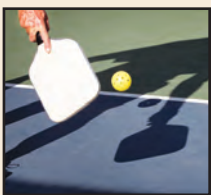


**LOCAL**  
Cortland plans to use federal grants to build pickleball courts at Randall and Yaman parks



Page 3

**SPORTS**  
On Monday, Toronto's Vladimir Guerrero Jr. won MLB's Home Run Derby, 16 years after his father.



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# Cortland Standard

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2023 daily No. 158

TUESDAY, JULY 11, 2023

CORTLAND, N.Y.

## Court refuses to reconsider musician's win over Apple Inc.

By KEVIN CONLON  
City Editor

[kconlon@cortlandstandard.com](mailto:kconlon@cortlandstandard.com)  
A federal appeals court has rejected a request by corporate giant Apple Inc. to rehear a case in which the court sided with former Cortland musician Charles Bertini and blocked the corporate giant's requested trademark for the term "Apple Music."

The appeals court concluded that Apple's use of the trademark could not extend to the Beatles trademark. The court stated Apple Music has a much broader array of services than the company it bought. The court noted that all of the services would have to be continued from the original company for the trademark protections for Apple Corps to extend to Apple Music.

Bertini provided the court with newspaper articles and documents that demonstrated he had been using the name since June 13, 1985.

Charles Bertini was represented in his seven-year court battle by his brother, James Bertini, a Denver, Colorado-based lawyer.

"They asked the court to reconsider the decision," James Bertini said. "The court rarely entertains these requests and it did not in this case."

In a separate action, Charlie Bertini, who now lives in Florida, filed with the Trademark Trial and Appeal Board a request to cancel Apple's trademark for the word "apple" for entertainment. A trial concluded Feb. 23, 2021, but a decision is still pending, despite efforts by James Bertini to expedite a ruling by the court.

The court suspended a decision on that request in 2022, pending the outcome of "Apple Music" trademark challenge. Such delays are typically granted until all appeals in a related case are exhausted, according to the court.

James Bertini argued that the two cases should not have been linked by the court, but he said Monday that the decision by the court Thursday may clear the way for a ruling.

See APPLE, page 6



Margaret Mellott/Staff Reporter

The village of Homer Fire Department will celebrate its 150th anniversary July 22 with bucket brigade competitions, a parade and 1873-priced hotdogs for 10 cents.

## 'Keeping us safe'

Homer to celebrate fire department's 150th anniversary

By MARGARET MELLOTT  
Staff Reporter

[mmellott@cortlandstandard.com](mailto:mmellott@cortlandstandard.com)  
Twenty-four hours a day. Seven days a week — nearly 54,800 days Homer firefighters have stood ready to protect homes and businesses.

And on July 22, the village of Homer will pay homage to its firefighting roots when the village fire department celebrates its 150th anniversary while hosting the Central New York Firefighters Association convention.

"I could just highlight all the times the fire department's been to my farm, that makes it personal," said Homer Town Supervisor Fred Forbes Sr. "I hope the main take away from the event is that it's not the brick and mortar — it's the men and women who've volunteered. I'm thankful to have that kind of fire department keeping us safe."

In addition to a bucket brigade competition, ladder truck rides and gear-donning — the fire station at 45 S. Main St. will function as a museum for the department, featuring historical gear,



Photo provided by Gabe Fardale

Homer Fire Department apparatus seen outside the Homer Fire Department in 1965. The department will mark its sesquicentennial later this month.

photos and vehicles.

"I'm looking forward to the antique display of fire apparatus that dates back to 1815," said Robert Johnson, event committee chairman.

A ceremony led by Village Historian Martin Sweeney will begin at noon on the Village Green. The Central New York Firefighters

The Homer Fire Department was formed in 1873 with the organization of Triumph Hose Co. No. 1. Today, there are three companies: Triumph Hose Co. No. 1, Toughnioga Hose Co. No. 2 and West Side Hose Co. No. 3.

A fourth company, Homer Hook and Ladder Co., was active from 1935 to 2010.

"Around 1815, there was no such thing as a fire department," Sweeney said. "The village of Homer didn't even exist as an incorporation until 1835, but that didn't stop mother nature from having fires — everything was built out of wood in those days and heating, of course, by wooden fire."

"When there were fires, fortunately they were living mostly along the river," Sweeney added. "But fires were put out by bucket brigades, which meant your battle with fire was usually lost."

Today is a different story. The department responds to between 700 and 800 fire and medical alarms each year, protecting about 7,300 people spread across 75 square miles in Homer and Scott.

## Biden, King Charles III eye challenge of climate change



AP Photo/Susan Walsh

President Joe Biden, front, reviews royal guards along with Britain's King Charles III during a welcoming ceremony at Windsor Castle in Windsor, England, Monday.

By SEUNG MIN KIM,  
JILL LAWLESS  
and CHRIS MEGERIAN  
Associated Press

WINDSOR, England — President Joe Biden and King Charles III, two leaders who waited decades to reach the pinnacle of their careers, used their first meeting in those roles Monday to zero in on the generational challenge of climate change, prodding private companies to do more to bolster clean energy in developing countries.

The meticulously choreographed gathering at Windsor Castle injected substance into the type of encounter between president and monarch that historically has been more about

ceremony. After the arrival formalities, Biden and Charles participated in a climate-focused roundtable with officials from the financial and philanthropic sectors. John Kerry, the U.S. envoy on climate, also attended.

The 74-year-old Charles, who was crowned in May, has long fought to protect wildlife and battle climate change. Biden, for his part, identified climate change as one of the four crises he was determined to confront as president. He signed a sweeping legislative package last year that includes nearly \$375 billion in climate-related incentives.

Biden, 80, last had formal talks with Charles, then prince,

at the COP26 U.N. climate summit in Glasgow, Scotland, in November 2021. The U.S. president also attended the state funeral of Charles's mother, Queen Elizabeth II, in September as well as a reception for heads of state at Buckingham Palace the night before the service. Biden did not attend Charles's coronation, sending first lady Jill Biden instead.

Jake Sullivan, the White House national security adviser, said the president has "huge respect" for the king's commitment on the climate issue in particular. He said Charles has been a "clarion voice" on climate and "someone who's mobilized action and effort."

Biden and Charles made sure

to show off their still-developing friendship and warmth during the ceremonial arrival at Windsor Castle, outside London. After they shook hands, Biden put his hand on Charles's arm, then on the king's back as they approached a viewing platform to inspect an honor guard. They appeared relaxed and cordial — a contrast to more formal encounters between past U.S. presidents and British royalty. Biden and Charles discussed climate, China and shared stories from the past during their visit, according to Sullivan.

The views of the late Queen Elizabeth II on politics and political issues were a closely

See BRITAIN, page 6

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### WEATHER



Mostly sunny  
Tomorrow's Weather:  
High near 80  
T-storms possible  
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### ONLINE

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[www.cortlandstandard.com](http://www.cortlandstandard.com)

### 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](mailto:news@cortlandstandard.com).



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## Weather

### Local

**Rest of today:** A chance of showers and thunderstorms before midnight, then a chance of showers between midnight and 3 a.m., then a slight chance of showers and thunderstorms after 3 a.m. Partly cloudy, with a low around 61. Southwest wind around 6 mph becoming calm in the evening. Chance of precipitation is 30%. New rainfall amounts of less than a tenth of an inch, except higher amounts possible in thunderstorms.

### Skies Today

**Tuesday, July 11, 2023**  
 Sunset today 8:43 p.m.  
 Sunrise tomorrow 5:38 a.m.  
 Normal high temperature 80  
 Normal low temperature 57  
 Average temperature 69  
 New moon July 17

### Extended

**Wednesday:** A slight chance of showers and thunderstorms, then showers likely and possibly a thunderstorm after 3 p.m. Mostly sunny, with a high near 80. Chance of precipitation is 60%.

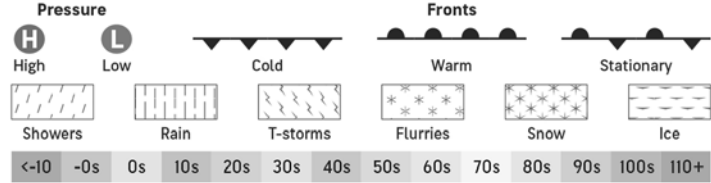
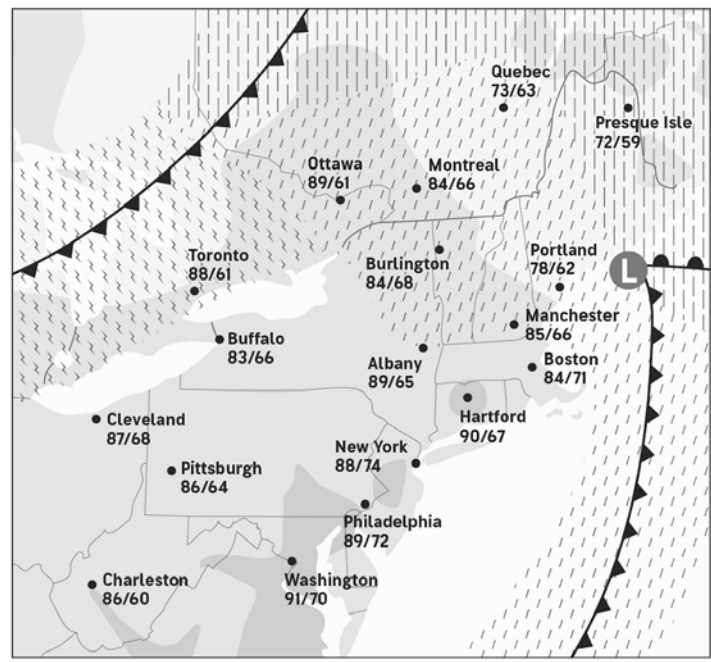
**Wednesday night:** Showers likely and possibly a thunderstorm before 9 p.m., then a chance of showers and thunderstorms between 9 p.m. and midnight, then a chance of showers after midnight. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 62. Chance of precipitation is 60%.

**Thursday:** A chance of showers, then showers likely and possibly a thunderstorm after 3 p.m. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 81. Chance of precipitation is 70%.

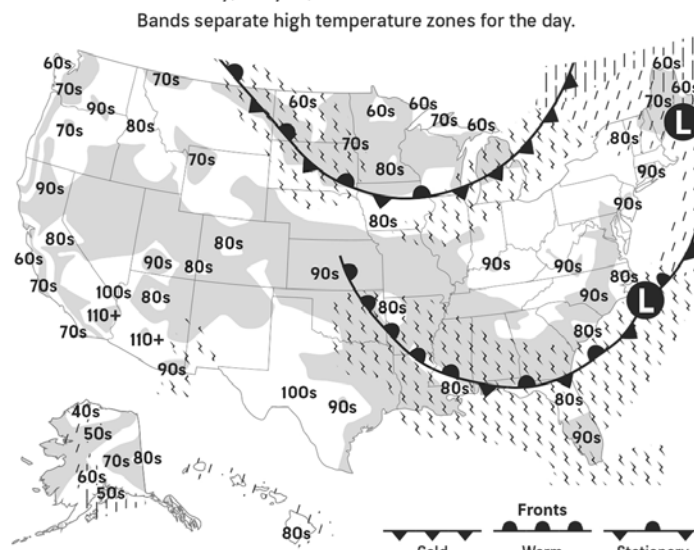
### Precipitation

July 9-10 0.05 inches  
 Month to date 1.15 inches

Forecast for Tuesday, July 11, 2023



Forecast for Tuesday, July 11, 2023



**NATIONAL SUMMARY:** As torrential rain retreats northward into Canada, showers will linger in northern New England where flooding problems may persist today. Thunderstorms will rumble over parts of the Southeast states as the risk of severe weather ramps up over the central Plains and Great Lakes region. Much of the interior West will be dry, sunny and hot.

©2023 AccuWeather, Inc.

## Lottery Winners

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

**Numbers:** Midday: 4-2-7, Evening: 7-2-7; **WinFour:** Midday: 9-2-9-0, Evening: 7-1-0-3; **Pick 10:** 1-8-9-14-20-21-24-29-31-33-38-39-40-55-56-58-60-71-72-79; **Take Five:** Midday: 3-4-7-30-35, Evening: 18-20-22-25-28; **Cash4Life:** 4-9-33-38-55, Cash Ball: 1, **Powerball:** 2-24-34-53-58, Powerball: 13, Power Play: 2

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The Cortland Standard will print corrections and clarifications of news articles in this space. If you find mistakes or omissions, call the managing editor at 607-756-5665 x 166.

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# Federal monitor argues NYC should face contempt for conditions at Rikers Island

By JAKE OFFENHARTZ  
 The Associated Press

NEW YORK — A court-appointed monitor is urging a judge to begin contempt proceedings against New York City over conditions at the troubled Rikers Island jail complex, setting the stage for a potential federal takeover of the jail system in the nation's most populous city.

In a report filed Monday in Manhattan federal court, the monitor said the city had failed to comply with a series of court orders that aimed to curb violence and mismanagement inside Rikers Island.

The report comes less than a month after a federal judge indicated that she would consider placing the jail in receivership,

an extraordinary intervention that would end New York City's control over one of the nation's largest and most famous jails. New York City Mayor Eric Adams has vigorously opposed a federal takeover. The judge's decision could come as soon as next month.

In a nearly 300-page report, the court-appointed monitor described a "disturbing level of regression" since the city agreed to follow an action plan intended to stabilize the jail system last June.

The Department of Correction repeatedly failed to consult the monitor, displaying an "unwillingness and inability to acknowledge the myriad of issues," the monitor Steve Martin said.

"The pace of reform has stagnated instead of accelerated in a number of key areas," Martin noted, "meaning that there has been no meaningful relief for people in custody or staff from the violence and the unnecessary and excessive use of force."

A spokesperson for City Hall said they were still reviewing the report, but planned to defend against any contempt motion.

Advocates for detainees have long believed a federal receivership is necessary to stem the violence on Rikers Island, where 19 people died last year, the highest number in a quarter of a century. Many believe a finding of contempt would be the first step toward a federal receivership.

"Every single day the consti-

tutional rights of people in city custody are being violated," said Kayla Simpson, an attorney for the Legal Aid Society, which represents detainees on Rikers Island. "The monitor is saying: 'enough.'"

Adams, meanwhile, has repeatedly touted the success of his efforts to improve conditions on Rikers Island, pointing to a reduction in slashings and staff absenteeism since he took office and appointed Department of Correction Commissioner Louie Molina in January 2022.

But those gains have also come alongside questions about whether jail officials have sought to reduce transparency — with both the public and the federal monitor — around what happens inside Rikers Island.



Vehicles come to a standstill near a washed-out and flooded portion of the Palisades Parkway just beyond the traffic circle off the Bear Mountain Bridge, Sunday in Orange County. AP Photo/David Bauder

# Extreme flooding overwhelms NY roadways, kills 1

By BOBBY CAINA CALVAN and HALLIE GOLDEN  
 Associated Press

NEW YORK — Heavy rain spawned extreme flooding in New York's Hudson Valley that killed at least one person, swamped roadways and forced road closures on Sunday night, as much of the rest of the Northeast U.S. braced Monday for potentially punishing rains.

As the storm moved east, the National Weather Service extended flash flood warnings into Connecticut, including the cities of Stamford and Greenwich, before creeping into Massachusetts.

Forecasters said some areas could get as much as 5 inches of rain.

In New York's Hudson Valley, rescue teams found the body of a woman in her 30s who drowned after being swept away while trying to evacuate her home, Orange County Executive Steven Neuhaus told WABC-TV. Officials were waiting for the medical examiner's office to arrive, he said.

"There's a major flash flood. Major washouts were all around where her house is," Neuhaus said. "So I could definitely see where she was trying to get out to safety, but did not make it, got swept away."

The force of the flash flooding dislodged boulders, which rammed the woman's house and damaged part of its wall, Neuhaus told The Associated Press. Two other people escaped.

"Her house was completely surrounded by water," he said. "She was trying to get through (the flooding) with her dog," he added, "and she was overwhelmed by tidal-wave type waves."

The extent of the destruction from the slow moving storm, which pounded the area with up to 8 inches of rain, won't be known until residents and officials can begin surveying the damage.

But officials said the storm had already wrought tens of millions of dollars in damage. New York Gov. Kathy Hochul confirmed to WCBS radio that several people were missing and one home was washed away.

The rains have hit some parts of New York harder than others, but officials said communities to the east of the state should brace for torrential rains and possible flash flooding.

Officials urged residents in

the line of the storm to stay off the roads.

"The amount of water is extraordinary and it's still a very dangerous situation," Hochul said.

"We'll get through this," she said, but added "it's going to be a rough night."

The governor declared a state of emergency Sunday for Orange County, about 60 miles north of New York City. She later extended the state of emergency to Ontario County in western New York, southeast of Rochester.

"We are in close communication with local officials and state agencies are participating in search and rescue efforts," she said.

