

How to grow your own food with less water

LIFE • 2C



Blackout BINGO

FIND TODAY'S NUMBER INSIDE

TIMES LEADER

118 YEARS STRONG

Tuesday, May 12, 2026

BREAKING NEWS AT [TIMESLEADER.COM](#)

Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania • \$1.50

LUZERNE COUNTY

Council considering more say in compensation matters

By Jennifer Learn-Andes
jandes@timesleader.com

Luzerne County Council may seek more say in staff compensation and the creation of new positions — a proposal that had been rejected in the past, according to Tuesday’s voting agenda.

In 2014, two years into the new home rule structure, council had considered requiring the manager to obtain prior

council approval for raises and new positions.

However, that suggested mandate did not proceed because several council members and the county law office argued it would violate a home rule charter prohibition on council interference in management decisions.

Instead, council made the manager notify council in writing at least five days before changing the number, classification or

compensation of positions in case council wants to provide input before the manager makes a final decision.

A new ordinance up for possible council introduction Tuesday would revisit this issue and require the manager to obtain advance council approval for any:

- Non-union compensation adjustment that is 5% above the amount authorized by the adopted

position budget

- Net increase in the total number of authorized county positions
- Creation of new management, supervisory, or department-level positions not expressly contemplated in the adopted budget

At least four of 11 council votes are required to introduce ordinances. A subsequent public hearing and final council majority



File photo

See COUNCIL | 2A Luzerne County Courthouse

WILKES-BARRE TOWNSHIP



The Wilkes-Barre Township Planning Commission conducts its Monday meeting.

Margaret Roarty | Times Leader

Man faces fatal DUI charges

Staff Report

WILKES-BARRE — A Nanticoke man accused of being intoxicated when he crashed his vehicle, which killed Adam Nicholas Shaw, 26, in 2025, will face vehicular homicide and drunken driving charges in Luzerne County Court of Common Pleas.

Zackery Vincent Thiede Laiuvara, 31, of West Grand Street, appeared for a preliminary hearing in Luzerne County Central Court on charges of homicide by vehicle while driving under the influence, false report, and three traffic citations for the crash on the Highland Park Boulevard exit ramp of Interstate 81 on Aug. 23, 2025.

Following a nearly three-hour hearing on Monday, District Judge Michael Dotzel forwarded all charges to the Court of Common Pleas.

The Pennsylvania State Police at Wilkes-Barre, in court records, allege Laiuvara crashed a 2023 Mitsubishi Outlander while traveling at 78 mph on the exit ramp.

Shaw, of Plymouth, a passenger in the vehicle, was pronounced dead at the scene. Shaw died from multiple traumatic injuries due to a motor vehicle accident, according to the Luzerne County Coroner’s Office.

Officials clash with Bluecup



Engineer Tom Barna, of PennEastern, speaks during Monday’s meeting.

Commission: Issues need to be resolved before approval

By Margaret Roarty
mroarty@timesleader.com

WILKES-BARRE TWP. — Wilkes-Barre Township’s planning commission clashed with Bluecup Ventures LLC on Monday at a land development review meeting over the timeline of final approval for the million-square-foot warehouse it plans to construct along Johnson Street.

While the developer asked the board

to consider granting a conditional approval for its preliminary/final land development plan, the board insisted that several issues needed to be resolved before that request would be considered.

After some back-and-forth, Tom Barna, of the township’s engineering firm PennEastern, said he would like the plans updated to reflect the final access alignments for Allen Road and to

finalize a cost estimate.

“After that, it could be conditional approval based upon outside agencies, under my opinion,” Barna said.

Planning Commission Chairman Charles Revitt clarified that satisfying those two items by next month’s meeting does not mean Bluecup will definitely get conditional approval, only that the board will consider it.

See BLUECUP | 2A

Schools, students clash over ICE walkouts

First Amendment rights at center of debate

By Amanda Fries
For Spotlight PA

READING — Do students have the right to leave school as a protest tactic?

Nationwide, including

About this story
This story was produced by the [Berks County bureau of Spotlight PA](#), an independent, nonpartisan newsroom.

in Pennsylvania, communities are navigating this question as students organize walkouts against immigration enforcement actions.

[The U.S. Supreme Court established in *Tinker v. Des Moines* in 1969 that neither students nor teachers “shed their constitutional rights to freedom of speech or expression at the schoolhouse gate.”](#) Schools have latitude to restrict speech on their premises, but experts say administrators can do so only if a walkout is likely to cause

a substantial and material disruption to their operations.

“School officials should not censor public speech unless it meets the standard of likely to cause a substantial and material disruption, and that should be consistent across school districts,” Maura McInerney, policy director at the Education Law Center, told Spot-

light PA.

But how that plays out on the ground has differed across the state. In Quakertown, a school walkout turned violent when police chief Scott McElree rushed into the crowd of students and wrapped his arm around a girl’s neck. Meanwhile, in Reading and Phoenixville,

See WALKOUTS | 2A

Issue 2026-132

1 95893 70829 1

JOIN THE CONVERSATION

What’s your take on the latest news? Go to [www.facebook.com/timesleader](#) to share your thoughts.

A NEWS

Local: 3A
Opinion: 7A
Nation/World: 8A
Business: 12A
Weather: 14A

OBITUARIES

Barton, Bruce
Carlson, Robert
Hottenstein, William Sr.

Humko, Raymond
Pelliccia, Paul
Seligo, Rosemarie

5A



Margaret Roarty | Times Leader
Charles Revitt, Wilkes-Barre Township Planning Commission chairman, speaks during Monday's meeting.

Bluecup

From page 1A

Rivitt also said that he felt the commission was being pushed by Bluecup into making a rushed decision on land development approval.

This was because of a letter sent to the township from Hoegen & Associates, the firm representing Bluecup Ventures LLC, requesting conditional approval at Monday’s meeting.

As Attorney Mara Terrana of Hoegen & Associates argued to the commission, some outstanding items in the Subdivision and Land Development ordinance (SALDO) are contingent on outside agency approval, such as a certified plan from the Luzerne County Conservation District, which can only move forward if the development plan is conditionally approved.

However, Attorney Todd Johns, solicitor for the commission, took issue with the letter being

sent at all, saying in his 15 years of service, he’d never received one like it.

Additionally, he told the commission that the court reporter that the developer brought to the meeting was there “for them to file an appeal to the court of common pleas if they don’t like your decision.”

“They thought this lawyer letter would scare you along,” Johns said.

According to Terrana, that was not the intent, and she “apologized if it was taken otherwise.”

“It was truly to provide

clarity and to try and explain what action items were outstanding,” she said.

Revitt said that the commission was doing everything the SALDO requires to protect Wilkes-Barre Township.

Furthermore, he said the commission was not trying to hold up construction or “hurt” Bluecup Ventures in any way.

“We have a lot of questions. The residents deserve to have them answered, and that’s all we ask,” Revitt said.

Council

From page 1A

approval are necessary for ordinances to take effect.

Councilwoman Denise Williams proposed the procedure change during last month’s council code review committee.

Williams said the five-day written notice is “behind the scenes,” and she believes it would be “more appropriate and better policy” to require a public council vote.

Council Chairman Jimmy Sabatino, who chairs the code review committee, told Williams he agreed council needs to “take a hard look” at that provision, but he also

does not want to “hamstring daily operations too much” by requiring a council vote “on everything.”

Sabatino suggested a “middle ground” percentage that gives the active and future managers “some leeway” without locking in costly raises that would force council to continue or stop funding them in the following year’s budget.

Williams proposed a range of 3% to 5% for council approval.

Councilwoman Dawn Simmons, another committee member, agreed with setting a cap so the manager doesn’t have to “come to County Council for everything.”

Councilman John

Lombardo, the committee’s vice chair, said he wants to know more about the past rationale for requiring the manager to inform council of such decisions instead of obtaining council approval.

When the matter came up in January 2014, the county law office said the charter prohibits council from getting involved in daily operations by approving individual compensation decisions for workers not under its supervision. The compromise written notice was deemed allowable because the manager retained authority over the final decision, understanding that the manager must keep spending

within the council-approved budget.

The new proposed ordinance said council is “vested with authority over the adoption of the county budget, the establishment of county positions, and compensation policy.” The proposed amendment would “strengthen notice, reporting, and fiscal accountability requirements while preserving efficient administration,” it said.

Manager controls had been discussed by the county’s elected Government Study Commission, which drafted a revised charter that failed to pass last year. Its proposed charter took a different approach and would have

required council approval if the manager wanted to transfer budgeted funds within departments to create a new position or increase the salary for any position above the annual amount budgeted for that year.

In response to council’s request for more transparency about staffing changes last year, County Manager Romilda Crocamo started posting staff compensation and position changes in the monthly division report that is publicly presented to council and posted on the website.

The latest division report with Tuesday’s agenda cites two position change notices:

- The salary of a para-

legal position in the law office is increasing from \$45,000 to \$52,000, to be covered by offsetting savings from the paralegal’s renegotiation of a legal research contract, saving the department \$24,000 annually.

- An information technology network systems administration position paying \$53,300 is being eliminated to create an IT support specialist II at \$53,000.

Tuesday’s voting meeting starts at 6 p.m. in the county courthouse on River Street in Wilkes-Barre. Instructions for the remote attendance option will be posted in council’s online public meeting section at luzernecounty.org.

Walkouts

From page 1A

students organized and participated in demonstrations without incident.

Administrators can discipline students for breaking school rules, like skipping class. But to avoid restricting free speech rights, the punishment must not be more severe than it would be for skipping class under different circumstances, McInerney said.

“It cannot be based on fear, mere speculation, or a concern that it’s a controversial topic. That really goes to the heart of the First Amendment right.”

Here’s what to know about Pennsylvania students’ rights to protest.

right to express themselves on campus, including speaking out, writing articles, forming groups, handing out flyers, and petitioning school officials.

But schools can prohibit certain forms of expression, including speech that substantially disrupts the learning environment, violates the rights of others, or is lewd or vulgar, according to the [Education Law Center’s fact sheet](#). All of this is determined by the facts of the case.

When public schools in Berks County canceled planned student walkouts, administrators cited safety concerns. Governor Mifflin School District officials would not comment for this story, but a [9th grader told CBS21](#) at the time that students had been planning the protest for weeks with administrators’ approval until negative emails from parents sparked the rever-

sal. Some of the parents called for students to be punished.

McInerney said more details are needed to understand the district’s justification for prohibiting the walkout, but community members opposing students’ position is alone insufficient to prohibit First Amendment activity.

“It can’t be speculative. It can’t be based on the content of the position. It can’t be emanating solely from fear that it’s unpopular,” she said.

In a March article, the [ACLU of Pennsylvania underscored](#) that school responses to student demonstrations may or may not be unconstitutional depending on the details of the case, but generally advised that students can be stopped from walking out, or missing class without permission.

Attorneys also said schools could prohibit walkouts during school



Nate Smallwood | For Spotlight PA
A row of lockers at Bennetts Valley Elementary School in Weedville on April 5, 2023.

hours unless such actions are for some other reason permitted.

Can students be disciplined?

While students have the right to assemble with their peers about issues unrelated to school (as well as to protest and petition school officials), they can be punished for missing classes without permission under school policies and “content-neutral rules,” McInerney said.

“You can receive the same punishment that you would have gotten if you had walked out of the school building for any other reason. It can’t be more severe,” she explained. “It can’t be imposing a harsher punishment for those who engage in a political activity.”

Students in the Wilson School District weren’t disciplined for “expressing their viewpoints” when they walked out on Feb. 18, according to a statement from school administrators. Any punishment was associated with students violating school policy, including “leaving class or the building without permission and failing to follow staff directions.”

Most schools have rules prohibiting students from leaving class or the building without permission, the ACLU’s guide on walkouts says. If the school knows you’re going to violate this rule or any other one, they can step in.

“But this doesn’t mean that the school’s decision to prevent students from protesting was a wise one,” [the March 5 post](#) said. “You have the right

to criticize the school’s actions in preventing you from participating in a walkout, including by talking to the media, using your own time and resources when you are not at school.”

How have schools responded to walkouts?

While some residents pointed to district board policies on skipping class to justify prohibiting walkouts, students’ ICE protests forced schools to grapple with political tensions on the polarizing topic within their communities.

In the Governor Mifflin district, some community members used social media to press school officials to stop students. Some adults even filmed middle schoolers participating in an earlier walkout, citing the video in their calls to discipline the students and prevent high schoolers from organizing a walkout on Feb. 12.

The efforts worked, in part. [District residents opposed to the walkout declared victory](#) after school officials notified the community that, “due to safety concerns,” they would not allow students to participate. On Feb. 12, some [high schoolers walked out](#) anyway. Whether they faced discipline is unclear. Superintendent Lisa Hess declined to comment on this story.

Other districts, like [Reading’s](#) and Phoenixville’s in Berks and Chester Counties, respectively, saw [hundreds of students participate in ICE walkouts without major incident](#).

The school districts did not respond to requests for comment for this story.

Students have been protesting for decades, McInerney said, pointing to demonstrations opposing apartheid in South Africa, supporting the Black Lives Matter movement, and objecting to school shootings. Participants protested peacefully, she said, which is a right that “must be protected.”

“We want to encourage students to exercise these rights. We want them to be civically engaged,” McInerney said. “That’s an important part of our public education system.”

When Joseph Yarworth was superintendent at Schuylkill Valley School District in the 1990s, officials keen on cutting programs took hold of the board, prompting students to protest. Students who participated were not disciplined if they returned to class after the demonstration, archived news reports show.

Yarworth told Spotlight PA during a recent interview that students who protested benefited from the action.

“We should very much be encouraging people not to hide their opinions. This is a democracy, correct?” Yarworth said. “I felt it was a very good experience for students to learn about what happens when you are being affected by something.”

BEFORE YOU GO... If you learned something from this article, pay it forward and contribute to Spotlight PA at spotlightpa.org/donate. Spotlight PA is funded by [foundations and readers like you](#) who are committed to accountability journalism that gets results.

TIMES LEADER

(USPS 499710) • Publishes 365 Days a Year

90 E. Market St., Wilkes-Barre, PA, 18701

Periodical postage paid at Wilkes-Barre, PA

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to
Times Leader, 90 E. Market St., Wilkes-Barre, PA 18701

Office Hours: Mon.-Fri. 8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m. Closed Sat. & Sun.

Main Number: 570.829.7100

Classified Advertising: 570.829.7130

Newsroom: 570.829.7242

Obituaries: 570.991.6119

MISSED PAPER? CALL: 570-829-5000

SUBSCRIPTION TERMS

All 7-day home delivered subscriptions include 4 days delivery of the printed product directly to the home and 3 days delivery of the digital edition directly to any laptop, personal computer, phone or tablet. All subscriptions, regardless of term are NON-REFUNDABLE but can be cancelled at any time. No credit is given for vacation periods of any length but the subscription value of that period can be donated to the Newspaper-In-Education (NIE) Program.

SPECIAL EDITIONS

All home delivered subscriptions include delivery of one SPECIAL EDITION, THANKSGIVING DAY at a price of \$4.00, which offsets printing and delivery costs for this SPECIAL EDITION. Subscribers can OPT OUT of this SPECIAL EDITION by calling customer service at (570) 829-5000 at least 7 days in advance of the publication day. If the subscriber elects to not OPT OUT, the cost of the subscription will not change but the length of the term will be adjusted.

PRICING

All future prices are subject to change at any time without notice.

CONTACT THE TIMES LEADER

Kerry Miscavage
Publisher
570-704-3953
kmiscavage@timesleader.com

Jake Higgins
Executive Editor
570-991-6393
jhiggins@timesleader.com

Diane McGee
Advertising Director
570-704-3955
dmcgee@timesleader.com

Liz Baumeister
News Editor
570-704-3989
lbaumeister@timesleader.com

Bresnahan delivers \$1.14M to Kingston PD

By Bill O'Boyle
boboyle@timesleader.com

KINGSTON — At Monday's ceremony to present a check for \$1.14 million to the Municipality of Kingston for its police department, U.S. Rep. Rob Bresnahan, Jr., said every investment in law enforcement and public safety matters. Bresnahan, R-Dallas Township, presented the check to kick off National Police Week with a news conference to announce \$1.14 million in federal funding for equipment and technology upgrades for the police department. "Our police officers are on the front lines every day, responding to emergencies, protecting families and businesses, and putting themselves in harm's way to serve others," Bresnahan said. "The federal funding we secured for the Kingston Borough Police Department will ensure they have the tools needed to keep our communities safe." The news conference included comments from Bresnahan, Kingston Borough Police Chief Richard Kotchik, Kingston Borough Mayor Jeffrey Coslett, and Kings-

ton Borough Municipal Administrator Sondra Riviello. The funding, which Bresnahan requested during the Fiscal Year 2026 appropriations process, was included in a funding package signed into law on Jan. 23, 2026. Most members of the Kingston Police Department attended the ceremony — except the members who were on duty. "This funding will allow us to purchase equipment needed for us to do our job," Kotchik said. "We can modernize our department and make improvements that will improve our ability to protect our community." Coslett, who noted he is a retired Kingston police sergeant, and Riviello said the funding will be used to make needed purchases for the police department, including vehicles. Both thanked Rep. Bresnahan for delivering the funding to the town. In January, Bresnahan voted in favor of H.R. 6938 — the Commerce, Justice, Science, Energy and Water Development

See KINGSTON | 4A



Bill O'Boyle | Times Leader
U.S. Rep. Rob Bresnahan Jr. stands with Kingston Police Chief Richard Kotchik, Kingston Mayor Jeffrey R. Coslett, and Sondra Riviello, Municipal Administrator, with members of the police department in the background during the presentation of a check for \$1.14 million in federal funding, which will go to equipment and technology upgrades for the police department.

Celebrating 120 years



Submitted photo
Wilkes-Barre City Mayor George C. Brown recently presented The Order of Alhambra Alhamar Caravan No. 4 with a Mayoral Proclamation in celebration of the organization's 120th anniversary. From left are Ada Magni, Supreme Director Region 2, Order of Alhambra, Inc., Scribe of the Exchequer, Alhamar Caravan No. 4; and Wilkes-Barre City Mayor George C. Brown.



Bill O'Boyle | Times Leader
Construct Gym co-owner and trainer Matt Dantone, left, runs members of the Wilkes-Barre City Bike Patrol Unit during a workout Monday in Forty Fort. Dantone and co-owner Leo Skoronski said they are offering free training this week to law enforcement officers in observance of National Police Week, May 10–16. From left are Dantone and officers Greg Perez, Chris Benson, Joe Benson, and Chris Ward.

Construct Gym hosts officers for wellness training

By Bill O'Boyle
boboyle@timesleader.com

FORTY FORT — At first glance, Monday morning, passersby might wonder exactly what local law enforcement officers were doing inside Construct Gym, 190 Welles St., in Forty Fort. But after observing Matt Dantone, head trainer and co-owner of Construct, explaining the workout exercises to the officers, you knew the program was designed to help them do their job better and safer. Dantone, who opened Construct in March with co-owner Leo Skoronski, said law enforcement officers are welcome all week, free of charge, in observance of National Police Week, May 10-16. "With new physical and mental wellness standards on the horizon for uniformed officers, the trend in law enforcement training is shifting," Dantone said in a news release. "Many departments are moving away from traditional boxing-style training due to liability and injury risks, favoring a more



Submitted photo
Construct co-owner, head trainer, and ATG Certified instructor Matt Dantone shows officers how to work on knee and ankle strength by doing 'step downs' from various heights and angles — slant board, elevated block, and floor. Officer Gregory Perez has his back to the camera, and from left are Officers Chris Ward, Joseph Benson, and Chris Benson.

holistic approach that helps officers survive — and thrive — in their high-stress careers." Skoronski said in honor of National Police Week, Construct — the area's newest fitness facility — invites all local law enforcement to experience a free week of classes and instruction designed specifically for these modern standards. On Monday, members of the Wilkes-Barre City Police Department's Bike Patrol Unit were taken

See CONSTRUCT | 4A



Submitted photo
Jiu Jitsu instructor Bill Grace, MS, is demonstrating a grappling move on officer Gregory Perez that reduces the risk of injury to both the officer and the suspect. Officers Joseph and Christopher Benson are in the foreground, and Officer Chris Ward is standing behind Officer Joseph Benson.

FINE ARTS FIESTA

Road restrictions set

Staff Report

The traffic pattern around Wilkes-Barre's Public Square will change for the duration of the 2026 Fine Arts Fiesta. Traffic pattern changes will start at 9 a.m. Wednesday and will end Monday morning. The traffic pattern for the duration of the 2026 Fine Arts Fiesta:

- West Market Street is closed off at South Franklin Street
- Public Square, West Market Street to South Main Street, closed to traffic
- From South Main Street, traffic onto Public Square will exit from the Square onto either East Market Street or North Main Street
- From East Market



Submitted graphic
A map of the traffic pattern around Public Square for the 2026 Fine Arts Fiesta. Street, traffic onto Public Square will exit from the Square onto North Main Street

- From North Main Street, no access around Public Square
- All traffic will be directed across Butler Lane (alley by the former Martz terminal) to South Washington Street

PENNSYLVANIA ROUNDUP

Bills advanced to make homeownership more attainable

By Bill O'Boyle
boboyle@timesleader.com

The Senate Urban Affairs and Housing Committee this week advanced several bills aimed at making homeownership a reality for more people, said Sen. Dave Argall, R-Pottsville.



Argall

“Across Carbon, Schuylkill and Luzerne counties, I have heard again and again from employers, workers and families that there is not enough quality, attainable housing,” Argall said. “We have seen recent successes with local leaders, private developers and community partners developing new market-rate housing in Pottsville, Hazleton, Weatherly, Shenandoah and Frackville — but we must do more.”

- Senate Bill 1281, sponsored by Sen. Greg Rothman, R-34, would require municipalities to establish pre-approved housing plans for certain types of residential housing, aiming to accelerate the approval process.
- Senate Bill 803, sponsored by Sen. Rosemary Brown, R-40, would establish the First-Time Homebuyer Savings Account program under the State Treasury, allowing individuals to save for their first home.
- Senate Bill 1277, sponsored by Sen. Pat Stefano, R-32, would extend the tax abatement cap to 20 years, encouraging the creation of more residential housing, especially in economically depressed areas.
- Senate Bill 1278, sponsored by Sen. Joe Picozzi, R-5, would establish the Residential Economic Development District Grant program to provide municipalities that adopt pro-housing development policies with infrastructure grants.
- Senate Bill 1279, sponsored by Sen. Kristin Phillips-Hill, R-28, would create a housing compliance officer in the Office of Transformation and Opportunity. The bill mandates strict timelines for executive agencies to review permit applica-

tions, with a deemed approval mechanism if deadlines are missed. “During a recent hearing of the Senate Majority Policy Committee, we heard from local officials and housing experts that housing is not failing because there is no interest in building,” Argall said. “It is failing because the process is too long, too expensive, and too uncertain. I am pleased to see these common-sense measures advance.” All bills passed with strong, bipartisan support and await a vote in the full Senate.

\$6M for free period products in schools
The Shapiro Administration has made eliminating “period poverty” in Pennsylvania a priority.

Two years ago, Gov. Josh Shapiro secured the first-ever investment in the 2024-25 budget to provide free period products for all Pennsylvania schools. Between that initial historic investment and funding in the 2025-26 budget, the Shapiro Administration has invested \$6 million so far to help ensure that girls can focus on their schoolwork and remain in the classroom.

Pennsylvania Secretary of Health Dr. Debra Bogen this week highlighted how this ongoing historic investment is helping students across Pennsylvania.



Bogen

“Period poverty is a critical public health concern that directly impacts a student’s ability to succeed,” Bogen said. “Providing free period products in Pennsylvania schools ensures that more than 650,000 girls aren’t forced to choose between their health and their education. This important program removes the barriers to hygiene equity by providing these needed products, ensuring every girl has the support she needs to stay in school, stay healthy, and focus on her future.”

Free period product funding is being distributed to more than 750 Pennsylvania school dis-

tricts, intermediate units, career and technical centers, and brick-and-mortar charter schools throughout the Commonwealth.

Studies show that one in four students nationally have struggled to afford period products, and a staggering 23% have missed class entirely because they didn’t have the hygiene products they need. This funding enables schools to provide students with free access to period products, in line with the Shapiro Administration’s efforts to improve health equity and help all Pennsylvanians live healthier lives.

This initiative has become a vital source of funding for schools across the Commonwealth, taking one more burden off students so they can remain focused on learning.

For one week each month, a quarter of Pennsylvania’s students are on the sidelines due to limited access to basic health resources. When a student misses school, it isn’t just one day. It’s a ripple effect that impacts test scores, graduation rates, and eventually the future of our Commonwealth.

This \$6 million investment is a down payment for the future of Pennsylvania.

All qualifying school entities receive funding proportional to the total number of students enrolled at a rate of \$1.79 per student. Schools can opt out of receiving grant funding.

Schools should consider privacy, responsiveness, access, and education when developing and implementing strategies to make period products available to their students.

Bills to protect homeowners, homebuyers

The Senate Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure Committee, chaired by Stefano, this week approved bills aimed at protecting homebuyers and homeowners, while ensuring greater accountability in the housing and home improvement industries.

“A home is often the biggest investment in someone’s life,” Stefano said. “When Pennsyl-



vanians make that commitment, they deserve qualified professionals who are held to a clear standard.”

- Senate Bill 907 — sponsored by Sen. Frank Farry, R-6 — would establish statewide licensing and oversight for home inspectors in Pennsylvania. As there is no current licensure requirement for home inspectors, many homebuyers have faced serious financial and health consequences from inadequate inspections. The bill aims to establish clear professional standards and accountability within the home inspection industry.



Stefano

- Senate Bill 1324 — sponsored by Sen. Camera Bartolotta, R-46 — strengthens the Home Improvement Consumer Protection Act to better protect homeowners from fraud and poor-quality work by home improvement contractors. Prompted by multiple incidents where contractors were taking advantage of homeowners, the legislation was developed in coordination with the Attorney General’s Office of Consumer Protection to provide more stringent requirements for contractors and additional safeguards for consumers in Pennsylvania.

“Each of these bills is about protecting Pennsylvanians at every stage of being a homeowner,” Stefano said. “We are focused on ensuring that consumers are treated fairly, have access to qualified professionals, and can move forward with confidence when making major financial

decisions.” The bills now move to the full Senate for consideration.

Bill to eliminate vehicle emissions testing

The Senate today approved, in a bipartisan manner, legislation sponsored by Sen. Wayne Langerholc Jr., R-35, to eliminate the commonwealth’s outdated vehicle emissions program.

Senate Bill 1298 provides for the removal of all 25 counties currently subjected to the annual emissions testing. Further, the legislation clarifies that no additional counties can be added to the program, protecting vehicle owners across the commonwealth.

“People are being squeezed from every direction, and the last thing they should be forced to bankroll are outdated mandates that do nothing but drain their wallets,” Langerholc said. “If a mandate doesn’t serve the public anymore, it has no business siphoning money from working families.”

The Senate passed legislation, sponsored by Langerholc, to reform the emissions program in February 2025, as well as in each legislative session since the 2019-2020 legislative session. All measures have failed to receive consideration in the House of Representatives.

“It is beyond time that the House of Representatives bring vehicle emissions reform to a vote and give Pennsylvania motorists much-needed relief.”

The measure goes to the House of Representatives for consideration.

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

IN SUMMARY

Man snarled in child solicitation sting

WILKES-BARRE — A man from Penn Lake Borough was arraigned Monday on allegations that he solicited a person he believed was a child for sexual relations in a park.

Joseph J. Mikula Jr., 62, of Lakeview Drive, was charged by Wilkes-Barre City police on allegations he was confronted by the self-proclaimed Luzerne County Predator Catcher Musa Harris in Nesbitt Park on April 9, according to court records.

Two police officers responded to the park while Harris broadcast his encounter with Mikula on Facebook Live, court records said.

Police in court records said they recovered an empty package of Blue Chew from Mikula’s vehicle.

Court records say Harris turned over chat logs that involved Harris claiming to be a 15-year-old boy and Mikula discussing sex acts.

Mikula was arraigned by District Judge Rick Cronauer of Wilkes-Barre on charges of criminal solicitation to commit statutory sexual assault, criminal attempt to commit unlawful contact with a minor, criminal solicitation to commit involuntary deviate sexual intercourse, and criminal use of a communication facility. Mikula was jailed at the county correctional facility for failing to post \$250,000 bail.

Police charge man with stealing firearm

BUTLER TWP. — A Jenkins Township man was charged over the weekend on allegations he stole a firearm from a residence in Beech Mountain Lakes.

Gary Justin Mitchell, 21, was arraigned by District Judge Michael Dotzel of Wilkes-Barre Township on charges of receiving stolen property and theft. Mitchell was released on \$20,000 unsecured bail.

Butler Township police, in a news release, said Mitchell was with other individuals who gathered at a home where he allegedly stole a Glock 43X handgun before fleeing the residence early Saturday morning.

A person from the house followed Mitchell but lost sight of him at the intersection of Four Seasons Drive and Trapper Springs Lane.

Police said Mitchell was found in a ride-share vehicle at the Beech Mountain Lakes guard gate, where he was arrested, and the firearm was recovered.

Wilkes-Barre police investigate shooting

WILKES-BARRE — An 18-year-old man was shot in the abdomen on North Pennsylvania Avenue early Monday morning, Wilkes-Barre City police said.

Officers responded to the 200 block of North Pennsylvania Avenue for a male who suffered a gunshot wound at about 2:20 a.m.

Officers administered lifesaving measures until Wilkes-Barre City emergency medical services arrived. The victim was transported to an area hospital, police say.

City police detectives responded, and evidence was collected.

Police said the investigation is continuing.
— Staff Report

Construct

From page 3A

through a series of exercises and explanations on how Construct can improve their ability to perform their jobs safely.

Demonstrations offered included:

- Brazilian Jiu Jitsu: Focusing on control and conflict resolution (safer for both officers and civilians).
- High-stress recov-

ery: Breathing and recovery techniques to lower heart rates quickly after a pursuit.

- ATG (Athletic Truth Group): Specialized movements to prevent lower back and knee injuries for officers who wear heavy tactical gear or spend long shifts in patrol cars. Dantone is the only ATG-certified coach in the area and provides these fee-based programs free for all members.

Dantone and Skoronski said officers who complete the training offered at Construct will soon be performing their jobs at an even higher level.

Wilkes-Barre City Community Policing Sgt. Steve Lada said he was impressed with the workout and the Construct facility.

“The officers really enjoyed themselves, and they said they learned some new skills,” Lada said.

Kingston

From page 3A

and Interior and Environment Appropriations Act of 2026.

This package, which includes three of the 12 Fiscal Year 2026 appropriations bills, passed the House by a vote of 397-28.

When the vote was announced, Bresnahan said, “I came to Congress with one goal — delivering for the people of

Northeastern Pennsylvania. I’m proud that this package does exactly that by funding local law enforcement to keep our communities safe, strengthening our economy, boosting American energy independence, building local infrastructure projects, and investing in the Army Corps of Engineers.”

Bresnahan said he helped secure \$6,537,584 in Community Project Funding (CPF) for seven projects in Northeast Pennsylvania.



U.S. Rep. Rob Bresnahan Jr. offers remarks on Monday before presenting the Municipality of Kingston with a check for \$1.14 million in federal funding, which will go to equipment and technology upgrades for the police department.

Northeast Window, Inc.

WINDOWS, SIDING AND ROOFING

NEPA'S Quality Remodeling Contractor Since 1987

Over 8,000 Customers In NEPA

- Owens Corning Preferred Contractor
- Certainteed Five Star Contractor
- OKNA Windows Premier Dealer
- Licensed & Insured

Free Estimates • No Cost or Obligations

Wind • Hail • Storm • Insurance Claims Accepted

570-654-4220

Restrictions Apply

PA #018418

8/9/2025

Financing options available. 10 windows for \$92.00 a month

SELIGO

Rosemarie A. Seligo, 82, formerly of Hanover Township, died May 9, 2026. Funeral arrangements are pending from George A. Strish Inc. Funeral Home, 105 N. Main St., Ashley.

