TIMES LEADER

118 YEARS STRONG

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County election director provides 2026 updates

Luzerne County Democrats running for local party committee seats in the May 19 primary election can start picking up nomination petition packets on Feb. 2, county Election Director Emily Cook said during last week's county Election Board meeting.

Democrats will choose a male and female committee member in each of the 186 precincts. These committee members will then select district chairs and the county party chair.

Cook said she is not aware of any other local contests on the 2026 ballot, which will contain state and federal races. This is *not* a "municipal election" held every two years that features local municipal, school, and county seats.

May 19 primary candidates can circulate their nomination petitions between Feb. 17 and March 10.

Cook said she recently met with political party leaders about this year's election cycle as part of her plan to perform more outreach.

She intends to post candidate information online. While this information is in packets her office furnishes to candidates, she wants to provide additional access to help mitigate issues because some candidates do not read everything in their packets, she said.



Jennifer Learn-Andes
County Notebook

Election Board Member Rick Morelli verified with Cook that municipalities will be included in the outreach. He cited past issues in which some municipalities submitted incorrect information about which seats must be placed on ballots.

Cook said her office will attempt to educate municipalities because some local governments are unaware of their requirements, partly due to turnover in municipal secretary and manager positions that has led to a loss of institutional knowledge.

Election Task Force

County Manager Romilda Crocamo said a final report of the county's Election Task Force should be completed in February.

See COUNTY | 2A



AP Photo

A person walks across a street during a winter storm in Philadelphia on Sunday.

Storm blankets millions across US

By Kate Brumback and Julie Walker
The Associated Press

A massive winter storm dumped sleet, freezing rain, and snow across much of the U.S. on Sunday, bringing subzero temperatures and halting air and road traffic. Tree branches and power lines snapped under the weight of ice, and hundreds of thousands of homes and businesses in the Southeast were left without electricity.

The ice and snowfall were expected to continue into Monday followed by very low temperatures which could cause "dangerous travel and infrastructure impacts" for days, the National Weather Service said.

Heavy snow was falling from the Ohio Valley to the Northeast, while "catastrophic ice accumulation" threatened from the Lower Mississippi Valley to the Mid-Atlantic and Southeast.

"It is a unique storm in the sense that it is so widespread," weather service meteorologist Allison Santorelli said in a phone interview. "It was affecting areas all the way from New Mexico, Texas, all the way into New England, so we're talking like a 2,000-mile spread."

President Donald Trump approved emergency declarations for at least a dozen states by Saturday. The Federal Emergency Management Agency had rescue teams and supplies in numerous states, Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem said.

In New York, communities near the Canadian border saw record-breaking subzero temperatures, with Watertown registering minus 34 degrees Fahrenheit and Copenhagen minus 49 F, Gov. Kathy Hochul said.

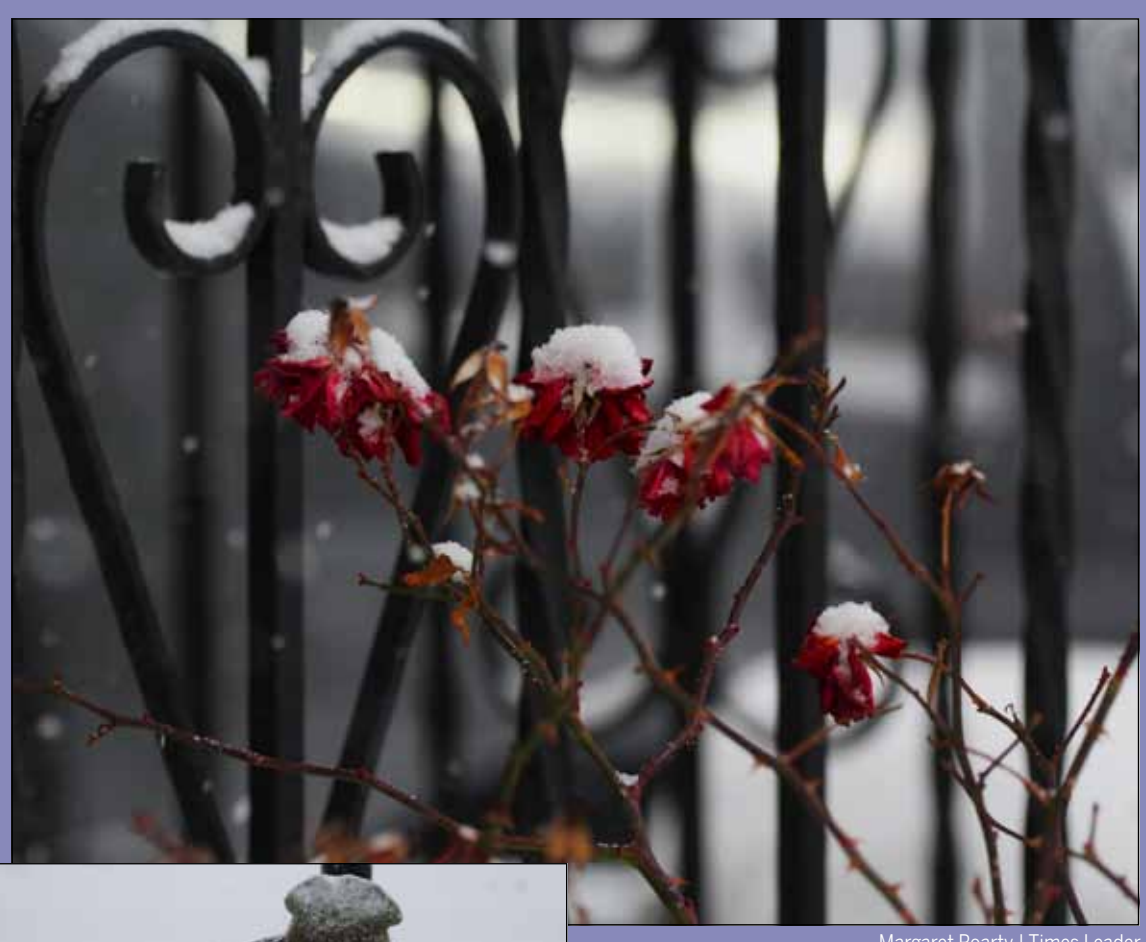
Coping with the storm

Freezing rain that slickened roads and brought trees and branches down on roads and power lines were the main peril in the South. In Corinth, Mississippi, heavy machinery manufacturer Caterpillar told employees at its remanufacturing site to stay home Monday and Tuesday.

"May God have mercy on Corinth, MS! ... The sound of the trees snapping, exploding & falling through the night

See STORM | 2A

STORM SLAMS NEPA







Margaret Roarty | Times Leader

Above: A rose bush, dormant for the winter, is covered with snow Sunday. Left: Peter Urban, 28, shovels snow outside of his home on Welles Street in Forty Fort.

Margaret Roarty | Times Leader

Welles Street in Forty Fort looking out onto Wyoming Avenue is a blur of white Sunday's snow storm.

Issue 2026-026

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More than 10,500 flights canceled Sunday

By Mae Anderson and Rio Yamat
The Associated Press



AP Photo

A flight status screen shows canceled flights at Philadelphia International Airport during a winter storm in Philadelphia on Sunday



AP Photo

Airport crew plow snow during a winter storm in Philadelphia on Sunday.

NASHVILLE — A massive winter storm made for a brutal travel day Sunday, with widespread cancellations and delays at some of the nation's busiest airports.

Widespread snow, sleet and freezing rain threatened nearly 180 million people — more than half the U.S. population — in a path stretching from the southern Rocky Mountains to New England, the National Weather Service said Saturday night. After sweeping through the South, the storm moved into the Northeast Sunday, and was expected to dump about 1 to 2 feet of snow from Washington through New York and Boston.

More than 11,400 flights were canceled on Sunday, according to flight-tracking site FlightAware. Aviation analytics firm Cirium said that as of Sunday morning, the storm is the highest experienced cancellation event since the pandemic.

By Sunday afternoon, the majority of flights were canceled at busy airports in the Northeast and elsewhere. LaGuardia Airport in New York closed Sunday afternoon, according to the Federal Aviation Administration.

The agency said on its website the busy Queens airport grounded flights until 8 p.m.

In Philadelphia, 94% of flights, 326 flights, were canceled. Ninety-one percent of flights, 436 flights, were canceled at LaGuardia Airport in New York. New York's John F. Kennedy International Airport had 466 flights canceled, about 80% of flights, according to FlightAware.

Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport said on its website that all airlines had canceled departing flights for the day, about 421 flights.

Significant disruptions also hit major airport hubs in Dallas-Fort Worth, Charlotte, Philadelphia and Atlanta, home to the nation's busiest airport.

Allan Lengel of Detroit planned to return Monday from Fort Lauderdale, Florida, where the temperature has been in the 80s. But he's staying until Wednesday after Delta suggested he change his reservation because of the weather impact on flights.

"Can't say I'm disappointed. Frankly, I had been thinking of returning later because of frigid weather," Lengel, 71, said, referring to conditions in Michigan.

American Airlines had canceled over 1,790 flights for Sunday, about 55% of its scheduled flights for Sunday, according to FlightAware. Delta Air Lines reported over 1,470 cancellations and Southwest Airlines reported over 1,340 cancellations for the day, while United Airlines had about 1,016. JetBlue had more than 590 canceled flights, accounting for roughly 72% of its schedule for the day.

Vikrant Vaze, a Dartmouth professor specializing in commercial aviation logistics, said recovery from the storm cancellations and delays will take days if not longer. And even for travelers who aren't in areas that were directly affected by weather, cascading delays could still affect their travel plans.

"Because there are so many different airlines involved, I think it's going to come down heavily to the individual airline's network structure, the extent of hit that each of them has had, and just the intrinsic capacity of the airlines to handle these massive disruptions," he said.

My flight was canceled, now what?

If you're already at the airport, get in line to speak to a customer service representative. If you're still at home or at your hotel, call or go online to connect to your airline's reservations staff. Either way, it helps to also research alternate flights while you wait to talk to an agent.

Most airlines will rebook you on a later flight for no additional charge, but it depends on the availability of open seats.

Can I get booked on another airline?

You can, but airlines aren't required to put you on another carrier's flight. Some airlines, including most of the biggest carriers, say they can put you on a partner airline, but even then, it can be a hit or miss.

Am I owed a refund?

If your flight was canceled and you no longer want to take the trip, or you've found another way to get to your destination, the airline is legally required to refund your money — even if you bought a non-refundable ticket. It doesn't matter why the flight was canceled.

The airline might offer you a travel credit, but you are entitled to a full refund. You are also entitled to a refund of any bag fees, seat upgrades or other extras that you didn't get to use.

Storm

From page 1A

have been unnerving to say the least," resident Kathy Ragan wrote on Facebook.

In Clarksdale, Mississippi, Sanford Johnson said enough snow and sleet fell that few motorists ventured out.

"I had to break it to my youngest daughter that the play date she scheduled likely won't happen today. We have no plans on driving," Johnson said.

It already was Mississippi's worst ice storm since 1994 with its biggest-ever deployment of ice-melting chemicals — 200,000 gallons — plus salt and sand on roads, Gov. Tate Reeves said at a news conference.

He urged people not to drive anywhere unless absolutely necessary. "Do please reach out to friends and family," Reeves added.

In Nashville, Tennessee, Jami Joe, 41, feared her electricity might not last as ice-heavy limbs from oak and pecan trees continued to crash around her house. "It's only a matter of time if a limb strikes a power line," she said.

Because of icy roads, Josh Martin figured he and his wife, Misti, were "locked in" for a while at their home on a steep hill in Columbia, Tennessee.

"Getting in and out of the neighborhood is not an option," Martin said. "I can get down because gravity will take me, but I could not get back up."

Elsewhere, deep snow — over a foot in a 1,300-mile swath from Arkansas to New England — halted traffic and canceled flights.

On Manhattan's Upper East Side, January Cotrel enjoyed the fresh snow on a block that always closes during snowstorms for residents to sled, throw snowballs and make snowmen.

"I pray for two feet every time we get a snowstorm. I want as much as we can get," she said. "Let the city just shut down for a day and it's beautiful, and then we can get back to life."

Storm knocks out power and snarls flights

As of Sunday morning, about 213 million people were under some sort of winter weather warning, Santorelli said. Hundreds of thousands of customers were without power according to poweroutage.us, with Tennessee and Mississippi hit especially hard.

Some 12,000 flights were canceled Sunday and nearly 20,000 were delayed, according to the flight tracker flightaware.com. Airports in Philadelphia, Washington, Baltimore, North Carolina, New York and New Jersey were among those impacted.

Bitter cold makes things worse

The danger will continue after the ice and snow, Santorelli warned.

"Behind the storm it's just going to get bitterly cold across basically the entirety of the eastern two-thirds of the nation, east of the Rockies," she said. That means ice and snow won't melt as fast, which could hinder efforts to restore power.

In New York City, Mayor Zohran Mamdani said at least five people who died were found outside as temperatures plunged Saturday, though the cause of their deaths remained under investigation. He urged people to stay inside and off the roads: "We want every single New Yorker to make it through this storm."

Two men died of hypothermia related to the storm in Caddo Parish in Louisiana, according to the state health department.

Across the affected areas, schools and universities announced that classes would be canceled or held remotely Monday.

Recovery could take time

In Oxford, Mississippi, police appealed for residents to stay home. Utility crews were also pulled from their jobs during the overnight hours.

"Due to life-threatening conditions, Oxford Utilities has made the difficult decision to pull our crews off the road for the night," the utility company posted on Facebook early Sunday. "Trees are actively snapping and falling around our linemen while they are in the bucket trucks."

Oxford city officials posted dramatic photos on social media of slick roads and ice-coated trees sagging or breaking under the added weight.

In Tennessee, emergency officials urged motorists to give crews space to treat roads as drivers have been crashing into them.

Icy roads also made travel dangerous in north Georgia, where the Cherokee County Sheriff's office posted on Facebook, "You know it's bad when Waffle House is closed!!!" along with a photo of a shuttered restaurant. Whether the chain's restaurants are open — known as the Waffle House Index — has become an informal way to gauge the severity of weather disasters across the South.

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County

From page 1A

She had created the task force to identify problems in state election law and to seek legislative action. Prior county controller Walter Griffith sought an update on the task force during last week's Election Board meeting.

Crocamo said the Election Task Force must hold a meeting to formally adopt the report, and it will then be presented to the county Election Board.

Mail ballots

Approximately 58,000 county voters had checked a box to be placed on a permanent mailing list when they initially applied for a mail ballot.

As required by state legislation, the county must send mail ballot applications to these voters the first week of February each year. Voters who return applications will automatically receive mail ballots for all elections that year.

Cook told the Election Board on Wednesday that the 2026 letters have already been forwarded to the printing vendor for issuance.

Anticipating a wave of returned applications from these voters, Cook said the staff is set to work overtime to process them.

Information on the annual mailing list, and a form for those seeking removal from the list, are available at www.pa.gov.

Council meeting

County Council will hold a voting meeting and work session at 6 p.m. Tuesday in the county courthouse on River Street in Wilkes-Barre.

A public hearing is scheduled before the meeting, at 5:30 p.m., to accept public comment on a proposed "election protection ordinance" set to appear on the voting agenda for a decision by council.

Instructions for the remote attendance option will be posted in council's online meeting section at luzernecounty.org.

Committee meeting

Council's Authorities, Boards, and Commissions (ABC) Committee will meet at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday at the county courthouse.

Instructions to attend remotely will be posted in council's online meeting section at luzernecounty.org.

Reach Jennifer Learn-Andes at 570-991-6388 or on Twitter @TLJenLearnAndes.

Tony Usavage marks 50th year as PIAA official

By Tony Callaio
For Times Leader

PITTSTON — Anthony Usavage celebrated a milestone on Thursday, when the Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association (PIAA) recognized him for his 50 years of service as a basketball official.

During a brief ceremony prior to the Pittston Area versus Hazleton Area girls basketball game, PA State Rep. Jim Haddock was also on hand to present a citation from the PA House of Representatives in Usavage's honor, marking the milestone.

Usavage, a Pittston native, graduated from Pittston Area in 1973; was the first Pittston Area graduate to become a PIAA basketball official in the school's history.

His first official PIAA officiating game was in May 1976 when Nanticoke Area, led by renowned head coach Syl Bozinski, played against Wyoming Valley West, refereeing alongside legendary PIAA official Pat "Tiger" Denoy.

"It's been 50 years, and it's been an adventure," Usavage remarked. "I've worked a lot of games, big and small; it's a big difference now than it was 50 years ago, and I still enjoy the game just as much as I did then. It went by fast, faster than you think it does."

At 70 years old, Usavage said he's not ready to put the striped shirt and whistle away.

"I will referee as long as I can keep going and ask as long as I'm healthy," Usavage said on retirement.



Tony Callaio | For Times Leader

Pittston native, Tony Usavage, left, is shown with PA State Rep. Jim Haddock when Haddock presented Usavage a citation from the PA House of Representatives acknowledging his 50th year as a PIAA official prior to the Pittston Area-Hazleton Area girls basketball at Pittston Area on Thursday evening.

Usavage reached a milestone in his career when he officiated an Eastern Finals Championship game in the early 1990s.

He said he is grateful for officiating mentors that came before him, such as Ace Brogna, Tiger Denoy, and, in particular, Bernie Babonis, who initially got him started as an official.

In addition to his service to basketball and the PIAA, he has served as an Amateur Softball Association (ASA) umpire for decades.

In his professional life, he initially became a plumber, entering the Plumbers' Local 90 apprentice program, and later founded Usavage Plumbing Corp. in 1983.



Tony Callaio | For Times Leader

Tony Usavage has been officiating for five decades. He has no plans to retire soon.

Usavage is the son of the late Anthony T. and Rose Usavage, the father of Anthony Usavage Jr., and the grandfather of Vivienne and Anne Usavage.

Tragedy avoided by train tracks inspection in 1920

By Ed Lewis
elewis@timesleader.com

A Central Railroad of New Jersey passenger train, the Philadelphia Flyer, with 210 souls descended Wilkes-Barre Mountain in Laurel Run on Jan. 26, 1920.

As the locomotive began to slow to make the steep descent into the Ashley rail yard before heading to its destination at the Central Railroad Passenger Station (today's Luzerne County Visitor's Center) in Wilkes-Barre, the train had to pass through the heavily mined area known as Red Ash in Laurel Run.

A man employed as a track inspector prevented what could have been a tragedy.

"Central Railroad of New Jersey officials experienced further difficulty last evening as a result of cave-ins on the west-bound track above the Red Ash Colliery on the mountainside. Surface depressions have been of frequent occurrences at this point for several months, but that of yesterday was unusually severe, the tracks sinking for more than two feet over a large area," reported the Wilkes-Barre Record on Jan. 29, 1920.

John Kapisoviski, the track inspector, walked his track beat along Wilkes-Barre Mountain at night with a gas lamp. Kapisoviski was tasked with inspecting 10 miles of track twice a night between today's Route 309 in Ashley and Plains Township.

On the night of Jan. 26, 1920, just before 10 p.m., Kapisoviski heard a loud thunder and came across a cave-in above the Red Ash Colliery.

Knowing the train schedule, Kapisoviski ran three miles ahead to alert the oncoming Central Railroad of New Jersey No. 23 passenger train by waving his gas lamp.

MINE CAVE UNDER
RAILROAD TRACKS

Wilkes-Barre Record headline Jan. 29, 1920

"The point where the cave-in occurred is about three-quarters of a mile north of the Georgetown crossing and a little over a mile south of the old Mountain Park site," the Record reported.

There was no ceremony to honor Kapisoviski for his actions. In fact, not much could be found on Kapisoviski, who lived at the base of Giants Despair at 891 E. Northampton St., in Laurel Run, in the same area of today's starting line for the annual Giants Despair Hill Climb.

Throughout the spring of 1920, other cave-ins occurred along the same route, delaying passenger, coal, and freight trains for days. On one particular day, March 6, 1920, Central Railroad of New Jersey and Lehigh Valley trains were held up and stranded due to another cave-in near the Red Ash Colliery and a blizzard that left 20 inches of snow in Laurel Run, reported the Record on March 8, 1920.

Workers used ashes and rock to fill the cave-ins, which were blamed on rotting and deteriorating wood timbers and on the mine fire that began in the Red Ash mine in 1915, ignited by a miner's lamp, a fire that continues to burn today.



Bill O'Boyle

Beyond the Byline

Back in the day, we embraced the snow

PLYMOUTH — That's right, when we were kids, we walked to school every day, uphill both ways, and in snow two feet deep.

We walked to school in the morning, back home for lunch, back down for the afternoon, and back home at the end of the day.

Then we changed clothes and went outside to play in that two feet of snow. We built forts, and we had snowball fights, and we went sleigh-riding down hills as steep as Kilimanjaro.

We were tough. We loved it all. We would return home with rose-colored cheeks and an appetite.

Now, many of these same tough kids have changed. They are now quivering fraidy-cats who can't stop checking their phones to see how much snow we are going to get. They are running to grocery stores to empty the shelves of milk, bread, toilet paper, frozen dinners, and, for reasons unknown, Little Debbie's snacks.

Those same tough kids now cower on the couches or recliners, watching their big-screen TVs and worrying about when the kid next door will clear their driveway and sidewalk.

Thank goodness we have all those "necessities."

But today, when we look out our windows, we will see that the world has survived once again. The snow has fallen, and likely, so have a few of us. But the roads appear passable, and the kids did clear the driveway and sidewalk.

Now, some places were whomped, and as bad as it may have been, the show will go on.

So now we will return to our usual lives, leaving us to find something else to worry about.

The Super Bowl is set, Trivia Night is on, and all is well in Mudville.

We must resume posting all that vital information on social media — like what we ate for breakfast, lunch, and dinner. We also want to take all those creative pictures of measuring snow to see if we got the deepest accumulation, or was it, again, somewhere in the Midwest or Buffalo, N.Y.

Many have shoveled and shoveled and shoveled. Others have used their snowblowers constantly. Others have good kids living in the neighborhood who want to earn a couple of bucks.

And as we begin to plan our days again, we stop to wonder where we will store all that toilet paper — at least it doesn't have an expiration date.

Of course, we will also have to deal with our friends who live down south. They want to know how much snow we got and what the temperatures have dipped to.

Just tell them we got more than a foot, it's close to zero degrees, but there's no humidity.

Build a snowman and post a picture on social media. Be creative. Smile as you pose for the picture. Let the world see that deep snow and freezing temperatures can be enjoyed.

Back in the day, we couldn't wait for the snow to arrive so we could go sleigh-riding. We had some big hills in our neighborhood — Nottingham Street was the best. About six of us would head up Reynolds Street, over Third Street, to the top of Nottingham. The first kid would go down and cross Second Street, cross First Street, and end up on West Shawnee Avenue.

That kid would walk back up, dragging his sled, to Second Street and wait to watch for vehicles. The second kid would go all the way down, then walk to First Street and wait. It was a system with safety in mind.

We would do this for hours — never shivering and never complaining about the cold. Why? Because it was fun.

We also had other sleigh-riding areas with no vehicular traffic. Over on Barnes Street, a path wove through a wooded area. It was downhill all the way, and no streets to worry about traffic. But it wasn't as thrilling as Nottingham Street.

After hours of sleigh-riding, we would return to our warm homes, remove the snow-covered coats, pants, gloves, and boots, and dry off. We would don some sweatpants and a hoodie and enjoy mom's lunch — usually her delicious red vegetable soup with homemade noodles and a sandwich.

After watching some TV — hopefully "Leave It To Beaver" was on — then we would decide what our next activity would be.

If not a return to sleigh-riding, we would stay inside and play "Strat-O-Matic Baseball," electric football, or maybe "Monopoly."

It was all good.

And we always had enough "necessities."

Reach Bill O'Boyle at 570-991-6118 or on Twitter @TLBillOBoyle.

LEGISLATIVE ROUNDUP

Report finds Law enforcement agencies are solving more cases

By Bill O'Boyle
boboyle@timesleader.com


The Pennsylvania State Capitol building in Harrisburg on July 26, 2023.

As violent crime and gun violence rates have declined across the Commonwealth, law enforcement agencies are improving their homicide clearance rates — getting more violent offenders off the streets — thanks, in part, to investments executed by the Shapiro-Davis Administration through the Gun Violence Investigation and Prosecution (GVIP) grant program.


Shapiro


Davis

"Gov. Josh Shapiro and I know that it takes a comprehensive approach to make Pennsylvania communities safer — and that approach includes supporting local law enforcement, so they can do the tough job they've been tasked with doing," said Lt. Gov. Austin Davis, who leads the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD). "We've driven out $50 million to help local district attorneys and police investigate gun violence and prosecute the offenders, and data show that those investments have made a real impact. Clearance rates are up, and homicide rates are down. While even one life lost to gun violence is one too many, we are making progress."

York County District Attorney Tim Barker said GVIP funding was critical for sustaining and expanding York County's violence intervention and prevention initiatives.

"Public safety in both York City and York County increased dramatically as a direct result of funded activities during and continuing beyond the project period," Barker said. "For example, persons struck from gun violence in York City decreased by 73% from 2022 through 2025 — this corresponds with the increase in capacity and competency for investigation and prosecution of violent crime supported by this vital funding stream. We look forward to future opportunities for investment like GVIP funding for continued advancements in public safety and community well-being."

This month PCCD released their initial report — Violent Crime Trends and Clearance Rates in Pennsylvania — and it included the following key findings:

- Across Pennsylvania, violent crime went down, and clearance rates went up from FY 2022 to FY 2024, suggesting broader improvements in public safety.
- 19 counties received GVIP funding, with some counties using grants to support county-wide efforts while others designated funding for specific local agencies.
- Preliminary analysis suggests GVIP funding may have helped accelerate progress in some areas.
- GVIP-funded counties saw a significant drop in homicides — down 32.5% from FY 2022 to FY 2024.
- At the same time, homicide clearance rates improved significantly in funded counties — up more than 8 percentage points — and were higher than the average clearance rate of non-funded counties (91.3% vs. 83.7%, respectively).
- GVIP-funded counties also saw more significant declines in aggravated assaults compared to non-funded counties, and they also experienced a greater improvement in assault clearance rates (7.5 percentage point increase compared to 1.5 points, respectively).

Officials encourage use of PTRR program

With applications now open for the Property Tax/Rent Rebate (PTRR) program, Pennsylvania Department of Revenue Secretary Pat Browne, Rep. Peter Schweyer, and Sen. Nick Miller recently encouraged eligible seniors, people with disabilities, and widows and widowers across the Commonwealth to apply for relief through the PTRR program.


Browne

The Department of Revenue recently started accepting applications for rebates on property taxes or rent paid in 2025.

Browne said that Shapiro's work to expand the PTRR program for the first time in nearly 20 years has been a game-changer for older Pennsylvanians, widows and widowers, and residents with disabilities who benefit from it. The expansion increased the maximum standard rebate to $1,000 (up from $650), raised income eligibility limits for homeowners and renters, and tied those limits to cost-of-living adjustments.

Thanks to those critical changes, the Department of Revenue distributed $314 million to approximately 512,000 Pennsylvanians who applied last year for a rebate on property taxes or rent paid in 2024. That total includes roughly 13,800 Lehigh County residents who received nearly $9 million. Casa Guadalupe, founded in 1969 primarily to meet the needs of Latino residents in the Lehigh Valley, is where many seniors come to get assistance with filing their PTRR applications.

"Many were losing their eligibility solely due to increases to their Social Security payments, which was an unfortunate byproduct of the program's income limits not being increased for nearly 20 years," Browne said. "With the changes the expansion has made, the PTRR program is in a much better place to continue serving as a lifeline for people in need for years to come."

If you think you might be eligible for a rebate, you can visit pa.gov/ptrr to check the program guidelines and find helpful tips to apply. There are also a number of options where you can find in-person filing support, including at Department of Revenue district offices.

The expansion of the PTRR is one of seven tax cuts, including the new Working Pennsylvanians Tax Credit (WPTC), signed into law by the Governor in the 2025-26 budget that goes into effect this tax season — delivering $193 million in tax relief to approximately 940,000 Pennsylvanians.

"Programs like the popular Property Tax/Rent Rebate can help ease the burden of paying mortgage or rent along with the high costs of just about everything while putting money back into older adults' pockets," said Secretary of Aging Jason Kavulich. "I urge any older adult who has applied in the past to do so now or who thinks they may not be qualified to reach out to their local Area Agency on Aging, senior center, or local state official to learn if they are eligible to receive a rebate."

Tool will connect SNAP recipients with opportunities

Department of Human Services (DHS) Secretary Dr. Val Arkoosh this week announced a new tool to connect Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) recipients with volunteer opportunities that will help them meet new federal work and reporting requirements for the program and keep their benefits.


Arkoosh

"DHS is committed to doing everything we can to connect Pennsylvanians who receive SNAP with tools and information to help them keep their benefits and feed themselves and their families," Arkoosh said. "Adding volunteer listings to PA Navigate both helps SNAP recipients meet the new federal requirements and helps community-based organizations fill volunteer roles, which are often so important to their ability to serve their communities. I encourage organizations that need volunteers to list those roles on PA Navigate so they can meet their organizational needs and find qualified volunteers among the SNAP recipients who are looking for those opportunities to maintain their benefits."

Under new federal rules, to keep or become eligible for SNAP benefits, certain people have to meet work requirements that include working, volunteering, and/or participating in an education or training program for at least 20 hours a week (or 80 hours each month) AND report that they are meeting these requirements.

To find volunteer opportunities on PA Navigate:

- Go to pa-navigate.org enter your ZIP code, and search for "volunteer opportunity."
- A list of local programs offering volunteer opportunities appears.
- Contact the organization where you want to volunteer to learn more and connect with volunteer opportunities.
- The organization where you volunteer completes the Community Service Verification Form to track your volunteer hours.

If a community-based organization would like to list volunteer opportunities on PA Navigate, visit www.panavigate-help.org/.

For information about work and reporting requirements, visit dhs.pa.gov/work.

Reach Bill O'Boyle at 570-991-6118 or on Twitter @TLBillOBoyle.











Leader in smallpox eradication dies

By Mike Stobbe
The Associated Press

ATLANTA — Dr. William Foege, a leader of one of humanity's greatest public health victories — the global eradication of smallpox — has died.

Foege died Saturday in Atlanta at the age of 89, according to the Task Force for Global Health, which he co-founded.

The 6-foot-7-inch Foege literally stood out in the field of public health. A whip-smart medical doctor with a calm demeanor, he had a canny knack for beating back infectious diseases.

He was director of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in the late 1970s and early 1980s, and later held other key leadership roles in campaigns against international health problems.

But his greatest achievement came before all that, with his work on smallpox, one of the most lethal diseases in human history. For centuries, it killed about one-third of the people it infected and left most survivors with deep scars on their faces from the pus-filled lesions.

Smallpox vaccination campaigns were well established by the time Foege was a young doctor. Indeed, it was no longer seen in the United States. But infections were still occurring elsewhere, and efforts to stamp them out were stalling.

Working as a medical missionary in Nigeria in the 1960s, Foege and his colleagues developed a "ring containment" strategy, in which a smallpox outbreak was contained by identifying each smallpox case and vaccinating everyone who the patients might come into contact with.

The method relied heavily on quick detective work and was born out of necessity. There simply wasn't enough vaccine available to immunize everyone, Foege wrote in "House on Fire," his 2011 book about the smallpox eradication effort.

It worked, and became pivotal in helping rid the world of smallpox for good. The last naturally occurring case was seen in Somalia in 1977. In 1980, the World Health Organization declared smallpox eradicated from the Earth.

"If you look at the simple metric of who has saved the most lives, he is right up there with the pantheon. Smallpox eradication has prevented hundreds of millions of deaths," said former CDC director Dr. Tom Frieden, who consulted with Foege regularly.

Foege was born March 12, 1936. His father was a Lutheran minister, but he became interested in medicine at 13 while working at a drugstore in Colville, Washington.



AP File Photo

President Barack Obama awards the Medal of Freedom to Dr. William Foege, former director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, who helped lead the effort to eradicate smallpox, during a ceremony in the East Room of the White House in Washington on May 29, 2012.

He got his medical degree from the University of Washington in 1961 and a master's in public health from Harvard in 1965.

He was director of the Atlanta-based CDC from 1977 to 1983, then held other international public health leadership roles, including stints as executive director at The Carter Center and senior fellow at the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

In 2012, President Barack Obama presented Foege with the Medal of Freedom, the nation's highest civilian honor. In 2016, while awarding Foege an honorary degree, Duke University President Richard Brodhead called him "the Father of Global Health."



AP File Photo

Dr. William Foege, left, director of the Centers for Disease Control, and Dr. Edward Brandt, assistant secretary of health, face a House Governmental Operations subcommittee on Capitol Hill in Washington on Aug. 3, 1983.

"Bill Foege had an unflagging commitment to improving the health of people across the world, through powerful, purpose-driven coalitions applying the best science available," Task Force for Global Health CEO Dr. Patrick O'Carroll said in a statement. "We try to honor that commitment in every one of our programs, every day."

Celebrate Music - Pittston coming to the downtown

By Tony Callaio
For Times Leader

PITTSTON — Downtown Pittston Partnership will present Celebrate Music – Pittston on Saturday, for a musical extravaganza of over 13 hours of entertainment at 15 locations.

Local musician A.J. Jump collaborated with the City of Pittston Main Street Manager, Mary Kroptavich, to create the event, with Jump choosing the talent for the day.

"I met up with A.J., and he proposed the idea of the all-day music fest, and I loved it," Kroptavich said. "We always do events in the Tomato Festival lot, and we never do anything to incorporate our restaurants and bars, and we wanted to do something in the winter for people to come out and have something to do. It's a great way to support our businesses."

This new event in the city will showcase the talent of local musical acts in various locations. The music will range from acoustic, jazz, folk, and rock.

The all-day music fest kicks off at 10 a.m. and runs through 11:30 p.m.

Attendees can choose any location to enjoy lunch or dinner with family or an evening with friends.

"All the downtown merchants will be open during business hours, and we are hoping patrons will check out businesses that they've never been to before," Kroptavich added. "We really would like people to get out on a Saturday night to enjoy great music at some of our finest establishments."



Tony Callaio | For Times Leader

The Coqui Kitchen will host Justin Mazer & Alex Luquet from 4 to 5 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 31, during Celebrate Music - Pittston.

Schedule

The all-day schedule is as follows, with times, Pittston location, and artist:

10 a.m. to noon: Coffee Inclusive, 350 Kennedy Blvd. — Joe Michaels

12:30 to 1:30 p.m.: Fuji Ramen, 350 Kennedy Blvd. — Sweetnest

2 to 4 p.m.: Blind Cat Brewing Co., 13 Kennedy St. — Ed Cuozzo & Esta Codam

4 to 5 p.m.: The Coqui Kitchen, 69 S. Main St. — Justin Mazer & Alex Luquet

4 to 5 p.m.: Broad Street Winery, 21 Broad St. — Bob Oxblood

4:30 to 6:30 p.m.: Napoli's Pizza, 26 S. Main St. — Chase Who

5 to 7 p.m.: Pizza Althea, 2 S. Main St. — Hot Club of Scranton

5:30 to 6:30 p.m.: The Gramercy, 155 S. Main St. — Jimmy Waltich

5:30 to 7:30 p.m.: The Refinery, 350 Kennedy Blvd. — Neil Nicastro

6 to 8 p.m.: The Red Mill, 340 S. Main St. — Phyllis Hopkins

6 to 8 p.m.: Fuji Sushi, 197 S. Main St. — DJ Evil Bee



Tony Callaio | For Times Leader

The Refinery will host Neil Nicastro from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 31, during Celebrate Music - Pittston.

6:30 to 8:30 p.m.: Bravo Tex Mex, 61 S. Main St. — The Broke Pines

7 to 9 p.m.: The Joint @ Rikasa, 53 S. Main St. — Joe Burke & Co. + Rosary Guild

9 to 11 p.m.: The Knights 55, 55 S. Main St. — Mere Mortals + Bret Alexander Band

9:30 to 11:30 p.m.: Tomato Bar, 7 Tomato Festival Dr. — A Proud Monkey

COMING FUNERALS

ANTOS — Gloria: Visitation, 5 to 7 p.m. Wednesday, Carlucci-Golden-DeSantis Funeral Home Inc., Dunmore. Mass, 10 a.m. Thursday, Our Lady of the Snows Parish, Clarks Summit.

BOND — Linda: Visitation, 4 to 6 p.m. Tuesday, Kielty-Moran Funeral Home, Plymouth. Funeral, 11 a.m. Wednesday.

BORKOWSKI — Rosemary: Visitation, 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. Tuesday, Adonizio Funeral Home LLC, Pittston. Mass, 10 a.m., Sacred Heart of Jesus Church, Dupont.

CAREY — Richard: Mass, 10 a.m. Wednesday, St. Maria Goretti Church, Laflin. Visitation, 5 to 7 p.m. Tuesday, Corcoran Funeral Home Inc., Plains Township.

COSGROVE — Patrick: Visitation, 9 a.m. Saturday, St. John the Evangelist Parish. Mass, 10 a.m.

DEMKO — Dolores: Visitation, 4 to 7 p.m. Thursday, Nat Gawlas Jordan Funeral Home, Wilkes-Barre; 10 to 11 a.m. Friday, Ss. Peter & Paul Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church, Wilkes-Barre. Panachida services, 5 p.m. Thursday, funeral home. Divine liturgy, 11 a.m. Friday, church.

DUCAJI — Margaret: Mass, 10 a.m. Saturday, Good Shepherd Church, Drums. Visitation, 9 a.m. to service time.

FREEMAN — William: Visitation, 5 to 7 p.m. Monday, Corcoran Funeral Home Inc., Plains Township. Funeral, 10 a.m. Tuesday.

GILCHRIST — Josephine: Mass, 10 a.m. Saturday, Prince of Peace Parish, Old Forge.

GIMBLE — Raymond: Visitation, noon to 2 p.m. Sunday, Kielty-Moran Funeral Home, Plymouth.

PAPIESZ — Alfreda: Memorial service, 6 p.m. Friday, Andrew Strish Funeral Home, Larksville. Visitation, 4 p.m. to service time.

PELEAK — Anne: Mass, 10 a.m. Tuesday, St. Ignatius Loyola Church, Kingston. Visitation, 9 a.m. to service time.

SCHAFKA — Romayne: Mass, 10:30 a.m. Wednesday, Nativity of Our Lord Parish, Duryea. Viewing, 9:30 a.m. to service time.

SINCLAIR — Eric: Celebration of life, 5 to 7 p.m. Tuesday, McCune Funeral Home, Mountain Top.

SHANAHAN — Thomas: Visitation, 2 to 3:30 p.m. Sunday, E. Blake Collins Funeral Home, Wilkes-Barre. Memorial service, 3:30 p.m.

ZAVROTNY — Esther: Mass, 11 a.m. Thursday, Church of the Holy Redeemer, Falls/Harding. Viewing, 10 a.m. to service time.

OBITUARY POLICY

- The Times Leader publishes limited obituaries for free.
- Paid obituaries may include full history and photo.
- Please send obituaries as a word document or regular email and photos in jpg format.
- Obituaries for children age 12 or younger are free of charge.
- Private parties must include funeral home, cremation place, or death certificate information.
- Send information to **obits@timesleader.com** or fax to **570-300-1886.**
- An obituary clerk will confirm receipt to sender via email or phone.
- If you don't receive a confirmation, please call **570-991-6119.**
- **Deadline:** 7:30 p.m. for next day publication.



LUZERNE COUNTY PROPERTY TRANSFERS

The following real estate transactions were recorded in the Luzerne County Office of the Recorder of Deeds from Dec. 22 to Dec. 26:

• Marion B. Petrillo to Kassie Ray Keiper, $1, Lake Township.

• Joseph Castrignano to Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, $2,363.31, Plymouth Township.

• Yoter Realty LLC to STLGO Realty Group LLC, $110,000, Sugar Notch Borough.

• Gerald F. Morse, et al., to Richard L. Klingerman, $380,000, Huntington Township.

• U.S. Metro Enterprises Inc. to Almaz Realty LLC, $1, 15 Rowe St., Hanover Township.

• Briar Manor LLC to 255 Hazle LLC, $147,000, Nanticoke City.

• Laverne Kussavage (estate), et al., to Cristian Espiritusanto Melo, $240,000, Nanticoke City.

• Leonardo Tamargo Niebla to Luis Robinson Sales Dioses, $128,000, Wilkes-Barre City.

• JJJJ Properties LLC to Matthew Piontkowski and Katlyn Rincavage, $220,000, Warrior Run Borough.

• James Hayduk and Jean Hayduk to Jacob R. Esh and Becky Sue Esh, $650,000, Buck Township.

• Rona A. Paritsky to Adam Kuzma, $240,000, West Wyoming Borough.

• Martin W. Koonce to Miguel E. Sosa Rodriguez, $265,000, Wilkes-Barre City.

• Ashley L. Webb to Eidrit De Los Santos and Massiel Velez, $215,000, Nescopeck Borough.

• Brick School House Partners LLC to Apostolic Faith Church, $690,000, Butler Township.

• William D. Powell to Mercedes Martinez, $120,000, 218 Moyallen St., Wilkes-Barre City.

• Daniel Brady and Stacey Brady to Kathleen M. Feschuk, $299,900, Wright Township.

• Charles M. Reilly Jr. and Linda A. Reilly to 2 Surfers LLC, $595,000, Hazleton City.

• Lake Sheridan Properties LLC to Lizette Lopez, $100,000, 257 E. Ridge St., Nanticoke City.

• Preserve at Blue Ridge LLC to Thomas Romanyshyn and Nanci Romanyshyn, $170,000, Dorrance Township.