The state deployed five swift-water rescue teams and a high-axle vehicle to help with rescues in flooded areas.

Some video posted on social media showed the extent of flooding, with streams of brown-colored torrents rushing right next to homes, and roadways washed away by fast-moving cascading flows.

West Point, home to the U.S. Military Academy, was severely flooded. Officials worry some historic buildings might have water damage.

The National Weather Service issued flash flood warnings across parts of southeastern New York, describing it as "life threatening," as well as warnings in northeastern New Jersey.

By Monday, "a considerable flood threat with a high risk of excessive rainfall" was expected across much of New England, NWS said in a tweet. Intense rain was especially strong in Vermont, where Gov. Phil Scott declared a state of emergency Sunday, and northeastern New York.

Showers and thunderstorms in New York City could lead to flash flooding, the National Weather Service New York tweeted.

The city's emergency notification system tweeted that the heavy rain could cause "life-threatening flooding to basements" and instructed residents Sunday to "prepare now to move to higher ground if needed."

## Obituaries

### Lois J. Shutts

Lois J. Shutts, 97, formerly from McGraw with her daughter, past resident of the Friendship House, Cortland, passed away on July 4, 2023, at the Northwoods Rehabilitation Center in Moravia.

Lois was born November 14, 1925, in East Schodack, NY, a daughter of the late John and Mabel Cooper VanHoesen.

She was employed for 30 years as a personal care aid at the Elizabeth Brewster House in Homer, where over the years she formed many lasting friendships with the residents.

She took great pride in and enjoyed tending to her flower gardens and maintaining her home. Surviving is her son, Kenneth (Cathy) Wetterer of Dade City, FL; her daughter, Dale Brewer of McGraw; six grandchildren; eighteen great grandchildren and one great-great granddaughter.

Lois was predeceased by her first husband, Albert Wetterer; her second, Elmer 'Sonny' Shutts; son-in-law, John Brewer and two sisters, Patricia Fairchild and Marilyn Holrah.

Graveside services will be held at 12:00 p.m. on Monday, July 17, 2023, in Glenwood Cemetery, Homer. There will be no calling hours.

To offer online condolences visit [www.DonaldLBarberFuneralHome.com](http://www.DonaldLBarberFuneralHome.com).



### Ernest (Ernie) H. Creeden

Ernest (Ernie) H. Creeden, 63, of Dryden passed away July 6, 2023, at Cayuga Medical Center, Ithaca after a short battle with cancer. Ernie was born August 19, 1959, in Middletown, NY. The son of the late Ernest T. and Gloria G. Creeden.

An avid outdoorsman, Ernie loved to be outdoors hunting and fishing, with hunting being his true passion. He would spend as much time in the woods as possible during turkey and deer season. He said he always loved to watch and listen to the woods "wake up" and he enjoyed nothing more than hunting alongside his son Jason and his brother Greg.

Ernie had many hobbies including reading, gardening, and beekeeping but his greatest love was his family. Happiest when his home was loud and busy, filled with his children and grandchildren.

A dedicated husband, father, and grandfather, he is survived by his wife Jody, his daughters Gloria (Nick Straniero), Danyel (Eric Farino), Jamie (James Falcon), Tia Pudney, and his son Jason (Amanda Creeden). And his seven grandchildren, Savanna, Zabelle, Mia, Stella, Nora, Leah, and Elijah, as well as his beloved Doberman Zeke.

A private funeral service will be held at Green Hills Cemetery in Dryden. Online condolences at [www.perkinsfh.com](http://www.perkinsfh.com).



## Death Notices

**DANN** — LaVerne S. Dann, 93, of Marathon, died on Sunday, July 9, 2023. Arrangements are incomplete and will be announced by the Marathon Memorial Chapel, Marathon.

Celebration of life for  
**Charles M. Cox**  
 Who died April 22, 2023, in Cortland, NY.  
**American Legion Post 617 in Marathon, NY**  
**Sunday, July 16, 2023**

This will be an open house event from 1-4 p.m., with a sharing of memories scheduled for around 3 p.m. Light refreshments will be provided, all are welcome to attend.

In Loving Memory of  
**Gloria J. Perry**  
 May 22, 1946 - July 11, 2022  
 In Our Hearts  
 We thought of you today.  
 But that is nothing new.  
 We thought about you yesterday.  
 And days before that too.  
 We think of you in silence.  
 We often speak your name.  
 Now all we have are memories.  
 And your picture in a frame.  
 Your memory is our keepsake.  
 With which we'll never part.  
 God has you in His keeping.  
 We have you in our heart.

Love always, Your husband John,  
 Brenda & Randy, Karen & Nick, Steven & Lisa  
 Your loving Family and Friends



Kevin Conlon/City Editor

A city of Cortland maintenance worker mows the grass Monday at Randall Park near the tennis courts. The city plans to convert some of the courts to pickleball courts.

## 'Speed of the sport'

### Pickleball courts coming to city parks

By JACOB MACK  
Staff Reporter

jmack@cortlandstandard.com

Fans of pickleball will soon be able to play at new courts at Cortland's Randall and Yaman parks.

"It's like pingpong with a Whiffle ball, but yet it's a little bit faster," Mayor Scott Steve said Monday. "Course I used to play racquetball and hockey, so I like the speed of the sport."

According to usapickleball.org, the number of Pickleball courts in the United States increased by 1,557 in 2022, to 10,724. In the same year, the organization's membership increased more than 30%, reaching 70,000 nationwide.

Steve said the courts are being built because of pickleball's rising popularity, making use of underused tennis courts.

He said in April the city planned for the courts to be ready for use by the end of this summer.

"We're actually behind as far as I'm concerned, this has been a rage through-

out the country for quite a while," he said. "It's a great community builder, it puts community members together and gets them outdoors to enjoy our great fresh air and each other."

Steve said the city would use federal American Rescue Plan funding to build the courts, with the first being constructed at Randall Park as a part of the city's renovation of the site, and would ideally reimburse itself given funding from a pending \$50,000 state grant the city applied for in 2022 to rebuild Randall Park.

Several tennis courts at the park near Randall Middle School would be converted to eight pickleball courts according to city planning documents for the park's rebuild, leaving two tennis courts at the site.

"I'm excited and I know a number of our residents are excited," said Seth Thompson (D-5th Ward). "There's a number of folks who were big proponents of pickleball as a recreation activity, not just for seniors, but the whole

community, who identified a need for courts specifically for pickleball."

"I have a number of neighbors and colleagues who've played, and my kids played pickleball at the high school," he said. "Anytime folks in the Cortland area have an opportunity to stay active, it helps with health, quality of life, and possibly community revenue from tournaments and the like. I think it opens up many opportunities."

Yaman Park will also receive a set of pickleball courts.

"Hopefully tennis will come back again, I had two high school kids that were tennis players, but I think pickleball is becoming more the trend," Steve said. "Activity is always good, interaction and doing things with each other is always good."

Pickleball was invented in 1965 in Seattle, Washington. Three dads — Joel Pritchard, Bill Bell and Barney McCallum — whose kids were bored with their usual summertime activities — are credited for creating the game.

## Girl charged with felony in fatal December crash

From Staff Reports

A 15-year-old girl driving a stolen car that crashed in December in Homer, killing a passenger, has been charged with vehicular homicide, state police announced Friday.

The state Police Bureau of Criminal Investigation at Homer issued a news release announcing the June 29 arrest of the girl, whom they did not identify, for criminally negligent homicide, a felony; and two counts of third-degree assault, misdemeanors.

About 10:15 p.m. Dec. 28, a Cortland County sheriff's officer observed a northbound sport utility vehicle on Route 281 drive through a red traffic light at West Main Street in Cortland.

The four occupants of the SUV had run away from the William George Agency for Children's Services in Freeville and stolen a vehicle from

there, the release says.

The deputy tried to initiate a traffic stop on Route 281, but the SUV failed to comply, the release says. The SUV and deputy's vehicle lost control and crashed, after failing to negotiate a turn onto the Interstate 81 on-ramp in the town of Homer.

A rear seat passenger, 16-year-old Salena N. Wallner, died at the scene, the 15-year-old driver, a 16-year-old female passenger and a 15-year-old female passenger were all transported to Upstate University Hospital in Syracuse with serious injuries.

The investigation revealed that the Cortland County deputy had no part in the cause of the crash, the release says. The investigation also revealed that the 15-year-old driver's actions were negligent, causing the death of the passenger and injuries to the other two passengers, police said.

## Guthrie seeks participants for free Lyme vaccine study

To take part

Visit [guthrie.org/lyme-disease-vaccine-study](https://guthrie.org/lyme-disease-vaccine-study) to learn more about the study and how to sign up.

Guthrie Clinic is looking for people to take part in its second round of a Lyme disease vaccine study that, if successful, would be better than current preventive measures.

Participants must be above the age of 5 and live in places or participate in activities that increase their risk for Lyme disease, such as landscaping, hiking, camping, fishing or having a pet that may return from outdoors with attached ticks, Guthrie announced Monday in a Zoom call.

"The concept is you're targeting what's called an antigen of the bug, whether it is a bacterium or a virus," said Dr. Victor Kolade.

"You get a stain, apply some kind of detergent to it, or the right chemical to it, and you get the stain out," Kolade said. "That's how you can do this, because the vaccine we're look-

ing at is targeting a concept called OspA ... It's a feature of this bug for Lyme."

Participants will receive four injections over 30 months and must make seven in-person visits, including blood draws. There is no cost to participate nor is health insurance required. Participants will be reimbursed for expenses and time related to completing certain study tasks.

Cortland County had 121 human-tick encounters tested last year by the Upstate Tick Testing Laboratory, the program reports. Of the 121 ticks, 37% tested positive for Lyme disease, 10% tested positive for anaplasmosis and 2% tested positive for babesiosis.

The state sees more than 7,000 cases of Lyme disease each year, the state Department of Health reports. Lyme disease can result in fever, headache, fatigue and rashes. If left untreated, infection can spread to joints, the heart and the nervous system.

—Margaret Mellott

## City account clerk Sorrells dead at 71

By JACOB MACK  
Staff Reporter

jmack@cortlandstandard.com

Connie Sorrells didn't just work for the city of Cortland, she lived for it. She was at nearly every Common Council meeting in her years tracking the city's finances, and even after she retired in May 2022.

Sorrells, of Cortland, died Sunday at the age of 71. She had worked in city government for 22 years, retiring as a senior account clerk, but having been active with the city's Board of Assessment Review.

"Connie had a great sense of humor, but was very fiery and would fight against what was not just, and what was beneficial for the city as a whole, which is rare to find," May-

or Scott Steve said Monday. "The last day of her work last May when she retired, she was on the phone trying to get this money that was owed back to the city for a misapplied payment. Most people would have walked out the door or whatever, but she made sure she got that done before she walked out."

"Connie Sorrells was devoted to the city of Cortland and to her role in city government," said Councilperson Mary Clare Pennello (D-3rd Ward) in a news release. "She took her job responsibilities very seriously and never backed down from what she believed in."

"She would always come to council meetings, I don't think she missed very many, and voice her opinion," Steve said. "She was able

to do that as an employee and do that in a respectful manner."

"As a citizen, she came to every council meeting and held us accountable, speaking out on issues that concerned her," said Councilperson Katy Silliman (D-2nd Ward). "She could be very gruff or very funny, depending upon the message she conveyed. Praise was rare but meant all the more for that."

"I worked with Connie for many years both as an employee with the City of Cortland and now as a councilman for her ward," Councilperson William Carpenter (D-6th Ward) said in a release. "Connie has always been involved as a constituent and as a concerned citizen. Connie would routinely call me regarding city and ward issues. Con-

nie's passion and love for the city of Cortland will be missed."

Steve said Sorrells was a member of the Service Employees International Union, and always vouched for the rights of city employees.

"She was very adamant about 'her girls' in the SEIU and very protective of that group and an example of exactly what we'd want from our employees," Steve said.

"Regarding her position as union president for the SEIU, I referred to her as a mother hen," said Councilperson Tom Michales (R-8th Ward) in a release. "She was a very dedicated city employee and she always told you the way it was and didn't sugarcoat anything."

Funeral arrangements were not available Monday.

## We're a throwback, but we don't want to change

The day I started in this industry 35 years ago, I was hired into a newsroom in Binghamton with 100 journalists. The neighboring paper in Elmira, owned by the same company, had 65. And the Ithaca Journal, with the same owner, had 30.

That's 195 journalists reporting to 675,000 people.

A few weeks ago, Gannett announced it was closing its Binghamton office, which now covers the same area as three newspapers did in 1988. The remaining journalists, I suppose, can either work from home or commute to Rochester.

All five of them. I've been trained by decades in this industry to think of the *Cortland Standard's* newsroom as pretty small — about 10 of us. But it's now the largest newsroom between Syracuse and Scranton, Pa. We are, after a fashion, a throwback, willing to take less profit in order to provide better service.

So as the *Cortland Standard* drops to five days of print publication from six next week — a development I don't particularly like — I have to temper my disappointment (mostly in myself) with perspective:

The Post-Standard of Syracuse has published only three times a

week since 2013. And that used to be a two-newspaper town. The Post-Standard was the morning paper and the Herald-Journal the afternoon paper.

The Citizen of Auburn dropped to six days a week in 2013, and it dropped to three days a week starting this week.

The Press & Sun-Bulletin of Binghamton, a seven-day paper for more than a century, is down to five days a week.

The change follows a widespread trend in the newspaper industry. More than 40 of America's 100 largest papers no longer print seven editions a week; 11 print twice a week or less, reports journalist and industry blogger Jack Limpert. Gannett Co. Inc. announced in 2022 that more than 130 of its 200 daily newspapers would drop at least one day of publication. It's a measure that other corporate chains are watching.

We're not a corporate chain. We're your neighbors. However, we face the same financial realities they do. We have to pay for people, paper and the postage to get the paper to you. Going to five days a week means reducing our cost for paper and postage.

But not people. We're doing this



EDITOR'S  
NOTES

How  
a daily  
newspaper  
works  
every day.

By TODD R. McADAM

without layoffs, and we'll simply focus our efforts on getting you more and better news on the remaining days. We're also more likely to publish digital-first, particularly on Monday.

The number of readers who pick up a paper is dropping. I'll concede I once had six newspapers a day delivered to my desk or home, but now I get just one. (I'll let you guess which one.) I still read the others, but I buy digital subscriptions (saves on recycling).

A change like that has ramifications, not just in who buys the paper, but who advertises in it. Today, a company like the *Cortland Standard* must compete with an entirely new medium — social media — and with

new players, such as Google. In fact, Gannett is suing Google, claiming Google is monopolizing the digital advertising realm, blocking out everyone else. I'm not sure of the legal arguments, but we have to compete with Google as much as Gannett does.

Journalism is on a whole new playing field, but the game remains the same: Get the news; figure out what it means; deliver it to you. Our mission doesn't change — not one iota.

And if there's an upside to reducing the number of days we publish it's this: For years, about half the newsroom worked six days a week, and people were in the newsroom every day. They didn't necessarily have to work eight hours, but they had to do some work-related task nearly every day. For most of the week, someone around here was doing journalism from about 8 a.m. to a little past midnight.

I'll get to give those people a second day off, a day to hang out with family, or maybe do a few chores, or just kick back and have a life. That's pretty cool.

Todd R. McAdam is managing editor of the Cortland Standard. He can be reached at [tmcadam@cortlandstandard.com](mailto:tmcadam@cortlandstandard.com).

## Around the towns

### Historian to talk Cortland regiment at Gettysburg

Historian Mike Brown will discuss "Cortland County's Regiment: The 76th New York Volunteer Infantry at the Battle of Gettysburg," at 7 p.m. today at the Glen Haven School and Public Library, 3725 Fair Haven Road, Homer.

For details, call 607-749-4365.

### Skyline Amateur Radio club meets Wednesday

The Skyline Amateur Radio Club of Cortland will meet at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday at the Masonic Lodge, 1883 Route 13 in Cortlandville.

Anyone interested in ham radio can attend.

### Tompkins voters can test voting machine options

ITHACA — People can help the Tompkins County Board of Elections test several voting machine options the board is considering for future elections:

Today — 2 to 4 p.m., Clear Ballot.

Thursday — 2 to 4 p.m., Hart Intercivic.

July 26 — 2 to 4 p.m. Dominion Voting Systems.

All sessions will be in the Tompkins County Legislature Chambers, 121 E. Court St., Ithaca.

People can submit sample ballots and test how each machine works.

Board of Elections staff will be present to take comments. All the machines comply with the Americans With Disabilities Act.

The winning vendor will provide machines for use starting in 2024.

### County committees switch August meetings

Two Cortland County Legislature committees will switch their August meetings, the county has announced.

The Agricultural, Planning & Environmental Committee meets at 11 a.m. Aug. 8 in Room 302 of the County Office Building.

The Highway Committee meets at 10 a.m. Aug. 10 in Room 302.