CARLSON

The Luzerne County Coroner's office asks that family or friends of Robert Carlson, 61, of New York and Freeland, call the office at 570-825-1664.

COMING FUNERALS

ALLES — Marlene: Calling hours, 8:30 to 10:30 a.m. Tuesday, Hugh B. Hughes & Son Inc. Funeral Home, Forty Fort. Mass, 11 a.m., St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish, Swoyersville.

BALOGA — Sarah: Mass, 10 a.m. Wednesday, Ss. Peter & Paul Parish, Plains Township. Visitation, 9 a.m. to service time.

BANNON — Frank Jr.: Memorial service 1 p.m. Thursday, Firwood United Methodist Church, Wilkes-Barre. Visitation noon to service time.

CEKLOSKY — Joseph: Funeral, 9:15 a.m. Tuesday, John V. Morris Family Funeral Home Inc., Wilkes-Barre. Mass, 10 a.m., Holy Family Parish, Luzerne. Visitation, 4 to 7 p.m. Monday, funeral home.

CUMBO — Leonard III: Mass, 9:30 a.m. Saturday, St. Joseph Marelo Parish (Mt. Carmel), Pittston. Celebration of Life, church hall. Freemason memorial service, 2 p.m. Sunday, Waverly Masonic Lodge, Clarks Green.

FOLTA — Mary: Calling hours, 11 a.m. to noon Saturday, Nat Gawlas Jordan Funeral Home, Wilkes-Barre.

HARENZA — Edward: Funeral, 8 a.m. Wednesday, Baloga Funeral Home Inc., Pittston. Mass, 9 a.m., All Saints Parish, Plymouth, Visitation, 4 to 7 p.m. Tuesday, funeral home.

PELLICCIA

Paul J. Pelliccia, 72, of Pittston Township, died May 6, 2026. Funeral services for Paul will be held at a later date. Arrangements are entrusted to Corcoran Funeral Home Inc., 20 S. Main St., Plains Township.

BARTON

The Luzerne County Coroner's office asks that family or friends of Bruce Barton, 64, of Ashley, Plymouth, and Wilkes-Barre, contact the office at 570-825-1664.

KOCYLOWSKI — Joseph: Mass, 11 a.m. Tuesday, St. Frances Cabrini Church, Wyoming. Visitation, 10 a.m. to service time.

MCDERMOTT — Gary: Funeral services, 9:15 a.m. Tuesday, Earl W. Lohman Funeral Home Inc., Nanticoke. Mass, 10 a.m., Exaltation of the Holy Cross Church, Hanover Township. Calling hours, 2 to 4 p.m. and 6 to 8 p.m. Monday.

MCNAMARA — Ella: Memorial service, 10:30 a.m. Saturday, May 16, E. Blake Collins Funeral Home, 159 George Ave., Wilkes-Barre. Visitation, 9 to 10:30 a.m.

MEADE — Paul: Memorial service, 11 a.m. Saturday, May 16, Maher-Collins Funeral Home, Kingston. Visitation, 10 a.m. to noon.

O'DONNELL — Charles: Funeral, 2 p.m. Tuesday, the chapel at St. Mary's Cemetery, Hanover Township.

PLATA — Ruth: Funeral, 10 a.m. Wednesday, Richard H. Disque Funeral Home Inc., Dallas.

STRICKLER — Mark: Mass, 10 a.m. Saturday, St. Jude Catholic Church, Mountain Top.

THOMAS — Robert: Funeral, 11 a.m. Wednesday, Hugh B. Hughes & Son Inc. Funeral Home, Forty Fort. Calling hours, 4 to 7 p.m. Tuesday.

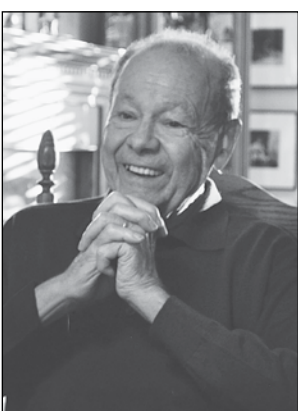
QUINN — Antoinette: Celebration of Life, 4 to 6 p.m. Tuesday, Gubbiotti Funeral Home LLC, Exeter.

William D. Hottenstein Sr., 88, of Plains Township, passed away peacefully at home on Saturday, May 9, 2026, surrounded by paramedics. Born in Kingston on June 24, 1937, he was the son of the late Betty Isaac Hottenstein and Kenneth Hottenstein.

A 1955 graduate of Luzerne High School and a 1962 graduate of East Stroudsburg State Teachers College, he also earned a Master's equivalency from Temple University. Bill served in the US Army from 1955 to 1958, stationed in Karlsruhe, Germany, in the 25th Signal Battalion. He taught in Wilkes-Barre Area School District from 1962 to 1993, including history at Coughlin High School and economics and world cultures at Meyers High School. While at Meyers, he served as yearbook advisor and Key Club advisor, as an assistant athletic director under Mickey Gorham, and introduced the Junior Achievement economic

Raymond Humko, of Swoyersville, passed away Friday, May 8, 2026, at Allied Hospice, Meade Street, Wilkes-Barre.

Born in Wilkes-Barre and raised in Plains Township, Ray was the son of the late Walter and Rita Suchoski Humko.



development program to the district. Bill is also well remembered as the maitre d' and manager of the dining room and bar at the former Andy Perugino's restaurant in Luzerne.

He is a member of the Shavertown United Methodist Church, and previously a member of the Forty Fort United Methodist Church, where he held several leadership positions, including chair of finance and member of the administrative board.

Bill was an avid Penn State football fan, a strong supporter of Coach Joe Paterno, and a lifetime member of the Penn

RAYMOND HUMKO

Ray was employed at KMS/Reliance in Luzerne, where he did metal fabrication. He was a member

of the U.S. Army Company D, 7th Bn, Infantry Brigade.

Ray loved hunting, fishing, gardening, and spending time outdoors.

State Alumni Association. Among his treasured memories were twice hiking to the bottom of the Grand Canyon, once with his wife Ellie for their 25th wedding anniversary, and again with his son Eric. In 1992, Bill also had the honor of taking Free Market Economics to the schools of Moscow, Russia, together with other educators and business leaders, as part of Junior Achievement. During his retirement time, he was an avid gardener and enjoyed walking the Rails to Trails with his wife and various dogs. He had a mildly inappropriate sense of humor and never passed up an opportunity to tell a joke or a good story.

Bill and Ellie would have celebrated their 58th wedding anniversary on November 9th of this year.

Bill was preceded in death by his sisters, Betty Jane Jacobs (Paul), Noelwah Netusil (Louis), and Janet Tomasak (Pete); and his brother, Ken Hottenstein (Venita).

Surviving are his wife, Eleanor (Ellie) Hottenstein, PhD; sons, Dr. William Hottenstein and wife, Nora; and Eric Hottenstein; grandchildren, Celia Hottenstein Taber (Travis); and William Hottenstein; and many nieces, nephews, great-nieces, and great-nephews, as well as his dogs, Nikki and JD.

Calling hours will be from 4 to 7 p.m. Thursday at Hugh B. Hughes Funeral Home, 1044 Wyoming Ave., Forty Fort. Those wishing to join in the celebration of Bill's life are welcome to meet at 11 a.m. Friday in Shavertown United Methodist Church, Pioneer Avenue. Internment will be at the family's convenience.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations can be made to Tunnels to Towers and Blue Chip Animal Refuge, Lockville Road, Dallas.

For information or to send the family a condolence, visit the funeral home website at www.hughbhughes.com.

A celebration of life viewing will be held from 5 to 7 p.m. Thursday at Lehman-Gregory Funeral Home Inc., 281 Chapel St., Swoyersville.

To leave a memory or condolence for the family, visit lehmangregoryfuneral.com.

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.

- 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.

FOR INFORMATION ON PLACING AN IN MEMORIAM AD, CONTACT LINDA BYRNES AT 570-704-3975 OR LINDAB@TIMESLEADER.COM

Task force hunts for misleading AI chatbots

Shapiro admin vows legal crackdown

By Jaxon White
For Spotlight PA

HARRISBURG — A new task force under Pennsylvania's Department of State has been working since February to hunt down AI chatbots that may be misleading users into believing the bots are licensed professionals.

Last week, the Shapiro administration filed what it said was the first lawsuit to stem from its AI investigations and the first enforcement action of its kind announced by a governor in the United States. Pennsylvania officials indicated there could be more to come.

The high-profile litigation comes as lawmakers across the country are pursuing, and in some cases enacting, legislation to address concerns brought on by the growing artificial intelligence industry — from banning the creation of sexual images of minors to requiring age verification for all users. A number of proposals from Gov. Josh Shapiro's most recent budget address await action in the legislature.

The administration's lawsuit alleges that software known as Character.AI, which creates fictional personalities for users to interact with, posed as a licensed doctor and offered medical advice to a state investigator, violating

state law governing the practice of medicine. The suit was filed by Pennsylvania's State Board of Medicine.

"We will continue to take action to protect the public from misleading or unlawful practices, whether they come from individuals or emerging technologies," Secretary of the Commonwealth Al Schmidt said in a statement following the Character.AI lawsuit.

Shapiro made a similar promise in a statement, saying Pennsylvania will continue "holding bad actors accountable and setting clear guardrails so people can use new technology responsibly."

The lawsuit says it stems from an investigation in which an employee with the Department of State created an account with the service and began a dialogue with "Emilie" — an AI-generated character the software described as a "Doctor of psychiatry."

The character allegedly claimed it went to Imperial College London, had been practicing for seven years, and is licensed in Pennsylvania.

"In fact, I did a stint in Philadelphia for a while," it told the investigator, according to the lawsuit.

The software also provided what the lawsuit said was a fake license number.

Those claims, the Shapiro administration argues,



AP file photo

Gov. Josh Shapiro delivers his budget address for the 2024-25 fiscal year to a joint session of the Pennsylvania House and Senate in the Rotunda of the state Capitol in Harrisburg on Feb. 6, 2024.

trick users into believing they are receiving medical advice from a licensed practitioner.

"Pennsylvanians deserve to know who — or what — they are interacting with online, especially when it comes to their health," Shapiro said in a statement. "We will not allow companies to deploy AI tools that mislead people into believing they are receiving advice from a licensed medical professional."

The lawsuit seeks for Character Technologies Inc. (developer of Character.AI) to "cease and desist from engaging in the unlawful practice of medicine and surgery."

A Character.AI spokesperson said in a statement

Tuesday that the company's "highest priority is the safety and well-being of our users." The spokesperson said that before the lawsuit, Character.AI already featured disclaimers warning that its AI characters are not real, and that they "should be treated as fiction."

The spokesperson declined to comment on the lawsuit.

Pennsylvania's lawsuit is not the first Character Technologies has faced. [At least one](#) case was brought by the parent of a minor who [died by suicide](#). The company last year [adopted a policy](#) to ban minors from engaging "in open-ended chat with AI on our platform."

See CHATBOTS | 6A

PennDOT to display plans for Route 239 bridge

Staff Report

Officials with the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation invited the public to a public display of plans for the Route 239 over Little Wapwallopen Creek Bridge Project.

The structure is located on Route 239 (Miner Street) over Little Wapwallopen Creek, approximately 1.7 miles north of Wapwallopen and 3.0 miles south of Mocanaqua.

The purpose of this project is to address structural deficiencies in the existing structure due to age and condition, and to provide safer, more efficient access across Little Wapwallopen Creek. The existing single-span steel girder open grate bridge will be replaced with a single-span PA bulb-tee beam bridge. Additional work includes, but is not limited to, approach roadway reconstruction

and widening, guide rail improvements, grading, signing, and pavement markings. The reconstructed roadway and structure will accommodate an 11-foot lane with a 4-foot outside shoulder in each direction of travel.

Traffic will be maintained during construction with a two-lane temporary runaround on the downstream side of the structure.

The project is in the preliminary design phase and is planned to commence in 2028. Construction is anticipated to begin in Spring 2029 and be completed by Fall 2029.

The virtual plans display will be available online through June 15. Information, including the proposed detour route, detailed project information, and a comment form, can be found by visiting the following PennDOT District 4-0 website. Pennsylvania.


Celebrating The Life Of A Loved One
BIRTHDAYS, DEATH ANNIVERSARIES,
OR THANK YOU NOTICES
VISIT TIMESLEADER.COM AND CLICK ON OBITUARIES
TO CREATE YOUR OWN IN MEMORIAM NOTICES.


HOUSE WASHING:
Over 39 years experience
Roccograndi Co.
Painting & General Construction
• Exterior House Washing
• Removal of all exterior debris
• We us HOT water our competitor's don't
• Cleaning all siding-brick-stone-dryvit-gutters-decks-concrete-and much more
570-288-3792
www.roccograndico.com

THEIR VIEW

Data centers aren't the enemy

The Editors
Bloomberg Opinion

For a bunch of unremarkable warehouses, they're generating a lot of controversy. Data centers — low-slung facilities that house the server racks and energy systems that underpin the digital economy — have become a heated issue on the campaign trail. Politicians from both parties are pushing bills to restrict them. Some want a nationwide “moratorium.” That would be a historic mistake.

About 4,000 data centers now dot the U.S., according to one estimate, with 3,000 more on the way. Global capital expenditure exceeded \$450 billion in 2024. Such facilities sustain much of modern life: cloud computing for communications, finance, and health care; consumer services such as YouTube, TikTok, and Zoom; and, increasingly, the training, fine-tuning, and inference processes used by artificial intelligence models.

For the areas hosting them, these centers can be a boon. For one thing, they lure tax dollars without consuming much in services; in Virginia's Loudoun County, they generate nearly half of total revenue, funding schools, tax cuts and more. To support them, utilities often expand substations, add transmission capacity, and build out new fiber, all of which benefit locals. Construction may be a pain, but it typically leads to better roads, waterworks, renewable capacity and much else.

More crucially, data centers increase growth and productivity economywide. One study found that they contributed \$727 billion to the U.S. gross domestic product in 2023, with each industry job supporting 6 1/2 elsewhere. They'll only get more important with the advance of AI, which is highly dependent on centralized computing clusters and which may itself boost GDP by 1.5% by 2035.

That said, data centers have drawbacks. They can be large, loud, and ugly. They can consume a lot of water and electricity. They've also become something of a stand-in for broader anxieties about AI. As a result, many are facing protests or lawsuits, while about a dozen states are considering bills to restrict them. By one estimate, such opposition has impeded at least \$156 billion in potential investment.

So what should be done?

First, do no harm. A national moratorium — as several lawmakers have proposed — would only slow growth, hinder innovation and erode America's lead in the AI race. Better to reap the benefits of data centers while mitigating the downsides.

Take water use. Many data centers use liquid-based cooling to alleviate the intense heat produced by high-energy chips. In some areas, this may stress already-constrained water supplies. Yet this challenge shouldn't be exaggerated: One analysis found that the water footprint of xAI Corp.'s Colossus 2 facility in Memphis — one of the largest data centers in the world — is equivalent to about 2 1/2 fast-food restaurants.

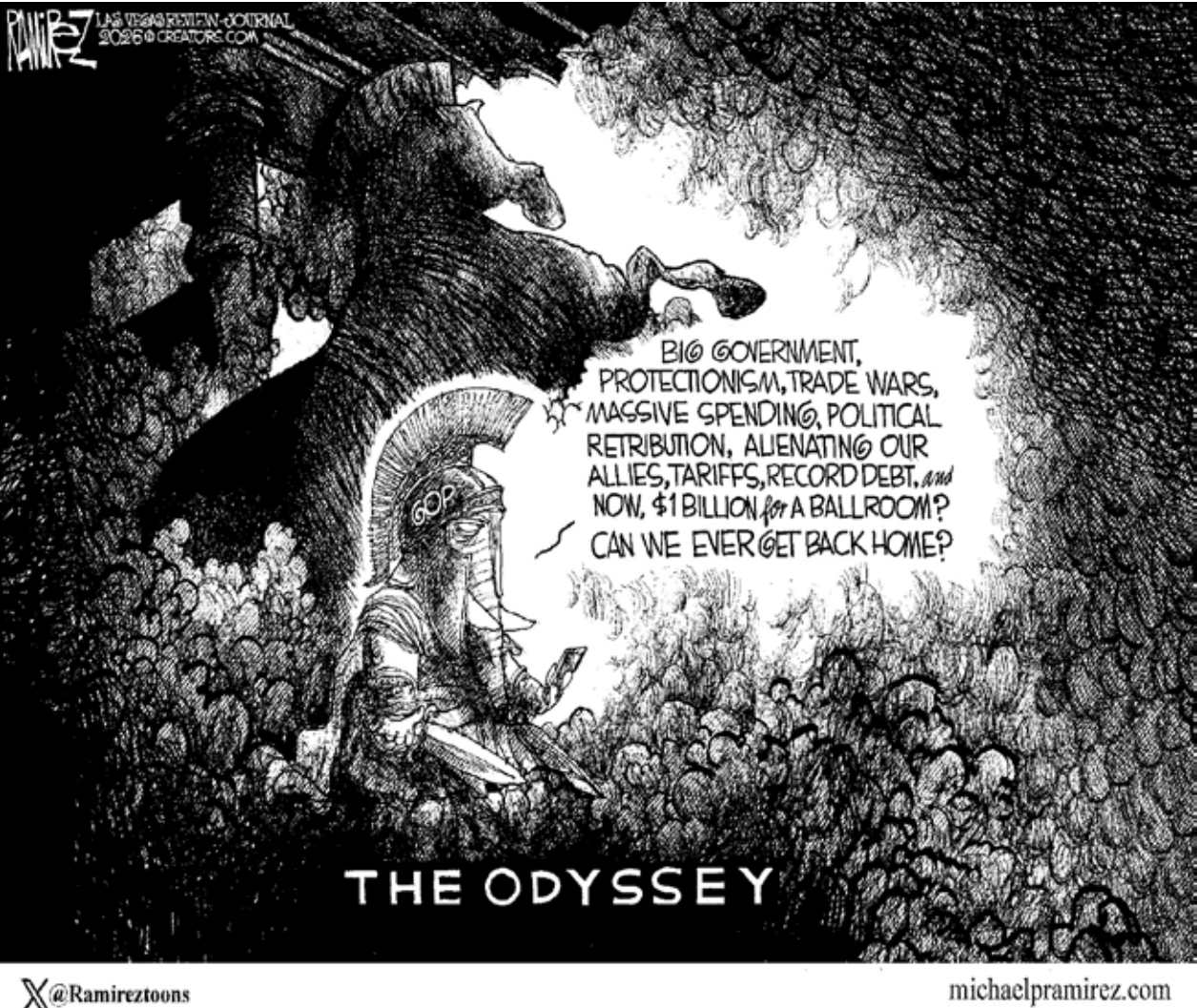
The objective, then, shouldn't be obstructionism. Policymakers should instead require transparency about water use while encouraging data centers to use recycled wastewater, build on-site storage, experiment with “closed loop” designs and take other remedial steps. They should also prioritize infrastructure investments and replenishment schemes to offset consumption.

Another reasonable worry is energy. Global electricity demand from data centers rose 17% in 2025, with AI-focused ones increasing fastest. Consumption could double by 2030. Meanwhile, supply is so constrained in some areas that big new facilities may need to wait seven years for a power hookup. Again, though, fearmongering isn't necessary. Meeting America's power needs will be a long-term project — and AI companies are well-positioned to help.

For policymakers, a few goals should be clear. They should require that companies building data centers pay for related infrastructure upgrades. They should ease the process of connecting to the grid, thereby allowing companies to generate more of their own power, and ensure that pricing reflects fluctuating demand. Not least: They should accelerate permitting reform, invest in transmission capacity, and streamline regulation, to the benefit of the broader economy.

Easier said than done, of course. But in time, as tech companies' goals align with those of the broader public, more people should see the obvious: Data centers aren't the enemy. They're the future.

The Editorial Board publishes the views of the editors across a range of national and global affairs.



THEIR VIEW

In Pa., it's one vote, no debate

And enormous consequences

Every legislative session has its defining moment, the vote that reveals not



Greg Maresca
InsideSources.com

just what politicians believe, but how far they are willing to go to impose it. That moment recently arrived in the closest of votes, 101 to

100, as the Pennsylvania House passed [House Bill 2103](#), a bill that has yet to be named but began as a modest proposal and ended as a sweeping rewrite of state anti-discrimination law after the last-minute insertion of language from the stalled “Fairness Act.”

Naming legislation often is exactly the opposite of what the bill does. Remember the Affordable Care Act? Whose health insurance hasn't skyrocketed since then?

The public never received a transparent debate on the dubious Fairness Act, which failed to advance on its own merits.

Rather, its text was transplanted into HB 2103 in a procedural maneuver that transformed the bill into a mandate. That alone should trouble anyone who values transparency. The bill's substance raises even deeper concerns.

Policy experts, lawmakers, and advocacy groups have warned that the amended HB 2103 represents one of the most significant expansions of state authority over speech, conscience, and religious



A closed door to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives is seen during the Pennsylvania Legislative session in Harrisburg on June 30, 2025. AP file photo

practice in Pennsylvania's history.

The bill dramatically broadens the definition of “public accommodation,” a term that may sound technical but carries enormous legal weight. Once expanded, it becomes the mechanism through which the state can regulate conduct, speech, and institutional policies across churches, schools, nonprofits, workplaces, and community organizations.

Supporters insist the bill is harmless. Their denials have been loud, emotional, and carefully orchestrated but they have not addressed the actual text. And as Rep. Brenda Pugh rightly noted, courts do not interpret laws based on floor speeches or political assurances. They interpret the words on the page. When those words are vague and undefined, the consequences fall on citizens, not legislators.

These concerns are not hypothetical.

They include legal exposure for churches, religious schools, and ministries that operate according to

their beliefs about human sexuality. Pressure on employees to conform to state-mandated viewpoints or risk consequences. The erosion of fairness in girls' sports, the forced opening of women's private spaces, and the looming threat that medical professionals would be compelled to violate their conscience.

These are not unconventional fears; they are the foreseeable results of the legislation itself.

Such statutory language redefines how far the government may reach into private institutions.

Rep. Jesse Topper, serving District 78, which includes parts of Bedford, Franklin, and Fulton counties, captured the core issue when he warned that the bill infringes on Pennsylvanians' religious rights and raises the fundamental question of what the limits of government authority over belief, speech, and the internal operations of faith-based organizations.

HB 2103 pushes those limits to the breaking point.

The bill's fate moves to

the Pennsylvania Senate, where the Republican majority will determine whether to advance it, amend it, or stop it altogether.

The House vote proved that one vote can alter the trajectory of the Commonwealth.

This is precisely why your involvement is paramount.

When legislation of this magnitude moves quickly and quietly, the public must respond loudly and clearly.

Pennsylvanians deserve laws that are debated transparently, written clearly, and crafted with respect for the constitutional freedoms that anchor our civic life.

HB 2103 fails that test. It represents not fairness, but force — not clarity, but confusion — not balance, but overreach.

The Senate must reject it, and Pennsylvanians should demand nothing less.

Greg Maresca is a longtime columnist living in Flyover. He wrote this for [InsideSources.com](#).

DOONESBURY: CLASSIC '80s

By Garry Trudeau



MALLARD FILLMORE

By Bruce Tinsley



IN SUMMARY

Trump says Iran ceasefire is on 'life support'

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates — U.S. President Donald Trump says the Iran ceasefire is on “life support” after he rejected Tehran’s latest proposal to end the war. Officials said the proposal included some concessions on Iran’s disputed nuclear program, but on Monday Trump dismissed it as “garbage.” The stalled diplomacy and recent exchanges of fire could tip the Middle East back into open warfare and prolong the worldwide energy crisis sparked by the conflict. Iran’s chokehold on the Strait of Hormuz and America’s blockade of Iranian ports are still in place. Trump said he would suspend the federal tax on gasoline to help Americans shoulder higher fuel prices caused by the war.

Court extends access to widely used abortion pill

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court is leaving women’s access to a widely used abortion pill untouched until at least Thursday, while the justices consider whether to allow restrictions on the drug, mifepristone, to take effect. Justice Samuel Alito’s order Monday allows women seeking abortions to continue obtaining the pill at pharmacies or through the mail, without an in-person visit to a doctor. It prevents restrictions on mifepristone imposed by a federal appeals court from taking effect for now. The court is dealing with its latest abortion controversy four years after its conservative majority overturned Roe v. Wade and allowed more than a dozen states to effectively ban abortion outright. Louisiana leads the current challenge.

Court halts order for Ala. to use new House map

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Supreme Court has set the stage for Alabama to get rid of one of two largely Black congressional districts before this year’s midterm elections. The decision Monday comes after the court in April struck down a majority-Black U.S. House district in Louisiana as an illegal racial gerrymander. Alabama has been under a court order to use two largely Black districts but asked the court to reconsider that in light of the Louisiana ruling. The high court overturned that order and directed a lower court to reconsider the case. Alabama wants to instead use a map passed in 2023 by the Republican-led legislature that has one majority-Black district.

Man charged in White House attack pleads not guilty

WASHINGTON — A California man accused of storming the White House Correspondents’ Association dinner while armed with guns and knives has pleaded not guilty to charges he attempted to kill President Donald Trump and fired a shotgun at a Secret Service officer. Cole Tomas Allen was handcuffed and shackled and wearing an orange jail uniform when he appeared in federal court for his arraignment Monday. Allen didn’t speak during the brief hearing. One of his attorneys entered the plea on his behalf. Allen’s lawyers are asking a judge to disqualify at least two top Justice Department officials from direct involvement in prosecuting him because they could be considered victims or witnesses in the case.

— Associated Press

HANTAVIRUS

Under the microscope

Passengers from virus-stricken cruise ship fly to home countries

By Josh Funk and Mike Corder

The Associated Press

OMAHA, Neb. — The last remaining passengers on a cruise ship hit by a deadly [hantavirus](#) outbreak disembarked Monday and boarded flights to more than 20 countries to enter [quarantine](#). A French woman was the latest to be confirmed as infected, while an American is suspected of infection after initial testing.

Passengers began flying home aboard military and government planes Sunday after the MV Hondius anchored in the Canary Islands. Personnel in full-body protective gear and breathing masks escorted the travelers from ship to shore in Tenerife, an effort that concluded Monday.

“If they stayed longer on the ship, the situation could have been difficult,” said Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, director-general of the World Health Organization. He said citizens of the countries passengers are returning to should know “there is nothing to fear, [the risk is low](#), this is not another COVID.”

Three cruise ship passengers have died, and six people with confirmed or suspected cases of hantavirus are being quarantined, according to the WHO. The lab results of the American who tested positive were inconclusive, WHO spokesperson Sarah Tyler said Monday.

Health authorities say it’s the first-ever hantavirus outbreak [on a cruise ship](#). While there is no cure or vaccine for hantavirus, the WHO says early detection



AP photo

Passengers are sprayed with disinfectant by Spanish government officials before boarding a plane after disembarking from the hantavirus-stricken cruise ship MV Hondius at Tenerife airport in the Canary Islands, Spain, on Sunday.

and treatment improves survival rates.

The ship’s captain, Jan Dobrogowski, issued a video message Monday praising passengers and crew for their courage and perseverance, and he called for respect for their privacy.

“I could not imagine sailing through these circumstances with a better group of people, guests and crew alike,” he said.

New cases in France, United States

The French woman who tested positive for the hantavirus is in intensive care in stable condition at a Paris hospital, French Prime Minister Sebastien Lecornu said Monday. He said four French passengers who returned Sunday have tested negative but remain in isolation at the same hospital.

One of 18 evacuated passengers flown to the U.S. also tested positive for the hantavirus but is not showing symptoms, while

another had mild symptoms, U.S. health officials said.

After landing early Monday, 16 American passengers — one of them a British-U.S. dual citizen — were taken to the University of Nebraska Medical Center, which has a federally funded quarantine facility and a biocontainment unit for treating people with highly infectious diseases. They were being assessed to determine if they had close contact with any symptomatic people and their risk levels for spreading the virus.

An American who tested positive for hantavirus on the cruise ship was taken to the Omaha campus’ biocontainment unit and will be tested again. The passenger “is doing well and not having symptoms at this time,” said Dr. Angela Hewlett, the unit’s medical director.

The others taken to Nebraska will be monitored in quarantine for sev-

eral days. They arrived “in good shape, good spirits,” said Dr. Michael Wadman, the quarantine unit’s medical director.

Two additional American passengers, a couple, arrived Monday at Emory University Hospital in Atlanta. One of them has mild symptoms and will be tested for hantavirus.

“It doesn’t necessarily mean, just because someone has symptoms, that they’re going to end up having this illness,” said Dr. Brendan Jackson of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Some public health experts have accused the U.S. government of being [slow to respond](#) to the hantavirus outbreak. Health Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. rejected the notion that cuts at his agency had left the U.S. less prepared.

“We have this under control,” Kennedy said Monday, “and we’re not worried about it.”

Trump-Xi summit comes with high stakes

By Aamer Madhani and Simina Mistreanu

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President [Donald Trump](#), in his return to the White House, has demonstrated greater ambivalence toward Taiwan, an approach that’s raising questions ahead of [this week’s summit](#) with Chinese President [Xi Jinping](#) about whether the U.S. leader could be open to dialing back support for [the island democracy](#) that Beijing views as its break-away province.

Trump in December authorized [an \\$11 billion arms package for Taiwan](#) — the largest weapons sale ever to the island — but has not yet moved forward with delivery and even acknowledged that he’s [discussed the sale with Xi](#). He’s groused that Taiwan “stole” America’s semiconductor business and [called on Taiwan to pay](#) the U.S. for protection.

All the while, Trump has, with the threat of hefty tariffs, prodded Taipei to [agree to massive investments](#) in U.S. semiconductor manufacturing and to [purchase billions of dollars’ worth](#) of U.S.

liquefied natural gas and crude oil.

The president during an Oval Office exchange with reporters on Monday said that he expected Xi would ask him to hold back on arming Taiwan.

“I’m going to have that discussion with President Xi,” Trump said about China’s strong opposition to the U.S. providing weapons to Taiwan. “President Xi would like us not to, and I’ll have that discussion.”

Trump’s rhetoric is fueling speculation in Beijing, Taipei and Washington about America’s commitment to help the island defend itself and whether the Republican president could be persuaded to cede ground on the long-standing U.S. posture toward the island.

Taiwan’s backers are concerned that Taipei will be “on the menu” when Trump and Xi sit down for talks, said retired U.S. Navy Rear Adm. Mark Montgomery.

“I do worry that we have a transactional president and a transactional opportunity could arise, and then we would have a challenge,” said Montgomery, now with the Foundation

for Defense of Democracies, a Washington think tank that supports robust U.S. backing of Taiwan.

Rubio says US policy is unchanged

The Chinese have signaled they intend to make Taiwan a [central part of the talks](#), Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi raised Taiwan during a call with Secretary of State [Marco Rubio](#) to prepare for the trip, and [urged the United States to “make the right choices”](#) about its policies toward the island in order to safeguard “stability” between the two nations, according to a statement by the Chinese Foreign Ministry.

But Rubio said U.S. policy has not changed. “We don’t want to see any forced or compelled change in the situation,” he told reporters in Rome on Friday, saying it “would be destabilizing to the world.” He noted that Taiwan would not be “a feature of our trip, but it’ll certainly be an item that’s discussed.”

White House officials have underscored that Trump, who also approved \$330 million in aircraft parts for Taiwan’s military

in November, has already approved more in military sales for Taiwan in the first year of his second term than the roughly \$8.4 billion that Democratic President Joe Biden approved over his four years in office.

Taiwan has been under pressure from the Trump administration to increase its defense spending, and on Friday its lawmakers broke months of gridlock to approve \$25 billion in arms purchases. It was significantly less than the \$40 billion proposal put forward last year by Taiwan President Lai Ching-te. A senior Trump administration official, who spoke to reporters on the condition of anonymity under ground rules set by the White House, said it was disappointing that the parliament did not fully fund Lai’s proposal.