• Justin M. Mucha to Samuel S. Gorman and Abby E. Wiles, $203,000, Kingston Township.

• Diogenes Bueno to Alex T. Marquez, $170,000, Dallas Township.

• Omero Guzman to Donalys Y. Zapey Acosta, $190,000, Nanticoke City.

• Elizabeth M. St. Martin (per agent) and Kevin R. St. Martin (agent) to Debbi L. Chell, $130,000, Wilkes-Barre City.

• Thomas J. Uvarsky and Patricia L. Unvarsky to Sydnee Curran, $275,000, Wilkes-Barre City.

• PNC Bank to Kay Auto LLC, $57,226.05, 1013 Woodhaven Drive, Foster Township.

• Virginia Hazzouri, et al., to REI Universal LLC, $555,555.55, Pittston City.

• Luchi Real Estate LLC to Matthew J. Totten Sr. and Margaret Totten, $465,000, Newport Township.

• Michael Gnudi (administrator) and Bernadette Gnudi (estate) to Joshua John Bartoli and Marissa Bartoli, $180,000, Yatesville Borough.

• Angela Rodden and Peter Rodden to Eagle Rock Resort Co., $10, Hazle Township.

• Wyoming Seminary College Preparatory School to James Thomas Kelly and Robert Thomas Kelly, $33,000, Kingston Borough.

• Thomas M. Vercusky to A&D Property Holdings LLC, $44,400, 196 S. Bennett Court, Hazleton City.

• Thomas M. Vercusky to Fatima De Jesus Pichardo, $50,000, 931 N. Church St., Hazleton City.

• JAV Realty LLC to A&D Property Holdings LLc, $58,200, 577 Carson St., Hazleton City.

• Thomas M. Vercusky to Rafael Emilio Adames, $75,000, Hazle Township.

• Thomas M. Vercusky to Fabiana J. Martich, $69,000, West Hazleton Borough.

• Kimberly Miller (trustee) and Chupcavich Irrevocable Grantor Trust (per trustee) to HJ Business Group PAS LLC, $110,000, Wilkes-Barre City.

• Edward Plaksa to Laurie Lundberg, $218,000, 606 Lily Court, Exeter Borough.

• Martin L. Freifeld and Lora M. Freifeld to Jacob G. Latcham and Sara H. Latcham, $900,000, Dallas Township.

• Michael G. Hromchak and Mary Jo Hromchak to Idalia Cruz Ozoria, $170,000, 40 Carlisle St., Wilkes-Barre City.

• Deborah Morgan (co-executrix), et al., to Dustin Powis and Natalie S. Powis, $200,000, Wright Township.



• Glenn Keller to Richard Hames May, $200,000, Union Township.

• Christopher Draus and Scott Christmas to Lauren Hoffman and Cullen Zerbe, $340,000, Duryea Borough.

• Leonard Berdy (executor) and Paul Berdy (estate) to Brooke Bilko and Daniel Lawler, $287,500, Wilkes-Barre City.

• Dante W. Deangelo and Haley A. Zimmerman to Brandon L. Altemose, $540,000, Franklin Township.

• Ronald Emlaw to Kristy Fernandez, $270,000, Duryea Borough.

• Robert Trieschmann and Mariana Trieschmann to Paul F. Manes and Andrea Manes, $510,000, 11 Unami Circle and Turnberry Lane, Hazle Township.

• Bradley W. Conklin and Denise Ann Conklin to BNB Future LLC, $70,000, Wilkes-Barre City.

• Isaac Benderly and Sharon Benderly to Caggia Realty Corp., $420,000, Hazleton City.

• Lauren Elko (administratrix) and John Elko (estate) to Michael Marchetti, $32,000, Larksville Borough.

• Patricia A. Bonsavage to Kevin James Monk and Brianne Kaylee Baker, $133,000, Hanover Township.

• Denise M. Whittaker (administratrix), et al., to Fitzroy Goldson, $11,000, Newport Township.

• Dedrajon Van Dusen (administrator), et al., to Carol Ruggerio and Robert Ruggerio, $220,000, 71 E. Tuscarora Drive, Hazle Township.

• Sally Ann Groblewski to Naicoke Properties PA LLC, $50,000, 718 E. Main St., Nanticoke City.

• Daniel E. Shilanski and Deborah A. Shilanski to Joseph Gibbons and Kimberly Gibbons, $545,000, Kingston Township.

• Nadine Dickson and Lisa Ann Klug to Cassandra Hauser and Michael A. Mazzitelli, $250,000, Plains Township.

• Alexandra Troncone to Edilio Suero Garcia, $190,000, Hazleton City.

• Yalick CCJ LLC to Rosario Enterprises LLC, $55,000, Hanover Township.

• Felix R. Peralta Mencia and Benjamin Peralta to Odalis Olivo De Rodriguez, $210,000, Hazleton City.

• Elizabeth Ann Leo to Fermin Garcia and Luz Elaine Capellan, $164,000, 295 Brown St., Wilkes-Barre City.

• HSFA LP to Sandra Ralston, $397,900, Duryea Borough.

• Lorna V. Mercado and Frederick A. Mercado to PPL Electric Ultilities Corporation, $42,000, Hazle Township.

• Eagle Rock Resort Co. to Glyzel Bello and Rizyl Batoon Torricer, $10, Black Creek Township.

• Eagle Rock Resort Co. to Maribel Gaylon De Castro and Efren De Garcia De Castro, $10, Hazle Township.

• Eagle Rock Resort Co. to Crystal Gayle Payumo, $10, Hazle Township.

• Eagle Rock Resort Co. to Jejomar Jan JB Magday and Angelica Coleen Meneses-Magday, $10, Hazle Township.

• Eagle Rock Resort Co. to Anthony B. Carrasco and Marta O'Conner, $10, Hazle Township.

• Eagle Rock Resort Co. to Veera R. Kamjula and Ritesh Reddy Kamjula, $10, Black Creek Township.

• Eagle Rock Resort Co. to Patience C. Nwade, $10, Hazle Township.

• Priscila Sanchez De La Cruz to Frit Derahina Garrido Almonte, $178,000, 145 Park Ave., Wilkes-Barre City.

• John Mahasky Jr. to Marleny M. Manzueta De Nunez, $250,000, Hazleton City.

• Alan L. Przeworski and Rebecca J. Przeworski to Kerri-Ann Ruiz, $310,000, Kingston Borough.

• Frank P. Martin to German Moran and Lucia Gaspar Guzman, $305,000, Wilkes-Barre City.

• Yalick CCJ LLC to Maria De Lourdes Cardenal, $50,000, Hanover Township.

• Sharyn Hanzimanolis and Dorothy Rosa to Emely Margareth Valenzuela and Maritza E. Ibanez, $185,500, Luzerne Borough.

• Angie Investments LLC to Joseph Michael Evans and Kaitlyn Elizabeth Evans, $249,900, Forty Fort Borough.

• Lynnette Foote (co-trustee), et al., to NJG Properties LLC, $305,000, Slocum Township.

• HGG Land and Storage LLC to Syed M. Naqvi, $65,000, Slocum Township.

• Timothy Cain and Peggy J. Cain to Anfernee Douthett and Nikkole Christine Cash, $229,900, Forty Fort Borough.

• Matthew T. Jacobs (executor), et al., to Carmel Avnon and Jonathan Gilardi, $278,000, Larksville Borough.

• North Branch Land Trust to Ernest Stoudt, $23,000, Huntington Township.

• Karl Kopczynski to Madison Quin Ziemba and Mark Giovanelli, $519,900, Dallas Township.

• Joseph C. Bambera (trustee) and Saint Therese's Church (per trustee) to Amanda Mary Powell and Ryan Michael Powell, $240,000, Kingston Township.

• Daniel Keeney, et al., to James M. Geffken and Coleen Geffken, $675,000, New Columbus Borough.

• Roy W. Piper Charitable Trust (per trustee), et al., to Northeast Coach LLC, $896,500, Salem Township.

• Anthony Burko to Nastasiak Holdings LLC, $70,000, Harveys Lake Borough.

• Marianne Bump Lurie to Megan Rutkoski, $1, 599 Culver Hill Road, Franklin Township.

• FSI Property Investments LLC to DHL Rentals, $238,000, Nescopeck Borough.

• RMJB Holdings LLC to Jeffrey A. Bates, $78,000, Conyngham Township.

• Vincent Nardone, et al., to Reyes Properties LLC, $700,000, Wilkes-Barre City.

• Michael B. Hoffmaster to Jonathan Paniagua, $370,000, Butler Township.

• Shiara Cruz and Carlos Antonio Nunez Sanchez to Mendoza Investments LLC, $13,500, 7-9 Corlear St., Wilkes-Barre City.

• CG Customs LLC to Christopher Best and Paula T. Best, $270,000, Pittston Township.

• Juana A. Vergara and Ines Vergara to Diolki Rosario Diaz, $170,000, 188 Parrish St., Wilkes-Barre City.

• Mayer Hirsch to 43 Manhattan St. LLC, $150,000, Wilkes-Barre City.

• Cecilia T. Galante (executrix) and Judith F. Plummer (estate) to Irene Ginzburg and Gregori Shluger, $147,500, Kingston Borough.

• CBF Realty LLC to Tara Hargraves $169,000, Nanticoke City.

• Renee Mathur (administrator) and Albert Stucke (estate) to Amanda Pramick and Corey Guiliano, $60,000, Dupont Borough.

• June Olszewski (per agent) and June Olszewski (agent) to Eucari Zarzuela (trustee), et al., $299,990, 56 Riverside Drive, Wilkes-Barre City.

• Shadday Investments LLC and Shadday Investments Limited Liability Company to Luisa Investments LLC, $80,000, Nanticoke City.

• Desiree Whittaker (executor) and Joyce Zeppi (estate) to Erica Kenzakoski, $130,000, Butler Township.

• Sukhvilago LLC to Joel Reyes, $320,500, Wilkes-Barre City.

• David A. Piskorik (executor) and Margaret Piskorik (estate) to Lindsey Good, $217,300, Pringle Borough.







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THEIR VIEW

Make America build again

The Editorial Board
Las Vegas Review-Journal

Some of the country's most pressing problems have a simple solution — remove the regulatory obstacles that slow progress.

One obvious example is housing. The best way to reduce the cost of housing isn't rent control. It's to construct 10 million new houses. When supply dramatically increases, prices fall.

There's an increasing demand for lithium and rare earth minerals. The United States currently imports many of these vital elements. But the nation has significant untapped mineral deposits. Yet thanks to red tape, it can take more than two decades for a new mining project to come online.

These delays and hurdles are typical in virtually every infrastructure endeavor. The Southwest needs more water. Nevada needs access to oil from Eastern states. New infrastructure projects would help alleviate both problems.

In 2022, former President Joe Biden signed the Inflation Reduction Act. It authorized hundreds of billions of dollars toward new green projects. Billions went to build a slew of charging stations for electric vehicles. By the end of 2024, only a few dozen had been built.

Southern Nevada will probably need a new airport in the coming years. Officials here have been planning for this reality since 2006. They hope it will open in 2037.

For most of human history, the biggest problem in accomplishing tasks such as these was practical. Societies didn't have the technical know-how or tools. Today, it's an overactive administrative state. Projects, ranging from major undertakings on the scale of Hoover Dam to minor ones such as building a casita, face bureaucratic barriers. Two of the biggest are permitting and environmental reviews.

Consider a chip factory being built near Phoenix. There's broad agreement that domestically producing cutting-edge computer chips is a national security imperative. Amkor Technology selected a spot to build an advanced semiconductor packaging plant. The facility would put together chips from the nearby Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Co. plant.

Local residents objected, and the company had to move locations. As The New York Times reported, TSMC faced challenges, too.

"Every step requires a permit, and after the permit is approved, it takes at least twice as long as in Taiwan," TSMC's chief executive and chairman, C.C. Wei, said last year. He added, "We ended up establishing 18,000 rules, which cost us $35 million."

This is not an anomaly. Over the past four or five decades, the number of local, state and federal rules and procedural demands have exploded to the point that they undermine ingenuity and accomplishment and represent a very real barrier to getting done what needs to be done. Thirty years to build an airport? Two decades to get a new mine off the ground?

"How things are done has become far more important than what is done," attorney Philip K. Howard wrote in his 1995 book "The Death of Common Sense." Process "once existed to help humans make responsible decisions. Process now has become an end in itself." And a means for activist groups to exploit the legal system to advance their own political agendas.

But is the tide finally turning? After their electoral losses in 2024, there has been a surge of interest among moderate Democrats — their "abundance" agenda — in reducing the obstacles that frequently stall out needed projects. Perhaps they've belatedly realized that not building housing in blue states leads people to move to red states. After the 2030 census, Democrats may find that their path to the presidency runs through lean-red states such as Arizona and Georgia.

Even if it's politically motivated, a bipartisan push to cut red tape is vital to the nation moving forward and meeting future challenges. It's time to make America build again.

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THEIR VIEW

Why PBM reform matters for NEPA patients

Jennifer Riley
Pennsylvania Executive Director
Patients Come First Pennsylvania

As Northeastern Pennsylvania's health care system grows more fragile, Rep. Rob Bresnahan deserves credit for confronting one of the root causes. In the December 3 Times Leader article reaffirming his commitment to improving health care in NEPA, he highlighted the urgency of strengthening access and stability across the region.

Hospitals in NEPA are teetering on the brink of closure or major service cuts, putting emergency care, surgeries, and routine services at risk for families who cannot travel far for treatment. At the same time, community pharmacies are disappearing at an alarming rate. More than 1,100 licensed pharmacies have closed statewide since 2020, including roughly 22 in Luzerne County and 21 in Lackawanna County, according to the Independent Pharmacies of NEPA.

One of the biggest drivers of the problem: the lack of transparency and accountability among pharmacy benefit managers, or PBMs. PBMs control which medications are covered, what patients pay, and how much pharmacies are reimbursed, yet their practices largely operate out of public view.

When pharmacies close, patients face delayed prescriptions, longer travel times, and fewer options for vaccinations and chronic disease management. These losses push more patients into already-strained hospitals.

The Pennsylvania legislature has attempted to address PBM transparency, but with limited success. Real PBM transparency and reform are essential to stabilizing hospitals, keeping pharmacies open, and protecting patient access in NEPA.

Rep. Bresnahan's leadership is an important step. Now lawmakers must act to ensure health care dollars support patients, not middlemen.

YOUR VIEW

Letter to the Editor: Jan. 26, 2026

Did you know?

When the 16th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution was ratified in 1913, it legalized the use of a graduated-income tax system for use by the federal government. Today, many, but not all, of the states have legalized a graduated-income tax. For example, Pennsylvania has not legalized this tax system, but all of its surrounding states have done so.

Did you know that during the 1950's the wealthyu were taxed at 90% on all of their income, and that the corporations were taxed at 52%; and that low-iuncome and working class taxpayers were taxed at much lower rates? Today, the wealthy are taxed around 20% on their unearned income, and the higher-income, working-class taxpayers at rates close to 40%.

Did you also know that the minimum wage of $7.25 an hour in Pennsylvania has not been increased since 2009? Thus, a minimum-wage worker who works 52 weeks a year can earn just a little over $15,000. However, thanks to an annual cost-of-living increase, a Pennsylvania legislator will be paid $113,000 in 2026 for what is practically a part-time job.

Did you also know that the Pennsylvania corporate tax rate will be less than 5% in the early 2030s? It doesn't seem to make a difference which political party controls the legislature, or who is the governor. The tax system is unfair to low-income and working-class taxpayers, and it rewards the wealthy and the corporations that are only too happy to pay less than their fair share of taxes at all levels of government and for the public schools.

David Faust
Selinsgrove, PA

SEND US YOUR OPINION

Letters to the editor must include the letter writer's name, address and daytime phone number for verification. Letters should be no more than 250 words.

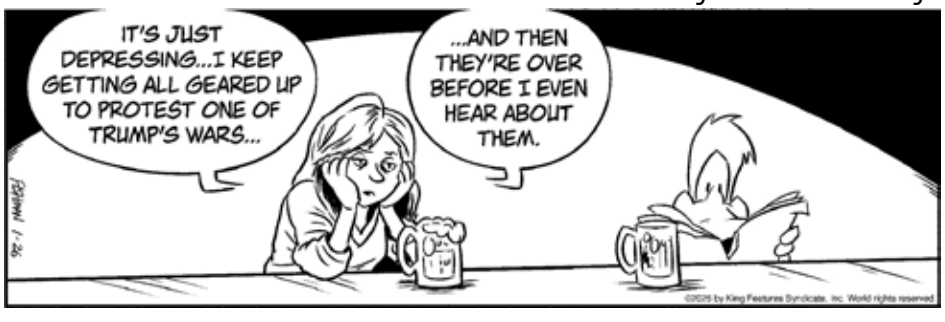
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DOONESBURY: CLASSIC '80s By Garry Trudeau



MALLARD FILLMORE By Bruce Tinsley



American rock climber scales skyscraper



AP Photo

Rock climber Alex Honnold, of the U.S., poses for a photo during a news conference after he completed a free solo climb of the Taipei 101 skyscraper in Taipei, Taiwan, on Sunday.



AP Photo

Rock climber Alex Honnold, of the U.S., performs a free solo climb of the Taipei 101 skyscraper in Taipei, Taiwan, on Sunday.



AP Photo

Rock climber Alex Honnold, of the U.S., performs a free solo climb of the Taipei 101 skyscraper in Taipei, Taiwan, on Sunday.

By Katie Tam
The Associated Press

TAIPEI, Taiwan — American rock climber Alex Honnold ascended the Taipei 101 skyscraper on Sunday without any ropes or protective equipment.

Cheers erupted from a street-level crowd as he reached the top of the spire of the 508-meter (1,667-foot) tower about 90 minutes after he started. Wearing a red short-sleeve shirt, Honnold waved his arms back and forth over his head.

"It was like what a view, it's incredible, what a beautiful day," he said afterward. "It was very windy, so I was like, don't fall off the spire. I was trying to balance nicely. But it was, what an incredible position, what a beautiful way to see Taipei."

Honnold, known for his ropeless ascent up Yosemite National Park's El Capitan, climbed up one corner of Taipei 101 using small L-shaped outcroppings as footholds. Periodically, he had to maneuver around and clamber up the sides of large ornamental structures that jut out from the tower, pulling himself up with his bare hands.

The building has 101 floors, with the hardest part being the 64 floors of the middle section — the "bamboo boxes" that give the building its signature look. Divided into eight segments, each segment has eight floors of steep, overhanging climbing followed by balconies, where he took short rests as he made his way upward.

Honnold's free solo climb of the iconic building in Taiwan's capital city was broadcast live on Netflix with a 10-second delay. The ascent, originally scheduled for Saturday, was delayed for 24 hours due to rain.

Having a cheering crowd was unusual and a bit unnerving at first for Honnold, whose climbs are usually in remote areas.

"When I was leaving the ground, you're like, oh, it's kind of intense, there are so many people watching," he said. "But then, honestly, they're all wishing me well. I mean, basically, it just makes the whole experience feel almost more festive, all these nice people are out supporting me and having a good time."

The climb drew both excitement and concern over the ethical implications of attempting such a high-risk endeavor ona live broadcast.

Honnold isn't the first climber to ascend Taipei 101, but he is the first to do so without a rope. French rock climber Alain Robert scaled the building on Christmas Day in 2004 as part of the grand opening of what was then the world's tallest building.

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FURTHER REVIEW

CHALLENGER'S FINAL FLIGHT

By Charles Apple
THE SPOKESMAN-REVIEW

On Jan. 28, 1986 — 40 years ago — America watched in horror as the nation's first civilian space traveler and six NASA astronauts died in the explosion of the shuttle Challenger.

A PROBLEM UNNOTICED AT LIFTOFF

LIFTOFF
Challenger lifts off from Cape Canaveral at 11:38 a.m. EST, two hours behind schedule. One of the issues NASA officials had dealt with was the weather: Temperatures at Cape Canaveral are so low that O-ring seals in the solid rocket boosters could fail, some engineers say.

0.7 SECONDS
Puffs of black smoke — visible only by automatic launch cameras — indicate hot gasses are burning through an O-ring seal in Challenger's right booster. Within seconds, the puffs disappear as the faulty O-ring manages to seal itself.



7.7 SECONDS
Challenger clears the tower and begins to roll to place the orbiter below the fuel tank as the stack arcs over the Atlantic. This is normal.

19.0 SECONDS
"Looks like we've got a lot of wind here today," says pilot Michael Smith via the cockpit intercom. Commander Dick Scobee agrees.

27.0 SECONDS
Challenger's three main engines throttle down to 94% as the shuttle approaches maximum aerodynamic pressure. Smith notes via intercom that the shuttle has reached 10,000 feet and half the speed of sound.



35.4 SECONDS
The three main engines throttle down to 65% as planned.

37.0 SECONDS
Challenger passes through the first of several wind shears — extremely high winds — that jostle the shuttle and begin to work open the damaged booster joint.

51.9 SECONDS
Onboard flight computers instruct Challenger's main engines to throttle back up to 104% as planned.



14 SECONDS THAT BRING DISASTER

58.8 SECONDS
A small plume of flame and smoke bursts through the side of the right side solid fuel booster's 3/8th-inch-thick steel outer casing and quickly grows.



1 MINUTE, 0 SECONDS
Data automatically radioed from Challenger to mission control shows the internal pressure in the right side booster dropping.

1 MINUTE, 4.7 SECONDS
The escaping flame melts a hole in the external fuel tank. Liquid hydrogen in the tank begins feeding the growing fire. The main engine nozzles swivel, compensating for the increasingly unbalanced thrust and struggling to keep the shuttle on course.



1 MINUTE, 6.8 SECONDS
Pressure in the shuttle's external liquid hydrogen tank begins to drop, indicating a leak. Smith has a gauge but it's unlikely he notices — the leak happened so suddenly and the fire is rapidly spreading.

1 MINUTE, 8.0 SECONDS
Ground controllers haven't yet spotted any anomalous readings.

From his console at Mission Control in Houston, astronaut Dick Covey calls: "Challenger, (you are) go at throttle up,." "Roger, go at throttle up," Scobee replies, even as his spacecraft is breaking up.



1 MINUTE, 12.3 SECONDS
The flame burns through the strut attaching the solid rocket booster to the external fuel tank. The booster swivels into and punctures the tank, releasing large amounts of liquid hydrogen propellant. The plume of fire, now quite large, rapidly grows into a fireball.

1 MINUTE, 13.0 SECONDS
By this point, the main engine nozzles have started swinging rapidly enough for the crew to feel abnormal motion. Liquid oxygen pressure falls in the turbopump inlets. Apparently, Smith, the pilot, has found the gauge showing falling pressure. His comment is caught on the cabin intercom recorder: "Uh oh."

STUNNED SILENCE IN MISSION CONTROL

1 MINUTE, 13.2 SECONDS
An explosion created by the broken fuel tank engulfs Challenger and the ship breaks apart. It's traveling at just under twice the speed of sound, 8.7 miles above the Atlantic.

Several large pieces of the orbiter fly away intact, including the crew cabin. They arc upward until, gradually losing momentum, they begin to fall to Earth. The solid rocket boosters corkscrew through the sky.



1 MINUTE, 39 SECONDS
Stunned mission controllers in Houston track the falling pieces of Challenger and to look for additional data to determine what happened.



1 MINUTE, 50 SECONDS
The Air Force range safety controller sends a signal that destroys the errant solid fuel boosters.

1 MINUTE, 56 SECONDS
Mission Control spokesman Steve Nesbitt in Houston announces over the public affairs circuit: "Flight controllers here are looking very carefully at the situation. Obviously, a major malfunction."

3 MINUTES, 25 SECONDS
The first pieces of debris can be seen via tracking cameras, splashing into the Atlantic.



3 MINUTES, 58 SECONDS
Challenger's crew compartment smashes into the Atlantic at 200 mph. It will later be found on the ocean floor, 100 feet below the surface.

Sources: NASA, Report of the Presidential Commission on the Space Shuttle Challenger Accident, "Prescription for Disaster: From the Glory of Apollo to the Betrayal of the Shuttle" by Joseph J. Trento, "Space Shuttle: The First 20 Years" by the editors of Air & Space/Smithsonian magazine, Time magazine, Newsweek magazine,

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PROTESTS IN MINNEAPOLIS

Picking sides

Federal, state officials both claim moral high ground

By Sarah Raza, Steve Karnowski and Giovanna Dell'orto
The Associated Press



AP Photo

People protest against ICE (Immigration and Customs Enforcement) in downtown Minneapolis on Sunday.

MINNEAPOLIS — In dueling news conferences, federal and state officials offered starkly different messages Sunday about the immigration crackdown that has swept across Minneapolis and surrounding cities, with both claiming the moral high ground after another shooting death by federal agents.

"Which side do you want to be on?" Gov. Tim Walz asked the public. "The side of an all-powerful federal government that could kill, injure, menace and kidnap its citizens off the streets, or on the side of a nurse at the VA hospital who died bearing witness to such government?" — a reference to Saturday's shooting of Alex Pretti in Minneapolis.

In a federal office building about 20 miles (32 kilometers) away, Border Patrol senior official Greg Bovino, the public face of the crackdown, again blamed the shooting on Pretti.

"When someone makes the choice to come into an active law enforcement scene, interfere, obstruct, delay or assault law enforcement officer and — and they bring a weapon to do that. That is a choice that that individual made," he told reporters.

The competing comments emerged as local leaders and Democrats across the country demanded federal immigration officers leave Minnesota after Pretti's shooting, which set off clashes with protesters in a city already shaken by another shooting death weeks earlier.

Video contradicts administration statements

Video shot by bystanders and reviewed by The Associated Press appears to contradict statements by President Donald Trump's administration, which said agents fired "defensively" against Pretti, a 37-year-old intensive care nurse, as he approached them.

Pretti can be seen with only a phone in his hand as he steps between an immigration agent and a woman on the street. No footage appears to show him with a weapon. During the scuffle, agents appear to disarm him after discovering he is carrying a 9 mm semi-automatic handgun, and then open fire several times. Pretti was licensed to carry a concealed weapon.

In the hours after the shooting, Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem said Pretti attacked officers, and Bovino said he wanted to "massacre law enforcement."

Bovino was more restrained Sunday, saying he would not speculate

See SIDES | 13A



AP File Photo

Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., speaks during the Senate Democrat policy luncheon news conference at the Capitol Jan. 13 in Washington.

Democrats vow to oppose homeland security funds

By Kevin Freking and Mary Clare Jalonick
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Democratic senators are vowing to oppose a funding bill for the Department of Homeland Security following the shooting death of a 37-year-old Minnesota man, a stand that increases the prospect of a partial government shutdown by the end of the week.

Senate Democratic leader Chuck Schumer, in a social media post hours after the Saturday shooting, said that what is happening in Minnesota is "appalling" and that Democrats "will not provide the votes to proceed to the appropriations bill if the DHS funding bill is included."

Six of the 12 annual spending bills for the current budget year have been signed into law by President Donald Trump. Six more are awaiting action in the Senate, despite a revolt from House Democrats and mounting calls for Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem's impeachment.

If senators fail to act by midnight Friday, funding for Homeland Security and the other agencies covered under the six bills will lapse.

"Democrats sought common sense reforms in the Department of Homeland Security spending bill, but because of Republicans' refusal to stand up to President Trump, the DHS bill is woefully inadequate to rein in the abuses of ICE," said Schumer, D-N.Y. "I will vote no."

The White House reached out to Senate Democrats late Sunday, as have Republicans, according to a Senate Democratic leadership aide who insisted on anonymity to discuss the private talks.

But they have not yet raised any realistic solutions, the aide said.

Republicans will need some Democratic support to pass the remaining spending bills in time to avoid a partial shutdown. That support was already in question after Renee Good, a mother of three, was fatally shot and killed earlier this month by an Immigration and Customs Enforcement agent in Minneapolis. But the fatal shooting Saturday of Alex Pretti, an intensive care unit nurse, quickly prompted Democrats to take a more forceful stand.

On Sunday, House and Senate Democrats convened separate conference calls as they privately assess next steps and press to restrain the Trump administration's immigration enforcement operations.

A deal begins to unravel

Washington Sen. Patty Murray, the top Democrat on the Senate Appropriations Committee and key negotiator on the funding package, had been pushing her colleagues to vote for the homeland security bill, arguing that Democrats had successfully fought off major increases to the ICE budget.

But in the wake of the shooting, Murray said Sunday on X that "I will NOT support the DHS bill as it stands."

"Federal agents cannot murder people in broad daylight and face zero consequences," Murray wrote.

Federal officials have defended the actions of

See DEMOCRATS | 14A

Iran unveils mural warning of retaliation

By Elena Becatoros
The Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates — Iranian authorities unveiled a new mural on a giant billboard in a central Tehran square on Sunday with a direct warning to the United States to not attempt a military strike on the country, as U.S. warships head to the region.

The image shows a bird's-eye view of an aircraft carrier with damaged and exploding fighter planes on its flight deck. The deck is strewn with bodies and streaked with blood that trails into the water behind the ship to form a pattern reminiscent of the stripes of the American flag. A slogan is emblazoned across one corner: "If you sow the wind, you will reap the whirlwind."

The unveiling of the mural in Enghelab Square comes as the USS Abraham Lincoln aircraft carrier and accompanying warships move toward the region. U.S. President Donald Trump has said the ships are being moved "just in case" he decides to take action.

"We have a massive fleet heading in that direction and maybe we won't have to use it," Trump said Thursday.

Enghelab Square is used for gatherings called by the state and authorities change its mural based on national occasions. On Saturday, the commander of Iran's paramilitary Revolutionary Guard warned that his force is "more ready than ever, finger on the trigger."

Tension between the U.S. and Iran has spiked in the wake of a brutal crackdown on nationwide protests that saw thousands of people killed and tens of thousands arrested. Trump had threatened military action if Iran continued to kill peaceful protesters or carried out mass executions of those detained.

There have been no further protests for days and Trump claimed recently that Tehran had halted the planned execution of about 800 arrested protesters — a claim Iran's top prosecutor called "completely false."

But Trump has indicated he is keeping his options open, saying on Thursday that any military action would make last June's U.S. strikes on Iranian nuclear sites "look like peanuts."

U.S. Central Command said on social media that its Air Force F-15E Strike Eagle now has a presence in the Middle East, noting the fighter jet "enhances combat readiness and promotes regional security and stability."

Similarly, the U.K. Ministry of Defense said Thursday that it deployed its Typhoon fighter jets to Qatar "in a defensive capacity."

The protests in Iran began on Dec. 28, sparked by the fall of the Iranian currency, the rial, and quickly spread across the country. They were met by a violent crackdown by Iran's theocracy, which does not tolerate dissent.

The death toll reported by activists has continued to rise since the end of the demonstrations, as information trickles out despite a more than two-week internet blackout — the most comprehensive in Iran's history.

The U.S.-based Human Rights Activists News Agency on Sunday put the death toll at 5,848, with the number expected to increase. It says more than 41,280 people have been arrested.

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Sides

From page 11A

about the shooting and that he planned to wait for the investigation.

Relatives say they are heartbroken

Pretti's family said they were "heartbroken but also very angry" at authorities. Relatives were furious at federal officials' description of the shooting.

"The sickening lies told about our son by the administration are reprehensible and disgusting. Alex is clearly not holding a gun when attacked by Trump's murdering and cowardly ICE thugs. He has his phone in his right hand, and his empty left hand is raised above his head while trying to protect the woman ICE just pushed down all while being pepper sprayed," the family statement said. "Please get the truth out about our son."

A 2024 video posted to social media showed Pretti reading a salute for veteran Terrance Lee Randolph, who died at the VA hospital where Pretti worked.

"Today we remember that freedom is not free," Pretti, wearing navy blue scrubs, says in the video. "We have to work for it, nurture it, protect it, and even sacrifice for it."

Walz denounced as "despicable beyond all description" the comments that federal officials made about Pretti.

"And I would say, President Trump, you can end this today. Pull these folks back. Do humane, focused, effective immigration control," he said.

The White House kept up its attacks on the governor, with press secretary Karoline Leavitt posting on X that Walz "does NOT believe in law and order" and accusing him of encouraging "left-wing agitators to stalk and record federal officers in the middle of lawful operations."

At the federal news conference, Marcos Charles of Immigration and Customs Enforcement said one of their agents permanently lost a part of his finger when a protester bit it off Saturday in Minneapolis.

"This kind of violence is not a coincidence," Charles said. "When sanctuary politicians, activists and the media work hard to create chaos and fear instead of using their platforms to reassure their communities, this is the result."

Pretti was shot just over a mile from where an ICE officer killed 37-year-old Renee Good on Jan. 7, sparking widespread protests.

Federal officials, who are leading the investigation into the shooting, have thwarted local attempts to participate.

Drew Evans, superintendent of the state's Bureau of Criminal Apprehension, which investigates police shootings, told reporters Saturday that federal officers had blocked his agency from the scene of the shooting even after it obtained a signed judicial warrant. Bureau officers were working at the scene Sunday morning.

A federal judge has already issued an order blocking the Trump administration from "destroying or altering evidence" related to the shooting, after state and county officials sued.

Minnesota Attorney General Keith Ellison said the lawsuit filed Saturday is meant to preserve evidence collected by federal officials that state authorities have not yet been able to inspect. A hearing is scheduled for Monday in federal court in St. Paul.

Assistant Homeland Security Secretary Tricia McLaughlin dismissed the lawsuit, saying claims that the federal government would destroy evidence are "a ridiculous attempt to divide the American people and distract from the fact that our law enforcement officers were attacked — and their lives were threatened."

The Minnesota National Guard temporarily assisted local police at Walz's direction, officials said, with troops sent to the shooting site and a federal building where officers have squared off daily with demonstrators.

But Minneapolis Police Chief Brian O'Hara said Sunday morning on CBS' "Face the Nation" that "it's back to just the Minneapolis police responding to calls."

No evidence that Pretti brandished gun

O'Hara said he had seen no evidence that Pretti brandished the pistol, and that the crackdown was exhausting his department.

"This is taking an enormous toll, trying to manage all this chaos on top of having to be the police department for a major city. It's too much," he said.

Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez of New York was among several Democratic lawmakers demanding that federal immigration authorities leave Minnesota.

In a statement, former President Barack Obama called Pretti's death a "heartbreaking tragedy" and warned that "many of our core values as a nation are increasingly under assault."

Federal officials, meanwhile, have repeatedly questioned why Pretti was armed during the confrontation. But gun rights groups noted that it's legal to carry firearms during protests.

Video footage shows pushing and then shooting

When the Saturday confrontation began, bystander video shows protesters blowing whistles and shouting profanities at federal officers on a commercial street in south Minneapolis.



AP Photo

A makeshift memorial is placed where Alex Pretti was fatally shot by a U.S. Border Patrol officer on Sunday in Minneapolis.

The videos show Pretti stepping in after an immigration officer shoves a woman. Pretti appears to be holding his phone toward the officer, but there's no sign he's holding a weapon.

The officer shoves Pretti in his chest and pepper sprays him and the woman.

Soon, at least seven officers force Pretti to the ground. Several officers try to bring his arms behind his back as he appears to resist. An officer holding a canister strikes him near his head several times.

A first shot is fired by a Border Patrol officer. There's a slight pause, and then the same officer fires several more times into Pretti's back. Multiple officers back off. Within seconds, Pretti is motionless on the street.

If Saturday was marked by clashes, with angry protesters blockading streets and agents firing canisters of tear gas, Sunday was marked by sadness.

Police cars with flashing lights have closed traffic to the block where the shooting occurred, and a constant flow of people came and went Sunday, gathering near the spot where Pretti was shot. There were 100 or so people at the scene Sunday night. Some sang, some prayed, some brought flowers or lit candles. TV news crews set up on the periphery of the crowd, and a man was giving away hand warmers with temperatures hovering just above 0 Fahrenheit (minus 18 degrees Celsius).

Brett Williams, 37, came from the city's suburbs to attend a vigil there earlier Sunday.

"I stand in solidarity with a brother whose life was taken too soon," he said. "He's standing up for immigrants. We're all immigrants."

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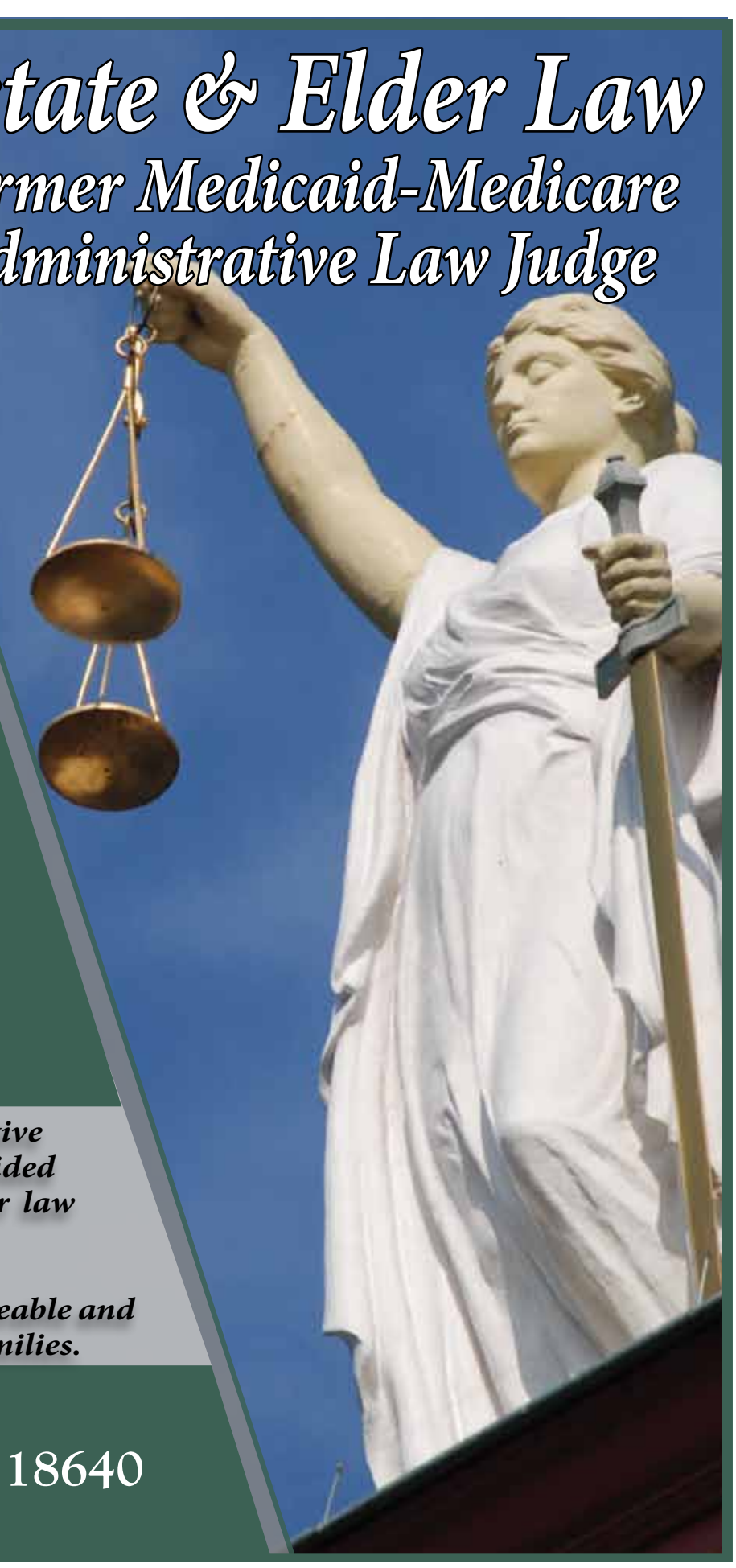
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Democrats

From page 11A

the agents involved in the Good and Pretti shootings as justified. Democrats said video released of both shootings showed otherwise. Republicans are increasingly challenged, with some calling for thorough investigations while others stand with federal officials.

"The events in Minneapolis are incredibly disturbing," Sen. Bill Cassidy, R-La., posted on X. "The credibility of ICE and DHS are at stake. There must be a full joint federal and state investigation. We can trust the American people with the truth."

Sen. Thom Tillis, R-N.C., wants a "thorough and impartial investigation" into the shooting and said "any administration official who rushes to judgment and tries to shut down an investigation before it begins are doing an incredible disservice to the nation and to President Trump's legacy."

Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., said Democrats should reconsider their threat to not support DHS funding and work with him to "end the mess created by sanctuary city policies."

"Now is not the time to defund one of our major national security priorities: border protection," Graham said on X.

Funding puzzle will be hard to solve

The growing backlash from Democrats puts Republican leaders in the Senate in a difficult position.

Much of the government, including the Department of Defense, continues to operate on a short-term bill that provides funding only through Friday.

Republican leaders had hoped to avoid another shutdown after last fall's 43-day closure that revolved around Democrats' insistence on extending federal subsidies that make health coverage more affordable for those enrolled in the Affordable Care Act marketplace.

Before Pretti's death, many Democrats felt the same way about a potential shutdown, lending support in the House to most of the remaining appropriations bills — with DHS the exception.

House Democrats largely rejected the homeland security portion last week with just a handful joining Republicans to ensure its passage. More than 100 House Democrats called for Noem's impeachment.

The House sent the six funding bills to the Senate as a package, and that makes it exceedingly difficult to strip out the homeland security portion which Democrats are demanding.

Despite the procedural hurdles, Schumer said Sunday that Republicans should work with Democrats to advance the other five bills and rewrite the DHS bill. "This is the best course of action, and the American people are on our side," Schumer said.

The path ahead is uncertain. The Senate is not scheduled to return to session until Tuesday, due to the snowstorm. The House plans to be out of session this week and would have to pass the funding package again if it is changed.