### Camp Barton planning second alumni reunion

TRUMANSBURG — The Camp Barton Staff Alumni Association plans its second reunion July 21 to 23 at the Trumansburg camp, which opens its 101st season serving Scouts with the Baden Powell Council.

"We will have former staff members at the reunion representing every era — from the present and going back to the 1950s," said Peter O'Connell, president of The Camp Barton Staff Alumni Association and former staffer in the 1960s and '70s.



Ana Soriano and Luis Moreno kiss after they are married at the Old Brown House, a wedding chapel in Los Angeles, which offered free ceremonies during its grand opening on the second Saturday in June.

Dania Maxwell/Los Angeles Times/TNS

## A wedding for less than an iPhone?

Meet the cost-conscious couples choosing a ‘minimony’

By **MARISA GERBER**  
Los Angeles Times  
(TNS)

LOS ANGELES — As the couple sauntered down the aisle, an instrumental hip-hop version of the wedding classic Canon in D oozed from a boombox, and a small crowd, most of them perfect strangers, danced and cheered in celebration.

The bride wore a sundress and a veil she picked out moments earlier and the groom a black button-down with a fresh haircut from his family’s salon down the street.

The ceremony itself took less than 10 minutes — affordable, memorable and intimate, exactly what Ana Soriano and Luis Moreno had wanted.

“It was just us,” she told him moments after their nuptials. “You and me.”

Both in their early 30s, the couple met on Myspace 13 years ago and got engaged at a cathedral in Italy a few months before the pandemic shutdowns. Moreno, a studio engineer, lost his income overnight, and wedding planning moved to the back burner.

The couple knew some relatives had spent close to \$50,000 on weddings, but they wanted to prioritize saving for a down payment on a home. And being inclined to avoid the spotlight, they liked the prospect of skip-

ping the pressure of a big gathering.

They had settled on a backyard ceremony until the groom’s sister saw something on Facebook about the Old Brown House, a wedding chapel in Highland Park recently opened by a couple who, for years, officiated free weddings at Burning Man. Before the pandemic reorganized their lives and priorities, Soriano said, she felt some pressure to have a larger, more traditional wedding — but this had been so much better.

“Plan B is now Plan A for a lot of people,” said Connie Jones-Steward, an L.A.-based wedding officiant, who said the demand for small ceremonies has remained high since restrictions were lifted.

Largely gone are the days of Zoom weddings and socially distanced outdoor ceremonies, but some of the other pared-down celebrations that were once a pandemic necessity are now increasingly a top choice.

Some of the lexicon popularized during the shutdowns — “micro-wedding” and “minimony,” the portmanteau of mini and ceremony — still dominates the bridal blogosphere, and hundreds of companies have cropped up to cater to tiny gatherings.

Google searches for “elopement” — a term whose defini-

tion has evolved in recent years, to suggest a small, destination wedding more than something furtive — are even higher now than during the first wave of pandemic shutdowns. A survey conducted by a diamond company a few months before the pandemic found that more than 90% of millennials said they would consider eloping. Their top reason? Saving money.

Jones-Steward — who offers a beach elopement package starting at \$399 — keeps in touch with many of the couples who eloped during the pandemic and learned that some who originally planned to have another big ceremony down the road ultimately decided against it, realizing they were grateful to have avoided the stress and cost. These days, she said, many of her Gen Z and younger millennial clients prioritize saving for travel and a down payment.

“They’d rather have this quickie ceremony,” she said, “and spend the money on a world cruise for a honeymoon.”

And if marital longevity is your goal, there’s evidence that’s a good call.

A pair of economists surveyed more than 3,000 people who were or had been married and found that those who spent \$1,000 or less on their wedding were significantly less likely to get divorced than many couples

who had spent more. Going on a honeymoon, however, correlated with a longer marriage duration.

One of the study’s authors, Hugo Mialon, an Emory University economics professor, said he was inspired to conduct the study, in part, by ads he’d seen on TV as a child from De Beers, the company that introduced the slogan “A diamond is forever” in an attempt to boost sales after the Great Depression.

The Old Brown House, which looks just like it sounds, sits on a fairly quiet stretch of York Boulevard, across the street from a cannabis dispensary that was once a Pizza Hut.

Decorated on the inside with vintage furniture and a pump organ, the chapel held its grand opening on the second Saturday in June — the brain- and love child of owners Tess Sweet and Dan Gambelin.

The couple met at Burning Man in 2009 and returned several years after that to perform free wedding ceremonies to honor the festival’s tradition of giving. They loaned out thrifted gowns, gifted rubber rings and devised a Mad Libs-style format so people could quickly write personalized vows. They married more than 300 couples in ceremonies that, although not legally binding, were often profound.

## Ask Amy

By Amy Dickinson

© 2023 The Chicago Tribune



## Dad of two small children phones it in

DEAR AMY: My husband and I have two children under the age of three.

Most of the time when my husband watches the kids, he is on his phone.

Even when our 11-month-old is practicing walking, he holds her by the arm as he walks with his eyes glued to his other hand, which is holding the phone.

If I say something, he gets all defensive.

With our first child, I called him a bad dad because he was always on his phone or just holding him watching TV (basically not interacting with his child).

He was very hurt by this and said I was out of line and disrespectful for saying it.

Honestly, I wouldn’t mind as much if he was doing something productive on the phone for the family (such as looking up recipes, researching something that broke, planning a family trip), but it is just videos or Reddit.

To make me more upset, he does not consider this as “free time.” He would like one to two hours a day (wouldn’t we all).

“Free time” for him, or “personal care,” as he calls it, is no kids, relaxing and watching videos.

Free time for me is taking a shower with no kids or taking them on a walk (I am a stay-at-home parent).

I am just struggling with how to explain to him that your kids are here now, not on a screen.

We did go to marriage counseling for a year, but it did not work so well. It turned into, if I am struggling, then I need to pay for help or depend on my family, since my expectations are higher than his.

— Basically, a Single Parent  
**DEAR SINGLE PARENT:** You say you don’t mind your husband being on his phone, if he is doing something you approve of.

**I agree with you that the level of distraction you describe is not good parenting. Parents should do their utmost to have two free hands when dealing with a toddler and a baby. You can’t have two free hands if you are using one hand to hold a phone.**

**I wonder if you might reach a compromise whereby your husband agrees to listen to music or a podcast instead of watching or scrolling on his phone.**

**I don’t think that branding him as a “bad dad” is helpful.**

**Every parent needs “free time.” I interpret this as a time when you are not with the children, either because they are in bed asleep, or because you are physically away from**

**them. You and your husband should each have some time when you are completely free of childcare duties; couples often achieve this on the weekends, when they “tag team” on Saturdays.**

**And couples really do need “we time.” This is time (aside from marriage counseling) when you focus on each other and maintain your own adult relationship, with no children (or phones) to distract you.**

DEAR AMY: I am having conflicting feelings.

I think I am in love with someone from my work as a summer camp counselor, but I have a boyfriend. We’ve been together for almost four years.

I am in love with my boyfriend, too, which is why I’m so confused and conflicted.

I am losing sleep over this. I don’t know what to do.

I trust this camp guy very much. My boyfriend is very sweet, but I can’t help but feel like I can’t trust him sometimes.

I feel like he’s sneaky sometimes. Sometimes he dodges my questions.

What do you think? What should I do?

— Conflicted

**DEAR CONFLICTED:** Working at a summer camp is like being on a movie set — offering ideal and otherworldly conditions which are ideal for romance (or hookups).

**When contemplating a summertime love match, here’s what you should NOT do: Hunt for — or invent — ways in which your sweet boyfriend isn’t worthy.**

**If you want to break up with your boyfriend in order to explore this other relationship, make sure you do so cleanly, honestly, and respectfully.**

DEAR AMY: “Don’t Know What To Say” was single and struggling to respond to married co-workers who say they envy her single status.

Your response was totally off the mark!

“I think it would be great at work if we didn’t voice our assumptions about each other’s personal life” sounds like an angry retort.

Better to respond with a light-hearted, “Life has so many challenges, rewards and perks.” End the chat on a positive note.

— Surprised by You  
**DEAR SURPRISED:** I think you’re right.

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

## How to include a dog during your vows

American Kennel Club  
(TNS)

It’s wedding season! Many people want to include their four-legged companions in the celebrations on the big day. To ensure your dog’s participation in the festivities is safe and goes smoothly, the American Kennel Club (AKC®) offers the following tips for including your dog in your wedding:

Think about your dog’s temperament. Before making the decision, consider what your dog’s temperament is like. If your dog gets overwhelmed by environmental changes, crowds, or lots of attention, including your dog may not be the best idea.

Ensure the venue is pet friendly. No matter what venue you decide to go with for your wedding, always make sure you



AP Photo/Tina Fineberg

**Matilda Molina, 4, dressed as a bride, left, and Lucky, a pit mix dressed as a groom, foreground right, wait to compete during the 18th annual Tompkins Square Halloween Dog Parade canine costume contest Oct. 26, 2008 in New York.**

get the approval of the venue to bring your dog on the premises. Also, during planning, check in with the wedding photogra-

pher to double check that they feel comfortable working with dogs.

Let the guests know. Make

sure it’s clear the guests know that your pup will be a part of the day. Some guests with allergies or fear of dogs may choose not to attend.

Consider a refresher obedience class. It might be a good idea to take a refresher obedience course with your pup prior to the big day, that way you know your dog can follow directions during the ceremony.

Designate an official “handler” in the bridal party.

Have your dog sit with a family member or pet-sitter in the audience during the ceremony and while you recite your vows.

This person should also be prepared with treats and dog baggies. Always make sure to have a leash on hand for your dog. For more tips on responsible dog ownership, visit [www.akc.org](http://www.akc.org).

## Notebook

### Otselic Valley programs

OTSELIC VALLEY — The Otselic Valley Fishing and Heritage Association will offer five programs now through the fall:

**July 15** — A 2 p.m. tribute to Grace Brown, a Cortland woman murdered in 1906 by socialite Chester Gillette will be 2 p.m. at Valley View Cemetery. Representatives of Amelia’s Voice and Help Restore Hope will discuss the ecology of the Otselic River will be held at 7 p.m. at South Otselic United Methodist Church. “The Circle of Reciprocity: Our Gift—the Otselic River,” by host Michael Foor-Pessin, will discuss Robin Wall Kimmerer’s “Braiding Sweet Grass” and Lynda Rutledge’s “West with Giraffes.” Copies of the books will be available for participants.

For details, go to [ovfish.org](http://ovfish.org) or call 315-653-7811.

try and jazz.

**Aug. 6** — The Vestal Mountain Dulcimer Band will perform at 2 p.m. at North Pitcher Church, including Celtic and Irish music.

**Sept. 9, Oct. 7 and Nov. 4** — A three-part literacy-based seminar where speakers discuss the ecology of the Otselic River will be held at 7 p.m. at South Otselic United Methodist Church. “The Circle of Reciprocity: Our Gift—the Otselic River,” by host Michael Foor-Pessin, will discuss Robin Wall Kimmerer’s “Braiding Sweet Grass” and Lynda Rutledge’s “West with Giraffes.” Copies of the books will be available for participants.

For details, go to [ovfish.org](http://ovfish.org) or call 315-653-7811.

**Our Opinion**

**Safety a key in development**

Big projects, including a new boutique hotel and spa, expansion of an independent living facility, a supermarket renovation and development of a community center are among the proposals for funding through the village of Homer Downtown Revitalization Initiative. Public projects proposed so far include a river trail and electric vehicle recharging stations.

A \$10 million state grant the village received in February is expected to leverage millions of private investment and other public funding to transform a good downtown to a great one.

We were glad to see that pedestrian safety will be an important consideration in the plan, as organizers discussed at a meeting Thursday at the Center for the Arts of Homer. Safety will also be an issue in the city of Cortland as it rebuilds its own downtown with a similar state grant it received in 2017.

Cortland is rebuilding its Main Street, using half of its \$10 million grant to pay most of the cost. A key aspect of the work is returning Main Street between Groton Avenue/Clinton Street and Tompkins Street/Port Watson Street to two-way traffic. Business owners and others believe the change will give a boost to downtown merchants and make it easier for visitors to get around.

Both communities are immensely walkable, adding to both their charm and convenience for visitors to restaurants, professional offices, stores and salons. However, the revitalization of downtowns in both Homer and Cortland will create many more opportunities for mishaps, unless safety is factored in the improvements and both pedestrians and drivers use care.

Both communities have wide roads and intersections and changes made by developments and public improvements could present safety concerns. At the moment, downtown Cortland's crosswalks are configured for four-way stops, so pedestrians can conveniently cross both streets. While Homer has fewer intersections, and fewer crosswalks, navigating the trip across Main Street is pretty simple, at least today.

After improvements are complete, the community will need to acclimate to the new developments. Early discussions of the Cortland project included options such as changing the cycles of crosswalk lights and different road and parking configurations. Whatever changes are included in the final plans, they will significantly affect how visitors maneuver their way around downtowns.

Developers and public officials can make many improvements — new businesses, new amenities, new traffic patterns — but they will be most effective if Homer and Cortland ensure that they foster walkable communities that welcome visitors and ensure safe visits.

The Homer Local Planning Committee meets next at 2:30 p.m. Aug. 3 at the Center for the Arts of Homer. We hope residents will continue to be involved in the project and offer their suggestions on issues, including safety.

If we can't safely make our ways through the downtowns to take advantage of what the Downtown Revitalization Initiative process creates, neither downtown will ever reach its true potential.

**Then:**



**Now:**



The series of decisions handed down by the U.S. Supreme Court in its latest session are so consequential that I would call it "a new birth of freedom."

These are, of course, the words of Abraham Lincoln at the bloody battlefield at Gettysburg.

There is a deep and meaningful connection between Lincoln's words then, in 1863, and the words of our Supreme Court now in 2023.

The 14th Amendment was added to the Bill of Rights after the Civil War to assure that all citizens receive equal protection under the law.

This after the horrible history of slavery and the earlier Supreme Court decision, Dred Scott, which denied exactly that equal protection to African Americans.

The 14th Amendment was ratified to fix the blemish on this nation regarding its treatment of one large segment of humanity.

And it is the 14th Amendment to which Chief Justice John Roberts turned, in writing the decision on Students for Fair Admissions v. University of North Carolina and Students for Fair Admissions v. President and Fellows of Harvard College, to negate the use of race in college admissions.

The use of race in admissions "cannot be reconciled with the guarantees of the

**A new birth of freedom**

**Star Parker**



equal protection clause" of the 14th Amendment, wrote Roberts.

The decision also captures the spirit of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s famous words in 1963 that "I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will be judged not by the color of their skin but by the content of their character."

Those words, and King's "I Have a Dream" speech in general, captured the spirit of what the Civil Rights Movement was supposedly about.

The complaint was not about American ideals but the failure to live up to the American ideal of a free nation under God.

King famously concluded that great speech, dreaming of the day "when all of God's children, Black men and White men, Jews and Gentiles, Protestants and Catholics, will be able to join hands and sing in

the words of the old Negro spiritual, free at last, free at last, thank God almighty, we are free at last."

But soon, the inspiration of God Almighty and freedom floated into the sky to be displaced on the ground with the cynicism and ambition of politics and political power.

The ideal of individual freedom and equal treatment under the law was displaced by the idea that justice is achieved through government power and social engineering.

A federal bureaucracy grew out of the 1964 Civil Rights Act — the Civil Rights Commission, the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, the Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs, the Office of Minority Business Enterprise, etc. — all empowered with understanding that discrimination in favor of certain racial groups was lawful

and constitutional.

Then, in the early 1970s, it went beyond correcting the historic evil of slavery and the legacy of racism against African Americans to become in general about race and ethnicity.

In 1973, the Federal Inter-agency Committee on Education was directed to produce rules classifying Americans by race and ethnicity and it responded with five racial/ethnic categories: "American Indian or Alaskan Native, Asian or Pacific Islander, Black, White and Hispanic."

In polling done by Pew several months ago, 50% said they disapprove of colleges using race and ethnicity in their admission policy and 33% said they approve.

However, among Blacks, 29% said they disapprove and 47% said they approve.

Unfortunately, King's great dream of freedom, which inspired the Civil Rights Movement, has been lost in the hearts and minds of many Black Americans and eclipsed by social engineering.

What the Supreme Court has done is show that our Constitution embodies and codifies that dream.

We'll all be better off for the court's courageous decision against social engineering and for a nation of free citizens, treated equally under the law.

**Your Opinion**

**To save landfill space, reduce packaging**

It's been suggested the solution to diminishing space in the county landfill is to ship waste out of the county. This is not a sound solution to the problem.

Landfill problems, pervasive across the state, arise from the extreme waste people generate. Moving waste from Cortland to somewhere else does nothing to solve this widespread problem. We cannot ship our way out of this.

