

LOCAL

Guthrie opened an obstetrics and gynecology office in Cortland this week to fill a growing need.



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SPORTS

The Homer boys soccer team lost 4-0 to Skaneateles in the first round of the Section III Class B tourney.



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2022 daily No. 242 THURSDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2022 CORTLAND, N.Y.

SPCA to inspect properties with multiple pets

By JACOB MACK
Staff Reporter
jmack@cortlandstandard.com

Cortland residents can now own more than three dogs or four cats — something once prohibited — but their home must pass an inspection, under a new city law.

“It began from the SPCA enforcement, they were concerned that some people have too many animals and others should be allowed to have more

than three dogs or four cats,” said Bill Carr, chief law enforcement officer for the Cortland Community Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.

City law — until Common Council changed it Oct. 4 — prohibited people from having more than three dogs or four cats in their homes, under any circumstance. Carr, working with city zoning officers Robert Rhea and Amy Bertini, proposed amendments that would allow the SPCA to conduct the

inspections, and allow more pets.

“These changes are part of the process of keeping our code relevant to the needs of the residents of the city,” Rhea said. “If experts at the SPCA deem the property is fit for more than three dogs or four cats, they can be permitted.”

“There are some cases where a home can accommodate more pets,” he added. “This does not permit breeding animals as a business and the number of pets would be based on the SPCA’s

assessment of the home conditions and size and the effects it would have on the neighborhood.”

“We just had an incident over on Northcliff Street with nine cats and four dogs in unsanitary conditions,” Carr said Wednesday. “We want to make sure pet owners aren’t affecting their pets or anyone else negatively and that was part of our motivation for the inspections.”

“It’s not a perfect system, this hap-

pened even with this law in place, but it lets residents know, this is really what the appropriate number is and if you’d like more, you can get a permit as long as the SPCA deems it fit,” he said.

“If you come to our town and you have four chihuahuas instead of three, you should be able to keep them,” Carr said. “There are good animal owners out there, and we’re not trying to penalize people for appropriately taking care of their animals.”

Biden releases more oil from US reserve

WASHINGTON (AP) — High gasoline prices are the problem that President Joe Biden keeps trying to fix — and roughly a year’s worth of extraordinary efforts have done little to significantly lower costs.

With Biden’s latest push Wednesday to release 15 million barrels from the U.S. strategic reserve and consider additional withdrawals this winter, he’s telling frustrated voters ahead of the midterm elections that the White House hasn’t given up.



He rejected the notion that politics played a role in his latest action. But the issue has clear political implications as the president’s approval rating has moved inversely with changes in gasoline prices, which remain high despite coming down since a June peak.

“They’re not falling fast enough,” Biden said in remarks at the White House. “Families are hurting. You’ve heard me say it before, but I get it.”

Biden has consistently said that high prices are the fault of Russia invading Ukraine at the start of this year. Any declines in gas prices — no matter their magnitude — the president attributes to his policies. Biden denied his latest move was about the upcoming elections, even though he told The Associated Press in an interview earlier this year that his approval ratings seem to move in the opposite direction from gas prices.

“It’s not politically motivated at all,” Biden said Wednesday in response to reporters’ questions.

The open question is whether the announcement makes a difference with voters in Senate and House races in November that could be decided by razor-thin margins. Biden’s announcement comes as gas prices have declined over the past two weeks. Yet a gallon of gas still averages \$3.85, up from a year ago when Biden called \$3.35 a gallon a strain on families and from roughly \$2.40 a gallon during his 2021 inaugural.

Wednesday’s announcement completes the release of 180 million barrels authorized by Biden in March

A haunted homecoming

Scaled-back version of annual Chiller returns to founder’s residence



Jim Coon won’t have his annual Chiller Haunted House this year — a staple of Halloween activities — but he does have a chiller of a front yard.

By JOHN CONLON
Staff reporter
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Over the past four decades, the Chiller Haunted House has grown from a small operation based out of a garage to a public spectacle and local Halloween tradition.

This year, it will return to the founder’s home as a smaller affair for neighborhood trick-or-treaters.

The Chiller started nearly 40 years ago when Jim Coon decided to create a haunted house in his father’s one-car garage. Back then, Coon ran the haunted house with his father and five of his friends. It has since found homes in the Laura M. Burch Building at Suggett Park and, since 2018, the Homer Center for the Arts where it was staffed by volunteer tour guides and ghouls.

Coon said the Chiller’s growth has been harder to keep up with as its venues have grown.

“I don’t have the stamina for a big event anymore,” he said.

Coon said he started the Chiller as a sort of refuge after less-than-pleasant childhood Halloween experiences.

“The philosophy at the beginning was always to be a fun place for kids to go on Halloween where they don’t have to

Cuomo’s return: Ex-governor launches podcast, PAC

NEW YORK (AP) — Andrew Cuomo isn’t begging for forgiveness.

Fourteen months after resigning from office in a sexual harassment scandal, the former New York governor is elbowed his way back into the public eye, launching a podcast and a political action committee in what could be the first steps toward a comeback bid for political office.

But he isn’t following the usual playbook for misbehaving politicians seeking redemption. Cuomo is unrelenting in his view that he was the victim of a political hit job. And he isn’t concerned that stance might cost him listeners on his new show, which has its debut episode today.

“It’s just about expressing my opinion to the public and speaking publicly,” Cuomo said in an interview with The Associated Press. “And to the extent they don’t like what I have to say, then don’t listen.”

Cuomo’s first guest on the podcast, “As a Matter of Fact ... with Andrew Cuomo,” will be Anthony Scaramucci, best known for his brief stint as former President Donald Trump’s White House communications director.

Among Cuomo’s competition in the crowded podcast space: His brother and confidant Chris Cuomo, a TV journalist who’s attempting a comeback of his own after he was fired from CNN



Former New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo speaks during a New York Hispanic Clergy Organization meeting March 17, 2022, in New York.

for acting as a strategist for the former governor in violation of the network’s ethics rules.

The first two episodes are free, then the show will be paywalled on the \$2.99-a-month Quake Media platform, where the other offerings include conservative hosts Laura Ingraham and Mike Huckabee’s podcasts and Pete Rose’s daily sports betting picks.

The prospect of Cuomo’s return to

cratic Party, Cuomo resigned in August of 2021 after numerous women had accused him of sexual harassment, saying he had subjected them to unwanted kisses or touches, made insinuating remarks about their looks and sex lives or created a hostile work environment.

One aide said Cuomo had groped her breast. That allegation led a county sheriff to file a criminal charge against Cuomo, later dropped by the Albany County district attorney on the grounds that it would be too hard to win a conviction.

An investigation overseen by New York Attorney General Letitia James concluded Cuomo sexually harassed at least 11 women. Cuomo has accused James of preordaining the findings because she intended to run for governor. James did briefly run for governor after Cuomo’s resignation but quickly abandoned the campaign.

“There was politics at play. There was hype at play. There was exaggeration at play,” Cuomo said. “They weaponized day-to-day interactions.”

Today, he says he is more conscious of and careful in interactions with women — mainly to protect himself against further misconduct allegations.

But even after a year to reflect — traveling, boating, hiking with his dog Captain, working on an old Harley-Davidson motorcycle and finding a place

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WEATHER



Sunny
Tomorrow’s Weather:
High near 57.
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MAKING IT RIGHT

The Cortland Standard will print corrections and clarifications of news articles. If you find mistakes or omissions, call the managing editor at 607-756-5665, ext. 166 or email news@cortlandstandard.com.



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Weather

Local

Rest of today: Increasing clouds, with a high near 45. Southwest wind 9 to 14 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph. Then cloudy, gradually becoming partly cloudy, with a low around 30. Southwest wind 3 to 8 mph.

Friday: Sunny, with a high near 57. Light south wind increasing to 5 to 10 mph in the morning.

Friday night: Mostly clear, with a low around 39.

Skies Today

Thursday, October 20, 2022	
Sunset today	6:16 p.m.
Sunrise tomorrow	7:24 a.m.
Normal high temperature	58
Normal low temperature	38
Average temperature	49
New moon	October 25

Extended

Saturday: Sunny, with a high near 65. Chance of precipitation 3%. Winds 5 to 10 mph.

Saturday night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 40.

Sunday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 65.

Sunday night: Mostly cloudy, with a low around 45. Chance of precipitation 35%. Winds light and variable.

Monday: Partly sunny, with a high near 66.

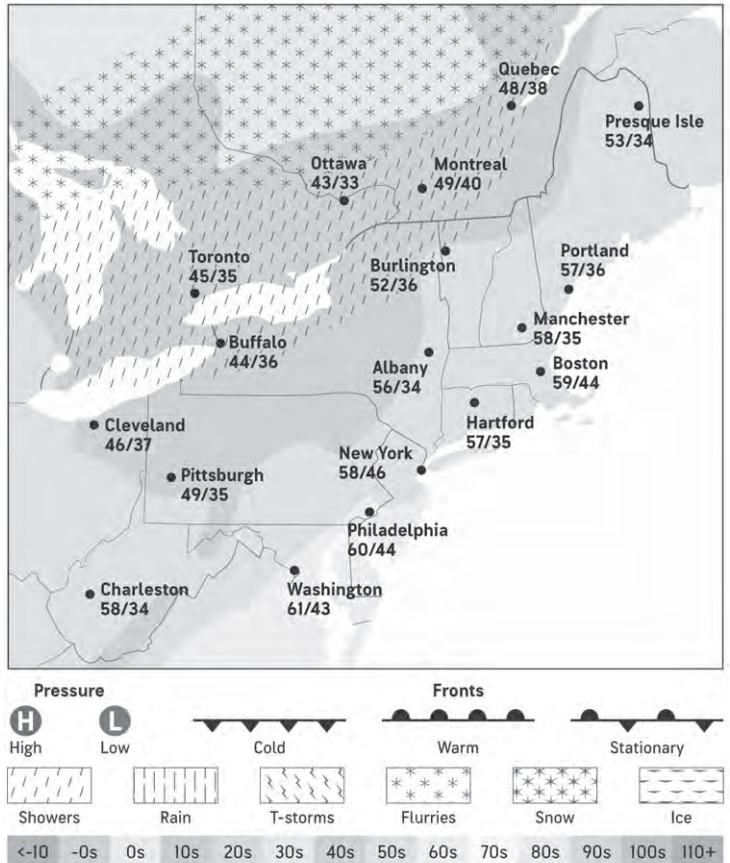
Monday night: Mostly cloudy, with a low around 49. Chance of precipitation 14%. Winds light and variable.

Tuesday: Partly sunny, with a high near 66.

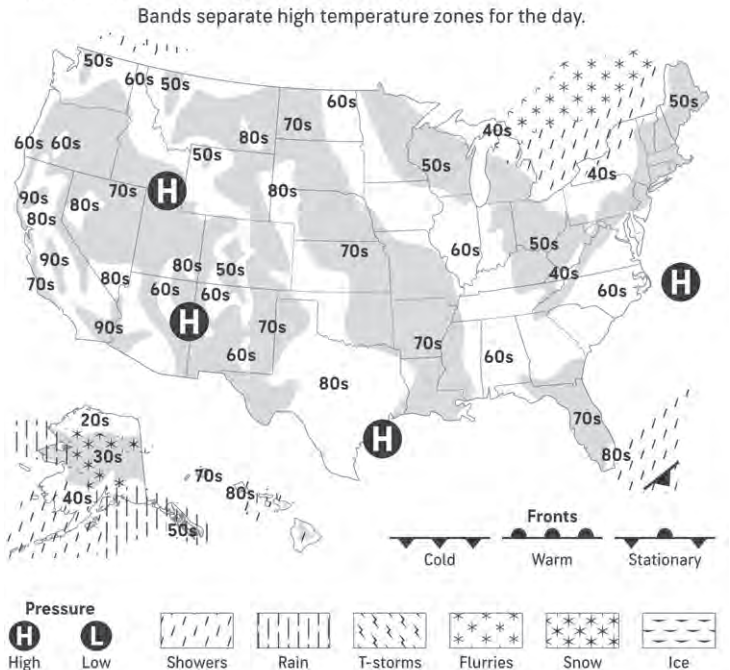
Precipitation

October 18-19	Trace
Month to date	1.03 inches

Forecast for Thursday, October 20, 2022



Forecast for Thursday, October 20, 2022



NATIONAL SUMMARY: A southward dip in the jet stream responsible for unseasonably cold air with rain and snow showers from the Midwest to the Northeast in recent days will retreat northward today. Warmth from the West will expand through the Plains. Temperatures are forecast to begin to rebound from the Midwest to the Atlantic coast.

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Lottery Winners

ALBANY (AP) — Here are the winning numbers selected Wednesday in the New York State Lottery:

Numbers: Midday: 5-6-9, Evening: 9-4-7; **WinFour:** Midday: 4-9-2-7, Evening: 6-5-8-4; **Pick 10:** 1-9-15-16-17-19-25-29-30-36-46-50-52-53-57-62-63-65-68-71; **Take Five:** Midday: 15-27-28-36-39, Evening: 4-7-10-16-25; **Cash4Life:** 20-29-30-48-59, Cash Ball: 4; **Lotto:** 2-17-23-34-49-50, Bonus: 32 **Powerball:** 6-8-15-27-42, Powerball: 10, Power Play: 3

Making It Right

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NYC opens emergency center for influx of bused migrants

By DEEPTI HAJELA
Associated Press

NEW YORK — A complex of giant tents built on an island opened Wednesday as New York City’s latest temporary shelter for an influx of international migrants being bused into the city by southern border states.

The humanitarian relief center on Randall’s Island is intended to be a temporary waystation for single, adult men — many from Venezuela — who have been arriving several times per week on buses chartered predominantly from Texas.

Spartan and utilitarian, the tents include cots for up to 500 people, laundry facilities, a dining hall and phones for residents to make international calls.

The city’s plan is to bring single men to the facility after they come into the main Manhattan bus terminal and to house them there for a period of days while determining next steps, officials said.

The first arrivals were brought to the center on Wednesday.

“We needed a different type of operation that gave us the time and space to welcome people, provide them a warm meal, shower, a place to sleep, to understand their medical needs, to really then work with them to figure out what their next step is going to be,” said Emergency Management Commissioner Zach Iscol.

The white, plastic-walled tents also include a space where migrants can meet with case



AP Photo/Julia Nikhinson

Members of the National Guard stand outside the Randall’s Island Humanitarian Emergency Response and Relief Center on Wednesday in New York.

workers to determine their next steps, as well as a recreational room with televisions, video games and board games. They are heated, since overnight autumn temperatures can fall into the 40s and 30s.

In the sleeping area, row upon row of green cots stretch out, each one with a pillow, some sheets and a blanket, and some towels.

The city said it will be able to double the sleeping capacity of the tents.

Similar types of tents have been used as temporary shelters in other places, like the southern U.S. border.

In recent years, both the Trump and Biden administrations have come under criticism for conditions in some tents, in-

cluding overcrowding.

In recent months, New York City has seen an unexpected increase in migrants seeking asylum in the United States who have been sent to the city from other states including Texas and Arizona.

The influx has put a strain on the city’s shelter system, leading officials to look for other places to house people and propose the temporary tent facilities.

New York City’s homeless shelter system is now bursting with more than 63,300 residents. While there are fewer families in the shelters now than there were in the years before the pandemic, the number of single men has soared since the spring, largely because of the influx of migrants. There were

more than 20,000 single adults in the shelter system Monday, up 23% from the nightly average in July.

Mayor Eric Adams declared a state of emergency earlier this month, calling the increased demand being put on the city “not sustainable.”

The tents were initially planned for a far-off corner of the Bronx, but were moved after concerns about flooding and criticism from immigrant advocates over the remote location. Iscol said the Randall’s Island location was safe from flooding.

Advocates remain concerned even with the new location, questioning what conditions migrants will be kept in, and whether the support they get will be adequate.

Kathryn Kliff, an attorney with The Legal Aid Society, said there were questions about what kind of oversight would be maintained at the center, which is not part of the city’s homeless shelter system and so does not fall under the same court-ordered oversight some of the shelters do.

And there were still concerns about why migrants were in tents at all, instead of buildings like hotels.

Murad Awawdeh, executive director of the New York Immigration Coalition, said in a statement that opening the tent center was “a stain on our city’s rich history of welcoming immigrants and morally reprehensible.”

Texas schools give parents DNA kits

MEGHAN MANGRUM
The Dallas Morning News
(TNS)

DALLAS — Texas public schools are distributing DNA and fingerprint identification kits to parents in case they need to provide their child’s DNA to law enforcement if they go missing — or in case of other emergencies.

But as school districts begin distributing the kits this fall, for many it’s a stark reminder of the safety concerns facing schools: mass shootings. The distribution comes less than six months after a gunman killed 19 students and two teachers at Robb Elementary School in Uvalde — the deadliest school shooting in the state’s history.

As family members waited to find out the fate of their children in the May massacre, some were

asked to provide DNA samples to help identify the dead.

The kits, which retail for about \$10, are being provided to Texas families for free.

It was created in partnership with the FBI and the information collected is identified to be kept at home by the parent or guardian in case it is ever needed, according to the National Child ID Program website.

The state Legislature passed a law in the spring of 2021 requiring the Texas Education Agency to give inkless in-home fingerprint and DNA identification cards to each public school system in Texas.

Though the legislation didn’t specifically cite school shootings when establishing the free “child identification program,” some lawmakers said the move came in response to the 2018 shooting

at Santa Fe High School that left 10 dead. The move has sparked backlash from some parents, teachers and advocates of gun control and with critics immediately criticizing Gov. Greg Abbott and other Republican leaders after The Houston Chronicle first reported the kits had begun being distributed this week.

Many would prefer officials focus on tighter gun safety laws, background checks and better security at schools.

“Texas Gov Greg Abbott is choosing to send DNA kits to schools that parents can use to identify their children’s bodies AFTER they’ve been murdered rather than pass gun safety laws to proactively protect their lives,” Shannon Watts, founder of Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America, tweeted. In the aftermath of the Uvalde

massacre, Republican state leaders — who have steadily chipped away at gun restrictions in recent years — didn’t immediately indicate a willingness to institute new gun control measures.

Instead, Abbott and other lawmakers have focused on “hardening” campuses with a \$94 million allocation in federal school safety grants.

Abbott also directed the TEA to issue new school safety guidance that requires school districts to undergo intruder detection and safety audits and create the position of chief of school safety and security.

In a debate against Democratic challenger Beto O’Rourke, Abbott defended his administration’s response to Uvalde and addressed the criticism, arguing the state “didn’t need a special session” to address the issue.

Sex offender gets life for killing teen

By JEFFREY COLLINS
Associated Press

A man was sentenced to life in prison Wednesday after confessing to the 2009 killing of a 17-year-old girl who disappeared while on a beach vacation in South Carolina.

Raymond Moody led police to Brittanee Drexel’s body in May after advances in technology helped investigators determine that the teen’s cellphone was in Moody’s vehicle the night she disappeared while walking alone along the Myrtle Beach waterfront.

Drexel, a high school student from upstate New York, had been celebrating spring break with friends.

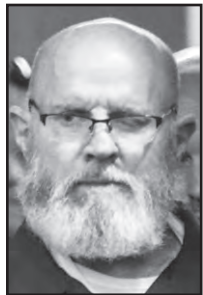
Moody, 62, confessed to her killing, saying he’d offered marijuana to Drexel and that she voluntarily went to his campsite 35 miles away in Georgetown County. After his girlfriend left, Moody said he tried to have sex with Drexel, who refused.

Moody said he then strangled Drexel because he realized he would go back to prison as a convicted sex offender — he had previously been convicted of raping an 8-year-old girl in California.

“I was a monster. I was a monster then and I was a monster when I took Brittanee Drexel’s life,” Moody said in a George-

town County courthouse after pleading guilty Wednesday to murder, kidnapping and rape for the teen’s killing.

Drexel was always texting and her boyfriend, who stayed home near Rochester, New York, began looking for her within 15 minutes



Moody

of her disappearance in April 2009, prosecutor Scott Hixon said.

That search went on for more than a decade. Drexel’s family repeatedly came to Myrtle Beach to keep attention on the missing teen. There were candlelight vigils and police sifted through hundreds of false tips as the case captured the attention of the true-crime community.

Among those tips were rumored links to other missing women and wild allegations of stash houses in which sexual abuse victims’ bodies were being fed to alligators.

Moody’s girlfriend came to police in 2011 and said she was abused. She knew Moody served 20 years of a 40-year prison sentence for raping a child in California and said she no longer believed Moody’s story that friends picked up Drexel while she was gone.

Investigators searched where Moody was staying and questioned him, but couldn’t gather enough evidence to charge them.

Obituaries

Virginia ‘Ginger’ V. Morris nee Huscha

Virginia “Ginger” V. Morris nee Huscha passed away on October 16, 2022. She was born on August 20, 1943 in Staten Island.

Virginia, formerly of Staten Island, has resided in Cortland for over 20 years.

She is survived by her daughters, Helen V. Morris, Donna M. Morris, a sister Lillian Protokowicz, four grandchildren and six great grandchildren.

Ginger worked in various places in New York City and New Jersey. She loved going to the casino with her friends. She also enjoyed fishing and going to the beach. Ginger loved the outdoors especially the Summer. Ginger was loved by many.

Calling hours will be 4:30-6:30 PM Monday at Wright-Beard Funeral Home, 9 Lincoln Ave, Cortland with a funeral service to follow at 6:30 PM.

To offer condolences visit, www.wright-beard.com



Death Notices

MCKEE — Lucille V. (Van Epps) McKee, 85, of Cincinnati, died Sept. 6, 2022. Memorial services will be held at 3 p.m. Saturday at the McGraw United Methodist Church. The family will receive friends at the church at 2 p.m. Arrangements by the K.L. Sharp Funeral Home, Cincinnati.

LOROWS — Kaleb Maxson Lorows, 19, of Willet, died Oct. 18, 2022. Memorial services will be held at 3 p.m. Friday at the Marathon Memorial Chapel. The family will receive friends from 1 to 3 p.m. Friday at the funeral home.

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Community



Photo provided by Guthrie Healthcare

Guthrie has opened an obstetrics and gynecology clinic on Groton Avenue in Cortland. That will bring the county to two OB-GYN specialists, but Guthrie says the county needs four to five.

Guthrie opens OB-GYN clinic

New office helps fill growing need in Cortland area

By KEVIN CONLON
City Editor

kconlon@cortlandstandard.com

Guthrie opened an obstetrics and gynecology office in Cortland this week to fill a growing need for women's health services in Cortland County, the health care provider announced.