Democrats are pushing for policy changes to be added to the homeland security spending bill that would force ICE agents to use warrants for immigration arrests, mandate strengthened training, require agents to identify themselves and have Border Patrol agents stay on the border rather than assisting ICE with immigration raids in the interior of the country.

Connecticut Sen. Chris Murphy, the top Democrat on the subcommittee that oversees homeland security funding, told CNN's "State of the Union" on Sunday that Congress cannot fund a department "that is murdering American citizens, that is traumatizing little boys and girls across the country in violation of the law."

One by one, Democrats stake out opposition

Democratic senators discussed the options on Sunday evening's call but without changes from Republicans, they appeared headed toward a shutdown. On the morning call with House Democrats, they heard from Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz and the state's attorney general, Keith Ellison, both former congressmen.

Several other Democratic senators announced they would vote "no" on homeland security money, including some who had helped Republicans end the record shutdown last year.

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Sleep-tracking devices have limits

Experts want users to know what they are



AP Photo

Middle school teacher Kate Stoye checks her sleep score on her phone Jan. 7 in Hiram, Ga.

By R.J. Rico and Emilie Megnien
The Associated Press

ATLANTA — Your watch says you had three hours of deep sleep. Should you believe it?

Millions of people rely on phone apps and wearable devices like rings, smartwatches and sensors to monitor how well they're sleeping, but these trackers don't necessarily measure sleep directly. Instead, they infer states of slumber from signals like heart rate and movement, raising questions about how reliable the information is and how seriously it should be taken.

The U.S. sleep-tracking devices market generated about $5 billion in 2023 and is expected to double in revenue by 2030, according to market research firm Grand View Research. As the devices continue to gain popularity, experts say it is important to understand what they can and cannot tell you, and how their data should be used.

Here's a look at the technology — and why one expert thinks its full potential has yet to be realized.

What your sleep tracker actually measures

Whether it's an Apple Watch, a Fitbit, an Oura Ring or one of innumerable other competitors, health and fitness trackers largely take the same basic approach by recording the wearer's movements and heart rate while at rest, according to Daniel Forger, a University of Michigan math professor who researches the science behind sleep wearables.

The algorithms used by major brands have become highly accurate for determining when someone is asleep, Forger said. The devices are also somewhat helpful for estimating sleep stages, though an in-lab study would be more precise, he said.

"If you really want to know definitively how much non-REM sleep you're having versus REM sleep, that's where the in-lab studies really excel," Forger said.

The sleep numbers that matter most

Dr. Chantale Branson, a neurologist and professor at the Morehouse School of Medicine, said she frequently has patients showing up with sleep scores from fitness trackers in hand, sometimes fixated on granular details such as how much REM sleep they got on a certain night.

Branson says those patients are taking the wrong approach: the devices help highlight trends over time but should not be viewed as a definitive measure of one's sleep health. Nor should any single night's data be seen as significant.

"We would have believed them with or without the device and worked on trying to figure out why they can't sleep — and that is what the wearables do not do," she said.

Branson said she thinks people who check their sleep statistics every morning would be better served by spending their efforts on "sleep hygiene" such as creating a relaxing bedtime routine, avoiding screens before bed and making sure their sleep environment is comfortable. She advises those concerned about their sleep to consult a clinician before spending money on a wearable.

Forger takes a more favorable view toward the devices, which he says help keep the overlooked importance of sleep front of mind. He recommends them even for people without significant sleep issues, saying they can offer insights that help users fine-tune their routines and feel more alert during the day.

"Seeing if your biological clock is in sync is a huge benefit because even if

See SLEEP | 16A

FACT FOCUS

Trump: Where's global warming?

By Seth Borenstein
The Associated Press

As much of the United States faces numbing cold, treacherous ice and heavy snow from an enormous winter storm, President Donald Trump used social media to dispute that the world is warming.

In a 25-word post on his Truth Social account, the president Friday questioned how the world can be warming when it is so cold, and called the temperatures nearly unprecedented. He also called advocates and scientists "environmental insurrectionists."

More than a dozen scientists Friday told The Associated Press the president's claims were wrong. They point out that even in a warmer world, winter and cold occur, and they never said otherwise. They note that even as it is cold in the eastern United States, more of the world is warmer than average. They also stressed the difference between daily and local weather and long-term, planetwide climate change.

Meteorologists also said that global warming over the past couple of decades may make this cold seem unprecedented and record-smashing. But government records show it has been much colder in the past.

"This social media post crams a remarkable amount of inflammatory language and factually inaccurate assertions into a very short statement," said climate scientist Daniel Swain of the California Institute for Water Resources. "First of all, global warming continues —and has in fact been progressing at an increased rate in recent years."

Here's a closer look at the facts:

Climate change is still here

TRUMP: "WHATEVER HAPPENED TO GLOBAL WARMING???"

THE FACTS: "Global warming hasn't gone anywhere, it's here," Princeton University climate scientist Gabriel Vecchi said.

The last three years have been the warmest on record, increasing at significantly faster rate than they had been, data shows.

Globally, winter temperatures — December, January and February — have increased by 1.3 degrees Fahrenheit since 1995, with the previous two winters the warmest on record, according to National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration records. The United States has warmed slower than the rest of the world, about half a degree Fahrenheit since 1995. Last month was the fifth-hottest December on record globally and in the United States.

Local cold differs from longer, global warming

Scientists note they talk about "global" when it comes to warming. The United States is only 2% of Earth's area — and west of the Rockies isn't that cold for this time of year. Global temperature



AP Photo

US President Donald Trump attends the Annual Meeting of the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, on Thursday.

maps show two-thirds of the United States is many degrees colder than normal and same for Russia. But Australia, Africa, the Arctic, Antarctica, Asia, Canada, much of Europe and even Greenland are warmer than normal.

"Even as the Earth warms, cold days and cold winters are not projected to disappear, just become fewer in number," said Princeton University climate scientist Michael Oppenheimer. "In addition, what happens in the U.S. during a brief period of days is not an indication of what's happening to the U.S. as a whole or the Earth as a whole over the long term."

There is even a theory among many scientists — but it is not yet a consensus — that the American East is getting more extreme winter outbreaks because of a warming Arctic, which is part of climate change.

"This is an active research area with uncertainty," said Northern Illinois University meteorology professor Victor Gensini. "One hypothesis is that Arctic warming reduces the temperature contrast between the pole and mid-latitudes, which can sometimes weaken or distort the jet stream and allow cold Arctic air to spill south. That said, not every cold outbreak can or should be attributed to climate change. Weather still has large natural variability."



AP Photo

A person walks on an ice-covered beach along the shore of Lake Michigan, on Friday.

It has been colder in the past

TRUMP: "Record Cold Wave expected to hit 40 States. Rarely seen anything like it before."

THE FACTS: Yes we have.

The National Weather Service forecasts Minneapolis to be minus-11 degrees on Saturday and minus-13 on Sunday, but that is nowhere near the records of minus-33 and minus-31 set in 1904 there. Chicago is supposed to drop to 2 degrees Saturday and 8 degrees Sunday, but the record for those days are minus-15 and minus-20 from 1897 and as recently as Jan. 30, 2019 it hit minus-23 in Chicago. Fargo, North Dakota and Washington, D.C. are forecast to not come within a dozen degrees of the coldest day on record.

"Truly historic cold waves, like those in 1978–79, 1983–85, or earlier decades, were often colder and more persistent over large regions," Gensini said. "We are also less accustomed to severe cold now because winters overall are warmer than they were several decades ago."

Don't expect too many broken records

Kristina Dahl, vice president of science at Climate Central, said a check of U.S. weather stations with at least 50 years of data finds 45 record lows set in January of this year — compared to 1,092 record highs.

While some daily records may fall, especially in the Plains, Texas and Louisiana, it will be "very hard to break long-period (100 years+) records with this cold blast," said Ryan Maue, who was NOAA's chief scientist in the end of Trump's first term. Maue forecast that on Monday the Lower 48 states will average a low of 10 degrees Fahrenheit with more than 90% of the country below freezing. But in January 1985, the Lower 48 averaged a low of 4.1 degrees, Maue tweeted.

Maue lauded Trump for "appropriately raising alarm about the impending severe cold. In a roundabout way, while he is trolling about global warming it seems to be on his mind."

The Associated Press' climate and environmental coverage receives financial support from multiple private foundations. AP is solely responsible for all content. Find AP's standards for working with philanthropies, a list of supporters and funded coverage areas at AP.org.

Sleep

From page 15A

you're giving yourself the right amount of time, if you're sleeping at the wrong times, the sleep won't be as efficient," Forger said.

How sleep data can drive better habits

Kate Stoye, an Atlanta-area middle school teacher, bought an Oura Ring last summer, having heard positive things from friends who used it as a fertility tracker: "It's so accurate," she said. Stoye found the ring to be just as helpful with tracking her sleep. After noticing that the few nights she drank alcohol coincided with poorer sleep quality, she decided to give up alcohol.

"I don't see much reason to drink if I know that it's going to affect how I feel," said Stoye, who always wears her device except when she is playing tennis or needs to charge it.

Another trend she says she detected in the ring's data: the importance of not eating too late if she wants to get good rest.

"I always struggle with going to bed, and it's often because I eat late at night," Stoye said. "I know that about myself, and it knows it too."

When sleep tracking becomes a problem

Mai Barreneche, who works in advertising in New York City, used to wear her Oura Ring constantly. She said it helped her develop good sleep habits and encouraged her to maintain a daily morning exercise regimen. But as a metric-driven person, she became "obsessed" enough with her nightly sleep scores that it began to cause her anxiety — a modern condition that researchers have dubbed "orthosomnia."

"I remember I would go to bed thinking about the score I was going to get in the morning," Barreneche said.

Barreneche decided not to wear her ring on a beach vacation a few years ago, and when she returned home, she never put it back on. She said she has maintained the good habits the device pointed her toward, but no longer wants the stress of monitoring her nightly scores.

Branson, of the Morehouse School of Medicine, said she's observed similar score-induced anxiety as a recurring issue for some patients, particularly those who set goals to achieve a certain amount of REM sleep or who shared their nightly scores with friends using the same device. Comparing sleep types and stages is ill-advised since individual needs vary by age, genetics and other factors, she said.

"These devices are supposed to help you," Branson said. "And if you feel anxious or worried or frustrated about it, then it's not helpful, and you should really talk to a professional."



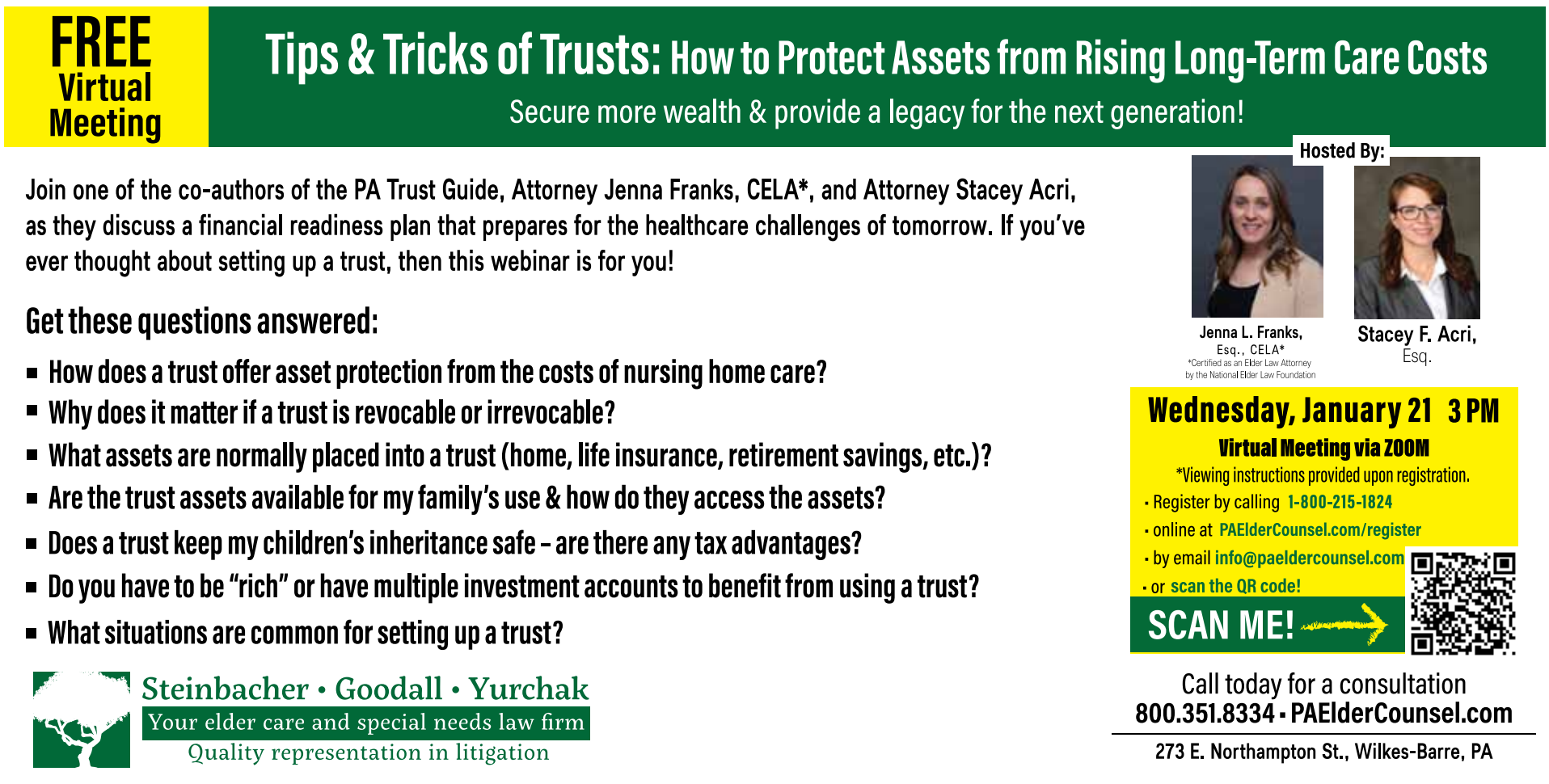
















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Europe's leaders find a way to speak with one voice

By Laurie Kellman
The Associated Press

LONDON — No more fawning praise. No more polite workarounds and old-style diplomacy. And no one is calling Donald Trump "daddy" now.

European leaders who scrambled for a year to figure out how to deal with an emboldened American president in his second term edged closer to saying "no," or something diplomatically like it, to his disregard for international law and his demands for their territory. Trump's vow to take over Greenland and punish any country that resists, seems to have been the crucible.

"Red lines" were deemed to have been crossed this year when Trump abruptly revived his demand that the United States "absolutely" must rule Greenland, the semiautonomous region that is part of NATO ally Denmark. That pushed even the most mild-mannered diplomats to issue sharp warnings against Trump, whom they had flattered withroyal treatment and fawning praise.

"Britain will not yield" its support for Greenland's sovereignty, British Prime Minister Keir Starmer said. Several of the continent's leaders said "Europe will not be blackmailed" over Greenland.

"Threats have no place among allies," said Norwegian Prime Minister Jonas Gahr Støre.

The tough diplomatic talk around the showdown last week in Davos, Switzerland, was not the only factor pressuring Trump. U.S. congressional elections are approaching in November amid a sinking stock market and wilting approval ratings. European leaders also are not the first to stand in Trump's way during his second term — see Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell.

But the dramatic turnabout among Europe's elite, from "appeasing" Trump to defying him, offers clues in the ongoing effort among some nations of how to say "no" to a president who hates hearing it and is known to retaliate.

"We want a piece of ice for world protection, and they won't give it,"

See VOICE | 20A

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Voice

From page 19A

Trump told his audience at the World Economic Forum. "You can say yes, and we will be very appreciative. Or you can say no, and we will remember."

Lesson 1: Speak as one

In recent days, Europe offered abundant refusals to go along with Trump, from his Greenland demand and joining his new Board of Peace and even to what Canada's Mark Carney called the "fiction" that the alliance functions for the benefit of any country more than the most powerful. The moment marked a unity among European leaders that they had struggled to achieve for a year.

"When Europe is not divided, when we stand together and when we are clear and strong also in our willingness to stand up for ourselves, then the results will show," Danish Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen said. "I think we have learned something."

Federiksen herself exemplified the learning curve. A year ago, she and other leaders were on their heels and mostly responding to the Trump administration. She found it necessary to tell reporters in February 2025, "We are not a bad ally," after Vice President JD Vance had said Denmark was "not being a good ally."

Trump is transactional. He has little use for diplomacy and no "need (for) international law," he told The New York Times this month. Therein lay the disconnect between typically collaborative European leaders and the Republican president when he blazed back into the White House saying he wanted the U.S. to take over Greenland, Panama and perhaps even Canada.

"In Trump's first term, Europe didn't know what to expect and tried to deal with him by using the old rules of diplomacy, with the expectation that, if they kept talking to him in measured terms, that he would change his behavior and move into the club," said Mark Shanahan, associate professor of political engagement at the University of Surrey,.

"It's very hard for other leaders who deal with each other through the niceties of a rules-based system and diplomatic conversation," Shanahan said. "It is hard for them to change."

Five months after Trump's inauguration last year, with his Greenland threat in the air, European leaders had gotten their heads around Trump management enough to pull off a meeting of NATO nations in the Netherlands. NATO members agreed to contribute more and widely gave Trump credit for forcing them to modernize.

Secretary-General Mark Rutte, known as the coalition's "Trump whisperer," likened the president's role quieting the Iran-Israel war to a "daddy" intervening in a schoolyard brawl.

Lesson 2: Consider saying no — and make choices accordingly

Traditional diplomacy exists to preserve possibilities of working together. That often means avoiding saying a flat "no" if possible. But Trump's Greenland gambit was so stark a threat from one NATO member to another that Greenland's prime minister actually said the word.

"Enough," Jens-Frederik Nielsen said in a statement shortly after Trump's remarks Jan. 5. "No more pressure. No more hints. No more fantasies about annexation."

That played a part in setting the tone. Denmark's leader said any such invasion of Greenland would mark the end of NATO and urged alliance members to take the threat seriously.

They did, issuing statement after statement rejecting the renewed threat. Trump responded last weekend from his golf course in Florida with a threat to charge a 10% import tax within a month on goods from eight European nations — Denmark, Norway, Sweden, France, Germany, the United Kingdom, the Netherlands and Finland. The rate, he wrote, would climb to 25% on June 1 if no deal was in place for "the Complete and Total purchase of Greenland" by the United States.

Lesson 3: Reject Trump's big-power paradigm

Trump's fighting words lit a fire among leaders arriving in Davos. But they seemed to recognize, too, that the wider Trump world left him vulnerable.

"Trump was in a fairly weak position because he has a lot of other looming problems going on," domestically, including an upcoming U.S. Supreme Court decision on his tariffs and a backlash to immigration raids in Minnesota, said Duncan Snidal, professor emeritus of international relations at Oxford University and the University of Chicago.

Canada's Carney said no by reframing the question not as being about Greenland, but about whether it was time for

See VOICE | 21A



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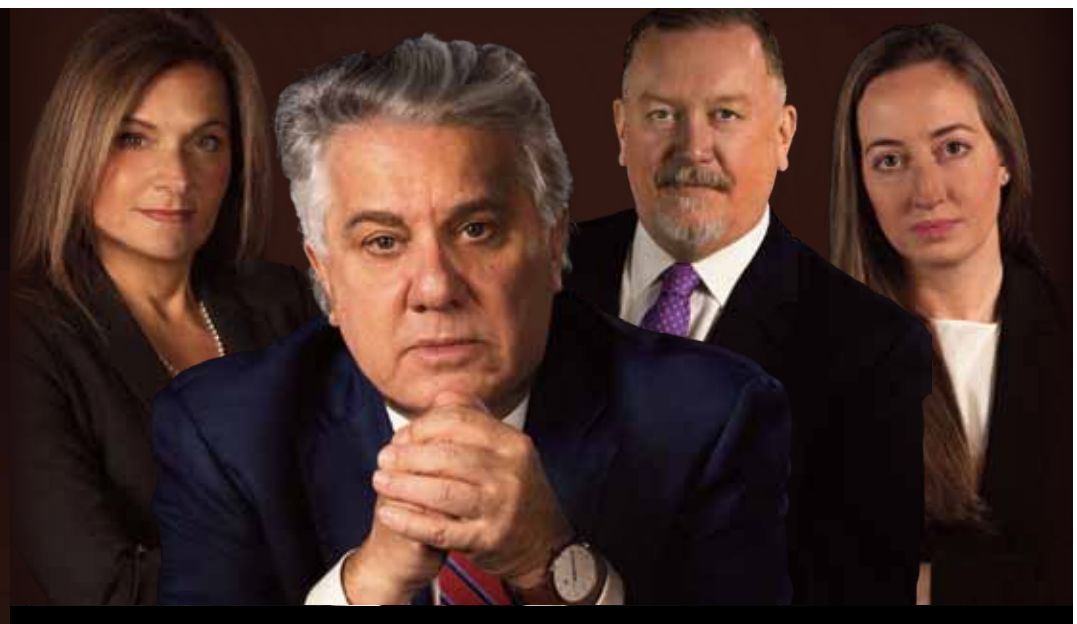
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AP File Photo

U.S. President Donald Trump, center, and Kate, Princess of Wales, listen to Britain's King Charles during the State Banquet in Windsor Castle, England, on day one of U.S. President Donald Trump and First Lady Melania Trump's second state visit to the U.K., on Sept. 17, 2025.

Voice

From page 20A

European countries to build power together against a "bully" — and his answer was yes.

Without naming the U.S. or Trump, Carney spoke bluntly: Europe, he said, should reject the big power's "coercion" and "exploitation." It was time to accept, he said, that a "rupture" in the alliance, not a transition, had occurred.

Unsaid, Snidel pointed out, was that the rupture was very new, and though it might be difficult to repair in the future, doing so under adjusted rules remains in U.S. and European interests beyond Trump's presidency. "It's too good a deal for all of them not to," Snidel said.

Lesson 4: Exercise caution

Before Trump stepped away from the podium in Davos, he had begun to back down.

He canceled his threat to use "force" to take over Greenland. Not long after, he reversed himself fully, announcing "the framework" for a deal that would make his tariff threat unnecessary.

Trump told Fox Business that "we're going to have total access to Greenland," under the "framework," without divulging what that might mean.

Frederiksen hit the warning button again. In a statement, she said, "We cannot negotiate on our sovereignty."

In other words: "No."

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Scattered flurries and snow showers will continue to pass through on the backside of the storm for Monday, especially in the morning. Otherwise, it will be breezy and mostly cloudy with highs in the lower 20s. A very cold weather pattern will remain in place for the majority of the week! A weakening clipper will bring some flurries and snow showers Tuesday, otherwise mostly cloudy. Highs in the mid teens. Clouds will try to mix with some sun Wednesday. Highs in the upper teens. Thursday and Friday will be mostly cloudy with highs in the mid teens. Clouds will try to mix with some sun on Saturday and Sunday. Highs on Saturday near 20, mid 20s on Sunday.

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SEVEN-DAY FORECAST

TODAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
24 / 2	11 / -5	18 / -6	17 / -5	13 / 2	19 / 4	24 / 8
Windy; a little morning snow	Partly sunny; very cold	Turning cloudy and frigid	Frigid	Clouds and sun; frigid	Partly sunny and frigid	Plenty of sun, but cold

SUN AND MOON

Sunrise today	7:20 a.m.
Sunset today	5:12 p.m.
Moonrise today	11:01 a.m.
Moonset today	12:59 a.m.

Full	Last	New	First
Feb 1	Feb 9	Feb 17	Feb 24

WEATHER HISTORY

Record warmth spread along the East Coast on Jan. 26, 1950, with a high of 74 at Philadelphia. During the winter of 1949-1950, no measurable snow fell in Philadelphia.

ALMANAC

Wilkes-Barre/Scranton International Airport through 3 p.m. Sunday

TEMPERATURES

High	9
Low	6
Normal high	36
Normal Low	19
Record high	67 (1967)
Record low	-5 (1961)

PRECIPITATION

24-hour total	0.80″
Month to date	1.60″
Normal m-t-d	2.13″
Year to date	1.60″
Normal y-t-d	2.13″

HEATING DEGREE DAYS

Degree days are an indicator of energy needs. The more the total degree days, the more energy is necessary to heat.

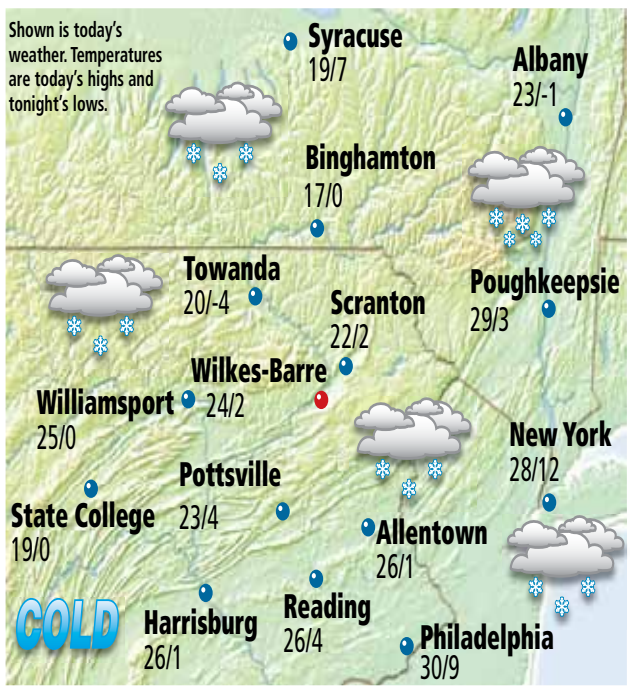
Sunday	57
Month to date	949
Season to date	3280
Last season to date	3070
Normal season to date	3057

RIVER LEVELS

In feet as of 7 a.m. Sunday.

Susquehanna	Stage	Chg	Fld Stg
Wilkes-Barre	7.34	+4.01	22
Towanda	2.03	-0.09	16
Lehigh			
Bethlehem	1.45	-0.21	16
Delaware			
Port Jervis	3.06	-0.34	18

Forecasts and graphics provided by **AccuWeather, Inc.** ©2026



NEW YORK CITY

High: 28. **Low:** 12. Considerable clouds today with snow flurries; breezy in the afternoon. Bitterly cold tonight.

PHILADELPHIA

High: 30. **Low:** 9. Cold with a flurry this morning, then clouds and sun this afternoon; travel will remain extremely difficult and dangerous.

POCONOS

Highs: 17 to 23. **Lows:** -1 to 5. Cloudy, becoming windier and not as cold today with a bit of snow, accumulating a coating to an inch. Windy tonight.

FINGER LAKES

Highs: 16 to 22. **Lows:** 4 to 10. Cloudy today; snow showers, windy and cold; storm total snowfall 12-18 inches. Windy tonight.

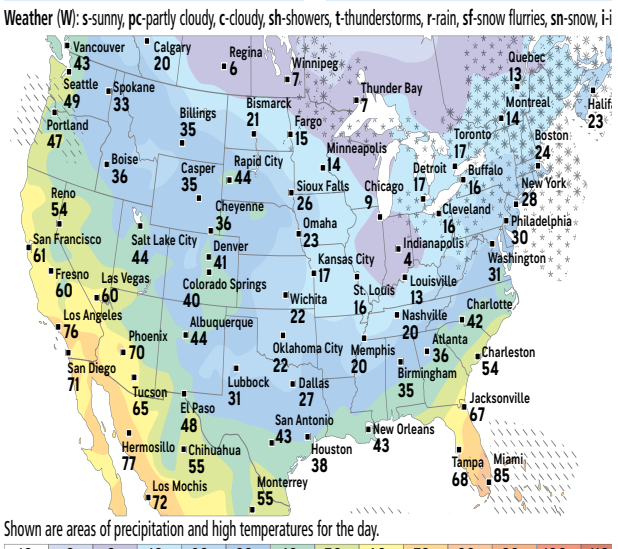
JERSEY SHORE

Highs: 30 to 36. **Lows:** 9 to 15. Windy with flurries this morning, then clouds and sun this afternoon.

NATIONAL WEATHER

	Today Hi/Lo/W	Tuesday Hi/Lo/W
Atlanta	36/17/pc	42/26/s
Baltimore	28/4/pc	23/6/s
Billings	35/26/pc	42/29/pc
Boston	24/10/sn	23/6/c
Buffalo	16/3/sf	16/4/sn
Charlotte	42/13/pc	40/23/s
Chicago	9/6/s	14/2/c
Cleveland	16/-2/sf	18/-1/sn
Dallas	27/9/s	42/23/s
Denver	41/26/s	49/26/c
Detroit	17/2/c	18/1/sn
Honolulu	81/68/sh	81/68/pc
Houston	38/20/s	51/32/s
Indianapolis	4/-4/pc	18/-9/c
Las Vegas	60/37/pc	61/40/s
Milwaukee	9/5/pc	13/1/pc
Nashville	20/2/c	33/9/s
New Orleans	43/29/s	47/37/s
Norfolk	39/19/pc	35/22/s
Oklahoma City	22/10/s	27/8/s
Orlando	74/37/c	58/37/s
Phoenix	70/45/c	73/47/pc
Pittsburgh	18/-5/sf	14/-2/sn
Portland, ME	18/4/sn	19/-3/c
Portland, OR	47/34/c	52/39/pc
Sacramento	59/36/pc	59/44/pc
St. Louis	16/8/s	27/-1/s
San Francisco	61/46/pc	61/49/s
Seattle	49/37/c	53/41/pc
Washington, DC	31/6/pc	26/10/s

Weather (W): s-sunny, pc-partly cloudy, c-cloudy, sh-showers, t-thunderstorms, r-rain, sf-snow flurries, sn-snow, i-i



Shown are areas of precipitation and high temperatures for the day.

-10s	-0s	0s	10s	20s	30s	40s	50s	60s	70s	80s	90s	100s	110s

Showers T-storms Rain Flurries Snow Ice

Summary: Snow will continue in New England as a winter storm moves to sea today. Snow will occur across the Great Lakes and Appalachians. Most areas east of the Rockies will be frigid as the West warms up.

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PENGUINS FINISH OFF 4-0 WEST COAST SWING WITH WIN IN VANCOUVER • PAGE 6B

Sports Monday

contact us >> sports@timesleader.com



IN MEMORY

Joseph J. Soprano Jr.

Times Leader executive editor

Penn State graduate 1988

Super Bowl bound

PATRIOTS SET TO FACE SEAHAWKS FOR NFL CROWN

PAGE 3B-4B

Patriots cornerback Christian Gonzalez celebrates his interception late in the fourth quarter that sealed New England's 10-7 win over the Broncos in Sunday's AFC championship game. The Patriots will face the Seattle Seahawks in Super Bowl LX on Feb. 8 looking to become the first franchise to win seven. (Bart Young | AP photo)

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Jim Monk
Service Manager, Monk HVAC

Winter storm continues to affect hoops schedules

The Associated Press

MEMPHIS, Tenn. — The NBA postponed games in Memphis and Milwaukee on Sunday because of a massive winter storm that is creating dangerous travel conditions across much of the U.S.

The Dallas Mavericks tried twice to fly to Milwaukee for their Sunday night game against the Bucks, but conditions didn't allow it. A decision to postpone was announced a few hours before tipoff. Food that had been prepared for the game was donated to shelters in the Milwaukee area.

Earlier Sunday, a game between the Denver Nuggets and Memphis Grizzlies was postponed about three hours before tipoff.

Reschedule dates were not announced.

The league also changed the start times for two games on Monday: Philadelphia 76ers at Charlotte Hornets will tip off at 3 p.m. ET instead of 7 p.m., and the Indiana Pacers at Atlanta Hawks at 1:30 p.m. instead of 7:30 p.m.

The Memphis area was experiencing a mixture of snow, sleet and freezing rain that began falling early Saturday morning and continued Sunday morning. South and east of Memphis, freezing rain collected on power lines and trees, causing widespread outages and blocked roads. Authorities had recommended people stay off the streets as the wintry mix and frigid temperatures caused a refreeze.

The Nuggets said they planned to fly out at some point Sunday, depending on the conditions at Memphis International Airport. They are scheduled to play at home Tuesday against the Detroit Pistons.

The Grizzlies are scheduled to be in Houston for a game against the Rockets on Monday.

An NBA G League game scheduled for Monday between the Memphis Hustle and Stockton Kings in Southaven, Mississippi, was postponed and rescheduled for Feb. 19.

At least two college women's basketball games were postponed: No. 17 Tennessee's visit to No. 18 Mississippi on Monday and Tulane's visit to Memphis on Tuesday. Reschedule dates were not announced.

In men's basketball, a game featuring Tennessee at No. 21 Georgia was pushed back a day from Tuesday to Wednesday. Purdue Fort Wayne and IU Indianapolis, and Southern Illinois and Evansville had Sunday games postponed without make-up dates announced.

The schedule changes come after dozens of games were moved around earlier in the week in anticipation of the storm.

Separately, on Saturday, the NBA postponed a game between the Warriors and Timberwolves to "prioritize the safety and security of the Minneapolis community" after the fatal shooting of a man by a federal officer in a district located less than two miles away from where the Timberwolves play.



Gene J. Puskar | AP photo

In Pittsburgh, a man walks past a statue of Pirates Hall of Famer Willie Stargell outside PNC Park on Sunday.

LOCAL SCHEDULE

MONDAY
H.S. GIRLS BASKETBALL
(7:15 p.m.)
Crestwood at Hazleton Area, ppd.
Hanover Area at Holy Redeemer, ppd. to Tuesday
Lake-Lehman at Wyoming Area, ppd.
MMI Prep at Nanticoke Area, ppd. to Tuesday
Tunkhannock at Wyoming Seminary, ppd. to Tuesday
Wilkes-Barre Area at Pittston Area, ppd. to Tuesday
Wyoming Valley West at Berwick, ppd. to Tuesday
H.S. BOYS AND GIRLS SWIMMING
Wilkes-Barre Area at Dallas, ppd.
Pittston Area at Wyoming Valley West, 4 p.m.

TUESDAY
H.S. BOYS BASKETBALL
(7:15 p.m. unless noted)
Berwick at MMI Prep
Hazleton Area at Crestwood
Holy Redeemer at Hanover Area
Nanticoke Area at Wyoming Valley West
Pittston Area at Wilkes-Barre Area
Wyoming Area at Lake-Lehman
Wyoming Seminary at Tunkhannock, 6:45 p.m.
H.S. GIRLS BASKETBALL
(7:15 p.m. unless noted)
Hanover Area at Holy Redeemer
MMI Prep at Nanticoke Area, 5:30 p.m.
Tunkhannock at Wyoming Seminary, 6 p.m.
Wilkes-Barre Area at Pittston Area
Wyoming Valley West at Berwick
H.S. BOYS AND GIRLS SWIMMING
Wyoming Area at Berwick, 4:30 p.m.
Lake-Lehman at Hazleton Area, 4:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY
H.S. BOYS AND GIRLS SWIMMING
Nanticoke Area at Wyoming Seminary, 4:30 p.m.
Tunkhannock at Holy Redeemer, 4:30 p.m.

THURSDAY
H.S. BOYS BASKETBALL
Wilkes-Barre Area at Williamsport, 7:30 p.m.
H.S. GIRLS BASKETBALL
(7:15 p.m. unless noted)
Crestwood at Berwick
Dallas at Hazleton Area
Holy Redeemer at Wyoming Seminary, 6 p.m.
Nanticoke Area at Lake-Lehman
Tunkhannock at MMI Prep, 6 p.m.
Wyoming Area at Hanover Area
Wyoming Valley West at Wilkes-Barre Area
H.S. BOYS AND GIRLS SWIMMING
Wilkes-Barre Area at Wyoming Area, 4 p.m.
Pittston Area at Dallas, 4:30 p.m.
Wyoming Valley West at Hazleton Area, 4:30 p.m.

FRIDAY
H.S. BOYS BASKETBALL
(7:15 p.m. unless noted)
Hanover Area at Wyoming Area
Hazleton Area at Dallas
Lake-Lehman at Berwick
MMI Prep at Tunkhannock
Nanticoke Area at Crestwood
Wilkes-Barre Area at Wyoming Valley West
Holy Redeemer at Wyoming Seminary, 6 p.m.
H.S. BOYS AND GIRLS SWIMMING
Lake-Lehman at Holy Redeemer, 4:30 p.m.
Nanticoke Area at Berwick, 4:30 p.m.

SATURDAY
AHL
Syracuse at Penguins, 6:05 p.m.
H.S. GIRLS BASKETBALL
MMI Prep at Hanover Area, noon
Wilkes-Barre Area at East Stroudsburg South, 1 p.m.
H.S. WRESTLING
Mountain View at Nanticoke Area, 1 p.m.

SUNDAY
AHL
Penguins at Lehigh Valley, 3:05 p.m.

SPORTS ON TV

MONDAY
COLLEGE BASKETBALL (MEN)
7 p.m.
ESPN — Louisville at Duke
FS1 — Penn State at Ohio State
9 p.m.
ESPN — Arizona at BYU
COLLEGE BASKETBALL (WOMEN)
7 p.m.
SECN — Florida at LSU
GOLF
7 p.m.
ESPN2 — TGL: Boston Common Golf vs. The Bay Golf Club
NBA
3 p.m.
NBCSP — Philadelphia at Charlotte
7 p.m.
PEACOCK — Orlando at Cleveland
8 p.m.
PEACOCK — Portland at Boston
9:30 p.m.
PEACOCK — Golden State at Minnesota
NHL
7 p.m.
NBCSP — N.Y. Islanders at Philadelphia
NHLN — Boston at N.Y. Rangers
SOCCER (MEN)
12:15 p.m.
FS2 — Saudi Pro League: Al Taawoun at Al Nassr
3 p.m.
USA — English Premier League: Leeds United at Everton FC
SOCCER (WOMEN)
4:50 p.m.
FS2 — Concacaf U-17 Qualifier: U.S. Virgin Islands vs. Dominican Republic, Round One, Managua, Nicaragua
TENNIS
7 a.m.
TENNIS — ATP/WTA: The Australian Open, Round of 16, Melbourne, Australia (Taped)
Noon
ESPN2 — ATP/WTA: The Australian Open, Round of 16, Melbourne, Australia (Taped)
3 p.m.
TENNIS — ATP/WTA: The Australian Open, Round of 16, Melbourne, Australia (Taped)
9 p.m.
ESPN2 — ATP/WTA: The Australian Open, Quarterfinals, Melbourne, Australia
3 a.m. (Tuesday)
ESPN — ATP/WTA: The Australian Open, Quarterfinals, Melbourne, Australia
UNRIVALED BASKETBALL
7:30 p.m.
TNT, TRUTV — Lunar Owls vs. Hive, Miami
8:45 p.m.
TNT, TRUTV — Laces vs. Breeze, Miami

LATEST LINE

NBA
Monday

FAVORITE	LINE	O/U	UNDERDOG
at ATLANTA	5	(232½)	Indiana
at CHARLOTTE	3½	(227½)	Philadelphia
at CLEVELAND	4½	(226½)	Orlando
at HOUSTON	10½	(222½)	Memphis
LA Lakers	1½	(236½)	at CHICAGO
at BOSTON	8½	(224½)	Portland
at MINNESOTA	7½	(232½)	Golden State

COLLEGE BASKETBALL
Monday

FAVORITE	LINE	UNDERDOG
Le Moyne	2½	at FAIRLEIGH DICKINSON
at LIU	10½	Wagner
Cent. Conn. St.	2½	at STONEHILL
at OHIO STATE	12½	Penn State
at TARLETON STATE	4½	Abilene Christian
at BETHUNE-COOKMAN	12½	Alcorn State
at NORFOLK STATE	9½	Morgan State
at FLORIDA A&M	5½	Jackson State
at DUKE	7½	Louisville
at TEXAS A&M-CC	3½	UT Rio Grande Valley
Incarnate Word	1½	at HOUSTON CHRISTIAN
Arizona	1½	at BYU

NHL
Monday

FAVORITE	LINE	UNDERDOG	LINE
at PHILADELPHIA	-114	N.Y Islanders	-106
at TAMPA BAY	-180	Utah	+149
at COLUMBUS	-117	Los Angeles	-103
at N.Y RANGERS	-116	Boston	-104
at EDMONTON	-259	Anaheim	+210

For the latest odds, go to BetMGM Sportsbook

NFL

NFL Playoff Glance
Wild-card Playoffs
Saturday, Jan. 10
L.A. Rams 34, Carolina 31
Chicago 31, Green Bay 27
Sunday, Jan. 11
Buffalo 27, Jacksonville 24
San Francisco 23, Philadelphia 19
New England 16, L.A. Chargers 3
Monday, Jan. 12
Houston 30, Pittsburgh 6
Divisional Playoffs
Saturday, Jan. 17
Denver 33, Buffalo 30, OT
Seattle 41, San Francisco 6
Sunday, Jan. 18
New England 28, Houston 16
L.A. Rams 20, Chicago 17, OT
Conference Championships
Sunday, Jan. 25
AFC
New England 10, Denver 7
NFC
Seattle 31, L.A. Rams 27
Super Bowl LX
Sunday, Feb. 8
At Santa Clara, Calif.
New England vs. , 6:30 p.m. (NBC)

SUNDAY'S GAMES
AFC CHAMPIONSHIP
New England 10, Denver 7

New England	**0**	**7**	**3**	**0 — 10**
Denver	**7**	**0**	**0**	**0 — 7**

First Quarter
Den—Sutton 6 pass from Stidham (Lutz kick), 10:21.
Second Quarter
NE—Maye 6 run (Borregales kick), 2:10.
Third Quarter
NE—FG Borregales 23, 5:29.
A—76,862.