We should do what we can to assure the state legislature passes two important pieces of legislation in the next legislative session that would reduce waste: The Packaging Reduction and Recycling Act (S.4246/A.6353) and the Bigger Better Bottle Bill (S.237 May/A.6353 Glick).

The Packaging Reduction and Recycling Act would require companies to reduce their packaging by 50% in 12 years, make the remaining packaging truly reusable or recyclable, get certain toxic chemicals out of packaging, and pay to clean up their packaging waste by reimbursing municipalities and taxpayers for the collection and processing of those materials.

The Bigger Better Bottle Bill would expand the Bottle Bill passed in the '80s to include wine, spirits, hard cider and most non-carbonated beverages. It would also increase the deposit from 5 cents to 10 cents and use revenue to support recycling equity.

We need ways to reduce waste in the first place. We cannot ship our way out of the excessive waste problem.

**Sheila Cohen  
 Cortland**

**Good Old Days**

**July 11, 1973**

SPAFFORD — Gordon Ireland, supervisor of the Town of Spafford, has announced that the Bookmobile will stop at the Fire House on July 12 from 3:15 to 3:35, and every two weeks hereafter.

This service is provided by the Onondaga Library Service and it is hoped that both adults and children will take advantage of this opportunity to obtain reading material.

**July 11, 1998**

The Central New York Fast Pitch Old Timer's Game has been rescheduled for Aug. 3 at 6:30.

The heroes of yesteryear will be facing defending CNY City Division champion Red Dragons at Randall Park's Leo A. Meldrim Field.

**July 11, 2013**

DeRUYTER — The state of emergency order for the town of DeRuyter expired Wednesday evening, and town supervisor Dan Degear chose not to renew it. But he issued a new state of emergency specifically for DeRuyter Lake and a handful of roads, ensuring a no-wake order previously in effect is maintained and that the roads remain open for local traffic only.

Arnold Road, Carey Road, Chapman Road, Fairbanks Road, Old Route 13 and Richmond Road all remain closed.

There is no final estimate on what flood repairs might cost the town, Degear said.

**Today in History**

**The Associated Press**

Today is Tuesday, July 11, the 192nd day of 2023. There are 173 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On July 11, 1804, Vice President Aaron Burr mortally wounded former Treasury Secretary Alexander Hamilton during a pistol duel in Weehawken, New Jersey. (Hamilton died the next day.)

On this date:

In 1798, the U.S. Marine Corps was formally re-established by a congressional act that also created the U.S. Marine Band.

In 1859, Big Ben, the great bell inside the famous London clock tower, chimed for the first time.

**Grassroots action on childcare**

**Jim Hightower**



with 70% of the vote.

Vermont, led by such persistent grassroots groups as Let's Grow Kids, is providing \$130 million a year to establish a solid base for universal child care.

So, we're doomed by corporate greed and Washington's indifference, right? Wrong! Grassroots people across the country are demanding and getting real change at the state level.

Last year, for example, voters in New Mexico rallied a decade-long care rebellion to put a landmark initiative on the ballot to guarantee that all children ages 0 to 5 have a constitutional right to quality early childhood education.

Moreover, Amendment 1 allocates a steady stream of money from New Mexico's Land Grant Permanent Fund to make this promise real.

The vote initiative passed

**Political pervers: Pro-lifers who're anti-child care**

The political extremists demanding that government control every woman's personal reproductive decisions claim that they are "pro-life." But that's a rhetorical fraud.

Look at their overall policy agenda and you'll see that they are merely pro-birth. After that, adios, baby... good luck. They consistently join Republican lawmakers to kill public programs that deliver essential real-life needs to babies after they're born.

Consider child care, a fundamental need in any society. Yet the "leaders" of our rich, sophisticated nation that supposedly treasures family, work and children have created a mingy system that literally is a crying shame, revealing that our society deliberately does NOT care

for children.

Here's reality for you: Ninety-eight percent of American workers are better paid than those we entrust to care for our children. Working at a nail salon, loading boxes at an Amazon warehouse, flipping burgers at McDonald's are jobs given more pay and respect than most child care jobs!

This is not just a "poor people's problem," for the lack of child care availability, affordability and quality is a looming crisis for a majority of American families. Nonetheless, Republicans, enabled by corporate Democrat Manchin, recently killed funding of a program to both raise worker pay and lower the prices families are charged. Such care is "too expensive," squawked the same lawmakers who routinely dole out billions in welfare to corporate profiteers.

But wait — the GOP has come up with a genius, low-cost solution: Relax safety and educational requirements for child care centers (as Iowa and Montana have already done), allowing 16-year-olds to provide "care" for up to 15 children each!

Also, why not automate the system... and do the little nippers really need that orange juice and daily snack?

**Letters**

The *Cortland Standard* welcomes letters from readers for publication on this page. All letters submitted must be signed by the writer and include the writer's home address and daytime telephone number. Letters may be edited for length and content. Letters are limited to 300 words in length. Letters endorsing or opposing the election of candidates for public office are limited to 200 words. Thank-you notes will not be accepted.

## BRITAIN

continued from page 1

guarded secret, and her meetings with world leaders were almost entirely ceremonial. Charles spent his decades as heir to the throne expressing opinions on issues from architecture to the environment, and has continued to take a keen interest in climate change now that he is king. However, neither he nor Biden spoke publicly at Windsor Castle.

Biden's royal visit was paired with his sixth meeting with the British prime minister since Rishi Sunak took office. The two discussed a range of global issues, including the war in Ukraine.

Both nations are among the most stalwart defenders of Kyiv, and the United Kingdom has pushed the White House to take more aggressive steps in providing military aid to Ukraine.

Following his meetings with Charles and Sunak, Biden flew to Vilnius, Lithuania, for the annual NATO summit. Discussion about the war in Ukraine is expected to be front-and-center over two days of talks that begin today.

His talks with Charles were meant to highlight the so-called enduring "special relationship" between the U.S. and the U.K. When Biden declined to attend Charles's coronation, he promised the king in a phone call that he would visit soon.

Biden's meeting with Sunak at the prime minister's residence at 10 Downing St. included discussion about the U.S. president's decision to provide Ukraine with cluster munitions, a weapon that more than two-thirds of the members of the NATO military alliance have barred for their potential threat to civilian life.

Biden has said that providing the bombs — which open mid-air and release smaller "bomblets" across a broad swath of land — was a "difficult decision" but he noted that the Ukrainians are running out of ammunition and that the weapons were necessary for them to continue to fight Russian forces.

"It took me a while to be convinced to do it," Biden said in a CNN interview broadcast as he flew to London. "But the main thing is, they either have the weapons to stop the Russians ... from stopping the Ukrainian offensive through these areas, or they don't. And I think they needed them."

Sunak, for his part, has distanced himself from the U.S. decision. The prime minister's spokesman said the leaders spoke Monday about Britain's opposition to the use of cluster munitions.

"The first thing to say is this was a difficult choice for the U.S. that has been forced on them by Russia's war of aggression," said Sunak's spokesman, Max Blain. "As the prime minister said over the weekend, the U.K. is a state party to the convention on cluster munitions. They discussed the commitments the U.K. has under that convention both not to produce or use cluster munitions and to discourage their use."

The U.S. is not a party to that agreement.

Sunak stressed over the weekend that Britain will "continue to do our part to support Ukraine against Russia's illegal and unprovoked invasion, but we've done that by providing heavy battle tanks and most recently long-range weapons, and hopefully all countries can continue to support Ukraine."

Sunak told Biden during their meeting that he understood that providing the cluster munitions was a difficult decision for Biden, and that he recognized the U.S.'s rationale for doing so, according to a White House official who was granted anonymity to discuss a private conversation.

Sullivan also played down the disagreement over cluster munitions, saying, "I think you will find Prime Minister Sunak and President Biden on the same page strategically on Ukraine, in lockstep on the bigger picture of what we're trying to accomplish and as united as ever — both in this conflict and writ large."

And as the leaders met over tea in the 10 Downing St. garden on Monday, they continued to project that face of unity.

## Nominations hold leaves Marines leaderless for 1st time in 100 years

By LOLITA C. BALDOR  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Marine Corps is without a confirmed leader for the first time in a century as Gen. David Berger stepped down as commandant on Monday and a Republican senator is blocking approval of his successor.

Berger took over as the 38th commandant in July 2019, and is required to leave the job after four years. Gen. Eric Smith, currently the assistant commandant, has been nominated to be the next leader, but will serve in an acting capacity because he hasn't been confirmed by the Senate. Under the law, Smith can serve as the acting commandant, but he can do nothing that would presume confirmation. As a result, he can't move into the main residence or the commandant's office, or issue any new formal commandant's planning guidance, which is traditional for a new leader. He has the authority to implement new poli-



AP Photo/Manuel Balce Ceneta

cies such as budget, training and other personnel decisions. Smith's promotion delay is the first of what could be many top level military officers held up by Sen. Tommy Tuberville, R-Ala. Tuberville has stalled all nominations for senior military jobs

because he disagrees with Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin's decision to have the Defense Department pay for travel when a service member has to go out of state to get an abortion or other reproductive care. Abortion is now illegal in Alabama.

## Police in Penn. are searching for escaped homicide suspect

WARREN, Pa. — A homicide suspect who used bed sheets to escape from a northwestern Pennsylvania jail is likely still in the area and someone may be helping him to evade capture, police said after discovering possible campsites in nearby woods.

Michael Burham, 34, fled the Warren County Prison late Thursday by climbing on exercise equipment, climbing through a window and down a rope fashioned from jail bedding, authorities said. Burham was being held on \$1 million bail.

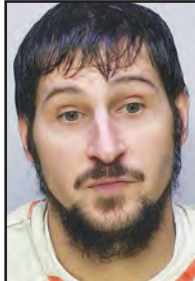
"We have located small stockpiles or campsites in wooded areas in the general vicinity of Warren, and we believe that at least some of those may be associated with Burham," Lt. Col. George Bivens of the Pennsylvania State

Police said Sunday. Bivens said Monday that the stockpiles consisted of "supplies that would assist

him with a prolonged stay in a wooded area." He declined to be more specific but said investigators suspect someone is helping Burham.

"We do believe he is getting some assistance, from where or what that type of assistance is, I'm not prepared to comment on," Bivens said, repeating an earlier warning that authorities would "prosecute anyone who does offer him assistance."

District Attorney Jason Schmidt of Chautauqua County, New York, said last month that Burham is the prime suspect in the May 11 killing of Kala Hodgkin, 34, and a related arson in Jamestown, New York.



Burham

## Trump lawyers agree to delay in docs case

MIAMI (AP) — Lawyers for former President Donald Trump say they agreed with federal prosecutors to delay to next week a pretrial hearing to discuss how classified information is handled in court as he faces federal charges that he illegally hoarded classified documents at his Florida estate.

The hearing to discuss the Classified Information Procedures Act had previously been set for Friday. But an attorney for Trump's valet Walt Nauta, who was charged alongside the former president, said he has another bench trial this week in Washington preventing him from appearing Friday in South

Florida. The attorneys said in their filing that they can appear at the pretrial conference to go over the 1980 law on July 18, adding they had also checked with U.S. attorneys on moving the date.

The judge in the case, U.S. District Judge Aileen Cannon, still needs to agree to the new date. Trump and Nauta were charged in a 38-count indictment with conspiring to hide classified documents at Mar-a-Lago. Both men have pleaded not guilty. Trump has denied any wrongdoing and has slammed the prosecution as an effort to hurt his bid to reclaim the White House in 2024.

## VILLAGE OF DERUYTER:

The Village of DeRuyter is committed to providing Fair Housing within constitutional limitations to all Village residents. The Federal Fair Housing Law prohibits discrimination in the sale, rental, or financing of housing based on race, color, religion, sex, national origin, handicap or familial status. If any individual or family feels that they have been discriminated against in obtaining suitable housing of their choice or if anyone requires additional information regarding Fair Housing, they can contact the Village Mayor, Fair Housing Officer, at (315) 852-9625, Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday between the hours of 8:00 AM and 4:00 PM.

## TOWN OF CORTLANDVILLE:

The Town of Cortlandville is committed to providing Fair Housing within constitutional limitations to all Town residents. The Federal Fair Housing Law prohibits discrimination in the sale, rental, or financing of housing based on race, color, religion, sex, national origin, handicap or familial status. If any individual or family feels that they have been discriminated against in obtaining suitable housing of their choice or if anyone requires additional information regarding Fair Housing, they can contact the Town Code Officer, Fair Housing Officer, at (607) 756-7490, Monday through Friday between the hours of 8 a.m. until 10 a.m.

## CITY OF CORTLAND:

The City of Cortland is committed to providing Fair Housing within constitutional limitations to all City residents. The Federal Fair Housing Law prohibits discrimination in the sale, rental, or financing of housing based on race, color, religion, sex, national origin, handicap or familial status. If any individual or family feels that they have been discriminated against in obtaining suitable housing of their choice or if anyone requires additional information regarding Fair Housing, they can contact the Zoning Officer at (607) 758-8322, Monday through Friday between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.

## APPLE

continued from page 1

While Apple Inc. could appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court, Bertini said he believes it is unlikely that the court would take up the case.

He said the court would be limited to the issues considered by the federal appeals court, which in this case is whether Apple could extend its Apple trademark from the 1960s to Apple Music.

He said his brother filed for a trademark and moved to block approval of the Apple Music trademark at the same time to protect his intellectual property.

The corporation had a reputation for fiercely defending its trademarks and has a track record of litigation to do so, he said.

"We knew that if Apple Music got registered first, they would have the upper hand," James Bertini said.

Apple Inc.'s trademark for the word apple is preventing Charlie Bertini from getting a trademark for AppleJazz, James Bertini said.

Speaking at a ceremony at the Marine Barracks Washington, just down the street from Capitol Hill, Austin and Berger called on the Senate to take action.

"We need the Senate to do their job so that we can have a sitting commandant that's appointed and confirmed," said Berger.

Austin and other Pentagon officials have pressed the Senate to move forward, saying that delays are already impacting more than 200 military officers, and many key leaders.

"You know, it's been more than a century since the U.S. Marine Corps has operated without a Senate confirmed commandant," Austin said during the ceremony.

Because of Berger's requirement to step down in July, the Marine job is the first of the military chiefs to be affected by Tuberville. The Army, Navy and Air Force are all expected to face the same delay later this year.

**OLDER  
LGBTQ+  
ADULTS:**

Interested in wellness and social activities for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender older adults in the Cortland area?

Find out more at [sageupstate.org/outreach](https://sageupstate.org/outreach) or call us at 315-478-1923

**Sage  
Upstate**



**upstreamparent**

A Parent's Guide to Cortland County Teens



**5 Myths About Underage Drinking in Cortland County (and Beyond) Debunked**

Do you know the difference between these myths and facts about underage drinking in Cortland County and beyond? Let's clear the air.

**Myth #1: Most kids in Cortland County drink alcohol.**

**Fact:** Based on the 2020 youth development survey of over 2,000 7th-12th graders in Cortland County, only 16.8% of teens report using alcohol at least once in the past 30 days.<sup>1</sup> Only 34.3% report using alcohol in their lifetime.<sup>1</sup> Most kids in our community are not drinking alcohol.

**Myth #2: I can't do anything to stop my kid from drinking, they'll do it no matter what.**

**Fact:** Kids who have a trusting, supportive relationship with their parents, and are provided with clear family rules about alcohol use, are more likely to wait longer before drinking.<sup>2</sup> Not only that, but parents are in a unique position to physically limit access their child has to alcohol in their own home (which survey data shows is the most common place teens in Cortland County access alcohol).<sup>1</sup>

**Myth #3: It's better to wait until kids are older to talk about the dangers of alcohol.**

**Fact:** The American Academy of Pediatrics, recommends that parents start talking about the dangers and consequences of alcohol use with their children as early as nine years of age.<sup>3</sup> Based on our youth survey, 5.1% of 7th grade students in Cortland County report drinking alcohol at least one time in the past 30 days.<sup>1</sup> Your child may be exposed to alcohol, or pressured to drink, at a younger age than you might expect so communication early and often is essential.

**Myth #4: Allowing kids to drink at home is a "safe" option.**

**Fact:** A recent study found that there is no protective benefit of parental supply of alcohol. Kids who were provided alcohol by their parents had higher odds of binge drinking, alcohol related harm, and symptoms of alcohol use disorder than kids with no supply of alcohol. Cortland County also has a social host ordinance that holds adults responsible for allowing minors to consume alcohol on their property (violators could be faced with a \$250 fine or up to 15 days in jail).

**Myth #5: European teens drink more responsibly because they are "taught" to drink at a younger age at home compared to kids in the U.S.**

**Fact:** Studies show that teens in European countries drink more frequently and get drunk younger than teens in the United States.<sup>5</sup> The percentage of American youth who report drinking in the past 30 days is lower than youth in all Western European Countries with the exception of Iceland.

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Visit [upstreamparent.org](https://upstreamparent.org) to read more articles.