Guthrie Cortland Obstetrics and Gynecology, 141 Groton Ave., offers women's health services, gynecological procedures, maternity care, family planning, infertility, menopause and contraceptive management.

The clinic opened at 10:17 a.m. Monday, followed immediately by a marketing campaign to promote its services, said Marie Darling, senior director of the Guthrie Cortland Medical Group, which is affiliated with Guthrie Cortland Medical Center.

The clinic saw its first patient Wednesday morning, she said.

The office will be staffed by midwife Alison Platukis and Dr. Ashfar Aly as well as clinical and clerical support staff, Darling said. Platukis and Aly were recruited by parent company The Guthrie Clinic's headquarters in Sayre, Pennsylvania.

Darling said research conducted by Guthrie on the health care needs of the Cortland County area prompted it to open the clinic.

"The Guthrie Clinic has independent research we do in every county we serve," Darling said. "There is a team dedicated to this work. Based on the findings, we look at how many providers there are in the community and we fill gaps."

The research determined four to five OB-GYN medical providers are needed to fill the need in the Cortland area.

There is one other OB-GYN physician in Cortland, Dr. Kelly Noble of Family Health Network of CNY. Two other physicians have recently closed their local practices,

Darling said.

Recruiting will continue to fill another two or three OB-GYN physician positions, who will also be located at the Groton Avenue office, she said.

The office renovated for Guthrie's new clinic previously housed the office of Dr. David Mayo.

Mayo had stopped accepting medical insurance and required cash payments for service as of Aug. 15. He explained in a letter posted on his website that his decision was based on difficulty in obtaining payment from insurance companies.

Guthrie's new clinic will accept insurance payments for service, Darling said. Noble also accepts insurance payments, her office said Wednesday.

County Board of Health officials could not be reached Wednesday afternoon to discuss the need for OB-GYN services in the county.

C'ville OKs \$900,000 for Gutchess Park

By JACOB MACK
Staff Reporter

jmack@cortlandstandard.com

The Cortlandville Town board voted unanimously Wednesday to pay \$914,332 for the second phase of the Gutchess Lumber Sports Complex construction.

In June, the town board awarded a \$3.15 million contract to Smith Site Development of Binghamton — funded about evenly by borrowing and from grants.

The board also voted unanimously to sign Guthrie Clinic as a sponsor for the complex.

Cortlandville has been renting out the first two baseball diamonds, completed in the 100-acre facility's first phase, to Prep Baseball Report Tournaments. The use of public park-

land for fiscal gain by a given municipality is known as Parkland Alienation, a term which Cortlandville Town Attorney John DeVecchio brought to the attention of the council Wednesday.

"I think it's time to prove that parkland alienation was not present in our dealings with PBR in a resolution," DeVecchio said.

Under parkland alienation, the state would need to adopt a law to allow the town to lease parkland to prospective tenants, the state Comptroller's Office reported in 2015. By demonstrating that the facility doesn't fall under that standard, the town would not need to seek a state law.

The state's handbook on alienation and conversion of

municipal parkland states that leasing a facility to a private entity that results in the facility no longer being used for public recreation would be alienation. It also states that leasing to a private, profit-making concern is alienation, even if the facility may still be used for public park and recreational purposes.

In considering whether the use of a facility is alienation, the handbooks said the town and state should consider whether the facility replaces or improves on an inadequate facility; whether the public gets access to it for extended periods of time; whether public use is maximized; whether all or part of the facility is diverted for non-public use; and whether private funding was a major component

of the project cost.

Construction for phase two began in July. The two new diamonds will have adjustable bases and mounds, and would be available to rent for local schools and organizations.

The project also includes:

- Sports field lighting.
- Field irrigation.
- Concrete sidewalks.
- Electrical systems.
- Storm water drainage and management; erosion and sediment control; landscaping; and site restoration.

The \$4.3 million first phase of the project included building two baseball fields and a pavilion. The total cost for the entire park once finished has been estimated between \$16 million and \$18 million.

Housing shortage hits the Adirondacks

By EMILY RUSSELL
North Country Public Radio

Many of the houses in Saranac Lake were built more than a century ago. The big, grand homes had special porches constructed specifically for the tuberculosis patients that came to the village around the turn of the 20th century.

Some of those old homes have been well maintained, while others have not.

"Come on in," Shawn Duheme says outside a home on Franklin Avenue.

Duheme is a contractor and carpenter. He's wearing a thick blue hoodie covered in a thin layer of sawdust and he gives a tour inside of what is essentially a construction zone. This house had been vacant for years when it went up for sale at a tax foreclosure auction in 2019.

"All the properties that I was looking at, that I had physically gone and seen, were going way too high and this one popped up and nobody bid on it," Duheme said. "And I said, 'I can bid on that, how bad can it be?'"

Turns it out, it was pretty bad. Duheme posted a tour of the home on his YouTube channel last spring. Holes were in the ceiling, rot in the wood and piles of trash. Duheme plans to renovate and sell it.

There's a big demand for housing in Saranac Lake and nearby Lake Placid, but there are also a lot of properties like this one, rundown and abandoned. Duheme said he understands how homes become vacant.

"If you don't know how to maintain that

Tudor or that cedar or whatever, it's just going to degrade," he said. "And then it gets to the point where it's so expensive to maintain your home that you just let it go."

About 19% of Saranac Lake's housing units are vacant, reports the Saranac Lake Housing Task Force, nearly twice the national average. Task force Chairwoman Melinda Little said she's watched as the lack of housing has led people to not move to the area.

"That's very frustrating to think about that talent being lost," she said.

Vacant homes are just part of the problem, but Allan Mallach, a national housing expert at the Center for Community Progress, said it's a delicate one that can start with just one abandoned home.

"People start to say, 'If this property is being neglected, why should I bother?' And it sort of creates a chain reaction," Mallach said.

The issue of vacant housing is unfolding all across the North Country.

"Specifically in my neighborhood, there's three or four houses that are sitting there, dilapidating, they need work," said Bonnie Baker, town supervisor of Webb, which includes Old Forge. Much of the tax base is from second homeowners, who Baker said don't want to foot the bill for the problem.

There is no national strategy to deal with vacant housing, but there is one tool that's become more popular on a more regional level: land banks. When someone stops paying their taxes and their home goes into foreclosure, a land bank can step in to de-

cide what's best. Franklin County is applying to create its own land bank.

"When a town or village comes and asks the land bank for help with a problem property, the land bank has the resources, the technical expertise, the financial resources to say, 'Yes we can help with that,'" said Jeremy Evans, CEO of the Franklin County Economic Development Corp.

The land bank can decide whether to demolish the property or invest in it to put it back on the market. Ogdensburg has its own land bank and Essex County is in the midst of a pilot project this fall. For now, though, people in the North Country like Shawn Duheme in Saranac Lake are largely on their own. He's scrimping and saving and is hopes to monetize the YouTube channel where he's documenting his renovations.

"If that happens, then I can start buying these properties up and putting this level of work and higher into them," Duheme said. He pulled back the plastic on one of the windows in the master bedroom, the lake shimmered in the sun.

"So when the leaves are down you can see the mountain range," he said, and hopes another family will see the view soon.

Emily Russell produced this story as part of the America Amplified initiative, which uses community engagement to inform and strengthen local, regional and national journalism. America Amplified is a public media initiative funded by the Corporation for Public Broadcasting.

Coronavirus briefs

Cortland County reports 7 new COVID cases

Cortland County reported seven cases of COVID-19 on Wednesday, raising the number of confirmed cases since the pandemic began to 12,652, the state Health Department reports.

Tompkins and Cayuga counties reported 48 new cases Wednesday, the state reported.

The three counties have seen 57,010 cases since the pandemic began in March 2020.

The number of people who have died from the virus remains 391.

■ Two new COVID patients were admitted to Guthrie Cortland Medical Center on Tuesday, the state Health Department reported Wednesday.

The hospital had nine COVID patients. Since the pandemic began, 784 Cortland County residents have been hospitalized for COVID; that figure was last updated Oct. 13. The state Health Department reports 302,855 tests have been administered. The state has reported 129 deaths.

■ Tompkins County saw 25 new cases Wednesday, the state Health Department reported. The number of confirmed cases rose to 25,038.

The state reports 3,053,613 tests have been administered. Ninety-five Tompkins residents have died.

■ Cayuga County saw 23 new cases Wednesday, the state Health Department reported. Confirmed cases rose to 19,320. The state reports 388,993 tests have been administered, and 167 people have died.

Cortland County rate at 105 cases per 100,000

Cortland County had 50 new cases of COVID-19 between Oct. 12 and Tuesday, giving it a rate of 105.08 cases per 100,000 people, the national Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reports.

It had a "medium" risk, under CDC guidelines.

Under metrics and guidance from the CDC — which take into account the number of new cases in a week, the number of hospitalizations and hospital capacity:

■ In counties with a "high risk," wearing a mask in indoor public places is still recommended.

■ In counties with a "medium risk," people with symptoms, a positive test, or exposure to someone with COVID-19 should wear a mask.

People at a high risk for severe illness should consult their healthcare provider about the need for a mask or other precautions.

■ In counties with a "low risk," no additional precautions beyond staying up to date with vaccines and getting tested if one has symptoms are recommended.

The rates and risk, from the CDC:

Cortland: 105.08 — medium
Tompkins: 138.97 — medium

Cayuga: 134.51 — high
Onondaga: 143.53 — high
Broome: 183.21 — medium
Chenango: 112.27 — low
Tioga: 192.93 — medium
Madison: 160.70 — high

Police/fire

Willet man dies in car crash

GREENE — A Willet man died Tuesday in a one-car crash on Route 206 near County Road 2 in Greene, the Chenango County Sheriff's Office reported.

Kaleb M. Lorows, 19, of Willet, was driving a 2001 Chevrolet Malibu east on Route 206 when the vehicle left the road, struck a guard rail, then a tree, deputies said. Lorows was pronounced dead at the scene.

An investigation continues. Sheriff's deputies were assisted by Greene firefighters, the Geneseelet Fire Department and the state Department of Transportation.

Cortland man charged with burglary count

Accused: Todd M. Brady, 32, 54 Greenbush St., Cortland

Charges: Second-degree burglary, third-degree criminal mischief, felonies

Details: Brady broke into an apartment June 1 on Hill Street, ransacking the place, Cortland police said.

A person fought with a maintenance worker who discovered the break-in before running from the residence. Detectives investigated and arrested Brady Monday.

Legal actions: Brady was arraigned and sent to the Cortland County Jail, where he was held in an unrelated case. He will appear later in Cortland City Court.

Syracuse man charged with felony tampering

Accused: John J. Travers, 32, of Syracuse

Charges: Tampering with evidence, a felony; petit larceny, seventh-degree criminal possession of a controlled substance, second-degree criminal use of drug paraphernalia, false personation, misdemeanors.

Details: Cortland County sheriff's officers pulled over a vehicle in which Travers was a

passenger about 5:02 p.m. Sunday on Route 281 in Cortlandville after a report of a larceny at Walmart on Bennie Road in Cortlandville. Officers said Travers gave them a false name and had stolen merchandise from the store. Police also found him with narcotics and drug paraphernalia.

Police said they arrested him and took him to the sheriff's office for processing, where they found Travers had tried to conceal or destroy other narcotics.

Legal Actions: Travers was released without bail pending an appearance Oct. 31 in Cortlandville Town Court.

Syracuse man faces drunken driving charge

Accused: Derek T. Bacon, 39, of Syracuse

Charges: Driving while intoxicated, a misdemeanor, speeding, failure to keep right, violations

Details: Cortland County sheriff's officers stopped Bacon's vehicle about 1:21 a.m. Sunday on Route 13 in Cortlandville. Police said they found Bacon intoxicated.

Legal Actions: Bacon was released without bail pending an appearance Oct. 31 in Cortlandville Town Court.

Cincy man faces charges in bank withdrawals

Accused: Brian D. Tuning, 36, 2385 Stafford Road, Cincinnati

Charges: Fourth-degree criminal possession of stolen property, a felony; petit larceny, a misdemeanor

Details: Tuning used another person's bank card to remove money from the bank twice without the victim's knowledge between Sept. 8 and Sept. 17, Cortland police said. Tuning was arrested Tuesday following an investigation.

Legal Actions: Tuning was arraigned and released without bail to appear Nov. 23 in Cortland City Court.

Around the towns

Cincy school board to meet

The Cincinnati Central School District board will meet 6:30 p.m. Wednesday in the school library.



Andrew J. Koehler, left, Lauren Cochran and Justin Waite set the stage for a cabaret fundraiser for the SUNY Cortland Performing Arts Department seniors at 6:30 p.m. Saturday at the Cortland Repertory Theatre.

SUNY seniors set stage with Saturday cabaret

By NOWSHIN CHOWDHURY
Living and Leisure Editor
living@cortlandstandard.com

SUNY Cortland Performing Arts Department seniors will have a cabaret fundraiser 6:30 p.m. Saturday at the Cortland Repertory Theatre.

“I think this fundraiser is not only a great chance for us to raise money for our showcase, but it’s also one of the last times my class will be performing all together since it’s our senior year and two members of our class graduate at the end of this semester,” said senior Lauren Cochran. “So, for it to be this big of an event with so much support from Cortland Repertory Theatre really is a great way to mark the beginning of the end and come full circle since our very first cabaret our freshman year.”

The cabaret, titled A Look In Our Book, shows a preview of music the group has been practicing.

The opening and closing numbers will be from their freshman year.

“It’s a nice little closing on our chapter here,” Cochran said.

The funds will support the senior showcase for spring 2023 in New York City. The showcase invites theatrical agents and managers to help take the next step in their careers.

“What the showcase is that



Photo provided by Lauren Cochran

Seniors from the SUNY Cortland Performing Arts Department will have a cabaret fundraiser for their spring showcase.

they are going to the city; who will hopefully sign them they’ll perform their showcase and represent them,” said program adviser Mark Reynolds. He is also the costume designer

If you go

■ **What:** SUNY Cortland cabaret fundraiser

■ **When:** 6:30 p.m. Saturday

■ **Where:** Cortland Repertory Theatre downtown, 24 Port Watson St., Cortland

■ **Why:** To raise money for the seniors to perform a showcase next spring for agents and casting directors

■ **Tickets:** \$20 for the public, \$15 for faculty and staff; \$10 for students. Available at CRT Downtown, at cortlandrep.org or by calling 800-427-6160.

for the department of performing arts. “It’s sort of a way to showcase all that they’ve learned since they’ve been here and introduce them to the professional world.”

The funds will also cover expenses for performance venue, introductory packets, accompanist and travel.

“Having this fundraiser to me means getting the community involved with the musical theater program — specifically the seniors,” said senior Justin Waite. “And this would show the school, town, as well as friends and family what we have been doing since we first started going to school at Cortland. It’s more of a pre-celebration toward the end of our college experience.”

Ask Amy

By Amy Dickinson

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Couple experiences professional disconnect

DEAR AMY: Overall, things are great between my partner “Beth” and me.

Beth is a teacher and I’m a security engineer. Basically, I work as a computer hacker that stops computer hackers.

Every day after work, I’ll listen and weigh in while Beth tells me about troubles at the school, her kids, learning about different teaching methods and policies, curriculum, theories — and everything in between.

Unfortunately, when it comes to me sharing things about my work, she will say, “I don’t like/ understand technology” and remove herself from the conversation.

I have tried supplying all kinds of metaphors, offering to show bare-bones basics, anything else I can think of. She simply says, “Oh it’s tech. I’m not interested.”

I love how passionate she is about her career, but it hurts that I cannot share my own passion with her.

When it comes to everything else in life, we are great about sharing and communicating.

Right now I’m at the point of just saying, “Work is fine,” and moving on.

Any suggestions?

— Multifactor Your Heart

DEAR MULTIFACTOR: I looked up “Multifactor” to discern what you might have meant by signing your question that way, which tells me two things. One: For those of us in the non-tech “people” business, your orientation might occasionally be difficult to understand.

Two: I am willing to take some easy steps to try to understand you. Your partner should do the same. She is a teacher. Is she also capable of learning?

When she shuts you down, you should call her on it. “Beth, responding the way you do is rude. When you do that, I honestly feel hurt.”

You could also tell her that you spend a lot of time listening and have done your utmost to learn about her profession so that you can communicate with her about it. You might ask her if there are ways you could engage her more fully in your profession.

My instinct is that if you reframed your explanations to include more details about the people you work with or the people or institutions your work affects, it might help her relate to you, but ultimately she should be considerate enough to develop a working interest in a pursuit which is obviously very important to you.

And, if she cannot develop a genuine interest, she should fake it politely, as you have probably been doing much of the time when she tells you

about her day.

DEAR AMY: Before we started dating, my husband and I had many conversations about what we wanted in a partner.

I told him I wanted a companion for traveling and spending quality time with. And we both firmly stated that we do not want to spend our time in bars.

My husband of 1 1/2 years has now joined not one but two bands. He rehearses at least one night a week in a city one hour away from us (besides the countless hours at home).

He is now scheduling “gigs” on weekend nights at various bars and clubs.

He refuses to commit to “date nights” for us because he might get a gig that night.

I feel neglected, our relationship is suffering, and I’m unwilling to play second fiddle.

He doesn’t have time for me anymore and told me that “his life” has priority over our marriage.

I’ve tried to discuss this with him many times.

I asked him to go to marriage counseling and he said by the time a couple gets to that point it’s too late!

I’m ready to sing a swan song on this relationship, but I’m wondering what you think?

— Frustrated and Lonely

DEAR FRUSTRATED: The early point in marriage is when most couples have positive experiences that will sometimes sustain them when times get tough. To maintain a healthy and happy marriage, both parties should put the relationship first.

You and your husband haven’t established these positive ways of relating.

You should pursue counseling to weigh the tough choice you face: To hang in there or to go solo.

DEAR AMY: My (late) wife managed our finances after I realized her true brilliance. Every month she assessed our expenditures, and the surplus went into a slush fund. She allocated the surplus to each of us according to our contribution. I always felt it should be 50/50, but she disagreed. So every month we had our own money. Forty years of happy marriage was her financial legacy.

You may honor her memory by signing me:

— Tom

DEAR TOM: What a beautiful bargain.

You can email Amy Dickinson at askamy@amydickinson.com or send a letter to Ask Amy, P.O. Box 194, Freeville, NY 13068. You can also follow her on Twitter @askingamy or Facebook.

Looking ahead

THURSDAY

■ **Third Thursday Trivia**, 7 p.m. at Cortland Repertory Theatre, Cortland. Cost is \$5 at the door.

■ **Trivia**, 7 to 9 p.m. at ONCO Fermentations, Tully.

■ **Trivia**, 6 to 8:30 p.m. at McGraw Box Brewing Co., McGraw.

■ **Trivia**, 7 p.m. at Trax Pub and Grill, Cortland.

■ **Crafts & Creations at Lamont Free Library**, 3:30 p.m. at Lamont Memorial Free Library, 5 Main St., McGraw.

■ **Pottery: Hand Building**, 6 to 8 p.m. Pottery Works, Cortland.

■ **YWCA Cortland’s Chefs Take a Stand Against Domestic Violence**, 6 to 8 p.m. at The Lookout at Hope Lake, Virgil.

■ **Aiken**, 6 p.m. at Cortland Beer Co., Cortland.

■ **The Art of Stand-Up Comedy at Ake Gallery**, 7 p.m. at Ake Gallery in Crescent Commons, 165 Main St., Suite 14L, Cortland.

FRIDAY

■ **Marathon American Legion Friday night dinner**, hot turkey sandwich, mashed potato, gravy, veggie and dessert will be available for \$10.

■ **Rachel Beverly**, 6 to 8 p.m. at Bru 64, Cortland.

■ **Junkyard Heights Trio**, 6 p.m. Homer Hops Brewing, Homer.

■ **Harry Nichols Band CD Release Party**, 6 to 8 p.m. at Hopshire Farm and Brew-

ery, Freeville.

■ **Muriel Anderson**, 8 to 10:30 p.m. at Center for the Arts of Homer.

■ **Freak at the Peak Haunted Coaster**, through Oct. 22 at Greek Peak Mountain Resort, Virgil.

■ **Haunted Hayride**, 6 to 9 p.m. through Saturday at Cortland Water Works, Cortland.

■ **Butternut Creek Revival**, 6 to 9 p.m. at Heuga’s Alpine Restaurant & Bar, Tully.

■ **3M**, 8 p.m. at Cortland Beer Co., Cortland.

SATURDAY

■ **Harmony United Methodist Church annual ham dinner**, from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. at Harford Town Hall, 394 Route 38, Harford. Dine-in and take-outs available for ham, potatoes, gravy, corn, squash, cabbage salad and pie.

■ **Vintage snowmobile show and swap meet**, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at CNY Living History Museum, Cortland.

■ **Adam Parker**, 7 to 9 p.m., Homer Elks Lodge, 82 Cortland Street, Homer.

■ **Energizing A.M. Yoga**, 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. at Summerhill Brewing, Summerhill. Class costs \$8. Bring your own mat.

■ **Kitestring Duo**, 6 to 8 p.m. at Summerhill Brewing, Summerhill.

■ **Black and Blue**, 6 p.m. Homer Hops Brewing, Homer.

■ **Pints & Poses with Susan Marie Yoga**, 11 a.m. to noon at ONCO Fermentations, Tully.

■ **Jimi Marley Project**, 6 to 9 p.m. at ONCO Fermentations, Tully.

■ **Celebrate Autumn**, 7 to 9 p.m. at Center for the Arts of Homer.

■ **A Look In Our Books**, 6:30 p.m. at Cortland Repertory Theatre, Cortland.

■ **Cortland City Farmers Market**, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Court Street in front of Grace & Holy Spirit Episcopal Church, Cortland.

■ **Walking Through History in Downtown Cortland**, 9 a.m. at Downtown Cortland. Contact 607-756-6071 to sign up.

■ **Card Making Workshop**, 1 to 3 p.m. at Cortland ReUse, Cortland.

■ **Exit 11**, 8 p.m. at Cortland Beer Co., Cortland.

SUNDAY

■ **Pancake breakfast**, 8 to 11 a.m. at Cortland Country Music Park, Cortland.

■ **Group Psychic Reading with Phil Jordan**, 3 p.m. at 1890 House Museum, Cortland.

MONDAY

■ **Yoga**, 6 to 7 p.m. at Little York Plantation, Little York.

■ **Pottery: Serving Dish**, 6 to 8 p.m. at Pottery Works, Cortland.