	NE	Den
First downs	12	11
Total Net Yards	206	181
Rushes-yards	38-141	24-79
Passing	65	102
Punt Returns	1-2	3-8
Kickoff Returns	2-59	1-20
Interceptions Ret.	1-0	0-0
Comp-Att-Int	10-21-0	17-31-1
Sacked-Yards Lost	5-21	3-31
Punts	8-37.875	6-51.5
Fumbles-Lost	0-0	1-1
Penalties-Yards	1-5	2-5
Time of Possession	33:09	26:51

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS
RUSHING—New England, Stevenson 25-71, Maye 10-65, Henderson 3-5. Denver, Harvey 13-37, Stidham 4-23, McLaughlin 4-11, Badie 1-4, Prentice 1-3, Bryant 1-1.
PASSING—New England, Maye 10-21-0-86. Denver, Stidham 17-31-1-133.
RECEIVING—New England, Diggs 5-17, Hollins 2-51, Henry 2-12, Boutte 1-6. Denver, Mims 4-62, Harvey 4-22, Sutton 3-17, Engram 2-19, Humphrey 1-5, Moore 1-4, Bryant 1-2, McLaughlin 1-2.
MISSED FIELD GOALS—New England, Borregales 63, Borregales 46. Denver, Lutz 54, Lutz 45.

NFC CHAMPIONSHIP
Seattle 31, L.A. Rams 27

L.A. Rams	**3**	**10**	**14**	**0 — 27**
Seattle	**10**	**7**	**14**	**0 — 31**

First Quarter
Sea—Walker 2 run (Myers kick), 9:57.
LAR—FG Mevis 44, 8:15.
Sea—FG Myers 27, :54.
Second Quarter
LAR—FG Mevis 50, 12:11.
LAR—K.Williams 9 pass from Stafford (Mevis kick), 1:55.
Sea—Smith-Njigba 14 pass from Darnold (Myers kick), :20.
Third Quarter
Sea—Bobo 17 pass from Darnold (Myers kick), 12:02.
LAR—Adams 2 pass from Stafford (Mevis kick), 9:41.
Sea—Kupp 13 pass from Darnold (Myers kick), 4:52.
LAR—Nacua 34 pass from Stafford (Mevis kick), 2:06.
A—68,773.

	LAR	Sea
First downs	26	24
Total Net Yards	479	396
Rushes-yards	22-114	26-75
Passing	365	321
Punt Returns	2-0	0-0
Kickoff Returns	6-145	1-21
Interceptions Ret.	0-0	0-0
Comp-Att-Int	22-35-0	25-36-0
Sacked-Yards Lost	1-9	3-25
Punts	2-42.0	5-45.2
Fumbles-Lost	4-1	2-0
Penalties-Yards	4-30	6-50
Time of Possession	28:10	31:50

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS
RUSHING—L.A. Rams, Corum 9-55, K.Williams 10-39, Stafford 2-16, Nacua 1-4. Seattle, Walker 19-62, Darnold 3-9, Holani 3-4, Shaheed 1-0.
PASSING—L.A. Rams, Stafford 22-35-0-374. Seattle, Darnold 25-36-0-346.
RECEIVING—L.A. Rams, Nacua 9-165, Adams 4-89, Parkinson 3-62, Corum 3-24, K.Williams 2-22, Higbee 1-12. Seattle, Smith-Njigba 10-153, Walker 4-49, Kupp 4-36, Holani 3-27, Barner 2-13, Shaheed 1-51, Bobo 1-17.
MISSED FIELD GOALS—None.

NBA

NBA Glance
EASTERN CONFERENCE
Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	28	17	.622	—
Toronto	29	19	.604	½
New York	27	18	.600	1
Philadelphia	24	20	.545	3½
Brooklyn	12	32	.273	15½

Southeast Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Miami	25	22	.532	—
Orlando	23	21	.523	½
Atlanta	22	25	.468	3
Charlotte	18	28	.391	6½
Washington	10	34	.227	13½

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Detroit	33	11	.750	—
Cleveland	27	20	.574	7½
Chicago	23	22	.511	10½
Milwaukee	18	26	.409	15
Indiana	11	35	.239	23

WESTERN CONFERENCE
Southwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
San Antonio	31	15	.674	—
Houston	27	16	.628	2½
Memphis	18	25	.419	11½
Dallas	19	27	.413	12
New Orleans	12	36	.250	20

Northwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Oklahoma City	37	10	.787	—
Denver	31	15	.674	5½
Minnesota	27	19	.587	9½
Portland	23	23	.500	13½
Utah	15	31	.326	21½

Pacific Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
L.A. Lakers	27	17	.614	—
Phoenix	27	19	.587	1
Golden State	26	21	.553	2½
L.A. Clippers	21	24	.467	6½
Sacramento	12	35	.255	16½

Saturday's Games
Charlotte 119, Washington 115
New York 112, Philadelphia 109
Cleveland 119, Orlando 105
Chicago 114, Boston 111
L.A. Lakers 116, Dallas 110
Miami 147, Utah 116
Sunday's Games
Detroit 139, Sacramento 116
Golden State 111, Minnesota 85
New Orleans 104, San Antonio 95
Toronto 103, Oklahoma City 101
Miami 111, Phoenix 102
L.A. Clippers 126, Brooklyn 89
Denver at Memphis, ppd
Dallas at Milwaukee, ppd
Monday's Games
Indiana at Atlanta, 1:30 p.m.
Philadelphia at Charlotte, 3 p.m.
Orlando at Cleveland, 7 p.m.
L.A. Lakers at Chicago, 8 p.m.
Memphis at Houston, 8 p.m.
Portland at Boston, 8 p.m.
Golden State at Minnesota, 9:30 p.m.
Tuesday's Games
Portland at Washington, 7 p.m.
Sacramento at New York, 7:30 p.m.
Milwaukee at Philadelphia, 8 p.m.
New Orleans at Oklahoma City, 8 p.m.
Brooklyn at Phoenix, 9 p.m.
Detroit at Denver, 9 p.m.
L.A. Clippers at Utah, 10 p.m.
Wednesday's Games
Chicago at Indiana, 7 p.m.
L.A. Lakers at Cleveland, 7 p.m.
Atlanta at Boston, 7:30 p.m.
New York at Toronto, 7:30 p.m.
Orlando at Miami, 7:30 p.m.
Charlotte at Memphis, 8 p.m.
Minnesota at Dallas, 8:30 p.m.
Golden State at Utah, 9 p.m.
San Antonio at Houston, 9:30 p.m.

NHL

NHL Glance
EASTERN CONFERENCE
Atlantic Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Detroit	53	32	16	5	69	167	159
Tampa Bay	50	32	14	4	68	177	130
Buffalo	51	29	17	5	63	172	155
Montreal	52	28	17	7	63	177	175
Boston	52	30	20	2	62	174	162
Florida	51	28	20	3	59	157	165
Toronto	52	24	19	9	57	170	176
Ottawa	52	24	21	7	55	174	174

Metropolitan Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Carolina	52	32	15	5	69	180	150
Pittsburgh	51	26	14	11	63	169	152
N.Y. Islanders	51	27	19	5	59	146	146
Philadelphia	50	24	17	9	57	154	158
Washington	53	25	21	7	57	170	159
New Jersey	52	27	23	2	56	138	159
Columbus	51	24	20	7	55	158	169
N.Y. Rangers	52	21	25	6	48	139	162

WESTERN CONFERENCE
Central Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Colorado	50	35	6	9	79	198	122
Minnesota	53	29	14	10	68	171	154
Dallas	52	29	14	9	67	172	144
Utah	51	27	20	4	58	163	141
Nashville	51	24	23	4	52	148	174
Chicago	52	21	23	8	50	141	164
Winnipeg	51	20	24	7	47	149	158
St. Louis	52	19	24	9	47	127	179

Pacific Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Vegas	51	25	14	12	62	171	161
Edmonton	53	26	19	8	60	179	171
Anaheim	51	27	21	3	57	169	178
San Jose	50	26	21	3	55	156	174
Los Angeles	50	21	16	13	55	134	143
Seattle	51	23	19	9	55	143	154
Calgary	51	21	25	5	47	129	152
Vancouver	52	17	30	5	39	139	191

Saturday's Games
Buffalo 5, N.Y. Islanders 0
Utah 5, Nashville 2
Columbus 8, Tampa Bay 5
Detroit 5, Winnipeg 1
Boston 4, Montreal 3
Carolina 4, Ottawa 1
Los Angeles 5, St. Louis 4, SO
Florida 4, Minnesota 3, OT
Edmonton 6, Washington 5, OT
Sunday's Games
Colorado 4, Toronto 1
Seattle 4, New Jersey 2
Ottawa 7, Vegas 1
Pittsburgh 3, Vancouver 2
Florida 5, Chicago 1
Anaheim 4, Calgary 3, OT
Monday's Games
Boston at N.Y. Rangers, 7 p.m.
Los Angeles at Columbus, 7 p.m.
N.Y. Islanders at Philadelphia, 7 p.m.
Utah at Tampa Bay, 7 p.m.
Anaheim at Edmonton, 8:30 p.m.
Tuesday's Games
Buffalo at Toronto, 7 p.m.
Los Angeles at Detroit, 7 p.m.
Nashville at Boston, 7 p.m.
Utah at Florida, 7 p.m.
Vegas at Montreal, 7 p.m.
Winnipeg at New Jersey, 7 p.m.
Chicago at Minnesota, 8 p.m.
Dallas at St. Louis, 8 p.m.
San Jose at Vancouver, 10 p.m.
Washington at Seattle, 10 p.m.
Wednesday's Games
N.Y. Rangers at N.Y. Islanders, 7 p.m.
Colorado at Ottawa, 7:30 p.m.
Philadelphia at Columbus, 7:30 p.m.

AHL

AHL Glance
EASTERN CONFERENCE
Atlantic Division

	GP	W	L	OL	SL	Pts	GF	GA
Providence	39	30	8	1	0	61	131	82
Penguins	**43**	**27**	**12**	**2**	**2**	**58**	**137**	**112**
Charlotte	39	24	12	3	0	51	134	110
Lehigh Valley	40	20	16	2	2	44	113	120
Hershey	39	18	14	5	2	43	111	117
Bridgeport	39	17	18	2	2	38	120	124
Hartford	40	16	19	4	1	37	108	133
Springfield	40	14	20	4	2	34	104	143

North Division

	GP	W	L	OL	SL	Pts	GF	GA
Laval	41	24	13	2	2	52	128	108
Syracuse	41	23	15	2	1	49	133	108
Toronto	42	22	15	3	2	49	133	140
Rochester	40	20	14	4	2	46	129	122
Belleville	44	19	18	7	0	45	141	155
Cleveland	39	19	14	5	1	44	106	115
Utica	39	12	20	4	3	31	95	125

WESTERN CONFERENCE
Central Division

	GP	W	L	OL	SL	Pts	GF	GA
Grand Rapids	39	32	4	2	1	67	138	70
Chicago	39	20	9	5	5	50	125	117
Manitoba	38	20	15	3	0	43	100	109
Texas	41	18	19	3	1	40	114	127
Milwaukee	38	18	17	2	1	39	111	111
Rockford	42	16	22	2	2	36	117	141
Iowa	41	10	26	4	1	25	88	136

Pacific Division

	GP	W	L	OL	SL	Pts	GF	GA
Ontario	41	27	12	1	1	56	137	112
Colorado	39	25	10	1	3	54	128	93
Bakersfield	40	22	12	6	0	50	139	126
Coachella Val.	39	22	12	5	0	49	136	125
San Jose	38	22	13	1	2	47	121	122
San Diego	40	18	14	6	2	44	112	112
Tucson	39	18	14	7	0	43	126	125
Henderson	37	17	14	4	2	40	116	112
Calgary	41	15	16	8	2	40	108	140
Abbotsford	43	15	22	3	3	36	94	141

Sunday's Games
Providence 4, Toronto 3
Manitoba 3, Grand Rapids 2
Utica 5, Syracuse 1
Abbotsford 4, San Diego 0
Tucson 3, Henderson 2
Charlotte at Hershey, ppd
Monday's Games
Laval at Calgary, 9 p.m.
Tuesday's Games
Rockford at Milwaukee, 8 p.m.
Wednesday's Games
Charlotte at Hartford, 6:30 p.m.
Cleveland at Grand Rapids, 7 p.m.
Hershey at Rochester, 7:05 p.m.
Colorado at Coachella Valley, 9:30 p.m.
Abbotsford at Ontario, 10 p.m.
Bakersfield at Henderson, 10 p.m.
Tucson vs. San Diego at Valley View Casino Center, 10 p.m.

TRANSACTIONS

HOCKEY
National Hockey League
COLORADO AVALANCHE — Activated G Scott Wedgewood from non-roster list. Reassigned Ds Isak Posch and Jack Ahcan to Colorado (AHL).
MINNESOTA WILD — Sent D David Spacek to Iowa (AHL).
OTTAWA SENATORS — Sent G Hunter Shepard to Belleville (AHL). Activated G Linus Ullmark from the non-roster list.
TAMPA BAY LIGHTNING — Recalled D Max Groshev from Syracuse (AHL). Placed D Charle-Edouard D'Astous on injured reserve.
SOCCER
Major League Soccer
REAL SALT LAKE — Acquired M Stijn Spierings via transfer from Brøndby IF (Danish Superliga).

TENNIS

Australian Open Results
Sunday, At Melbourne Park
Melbourne, Australia
(seedings in parentheses)
Men's Singles
Fourth Round
Carlos Alcaraz (1), Spain, def. Tommy Paul (19), United States, 7-6 (6), 6-4, 7-5.
Alexander Zverev (3), Germany, def. Francisco Cerundolo (18), Argentina, 6-2, 6-4, 6-4.
Learner Tien (25), United States, def. Daniil Medvedev (11), Russia, 6-4, 6-0, 6-3.
Alex de Minaur (6), Australia, def. Alexander Bublik (10), Kazakhstan, 6-4, 6-1, 6-1.
Women's Singles
Fourth Round
Aryna Sabalenka (1), Belarus, def. Victoria Mboko (17), Canada, 6-1, 7-6 (1).
Iva Jovic (29), United States, def. Yulia Putintseva, Kazakhstan, 6-0, 6-1.
Coco Gauff (3), United States, def. Karolina Muchova (19), Czechia, 6-1, 3-6, 6-3.
Elina Svitolina (12), Ukraine, def. Mirra Andreeva (8), Russia, 6-2, 6-4.
Men's Doubles
Third Round
Marcel Granollers, Spain, and Horacio Zeballos (3), Argentina, def. Robert Cash and James Tracy (14), United States, 6-3, 3-6, 6-3.
Fabien Reboul and Sadio Doumbia (12), France, def. Tomas Martin Etcheverry and Camilo Ugo Carabelli, Argentina, 7-6 (7), 6-7 (6), 6-1.
Christian Harrison, United States, and Neal Skupski (6), Britain, def. Botic Van de Zandschulp and Tallon Griekspoor, Netherlands, 5-0, ret.
Luke Johnson, Britain, and Jan Zielinski, Poland, def. John-Patrick Smith, Australia, and Adam Pavlasek, Czechia, 6-3, 6-4.
Women's Doubles
Second Round
Zhang Shuai, China, and Elise Mertens (4), Belgium, def. Victoria Mboko, Canada, and Iva Jovic, United States, 7-5, 4-6, 7-6 (10).
Women's Doubles
Third Round
Taylor Townsend, United States, and Katerina Siniakova (1), Czechia, def. Miyu (1994) Kato, Japan, and Fanny Stollar (15), Hungary, walkover.
Eri Hozumi, Japan, and Fang-Hsien Wu, Taiwan, def. Demi Schuurs, Netherlands, and Ellen Perez (8), Australia, 6-2, 6-2.
Gabriela Dabrowski, Canada, and Luisa Stefani (5), Brazil, def. Nicole Melichar-Martinez, United States, and Cristina Bucsa (9), Spain, 6-4, 6-3.
Aleksandra Krunic, Serbia, and Anna Danilina (7), Kazakhstan, def. Storm Hunter and Maya Joint, Australia, 7-5, 7-6 (6).
Mixed Doubles
Second Round
Kristina Mladenovic and Manuel Guinard, France, def. Andre Goransson, Sweden, and Erin Routliffe, New Zealand, 6-4, 7-5.
Anna Danilina, Kazakhstan, and James Tracy, United States, def. Olivia Nicholls and Henry Patten (7), Britain, 6-2, 6-3.
Aleksandra Krunic, Serbia, and Mate Pavic (5), Croatia, def. Matthew Ebden and Talia Gibson, Australia, 7-6 (2), 0-6, 10-6.
Matthew Christopher Romios and Maya Joint, Australia, def. Gabriela Dabrowski, Canada, and Luke Johnson, Britain, 6-2, 6-7 (2), 10-7.
Mixed Doubles
Third Round
John Peers and Olivia Gadecki, Australia, def. Edouard Roger-Vasselin, France, and Laura Siegemund, Germany, 6-3, 3-6, 10-5.
Marcelo Arevalo, El Salvador, and Luisa Stefani (2), Brazil, def. Asia Muhammad and Evan King, United States, 6-3, 6-2.
Irina Khromacheva, Russia, and Christian Harrison, United States, def. Lloyd Glasspool, Britain, and Tereza Mihalikova (8), Slovakia, 4-6, 7-5, 10-7.
Nikola Mektic, Croatia, and Taylor Townsend (4), United States, def. Storm Hunter, Australia, and Hugo Nys, Monaco, 6-3, 2-6, 10-8.



Ashley Landis | AP photo

Patriots coach Mike Vrabel holds the trophy after winning the AFC championship over the Broncos in Denver.

Patriots punch ticket to Super Bowl with gritty 10-7 win in snowy Denver

By Arnie Stapleton
AP Pro Football Writer



Ashley Landis | AP photo

Patriots quarterback Drake Maye threw for just 86 yards but he ran for 65 and scored New England's lone touchdown on Sunday.

DENVER — Drake Maye handled the sloppy, snowy conditions better than the home team and he scored New England's only touchdown on a 6-yard keeper, propelling the Patriots to their 12th Super Bowl with a 10-7 win over the Denver Broncos in the AFC championship game Sunday.

Maye threw for just 86 yards, but ran for 65 and iced the win with a 7-yard keeper on third-and-5 in the waning minutes to send the Patriots (17-3) to the Super Bowl in Mike Vrabel's first year as coach.

The Patriots will play the Seattle Seahawks, who beat the Los Angeles Rams in the NFC championship game, on Feb. 8 in Santa Clara, California.

"I'm just proud of this team," said the 23-year-old Maye, who's the second-youngest starting quarterback to reach the Super Bowl, behind only Miami's Dan Marino. "Don't have many words. Just thankful for this team. Love each and every one of them. It took everybody."

Christian Gonzalez intercepted Jarrett Stidham, starting in place of an injured Bo Nix, with 2:11 remaining for New England's second takeaway. The first set up the Patriots with a short field and led to Maye's touchdown scamper that tied it at 7 heading into halftime.

With Nix looking on from a suite following ankle surgery Tuesday in Alabama, Stidham made his first start in more than two years. His first completion since the 2023 regular-season finale was a 52-yard dart to Marvin Mims Jr. to the New England 7 that set up Courtland Sutton's 6-yard touchdown catch.

That was Stidham's highlight as he turned the ball over twice and finished 17 of 31 for 133 yards with the TD.

"I was super excited for the opportunity and just hate that we fell short," Stidham said.

New England, which went 4-13 last year under Jerod Mayo, became the third team in the Super Bowl era to win a conference championship with 10 points or less.

Buffalo beat Denver 10-7 in the 1991 AFC title game, and Los Angeles beat Tampa Bay 9-0 in the 1979 NFC championship game.

Vrabel, who won three Super Bowls as a playmaking linebacker for the Patriots, could become the first person in NFL history to also win as a head coach for the same franchise.

"I won't win it. It'll be the players that'll win the game," Vrabel said. "I promise you, it won't be me that'll win it, and I promise you that I'll do everything I can, and our staff, to have them ready for the game."

The Broncos (15-4) finished one step shy of fulfilling Sean Payton's preseason prediction of a trip to Super Bowl 60, and he pointed the finger right at himself.

He said he regretted his call on fourth-and-1 from the New England 14 in the second quarter when a chip-shot field goal before the snow came in would have given Denver a double-digit lead. Stidham's throw to running back R.J. Harvey was incomplete and the Broncos' early momentum vanished.

"There's always regrets," Payton said. "Yeah, I mean, look, I felt like here we are, fourth-and-1. We felt close enough ... So, yeah, there'll always be second thoughts."

The Broncos were left clinging to a 7-0 lead that was short-lived. Elijah Ponder recovered Stidham's backward pass at the Denver 12, setting up the tying touchdown two plays later.

"I thought I threw it forward and obviously the replay said differently," Stidham said. "Probably should have just eaten the sack and let (Jeremy) Crawshaw punt the ball and flip the field."

Both kickers missed two field goals in the frigid conditions with Denver's Wil Lutz and New England's Andy Borregales wide on long tries just before the snow came in at halftime. Lutz's 45-yard attempt late in the fourth quarter was tipped by Leonard Taylor III.

The Patriots' victory was their 40th in the playoffs, breaking a tie with the San Francisco 49ers for the most in NFL history.

It was sunny at kickoff with a temperature of 26 degrees, but by halftime the snowflakes began falling and grounds crews had to use snowblowers to mark the hashmarks and yard lines by the fourth quarter, when it was 16 degrees.

"It was a lot of fun out there," Broncos cornerback Pat Surtain II said. "Snow game, for the conference, to go to the Super Bowl — it doesn't get any better than that. I felt like I was a little kid out there just playing in the snow."

And the Patriots had the most fun of all.

"What an atmosphere out here," said Maye, in his second NFL season. "Battle of the elements. Love this team. How about the defense? I love each and every one of them."

The Patriots have allowed 26 points across three playoff games. The only team to allow fewer points over three playoff games before a Super Bowl appearance was the 2000 Ravens, who allowed just 16 points.

After gaining just 72 yards in the first half, the Patriots opened the second half in swirling snow with a 16-play, 64-yard drive that ate up 9 1/2 minutes and ended with a 23-yard field goal by Borregales that proved the difference.

Stidham, who was drafted by the Patriots in 2019, made his first start since the 2023 regular-season finale. The Broncos were the only team in the league that didn't give their backup QB any snaps or handoffs the last two seasons.

The Patriots have averaged 18 points per game in the playoffs, the fewest by any team to make the Super Bowl since the 1979 Rams, who averaged 15.

"I'll take an ugly win before I take a pretty loss," Diggs said. "Nobody's satisfied. Happy, but not complacent. We're blessed to be where we are, but we know there's more out there for us."

Coming up just short of a trip to the Super Bowl will drive Denver, said Surtain, who suggested: "This is not the last time we're going to be here. We're going to just keep on building and getting better."

Nix, who had 11 game-winning drives in his first two NFL seasons, got hurt on Denver's final drive in overtime against Buffalo last week, and this title game will always be dogged in Denver by the what-ifs.

"It (stinks)," linebacker Alex Singleton said. "We'll remember it for the rest of our lives."

INJURIES

Patriots: LB Robert Spillane (ankle) left in the first quarter.

Broncos: WR Pat Bryant left with a hamstring injury in the second quarter.



Lindsey Wasson | AP photo

Seattle's Dareke Young (83) celebrates after recovering a fumble by the Rams's Xavier Smith on a punt return during the second half of Sunday's NFC Championship game.

Darnold, Seahawks advance to Super Bowl with tense win over Rams in NFC title game

By Andrew Destin
AP Sports Writer

SEATTLE — Sam Darnold threw for three touchdowns, the Seahawks' "Dark Side" defense came up with a critical fourth-down stop, and Seattle advanced to the Super Bowl, beating the Los Angeles Rams 31-27 in an electrifying NFC championship game on Sunday.

Led by second-year coach Mike Macdonald and Darnold — an eight-year veteran playing for his fifth team — the Seahawks (16-3) reached the fourth Super Bowl in franchise history and first in 11 years. Seattle lost that most recent appearance to New England, its opponent in two weeks at Levi's Stadium in Santa Clara, California.

With Los Angeles (14-6) facing fourth-and-4 at the Seattle 6 with 4:59 remaining, coach Sean McVay elected to go for it and Matthew Stafford's pass was broken up in the end zone by Devon Witherspoon. The Rams didn't get the ball back until there were 25 seconds left, and Puka Nacua was tackled inbounds near midfield on the final play.

Stafford threw for 374 yards and three touchdowns, but the Rams were undone by critical errors, including a muffed punt by Xavier Smith in the third quarter. On the next play, Darnold connected with Jake Bobo for a 17-yard touchdown and a 24-13 lead.

Darnold, who flopped in his playoff debut last season with the Minnesota Vikings, played through an oblique injury and completed 25 of 36 passes for 346 yards with no turnovers. Jaxon Smith-Njigba had 153 yards receiving — the second-most in a playoff game in franchise history — and a touchdown on 10 catches.

"It's amazing," Darnold said. "To be able to do it with these guys in this locker room, though, with this coaching staff, that's why it means the world to me."

The Seahawks led 31-20 late in the third quarter on Darnold's 13-yard TD pass to Cooper Kupp, but the Rams got back into the game when Seahawks cornerback Riq Woolen was flagged for taunting after breaking up a pass to Nacua on third-and-12, giving Los Angeles a first down. On the next play, Stafford threw at Woolen again, and Nacua beat him in the corner of the end zone for a 34-yard touchdown.

The Rams forced a punt on Seattle's next possession and went on a 14-play, 84-yard drive that came up empty thanks to Witherspoon's pass breakup.

Seattle stayed aggressive on its final possession, with Darnold throwing for three first downs to run out most of the clock.

Davante Adams and Kyren Williams had receiving TDs for the Rams, and Kenneth Walker III rushed for a score for the Seahawks.

Darnold set the tone with his first completion of the game, a 51-yarder to Rashid Shaheed. Four plays later, Walker ran 2 yards for a TD to make it 7-0.

The Rams settled for field goals by Harrison Mevis on their next two possessions. With Los Angeles trailing 10-6, Stafford led a 12-play, 87-yard drive and connected with a wide-open Williams for a 9-yard score. Los Angeles forced a three-and-out late in the second quarter, but after two straight incompletions by Stafford, the Rams punted the ball back, and it took Darnold just 34 seconds to put the Seahawks ahead for good.

Smith-Njigba caught a deep ball from Darnold, absorbed a big hit by Kam Curl and held on for a 42-yard gain. Four plays later, Darnold and Smith-Njigba hooked up for a 14-yard TD that made it 17-13 heading into halftime.

"I told my team, I'm going to do whatever it takes. Whatever y'all ask of me, I'm gonna get it done, whatever that might be," said Smith-Njigba, the NFL's leading receiver in the regular season. "And that's what you saw today. You just saw grit, determination, you saw passion out there and you saw a group, a collective, going out there and getting the job done."

INJURIES

Rams: WR Jordan Whittington (chest) left in the third quarter. Defensive end Kobie Turner (cramps) also exited in the third.

Seahawks: LB Drake Thomas (shoulder) left in the fourth quarter. FB Brady Russell (hand) was injured in the second half and did not return.

UP NEXT

Rams: Stafford turns 38 next month and has to wonder if this was his last, best chance at a second Super Bowl title.

Seahawks: Seek their second Super Bowl title after winning it all in the 2013 season with coach Pete Carroll and the "Legion of Boom" defense.



Lindsey Wasson | AP photo

Rams wide receiver Puka Nacua (12) hauls in a touchdown behind the defense during the second half.



Godofredo A. Vásquez | AP photo

Seahawks quarterback Sam Darnold continued his best season, throwing for 346 yards and three touchdowns with no turnovers on Sunday.

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Super Bowl LX features rematch from 11 years ago

By Rob Maaddi
AP Pro Football Writer



Ashley Landis | AP photo

Patriots tackle Morgan Moses (76) and tight end Hunter Henry celebrate after winning the AFC championship on Sunday in Denver.



John Froschauer | AP photo

Seahawks receiver Jake Bobo (19) and quarterback Drew Lock (2) join in the festivities after winning the NFC championship.

Drake Maye vs. Sam Darnold. Two stingy defenses. A second-year head coach vs. a veteran coach in his second act.

Super Bowl 60 is set and it's a rematch: The New England Patriots vs. the Seattle Seahawks.

The Patriots will seek their NFL-record seventh Super Bowl victory when they face the Seahawks on Feb. 8 at Levi's Stadium in Santa Clara, Calif.

Led by Maye, coach Mike Vrabel and a stifling defense, the Patriots are back in the Super Bowl for the first time since Tom Brady and Bill Belichick won their sixth ring together seven years ago.

The Patriots (17-3) beat the Denver Broncos 10-7 on Sunday in the AFC championship game to advance to their 12th Super Bowl.

Darnold, Mike Macdonald and a suffocating defense have led the Seahawks to the big stage for the fourth time in franchise history. They're seeking their second Lombardi.

Darnold, a No. 3 overall pick in 2018 now with his fifth team, played one of his best games to lead the Seahawks to a 31-27 victory over the Los Angeles Rams in the NFC title game. He threw for 346 yards and three touchdowns with no turnovers.

"That doesn't matter to me," Darnold said about the doubters he's proven wrong. "I just come to work every single day with these guys. These guys in the locker room, that's what it's about to me, man. The way we've come to work ever since April in OTAs, training camp, one day at a time and we're here. We did it."

It was a wacky finish when Brady and the Patriots beat Russell Wilson and Pete Carroll's Seahawks 11 years ago.

Brady threw four TD passes and rallied New England from a 10-point deficit to win the fourth of his seven rings when Malcolm Butler intercepted Wilson's pass from the 1-yard line to secure a 28-24 victory on Feb. 1, 2015. Seattle fans still lament why Marshawn Lynch didn't get the ball on a handoff at the 1.

"We did not care," Macdonald said about coming into the season as underdogs in the NFC West behind the Rams and 49ers. "It's about us. It's always been about us and what we do and now we're going to the Super Bowl."

Maye scored on a 6-yard touchdown run in the second quarter in Denver after a critical turnover by Jarrett Stidham, who made his fifth career start filling in for injured Broncos quarterback Bo Nix.

"The Pats are back, baby," Maye said. "Now, gotta win one."

Playing through a snowstorm in the second half, Maye only threw for 86 yards and ran for 65. Stidham had 133 yards passing and one TD, one interception and one costly fumble.

The 23-year-old Maye, a finalist for AP NFL MVP and Offensive Player of the Year, will become the second-youngest QB to start a Super Bowl behind Dan Marino. He's the fourth second-year QB in the past seven years to lead his team to the NFL title game. Patrick Mahomes (2018) won it while Joe Burrow (2021) and Brock Purdy (2023) lost.

Vrabel, who won three Super Bowls as a linebacker for the Patriots in the 2000s, turned the team around in his first season as coach. New England went from 4-13 last year under Jerod Mayo to 14-3.

Vrabel is trying to become the first person to win a Super Bowl as a head coach and player for the same team. Tom Flores, Mike Ditka, Tony Dungy and Doug Pederson won Super Bowls playing for one team and coaching another.

"I can't tell you how proud I am to be associated with these guys and this organization," said Vrabel, who is a finalist for AP NFL Coach of the Year. "I won't win it. It'll be the players that'll win the game, I promise you. It won't be me that'll win it and I promise you I'll do everything that I can and our staff to have them ready for the game."

No team has played in the Super Bowl more than the Patriots, who are 6-5. They're tied with the Pittsburgh Steelers for the most wins.

It's been a long road back to the top for New England, which came off consecutive four-win seasons and only had one winning season after Brady's departure in 2020.

The Patriots have averaged just 18 points per game in the playoffs, the fewest by any team to make the Super Bowl since the 1979 Rams, who averaged 15. New England's defense has allowed just 26 points in the three games, an average of just 8.7 per game. The only team to allow fewer points in three playoff games before a Super Bowl appearance was the 2000 Ravens, who gave up 16.

Payton has second thoughts about passing up easy kick

By Pat Graham
AP Sports Writer



David Zalubowski | AP photo

Broncos kicker Wil Lutz (3) had a potential tying field goal blocked late in the fourth quarter of Sunday's AFC championship. Denver elected not to bring out Lutz for a short kick when the weather was clear in the first half, in what turned out to be a three-point loss.

DENVER — Sean Payton conceded he will have second thoughts about his decision to pass up an easy field goal, as well as the play he called instead.

The Denver Broncos and their fans now have the entire offseason to argue over which part of that critical fourth-and-1 play was worse.

Because Payton decided not to kick a chip-shot field goal for a 10-0 lead in good weather in the first half of Sunday's AFC championship game against the New England Patriots, the Broncos ended up needing to make a kick once the blowing snow and wind rolled in after halftime. The decision played an integral role in Denver's 10-7 loss.

"There's always regrets," Payton said. "I felt like here were are, fourth-and-1, close enough — it's also a call you make based on the team you're playing and what you're watching on the other side of the ball. Yeah, there will always be second thoughts."

That fateful move put the Broncos on a slippery slope that would've challenged any quarterback — to say nothing of perennial backup Jarrett Stidham.

Everyone from Bill Cowher on the pregame show to Tony Romo in the broadcast booth was talking about the importance of the Broncos taking every point they could with Stidham stepping in for the injured Bo Nix, but Payton didn't heed that advice.

Wil Lutz missed two field goals (one was blocked) on a day Denver's defense gave up one touchdown. And that score was set up when Stidham turned the ball over deep in New England territory.

Had Denver not given away three points, it may have been able to overcome those mistakes.

"There will be a number of things when we watch the tape I will look at and critique and pay close attention to," Payton said. "It was a hard-fought game, and we didn't do enough to win."

Early in the second quarter — and with the skies still clear — the Broncos led 7-0 and faced fourth-and-1 at the New England 14. Denver called timeout to discuss its options. The offense returned to the field and Stidham's pass to RJ Harvey fell incomplete.

"Just didn't work out on that one play," said Stidham, who threw for 133 yards and a score, along with a fourth-quarter interception that sealed the win for the Patriots. "That's just football."

Late in the game, trailing 10-7, Payton sent Lutz out to try a 45-yard kick into a tricky wind and on a snow-covered field. Leonard Taylor III got a hand on the kick.

"Unfortunately, you couldn't see the lines on the field and honestly I think we might have been a yard short on the snap," Lutz said. "But you can't see the lines on the field and we had to kind of estimate."

The Broncos were right there, too. Only three teams have won a game to advance to the Super Bowl while scoring 10 points or fewer — and the Broncos were on the wrong end in two of them. They also lost 10-7 to the Buffalo Bills in the 1991 AFC title game, with backup quarterback Gary Kubiak replacing the injured John Elway.

This time, Stidham started in place of Nix, who broke his ankle in a 33-30 overtime win against Buffalo last week, and began in stellar fashion. He had a 52-yard completion to Marvin Mims Jr. that set up a short TD pass to Courtland Sutton.

Denver was rolling — until New England's fourth-down stop.

Late in the second quarter, the Patriots took advantage of Stidham's first turnover. Under pressure from Christian Elliss, he tried to toss the ball away but it was ruled a backward pass, which was recovered by Elijah Ponder. Two plays later, Drake Maye sauntered into the end zone.

"Obviously, I can't put our team in a bad position like that," Stidham said. "That was completely on me."

The play was initially ruled an incomplete pass and intentional grounding, but officials changed the call. Stidham did not realize he'd thrown a lateral.

"No, I thought I'd thrown it forward," he said.

Explained referee Alex Kemp in a pool report: "I initially ruled it as a forward pass, which was incorrect. I proceeded to go through the administration of an intentional grounding foul. The down judge and the umpire came and talked to me and provided more information. The down judge explained that he extended his right arm to signal that he had a backward pass and at that point we determined that New England had picked up the then backward pass."

Stidham conceded that he "should've just eaten the sack anyway," adding, "I can't do that."

With the snow picking up and the wind at their back, the Patriots went on a 16-play drive to start the third quarter that ended with Andy Borregales' go-ahead, 23-yard field goal. That was the final score by either team in the deteriorating conditions.

"I was dealing with it. Drake was dealing with it," Stidham said of the snow and wind. "You can't really make an excuse of it."

Kindel scores two to lift Penguins to 4th straight win

The Associated Press



Darryl Dyck | AP photo, The Canadian Press

Penguins rookie Ben Kindel ended a 19-game scoring drought with two goals on Sunday in Vancouver, playing in front of nearly 200 friends and family members in his home province.

VANCOUVER, British Columbia — Rookie Ben Kindel scored twice in the second period to lead the Penguins to a 3-2 win over the Vancouver Canucks on Sunday and a sweep of Pittsburgh's four-game western Canada trip.

Kindel, from nearby Coquitlam, British Columbia, had a large contingent of supporters on hand for his second multi-goal game. The 18-year-old had gone 20 games without a goal after scoring eight in his first 28 and has 10 goals and 12 assists in 48 games.

Evgeni Malkin also scored for the Penguins (26-14-11), and Stuart Skinner stopped 19 shots and won for the seventh time in eight games.

Jake DeBrusk and Teddy Blueger scored in the third period for the Canucks (17-30-5), who failed to complete their comeback try and dropped their second straight. Kevin Lankinen stopped 21 shots.

Malkin and Kindel made it 2-0 with goals 3:17 apart in the second period. Malkin opened the scoring by taking a pass from Thomas Novak that went over a Canuck defender's stick, then beat Lankinen. Kindel made it a two-goal lead by directing in a shot from defenseman Ryan Shea. Kindel gave Pittsburgh a 3-0 lead at 17:22 by beating Lankinen on a shot from the faceoff circle.

Pittsburgh opened its trip with a 6-3 win over Seattle on Monday, beat Calgary 4-1 on Wednesday, then defeated Edmonton 6-2 on Thursday.

Veteran Kris Letang returned to the Pittsburgh lineup after missing two games with an upper-body injury.

The Canucks have just one win in their last 14 games (1-11-2). Canucks goaltender Thatcher Demko missed his eighth game with a lower-body injury.

AVALANCHE 4, MAPLE LEAFS 1

TORONTO — Brock Nelson scored twice in a 1:12 span in the first period and sealed his fifth career hat trick with an empty-netter in Colorado's victory over Toronto.

Jack Drury also scored to help NHL-leading Colorado improve to 35-6-9. MacKenzie Blackwood made 32 saves.

Colorado became the fourth team in NHL history with six or fewer regulation losses through 50 games, joining the 1979-80 Philadelphia Flyers (35-3-12), 1943-44 Montreal Canadiens (38-5-7) and 1975-76 Canadiens (36-6-8).

The last team with at least 77 points through 50 contests was the 2022-23 Boston Bruins (38-7-5), who went on to set the NHL record for wins in a season with 65.

Max Domi had a late power-play goal for Toronto, and Joseph Woll stopped 33 shots. The Maple Leafs are 24-19-9.

The Maple Leafs had a 4-3 overtime victory in Denver on Jan. 12, but have dropped six of seven (1-4-2), including an ugly 0-3-1 start to their current five-game homestand following an 8-0-2 run.

DUCKS 4, FLAMES 3, OT

CALGARY, Alberta — Rookie Beckett Sennecke scored at 2:54 of overtime for his first NHL hat trick as Anaheim rallied to beat Calgary.

Sennecke's winner came on a 2-on-1 in which he kept the puck and snapped a shot past Dustin Wolf, just inside the post.

Chris Kreider also scored for Anaheim (28-21-3), which extended its winning streak to seven games. Mikael Granlund and Alex Killorn each had two assists. Lukas Dostal made 32 saves and improved to 19-12-2.

Sennecke's three-goal effort gives him 18 for the season and 41 points overall, which places him second in rookie scoring to Montreal's Ivan Demidov, who has 11 goals and 32 assists for 43 points.

The Ducks moved to within one point of the second-place Edmonton Oilers in the Pacific Division. Anaheim holds one game in hand. The Ducks and Oilers play Monday in Edmonton.

KRAKEN 4, DEVILS 2

SEATTLE — Matty Beniers and Berkly Catton scored 18 seconds apart in the third period, Joey Daccord made 27 saves and Seattle beat New Jersey.

Ryker Evans and Jordan Eberle also scored for Seattle, which has won three of their last 10 games. Beniers was playing in his 300th career NHL game.

Dougie Hamilton and Jack Hughes scored for the Devils. Jacob Markstrom stopped 15 shots in his sixth start in New Jersey's last seven games. The Devils conclude their four-game Pacific Division road trip with a 3-1-0 record.

Hamilton opened the scoring 8:11 into the first period with a clean shot on the power play. Scoring his sixth goal of the season, Hamilton now has eight points in his last nine games.

Evans tied the game at 7:37 in the second period. The shot hit Johnathan Kovacevic's stick and slipped through Markstrom's pads, who appeared to be heavily screened.

Beniers and Catton scored back-to-back for Seattle, with their goals coming at 7:04 and 7:22 in the third period, respectively.

SENATORS 7, GOLDEN KNIGHTS 1

OTTAWA, Ontario — Stephen Halliday had two goals and an assist, Dylan Cozens also scored twice and Ottawa routed the road-weary Vegas.

Senators goalie Linus Ullmark returned to to the active roster from a personal leave, backing up Mads Sogaard. Ullmark was the 2022-23 Vezina Trophy winner.

Halliday scored his second and third career goals, and added the assist for a three-point game in his first season in the NHL.

Fabian Zetterlund, Jordan Spence and Nick Jensen also scored, and Brady Tkachuk had three assists. Sogaard stopped 19 shots.

Rasmus Andersson scored in third period for Vegas, making it 7-1. It was the defenseman's first goal in two games with the Golden Knights following a trade with Calgary.

PANTHERS 5, BLACKHAWKS 1

CHICAGO — Defenseman Tobias Bjornfot scored his first two goals this season — giving him just three over seven NHL seasons and 139 career games — and Florida defeated Chicago for their third straight win.