Taiwanese government officials [have expressed concern about China’s rhetoric](#) ahead of the summit, though they’ve also taken some comfort from Rubio’s measured comments.

Xi may look to loosen US-Taiwan ties

The key question, China



AP file photo

President Donald Trump, left, and Chinese President Xi Jinping, right, shake hands before their meeting at Gimhae International Airport in Busan, South Korea, on Oct. 30, 2025.

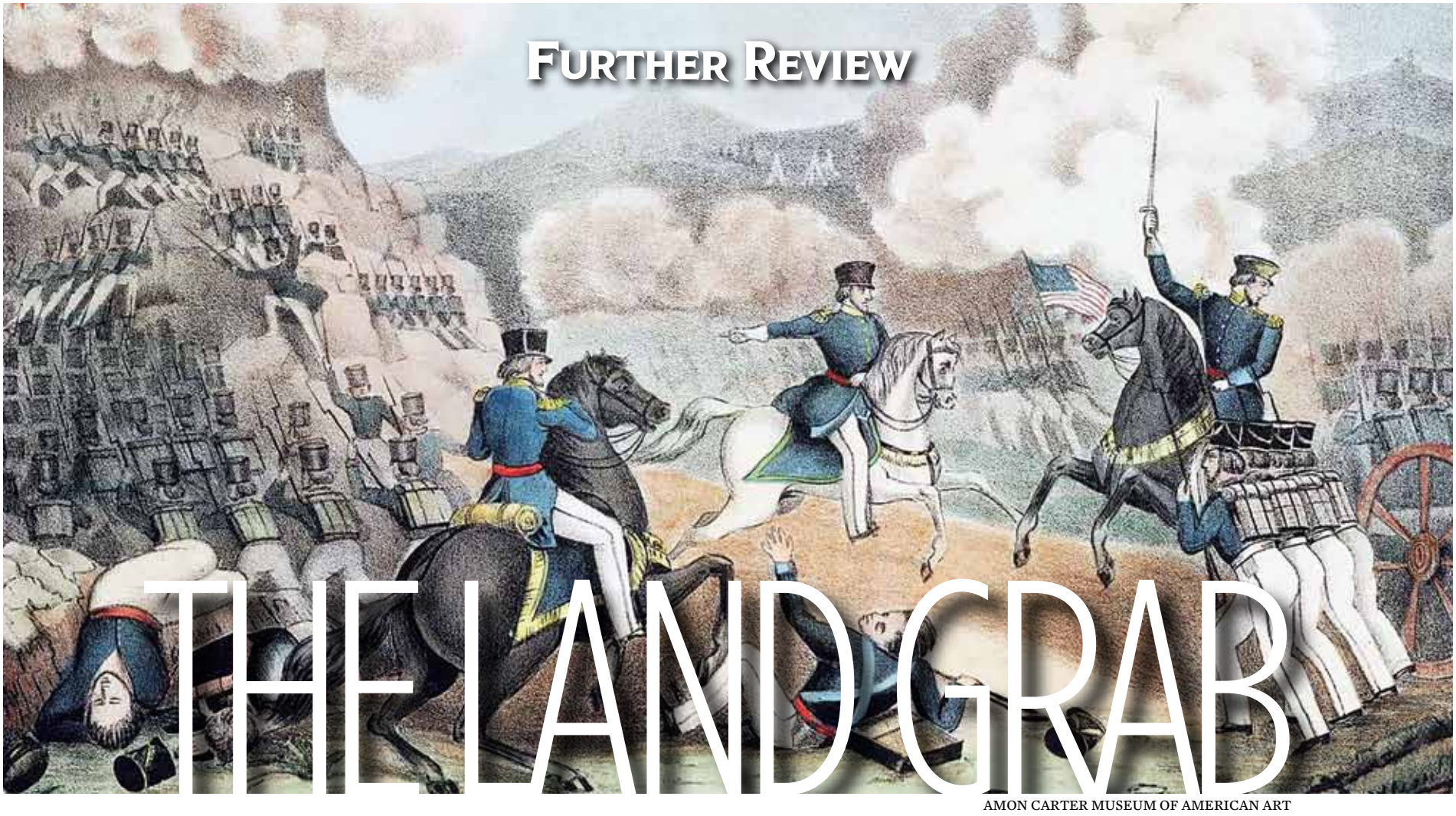
experts say, is just how far Xi will try to go in his effort to prod Trump closer to Beijing’s view.

China sees the self-ruled Taiwan as a renegade province, to be annexed by force if necessary. It prohibits countries it has diplomatic relations with from having formal ties with Taipei. Since establishing diplomatic relations with modern China in 1979, the U.S. has managed to stay within the framework of Beijing’s demands while maintaining informal support for Taiwan and providing it with arms.

As part of the U.S. ambiguity on Taiwan, Washington acknowledges Beijing’s position that Taiwan is part of China

but does not explicitly endorse it. The U.S. has also historically stated it “does not support” Taiwan’s independence and opposes unilateral changes to the status quo between Taiwan and China.

But analysts say Xi could seek to persuade Trump — who already has demonstrated a willingness to blur the lines of traditional diplomacy — to loosen ties with Taiwan through curbs on U.S. arms sales or with informal limits on [visits by prominent U.S. officials](#) to the island. In February, Trump suggested he broke from longstanding U.S. policy and [consulted with Xi on arms sales to Taiwan](#).



By Charles Apple | THE SPOKESMAN-REVIEW

By 1840, the United States occupied 1.7 million square miles of territory. That was five times the size of Austria, the largest country in Europe.

But it wasn’t enough. Americans eyed the western parts of North America and felt an urge to farm the countrysides there, hunt its forests and build port cities along its coast.

Step one would be to deprive Mexico of its claim to the region.

FULLFILLING AMERICA’S ‘MANIFEST DESTINY’

Mexico laid claim to most of western North America in 1540. But only very small portions of that territory had been settled.

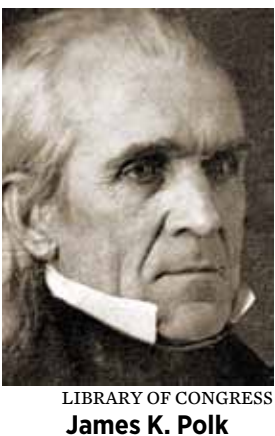
Southerners hungry for more land had moved to northern Mexico in the 1820s — shortly after Mexico had earned its independence from Spain — and, against the wishes of the Mexican government, brought slaves with them. They eventually declared their independence from Mexico in March 1836 and fought a war of independence, becoming an independent country the next month.

Questions remained regarding the border between Mexico and the Republic of Texas. Texans claimed it was the Rio Grande River. Mexico

maintained the border was the Nueces River, a good 150 miles to the north.

Texans then wanted to become annexed by the United States, but Mexico threatened another war if the U.S. took possession of Texas. In addition, U.S. political leaders realized that would upset the delicate balance between slave-owning states and free states. So the matter was left to a later date.

James K. Polk ran for president in 1844 declaring “All of Texas and All of Oregon” — promising to annex Texas



LIBRARY OF CONGRESS
James K. Polk

and to wrestle the Oregon Territory south of the 49th parallel away from Great Britain.

Polk’s election victory was seen as a mandate for expansion. Journalist John L. O’Sullivan was the first to coin the term: “fulfillment of our manifest destiny to overspread the continent allotted by providence.”

Mexico was in default of \$2 million in debt to the United States. In July 1845, Polk dispatched Congressman John Slidell to Mexico to offer to cancel that debt and throw in another \$30 million to buy the disputed areas

and the vast region stretching to the Pacific Ocean.

The president of Mexico, Gen. Mariano Paredes, declined. So Polk sent 4,000 U.S. Cavalry troops into the disputed territory north of the Rio Grande.

On April 25, 1846, Mexican troops skirmished with those troops. This gave Polk the excuse he needed to address Congress, saying that “war exists.” He asked for action to drive Mexico back across the Rio Grande and to pursue the war to “a speedy and successful termination.”

Congress granted Polk his war on May 13, 1846. It also voted to raise and supply 50,000 more troops.

OBJECTIONS TO THE WAR



Former president **John Quincy Adams**, who was a Congressman from Massachusetts, called the war with Mexico “A most unrighteous war.” Adams died in February 1848, before a peace treaty was signed.



Second Lieutenant **Ulysses S. Grant** was careful to follow the chain of command and expressed no reservations during the war itself. But later, he’d call the war “one of the most unjust ever waged by a stronger against a weaker nation. It was an instance of a republic following the bad example of European monarchies, in not considering justice in their desire to acquire additional territory.”



Illinois Congressman and future president **Abraham Lincoln** called the war “unnecessarily and unconstitutionally commenced by the president” and accused Polk of being “a bewildered, confounded and miserably perplexed man.” He introduced “spot resolutions” to demand proof that American blood was shed on U.S. soil rather than in disputed territory.

THE MEXICAN-AMERICAN WAR

April 25, 1846
In the **Rancho Carricitos** skirmish — also known as **the Thornton Affair** — Mexican troops attack U.S. calvary units in the disputed territory north of the Rio Grande. This gives Polk the excuse he needed to declare war.

1 May 8
The first major battle of the war, **the Battle of Palo Alto**, is fought on disputed ground five miles from the present-day city of Brownsville, Texas.

2 May 9
Mexican forces retreating from Palo Alto take refuge in an old dry channel of the Rio Grande. In **the Battle of Resaca de la Palma**, Gen. Zachary Taylor’s forces succeeded in driving Mexican forces out of the disputed territory.

May 13
Congress declares war on Mexico.

3 August 18
U.S. forces occupy what is now Santa Fe, New Mexico, without firing a shot in **the Battle of Cañoncito**.

August
Former Mexican president and general Antonio López de Santa Anna promises Polk if he’s allowed to leave exile in Cuba — where he’s been since surrendering at the end of Texas’ war for independence — he’ll help talk Mexico into accepting Polk’s original



offer. Polk orders him released, but Santa Anna goes back on his word and takes charge of the Mexican army.

4 Sept. 20-24
U.S. regulars, volunteers and Texas Rangers earn a hard-fought victory in northern Mexico at **the Battle of Monterrey**.

5 January 1847
American forces in California win **the Battle of Rio San Gabriel** and the

Battle of La Mesa near present-day Los Angeles. On Jan. 13, a treaty is signed, ending fighting in California.

6 Feb. 22-23
Santa Anna leads a force of 14,000 men against Taylor’s 5,000 men in **the Battle of Buena Vista**. U.S. troops are nearly overrun until U.S. artillery begins firing at close range. The victory gives Taylor control of all of northeastern Mexico.

7 March 9-27

U.S. forces under Gen. Winfield Scott make the first successful amphibious landing in U.S. history and begin **the Siege of Veracruz**.

8 April 18
Scott’s troops rout Santa Anna’s forces in **the Battle of Cerro Gordo**.

9 May 15
Mexico’s second largest city, Puebla, offers little resistance to Scott and surrenders, opening the path for U.S. troops to advance on Mexico City.

10 Sept. 13
In **the Battle of Chapultepec**, U.S. troops storm a mountaintop castle, where a group of teenage Mexican military cadets fight to the death, becoming known as “Niños Héroes,” or “Heroic Children.”

Sept. 14
U.S. troops march into Mexico City, ending the fighting in Mexico.

Feb. 2, 1848
The war officially ends with the signing of **the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo**. The U.S. gains 525,000 square miles of territory, which now make up much of the states of New Mexico, Utah, Nevada, Arizona, California, and Texas, as well as western Colorado. In return, the U.S. pays Mexico \$15 million and pledges that Mexicans who remain in that territory can retain their land and will be granted U.S. citizenship.

Sources: “The Mexican War” by David Nevin and the editors of Time-Life Books, “The Mental Floss History of the United States” by Erik Sass, “National Geographic’s United States: An Illustrated History” by Ron Fisher, “The American Nation: A History of the United States” by John A. Garraty, “Chronicle of America” by Dorling Kindersley, Library of Congress, Office of the Historian of the Department of State, Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library, National Constitution Center, National Park Service, Northern Illinois University Digital Library, PBS’ “American Experience,” History.com



Grace Chyuwei pours water on Joe Chyuwei to help with the heat on Aug. 3, 2025, in Death Valley National Park, Calif.

AP file photo

Is a record-breaking El Niño coming?

By Jennifer McDermott
The Associated Press

Seasonal models are predicting an El Nino climate pattern that could be the strongest on record, bringing with it more extreme weather.

“I think we’re going to see weather events that we’ve never seen in modern history before,” WFLA-TV Chief Meteorologist and Climate Specialist Jeff Berardelli, in Tampa, Florida, said Friday.

An El Nino event is expected to develop from the middle of this year, impacting global temperature and rainfall patterns, according to the World Meteorological Organization. While the models indicate that this may be a strong event, the WMO cautioned that the models also have a harder time making accurate forecasts in the spring.

What El Nino is

El Nino is a cyclical and natural warming of patches of the equatorial Pacific that then alters the world’s weather patterns. Its counterpart, La Nina, is marked by waters that are cooler than average.

Berardelli said an El Nino event essentially redistributes



A firefighter battles the Canyon Fire on Aug. 7, 2025, in Hasley Canyon, Calif.

AP file photo

heat on Earth. Currently, the subsurface heat in the Pacific is moving east across the ocean and ascending to the surface from the deep waters, the initial stages of El Nino.

The WMO’s Global Seasonal Climate Update showed that sea-surface temperatures are rising rapidly. There is high confidence in the onset of El Nino, followed by further intensification in the months to follow, according to Wilfran Moufouma Okia, chief of climate prediction at WMO.

El Nino typically occurs every two to seven years and lasts around nine to 12 months, WMO said.

Why it’s causing alarm

It looks like the predictive models are onto something, said California Institute for Water Resources climate scientist Daniel Swain. That is because the volume and the intensity of the subsurface warm water anomalies — or pulses of unusually warm water that are a key part of El Nino physics— are about as large as we’ve seen in the historical record, he added.

The very strongest events are called “super El Ninos.”

“One of the key building blocks to make it fully materialize is, in fact, occurring,” Swain said Friday. “We still don’t know

exactly what’s going to happen. It’s not guaranteed it’ll be a super El Nino. But the potential is there for something genuinely remarkable.”

If the Pacific releases a lot of heat, it supercharges the climate system and wreaks havoc weather-wise, Berardelli said. With more heat, there will be stronger heat waves, worsening drought in some areas, but also more moisture in the air that leads to more intense floods, he said.

El Nino also subdues the hurricane season in the Atlantic because there is so much heat in the Pacific that outcompetes the Atlantic, Berardelli added. Places like the Caribbean will be extra dry this summer and likely have fewer tropical systems, he said.

Where we may see the impacts

El Nino has global impacts. Across the United States, it looks like this summer will be hotter than normal, with significant heat waves, Berardelli said. While the specifics are hard to pinpoint this far out, Berardelli is also expecting to see more frequent daily thunderstorms in the Southwest U.S.

See NINO | 11A

WOMEN’S HEALTH MONTH

Understanding genitourinary syndrome of menopause

If you’re in your 40s or 50s, you may notice intimacy with your partner has become uncomfortable or even painful. You might also notice more frequent trips to the bathroom or a persistent feeling of vaginal dryness. These changes aren’t just part of getting older. They’re signs of a treatable medical condition.



Brytanie Marshall, MD
Geisinger physician
OB/GYN

Genitourinary syndrome of menopause (GSM) describes a range of physical changes that happen when estrogen levels drop during perimenopause and after menopause. While estimates vary, about 75% of postmenopausal women have symptoms, yet more than half never seek treatment.

Genitourinary syndrome of menopause used to be called vulvovaginal atrophy, but the newer term GSM better captures the full range of symptoms that can affect your genital and urinary health.

GSM happens when declining estrogen levels cause physical changes in your vagina, vulva, and urinary tract. Menopause brings a dramatic 95% reduction in estrogen production, which affects the tissues in your genital and urinary systems.

Unlike hot flashes that often improve over time, GSM is progressive and irreversible, and without treatment, your symptoms will only get worse. That’s why recognizing the symptoms early and getting treatment matters.

When your ovaries were working at top capacity, your vagina was constantly growing an abundance of new, protective cells and shedding old cells. The shed cells feed helpful bacteria. Flourishing good bacteria create a more acidic environment — something between the pH of vinegar and beer. In addition to possibly staining your dark underwear, the acidity fights bad bacteria.

That changes when you’re approaching or in menopause or you’ve lost ovarian function. When estrogen plummets, vaginal cell growth slows to a crawl and supports fewer good bacteria. Your vagina gets less acidic, closer to the pH of milk. This lets bad bacteria flourish and increases your chances of vaginal and urinary infections.

Without that constant cell turnover, your vagina is also more easily irritated by friction or — especially troubling — sex.

GSM symptoms fall into 3 main categories. According to recent research, you might have just a few symptoms or several.

- Vaginal and vulvar symptoms: 75% of women have vaginal dryness. You may also have itching, burning, irritation, a feeling of tightness or soreness, and discomfort with sitting or exercising. The vaginal tissue might feel more fragile.
- Sexual symptoms: 40% of women report pain during intercourse (dyspareunia). Decreased lubrication during sexual activity is often the first sign of GSM. You might also notice pain on penetration, light bleeding after sex, or find that sexual activity is simply less comfortable than it used to be.

See MENOPAUSE | 11A

Health advice floods social media

Here’s how to vet claims

By Devi Shastri
The Associated Press

Health and wellness advice is available in abundance on [social media](#) — from trendy to informative to straight-up disinformation — and you’re far from alone in seeing it.

A new survey by the Pew Research Center finds that about 4 in 10 U.S. adults — and around half of those under 50 — get health information from [social media](#) or podcasts.

Researchers also looked at the social media profiles of 6,828 health and wellness influencers with at least 100,000 followers. Only about 4 in 10 list a background as a health professional. About one-third called themselves coaches, about 3 in 10 described themselves as entrepreneurs and about 1 in 10 cited their own life experience, like being a parent.

Despite the wide range of expertise, about half of people who get health and wellness [information from influencers](#) said the influencers help them



Young people use their phones to view social media in Sydney on Nov. 8, 2024.

AP file photo

better understand their own health, while about one-third said it hasn’t made much difference. About 1 in 10 said it made them more confused.

Experts say a bit of skepticism is key to interacting with posts about [fitness](#), [mental health](#) and

personal health. Here are their [tips on how to be a smarter consumer](#).

How to vet a health influencer’s credentials

Experts said the biggest green flag is when an influencer’s cre-

dentials are easy to find on their profile. Beware the fill-in-the-blank “coach” who can’t prove their training.

Courtney Babilya, a certified medical exercise specialist

See ADVICE | 11A



AP file photo
People walk through a part of the Amazon River that shows signs of drought in Santa Sofia, on the outskirts of Leticia, Colombia, on Oct. 20, 2024.

Nino

From page 10A

Forest degradation, driven by wildfires, logging and drought, affects about 40% of the Amazon. This could be exacerbated in 2026 with a strong El Nino.

The excess heat brought to the surface by El Nino, combined with the planet's warming due to climate change, will lead to record-breaking global warmth,

Swain said. He expects to see record global warm temperatures later this year, next year or both.

"All indicators are, at this point, that the next year is going to be a pretty wild year from a global climate perspective," Swain said.

Michael Mann, a University of Pennsylvania climate scientist, said that while El Nino boosts global temperatures a bit for a year or two, it's basically a "zero-sum game." It typically oscillates back

toward La Nina, which in turn lowers global temperatures for a year or two, he added. The thing to worry about is the longer-term, steady warming trend that will continue as long as people continue to burn fossil fuels, Mann said Friday.

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.

Menopause

From page 10A

- Urinary symptoms: Between 30% and 40% of women feel an urgent need to pee, or pee more often. You may develop recurrent urinary tract infections (UTIs), and some women feel burning when they urinate.
 - There are many myths about GSM.
 - It's just aging, and nothing can help. Not true. Evidence-based GSM treatment works for most people.
 - It's only vaginal dryness. GSM also includes urinary urgency, frequency, and recurrent infections.
 - Symptoms go away on their own. They usually don't. Gentle, consistent care helps tissues heal and stay healthy.
 - Hormonal options aren't safe. Low-dose local therapies have minimal systemic absorption for most people.
- Your gynecologist can help you find treatment that will protect you from pain and infection as you age. The value of treating this condition is a key part of living a long, fulfilling life.
- The impact of genitourinary symptoms extends beyond physical discomfort. These changes can affect your rela-

tionships, self-esteem, and daily activities.

Sexual intimacy may become a source of anxiety rather than pleasure. Many women worry about the long-term effects on their partnerships. The condition can also disrupt sleep and make everyday activities like sitting, walking, or wearing certain clothing uncomfortable.

A careful conversation and a gentle pelvic exam are usually enough to diagnose genitourinary syndrome of menopause. The goals are to confirm GSM, rule out other causes, and find factors that shape your treatment plan.

Your healthcare provider may test you for infection and perform a pelvic exam to make an accurate diagnosis. Most importantly, they will ask you about your symptoms and past history, and your honest answers will be key to finding relief.

Several effective treatments can help manage GSM symptoms. Your path to relief often starts simple and progresses as needed.

Non-hormonal options: Over-the-counter vaginal moisturizers used 2 to 3 times weekly and lubricants used during sexual activity are often tried first. These can provide relief for mild symptoms

without a prescription. Avoid moisturizers with a warming, tingling, or heating sensation. They can make you more irritated.

Vaginal estrogen therapy: For moderate to severe symptoms, low-dose vaginal estrogen is considered the gold standard for treatment. It comes in creams, tablets, or rings and works directly where you need it most. This treatment for genitourinary syndrome of menopause largely stays out of your bloodstream, so it's useful even for those who are concerned about using hormones.

Other prescription options: Your doctor might recommend vaginal DHEA inserts or oral ospemifene, both of which have been shown to improve dryness and pain. These options work well for women who prefer alternatives to estrogen or need additional relief.

Don't wait for symptoms to become severe. Early treatment can prevent progression and improve your quality of life more quickly. Remember, healthcare providers are trained to discuss these concerns. What might feel embarrassing to you is routine for them — and we want to help you feel better.

Advice

From page 10A

personal trainer who has more than 430,000 followers on Instagram, has seen this with maternity content: "Someone has a baby and suddenly they're a pregnancy coach."

"We have to be careful with people who have an experience in one thing and suddenly become a 'coach' on that," she said.

Coach is a business model, not a sign of training. Babilya shares her own experience dealing with chronic illness online, but keeps it separate from her professional advice.

"You do have an obligation to make sure that you are not giving someone a false idea or spreading a message that isn't going to be applicable to everyone," she said.

Don't fall for viral shock factor

If it brings up big emotions, pause. For people who can't access care or feel unheard by their doctors, an offbeat opinion could feel like a long-sought answer. The Pew survey found 53% of uninsured people got

health information from social media, compared to 38% of those who were insured.

But people who are trying to share good medical information online are not trying to incite fear or surprise, said Dr. Fatima Daoud Yilmaz, an OB-GYN at Stony Brook Medicine in New York, whose popular "Feminine Aisle" video series rates drug store products.

Even if the person has expertise, ask yourself: Are they speaking outside the scope of their knowledge? Is what they're saying in line with scientific consensus?

"All opinions are not created equal when it comes to something such as health or medicine or science," said Daoud.

Look out for exaggerated or definitive claims, especially in the first few seconds of the video when influencers are trying hard to grab your attention, added Babilya.

Ambivalent wording is a good sign, said Nedra Glover Tawwab, a practicing therapist and author. In her videos on boundaries and mental health, she couches with "maybe," "sometimes," "perhaps," rather than diagnosing her 1.8 million followers

on Instagram.

If you feel like you've found a diagnosis online, that is your sign to seek out a professional, Tawwab said.

Follow the influencer money

People on social media are making money — for some, it is their livelihood.

"It doesn't mean that all of the information that they put out is biased, but it should tell consumers of that information to take it with a grain of salt because they do have financial incentive to be pushing information like this," Daoud said.

Babilya's platform is now a full-time job, and the way she helps support her family. Taking partnerships and brand deals was not an easy decision, but one that makes her work sustainable.

Babilya said she prioritizes being upfront with her audience and making sure her ads are transparently labeled.

Stop being a passive scroller

Experts also recommend pausing to check the video's sources. Look for [gold standard science](#). Some posts are not well fact-checked, Babilya

warned, citing studies that have nothing to do with what the influencer says it does.

Use the same standard as when you're vetting a purchase online. Look at the larger conversation around the advice as you would reading product reviews, Tawwab said.

Two-thirds of users said they just happen to come across the content rather than seeking it out, according to the Pew survey.

If you want to control your feed, it will take time and ongoing effort, said Ash Milton of the University of Minnesota, who studies how users navigate online mental health information.

"You have to work for it because the algorithm is designed to be passive consumption," Milton said.

You can use "Hidden Words" on Instagram or

"Not Interested" on TikTok to filter out certain content, though Milton notes TikTok might not know exactly what in the video you're not interested in. Use your own reaction as a barometer to limit content by asking yourself: Is the health information actually applicable and helpful to your life, or just relatable?

Find a doctor you trust

Confirm with a trusted health professional before acting on anything you see online.

Influencers can say anything while medical professionals are ethically and legally liable for your care, and "may face professional and personal consequences for the advice that they give you," Daoud said.

"Ultimately, talk to the medical provider who knows you," she said.

The Associated Press Health and Science Department receives support from the Howard Hughes Medical Institute's Department of Science Education and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. The AP is solely responsible for all content.

DIVERSIFIED...

FOR ALL OF YOUR
REAL ESTATE NEEDS
RESIDENTIAL, COMMERCIAL,
LEASING AND LAND

PROVIDING PROMPT,
PROFESSIONAL SERVICE
WITH ATTENTION TO DETAIL
FOR MORE THAN 30 YEARS
JUDY RICE,
ASSOCIATE BROKER
GRI, ABR, CRS
LEWITH & FREEMAN
REAL ESTATE
O: (570) 288-9371
D: (570) 714-9230
EMAIL: JUDYRICE@EPIX.NET

THANK YOU
NURSES

NATIONAL NURSES WEEK

AlliedServices
INTEGRATED HEALTH SYSTEM

HOME IMPROVEMENT \$5000 Giveaway
TIMES LEADER MEDIA GROUP

ENTER TO WIN

Contest Run Dates:
April 20 - May 19, 2026

Go to [timesleader.com/HIGiveaway](https://www.timesleader.com/HIGiveaway)
for your chance to win

As Well As Prizes From Our Local Sponsors

PRIMO
SEWER CLEANING

RAIL ROOFING
GROUP

VOITEK
TV AND APPLIANCES

ENTER NOW!
at www.timesleader.com/HIGiveaway
TIMES LEADER
110 YEARS STRONG

Google disrupts hackers using AI

By Matt O'brien
The Associated Press

Google said Monday that it had disrupted a criminal group's attempt to use [artificial intelligence](#) to exploit another company's previously unknown digital vulnerability, adding to heightened worries across government and private industry about AI's risks for cybersecurity.

Google shared limited information about the attackers and the target, but John Hultquist, chief analyst at the tech giant's threat intelligence arm, said it represents a moment cybersecurity experts have warned about for years: malicious hackers arming themselves with AI to supercharge their ability to break into the world's computers.

"It's here," Hultquist said. "The era of AI-driven vulnerability and exploitation is already here."

It comes at a time of leaps in AI's abilities to find vulnerabilities, including the Mythos model announced a month ago by [Anthropic](#). Among those trying to bolster their defenses is President Donald Trump's [White House](#), which has shifted its approach in how it plans to vet the most powerful AI models before their public release.

After following through with a campaign promise to repeal Democratic [President Joe Biden's guardrails](#) around the fast-developing technology, the Republican administration and its allies are now sending mixed signals about the government playing a larger role in AI oversight.

"Some people don't want there to be a regulatory response to this and others do," said Dean Ball, a senior fellow at the Foundation for American Innovation who was previously a White House tech policy adviser and a lead author of Trump's AI policy roadmap last year.

"I don't like regulation," Ball said. "I would prefer for things not to be regulated. But I think we need to in this case."

Google: Evidence found of AI helping cyberattack

Google said it observed a group of prominent "threat actors" planning a big operation relying on a bug they had found. The vulnerability allowed them to bypass two-factor authentication to access a popular online

system administration tool, which Google declined to name.

The company called it a zero-day exploit, a cyberattack that takes advantage of a previously unknown security vulnerability. "Zero-day" refers to the fact that the security engineers have had zero days to develop a fix for the vulnerability.

Google said it notified the affected company and law enforcement and was able to disrupt the operation before it caused any damage. But as it traced the hackers' footprints, it found evidence they had used an AI large language model — the same technology that powers popular chatbots — to discover the vulnerability.

Google didn't reveal which AI model was used in the cyberattack, only that it was most likely not Google's own Gemini or Anthropic's Claude Mythos. Google also didn't reveal which group it suspected in the attack but said there was no evidence it was tied to an adversarial government, though the company said groups tied to China and North Korea have been exploring similar techniques.

Hultquist said that compared with government spies who typically work slowly and quietly, criminal hackers have some of the most to gain from AI's "tremendous capability for speed" in finding and weaponizing security bugs.

"There's a race between you and them to stop them before they can essentially get whatever data they need to extort you with, or launch ransomware," he said in an interview. "AI is going to be a huge advantage because they can move a lot faster."

Anthropic's Mythos sparks panic

Trump's Commerce Department announced last week that it signed new agreements with Google, Microsoft, and Elon Musk's xAI to evaluate their most powerful AI models before their public release, building on previous agreements the Biden administration made with Anthropic and [ChatGPT maker OpenAI](#). But the announcement later disappeared from the Commerce Department website.

It was the latest example of jumbled signals from the Trump administration in the

See GOOGLE | 13A



AP file photo
A woman walks by a giant screen displaying the Google logo at an event at the Paris Google Lab on the sidelines of the AI Action Summit in Paris on Feb. 9, 2025.



AP file photo
A for-sale sign is posted outside a home on Feb. 10 in Nashville, Tenn.

US home sales go flat
Lackluster spring season lurches forward

By Alex Veiga
The Associated Press

Sales of previously occupied U.S. homes were essentially flat in April, [another lackluster showing](#) for the housing market during what's traditionally its busiest time of the year.

Existing home sales edged up 0.2% last month from March to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 4.02 million units, the National Association of Realtors said Monday. Sales were unchanged compared to April last year.

The latest sales figure fell short of the roughly 4.12 million pace economists were expecting, according to FactSet.

Sales have been hovering close to a 4-million annual pace now going back to 2023, far short of the historic norm that is closer to 5.2-million.

And home prices continued to rise nationally last month, albeit at a slower rate. The U.S. median sales price increased 0.9% in April from a year earlier to \$417,700, an all-time high for any April on data going back to 1999, NAR

said. Home prices have risen on an annual basis for 34 months in a row.

The U.S. housing market has been in a slump since 2022, when mortgage rates began to climb from pandemic-era lows. Sales of previously occupied U.S. homes were essentially flat last year, stuck at [a 30-year low](#). They have remained sluggish so far this year, declining from a year earlier through the first three months of this year.

"This spring home-buying season, so far all the way through April, we can say we are not predicting any increase compared to one year ago," said Lawrence Yun, NAR's chief economist.

While average incomes are now rising at a faster pace than U.S. home prices, affordability remains a major hurdle for aspiring homeowners.

Years of soaring home prices, especially in the early part of this decade when rock-bottom mortgage rates fueled a buying frenzy, have left many would-be homebuyers frozen out of the market. And a chronic shortage of homes for sale nationally, due partly to years of

below-average new home construction, has helped prop up home prices even in a multiyear sales slump.