TUESDAY

■ **Cortland City Farmers Market**, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Court Street in front of Grace & Holy Spirit Episcopal Church, Cortland.

■ **Open Mic Night**, 7 to 9 p.m. at Center for the Arts of Homer.

Our Opinion
Update smoking restrictions

My God, marijuana smoke smells like someone grilling rancid socks. And walking through a fog of nicotine vapors delivers a contact buzz that’s truly unpleasant for people who don’t partake.

With that in mind, we’re totally on board with Cortland Mayor Scott Steve’s plan to update the city’s smoking restrictions. When the law was adopted, vaping hadn’t yet been developed and marijuana was illegal, so the restrictions covered only tobacco.

Today, public vaping and marijuana use are completely unregulated, and the stench and health problems the city sought to prevent by keeping smokers 10 feet away from public doorways is functionally nullified.

However, we’re not as comfortable with the proposed law’s other stipulations, and we’re glad the Common Council tabled the measure until it can bang out a few revisions.

The old law prohibited smoking within 10 feet of a public doorway. A pedestrian or customer at a shop might catch a whiff passing by. The new proposal would extend that to 25 feet — but not just the door, from the edge of the sidewalk, too.

Get a tape measure (and a bright orange vest): That stretches most of the width of Main Street, not that we’d advocate standing in the middle of traffic to get one’s nicotine or THC fix.

The law also makes no difference between a Main Street building’s door accessing Main Street and a back door accessing, perhaps, a parking lot.

We suspect that would be an inconvenience to anybody who lives in an upper-floor apartment, or an employee or business owner stepping outside for a quick smoke.

At the same time, we see the inconvenience of, say, a heavy equipment operator having “that talk” with a supervisor for coming to work smelling like someone else’s marijuana.

Police Chief Paul Sandy said the law would be enforced as a public nuisance, much like public consumption of alcohol. It’s a reasonable approach, but we’d hate to see this as a tool to harass people of color.

The American Civil Liberties Union reported in 2019 that Black people were almost four times more likely to be arrested for marijuana possession than white people, even though both use and sell marijuana at about the same rate. It’s something to watch for, regardless of police agency.

However one feels about public consumption of nicotine or marijuana, the fact remains they are legal products, and regulation of those legal products should be the minimum required to assure the public health.

Absent hard data, we’ll suggest that a 25-foot radius from the sidewalk is a bit of a stretch.

Is 10 feet sufficient though? A speaker Tuesday at a public hearing on the plan pointed out that there’s no safe exposure to inhaled drugs of this sort. Perhaps 15 feet is a reasonable compromise.

—————Your Opinion—————

Honesty hard to find before elections

To the Editor:

Election time. Isn’t it wonderful? The glossy mailers all start to fill our mailboxes, then our trash cans. They are basically all trash. If they tell you what they are going to TRY to do it is just that, TRY. Mostly they tell you what their opponent hasn’t done or how bad he/she is. The gloves come off and the negativity gets even worse.

The ads on TV are even worse. You see the faces and then the finger pointing, letting us know all the bad stuff about who is currently representing us. It is time for change, they say. Elect someone new who will listen to us and go into their elected office taking care of our needs.

Believe this and I will read you as many fairytales as I can about the princess kissing the frog and him turning into a prince charming.

I think politics has gotten so out of hand that there is not a hand big enough to real it in. If I thought starting a group action to take us back to respectful, honest, ethical and morally fit representation at all levels, I would rent a hall and start the ball rolling by inviting all those who would like honest government again to join me. I am sure I would get a few to attend because I know you are out there.

The more I see, hear and read the more disgusted I get with all politics. Excuses, blaming, name calling just keeps going on. Sad. When are “We the People” of this great nation going to wake up and do something? It is not about being a Republican, Democrat, Conservative, Liberal or anything else. It is about being an honest human being.

Carletta Edwards
Homer

—————Good Old Days—————

October 20, 1972

The Cortland One Parent Organization will hold a Halloween Costume or Come-As-You-Are Dance on Saturday, Oct. 28 in the second floor dining room at Pace’s Restaurant.

The Cortland One Parent organization is a non-sectarian organization founded for parents who are single for any reason. Child custody is not a requirement for joining, only that a person be of good character.

October 20, 1997

As church bells rang the hour of 10 a.m., a small crowd of Cortland State alumni gathered Saturday in front of the building that once housed the entire school.

“Seventy five years ago Old Main was built atop this barren hill,” said current SUNY-Cortland president Judson Taylor at the Diamond Jubilee Reopening Gala Celebration.

Old Main, the college’s sole building from the early 1920s until the late 1940s, reopened its doors after five years of renovations that cost nearly \$8 million.

October 20, 2012

A restaurant that Tompkins Cortland Community College is planning to open in the fall of 2014 would rely on locally grown products and expand the college’s agricultural course offerings, according to Bob Ross, a retired dean at the college.

Ross presented the plan Thursday to Cortland County’s Local Agriculture and Promotion Committee.

Ross said he has been working on the “farm to bistro” project since May.

TC3 spokesman Peter Voorhees stressed Friday that the plan is in the very early stages and a feasibility study on the entire project should be released in a few weeks. The findings from that study will determine whether the plan proceeds.

The college already offers restaurant management courses and it wants to expand this to focus on the importance of local, sustainable agriculture, by opening a restaurant in Ithaca that would depend on local food sources.



Better watch
Washington state

George
Will



tember, CNN would not take Smiley’s repeated “Yes” for an answer concerning whether Joe Biden was legitimately elected, but did not pursue Murray’s gaseous evasion, amounting to “no,” concerning whether she supports any limits on abortion. Smiley opposes federal legislation setting abortion policy and respects her state’s current decision to have abortion legal until viability.

The Evergreen State is not blue, it is indigo.

It has voted Democratic in nine consecutive presidential elections, by an average of 11.8 percentage points. It favored Biden by 19 points in 2020. It votes almost entirely by mailed ballots, which boosts Democratic turnout by requiring little effort from low-propensity voters, e.g., young ones. Another difficulty for Smiley is that ticket-splitting has declined as polarization has increased. Only seven states have a senator from each party. And Washington last elected a Republican senator 28 years ago. Still, surprises happen.

In 1980, Washington’s War-

ren Magnuson, a Democrat, was the longest-serving senator of the majority party, hence was Senate president pro tempore. As chairman of the Commerce Committee and second-ranking Democrat on Appropriations, he could bring home the bacon. Nevertheless, he lost his bid for a seventh term.

Today, next door in Oregon, which last elected a Republican governor in the middle of Ronald Reagan’s first term, 40 years ago, polls show the Republican candidate with a narrow lead. Smiley is probably helped by Portland’s recurring descents into disorder.

Similar fraying of Seattle’s social fabric resulted last November in the election, for the first time in three decades, of a Republican city attorney. The position is technically nonpartisan, but the winner is a Republican-affiliated former Democrat who defeated someone who advocated abolishing the police.

Citing crime, Amazon has moved some offices out of Seattle, and another company headquartered here, Starbucks,

has closed some stores. For a while in the summer of 2020, the city ceded control of the Capitol Hill neighborhood to leftists who, promising a “loose form of governance,” turned it into a “no-cop co-op.” Seattle’s progressive mayor was tickled pink about the “block-party atmosphere” and the “community garden,” saying chirpily: “We could have the Summer of Love.” Seattle’s police chief was less serene, saying she was “stunned by the amount of graffiti, garbage, and property destruction.”

If the feces did not dampen the block party, two murders, other shootings, and a slew of injuries did.

When Murray visited the neighborhood recently to dispute Smiley’s depiction of it as still crime-ridden, Smiley responded that in the previous week the neighborhood had experienced 43 assaults, 17 thefts, eight burglaries and one arson, and since the beginning of the year, there have been four homicides, 21 rapes, 89 robberies and more than 190 aggravated assaults.

Smiley’s closing argument to Washingtonians will be: If you like the country’s current trajectory, vote for the other woman. If not . . . Smiley’s campaign says its internal polling resembles the September Trafalgar poll: Murray 48.7, Smiley 46.5.

Not invariably, but more than rarely, one senatorial election in a cycle produces a “who-saw-that coming?” reaction from people who forgot to look far and wide. This year, it could be here.

Fascism thrives
in the GOP

Joe
Conason



Republicans continue to support the party as its extremism endangers their community and every other minority in the United States. It is curious indeed that someone like Paul Singer, whose son is gay and therefore a target of fascist violence, would continue to subsidize this social poison.

Despite the fact that his own daughter and grandchildren are Jewish, Trump revived the “America First” slogan first popularized here by Hitler’s agents and supercharged the return of fascist movements, with their animus against Jews, Blacks, gays and anyone else deemed “different.” Having recently donned a “Q” pin to advertise his affinity for the conspiratorial, antisemitic and violent QAnon movement, the former president clearly understands that these hideous elements are crucial to his base. But the blame for this menace can no longer be attributed to him alone. Too many other Republicans are directly implicated or complicit.

In Arizona, nearly the entire Republican apparatus is tainted by antisemitic rhetoric and ideologies, in particular state Sen.

Wendy Rogers, who sucks up to the neo-Nazi Nick Fuentes and his America First Political Action Committee, and Rep. Paul Gosar, the member of Congress notorious for posting homicidal images of himself murdering Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez and President Joe Biden. Mark Finchem, the party’s nominee for secretary of state this year, is touting his endorsement by the openly antisemitic social media site Gab and its founder Andrew Torba, whose speeches explicitly echo the German Nazi Party.

In Pennsylvania, the Republicans nominated for governor a Christian nationalist state senator named Doug Mastriano, who hired Torba to send Gab’s antisemitic subscribers to his campaign. He followed up with a bit of unsubtle Jew-baiting of his Democrat opponent Josh Shapiro.

In New York, the Republicans chose Carl Paladino, a raving racist, for an upstate congressional seat; his endorsement of Adolf Hitler as “the kind of leader we need” didn’t bother Rep. Elise Stefanik, third-ranking Republican in the House, enough to evoke comment, let

alone a disendorsement. And let’s not forget Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene, the lunatic antisemite and apostle of QAnon violence who was nevertheless backed by nearly every House Republican last year when Democrats moved to strip her committee assignments.

The roster of white nationalists, fascists and neo-Nazis who identify as Republicans goes on much longer and includes such prominent party figures as Trump adviser Steve Bannon. There is now an entire wing of the party, bidding for dominant status, that bills itself as “nationalist” and promotes the authoritarian antisemitic leader of Hungary, Viktor Orban, as a Republican role model. That wing even has its own financier, the gay tech billionaire Peter Thiel, whose attraction to white nationalism may someday make him the Republican version of Ernst Rohm.

Whatever has motivated decent Republicans, including those of Jewish descent, to continue supporting what is rapidly becoming the party of fascism and antisemitism, they must stop and reconsider. If they imagine that they are using the far Right to achieve a political agenda of lower taxes or less regulation, they ought to recall how that worked out a century ago, when German conservatives and nationalists thought they were manipulating Hitler and his movement to thwart socialism.

Those willing instruments of Nazism are stained forever — and that legacy of disgrace will be shared by the Republicans who are now enabling fascism in America.

When pinching pennies isn’t enough to get by

By KELSEY SHEEHY
NerdWallet

Scaling back streaming subscriptions is solid savings advice for some. But what if the choice you’re faced with is not whether to pay for Netflix or Hulu, but whether to pay for food or electricity?

Millions of Americans face food, housing and general financial insecurity every year, according to data from the U.S. Census Bureau and Department of Agriculture. And getting help often means navigating a maze of websites, automated telephone systems and confusing applications only to land on a yearslong waitlist or worse — find out you don’t qualify.

The good news: You don’t have to figure this out on your own. There are financial counselors, nonprofits and other local and national organizations that exist to help you find your financial footing.

If you’re currently facing eviction, can’t feed your family or are experiencing some other financial crisis, dial 211 now to talk with a local expert who can connect you to assistance programs for food, housing and utility expenses, medical bills and other emergencies.

Not in crisis mode yet but barely keep-

ing your head above water? Take these steps to prioritize the money you do have coming in, then get help filling in gaps.

GO BACK TO BASICS

Start with a budget — even if you don’t think you have enough money coming in to have a budget, says Amy Smith, a financial counselor in central Texas.

“It doesn’t matter how much you’re bringing in — any amount of money — because you’re at least telling that money where to go,” says Smith, who is also the membership engagement coordinator for the Association for Financial Counseling & Planning Education.

Your first budget won’t be pretty. Your third or fourth might not be either. That’s OK. Try to stick with it and play around with different budgeting methods to find one that works for you.

“When I started this journey, the end of my budget was red,” Smith says, indicating that she didn’t have the funds to cover all of her expenses. “At least I knew I needed extra money.”

You will also know how to reallocate your funds if you get some extra income or a few months of utility assistance.

PRIORITIZE THE ESSENTIALS

If there’s not enough money to cover all your expenses, tend to your basic needs first. These include housing, utilities, food, transportation and child care, among other things.

“If that means a credit card doesn’t get paid that month, that happens,” Smith says.

Bills you can’t cover shouldn’t be ignored, though. Call the creditor — whether it’s your landlord, mortgage company, utility provider or credit card issuer — and explain the situation. Then, ask if there’s any help available. Even a waived late fee can help.

TAKE HELP WHERE YOU CAN

Don’t let perceived social stigma keep you from getting the help you need. And don’t fall into the trap of thinking services like food banks or food stamps aren’t for you, or that things aren’t “that bad” yet.

It can take time to get from application to assistance, especially for federal programs. The waitlist for some federal housing vouchers can be years long, according to Erik Gartland, a research analyst at the Center on Budget and Policy

Priorities. On the flip side, SNAP benefits (often referred to as food stamps) can kick in within seven days of applying if you have no income, says Dottie Rosenbaum, a senior fellow and director of federal SNAP policy at the CBPP.

Tracking down programs, forms, applications and eligibility requirements is tedious and time consuming, especially if you’re facing language barriers, don’t have reliable internet access or simply don’t have the time because you’re caring and providing for your family.

Lean on organizations with the sole focus of connecting people in need to the assistance available.

HOW TO FIND HELP

These organizations can help you navigate the network of local, regional and national programs administered by nonprofits, religious organizations and state and federal agencies.

■ **211.org:** You can call 211 or visit 211.org to find local experts who know what help is available where you live and can connect you with the benefits you need.

■ **Association for Financial Counseling & Planning Education:** Financial

counselors work with clients on the basics — managing expenses, building a budget, creating a long-term plan — and they’re tuned in to local resources and assistance programs. You can sign up for a free virtual session with a certified financial counselor at findanafc.org/pro-bono.

■ **National Low Income Housing Coalition:** This nonprofit organization maintains a database of Emergency Rental Assistance programs, searchable by the city, county, state territory or tribe. Crucially, the database also includes up-to-date information on each program’s status: accepting applications, on hold or permanently closed.

■ **Legal Services Corporation:** Legal aid organizations across the country offer free legal help to low-income individuals. Their services cover everything from evictions and foreclosure to wage disputes and disaster relief. Legal Services Corporation is an independent nonprofit that provides funding to more than 100 legal aid groups across the country and the U.S. territories. Visit their website (lsc.gov), select “Get legal help” and enter your address to find a local legal aid office.

Is inflation affecting your travel points and miles?

By SAM KEMMIS
NerdWallet

After years of unusually low prices on airfare and vacation rentals during the pandemic, travel prices have taken off in 2022. And while travel price inflation has cooled with slowing demand and falling fuel prices this fall, it continues to affect travelers’ plans and budgets.

So with travel prices still well above their pre-pandemic levels, what does that mean for travelers’ hotel points and airline miles? Rewards programs regularly increase award prices, which are the number of points or miles needed to book a hotel night or flight. That practice devalues these currencies over time and renders customers’ collection of points and miles less useful. Yet, interestingly, the opposite effect seems to be happening this year.

based on business and economic trends,” said Tiffany Funk by email. Funk co-founded Point.me, a service that helps customers redeem their travel rewards. “But points can be a buffer against inflationary pressures in the short term.”

Put simply: Cash prices went way up this year and award prices (e.g., the number of miles needed to book a flight) also went up, but not as much. Airfares were 33% higher in September 2022 than that month in the year prior, according to the September Consumer Price Index report. Meanwhile, airline miles are valued only 8.7% higher on average than last year, according to the analysis from NerdWallet.

If cash prices tumble again, this effect of boosted points and miles values could get erased. But as long as prices remain high, travelers can nab outsized value from their points and miles — assuming they use them for high-value redemptions.

award chart to determine the cost of using points and miles. Conversely, Funk cited Southwest Airlines and JetBlue Airways as examples of programs that tie their rewards point values closely to the cash price of the flight.

“Instead, a program where the award prices are either determined in advance (with published charts) or are flexible/dynamic based on circumstances (load factors, revenue data, etc.) will be better bets,” she said.

Hyatt, for example, still maintains an award chart and saw its points increase in value from 1.9 cents to 2.8 cents from 2021 to 2022, according to the NerdWallet analysis. Marriott Bonvoy, which eliminated its award chart earlier this year, remained steady at 0.7 cent per point.

REWARDS ARE WORTH MORE THIS YEAR

NerdWallet refreshed its annual analysis of points and miles programs and found something unexpected in a sea of bad inflation news: Many rewards programs’ points have become more valuable this year compared with the previous year.

American Airlines’ miles increased in value, from 1.2 cents per mile in 2021 to 1.5 cents in 2022. United Airlines’ miles jumped from 1 cent per mile to 1.2 cents per mile. In fact, almost every domestic airline’s miles either increased in value or stayed the same, year over year. This bucks the conventional wisdom among points and miles enthusiasts, who expect to see those values drop over time.

“Miles and points aren’t really a hedge against inflation, as the various programs and loyalty currencies are always devaluing

STATIC VS. DYNAMIC AWARD PRICES

In the old days of frequent flyer programs, a route would cost a given number of miles, regardless of the cash price. So a flight from Los Angeles to San Francisco would always cost, say, 5,000 miles. Yet the industry has trended away from the award chart approach toward dynamic award prices, which fluctuate to match the cash price. These programs generally offer less value when cash prices are high.

“The best redemptions when cash prices are high will be through programs that don’t tie their currency to the dollar,” Funk said.

Travelers should target programs like Hyatt, Wyndham or Alaska Airlines that still use an

AWARD SPACE MIGHT BE HARDER TO FIND

Airlines continue to struggle with staffing difficulties and canceled flights, despite continued high demand. This means that planes are full, and that seats booked with miles are harder to come by.

“Historically, we’ve advised that extra award space often opens up a week or so prior to departure,” Funk said. “But right now, we’re seeing seats held until two to three hours prior to departure.”

Hotel rates, buoyed by strong demand and staffing shortages, have also put pressure on award redemptions. Most hotel programs use dynamic award prices that keep pace with cash prices, so finding bargain rates will remain a challenge.

In other words, hotel points and airline miles might be more valuable, relatively, but they could be harder to use. So, travelers should stay flexible when making plans.



Associated Press
An electric car is charged at a charging station during a press tour of the plant of German manufacturer Volkswagen AG (VW) in Zwickau, Germany.

Germany to massively expand electric car charging network

BERLIN (AP) — Germany wants to massively expand the country’s charging network for electric cars, spending \$6.17 billion over the next three years as it expects more and more drivers to turn away from combustion cars to more climate-friendly vehicles.

The country’s transportation minister on Wednesday presented a “master plan” for improving the charging infrastructure that had been passed by Chancellor Olaf Scholz’ cabinet earlier in the day.

“We are not just any automotive location, but a leading one in the world. And that’s why it’s important to us that what we’re preparing succeeds well,” Volker Wissing told reporters in Berlin. “We need a forward-looking expansion of the nationwide charging infrastructure that meets demand and is user-friendly.”

The share of electric vehicles in Germany grew 24.8% year-on-year to a total share of 14.6% of all newly registered automobiles, according to figures released by the country’s Federal Office for Motor Vehicles.

There are around 70,000 charging points in the country but only 11,000 of those are fast-chargers, the ministry said.

That is not enough to sufficiently fulfill the current needs, and it will be even less so as the number of electric cars grows quickly. There is also a big difference in availability of charging points between big cities and rural areas, where it is even harder to find charging stations.

The German government’s goal is to have 1 million publicly accessible charging points in the country by 2030.

In order to boost the number of charging points, the federal government will, among other

initiatives provide real estate, especially along highways, where new charging stations can be built. Private owners of electric cars will be offered subsidized plans to install solar energy panels at their homes to charge their cars overnight.

Electric charging is also supposed to get more user-friendly with new digital offers showing drivers where they can charge their cars on the road or being able to check online how much the different charging points demand, the minister said.

Another issue the government wants to tackle is getting the country’s electric grid ready for the increased demand as more people turn to electric cars.

“We are expecting an exponential increase in registered vehicles with battery electric drive in the next few years and must prepare accordingly,” the minister said.

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Hong Kong unveils visa scheme to woo talent

HONG KONG (AP) — Hong Kong’s leader on Wednesday unveiled a new visa scheme to woo global talent, as the city seeks to stem a brain drain that is undermining its status as an international financial center.

Chief Executive John Lee said the new Top Talent Pass Scheme will allow those earning an annual salary of \$318,472 or more and graduates of the world’s top universities to work or pursue opportunities in the city for two years.

Hong Kong, a former British colony handed to Chinese control in 1997, faces myriad challenges.

The territory has a semi-autonomous status, and its own legal system and economy, but hundreds of thousands of residents have left the city in recent years. They were driven by a crackdown on political dissent and diminished freedoms after authorities imposed a tough national security law, and by strict COVID-19 entry restrictions in place during much of the pandemic.

Over the last two years, the city’s workforce has shrunk by

about 140,000 people, Lee said.

“We must be more proactive and aggressive in competing for enterprises and competing for talent,” Lee said during his maiden policy address on Wednesday. “Apart from actively nurturing and retaining local talent, the government will proactively tawl the world for talent.”

Lee announced a raft of proposals — including tax rebates and relaxed measures for hiring foreigners — to boost the city’s competitiveness after its coronavirus restrictions hammered the local economy and drove professionals away.

Foreign new home buyers can receive a partial refund of the stamp duty — a tax levied on property purchases — on their first residential property purchase when they become permanent residents.

The government will streamline processes for companies to employ foreigners in designated professions, set up a new task force to formulate recruitment strategies and provide support for newcomers, he said.

Lee’s address largely focused

on efforts to recruit foreign workers and support livelihoods to try to win public trust, said Chinese University political scientist Ivan Choy.