Mackie Samoskevich and Carter Verhaeghe connected 2:04 apart early in the third period and Sam Reinhart added an empty-netter as the Panthers won for the sixth time in eight. Daniil Tarasov made 19 saves and the two-time defending Stanley Cup Panthers moved eight games over .500 for the first time this season.

Tyler Bertuzzi scored his team-leading 25th goal for the Blackhawks. Spencer Knight, who started his career with Florida, made 20 saves and fell to 0-2 against his former team.

The teams generated only a handful of chances through the first and second periods and neither pressured with a territorial edge.

Curry leads Warriors as Timberwolves drop 5th straight

The Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS — Stephen Curry scored 26 points to lead the Golden State Warriors past Minnesota 111-85 on Sunday, the fifth straight loss for the Timberwolves and their longest skid in more than three years.

Curry added seven assists and four of his team's season-high 20 steals after being listed as questionable to play because of knee soreness. Moses Moody added 19 points and eight rebounds for the Warriors (26-21), who moved within 1 1/2 games of the Timberwolves (27-19) for seventh place in the Western Conference.

Brandin Podziemski had 12 points, six assists and four steals for the Warriors, who have won seven of their last 10 games.

Anthony Edwards led Minnesota with 32 points and 11 rebounds after the game was postponed a day following the fatal shooting of a Minneapolis man by federal immigration officers.

There was a pregame moment of silence held for Alex Pretti, and a subdued crowd found little to cheer as the Timberwolves stumbled to their lowest final score in more than four years since a 104-84 loss to the Los Angeles Clippers at home on Nov. 5, 2021. This was their first time under 100 points this season.

The Timberwolves found a burst of energy for a 10-0 run to close the first half, capped by a 3-pointer from Edwards that cut Golden State's lead to 47-46. But they started the third quarter as flat as they did the first and trailed by double digits for the final 16:15 of the game. The last skid this long for the Timberwolves was six games from Dec. 21-31, 2022.

Forwards Julius Randle (11 points) and Jaden McDaniels (three points) combined to shoot 4 for 19 from the floor for the Timberwolves.

PISTONS 139, KINGS 116

DETROIT — Cade Cunningham had 29 points and 11 assists and Detroit routed Sacramento for its fifth victory in six games.

The Eastern Conference-leading Pistons rebounded from a home loss to Houston on Friday night to improve to 33-11. Tied at 35 after a quarter, Detroit broke it open in the second by outscoring the Kings 43-30.

Cunningham was 13 of 22 from the field, hitting 3 of 5 3-pointers. Pistons center Jalen Duren added 18 points on 7-of-8 shooting, and Tobias Harris had 16.

Malik Monk led Sacramento with 19 points, and DeMar DeRozan had 16. The Kings have lost five straight to drop to 12-35.

Domantas Sabonis played his fifth game for Sacramento after after missing two months because of a knee injury. He had 12 points on 6-of-7 shooting and eight assists and seven rebounds in 24:44.

RAPTORS 103, THUNDER 101

OKLAHOMA CITY — Immanuel Quickley had 23 points and 11 rebounds to help Toronto defeat the NBA-leading Oklahoma City.

R.J. Barrett scored 14 points and Scottie Barnes added 10 points and 10 rebounds for the Raptors, who won their fourth straight.

Shai Gilgeous-Alexander led Oklahoma City with 24 points on 8-for-11 shooting. He scored at least 20 points for the 117th consecutive game, the second-longest streak in NBA history.

Lu Dort scored a season-high 19 points, Kenrich Williams scored 15 and Chet Holmgren added 11 points and 10 rebounds for the Thunder.

PELICANS 104, SPURS 95

SAN ANTONIO — Saddiq Bey and Zion Williamson each had 24 points and 10 rebounds and New Orleans squandered a 20-point lead before rebounding to beat San Antonio.

San Antonio held a 24-5 advantage to open the fourth quarter, but New Orleans closed the game on a 17-3 run to avoid a season sweep by the Spurs.

Victor Wembanyama had 16 points, 16 rebounds and four blocks to lead San Antonio. Keldon Johnson added 15 points as the Spurs failed to capitalize on a double-digit rally.

New Orleans' lead swelled to 19 points midway through the third quarter, leading San Antonio coach Mitch Johnson to sub out his entire starting lineup following a timeout.

The lineup change worked as San Antonio went on a 21-4 run bridging the third and fourth quarters. The Spurs scored 16 straight points to close the run.

HEAT 111, SUNS 102

PHOENIX — Bam Adebayo scored 22 points, Jaime Jaquez Jr. added 20 and Miami beat short-handed Phoenix.

The Heat had a short turnaround after blowing out Utah 147-116 on Saturday night, but took advantage of Phoenix playing without two key players who suffered injuries in Friday night in a 110-103 loss at Atlanta.

Devin Booker, a four-time All-Star, rolled his right ankle in third quarter against the Hawks and will be re-evaluated in a week. Jalen Green came out after feeling pain in his second game back after missing 33 with a hamstring strain.

The Suns labored without Booker's team-leading 25.4 points per game, shooting 37% and 7 of 35 from 3. Dillon Brooks led Phoenix with 26 points and Grayson Allen added 18 despite shooting 4 of 18 from the floor, including 1 of 11 from 3.

The NBA's fourth-highest scoring team, Miami led by five after three quarters and pushed it to 101-83 midway through the fourth on their way to finishing a five-game trip 3-2. Norman Powell added 16 points and 10 rebounds.

CLIPPERS 126, NETS 89

INGLEWOOD, Calif. — Kawhi Leonard scored 21 of his 28 points in the first half as Los Angeles built a 38-point lead in the second quarter and beat Brooklyn.

James Harden scored 19 points, John Collins added 18, and Jordan Miller had 16. Ivica Zubac finished with 11 points and 10 rebounds as the Clippers, who were coming off a victory over the Lakers on Thursday, won for the eighth time in nine games.

Danny Wolf scored 14 points and Egor Demin had 12 for the Nets, who shot 28% in the first half and 34% overall.

Sabalenka beats Mboko; Jovic next at Australian Open

By John Pye
AP Sports Writer

MELBOURNE, Australia — TikTok influencer and top-ranked Aryna Sabalenka is having to work her way through some rising teenage stars in her bid for a third Australian Open title in four years.

Sabalenka, who has drawn praise from fans and other players for her posts on the social media platform about matters on and off the court, held off 19-year-old Vicky Mboko 6-1, 7-6 (1) at Rod Laver Arena on Sunday. She'll play 18-year-old Iva Jovic in the quarterfinals.

The 29-seeded Jovic overwhelmed Yulia Putintseva 6-0, 6-1 in 53 minutes at John Cain Arena — with six service breaks and winning the first 10 games — to secure a spot in the last eight of a Grand Slam for the first time.

"Obviously, she's No. 1 for a reason and had so much success at this tournament," Jovic said of Sabalenka. "But that's what I want — I said it last year, I hope to be able to play her this year, because you definitely want to play the best and see how it goes."

Coco Gauff, who was still a teenager when she won her first major title in 2023, is back into the quarterfinals in Australia for the third consecutive year after a 6-1, 3-6, 6-3 win over No. 19 Karolina Muchova. She'll next face No. 12 Elina Svitolina, who closed play on Day 8 with a 6-2, 6-4 win over 18-year-old, eighth-seeded Mirra Andreeva.

No. 1-ranked Carlos Alcaraz is also in the last 8 for the third straight year, continuing his bid for a career Grand Slam at age 22 with a 7-6 (6), 6-4, 7-5 win over No. 19-seeded Tommy Paul.

He's never gone past the last eight at Melbourne Park, the only one of the four Grand Slam venues where he hasn't won the title. That's a statistic he's determined to rectify, to the point where he's reworking his serve to a look a little bit more in style with 10-time Australian Open champion Novak Djokovic.

He's unlikely to have the crowd behind him in the quarterfinals, where he'll meet local hope and sixth-seeded Alex de Minaur, a 6-4, 6-1, 6-1 winner over No. 10 Alexander Bublik. No. 3 Alexander Zverev, the runner-up in Melbourne last year, beat Francisco Cerundolo 6-2, 6-4, 6-4 and will next meet 20-year-old Learner Tien, the youngest men's quarterfinalist in Australia since Nick Kyrgios in 2015. Tien, who needed treatment for a bloody nose, beat three-time Australian Open runner-up Daniil Medvedev 6-4, 6-0, 6-3.



Dita Alangkara | AP photo

Aryna Sabalenka, left, is congratulated by Victoria Mboko following their fourth round match at the Australian Open on Sunday in Melbourne.



Aaron Favila | AP photo

At 18, Iva Jovic is headed to the Australian Open quarterfinals after defeating Yulia Putintseva on Sunday.

DJOKOVIC'S WALKOVER

The 38-year-old Djokovic got a walkover into the quarterfinals after Jakub Mensik withdrew 24 hours ahead of their scheduled fourth-round match with an abdominal injury.

DJOKOVIC'S INFLUENCE

Jovic has been getting some good advice from Djokovic, a 24-time major winner, during the tournament. He said he's been happy to help an up-and-coming star with Serbian heritage.

Jovic made it clear last year that she wanted a chance to play the World No. 1. Now she'll get that chance.

Sabalenka, who has joked about waiting for a formal invitation to partner Djokovic in mixed doubles at a major, breezed through the first set in 31 minutes against Mboko but had some difficulty in the second.

Mboko saved match points and played well enough to beat many players, but not the two-time Australian Open champion.

"What an incredible player for such a young age," Sabalenka said of Mboko. "It's incredible to see these kids coming up on Tour. I can't believe I say that. I feel like I'm a kid!

"She pushed me so much, and I'm happy to be through," Sabalenka added in her on-court TV interview.

Sabalenka led the second set 4-1, and then failed to convert three match points while leading 5-4. Mboko slowly took momentum and forced a tiebreaker only for Sabalenka to dominate.

It was the 20th straight tiebreaker victory — a record — for Sabalenka.

"I try to — not to think this is a tiebreak and play point by point," said Sabalenka, who won back-to-back titles in Australia in 2023 and '24 before losing last year's final to Madison Keys. "I guess that's the key to consistency."

DOUBLING UP

Jovic and Mboko combined later Sunday in the doubles and had match points before the No. 4-seeded Elise Mertens and Zhang Shuai duo clung on in the super tiebreaker to win 7-5, 4-6, 7-6 (10).

"They're both very young, very talented," Mertens said. "It was a really tough match."

YOUTH MOVEMENT

Gauff wants those people posing questions to her about teenagers Jovic and Mboko to remember one thing: She's 21.

"The way people ask the questions make it seem like I'm way older than," the teenagers, Gauff said. "I have been around longer, obviously, but yeah, they're always, like, 'Do you have any advice to give them?'

"I'm, like, you guys, these are, like, my peers. We are the same. We are hanging out," she added for effect, smiling. "We're in the same age group."

Gauff has been on tour for more than five years — she made a stunning Grand Slam debut as a qualifier at Wimbledon against five-time champion Venus Williams when she was 15 — but she's still among the younger pros. She won her first major title at 19.

Seeded No. 3 and a two-time major winner, Gauff reached the quarterfinals in Australia for the third straight year with a 6-1, 3-6, 6-3 win Sunday over No. 19 Karolina Muchova.

She's gone on to win the title each of the previous four times she's beaten Muchova, including the 2023 U.S. Open, her maiden Grand Slam title. When she was still a teenager.

Three teenagers played in fourth-round matches Sunday, but only Jovic advanced.

Gauff said she found it difficult when she was adjusting from juniors to the professional ranks, because some players don't talk or even say hi.

So, she makes a point of greeting the newbies, making them feel welcome.

"Just saying hi or saying good luck," Gauff said. "And then you start to talk and then you become friends, and it's cool."

In the case of Jovic, who is playing just her sixth Grand Slam tournament and making her first run past the second round, Gauff has a sister-like affinity.

"Yeah, she's the age of my little brother," Gauff said. "I do feel older than them. That's for sure. I don't feel the exact same, but I don't feel as old as people make it seem.

"I have talked to Iva a couple of times. I have never talked to her about advice or anything — I feel like she has such a good head on her shoulders. I don't think she needs that."

Gauff had few peers when she was starting out, saying it was "very lonely for me, honestly."

And while she's friends with the likes of Madison Keys, Jessica Pegula and Amanda Anisimova, sometimes she doesn't "connect" on everything, so she still likes to hang out with a younger crowd sometimes.

"We're interested in the same things and stuff like that, but it's always funny when people ask me the question," about the up-and-coming teens, she said.

"I usually don't have anything to say, because I'm still figuring out, just like they are.

"So it's great to have, like, more people of my age range doing better. I feel like maybe last two years on tour have been some of my happiest, even though maybe the tennis has been up and down, just because you see more friendly faces in the locker room."

Alcaraz serving it up, advances to quarters with win

By John Pye
AP Sports Writer

MELBOURNE, Australia — No sooner had Carlos Alcaraz advanced to the Australian Open quarterfinals with a win over Tommy Paul, than attention turned to his serve.

The top-ranked Alcaraz, in Australia trying to complete a career Grand Slam at the age of 22, has been remodeling it a little bit.

It worked well for him on Sunday in a 7-6 (6), 6-4, 7-5 win over No. 19-seeded Paul. There were no double-faults, he got 70% of his first serves into play and won 79% of those points. He also won 68% of points on his second serve.

The retooled start of his service motion has a familiar look, and hasn't escaped the attention of Novak Djokovic. The 24-time major winner joked earlier in the tournament that he'd sent Alcaraz a message asking for a copyright fee.

Alcaraz was asked about it in an on-court TV interview on Rod Laver Arena, and played along, too.



Dita Alangkara | AP photo

Carlos Alcaraz of Spain plays a forehand return to Tommy Paul during their fourth round match at the Australian Open on Sunday.

"Yeah. I heard that. I have the contract over there, but I haven't seen him yet!" the Spaniard said of his exchange with Djokovic.

Expanding on the theme, he said when videos of the service motion emerged in the pre-season he checked on his phone and had a message from Djokovic which, more or less, said: "Alright, you have to pay!"

Alcaraz said the locker room jokes keep it fun. Seeking an unprecedented 25th Grand Slam title, Djokovic has been blocked in the last two years by Alacaraz and Jannik Sinner, who have split the eight titles evenly. The 38-year-old Djokovic got a walkover into the quarterfinals when Jakub Mensik withdrew from their fourth-round match because of injury.

One missing element on Alcaraz's tennis CV is a trophy at Melbourne Park. He has never gone past the quarterfinals. He'll also likely have the crowd against him against local favorite Alex de Minaur, who advanced with a 6-4, 6-1, 6-1 win over No. 10 Alexander Bublik.

"I understand, nothing personal, but the crowd is going to be for him," Alcaraz said. "Looking forward to it. I've got to be ready for that."

MEDICAL BREAK

Paul reached the Australian Open semifinals in 2023, so had that in his favor going into the fourth-round match with Alcaraz. The pair were going shot-for-shot in the first-set tiebreaker when a medical episode paused their match for more than 14 minutes.

It was 3-3 when chair umpire Marija Cicak informed them that a spectator at Rod Laver Arena needed urgent medical attention.

The delay lasted so long that the players got to hit up again for a couple of minutes before play resumed, and after the spectator had been helped away from the arena by medical and ambulance staff.

Alcaraz was always in front after that. He broke serve in the pivotal 10th game of the third set and finished off the match in 2 hours and 44 minutes.

The pair hugged at the net, Alcaraz did a little dance move for the crowd, and then applauded the 28-year-old American as he walked off the court.

"Overall, a really high level of tennis from both sides," Alcaraz said. "Really happy I got it in straight sets."

Alcaraz said he was aware of his service stats and, in a kind of humble brag, added "Yeah, it's impressing myself to be honest" across his first four matches at Melbourne Park.

"After every set I try to check it out – checking on the screens," he said. "In general, I think the four matches that I've played (here), the serve has been an important weapon for me."

South Carolina women end Vanderbilt's perfect start

The Associated Press



David Yeazell | AP photo

South Carolina center Madina Okot (11) shoots over Vanderbilt forward Aiyana Mitchell (14) during the first half on Sunday.

COLUMBIA, S.C. — Ta'Niya Latson scored 21 points, Tessa Johnson added 20 and No. 2 South Carolina ended No. 5 Vanderbilt's unbeaten start to the season with a 103-74 victory on Sunday.

The Commodores had won a school record 20 straight games to start the season, but had no answer for South Carolina, which has won 19 straight over Vanderbilt.

The Gamecocks (20-2, 6-1 Southeastern Conference) came in off an 94-82 overtime loss at No. 16 Oklahoma this past Thursday and right from the start took it out on the Commodores (20-1, 6-1).

South Carolina went on an 11-2 burst less than two minutes in and gradually built the lead to 21 points in the second quarter. The Gamecocks defense did much of the damage, forcing 16 first-half turnovers against a Vanderbilt team averaging 12.5 per game this season.

The Commodores gave themselves a chance right before halftime as Mikayla Blakes had a three-point play with 3.5 seconds left and — after South Carolina tried a court-length football pass that went straight out of bounds — Aubrey Galvan's three as time expired to trail by 11 at the break.

Vanderbilt opened with two straight baskets in the third quarter to draw within 55-48. That's when South Carolina went on a 15-2 burst to take control for good.

Blakes, the SEC's leading scorer, had 23 points to lead Vanderbilt. She also have five of her team's 20 turnovers which matched a season high.

Madina Okot finished with 17 points while Joyce Edwards had 16 to give South Carolina five double-digit scorers against a team holding opponents to 58 points this season.

It was South Carolina's second league victory against a Top 5 opponent in the past four contests after defeating fourth-ranked Texas 68-65 on Jan. 15.

No. 3 UCLA 80, NORTHWESTERN 46

EVANSTON, Ill. — Gabriela Jaquez scored 19 points and UCLA beat Northwestern for its 13th straight victory.

Lauren Betts added 16 points while Kiki Rice had 15 and 10 rebounds for the Bruins (19-1, 9-0 Big Ten), who never trailed and stayed tied with 10th-ranked Iowa for the conference lead.

The Bruins led 21-14 after the first period and finished the first half on a 15-2 run to go to intermission up 46-22. The Wildcats managed just three field goals in the second period and none in the final 4:57 of the half.

The Wildcats tried to double-team the 6-foot-7 Betts early but she usually found an open teammate and finished the game with six assists

UCLA also outrebounded its hosts 44-25.

The Bruins are beating their conference foes by an average 27.8 points per game.

Grace Sullivan scored 21 points for Northwestern (8-12, 2-7), which has lost two straight and 12 of its last 14.

No. 7 MICHIGAN 73, USC 67

ANN ARBOR, Mich. — Olivia Olson had 23 points and Michigan rallied back after giving away a 16-point lead to beat struggling USC.

Mila Holloway finished with 13 points, eight assists and six rebounds for the Wolverines (17-3, 8-1 Big Ten), who have won six of their last seven games.

Brooke Quarles Daniels had 10 points with seven rebounds and four assists as Michigan moved to 11-0 at home. Syla Swords and Ashley Sofilkanich also scored 10 points each.

Kara Dunn led USC (11-9, 3-6) with 26 points — her sixth straight 20-plus point game — and 10 rebounds. Londynn Jones had 12 points and Jazzy Davidson added 11 with seven assists for the Trojans, who have lost six of their last seven games.

Trailing 45-29 early in the third quarter, the Trojans went on a 27-5 run to take a six-point lead. Davidson got it started with a three-point play. Dunn had 11 points during that stretch, including a pair of 3-point plays and a 3-pointer.

Michigan stormed back with a 13-0 outburst to start the fourth. Olson scored in the lane to begin the run and Holloway capped it with a 3-pointer for a 66-58 lead. The Trojans never came within four points again.

Olson made all five of her field goal attempts in the first quarter as the Wolverines raced to a 23-11 lead. A Swords 3-pointer late in the half gave the Wolverines a 16-point lead. USC cut it to 13, 40-27, by halfitme.

No. 10 IOWA 91, No. 12 OHIO STATE 70

IOWA CITY, Iowa — Freshman Addie Deal had a season-high 20 points, Hannah Stuelke had 18 points and 15 rebounds, and Ava Heiden had 18 points as Iowa defeated Ohio State.

The Hawkeyes (18-2, 9-0 Big Ten), playing their third consecutive game against a ranked team, stayed at the top of the Big Ten standings with UCLA and extended their winning streak to eight. Iowa also snapped the seven-game winning streak of the Buckeyes (18-3, 7-2).

Stuelke had her sixth double-double of the season, matching a season-high in rebounds.

Chazadi Wright added 14 points for the Hawkeyes, who play at UCLA as part of a two-game West Coast trip next Sunday. Iowa, which led by as much as 23 points in the second half, shot 57.8% from the field, held the Buckeyes to 34.8%, and had a 48-30 rebounding edge.

The Hawkeyes had a 33-3 edge in bench points.

Jaloni Cambridge led Ohio State with 26 points and 10 rebounds. Chance Gray had 16 points and Ava Watson had 10.

Iowa lost starting guard Taylor McCabe to a knee injury on the first play of the game. McCabe, a senior who averages 8.5 points per game and leads the Hawkeyes with 49 3-pointers, had to be carried from the court by two staff members. She returned to the bench later in the first half with an ice pack on her left knee.

The Hawkeyes had two scoring runs in the first half to build a 48-32 halftime lead. They closed the first quarter with a 16-3 run to lead 24-14, then had a 13-2 run late in the second quarter to build a 48-29 lead, their biggest lead of the half. Iowa shot 57.6% from the field and held a 30-11 rebounding margin and a 21-0 edge in bench points.

No. 16 OKLAHOMA 72, AUBURN 65

AUBURN, Ala. — Aaliyah Chavez scored 18 points and Oklahoma avoided a big upset, defeating Auburn.

The Sooners, coming off a 94-82 overtime win over No. 2 South Carolina on Thursday, were locked in a battle with the unranked Tigers until finishing the game with a 13-6 run over the final minutes.

Auburn's A'riel Jackson scored seven points early in the fourth quarter and Harissoum Coulibaly's layup tied the score at 57-all with six minutes remaining. Another Coulibaly layup made it 59-59 with 4:50 remaining but the Tigers managed only six points the rest of the game.

Sahara Williams and Raegan Beers scored 13 points each for Oklahoma (16-4, 4-3 SEC) and Brooklyn Stewart added 12 off the bench.

Jackson scored 19 points off the bench, Mya Petticord and Ja'Mia Harris 12 each, and Coulibaly 10 for Auburn (13-8, 2-5).

Oklahoma scored the last seven points of the first quarter to take a 19-12 lead. Jackson scored the first five points of the second quarter to get the Tigers within two points. Later in the quarter, a 6-0 run gave the Tigers their first lead of the game, 27-25.

Consecutive 3-pointers by a Chavez got the Sooners going again and they went on to lead 35-30 at halftime.

Petticord scored Auburn's first eight points of the third quarter, but it wasn't enough to keep the Sooners from extending their lead to 47-38. The Sooners' lead was 51-41 with 4 1/2 minutes left in the quarter but Auburn closed to within 53-48 entering the fourth.

No. 23 ALABAMA 85, MISSISSIPPI STATE 78

TUSCALOOSA, Ala. — Jessica Timmons scored a career-high 28 points, she and Karly Weathers dominated the fourth quarter on offense, and Alabama rallied to defeat Mississippi State.

Weathers scored 11 of her 13 points in the fourth quarter and Timmons had seven fourth-quarter points, 18 in the second half. Timmons scored 11 points in the third quarter while Alabama built an eight-point lead with 3 1/2 minutes remaining in the period. But the Bulldogs hit their next six shots — four of them by Jaylah Lampley — and they took a 60-56 lead into the fourth.

There were three lead changes in the fourth quarter and Alabama went ahead for good when Weathers hit a layup and a 3-pointer followed by a three-point play by Timmons.

Mississippi State was within 74-70 before another 3 from Weathers put the Crimson Tide up by seven with two minutes remaining.

Diana Collins scored 15 points and Naomi Jones and Ace Austin added 10 each for Alabama (18-3, 4-3 SEC).

Favour Nwaedozi scored 19 points, Madison Francis 16, Lampley 14 and Trayanna Crisp 11 for Mississippi State (15-6, 2-5 SEC). Francis had eight rebounds and seven steals.

Rebuild coming along for Auburn men after signature win

By Mark Long
AP Sports Writer

GAINESVILLE, Fla. — Steven Pearl's signature win came at an unlikely venue and against one of his closest friends.

Pearl and Auburn stunned No. 16 Florida 76-67 on Saturday to notch the program's first victory in Gainesville since 1996. Pearl had lost all four trips to the O'Connell Center since joining his father's staff in 2017, and Bruce Pearl was winless in six visits over 11 seasons on the Plains.

"If you look back at Auburn basketball history, that might be the best road win we've ever had as a program," said Steven Pearl, who beat longtime buddy Todd Golden to get it done.

It surely will resonate with the NCAA Tournament selection committee in March. The Tigers ended a 15-game skid in the series, snapped Florida's 16-game home winning streak, took a huge step forward in their rebuild and provided a blueprint on how to handle the defending national champions.

Auburn packed the paint, forcing the Gators to settle for jump shots and preventing them getting offensive rebounds. It helped that 6-foot-7 forward Keyshawn Hall, a transfer from UCF, was close to unstoppable in the first half. He scored 22 points in the first 20 minutes thanks mostly to three 3-pointers and five free throws.

"When he makes a couple shots, the basket just gets really big for him," Pearl said. "He kind of carried our offense and gave us the confidence we needed to obviously hang in there."

Hall and Auburn built a 15-point lead at halftime that the Tigers stretched to 18 early in the second half. It provided enough cushion that they were able withstand Florida's second-half rally. The Gators tied the game twice in the second half, but Auburn tightened up on the defensive end and pulled away down the stretch.

Florida missed 11 consecutive shots — most of them contested — after tying the game at 56 with 8:09 to play.

"Our guys just responded and did a great job of taking that team's punch," Pearl said. "Three weeks ago, our team would have folded and let all that pressure get to us."

The Tigers (13-7, 4-3 Southeastern Conference) have won three in a row and four of five. Seven losses might look bad on paper, but four of them came in nonconference play against top-10 teams Houston, Michigan, Arizona and Purdue, and the other three came against teams in the top half of the SEC standings.

Still, Auburn traveled to Gainesville as an 11 1/2-point underdog, according to BetMGM Sportsbook. The Tigers left having opened eyes by holding a third consecutive opponent under 70 points.

"In my opinion, it's been the effort on defense," said forward KeyShawn Murphy, who finished with 16 points, nine rebounds, two blocks and two steals. "Like our coaches say, nothing we do works without it. Lately we've been putting more effort into everything we do, showing up in practice, just the small details."

Pearl inherited a retooled roster from his retiring father in late September. Auburn had to replace all five starters from last year's team, including SEC player of the year Johni Broome, that lost to Florida in the regular season and in the Final Four.

But the NCAA transfer portal offered the Tigers the ability for a quick rebuild. Hall led the Big 12 in scoring last season, and Murphy came from Mississippi State with years of SEC experience. Throw in returning guard Tahaad Pettiford, former Texas Tech forward Kevin Overton and Division II transfer Elyjah Freeman, and Pearl had the pieces.

Getting them to play together has been part of the process, one that appears to be finally coming together.

"It just speaks to our growth as a team, our growth as a staff and our kids' willingness to stick together and really lock into the details and the things that we've been harping on every single day in practice," Pearl said. "We've just continuously gotten better as a group. For us, it's about what we do from here. ... If we let this thing affect us in a way that can distract us from the next one, then it really doesn't mean anything."

Scheffler on top again, wins his PGA Tour opener

The Associated Press



Ross D. Franklin | AP photo

Scottie Scheffler hits out of the rough on the ninth hole during the final round of The American Express on Sunday. He was 6-under on the day and won the tournament, his first of the year, by four strokes.

LA QUINTA, Calif. — Scottie Scheffler started his season as though nothing had changed, running off four birdies in a six-hole stretch Sunday to blow past 18-year-old Blades Brown and the rest of the field. He closed with a 6-under 66 for a four-shot victory in The American Express.

Scheffler won for the 20th time on the PGA Tour — all in the last four years — to earn a lifetime membership. More indicative of his dominance in the game is winning nine of those 20 tournaments by four shots or more.

Scheffler has 20 wins and four majors before turning 30. Jack Nicklaus and Tiger Woods are the only other players to have done that.

"Pretty wild," Scheffler said. "It's been a great start to my career. It's been special. I try not to think about that stuff too much. I was just trying to do the things I needed to do to be prepared."

The world's No. 1 player shared the stage with Brown, who finished high school two weeks ago and played in a Korn Ferry Tour event in the Bahamas that finished Wednesday. He's the first player to play eight straight days of PGA Tour-sanctioned competition. Whether the fatigue caught up with him or simply the moment — he was trying to become the youngest PGA Tour winner in 95 years — it ended quickly.

Brown was one shot behind 54-hole leader Si Woo Kim and one shot ahead of Scheffler heading to the tee at the par-3 fourth on the Stadium Course at PGA West. Five holes later, Brown and Kim both were five shots behind and Scheffler was putting it into overdrive.

Scheffler hit a baby 8-iron to 2 feet on the fourth for birdie and found the fairway on the par-5 fifth. Brown hit his tee shot into the water and had to drop in front of the tee boxes — he close to drop in the dormant Bermuda rough instead of the teeing ground — and then hit a poor wedge that led to double bogey.

Brown went 11 holes without a birdie and had to late bogeys that led to a 74. He fell from a tie for second to a tie for 18th, costing him a spot at Torrey Pines next week.

"Eight rounds I know sounds like a lot, but I was having a lot of fun," he said. "You're telling me I get to play in a PGA Tour event and to play with Scottie Scheffler and see him win it, that was insane.

"I got some things I got to sharpen up, and hopefully we see if we can do what Scottie's doing."

Jason Day closed with a 64 that moved him up 18 spots to a runner-up finish, along with Ryan Gerard (65), Matt McCarty (68) and Andrew Putnam (68).

Kim, who plays often with Scheffler at Royal Oaks in Dallas, also lost his way on one hole. He was two shots behind on the par-5 eighth when he took two shots to get out of a greenside bunker, chipped strong and made double bogey. He missed a 3-foot par putt on the next hole. Kim rallied with three birdies on the back nine to salvage a 72 and tie for sixth.

Scheffler never let up. He nearly holed a chip right of the par-5 11th for a tap-in birdie. He hit wedge into 2 feet on the next hole for a birdie and he headed to the 13th tee with a four-shot lead.

His only big blunder was when it didn't matter, a tee shot into the water on the par-3 17th known as "Alcatraz," and by then Scheffler had plenty of get-of-jail-free cards. He took double bogey to keep the margin from being greater against the strongest field The American Express has had in decades.

Scheffler now takes a week off before ending the West Coast with three straight events, starting with the Phoenix Open where this amazing run began four years ago. He won his first PGA Tour title in a playoff. It hasn't been that close lately.

DUBAI DESERT CLASSIC

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates — Patrick Reed kept everyone at bay and closed with an even-par 72 on Sunday for a four-shot victory in the Dubai Desert Classic, his first European tour title that moves him back into the top 30 in the world for the first time since he joined LIV Golf.

Reed also made enough money from the Rolex Series event that it should cover his European tour fines for playing in the Saudi-backed rival league, assuming he can sort out a new LIV contract.

"Win early and that will take care of it," Reed jokingly said Saturday on the topic of European tour fines that LIV Golf no longer pays on the players' behalf.

Reed revealed he is still negotiating a new contract to play on LIV, which starts on Feb. 4 in Saudi Arabia. The 35-year-old American, who is playing the European tour next week in Bahrain, said he fully expects to be with LIV and a contract may already have been sorted out. His focus was only on golf this week, and he took care of business.

Any drama at Emirates Golf Club didn't last long.

Reed seized control with middle rounds of 66 and 67 to build a four-shot lead over David Puig of Spain going into the last day. Reed said he found himself getting too conservative — no birdies, one bogey over the front nine — and the lead was cut in half when the Spaniard made birdie on Nos. 8 and 9.

"Instead of just keeping the foot on the gas early, I tried to protect that lead," Reed said.

He said his caddie told him it was a dogfight and Reed responded. The lead remained at two shots after Reed and Puig each started birdie-bogey on the back nine, and then it turned quickly — a birdie for Reed on the par-5 13th and a bogey for Puig.

The lead was back to four and Reed coasted from there, finishing on 14-under 274 for his 12th title worldwide — nine on the PGA Tour, one each on the European tour, Asian Tour and LIV. Reed has won two World Golf Championships and the Masters that count toward his European tour tally.

Puig, meanwhile, tumbled to a tie for seventh when he was penalized two shots when it was determined he grounded his club in a bunker on the 18th. He closed with a 75, the penalty costing him about 15 spots in the world ranking.

Andy Sullivan of England had a 71 to finish alone in second, with Julien Guerrier of France (69) another shot behind.

Rory McIlroy was never in the mix from his opening 73. He finished with another 73 to tie for 33rd, his first time to finish out of the top 30 since he missed the cut in the Canadian Open last June.

The victory was worth more than just $1.5 million (E1.3 million) to Reed. His move into the world ranking all but assures he will remain high enough to be exempt for all four majors this year.

"It's always nice to lock up the majors," said Reed, who was not at the U.S. Open or British Open last year. "Any time you go ahead and get a win, it's special. ... To sit there and have as little amount of events that I've played to be in the top 30 is something that shows that my golf game is still where I want it to be."

Reed has been banned from the PGA Tour since joining LIV in 2022. The U.S. tour recently offered a pathway back to LIV players provided they won a major or The Players Championship since 2022. Reed won the Masters in 2018 and would not be eligible.

He is an honorary lifetime member of the European tour with his Masters title, and he can stake his claim as perhaps the most global player in golf, willing to travel without the guarantee of big appearance money. But he faces fines when he plays LIV events held the same week as European tour events.

"I'd rather just tee it up and play," Reed said Saturday. "And if it costs me this (or) that, whatever, I'll go play."

Team Penske wins 3rd straight Rolex 24 at Daytona

By Jenna Fryer
AP Auto Racing Writer



John Raoux | AP photo

Driver Felipe Nasr, left, is congratulated by team owner Roger Penske after winning the Rolex 24 at Daytona.

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. — Felipe Nasr's time in Formula 1 had ended after two underwhelming seasons and the Brazilian was left with little to do as an open-wheel racing driver.

He migrated to sports cars and spent four seasons driving for the team owned by NASCAR chairman Jim France. Then came an opportunity he couldn't turn down: a clandestine meeting with Roger Penske to discuss developing a new sports car program with the factory backing of Porsche.

They met in a parking lot and Penske was immediately impressed.

"He showed up in a blue suit and I said, 'That's my kind of guy,'" the 88-year-old team owner said Sunday.

Team Penske opened the 60th anniversary of its organization with a win in the first race of the year — a three-peat, no less — in the Rolex 24 at Daytona.

"The driving he's done for us, at the end, that was probably one of the best drives I've ever seen," Penske said.

The Penske squad became the third team in the 64-year history of the most prestigious endurance race in the United States to win three in a row. His Porsche Penske Motorsports team joined Chip Ganassi Racing and Wayne Taylor Racing as the only teams to win three straight sports car races at Daytona International Speedway.

It was the fifth overall Rolex victory in the event for Porsche and the 46th overall IMSA victory for Penske.

What's most impressive for Penske is that the team has won three years in a row with three different lineups; Nasr, the Penske closer, is the only mainstay on all three entries, and he was openly weeping in victory lane.

"It's a moment I dreamed of — the desire to win is what makes you go beyond and further," Nasr said. "I love this sport, I love this series, and the 24-hour (race) being decided in the last few minutes is just incredible."

Nasr's feat makes it six consecutive years that a Brazilian driver has been part of the winning team. Four-time Indianapolis 500 winner Helio Castroneves was part of the winning team in 2021, '22 and '23.

"The Penske was in a good form from beginning to end," Nasr said. "The winning feeling — they are special — it's hard to pick a favorite one. I have no words to describe it, it's just a unique feeling."

Nasr actually has four Rolex titles — except his fourth was not in the top class.

This one didn't come easy for Nasr, driving in front of what Daytona officials called the largest Rolex crowd in race history, as he held off his former team, the Cadillac from Action Express Racing, over the final hour to win the overall title. The Action Express car originally won the pole but was disqualified in post-qualifying inspection.

That forced the No. 31 Cadillac to start last in class, and the lineup of Jack Aitken, Earl Bamber, Mercedes Formula 1 driver Fred Vesti and NASCAR rising star Connor Zilisch weaved their way to second over the 24 hours.

Nasr and Aitken closed the races for their respective teams and Aitken got several good looks at passing Nasr for the win in the final 25 minutes, but Nasr closed the door on him at every chance.

Nasr cruised to victory in an overhauled No. 7 Porsche 963 with teammates Julien Andlauer and Laurin Heinrich. The Porsche beat the Cadillac by 1 minute, .569 seconds.

The No. 24 BMW M Team WRT finished third in the top GTP class with the quartet of Sheldon van der Linde, Dries Vanthoor, Robin Frijns and Rene Rast.

The caution was thrown for foggy conditions shortly before 1 a.m. and lasted for a race-record 6 hours, 33 minutes, 25 seconds covering 120 laps. The caution was so long that Penske, who prides himself on staying awake and on the pit stand the entire 24 hours, actually took a midrace break.

The Rolex marks the unofficial start of the motorsports season, and this year's race featured 60 cars from 12 different automakers, 228 drivers from 32 countries and no clear favorite aside from the two-car Penske effort.

LMP2 WINNERS

Crowdstrike Racing by APR won in an Oreca LMP2 07 with the lineup of George Kurtz, Alex Quinn, Toby Sowery and Malthe Jakobsen.

Interpol Europol Competition was second and third in a pair of Oreca LMP2 07s.

GTD PRO WINNERS

Paul Miller Racing won the GTD Pro class in a BMW M4 GT3 EVO.

75 Express — an all-Australian team that featured IndyCar star Will Power in his Rolex debut — finished second in a Mercedes-AMG GT3. Winward Racing in a Mercedes-AMG GT3 was third.

GTD WINNERS

Winward Racing in a Mercedes-AMG GT3 won the GTD class.

Magnus Racing in an Aston Martin Vantage GT3 EVO was second, followed by Heart of Racing Team in another Aston Martin rounding out the podium.

Shiffrin earns record title win before Olympics

The Associated Press

SPINDLERUV MLYN, Czech Republic — Mikaela Shiffrin has locked up the slalom season title with the Olympics looming to become the first skier in the six-decade history of the World Cup with nine season titles in one discipline.

The American star might have to share her record soon, though, as teammate Lindsey Vonn has eight downhill titles and currently holds a commanding lead in those standings in her second season back from her initial retirement in 2019.

On the men's side, Ingemar Stenmark won the slalom globe and Marcel Hirscher the overall title eight times each.

Shiffrin dominated the last slalom before the Milan Cortina Games on Sunday, securing top spot in the discipline standings with two races to spare.

Shiffrin won both runs to beat runner-up Camille Rast, the world champion from Switzerland, by 1.67 seconds. The rest of the field, led by Germany's Emma Aicher, trailed by more than two seconds.

Shiffrin's victory came a day after she earned her first giant slalom podium in two years.

But the American was reluctant to read too much into those results and how they may translate to her form for the Olympics, where she plans to start in slalom, GS, and the team combined.

"At the Olympics is a totally different challenge," said Shiffrin, who won slalom gold in 2014 and GS gold four years later, but didn't finish any of her technical events in 2022.

"I've had great Olympics, I've had tough Olympics, I try to go in with an open mind, good spirit, trusting my team," she added. "We're coming in with strong athletes, so it's time to enjoy that."

This weekend's races took place at the Czech venue of Shiffrin's World Cup debut at age 15 in March 2011.

"It just feels amazing to be here. I feel like when I was 15 years old still, like, I don't know, just love skiing. I just love skiing. That's the best feeling to be here," Shiffrin said.

Clinching the slalom globe and setting yet another record was not on her mind during the race, the American said.

"It's actually hard to think about that today because there was so much to think about on the race course," Shiffrin said. "So now it's like a nice surprise."

Shiffrin won her first slalom globe at age 18 in March 2013, her most recent one came two years ago. Last season, she led the standings but then missed two months of racing following a GS crash and Zrinka Ljutic of Croatia took the title.

Shiffrin's 71 career race wins in slalom and 108 overall are both records for men and women.

"I'm motivated by like the ability to ski faster. In slalom, I'm right up against actually the ceiling or the limit of how fast I believe that I can ski," the American said.

"With GS, I feel that there is still room to grow and still room to move. For me, that's the motivating thing, it's like 'What can I do better or more consistent or more athletic?'"

Shiffrin's seven wins from eight slaloms give her an insurmountable 288-point lead over second-placed Rast in the season standings. There are two more slaloms scheduled after the Olympics, with a race win worth 100 points.

Rast triumphed in the only slalom Shiffrin didn't win this season, in Slovenia three weeks ago.

The women's World Cup continues in Crans-Montana with a downhill and a super-G next weekend, the last races before the Olympics.



Giovanni Auletta | AP photo

Mikaela Shiffrin reacts after winning a women's World Cup slalom on Sunday, making her the first skier in history to win nine season titles in one discipline.



Giovanni Auletta | AP photo

United States' Mikaela Shiffrin, center, poses with Switzerland's Camille Rast, left, and Germany's Emma Aicher as the top three slalom finishers on Sunday.