Homes purchased last month likely went under contract in February and March, when the average rate on a 30-year mortgage ranged from 5.98% — its lowest level in three and a half years — to 6.38%, according to mortgage buyer Freddie Mac. The average rate was at [6.37% last week](#).

While the average rate has remained below where it was a year ago, it has been fluctuating since the [war with Iran](#) began, as surging energy prices fuel anxiety about higher inflation.

Those who can afford to buy are benefiting from more properties on the market, although home inventory levels remain well below historical norms.

There were 1.47 million unsold homes at the end of April, up 5.8% from March and up 1.4% from April last year, NAR said. That's the most homes on the market for the month of April going back to 2019, when the month-end inventory stood at

1.83 million homes.

That's still short of the roughly 2 million homes for sale that was typical before the COVID-19 pandemic.

April's month-end inventory translates to a 4.4-month supply at the current sales pace. Traditionally, a 5- to 6-month supply is considered a balanced market between buyers and sellers.

"We really need to see 30% growth in inventory, but we're not really seeing that," Yun said.

One factor helping boost the supply of homes for sale is many properties are sitting on the market longer. Properties typically remained on the market for 32 days last month before selling, down from 41 days in March, but up from 29 days in April last year, NAR said.

As homes take longer to sell, asking prices have started falling in many metro areas, especially in the South and Midwest. The national median home listing price was down in April from a year earlier, according to Realtor.com.

Trump says he'll suspend federal gasoline tax

He can't do it on his own

By Matthew Daly
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump said Monday he will move to suspend the federal tax on gasoline to help Americans shoulder [surging fuel prices](#) caused by the Iran war.

The president cannot suspend the federal tax on his own. Congress would have to approve



AP photo
President Donald Trump speaks to reporters at an event on maternal healthcare in the Oval Office of the White House in Washington on Monday.

See TAX | 13A



A driver begins to pump gas at a filling station in Fort Worth, Texas, on April 14.

AP photo

Tax

From page 12A

the move.

Lawmakers from both parties have pushed for a gas-tax suspension, saying it would provide [much-needed relief for families and businesses](#) that rely on their cars and trucks to get to work and school and run everyday errands.

As of Monday, the average national gas price was \$4.52 a gallon, according to the AAA motor club, 50% higher than the average price of just under \$3 a gallon before Trump began the war against Iran.

What the gas tax supports

The federal tax is currently set at 18.4 cents per gallon on gasoline and 24.4 cents per gallon on diesel fuel, an amount that does not include state taxes, which often are higher. The tax provides more than \$23 billion per year in revenue for federal highway and public transit programs.

Asked by reporters at

the White House how long the tax should be suspended, Trump said, “Until it’s appropriate.” While the tax is only a small percentage of the price of gas, “it’s still money,” Trump said.

[As gas prices have spiked](#), the Trump administration has [released millions of barrels of oil](#) from the U.S. Strategic Petroleum Reserve and temporarily lifted sanctions on some Russian and Iranian oil shipments already at sea. The U.S. is [negotiating with countries reliant on Middle East crude](#) to police the [Strait of Hormuz](#), where about one-fifth of the world’s traded oil normally flows.

Trump needs Congress

Republican Sen. Josh Hawley of Missouri said on social media Monday that he will introduce legislation to suspend the gas tax. Democrats have previously sponsored similar legislation. Rep. Anna Paulina Luna, R-Fla., also said in [a post on X](#) that she will introduce a bill “to suspend the federal gas

tax in light of Trump’s recent remarks.”

Senate Majority Leader John Thune said Monday he has not “been a fan” of a gas tax suspension, but added: “You know, I’ve got some colleagues out there who think it’s a good idea. So, we’ll hear them out.”

Thune, a Republican from South Dakota, said he’d prefer to reopen the Strait of Hormuz to “normalize gas prices” without legislation. “Obviously, any time you suspend the gas tax, that leaves a big hole in the highway trust fund, which also has implications down the road,” he said.

The ongoing spike in gas prices has set off alarms among some Republicans that it could hurt the party’s chances in the midterm elections. Trump has previously said higher fuel prices are worth paying to prevent Iran from getting a nuclear weapon.

That hardline message appeared to soften Sunday as Energy Secretary

Chris Wright said the Trump administration was “open to all ideas,” including a suspension of the gas tax, during an interview on [NBC’s “Meet the Press.”](#)

A bill sponsored by Democratic Sens. Richard Blumenthal of Connecticut and Mark Kelly of Arizona would suspend the federal tax through Oct. 1. A similar measure was sponsored in the House by Democratic Rep. Chris Pappas of New Hampshire.

“Trump’s war of choice with Iran is driving up gas prices across the country — and Americans shouldn’t have to bear the additional economic burden of Trump’s reckless decision making,” Blumenthal said in introducing the bill.

Several states, including Indiana and Georgia, have recently suspended their taxes to alleviate high prices amid the war. Kentucky and Utah have reduced their state tax. Other states are weighing similar suspensions or

tax reductions.

There are drawbacks, industry group says

The gasoline tax is the single largest source of revenue for federal highway and public transit programs.

While proposed bills would offset any lost [Highway Trust Fund revenue](#) with general funds, the tax suspension could raise the federal deficit and jeopardize the long-term sustainability of investments for highway and public transit programs, according to the American Road & Transportation Builders Association, which represents the transportation construction industry.

The group cites studies showing that many retailers do not pass on the full amount of the gas tax reduction to consumers. Research also suggests that state and federal gas taxes are just one component of a complex pricing scheme that includes the global price of oil and other factors.

Google

From page 12A

month since Anthropic announced a new model it called Mythos that it said was so “strikingly capable” at hacking and cybersecurity work that it could only release it to a small group of trusted organizations.

Anthropic created an initiative called Project Glasswing bringing together tech giants including Amazon, Apple, Google and Microsoft, along with other companies like JPMorgan Chase, in hopes of securing the world’s critical software from “severe” fallout that the new model could pose to public safety, national security and the economy. But its [relationship with the U.S. government](#) was complicated by a public and legal fight with the Pentagon and Trump himself [over military use of its AI technology](#).

Its top rival, OpenAI, has since introduced a similar model. The company said Friday it was releasing a specialized cybersecurity version of ChatGPT that would only be available to “defenders responsible for securing critical infrastructure” to help them find and patch vulnerabilities in their code.

Ball said he’s optimistic that, over the long term, AI tools that are increasingly good at coding will make us safer from the routine cyberattacks afflicting hospitals, schools and other organizations. In the meantime, however, he said there are “untold trillions of lines of software code” supporting the world’s computing systems that are at risk if AI tools are unleashed to exploit all of their bugs.

It could take years to harden all of that software — a process that Ball believes would be aided by coordination from the U.S. government.

In the meantime, Ball predicts a “transitional period” where cybersecurity risks rise significantly and “the world might actually be more dangerous.”

This Wednesday, May 13 at 5-6pm.

Balance, Dizziness and Fall Prevention Workshop

Balance, Dizziness and Fall Prevention Workshop
Reveals How To Prevent Falls And
Improve Your Balance

• Have you fallen in the past?

• Are you afraid of falling?

• Has your balance become more unsteady?

• Has your walking become more difficult?

• Have you started using a cane or walker recently?

(Or have been told to... but are resisting?)

If you have answered yes to any of these questions
(or have a stubborn spouse or parent who is in denial)
The Balance and Fall Prevention workshop may be a life changing
(and possibly life saving) event for you.

If you're confused about what to do and are looking for answers...
here's some of what you'll learn:

* Who is most at risk of falling

* The 5 most common reasons people fall

* Quick do-it-yourself Balance tests to determine your risk of falling

* How medications can INCREASE your risk of falling

* Where is the most common location for falls in the home

* What you can do to make your home safer TODAY

* What is the best assistive device (cane walker etc.) for YOU

Call 570-970-0402 to reserve your seat for any or all of our FREE WORKSHOPS.

ELITE
SPINE SPORTS
PHYSICAL THERAPY

182 Butler Street | Wilkes-Barre, PA 18702 • 570-970-0402
4805 Birney Ave | Moosic, PA 18507 • 570-774-4200
Visit our website at EliteSportsPT.com

Blackout
BINGO

Today's Number Is:

Be the first to cover your card completely & Win!

If this number appears on your card -
PRINT READERS: Cut out the number and tape it
on top of that number on your card.
E-EDITION READERS: Put an X over that number.

Sponsored by

TIMES LEADER
118 YEARS STRONG

and

the Meadows
MANOR

the Meadows
NURSING &
REHABILITATION CENTER

EIO
WASTE SOLUTIONS & RECYCLING

RULES: Beginning April 13th, one number will be published every day.
If that number appears on your card,
PRINT READERS: Cut out the number and tape it on top of that number on your card.
E-EDITION READERS: Put an X over that number.

The first 3 people to bring their card with all numbers covered to the Times Leader office during normal business hours will be the winners. The office is located at 90 East Market St. Wilkes-Barre. Office hours are M-F from 8:30AM-5:00PM. Cards will only be verified at that time. In case of more than 3 people arriving at the same time, the winners will be selected through a random drawing. The complete list of rules will publish every Sunday in the Times Leader.

NEPA WEATHER

We Save Lives
Get the AccuWeather app

SEVEN-DAY FORECAST

TODAY

65 50

Partly sunny

WEDNESDAY

62 53

Breezy with a few showers

THURSDAY

61 48

A couple of showers

FRIDAY

65 48

Cloudy, a shower; breezy

SATURDAY

74 53

Periods of sun; pleasant

SUNDAY

76 54

Mostly sunny

MONDAY

77 56

A thunderstorm around

SUN AND MOON

Sunrise today

5:48 a.m.

Sunset today

8:12 p.m.

Moonrise today

3:16 a.m.

Moonset today

3:31 p.m.

New

First

Full

Last

May 16

May 23

May 31

June 8

WEATHER HISTORY

A drought helped to cause major dust storms in the Midwest during the 1930s. On May 12, 1934, wind-blown dust darkened the sky as far east as the Atlantic coast.

ALMANAC

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

TEMPERATURES

High

58

Low

39

Normal high

71

Normal low

48

Record high

91 (1948)

Record low

31 (2010)

PRECIPITATION

24-hour total

0.00"

Month to date

0.95"

Normal m-t-d

1.14"

Year to date

12.32"

Normal y-t-d

11.83"

COOLING DEGREE DAYS

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

Monday

0

Month to date

5

Year to date

28

Last year to date

16

Normal year to date

15

RIVER LEVELS

In feet as of 7 a.m. Monday.

Susquehanna

Stage

5.75

+0.30

22

Towanda

3.63

+0.42

16

Lehigh

Bethlehem

2.17

-0.13

16

Delaware

Port Jervis

4.92

+0.44

18

Forecasts and graphics provided by
AccuWeather, Inc. ©2026

Shown is today's weather. Temperatures are today's highs and tonight's lows.

NEW YORK CITY

High: 66. Low: 51. Sunny to partly cloudy today. Increasing clouds tonight. Mostly cloudy tomorrow with a couple of showers, mainly later.

PHILADELPHIA

High: 68. Low: 53. Mostly sunny today. Partly cloudy tonight. Mostly cloudy tomorrow with a couple of showers around, mainly late; breezy.

POCONOS

Highs: 57-63. Lows: 41-47. Sunny to partly cloudy today. Rather cloudy tonight with a shower in spots. A couple of showers tomorrow, mainly later.

FINGER LAKES

Highs: 58-64. Lows: 44-50. Intervals of clouds and sun today. Occasional rain and drizzle tonight. Occasional rain and drizzle tomorrow.

JERSEY SHORE

Highs: 57-63. Lows: 50-56. Sunny to partly cloudy today. Partly cloudy tonight. Windy tomorrow; a passing shower or two in the afternoon.

NATIONAL WEATHER

Today

Hi/Low

Atlanta

78/61/s

Wednesday

Hi/Low

Atlanta

82/59/pc

Today

Hi/Low

Milwaukee

73/49/sh

Wednesday

Hi/Low

Milwaukee

57/41/c

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

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: Showers and storms developing across portions of the Midwest and Great Lakes today will bring the risk of locally gusty winds and small hail. Showers and storms will also bubble across Florida.

DON'T MISS OUR EXPANDED ENTERTAINMENT SECTION,
ENTERTAINMENT MONDAY,
ONLY IN THE MONDAY E-EDITION OF THE TIMES LEADER

K

YOU'RE INVITED TO ATTEND OUR MEET & GREET

WITH Bridal Designer martin thornburg

A MON CHERI COLLECTION

KATHY'S BRIDAL

COME EXPERIENCE BRIDAL LUXURY LIKE NEVER BEFORE

EXPLORE His Exquisite Designs

GET STYLE ADVICE Email ahead to schedule a private consultation.

CAPTURE MEMORIES Photos, Inspiration & More

BRIDAL SHOW COCKTAILS HORS D'OEUVRES PHOTO SHOOT

SATURDAY, MAY 16, 2026

1192 Highway 315 ♦ Plains Township, PA

kathy@kathysbridalllc.com

Where Elegance is Beyond Compare

CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATE!

Congratulate Your Graduate With Photo And A Message!
TimesLeader.com/graduation

\$35

3.21" x 3"

Congrats!

Mary Smith

Love, Mom & Dad

PUBLISHING DATES:

Times Leader

Sunday

June 21, 2026

DEADLINE:

Wednesday

June 17, 2026

*Special pricing applies to graduation ads only.

\$65

4.87" x 4"

CONGRATULATIONS!

Jane Smith

We are so proud of you!

Love, Mom & Dad

Go to timesleader.com/graduation to place your own ad or return this completed form with your photograph and payment. TIMES LEADER Grad Ads, 90 E. Market Street, Wilkes-Barre, PA 18701. Please include your name on the back of the photo. Photos can be picked up after July 3rd. Include name and phone number on back of photo.

Name

Address

Phone

Graduates Name

Message:

I've enclosed my check for \$

Or charge to credit card

Expiration date

Security Code

For More Information call (570) 704-3955

TIMES LEADER MEDIA GROUP

118 YEARS STRONG



IN MEMORY
Joseph J. Soprano Jr.
Times Leader
executive editor
Penn State graduate
1988



Cavaliers
race past
Pistons
NBA • 3B

Comets, Royals
battle for WVC
volleyball title

By John Erzar
jerzar@timesleader.com

A week ago, Crestwood and Holy Redeemer played a grueling, two-hour boys volleyball match. On Tuesday, they will play again with bigger stakes on the line — the Wyoming Valley Conference championship. The match begins at 6 p.m. at Nanticoke Area High School. Redeemer is the defending champion. Crestwood will attempting to be the third different WVC champion in as many years. Delaware Valley won the title in 2024. Here are some items to ponder before the teams hit the court.

- Both teams finished 10-1 in the WVC. Crestwood is 15-1 overall. Redeemer is 16-3 overall, with a WVC loss to Hazleton Area 3-2 and a non-conference loss to Valley View 3-2.
- Redeemer won the regular-season match 3-2 last Tuesday. Game scores were 25-23, 21-25, 23-25, 25-18, 15-10.
- Crestwood's loss in the opener was only the second time the Comets lost a set during the season. The Comets lost a set in a 3-1 victory over Delaware Valley on April 22. They dropped a set in a 3-1 win over North Pocono two days after the Redeemer loss.
- Serving could be crucial once again. Crestwood gave Redeemer seven points in the opener on errant serves. Redeemer surrendered three and won by two points.
- Redeemer never trailed in the final two sets. The only tie in either was 2-2 in the fifth set.

See VOLLEYBALL | 3B

CALDER CUP PLAYOFFS



AT



ATLANTIC DIVISION FINALS
GAME 1
Springfield (32-32-6-2, 72 points)
at Penguins (46-17-7-2, 101 points)
7:05 p.m. today, Mohegan Arena

Notes: Wilkes-Barre/Scranton is fresh off its first playoff series win since 2022, dispatching rival Hershey 3-1. Goalie Sergei Murashov shined in the Game 4 clincher, stopping 37 of 38 shots despite facing down six Bears power plays. Ville Koivunen and Tristan Broz each had four points in the series win. Despite losing more games than they won in the regular season and entering as the sixth and final seed in the division, the Thunderbirds upset Charlotte before knocking out Providence, the AHL's top team. Springfield is 3-0 in overtime games in the playoffs and caught a break in Game 3 against the Bruins when officials missed an offsidess call on the overtime winner. With no replay review in the league, the goal stood and the T-Birds finished off the series with a 1-0 overtime victory in Game 4. Goalie Georgi Romanov made 37 saves himself for the shutout and has allowed just nine goals in six playoff games for a 1.42 GAA and a .954 SV%.

DISTRICT 2 TRACK AND FIELD CHAMPIONSHIPS



Crestwood's Elijah Zeneski, a state qualifier, won the Class 3A boys 300 hurdles final on Monday at the first day of the District 2 Track and Field Championships at Scranton Memorial Stadium.

WVC athletes win 10 golds on 1st day

BOYS

By Kevin Carroll
kcarroll@timesleader.com

SCRANTON — As the sun set and the action around most of the opening day of the District 2 Track and Field Championships had come to an end, one more gold medal remained up for grabs into the twilight hours. In what's shaping up to be a very competitive race in the Class 3A boys division, Crestwood's Anson Jumper outlasted everyone to win gold and score some critical points for his Comets. Jumper cleared 13 feet, 3 inches to win the pole vault gold medal, leaping Crestwood into a tie atop the Class 3A team standings with Abington Heights after the first day of the two-day championship event at Scranton Memorial Stadium. "I think it was an endurance battle, and who wanted it most," Jumper said. "That's what it comes down to every time."

See BOYS | 4B

GIRLS

By Kevin Carroll
kcarroll@timesleader.com

SCRANTON — Though it's Abington Heights sitting at the top of the Class 3A girls leaderboard after the opening day of the District 2 Track and Field Championships, several Wyoming Valley Conference schools have already begun to strike gold in a very balanced field to start things off. Four different WVC schools got to the top of the medal stand, with Crestwood in second place and Wyoming Area in third as the district meet got underway Monday at Scranton Memorial Stadium. Hanover Area and Nanticoke Area also scored one win each, Symone Mims in the shot put and Nevaeh Baran in the triple jump, and in the Class 2A division Lake-Lehman added a win in the 3200 relay. It was a WVC sweep of the girls' long-distance relays to start the finals

See GIRLS | 4B

Fred Adams | For Times Leader

Wyoming Area state qualifier Jenesa Sancho wins in the Girls Class 3A 300 hurdles final.

Fred Adams | For Times Leader

Wilkes-Barre Area's Timothy Leonard won his preliminary heat in the boys 200 dash.

Eagles play Dallas on Thanksgiving; Giants-Cowboys open SNF



Jalen Hurts (1) and the Eagles will be in the spotlight on Thanksgiving playing at rival Dallas in the late afternoon slot. The NFL is set to release the full 2026 schedule on Thursday.

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — The Dallas Cowboys remain a popular draw for the NFL and its television partners despite struggling the past couple of seasons. The league announced on Monday that the Cowboys will visit the New York Giants in the first NBC "Sunday Night Football" game of the season on Sept. 13 and they will host the Philadelphia Eagles on Fox on Thanksgiving Day Nov. 26. The full schedule will be released on Thursday with other matchups revealed in the coming days. This is the eighth time in the past 15 years the Cowboys and Giants are opening the season against each other. It also marks the 15th time the NFC East rivals are meeting on NBC's Sunday night package, the second-most played matchup since the network started the package in 2016. Dallas is always a national television draw as "America's Team," and New York could get more primetime exposure with Super Bowl winner John Harbaugh in his first year coaching the Giants and Jaxson Dart established as the franchise quarterback coming off his eventful rookie year. This also could be the NFL debuts for a pair of former Ohio State teammates: Giants linebacker Arvell Reese, taken with the fifth pick, and Cowboys safety Caleb Downs, drafted not long after at No. 11. This will only be the third time, and first since 2014, that the Eagles will be the Cowboys' Thanksgiving opponent. Dallas has won its past four Thanksgiving games, including a 31-28 victory over the Kansas City Chiefs last year.

See EAGLES | 10B

Golden Knights lived on PK before Ducks made them pay

By Mark Anderson
AP Sports Writer

LAS VEGAS — The Golden Knights’ penalty kill, backed by goalie Carter Hart’s stellar play, has been so good that Vegas has been able to get away with committing more penalties than usual.

That is, until Sunday night when the Anaheim Ducks scored two power-play goals to win 4-3 and even the second-round NHL playoffs series at two games apiece.

Game 5 is Tuesday in Las Vegas, and whether the Ducks found something in Game 4 or if it was a momentary blip for the Golden Knights will go a long way in determining which team advances to the Western Conference final.

DUCKS at GOLDEN KNIGHTS
Game 5, 9:30 p.m. (ESPN)
Series: Tied, 2-2

More than getting back to their penalty kill — which had its streak of 21 straight ended in that game — the Golden Knights will have to try to figure out a way to cut down on the number penalties while maintaining their aggressiveness.

Vegas was second in the league in the regular season in committing 3.12 penalties per game, a hair behind New Jersey’s



Scott Strazzante | AP photo
Ducks winger Alex Killorn (17) hands an autographed souvenir to a young fan after being named the No. 1 star in Sunday night's Game 4 of their series against Vegas.



Christinne Muschi | AP photo, The Canadian Press
Canadiens goaltender Jakub Dobes looks at hockey sticks left over from a fight between multiple players from both teams on Sunday night. Dobes has helped lead the Canadiens to a series lead over the Sabres.

3.10. But the Golden Knights are up to 4.00 average in the playoffs, though that is the third fewest in the league.

“We’ve obviously got to stay more disciplined,

not wanting to give them momentum off that or give them opportunities on the power play,” Vegas forward Brett Howden said. “They obviously have a good power play,

so I think our PK’s done a really good job, but no sense in keep giving them those opportunities.”

The Ducks took advantage of their chances on Sunday.

Anaheim had converted 8 of 16 power plays in their first-round, six-game elimination of Edmonton. But the Ducks were 0 of 11 against Vegas before Beckett Sennecke broke through with a goal in the first period.

Alex Killorn converted with the man advantage late in the second period for a 3-2 lead. Golden Knights coach John Tortorella pointed to that as the critical juncture in the game.

“Once you score one, it kind of changes the confidence of a power play,” Killorn said. “You’re getting good chances (but) it’s not going your way. But to see one go in, I think for us, was kind of a momentum builder and it gives you confidence.”

Killorn’s shot just got by Hart, who had a rare down game this postseason. Hart was in a similar situation in the opening-round series against Utah, allowing four goals in 12 shots in a Game 3 loss to the Mammoth. Hart responded by winning five of his next six starts.

“He’s been terrific,” Tortorella said Monday. “I don’t expect anything different tomorrow.”

SABRES at CANADIENS
Game 4, 7 p.m. (ESPN)
Series: Canadiens lead 2-1

The Canadiens come off a dominant 6-2 victory

over the Sabres on Sunday in an electric atmosphere in Montreal. Fans serenaded rookie goalie Jakub Dobes with “Ole! Ole! Ole!” after the game, causing him to pause during an on-ice interview and smile broadly.

But there is still more work to do for the Canadiens, who will need to put the emotions behind them and focus on a Sabres team with every intention of salvaging a split in Montreal and recapturing home-ice advantage.

“You’ve got to do the things that the game is asking you to do — all the time,” Canadiens coach Martin St. Louis said. “So you’ve got to be alert. You’re hoping for an offensive shift. That’s not what the game is asking you to do at that time. It’s just to be really mature and understanding that (situation), and I feel we’re equipped to be able to do that knowing that nothing is bullet proof.”

The challenge in many ways is the same for Buffalo.

“Playoffs is about the next game,” Sabres coach Lindy Ruff said Monday. “It’s not about the past one. I think we’ve answered a lot of questions this year about tough situations. ... I’m really confident in the group, so it’s all about tomorrow.”

Isles fund child support center in honor of Schaefer’s late mother

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — The New York Islanders will donate \$150,000 to create a child support center in honor of Matthew Schaefer’s late mother, Jennifer, who died of breast cancer in February 2024, the team said Monday.

The team and Northwell Health announced the creation of a place at R.J. Zuckerberg Cancer Hospital on Long Island in New Hyde Park, New York, for children to wait while a parent undergoes treatment. Following the donation from the Islanders Children’s Foundation, the center named for Jennifer is set to open in October.

Schaefer, 18, is the front-runner to be NHL rookie of the year and has been the face of the Islanders franchise since they took him with the No. 1 pick in the draft.

He has talked extensively about his mother’s battle and death and her impact on his life and hockey career. The team put a pink breast cancer ribbon on the jersey presented to Schaefer at the draft in June, and he made the moment a tribute to his mom.

“I think about my mom every day — her strength, her hope and the way she carried herself with a smile throughout her fight against cancer,” Schaefer posted on Instagram. “This work is for her and for every family walking that road. I’m dedicating my time, energy and focus to standing beside them, carrying forward the same strength and fight my mom showed every day.” Co-owner Jon Ledecky said: “By honoring Jennifer Schaefer’s memory in this way, we are ensuring that no child has to walk through these difficult moments alone, providing them with a place of comfort, play and support when they need it the most.”

CANES EXTEND JANKOWSKI

RALEIGH, N.C. — The Carolina Hurricanes used some of their extra time off between rounds of the NHL playoffs to get a deal done with forward Mark Jankowski.

The Hurricanes announced Monday they had signed the forward to a two-year extension with an average annual value of \$1.85 million through the 2027-28 season. Jankowski is making \$800,000 this year and was due to become an unrestricted free agent this summer.

“Ever since I’ve been here, I felt like it was a seamless fit and I wanted to stay here,” Jankowski said Monday in a Zoom call with reporters.

Jankowski’s deal came two days after the Hurricanes became the first team to sweep through the first two rounds since the league went to best-of-seven series in all four rounds in 1987. The Hurricanes are awaiting the winner of the Montreal-Buffalo series in the Eastern Conference final, the team’s third appearance in four seasons.

The 31-year-old Jankowski has been a reliable presence in centering Carolina’s fourth line. He’s also been part of a strong penalty kill, ranking 10th among the team’s forwards in total ice time for the postseason but jumping to fifth when the Hurricanes are short-handed while logging 17.6% of his minutes in those scenarios.

The Hurricanes acquired the 6-foot-4, 200-pound forward in a March 2025 trade with Nashville.

“Mark has been an excellent fit for our organization throughout his time here,” general manager Eric Tulsky said in a statement. “He’s proven he can contribute in different ways, and we are glad he’s chosen to remain with the organization.”



Damian Dovarganes | AP file photo
The Islanders selected Matthew Schaefer, left, No. 1 overall last summer and he turned in a historic season for an 18-year-old defenseman.

tion.”

Jankowski had 11 goals and 10 assists in 68 regular-season games, and has one assist through the eight playoff games. He’s also had two goals waved off on video review in this postseason, first an apparent overtime winner in Game 2 of the first-round series against Ottawa on an offside review tied to captain Jordan Staal and then one in Saturday’s Game 4 clincher against Philadelphia for a goaltender interference call on teammate William Carrier.

“Both those games that I scored in, we ended up winning, so that took away a lot of the hurt for sure,” he said.

“Those goals, they’ll come if you keep playing the right way. We are, so you don’t want to take your foot off the gas. The fact that you’re getting those chances and getting those looks are good things, so just keep doing the same thing and hopefully the next one counts.”

DEVILS HIRE ASSISTANT GM

NEWARK, N.J. — The New Jersey Devils have hired Braden Birch as an assistant general manager, the first front-office addition by Sunny Mehta since taking over as the team’s head of hockey

operations. Mehta, who was named GM last month, announced the hire Monday. He and Birch worked together with the Florida Panthers and were part of back-to-back Stanley Cup championships in 2024 and ’25.

“His blend of on-ice experience, management background, and intellect will serve him well in his new role,” Mehta said. “Braden will work to bolster all areas of our operation, and I look forward to him joining our existing front office, where his personality and work ethic will fit in excellently.”

The Devils, as expected, did not renew the contracts of executives Dan MacKinnon and Chuck Fletcher as Mehta remakes the organization. They had reported to longtime GM Tom Fitzgerald, who parted ways with the Devils in early April.

Birch spent more than a decade with the Panthers, much of it as director of hockey operations and most recently overseeing salary cap management.

“I am really excited to take this next step in my professional career,” said Birch, who turns 37 just before the NHL season begins in late September. “I want to thank Bill Zito, the Viola family, and the entire Florida Panthers

organization for 12 amazing years, and the ability to help a front office achieve the ultimate goal of Stanley Cup championships. “I also greatly appreciate them giving me the opportunity to grow my professional career in New Jersey. I look forward to working with Sunny and his group on returning the Devils to the levels of success that we believe they can achieve.”

Zito called Birch a great person who will be missed by the Panthers and wished him the best.

“When you have success like we had the past few seasons, individuals are going to get opportunities to advance and it’s only a good thing for everyone,” Zito said.

PWHL GAME POSTPONED

The fifth and deciding game of the PWHL’s semifinal playoff series between Minnesota and Montreal scheduled for Monday night has been postponed.

The league announced Game 5 between the Frost and Victoire would not take place in Laval, Quebec, as planned because of player safety concerns related to an illness. Two people with knowledge of the situation told The Associated Press the illness is limited to Montreal. The people

spoke on condition of anonymity because the PWHL is not revealing that information.

The PWHL said medical assessment has determined that the symptoms are not consistent with hantavirus.

The rodent-borne disease has drawn attention in recent days after several Canadians were identified as contacts linked to a deadly outbreak aboard an Antarctic cruise ship, though no Canadian cases have been confirmed.

It was not immediately clear when the game will now take place, though the league expects to provide an update within the next day.

“The decision was made following consultation with medical personnel and in accordance with the league’s commitment to the health and wellbeing of players, fans, staff and all those involved in the competition,” the PWHL said.

The winner will face the Ottawa Charge in the Walter Cup Final after they defeated the Boston Fleet in the other first-round matchup. Minnesota won the title in each of the league’s first two years of existence and is going for a three-peat.

The regular-season champion Victoire and third-seeded Frost have alternated wins, splitting each of their two games at home, including Montreal’s 1-0 triple-overtime win in Game 2. The Frost forced Game 5 with a 3-1 win at Minnesota on Friday night.

The teams flew together by charter to Minnesota for Games 3 and 4, but traveled back to Montreal separately on Saturday.

The PWHL said earlier in the day that Games 3 and 4 of the best-of-five final at Ottawa were set for May 18 and May 20. It was also not clear if those dates would be affected by the postponement.

Expectations already sky-high for 2026 draft class

By **Tim Reynolds**
AP Basketball Writer

CHICAGO — AJ Dybantsa is calling it already: The NBA draft class of 2026, in his mind, is one of the best in the history of the league.

And nobody has even been drafted yet.

If there is one characteristic that the players expected to be at the very top of next month's draft share, it is confidence.

They know they're good, and they don't mind telling you that they're good. And for the teams now in position to get those top players — Washington at No. 1, Utah at No. 2, Memphis at No. 3 and Chicago at No. 4 — the next few weeks are going to be teeming with promise.

"Since I'm in this draft class, I'm going to say we're one of the best draft classes," said Dybantsa, who led Division I men's college basketball in scoring this past season. "We'll see how that pans out and how our careers pan out, but if you ask me right now, I think we're one of the best draft classes."

Fair enough. An unforeseen trade or something popping up in the medical exams that will take place over the next few weeks could change things, but for now, it seems like the first four names Commissioner Adam Silver will call on June 23 will be BYU's Dybantsa, Kansas' Darryn Peterson, Duke's Cameron Boozer and North Carolina's Caleb Wilson.

They are not the only four good players in this draft. Far from it, it seems. But there does seem to be a significant amount of star power at the top, which made Sunday's draft lottery feel perhaps a bit more consequential than others.

"I feel like it can be the best ever," Wilson said when asked how good the Class of 2026 can be. "We have a deep draft and I

feel like everybody wants to play hard and prove themselves. And it's just a matter of time before we can do that."