Upstream Parent is a project of Cortland Area Communities That Care

## Major League Baseball

## Yankees' Cole and D'backs' Gallen tapped to start MLB All-Star Game

By RONALD BLUM  
AP Baseball Writer

SEATTLE (AP) — Gerrit Cole had starting the All-Star Game on his baseball bucket list.

"I've always been like, man, I really hope I could do that one day," the New York Yankees ace said Monday.

He's getting his chance. Cole will start tonight for the American League and Arizona's Zac Gallen will open on the mound for NL, the first time Yankees and Diamondbacks are both All-Star starters since Roger Clemens faced Randy Johnson in the 2001 game at Seattle.

"I feel like I've worked hard. This is something that I dreamed of as a kid," Gallen said. "So for it to come to fruition is everything and more, really."

AL manager Dusty Baker of Houston and NL manager Rob Thomson of Philadelphia announced their starting lineups on Monday before the annual Home Run Derby.

Baker said Sunday that Cole wouldn't pitch in the All-Star Game because he would be going on two days' rest after throwing 103 pitches in a 9-2 win over the Chicago Cubs in New York on Saturday.

"He wanted it," Baker said Monday. "A lot of guys, sometimes they might not want to pitch in this particular game, but he wanted to pitch. Hey man, if a guy like Gerrit Cole wants to pitch, I'll let him pitch."

"It's just always something that I've wanted to do, and I feel like I'm physically able to do it," Cole added.

Cole will start for the first time in his sixth All-Star nod.

He is 9-2 with a 2.85 ERA and 123 strikeouts in 117 innings. The 32-year-old right-hander joins Lefty Gomez (five times), Red Ruffing (twice), Hank Borowy, Spud Chandler, Roger Clemens, Whitey Ford, Jimmy Key, Vic Raschi, Met Stottlemyre, Bob Turley and David Wells as Yankees All-Star starters.

Gallen, a 27-year-old right-hander, is 11-3 with a 3.04 ERA, tied for the major league lead in wins. The first-time All-Star has 125 strikeouts in 118 1/3 innings and becomes the third Diamondbacks pitcher to start an All-Star Game after Johnson in 2000 and '01 and Curt Schilling in 2002.

Gallen said he learned of the starting assignment last Wednesday from Arizona manager Torey Lovullo.

"It's been a whirlwind, really," he said. "I think I found out Wednesday or Thursday morning, Torey had FaceTimed me. So I kind of had to tell white lies for the last few days to my family."

Gallen last pitched Friday, throwing 96 pitches in a 7-3 win over Pittsburgh.

Baker's AL batting order has Texas second baseman Marcus Semien leading off, followed by Los Angeles Angels designated hitter Shohei Ohtani, Tampa Bay left fielder Randy Arozarena, Texas shortstop Corey Seager, Rays first baseman Yandy Diaz, Rangers right fielder Adolis Garcia, Baltimore center fielder Austin Hays, Texas third baseman Josh Jung and Rangers catcher Jonah Heim.

Atlanta right fielder Ronald Acuña Jr. leads off for the NL.



AP Photo/Lindsey Wasson

American League's Vladimir Guerrero Jr., of the Blue Jays, reacts next to Mookie Betts, of the Dodgers, during the first round of the Home Run Derby in Seattle, Monday.

## Blue Jays' Guerrero Jr. wins Home Run Derby

By RONALD BLUM  
AP Baseball Writer

SEATTLE — Toronto's Vladimir Guerrero Jr. joined Vladimir Sr. to become the first father-son duo to win the All-Star Home Run Derby, beating Tampa Bay's Randy Arozarena 25-23 in the final round on Monday night.

Guerrero defeated Julio Rodríguez 21-20 in the semifinals after the Mariners star hit a record 41 in the first round in front of his hometown fans.

Batting against Blue Jays manager John Schneider, Guerrero was the last semifinalist to swing and the first finalist, setting a final round record for homers to top the mark

Pete Alonso set when he beat Guerrero 23-22 in 2019.

Vladimir Guerrero Sr. won the 2007 derby in San Francisco while with the Los Angeles Angels, beating the Blue Jays' Alex Rios 3-2 in the final.

With Guerrero Jr. catching his breath while watching, Arozarena hit against Tampa Bay field coordinator Tomas Francisco. Arozarena started his final 30-second segment with 21 homers and had 23 with 7 seconds left before lining and popping up on his final swings.

Arozarena had the most overall homers over the three rounds, 82 to Guerrero's 72. Arozarena overcame Luis Robert of the

Chicago White Sox 35-22 in the semifinals. Robert hit the longest drive of the night, a 484-foot shot to left in the second round. That topped the high of 476 feet by Barry Bonds in the 2001 derby in Seattle.

Trying to become the youngest Derby winner at age 22, Rodríguez knocked out Alonso, a two-time champion who hit 21. Rodríguez beat Corey Seager 32-24 in the first round last year at Dodger Stadium, then knocked out Alonso 31-23 before losing to Juan Soto 19-18 in the final.

Arozarena beat Texas' Adolis García 24-17 in the opening pairing before a crowd of

See DERBY, page 8

## Yanks hire TV analyst Casey to replace fired hitting coach

By RONALD BLUM  
AP Baseball Writer

SEATTLE (AP) — Sean Casey was hired Monday as hitting coach of the struggling New York Yankees, a day after the team fired Dillon Lawson.

Casey, a three-time All-Star during a 12-year big league career that ended in 2008, had spent the past 15 years with MLB Network, where the 49-year-old was an analyst.

"I've been able to keep my finger on the pulse of the game,

speaking with current big leaguers, watching a tremendous amount of video, breaking down film as part of my job and trying to figure out what hitters are doing physically and mentally," Casey said in a statement. "So I feel good about being ready for this opportunity to teach and impart my experience and ideas."

Casey and Yankees manager Aaron Boone were teammates on the Cincinnati Reds from 1998 to 2003.

"His passion for hitting is

infectious," Boone said in a statement. "His ability to inspire is one of his greatest gifts, and I can't wait for him to tap into our players and help them reach their potential. There's no doubt in my mind that he will have a tremendous impact on our team."

Lawson was fired following Sunday's 7-4 loss to the Chicago Cubs. The

Yankees are eight games behind Tampa Bay in the AL East and have lost four of five.

New York's .231 batting average is 28th among the 30 major league teams, ahead of only Detroit and Oakland. The Yankees are batting a major league-worst .218 in 31 games since Aaron Judge tore a ligament in his right big toe on June 3, going 14-17.



Casey

Casey batted .302 with 130 home runs and 735 RBIs over 12 seasons, including eight with the Reds highlighted by three NL All-Star selections. Known as "The Mayor" for his chatting with runners at first base and his charitable work, Casey also played with Pittsburgh, Detroit and Boston.

On May 19, 1999, the Reds beat the Rockies 24-12, which tied for the fourth-highest run-scoring output in baseball history. Casey hit two of the Reds'

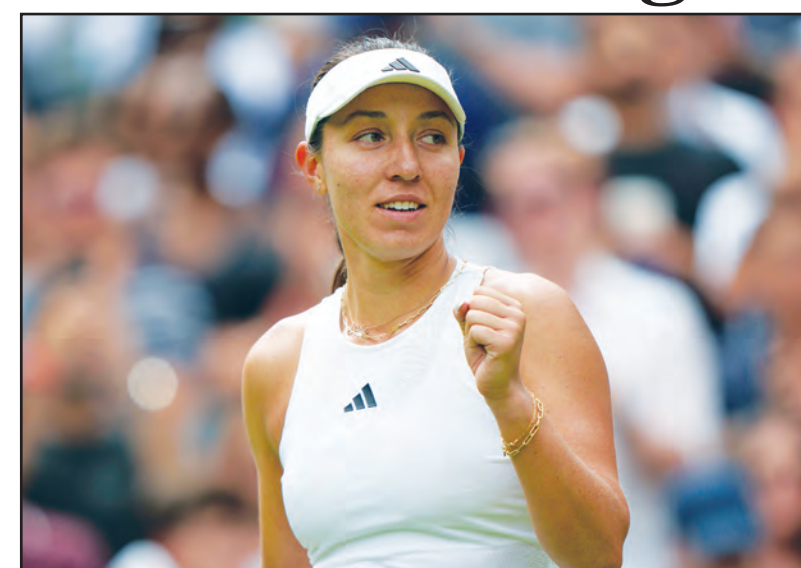
six home runs.

"There's no way to cookie-cut hitters, and if you start doing that, you get into trouble and underutilize strengths they may have," Casey said. "One thing I will stress is controlling the zone and hunting in the zone. I want them to control their process and stick to their approach with the goal of winning every pitch."

Brian Cashman had never before fired a coach during a season since he became general manager in 1998.

## Tennis

## US' Jessica Pegula eyes 1st Grand Slam semifinals



AP Photo/Alastair Grant

Jessica Pegula of the US celebrates defeating Ukraine's Lesia Tsurenko in the women's singles match on day seven of the Wimbledon tennis championships in London, Sunday.

WIMBLEDON, England (AP) — Jessica Pegula has reached the quarterfinals in five of her last 10 major tournaments. Making it past that point has been an issue.

The 29-year-old American gets another shot at the semifinals when she faces Marketa Vondrousova at Wimbledon today. Winning in the fourth round at Wimbledon this year means the fourth-seeded Pegula has reached the quarterfinals at each of the four Grand Slam tournaments.

"To say that I've done that at all four is something I've wanted to say. Obviously I hope I can do more than that," Pegula said.

Vondrousova, the runner-up at the 2019 French Open,

has knocked off three seeded opponents in a row ahead of today's match on No. 1 Court.

In the other women's quarterfinals match today, top-ranked Iga Swiatek of Poland faces Elina Svitolina of Ukraine. Svitolina said she is "really thankful" for Swiatek's support of Ukrainians.

On Centre Court, though, Svitolina hopes to keep her momentum going. The 2019 semifinalist at Wimbledon had a baby last October and returned to the tour this April. She advanced Sunday by beating two-time major champion Victoria Azarenka.

Swiatek claimed her fourth major title at the French Open last month, but this is her first time into the quarterfinals at

the All England Club.

Seven-time champion Novak Djokovic will be back at Centre Court — his third day in a row — to face Andrey Rublev for a spot in the semifinals. The 23-time Grand Slam champion is trying to tie Roger Federer's record of eight men's titles at Wimbledon.

The other men's quarterfinals match is eighth-seeded Jannik Sinner against Roman Safullin on No. 1 Court.

## WHEN ARE TODAY'S MATCHES?

First on Centre Court is Swiatek-Svitolina at 1:30 p.m. local time, which is 8:30 a.m. EDT. The Djokovic-Rublev match is next at the main stadium and could begin around 3

p.m. local time, 10 a.m. EDT. On Court No. 1, the Pegula-Vondrousova match is first and begins at 1 p.m. local time, 8 a.m. EDT.

That's followed by Sinner-Safullin.

## WHAT WERE MONDAY'S OTHER RESULTS?

No. 1 Carlos Alcaraz beat Matteo Berrettini 3-6, 6-3, 6-3, 6-3 to reach the quarterfinals. Djokovic beat Hubert Hurkacz 7-6 (6), 7-6 (6), 5-7, 6-4. The sixth-seeded Holger Rune defeated 21st-seeded Grigor Dimitrov 3-6, 7-6 (6), 7-6 (4), 6-3. Chris Eubanks beat Stefanos Tsitsipas 3-6, 7-6 (4), 3-6, 6-4, 6-4. On the women's side, No. 6 Ons Jabeur beat ninth-seeded Petra Kvitova 6-0, 6-3.

# What makes a strike?

Robots, rule book and umpires all view strikes differently

By **RONALD BLUM**  
AP Baseball Writer

SEATTLE — The education of robot umpires has been complicated by an open secret in baseball for the past 150 years: The strike zone called on the field doesn't match the one mapped out in the rule book.

Before the Automated Ball-Strike System is ready for the major leagues, there has to be agreement on what a strike is.

"You go in a rabbit hole where it might not be fair for some hitters," Minnesota Twins star Carlos Correa said. "A pitcher has big curveballs that cross the zone and end up a ball, but the zone has it as a strike. I prefer the human element of things, but who knows, maybe they can perfect it at some point."

MLB started experimenting with robots calling balls and strikes in the independent Atlantic League in 2019 and used the computer at Low-A in 2021. A challenge system was tried last season at some minor league ballparks, in which a pitcher, batter or catcher had the right to appeal a human umpire's decision to the computer. This year, ABS is being used at all Triple-A parks, the robot alone for the first three games of each series and a human with a challenge system in the final three.

The Official Baseball Rules define the strike zone as "that area over home plate the upper limit of which is a horizontal line at the midpoint between the top of the shoulders and the top of the uniform pants, and the lower level is a line at the hollow beneath the kneecap."

In practice, big league umpires usually don't call strikes on pitches that clip the bottom of the three-dimensional zone's front or the top of the back, making the actual strike zone more of an oval than a cube.

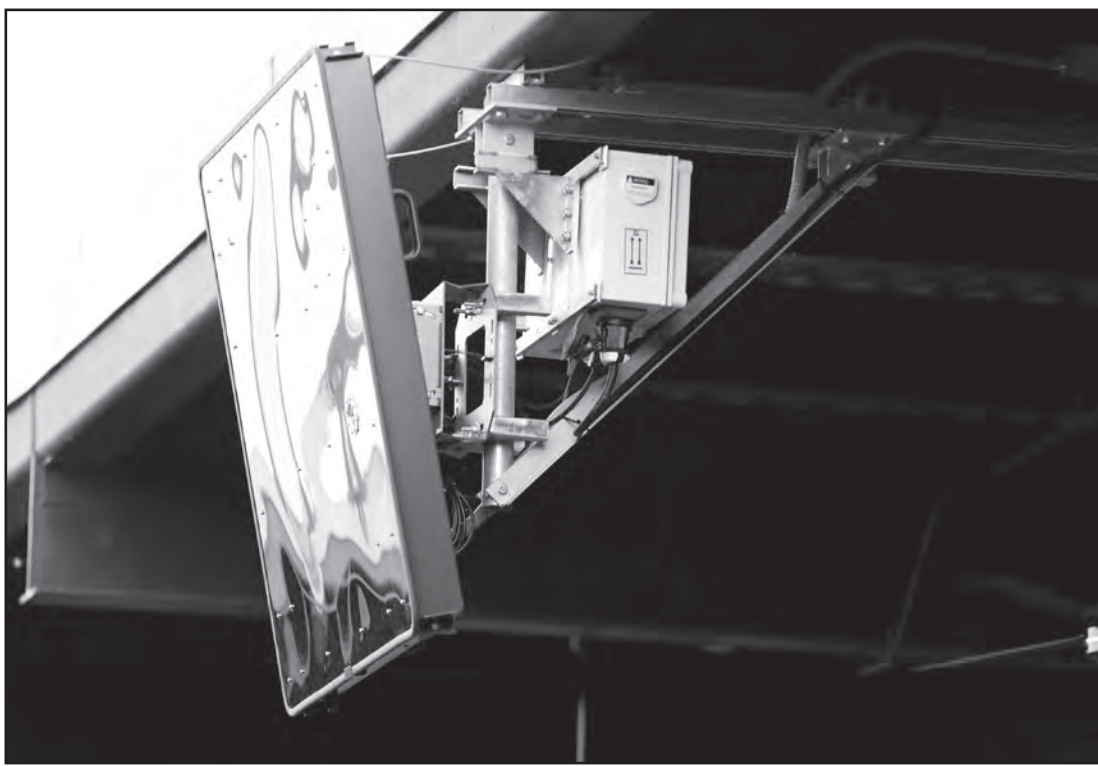
"If you looked good at the average zone that's called in the major leagues and has been called forever, it's not a rectangle the way that the system calls it," MLB executive vice president of operations Morgan Seward said.

At first, the robots were programmed to call a two-dimensional zone at the front of the plate, and MLB also experimented with a three-dimensional zone. This year, the ABS calls strikes solely based on where the ball crosses the midpoint of the plate, 8.5 inches from the front and the back.

MLB reduced the top of the zone to 51% of a batter's height from 56%.

"The two-dimensional zone has minimized the number of pitches that feel wrong to people, particularly when it's at the middle of the plate because you're not catching quite as many of those breaking balls down and also those balls that clip the back of the plate," Sword said. "We like the two-dimensional nature of it."

"It also allows whatever zone we use on the field to match the representations of the zone that we provide to fans and players and coaches and everybody else. But the specifics of what two-dimensional shape you use and what the dimensions



AP Photo/Julio Cortez, File  
A radar device is mounted on the roof behind home plate at PeoplesBank Park during the Atlantic League All-Star minor league baseball game in York, Pennsylvania, July 10, 2019.

of that shape are, I think are still in flux."

MLB reduced the width of the computer strike zone from 19 inches to 17 this year, matching the width of the plate. Any part of the ball crossing that zone results in a strike.