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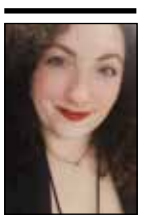


Invision via AP

Stellan Skarsgard, from left, Joachim Trier and Renate Reinsve pose for a portrait to promote 'Sentimental Value' on Nov. 4, 2025, in Los Angeles.

The healing power of art

Best Picture Oscar nominee 'Sentimental Value' is an intimate portrayal of generational trauma



In Frame
Margaret Roarty

In Joachim Trier's "Sentimental Value," Nora Borg (Renate Reinsve) says her favorite part about being an actress is the ability to step outside of herself and assume the role of someone else.

"It maybe provides me the security to connect to my own feelings," she tells her sister, Agnes (Inga Ibsdotter Lilleaas).

"So you don't want to be yourself?" Agnes asks.

Nora brushes this off. It's not something she wants to confront — not yet, anyway.

Nora's inability to express herself as herself is perhaps the driving force of "Sentimental Value," Trier's follow-up to his 2021 Oscar-nominated romantic comedy "The Worst Person in the World."

The film, co-written by Trier and Eskil Vogt, is a meditation on generational trauma, where we hold it and how. Anchored by strong lead performances, including a career best from Stellan Skarsgård, for which he was just nominated for an Academy Award, "Sentimental Value" is a film about finding some way to heal and forgive ourselves and others through the art we make.

The large, airy house in Norway where Nora and Anges grew up holds decades worth of history, some of it quite painful. From their grandmother's suicide, following her torture at the hands of Nazis during WWII, to the disillusionment of their parents' marriage, the home is a representation of their family itself and how it's evolved over time.

But when their mother Sissel (Ida Marianne Vassbotn Klasson) passes away, the future of the home now rests in the hands of their absentee father, Gustav (Skarsgård), a successful filmmaker who hasn't made a movie in ten years. Gustav's increased presence in their lives while he figures out what to do with the home he also grew up in is particularly upsetting for Nora, a successful actress herself, who deals with bouts of intense stage fright. Nora is the most visibly bothered by her father's attempts to make amends. She clearly hasn't forgiven him for being emotionally unavailable to her for her whole life.

But then Gustav presents Nora with an opportunity to be in his new film, which he says he wrote just for her. It's based loosely on his mother's death and would be filmed in the home where she took her own life. Nora declines, and American actress Rachel Kemp (Elle Fanning) steps up to the task, bringing financing from Netflix.

While Gustav struggles to make his film under the watchful, controlling eye of the streaming giant, Nora questions using her art as a shield to protect herself and if she's ready for that art to be a mirror instead.

"Sentimental Value" explores the often contradictory nature of using artistic expression to connect with those around you. Gustav, played with care and nuance by Skarsgård, is an obsessive artist who only seems capable of having a relationship with his family through his films. He's incapable of telling his daughters he's sorry for not being there for them. Instead, he writes a script, transforms his feelings and fears and life into something else — something perhaps safely outside of himself.

Although he seems genuinely interested in building a relationship with his grandchild, Agnes's son, Erik (Øyvind Hesjedal Loven), his way of doing that is showing him how to edit footage on his phone. To Gustav, offering Eric a spot in his latest film is like saying "I love you," the same way he did with Agnes when she starred in one of his films as a kid.

Gustav only seems capable of having a meaningful relationship with his film's star, Rachel, whom he treats with compassion and respect, even when she grows doubtful of her ability to do the movie.

Despite her anger with her father's life choices, Nora acts in a similar way. When she's explaining her character's motivations, she's articulate and insightful. When she's trying to explain her own thoughts and feelings, it's a jumbled mess. Or she can't say much of anything at all. Nora spends most of her time refusing to confront her father, literally running away from him at one point.

Even Agnes, who is probably the most emotionally stable character in the film, has her own way of coping. She's a researcher who often does work for her father's films. In an effort to better understand Gustav, she takes to the archives, uncovering the horror and emotional turmoil her grandmother went through when she was imprisoned by the Nazis for being part of the Norwegian Resistance Movement.

"Sentimental Value" is set against the backdrop of the current state of the film industry, but Trier is careful not to let it overshadow the intimate family drama. Trier takes a pointed jab at Netflix and its tendency to promise filmmakers the moon and the stars before denying them a theatrical release, exploring the many ways big production companies force filmmakers to compromise their vision in return for financing.

"Sentimental Value" is also critical of Hollywood, specifically, and the way many studios try to make foreign language films more palatable to American audiences, at the detriment of the film's artistic integrity.

The characters in "Sentimental Value" are deeply flawed and multifaceted. Agnes is reserved and seemingly well-adjusted, but has a deep well of anger and sadness from being abandoned by her father. On the outside, Nora is wry and self-deprecating, but struggles with being vulnerable.

Gustav is both warm and cold, the kind of person who makes you feel special when he shines a light on you, and utterly lost when he takes it away. He's both an absentee father and an empathetic director, nurturing to his creative partners and unable to connect with his own family. Even Rachel, a character that could have easily been one-note, is multifaceted and deeply human.

In Frame is a weekly arts and entertainment column focusing on everything from pop culture and new movie releases to the local arts and culture found right here in NEPA. News reporter Margaret Roarty contributes to this column.

The Eagles' 'Greatest Hits' is the first album in US history to sell over 40M units

By Maria Sherman
AP Music Writer

NEW YORK — Take it easy ... and go quadruple diamond. The Eagles' 1976 album "Their Greatest Hits 1971-1975" the bestselling album of all time in the U.S., has officially sold over 40 million units. That's according to new certification from the Recording Industry Association of America.

It was also announced on Thursday that the band's 1976 record "Hotel California" has been certified 28x platinum, maintaining its position as the third bestselling album in the U.S.

The second? That's Michael Jackson's "Thriller," which was certified 34x diamond in 2021.

The RIAA tracks U.S. sales and streaming equivalents. Certifications must be applied for and go through a third-party audit.

RIAA's diamond status was once equivalent to selling 10 million albums or songs, but in 2013 the company began incorporating streaming from YouTube, Spotify and other digital music services to determine certification. Now 1,500 streams of an album is equivalent to an album sale.

"Their Greatest Hits 1971-1975" was originally released almost exactly 50 years ago, on Feb. 17, 1976.



Henley

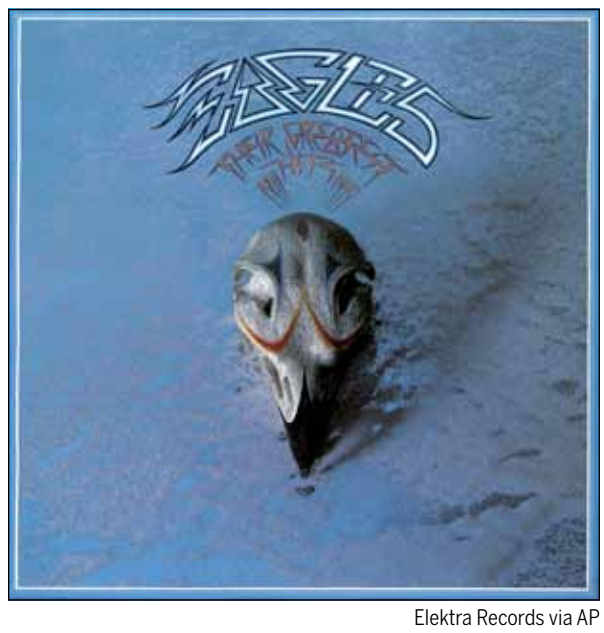
To celebrate the anniversary and the new RIAA certification, the band is released a crystal-clear, 180-gram vinyl edition of the album.

"In an age, in a culture, where everything seems to become more ephemeral, by the day, it is gratifying to have been part of something that endures, even for fifty years," founding member, drummer and singer Don Henley shared in a written statement to The Associated Press. "We are amazed and grateful."

It's a good time to be the Eagles. On Friday, the band will launch 12 final shows at Las Vegas' Sphere, setting a record for longest-running residency at the state-of-the-art venue. According to a press release, since launching their residency on Sept. 20, 2024, "Eagles - Live In Concert At Sphere" has entertained over 700,000 fans across 44 performances.

The Eagles, who formed in Los Angeles in the early 1970s, mastered the mix of rock 'n' roll and country music. Their hits — including but certainly not limited to "Hotel California" and "Take It Easy" — became part of the soundtrack of that decade. They broke up in 1980, coming back together 14 years later with Henley and Glenn Frey as the only remaining original members. Frey died in 2016.

The band was inducted into the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame in 1998 and was a Kennedy Center honoree in 2016.



Elektra Records via AP

This 1976 album cover image released by Elektra Records shows The Eagles, 'Their Greatest Hits 1971–1975.'

Q&A: Autumn Durald Arkapaw on making history with her 'Sinners' cinematography nomination

By Mark Olsen
Los Angeles Times

READ MORE
Ruth E. Carter makes Oscar history again with costume designer nomination for 'Sinners,' **7C.**

LOS ANGELES — With her nomination for the cinematography of "Sinners," Autumn Durald Arkapaw becomes the first woman of color — and only the fourth woman ever — to be recognized in the category. The recipient of a record-setting 16 nominations, Ryan Coogler's vampire film set in the 1930s was advanced in every category for which it was eligible. Arkapaw previously collaborated with Coogler on 2022's "Black Panther: Wakanda Forever."

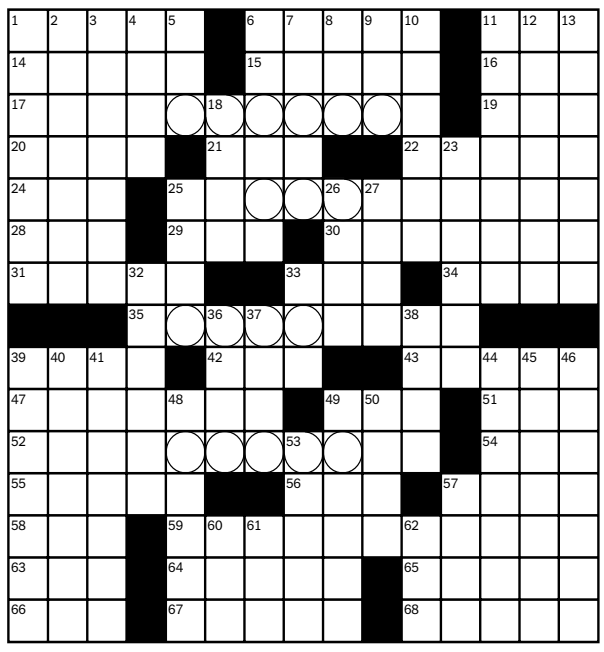
Arkapaw got on the phone on Thursday morning from her home in Altadena — thankfully spared from last year's fires — that she shares with her husband, Adam Arkapaw, also a cinematographer.

See ARKAPAW | 9C

The New York Times Crossword

Edited by Will Shortz

No. 1222



PUZZLE BY SUZANNE OLIVER

ACROSS

1 Deep sleeps
6 High-speed Amtrak train
11 Word with punching or sleeping
14 One of a battery's poles
15 Older but ___
16 Under the weather
17 Saxophone, trumpet, piano and bass, perhaps
19 Day-___ paint
20 "Garfield" dog
21 "It's freezing!"
22 Typical "Survivor" locales
24 Rapper ___ Uzi Vert
25 Yoda and Obi-Wan Kenobi, for two
28 Fish that may have an electric charge
29 Stammering sounds
30 Indignation
31 What each U.S. senator represents
33 Raggedy ___
34 Breyers competitor
35 Some exams allow them
39 Cops, slangily
42 Rode the bench
43 Yoga pose
47 Enjoying great success
49 What electric cars don't use
51 Like a 49-Across gauge that's near "Empty"
52 Overly fussy
54 Bit of forensic evidence
55 Pink ___ (rock band)
56 Singer DiFranco
57 Bill
58 Mideast export
59 Cheat ... or a punny hint to the four sets of circled letters
63 French "a"
64 Hearing-related
65 Playwright Chekhov
66 Kind of lamp that's energy-efficient
67 Easily irritated
68 Romeo and Juliet, agewise

DOWN

1 Persuades with flattery
2 Doing keto, perhaps
3 Creator of Firefox and Thunderbird
4 Woodworking tool
5 Orderly arrangement: Abbr.
6 Oscars and Grammys, e.g.
7 Wispy clouds
8 Approx.
9 Harper ___, author of "To Kill a Mockingbird"
10 Monet or Manet
11 Don't blow it!
12 Reaction to pollen, e.g.
13 Shiny coatings
18 Lyft competitor
23 Heart attack risk factor
25 Cherokee maker
26 "The kissing disease"
27 Em, to Dorothy
32 Foot, in baby talk
33 Word after fire or carpenter
36 Actor Morales
37 Drug agent, informally
38 "No sweat!"
39 Ball batted up and behind the catcher, say
40 Length of a pithy joke
41 Released from jail early
44 Pasta preference
45 Nine-sided figure
46 Stirs from sleep
48 Is over by
49 With a light touch
50 Suffix with problem
53 Gold standard
57 Scourge
60 Shade of color
61 Surgery sites, in brief
62 Beanie or bowler

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

A	G	A	S	S	I			E	M	B	A	R	K	
V	E	N	T	E	D		C	R	O	O	N	E	R	
O	N	T	I	L	T		F	O	R	T	N	I	T	E
W	E	L	L	L	A	D	I	D	A	H		M	O	W
E	V	E	L		G	I	V	E	N		F	I	R	E
D	E	R	M	A		N	E	R	D	F	E	S	T	S
			O	R	C	A	S		B	E	E	T	S	
		S	O	L	A	R		C	O	A	L	S		
	S	K	I	E	S		S	A	Y	S	T			
C	H	I	N	S	T	R	A	P		T	H	I	C	K
R	A	N	G		P	O	L	E	D		E	R	I	E
A	K	C		S	A	D	T	R	O	M	B	O	N	E
F	E	A	T	U	R	E	S		R	E	U	B	E	N
T	O	R	O	N	T	O			I	N	R	O	M	E
S	N	E	A	K	Y				S	U	N	T	A	N

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MOVIE REVIEW

'Mel Brooks: The 99 Year Old Man!' is a sweeping tribute to a comic genius

By Jake Coyle
AP Film Writer



HBO Max via AP

This image released by HBO Max shows Mel Brooks, left, and Judd Apatow from the film 'Mel Brooks: The 99-Year-Old Man!'

It's not often we get to pay tribute, in full, to our giants while they're still with us. But in "Mel Brooks: The 99 Year Old Man!" Judd Apatow dutifully and affectionately celebrates the laugh-filled life of a comedy legend who's still here to tell the story — and the jokes — himself.

"The 99 Year Old Man," which debuted Thursday in two parts on HBO and HBO Max, is a big-hearted tribute to Brooks, an indefatigable comic force who did more than most anyone to lighten the mood of the 20th century. At 99 (he'll turn 100 in June), Brooks remains a remarkably great raconteur.

One of the cleverest tricks by directors Apatow and Michael Bonfiglio is playing some of Brooks' stories — like a memorable lunch with Cary Grant — across not just his sit-down interviews with them, but over multiple talk show appearances. He's been telling some of these jokes for decades. It doesn't matter. They're still good.

"The 99 Year Old Man" takes the whole life in: the formative childhood in Brooklyn; the Sid Caesar-aided entry to "Your Show of Shows"; the lifelong friendship with Carl Reiner; the 2000 Year Old Man sketches; "The Producers"; the marriage to Anne Bancroft; "Blazing Saddles," and beyond.

But if there's an ongoing question in "The 99 Year Old Man," it's posed early by Apatow, who appears on-screen as Brooks' interviewer. Do people really know who he is? "No," Brooks answers straightaway.

See BROOKS | 7C

SUNDAY'S ANSWERS

JUMBLE®

Answer:

DRENCH HOLLOW SPORTY
FIZZLE EXCESS COMMON

The songwriter who was really upset with his writing partner needed to —

COMPOSE HIMSELF

R	A	F	A		C	H	U				N	T	H	
I	M	I	N		P	A	N	A	M		A	D	O	R
P	Φ	N	G	P	A	D	D	L	E		F	E	D	E
O	B	E	L	I		R	O	O	T		A	L	I	A
F	I	R	E	C	H	I	E	F		C	R	Φ	S	S
F	A	Y		T	O	A	S	T	E	R			C	O
			D	U	N	N			M	O	E	T		N
S	A	P	Φ	R	E		S	T	P		A	Φ	D	
A	L	O	N	E		S	O	Φ	A		S	K	I	P
W	I	I	G		T	E	M	P	T		I	D	S	A
	E	N	D		A	W	A	S	H		N	A	C	R
A	N	T	I		D	E	L	H	I		G	N	A	T
P	A	S	T	S		D	I	A	Z		I	C	R	Y
S	T	A	C	H	E		A	P	E		N	E	D	
	E	T	H	E	N	E		E	D	I	T			W
				E	Y	R	E			P	O	D	C	A
F	L	Φ	P	S	A	N	D	A	L	S		O	H	T
A	L	L	A	H		E	D	G	Y		P	L	O	T
C	A	B	S		A	S	I	A	N		H	Φ	P	A
E	M	I	T		S	T	E	R	N		I	N	I	G
S	A	N	E		S	O	S				N	E	W	

CONTACT US

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mbiebel@timesleader.com

COMMUNITY NEWS

Birthdays for children 16 and younger and announcements for weddings, anniversaries and engagements are published for free. All content is subject to editing for style and to fit space allotted in the Times Leader on any given day. All other community news submissions are subject to the editorial discretion of Times Leader staff, and the publishing date of any submission cannot be guaranteed.

For birthdays, include phone number, name, age and birthday, names and ages of siblings, parents, grandparents and towns of residents. For weddings, anniversaries and engagements, provide the names and hometowns of the individuals in the couple, the names and hometowns of the couple's parents, and some details about the ceremony; i.e., location, officiant, date to be wed.

Submissions can be emailed to ae@timesleader.com or sent to: Times Leader, 90 E. Market St., Wilkes-Barre, PA, 18701. Photos are not returned unless requested. Time-sensitive material should be received no later than two weeks prior to the event.

WHAT'S UP, NEPA?

GREATER WILKES-BARRE

Annual Monsignor John J. Curran Lecture, with speaker Mitch Troutman, discussing "Bootleg Coal Mining in Northeastern Pennsylvania, 1925-1942," 6:30 to 8 p.m. Jan. 29 in the Burke Auditorium, King's College Business School, Wilkes-Barre. An event in honor of Anthracite Heritage Month. Admission is free.

Night at the Races. Ancient Order of Hibernians (A.O.H.) St. John Neumann Division 2 Wilkes-Barre will host the annual fundraiser at 6:30 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 31, at St. Andrew's St. Patrick's Church Hall, 316 Parrish St., Wilkes-Barre. The first race begins at 7:15. Admission $5; Horses $10.00; Horse owner winner payout is $50; Race Sponsorships $25. You must be 21 years old or older to attend. For more info, please contact Joe at 570-313-1388 or Jim at 570-332-2546.

Pasta Dinner, noon to 3 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 1, St. Maria Goretti Church, 42 Laflin Road, Laflin. Includes salad, beverage, dessert, bread and butter. Eat in or take out, containers provided. Donation $15. Children aged 5 and younger eat free (eat in only). Facilities are handicapped accessible. Parking is ample and free. For more info, call 570-655-8956.

Take-out Piggie/ Holubtsi Dinner, noon to 4 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 31, sponsored by Sts. Peter & Paul Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church. Dinners may be picked up in the school hall, located at the corner of North River and West Chestnut streets, Wilkes-Barre. Dinners include piggies (cabbage stuffed with meat and rice), mashed potatoes, vegetables, bread and butter and dessert, $15 for adults and $9 for children 12 and younger. Walk-in customers are welcome, but reservations are strongly recommended. Call (570) 829-3051.

Big Band Society February Dinner Dance, Friday, Feb. 6, Dupont Hose Co., 308 Main St., Dupont. Doors open at 5:30, dinner served at 6 p.m., dancing 7 to 10 p.m. Cost is $35 per member, $40 for non-members. Menu includes salad, Gary's Famous Pizza, roast beef, breaded pork chops, chicken scampi, oven-roasted potatoes, mixed veggies, ziti with meat sauce, cole slaw, and dessert. Entertainer Mike Haroshak has arranged a "Flamingo Fling" theme, so please wear pink or at least a pink accessory. Photos will be taken with the flamingo mascot. Any questions, call Mary Ann at 570-298-1616.

Fine Arts Fiesta 70th anniversary gala, 70 Trips Around the Square, 6 to 9 p.m. Saturday, May 9, at Westmoreland Club, 59 South Franklin St., Wilkes-Barre, $170 per person, with entertainment by Eddie Day and TNT. Ticket information will be coming soon at fineartsfiesta.org/.

KINGSTON/ WEST SIDE

COCU Grief Share is meeting on Wednesdays from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. at the Church of Christ Uniting, 190 S. Sprague Ave., Kingston. It is a program that utilizes conversation and video presentations to support individuals grieving the loss of a loved one. Call Phyllis for more info at 570-690-1342.

Senior Citizens Friendship Club of St. Mary's in Plymouth will meet from 1 to 4 p.m. Jan. 26 at the Holy Child Formation Center, corner of Eno and Willow streets, Plymouth. The drawing winner at the last meeting was Joan Robinson. New members are always welcome. For more info, call Jim at 570-301-8867.

GREATER PITTSTON

Slopes, Shafts and Planes: The Mechanics of Mining, 6:30 to 8 p.m. Jan. 30, Trinity Episcopal Church, 337 Spring St., West Pittston, presented by West Pittston Historical Society in honor of Anthracite Heritage Month. The speaker will be Justin Emershaw.

An Evening of Anthracite Region Music, 4 to 6 p.m. Feb. 15, Susquehanna Brewing Co., Pittston, with performers Don Shappelle and the Pickups; Doug Smith's Dixieland All-Stars; The Pennsylvania Coal Miners — A Tribute to John Stanky. Free admission, refreshments available.

FOSTER TOWNSHIP

"The History of Philadelphia & Reading Coal & Iron Company: 154 Years of Famous READING Anthracite," with speaker Eric T. Bella, 6 to 7 p.m. Jan. 30 at Eckley Miners Village, Foster Township. A presentation in honor of Anthracite Heritage Month.

See WHAT'S UP | 7C

JUMBLE® THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

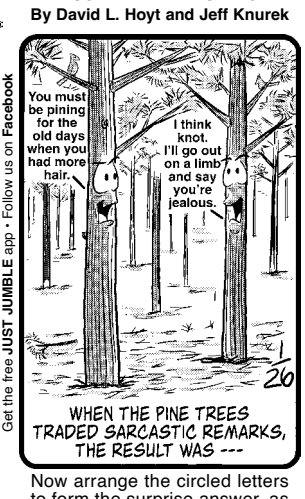
Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

UNBYN

ZRIEP

RGEEDD

GLIGEG



Get the free JUST JUMBLE app • Follow us on Facebook

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here: _____

(Answers tomorrow)

Saturday's Jumbles: FORUM TWEAK ACCEPT DISMAL
Answer: He didn't love the idea of buying the wood stove at first, but he — WARMED UP TO IT

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BLONDIE

By Dean Young and John Marshall



BEETLE BAILEY

By Mort, Greg and Brian Walker



MACANUDO

By Liniers



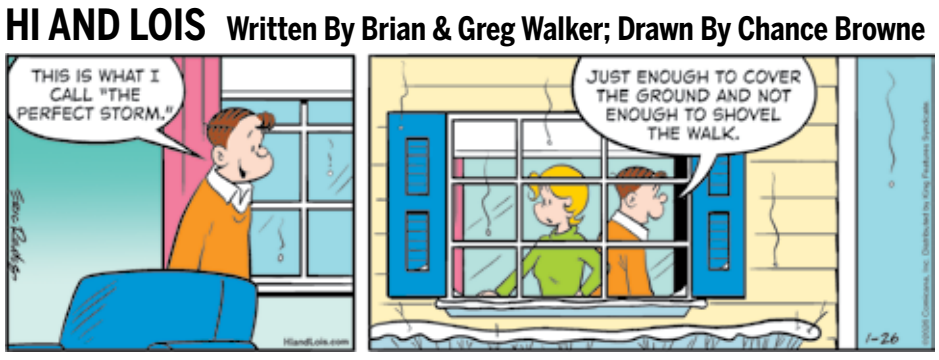
HAGAR THE HORRIBLE

By Chris Browne



HI AND LOIS

Written By Brian & Greg Walker; Drawn By Chance Browne



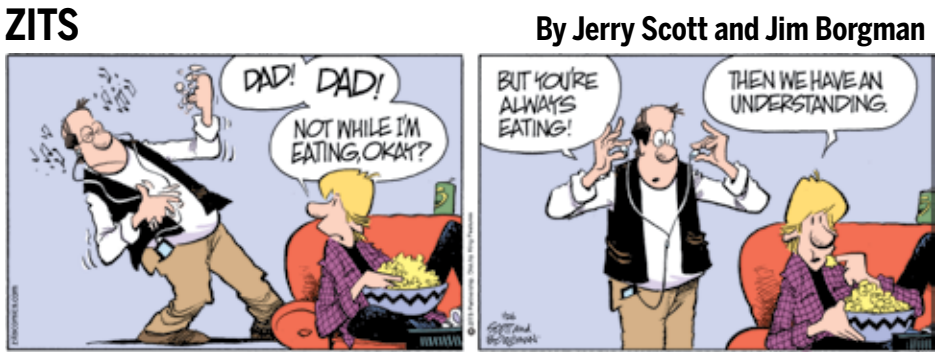
THE BRILLIANT MIND OF EDISON LEE

By John Hambrock



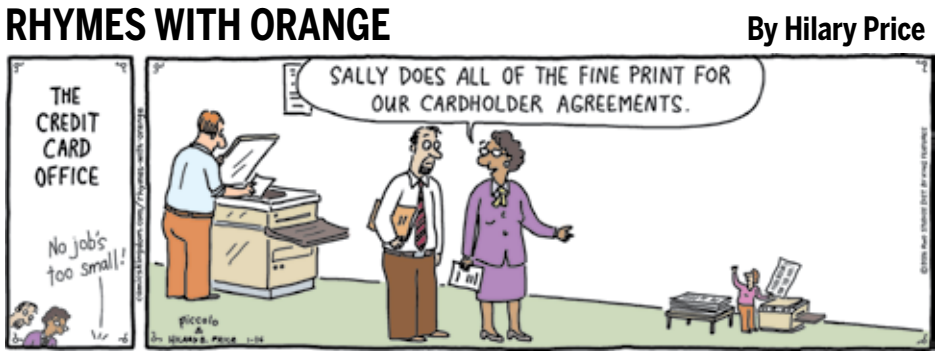
ZITS

By Jerry Scott and Jim Borgman



RHYMES WITH ORANGE

By Hilary Price



Hank Ketcham's

DENNIS THE MENACE



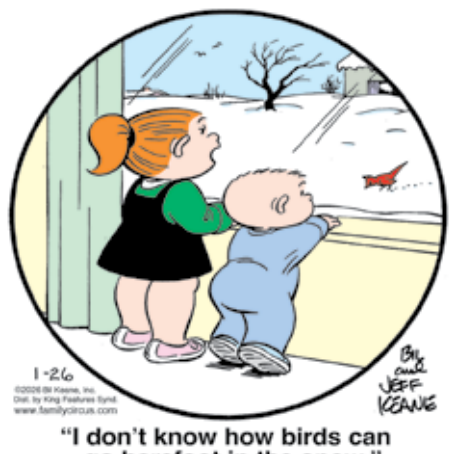
THE LOCKHORNS

By Bunny Hoest & John Reiner



THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil and Jeff Keane



CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

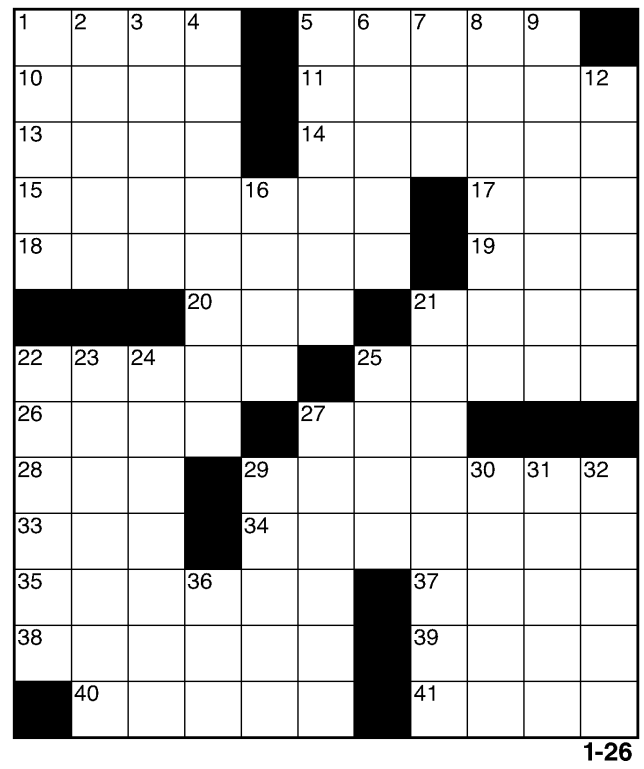
1 Religious faction
5 Prejudiced person
10 Ship's front
11 Singer Keys
13 Opposed to
14 Synonym reference
15 Tenders of tots
17 These symbols: @ @ @
18 Kin of a pasty
19 Word before a maiden name
20 Wide shoe size
21 Evergreen trees
22 Church topper
25 Copper-zinc alloy
26 Metal boxes
27 Floral garland
28 Sch. support group
29 Players at the plate
33 UFO fliers
34 Caught
35 Prof's protection
37 Pennsylvania port
38 Pencil part
39 Romantic flower
40 Practices for a bout
41 Winter glider

DOWN

1 Twitch
2 Bert's buddy
3 Terra —
4 Chirps
5 Peter Pan's creator
6 Words of defeat
7 Combo's job
8 Australia's area
9 Light laughs
12 Rate
16 Fencing sword
21 Donut shop options
22 Florida city, for short
23 Olive devices
24 Almost immediately
25 Letter after alpha
27 Cruise ships
29 Personnel head
30 Flynn of film
31 Job reward
32 Ignore the limit
36 Much of N. Amer.

S	O	N	A	T	A	■	R	O	M	E
C	H	O	R	A	L	■	U	N	I	X
R	A	T	T	L	E	■	B	E	S	T
E	R	O	D	E	■	F	L	O	R	A
W	A	K	E	■	E	L	E	V	E	N
■	■	■	C	I	A	O	■	E	A	T
■	C	R	O	S	S	W	O	R	D	■
H	U	E	■	S	E	N	T	■	■	■
A	R	T	F	U	L	■	T	I	P	S
M	A	R	I	E	■	G	O	D	O	T
I	C	A	N	■	P	O	M	E	L	O
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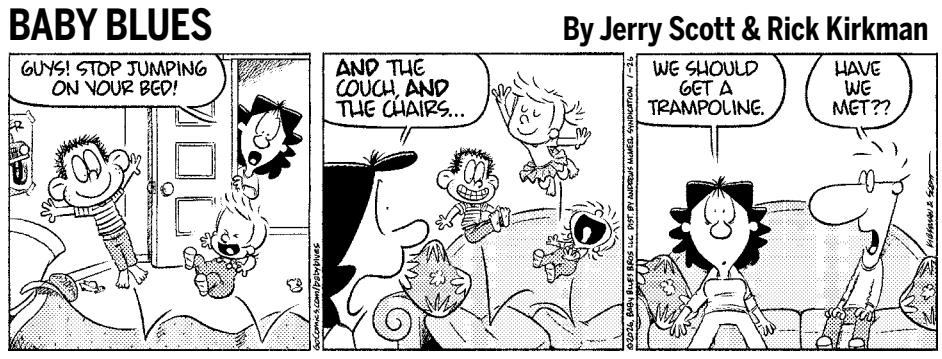
Saturday's answer



1-26

BABY BLUES

By Jerry Scott & Rick Kirkman



PARDON MY PLANET

By Vic Lee



CONCEPTIS SUDOKU

by Dave Green

King Classic Sudoku

6	5			7	1	9	8	
8		9		3			1	5
		2				4	6	
	8					2		
9						8	7	1
	2	7					9	4
				8	4	6	2	
			7	5	2	1		8
2	1	8	3	6	9			

Difficulty: ★ 1/26

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Today's Solution

Difficulty: ★ 1/26

7	4	5	9	6	3	8	1	2
8	3	1	2	5	7	6	9	4
9	2	6	4	8	1	5	3	7
4	9	3	8	1	6	7	2	5
1	7	8	3	2	5	4	6	9
6	5	2	7	4	9	1	8	3
3	6	4	5	9	8	2	7	1
5	1	7	6	3	2	9	4	8
2	8	9	1	7	4	3	5	6

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Having A Yard Sale?

Call your classified department to schedule your ad today!

Friend is gambling his money away



Dear Annie
Annie Lane

Dear Annie: My best friend and I have been close since college. He is the person who helped me move into my first apartment, who showed up with coffee during finals, who still remembers the name of my childhood dog. That is why it hurts so much to watch him repeat the same pattern that already cost him almost everything.

Years ago, his gambling addiction wrecked his marriage and he lost his home. I remember the day he called to tell me his wife was done. His voice sounded hollow, like he already knew he had finally run out of chances. Not long after that, he was sleeping on a friend's couch and trying to act like it was no big deal. I even helped him pack up boxes from what used to be his house, and I can still picture him standing in the empty living room pretending he was fine.

He has rebuilt parts of his life since then. He works as a Realtor, and when he is doing well, he is funny and upbeat and full of energy. When business slows down, he spirals. He calls me to complain about making ends meet, and I can hear the fear underneath his voice. What makes my stomach drop is that sometimes when he calls, I can hear poker chips clicking and that familiar casino noise in the background. He will talk about bills like he is drowning, but he is sitting at a table.

I have not loaned him money in a long time because I do not trust where it will go, but I have never said that out loud. I want to confront him, but he is a proud and touchy person, and I do not want to create a fight or push him away.

How do I tell him I am worried and draw a firm line about money, without losing someone I love like family? — How Do I Keep My Friend's Money in His Pocket?

Dear Keep Friend's Money in His Pocket: The sound of poker chips in the background while your friend worries about bills is not an effective form of stress relief. It is the problem talking.

You cannot keep his money in his pocket, but you can keep your money out of his addiction and keep your friendship honest. Call him when he is not at the casino and say, "I love you and I'm worried. When I hear casino sounds and then hear you panicking about money, it scares me. I'm not going to loan you money, and I don't want to pretend this isn't happening."

If he gets touchy, do not debate or lecture him. Repeat the boundary once and offer one lifeline: "If you ever want help finding support like Gamblers Anonymous or a counselor, I'll help you." Then change the subject or end the call.

A friend is a friend, and you are not a bankroll.

"Out of Bounds: Estrangement, Boundaries and the Search for Forgiveness" is out now! Annie Lane's third anthology is for anyone who has lived with anger, estrangement or the deep ache of being wronged — because forgiveness isn't for them. It's for you. Visit http://www.creatorspublishing.com for more information. Follow Annie Lane on Instagram at @dearannieofficial. Send your questions for Annie Lane to dearannie@creators.com.

HOROSCOPE

Moon Alert: There are no restrictions to shopping or important decisions today. The Moon is in TAURUS.

Happy Birthday for Monday, Jan. 26, 2026:

You can be larger than life. You're confident, quick-witted, strong-willed, instinctual and organized. This is a year of new beginnings, adventures and major changes. Be alert for new opportunities, and be ready to take action. Prepare for leadership. What you do now will bring great future benefits.

The Stars Show the Kind of Day You'll Have: 5-Dynamic; 4-Positive; 3-Average; 2-So-so; 1-Difficult

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★★ You might be able to boost your income today or find a better paying job. It looks like something, in a financial way, will favor you. However, you might be slightly at odds with a friend or a member of a group about a particular issue. Tread carefully. Mucho confusion. Tonight: Check your money and possessions.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★ Today is a mixed bag. Even though you might have difficulty dealing with an authority figure, on the whole, this is a wonderful day to deal with most people. You feel friendly and congenial. You're also concerned for the welfare of others. It's a great day for group activities. Tonight: You're in charge.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★ Although you could be at odds with someone, especially about political or religious views, privately, you feel fine. In fact, you might be pleased with how things are turning out with your finances or something that you own. You're proud of your achievements. Tonight: Enjoy privacy.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★ This is a great day to schmooze with friends and interact with groups and organizations. People will respond favorably to you. And you're happy to see them. Having said this, you might be at odds with someone about shared possessions or a financial arrangement. Tonight: Be friendly.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★ You're high-viz today! In fact, some people know personal details about your private life. (Be aware of this in case you have to do some damage control.) Meanwhile, your dealings with groups and organizations are positive and you are admired. (We like.) Tonight: You're admired!

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★ You will be interested in different people today, especially people from other backgrounds or foreign countries. You will also enjoy travel if you have a chance to do this. If you're working with someone today, you might feel protective about them and concerned for their welfare. Tonight: Explore!

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★ Because of a genuine concern for others today, you might be able to benefit someone either directly in a financial or practical way, or by using your influence. You might even use your influence with a third party. Mostly, this is a playful, fun-loving day! Enjoy kids' activities and fun outings. Tonight: Check your finances.

See HOROSCOPE | 5C

WORD SLEUTH • FAMOUS PIANISTS

L C Z W U R P M Y H J H E C Z
X U S Q N L L Z J G G E C Z X
V T R P N L A J H U E C A L Y
Z W V T R N N E V O H T E E B
U T P N E L G D S H K D I G E
M C I K C B L Z X E N T W U S
O R H W P U A O M E N Z S L U
Z S M I O B N E R A B S J I A
A G E G D R G B D B E I D A R
R Y X W U A O T S H Q L P N R
T O N N I P O H C I R E G R A

Saturday's unlisted clue: THOUGHT

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions - forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.
Monday's unlisted clue hint: WOLFGANG AMADEUS —

Andsnes, Argerich, Arrau, Ashkenazy, Barenboim, Beethoven, Brendel, Chopin, Gould, Hess, Horowitz, Hough, Lang Lang, Liszt, Uchida

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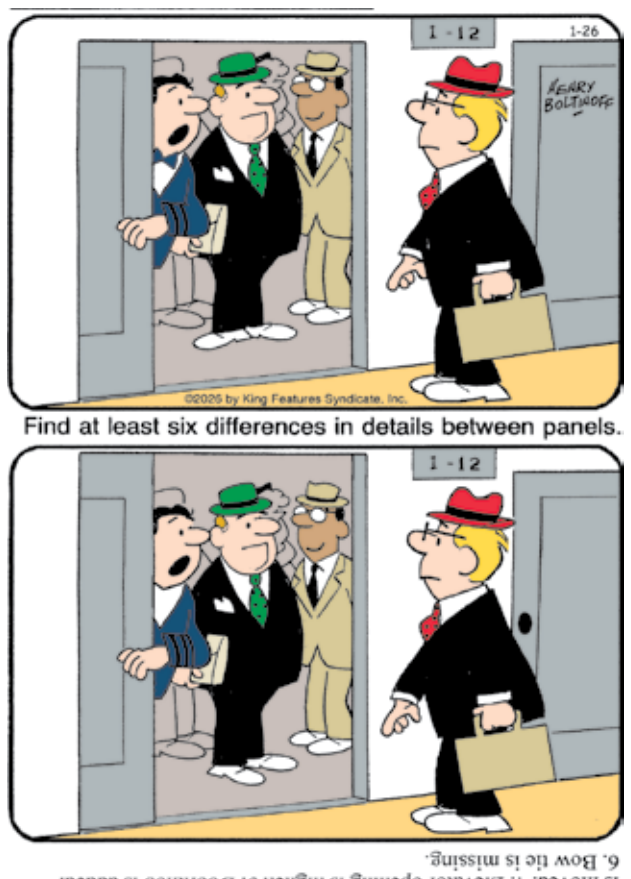
1/26

1-26 CRYPTOQUIP

WKXMTIS GEMD FWDIJRJIENNO RXK SCD INDEUJUP XR IDKSEJU ITKNO-CEJKDM MXPF' IXESF: FCEGWXXMND.

Saturday's Cryptoquip: SERIES OF BOOKS AND FLICKS ABOUT A GORILLA THAT IS A PROFICIENT GOLF PLAYER: "HAIRY PUTTER."

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: N equals L



Find at least six differences in details between panels.

Differences: 1. Arm is longer. 2. Stripe is added to sleeve. 3. Foot is moved. 4. Elevator opening is higher. 5. Doorknob is added. 6. Bow tie is missing.