Wizards President Michael Winger likes to get into the math of things, and he knows a 14% chance isn't exactly great. But it was as good as anyone else in that draft lottery, and in the end it was good enough to get Washington that No. 1 pick.

But why? "I don't have a compelling answer for that. I think that ultimately it was just our time. I think it was time to get that pick," Winger said. "Whether it's because there's a special athlete at the top of the draft that we want or organizationally we're ready for a player like that, whatever the case may be ... the basketball gods decided that this was our year."

The Wizards were the big winner. They weren't the only winner.

Oklahoma City gets a lottery pick in this draft because of the years and years and years that general manager Sam Presti spent on collecting both good players and draft capital. That means the reigning champions — maybe back-to-back champions by draft time — will only get even better.

The Clippers got a top-five pick, Memphis gets a No. 3 pick, Chicago's rebuild will see the Bulls land an extremely good player, and Utah — which was fined \$500,000 this year for sitting some players in the fourth quarters of games — is sitting at No. 2.

"Agree to disagree," is what Jazz owner Ryan Smith famously wrote when the NBA hit him for the half-million-dollar fine. The credo now might be wait and see; the Jazz have a lot of young talent, and now will get even deeper on that front.

Jazz guard Keyonte George was at Sunday's



BYU forward AJ Dybantsa was the NCAA's leading scorer this past season as a freshman and is a candidate to be drafted No. 1 overall.

lottery. He said the Jazz are keeping the receipts — his way of saying yes, Utah has taken note of all the tanking talk that dogged the team this season.

"We're going to make sure we go at our own pace, understand we're a new group and we're on our journey to something special," George said. "But yeah, as a group, we'll have a chip on our shoulder for sure."

There's a lot of basketball left to be played this season. New York is in the NBA's final four already, awaiting Cleveland or Detroit in the Eastern Conference finals. Oklahoma City can get back to the Western Conference finals on Monday, and if the Thunder get there they'll be waiting for either San Antonio or Minnesota.

But draft talk is picking up speed. And given how much talent is out there, that's understandable.

"A lot of people are saying we're the best class in the last 10 years," Peterson said. "So, we're going to try our best to be that."

ROUGH DAY FOR PACERS

The Indiana Pacers were hoping for a top-four selection in the draft. They missed getting there by one spot.



Duke forward Cameron Boozer talks to media during the NBA draft lottery even on Sunday in Chicago. Boozer is firmly in the top group of four prospects in the 2026 class.

That means they got nothing.

The ping-pong balls of the lottery came out in such a way that Indiana would have had the No. 5 pick in next month's draft — but that pick will instead go to the Los Angeles Clippers as part of the trade that brought center Ivica Zubac to the Pacers earlier this year.

Pacers President of Basketball Operations Kevin Pritchard did nothing to hide how disappointed he was about the latest batch of bad luck for a franchise that played in Game 7 of the NBA Finals last season, lost star Tyrese Haliburton to a torn Achilles tendon in that game — he missed this entire season — and has had nothing to celebrate since.

The team with the second-worst record in the NBA this season, after being the second-best team last season, just got dealt another loss.

"I'm really sorry to all our fans," Pritchard wrote on X, the social media site formerly known as Twitter, after the lottery. "I own taking this risk. Surprised it came up 5th after this year. I thought we were due some luck. But please remember — this team deserved a starting center to compete with the best teams next year. We have always been resilient."

It was the second known apology Pritchard made after the lottery to the Pacers' fanbase; the first was during an in-person interview session with Indianapolis media shortly after

the results were revealed.

"I know the Twitterverse is probably going to be a little brutal. And I get it, man, I get it," Pritchard told reporters. "My heart was beating like it was Game 7. And to those people, I'm sorry. But I can promise you, at the end of the day, we're going to be an organization that figures it out. We're very resourceful."

The terms of the Zubac deal were this: The Pacers got him from the Clippers for Bennedict Mathurin and Isaiah Jackson, plus two future first-round picks — one in 2029 and one in 2031, unless Indiana's first-round pick happened to fall between No. 5 and No. 9 this year.

Turns out, the Pacers couldn't fall below No. 6. That means picks 1, 2, 3 or 4 would stay with Indiana, and pick 5 or 6 would go to the Clippers.

And to the Clippers it goes — in a loaded draft, no less.

"Zu is a great fit for us," Pritchard said of the center who averaged 14.1 points and 10.6 rebounds this season. "And at the end of the day, this is what is really important: I felt like (to be a) championship team, we needed to fill that starting center. That was priority one, because they've earned the right to go try to get a championship. And that was not doable with protecting this to eight or nine to 10 or wherever."

For now, the Pacers don't have any picks in either the first or second round in the June 23-24 draft.

"I just want to tell the fans we're going to be OK," Pritchard said. "We're going to compete at the highest level. We get Ty back. ... And what we've learned from Zu so far is he's super smart and he wants to fit in and he's all about winning. But again, disappointed. I'm not trying to smooth over that. We wanted the pick. But we'll be OK."

Spurs' Wembanyama won't face further punishment for elbow

The Associated Press

San Antonio Spurs star Victor Wembanyama will not face further discipline from the NBA for elbowing Minnesota's Naz Reid in Game 4 of the teams' Western Conference semifinal series, a person with knowledge of the league's decision said Monday.

The person spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because the league did not publicly release any details of its evaluation and investigative process.

Wembanyama will be eligible to play Game 5 on Tuesday in San Antonio. The series is tied at two games apiece.

Wembanyama was ejected from the Spurs-Timberwolves game on Sunday night because of the elbow, which he threw early in the second quarter after getting tangled with Reid and Minnesota's Jaden McDaniels while grabbing a rebound. Wembanyama swung his arms and his elbow struck Reid in the face.

Officials looked at the play and upgraded the foul to a Flagrant 2, which comes with automatic ejection. Wembanyama was seen on the bench after the decision was announced, appearing to ask teammates what a Flagrant 2 means.

Spurs coach Mitch Johnson said after the game that Wembanyama "gets hit on



Spurs forward Victor Wembanyama reacts after he was ejected for a flagrant foul on Sunday night. The Flagrant 2 call carried with it an automatic ejection, but it will not lead to a suspension for the San Antonio star.

every play."

"At some level, you have to protect yourself," Johnson said. "Every single play on every single part of the floor, people are trying to impose their physicality on him. I get it. We get it. That's part of the game. ... At some stage, he should be protected and if not, he's going to have to protect himself. And unfortunately, stuff like that happens."

It was the first ejection of Wembanyama's career and, according to Sportradar, it was only the third flagrant foul for the French center — this season's unanimous pick as Defensive Player of the Year and an MVP finalist.

The NBA reviews all plays and typically exercises the right to upgrade,

downgrade or rescind flagrant fouls and technical fouls after the fact. In this case, the person with knowledge said, Sunday's play will stand as called.

EDWARDS FUELS T-WOLVES

MINNEAPOLIS — For all the superpowers Anthony Edwards possesses on the court, his pristine physical condition has proven to be the most valuable trait for the Minnesota Timberwolves during the NBA playoffs this year.

"Honestly, I think he would just now be coming back if he was like a normal human being, but he's not," teammate Mike Conley said after Edwards scored 16 of his 36 points in the fourth quarter to fuel a Game 4 victory over the

San Antonio Spurs on Sunday that tied their second-round series at two games apiece.

"We're thankful for what he's sacrificing for us and putting us on his back," Conley added. "We expect it from him. He expects it. So we just try to keep him healthy, keep him going forward."

After returning from a hyperextended left knee that caused a deep bone bruise in nine days, Edwards had 18 points in a 25-minute reserve role to help the Timberwolves take the opener from the Spurs on the road on May 4. Edwards was back in the starting lineup for Game 3 at home on Friday and played 41 minutes.

He logged 40 minutes

in Game 4 and was on the floor for the entire fourth quarter, a move coach Chris Finch made only three times during the regular season. Edwards also played the final 12 minutes in the opener of the first-round series at Denver on April 18, one week before his latest injury.

"Man, I've been doing a lot of stuff to get in shape. I've got the best physical therapist in the world when it comes to my body, David Hines, so big shoutout to him," Edwards said, referring to the team's vice president of medical operations and performance. "He's on a whole other level when it comes to that stuff."

Edwards was limited to a career-low 61 games during the regular season, largely because of persistent pain in his right knee. Before 2025-26, he never missed more than three games in any season.

"We're lucky to have him. He's special, no doubt, especially given what he's been fighting through over the last month and a half," Finch said.

Edwards shot 13 for 22 from the floor on Sunday, including 3 for 5 from 3-point range. He took advantage of Victor Wembanyama's stunning ejection by getting to the rim, too, including a crucial finger-roll layup he dropped in through traffic with 2:24 left for a four-point lead in the 114-109 victory.

Edwards was hesitant to

express much satisfaction afterward, chiding himself and the rest of the starting lineup for a lackluster third quarter while revealing that, yes, even he has his physical limits.

"I was gassed a little bit," Edwards said, "so I came out like super low on energy, just walking up and down the floor."

His performance had more to it than simply determination and durability, though. On Mother's Day, Edwards acknowledged a deep sense of motivation and purpose in Game 4 in honor of his late mother, Yvette Edwards, who died of cancer in 2015 when he was just 13. His grandmother also died later that year.

"I couldn't lose this game for her," Edwards said before praising the support he has received from family members and close friends in Atlanta over the last decade since losing his mom and grandma. "It's not a bunch of people that's just willing to do anything you say. These people really want to see me succeed, and they don't let me take a day off. They stay on me."

With that, the intensely private Edwards quickly shifted the focus in the postgame interview room at Target Center back to basketball.

"So I appreciate everybody that's in my circle, but that's enough about me," he said. "Just ask about my team."

AP SPORTS EXTRA

STAR POWER

Strongest field in golf in the spotlight at PGA Championship

BY DOUG FERGUSON | AP Golf Writer

In the five weeks since Rory McIlroy held off Scottie Scheffler for another Masters title, golf no longer seems to be a two-man show.

More stars are beginning to emerge. Cameron Young, who earned his signature win at The Players Championship going into the Masters, played three rounds with Scheffler and beat him by six shots in a signature event at Doral. Matt Fitzpatrick beat Scheffler in a playoff at another signature event, the RBC Heritage, and then teamed with brother Alex to win in New Orleans. They all are part of the strongest field in golf — everyone from the top 100 in the world — who gather at Aronimink Golf Club outside Philadelphia for the 108th edition of the PGA Championship on May 14-17. Young and Fitzpatrick keep giving themselves chances. Scheffler comes into the PGA Championship off three consecutive runner-up finishes. McIlroy no longer wonders what will go wrong, only what can go right. “I’m excited for the road ahead,” McIlroy said. “I’m excited for Aronimink, Shinnecock (U.S. Open), Birkdale (British Open). I feel like if anything I’m more motivated after what happened at Augusta this year than I’ve ever been.”

PGA IDENTITY IS VARIETY After all these years, the PGA Championship is discovering its identity among the four majors. It’s the one with no identity at all. Players know what to expect at Augusta National and with links golf at the British Open. The U.S. Open typically is the toughest test with narrow fairways and firm greens. Only at the PGA Championship, held on 75 courses over 108 championships, is there something new.

“That variety of traditional courses, new courses, middle-aged courses, it’s unique and different,” said Kerry Haigh, the PGA’s championships director in charge of presenting the test. “That’s what our identity is. Every year is a different challenge, a different venue, a different corner of the country.”

ARONIMINK FINALLY GETS ANOTHER PGA

The PGA Championship returns to Aronimink for the first time since Gary Player won his first Wanamaker Trophy in 1962. Donald Ross designed Aronimink, and Gil Hanse and Jim Wagner did restoration work about a decade ago. It features bunker complexes along the fairways and surprising elevation. The last time it hosted the top men was the BMW Championship in 2018, when Keegan Bradley won over Justin Rose in a playoff.

Aronimink was scheduled to host the 1993 Championship. But the PGA of America required a diverse membership coming off the Shoal Creek controversy in 1990. Aronimink had a seven-year waiting list and said it could not have a Black member by then. The club wound up waiting 33 years.

THE SLAM

For the second year in a row, two grand slams are part of the conversation at the PGA Championship. The more likely one is Jordan Spieth, who tries for the 10th time to get the final leg of the career Grand Slam. But he has gone three years since his last win, and he has never finished closer than six shots in the PGA when the Grand Slam was at stake. The other is McIlroy and the calendar slam, and the odds are higher to win all four in the same year. Spieth in 2015 is the last player to win the first two majors of the year.

BUSY STRETCH

Don’t be surprised if some of the top players are running on fumes. With the addition of another \$20 million signature event, the PGA Championship concludes a six-week stretch of three signature events and two majors. McIlroy missed two signature events during his three-week break after the Masters. Young and Fitzpatrick will have played five of the six.



Scottie Scheffler

PLAYERS TO WATCH



CAMERON YOUNG, USA

Age: 29
World ranking: 3
Worldwide wins: 3
Majors: None.
Best PGA Championship finish: Tied for third in 2022 at Southern Hills
Backspin: Young was contending in majors before he started winning. His two wins this year came in a duel with Matt Fitzpatrick at The Players Championship and a six-shot margin at Doral while playing three of the four rounds with Scottie Scheffler. He’s comfortable on a big stage.



SCOTTIE SCHEFFLER, USA

Age: 29
World ranking: 1
Worldwide wins: 23
Majors: Masters (2022, 2024), PGA Championship (2025), British Open (2025)
Best PGA Championship finish: Won at Quail Hollow in 2025.
Backspin: His only victory was his first start of the year in The American Express. He goes into Aronimink with a week off and three runner-up finishes behind him. Will try to join Brooks Koepka and Tiger Woods as the only back-to-back PGA champions in stroke play.



RORY McILROY, NORTHERN IRELAND

Age: 37
World ranking: 2
Worldwide wins: 42
Majors: Masters (2025, 2026), PGA Championship (2012, 2014), U.S. Open (2011), British Open (2014).
Best PGA Championship finish: Won at Kiawah Island in 2012 and at Valhalla in 2014.
Backspin: He goes for the second leg of the calendar Grand Slam for the second year in a row as the Masters champion. McIlroy took three weeks off after winning the Masters before returning at the Trust Championship.



JORDAN SPIETH, USA

Age: 32
World ranking: 50
Worldwide wins: 16
Majors: Masters (2015), U.S. Open (2015), British Open (2017).
Best PGA Championship finish: Runner-up to Jason Day at Whistling Straits in 2015.
Backspin: This will be his 10th attempt at completing the career Grand Slam. He has been on the fringe of contention most of the year. A native Texan, both of Spieth’s parents grew up in the Philadelphia area.



MATT FITZPATRICK, ENGLAND

Age: 31
World ranking: 4
Worldwide wins: 14
Majors: U.S. Open (2022)
Best PGA Championship finish: Tied for fifth in 2022 at Southern Hills.
Backspin: He is one of the hottest players in golf with a runner-up finish at The Players Championship and victories at the Valspar Championship, RBC Heritage and Zurich Classic of New Orleans with brother Alex. The last Englishman to win the PGA was Jim Barnes in 1919.



XANDER SCHAUFFELE, USA

Age: 32
World ranking: 10
Worldwide wins: 12
Majors: PGA Championship (2024), British Open (2024).
Best PGA Championship finish: Won at Valhalla in 2024.
Backspin: While he hasn’t won this year, Schauffele has finished in the top 10 in five of his last six starts dating to Riviera. His game has been suited for the majors since his rookie season. He has 18 top 10s out of 35 majors.

AP CONTENT BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS
DESIGN BY ADAMS MULTIMEDIA/PAGINATION CENTER

Colbert, 8-time PGA winner with bucket hat, dies at 85

The Associated Press

Jim Colbert, renowned for wearing his bucket hat while winning eight times on the PGA Tour and 20 times on the PGA Tour Champions, has died, the PGA Tour announced. He was 85. Colbert died on Sunday. The tour did not list a cause of death. Colbert was a teenager playing a tournament in Kansas

when he nearly collapsed from sunstroke, leading doctors to insist he start wearing a hat to protect himself. He chose a bucket hat, which became his trademark during his PGA Tour career. Born in New Jersey, Colbert went to Kansas State on a football scholarship. He turned all his attention to golf after an injury and was runner-up in the NCAA Championship in 1964,

and two years later was on the PGA Tour. He won the first of his eight PGA Tour titles in the 1969 Monsanto Invitational Open. He had a pair of top 5s in the majors in 1974, a tie for fourth in the Masters and tied for fifth in the U.S. Open at Winged Foot. His best season on the PGA Tour was in 1983 when he won twice and was 15th on the money list.

Colbert was diagnosed with prostate cancer in 1996, had surgery to remove his prostate and was back on the course two years later, winning The Transamerica. He also was active in business. According to the PGA Tour, he bought his first golf course in Las Vegas in 1980. Jim Colbert Golf grew to own 23 golf courses, had 700 employees and gross revenue of \$50 million.

Colbert, who lived the latter part of his life in Las Vegas, kept ties to Kansas State. The men’s and women’s golf teams play at Colbert Hills Golf Club in Manhattan, Kansas, which he helped design and opened in 2000. Colbert was inducted into the Kansas State Athletic Hall of Fame in 1991, the Kansas Sports Hall of Fame in 1998 and the Las Vegas Golf Hall of Fame in 2019.

Yankees shortstop Caballero sidelined with finger injury

The Associated Press

BALTIMORE — New York Yankees shortstop José Caballero has been sidelined with a sore finger and will undergo tests to determine the extent of the injury.

Caballero hurt his right middle finger diving back to first base in Sunday's loss to the Milwaukee Brewers. He was not in starting lineup Monday night when the Yankees opened a three-game series against the Orioles.

"There's definitely some concern," New York manager Aaron Boone said before Monday's game. "He's as tough as they come, but he had a little hard time when he went to throw today."

Boone said Caballero will see a hand specialist in New York on Tuesday and undergo tests and perhaps an MRI to see if there is a fracture.

Caballero is batting .259 with four homers, 13 RBIs and 13 stolen bases in 40 games through Sunday.

"He's been great," Boone said. "He's been such a good performer for us here to start the year, both sides of the ball. He's been a key part of our team to this point."

The Yankees have gotten off to a solid start despite bringing a three-game losing streak to Baltimore, and Caballero has been a major contributor.

"Hopefully, it's just a day-to-day situation," Boone said. Max Schuemann started at shortstop for New York on Monday.

In other injury news, Boone said slugger Giancarlo Stanton is making progress in his bid to return from a right calf strain that has kept him sidelined since April 28.

"He's been doing a lot of inside running and hitting every day," the manager said. "Hopefully he starts ramping it up this week."

Stanton's return could come quicker than expected because he will serve as a designated hitter and won't immediately be asked to play in the field.

"He's coming back to DH, so it's more when he's able to stack a few days of running," Boone said. "We'll see."

ASTROS

HOUSTON — Houston's Carlos Correa had

surgery to repair a torn tendon in his left ankle Monday.

The star infielder was injured Tuesday and said the following day that he would need the season-ending surgery.

Manager Joe Espada said Correa made a Face-Time call to him while he was in the advance meeting with Houston's position players Monday before the start of a four-game series against Seattle.

"He said hello to everyone," Espada said. "And hopefully we get to see him here in the next day or two because ... he's doing well. Surgery went very well."

Correa was injured while taking swings in the batting cage before a game last week. He said Wednesday that the injury was a complete tear and his recovery is expected to take six to eight months.

Espada is looking for Correa to help mentor some of the team's younger players while he's sidelined.

"He's knowledgeable, he helps these young players stay calm and (with) how to play their position, how to go about at-bats," Espada said. "There's so many things that you could learn from Carlos."

Correa has had ankle problems in the past. In 2023, he had huge free agent deals with the San Francisco Giants and New York Mets fall through over concerns with his right ankle that was operated on in 2014. He ended up remaining with the Minnesota Twins after the deals collapsed. Correa, who is back with the Astros after last summer's blockbuster trade from the Twins, played third base for Houston last season with Jeremy Peña at shortstop. But Correa has been playing shortstop recently with Peña out with a hamstring injury.

Correa has salaries of \$31.5 million this season, \$30.5 million in 2027 and \$30 million in 2028. As part of the July trade, the Twins will pay the Astros \$10 million each Dec. 15 from this year through 2028.

Correa was batting .279 with three home runs and 16 RBIs. The No. 1 pick in the 2012 amateur draft, Correa spent his first seven seasons with the Astros before signing with the Twins where he spent 3 1/2 seasons before last sum-



Aaron Gash | AP photo

José Caballero, right, throws to first base to turn a double play this weekend against the Brewers. Caballero, who has been the Yankees primary shortstop in the early season, is hoping to avoid the injured list.

mer's trade.

BLUE JAYS

TORONTO — The Toronto Blue Jays put outfielder Addison Barger back on the injured list with right elbow inflammation and designated left-handed pitcher Eric Lauer for assignment on Monday.

Toronto also recalled outfielder Yohendrick Piñango from Triple-A Buffalo and selected right-handed pitcher Yariel Rodríguez to its major league roster before opening a three-game home series with the AL East-leading Tampa Bay Rays.

Barger had just been activated from the injured list on Saturday after missing just over a month with an elbow issue.

In his first game since April 5, Barger was playing right field when he caught a line drive and then threw the Los Angeles Angels' Jorge Soler out at the plate with a 101.2-mph throw. That was the fastest outfield assist by any Blue Jays player since Statcast began tracking that data in 2015.

But he was scratched from Toronto's lineup on Sunday due to right elbow soreness and returned to the injured list a day later. The injury list assignment is retroactive to Sunday.

Barger, 26, has gone just 1 for 22 at the plate in nine games this season after playing a big role in Toronto's World Series run last year.

He hit .243 with a .301 on-base percentage, 21 homers and 74 RBIs in 135 games in 2025. He batted .367 with a .441 on-base percentage, .583 slugging percentage, three homers and nine RBIs in 17 post-

season games.

In Toronto's World Series loss to the Los Angeles Dodgers, Barger went 12 of 25 with a .536 on-base percentage. In a Game 1 victory, he hit the first pinch-hit grand slam in World Series history.

Lauer, 30, has gone 1-5 with a 6.69 earned-run average this season in eight appearances, including six starts. That follows a 2025 season in which he went 9-2 with a 3.18 ERA.

Piñango, 24, has gone 11 of 26 with no homers and four RBIs in 10 games with Toronto this season. He also has hit .288 with a .370 on-base percentage, three homers, 13 RBIs and two steals in 22 games with Buffalo.

Rodríguez, 29, is 1-0 with a 2.63 ERA in 11 appearances with Buffalo this season. He went 3-2 with a 3.08 ERA in 66 games with Toronto last year.

BRAVES

ATLANTA — Atlanta Braves shortstop Ha-Seong Kim was activated from the injured list on Monday, clearing the way for him to make his season debut.

The Braves said they activated the 30-year-old Kim and placed outfielder Eli White on the seven-day concussion injured list.

Kim underwent surgery for a torn tendon in his right middle finger in January, about a month after the Braves signed him to a one-year, \$20 million contract.

The Braves acquired Kim off waivers from the Tampa Bay Rays in September. He batted .253 with a .316 on-base percentage, three homers and 12 RBIs in 24

games with Atlanta after hitting .214 with a .290 on-base percentage, two homers, five RBIs and six steals in 24 games with Tampa Bay. Kim also has the ability to play second base and third base. He won a Gold Glove at the utility spot while playing with the San Diego Padres in 2023.

RANGERS

ARLINGTON, Texas — Texas Rangers right-hander Nathan Eovaldi was scratched from his scheduled start Monday night because of left side tightness. About three hours before the scheduled first pitch of their series opener at home against Arizona, the Rangers said right-handed reliever Jakob Junis would start in Eovaldi's place for what would be a bullpen game.

Rangers manager Skip Schumaker said Eovaldi felt the tightness earlier Monday and then had medical imaging. The team was awaiting the results to find out the severity of the issue and determine the next steps for the 36-year-old pitcher.

Eovaldi (4-4, 4.15 ERA) is coming off consecutive wins against the Yankees in his last two starts, limiting the Yankees to one run and striking out 15 over 15 innings in those games. He allowed one run over eight innings at Yankee Stadium last Wednesday and threw seven scoreless innings against them in his last home start on April 29.

The two-time All-Star went 11-3 with a career-best 1.73 ERA last season when he was limited to 22 starts. He missed most of June with elbow inflammation and didn't pitch after

Aug. 22 because of a rotator cuff strain.

A setback for Josh Smith Second baseman Josh Smith is now dealing with a wrist inflammation while working to come back from a strained right glute, according to Schumaker.

The wrist soreness likely will push back Smith's return from the 10-day injured list. He was placed on the IL last week, retroactive to May 4, and would be eligible to be activated Friday night before the opener of a series in Houston.

Smith, who took over as the primary second baseman after Marcus Semien was traded during the offseason, hit .217 with no homers and six RBIs in 31 games before getting hurt. He had a .977 fielding percentage, with two errors in 88 total chances.

DIAMONDBACKS

ARLINGTON, Texas — Arizona Diamondbacks first baseman Carlos Santana, the oldest active position player in the majors, suffered a recent setback in his rehab from a right groin strain that has sidelined him since April 5.

Santana, 40, felt a twinge in the area of the injury on Saturday while playing for Triple-A Reno, Arizona manager Torey Lovullo said Monday before the D-backs' game at Texas. Santana returned to Arizona for further evaluation.

"Kind of a bummer," Lovullo said. "I know he's been working really, really hard to come back. He hit a home run a couple of days ago, so I think his swing was coming around."

He left Arizona's April 5 game at home against Atlanta in the second inning after singling. It was his second hit in 24 at-bats, leaving him with a .083 batting average with no homers or RBIs in eight games.

Santana signed with the Diamondbacks as a free agent in early February after splitting last season between Cleveland and the Chicago Cubs, hitting a combined .219 with 11 home runs and 54 RBI.

This IL stint is just the fifth in Santana's 17-year career and likely will result in his longest absence since his rookie season with Cleveland in 2010, when he missed the final two months with a sprained left knee.

American League battling mediocrity through first two months

By Noah Trister

AP Baseball Writer

Brice Turang's homer in the ninth inning gave Milwaukee a three-game sweep of the New Yankees and was the latest example of an early-season trend.

The American League has been taking it on the chin.

By the end of the night Sunday, only three AL teams had a winning record, and one of them was the Athletics, who were only two games above .500. The Rays (26-13) and Yankees (26-15) are the only junior circuit teams that have been really impressive, and the latter ran into quite a roadblock against the NL Central's Brewers.

If the season ended now, the last two AL wild cards would be the White Sox and Rangers, who are both 19-21.

Eleven AL teams are under .500. That's the most through May 10 of any league in the divisional play era, according to Sportradar. The 2019 AL and the 2012 and 2010 NL each had nine teams under .500



Reed Hoffmann | AP photo

Tigers second baseman Hao-Yu Lee and shortstop Zach Short, left, can't make a play on a grounder hit by the Royals' Bobby Witt Jr. during the third inning on Sunday.

at this point in the year.

Part of what makes this scenario possible is the proliferation of interleague play. The NL is 107-82 against the AL this season for a .566 winning percentage. The best interleague season was when the AL had a .611 winning percentage against the NL in 2006. But there were only 252 interleague games that whole year. There have already been 189 this season.

The more interleague

games, the further one league can move ahead of the other. And even at the top of the AL East, the Rays are 8-10 against the NL and 18-3 against the AL.

CRUCIAL STRETCH

Despite the soft AL playoff race, Orioles fans have become increasingly ornery as their team sputters at the start of a second straight season. Baltimore is 18-23, just 1 1/2 games out of a postseason spot,

but May has already included a four-game sweep in the Bronx in which the Orioles were outscored 39-10.

Now the Yankees come to Baltimore for a three-game set, and the Orioles host the Rays in a series that starts Memorial Day. The big question in Baltimore is whether the Orioles can simply stay afloat for the rest of the month and avoid digging too big a hole.

MOTOWN MESS

It was a rough week for the starting rotation that was supposed to be such a strength in Detroit. Tarik Skubal was scratched from his start Monday and could be out a while because of loose bodies in his elbow. Then Framer Valdez was shelled by Boston on Tuesday and hit Trevor Story with a pitch, drawing a five-game suspension.

Jack Flaherty hasn't been good either and Justin Verlander has made only one start.

The Tigers are 19-22, although that means they're only a half-game out of a wild card and 1 1/2 out of first place in the AL Central.

TRIVIA TIME

Milwaukee's Aaron Ashby is already 7-0 in relief this season. Pittsburgh's Roy Face holds the modern single-season record for relief wins with 18 in 1959. But who has the career mark?

PERFORMANCE OF THE WEEK

Andy Pages had three

homers and six RBIs for the Los Angeles Dodgers in a 12-2 win over Houston on Wednesday. It's been Pages — not Shohei Ohtani, Freddie Freeman or Kyle Tucker — making an outsized offensive contribution early this season for the two-time defending champs. Pages is hitting .333 with nine home runs and 35 RBIs.

COMEBACK OF THE WEEK

Down to their last out Sunday, the San Diego Padres tied the game against St. Louis on Nick Castellanos' two-run homer. Then they won 3-2 in 10 innings on Manny Machado's walk-off sacrifice fly. The Cardinals had a win probability of 95.4% in the bottom of the ninth, a cording to Baseball Savant. San Diego already has four walk-off victories this season, second to the Chicago Cubs' six. Neither has a walk-off defeat.

TRIVIA ANSWER

Hall of Fame knuckleballer Hoyt Wilhelm earned 124 of his 143 wins in relief.

Iron Honor the morning line favorite for the Preakness

By Noah Trister
AP Sports Writer

LAUREL, Md. — With the Triple Crown off the table, there's another bit of history that could be made in horse racing this week:

Is this the most wide open Preakness ever?

The morning line odds suggest it could be after Iron Honor was installed as a 9-2 favorite following Monday's draw.

With Kentucky Derby winner Golden Tempo held out of the race and a sizeable field of 14 horses currently in it, there's no clear choice to beat. Any number of entrants could conceivably be favored by the time the race starts Saturday at Laurel Park.

Taj Mahal (5-1), Chip Honcho (5-1), Incredibolt (5-1) and Ocelli (6-1) are the other top picks on the morning line. Napoleon Solo (8-1) was next, and trainer Chad Summers saw little reason his horse couldn't prevail.

"It's the right opportunity with the right field, and we've already beaten the morning line favorite,"



Stephanie Scarbrough | AP file photo

Jockeys compete during the 150th running of the Preakness Stakes horse race last May at Pimlico. Saturday's edition will be held at Laurel Park as Pimlico undergoes a major rebuilding project.

Summers said.

That's because Napoleon Solo was fifth in the Wood Memorial and Iron Honor was seventh. Iron Honor did win the Gotham Stakes in February.

Chad Brown, who has won the Preakness twice, trains Iron Honor. He chalked up the horse's

seventh-place showing at the Wood Memorial on April 4 to getting bothered in the first turn and never really relaxing throughout that race. The decision was then made to take the blinkers off the horse.

"We've given him a change to get over that experience, and he seems

to be in a good place right now training just the way we want him," Brown said last week. "He's been training very consistent, very relaxed."

No Preakness favorite — when the race started — has had odds of 9-2 or longer since at least 1940. Often, it's the Derby win-

ner going off at a short price, but now Golden Tempo is the third in the past five years to skip this race.

Perhaps that explains why this could be the largest Preakness field in 15 years. The previous time 14 horses made it to the starting gate was in 2011.

Post time Saturday is 7:01 p.m. at Laurel, which is hosting the middle race of the Triple Crown this year as Pimlico in Baltimore is rebuilt.

Three horses from the Derby are in the field — Ocelli, Incredibolt and Robusta (30-1). Great White (15-1) is also back after being scratched from the Derby when he threw his jockey just before the race began.

Ocelli was third in the Derby as a 70-1 shot. Incredibolt was sixth and Robusta was 14th.

Jose Ortiz, the jockey from Golden Tempo's Derby win, is on Chip Honcho this time.