"Last year in the Florida State League, the 19 inches, I was getting some calls I wasn't even getting in the (Atlantic Coast Conference). It gets a little funky," said Mike Vasil, a 23-year-old New York Mets pitching prospect who played at the University of Virginia.

According to MLB data, strikeouts at Triple-A dropped from 23.3% of batters with human umpires last year to 22.2% this year with automated umpires and 22% when humans were used with the challenge system. Walks climbed from 10.2% last year to 12.7% with robots and 11.5% with the challenge system.

Batting average rose from .252 last season to .266 in full ABS games and .273 in challenge games. Home runs runs increased from 2.9% to 3.2% in full ABS and 3.3% in challenge.

Each team gets three challenges, which can be made by a pitcher, batter or catcher. A team retains a successful challenge.

"I enjoyed it because it was consistent," said Yankees center fielder Harrison Bader, who played five games at Triple-A this year. "You want to know what the zone is at all times, even if it's a little funkier, a little different."

Texas manager Bruce Bochy, a veteran of nearly a half-century of pro ball, favors a three-dimensional zone.

"It has to cover all four quadrants," he said.

"You want that strike called if you're hitting the inside lower box or quadrant or the top quadrant," he said.

Rich Garcia, a major league umpire from 1975-99 and ump supervisor from 2002-09, faults the ABS system for not being as accurate at matching human calls as the strike zone usually is applied. And critically to umpires' reputations, he says television graphics overlaying the strike zone frequently mislead fans.

"Could be one of the dumbest things baseball could do," he said. "Why don't they tell the fans that the box on the screen is not the same box that the umpires get graded on and that the box on the screen is supposed to be used for entertainment only?"

Using a two-dimensional zone rather than a rectangle could hurt sinkerball pitchers, such as the Yankees' Clay Holmes.

"You're shrinking the zone a little bit, the depth of it," he said. "Maybe they need to redefine the strike zone."

Mike Tauchman, a Chicago Cubs outfielder who played 24 games at Triple-A Iowa, said the robot umpires could cause unintended consequences. He recalled when ABS measured strikes at the front of the plate.

"I struck out on two pitches at my ankle, so I think it's a good idea that they moved it back," he said. "I don't like the idea of the game becoming something where people are trying to outsmart a computer. I still like there is a human element of the umpire because there are nuances of the game that I don't think a computer can fully understand."

## Draft day 2 includes 6 from Wake Forest, plus Karros' son

SEATTLE (AP) — Baseball's amateur draft has been a fitting conclusion to a historic season at Wake Forest.

The Demon Deacons had six players drafted Monday, bringing their two-day total to nine. That's three more than the LSU team that knocked Wake Forest out of the College World Series and went on to win the national title.

LSU, of course, had the top two picks in the draft Friday in Paul Skenes and Dylan Crews, but the Deacons showed off their depth on Day 2, when rounds 3-10 took place. Wake Forest pitchers Seth Keener (third round, White Sox), Teddy McGraw (third, Mariners) and Camden Minacci (sixth, Angels) were selected, along with catcher Bennett Lee (sixth, Tigers), outfielder Tommy Hawke (sixth, Guardians) and shortstop Justin Johnson (10th, Royals).

Wake Forest reached the CWS for the first time since winning the national title in 1955. The Deacons were eliminated by LSU 2-0 in 11 innings in an epic pitching matchup between Rhett Lowder and Skenes. Lowder ended up as the seventh overall pick in this draft.

### HIGHER ED

The Arizona Diamondbacks, Baltimore Orioles, Colorado Rockies and St. Louis Cardinals have taken only college players so far. In fact, the Orioles have drafted only outfielders and right-handed pitchers.

### ON THE MOUND

The Pittsburgh Pirates took Skenes at No. 1 overall, and they haven't stopped adding pitchers since. Nine of Pittsburgh's 11 picks so far have been pitchers, all but one from college.

The San Diego Padres have taken only two pitchers, high schooler Kannon Kemp in the eighth round and two-way player Tucker Musgrove of the University of Mobile in the seventh. San Diego has only had eight picks after losing its second- and fifth-rounders for signing free agent Xander Bogaerts.

### FAMILIAR NAMES

Colorado drafted third baseman Kyle Karros of UCLA in the fifth round. He's the son of Eric Karros, who won National League Rookie of the Year honors with the Los Angeles Dodgers in 1992. The elder Karros was drafted in the sixth round in 1988. Grand Canyon outfielder Homer Bush Jr. was taken in the fourth round by San Diego. Bush's father was also drafted by the Padres in 1991, although he spent most of his major league career with the Yankees.

## DERBY

continued from page 7

46,952 at T-Mobile Park. Garcia is the godfather to Arozarena's daughter, and the two jumped into each other's arms during warmups. Robert knocked out Baltimore's Adley Rutschman 28-27 in the opening round. Rutschman hit 21 left-handed, and the switch hitter then turned around to the right side and hit six more right-handed during a 30-second bonus round. From Portland, Oregon, Rutschman grew up attending Mariners games.

Guerrero, back for the first time in four years, defeated the Los Angeles Dodgers' Mookie Betts 26-11 in the first round. Four years ago at Cleveland, Guerrero hit 29 in the first round and 40 in the second, then lost to Alonso in the final.

Alonso was trying for his third title in four years. Seattle's Ken Griffey Jr. is the only three-time winner, taking the title in 1994, '98 and '99. Only three players have won the title at home: the Chicago Cubs' Ryne Sandberg in 1990, Cincinnati's Todd Frazier in 2015 and Washington's Bryce Harper in 2018.

## Tennis

# Georgia Tech's Eubanks stuns Tsitsipas to reach 1st Grand Slam quarterfinal

By **HOWARD FENDRICH**  
AP Tennis Writer

WIMBLEDON, England (AP) — Until about a week ago, even Chris Eubanks did not really believe he was capable of this sort of thing — of beating the world's best tennis players at Wimbledon, of reaching the quarterfinals at any Grand Slam tournament, of winning match after match after match on grass courts.

"I would show up to tour events saying, 'Oh, can I get through a couple rounds of here?'" he said during an interview the day before play began at the All England Club. "Now I genuinely can say, probably for the first time, I'm showing up to tournaments with higher expectations and really wanting to do well and put my best foot forward. I'm no longer feeling OK just being there. I know that I belong."

Does he ever. Eubanks, a 6-foot-7, big-serving American making his Wimbledon debut at age 27 right after claiming the first



AP Photo/Alastair Grant  
Christopher Eubanks of the US celebrates after beating Stefanos Tsitsipas of Greece in a men's singles match on day eight of the Wimbledon tennis championships in London, Monday.

ATP title of his career, reached the quarterfinals at a major for the first time by stunning two-time Slam runner-up Stefanos Tsitsipas 3-6, 7-6 (4), 3-6, 6-4, 6-4

in a little over three hours on Monday. "It's surreal. I can't really describe it," said Eubanks, who is from Atlanta and played college tennis at Georgia Tech.

"I just think the entire experience, all together, has just been a whirlwind. It's been something that you dream about," Eubanks said. "I didn't really know if that dream would actually come true. I'm sitting here in it now, so it's pretty cool."

He is ranked a career-best 43rd right now and had a win-loss record of merely 6-10 before going on the run to the trophy at Mallorca, Spain, on July 1.

That came on grass, which he decided he hated a month ago — calling it "the stupidest surface" in a text he sent to International Tennis Hall of Fame member Kim Clijsters — after exiting in the second round at a low-level ATP Challenger Tour event.

"Those words will never come out of my mouth for the rest of my career. The grass and I, we've had a very strenuous, I would say, relationship over the years," Eubanks said after accumulating 53 winners, 16 more than Tsitsipas.

"But right now, I think it's my best friend."

## Willowbrook Golf Club's Member-Guest tourney starts July 15

The Willowbrook Golf Club's Member-Guest Tournament starts July 15, with the first group teeing off at 7:30 a.m.

The course will be closed July 15 and 16 and reopen for public play at 7 a.m. Monday.

The groups for the tournament are listed below.

**7:30 a.m.:** Tony Naton and Dana Decker, Pat O'Donnell and Francis Loiacono

**7:40 a.m.:** Jim Beattie and Greg Miller, Jimmy Beattie and Keith Vestal

**7:50 a.m.:** Steve Clark and Andy Fox, Bruce Adams and Chris Boland, Bruce Adams and Chris Boland and Pat

Norton, Mike Robinson and Jay Farmer

**8:10 a.m.:** Dave Haggerty and Doug Perine, Matt Russell and Rich Tenkate

**8:20 a.m.:** Scott McLaughlin and Kory Platt, Eric Smith and Kyle

**8:30 a.m.:** Ryan Gross and Trevor Wenz, Mark Harrington and Dirk Dockstater

**8:40 a.m.:** Cooper Swartwout and Andrew Partigianoni, Mike Swartwout and Jeff Andrews

**8:50 a.m.:** Hunter White and Al White, Dan Fadel and Rocco Natak

**9 a.m.:** Dan Glezen and John Glezen, Brad Hillman and

Hunter Everle

**9:10 a.m.:** Jim Kane and Matt Kline, Howie Thomas and Dennis Gallagher

**9:20 a.m.:** Michael Timmerman and Tim McCabe, John Cook and Bill Kaminski

**9:30 a.m.:** Mike Timmerman and Steve Gullini, Dave Dankert and Steve Everle

**9:40 a.m.:** Alex Smith and Josh Lincoln, Brody Urban and Brent McNeil

**9:50 a.m.:** Jim Cook and Josh Wood, Jeremy Barber and Jon Kozlowski

**10 a.m.:** Alex Recor and Riley McEvoy, Trevor Jubran and Brandon Ludwig

**10:10 a.m.:** Marty Fulton and Jim Fulton, Chip Cosimo and Joe Cosimo

**10:20 a.m.:** Bill Young and Ron Marshall, Brandon Wormuth and Chris Griffin

**10:30 a.m.:** Tim Lang and Alan McKinney, Luke Lang and Gary Talbot

**10:40 a.m.:** Mike Franceschelli and Steve Franceschelli, Nick Franceschelli and Larry Gorsline

**10:50 a.m.:** Eric Rossman and Darren Rupert, Scott Evener and Greg Rotunda

**11 a.m.:** Jay Ludwig and Ang Trivisono, Bob Stuttle and Jim Lyon

**11:10 a.m.:** Tom Tobin and

Bob Kiley, Jim Lisi and Brian Clark

**11:20 a.m.:** Nick Bucci and Matt Jackson, Kerry Moore and Jeff Boga

**11:30 a.m.:** Jon Majka and Adam Clark, Drew Starinsky and Tom Sopp

**11:40 a.m.:** Steve Horner and Brian Taylor, Rocky Searfoss and Andy Dawson

**11:50 a.m.:** Dan Sidebottom and Mark Sidebottom, Duffy Grippin and Tiny Fitzgerald

**Noon:** Pete Lalla and Kim Updyke, Jim Grant and Mike Quintero

**12:10 p.m.:** Scott Morse and Doug Griffiths, John Dey and

Joe Caughey

**12:20 p.m.:** Chad Compagni and Adam Clifford, Eric Young and Yale Hughes

**12:30 p.m.:** Owen Lang and Zach Gardner, DJ VanGorder and Jerry Hartnett

**12:40 p.m.:** John Shirley and Steve McLyman, Keith VanGorder and Gary VanGorder

**12:50 p.m.:** Don Mayes and Chris Call, Chris Gunther and Don Yacavone

**1:00 p.m.:** Brad Hinman and Jamie Hinman, Ken Morey and Fred Sarcene

**1:10 p.m.:** Kevin Ayer and Bill Weddle, Jack Hess and Jason Anderson



# Next round of COVID-19 shots in fall will target latest omicron strain



AP Photo/Steve Helber, File

COVID-19 vaccines are readied for use at a clinic, Nov. 17, 2022, in Richmond, Virginia.

By **MIKE STOBBE**  
**AP Medical Writer**  
**NEW YORK (AP)** — The next round of COVID-19 vaccines will target one of the latest versions of the coronavirus, the Food and Drug Administration said June 16.

one day after an agency panel of outside advisers supported the recipe change. The agency told vaccine makers to provide protection against just one omicron strain, known as XBB.1.5. Today's shots include the

original coronavirus and an earlier version of omicron. They do still help prevent severe disease and death even as XBB variants have taken over. But protection gradually wanes over time and was short-lived against milder infection even before the

virus, inevitably, evolved again. The three U.S. companies that make COVID-19 shots said last month they had geared up to make the formula change, in anticipation of making many millions of doses available for the fall. One company, Pfizer,

said it could have at least some doses ready as early as this month. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention will eventually decide whether to recommend the shot for nearly all Americans or just for certain high-risk groups.

# Alzheimer's drug Leqembi given full FDA approval and now Medicare will pay for it

By **MATTHEW PERRONE**  
**AP Health Writer**  
**WASHINGTON** — U.S. officials granted full approval to a closely watched Alzheimer's drug on Thursday, clearing the way for Medicare and other insurance plans to begin covering the treatment for people with the brain-robbing disease.

The FDA in January based on early results suggesting Leqembi worked by clearing a sticky brain plaque linked to the disease.

The FDA confirmed those results by reviewing data from a larger, 1,800-patient study in which the drug slowed memory and thinking decline by about five months in those who got the treatment, compared to those who got a dummy drug. The drug's prescribing information will carry the most serious type of warning, indicating that Leqembi can cause brain swelling and bleeding, side effects that can be dangerous in rare cases. The process of converting a drug to full FDA approval usually attracts little atten-

tion. But Alzheimer's patients and advocates have been lobbying the federal government for months after Medicare officials announced last year they wouldn't pay for routine use of drugs like Leqembi until they receive FDA's full approval.

There were concerns that the cost of new plaque-targeting Alzheimer's drugs could overwhelm the program's finances, which provide care for 60 million seniors. Leqembi is priced at about \$26,500 for a year's supply of IVs every two weeks.

The vast majority of Americans with Alzheimer's get their health coverage through Medicare. And private insurers have followed its lead by withholding coverage

for Leqembi and a similar drug, Aduhelm, until they receive FDA's full endorsement. An FDA decision on full approval for Aduhelm is still years away.

Medicare administrator, Chiquita Brooks-LaSure, said in a statement Thursday the program will begin paying for the drug now that it has full FDA approval. But the government is also setting extra requirements, including enrollment in a federal registry to track the drug's real-world safety and effectiveness.

Medicare "will cover this medication broadly while continuing to gather data that will help us understand how the drug works," Brooks-LaSure said.

# No more needles? A daily pill might effectively treat obesity

By **JONEL ALECCIA**  
**AP Health Writer**

What if treating obesity could be as easy as popping an effective pill?

That's a notion that has long fueled hope for many of the more than 40% of Americans who are considered obese — and fueled criticism by those who advocate for wider weight acceptance. Soon, it may be a reality.

High-dose oral versions of the medication in the weight-loss drug Wegovy may work as well as the popular injections when it comes to paring pounds and improving health, according to final results of two studies released June 25. The potent tablets also appear to work for people with diabetes, who notoriously struggle to lose weight.

Drugmaker Novo Nordisk plans to ask the U.S. Food and Drug Administration to approve the pills later this year.

"If you ask people a random question, 'Would you rather take a pill or an injection?' People overwhelmingly prefer a pill," said Dr. Daniel Bessesen, chief of endocrinology at Denver Health.

That's assuming, Bessesen said, that both ways to take the medications are equally effective, available and affordable. "Those are the most important factors for people," he said.

There have been other weight-loss pills on the market, but none that achieve the substantial reductions seen with injected drugs like Wegovy. People with obesity will be "thrilled" to have an oral option that's as effective, said Dr. Katherine Saunders, clinical professor of medicine at Weill Cornell Health and co-founder of Intellihealth, a company that focuses on obesity treatment.

Novo Nordisk already sells Rybelsus, which is approved to treat diabetes and is an oral version of semaglutide, the same medication used in the diabetes drug Ozempic and Wegovy. It comes in doses up to 14 milligrams.

But results of two gold-standard trials released at the American Diabetes Association's annual meeting looked at how doses of oral semaglutide as high as 25 milligrams and 50 milligrams worked to reduce weight and improve blood sugar and other health markers.

A 16-month study of about 1,600 people who were overweight or had obesity and were already being treated for Type 2 diabetes found the high-dose daily pills lowered blood sugar significantly better than the standard dose of Rybelsus. From a baseline weight of 212 pounds, the higher doses also resulted in weight loss of between 15 pounds to 20 pounds, compared to about 10 pounds on the lower dose. Another 16-month study



AP Photo/Patrick Sison, File

A closeup of a beam scale seen in New York on April 3, 2018. High-dose oral versions of the medication in the weight-loss drug Wegovy may work as well as injections at paring pounds and improving health, according to a new study.

of more than 660 adults who had obesity or were overweight with at least one related disease — but not diabetes — found the 50-milligram daily pill helped people lose an average of about 15% of their body weight, or about 35 pounds, versus about 6 pounds with a dummy pill, or placebo.