But such measures are unlikely to boost his popularity since policies like the new visa scheme focus on attracting new, foreign talent instead of retaining local talent, Choy said.

“You are only trying to attract new blood, but you do not try to stop the bleeding,” he said.

Lee later said he also was committed to retaining local professionals, pointing to the city’s education efforts and subsidies to help workers pursue their career goals.

A former security chief hand-picked by Beijing to lead Hong Kong, Lee is under pressure to reposition the city as a top business and financial hub, after the exodus of residents raised fears that talent will continue leaving for rival cities like Singapore and Dubai.

He aims to recruit 35,000 skilled workers to Hong Kong each year.

The city’s population in mid-2022 dropped 1.6% from a year

earlier, falling by 113,200 residents as of August, according to government statistics.

Singapore overtook Hong Kong in a ranking of global financial centers last month. In August, it announced a new visa that allows skilled, high-earning foreign talent to work for more than one employer at a time.

Despite Hong Kong’s new talent drive, Singapore still has some advantages over Hong Kong because of its location in Southeast Asia, where some economies are growing quickly, said Simon Lee, honorary institute fellow at the Chinese University of Hong Kong’s Asia-Pacific Institute of Business.

Working in a place that relies on China could pose some “career risks” for skilled workers as its economy slows.

Lee also addressed housing and national security issues in his address.

To redress a shortage of affordable housing in the world’s most expensive property market, Lee pledged to provide enough land to build 72,000 private residential apartments over the next five years.

Trump deposed in defamation suit filed

NEW YORK (AP) — Former President Donald Trump answered questions under oath Wednesday in a lawsuit filed by E. Jean Carroll, a magazine columnist who says the Republican raped her in the mid-1990s in a department store dressing room.

The deposition gave Carroll’s lawyers a chance to interrogate Trump about the assault allegations as well as statements he made in 2019 when she told her story publicly for the first time.

Details on how the deposition went weren’t immediately disclosed.

“We’re pleased that on behalf of our client, E. Jean Carroll, we were able to take Donald Trump’s deposition today. We are not able to comment further,” said a spokesperson for the law firm representing her, Kaplan Hecker & Fink.

Trump has said Carroll’s rape allegation is “a hoax and a lie.”

His legal team worked for years to delay his deposition

in the lawsuit, which was filed when he was still president. A federal judge last week rejected Trump’s request for another delay, saying he couldn’t “run the clock out on plaintiff’s attempt to gain a remedy for what allegedly was a serious wrong.”

Trump’s lawyers didn’t immediately respond Wednesday to a request for comment about the deposition.

Carroll was to have been questioned by Trump’s lawyers last Friday.

Neither her attorneys and nor Trump’s have responded to questions about how that deposition went.

The lawyers haven’t disclosed whether the deposition was done in person or remotely, over video. Trump was in Florida on Wednesday. The lawsuit is being handled in a court in New York City.



Trump

Anything Trump said during his deposition could potentially be used as evidence in an upcoming civil trial. He hasn’t faced any criminal charges related to Carroll’s allegations and any prosecution is unlikely. The deadline for criminal charges over sexual assaults that occurred in the 1990s has long expired.

Similar legal deadlines also applied to civil lawsuits over sexual assault. As a result, Carroll chose to sue Trump for defamation over comments he made in 2019 when he denied any wrongdoing. She maintains his denials and attacks on her credibility and character damaged her reputation.

However, New York lawmakers recently gave survivors of sexual violence a one-year window to sue their attackers over old assaults. Carroll’s lawyer

has told the court she intends to file such a suit against Trump after that window opens in late November.

According to Carroll’s account, she bumped into Trump as the two were shopping at the Bergdorf Goodman store across Fifth Avenue from Trump Tower. At the time, Carroll was on television as the host of an advice program, “Ask E. Jean.”

She said the two engaged in friendly banter as she tried to help him pick out a gift. But when they were briefly alone in a dressing room, she said he pulled down her tights and raped her.

In a recent statement, Trump called that story “a complete con job.”

“I don’t know this woman, have no idea who she is, other than it seems she got a picture of me many years ago, with her husband, shaking my hand on a reception line at a celebrity charity event,” Trump said.

COVID tied to rise in pregnancy-related deaths

WASHINGTON (AP) — COVID-19 drove a dramatic increase in the number of women who died from pregnancy or childbirth complications in the U.S. last year, a crisis that has disproportionately claimed Black and Hispanic women as victims, according to a report released Wednesday.

The report lays out grim trends across the country for expectant mothers and their newborn babies.

It finds that pregnancy-related deaths have spiked nearly 80% since 2018, with COVID-19 being a factor in a quarter of the 1,178 deaths reported last year. The percentage of preterm and low birthweight babies also went up last year, after holding steady for years. And more pregnant or postpartum women are reporting symptoms of depression.

“We were already in the middle of a crisis with maternal mortality in our country,” said Karen Tabb Dina, a maternal health researcher at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. “This really shows that COVID-19 has exacerbated that crisis to rates that we, as a country, are not able to handle.”

The nonpartisan U.S. Government Accountability Office,



Associated Press

A doctor uses a hand-held Doppler probe on a pregnant woman to measure her baby's heartbeat Dec. 17, 2021, in Jackson, Mississippi.

which authored the report, analyzed pregnancy-related deaths after Congress mandated that it review maternal health outcomes in the 2020 coronavirus relief bill.

The maternal death rate in the U.S. is higher than many other developed nations and had been on the rise in the years leading up to the pandemic, but COVID-19 has only worsened conditions here for pregnant women.

Women who contract the virus while pregnant face elevated health risks. Staffing shortages

and COVID-19 restrictions created more hurdles for expecting mothers to get in-person health care; And pandemic stress has intensified depression, a common condition during pregnancy.

Mental health issues likely contributed to the increase in pregnancy-related deaths, Tabb Dina said. Many women who experience depression and anxiety during or after their pregnancy struggle to get the care they need.

“Mental health is the greatest complication in pregnancy that

we don’t understand,” she said.

The biggest spike in deaths came during July through December of last year, as the COVID-19 delta variant infected millions, noted Carolyn Yocom, a director at the Government Accountability Office.

“It’s really clear from the data that the time in which the delta variant spread seemed to correspond to a huge increase in deaths,” Yocom said.

The maternal death rate is particularly stark for Black women, who have long faced worse maternal outcomes than their peers.

Pregnancy-related deaths for every 100,000 births climbed from 44 in 2019 to 68.9 among Black women last year. White women had death rates of 26.1 last year, a jump from 17.9 in 2019.

Death rates among Hispanics had been on the decline, but they swelled again during the pandemic from 12.6 per 100,000 in 2019 to 27.5 last year.

Black and Hispanic people have also died at higher rates from COVID-19, in part because they have less access to medical care and often work essential jobs that exposed them to the virus.

Radioactive contamination closes Mo. school

FLORISSANT, Mo. (AP) — Some parents of children at Jana Elementary School in suburban St. Louis say they’ll seek medical testing and guidance from doctors about what to do next, after a privately-funded environmental study found radioactive contamination inside the school and on the playground.

The Hazelwood Board of Education on Tuesday announced plans to close the grade school in Florissant, Missouri, indefinitely and clean it. The roughly 400 students — 80% of whom are Black — will do virtual learning for now, then be sent to some of the district’s 19 other elementary schools starting Nov. 28.

It’s unclear how long the cleanup process will take, what it will involve or who will pay for it.

A district spokeswoman declined comment beyond a written statement that broadly outlined the plan to close the school and relocate children.

Coldwater Creek runs directly behind Jana Elementary, which

has educated thousands of children since it opened 50 years ago. The creek was contaminated in the 1940s and 1950s when waste from atomic bomb material manufactured in St. Louis got into the waterway near Lambert Airport, where the waste was stored. The creek runs 19 miles (30 kilometers) before spilling into the Missouri River.

The result was an environmental nightmare. For decades, children who lived near the creek hunted for crawdads and splashed in the water on hot summer days, unaware of the poison they were playing in.

A 2019 federal report determined that those exposed to Coldwater Creek from the 1960s to the 1990s may have an increased risk of bone cancer, lung cancer and leukemia. Environmentalists and area residents have cited several instances of extremely rare cancers that have sickened and killed people.

The Environmental Protection Agency established a Superfund site in 1989, and the government

is spending millions to clean up the mess, though the project isn’t expected to end until 2038.

Amidst that backdrop, it’s no wonder that Jana Elementary parents were alarmed by the Oct. 10 report from Boston Chemical Data Corp., funded by two law firms suing to seek compensation for illnesses and deaths. It found levels of radioactive isotope lead-210 that were 22 times the expected level on the kindergarten playground. It also found high levels of polonium, radium and other material inside the school.

Kimberly Anderson told the board during a packed meeting on Tuesday that she is raising three grandchildren who attend Jana Elementary. She worried about the health damage that might already have occurred.

“This can cause long-term affects with children,” Anderson said, adding the district should provide a medical expert who can offer “insight as to what I need to be looking for and what I need to have tested for my children.”

“To start with, Anderson said she plans to have the blood of her grandchildren tested.

Ashley Bernaugh is president of the PTA, lives nearby and has a son who attends. She called the findings of the study “terrifying.” She’s done enough research to know any health ramifications may be years or decades away, not immediate.

“But lab testing would be prudent especially because of the levels of radioactivity and lead found,” Bernaugh said.

The Army Corps of Engineers earlier found contamination in the woods nearby. But since none was found in the area between the woods and the school, the agency didn’t test the building or the grounds.

HAUNT

continued from page 1

worry that someone is gonna steal their candy or beat them up,” he said. “That’s what I experienced as a kid.”

Coon said the Chiller has gone through many iterations: Its first year, it was called Davey’s Dungeon.

“That was back in the time of heavy metal rock bands and long hair,” he said. It also went by Dr. Frankenstein’s Sanitarium and the Haunted Hotel, before Coon stuck with Chiller.

As the Chiller has grown, so have Coon’s skills producing it.

“When I first started it, my dad did most of the building and I was just a scarer,” he said. “Then, over the years, he stepped back and I started building it myself.”

He said he has taken on a more managerial role in recent years, letting others have fun with the scares.

Ty Marshal, executive director of the Center for the Arts of Homer, said Wednesday that center officials enjoyed hosting the Chiller Haunted House in recent years.

“We were proud to host it

with Jim — it’s a beloved event in Cortland County,” Marshal said. “It was very well attended. It was probably upwards of 1,000” over several days.

The event introduced the arts center to young people, many of whom visited for the first time when they came to the haunted house, Marshal said.

Coon said this year’s haunt will be something of a homecoming: It will be held in a smaller capacity at his house — in fact, he doesn’t want his address publicized so it stays small.

“The theme of the haunt is a haunted mansion. The slogan is ‘Welcome home, foolish mortals.’”

“If people do come, you can expect a goofy experience along with it being a bit scary. We’re not there to terrorize or traumatize,” Coon said.

Young children who visit the haunt are often greeted with high fives rather than howls.

“A good jump scare from behind a curtain sends a chill down your back,” Coon said. “And you might scream, and then you might laugh. And that’s what I love: the laughter.”

OIL

continued from page 1

that was initially supposed to occur over six months. Biden also had ordered the release of 50 million barrels in November 2021 and promised to investigate the possibility of price gouging.

The withdrawals have sent the nation’s strategic reserve to its lowest level since 1984 in what the administration called a “bridge” until domestic production could be increased. The reserve now contains roughly 400 million barrels of oil, a level that opponents say has more to do with Biden’s attempts to help his fellow Democrats than spur more oil production in the U.S.

During Tuesday night’s Florida Senate debate between Republican Sen. Marco Rubio and Democratic U.S. Rep. Val Demings, Rubio complained that the U.S. is “begging” other countries for oil and depleting its own reserves to help Democratic candidates.

“Our oil reserves do not exist to win midterms,” Rubio said. “They exist to help this country in an emergency or in the midst of a storm.”

The president’s political fortunes do appear to be tied to gas prices.

In AP-NORC Center for Public Affairs polling, support for Biden recovered from a low of 36% in July to 45% in September. That period largely

overlapped with a decline in prices from record levels. Prices began to rise again toward the end of September, only to drift down slightly in recent weeks.

Biden also wants to open the door to additional oil releases this winter in an effort to keep prices down.

But administration officials would not detail how much the president would be willing to tap, nor by how much they want domestic production to increase to end the withdrawals.

Biden said the U.S. government will restock the strategic reserve when oil prices are at or lower than \$67 to \$72 a barrel, which administration officials said will support domestic production by guaranteeing a baseline level of demand. At the same time, he renewed his criticism of the profits reaped by oil companies — repeating a bet made this summer that public condemnation would matter more to these companies than shareholders’ focus on returns.

The offer to repurchase oil to fill the reserve could be meaningful to voters, as it could lead to greater production in the U.S. That could possibly blunt Republican criticism that Biden should boost output by making more federal lands available for drilling and approve the construction of pipelines for transportation.

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CUOMO

continued from page 1

to live — Cuomo doesn’t really think he did anything wrong.

“Yes, I posed for pictures with people when I put my arm around people. Yeah, I’m sure I said to somebody, ‘ciao bella.’ Yeah, I kissed people on the cheek,” Cuomo said. “Yes. And by the way, those are everyday interactions for millions of Americans. So yes, I believe there was politics, I believe was canceled culture. And I think the facts have proven that right.”

Through his political action committee, Cuomo said he plans to support like-minded Democrats running for state and federal offices. He said he’s upset with the marginalization of

moderate Democrats in a party drifting to the left.

Cuomo, 64, wouldn’t rule out running for office again.

“Life has options and it depends on the options,” Cuomo said. “I’m not foreclosing anything, but you have to see what the options are.”

Asked if he might consider running for U.S. Senate in 2024, Cuomo said it was “too early to say,” but offered that his experience and personality were better suited to an executive role, like being governor.

This is the first election cycle in 20 years that Cuomo hasn’t been a candidate for any office. He had been the state’s attorney general before becoming governor.

He said he hopes his successor, Gov. Kathy Hochul, wins re-election over Republican challenger Rep. Lee Zeldin. “I’ll watch the returns. I just won’t have as much anxiety and stress and heartburn,” Cuomo said.

“I did the job of governor obsessively seven days a week and did the job as attorney general obsessively. That’s 15 years. That’s a big slice of life that I didn’t spend with friends, I didn’t vacation, I didn’t spend with my daughters,” Cuomo said. “So the real silver lining is having time to spend with family, friends, which is guilt free — without looking at the phone, without saying I should really be at work. That’s the silver lining.”



AP Photo/Alex Lindbloom

Made Partiana uses a net to catch aquarium fish on the north coast of Bali, Indonesia, on April 10, 2021. Millions of saltwater fish are caught in Indonesia and other countries every year to fill ever more elaborate aquariums in living rooms, waiting rooms and restaurants around the world with vivid, otherworldly life.

Murky methods in the global aquarium trade

By VICTORIA MILKO, FIRDIA LISNAWATI and KATHY YOUNG
Associated Press

LES, Indonesia — After diving into the warm sea off the coast of northern Bali, Indonesia, Made Partiana hovers above a bed of coral, holding his breath and scanning for flashes of movement. Hours later, exhausted, he returns to a rocky beach, towing plastic bags filled with his exquisite quarry: tropical fish of all shades and shapes. Millions of saltwater fish like these are caught in Indonesia and other countries every year to fill aquariums in living rooms, waiting rooms and restaurants around the world with vivid, otherworldly life.

“It’s just so much fun to just watch the antics between different varieties of fish,” said Jack Siravo, a Rhode Island fish enthusiast.

But the journey from places like Bali to Rhode Island is perilous for the fish and the reefs they come from. Some are captured using squirts of cyanide to stun them. Many die along the way.

Even when captured carefully, by people like Partiana, experts say the global demand for these fish is contributing to the degradation of delicate coral ecosystems.

There have been efforts to reduce destructive practices, such as cyanide fishing. But the trade is difficult to regulate and track as it stretches from small scale fisherman in villages through middlemen, export warehouses, international trade hubs and finally to pet stores in the U.S.,

China, Europe and elsewhere.

“There’s no enforcement, no management, no data collection,” said Gayatri Reksodihardjo-Lilley, founder of LINI, a Bali-based nonprofit for the conservation and management of coastal marine resources.

That leaves some enthusiasts in the dark.

“Consumers often don’t know where their fish are coming from, and they don’t know how they are collected,” said Andrew Rhyne, a marine biology professor at Roger Williams University in Rhode Island.

Most ornamental saltwater fish species are caught in the wild because breeding them in captivity can be expensive, difficult and often impossible.

Nearly 3 million homes in the U.S. keep saltwater fish as pets, according to a 2021-22 American Pet Products Association survey. About 7.6 million saltwater fish are imported into the U.S. every year. (Freshwater aquariums are far more common because freshwater fish are generally cheaper and easier to breed and care for.)

For decades, a common fishing technique has involved cyanide, with dire consequences for fish and marine ecosystems.

Fishermen crush the pellets into a bottle filled with water. The diluted cyanide forms a poisonous mixture fishermen squirt onto coral reefs, where fish usually hide.

The fish become temporarily stunned, allowing them to be picked from the coral.

Many die in transit, weakened by the cyanide — which means even more fish need to be cap-

tured to meet demand.

The chemicals damage the living coral and make it difficult for new coral to grow.

Cyanide fishing has been banned in countries such as Indonesia and the Philippines but enforcement of the law remains difficult, and experts say the practice continues.

Part of the problem is geography, Reksodihardjo-Lilley explains. In the vast archipelago of Indonesia, there are about 34,000 miles of coastline across some 17,500 islands. That makes monitoring the first step of the supply chain difficult.

Another obstacle to monitoring and regulating of the trade is the quick pace that the fish can move between locations, making it difficult to trace their origins.

At a fish export warehouse in Denpasar, Bali, thousands of fish a day can be delivered in white Styrofoam coolers crammed with plastic bags of fish from around the archipelago. The fish are swiftly unpacked, sorted into tanks or new plastic bags and given fresh sea water.

Some fish will remain in small rectangular tanks in the warehouse for weeks, while others are shipped out quickly, fulfilling orders from the U.S., Europe and elsewhere.

Once the fish fly from Indonesia to the U.S., they’re checked by the Fish and Wildlife Service, which cross-references the shipment with customs declaration forms.

But that’s designed to ensure no protected fish are being imported. The process cannot determine if the fish were caught legally.

DNA gives rare snapshot of Neanderthal family ties

By MADDIE BURAKOFF
AP Science Writer

NEW YORK — A new study suggests Neanderthals formed small, tight-knit communities where females may have traveled to move in with their mates.

The research used genetic sleuthing to offer a rare snapshot of Neanderthal family dynamics — including a father and his teenage daughter who lived together in Siberia more than 50,000 years ago.

Researchers were able to pull DNA out of tiny bone fragments found in two Russian caves. In their study, published Wednesday in the journal Nature, they used the genetic data to map out relationships between 13 different Neanderthals and get clues to how they lived.

“When I work on a bone or two, it’s very easy to forget that these are actually people with their own lives and stories,” said study author Bence Viola, an anthropologist at the University of Toronto. “Figuring out how they’re related to each other really makes them much more human.”

Our ancient cousins, the Neanderthals, lived across Europe

and Asia for hundreds of thousands of years. They died out around 40,000 years ago, shortly after our species, the Homo sapiens, arrived in Europe from Africa.

Scientists have only recently been able to dig around in these early humans’ DNA. New Nobel laureate Svante Paabo — who is an author on this latest study — published the first draft of a Neanderthal genome a little over a decade ago.

Since then, scientists have sequenced 18 Neanderthal genomes, said lead author Laurits Skov, a geneticist at the Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology. But it’s rare to find bones from multiple Neanderthals from the same time and place, he said — which is why these cave discoveries were so special.

“If there was ever a chance to find a Neanderthal community, this would be it,” Skov said.

The caves, located in remote foothills above a river valley, have been a rich source of materials from stone tools to fossil fragments, Viola said.

With their prime view of migrating herds in the valley be-

low, researchers think the caves might have served as a short-term hunting stop for Neanderthals.

Archaeologists excavating the caves have found remains from at least a dozen different Neanderthals, Viola said. These remains usually come in small bits and pieces — “a finger bone here, a tooth there” — but they’re enough for scientists to extract valuable DNA details.

The researchers were able to identify a couple of relatives among the group. Along with the father and daughter, there was a pair of other relatives — maybe a boy and his aunt, or a couple of cousins.

Overall, the analysis found that everyone in the group had a lot of DNA in common. That suggests that at least in this area, Neanderthals lived in very small communities of 10 to 20 individuals, the authors concluded.

The female side showed more genetic differences than the male side — which means females may have moved around more, Skov said. It’s possible that when a female Neanderthal found a mate, she would leave home to live with his family.

Ancient plague may have molded modern immunity

By LAURA UNGAR
AP Science Writer

Our Medieval ancestors left us with a biological legacy: Genes that may have helped them survive the Black Death make us more susceptible to certain diseases today.

It’s a prime example of the way germs shape us over time, scientists say in a new study published Wednesday in the journal Nature.

“Our genome today is a reflection of our whole evolutionary history” as we adapt to different germs, said Luis Barreiro, a senior author of the research. Some, like those behind the bubonic plague, have had a big impact on our immune systems.

The Black Death in the 14th century was the single deadliest event in recorded history, spreading throughout Europe, the Middle East and northern Africa and wiping out up to 30% to 50% of the population.

Barreiro and his colleagues at the University of Chicago, McMaster University in Ontario and the Pasteur Institute in Paris examined ancient DNA samples from the bones of more than 200 people from London and Denmark who died over about 100 years that stretched before, during, and after the Black Death swept through that region.

They identified four genes that, depending on the variant, either protected against or increased susceptibility to the bacteria that causes bubonic plague, which is most often transmitted by the bite of an infected flea.

They found that what helped people in Medieval times led to problems generations later — raising the frequency of mutations detrimental in modern times.

Some of the same genetic variants identified as protective against the plague are associated with certain autoimmune disorders, such as Crohn’s disease, rheumatoid arthritis and lupus. In these sorts of diseases, the immune system that defends the body against disease and infection attacks the body’s own healthy tissues.

“A hyperactive immune system may have been great in the past but in the environment today it might not be as helpful,” said Hendrik Poinar, an anthropology professor at McMaster and another senior author.

Past research has also sought to examine how the Black Death affected the human genome. But Barreiro said he believes theirs is the first demonstration that the Black Death was important to the evolution of the human immune system. One unique aspect of the study, he said, was to focus on a narrow time window around the event.