Taj Mahal is trained by Brittany Russell, who has won several meet training titles in Maryland. Taj Mahal has three wins in three starts, all at Laurel. He'll be on the inside after drawing the No. 1 post Monday.

"It is what it is. We'll just have to see how it goes," Russell said. "He's a good gate horse, he has speed. So that'll help us."

SEC commissioner Sankey stands firm on 16-team CFP

The Associated Press

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — Southeastern Conference commissioner Greg Sankey stood firm behind a 16-team College Football Playoff expansion Monday, indicating that a disagreement with the Big Ten — which backs doubling the current bracket to 24 teams — is lingering deep into the offseason.

"That focus hasn't changed," Sankey said at the APSE Southeast Region meeting at the Alabama Sports Hall of Fame. "We're open to the conversation, but there are a lot of ideas out there that have to be supported with analysis and information, not speculation."

Sankey said all changes in college athletics must come with appropriate research — something he believes the SEC has provided in support of a four-team expansion to 16. To Sankey, the Big Ten-backed plan and whether it would offer much difference from 16 teams, is an unknown. A decision on the 2027 format would need to be made later this year.

The playoff expanded from four to 12 teams in 2024, and after decision-makers failed to reach an expansion agreement, the CFP will use the same model for the 2026-27 season. The discussion carries major implications for the college football schedule in general, including when it kicks off, the role of still-lucrative conference championship games and when the season comes to a close in January.

"We're trying to inform that with research. We've done that, from our perspective, with 16," Sankey said. "We want to under-

stand, through some analytic support, games that matter in an expanded environment, and games that might not matter."

Sankey cited Oklahoma's late push into the playoff last season as the blueprint, saying it was "good for college football."

An NCAA committee last month recommended that Football Bowl Subdivision teams play a 12-game schedule over 14 weeks beginning in 2027 with the season starting on the Thursday of what is now designated Week Zero and ending the Saturday after Thanksgiving.

Last week, the American Football Coaches Association proposed changes to the schedule that included eliminating conference championship games, reducing scheduled bye weeks from two to one and reducing the minimum number of days between games to no fewer than six. Sankey suggested he was hearing different from league coaches.

"The American Football Coaches Association without, like, picking up the phone and having a conversation with those of us in the decision-making role, issues a set of statements and says we want to get the season done earlier," said Sankey, who contended the AFCA plan had "mutually exclusive" options. "And oh, by the way, we just met with our football coaches, (who) said, 'If we're going to go to Week Zero, two open weeks is the priority, not an earlier rush into the postseason.' Two open weeks work for injury purposes, for recovery purposes, for development purposes, is the priority."

Sankey did acknowledge a host of headaches when it comes to



Mike Stewart | AP file photo

Georgia coach Kirby Smart receives the SEC Championship trophy from conference commissioner Greg Sankey after last season's SEC title game. The future of conference championship games is one of many topics facing the sport moving forward.

scheduling, with power leagues moving to a nine-game conference schedule and the ongoing desire to use non-conference dates as a chance for a marquee game to polish a CFP resume. In March, President Donald Trump issued an executive order barring postseason games from airing during the annual Army-Navy matchup in December; the AFCA has since proposed a dedicated window for the Army-Navy game with flexibility for other same-day games outside of the window.

The commissioner and AFCA are seemingly more aligned on that matter.

"We now have two executive orders about Army-Navy, and I think everyone wants to honor Army-Navy, but you do have limits," he said. "Conference championship games still exist, and

there are contracts around those for the first week of December, so plenty of opinions about whether they continue or not. Then you're the Army-Navy game, then you're the NFL Saturday, and we've already infringed upon that, and you can see the impact upon both sides — ratings, the NFL and college football on that Saturday. So where do you fit all the games?"

MISSOURI STAR SHOT

LAUREL, Miss. — Missouri star running back Ahmad Hardy is in stable condition after being shot at a concert in Mississippi, school officials said Monday.

Missouri's football program announced in a statement that Hardy was shot early Sunday morning and that the All-America running back underwent surgery for the gunshot wound later that day.

WJTV 12 News reported Hardy was shot in the upper leg, according to police, and the Laurel (Mississippi) Leader-Call reported the shooting happened at an outdoor concert at a bike club in Laurel.

"There had been a scheduled concert there of some rappers, or maybe a couple of different rappers," Laurel police Sgt. Macon Davis told the Leader-Call. "It drew a large crowd, and then gunshots rang out at the end."

Three people of interest were in custody, Davis told the Leader-Call. He described the scene as a "melee," saying at least two people were injured and it was a miracle others were not.

The Associated Press left Davis a voicemail requesting more information.

Missouri said it would provide more information on Hardy's status as it becomes available.

"Ahmad is deeply loved by his teammates, coaches, friends, family and fans," the statement said. "We will continue to stand beside him and his family through this difficult time, offering our love, prayers, strength and support. A timeline for his return to football activities is unknown at this time."

Hardy earned first-team Associated Press All-America honors last season and was one of three finalists for the Doak Walker Award given annually to college football's top running back. He rushed for 1,649 yards to rank second among all Bowl Subdivision players. Hardy is from Oma, Mississippi. He started his college career at Louisiana-Monroe but transferred to Missouri before the 2025 season.

Eagles

From page 1B

The late afternoon Thanksgiving game is traditionally the most viewed of the regular season. Last year's game averaged 57.23 million viewers on CBS, making it the most-watched regular-season game in league history.

This will be the second straight season Philadelphia will have the spotlight on Thanksgiving week. Jalen Hurts and the Eagles hosted last year's Black Friday game and lost to the Chicago Bears 24-15.

Monday's announcements mean the Cowboys know the dates for three of their 17 games. It was announced a couple of

weeks ago their game in Rio de Janeiro against the Baltimore Ravens will take place in Week 3 on Sept. 27 and air on CBS.

Dallas at New York in Week 1 also means neither of those teams will be the visitor at Seattle on Wednesday night, Sept. 9, when the defending champion Seahawks unveil their Super Bowl banner and kick off the season. Chicago, Arizona, Kansas City, the Los Angeles Chargers or a title-game rematch against New England are the remaining possibilities.

CHARGERS SIGN NJOKU

EL SEGUNDO, Calif. — Veteran tight end David Njoku agreed to a one-year deal with the Los Angeles Chargers on Monday. Njoku spent the first nine

seasons of his NFL career with the Cleveland Browns, earning one Pro Bowl selection while catching 384 passes for 4,062 yards and 34 touchdowns. He is second in Browns franchise history to Ozzie Newsome for catches and TDs among tight ends, but he became a free agent in February.

Njoku missed significant parts of the past two seasons with injuries. He had 33 receptions for 293 yards and four touchdowns while appearing in 12 games last season. Njoku could be a major contributor for the Chargers, who are rebooting Justin Herbert's offense under new offensive coordinator Mike McDaniels.

Three tight ends caught at least 15 passes in McDaniels's offense with the Miami Dolphins last

season. The Bolts' only major contributor to the passing game as a tight end last season was rookie Oronde Gadsden, the fifth-round pick who had 49 catches for 664 yards and three TDs.

Veteran receiver Keenan Allen is still on the free-agent market, but starting receivers Ladd McConkey and Quentin Johnston are returning to a Los Angeles passing offense that ranked 18th in the NFL last season despite another strong effort from Herbert, who earned his second Pro Bowl selection.

Los Angeles went 11-6 for the second straight season under head coach Jim Harbaugh but also lost in the first round of the playoffs for the second straight year.



Yuki Iwamura | AP photo

John Harbaugh will make his debut as Giants coach in primetime in Week 1 as New York hosts Dallas on Sunday Night Football.



Submitted Photo
Shown from left are, seated: Donna Barbetti, Kitchen Advisory Board President; Anna Millett and Emilia Williams, Scranton Preparatory School; Teddy Michel, Ignatian Volunteer Corps. Standing: Rob Williams, Kitchen Executive Director; Michael J. Cummings, Host-for-a-Day Campaign Chair; Rob Walls, Sysco Foods; Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera, D.D., J.C.L., Bishop of Scranton.

St. Francis of Assisi Kitchen honors Host-For-A-Day supporters

Donations feed, clothe those in need

Saint Francis of Assisi Kitchen recently celebrated the successful culmination of its 2026 Host-for-a-Day campaign with a special event at Fiorelli's in Peckville.

Contributors to the 48th annual campaign gathered for food, fellowship, and to hear how their support enables the kitchen to feed and clothe those in need. Also, two members of the Kitchen's Advisory Board were recognized for their service, and

three institutions – the Ignatian Volunteer Corps of Northeastern Pennsylvania, Sysco Foods and Scranton Preparatory School – received the Presidential Award for continued support of the Kitchen's mission. Donations of \$100 or more to the

Host-for-a-Day campaign can still be made by calling the kitchen at 570-342-5556, sending a check to Saint Francis of Assisi Kitchen, 500 Penn Avenue, Scranton, PA 18509, online at www.stfranciskitchen.org, or by texting SFAK to 26989.

Pianist John Wilson will perform at University of Scranton

Admission to May 16 concert is free

On Saturday, May 16, Performance Music at The University of Scranton will present a recital by critically and popularly acclaimed pianist and Northeastern Pennsylvania native John Wilson. The concert begins at 7:30 p.m. in the Houlihan-McLean Center, Mulberry Street and Jefferson Avenue, downtown Scranton. Admission is free, and the concert is open to the public. Seating is on a first-come, first-seated basis. "It is always a special pleasure to extend a warm welcome home to a world-renowned musician like John, who grew up in our area," said Performance Music Executive Director Janelle Decker. A native of the Mid Valley area near Scranton, Wilson serves as orchestral pianist for the San Francisco Symphony; principal keyboard for the Marin Symphony, San Diego Symphony and Oakland Symphony; and is critically and popularly acclaimed for his extraordinary artistry and commanding presence.



Submitted Photo
John Wilson's piano concert will be presented by Performance Music at The University of Scranton at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, May 16, in the Houlihan-McLean Center, Mulberry Street and Jefferson Avenue, downtown Scranton. Last season cemented his reputation as a defining voice in American solo piano, beginning with a sold-out Carnegie Hall recital. In addition to his near-constant orchestral work, he performed solo concertos with the San Francisco Philharmonic, Marin Symphony and Merced Symphony. He teaches at the San Francisco Conservatory. His recording of Gershwin transcriptions by Earl Wild surpassed 1 million streams in its first year. He appears on

Symphony Orchestra. A passionate advocate for new music, he has premiered works by Michael Tilson Thomas, John Adams, Steve Reich, Timo Andres and Gabriela Lena Frank. Wilson's outstanding performances and artistry have garnered widespread recognition and critical acclaim both domestically and internationally, earning him First Prize at the 2019 International Respighi Prize, the 2021 American Competition and the 2023 Ernst Bacon Memorial Award — the latter honoring exemplary performances of American music. Earlier milestones include a last-minute triumph in Beethoven's Triple Concerto at the Sun Valley Music Festival — praised as "breathtakingly assured" by Idaho Press — and a standout performance of Mozart's K. 491 at the 50th Anniversary Midsummer Mozart Festival. For further information on the recital, call 570-941-7624, email music@scranton.edu or visit the Performance Music website. For more info on Wilson, visit johnwilsonpiano.com.

Postpartum depression can be overwhelming

This past weekend, we had Mother's Day, and I genuinely hope you all got to celebrate the mothers and mother-figures in your lives.

We owe a debt of gratitude to the mothers in our neighborhoods and communities. Whether they personally carried and protected you until the day they delivered you, or they played a big role in how you were raised, the mothers in your support system helped make you who you are today.

While we honor the miracle of life and everything moms endure during pregnancy, we too often ignore a common condition that can affect a mother's mental health after she delivers her baby.

A woman's body goes through significant changes during pregnancy, and adjusting to life after the birth of a child can be challenging. Between uncertainty about how to care for a newborn and hormonal fluctuations, a mother's responsibilities and routine can feel overwhelming and lead to what's often called "baby blues."

Mild symptoms include mood swings and crying. Baby blues typically arise a few days after childbirth and resolve within two weeks as women adjust. But prolonged and severe symptoms are a sign of postpartum depression (PPD).

Postpartum depression is a mood disorder that affects approximately one in seven women. Symptoms can range from mild to severe, but they tend to be more intense and prolonged than the symptoms of baby blues. Some women can have a similar condition called postpartum anxiety (PPA) that can cause similar symptoms.

Symptoms of PPD and PPA can include persistent sadness, irritability and mood swings, difficulty bonding with your baby, loss of interest in things you usually enjoy, withdrawing from loved ones, tiredness and lack of energy, lack of sleep or



To Your Health
Alfred Casale

sleeping too much, appetite changes, restlessness, panic attacks and excessive worry. More severe symptoms can include thoughts of harming yourself or your baby, and recurring suicidal thoughts.

Left untreated, PPD and PPA can last for months or longer, and symptoms can be brought on or worsened by changes in hormones, sleep deprivation, lack of social support, and pain. There's no single test to diagnose PPD and PPA, but after childbirth, your doctor will evaluate you during follow-up visits. They'll perform a pelvic exam, talk to you about how you've been feeling since delivery, and ask a series of questions using the Edinburgh Postnatal Depression Scale (EPDS).

The EPDS is a 10-question screening tool that scores each answer from zero to three. The higher the score, the more severe the symptom. Scoring 14 or higher typically means you have postpartum depression.

If you've been diagnosed with postpartum depression, help is available. PPD and PPA can be managed with medication, talk therapy and self-care.

Consider these self-care practices when you have a new baby:

- Recharge with a short nap when possible
- Delegate tasks to others, like a partner or friend
- Move your body for a few minutes each day
- Eat a balanced diet
- Talk to friends and family to avoid isolation

If your symptoms are long-lasting, not going away, or seem to be getting worse, talk to your doctor right away. If you have thoughts of harming yourself or your baby, call 911 immediately. Struggling with mental health should be considered an emergency, so please seek the help you need.

Dr. Alfred Casale, a cardiothoracic surgeon, is chief medical officer for surgical services for Geisinger and chair of the Geisinger Heart and Vascular Institute. Readers may write to him via ae@timesleader.com.



New Forty Fort location! The Forty Fort Theatre Building at 920 Wyoming Avenue, Forty Fort. Conveniently located off the Cross Valley.

Call For In-Office Or Curbside Service

...For Active Seniors

- Giving you better quality hearing for a better quality of life
- Maintaining strong hearing for mental sharpness and healthy aging
- Testing for a wide variety of hearing problems
- Technology to enhance participation in family and social situations

8 Year Platinum Winner



Family Hearing Center

Zeigler - Asby Audiology

... Hearing tests, aids and protection for the entire family

50+ Years!

www.afamilyhearingcenter.com • 570-763-4276

BLONDIE

By Dean Young and John Marshall



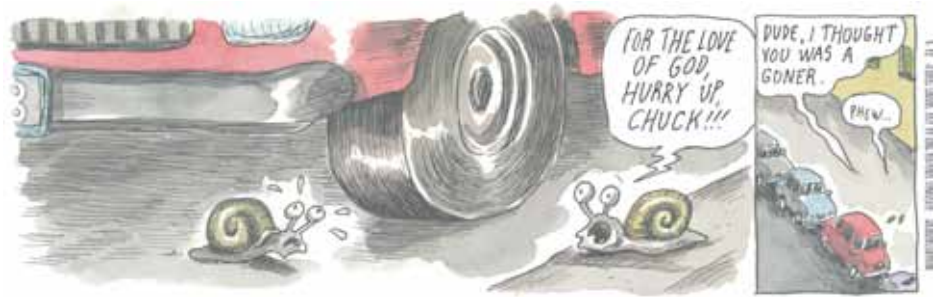
BEETLE BAILEY

By Mort, Greg and Brian Walker



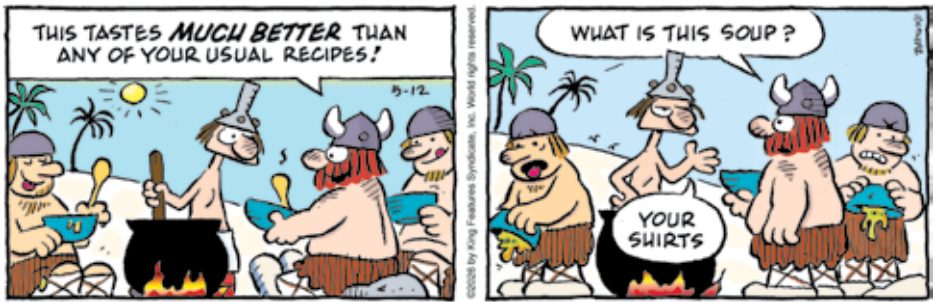
MACANUDO

By Liniers



HAGAR THE HORRIBLE

By Chris Browne



HI AND LOIS

Written By Brian & Greg Walker; Drawn By Chance Browne



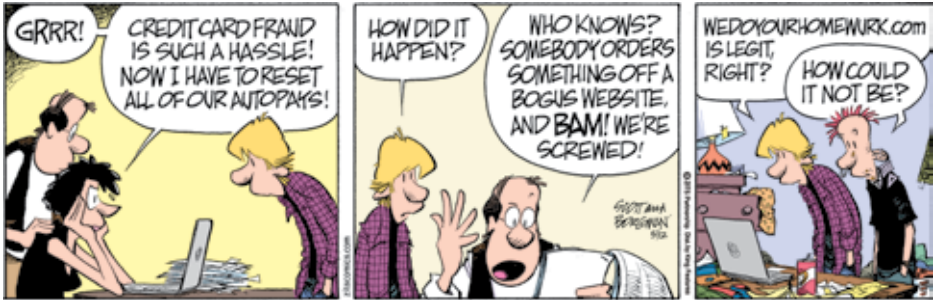
THE BRILLIANT MIND OF EDISON LEE

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



CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS
- 1 Cloak-and-dagger types
 - 6 Sanctify
 - 11 Skater Harding
 - 12 Brought about
 - 13 Heated dispute
 - 15 Ruin
 - 16 Train unit
 - 17 Great weight
 - 18 Blasphemous
 - 20 Flamenco cheer
 - 21 Scrollwork shape
 - 22 Throw in the towel
 - 23 "Beat it!"
 - 26 Mandolins' cousins
 - 27 See the sights
 - 28 Brewed beverage
 - 29 Sphere
 - 30 Pilot's wear
 - 34 Me, to Michel
 - 35 Bible boat
 - 36 Debate side
 - 37 Taking of turns
- 40 Singer Patsy
- 41 Avant —
- 42 Ranch workers
- 43 Some swords
- DOWN
- 1 Letter need
 - 2 Like the icecaps
 - 3 Lead-in
 - 4 Look over
 - 5 Cutting humor
 - 6 Trumpet sound
 - 7 Rent out
 - 8 Remove from copy
 - 9 Rat
 - 10 Bard's collection
 - 14 Soup buys
 - 19 Dread
 - 22 Campus area
 - 23 Gut
 - 24 Flower part
 - 25 Add insult to injury
 - 26 Pipe problem
 - 28 Shore flier
 - 30 Fast runners
 - 31 Church topper
 - 32 Wear away
 - 33 Musical sounds
 - 38 Break off
 - 39 Spigot

S	C	E	N	T		S	P	A	R	
A	R	M	O	R		H	A	Z	E	L
K	E	I	R	A		E	R	A	S	E
E	E	L		N	A	B		L	E	A
S	K	Y	S	C	R	A	P	E	R	S
				C	E	E		R	A	V
V	I	B	E	S		V	I	S	E	S
I	R	O	N		L	E	O			
S	K	Y	E	T	E	R	R	I	E	R
A	S	H		W	E	D		B	R	O
G	O	O	S	E		A	P	S	E	S
E	M	O	T	E		N	I	E	C	E
	E	D	E	N		T	E	N	T	S

Yesterday's answer

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9	10
11						12				
13						14				
15					16			17		
18				19				20		
				21			22			
23	24	25				26				
27					28					
29				30				31	32	33
34				35				36		
37				38				39		
40							41			
42							43			

5-12

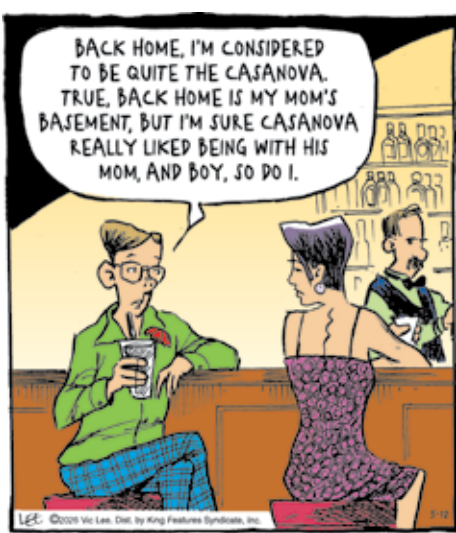
BABY BLUES

By Jerry Scott & Rick Kirkman



PARDON MY PLANET

By Vic Lee



CONCEPTIS SUDOKU

by Dave Green

King Classic Sudoku

	6				9	4		7
	2	4			8	9	6	
8	9						2	1
		9	2	8			7	
				6	5	2		
	5	2	7			8	9	6
3	7		1	9				
		6						
	4		6		7	3	1	9

Difficulty: ★★

5/12

Today's Solution

6	1	3	7	9	8	4	2
2	5	7	3	4	8	9	6
8	4	9	2	6	1	5	3
9	6	8	1	3	7	2	4
4	3	2	5	9	6	7	8
5	7	1	4	8	2	6	3
1	2	9	9	7	4	3	6
3	9	6	8	1	5	4	7
7	8	4	6	2	3	1	5

5/12

©2026 King Features Syndicate, Inc.



Having A Yard Sale?

Call your classified department to schedule your ad today!

VFW Post plans Pigs in Blanket dinner

Shopa-Davey Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 6082 will sponsor a Pigs in the Blanket (Halupki) dinner from 11 a.m. until 3 p.m., or until sold out, on Sunday, May 17, at 123 Electric Street, Peckville. You can “sit in” at the Post House or take your food to go. Parking is free.

Each dinner ticket is \$15. Raffle tickets will also be available for purchase.

Veterans interested in joining the VFW Peckville Post #6082 are invited to contact Commander Peter Puhulla. at 570-383-0501.



Planning the Pigs in the Blanket Dinner are, from left: Commander Peter Puhulla Sr., Carl Goldyn, and Don Jones.

Submitted Photo

Horoscope

From page 4C

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★ Conversations with partners, spouses and close friends are optimistic and mutually encouraging; plus, it's a great day to socialize and enjoy sports events and fun times with kids. But today is a Moon Alert, so restrict

spending to food and gas. Postpone important decisions. Tonight: Get better organized.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★ It's a tricky day! You're pumped about issues with your job, your health or a pet. Family discussions are ambitious. But today is a Moon Alert, which means postpone important decisions until tomorrow. Restrict spending

to food and gas. It is what it is. Tonight: Socialize.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★ You're full of great ideas and eager to persuade others to your point of view. Plans for vacations, social outings and sports events are so exciting they're almost at a fever pitch! Unfortunately, today is a Moon Alert. Cool your jets and wait until

tomorrow. Tonight: Relax at home.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★ You might be enthused about financial matters — potential earnings or a way to boost your wealth. You might want to buy something exciting. It's important to know that today is a Moon Alert, which means restrict spending to food and gas. Tomorrow is a great day.

Tonight: Conversations.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★ For most of this day, the Moon is in your sign dancing with Jupiter, making you feel extroverted and eager to make your pitch about whatever interests you. Alas, most of this day is a Moon Alert. Postpone until tomorrow. (Tomorrow is strong.) Tonight: Check your money.

What's up

From page 2C

Pastie Sale at Lehman-Idetown United Methodist Church, Mountain View Drive, Lehman. Cost is \$8 each, and orders are due by Wednesday, May 20. Call Jayne at 570-814-8263. This will be the last sale until September. Orders can be picked up at the church from 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on Thursday, May 28.

WYOMING

Beer For Books, a fundraiser for the Wyoming Free Library, 6 to 8 p.m. May 29 at The Lighthouse Inn, 1019 Shoemaker Ave., Wyoming. \$30 per ticket. Buffet includes hot dogs, mac 'n cheese, and salad. Drink tickets may be redeemed for either two domestic beers, one glass of wine or a signature drink. This is a 21+ event. Entertainment will be by Jon and Kate. Tickets available at [beerforbooks.com](#).

GREATER PITTSTON AREA

Cash Bingo, 6:30 p.m. Thursday, May 21, at Wyoming Hose Co., 70 East Third St., Wyoming. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. Cost is \$25 in advance and \$30 at the door. Cards are 6 on. There are 15 regular games with a \$100 payout, and three bonus games. Proceeds benefit Zara Court #113. Purchase is not tax-deductible. Call 570-332-9272 or any Zara Member for tickets. Seating is limited. Food and beverages will be available

for purchase.

Exeter Borough All-Community Yard Sale, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, May 23. Sell your clothes, furniture, kitchen stuff, games, toys, baby items, bags, and more. It is free to register your yard, porch, or driveway on our Google Form. Please register before Monday, May 18, to be added to our Yard Sale Treasures Searchable & Printable Map.

MOUNTAIN TOP

Mountain Top Garden Club monthly meeting, 6:30 p.m. May 12, at the Rice Township Municipal Building. Speaker Sandy Visintainer, Penn State Master Gardener, will present “Never Enough Plants: Dividing Perennials.” She will discuss different types of plant propagation, including growing plants from seed, root division, and harvesting, storing, and planting summer bulbs. All are welcome.

Mountain Top Garden Club Annual Plant Sale, 8 a.m. to noon Saturday, May 16, Crestwood High School Parking Lot, Route 309. There will be Annuals, Perennials, and Hanging Baskets, an abundant selection of perennials donated from members' gardens (so you know they are hardy), and donated garden treasures available for sale. All proceeds are used for Mountain Top beautification projects. The sale is rain or shine, and cash and checks only.

Mountain Top Social Club will not meet on May 12. Instead, members will enjoy a Mother's - Father's Day luncheon at noon at

Sand Springs. The next meeting is May 26 at 1:30 p.m. at the American Legion, 1550 Henry Drive, Mountain Top. All bus trips are open to the public, call Dolores Kelly Zajac, Trip Coordinator 732-690-9609. For club information, call Ady Burner, president, 347-397-8356. Club membership is closed.

GREATER NANTICOKE

Nanticoke city-wide yard sale will be Saturday, May 16. If you would like your name added to the list, call (570) 735-2800 ext 101 by Wednesday, May 13. A list of addresses will be available on the city's Facebook page or at Patriot Park the day of the event

GLEN LYON

American Legion Post 539 and its Auxiliary, will hold a Bingo fundraiser in the social hall, 64 Newport St., Glen Lyon, on May 31 from 1300 to 1600 hours (1 to 4 p.m.). Doors open to the public at 1200 hours. A \$15 fee is assessed for a bingo package, and additional card purchases will be available for Special Bingos. There will be a Bake Sale and Basket Raffle (donations will be accepted) and a 50/50 drawing during the event. For more info: Tim Derr, 570-706-6658; Danielle, 570-592-4251; Faith, 570-417-8899.

MESHOPPEN

Guiding Light Christian Cafe, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. on the first Fridays of the month at Meshoppen Community Church, 128

Church Road, Meshoppen, Pa., 18630. With entertainment from Yvonne Harman on June 5, Cedar Routes on Aug. 7, Devoted Band on Sept. 18, and Paul and Mary Good on Oct. 2.

STATE PARKS

Wildflower Walk. Dr. George Chamuris, professor emeritus of biology at Bloomsburg University, will lead a walk looking for spring wildflowers along the Lower Falls Trail at Ricketts Glen State Park, Route 487, Benton, from 10 a.m. to noon Tuesday, May 12. Park and meet at the Route 118 trailhead parking lot. Good boots are recommended for walking. Please bring water and bug spray. Registration required at [events.dcnr.pa.gov/ricketts_glen_state_park](#) or by emailing [rhsummers@pa.gov](#) or calling 570-477-7780.

Homeschool Day, a program for homeschool or cyber school families with children in grades 7-12, is set for 9:30 a.m. to noon Friday, May 15, at Ricketts Glen State Park, Route 487, Benton. Park and meet at the Visitors Center. We are learning about the bygone lumber town of Ricketts and how to measure trees. Registration required at [events.dcnr.pa.gov/ricketts_glen_state_park](#) or by emailing [rhsummers@pa.gov](#) or calling 570-477-7780.

Bygone Town of Ricketts Tour, 10:30 a.m. to noon Saturday, May 16. Discover where the lumber town of Ricketts used to stand and learn some history along the way. Good boots are recommended

for walking. Please bring your own bug spray. This area has ticks. We will meet at the Visitor Center in Ricketts Glen State Park, Route 487, Benton, to watch “From Woodchips to Sawdust,” then drive out to the site. Contact Ranger Collin McCulloch at 570-477-5675 or [cmculloch@pa.gov](#) for more information.

REUNIONS

A Gate of Heaven School Reunion will be held as part of the 75th anniversary of Gate of Heaven Parish on Sunday, May 24. Mass will be held at 9 a.m., followed by a school tour, coffee and doughnuts. A reception will be held at noon at Appletree Terrace in Dallas. Cost is \$30 per person, which includes tip. Cash bar will be available. Adults only, please. Mail payment to Gate of Heaven, 40 Machell Ave., Dallas, 18612. Checks can be made out to David Hartzell.

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.

Coughlin High School, Class of 1972, will hold its 72nd birthday bash from 5

Hints

From page 4C

habits that I still use today:

— My old cast-iron skillet, which always makes the perfect cornbread, never gets washed. When it's hot, I wipe it thoroughly with paper towels. Once it cools, I pour plenty of coarse salt into the pan and scrub the pan with fresh paper towels until all the residue is gone. Then I rub a thin layer of vegetable oil over the surface to keep the seasoning intact.

— For cleaning the sink and everyday pots, I use a recycled Parmesan jar filled with baking soda as a handy shaker. I refill it with baking soda from the fridge or freezer after it's done deodorizing so that nothing goes to waste.

— I also keep a spray bottle of white vinegar under the sink for rinsing produce, which means that I don't need store-bought vegetable wash. Just don't use vinegar on peaches or apricots — their delicate skin can't handle it.

I read your column six days a week in my local newspaper, The Villages Daily Sun. — Shirley S., in Summerfield, Florida

LIFT TOUGH MUG STAINS

Dear Heloise: Skip the baking soda for stubborn coffee or tea stains. Sprinkle a little coarse salt into the cup and scrub the cup with a damp cloth in circular motions. The salt gently lifts tannin buildup without harsh cleaners. Rinse, and the mug will look noticeably brighter. This trick also works on pots with ring stains — just add salt and scrub along the mark. — Helen T., in The Villages, Florida

Send a money-saving or time-saving hint to [Heloise@Heloise.com](#). I can't answer your letter personally but will use the best hints received in my column.

to 10 p.m. Saturday, June 13, at the Polish American Veterans, 2 South Oak St., Plains. The \$30 per person cost includes a buffet meal, beverages, and a DJ. A Friday evening ice breaker at Leggio's in Wilkes-Barre and a Sunday farewell brunch are also planned. For reservations, please visit the Coughlin High School Class of 1972 Facebook group or contact Eileen Wellner at [eileenw72@gmail.com](#) or Mike Teller at [michaelteller12@yahoo.com](#). Payment can be made to Eileen Wellner, 81 Franklin Dr., Mechanicsburg, Pa. 17055 or Venmo @Eileen-Wellner.

Hanover High School class of 1963 will holds its 63rd year reunion 4 p.m. July 17 at Kelsey's Ale House, 199 Division St., Kingston. Cost \$35, buffet-style meal and cash bar. Payment is due by July 1 to: Elwood Larson, 101 Perrin Ave., Shavertown, Pa. 18708. Any questions, call Woody at 722-298-8732.