That's "notably consistent" with the weight loss spurred by weekly shots of the highest dose of Wegovy, the study authors said.

But there were side effects. About 80% of participants receiving any size dose of oral semaglutide experienced things like mild to moderate intestinal problems, such as nausea, constipation and diarrhea.

In the 50-milligram obesity trial, there was evidence of higher rates of benign tumors in people who took the drug versus a placebo. In addition, about 13% of those who took the drug had "altered skin sensation" such as tingling or extra sensitivity.

Medical experts predict the pills will be popular, especially among people who want to lose weight but are fearful of needles. Plus, tablets would be more portable than injection pens and they don't have to be stored in the refrigerator.

But the pills aren't necessarily a better option for the hundreds of thousands of people already taking injectable versions such as Ozempic or Wegovy, said Dr. Fatima Cody Stanford, an obesity medicine expert at Massachusetts General Hospital.

"I don't find significant hesitancy surrounding receiving an injection," she said. "A lot of people like the ease of taking a medication once a week." In addition, she said, some patients may actually prefer shots to the new pills, which have to be taken 30 minutes before eating or drinking in the morning.

Paul Morer, 56, who works for a New Jersey hospital sys-

tem, lost 85 pounds using Wegovy and hopes to lose 30 more. He said he would probably stick with the weekly injections, even if pills were available.

"I do it on Saturday morning. It's part of my routine," he said. "I don't even feel the needle. It's a non-issue."

Some critics also worry that a pill will also put pressure on people who are obese to use it, fueling social stigma against people who can't — or don't want to — lose weight, said Tigris Osborn, chair of the National Association to Advance Fat Acceptance.

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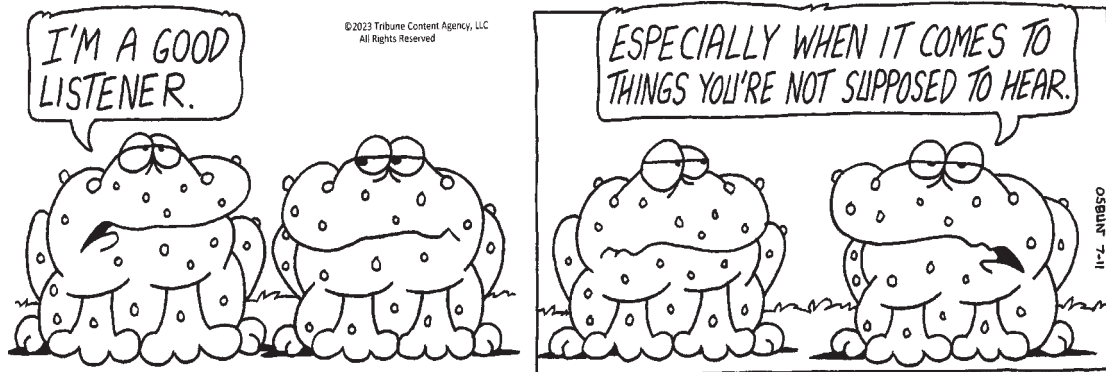
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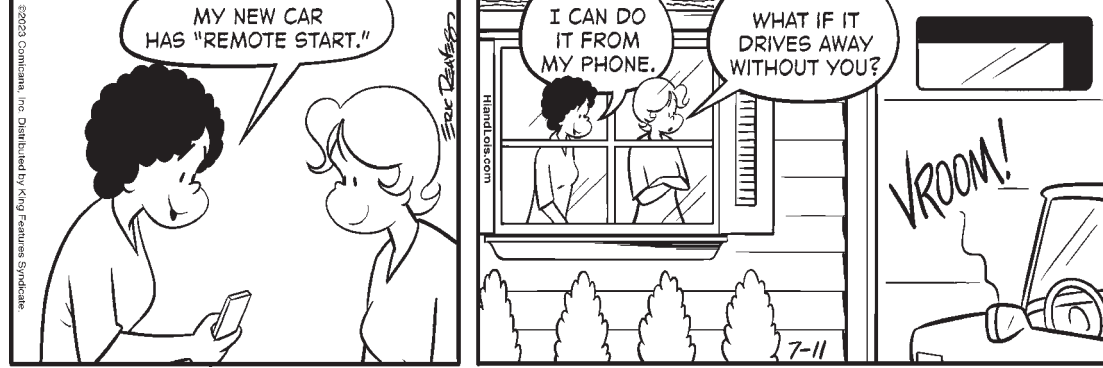
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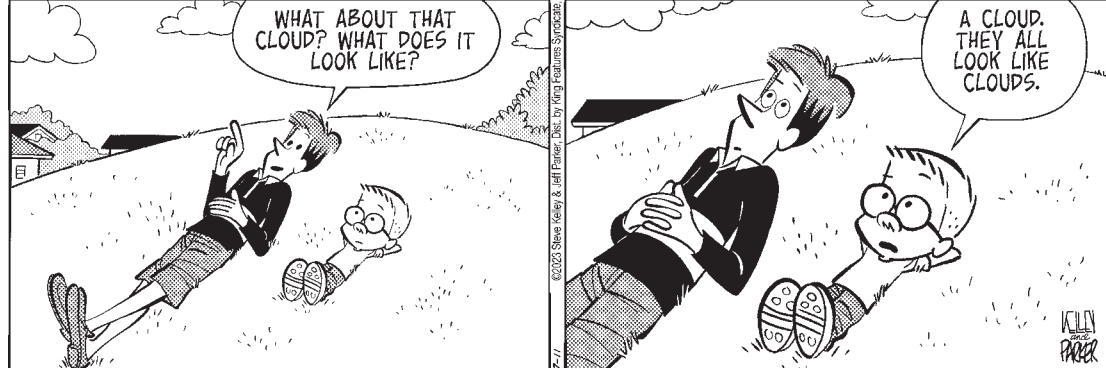
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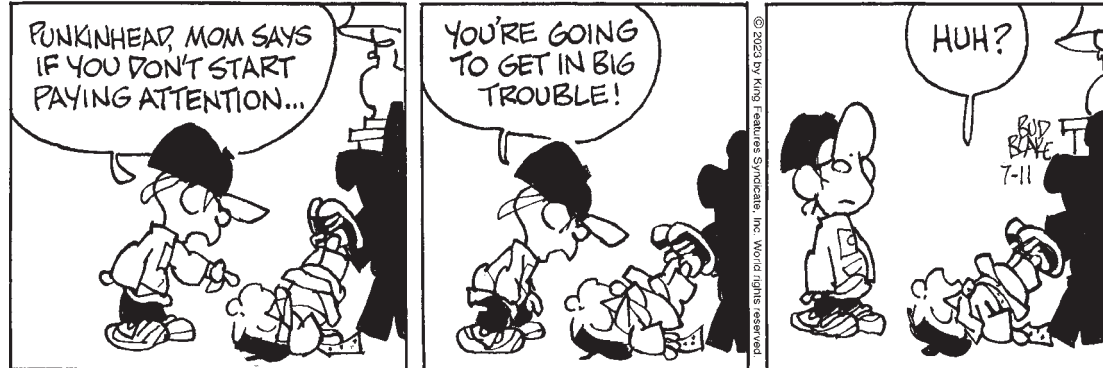
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## Astrological Forecast

By Magi Helena  
Wednesday, July 12, 2023

**ARIES (March 21-April 19):** Indecision can be like an anchor holding you back, but without clarity, it's impossible to proceed with confidence. Think things over carefully, weigh all pros and cons and you may find you know enough to take a calculated leap.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20):** It can be easy to get lost if you just stumble through the darkness. Find a guiding light through friendship or love and you may find the path. Once you have found your path, become the light to lead someone else.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 20):** Your heart may be influenced by moments of sorrow or happiness. Feel your emotions fully and embrace them to find balance in your life. Trying to box up your life into tiny compartments could take up much needed space.

**CANCER (June 21-July 22):** Now may be the time to sit down and focus on tasks instead of procrastinating. An invitation could get lost in the pile so read it quickly — showing up might become a treasured memory for a loved one or close friend.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22):** You might be feeling like something is slipping away currently, or there could be something going on that keeps you from obtaining the cooperation you crave. Apologies may not be enough — take the first step to achieve a compromise.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22):** If you rush through your day, you could miss the vital details. Whether you overlook financial or emotional aspects you could come to regret what was missed. Slow down and collect every detail before it is lost.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22):** A morning spent getting your things organized, fetching coffee or other important errands could easily turn from productive to procrastination. Stay on track and you can make quick work of all you need to accomplish.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21):** Think carefully about the messages you may be sending out to the world. The people you surround yourself with can reflect back on to you either negatively or positively, so make sure you have chosen the right ones.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21):** Sometimes you may feel as if joy and gladness are hidden but it can exist all around you if you are not afraid to look. Open your heart to humanity's better nature. Try not to let garbage cloud your connection to the world.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19):** You may be incredibly good at whatever you do and are willing to go the extra mile to make that fact known to everyone. Try to remain humble to avoid ruffling the feathers of those around you.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18):** It may not be enough to just dream. You need to put in the effort to make your dreams come true. The world you want and dream about could be waiting for you if you take the necessary steps and work every day toward it.

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20):** People can make discoveries in the tiniest scraps left after an explosion. No matter how large the destruction, it could sow the seeds of your own rebirth. The best version of you may grow from the rubble of who you once were.

**IF JULY 12 IS YOUR BIRTHDAY:** You could be preoccupied by daydreams and romantic fantasies as the next four to five weeks go by. If someone or something does not live up to your lofty expectations, you may even decide to break away and become more independent. Enjoy being the center of attention and meeting unusual people. Avoid new romantic entanglements and making crucial business decisions in August when you could be easily fooled by surface appearances and cannot trust your own judgment.

## Sudoku

Fun By The Numbers

Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

	5	1					7	2
			5	7				
7		9			4	5	1	6
9				3				
	4		7	6	8		9	
8	7	5			2	3		
		7		5				4
			3	8	6			
			4			6	5	8

Level: Beginner

**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!

8	9	7	1	2	3	6	5	4
2	7	6	8	9	5	1	4	3
4	3	1	6	5	2	8	9	7
1	9	3	2	4	6	9	7	8
5	6	2	8	7	3	1	4	2
7	1	8	7	1	9	2	6	3
6	5	2	4	5	1	6	3	7
3	8	6	9	5	8	9	2	7
4	5	1	6	9	3	8	7	2

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.

7-11 CRYPTOQUOTE

B D P G P Z G P E T J P Z N B K M N R

I N G M Z F P I Y K B D T N B Z

B P G G K J R P Q P X B D

— E K P B U I F D P

**Yesterday's Cryptoquote:** EACH OF US IS RESPONSIBLE FOR EVERYTHING AND TO EVERY HUMAN BEING. — SIMONE DE BEAUVOIR

## CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

**ACROSS**

43 Scout shelters

1 Following

6 Miles of music

11 Rich cake

12 Decree

13 TV network, e.g.

15 In the past

16 Road goo

17 Maher-shala of "Moonlight"

18 Shaped shrub

20 Chess piece

21 Tear

22 Plane part

23 Bike part

26 Flexes

27 Yale students

28 Pot brew

29 Shade tree

30 Refuses to go along with

34 Family

35 Pole worker

36 In the style of

37 Wizard, e.g.

40 Useful skill

41 Polo, for one

42 Exams

**DOWN**

1 Chance to swing

2 Do without

3 Scout group

4 Pilot's guess: Abbr.

5 Nickname for a Tuskegee Airman

6 Sweet-heart

7 TV spots

8 Thiamin or niacin

9 Reykjavik's nation

10 Orchestra section

14 Complain

19 Some nest eggs

22 Watered down

23 Eyes discreetly

24 Squashed circle

25 Low light

26 Northern Ireland city

28 Soft mineral

30 Karate levels

31 Glossy fabric

32 Vigilant

33 Bakery buys

38 Rent out

39 That woman

**Yesterday's answer**

	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11					12				
13				14					
15				16			17		
18			19				20		
21					22				
23	24	25			26				
27				28					
29				30			31	32	33
34				35			36		
37			38				39		
40							41		
42							43		

## Word of the Day

**mitigate (MIT-uh-gayt)**

**Definition:** (verb) To mitigate something is to make it less severe, harmful, or painful.

**Example:** One way we can mitigate the impact the construction project will have on residents is to commit to completing the project in the allotted time.

— Courtesy Merriam-Webster Online

## Contract Bridge

### A matter of good judgment

East dealer.  
East-West vulnerable.  
NORTH  
♠ 8 5 2  
♥ J 10 5  
♦ A Q 5  
♣ A J 6 3  
WEST  
♠ K Q 10 6 4  
♥ K 7 3  
♦ J 6 4  
♣ 7 2  
EAST  
♠ 9 3  
♥ 9 8 4 2  
♦ 9 8 7 3  
♣ K 9 4  
SOUTH  
♠ A J 7  
♥ A Q 6  
♦ K 10 2  
♣ Q 10 8 5

The bidding:  
East South West North  
Pass 1 NT Pass 3 NT  
Opening lead — king of spades.

When you are declarer, there is no simple rule that tells you when to win a trick or when to refuse it; rather, it is a matter of exercising good judgment in the particular circumstances you face.

Consider this deal where West leads the king of spades against your three-notrump contract. You could take the king with the ace and then start thinking of how best to try to make nine tricks, but that would in effect be putting the cart before the horse.

Winning the first trick would place you in a position where if

East later gained the lead and returned a spade through your J-7, you could lose the contract.

To prevent this from happening, you should let West hold the first trick. This effectively stops him from leading another spade, and for the moment takes the heat off the suit.

Let's assume West, after seeing East's discouraging three on the trick, switches to a club, which is the best he can do. The temptation to finesse at this point might be very strong, but, under the circumstances, it would be wrong to yield to that temptation.

The reason is that you could lose the finesse to East, who would then return a spade through your A-J. If and when you later attempted a heart finesse for your ninth trick, you could go down.

Instead, you should put up the ace of clubs at trick two and lead the jack of hearts from dummy. You are in no danger if the finesse loses to West, since he cannot harm you with any return, and you are then sure to make the contract.

Thus, if he takes the heart and leads a club, your worries are over, because this gives you nine tricks, while with any other return, the contract is equally certain. Judging precisely when and when not to hold up is the key to a successful resolution.

Tomorrow: Card-reading plus.  
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# 'Blacklist' ends this week after 10-year run

By MARK KENNEDY  
AP Entertainment Writer  
NEW YORK — Raymond "Red" Reddington is finally hanging up his famous black fedora and — fitting for a manipulative genius — he's doing it on his own terms.

"The Blacklist" ends its 10-year NBC run Thursday with a two-hour send-off, and star James Spader says the cast and crew relished the chance to take their time saying goodbye.

The end of "The Blacklist" is a swan song for Reddington, one of the most intriguing and delicious characters on television. A master of brokering shadowy deals for criminals, he offered his help to the FBI tracking down the world's most dangerous criminals.

Spader reveals that the show — filmed mostly in New York City with an embrace of inter-



Will Hart/NBC/Sony Pictures Television via AP

Pictured is James Spader as Raymond Reddington in a scene from "The Blacklist." The series finale airs Thursday.

national characters — went overseas for the finale. "The Blacklist" ends in Spain.

The show attracted Spader all those years ago because he was looking for something that would sustain both his interest and the viewer's for more than 20 episodes a season, or in his

words, create a "limitless landscape."

The pilot introduced Reddington as an fugitive criminal whose enterprises were worldwide, checking one box for the actor. Spader was also looking for a show that was fluid in tone, which the pilot also deliv-

ered. Reddington, infused with Spader's elliptical charm, was a stylish addition to network TV, a character who could make an amazing frittata with just a toaster oven and who collected sabers from the Crimean War. He was not good, certainly, but not bad, either. "He's a scary monster and people like him," Spader says.

Reddington is deeply cultured, a man able to converse about Cary Grant, the Piazza del Campo in Siena or Kai Tak Airport. Nicknamed "The Con- cierge of Crime," he said deeply profound things like, "Not every answer is worth know- ing" and "I can only lead you to the truth. I can't make you believe it."

"He inhabits the whole world, he really does. He lives in it and he really loves it. And he loves life," Spader said.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS



## PREPAYMENT

\*Required for all the following ads before they will appear in classified:

- ▶ POSITIONS WANTED
- ▶ FREE ANIMALS
- ▶ BABY-SITTING
- ▶ MOVING SALES
- ▶ TELEPHONE TOLL - CALLS
- ▶ WANTED TO RENT
- ▶ HOUSE CLEANING
- ▶ NO TELEPHONE - LISTING
- ▶ SUBLETTING
- ▶ APARTMENT- SHARING

## HELP WANTED

## Employment



### DeRuyter Central School

is looking for a **PK-12 Music Teacher**  
Responsibilities include: PK-6 Classroom Music, 6-8 Chorus, 9-12 Chorus as well as possibilities for

extracurricular music activities. Candidate should possess strong piano skills. Educator will be part of a two person team in a small rural district. This position is for someone eager and ready to build a program and will have total support of administration.