Monica H. Green, an author and historian of medicine who has studied the Black Death extensively, called the research “tremendously impressive,” bringing together a wide range of experts.

“It’s extremely sophisticated” and addresses important issues, such as how the same version of a gene can protect people from a horrific infection and also put modern people — and generations of their descendants — at risk for other illnesses, said Green, who was not involved in the study.

All of this begs the question: Will the COVID-19 pandemic have a big impact on human evolution? Barreiro said he doesn’t think so because the death rate is so much lower and the majority of people who have died had already had children.



MOLA via AP

This photo courtesy of the Museum of London Archaeology (MOLA), provided earlier this month, shows excavation of the East Smithfield plague pits in London, which were used for mass burials in 1348 and 1349.

National Philanthropy Day

November 15th, 2022

Connecting people who care with causes that matter ... right here in Cortland County!

National Philanthropy Day is your chance to make every donation count for even more. The Cortland Community Foundation is once again offering all Cortland County charitable organizations a chance to win a prize in one of two categories.

Highest Total Dollar Amount Raised

- 1st Place - \$10,000
- 2nd Place - \$4,500
- 3rd Place - \$2,000
- 4th Place - \$1,000

Most Individual Donations Received

- 1st Place - \$7,000
- 2nd Place - \$3,000
- 3rd Place - \$1,500
- 4th Place - \$1,000

NEW Prize of \$1,000

awarded by random draw. All participating organizations will be eligible.

The Cortland Community Foundation

is the only public foundation responding exclusively to the needs of Cortland area organizations and the people they serve. Grants from the Foundation help support capital improvement projects and provide many types of equipment, materials and supplies for local organizations.

Here’s how YOU can help:

Make donations to the Cortland Community Foundation for the benefit of your favorite 501(c) charities. Minimum \$100.00 and maximum \$5,000.00 donation per charity; there is no limit per donor.

DONATE ONLINE at cortlandcommunityfoundation.org

or mail your donation to:
Cortland Community Foundation
P.O. Box 466, Cortland, NY 13045

Donations must be received or postmarked no later than November 15, 2022. All donations received go directly to your designated charitable organization.

Charities are eligible to win one prize. The results will be tallied, posted at cortlandcommunityfoundation.org and shared in The Cortland Standard.

Be a part of one of the biggest giving events in Cortland County! Show your support for your favorite non-profit organization while reminding our community that the spirit of giving is alive and well.



CORTLAND COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

High School Boys Soccer

Homer comes up empty

Powerhouse Skaneateles eliminates Trojans in 1st round

Skaneateles 4
Homer 0

SECTION III CLASS B

By PAUL CIFONELLI
Sports Editor
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SKANEATELES — The No. 12 Homer boys soccer team improved on its regular-season performance against No. 5 Skaneateles, but still lost 4-0 in the first round of the Section III Class B Tournament Wednesday night at Skaneateles High School.

Homer lost 6-0 to the Lakers on Sept. 24.
Homer head coach Chris Guay was happy that his guys were able to have a better showing against the back-to-back sectional champions. “I’m very happy with the way the guys played,” Guay said. “They battled all the way through right to the end. We got some experience for some of the younger guys.”

The Trojans were down 1-0 at halftime after allowing a goal with 17:10 left in the half. A cross went untouched past multiple Homer defenders in the box and Skaneateles’ Daniel Ramsguard was able to beat Homer keeper Brayden Fox.

In the second half, the Lakers broke things open with three goals in a five-minute span from the 35:28 mark to the 30:41 mark. The first was scored on a penalty kick, the second was a shot from 30 yards away that floated over Fox’s head into the upper right corner and the third was on a volley in the box.

Homer was not without its chances during the game, especially in the first half, but the quick strikes early in the second created an insurmountable deficit for the Trojans.

“We put some pressure on their box a couple times and cleaned up some mistakes we had in that first game,” Guay said. “We knew they (Skaneateles) were going to come



Paul Cifonelli/sports editor

Homer’s Tyler Van Etten, left, Brayden Fox, center, and Tristan Allen watch a corner kick fly into the box Wednesday night at Skaneateles High School. Homer lost 4-0 in the first round of the Section III Class B Tournament.

in waves and there was a 10 or 15-minute period where we couldn’t withstand the wave. But they’re a great, great program.”

Skaneateles’ next game will be at No. 4 Oneida on Friday.

Homer will be losing 10 seniors in Fox, Landon Aiken, Lance Heyer, Kyrius Townsend, Gabe Austin, Michael Foster, Caleb Ficchi, Jacob Shevchuck, Ryan Spaulding and Evan Butts. Those 10 players were able to help Homer get off to a 4-1-1 start and break a sectional drought.

“It was disappointing but I’m happy for this group of seniors,” Guay said. “They were on a team that had no wins their freshman year and three years later we gave ourselves a shot. They did a lot for building the culture and building the program. We’re excited about

the foundation they helped lay.”
Homer finished its season with a 5-8-2 record.

FIELD HOCKEY
No. 4 CAMDEN 5,
No. 5 HOMER 1

Hannah Bouwens scored Homer’s only goal in the Trojans’ season-ending loss. Mallory Kline got the assist on Bouwens’ tally. Aislynn Cobb made 10 saves for the Trojans. Homer finished with a 1-12-1 record.

VOLLEYBALL
HOMER 3, CORTLAND 0

Madison Wethje led Homer with 15 assists, seven aces, three kills and six digs in the Trojans’ 25-20, 25-20, 25-15 win over Cortland.

Lilly Sorenson added five kills, a block and eight digs, Mackenzie

Hubbard notched four kills, an ace and eight digs and Mallory Douglass had 11 digs, a kill, an ace and an assist. Melina Hage (four blocks, one kill), Lyla Read (four digs) and Riley Johnson (two aces, one kill, one assist, two digs) also aided Homer’s effort.

Molly Steve led Cortland with 14 assists, nine digs, a kill and an ace, Aliza McCormick contributed 13 digs and a kill and Olivia Magin had 10 digs. Aaliyah Henley-Amey (six digs, two kills, one ace), Brenna Hogan (six digs, two kills), Rileigh Madden (four kills, three digs), Kaedyn Murphy (three kills, one block, one dig), Alizabeth West (three digs) and Leah Seyfried (two kills, one dig) also helped the Purple Tigers in a loss.

See HIGH SCHOOL SCHEDULE
PAGE 11

Goal in OT
ends season
for Moravia

By MATT CZEITNER
Sports Reporter
mczeitner@cortlandstandard.com

MORAVIA — No. 8 Moravia and No. 9 Union Springs/Port Byron could not decide a winner by the end of a scoreless 80 minutes, but the Wolves found an opening and scored the game-winning goal with just under two minutes left in the first overtime to win 1-0 in the first round of the Section IV Class C tournament Wednesday at Moravia Central School.

After both teams traded possessions for much of the overtime period, Union Springs/Port Byron threatened with the ball in the box. The ball ricocheted around and eventually found the foot of Asa Brown, who tapped the ball backward to a wide open Tyler Lutkins, who beat Moravia keeper Abram Wasileski for the goal to send the Wolves to the quarterfinals.

US/PB 1
Moravia 0

SECTION IV CLASS C

The start of the overtime period was not ideal for Moravia, as leading scorer Jacob Anderson went down with an injury within the first minute. The Blue Devils were already struggling offensively, and the loss of Anderson was a big blow. He didn’t return to the contest.

Moravia and Union Springs/Port Byron met earlier this season on Sept. 9, with the Blue Devils beating the Wolves 4-3.

The two games looked much different, as neither side was able to break through offensively for nearly 90 minutes.

Nerves could have played a factor for Moravia, as this was its first sectional appearance for boys soccer in the school’s history.

“We came out with a lot of heart and came in wanting to win,” Moravia head coach Christopher Caza Jr. said. “This was our first sectional appearance in history.”

Being in the sectional tournament was historic for the Blue Devils, and the team is hoping this is the first of many appearances in the postseason. They are trying to turn the program around and, though it will be a task everyone will have to contribute toward, Caza has made it clear what the players need to do to have success year in and year out.

“We just need to play more year-round,” Caza Jr. said. “We are a small school, so we share a bunch of other sports. We are already working on unifying the program all the way from youth up through.”

Union Springs/Port Byron will face No. 1 Spencer-Van Etten/Candor at 3:30 p.m. Saturday at Candor.

MLB: League Championship Series

Verlander Ks 11, baffles Yanks

Astros 4
Yankees 2

ALCS: ASTROS LEAD, 1-0

By KRISTIE RIEKEN
AP Sports Writer

HOUSTON — Justin Verlander struck out 11 in six strong innings and Yuli Gurriel, Chas McCormick and Jeremy Peña all homered to power the Houston Astros to a 4-2 win over the New York Yankees in their AL Championship Series opener Wednesday night.

The Astros are in their sixth consecutive ALCS, looking to reach the World Series for the fourth time in that span, against a New York team in the LCS for the first time since being eliminated by Houston in 2019.

The game was tied 1-all in the sixth when Gurriel connected off reliever Clarke Schmidt on a solo shot to the seats in left field to put Houston on top. Two batters later, McCormick sent a sinker from Schmidt into right field to make it 3-1.

Verlander set a major league record with the eighth double-digit strikeout game of his postseason career and passed Clayton Kershaw (213) to become the all-time leader in strikeouts in the playoffs with 219.

Peña, whose 18th-inning home run completed a sweep of the Mariners in the ALDS, belted a homer off Frankie Montas to start the seventh and extend the lead to 4-1. Montas was pitching for the first time since Sept. 16 because of a shoulder injury that kept him off the Division Series roster.



Associated Press

Astros’ ace Justin Verlander is fired up after pitching six strong innings, with 11 strikeouts, to give Houston a 1-0 series lead.

Anthony Rizzo homered off Rafael Montero with two outs in the eighth to get the Yankees within two. Giancarlo Stanton singled before Josh Donaldson walked to spur Astros manager Dusty Baker to bring in closer Ryan Pressly.

He struck out Matt Carpenter to end the inning and pitched a 1-2-3 ninth to get the four-out save.

After struggling in Game 1 of the ALDS against Seattle, Verlander looked shaky early in this one, giving up a second-inning homer to Harrison Bader to put the Yankees up 1-0. But the Astros tied it in the bottom of the inning on an RBI double by Martín Maldonado.

The Astros had a few days off after eliminating Seattle on Saturday. The Yankees dealt with a quick

turnaround after winning a rain-postponed Game 5 over the Guardians at home Tuesday before heading to Houston.

They had runners at second and third with one out in the third after a double by Stanton, but Verlander struck out Donaldson and Carpenter to escape the jam.

Those were the first of six consecutive strikeouts for Verlander, which tied a postseason record. It’s the second time he’s tied the mark after also fanning six in a row in Game 3 of the 2013 ALCS while pitching for Detroit.

New York whiffed 17 times in all to only two for the Astros — the largest difference ever in a postseason game.

Verlander didn’t allow a baserun-

ner after the third inning, retiring his last 11 in a row with nine strikeouts. When he struck out Carpenter to end the sixth, he pumped his fist and yelled before trotting off the field to a huge ovation from the mostly orange-clad home crowd.

He allowed three hits and one run in his 32nd career postseason start, 11th in a series opener. It was his first playoff win since 2019.

Peña doubled twice before his homer in the seventh to give him seven hits this postseason. The performance of the rookie, who took over for Carlos Correa at shortstop this season, has helped the Astros this October as superstar Jose Altuve has struggled.

Altuve, a three-time batting champion, went 0 for 3 with a walk to fall to 0 for 19 this postseason.

Stanton played left field Wednesday with Aaron Hicks out for the rest of the postseason with a sprained knee he sustained in an outfield collision Tuesday. It was Stanton’s first appearance in the field since July 21 and his rust showed early when he couldn’t grab a fly ball that Peña hit for a double with one out in the first.

New York starter Jameson Taillon walked Yordan Alvarez after that, but Aaron Judge robbed Bregman of a hit and saved at least one run and maybe more when he made a diving catch in right field for the second out of the inning.

Taillon yielded four hits and a run in 4 1/3 innings.

Judge was 0 for 4 with a strikeout after hitting his second home run of the postseason Tuesday.

Padres stun
Phillies with
5-run inning

By BERNIE WILSON
AP Sports Writer

SAN DIEGO — The scrappy San Diego Padres, largely rebuilt at the trade deadline, are finding their identity at just the right time.

In danger of heading to Philadelphia down 0-2 in the NL Championship Series, the Padres produced another huge rally in front of their rowdy fans to put some punch into the all-wild card matchup.

Brandon Drury hit a go-ahead, two-run single during a five-run outburst in the fifth inning and San Diego stunned Aaron Nola and the Phillies 8-5 on Wednesday to tie the NLCS at one game apiece.

“You go into their place, which is probably going to be as spirited as ours is, down 2-0 and that’s an uphill battle,” said veteran manager Bob Melvin, who has brought a calming presence in his first year as San Diego’s skipper.

The Padres weren’t rattled when they fell behind 4-0 in the second inning after getting just one hit during a 2-0 loss in the series opener Tuesday.

“We go into Philly for three and it’s a big game,” Drury said. “We’ve got to fight and we did. It’s huge.”

The fifth-inning surge started with Padres catcher Austin Nola hitting an RBI single off his younger brother that brought the sellout, towel-twirling crowd of 44,607 to life. Three innings earlier, the Phillies took a 4-0 lead with a rally that included bloop hits, a sun-aided double on a gorgeous, 92-degree afternoon and some shoddy Padres defense.

On Saturday night, spurred by the bottom of the order, the Padres broke loose for five runs in the seventh inning of a 5-3 win that eliminated the 111-win

See PADRES, page 11

Knicks rally, but fall in OT; Nets crushed

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP) — Ja Morant had 34 points and nine assists, and the Memphis Grizzlies beat the New York Knicks 115-112 in overtime on Wednesday night in the season opener for both teams.

Santi Aldama had 18 points and 11 rebounds for Memphis, and Desmond Bane finished with 16 points.

Julius Randle led the Knicks with 24 points and 11 rebounds, while reserve Cam Reddish added 22 points, making 9 of 15 shots from the field. Isaiah Hartenstein finished with 16 points and eight rebounds.

The Grizzlies took a 115-112 lead on Tyus Jones' 3-pointer with 47.7 seconds left. Evan Fournier had a chance to send the game into a second overtime, but his shot from the left corner was off the mark.

Reddish's 3-pointer with three seconds left in regulation sent the game into overtime tied at 108. Morant's layup with less than a second left in regulation was disallowed when an offensive foul was called on the Grizzlies guard.

Jalen Brunson had 15 points and nine assists in his regular-season debut for New York. Brunson was signed in free agency to help run the offense after the Knicks finished 11th in the Eastern

Conference last season.

Memphis, meanwhile, is trying to replicate last season when it finished with the league's second-best record. The Grizzlies were eliminated in the second round of the playoffs by Golden State, the eventual NBA champions.

The Knicks trailed by as many as 19 in the third quarter but rallied to take the lead on Brunson's reverse layup with 3:32 left in regulation.

TIP-INS:

Knicks: Fournier's 3-pointer in the third quarter gave him 244 for the Knicks, good for 24th place on the franchise list, passing Raymond Felton. ... Isaiah Hartenstein had a career-high seven offensive rebounds. ... RJ Barrett had 11 points, going 3 of 18 from the field.

PELICANS 130, NETS 108

NEW YORK (AP) — Zion Williamson returned from a one-year absence with 25 points and nine rebounds, powering the New Orleans Pelicans to a season-opening rout of the Brooklyn Nets on Wednesday night.

The No. 1 pick in the 2019 draft looked fully recovered and explosive after being sidelined with a broken right foot, and his addition to a roster that made the playoffs without him could make the Pelicans a rising team in the



Associated Press

Knicks guard Jalen Brunson drives past Grizzlies guard Ja Morant during the first half of Wednesday's season opener. Morant scored 34 points.

Western Conference.

Ben Simmons also returned to action after a missed season but had the misfortune of having to cover Williamson for much of the brief time he was in the game. He fouled out early in the fourth quarter with four points, five rebounds and five assists, taking three shots.

Brandon Ingram scored 28 points

and CJ McCollum had 21 for the Pelicans, who finished strong last season and opened impressively in this one. Jonas Valanciunas had 15 points and 13 rebounds.

Kevin Durant scored 32 points but was largely a one-man show, with no other Nets player in double figures until the final two minutes of the third

ACC Basketball Preview

Coaches are new, but UNC, Duke remain the favorites

By **AARON BEARD**
AP Basketball Writer

Notre Dame coach Mike Brey was out recruiting during the Peach Jam summer tournament when someone cornered him with a question.

"They said, 'Hey Coach, do you think the two new guys at Duke and Carolina are going to do well?'" Brey recalled. "I said, 'I hope not.' But I think they're pretty good."

Rivals North Carolina and Duke have long grabbed the spotlight in the Atlantic Coast Conference, and that continues in a time of dramatic change for both programs. First it was the retirement of one Hall of Fame coach in UNC's Roy Williams in April 2021, followed by the other in Duke's Mike Krzyzewski after last season.

Yet Williams replacement Hubert Davis guided the Tar Heels to the NCAA championship game in his first season — including a win against the rival Blue Devils in the Final Four in an epic first-ever tournament meeting — and opens his second with the nation's No. 1-ranked team.

Krzyzewski successor Jon Scheyer kept the recruiting successes rolling and begins his tenure with a team ranked No. 7 in the preseason AP Top 25.

And once again, the Tar Heels and Blue Devils are picked 1-2 as preseason favorites in the league, even with those new head coaches roaming the sideline.

"I think Hubert proved himself last year, and I thought it was the ultimate proving of himself in that it wasn't going great for a while," Brey said. "And he put it together and worked it out. I've got a lot of respect for Jon. He is a gifted young coach. ... I think Mike really relied on him to do a lot."

It's a league carrying a bit of an "I told you so" vibe. There was plenty of criticism about the league's strength during last season and the ACC only got five NCAA Tournament bids, yet the league turned in a strong post-season performance that included UNC reaching the title game, Duke in the Final Four and Miami reaching its first regional final.

"You don't do that when your league is down," Hurricanes coach Jim Larranaga said.

Maybe not, but the league is starting the year with only three ranked teams (No. 18 Virginia is the other). It'll be up to the rest of the league to boost those NCAA tourney bids.

PREDICTED FINISH

After the top trio, Miami is picked to finish fourth in the 15-team league, followed by Florida State.

Notre Dame is sixth to lead the middle tier, followed by reigning league champion Virginia Tech, Syracuse, Wake Forest and North Carolina State. Clemson is 11th to lead the bottom five, followed by Louisville, Boston College, Pittsburgh and Georgia Tech.

TOP RETURNEES

UNC big man Armando Bacot is the preseason pick for player of the year after tying the NCAA single-season record with 31 double-doubles last year. Teammates Caleb Love (first team) and RJ Davis (second team) were also preseason all-ACC picks.

A trio of guards — Duke's Jeremy Roach, Miami's Isaiah Wong and North Carolina State's Terquavion Smith — were also first-team all-ACC picks to open the season.

TOP FRESHMEN

Scheyer's first team features 247sports' top-ranked recruiting haul. So look to Cameron Indoor Stadium to find the league's top rookies, starting with the 7-foot-1 Derek Lively II as the No. 1 overall recruit.

Duke's Dariq Whitehead, Tyrese Proctor, Mark Mitchell and Kyle Filipowski are other top names in that touted recruiting class.

Notre Dame also has a freshman to watch in 6-4 guard JJ Starling, a five-star prospect ranked No. 21 by 247sports.



Associated Press

Despite the Orange's first losing season under his watch, Jim Boeheim said coaching his sons, Buddy and Jimmy, made last season his most enjoyable. "I miss them," Boeheim said.

SU looking to rebound after Boeheim's first losing season

By **JOHN KEKIS**
AP Sports Writer

Syracuse coach Jim Boeheim won't forget last season, and not because it was the only losing one in more than four decades on the job at his alma mater.

He coached his two sons — Buddy and Jimmy — and said that was the most enjoyable of his 46 seasons in spite of the record (16-17, 9-11 Atlantic Coast Conference).

"It was great coaching them," said Boeheim, who turns 78 in November. "I miss them."

The Boeheim brothers and swingman Cole Swider have moved on, and their offensive contributions were significant. The trio combined to average nearly 47 points a game and made 205 3-pointers. The Orange, who averaged 77.4 points, return two starters — guard Joe Girard and center Jesse Edwards — along with guard Symir Torrence and forward John Bol AJak to help guide six incoming freshmen.

"I like this team in the sense that we may not shoot it as well as we did last year ... but we've got guys that can get to the basket better and I think maybe get to the foul line better, so I think our offense will be different," Boeheim said. "I think it can still be very high level."

Girard will move from point guard to shooting guard, replacing Buddy Boeheim, who averaged 19.2 points in his final year. Girard averaged 13.8 points and led the Orange with 89 3-pointers, shooting a team-best 40.3%.

As the new season looms, the disappointment of not making the NCAA Tournament is still on players' minds.

"We've been using that motivation every day in practices," Girard said. "In every single drill and every single rep, the coaches are getting on us and making sure we're going 110% just because of the way things went last year. They want to make sure there's no chance of that happening this year."

Boeheim said the six freshmen — guards Judah Mintz, Justin Taylor and Quadir Copeland, forwards Maliq Brown and Chris Bunch, and center Peter Carey — and Duquesne transfer Mounir Hima, a 6-foot-11 forward, will play.

"They've been really good so far, all the new guys," Boeheim said. "Their mindset is in the right place."

BENNY'S BACK

Highly touted forward Benny Williams had a disappointing first season, scoring just 56 points in 333 minutes over 29 games. But he gave a glimpse of his talent at home against Duke in February, scoring 14 points and snaring six rebounds in 30 minutes. That he came back says a lot.

"I think it shows perseverance," Williams said. "A lot of guys in my situation would have transferred, coming in as a highly touted high schooler, not playing that much, not scoring that much, not doing anything, really. I feel back to myself. I'm very confident of what I'm going to bring this year for my team."

JESSE'S JOURNEY

The 6-11 Edwards was coming into his own last season when he suffered a season-ending injury in early February. Over a five-game span, he shot 31 of 42 (73.9%) and grabbed 33 rebounds, then broke his left wrist in a fall at Boston College. He's healthy again and ready to go.

"The team was going so good at that point, so the timing was terrible," Edwards said. "But I think it gave everybody out here extra motivation. Whoever falls out, we're still going to battle."