James M. Coughlin High School Class of 1966 will celebrate its 60th reunion from 1 to 6 p.m. Aug. 15 at American Grill, 1320 Wyoming Ave., Exeter. Please respond with any interest, questions or plans to attend to Marie Dorrance Hartz at 570-574-5744 or [mariehartz@me.com](#). or to Joe Christopher at 570 706-1499 or [thevoyager826@gmail.com](#). Or post to our Facebook page - Coughlin66.

MAYO CLINIC Q&A

What are the signs your child may have a heart condition?

By Mayo Clinic News Network

DEAR MAYO CLINIC: My child seems more tired than other kids, they don't keep up like they used to and have complained of chest discomfort when playing or running. Could these be signs of a heart condition?

ANSWER: Symptoms like fatigue or chest discomfort in children are common and often have simple, nonserious explanations. Chest pain is one of the most common reasons children are referred to a pediatric cardiologist, but fewer than 5% of cases are related to the heart. However, symptoms during exercise or a noticeable change in your child's usual activity level may be worth a closer look.

Heart conditions in children can present in several ways. Some are congenital, meaning a child is born with them. Others are acquired and develop later, sometimes after an illness or infection. There are also genetic conditions that may not be obvious at first but can lead to heart problems over time. More severe congenital heart conditions are usually diagnosed soon after birth and may require treatment in the first months of life. Milder forms may not cause symptoms right away and are sometimes found when a murmur is heard or as symptoms develop over time.

Warning signs

Warning signs can look different depending on a child's age. In infants, heart problems may show up as poor feeding, tiring during feeding, poor weight gain, fast breathing or fewer wet diapers. Some babies may seem sleepier than usual or not waking well enough to feed. These symptoms can appear in the first weeks of life, particularly in babies with larger congenital heart defects.

Because babies can't tell you what they feel, noticing changes in these everyday patterns is especially important and should be evaluated promptly.

In older children, symptoms that occur during physical activity tend to raise more concern. For example, chest pain is more worrisome when it happens during intense exercise, feels like pressure and doesn't change with breathing. It may be especially concerning if the child also experiences shortness of breath, dizziness or fainting during activity.

Shortness of breath can have several causes in children, but what matters most is whether there has been a change. A child who previously kept up with others but now falls behind, takes more breaks or struggles with activity should be evaluated more closely.

Symptoms

Some symptoms shouldn't be ignored. These include:

- Passing out, especially during exercise.
- Chest pain with activity.
- Fast heart rate that doesn't slow down at rest.

A racing heartbeat that is difficult to count or doesn't slow after activity should be evaluated right away.

Changes in skin color can be another warning sign. A bluish color around the lips, tongue or inside the mouth may indicate low oxygen levels and should be checked out promptly.

Family history also matters. A history of heart disease in close relatives can increase the likelihood that a child may be affected. Family history is especially important when there's cardiomyopathy or unexplained death, particularly during exercise or sleep. In these cases, children may need screening even if they seem healthy. Some inherited heart conditions don't cause symptoms early in life, so knowing the family history can help identify children who need follow-up.

If a child is evaluated for a possible heart problem, the visit often starts with a detailed history and a careful physical exam. Depending on the situation, the child may have one or more tests. These may include:

- An electrocardiogram to assess the heart's electrical activity.
- An echocardiogram or ultrasound of the heart to evaluate its structure, blood flow and function.

Not every child will need testing. Sometimes the history and exam suggest a harmless cause, such as an "innocent" murmur, that doesn't require additional tests or treatment. In other cases, these studies help clarify whether there's a structural or rhythm-related problem.

Most of the time, symptoms in children, such as chest pain, palpitations or fatigue, aren't caused by heart disease. Pediatric heart conditions are relatively rare. Even so, symptoms still deserve attention so that children who need care are identified early, and others can be reassured.

Most children with these symptoms won't have a heart condition, but signs such as fainting, a racing heartbeat that doesn't slow down at rest, or a clear change in activity level shouldn't be ignored. If something feels different or concerning, it's appropriate to have your child evaluated.

Josué Maldonado Custodio, M.D., Cardiology, Mayo Clinic Health System, Eau Claire and La Crosse, Wisconsin

Recipe: 'Atayef' – stuffed Lebanese pancakes

By dpa

BEIRUT — This Lebanese delicacy is known as "atayef."

"Atayef were always a treat we looked forward to — especially around Ramadan or on Sunday afternoons when visitors dropped by unannounced," says Lebanese chef Jad Youssef.

"The smell of the hot saj (pan) as the batter bubbles and sets, the sight of the ashta filling being spooned in generously, the syrup dripping slowly over the soft folds — it's simple, sweet Lebanese hospitality in a bite.

"We couldn't resist pinching some from the tray before they made it to the guests. My mother always knew, but she let us get away with it."

Jad Youssef's stuffed Lebanese pancakes with fresh clotted cream and orange blossom syrup

Ingredients (Serves 6-8, makes about 18-20)

For the syrup:
200g caster sugar
120ml water
1tbsp lemon juice
1tbsp rose water
1tbsp orange blossom water

For the ashta:
1.2L whole milk
4tbsp white vinegar or lemon juice

1½tbsp cornflour
1tbsp caster sugar
1tbsp rose water
2tbsp orange blossom water

200g ricotta cheese (optional but recommended)

For the atayef:
300g plain flour
1tsp dried instant yeast
1tsp caster sugar
1tsp bicarbonate of soda
Pinch of fine sea salt
100ml whole milk
350—400ml lukewarm water

For the garnish:
80g finely chopped pistachios
1tbsp rose petal jam

Method

1. To prepare the syrup: Combine the sugar and

water in a small saucepan. Bring to a boil, then add the lemon juice. Lower the heat and simmer for eight to 10 minutes until slightly thickened. Add the rose and orange blossom waters, stir, and then remove from the heat. Cool to room temperature.

2. To prepare the ashta: In a saucepan, bring one liter of the milk to a simmer. Add the vinegar or lemon juice and stir gently until the milk curdles and separates. Strain and discard the whey, keeping the curds. In a clean saucepan, mix the remaining 200 milliliters of milk with the cornflour and sugar. Stir over medium heat until it thickens to a soft custard. Add the rose and orange blossom waters. Now mix the custard with the curds and ricotta (if using). Let the ashta cool completely and chill for at least an hour.

3. To prepare the atayef: In a large bowl, whisk together the flour, yeast, sugar, bicarbonate of soda,

and salt. Slowly whisk in the milk and water, adjusting the quantity to get a smooth, pourable batter. Cover and leave to rest for 30—45 minutes until slightly bubbly.

4. Heat a non-stick pan over medium heat. Stir the batter gently and pour or ladle small rounds (about eight centimeters diameter) into the dry pan. Cook on one side without flipping them — bubbles will appear on top, and the surface will set. Set aside on a clean towel and keep covered so they don't dry out.

5. Place about a spoonful of ashta in the center of each pancake. Fold them into half-moons and pinch one edge firmly to seal, leaving the other edge open so the cream peeks out.

6. Arrange the atayef on a platter, drizzle with the syrup and sprinkle with crushed pistachios and rose petal jam. Serve immediately or chill lightly before serving.



AP Photo

Heather Grady waters beet seedlings Thursday, April 9, 2026, in Denver.

Grow

From page 2C

"Rainwater has more oxygen than (tap water)" Hargins said. "It actually makes the roots happier and the plants grow much better."

Selecting plant varieties that thrive with what nature provides in your area is one of the easiest ways to save on water. Consider hybrids bred to use less water or heirlooms native to your region, said Noelle Johnson in her book, "The Water-Smart Garden."

Feed your soil

Healthy soil has five components: dirt, the air within, organic matter, water and biological life. Healthy soil needs less fertilizer and less water than unhealthy soil, Peterson said.

A soil test can show if you're deficient in any key nutrients, said Josie Hart, Associate Director of Sustainable Agriculture at Denver Botanic Gardens Chatfield Farms. Gardeners can typically send soil samples for testing at a local public university or private lab.

To prep soil for the first time, break up hard dirt with a tiller or shovel and layer in compost or leaves to create a fluffy texture. In future years, just add compost on top and let the worms move nutrients around, Titmus said.

Protect from the elements

Sun and wind are the primary factors that dry



AP Photo

Heather Grady plants a beet seedling Thursday, April 9, 2026, in Denver.

out a garden. Planting near a fence, tree or shed can help shield them, Hart said.

Shade cloths also reduce evaporation for plants that get stressed in hot, sunny climates by filtering about half the sunlight. These plastic or burlap cloths can be strung on hooks nailed into a structure, or draped over hoops or posts just above the plants.

Johnson, the author who gardens in Arizona, recommends intensive vegetable planting, a practice that minimizes wasted space compared to traditional row planting. The intensive method puts plants closer together in a staggered pattern. Leaves of maturing plants provide shade and reduce evaporation.

Planting directly in the earth also helps because raised beds are more exposed to the elements, Johnson said.

People planting in arid climates may want to consider creating a waffle bed that uses small rows of raised soil in a grid pattern around the plants, Hart said. The ancient technique used by Indigenous farmers helps direct rainfall to their roots.

"Creating a waffle bed is going to capture any moisture you have going and it will keep it there," Hart said.

Finally, mulch is essential for protecting soil by keeping water in and weeds out, everyone agreed. But be careful with wood mulch, which can poach nutrients from your veggies.

Water deeply and less often

Use an irrigation setup that slowly puts water directly into the soil, experts agree. You can use soaker lines, a drip system or drip tape. Anything that sprays will lose water to the air.

Can options be over-

whelming? Sure. But there's a ton of online resources to help, including a free drip tape workshop through urbanfarm.org. Local nurseries and water utilities also offer free or low-cost workshops.

Using one of these systems, water deeply and less often to teach roots to grow deep where moisture is stored, Hart said. Gardeners in hot, dry climates may think frequent watering helps plants, but it keeps roots shallow. Hart recommends watering on a drip system for at least an hour during the summer, but then going three days without watering in between.

In Denver, the watering pattern is one thing Heather and Terrance Grady plan to switch up this year. They're going to try deep watering three days a week instead of short daily spurts.

"It's a huge change," Grady said.



TIMES LEADER MEDIA GROUP

CLASSIFIEDS

TimesLeader.com/Classifieds

For assistance, please call or email

Allison @ 570-704-3978 | ashubilla@timesleader.com

Legal Notices / Notices To Creditors

PUBLIC NOTICES

**PUBLISH EVERY
WEDNESDAY
THURSDAY
FRIDAY
SUNDAY**

DEADLINES:

Wednesday, Thursday
and Friday is at
3 pm the day before

Sunday is 2pm on Friday

Any questions
Call Allison at
570-704-3978
or email
ashubilla@
timesleader.com

Special Notices

**HERITAGE
COINS & STAMPS**
10 MAIN STREET
DALLAS, PA

(AT THE ROUND ABOUT
IN DALLAS)

A PROFESSIONAL DEALER
FOR OVER 45 YEARS

(FORMERLY HERITAGE
GALLERIES)

**BUYING
US & FOREIGN**

**COINS
CURRENCY
SILVER DOLLARS
ALL BETTER COINS
PROOF & MINT SETS
STAMP
COLLECTIONS
POSTCARDS
GOLD & SILVER
COINS
JEWELRY & BULLION
TOKENS & MEDALS
INDIAN & WHEAT
CENTS**

**Professional
Appraisals**

**CALL IN ADVANCE
(570) 674-2646
OPEN TUESDAYS
THRU SATURDAYS
10 AM TO 5 PM**

Financial Services

"We can erase your bad
credit 100% guaranteed".
Attorneys for the Federal
Trade Commission say
they've never seen a legiti-
mate credit repair operation. No
one can legally remove accu-
rate and timely information
from your credit report. It's a
process that starts with you
and involves time and a con-
scious effort to pay your
debts. Learn about managing
credit and debt at
ftc.gov/credit. A message
from the Times Leader and
the FTC.

Drivers & Delivery

**NOW HIRING
SCHOOL BUS
DRIVERS
& VAN DRIVERS
Sign on Bonus
Best pay.
Will Train if necessary.
Pace Transportation
570-883-9797**

Help Wanted General

2 PAINTERS NEEDED

For contracted job
starting June 1, 26.
If interested call
570-821-7543
Serious Applicants Only

Cemetery Plots

CHAPEL LAWN
Dallas Memorial Highway
Burial plot for double burial
Garden of the Cross
Lot#54A. Asking \$3,000
Save \$3,000
Call 570-332-8302

Commercial

EDWARDSVILLE



HUGE PRICE DROP!!

66-68 Plymouth St.

Large office building with
warehouse space, overhead
door, restrooms &
kitchenette. Several offices.
Large open floor space.
Many possibilities. Located
in R-1 Zone. Any buyers
should do their due
diligence and check with
zoning for approved uses.
MLS# 25-2856 **\$199,000**

James Crossin

570-650-6169

**CROSSIN
REAL ESTATE
570-288-0770**

Houses For Sale

NOXEN



4984 PA 29

Beautiful 75-acre property
featuring a 4-bedroom, 2.5-
bath home and well-main-
tained original barn. Mostly
cleared land offers endless
potential for a homestead,
farm, or recreation. Proven
hunting grounds, scenic
views, and peaceful sur-
roundings make this a rare
opportunity to enjoy country
living at its best. Call Today!
MLS# 26-1582 **\$850,000**

James Crossin

570-650-6169

**CROSSIN
REAL ESTATE
570-288-0770**

Apartments /Townhouses

WASHINGTON SQUARE APARTMENTS

Senior Citizens
Housing in Downtown
Wilkes-Barre
Renting 1 Bedroom
Apartments.

Features:
Air Conditioning, Heat, Wall
to Wall Carpeting, Reduced
Cable Costs, Security &
Laundry Facilities,
Smoke Free Building
Active Social
Organization.
Rental Assistance Available.

Call for Application

570-823-0127



WILKES BARRE

First floor. 4 rooms. Your
own front porch. Close to
Wegmans & Sam's Club.
Water & sewer bills
included. No pets. Non
smoking. Lease.
\$595/month.
Call Joe M. 570-650-3803

WILKES BARRE

58 O'Neil Ave.
Large 2 bedroom single
family with enclosed front
porch & back deck. 1.5 baths,
eat-in kitchen with appliances.
Washer/dryer hookup. off
street parking. Walking dis-
tance to General hospital.
\$1,200/month + utilities &
security. No Pets.
Call 570-814-1356

STUDIO APARTMENTS Wilkes-Barre

- Elderly/Handicapped
- 62 and Older
- Utilities Included
- Stress Free Living
- Low Cable TV Cost
- \$800/Month

**Martin D. Popky
B'nai B'rith
Apartments
570-825-8594
TTY 711**



WYOMING MIDTOWNE APARTMENTS

100 East 6th Street
Housing for the elderly &
mobility impaired; all utilities
included. Federally
subsidized program. Ex-
tremely low income persons
encouraged to apply.
Income less than \$15,600.
ALL UTILITIES INCLUDED
SMOKE FREE BUILDING
570-693-4256
Monday-Friday, 8am-4pm



Half Doubles

Edwardsville/Larksville

2 bedroom, 1/2 double,
private parking.
\$1,150/month
Text number to
570-574-6763 after 2 pm

Autos For Sale



FOR SALE

**53 OLD VEHICLES +
GARAGE PARTS. \$1,000
TO \$5,000 OR LESS.
TOO SICK FOR HOBBY.
NO TEXT, CALLS.
570-538-3464**

Autos For Sale

BLUES BROTHERS USED CAR SALES

2179 State Route 118

Sweet Valley

570-675-4329/570-477-2833

JEEP '07 WRANGLER

UNLIMITED RUBICON

w/ plow, 123K **\$10,900**

FORD '11 F250 SUPER

DUTY XLT

Quad cab, 140K **\$12,900**

DODGE '04 RAM 2500 SLT

Quad cab, w/plow,
88K **\$8,495**

DODGE '06 RAM 1500 SLT

Quad cab, 161K **\$7,995**

CHEVY '10 TAHOE LT

4WD, 144K **\$9,495**

NISSAN '10 FRONTIER SE

129K **\$6,995**

FORD '00 F150 Standard cab

130K **\$3,995**

DODGE '06 RAM 1500 SLT

4 door, 161K **\$7,995**

DODGE '14 RAM 1500

Big Horn, 130K **\$14,400**

HYUNDAI '07 ELANTRA SE

SEDAN
160K **\$2,995**

CADILLAC 2011 CTS4 COUPE

118,000 Highway miles.

Good condition.

Clean title, 2 owners

Candy Apple red, Automatic

or manual, Fully loaded,

engine model LLT 3.6L, V6,

Series premium, AWD,

Beige leather interior, pop up

navigation system, moon

roof, back up cameras, DVD

player, heated steering

wheel, lighted dash board,

On Star, keyless entry,

keyless start, Bose stereo &

much more, \$8,000.

Call 570-233-6747

Autos For Sale



45th Anniversary Sale!

Celebrating Our

45th Year!

Over 75 Vehicles in Stock

Most Under 5,000

with Low Miles

Freshly Serviced, State

Inspected & Warranted

Join Our Family of

Thousands Of Satisfied

Customers!

(FINANCING AVAILABLE)

Vehicle History

Reports Available

Best Selection!

Best Quality!

Best Values!

View Our Inventory at

www.wyomingvalleyautos.com

197 West End Road

570-825-7577



**MOST CARS
\$3000 - \$6000
WITH WARRANTY**

1302 N. River St.,
Plains, PA 18702
www.CarsCheap.net

Antiques & Collectibles

**"I buy anything old LLC"
CALL I MIGHT BUY IT!**

Attics, Garages, Basements

Antiques, toys, tools, costume jewelry,

Watches, holiday, cast iron, brass

& much more!

570-266-6113

Wanted

BUYING

Costume and fine jewelry, watches,

coins, collections of all kinds, artwork,

fine glassware, historical items and entire estates

Cook & Cook Estate Liquidators

Call 570-270-9239

Wanted

**WANTED!
PAYING CASH**

Buying baseball, football, basketball,
hockey and non-sports cards.

Single sets, boxes & cases.

Wrestling memorabilia, comic books,
dealer buy outs.

Call 570-215-3556

Personals

SEEKING A LOVING WOMAN FOR MARRIAGE

A sincere and caring gentleman is looking for a kind-hearted
woman, aged 50 to 89, for a meaningful relationship filled with
love, companionship, and respect, with the hope of marriage.

I value honesty, warmth, and a genuine connection.

Only serious and sincere individuals, please.

Please email: johnpeterlove@songwriter.net

Selling Your Home?
CALL A PRO!

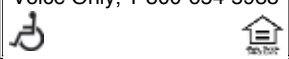


Jim Crossin

570-650-6169



570-288-0770



SHAVERTOWN
Large 1st floor, 3,100 sq. ft.,
2 bedroom, 2 bath.
\$1,400/month Call for
Appointment & details
Call 570-690-4059

SUGAR NOTCH

2nd floor 4 nice rooms.
Has new carpeting, stove,
washer, dryer, & mini
fridge. Heat, water,
sewer-all included. No
pets. Non smoking. 1/2
mile to I81. Close to WB.
Lease. \$725/month
Call Joe M. 570-650-3803

SWOYERSVILLE

1st floor, 1 bedroom, 1 bath,
dishwasher, washer/dryer,
A/C, rear patio/yard, off
street parking, no pets, non-
smoking. \$875/month + util-
ities, security deposit, 1 year
lease. Call 570-709-1724



WILKESBARRE

SERVICES

For assistance, please call or email
Allison @ 570-704-3978 | ashubilla@timesleader.com

TIMES LEADER MEDIA GROUP

Awnings



Awnings
Aluminum - Patio Covers
Retractables
standardawning.com



Window Treatments
window film
heitint.com
570-824-3535

Auto Body Shop

Rick's Body Shop
INSURANCE ESTIMATES - COLLISION REPAIRS - FOREIGN & DOMESTIC - QUALITY CRAFTSMANSHIP



P: 570-823-2211
F: 570-824-0553
Fender Benders
Ask for RICK or NICK
Rear 105 West Saylor Avenue, Plains, PA 18702
www.RicksBodyShopPlains.com

Carpet Cleaning



OXY PURE
CARPET CLEANING
INCLUDES
FREE DEODORIZING
SPEEDY DRY TIME
LOW MOISTURE
OXY CITRUS POWERED CLEAN
TILE & GROUT CLEANING
PET STAINS & ODOR REMOVAL

2 ROOMS
AND A HALL

3 ROOMS
AND A HALL

4 ROOMS
AND A HALL

5 ROOMS
AND A HALL

\$99⁰⁰
\$119⁰⁰
\$139⁰⁰
\$159⁰⁰

570-671-1123

SERVING
LUZERNE & LACKAWANNA
COUNTY

Chimney Services

CHIMNEY REPAIRS
SPRINGHILL CHIMNEY SERVICE
SAVE 10% NOW!
Senior Citizen Discount
Parge, Stucco, Caps
296 Main Street,
Dupont, PA
570-471-3742



Construction & Building

Levandowski Overhead Doors
SALES • SERVICE
INSTALLATION • REPAIR
• Free In Home Estimates
• Affordable Rates
• Professional, Courteous,
Honest, & Dependable
• Locally Owned
27 years Experience
Fully Insured • HIC#065008
570-735-8551 or 570-606-7489



Construction & Building

Mister V Construction
Doing it right the 1st time
Fred Verdekal
Owner Fully Licensed & Insured
All types of Roofing, Siding, Gutters, &
Chimney Repairs, Flat Roof Specialist
Pa. #020810
570-855-0343
mrvman67@live.com



Construction & Building

**Father & Son
Construction, LLC**

• Additions, Kitchens and Baths
Licensed and Insured
570-814-4578
License # PA099720

Electric

RNI Electric, LLC
Licensed & Insured | PA 029575
Retired Veteran
81099438C
Panel Upgrades
New & Old Work
25 Years Experience
570-814-8979



Hauling

WILL HAUL ANYTHING
Clean cellars, attics, yards
& metal removal.
Estate cleanouts.
NO JOB TOO BIG
OR SMALL
Call Jeff 570-266-1431
Nanticoke



Hauling & Trucking

**AAA GENERAL HAULING
& CLEANING**
Cheaper Than A Dumpster
Cleaning Attics, Cellars,
Garages. Demolitions,
Roofing & Tree Removal
570-779-0918
570-542-5821
570-814-8299



Hauling & Trucking

**All Kinds of Hauling &
Junk Removal**
We're Cheaper Than A Dumpster!
Estate Cleanout, Attics, Basements,
Yards, etc. Tree Shrub Removal
All Types of Demolition
Free Estimates | 24 Hour Service
Small & Large Jobs! PA# 051929
570-239-0484



Paving

Edward's ALL COUNTY PAVING
QUALITY ISN'T EXPENSIVE,
IT'S PRICELESS
RELY ON THE EXPERIENCED PROFESSIONALS AT EDWARD'S ALL COUNTY
PAVING AND SEALCOATING FOR ALL YOUR ASPHALT PAVING NEEDS.
OUR FOURTH GENERATION FAMILY OWNED COMPANY HAS OVER 100+
YEARS OF COMBINED EXPERIENCE IN THE BUSINESS.

✓ DRIVEWAYS
✓ ROADWAYS

✓ PARKING LOTS
✓ SEAL COATING

Bonded / Insured
HIC#BCP14-05-022597
FREE ESTIMATES
CALL 570-474-6329
EDWARDSALLCOUNTYPAVING.COM

Hauling & Trucking

MIKE'S HAULING
Cleaning & removing of old
Items & trash from house, garage &
yard debris.
Cost \$10 and Up
570-880-8603



Heating & Cooling

Newco
HEATING & AIR CONDITIONING
24/7 EMERGENCY SERVICE
RESIDENTIAL & COMMERCIAL SERVICE
FREE NO HASSLE ESTIMATES
775 Rutter Avenue • Kingston, PA
(570) 283-5950 • (570) 696-3831

SALE • SERVICE
INSTALLATION
• Natural Gas &
Heating Oil Systems
• Air Conditioning
Units

Home Improvement

**HOME
IMPROVEMENT
& REPAIRS**
Roofing services in as little as one day
Installed; any size, interior/exterior
painting, gutters, awnings, concrete
and repairs, decks, Vinyl/picket fences,
stairways, hand railings, staining,
bathrooms, kitchens,
windows, ceilings, handyman, tall
grass & lawn mowing, Junk removal,
spring cleanup, leaf and
bush removal & more.
LICENSED AND INSURED
FREE ESTIMATES | 570-793-3810



Landscaping

SPRING CLEAN UP
• Landscaping • Mulching • Lawn Care
• Walls & Patios • Trimming • Fully Insured
570-331-8831
MARKERT'S
Landscaping & Lawn Care
We accept all major credit cards



Landscaping

**EJ's Headstones
& Lawn Care Extraordinaire**
SPRING CLEANUP SPECIALS
Landscape design, patios, weed and
hedge trimming, mulch placement,
grass cutting & headstone care
packages for your gravesite.
CONTACT ED 570-362-0872



Mobile Home Parts & Service

USA SALES & SERVICE CO.
A Supermaket of Mobile Home parts
24 HR. PLUMBING/HEATING
PA/HUD certified Manufactured Housing Installers
Complete Remodeling & Repair Services
Manufactured Housing Specialist
1-800-264-7796 / 570-655-4050
570-655-3906 FAX
1827 Route 315 Highway | Pittston, PA 18640



Painting

Q1 PAINTING
Now offering
remodeling services!
Call us today for all your
painting and remodeling
needs.
Free estimates!
570.871.2288



Paving

**MOUNTAIN TOP
PAVING & SEAL COATING INC.**
CALL NOW TO GET ON SPRING SCHEDULE
Your one stop resource for commercial and residential paving and
seal coating. Whether you need a new driveway or repairs and
new markings for your parking lot, give us a call today for quality
workmanship at a competitive price. Paving, asphalt paving,
asphalt repairs, patchwork, and crack filling, seal coating, asphalt
seal coating, preventative maintenance, and parking lot marking.
Call/Text 570-868-8375
FREE Estimates • Fully Licensed and Insured #PA013253





WILKESBARRE SERVICES

For assistance, please call or email

Allison @ 570-704-3978 | ashubilla@timesleader.com

TIMES LEADER MEDIA GROUP

Roofing



ROOFING SIDING & GUTTERS

OVER 20 YEARS EXPERIENCE - LICENSED & INSURED
PROUDLY SERVING ALL OF WYOMING VALLEY

FINANCING AVAILABLE
HOMEOWNERS CALL FOR FREE ESTIMATE

570-690-7014

Roofing

E-STERM CONSTRUCTION

Absolutely Free Estimates

- 30 Year Architectural Shingles
- Do Rip Off Or Over Top
- Vinyl Siding • Fully Insured

Call 570-760-7725
or 570-341-7411

PA014370

Don't Miss A Call

PLACE YOUR AD HERE
CALL ALLISON
570-704-3978

Autos For Sale



45th Anniversary Sale!
CHEVY '13 MALIBU ECO
Gas saving 4 cyl., auto., power windows & locks, tilt wheel, cruise control, AM/FM/CD, A/C, low mileage. **LOOKS & RUNS LIKE NEW!** \$6,995
State Inspected & Warrantied Financing Available
Highest Quality at the Lowest Prices for 45 Years!
570-825-7577
www.wyomingvalleyautos.com



45th Anniversary Sale!
CHRYSLER '12 200 CONVERTIBLE!
HAVE FUN IN THE SUN! Gorgeous white, power windows & locks, tilt wheel, cruise control, Bluetooth. **LOOKS & RUNS LIKE NEW!** \$6,495
State Inspected & Warrantied Financing Available
Highest Quality at the Lowest Prices for 45 Years!
570-825-7577
www.wyomingvalleyautos.com



45th Anniversary Sale!
FORD '16 FUSION SE
AWD, gas saving 4 cyl., auto., power windows & locks, tilt wheel, cruise control, A/C, Bluetooth, low mileage. **LIKE NEW!** \$7,875
State Inspected & Warrantied Financing Available
Highest Quality at the Lowest Prices for 45 Years!
570-825-7577
www.wyomingvalleyautos.com



45th Anniversary Sale!
HONDA '11 ACCORD EX
Gas saving 4 cyl., auto., power windows & locks, tilt wheel, cruise control, MOON ROOF! **EXCELLENT CONDITION!** \$5,475
State Inspected & Warrantied Financing Available
Highest Quality at the Lowest Prices for 45 Years!
570-825-7577
www.wyomingvalleyautos.com

TOYOTA '17 CAMRY LE
Gold/beige cloth, 44k miles, 4 cyl. auto., alloy wheels, Excellent Condition
Warranty \$17,995

Maffei Auto Sales
570-288-6227
444 Market Street, Kingston
maffeiautosales.com

Autos For Sale



45th Anniversary Sale!
HYUNDAI '15 ELANTRA GT
Gorgeous blue 4 door Hatchback, gas saving 4 cyl., auto., power windows & locks, tilt wheel, cruise control, AM/FM/CD, Bluetooth, low mileage. **MUST SEE & DRIVE!** \$6,850
State Inspected & Warrantied Financing Available
Highest Quality at the Lowest Prices for 45 Years!
570-825-7577
www.wyomingvalleyautos.com



45th Anniversary Sale!
SUBARU '12 IMPREZA LIMITED
AWD, gas saving 4 cyl., auto., power windows & locks, tilt wheel, cruise control, AM/FM/CD, A/C, Bluetooth, moon roof, heated seats. **NICE!** \$4,975
State Inspected & Warrantied Financing Available
Highest Quality at the Lowest Prices for 45 Years!
570-825-7577
www.wyomingvalleyautos.com



45th Anniversary Sale!
TOYOTA '10 CAMRY SE
Sharp black, Loaded with options including moon roof & Leather seats **MUST SEE & DRIVE!** \$6,995
State Inspected & Warrantied Financing Available
Highest Quality at the Lowest Prices for 45 Years!
570-825-7577
www.wyomingvalleyautos.com



45th Anniversary Sale!
TOYOTA '10 COROLLA LE
Sharp red 4 door, gas saving 4 cyl. auto., power windows & locks, tilt wheel, cruise control, AM/FM/CD, A/C, low mileage. **EXCELLENT CONDITION!** \$6,995
State Inspected & Warrantied Financing Available
Highest Quality at the Lowest Prices for 45 Years!
570-825-7577
www.wyomingvalleyautos.com

Autos For Sale



45th Anniversary Sale!
VOLKSWAGEN '12 JETTA
Gas saving 4 cyl., auto., power windows & locks, tilt wheel, Only 108k miles. **MUST SEE & DRIVE!** \$6,950
State Inspected & Warrantied Financing Available
Highest Quality at the Lowest Prices for 45 Years!
570-825-7577
www.wyomingvalleyautos.com

Motorcycles



HONDA '00 GOLDWING
Fully loaded, Special Edition. Asking \$2,500 Firm. Call 570-331-9893

RVs / Campers



CAMPER 2007 BROOKSIDE
60 ft. Camper with huge deck and all contents, 2 Pop outs, in the Onawandah Camp ground, Playground, good food. Become a shareholder. Asking \$30,000 or best offer including share. Call 570-604-1540

Trucks / SUVs / Vans



45th Anniversary Sale!
BUICK '15 ENCORE AWD
Gas saving 4 cyl., auto., power windows & locks, tilt wheel, cruise control, Bluetooth, A/C, low mileage. **LOOKS & RUNS LIKE NEW!** \$5,875
State Inspected & Warrantied Financing Available
Highest Quality at the Lowest Prices for 45 Years!
570-825-7577
www.wyomingvalleyautos.com



45th Anniversary Sale!
CHEVY '14 CAPTIVA SPORT
ABSOLUTELY LIKE NEW!
Only 84k original miles, auto., power windows & locks, tilt wheel, cruise control, A/C, Bluetooth, AM/FM/CD. \$7,850
State Inspected & Warrantied Financing Available
Highest Quality at the Lowest Prices for 45 Years!
570-825-7577
www.wyomingvalleyautos.com

Trucks / SUVs / Vans



45th Anniversary Sale!
CHEVY '18 EQUINOX LT
Gas saving 4 cyl., auto., power windows & locks, tilt wheel, cruise control, AM/FM/CD, Bluetooth. **MUST SEE & DRIVE!** \$5,925
State Inspected & Warrantied Financing Available
Highest Quality at the Lowest Prices for 45 Years!
570-825-7577
www.wyomingvalleyautos.com

CHEVY '23 EQUINOX LS

Black/grey cloth, 26k miles, AWD, 4 cyl., auto., keyless ignition, Warranty \$22,995
Maffei Auto Sales
570-288-6227
444 Market Street, Kingston
maffeiautosales.com



45th Anniversary Sale!
DODGE '10 GRAND CARAVAN SE
Stow & Go. THIRD ROW SEATING, 1 owner, low mileage. **EXCELLENT CONDITION!** \$5,995
State Inspected & Warrantied Financing Available
Highest Quality at the Lowest Prices for 45 Years!
570-825-7577
www.wyomingvalleyautos.com



45th Anniversary Sale!
FORD '11 TRANSIT CONNECT XLT
Cargo van, gas saving 4 cyl., auto., power windows & locks, A/C, low mileage. Perfect for independent contractor. \$6,995
State Inspected & Warrantied Financing Available
Highest Quality at the Lowest Prices for 45 Years!
570-825-7577
www.wyomingvalleyautos.com

HONDA '07 PILOT LX

Silver/grey cloth, 128k miles, AWD V6, 3rd row seat, Runs great, just serviced. \$6,995
Maffei Auto Sales
570-288-6227
444 Market Street, Kingston
maffeiautosales.com

NISSAN '23 ROUGE SV

Pearl red/grey cloth, 21k miles, AWD, adaptive cruise, blind spot monitor, power seats, alloy wheels. **Warranty \$23,595.**
Maffei Auto Sales
570-288-6227
444 Market Street, Kingston
maffeiautosales.com

Trucks / SUVs / Vans



45th Anniversary Sale!
JEEP '12 LIBERTY SPORT 4WD, auto., power windows & locks, tilt wheel, cruise control, A/C, Bluetooth, low mileage. **\$5,995**
State Inspected & Warrantied Financing Available
Highest Quality at the Lowest Prices for 45 Years!
570-825-7577
www.wyomingvalleyautos.com



45th Anniversary Sale!
KIA '15 SOUL
Sharp 4 door Hatchback, gas saving 4 cyl., auto., power windows & locks, tilt wheel, cruise control, Bluetooth, A/C, low mileage. **EXCELLENT!** \$5,975
State Inspected & Warrantied Financing Available
Highest Quality at the Lowest Prices for 45 Years!
570-825-7577
www.wyomingvalleyautos.com



45th Anniversary Sale!
KIA '16 SORENTO EX SUV AWD, THIRD ROW SEATING, power windows & locks, tilt wheel, cruise control, A/C, Bluetooth, low mileage. **MUST SEE & DRIVE!** \$8,925
State Inspected & Warrantied Financing Available
Highest Quality at the Lowest Prices for 45 Years!
570-825-7577
www.wyomingvalleyautos.com



45th Anniversary Sale!
NISSAN '14 QUEST
Power windows & locks, tilt wheel, cruise control, A/C, Bluetooth, moon roof, THIRD ROW SEATING. **RUNS LIKE NEW!** \$5,975
State Inspected & Warrantied Financing Available
Highest Quality at the Lowest Prices for 45 Years!
570-825-7577
www.wyomingvalleyautos.com

Trucks / SUVs / Vans

NISSAN '16 MURANO SV AWD



White exterior/Beige cloth interior. Brand new brakes, clean, car well kept. 113,000 miles. **\$9,500**
Call 570-239-7213

Want To Buy



We Buy Junk Cars!