Apply on-line through OLAS (olasjobs.org). Application packet must include the following: Letter of Interest, Resume, Copies of Transcripts, 3 Current Letters of Reference, OLAS Application, Evidence of NYS Music PK-12 Certification and DeRuyter Central School Application (found at www.deruytercentral.org)

### INFORMATION AIDE

OCM BOCES Cortlandville Campus Welcome visitors, assist with student attendance procedures, maintain information on program services and locations in order to direct visitors to appropriate locations. Complete basic clerical tasks and other duties as assigned. Interested Candidates: Please submit cover letter and resume to recruitment@ocmboces.org. For more information regarding this Vacancy, Please visit: www.ocmboces.org. EOE

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## HELP WANTED

The Research Foundation at SUNY Cortland is seeking candidates for three separate part-time (3 days/22.5 hours per week)

**Program Coordinators** for SUNY's Liberty Partnerships Program (LPP) at three of our sites:

- Groton Central School District
- Cortland Enlarged City School District
- Auburn Enlarged City School District

The Program Coordinator at each site will collaborate with the partner school personnel, SUNY Cortland personnel, and the LPP program director on the development, implementation and evaluation of instructional programs and services to maximize opportunities for successful completion of high school for identified students grades 7-12. Program Coordinators work during the school year from September through June and one week during the summer on program planning and assessment.

**Required Qualifications:**  
Bachelors degree; Demonstrated work experience in an educational environment, including teaching, mentoring, counseling, social work and/or planning and assessment; Demonstrated skills in using technology; Reliable transportation.

**Preferred Qualifications:**  
Current New York State certification in Adolescence Education Grades 7-12 or school counseling; Masters degree in education, school counseling and/or social work.

These positions are scheduled for 22.5 hours/3 days a week. The starting salary is \$21/hr. and includes a comprehensive benefits package available with health insurance, vision and dental, retirement and paid time off.

Application materials will be accepted until the position(s) are filled, but review of applications will begin on July 17th. For a full job description, application instructions and to apply, please visit: https://jobs.cortland.edu/postings/7645

As an Equal Opportunity / Affirmative Action Employer, The Research Foundation for SUNY will not discriminate in its employment practices due to an applicants race, color, creed, religion, sex (including pregnancy, childbirth or related medical conditions), sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, transgender status, age, national origin, marital status, citizenship, physical and mental disability, criminal record, genetic information, predisposition or carrier status, status with respect to receiving public assistance, domestic violence victim status, a disabled, special, recently separated, active duty wartime, campaign badge, Armed Forces service medal veteran, or any other characteristics protected under applicable law.

## HELP WANTED

LAFAYETTE CENTRAL SCHOOL  
LAFAYETTE, NEW YORK  
POSITION AVAILABLE  
**SHARED Network Administrator (LAN Tech)**  
Effective August 1, 2023  
LAFAYETTE CSD / LYNACOURT CSD  
2 DAYS/ 3 DAYS  
COMPETITIVE SALARY  
BASED ON EXPERIENCE  
Must meet Civil Service Requirements  
INTERESTED CANDIDATES APPLY ON OLAS

www.olasjobs.org  
Please submit cover letter, resume, certification, transcripts along with application  
DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS  
July 17, 2023,  
or until position is filled  
EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

**Mathematics Teacher**  
OCM BOCES  
Seven Valleys New Tech Academy  
Cortland, NY  
**School Year 2023-2024**  
Seeking a math teacher able to create a student-centered classroom that supports the principles of project or problem-based learning.  
**NYS Mathematics 7-12 required.**  
INTERESTED CANDIDATES APPLY ON OLAS:  
www.olasjobs.org  
For more information regarding this Vacancy, Please visit: www.ocmboces.org. EOE

**Preschool Teacher:**  
Part Time-20 hours/week  
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Please send letter of interest and resume to: Mike & Jean Wells  
PO Box 53, Blodgett Mills, NY 13738  
Call Wells @ 607-753-7716 with questions

**Spanish Teacher**  
OCM BOCES  
Seven Valley New Tech Academy  
Cortland, NY  
**School Year 2023-2024**  
Successful candidate will create and maintain a student-centered classroom that supports the principles of project-based learning and integration of curriculum.  
**NYS Spanish 7-12 certification required.**  
INTERESTED CANDIDATES APPLY ON OLAS:  
www.olasjobs.org  
For more information regarding this Vacancy, Please visit: www.ocmboces.org. EOE

## HELP WANTED

**Mechanical Systems Specialist:**  
The Cornell Laboratory for Accelerator-based ScienceS and Education (CLASSE) is expanding; new opportunities are available for individuals seeking a challenging technical position in a unique field, working with a world-class team of technicians, engineers, specialists, and scientists. No science or research experience is required. We seek exceptional people with the potential and/or experience to learn how to maintain, repair and modify particle accelerators and related systems. Mechanical Systems Specialists work on various items such as water-cooling, pumps, vacuum components, electro-magnets, cryogenic, air compressors, controls, instrumentation, and heat-exchangers. They also design, fabricate, and install new and improved components. Individuals with keen technical insight and the ability to understand complex designs and functions would enjoy this work. Education and work experience requirements are flexible; college level courses are helpful, trade school certification is welcome, technical/industry work history is also great. But the strongest advantages are: potential, curiosity, intelligence, ambition, and the ability to work in a team environment. If you would like to know more about the job, or are unsure about applying, please contact:

Richard Gallagher-REG25@cornell.edu  
Leila Abohamb - LCA43@cornell.edu  
The salary range for the Mechanical Systems Specialist is \$55,176.48 - \$60,984.53, commensurate with experience. Additionally, the individual in this role is eligible to participate in Cornell's comprehensive benefits program. To read more about this opportunity and to apply, please visit: https://cornell.wd1.myworkdayjobs.com/CornellCareerPage/job/Ithaca-Main-Campus/Mechanical-Systems-Specialist\_WDR-00037852-1

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**Teacher Special Education**  
OCM BOCES  
SKATE K-2 Program has the need for a Special Education Teacher, located at Smith Intermediate School in Cortland, NY. Successful candidate will provide academic and behavioral instruction to elementary aged students with autism. NYS SWD 1-6 certification required. Applications only accepted online. Register and apply at: www.olasjobs.org/central For more information, visit our website at: www.ocmboces.org EOE

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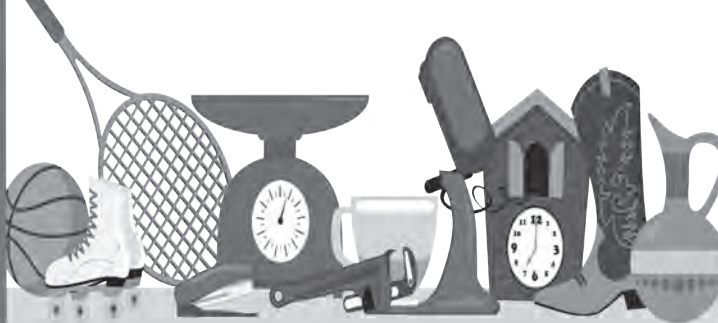
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AP Photo, File

A woman at a cemetery in Volzhsky, outside Volgograd, Russia, on May 26, 2022, looks at the graves of Russian soldiers killed in the war in Ukraine.

## Study: 50K Russian soldiers have died fighting in Ukraine

**By ERIKA KINETZ**  
Associated Press  
BRUSSELS — Nearly 50,000 Russian men have died in the war in Ukraine, according to the first independent statistical analysis of Russia's war dead.

Two independent Russian media outlets, Mediazona and Meduza, working with a data scientist from Germany's Tübingen University, used Russian government data to shed light on one of Moscow's closest-held secrets — the true human cost of its invasion of Ukraine.

To do so, they relied on a statistical concept popularized during the COVID-19 pandemic called excess mortality. Drawing on inheritance records and official mortality data, they estimated how many more men under age 50 died between February 2022 and May 2023 than normal.

Neither Moscow nor Kyiv gives timely data on military losses, and each is at pains to amplify the other side's casualties. Russia has publicly acknowledged the deaths of just over 6,000 soldiers. Reports about military losses have been repressed in Russian media, activists and independent journalists say. Documenting the dead has become an act of defiance; those who do so face harassment and potential criminal charges.

Despite such challenges, Mediazona and the BBC's Russian Service, working with a network of volunteers, have used social media postings and photographs of cemeteries across Russia to build a database of confirmed war deaths. As of July 7, they had identified 27,423 dead Russian soldiers.

"These are only soldiers who we know by name, and their deaths in each case are verified by multiple sources," said Dmitry Treshchanin, an editor at Mediazona who helped oversee the investigation. "The estimate we

actually give better results." Many Russian fatalities — as well as amputations — could have been prevented with better front-line first aid, the U.K. Ministry of Defense said in an intelligence assessment published Monday.

Russia has suffered an average of around 400 casualties a day for 17 months, creating a "crisis" in combat medical care that is likely undermining medical services for civilians in border regions near Ukraine, the ministry said.

Independently, Dmitry Kobak, a data scientist from Germany's Tübingen University who has published work on excess COVID-19 deaths in Russia, obtained mortality data broken down by age and sex for 2022 from Rosstat, Russia's official statistics agency.

He found that 24,000 more men under age 50 died in 2022 than expected, a figure that aligns with the analysis of inheritance data.

The COVID-19 pandemic made it harder to figure out how many men would have died in Russia since February 2022 if there hadn't been a war. Both analyses corrected for the lingering effects of COVID on mortality by indexing male death rates against female deaths.

Sergei Scherbov, a scholar at the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis in Austria, cautioned that "differences in the number of deaths between males and females can vary significantly due to randomness alone."

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# Sweden moves closer to NATO membership after deal with Turkey

**By KARL RITTER, LORNE COOK and SUZAN FRASER**  
Associated Press

VILNIUS, Lithuania — Sweden's membership of NATO took a big step forward on Monday after Turkey agreed to remove one of the last major roadblocks in return for help in reviving Turkey's own chances of joining the European Union.

At talks in the Lithuanian capital Vilnius, where U.S. President Joe Biden and his NATO counterparts are meeting for a two-day summit starting today, President Recep Tayyip Erdogan committed to put the Nordic country's accession protocol before Parliament "as soon as possible," the head of NATO said.

"This is an historic day because we have a clear commitment by Turkey to submit the ratification documents to the Grand National Assembly, and to work also with the assembly to ensure ratification," NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg told reporters after a series of high-stakes meetings.

Sweden's NATO accession has been held up by objections from Turkey since last year. The Turkish parliament's ratification of the accession protocol is one of the last steps in the process. Stoltenberg made the announcement after talks with Erdogan and Swedish Prime Minister Ulf Kristersson on the eve of a NATO summit

in Lithuania.

"Today we took a very big step on the road toward complete ratification," Kristersson said.

There was no comment from Erdogan on the move, which



Stoltenberg

many saw as linked in part to Turkey's demands on other issues, particularly Erdogan's desire for support for European Union membership from European leaders and for F-16 fighter jets from the United States.

It's unclear when the Nordic country's membership might be approved, but the agreement appears to have taken the issue off the agenda of the summit, which was meant to focus uniquely on the war in Ukraine and Kyiv's own membership aspirations.

In a statement, Biden welcomed the agreement and said he will work with Turkey "on enhancing defense and deterrence in the Euro-Atlantic area. I look forward to welcoming Prime Minister Kristersson and Sweden as our 32nd NATO Ally."

Biden's reference to enhancing Turkey's defense capability was a nod to Biden's commitment to help Turkey acquire new F-16s, according to a U.S.

administration official, who spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to comment.

The Biden administration backed Turkey's desire to buy 40 new F-16s as well as modernization kits from the U.S. It's a move some in Congress, most notably Senate Foreign Relations Committee Chairman Bob Menendez, D-N.J., have opposed over Turkey blocking NATO membership for Sweden, its human rights record, its relations with Greece and other concerns.

In Washington, however, Menendez said he was "continuing to have my reservations" on providing the planes to Turkey. If the Biden administration can show that Turkey wouldn't use the F-16s belligerently against other NATO members, particularly its neighbor Greece, "then there may be a way forward," Menendez told reporters.

In exchange for Turkey's help with NATO, Sweden has agreed to help unblock Turkey's progress towards joining the European Union, which has been on hold since 2018.

Stoltenberg said that Turkey's relationship with the EU was "not an issue for NATO, it's an issue for the European Union."

### LEGALS

**NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY**  
Lynch Brothers Farms, LLC. Filed with SSNY on 5/4/2023. Office: Cortland County. SSNY designated as agent for process & shall mail to: 30-82 Stone Rd Mc Graw NY 13101. Purpose: any lawful

**NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY**  
Upstate North Enterprises, LLC. Filed with SSNY on 5/16/2023. Office: Cortland County. SSNY designated as agent for process & shall mail to: Po Box 205 Homer NY 13077. Purpose: any lawful

**CORTLAND COUNTY LEGAL NOTICE**  
To be sold to satisfy a garageman's lien  
2006 Ford 2dsd vin# 12VFT80N365213903  
Owner Brian Hollenbeck on 7/26/2023 at 15 Freeville Rd Dryden, NY 13503 at 9:00 am

**NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY**  
Notice of Formation of DHQY CORTLAND, LLC -- Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of New York on 6/29/23. 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 167, Homer, New York 13077. The principal office of the limited liability company is located at 4-10 Madison Street, Cortland, New York 13045. The limited liability company was formed for any lawful business purpose.

**VILLAGE OF MARATHON LEGAL NOTICE**  
**CORTLAND COUNTY LEGAL NOTICE**  
The Village of Marathon Board of Trustees' Meeting scheduled for Wednesday July 19, 2023, will be rescheduled to Wednesday July 26, 2023, at 7:00PM due to scheduling conflicts. The meeting will be held at the Village Office at 18 Tannery St. in Marathon NY.

For questions, please call the Village Office at 607-849-3812

Laura Padbury  
Village of Marathon  
Clerk/Treasurer

**NEW YORK STATE LEGAL NOTICE**  
FAMILY COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK, COUNTY OF COLUMBIA, In the Matter of an Article 6 Custody/Visitation Proceeding of the Family Court Act or Section 240 of the Domestic Relations Law, JESSICA VAN DEUSON (Petitioner) ADAM VAN DEUSON (Respondent) AIDON VAN DEUSON (DOB: 04/11/2017) and ALIVIA VAN DEUSON (DOB: 05/09/2018); File #13884; Docket #V-00398-23 V-0039923: ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE and CUSTODY/VISITATION. To: ADAM VAN DEUSON, 263 Old Hudson Turnpike, Canaan, NY 12029; A petition under Article 6 of the Family Court Act having been filed with this Court YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED to appear IN PERSON before this Court on August 23, 2023 at 11:30 AM in Part to be assigned 4, for a first appearance before Hon. David J. Wukitsch, at the Courthouse, 401 Union Street, Hudson, NY 12534, Floor SEE COURT SECURITY; Room SEE COURT SECURITY, to answer the petition and to be dealt with in accordance with the Family Court Act. Please bring this notice with you and check in with the Court Officer in the Part. If you fail to appear as directed, a warrant may be issued for your arrest. Dated: June 13, 2023, Shara Berg, Chief Clerk

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**Your Dental Health**  
by Dr. Baljinder Singh and the Cortland Dental Team

**FOODS TO AVOID FOR DENTAL HEALTH**

Some foods and drinks cause more plaque buildup than others. Sugary foods cause oral bacteria to release acids that wear down tooth enamel, causing tooth decay and cavities. Some foods are worse than others. Sour candies contain extra acids and stick to your teeth longer. Saliva breaks bread down into sugars that can be just as hard on your teeth as sweet treats and may also stick to your teeth longer than other foods. Alcoholic beverages dry out your mouth, reducing the saliva that helps repair tooth enamel and prevents bacteria from sticking to your teeth. Carbonated beverages also reduce saliva and contain high levels of acid. Citrus fruits, potato chips, and dried fruit are other foods to avoid.

Your basic philosophy is that you and your family deserve the highest quality dental services available today, and we are committed to providing just that here at **CORTLAND DENTAL**. From sound advice on dietary habits to all-encompassing, high-tech dental care from a rigorously trained compassionate staff, you'll know you're in the right place the moment you walk through our doors at **4313 North Homer Ave.** Office hours are by appointment; please call **607.753.9361**.

P.S. Whole wheat bread contains less sugar, making it better than white bread for oral health.

**ATTENTION READERS!**

**The Cortland Standard will no longer print on Mondays**

**We regret to inform you that high costs have forced us to reduce our publication schedule to Tuesday-Saturday.**

**We still will be covering the latest news and information:**

**Check www.cortlandstandard.com for breaking news any day of the week.**

**We thank you for understanding.**