MONDAY EVENING — JANUARY 26, 2026

LOCAL	6 PM	6:30	7 PM	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10 PM	10:30
WNEP 16	News (N)	World News	Newswatch	Inside Ed.	American Idol "901 (Auditions)" (SP) (N) (TVPG)				The Rookie (N) (TV14)	
WNEP2 16.2	3's Comp.	3's Company	B. Miller	B. Miller	One Day	One Day	Jeffersons	Jeffersons	News (N)	Sanford
WYOU 22	28/22 News	CBS-News	28/22 News	ET (N)	Neighbor	DMV	FBI "Boy Scout" (TV14)		NCIS: Origins (TV14)	
WBRE 28	News (N)	NBC News	Wheel (N)	Jeopardy!	St. Denis (N)	Stumble	The Wall (N) (TVPG)		Brilliant Minds (N) (TV14)	
WYLN 35	History	EARLY EDIT	The Daily Flash		Let's Talk	Warrior	Wine H	Kitchen	WYLN LATE	History
WSWB 38	Family Feud	Family Feud	FamFeud (N)	FamFeud (N)	Wild Cards (N) (TV14)		Sullivan's Crossing (TVPG)		National Desk (L) (N)	
METV 38.2	M*A*S*H	M*A*S*H	M*A*S*H	M*A*S*H	A. Griffith	A. Griffith	Raymond	Raymond	Hogan Hero	Hogan Hero
WVIA 44	PBS News Hour (N)		VIA Short	Reconnect.	Antiques (N) (TVG)		Antiques Roadshow (TVG)		Independ. (N) (TVPG)	
WQMY 53	TMZ (N)	Extra (N)	Dateline (TVPG)		Law & Order: SVU (TV14)		Law-SVU "Asunder" (TV14)		Dateline (TVPG)	
WOLF 56	Last Man	Mod Fam	Big Bang	Big Bang	Extracted (N) (TV14)		Memory (N) (TV14)		News First at Ten (L) (N)	
WQPX 64	Blue Bloods (TV14)		Chicago P.D. (TV14)		Chicago P.D. (TV14)		Chicago P.D. (TV14)		Chicago P.D. (TV14)	
KYW 3	News (N)	CBS-News	Inside Ed.	ET (N)	Neighbor	DMV	FBI "Boy Scout" (TV14)		NCIS: Origins (TV14)	
WWOR 9	Family Feud	Family Feud	FamFeud (N)	FamFeud (N)	The News on MY 9 (N)		Law-SVU "Asunder" (TV14)		Family Feud	Family Feud
WPXI 11	Channel 11	NBC News	Wheel (N)	Jeopardy!	St. Denis (N)	Stumble	The Wall (N) (TVPG)		Brilliant Minds (N) (TV14)	
WPHL 17	Goldbergs	Big Bang	Big Bang	Mod Fam	Wild Cards (N) (TV14)		Sullivan's Crossing (TVPG)		Action News at 10 (N)	

CABLE	6 PM	6:30	7 PM	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10 PM	10:30
A&E	Live PD: Great. (TV14)		Live PD: Great. (TV14)		Live PD: Great. (TV14)		Live PD: Great. (N) (TV14)		Live PD: Great. (N) (TV14)	
AMC	(5:15) ★★★ The Replacements ('00) (TVG)				★★★ My Cousin Vinny ('92) Joe Pesci. (TVG)				Movie	
BBCA	(5:30) ★★★ Groundhog Day ('93) Bill Murray. (TVG)				★★★ Jerry Maguire ('96) Tom Cruise. (TVG)					
BRAVO	Below Deck (TV14)		Below Deck (TV14)		Below Deck "Baby Steps" (N) (TV14)		Vanderpump Rules (TV14)		Below Deck	
CNBC	Mad Money (N) (TVPG)		Shark Tank (TVPG)		Shark Tank (TVPG)		Shark Tank (TVPG)		Shark Tank (TVPG)	
CNN	Jake Tapper (L) (N)		E. B. OutFront (L) (N)		Cooper 360 (L) (N) (TVPG)		The Source With (L) (N)		CNN NewsNight (L) (N)	
COMC	The Office	The Office	The Office	:35 Office	:10 Office	:45 Office	(:20) The Office (TV14)		:55 Office	The Office
CTV	EWTN News	Living	Daily Mass: Olam (TVG)		Journey (N) (TVG)		EWTN News	Rosary (N)	Fearfully	
DISC	Contraband: Seized (TV14)		Contraband: Seized (TV14)		Contraband (N) (TV14)		120 Hours Be (N) (TV14)		Contraband: Seized (TV14)	
DISN	Bluey	Big City	Big City	Big City	Phineas	Phineas	Place	Vampirina	Electric	Kiff
E!	★★★ Clueless ('95) Alicia Silverstone. (TVG)				★★ Just Friends ('05) Ryan Reynolds. (TVG)				★★★ Clueless (TVG)	
ESPN	SportsCenter		College Basketball Louisville at Duke (L) (N)				College Basketball Arizona at BYU (L) (N)			
ESPN2	ACC Huddle		TGL Golf Boston Common Golf vs. The Bay Golf Club (N)				Aust. Open Men's and Women's Quarterfinals (L) (N)			
FNC	Special Report (L) (N)		The Ingraham Angle (L) (N)		Jesse Watters (L) (N)		Hannity (L) (N)		Gutfeld! (N)	
FOOD	Beat Bobby	Beat Bobby	Baking Championship		Baking Championship (N)		Beat Bobby	Beat Bobby	Beat Bobby	Beat Bobby
FREE	Movie	★★★ Wreck-It Ralph ('12) John C. Reilly. (TVG)			★★★ Ralph Breaks the Internet ('18) John C. Reilly. (TVG)					
FS1	T'sports	Hoops	College Basketball Penn State at Ohio State (L) (N)				Race The Race Begins		Greatest 2010 Daytona 500	
FX	★★★ Mission: Impossible -- Fallout ('18) Tom Cruise. (TVPG)						★★ The Equalizer 3 - The Final Chapter ('23) (TV14)			
FXM	(4:55) ★★★ Nightmare Alley ('21) (TVPG)				★★ Alita: Battle Angel ('19) Rosa Salazar. (TVG)				(:20) ★ Alita: Battle Angel	
HALL	★ Winter Love Story ('19) Jen Lilley. (TVG)				★ Winter Castle ('19) Emilie Ullerup. (TVG)				Golden Girls	Golden Girls
HGTV	Home Town (TVG)		Home Town (TVG)		Don't Hate Your (N) (TVG)		Neighbor	Neighbor	Cheap A$$	Cheap A$$
HIST	History's Greatest Mysteries (TVPG)				History's-Mysteries (TVPG)		Mysteries (N) (TVPG)		(:05) History's Deadliest (N)	
LIFE	NCIS "Shiva" (TV14)		NCIS "Hit and Run" (TVPG)		NCIS "Canary" (TV14)		NCIS "Hereafter" (TVPG)		(:05) NCIS "Detour" (TV14)	
MTV	Big Bang	Big Bang	Ridiculous	Ridiculous	Ridiculous	Ridiculous	Ridiculous	Ridiculous	Ridiculous	Ridiculous
NBCSP	Birds (N)	Pregame (N)	NHL Hockey New York Islanders at Philadelphia Flyers (L) (N)					Postgame (L) (N)		Birds Huddle
NGEO	Lost Treasures (TVPG)		Lost Treasures (TVPG)		Lost Treasures (TVPG)		Lost Treasures (TVPG)		Lost Treasures (TVPG)	
NICK	Wylde Pak	SpongeBob	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	Big Bang	Big Bang
OVA	(4:30) Midsomer (TVPG)		Murdoch Mysteries (TVPG)		Murdoch Mysteries (TVPG)		Murdoch Mysteries (TVPG)		Murdoch Mysteries (TVPG)	
PARMT	★ Grown Ups ('10) Adam Sandler. (TVG)					★ Grown Ups 2 ('13) Adam Sandler. (TVG)				
SYFY	4:35 Rise of the Planet of...		★★ Shooter ('07) Mark Wahlberg. (TVPG)						Shawshank Redemption	
TBS	Big Bang	Big Bang	Big Bang	Big Bang	Big Bang	Big Bang	Big Bang	Big Bang	Big Bang	Big Bang
TCM	(5:30) ★★★ Cool Hand Luke ('67) Paul Newman. (TVG)				★★★ Rebel Without a Cause ('55) James Dean. (TVG)				★★★ Blue Hawaii (TVG)	
TLC	90 Day: Other (TVPG)		90 Day: Other (TV14)		90 Day Fiancé: Other Way "Tell All Part 1" (N) (TVPG)				90 Day: Other (N) (TVPG)	
TNT	(5:00) Jurassic Park III		Unrivaled	Unrivaled Basketball		(:45) Unrivaled Basketball			Unrivaled	Movie
TOON	Burgers	Burgers	Burgers	Burgers	Burgers	Family Guy	Family Guy	Family Guy	Family Guy	Family Guy
TRAV	Mysteries of the Unknown (TVPG)				Mysteries of the Unknown (TVPG)				Mysteries- Unk. (TVPG)	
TVL	A. Griffith	A. Griffith	Raymond	Raymond	Raymond	Raymond	Raymond	Raymond	Raymond	Raymond
USA	Law & Order: SVU (TV14)		Law & Order: SVU (TV14)		Law & Order: SVU (TV14)		Law & Order: SVU (TV14)		Law & Order: SVU (TV14)	
VH1	Love & Hip Hop (TV14)		Love & Hip Hop (TV14)		Bsk. Wives (TV14)		Bsk. Wives (TV14)		Bsk. Wives (TV14)	
WE	Criminal Minds (TV14)		Criminal Minds (TV14)		Criminal "100" (TV14)		Criminal Minds (TV14)		Criminal Minds (TV14)	
YOUTOO	Adventur	Adventur	Daily Flash		World Chase Tag		Bare Knuckle		The Dark Zone	

PREMIUM	6 PM	6:30	7 PM	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10 PM	10:30
HBO	Movie	:40 A Knight	(:25) A Knight (TV14)		Industry (TVMA)		(:05) ★★ Twilight ('08) Kristen Stewart. (TVG)			
HBO2	(:05) Industry (TVMA)		(:10) ★★ Mortal Kombat ('21) Lewis Tan. (TVPG)				Industry (TVMA)		:05 A Knight	Movie
MAX	(:05) ★★ The Nun II ('23) Taissa Farmiga. (TV14)				(:55) ★★★ Split ('17) (TVPG)			(:55) ★★ Glass ('19) Bruce Willis. (TVPG)		
MMAX	5:40 A Perfect Getaway		(:20) ★★★ Public Enemies ('09) Johnny Depp. (TVPG)					(:40) ★★★ Civil War ('24) (TV14)		
SHOW	Movie	(:35) ★★★ Flight ('12) Denzel Washington. (TVPG)					Coldwater		Barron's Cove ('24)	
STARZ	4:45 Exodus: Gods & Kings		(:20) ★★ ATL ('06) Tip "T.I." Harris. (TVG)				(:10) The Nowhere Man		Spartacus: Ashur (TVMA)	

Reader sounds off on cursive



Hints from Heloise
Heloise

Dear Heloise: I just have to comment about the lack of needing to teach cursive writing in the letter as described by the retired educator from Montana. No wonder our country is in such sad shape with this kind of thinking. When you can't read cursive writing, you cannot read important papers that were written by our Founding Fathers, as well as many other past important papers. All family histories are written in cursive by the generations of the past.

I understand that Ken Burns is producing a documentary series on the Revolutionary War. How in the world would he have been able to get all this information without being able to read cursive? A dumb answer to this question is to "Google it." Someone who could read cursive might have put this info into Google, but you don't know if they got it right.

An additional benefit to cursive writing is the development of fine-motor skills — not like driving a car but being able to use your hands/fingers to hold small items and perform tasks like using a screwdriver, using nail clippers, etc. ... The list can go on and on.

It's hard to stop my indignation regarding the lack of needing to learn cursive writing. — Brenda R., in Fremont, Nebraska

Brenda, I find it a very lazy approach to teaching, and judging from the letters we get here in our offices, so do most schoolteachers, parents and students. It's a simple skill, and if teachers can't teach it or aren't allowed to teach it, then parents need to step in and teach their children how to write cursive. — Heloise

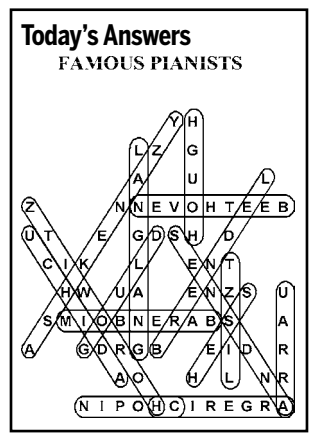
SEND A GREAT HINT TO:
Heloise@Heloise.com

NO SIGNATURE

Dear Heloise: Regarding cursive writing in a recent letter that ran in the Omaha World Herald, the writer dismisses it, but I have another angle. Two years ago, my teen grandson stated that he didn't have a signature. He prints his name because he doesn't know how to write in cursive. I believe that this is a good

See HINTS | 5C

Today's Answers
FAMOUS PIANISTS





AP File Photo

Harry Styles appears in the press room at the 65th annual Grammy Awards in Los Angeles on Feb. 5, 2023.

Harry Styles announces 2026 global tour: See the dates

By Maria Sherman
AP Music Writer

NEW YORK — Harry Styles is getting back out on the road. The English musician announced his "Together, Together" tour on Thursday. It's a 50-date run made up of residencies in Europe, the U.K., Brazil, Mexico, the U.S. and Australia.

Styles' tour launches May 16 with six nights in Amsterdam, followed by six nights in London, two in São Paulo, two in Mexico City, 30 at New York City's Madison Square Garden, two in Melbourne and two in Sydney, where it will conclude in December.

Openers include Robyn, Shania Twain, Jorja Smith, Jamie xx, Fousheé, and more.

There are a few pre-sale opportunities. The general sale for São Paulo begins Wednesday and the Mexico City sale begins Jan. 29.

The general sale for Amsterdam, London, Melbourne, Sydney, and many New York dates begins Jan. 30. The last New York dates, Oct. 10 to 31, will go on sale Feb. 4.

Styles is no stranger to residencies. During his "Love on Tour" in 2022, he did a 15-night stint at Madison Square Garden, which Ticketmaster labeled "the highest-grossing single engagement in the venue's history."

The "Together, Together" tour news arrives a week after Styles revealed his long-awaited, fourth studio album will arrive March 6.

Titled "Kiss All the Time. Disco, Occasionally," the album is Styles' first full-length project in four years. It follows the 2022, critically acclaimed synth pop record "Harry's House," which earned the former One Direction star the top prize of album of the year at the 2023 Grammy Awards.

The cover for "Kiss All the Time. Disco, Occasionally" features the 31-year-old artist in a T-shirt and jeans at night, standing underneath a shimmering disco ball hung outside.

Horoscope

From page 4C

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★ Be prepared to go more than halfway when dealing with others today because the Moon is opposite your sign. Having said that, all your relations with others will probably be pleasant, warm and congenial. Enjoy entertaining at home and tweaking your digs. Tonight: Listen and cooperate.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★ You will get the most done by working with others or coordinating your efforts with a group, because people will help you today. It's a great day to ask for further support, an increased budget, more equipment — whatever you need. (You might not get it, but the odds are in your favor.) Tonight: Get organized.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★ You might spend money on fun outings, sports events, playful times with kids and romantic rendezvous today. You're in the mood to have fun, and you're willing to part with a little money to do so. A close friend, spouse or partner will be along for the ride! Tonight: Socialize!

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★ If you have a chance to relax at home today, this will please you. Nevertheless, you might get involved with a friend or a group, perhaps congregating at your home. Whatever the case, you're in a friendly mood and ready to schmooze. "Bring beer!" Tonight: Relax.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★ This is a quiet, feel-good day. You're happy to retire and enjoy your privacy, or you will be just as happy to chat and socialize. The arts, sports and fun activities with kids will appeal to you. Choose your own adventure. Tonight: Discussions.

BORN TODAY

Actor Paul Newman (1925), hockey champ Wayne Gretzky (1961), actor David Strathairn (1949)

Hints

From page 4C

reason for students to be taught, at the very least, how to write their names in cursive. — Roxanne M., in Neligh, Nebraska

Roxanne, printing is for young children, but every adult should know how to write in cursive. We cheat our children of yet another worthwhile skill if we neglect to teach them cursive writing. — Heloise

HEATING PAD WARMS FOOD

Dear Heloise: Last week, I made biscuits and muffins to take to a senior morning group. I wanted them to stay warm, but I didn't have a heating tray, so I took along a heating pad. I set the pad on high, and the muffins stayed warm beautifully! I love reading your hints here in Connecticut. — Mary, via email

Mary, this is a clever idea. We all must have a number of items at home that serve double duty. Readers, write to me and let me know what you use that does more than it was designed to do. — Heloise

FOR WHOM THE BELL TOLLS

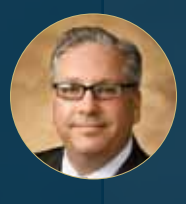
Dear Heloise: I enjoy reading your column daily. Regarding the letter about "recognizing friends versus foes," I only have a smartphone now. I attach a name to each of my friends', family members' or favorite business' phone number. When my phone rings, I just have to look at who the caller is. Having a specific ringtone is probably handy if you don't have the phone beside you often. — Terry, in Gore, Virginia

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FURTHER REVIEW



Shirley Owens
(lead singer)
BORN: June 10, 1941

Addie "Micki" Harris
BORN: Jan. 22, 1941
DIED: June 10, 1982

Doris Coley
BORN: Aug. 2, 1941
DIED: Feb. 4, 2000

Beverly Lee
BORN: Aug. 3, 1941

WHEN THE NIGHT MEETS THE MORNING SUN

By Charles Apple | THE SPOKESMAN-REVIEW

The Shirelles were four high school friends from Passaic, New Jersey, who recorded a number of memorable songs in the early 1960s. "Will You Love Me Tomorrow" became the first No. 1 hit by a Black female group on Jan. 30, 1961 — 65 years ago.

FOUR TEENS FROM JERSEY

Four high school schoolmates in Passiac, New Jersey, enjoyed singing together in school shows and at parties. In 1957 — when three of the girls were 17 and one was 18 — they decided to enter a local talent show under the name the Poquellos.

The mother of one of their classmates was a talent manager. She signed the girls, who changed their name to the Honeytunes and then to the Shirelles — in honor of their lead singer, Shirley Owens.

In 1958, the quartet wrote the song that would be their first single, "I Met Him on a Sunday." Their manager licensed the recording to Decca Records, which turned it into a local hit. The group's manager, however, felt like the Shirelles' work should be bringing in more revenue.

When the Shirelles' arrangement with Decca expired in 1960, their manager created her own record label, Scepter Records. At that point, the Shirelles' career took off. Over the next three years, the group would land six singles in the Billboard Top 10 and two would peak at No. 1.

Their first No. 1 single, "Will You Love Me Tomorrow," made the Shirelles the first girl group — and the first Black women — to top the Billboard Hot 100. Granted, the Hot 100 hadn't been launched until August 1958. Before that, there had been an array of Billboard charts — one for record sales, one for radio plays, one for jukebox plays ...

But most of the top Hot 100 hits had been by men or male groups. Connie Francis and Brenda Lee had released two singles each that had landed at No. 1 in 1960.

Things went south for the Shirelles after they turned 21. Their contract specified that a percentage of their revenues were to be placed into a trust fund and paid out when each member came of age. But that didn't happen — their manager had kept the money for herself.

The Shirelles then left Scepter Records and filed a breach of contract suit against their now-former manager. The manager sued the Shirelles for leaving before their contract had expired. The suits weren't settled until 1967.

By that time, the popularity of the Shirelles had begun to wane. Two members left to get married and Dionne Warwick was hired to replace them, making the quartet a trio.

The former Shirelles would continue to tour and to perform alone or in various combinations through 2020.

THE SHIRELLES' SINGLES CHART HISTORY

RELEASED		PEAK ON THE BILLBOARD HOT 100
February 1958	I Met Him on a Sunday	#49
May 1959	Dedicated to the One I Love	#83
April 1960	Tonight's the Night	#39
November 1960	Will You Love Me Tomorrow	2 weeks at No. 1 #1
February 1961	Dedicated to the One I Love (REISSUE)	#3
April 1961	Mama Said	#4
July 1961	A Thing of the Past	#41
B-side	What a Sweet Thing That Was	#54
October 1961	Big John (Ain't You Gonna Marry Me)	#21
November 1961	Baby It's You	#8
March 1962	Soldier Boy	3 weeks at No. 1 #1
June 1962	Welcome Home Baby	#22
September 1962	Stop the Music	#36
December 1962	Everybody Loves a Lover	#19
March 1963	Foolish Little Girl	#4
B-side	Not for All the Money in the World	#100
June 1963	Don't Say Goodnight and Mean Goodbye	#26
September 1963	What Does a Girl Do?	#53
October 1963	It's a Mad, Mad, Mad, Mad World	#92
B-side	31 Flavors	#97
January 1964	Tonight You're Gonna Fall in Love with Me	#57
March 1964	Sha-La-La	#69
July 1964	Thank You Baby	#63
October 1964	Maybe Tonight	#88
December 1964	Are You Still My Baby	#91
August 1967	Last Minute Miracle	#99

'WILL YOU LOVE ME TOMORROW'

While the Shirelles themselves wrote a number of the songs they performed and recorded over the years, what became the best-known single was written by a young songwriting husband-and-wife team, Gerry Goffin and Carole King.

In 1960, the Shirelles' manager contracted publisher Don Kirshner to help write a single that would be a suitable follow to the group's first Top 40 release. Kirshner assigned the task to Goffin and King.

King wrote the music while Goffin wrote the lyrics. Kirshner was so delighted with the results that instead of passing "Will You Love Me Tomorrow" along to its intended performers, he offered it to Columbia Records for Johnny Mathis.

The head of Columbia didn't think it was right for Mathis, so he turned it down. Kirshner later admitted the rejection was "the best thing he ever did for me."

Tony Orlando then expressed interest in recording the song. But having learned his lesson, Kirshner told him the song contained a girl's lyric and that no teenage boy would say those words.

When she finally heard the demo track, Shirelles' lead singer Shirley Owens dismissed it as being "too country and western." But the group's producer assured Owens they could do the song in their own style. King and Goffin obliged by adding strings to the track and turned it into an up-tempo song.



"Will You Love Me Tomorrow" was released in November 1960 and hit No. 1 on the Billboard Hot 100 the following Jan. 30. This was despite a number of radio stations banning the song for what they considered inappropriate lyrics.

King — who, herself, was only 18 at the time — had written those lyrics from the point of view of a young woman who worries about what her boyfriend will think of her the next day after a romantic encounter.

King had intended that encounter to seem vague and benign. But some listeners felt it was clear the singer was giving up her virginity.

Nevertheless, "Will You Love Me Tomorrow" sold more than a million copies and was inducted into the Grammy Hall of Fame in 1999.

The B-Side of the single was "Boys," which the Beatles would cover on their 1963 debut album.

Sources: "Encyclopedia of Pop, Rock and Soul" by Irwin Stambler, "The Billboard Book of Top 40 Hits" by Joel Whitburn, Songfacts, Discogs.com, Rock & Roll Hall of Fame, Encyclopaedia Britannica, the Guardian, Singersroom, History-of-Rock.com, Classic Song of the Day, EntertainmentRealm.com

BOTH IMAGES FROM SCEPTER RECORDS

Ruth E. Carter makes Oscar history again with costume designer nomination for 'Sinners'

By Jonathan Landrum Jr.
AP Entertainment Writer



AP File Photo

Ruth E. Carter appears at the 31st Annual Critics Choice Awards in Santa Monica, Calif., on Jan. 4, 2026.

LOS ANGELES — Ruth E. Carter has made history once more.

With her Oscar nomination for "Sinners," Carter has become the most-nominated Black woman in Academy Awards history across any category, according to Variety. The trailblazing costume designer was recognized for her work on Ryan Coogler's blues-steeped vampire epic, set in the Jim Crow-era Mississippi Delta.

"It's ... pride, gratitude, responsibility," Carter told The Associated Press on Thursday. She previously won Oscars for "Black Panther" in 2018 and "Black Panther: Wakanda Forever" in 2023, becoming the first Black woman to win two Academy Awards.

Carter is now a five-time nominee, surpassing Oscar-winning actor Viola Davis. She is tied with longtime collaborator Spike Lee and Morgan Freeman for the third-most nominations among Black creatives, behind the late Quincy Jones and Denzel Washington.

"This is a major step in the development of our voices in Hollywood," she said.

Over her career, Carter has shaped the visual language of some of Hollywood's most influential films. She earned Oscar nominations for her work on Spike Lee's "Malcolm X" and Steven Spielberg's "Amistad," and received acclaim for period ensembles in projects including "The Butler," "Selma" and the reboot of "Roots." Her designs have also been worn by Washington, Oprah Winfrey, Eddie Murphy and Jerry Seinfeld, including for the original "Seinfeld" pilot.

"My trajectory has been about telling the story of culture," Carter said. "Our history is being erased as we speak. So to have this responsibility of telling our stories — and being as authentic as I can — and being awarded for it, is a celebration."

In "Sinners," Carter said she approached costume design as an act of protection rather than embellishment, determined to safeguard the visual truth of Black working-class life, particularly sharecroppers and migrants of the early 20th century.

"We made something out of nothing," she said. "There were hand-me-downs. There were patches. If the pants were long, we turned them up. If the hem was crooked, we left it. We wanted to show how we took things for what they were and still found a way to celebrate."

The nomination marks another collaboration with Coogler, whom Carter credits as a vital voice for the future of Black cinema.

"I thank the Lord that Ryan Coogler was born," she said with a laugh. "Because he continues to tell stories that are important to the culture."

Carter said the nomination also reflects staying power in an industry often defined by reinvention.



Warner Bros. Pictures via AP

This image released by Warner Bros Pictures shows Michael B. Jordan portraying two characters in a scene from 'Sinners.'

"I was the first to be nominated. I was the first to win. And I'm still in the game," she said. "If my being here tells young designers anything, I hope it's that this isn't a fluke. It's hard work. It's voice. It's vision. And it's staying."

Brooks

From page 2C

That might sound like an odd answer for someone who has so unabashedly lived nearly a century in the public eye. Yet Brooks has been such a non-stop performer that it can sometimes be difficult to see where the schtick ends and the self begins.

One person describes Brooks, as a newborn, thinking the delivery doctor smacking him on the rear was applause. In an earlier clip, an interviewer laments Brooks' apparent lack of introspection. He replies that he's merely "a coalescence of vapor." When Brooks gave his Oscar speech, for the screenplay to "The Producers," he said he would speak from the heart: "Ba-bum, ba-bum."

So is what's inside Brooks just jokes? I'd say — and I think this is what makes "The 99 Year Old Man" not just an exhaustive documentary but a moving and even stirring one — it's more the opposite. Brooks'



HBO Max via AP

This image released by HBO Max shows Mel Brooks from the film 'Mel Brooks: The 99-Year-Old Man!'



HBO Max via AP

This image released by HBO Max shows Mel Brooks from the film 'Mel Brooks: The 99-Year-Old Man!'

comedy, from the 2000 Year Old Man to "History of the World, Part I," has always derived from something deeper, more personal and intrinsically Jewish than its slapstick qualities sometimes have suggested.

"Comedy is a sensational and sometimes spectacular political weapon," Brooks says in the film.

There are countless big names who come in to speak to Brooks' boldness as a comedian, among them Dave Chappelle, Jerry Seinfeld, Sarah Silverman, Adam Sandler and Conan O'Brien. But I'm tempted to think Brooks' legacy is in how, for him, life and comedy are one: pulse and punchline together.

You can see that in Brooks' decades of marriage with Bancroft, who describes, every time her husband came home as like a party. And you can see it in Brooks' undying friendship with Reiner. After the deaths of their wives, the two friends would nightly meet to eat deli sandwiches and watch old movies. Reiner once recalled they'd watch films "with lines like 'Secure the perimeter!'"

Bancroft died in 2005 and Reiner in 2020. Any life that stretches as long as Brooks' takes on an elegiac quality. Appearing in the documentary, before their deaths, are both Rob Reiner and David Lynch (whom Brooks, a believer, got to direct "The Elephant Man").

But the losses that add up in Brooks' life never outstrip the laughter. You're left wondering if Brooks is one of the funniest people to ever live, or one of the wisest.

"Comedy is lively. Comedy is joy," he says. "And that's what keeps us going. We have to look forward to little happinesses, little joys."

"Mel Brooks: The 99 Year Old Man!" an HBO Max release, streaming now. Running time: 216 minutes (playing in two parts). Three stars out of four.

What's up

From page 2C

TUNKHANNOCK

Winter Fest 2026 Preview Day, 1 p.m. and 6 p.m. Feb. 12. Do you want to get a better idea of what the Dietrich's WinterFest 2026 movies are about? See the trailers that hooked us and made us choose them. Join us for a pre-event to WinterFest 2026 and screen all 21 movie trailers from the films featured in this festival. Admission is free and concessions are discounted. For more information, please call the Dietrich at 570-836-1022 ext. 3.

MOUNTAIN TOP

Mountain Top Social Club will resume meetings Feb. 10 and Feb. 24 at the American Legion, 1550 Henry Drive, Mountain Top. For club information, please call Carol, Vice President, at 570-868-5990. For trip information, contact Dolores, trip coordinator, 1-732-690-9609. Membership in the club has been temporarily closed. Please check back for further information.

NANTICOKE

Myasopusna pre-Lenten celebration, Sunday, Feb. 8, hosted by Transfiguration of Our Lord Ukrainian Catholic Church in the banquet hall, 240 Center St., Hanover section of Nanticoke. Traditional Ukrainian dinner will be served starting at 12:30 p.m., followed by singing from the Englot Sisters and traditional Ukrainian folk dancing. Dinner tickets are $25, with limited seating, and are only available in advance. No tickets will be sold at the door. Call and leave a message at 570-735-4654 or 570-735-1901.

BACK MOUNTAIN

Bingo Night at Northmoreland Volunteer Fire Co., 1618 Demunds Road, Centermoreland, 6:30 p.m. Feb. 2, Feb. 16. No reservation is needed for Monday Night Bingo. Doors open at 5:30 p.m.

A new Grief Share support group will begin at Cross Creek Community Church, 370 Carverton Road, Trucksville, 570-696-0399, on Jan. 14 and will meet every Wednesday, 1 to 3 p.m., through April 1. The support group is free and open to the public. Please register online at griefshare.org/findagroup.

Roast Beef Dinner at Northmoreland Volunteer Fire Co., 1618 Demunds Road, Centermoreland, next to the Centermoreland Store, 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. on Jan. 28. Eat in or take out. Dinner includes roast beef, real mashed potatoes and gravy, vegetables and dessert.

Indoor Garage Sale, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 7, Dallas Eastern Star Hall, Foster Street, Dallas (behind CVS drugstore). Come and see our selection of gently used and new items, including a wide range of books. Someone else's trash may be your treasure. Snow date is Feb. 8.

LACKAWANNA COUNTY

Anthracite Labor History presentation, with topics "Monsignor John J. Curran: The Labor Priest of Anthracite," "The Industrial Workers of the World in Anthracite, 1907-1916" "Radical Means, Conservative Ends: Understanding Dynamite Bombings in the Anthracite Region: "John Mitchell's Negotiation Attempts Prior to the Anthracite Strike of 1902' and "Labor Rebellion during the 1930s: The United Anthracite Miners of Pennsylvania." 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Jan. 27 at the Anthracite Heritage Museum, 22 Bald Mountain Road, McDade Park, Scranton. Admission is free.

"Breaker Boys," a presentation by Charlie Kumpas, 2 to 4 p.m. Jan. 31, Catlin House, 232 Monroe Ave., Scranton, sponsored by Lackawanna Historical Society in honor of Anthracite Heritage Month. Admission is free.

Trinity Lutheran Church Fun for Seniors Group, from Trinity Lutheran Church, 205 West Grove, Clarks Summit. The church continues to sponsor a weekly "Fun For Seniors Exercise for Balance and Strength" class with Mindy, from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. each Wednesday. For more info, contact office@trinitylutherancs.com.

SCHUYLKILL COUNTY

"Underground Anthracite Miner Movies," 2 to 3 p.m. Jan. 31 at the Pine Grove Movie Theater, 213 South Tulpehocken St., Pine Grove. Presented by Schuylkill County Historical Society in honor of Anthracite Heritage Month. Free. Refreshments available.

REUNIONS

GAR High School class of 1952 will meet for lunch at 1 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 28, in the back party room of the Pierce Street Deli, Pierce Street, Kingston. All grads, partners and friends are welcome.

The Pittston Area High School class of 1981 is planning a 45th anniversary reunion for June 6 at Colarusso's La Palazzo on Birney Avenue in Moosic, and the committee is attempting to contact classmates. If you have contact information for yourself or any other classmate, please get in touch with Kelly Gowran Steiner at 480-414-5671 or kellysteineraz@gmail.com/. For more information, see the Pittston class of 1981 Facebook page.

Q&A: Ethan Hawke on his first best actor Oscar nomination: 'It's been a long road'

By Mark Olsen
Los Angeles Times



AP File Photo

Ethan Hawke poses for a portrait on Monday, Oct. 13, 2025, in New York.

LOS ANGELES — Ethan Hawke has been nominated for an Oscar for lead actor for his role in "Blue Moon," directed by Richard Linklater from a screenplay by Robert Kaplow. In the film, Hawke plays lyricist Lorenz Hart, who wrote the sharp, witty words to such standards as "My Funny Valentine" and "Blue Moon."

The drama captures one night with Hart near the end of his life as he waits at Sardi's for his former songwriting partner Richard Rogers (played by Andrew Scott) to arrive for a party celebrating the premiere of "Oklahoma!" By turns funny and self-pitying, full of regrets, disappointments and thwarted ambitions, Hart is portrayed by Hawke as a man who has often been his own biggest obstacle and is coming to realize his time has passed him by.

Hawke had been previously Oscar-nominated for supporting actor in 2001's "Training Day" and 2014's "Boyhood" — and for co-writing "Before Sunset" and "Before Midnight." He has been acting professionally since he was a teenager, with an extensive list of credits that includes "Dead Poets Society," "Reality Bites," "Gattaca," "Hamlet," "Before the Devil Knows You're Dead," "First Reformed" and many more.

Speaking on the phone during the morning of the Oscar nominations from his home in Brooklyn, the 55-year-old Hawke showed no signs of slowing down, as he was heading to Park City, Utah, the next day for the Sundance Film Festival. His new project, "The Weight," starring Hawke and produced by his wife Ryan Hawke, would be premiering there and Hawke would also be speaking at a tribute to Robert Redford.

"It is true that this last year is one of the hardest working years of my life," said Hawke. "I went from 'Blue Moon' straight to 'The Lowdown' straight to 'The Weight.' Somehow figured 'Black Phone 2' in there. I worked my ass off the last year. Ask my kids; they're not happy about it."

Q: You recently did an interview where you said you thought you were maybe doing too many interviews. So I guess I apologize in advance.

Ethan Hawke: It's just funny, the amount of energy it takes to kind of penetrate the zeitgeist today is a lot more than it used to be. I hate to sound like an old man, but it used to be you go on "Letterman" and everybody knew about your movie. And now it's like, wow. It's just a lot different.

Q: Congratulations on your nomination today. Were you watching the announcements? How did you find out?

Hawke: I don't do that to myself. I found out because my wife woke me up and told me. I let myself try to sleep in so that I could try to avoid the stress.

Q: This is your fifth Oscar nomination, but the first for best actor. What does that mean to you?

Hawke: Embarrassingly enough, it means a lot. I've dedicated my life to this profession and our culture places a high value on that. And it means a lot to me. Frankly, I don't think I would've thought when I did "Training Day" that it would take me so long to get there. It's been a long road.

Q: It's such a great year for movies and you talk with such passion and conviction — almost as an ambassador of movies — about how important they are to you. You seem like you're like cheerleading for everybody else as much as promoting your own work.

Hawke: I feel that way, sincerely. I appreciate you saying that because I do think that's kind of the job of these award shows and things. We are ambassadors for our profession. Everybody knows that competition and the arts — it's a game and a lot of great things go unnoticed in their time. And time is the great curator, of course. But movies need a boost and it's part of our job to create substantive, meaningful entertainment for people to have serious conversations and interesting things to think about and talk about and push the consciousness forward. And so I feel really proud of all these movies that were nominated and tons of them that weren't, that are all doing their job.

Q: The fact that this nomination comes from a film you've made with Richard Linklater, who you've worked so closely with over the years — does that make it even more special?

Hawke: I couldn't articulate that clear enough. It feels so wonderful to get this for a movie that was made so organically and rose up through not through the prism of business, but through the prism of friendship. Robert Kaplow is a brilliant screenwriter and Rick's his friend, and we've been talking about this for a decade. And that's the way all of the projects that I've done with Rick have happened, is they kind of are born out of friendship. And so to get to ring the bell with a film that really feels so connected to my life is particularly meaningful.

Q: What does that relationship with Richard mean to you?

Hawke: Words fail. I think that friendship is the substance of our life. When friendships or love affairs or collaborations happen the right way, they're kind of effortless. And your life is richer because of them, not your work. Your life, your character is improved. I always like to tell my kids, you spend your life with your friends, so your friends are your life, so choose them wisely. They really shape you. And I've been really lucky to have a great friend who happens to be one of the definitive filmmakers of our era.

And I don't take that lightly. Think about it, Rick has two — I know he doesn't care, so it kind of makes it even more funny — but he had two of the best movies made this year ["Blue Moon" and "Nouvelle Vague"]. And he doesn't win any prizes but it's kind of a testament to what's special about his filmmaking is that he disappears and lets the project appear and he doesn't put his signature all over it. I was fortunate enough to work with Sidney Lumet and they're reminiscent of each other in a way. They're just completely dedicated to the work. And it's wonderful to have a partner like that.

Q: What did you connect to about the character of Lorenz Hart?

Hawke: It's deeper than just the character. It has to do with what the film's kind of about. My love of the theater and my love of the people who dedicate their life to creativity and the kind of highs and lows of that life, and the silliness and stupidity of that life, and the moments of elegiac grace. I love what the film is about. It's kind of a howl into the night of an artist being left behind. And indifference is kind of the feeling most of us in this profession feel most of the time, obviously not today, but most of our lives are met with absolute indifference.



Sabrina Lantos | Sony Pictures Classics via AP

This image released by Sony Pictures Classics shows Ethan Hawke in a scene from 'Blue Moon.'

And it also had the good fortune of the way Rick works. He's so patient — we worked on it and dreamed about it for 10 years. And we knew it was fragile. We knew it was delicate. We knew the bull's-eye was extremely small. It'd be an easy movie to make badly. So it was entirely execution-dependent. And that's the fun of Rick is he loves to think about it.

Q: You shaved your head for this. Were you confident it was going to grow back?

Hawke: No. At my age you're like, "Wait a second, is this just a giant mistake?" But we knew we had to get the look right. So we were all in.

Q: You just seem like you're in such an incredible position right now in your career, you're making projects like "Blue Moon" and "The Black Phone" movies, you're doing TV work, you can direct your own projects like "Wildcat" or "The Last Movie Stars," about Paul Newman and Joanne Woodward. How do you see where you are right now?

Hawke: It feels really good because I have a lot more I want to do. I've started to feel like one lifetime's not enough for this profession and that there keeps being so much to learn. I get more excited about the possibilities of how storytelling can impact our culture and what the responsibilities are with that and how much fun I've had. I've really had a ball — my whole career I've gotten to do things the way that I wanted to do them.

And it's kind of thrilling for me to watch Stellan [Skarsgård] this year and like get inspired. I mean, he's a proper grown-up and he's humble and so gifted and had such an amazing career. And it makes me really excited about the future. I've always had these huge actors I've admired, Christopher Plummer, Jason Robards, people who've learned how to grow up and be an adult in this profession. That's what I'm trying to do. So I feel like that's the moment you're finding me in.

Q: Because it seems at this point that you're always working. Do you ever think about just taking a break?

Hawke: I've been always working since '89. The thing is, I just love it. My wife and I have this little production company and we both just love to work and make things and try to sneak things into the atmosphere that might not exist otherwise. And it's how you define work, right? Most of the time it's not work for me. I loved making "Blue Moon." When I'm on a set with Richard Linklater, I am exactly where I want to be. My relationship with my work is one where I wouldn't want to take a year off because I wouldn't know what to do.

Q: I've noticed a lot of people, when they talk about you, they say they used to find you annoying — who does that guy think he is, writing a novel or directing a movie? — but that they've come to really respect and admire you for the fact that you try to do so many different things and you've really kept at it. How do you feel about it when you hear people talk about you in that way?

Hawke: I think they're right too. It's a general suspicion and if you can't withstand that suspicion, then you should stop. Like you have to pass through that if you're serious and you have to be willing to be criticized, to be made fun of. It's a small luxury tax for getting to do it. You really want to be doing it because you want to offer something. And so if you're offering it, then people can do with it whatever they want. They can throw it away. They don't have to take it.

I think some of the stuff that was happening to me when I was younger, facing that attitude was really actually good for me. I mean, I hated it. We all want to be liked and understood and for people to understand our intentions and know that our aim is true and we're coming from a good place. All of us crave that. But you just can't give it too much credit. And you've just got to keep putting one foot in front of the other.

MOVIE REVIEW

In ‘Mercy,’ Chris Pratt is on trial with an artificial intelligence judge

By Lindsey Bahr
AP Film Writer



Amazon MGM Studios via AP

This image released by Amazon MGM Studios shows Chris Pratt in a scene from ‘Mercy.’

It’s a bold filmmaking choice to have a countdown clock on the screen for most of your movie.

In the best-case scenario for a movie like “Mercy,” in which a Los Angeles detective has prove his innocence to an artificial intelligence judge within said time limit, it heightens the tension. Who hasn’t gotten sweaty palms in, say, a “Mission: Impossible” movie when the bomb is ticking down and Tom Cruise still hasn’t cleared the building? Why not just extend it for the duration?

Perhaps in a better movie it might have worked. Sadly in “Mercy,” in theaters now, it’s an ever-present reminder of just how much longer you must endure until you too are free of Chris Pratt, Rebecca Ferguson and that chair.

In “Mercy’s” near-future Los Angeles, AI has been adopted by law enforcement and the judicial system to more efficiently clean up the city’s crime and blight problem. It’s a potent and not too far-flung idea that might have been a fascinating and provocative premise for a movie attempting to grapple with the implications of so-called progress that had the potential to be a worthy companion to another Cruise movie, “Minority Report.” But that would have required a more serious script than screenwriter Marco van Belle’s and more vision than filmmaker Timur Bekmambetov managed to muster.