ZONE OUT

Boeheim said the Orange will have something of a new look on defense, using more man-to-man to complement the 2-3 zone.

"We've done that," he said. "In my first 30 years we did that, so it's not like this is new for me."

MINTZ'S MOJO

The 6-3 Mintz, a product of Oak Hill Academy, has been playing alongside Girard in practice and figures the sky's the limit.

"I want to be freshman of the year in the ACC," he said. "Just having coach have confidence in me makes everything five times easier. I think I've grown as a player since I've been here."

SCHEDULE

Syracuse, picked for eighth in the ACC, plays in the Empire Classic in New York City on its first road trip, with an opening game against Richmond. The home slate includes Georgetown, Notre Dame, top-ranked North Carolina, No. 18 Virginia and No. 7 Duke.

quarter. Patty Mills had 16 points and Kyrie Irving managed 15 on 6-for-19 shooting, going 0 for 6 from 3-point range.

The 6-foot-6, 285-pound Williamson was quick off his feet for rebounds and forceful with his moves into the paint, displaying his level of athleticism that's rare even in the NBA. His basket-shaking dunk with about 8 1/2 minutes remaining brought some of the few cheers from a dejected crowd who watched the home team never lead and trail by as many as 26.

It was already 7-0 before Simmons made the first basket of Brooklyn's season. The Pelicans raced to a 20-4 lead and Williamson's layup made it 32-14 after one.

New Orleans led comfortably for most of the first half, but the Nets finally got it back under double digits when Nic Claxton blocked Williamson's spinning dunk attempt and Durant came down and hit a 3-pointer that made it 54-45.

It was 58-50 at the half before Ingram scored 12 points and Williamson added 11 on 5-for-6 shooting in a 40-point third as the lead grew to 26 before the Pelicans took a 98-78 lead to the fourth.

It was a bad way to start the season for a Nets team that desperately wants to forget the last one.

Tua clears protocols: 'It's been a process'

MIAMI GARDENS, Fla. (AP) — Dolphins quarterback Tua Tagovailoa said he's glad to be back after a long process to clear concussion protocols.

"It's been a process," he said on Wednesday during his first comments to reporters since his injury. "That's for sure. Having to deal with interviews with the NFL, NFLPA, and then having to go and see doctors outside with second opinions. A lot of it has been stressful. But all of it's done for player safety."

Tagovailoa last played in a Sept. 29 loss at Cincinnati, when his head slammed to the turf and he suffered a concussion. He missed the next two games and the Dolphins fell to 3-3 after winning their first three.

Now that he's cleared concussion protocols, Tagovailoa is expected to start against the Pittsburgh Steelers on Sunday night.

Dolphins coach Mike McDaniels said he wants Tagovailoa to be in his "normal mood" and as "locked in" as he always is.

"That's what I've grown to love about the guy," McDaniels said. "That's why he's been able to have some success in a completely new language and system. And that would be my expectation for this week because it is not the Tua Dolphins."

Tagovailoa echoed a similar sentiment.

"I've just got to be myself," he said. "I'm not the savior of this team. I don't just come in and we start winning games. It's a team deal."

HALL OF FAMER TRIPPI DIES AT 100

ATLANTA (AP) — Charley Trippi, a member of the Pro and College Football Hall of Fame, has died at the age of 100.

The University of Georgia, where he starred in the 1940s, says Trippi died peacefully at his Athens home.

Trippi was one of the game's most versatile players, lining up at multiple positions on offense, defense and special teams.

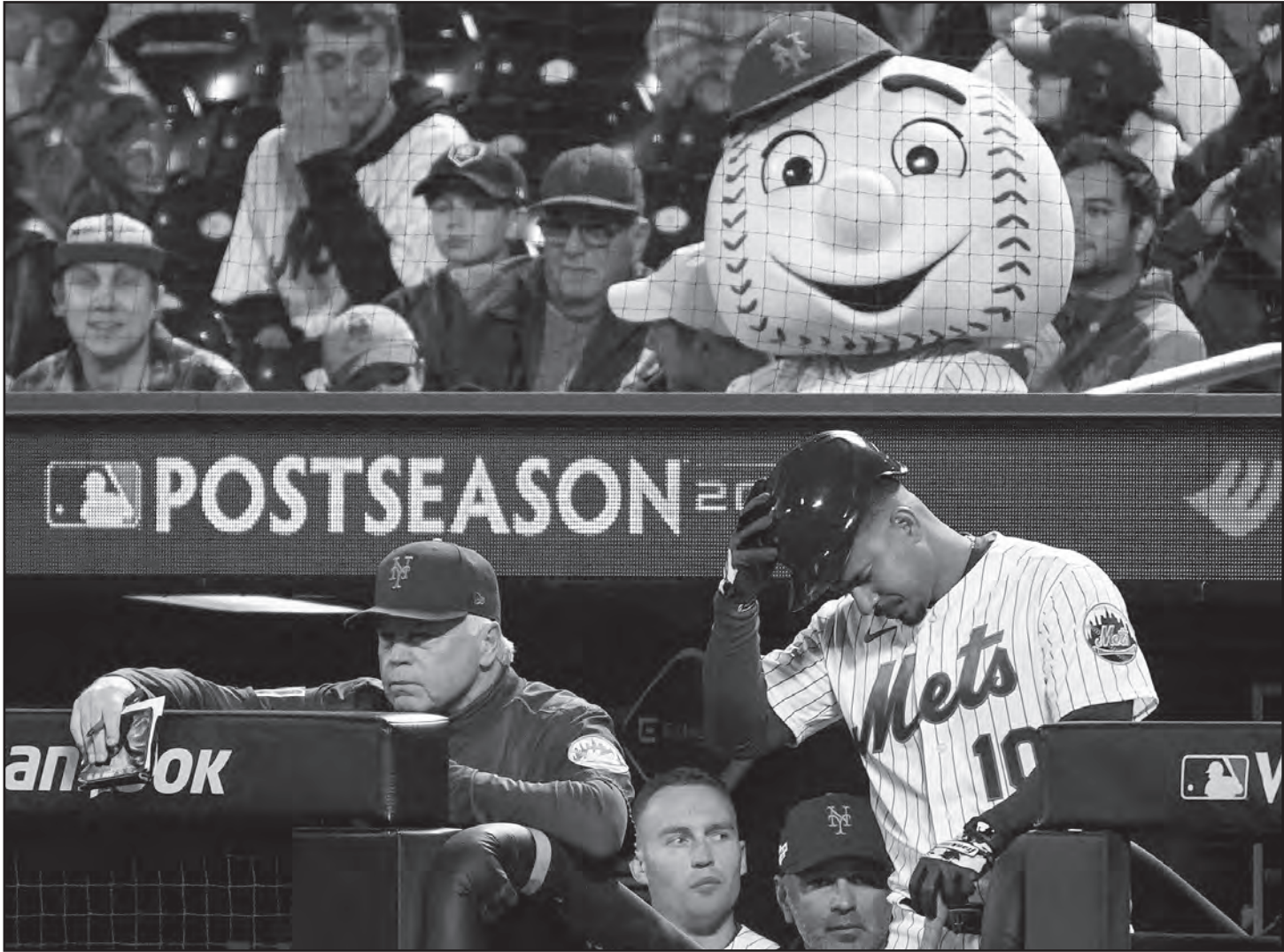
He is the only member of the Pro Football Hall of Fame to have 1,000 yards rushing, receiving and passing in his career.

Trippi finished as runner-up for the Heisman Trophy in 1946 while playing for the Bulldogs.

Bowling

CORGOOD CONSTRUCTION LEAGUE			
High Scratch Games		High Scratch Series	
Cubby Burk (266)	Josh Cornell (737)		
Josh Cornell (256)	Devon Tuttle (669)		
Dave Gilbert (232)	Joe Kash (644)		
Derek Uhle (226)	Scott McLaughlin (633)		
Standings			
Vandee Plumbing	36	Wilcox Beef	23
Young Guns	31	Kash & Sons	22
Rose Farms	28	Heritage Realty	21
Kenyon Electric	27	Doc's	19
Foxy's	26	Blue Moose	12
Team Xtreme	25		
OSBORNE FLOORING LEAGUE			
High Scratch Games		High Scratch Series	
Tom Sopp (299)	Ryan Rivers (761)		
Drew Starinsky (290)	Drew Starinsky (760)		
Ryan Rivers (269)	Tom Sopp (758)		
Dave Sipe (266)	Richard Aylesworth (690)		
Jamie Buck (264)	Timothy Becker (687)		
Standings			
281 Bowl Pro Shop	31	Don's Auto Upholst.	21
Tailor Made	28	Ida's 281 Bowl	20
C.K.A.	24	Gator's	19
MJ Excavation	22	St. Charles	17
Hollywood	21	DMC Concrete	

‘The hot team is really difficult to beat in general. And then so you take the best teams in the regular season, have them take off five days, which we’re not used to, and then have the hot team keep playing ... I think you can see how easily you can lose that series.’
 — Justin Verlander, Astros starting pitcher



Associated Press
 This was supposed to be the Mets’ year. With Jacob deGrom and Max Scherzer at the top of the rotation, how could they lose? But they did — first coughing up the National League East lead to the Atlanta Braves, then losing to the San Diego Padres in the wild-card round.

Too wild? As playoffs expand, regular season means less

By RONALD BLUM
AP Baseball Writer
 NEW YORK — Major League Baseball views expanded playoffs as the more the merrier. Not for the Los Angeles Dodgers, Atlanta Braves, New York Mets and St. Louis Cardinals.
 The National League’s four winningest teams failed to reach the League Championship Series, six months of accomplishment undone in just a few days.
 Philadelphia is vying to become the first third-place team to reach the World Series after clinching the 12th and final playoff spot on Oct. 3, three weeks after the Dodgers locked up the first.
 Years of expansion have turned the Fall Classic into a month-plus tournament and the 162-game season into a postseason prologue.
 “The hot team is really difficult to beat in general,” Houston pitcher Justin Verlander said. “And then so you take the best teams in the regular season, have them take off five days, which we’re not used to, and then have the hot team keep playing ... I think you can see how easily you can lose that series.”
 Philadelphia, with the National League’s sixth-best record, opened the NLCS with a win at San Diego, which was No. 5.
 Houston, the American League’s winningest team, opens the ALCS on Wednesday night against the New York Yankees, who had the No. 2 record.
 All remaining teams are among the top nine payrolls: the Yankees third (\$254 mil-

lion), Phillies fourth (\$237 million), Padres fifth (\$221 million) and Astros ninth (\$186 million).
 From 1903-68, the teams with the top record in each league advanced directly to the World Series.
 Then playoffs were added and only 15 teams with their league’s top record won the World Series from 1969-93, according to the Elias Sports Bureau. After a second round of playoffs was introduced, just six clubs with their league’s top mark took the title from 1995-2011 and five have won it all since wild-card games started in 2012.
 And this year included an entire wild-card round that led to byes for the four top teams — along with five off days.
 “Just adding more teams to the mix makes it more difficult of a road,” Yankees manager Aaron Boone said. “Especially in baseball probably a little bit more so than other sports, kind of any team can win on a given day.”
 Four of the six winningest regular-season teams failed to reach this year’s LCS. The Dodgers (111) and Braves (101) lost in the best-of-five Division Series. The Mets (101) and Cardinals (93) were knocked out in the best-of-three wild-card round.
 “You could be the best team and your season comes down to a three-game series. I don’t like that format going forward for a 162-game season,” pitcher Max Scherzer said last October.
 The postseason doubled to four teams in 1969 with the start of the LCS, doubled again to eight in 1995 with Division Series, increased to 10 in 2012 with wild-card games and to 12 this year.

PADRES

continued from page 9

Los Angeles Dodgers. Wednesday’s rally was similar.
 “We need to continue to build that confidence,” said Austin Nola, the No. 9 batter. “That’s what we talked about all year. That identity is never giving up, never giving in. Every inning we’re putting pressure on the other team to score and it’s paying off.”
 Drury and Josh Bell hit back-to-back homers for the Padres, and Manny Machado went deep late.
 The series shifts to Philadelphia for three games beginning Friday night. The Phillies, trying to reach their first World Series since 2009, outscored Atlanta 17-4 in two home Division Series games last weekend to dispatch the defending World Series champion Braves.
 Manager Rob Thomson said the Phillies need to approach this situation like they did the NLDS.
 “We went into Atlanta, won the first one, lost the second one. Disappointing game. We had a day off and came back home in front of 46,000 raucous people and played really well. I expect to do the same thing,” he said.



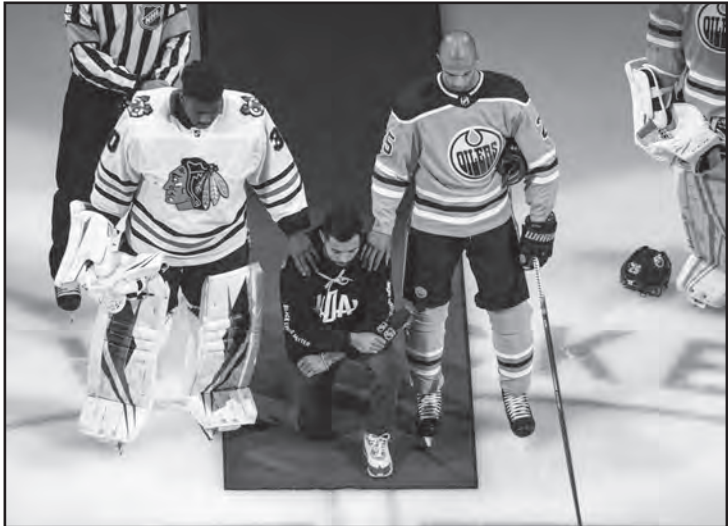
Associated Press
The Padres’ Ha-Seong Kim scores past Phillies catcher J.T. Realmuto on a hit by Austin Nola during San Diego’s decisive five-run fifth inning of Game 2 of the National League Championship Series on Wednesday in San Diego.

Blake Snell got the win and Josh Hader the save after striking out the side in the ninth to send the crowd into a frenzy. Aaron Nola, in the playoffs for the first time and off to a brilliant start before Wednesday, took the loss.
 The Padres, playing in their first NLCS since 1998, appeared to be in deep trouble after Snell threw 37 pitches in the Phillies’ four-run second.
 San Diego began its comeback with homers on consecu-

tive pitches by Drury and Bell to open the bottom of the inning. Drury lined a shot to left field and Bell lifted a fly ball deep to right that stayed just fair.
 Bell and Juan Soto, who had an RBI double in the fifth, were obtained in a blockbuster trade with Washington on Aug. 2, the same day the Padres got Drury from Cincinnati. The day before, the Padres got Hader from Milwaukee.
 When Austin Nola grounded out in the second inning, it was

Only two teams with winning records failed to make the playoffs, Milwaukee and Baltimore — and they would have if the players’ association had agreed to Commissioner Rob Manfred’s 14-team plan.
 Among the players’ proposals was expanding the Division Series to best-of-seven with reseeding after each round. They also said they would consider MLB’s proposal for a 14-team postseason if it included giving the higher seed a “ghost win” — starting with a 1-0 series lead.
 “It makes no sense to go to 14 teams at all,” said Yankees reliever Zack Britton, a member of the union’s executive subcommittee. “More teams that are average are going to get in, and then you just dilute the postseason. It’s not worth it understanding the reasoning is TV money.”
 Still, MLB’s 40% of teams making the playoffs is a smaller slice than the NFL (14 of 32), NBA (16 of 30) and NHL (16 of 32).
 Since the wild-card era started in 1995, only four World Series have been between each league’s top regular-season team: 1995, 1999, 2013 and 2020.
 Twelve wild cards have reached the World Series, and seven have won the title: Florida (1997 and 2003), Anaheim (2002), Boston (2004), St. Louis (2011), San Francisco (2014) and Washington (2019).
 “I don’t know if the league sees what happens and maybe wants to make tweaks,” Verlander said. “I don’t know what those tweaks would look like. But expanding the playoffs, it brings in a lot of revenue, so I don’t think it’s going to go backwards.”

the first pitcher-batter matchup between siblings in postseason history.
 Big brother came up again in the fifth with one out and Kim Ha-seong on first base. Aaron Nola threw over several times before Austin singled to center to bring in the speedy Kim, whose helmet flew off between second and third before he scored with a headfirst slide.
 “It’s a typical plate appearance vs. my brother. I’m 0-2,” Austin Nola said. “I might as well just walk up there and tell him to put two strikes on me because that’s what it feels like. I just battle. I know the kind of pitcher he is. He’s not going to give in. I’m just trying to hit something hard through the middle and good things happen.”
 Jurickson Profar singled, Soto hit an RBI double to tie the game at 4 and Machado struck out before Aaron Nola was pulled for former Padres closer Brad Hand.
 Jake Cronenworth was hit by a pitch to load the bases. With fans on their feet and waving yellow rally towels, Drury singled to put the Padres ahead.
 Bell capped the really with a single to right. The Padres sent 11 batters to the plate, collecting six hits, a walk and a hit batter.



Canadian Press via AP
Minnesota Wild’s Matt Dumba takes a knee during the national anthem flanked by Chicago Blackhawks’ Malcolm Subban, left, and Edmonton Oilers’ Darnell Nurse, before a playoff game in Edmonton in 2020. Dumba said recently he still sees racism in hockey in the present day, adding he’s sick of “the old boys’ club and them dictating who is and who isn’t welcome.”

Study gives NHL a starting point to address diversity

By STEPHEN WHYNO
AP Hockey Writer

NEW YORK — Kim Davis, a Black woman hired five years ago to help the NHL with diversity initiatives, was not surprised by much of the league’s first workplace demographic study.
 “We are where we expected to be, but now we have the facts to back it up,” Davis said.
 The data backed up the expectations: nearly 84% of employees across the league and its 32 teams are white, and nearly 62% are men. The 24-page report presented to the Board of Governors — the biggest topic discussed at their annual fall meeting — also shows the NHL’s path forward.

The NHL has received plenty of criticism for being slow in the diversity department. Now, with an independent race and gender report card on the way and a baseline set, observers expect to see signs of progress, which could potentially help hockey grow revenue beyond the record \$5.4 billion from last season if the growth into some underserved communities happens according to plan.
 “If the NHL is able to diversify its workforce and audience, then it can ensure that the league will survive and thrive,” said Mikah Thompson, an associate dean at the University of Missouri-Kansas City law school and an expert on racial diversity issues.
 “While pursuing diversity and inclusion is the right thing to do, it is also good for the league’s bottom line,” Thompson added. “A more diverse NHL workforce, including more diversity among its player ranks, will result in greater interest in the sport. The NHL’s fan base will grow once diverse people see themselves represented in the league.”
 Representation, Davis said, is key at all levels, not just players, coaches and hockey operations executives. There has been progress in the front office with San Jose making Mike Grier the first Black general manager and six women being named assistant GMs.
 But it’s not as easy as recruiting people of color. While the NFL and NBA, in particular, have established a pipeline of talent in nonwhite communities, the NHL is still building one.
 “It’s a case of improving our brand with those communities, making sure that there is a sense of welcoming across all dimensions — not just coming in and working, but how people feel in the stadium and what our youth numbers look like,” said Davis, the NHL’s

Analysis

executive vice president of social impact, growth and legislative affairs. “All of those are factors that play into this overarching way that we guide the movement of our sport.”
 It could take decades, perhaps a generation or more, before there’s a significant, visible evidence of real diversification in hockey. That’s why Davis said the NHL plans to conduct demographic surveys every two years to chart progress.
 It’s also submitting the data to the University of Central Florida’s Institute for Diversity and Ethics in Sport, which will produce an NHL racial and gender report card for the first time. The NFL, NBA and Major League Baseball have each taken part for at least a decade.
 Not everyone is sold on NHL’s internal report.
 Former player Akim Aliu, who was born in Nigeria and whose revelation that a coach used racist language toward him in the minors fast-tracked some diversity projects in 2019, said he and members of the Hockey Diversity Alliance have already been engaging with young people of color for years in the ways the NHL hopes to grows the game.
 “No one holds them accountable,” Aliu said. “Until we are all successful and progressing, none of us are.”
 Ketra Armstrong, director of the University of Michigan’s Center for Race & Ethnicity in Sport, agreed with Aliu and others who have called much of the NHL’s work to this point largely performative. However, she said she thinks the league’s focus on seven topics — leadership, education, employment, marketing, partnerships, participation and community engagement — has the opportunity to create real change.
 “All of these things will tell a comprehensive message that this league is sincere and authentic in their efforts to become more diverse and more culturally inclusive,” Armstrong said. “And it takes a lot of those kinds of things.”
 Like Armstrong, Thompson said there should be optimism about hockey becoming more diverse, and they agree the demographic study is a strong first step that shows real intent.

High School Sports Schedule	
BOYS SOCCER	
No. 10 Manlius-Pebble Hill	at No. 7 McGraw, 3 p.m. today
No. 9 Cincinnati	at No. 8 Bishop Grimes, 3 p.m. today
No. 15 DeRuyter	at No. 2 Lyme, 3 p.m. today
No. 7 Stockbridge Valley/Morrisville-Eaton	at No. 2 Tully, 3 p.m. Friday
GIRLS SOCCER	
No. 9 Remsen	at No. 1 Cincinnati, 3 p.m. today
No. 12 Charlotte Valley	at No. 4 Marathon, 3:30 p.m. Friday
No. 7 Groton	at No. 2 Elmira Notre Dame, 3:30 p.m. Friday
No. 7 Dryden	at No. 2 Oneonta, 3:30 p.m. Friday
FOOTBALL	
Homer	at Cortland, 6:30 p.m. Friday
Greene	at Groton, 7 p.m. Friday
V-V-S	at Southern Hills, 7 p.m. Friday at Tully
Moravia	at Oxford, 7 p.m. Friday
FIELD HOCKEY	
No. 5 Marathon	at No. 4 Owego Apalachin, 5 p.m. today
VOLLEYBALL	
Living Word Academy	at Cortland, 6:30 p.m. today
Homer	at Mexico, 6 p.m. today
Dryden	at Groton, 6:30 p.m. today
Lansing	at Moravia, 6:30 p.m. today



Cortland County
Board of Realtors®
— The Voice of Real Estate

SEPTEMBER 2022
MARKET REPORT

The U.S. real estate market continues to slow as we move into fall, as rising consumer prices and higher mortgage interest rates squeeze homebuyer budgets and cool activity. With inflation showing little sign of abating, the Federal Reserve implemented another 75-basis-point hike in September, marking the third such rate increase this year. The cost of borrowing has reached multi-year highs on everything from credit cards to auto loans in 2022 as mortgage interest rates topped 6% for the first time since 2008, causing existing home sales to decline for the seventh consecutive month.