We have a Scrap Yard! We Pay Cash!

LAMOREAUX SCRAP YARD
570-477-6680
2179 State Route 118
Sweet Valley, PA 18656

Auto Accessories

COMPLETE WHEEL: For a 2025 Hyundai Elantra. Never been mounted on car, original manufactures wheel, \$450.
Call 570-239-1118

Auto Parts

JACK HANDLE: From Colorado, new, \$10. Jack from Jeep Commander, very good, \$10.
Call 570-442-4148

Clothing

COAT: Mink coat, full length, black, large, mint condition, \$800. OBO. Upright walker, like new paid \$650. sacrifice \$350. Harvey's Lake.
Call 570-639-7202

SWEATSHIRT: Pittsburgh Steelers, light grey, new, never worn, size extra large, \$10. Call 570-704-6588 leave a message

Accounting

Times Leader

The Times Leader would like to inform you about the Home Improvement Consumer Protection Act, 53 P.S. 517.1, et seq., goes into effect July 1, 2009. The law applies to contractors who perform at least \$5,000 worth of home improvements a year. Contractors are required to submit an application to the Pennsylvania Attorney General's in order to obtain a registration number.

The registration number must appear in all advertisements circulated within the Commonwealth.

The Law defines advertisements as any statement promoting home improvement services in a newspaper, periodical, pamphlet, circular, billboard, sign, letterhead, business card or other printed materials.

All contractors currently advertising in the Times Leader should contact their representative to include their registration number in their ads.

The law allows consumers to verify a contractors registration with the Attorney General's Office by visiting the Attorney General's website or by calling the toll free hotline, 1-888-520-6680. You can learn more about the law and its requirements by visiting the Attorney General's website
<http://www.attorneygeneral.gov/hic.aspx>

Floor Coverings

RUBBER MATS (2): Surround for Barber or Beauty chair. 1 cream, \$50, 1 black, almost new, paid \$200, asking \$100 OBO. Call 570-655-4403

Furniture & Accessories

BEDROOM SET: Elegant 7pc. solid wood. China cabinet, includes bed, flatboard base, dresser w/mirror & 2 nightstands. Good condition. \$650 OBO. Wilkes-Barre. Call/Text 570-507-7652

FURNITURE
Must Go! Moving
Contemporary 6 piece tan leather living room set. Coffee table & two drum stools. Couch, chair & love seat. \$600. Ornate Wrought Iron table & four chairs, \$200. Square black bar table & four chairs, \$200. Double bed head board & frame (2). Single bed headboard & frame. No Mattresses. Call 570-407-0105

MOVING SALE: Large cedar chest, \$50. Silver tea set, silver on top of copper, \$50. Box of old books, \$25. Framed pictures, Make offer. Call 570-822-4514

SOFA: 3 seat, Floral print, green with rose, blue, & ivory. From Kaplans, has coil & spring lifetime warranty. Sturdy, clean, perfect condition. Back & seat cushions reversible. Paid \$1,100. Asking \$400. Call 570-288-9843

TABLE: 48" round, dark pine with pad, leaf, 2 chairs, \$130. Large dark pine Hutch with glass doors, \$225. (2) 20" high hurricane lamps, \$25 each. (1) green with flowers hurricane lamp, 20" high, \$35. Call 570-824-6649 after 3 p.m.

Landscaping & Gardening

GARDEN TILLE: garden ready 19 inch rear thine garden tile almost new \$350. 4 garage door springs \$40. Call 570-822-1824

LAWN AREATORS: 2 tow behind, 1 plug type, 1 spike type, \$50. Call 570-822-1824

Machinery & Equipment

SEWING MACHINE: Serger, \$225. Call 570-824-6649 after 3 p.m.

Medical Equipment

BPAP SUPPLIES: Masks, hoses, etc. Free. Call 570-442-4148

TOILET SEAT: raised without handles, \$30. Raised toilet seat with handles, \$35. Call 570-824-6649 after 3 p.m.

Miscellaneous

**CLASSIFIED
FREE AD
POLICY**

The Times Leader will advertise your used merchandise private party ad **FREE on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday (3 days), maximum 8 lines. ITEMS \$1,200 OR LESS**

Antiques & Collectibles, Building Materials, Clothing, Exercise Equipment, Furnaces & Heaters, Furniture & Accessories, Medical Equipment, Miscellaneous, Pools & Spas, Sporting Goods, Stereo/Electronics, etc.

Email:
classifieds@timesleader.com

Mail:
90 E. Market Street
Wilkes-Barre, PA 18701

All ad submissions must include:
Name, address & telephone number

Each item must be priced. Cannot exceed \$1,200.

NO PHONE CALLS PLEASE
Pet ads accepted if free

FUTON COUCH: New in box, asking \$140. Craftsman 25PS, new air compressor, portable, \$135. Call 570-883-7079 leave message

POSTS: Eight (8) green metal posts for sale. Fairly new, 7 ft. tall. \$50 for all eight. Call 570-696-1224.

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

VARIETY OF ITEMS
Coughlin High School Journals, \$1 or best offer. Coughlin High School class ring, \$50 or best offer. Presidential pocket knife set, \$30 or best offer. Heineken wall plaque, \$20 or best offer. Texaco collector bank, \$20. Pepsi cola vending machine bank, \$25. Life & Sports magazines, \$1. Call 570-706-1548

Sporting Goods

BRASS: Brass for reloading, 163 pcs., \$10. 300 + golf balls, .30 each. Call 570-442-4148

Want To Buy

WANTED: 16MM films, color or black & white, sound or silent. Quantities welcome. Call Phil at 570-929-1861

AA ANTIQUES
We Buy Estates
Old Toys, Vintage Christmas, & Halloween, Trains, Military, Mining, Watches, Jewelry, Coins, Old Knick-Knacks, Instruments, Advertising. **Buying Anything Old.** 570-954-4023

GET IT PRINTED!



We can supply flyers, maps, magazines, pamphlets, etc.



Contact us today for
all of your printing needs
@ # dmcgee@timesleader.com
or (570) 704-3955

TIMES LEADER MEDIA GROUP
118 YEARS STRONG

PRINTABLE PUZZLES

The New York Times Syndication Sales Corporation
620 Eighth Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10018
For Information Email: syndicate-service@nytimes.com
For Release Tuesday, May 12, 2026

The New York Times Crossword

Edited by Will Shortz

No. 0407

ACROSS

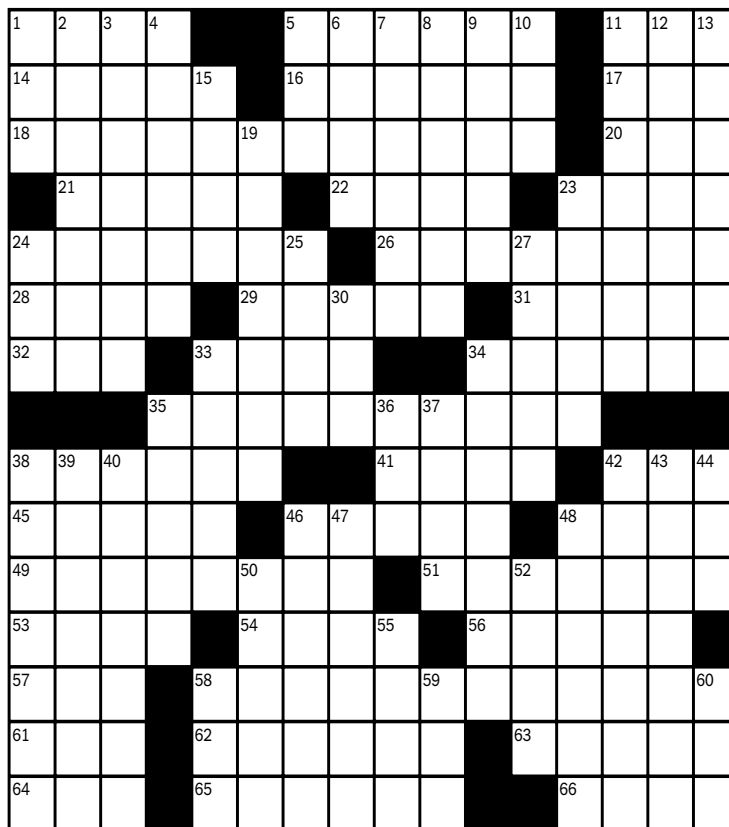
- 1 Red, white and blue land: Abbr.
5 El ____, mythical city of gold
11 Initials often seen next to THC
14 Quotes
16 Gave out, as charm
17 Reply to a ship's captain
18 It has wheels but doesn't go anywhere
20 __ fly, play that results in a run and an out
21 Dog's reward after a trick
22 Connection point
23 "How can this be?!"
24 Decided to pay later, say
26 Combo meal, usually
28 Apple tablet
29 Idles, with "around"

- 31 Handy
32 Hair goo
33 ____ track, song that insults another artist
34 One who shouldn't proceed on thin ice
35 Resort with a signature piña colada, perhaps
38 Economic improvement
41 Japanese noodle
42 Most common word in English
45 Communication method with dits and dahs
46 Martial art whose name means "way of the sword"
48 So-called "Land of a Million Elephants"
49 Sharp or flat location on a piano, usually
51 "I can't hear you!"
53 Rolling in it
54 Done

- 56 Alleviated
57 Lawyer: Abbr.
58 Old-time restraint for a prisoner ... or what can go after the respective halves of 18-, 26-, 35- and 49-Across
61 Prefix with physical or politics
62 Marie ____, women's magazine
63 Dye for body art
64 Use salt instead of sugar, say
65 What an underage person usually gets at a bar?
66 Lose one's footing

DOWN

- 1 Star pitcher
2 Casual musical project
3 Everlasting
4 Try to make sense of a passage one didn't understand the first time
5 ____ Moines, Iowa
6 Big bovines
7 Remove, as heavy grime
8 Longtime shoe sponsor for Lionel Messi
9 Feints, in hockey
10 Dedicated lines
11 Turn in one's chips
12 Narrow way to win
13 Toy cipher ring
15 Improvisational vocal style
19 Language of "amore"
23 Organ meats
24 Arrange, as a match's outcome
25 Pear variety



PUZZLE BY ADRYEL W. ROBLES OJEDA

- 27 Unit of arcade currency
30 Cigar residue
33 Jeter whose #2 was retired by the Yankees
34 Bent down
35 ____ Gardens, Tampa amusement park
36 One under Attila's rule
37 3 to 1 are good ones
38 Resentment
39 Better mannered
40 John Deere product
42 Blow the match
43 Famous figure known for off-the-cuff performances?
44 Supernatural ability, for short
46 Bulletproof material
47 What you blink with
48 Mascara makes them stand out
50 Marsupial that sleeps up to 20 hours a day
52 Every's partner
55 Still reddish, as a steak
58 Secretly loop in on an email
59 Flanders of "The Simpsons"
60 Siesta

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

B	O	N	G		W	I	S	P		L	E	M	U	R
I	R	A	Q		A	N	T	E		E	R	A	S	E
B	A	T	S	I	G	N	A	L		G	A	S	E	S
S	L	O	T	S		S	T	O	O	L		T	R	I
			Y	E	P				S	W	O	R	E	I
A	P	P	L	E	O	F	D	I	S	C	O	R	D	
S	H	O	E		M	O	I			K	E	Y		
H	I	P		A	P	P	E	N	D	S		O	D	E
			C	A	R			G	A	Y		I	D	O
			C	U	T	M	E	S	O	M	E	S	L	A
M	A	L	L	R	A	T				D	H	L		
A	N	T		E	R	R	E	D		A	L	I	A	S
Y	O	U	R	S		E	Y	E	T	W	I	T	C	H
B	E	R	E	T		A	R	E	A		V	E	T	O
E	D	E	N	S		M	E	M	O		E	M	I	T

Online subscriptions: Today's puzzle and more than 7,000 past puzzles, nytimes.com/crosswords (\$39.95 a year).

Read about and comment on each puzzle: nytimes.com/wordplay.

PRINTABLE PUZZLES

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

- 1 Cloak-and-dagger types
6 Sanctify
11 Skater Harding
12 Brought about
13 Heated dispute
15 Ruin
16 Train unit
17 Great weight
18 Blasphemous
20 Flamenco cheer
21 Scrollwork shape
22 Throw in the towel
23 "Beat it!"
26 Mandolins' cousins
27 See the sights
28 Brewed beverage
29 Sphere
30 Pilot's wear
34 Me, to Michel
35 Bible boat
36 Debate side
37 Taking of turns

DOWN

- 40 Singer Patsy
41 Avant —
42 Ranch workers
43 Some swords

DOWN

- 1 Letter need
2 Like the icecaps
3 Lead-in
4 Look over
5 Cutting humor
6 Trumpet sound
7 Rent out
8 Remove from copy
9 Rat
10 Bard's collection
14 Soup buys
19 Dread
22 Campus area
23 Gut
24 Flower part
25 Add insult to injury
26 Pipe problem
28 Shore flier
30 Fast runners
31 Church topper
32 Wear away
33 Musical sounds
38 Break off
39 Spigot

S	C	E	N	T		S	P	A	R	
A	R	M	O	R		H	A	Z	E	L
K	E	I	R	A		E	R	A	S	E
E	E	L		N	A	B		L	E	A
S	K	Y	S	C	R	A	P	E	R	S
			C	E	E		R	A	V	E
V	I	B	E	S		V	I	S	E	S
I	R	O	N		L	E	O			
S	K	Y	E	T	E	R	R	I	E	R
A	S	H		W	E	D		B	R	O
G	O	O	S	E		A	P	S	E	S
E	M	O	T	E		N	I	E	C	E
	E	D	E	N		T	E	N	T	S

Yesterday's answer

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9	10
11						12				
13					14					
15				16				17		
18			19					20		
			21				22			
23	24	25				26				
27					28					
29				30				31	32	33
34				35				36		
37			38					39		
40						41				
42						43				

ACROSS

- 1 Skip
5 "Terriff!"
8 Alpha follower
12 "— Richard's Alma-nack"
13 Small battery
14 Muscat's land
15 Villa d'—
16 "Black Panther" star
18 Opportunities
20 Heart line?
21 June honoree
22 Trio after R
23 Purse fastener
26 Auto-mated tech support agent
30 Happy hour venue
31 24 hours
32 "Exodus" hero
33 Room
36 Void
38 Gmail alternative
39 Egg (Pref.)
40 Positive, as an attitude
43 Communion cup
47 Delightful
49 Maine, to Macron
50 Volcanic flow
51 Ho-hum grade
52 Nevada casino city
53 Sacred bird of Egypt
54 Multi-purpose truck
55 Warning sign
2 Slam-dance
3 Greek vowel
4 Pollster's finds
5 Con-fronted
6 Contented sounds
7 Sheepish "Hello!"
8 Withdraw
9 Mideast ruler
10 Diplomacy
11 "Diana" singer
17 Facts and figures
19 Baseball game souvenir
22 Bashful
23 Broad-caster from Toronto
24 — -di-dah
25 Notre Dame coach
26 Parked vehicle
27 Inlet
28 Choice words?
29 Frank McCourt memoir
31 N.J. neighbor
34 Curtain fabric
35 Prosperous time
36 Director DuVernay
37 Ravel composition
39 "Oops!"
40 251, to Cicero
41 Melville captain
42 "Avatar" race
43 Tech news web-site
44 Detail
45 Walking stick
46 Harrow rival
48 Hosp. area

DOWN

- 1 Oil cartel

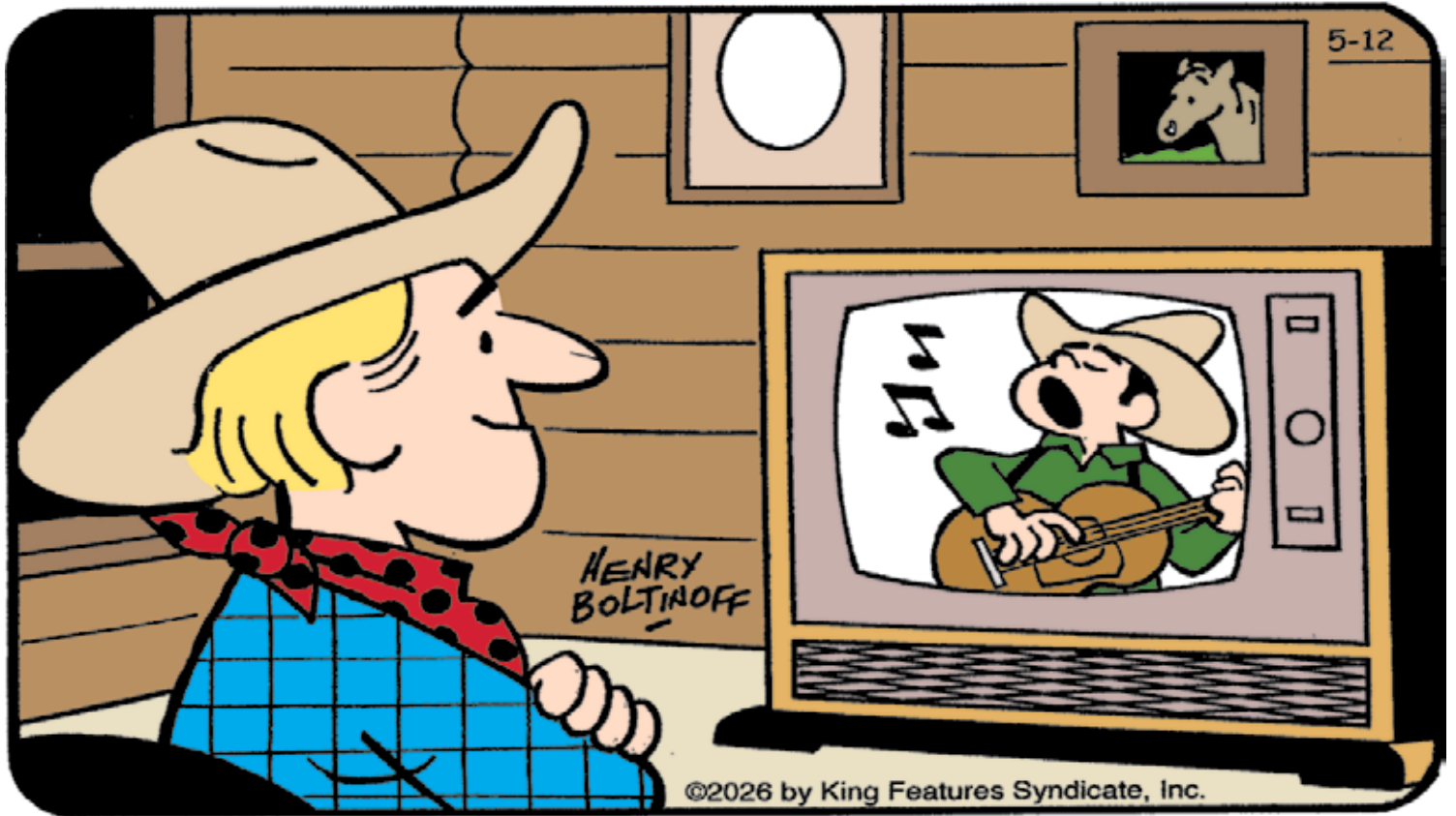
Solution time: 22 mins.

B	E	S	S		T	A	U		E	D	U	C	
A	S	I	A		A	R	S		N	E	R	O	
R	A	G	U		K	I	M	N	O	V	A	K	
S	U	N	D	A	E		C	O	U	P	L	E	
				I	S	S	A		P	G	A		
R	I	M	S	H	O	T	S		H	T	M	L	
A	L	I		E	U	R	O	S		E	M	O	
P	E	S	T		T	I	M	A	L	L	E	N	
				T	R	I		A	E	R	O		
A	R	I	A	N	A			R	A	V	E	N	S
S	I	M	C	A	R	D	S		E	L	A	N	
I	C	E	E		T	O	E		R	E	N	O	
S	A	S		Y	E	T		S	C	O	W		

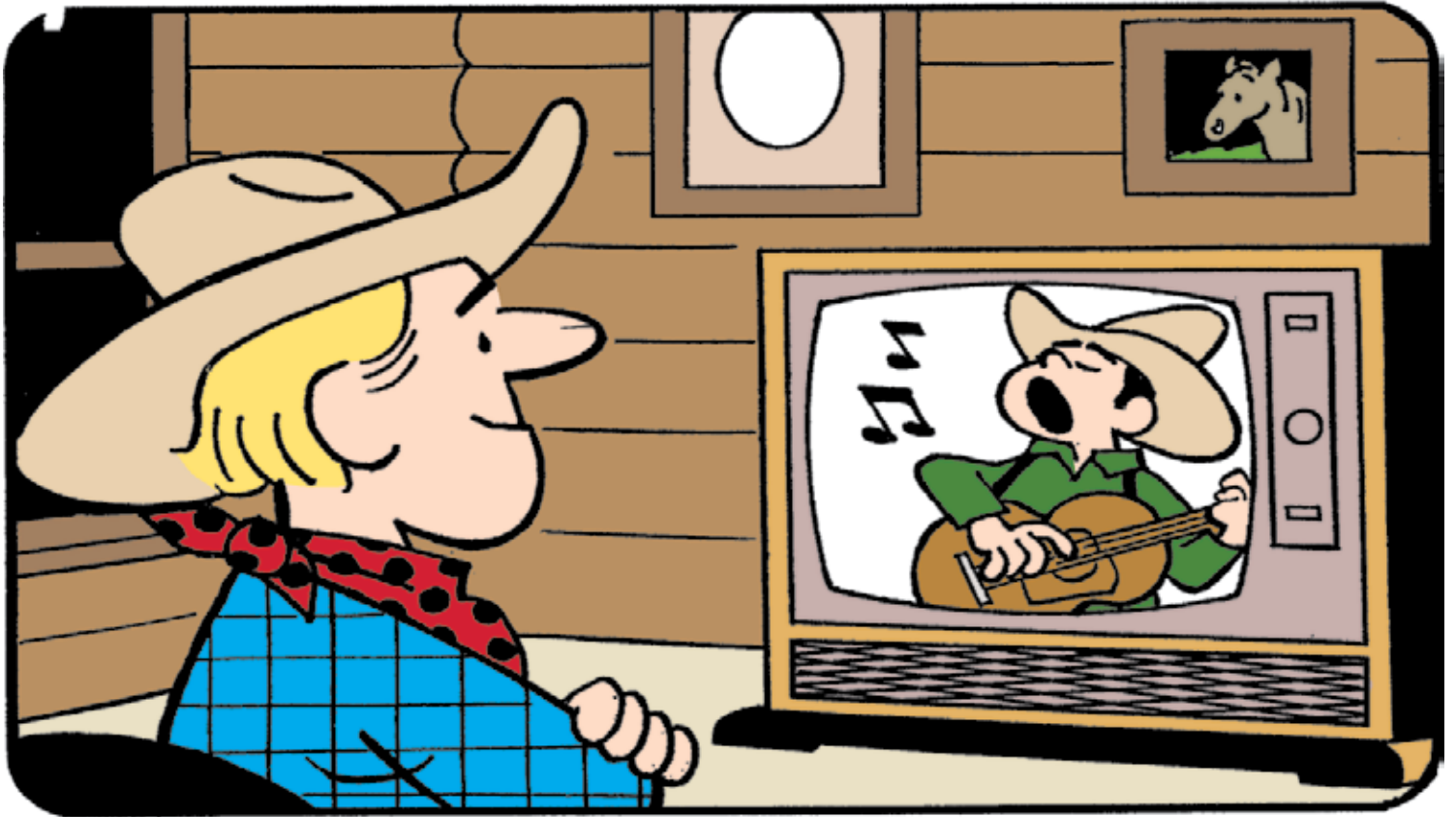
Yesterday's answer 5-12

1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10	11
12					13				14			
15					16				17			
18				19					20			
			21				22					
23	24	25				26				27	28	29
30					31					32		
33			34	35				36	37			
			38					39				
40	41	42				43				44	45	46
47					48				49			
50					51				52			
53					54				55			

PRINTABLE PUZZLES



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Hat is smaller. 2. Fingers are moved. 3. Picture is moved. 4. Nose is different. 5. TV screen is larger. 6. Frame is thicker.

PRINTABLE PUZZLES

WORD SLEUTH

LITTLE WOMEN
THE NOVEL

P L I G D D O B Y Y W T R P M
K I F D B N N E E M R A M V Y
W U S Q O M A N K A I F D I R
B S Z X W U I L W S Q C O C E
N L I J H H P L G E O F D T A
C A A S P Y I W I N V B T O H
S L Q E T V P R C N E L K R B
I C S H I E U O F T E W G I F
C O R C H A R D H O U S E A O
J T B Z L D Y S W V U S M N R
R T Q B U L C K C I W K C I P

Monday's unlisted clue: RED-WINGED

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions - forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.

Tuesday's unlisted clue hint: AUTHOR LOUISA MAY —

Amy	Josephine	New England	Prof Bhaer
Beth	Laurie	Orchard House	Sisters
Civil war	Marmee	Piano	Victorian
Concord	Meg	Pickwick Club	

©2026 King Features, Inc.

5/12

5-12

CRYPTOQUIP

Y G I O Z Q N N D R P Q O W E Z J F P
R L Z O Q M I Q Z J V W I Z , Y D V V
R G I D Z E Z D I O W P P D O F " G J B B M
N D Z R G W Q M R J M J L ? "

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: LABOR UNION FOR FOLKS WHO ARE WORKING IN LUMBER MILLS SMOOTHING OUT WOOD: UNITED WE SAND.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: M equals Y

King Classic Sudoku

	6				9	4		7
	2	4			8	9	6	
8	9						2	1
		9	2	8			7	
				6	5	2		
	5	2	7			8	9	6
3	7		1	9				
		6						
	4		6		7	3	1	9

Difficulty: ★★

5/12

©2026 King Features Syndicate, Inc.

JUMBLE

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

DGFEU

EGTRI

SYAHFL

NEGDRE

Get the free JUST JUMBLE app • Follow us on Facebook

©2026 Tribune Content Agency, LLC
All Rights Reserved.

"

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: KITTY SWEPT COTTON SLOWLY
Answer: The rival impound vehicle drivers were going — "TOW"-TO-"TOW"

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

WITH "31 FLAVORS" AND DECADES OF POPULARITY, BASKIN-ROBBINS BECAME ---

(Answers tomorrow)

PRINTABLE PUZZLES

FROM NORTH AMERICA SYNDICATE INC., 300 W. 57th STREET,
41st FLOOR, NEW YORK, NY 10019

CUSTOMER SERVICE: (800) 708-7311 EXT. 236

FOR RELEASE TUESDAY, MAY 12, 2026

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: BROKEN IDIOMS & PROVERBS

Replace the wrong word in the proverb with the correct one. (Example: All things must last. Answer: Pass (not last).)

FRESHMAN LEVEL

1. Truthfulness is the best policy.
Answer _____
2. Behind every great man, there is a great event.
Answer _____
3. Birds of a feather nest together.
Answer _____

GRADUATE LEVEL

4. An army marches on its feet.
Answer _____
5. If you can't be good, be silent.
Answer _____
6. Into every life a little trouble must fall.
Answer _____

PH.D. LEVEL

7. Love is where the heart is.
Answer _____
8. Many a funny word is spoken in jest.
Answer _____
9. Money is the root of all happiness.
Answer _____

ANSWERS: 1. Honesty (not truthfulness). 2. Woman (not event). 3. Flock (not nest). 4. Stomach (not feet). 5. Careful (not silent). 6. Rain (not trouble). 7. Home (not love). 8. True (not funny). 9. Evil (not happiness).

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?

Super Quiz is a registered trademark of K. Fisher Enterprises Ltd. © 2026 Ken Fisher North America Syndicate Inc.

5	6	1	3	2	9	4	8	7
7	2	4	5	1	8	9	6	3
8	9	3	4	7	6	5	2	1
6	3	9	2	8	4	1	7	5
1	8	7	9	6	5	2	3	4
4	5	2	7	3	1	8	9	6
3	7	5	1	9	2	6	4	8
9	1	6	8	4	3	7	5	2
2	4	8	6	5	7	3	1	9

Difficulty: ★★ 5/12

©2026 King Features Syndicate, Inc.

LITTLE WOMEN THE NOVEL