When Pratt’s character, Chris Raven, wakes up, barefoot and strapped into an electric chair sitting in the middle of an oddly large room that looks a bit like the holodeck, he’s informed by an IMAX-sized AI judge (Ferguson) that he has 90 minutes to prove he didn’t kill his wife (Annabelle Wallis). In this world, the incarcerated are guilty until proved innocent. They’ve cut lawyers and juries out of the equation as well. Instead, the accused have everyone’s digital footprint at their disposal to help build their own case. For Raven, that means everything from ring cam footage to his teenage daughter’s secret Instagram account.

Unfortunately for Raven, he woke up with some gaps in his memory between angrily busting into his home to confront his wife about something and being arrested and bludgeoned at a bar later that day. Raven was also one of the original champions of the AI judge system, which in a more curious script might have resulted in some real stakes. This story is more hung up on increasingly tortured plot contrivances, however, including Raven’s drinking problem following the death of a partner killed on the job. To its credit, the story does really keep it ambiguous as to whether Raven did it or not, but to say that it earns any sort of investment in the outcome is a stretch.

One of the most confounding choices is to have a real actor playing the AI judge. Wouldn’t it have been more interesting and provocative to use an AI creation as the impartial Judge Maddox instead of stripping Ferguson of all emotion and charisma in the role? At times, it feels as tedious as watching a stranger’s increasingly frustrating call with a robotic customer service representative play out in real time.



Amazon MGM Studios via AP

This image released by Amazon MGM Studios shows Rebecca Ferguson in a scene from ‘Mercy.’

For how reliant this movie is on screens and keeping Pratt alone, one might assume that “Mercy” was a socially distanced, COVID-era leftover instead of something made in 2024. Kali Reis, playing another LAPD agent named Jaq who decides to help Raven investigate on the ground is the one that gets to be out in the real-world chasing leads and hunches. But for the most part, she’s seen only through FaceTime and bodycam footage. Like Raven, we’re largely stuck in the chair watching things play out on multiple screens, acutely aware of just how much time is left.

“Mercy,” an Amazon MGM release in theaters now, is rated PG-13 by the Motion Picture Association for “drug content, bloody images, some strong language, teen smoking and violence.” Running time: 101 minutes. One and a half stars out of four.

Arkapaw

From page 1C

“It’s nice to have an understanding of what each other does because it’s a hard job and making films isn’t easy,” said Durald Arkapaw of having two cinematographers under one roof. “But we also have a family, so usually when I’m working, he’s watching our son and vice versa. So it’s kind of a team effort. But there is an understanding. I wouldn’t say we talk about it all the time because it gets exhausting. You get enough of that when you’re at work.”

Q: What do these historic firsts mean to you?

Autumn Durald Arkapaw: I’m trying to take a moment to kind of let it sink in. I’m just so honored every time I get to stand next to Ryan and make a film with him, because what I think he does and says is very unique. And we’re always doing something for the first time and with a very unique group of people. Like having all heads of departments be women of color and these are women that inspire me every day. I think now to be a part of that because [production designer] Hannah [Beachler] and [costume designer] Ruth [E. Carter] have also been able to do some work that’s been recognized. Now being a part of that group, I feel very honored, especially for a film like this. That it’s for this film, means a lot to me.

Q: What is it about this film in particular that makes it even more special?

Arkapaw: I think for myself and most of the team members, we have a lot of history and culture rooted in this story. My family’s from New Orleans. My father was born there, my great-grandmother was born in Mississippi. So when I read the story, it felt very close to home. And I think that allows you to be able to pour yourself into it. And there’s a lot of meaning in it and you want to make your ancestors proud. This film has so much love that was poured into it on set and I think it really connected with a lot of people. And I think that’s how you do really great films. You pour as much as you can of yourself into it.

Q: The film was such a success when it came out earlier this year. What is it that you think audiences were responding to?

Arkapaw: I’m an operator so I love to have my eyepiece to the camera and Ryan sits right next to me. So a lot of the stuff that we photographed, I was there in the moment. It was very felt. And I always said, “If I don’t feel it, then I don’t feel the audience can.” So I’m very much someone who shoots from the heart and wants to make sure that emotion is being conveyed. Ryan is the same way. There was a lot of that going on on set, where there were moments where you felt like you actually weren’t making a movie. Things were unfolding in front of you in a very unique way. Like it felt like a real space at times. That matters. If you feel that way on set, it is, it does feel communicated all the way up until the audience sees it in this dark room. And then they don’t feel like they’re watching a movie anymore. And it’s nice when that translates. It doesn’t always happen. And with this film it did, on an insane level.

Q: When did you and Ryan start talking about shooting in 65-millimeter Imax?

Arkapaw: He had envisioned it to be 16-millimeter. So originally, I made some lenses with Panavision that I shot “The Last Showgirl” with before this. And so I was kind of testing those in hopes that it would be something we would use. And then the studio called Ryan and said, “Have you guys thought about large format?” And he called me immediately after and he was like, “Let’s talk about it.” And we got a bunch of different formats together and when you’re talking about large format in a film context, it means 65-[millimeter]. So we tested all these different formats. And obviously we fell in love with the [Imax formats] 15-perf and the 5-perf. And putting them together for the first time was unique. That was fun to do because we tested it and then we kind of put an edit together and looked at it as a team and it all felt very right. So it’s nice to do something historic like that and have it work and have the audience enjoy that big shift of ratios.

Q: Just from a workflow aspect, what was it like having to adjust to these new technologies?

Arkapaw: I always feel like with Ryan, he always gives me a big challenge. He likes to think big and outside the box. We did that on “Wakanda Forever.” We shot a bunch of our scenes underwater with actors, for real. And in this film, there were a lot of different sequences, moving the Imax camera around in the studio, treating it like it wasn’t necessarily a large-format film, but shooting like we would if it was a smaller camera and being true to how we like to move the camera. It’s a lot of logistics involved. You have to have an amazing team. My team personally is fantastic and they did a great job. Focus-pulling is not easy on a film like this.

So it was a challenge. But I think because everyone’s so inspired by Ryan, he’s a great leader on set and everyone really likes him, so they want to do a good job for him. I see that every time we do a film, I have the same crew that I use. It’s like a family. And they respect him. So when you give us a challenge, we really want to make sure that we do it well so that it’s a good experience for the moviegoers. Because he’s always reminding us on set about that: “Big movie, big movie.” We’re making a movie for the theaters.

Q: When the movie was coming out, people really liked that the explainer video that Ryan made about all the different formats. How did you feel about that video and that, for something that felt so technical and nerdy, it got really popular.

Arkapaw: I remember the moment that he brought it up, we were at the Playa Vista Imax headquarters and we had just done a screening to look at the prints. And he was like, “I want to talk to you guys.” And so myself and Zinzi [Coogler], our producer, and our post-producer Tina Anderson, we went and talked for a second and Ryan said, “I want to shoot a video that explains all the formats so that people can understand what we did and what it means and all that stuff.” And his eyes lit up and I thought it was such a cool idea. Fast-forward to it coming out and everyone really embracing it because it was so thoughtful. It was really cool.

If you see it in Dolby, it’s special, but if you go see it this way, it’s even more special because the screen opens up. So I think putting that in the hands of audiences is very thoughtful. And that’s how Ryan is. He wants them to have this information because when he was a kid and going to theaters, we all felt that same way, where that one night you walked to the theater or you drove and you waited an hour to see it and it was a whole experience. And so I think that’s why it went viral because people wanted to be a part of that.

Q: Do you have a preferred format?

Arkapaw: My preferred format is the origination format, because I’m framing the movie for Imax 1.43:1 and then also with the 2.76:1 Ultra Panavision format. So my best way of seeing the film would be the Imax 70mm full-frame print. And obviously, there are only about 40 theaters in the world that project that. I don’t think we had it in all 40, maybe we only had 11, I think, across the world. But I was very much telling everyone that if you can get a ticket, please go see it in the 70-[millimeter] projection of Imax, full-frame. It’s so beautiful.



Paramount+/Netflix/MGM+ via AP

This combination of images shows promotional art for 'School Spirits,' from left, 'Bridgerton,' and 'Vanished.'

What to Stream: 'Bridgerton,' the Grammys, Chevy Chase, Rose Byrne and 'The Wrecking Crew'

By The Associated Press

Kendrick Lamar and Bad Bunny live at the Grammy Awards and Rose Byrne's Oscar-nominated performance in "If I Had Legs I'd Kick You" are some of the new television, films, music and games headed to a device near you.

Also among the streaming offerings worth your time this week, as selected by The Associated Press' entertainment journalists: Highguard is the latest entry in the ever-growing field of multiplayer shooters, Jason Momoa and Dave Bautista star in "The Wrecking Crew" and the third season of "Shrinking" checks in on Apple TV.



A24/Prime via AP

This combination of images show promotional art for the films 'If I Had Legs I'd Kick You,' left, and 'The Wrecking Crew.'

New movies to stream from Jan. 26-Feb. 1

— If you haven't seen Rose Byrne's Oscar-nominated performance in "If I Had Legs I'd Kick You," Mary Bronstein's psychological drama arrives Friday, Jan. 30 on HBO Max. Byrne plays the stressed-out mother of a young, unseen child who's struggling with a mystery illness. In her review, the AP's Jocelyn Noveck wrote that the film "has given Byrne, an actor of effortless appeal in lighter films, a chance to display versatility and grit in surely the toughest dramatic role of her career."

— Jason Momoa and Dave Bautista star in "The Wrecking Crew" (Prime Video, Wednesday) as estranged half brothers who reunite after their father's mysterious death. The action comedy is directed by Angel Manuel Soto, who made 2023's "Blue Beetle."

— Ira Sachs' "Peter Hujar's Day," the lead nominee to the Independent Film Spirit Awards, is a marvel of historical yet intimate dramatic resurrection. The film (Criterion Channel, Tuesday) is based on a transcript from a 1974 interview by the writer Linda Rosenkrantz (Rebecca Hall) and her friend, the photographer Peter Hujar (Ben Whishaw). Rosenkrantz had planned a book about how artists spend their time. But the book never happened, and Sachs, after coming across the transcripts, dramatizes their dialogue.

— In "I'm Chevy Chase and You're Not," the filmmaker Marina Zenovich profiles the irascible "Saturday Night Live" and "Fletch" star. For the film (HBO Max, Saturday, Jan. 31), Zenovich interviews the complicated and sometimes combative comedian about his career, with glimpses of his daily life. Perspectives are offered by Dan Aykroyd, Beverly D'Angelo, Goldie Hawn, Lorne Michaels, Ryan Reynolds and Martin Short.

— AP Film Writer Jake Coyle

New music to stream from Jan. 26-Feb. 1

— 'Tis the season — the 2026 Grammy Awards season, that is. On Sunday Feb. 1, the 68th annual award show will air live on CBS. Watch as Kendrick Lamar, Bad Bunny, Lady Gaga and many more go head-to-head in the top prize categories. Plus, the show doubles as a kind of bespoke live concert viewing experience — and who doesn't like that? The 2026 Grammys can also be watched through live TV streaming services that include CBS in their lineup, like Hulu + Live TV, YouTube TV and FuboTV. Paramount+ premium plan subscribers will be able to stream the Grammys live; Paramount+ essential subscribers will have on-demand access the next day.

— California power pop-punk bands Joyce Manor return with their seventh full-length album Friday, the all-too-appropriately titled "I Used to Go to This Bar." Spoken like a gently aging band whose penchant for hooks knows no bounds.

— AP Music Writer Maria Sherman

New series to stream from Jan. 26-Feb. 1

— Benedict, the second eldest Bridgerton, takes center stage in season 4 of the Netflix romance series, It's about the love stories of a large family in London during the Regency Era. Season 4 has "Cinderella" vibes with Luke Thompson's Benedict looking for an enchanting "woman in silver" who is actually Sophie, a housemaid (Yerin Ha) working for his family. Part 1 drops Thursday with the remaining episodes arriving in February.

— The third season of "Shrinking" checks in Wednesday on Apple TV. The series follows Jason Segel as a therapist named Jimmy, a widowed dad to a teenage girl, who shares a practice with characters played by Harrison Ford and Jessica Williams. Between Jimmy's colleagues, neighbors and friends, he forms a new kind of family. Season 3 features guest stars Michael J. Fox, Jeff Daniels, Sherry Cola, Isabella Gomez, and Candice Bergen.

— School's back in session. "School Spirits" starring Peyton List, that is. The Paramount+ series also returns for a third season on Wednesday. List stars as a teen trapped in the afterlife which happens to be her high school. She's there with other ghosts who are also former students that help Maddie to investigate the circumstances surrounding her death.

— Kaley Cuoco and Sam Claflin star in a new mystery for MGM+ called "Vanished." Cuoco plays a woman whose boyfriend (Claflin) goes missing on a train to France. The four-part limited-series premieres Sunday, Feb. 1.

— Alicia Rancilio

New video games to play from Jan. 26-Feb. 1

— Highguard is the latest entry in the ever-growing field of multiplayer shooters, offering yet another way to get online with your friends and blow stuff up. In this case, you are Wardens — "arcane gunslingers sent to battle for control of a mythical continent." Judging by the trailer, you'll be able to ride mythical beasts and wield magical powers along with the typical arsenal of weapons. It comes from a new studio called Wildlight Entertainment, whose founders have worked on hits like Call of Duty, Apex Legends and Titanfall. And it's free-to-play, so you might as well give it a shot Monday on PlayStation 5, Xbox X/S on PC.

— Bandai Namco's Code Vein, from 2019, tried to answer the question: What if you took the demanding combat of Dark Souls and added vampires? The bloodsuckers — known here as Revenants — are back in Code Vein II, but a mysterious force is turning them into mindless monstrosities. Your job is to travel back in time and prevent the damage before all the Revenants get stupid. The good news is that you can still drain blood from your enemies and use it to upgrade your own fighting skills. Quench your thirst Friday, Jan. 30, on PlayStation 5, Xbox X/S or PC.

— Lou Kesten

Channing Tatum to bring his dancing, ab-heavy 'Magic Mike Live' to New York City

By Mark Kennedy
AP Entertainment Writer



Tatum

NEW YORK — Channing Tatum is bringing the stage spin-off of his wildly successful "Magic Mike" film franchise to New York City, promising to "turn up the gas" on a show that already generates plenty of heat.

"Magic Mike Live" — which offers plenty of chiseled abs and sex-positivity — will open its specially designed 425-seat immersive experience Oct. 8 at the onetime Copacabana nightclub on the corner of 47th Street and 8th Avenue.

"We're going to turn the gas up a little bit and make it a little hotter, just pour some gasoline on it. It's New York. So you've got to throw everything at it," Tatum tells The Associated Press.

"Magic Like Live" flips the traditional, cheesy male review on its head, putting the women in the audience first at a time when toxic masculinity is under fire.

The show features 13 ripped male dancers and a female MC, combining songs, aerial acrobatics, comedy, plenty of drink service and audience participation, only if wanted.

"It's kind of like a dance spectacular that has a sexy twist, and sexy for us is a lot of things. Sexy is funny. Sexy is athletic. Sexy is smart. So we try to approach the dance with all of those things in mind," says Alison Faulk, co-director and choreographer.

"There's very few spaces that are made with women in mind," she adds. "This is made with the woman in mind and making her whole night happy and easier and fun, just to like to take a load off. There's few places like that."

Some of the songs will include Ginuwine's "Pony," which is featured in the films, 50 Cent's "Candy Shop," Gallant's "Open Up," James Brown's "Get Up I Feel Like Being a Sex Machine" and Ro James' "Permission," as well as original music.

The creators say the new venue is a hybrid between a really beautiful nightclub and a theatrical space, with multiple bars and lounges and seating that ranges from couches to traditional theatrical seats, to bar stools, cabaret tables and banquets.

"What we really try to do is to create an evening of surprise and delight that gives you a bit of what you expect and then a whole bunch of things you never thought you'd ever get," says Vincent Marini, creative director and executive producer. "What we did for the male revue is very similar to what Cirque du Soleil did to circus."

Tatum, who spent time in a Chippendales-like revue as a young dancer before becoming a movie star, conceived of the nightclub-style shows but warns visitors not to expect a live version of the "Magic Mike" movies.

"One of the biggest reasons why I wanted to make this show was to kill that old version of male entertaining, because I've worked in that version and it's misogynistic and degrading to women," he says.

"It's just gross a little bit. I ain't gonna lie. Like, I did it for like about 10 months and I was like, 'Wow, this is crazy. This is nuts,'" he adds. "Most of the people that end up loving our show, I think, the most are the people that kind of hate that type of thing the most."

The success of the films first spawned a Las Vegas stage show in 2017 that now has outposts in London and Berlin and is touring Australia. The version that lands in New York will be tweaked to reflect the city and creators say they've fine-tuned the story.

Tatum says the creators have learned that audiences in different cities act differently — London's were more staid than Vegas, for instance — and that whoever is the MC can really change the experience by setting the tone.

"This New York production is the culmination of 10 years of work and thought and watching millions of people, men and women go to this show," says Marini. "We want to come to New York with the very best version of this that we've ever done."



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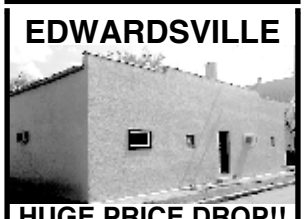
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STEEL TIP SHOES: with metatarsal guard, size 10-R new, paid $139. sale $40. FURNACE FILTERS: (6) 18 x 25 x 1, new, $25 for all. Harvey's Lake. Call 570-639-2926

STOKER PARTS: EFM stoker transmission & blower motor, $110. Hot water coil, $65.
Call 570-655-4025

Sporting Goods

Hornady 65mm 147 GR bullets, 1000 ras $350 or $35/100. 223 Brass for reloading, 248 pcs., make an offer.
Call 570-442-4148

FIGURE SKATES: Men's size 12, $10. Call 570-442-4148

Sporting Goods

ELLIPTICAL EXERCISE MACHINE: Like new, gently used $110 OBO.
Call 570-237-2411

SKI EQUIPMENT: Debella ski boots, size 7, $50. K2 Skis and Scott poles, 5'2", $60. Ski LEK poles, $20. K2 ski bag, $30.
Call 917-748-2586

Televisions /Accessories

TELEVISION: Roku, 45 inch television, $20.
Call 570-406-0729

Tools

TOOLS: Craftsman 2 pc red floor tool cabinet, 2 shelves, 5 drawers $250. Central Machinery 2.5hp wood thickness planer $100. Central Pneumatic Air framing nailer $30. Chicago 7in electric wet tile saw $40. Craftsman NEW 17" hedge trimmer $25.
Call 570-406-0729

Toys & Games

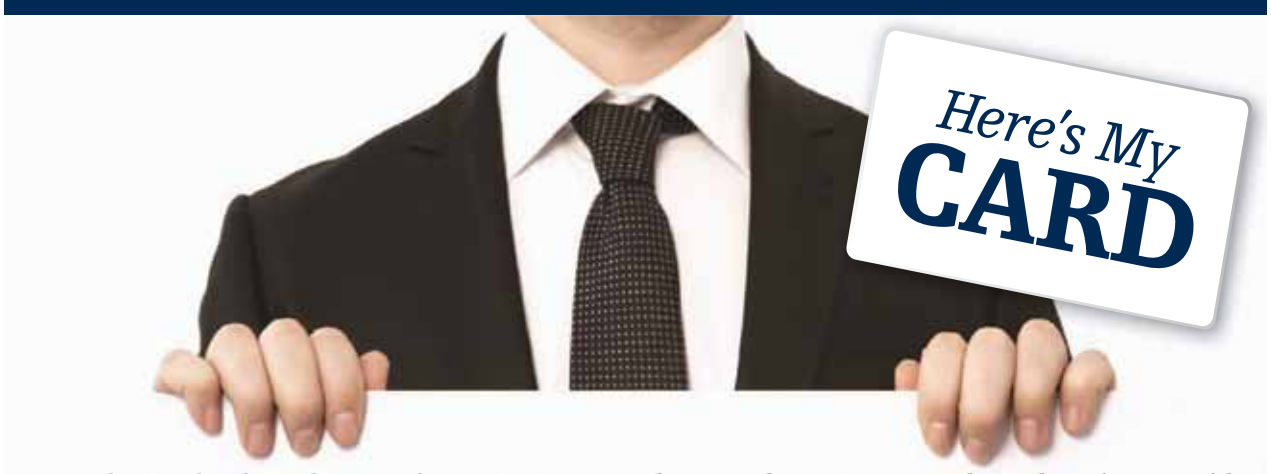
BUILDING COLLECTION: Liberty Falls vintage collection of bldgs, figures, scenery, etc., over 250 pieces. All new old stock in their boxes $500. MTH Lehigh Valley Hudson proto 3.0 never opened $380.
Call 570-824-3471

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I really appreciate everything you do for us at the Harding Recreation Committee."

Arthur Becker
Harding Recreation Committee

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For Release Monday, January 26, 2026

The New York Times Crossword

Edited by Will Shortz

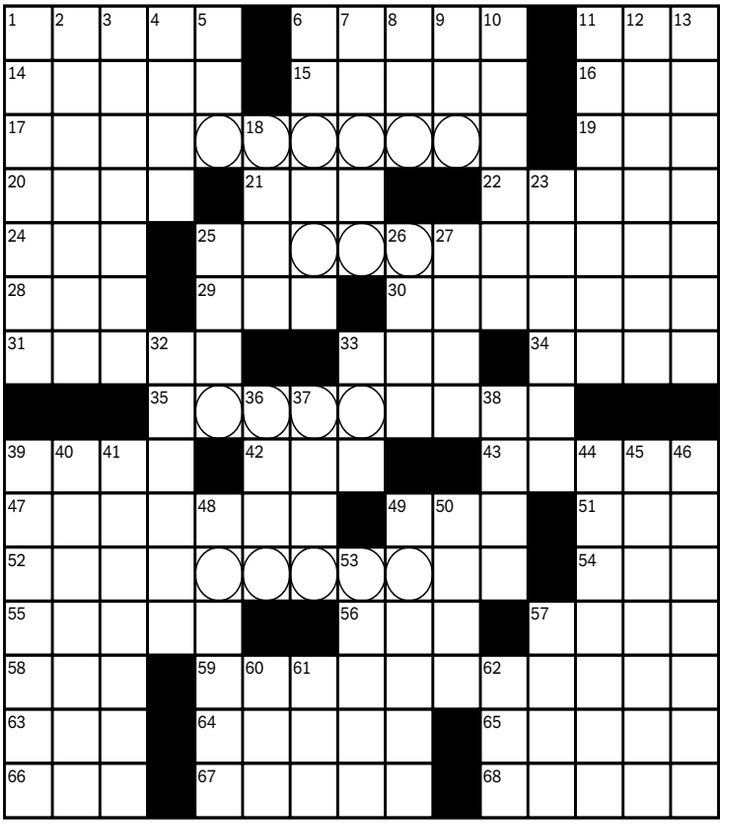
No. 1222

ACROSS

1 Deep sleeps
6 High-speed Amtrak train
11 Word with punching or sleeping
14 One of a battery's poles
15 Older but ___
16 Under the weather
17 Saxophone, trumpet, piano and bass, perhaps
19 Day-___ paint
20 "Garfield" dog
21 "It's freezing!"
22 Typical "Survivor" locales
24 Rapper ___ Uzi Vert
25 Yoda and Obi-Wan Kenobi, for two
28 Fish that may have an electric charge
29 Stammering sounds
30 Indignation
31 What each U.S. senator represents
33 Raggedy ___
34 Breyers competitor
35 Some exams allow them
39 Cops, slangily
42 Rode the bench
43 Yoga pose
47 Enjoying great success
49 What electric cars don't use
51 Like a 49-Across gauge that's near "Empty"
52 Overly fussy
54 Bit of forensic evidence
55 Pink ___ (rock band)
56 Singer DiFranco
57 Bill
58 Mideast export
59 Cheat ... or a punny hint to the four sets of circled letters
63 French "a"
64 Hearing-related
65 Playwright Chekhov
66 Kind of lamp that's energy-efficient
67 Easily irritated
68 Romeo and Juliet, agewise

DOWN

1 Persuades with flattery
2 Doing keto, perhaps
3 Creator of Firefox and Thunderbird
4 Woodworking tool
5 Orderly arrangement: Abbr.
6 Oscars and Grammys, e.g.
7 Wispy clouds
8 Approx.
9 Harper ___, author of "To Kill a Mockingbird"
10 Monet or Manet
11 Don't blow it!
12 Reaction to pollen, e.g.
13 Shiny coatings
18 Lyft competitor
23 Heart attack risk factor
25 Cherokee maker
26 "The kissing disease"
27 Em, to Dorothy
32 Foot, in baby talk
33 Word after fire or carpenter
36 Actor Morales
37 Drug agent, informally
38 "No sweat!"
39 Ball batted up and behind the catcher, say
40 Length of a pithy joke
41 Released from jail early
44 Pasta preference
45 Nine-sided figure
46 Stirs from sleep
48 Is over by
49 With a light touch
50 Suffix with problem
53 Gold standard
57 Scourge
60 Shade of color
61 Surgery sites, in brief
62 Beanie or bowler



PUZZLE BY SUZANNE OLIVER

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

A	G	A	S	S	I				E	M	B	A	R	K
V	E	N	T	E	D			C	R	O	O	N	E	R
O	N	T	I	L	T		F	O	R	T	N	I	T	E
W	E	L	L	L	A	D	I	D	A	H		M	O	W
E	V	E	L		G	I	V	E	N		F	I	R	E
D	E	R	M	A		N	E	R	D	F	E	S	T	S
			O	R	C	A	S		B	E	E	T	S	
		S	O	L	A	R		C	O	A	L	S		
	S	K	I	E	S		S	A	Y	S	T			
C	H	I	N	S	T	R	A	P		T	H	I	C	K
R	A	N	G		P	O	L	E	D		E	R	I	E
A	K	C		S	A	D	T	R	O	M	B	O	N	E
F	E	A	T	U	R	E	S		R	E	U	B	E	N
T	O	R	O	N	T	O			I	N	R	O	M	E
S	N	E	A	K	Y				S	U	N	T	A	N

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PRINTABLE PUZZLES

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

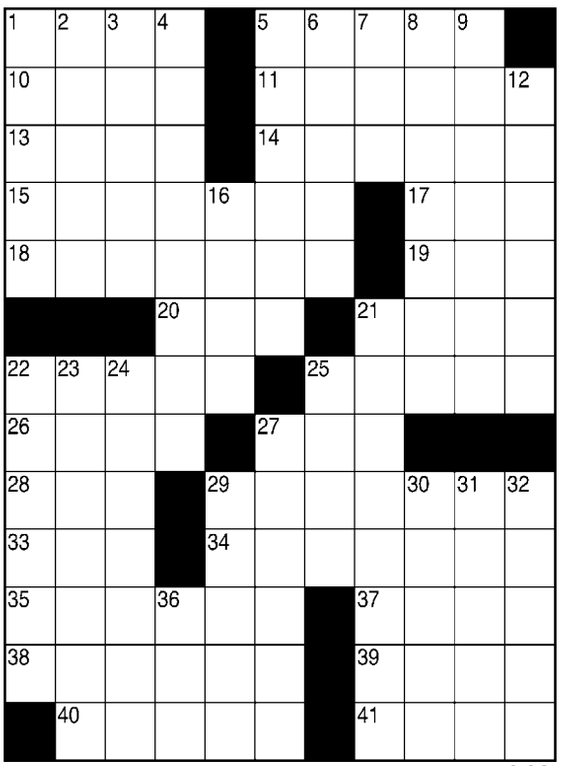
1 Religious faction
5 Prejudiced person
10 Ship's front
11 Singer Keys
13 Opposed to
14 Synonym reference
15 Tenders of tots
17 These symbols: @@@
18 Kin of a pasty
19 Word before a maiden name
20 Wide shoe size
21 Evergreen trees
22 Church topper
25 Copper-zinc alloy
26 Metal boxes
27 Floral garland
28 Sch. support group
29 Players at the plate
33 UFO fliers
34 Caught
35 Prof's protection
37 Pennsylvania port
38 Pencil part
39 Romantic flower
40 Practices for a bout
41 Winter glider

DOWN

1 Twitch
2 Bert's buddy
3 Terra —
4 Chirps
5 Peter Pan's creator
6 Words of defeat
7 Combo's job
8 Australia's area
9 Light laughs
12 Rate
16 Fencing sword
21 Donut shop options
22 Florida city, for short
23 Olive devices
24 Almost immediately
25 Letter after alpha
27 Cruise ships
29 Personnel head
30 Flynn of film
31 Job reward
32 Ignore the limit
36 Much of N. Amer.

S	O	N	A	T	A	■	R	O	M	E
C	H	O	R	A	L	■	U	N	I	X
R	A	T	T	L	E	■	B	E	S	T
E	R	O	D	E	■	F	L	O	R	A
W	A	K	E	■	E	L	E	V	E	N
■	■	■	C	I	A	O	■	E	A	T
■	C	R	O	S	S	W	O	R	D	■
H	U	E	■	S	E	N	T	■	■	■
A	R	T	F	U	L	■	T	I	P	S
M	A	R	I	E	■	G	O	D	O	T
I	C	A	N	■	P	O	M	E	L	O
L	A	C	K	■	E	R	A	S	E	R
L	O	T	S	■	G	E	N	T	R	Y

Saturday's answer



1-26

ACROSS

1 Purple fruit
5 A billion years
8 Euro fraction
12 Piece for soloist and orchestra
14 Copycat
15 Knitter's stitch
16 Carpenter's clamp
17 Haw preceder
18 Builds
20 Fawned (on)
23 Mast
24 Lotion ingredient
25 Tidy type
28 Capita lead-in
29 "— Nast Traveler"
30 Clown's hairpiece
32 Mozart compositions
34 Aachen article
35 Military group
36 Hunger indicators
37 "Suppose ..."
40 Droid
41 Actress Celeste
42 "Heaven forbid!"
47 Oxen's burden
48 Rulers of Japan
49 Men-only
50 Uno + uno
51 Love letter abbr.

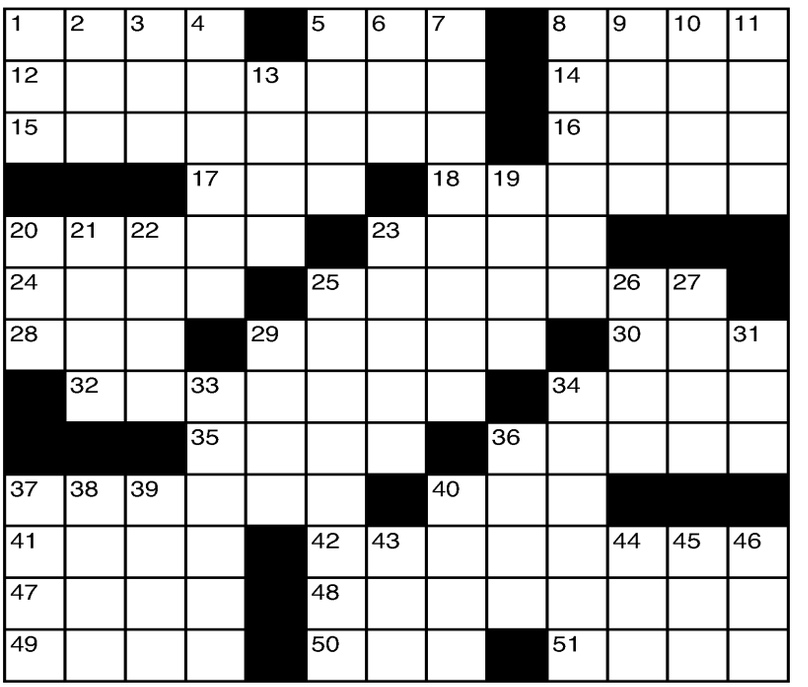
DOWN

1 Mac alternatives
2 Texter's guffaw
3 Numerical prefix
4 "Smash" actress Katharine
5 Sea eagle
6 Oklahoma tribe
7 Memo tablets
8 Bat's home
9 Grand tale
10 Tree house
11 "— chic!"
13 Scratched (out)
19 Assess
20 Fist bump
21 Spanish cheers
22 Lawn mower brand
23 French legislature
25 Informed
26 Victor's cry
27 Monarch
29 Kid's plea
31 Some fridges
33 Eggnog sprinkling
34 Foodies
36 Vatican leader
37 Reasons
38 Amusing antic
39 — -Seltzer
40 Conks on the head
43 Med. plan option
44 Promptly
45 Mouths (Lat.)
46 "For shame!"

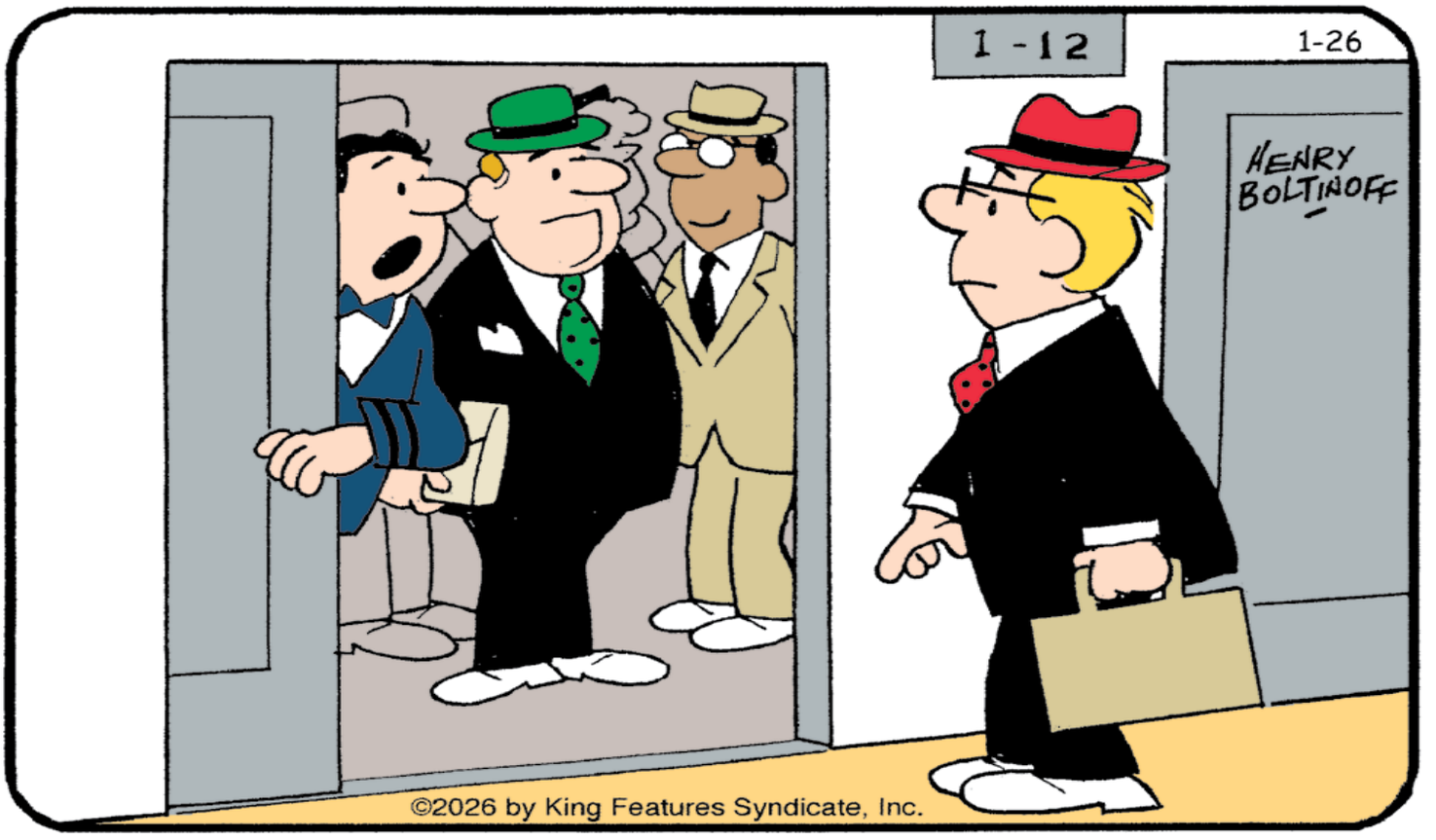
Solution time: 21 mins.

C	O	N	J	■	S	H	A	D	■	K	A	T
A	L	O	U	■	Y	A	L	E	■	E	S	E
S	I	R	S	■	M	I	M	E	■	T	H	E
A	N	A	T	■	B	R	O	■	J	O	Y	S
■	■	■	I	T	O	■	N	Y	U	■	■	■
T	U	N	N	E	L	■	D	O	S	A	G	E
S	P	E	C	S	■	■	U	T	T	E	R	■
E	S	T	A	T	E	■	D	R	I	V	E	S
■	■	■	S	Y	R	■	E	E	N	■	■	■
Z	O	N	E	■	R	A	T	■	T	A	X	I
I	P	O	■	P	A	S	O	■	I	V	E	S
P	A	S	■	E	T	T	U	■	M	O	N	O
S	L	Y	■	N	A	I	R	■	E	W	A	N

Saturday's answer 1-26



PRINTABLE PUZZLES



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Arm is longer. 2. Stripe is added to sleeve. 3. Foot is moved. 4. Elevator opening is higher. 5. Doorknob is added. 6. Bow tie is missing.

PRINTABLE PUZZLES

WORD SLEUTH • FAMOUS PIANISTS

L C Z W U R P M Y H J H E C Z

X U S Q N L L Z J G G E C Z X

V T R P N L A J H U E C A L Y

Z W V T R N N E V O H T E E B

U T P N E L G D S H K D I G E

M C I K C B L Z X E N T W U S

O R H W P U A O M E N Z S L U

Z S M I O B N E R A B S J I A

A G E G D R G B D B E I D A R

R Y X W U A O T S H Q L P N R

T O N N I P O H C I R E G R A

Saturday's unlisted clue: THOUGHT

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions - forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.
Monday's unlisted clue hint: WOLFGANG AMADEUS —

Andsnes	Barenboim	Gould	Lang Lang
Argerich	Beethoven	Hess	Liszt
Arrau	Brendel	Horowitz	Uchida
Ashkenazy	Chopin	Hough	

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1/26

King Classic Sudoku

6	5			7	1	9	8	
8		9		3			1	5
		2				4	6	
	8					2		
9						8	7	1
	2	7					9	4
				8	4	6	2	
			7	5	2	1		8
2	1	8	3	6	9			

Difficulty: ★ 1/26

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JUMBLE®

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

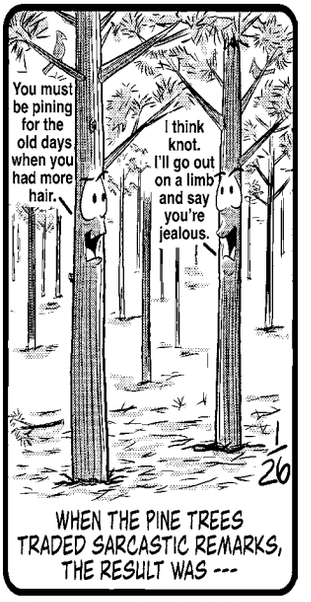
Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

UNBYN

ZRIEP

RGEEDD

GLIGEG



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Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

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Print answer here:

(Answers tomorrow)

Saturday's Jumbles: FORUM TWEAK ACCEPT DISMAL
Answer: He didn't love the idea of buying the wood stove at first, but he — WARMED UP TO IT

1-26 CRYPTOQUIP

W K X M T I S G E M D F W D I J R J I E N N O

R X K S C D I N D E U J U P X R

I D K S E J U I T K N O - C E J K D M M X P F '

I X E S F : F C E G W X X M N D .

Saturday's Cryptoquip: SERIES OF BOOKS AND FLICKS ABOUT A GORILLA THAT IS A PROFICIENT GOLF PLAYER: "HAIRY PUTTER."

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: N equals L

PRINTABLE PUZZLES

6	5	3	4	7	1	9	8	2
8	4	9	2	3	6	7	1	5
1	7	2	8	9	5	4	6	3
3	8	1	9	4	7	2	5	6
9	6	4	5	2	3	8	7	1
5	2	7	6	1	8	3	9	4
7	3	5	1	8	4	6	2	9
4	9	6	7	5	2	1	3	8
2	1	8	3	6	9	5	4	7

Difficulty: ★ 1/26

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SUPER QUIZ

Take this Super Quiz to a Ph.D. Score 1 point for each correct answer on the Freshman Level, 2 points on the Graduate Level and 3 points on the Ph.D. Level.

Subject: COUNTRY NICKNAMES
Which country is generally identified by the given nickname? (e.g., "The Great White North." Answer: Canada.)

FRESHMAN LEVEL
1. "The Emerald Isle"
Answer_____
2. "Land of the Rising Sun"
Answer_____
3. "India's Teardrop"
Answer_____

GRADUATE LEVEL
4. "Land of Fire and Ice"
Answer_____
5. "The Breadbasket of Europe"
Answer_____
6. "Gift of the Nile"
Answer_____

PH.D. LEVEL
7. "Rainbow Nation"
Answer_____
8. "Graveyard of Empires"
Answer_____
9. "The Land of the Long White Cloud"
Answer_____

ANSWERS: 1. Ireland. 2. Japan. 3. Sri Lanka. 4. Iceland. 5. Ukraine. 6. Egypt. 7. South Africa. 8. Afghanistan. 9. New Zealand.

SCORING:
18 points — congratulations, doctor; 15 to 17 points — honors graduate; 10 to 14 points — you're plenty smart, but no grind; 4 to 9 points — you really should hit the books harder; 1 point to 3 points — enroll in remedial courses immediately; 0 points — who reads the questions to you?

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FAMOUS PIANISTS

