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Prices in Canada may be higher

\$6.00



Jan Worrell got ElliQ, an A.I. robot, from a regional nonprofit as part of a pilot program. It took Jan some time to warm to ElliQ.

She's 85, and Her Roommate Is a Robot

By ELI SASLOW

OCEAN PARK, Wash. — The firefighters had come a few years earlier to help carry her husband out of the house, and now they were back with what they hoped might become her new companion. Jan Worrell, 85, lived alone near the end of the Long Beach Peninsula, on the last road before the rugged Washington coast disappeared into the Pacific. Many of her neighbors were part-time residents, and ever since her husband died, she sometimes went several days without seeing another person or leaving the house.

In Remote Home, Turning to an A.I. Buddy 'With Soul'

She sat in a recliner, looking out toward the ocean in the spring of 2023 as the firefighters opened a box and started to assemble a machine in her living room. It reminded her of a small reading lamp, perched on a stand alongside a tablet and a built-in camera. Jan turned back to the window and watched the distant lights of crab boats as they vanished into the fog. She'd been star-

ing at the same view for 20 years, and she'd told her doctor that one of her last goals in life was to never live anywhere else.

"This is ElliQ," one of the firefighters said, after he plugged the new device into the wall. "I think you're going to love her."

"It," Jan said. "Not her. This thing is a robot, right?"

She looked at the machine, which sat on a coffee table within reach of her recliner. A regional nonprofit was providing it to her free, covering the annual subscription cost of about \$700 as part of a pilot program for a few dozen seniors. The small robot twisted in her direction, lit up and studied her for a

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The Complicity That Saturates Epstein's Files

By ROBERT DRAPER

WASHINGTON — Journalists and researchers will spend the next months ferreting through the Epstein files in search of further criminal conduct or a new conspiratorial wrinkle. But one truth has already emerged.

In unsparing detail, the documents lay bare the once-furtive activities of an unaccountable elite, largely made up of rich and powerful men from business, politics, academia and show business. The pages tell a story of a heinous criminal given a free ride by the ruling class in which he dwelled, all because he had things to offer them: money, connections, sumptuous dinner parties, a private plane, a secluded island and, in some cases, sex.

That story of impunity is all the more outrageous now in the midst of rising populist anger and ever-growing inequality. The Caligula-like antics of Jeffrey Epstein and friends occurred over two decades that saw the decline of America's manufacturing sector and the subprime mortgage crisis, in which millions of Americans lost their homes.

If Mr. Epstein's goal was to build a wall of protection around his abuse by surrounding himself with the well connected, he failed in the end. But both before and after he was first prosecuted for abusing girls, his correspondence

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Reviving an Icy Rivalry

The cold allowed for a rare boat race on New Jersey's frozen Navesink River. Metropolitan, Page 1.

By OLEKSANDR CHUBKO and CASSANDRA VINOGRAD

PAVLOHRAD, Ukraine — The orders started coming in around 7:30 on a Thursday morning — ordinary shopping lists under extraordinary conditions.

Smoked bacon. Oatmeal cookies. Mayonnaise. Mashed potatoes.

Copy that, radioed the commander.

The customers were Ukrainian soldiers in frontline bunkers and trenches, requesting airdrops of provisions by drone. Ukraine has mastered such deliveries out of dire necessity, giving new meaning to drones in a war where they are synonymous with death and destruction.

"We try to make it a bit nicer for

them, to lift their spirits, so they don't feel too down out there," said a soldier with the call sign Lesyk, who packs parcels for drone drops in the eastern Dnipro region.

"Even small things matter," he added.

With attack drones now dominating the battlefield, frontline movements carry exceptional risk. That has made it harder to send supplies to frontline soldiers,

a challenge that Ukraine has increasingly tried to meet with unmanned aircraft. Soldiers describe catching deliveries of water, power banks and other essentials dropped by drones under the cover of night.

Much of the work is done by heavy Vampire drones, which can easily switch from killing enemy soldiers to delivering creature comforts. They can fly in harsh

weather, and the Ukrainian military says they are harder than other drones to shoot down.

The Russians call the drones Baba Yaga, after the child-eating witch in Slavic folklore who hunts at night. When they are dropping treats, some Ukrainian soldiers call them "mama drones."

Cigarettes. Wet wipes. Coffee. Shawarma. Even a chocolate ha-

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Love Without Limits in Brazil

More people in a still largely conservative and religious nation are rejecting monogamy as they seek new definitions of romance, and of family.

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METROPOLITAN

Contraband or Just a Tampon?

Women visiting loved ones at the state's prisons are being turned away after body scanners pick up what they say are menstrual products.

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SUNDAY BUSINESS

A Whole City From Scratch

Investors and businesses are backing the idea of building new urban areas on vacant land without the complexities of an existing city.

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SUNDAY STYLES

The New New York Woman

Rachel Scott, who last week showed her first collection for Proenza Schouler, wants to reimagine the city's fashion and who gets to define it.

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SUNDAY OPINION

Amelia Miller

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