New listings were down 13.2 percent to 14,461. Pending sales decreased 11.2 percent to 11,269. Inventory shrank 14.4 percent to 39,370 units.

Prices moved higher as the median sales price was up 2.4 percent to \$379,000. Days on market decreased 6.7 percent to 42 days. Months supply of inventory was down 8.3 percent to 3.3 months.

Affordability challenges have priced many buyers out of the market this year, and buyers who do succeed in purchasing a home are finding that the costs of homeownership have increased significantly, with monthly mortgage payments more than 55% higher than a year ago, according to the National Association of REALTORS®. Inventory remains lower than normal, and as the market continues to shift, experts project homes will begin to spend more days on market and price growth will slow in the months ahead.

Current as of October 10, 2022. All data from the multiple listing services in the state of New York. Report © 2022 ShowingTime. To find local Realtors®, affiliate members, appraisers, and listings, visit www.cortlandmls.com.

Activity Overview

Key metrics by report month and for year-to-date (YTD) starting from the first of the year.



New York State Association of REALTORS®, Inc.

Key Metrics	Historical Sparkbars				9-2021	9-2022	Percent Change	YTD 2021	YTD 2022	Percent Change
New Listings					16,656	14,461	- 13.2%	157,054	142,638	- 9.2%
Pending Sales					12,686	11,269	- 11.2%	118,014	107,690	- 8.7%
Closed Sales					13,797	12,057	- 12.6%	112,346	103,896	- 7.5%
Days on Market					45	42	- 6.7%	57	51	- 10.5%
Median Sales Price					\$370,255	\$379,000	+ 2.4%	\$370,000	\$401,000	+ 8.4%
Avg. Sales Price					\$484,988	\$507,278	+ 4.6%	\$478,601	\$535,349	+ 11.9%
Pct. of List Price Received					101.5%	101.3%	- 0.2%	100.7%	101.9%	+ 1.2%
Affordability Index					127	99	- 22.0%	127	93	- 26.8%
Homes for Sale					45,987	39,370	- 14.4%	--	--	--
Months Supply					3.6	3.3	- 8.3%	--	--	--

Current as of October 10, 2022. All data from the multiple listing services in the state of New York. Report © 2022 ShowingTime. | 9

5 strategies for using a home improvement loan

NewsWire.com

NEW YORK — Have you been wanting to make some updates to your home? With residential real estate prices up an average of around 20 percent nationwide, many homeowners are taking advantage of this newly created equity by taking out home improvement loans.

These loans will provide the tens of thousands of dollars needed to make some pretty major updates throughout the property.

Which renovations are the best use of a home improvement loan? In this article, we'll explore five good ways to use these funds:

1. Remodel the bathroom

Nearly everyone from realtors to professional contractors agrees that a bathroom renovation has one of the highest ROIs (return on investment). This is because, believe it or not, many people see their bathrooms as a sanctuary. It's where they come to relax in a bathtub or get ready to take on the world every morning.

Some of the most common changes include up-

dating the vanity, redoing the tile work, or getting new light fixtures. Even small changes like adding water-efficient toilets and showerheads can save you money over time.

2. Update the kitchen

Second to the bathroom, the kitchen is the most important room in the house. Kitchens are not only where the food gets prepared, but it's also a place where people typically gather and talk during get-togethers.

Some of the simplest kitchen upgrades might be:

- Replacing the appliances
- Changing the flooring
- Adding a new backsplash to the wall

Depending on your budget, you can also spring for some major renovations like ordering new countertops, replacing the cabinets, and even taking out a wall to open the room up.

3. Finish the basement

Finishing the basement in your house is one

of the classic ways to expand your home without making any additions to the exterior. Depending on the footprint, it can easily add another 1,000 square feet to the sellable size of your home.

Finishing the basement also can provide a lot of much-needed utility.

It can give you:

- A second living room or entertainment space
- A place for the kids to play
- Office area
- Workout gym

Some finished basement plans even include a spare bedroom where guests can stay. Take into consideration that it will need a fire escape, such as an egress window, to pass inspection.

4. Add landscaping

Regardless of how you may feel about landscaping, adding a touch of love to the lawn can make a world of difference in the appearance of the house as well as its future resale price.

This can be done with simple changes such as:

- Adding new colorful trees and shrubs

- Having an irrigation system installed
- Lining the landscaping with rich mulch or stone

5. Replace your roof

It may not be the most exciting home renovation, but if it's been about 15 years or so since the last time the shingles on your roof were replaced, then now might be the time to consider having it done. A new roof will not only look better, but it will also better serve its purpose of protecting the home against bad weather and other elements. Plus, it should provide some reduction to your homeowner's premium.

The bottom line

There are plenty of good ways to spend a home improvement loan. Interior changes like renovating the bathroom, kitchen, or basement are all good places to start. But don't forget to also consider the exterior too by updating the landscaping and roof.

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A beginner's guide to fall planting and maintenance

MetroCreative

Spring and summer are perhaps the busiest times of year for gardeners. However, fall also is a prime time to tend to gardens.

The tree and bare root retailer Bower & Branch advises that soil temperatures in many regions of the country may still be warm enough to encourage root growth well into the start of winter. Furthermore, fall is often the ideal time to plant, fertilize and keep a garden going or to get a head start on next year's bounty.

Here are some tips to make the most of the fall gardening season.

■ **Think about fall annuals and bulb planting.** Near the end of September, start planting cool-weather-loving pansies and violas for pops of color as summer flowers fade. Also, it's a good idea to stock up on bulbs that will bloom in the months to come before they sell out in stores. Wait until the temperatures really cool down before planting them in desired spots for spring sprouts.

■ **Sow salad seeds.** Lettuce, spinach, radishes, and arugula tolerate cooler temperatures. Try new and interesting lettuce varieties and enjoy salads well into the fall season.

■ **Take inventory of the sun.** Positioning a garden carefully means maximizing hours of sunlight, which begin to dwindle in the fall. Experts say gardens grow best in sunny locations that receive six hours of direct sunlight each day. This is where container gardens can be helpful, as they allow gardeners to move plants into spots that will get ample sunlight.

■ **Fill in landscaping gaps.** Some fall plants can add color around the landscape and brighten up homes to add curb appeal. In addition to pansies and violas, asters, kale and chrysanthemums are fall blooms. Keep in mind that mums can come back year after year. So take them out of those flower pots and get them into the ground. They can be enjoyed next year as well, sprouting in early spring and developing leaves and buds through late summer.

■ **Clean up unwanted growth.** Fall is an ideal time to cut back spent vegetable plants and get rid of errant weeds. Rather than bag-



MetroCreative

Fall is an ideal time to clean up unwanted growth and fill in landscaping gaps. It's also a good time to add color and brighten homes to add to curb appeal.

ging leaves, mow them with a grass catcher and then add the mix to a vegetable garden as an excellent soil insulator. The nitrogen and carbon will fertilize the soil, enhancing growing possibilities and limiting weed growth.

■ **Propagate plants in the fall.** As temperatures gradually begin to cool, start taking cuttings from perennials, gathering seed pods from azaleas and rhododendrons and dividing hardwood cuttings, says the

resource Gardening Know How. Consult with a garden center or horticulturist on the proper ways to propagate stems using rooting hormone and other techniques.

■ **Continue to water plants.** Water is essential in the fall and winter as roots can still be growing. Gradually reduce watering duration as plants go dormant.

Fall planting and maintenance can extend gardening season and improve the chances of growing a healthy spring garden.



MetroCreative

Fire safety tips while decorating

MetroCreative

Decorating the interior and exterior of a home is a beloved holiday season tradition. Many people could not imagine a holiday season without decorating their homes, so it's vital that celebrants do so safely. These fire safety tips can ensure this holiday season is safe:

■ **Buy the safest lights.** It might be tempting to buy the most inexpensive lights, especially given all the extra costs already associated with the holiday season. However, safety should be the utmost priority when buying new lights. Testing laboratories such as CSA, Intertek and UL certify products to ensure they're safe for use. Products that aren't certified should be avoided.

■ **Use lights and cords where they're intended to be used.** The packaging on lights will indicate if the product is intended to be used indoors or outdoors. It's vital that individuals decorating their homes with lights pay attention to these labels. Never decorate the exterior of a home with interior lights, and vice versa. Extension cords made for indoors also should not be used outdoors and vice versa.

■ **Be especially careful with candles.** Candles should only be burned when adults are in the room and should always be extinguished before leaving the room or going to bed. When burning candles, place them on heat-resistant surfaces that are beyond the reach of curious kids and pets.

■ **Ask an electrician to inspect your exterior outlets and circuits.** Ground fault circuit interruptor (GFCI) outlets are designed to prevent electric shocks and reduce the risk of electrical fires. Most areas now require new homes be built exclusively with GFCIs, which are recognizable because they feature two buttons between the outlets. Older homes may not be equipped with GFCIs.

■ **Do not pinch light cords.** Stringing lights can be a hassle, but cords should never be pinched in doors or windows or beneath interior and exterior furniture. Doing so increases the risk of damage to the cord, which in turn increases the likelihood of fire.

■ **Avoid overloading circuits.** Overloaded circuits pose a significant fire hazard. When plugging in lights, choose outlets that aren't already occupied by devices and other electronics.

Pet proof your home this holiday season

MetroCreative

Much thought is given to holiday lighting arrangements and which tree to buy, but it's equally important to consider pets when decorating. Many common household pets are naturally curious, and that curiosity can make it difficult to decorate safely come the holiday season. But various pet-proofing strategies can ensure holiday decorations and displays aren't compromised by four-legged friends.

■ **Secure the Christmas tree.** Much like other residents of the home, pets may be mesmerized by a glowing Christmas tree. They may sniff around the tree or investigate it closely, which can increase the chances that it tips over. That poses a significant safety hazard and underscores the importance of using a sturdy stand. Fastening the tree to a wall, much like one might do with a television that isn't mounted, adds a further layer of protection from tip-overs.

■ **Block off the base of a live tree.** Live trees need water to stay green and keep their needles throughout the season. That water could prove enticing to thirsty pets. Drinking water from a tree



MetroCreative

Many household pets are naturally curious, and that can make it tough to decorate safely around the holidays.

stand could increase the risk of the tree tipping over and the water could upset the stomach of pets if the tree was treated with pesticides prior to being brought home. When decorating with a live tree, make sure the base

of the tree where the water will be is blocked off. A small fence around the tree could keep curious pets away. The room where the tree is located should be locked or inaccessible when pets are home alone.

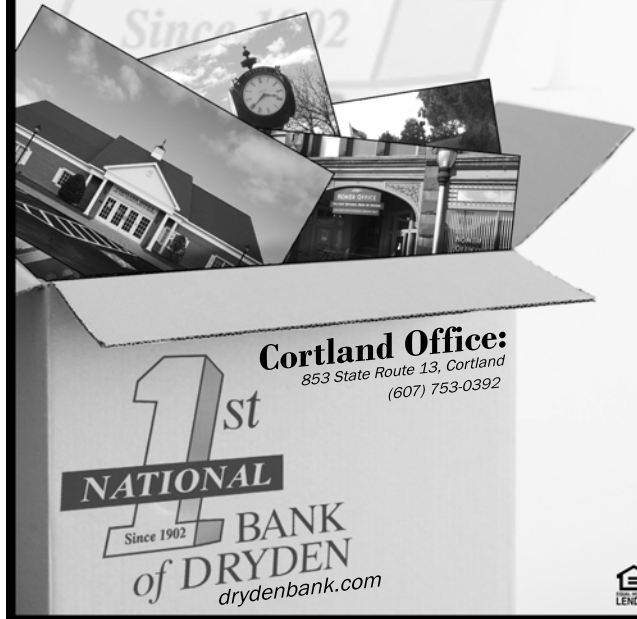
■ **Inspect and conceal light wires.** Wires can become frayed over time, and that could pique pets' curiosity. Lighting wires should always be inspected prior to decorating and frayed or damaged wires should be thrown away, even if it means replacing lights. If wires are still sturdy, conceal them along the base of the wall using a cable concealer, which prevents pets from chewing on them.

■ **Avoid lighting candles.** Candles should not be lit in homes with pets. Even candles on shelves that are seemingly beyond pets' reach can be hazardous, as pets, especially cats, have a way of accessing spaces they seemingly shouldn't be able to reach.

■ **Speak to a vet about seasonal plants and flowers before bringing them into the home.** Pet owners can speak with their veterinarians before bringing poinsettias, holly and other seasonal plants and flowers into their homes. Some pets could suffer allergic reactions if they eat certain seasonal plants, so it's best to err on the side of caution and speak to a vet before including live plants and flowers in decorative displays.

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S1408727

\$579,000

Pamela Cullip

CORTLAND

Very unique property on over 5 acres of prime land located along the Troughnoga River with 3 separate houses, 2 ponds and so much more!

S1419928/S1437139

\$239,500

Pam Williams

HOMER

Fantastic 4BR/2.5BA home nestled on quiet dead-end town road just outside the Village of Homer, with extra bedroom, office, or playroom, close to amenities!

S1437455

\$329,000

Tim Alger

GLENFIELD

Multi-use home or camp - beautiful camp has so much room with open floorplan, can sleep up to 20, located on 3.3 acres, many ATV trails, horse trails and snowmobile trails!

S1412780

\$269,000

Pam Williams

TULLY VILLAGE

Fantastic mixed use building in the center of the village of Tully, 1st floor is currently a bakery, 5 total apts, all separate utilities, month to month leases and parking for each unit.

S1422122

\$325,000

Nicki Wynn

PREBLE

3BR/2BA home nestled on a peaceful & private 14-acre wooded lot, featuring hardwood floors throughout, 2 fireplaces, coal stove, great deck, and small cabin.

S1437855

\$235,000

Nicki Wynn

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 Nikki Davi Salesperson 423-1507	 Jeff Guida Assoc. Broker 315-727-9917	 Terry Howell Assoc. Broker 423-2385	 Tracy Koening Salesperson 423-9745	 Marv L'Amoreaux Assoc. Broker 221-0180	 Melanie Hull Salesperson 609-915-9001	 Sandy Ludwig Assoc. Broker 745-5181
 Linda Muirhead Salesperson 423-4256	 Karina Murphy Salesperson 379-9815	 Colleen Nash Salesperson 315-560-8299	 Becca Quinlan Salesperson 591-3301	 Ashley Warfield Assoc. Broker 745-8531	 Nicki Wynn Assoc. Broker 745-3942	 Jessie Fowlston Salesperson 607-345-6805

AGENTS OF THE MONTH

Bill Lidell
Salesperson
237-7471

Pamela Cullip
Salesperson
261-0439

DRYDEN

Amazing home with fully stocked trout creek behind the house, barn/garage that could hold 4 plus cars, well-manicured lawn and more!

S1414003

\$115,000

Pamela Cullip

CORTLANDVILLE

Immaculate Cortlandville brick ranch style home, currently set up as a 2 family home with 3000+ sf living space. Easily converts back into a 1 family home, completely move-in ready!

S1435902

\$219,900

Jeff Guida

CORTLANDVILLE

Condo living in Cortland - a unique 2-story unit with added living room on the back, an open office area on the 2nd floor, has large BRs, open floor layout, and 2 gas fireplaces.

S1437750

\$165,000

Tim Alger

CORTLAND

Beautiful 4BR/2BA raised ranch on a dead end street with new flooring & paint, full finished basement with FR, and large deck overlooking a beautiful in-ground pool.

S1415187

\$180,000

Pam Williams

CUYLER

Restaurant/diner in fantastic condition, price includes the building, inventory, equipment, furniture, serveware, supplies, supplier contact list, some decor, and with 2 apt upstairs.

S1436000

\$174,000

Tim Alger

CORTLAND

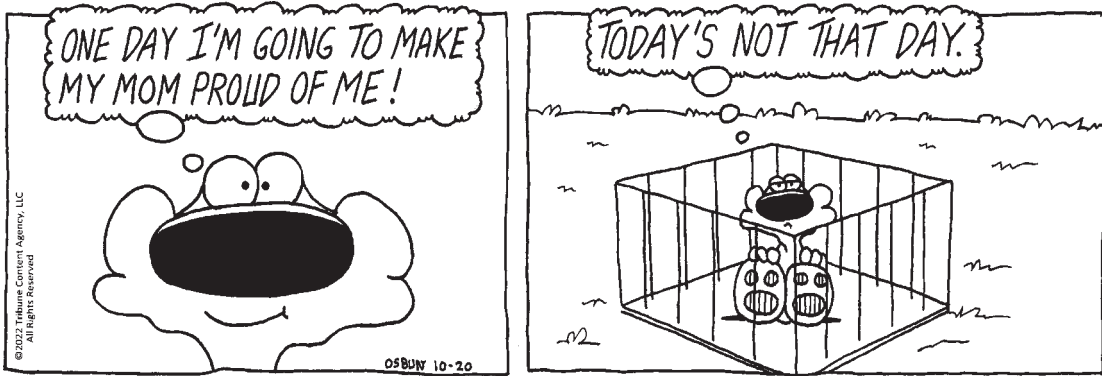
Great investment opportunity with this 3BR home that you can work on over the winter to rehab and either keep and rent or resell.

S1437780

\$28,000

Tim Alger

ANIMAL CRACKERS



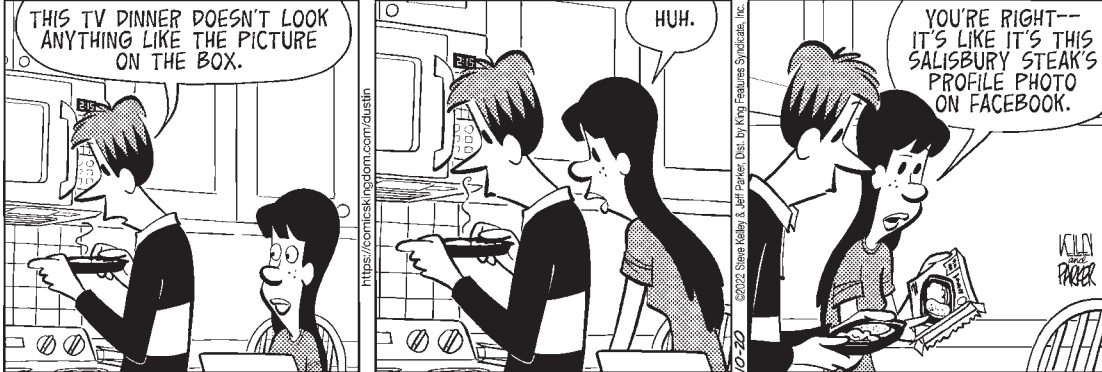
BABY BLUES



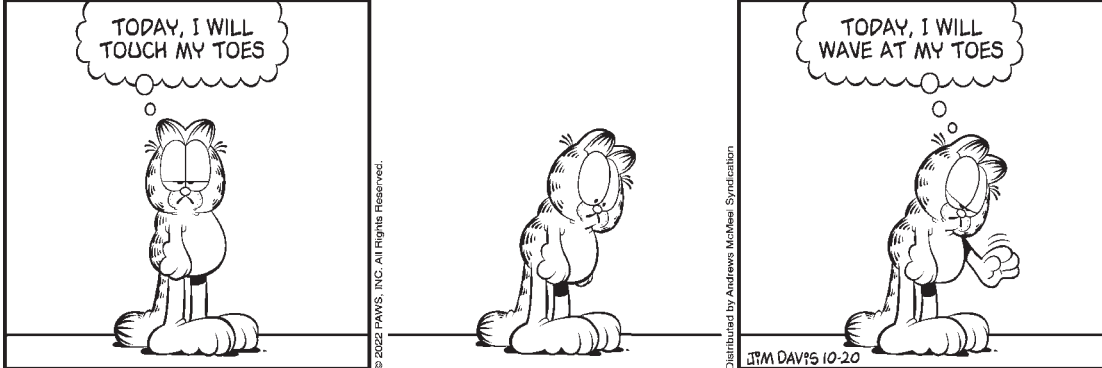
BEEBLE BAILEY



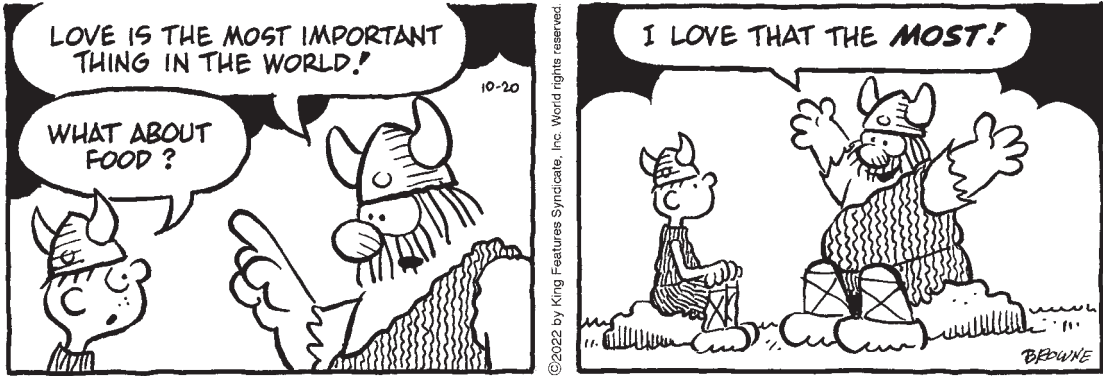
DUSTIN



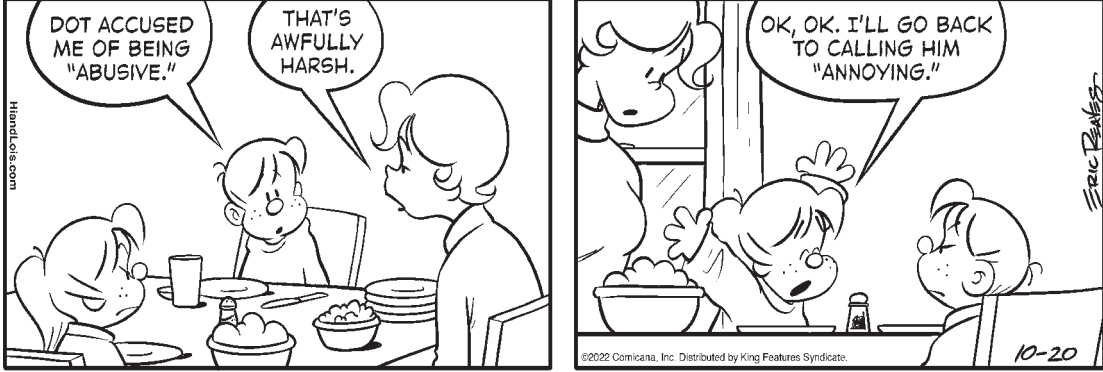
GARFIELD



HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



HI AND LOIS



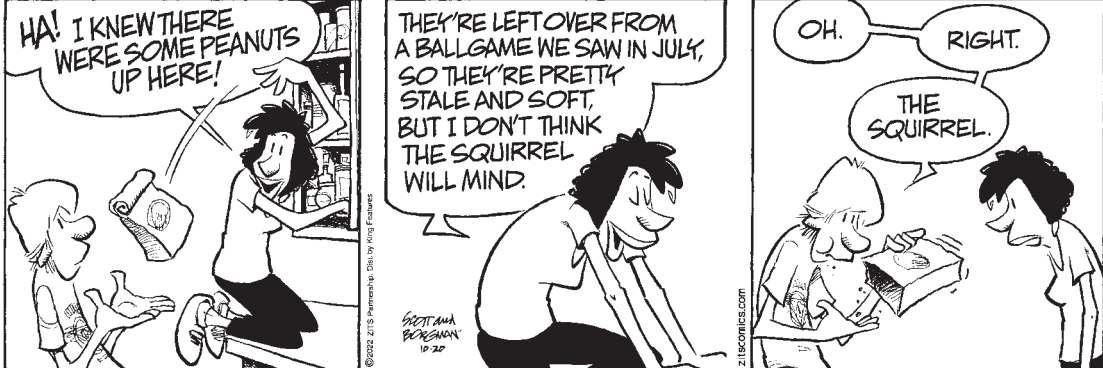
MUTTS



TIGER



ZITS



Astrological Forecast

By Magi Helena
Friday, October 21, 2022

ARIES (March 21-April 19): You might bask in flattery, but it could become clear that some of your friendliness may have been misinterpreted by someone. Hard work can bring the rewards you desire so do not relax and become indulgent too soon.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): You may feel like a dynamo of strategic planning, but your arrangements could work against your own best interests. You might be inspired to investigate tools that employ the latest technology or to make new plans.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Inspiring conversations could provide the necessary enthusiasm to move forward with a creative change. Make decisions at your own pace, work diligently and don't be intimidated by any pressure to give up.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Look at relationships objectively even if you must face some difficult feelings. Some of the tensions should subside in a day or two, so just remain patient -- any emotional storm should blow over very quickly.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Handle financial decisions with logic, not emotion. You may have big dreams and yearn for romance but you could mistake possessiveness for love. You might be tempted to escape from a difficult situation rather than facing it.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Circle your wagons. You might need the protection of friends and mentors when you are in unknown and dangerous financial territory. You may be challenged to remain straightforward when it seems safer to be discreet.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Appearances can be deceptive. Someone may read their own meaning into your words or think you are glamorous. It is wise to steer clear of new romantic entanglements that could become emotionally challenging.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Waves of emotional turmoil can upset your romantic balance. Maintain your equanimity and remain receptive even if a relationship seems to shift or falter. A business decision could possibly create a rift with a loved one.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Place the emphasis on working with a partner to build financial security. Don't let small conflicts spoil your day. Ignore an urge to wield your credit card. Remind yourself that money won't buy love.

