages.

For a few moments, she dared to hope it was Karina about to walk free from the nightmare

that has engulfed her family, her country and the Gaza Strip, where hostages and civilians alike are enduring a withering bombardment.

Then she learned that the two women being released were American citizens (Ariel's sister

SEE HOSTAGES ON A21

**Student visas:** GOP candidates say they want to deport protesters. **A3**

**Trapped:** At least 400 Americans are in Gaza with nowhere to go. **A21**

## RELENTLESS WRESTLER

Jim Jordan is an unyielding combatant, whether grappling on the mat or in Congress

BY DAVID MARANISS AND SALLY JENKINS

His wrestlers at Ohio State called him Jimmy and idolized him as an Olympic-level legend in their ancient sport. During the nine seasons that Jim Jordan served as assistant coach, they admired his propriety — they never saw him smoke or drink or heard him

swear — and studied his technique and style, from his single-leg takedowns to his odd victory strut, marching in a Zombie-like circle, straight-legged, arms aloft. But they dreaded sparring with Jordan at practice. He was unforgiving, smothering, taking his would-be disciples to the edge of what was allowed, if not beyond.

SEE JORDAN ON A10



THOMAS SIMONETTI FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

The Ohio State wrestling team in an undated photo. From right are Jim Jordan, Mike Schyck and Coach Russ Hellickson.

### ARTS & STYLE

Leslie Odom Jr. pulls out all the stops in a raucous "Purlie Victorious" revival.

### BOOK WORLD

As the new Jack Reacher book arrives, Lee Child hands off to his brother.



### TRAVEL

Yellowstone fans flock to Montana to live their best cowboy lives.

### METRO

A noted Johns Hopkins pathologist is on leave over bullying allegations.



### BUSINESS

Taylor Swift's Eras Tour is adding billions to the U.S. economy.

### SPORTS

The NFL has plenty of good receivers. One skill separates the elite ones.

COMICS.....INSERT  
OPINION PAGES.....A26  
OBITUARIES.....C7  
WORLD NEWS.....A22

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