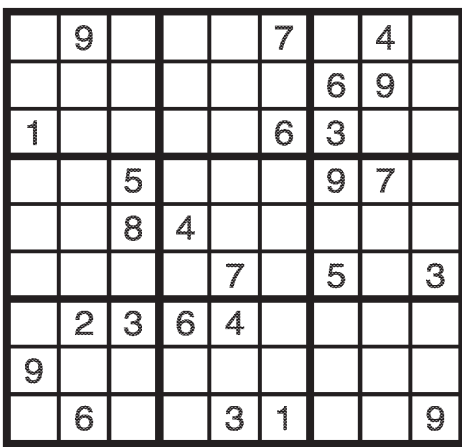
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Some people aren't as desirable as they may seem. Remain cautious about passing attractions that might trigger someone's jealousy. It may be tempting to abandon someone or something but don't burn your bridges.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): If you follow the rules and do not take advantage of anyone, you can feel more secure and safe. Just because someone else decides to take calculated risks does not mean that is the best tactic for you to use for yourself.

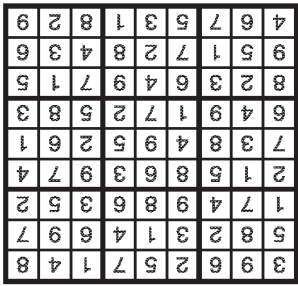
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): You may be romantically minded and prefer to ignore harsh realities. This isn't the best time to hold a heart-to-heart talk because loved ones could be more interested in facts and figures. Focus on inspiring and uplifting ideas.

IF OCT. 21 IS YOUR BIRTHDAY: You may become more ambitious and passionate about attaining material success as the next three to four weeks unfold. Make strides while your business skills are sharper than usual, and while your friendliness and fairness can win you some new friends. However, remain poised to handle drastic changes of heart if something important begins to undergo a transformation. In late December and early January, you may feel like you are wandering through daydreams.

Sudoku



Here's How It Works:
Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!



ANSWER:

Cryptoquote

A XYDLBAAXR
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

10-20 CRYPTOQUOTE
CX HMG LOJ LIRLHD KOHCFS
KM EJ FMOPLI, HMG RCII FJZJO
QFMR VMR LPLBCFS HMG

TLF EJ. — PLHL LFSJIM
Yesterday's Cryptoquote: BEFORE I REFUSE TO TAKE YOUR QUESTIONS, I HAVE AN OPENING STATEMENT. — RONALD REAGAN

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

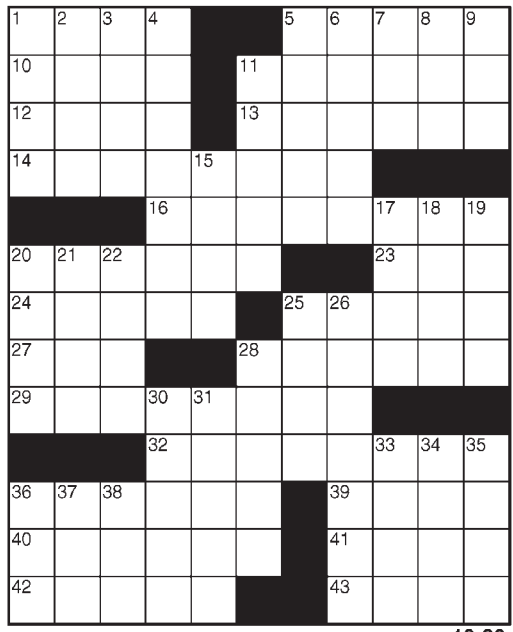
- 1 High point
- 5 Trio, e.g.
- 10 Dupe
- 11 Complain
- 12 Verdi song
- 13 Blackout thief
- 14 Hotel staffers
- 16 Stretchy garments
- 20 Great traits
- 23 "The Simpsons" bartender
- 24 Merchandise
- 25 Job reward
- 27 Wing
- 28 Horse restraint
- 29 Fizzy drinks
- 32 Floor cleaners
- 36 Hushed
- 39 "Yeah, right!"
- 40 Makes one's own
- 41 Carry
- 42 Acts sullen
- 43 Whole bunch

DOWN

- 1 Obsessed captain
- 2 Heart
- 3 Letters
- 4 Noble
- 5 Search blindly
- 6 Perch
- 7 Ump's call
- 8 Take advantage of
- 9 Individually
- 11 Dollops
- 15 Crude homes
- 17 Leave out
- 18 Do studio work
- 19 Visionary
- 20 A long time
- 21 Go it alone
- 22 Auction cry
- 25 Captivated
- 26 Loser to Herbert Hoover
- 28 Party VIPs
- 30 Skilled
- 31 Fourth-down plays
- 33 Bassoon's cousin
- 34 Antifur org.
- 35 Dance part
- 36 Maple output
- 37 Ceremony words
- 38 Gehrig or Brock



Yesterday's answer



Word of the Day

bespoke (bih-SPOHK)

Definition: (adj.) made to an individual's desired specifications.
Example: While factory-made furniture is almost always less expensive, nothing beats the charm of a bespoke, hand-carved chair or table.

— Courtesy Merriam-Webster Online

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► **WANTED TO RENT**
► **HOUSE CLEANING**
► **NO TELEPHONE - LISTING**
► **SUBLETTING**
► **APARTMENT-SHARING**



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OCM BOCES has an immediate need for two (2) full-time Account Clerk II positions located at the CNYRIC in Syracuse, NY with a salary range of \$35,221 - \$37,510. Two (2) years of account-keeping work experience or its part-time equivalent, the major job function of which is the maintenance of financial accounts, which must have included reconciling and posting ledgers, journals, and other accounting records; OR successful completion of 12 semester credit hours in Accounting and an Associates Degree in Accounting. These are provisional appointments to a competitive Civil Service position. A passing score on an examination is required for continued employment. Send a cover letter and resume to recruitment@ocmboces.org or register and apply at: www.olasjobs.org/central. For job duties/requirements and more information on these positions, visit our website at www.ocmboces.org EOE

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Contract Bridge

A little white lie

South dealer.
Neither side vulnerable.

NORTH

♠ A K J 8 4
♥ J 10
♦ Q 7
♣ K J 10 3

WEST

♠ 10 7
♥ A K Q 9 8
♦ 6
♣ 9 7 6 5 2

EAST

♠ Q 9 5 3 2
♥ 7 6 3
♦ K 5 3
♣ 8 4

SOUTH

♠ 6
♥ 5 4 2
♦ A J 10 9 8 4 2
♣ A Q

The bidding:

South	West	North	East
1 ♦	1 ♥	1 ♠	Pass
2 ♦	Pass	3 ♠	Pass
3 ♦	Pass	5 ♦	

Opening lead — king of hearts.

It is sometimes necessary for a defender to lie to his partner. While bridge is undeniably a partnership game, it is also true that if the only way to get your partner to do what you want him to do is to lie, you do it.

Take this case where North-South reached five diamonds on the bidding shown. Let's say you're

East and your partner leads the king of hearts.

After dummy appears, you don't like the prospects of your side collecting three tricks. With your king of diamonds situated in front of South's diamonds, and South virtually certain to hold the ace of clubs for his opening bid, it doesn't look like there's much you can do. Yet, if you're on your toes, you can defeat the contract.

You start by playing the seven of hearts on partner's king. When West continues with the ace of hearts, you play the three. It's true that by playing high-low in hearts, you're indicating a doubleton. To that extent you're deceiving your partner.

But your little white lie pays off handsomely when partner next leads the queen of hearts, forcing declarer to ruff in dummy. As a result, declarer can take only one diamond finesse instead of two, so you eventually score a trick with the king to set the contract. However, if you hadn't told an untruth by playing high-low initially, West probably would not have led another heart at trick three, and your king of diamonds would never have seen the light of day.

Tomorrow: Bidding quiz.
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UK’s PM on brink after senior lawmaker quits post

By JILL LAWLESS
Associated Press
LONDON — British Prime Minister Liz Truss described herself as “a fighter and not a quitter” Wednesday as she faced a hostile opposition and fury from her own Conservative Party over her botched economic plan. Within hours of the defiant statement, her government was teetering on the verge of collapse.

A senior member of the government left her post with a fusillade of criticism at Truss, and a House of Commons vote descended into acrimony and accusations of bullying.

Home Secretary Suella Braverman said she resigned after breaching rules by sending an official document from her personal email account. She used her resignation letter to lambaste Truss, saying she had “concerns about the direction of this government.”

“The business of government relies upon people accepting responsibility for their mistakes,” she said. “Pretending we haven’t made mistakes, carrying on as if everyone can’t see that we have made them and hoping that things will magically come right is not serious politics.”

Braverman is a popular figure on the Conservative Party’s right wing and a champion of more restrictive immigration policies who ran unsuccessfully for party leader this summer, a contest won by Truss.

Braverman was replaced as home secretary, the minister responsible for immigration and law and order, by former Cabinet minister Grant Shapps. He’s a high-profile supporter of Rishi Sunak, the former Treasury chief defeated by Truss in the final round of the Conservative leadership race.

Truss faced more turmoil in Parliament Wednesday evening on a vote over fracking for shale gas — a practice that Truss wants to resume despite opposition from many Conservatives.

With a large Conservative majority in Parliament, an opposition call for a fracking ban was easily defeated by 326 votes to 230, but some lawmakers were furious that Conservative Party whips said the vote would be treated as confidence motion, meaning the government would fall if the motion passed.

There were angry scenes in the House of Commons during and after the vote, with party whips accused of using heavy-handed tactics to gain votes. Labour lawmaker Chris Bryant said he “saw members being physically manhandled ... and being bullied.”

Some lawmakers reported that that Conservative Chief Whip Wendy Morton, who is responsible for party discipline, and her deputy had resigned. But Truss’ office later said both remained in their jobs.

Conservative officials denied there had been manhandling, but in the chaos Truss herself failed to vote, according to the official record. Many Tory lawmakers were left despondent by the state of their party.

Conservative lawmaker Charles Walker said it was “a shambles and a disgrace.”

“I hope that all those people that put Liz Truss in (office), I hope it was worth it,” he told the BBC. “I hope it was worth it to sit around the Cabinet table, because the damage they have done to our party is extraordinary.”

The dramatic developments came days after Truss fired her Treasury chief, Kwasi Kwarteng, on Friday after the economic package the pair unveiled Sept. 23 spooked financial markets and triggered an economic and political crisis.

The plan’s \$50 billion in unfunded tax cuts sparked turmoil on financial markets, hammering the value of the pound and increasing the cost of U.K. government borrowing. The Bank of England was forced to intervene to prevent the crisis from spreading to the wider economy and putting pension funds at risk.

On Monday Kwarteng’s replacement, Treasury chief Jeremy Hunt, scrapped almost all of Truss’ tax cuts, along with her flagship energy policy and her promise of no public spending cuts.



Fragments of a Russian rocket that was shot down by the Ukrainian defence system burn in the village of Kipti, Chernihiv region, Ukraine, on Wednesday.

Martial law in Ukraine

Putin declares restrictions in 4 annexed regions

By HANNA ARHIROVA, YURAS KARMANAU and SABRA AYRES
Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine — Russian President Vladimir Putin doubled down Wednesday on his faltering invasion of Ukraine with a declaration of martial law in four illegally annexed regions and preparations within Russia for draconian new restrictions and crackdowns.

Putin’s drastic efforts to tighten his grip on Ukrainians and Russians follow a series of embarrassing setbacks: stinging battlefield defeats, sabotage and troubles with his troop mobilization.

The martial law order belies the Kremlin’s attempts to portray life in the annexed regions as returning to normal. The reality is that a military administration has replaced civilian leaders in the southern city of Kherson and a mass evacuation from the city is underway as a Ukrainian counteroffensive grinds on.

The battle for Kherson, a city of more than 250,000 people with key industries and a major port, is a pivotal moment for Ukraine and Russia heading into winter, when front lines could largely freeze for months. It’s the largest city Russia has held during the war, which began Feb. 24.

A trickle of evacuations from the city in recent days has become a flood. Local officials said Wednesday that 5,000 had left out of an expected 60,000. Russian state television showed residents crowding on the banks of the Dnieper River, many with small children, to cross by boats to the east — and, from there, deeper into Russian-controlled territory.



An elderly woman reacts as she leaves her house located in a combat zone in the village of Zarechne, Donetsk region, on Monday.

In announcing martial law effective today, Putin told his Security Council, “We are working to solve very difficult large-scale tasks to ensure Russia’s security and safe future.”

Putin is under growing pressure from a Ukrainian counteroffensive that has clawed back territory, sabotage of a strategically important bridge linking Russia with Crimea, assassinations of Kremlin-installed officials in Kherson and mistakes he himself has admitted in his partial troop mobilization. Putin’s martial law declaration authorized creation of civil defense forces; the potential imposition of curfews; restrictions on travel and public gatherings; tighter censorship; and broad-

er law enforcement powers in Kherson and the other annexed regions of Donetsk, Luhansk and Zaporizhzhia.

In an ominous move, Putin opened the door for restrictive measures to be extended across Russia, too. That may lead to a tougher crackdown on dissent: dispersal of antiwar protests and the jailing of people making statements or providing information about the fighting that differs from the official line.

The severity of new restrictions inside Russia depends on proximity to Ukraine.

Putin put areas nearest Ukraine on medium alert, including annexed Crimea, Krasnodar, Belgorod, Bryansk, Kursk, Rostov.

France grieves schoolgirl’s slaying in Paris

SYLVIE CORBET and BARBARA SURK
Associated Press

PARIS — The slaying of a 12-year-old girl whose body was found inside a plastic box in a Paris building courtyard has left France “profoundly shaken,” the French government said Wednesday.

A 24-year-old woman who was arrested Saturday in a northeastern suburb of the capital is in custody on charges of murder and rape of a minor, torture, acts of barbarity and concealment of a corpse, the Paris state prosecutor said Monday. A 43-year-old man is also in custody, charged with helping to hide the girl’s body, according to a prosecutors’ statement.

The killing of the girl, identified in the French media only as Lola, has sparked a heated political debate after reports emerged identifying the main suspect as an immigrant who remained in France despite an official order that mandated her to leave.

An autopsy showed that the girl died of “cardio-respiratory failure with signs of asphyxia and cervical compression,” Paris prosecutors said. The coroner’s report also cited wounds to her face, back and neck and injuries consistent with sexual assault, prosecutor said.

A judicial investigation is underway to determine the motive for the killing and a timeline of events that led to



A woman lays flowers Wednesday outside the building where the body of 12-year-old schoolgirl was discovered in a trunk in Paris.

the girl’s death Friday and the discovery of her body that night in the courtyard of the building where she lived with her family.

“We are profoundly shaken, faced with the horror and the pain,” French government spokesman Olivier Veran told reporters.

The girl’s father reported his daughter missing Friday afternoon after she failed to return home from school. He works as a concierge in the building and used security camera footage to retrace the girl’s movements.

He reported that his daughter entered the building with

an unknown woman who later appeared alone in a hallway as she was leaving, carrying what appeared to be a heavy suitcase, according to the prosecutor’s statement.

Paris Mayor Anne Hidalgo and Education Minister Pap Ndiaye have visited the girl’s school, and psychologists were dispatched to offer support to students and their parents.

French President Emmanuel Macron received the girl’s parents at the Elysee Palace on Tuesday and said he had expressed “condolences and offered solidarity and support in their terrible ordeal that upsets us all.”

The president’s political rivals, meanwhile, lashed out at his centrist government and blamed its immigration policies for the girl’s death.

French media reports said the 24-year-old suspect was an immigrant from Algeria. She lived in the country illegally for three years, Veran said. In August, when she landed at Paris’s Orly airport, authorities noticed her flawed immigration status and issued her an order to leave French territory before letting her in, the government spokesman explained.

“The suspect in this barbaric act should not have been in our country,” Marine Le Pen, head of the far-right National Rally party, said Tuesday during a heated National Assembly session. Le Pen, who leads the largest opposition party in France’s most powerful house of parliament, demanded that Macron’s government put a stop to “uncontrolled immigration.”

Veran, the government spokesman, appealed for lawmakers to refrain from political bickering, saying Wednesday that Lola’s parents “ask us for collective support in what they are going through, without adding to their pain.”

“Like them, we want answers,” Veran said. “Like them, we want to punish with the needed tough stance warranted by atrocities that have been committed. It’s up to judicial authorities to do so.”

Iranian climber returns home

By JON GAMBRELL
Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates — Iranian climber Elnaz Rekabi returned to Tehran early Wednesday after competing in South Korea without wearing a headscarf, an act widely seen as support for anti-government demonstrators amid weeks of protests over the Islamic Republic’s mandatory hijab.

After landing, Rekabi gave a careful, emotionless interview to Iran’s hard-line state television, saying that going without a hijab had been an “unintentional” act on her part. However, hundreds gathered outside Imam Khomeini International Airport — including women not wearing the hijab — and cheered for “Elnaz the Champion,” casting Rekabi as an inspiration for their continued protests.

The future Rekabi faces after returning home remains unclear. Supporters and Farsi-language media outside of Iran have worried about Rekabi’s safety after her return, especially as activists say the demonstrations have seen security forces arrest thousands so far.

The differing reception for Rekabi shows the growing fissures in Iranian society as nationwide protests sparked by the Sept. 16 death of a 22-year-old woman are in their fifth week. Mahsa Amini was detained by the country’s morality police over her clothing — and her death has prompted women to remove their hijabs in public.

The demonstrations, drawing school-age children, oil workers and others to the streets in over 100 cities, represent the most-serious challenge to Iran’s theocracy since the mass protests surrounding its disputed 2009 presidential election.

That Rekabi, 33, competed without her hijab in Seoul during the finals of the International Federation of Sport Climbing’s Asia Championship prompted her immediate embrace by those supporting the demonstrations that increasingly include calls for the overthrow of the country’s theocracy.

LEGALS

Notice of Formation of PJM OF TRUXTON, LLC -- Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of New York on 10/7/22. Office location: Cortland County. Secretary of State of New York designated as agent of the limited liability company upon whom process against it may be served. Secretary of State of New York shall mail process to P.O. Box 271, Truxton, New York 13158. The principal office of the limited liability company is located at 3674 New York State Route 13, Truxton, New York 13158. The limited liability company was formed for any lawful business purpose.

Notice of Formation of TRUXTON CORNER STATION, LLC -- Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of New York on 10/7/22. Office location: Cortland County. Secretary of State of New York designated as agent of the limited liability company upon whom process against it may be served. Secretary of State of New York shall mail process to P.O. Box 271, Truxton, New York 13158. The principal office of the limited liability company is located at 3674 New York State Route 13, Truxton, New York 13158. The limited liability company was formed for any lawful business purpose.

Notice of Special Board Meeting of Town of Preble Town Board

Please Take Notice that a special board meeting of the Town of Preble Town Board will be held at the Preble Town Hall, Preble Road, Preble, on the Twelfth Fourth day of October 2022 at 7:00 P.M. to consider approval for issuance of a certificate of occupancy for the Electrify America charging stations located on Currie Road, Town of Preble, New York and for such other matters as may come before the Town Board.

The public is entitled to attend and be heard at said special board public hearing.

Dated: October 14, 2022

S/_____
Jennifer George, Preble Town Clerk