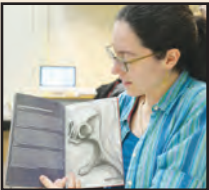


LOCAL

TC3's literary arts journal has students planning, organizing, analyzing and "Ke'lab-orating."



Page 3

SPORTS

The Trojans used speed and clutch defense to win the team's first game of the season on Tuesday night.



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# Cortland Standard

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2023 daily No. 262 WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2023 CORTLAND, N.Y.

## City thanks SUNY students for helping fire victims

By JACK LAKOWSKY  
Staff Reporter

Three SUNY Cortland students will have pizza and ice cream to get them through finals season, courtesy of the city and local restaurants — a token of appreciation for helping families during a fire.

SUNY seniors Holly Wright, Jessie Ciufu and Seylah Fergu-

son were honored Tuesday at a Cortland Common Council meeting, for helping to care for two families who lost pets and most of their possessions Nov. 18 in a fire at 37 Clayton Ave.

Cortland Deputy Fire Chief Derek Reynolds said as he watched the firefighting operation, he checked on the displaced families. Two families, 12 people in all, including seven

children, had fled the fire.

"I turned around and saw college students coming, and you saw what Cortland State has to offer this community," Reynolds said. "The families were being comforted and taken care of."

Reynolds said the three students made a huge difference for emergency services. The kids, brought inside for ice cream and blankets, were one less thing to

worry about.

Cortland Mayor Scott Steve was at the scene of the fire.

"It was really tough," Steve said. A 9-year-old cried after learning a dog had died. Firefighters tried to resuscitate another dog that would later die. Police held back a man who wanted to save his cats.

Steve also noticed the college students coming to help.

"We didn't want to not recognize that," he said Tuesday.

Steve said the community has stepped up to bring the family some comfort. The fire department received truckloads of donations. Grace Christian Fellowship church gave the families the first month's rent and security deposits to find new homes.

"The fire department, Smith Elementary, the Red Cross, the

police department — everyone stepped up and helped," Steve said.

After the fire, Cortland Fire Chief Wayne Friedman said the fire significantly damaged the first-floor living room, and caused smoke damage throughout the building.

The building is salvageable.

See SUNY, page 6

## 4 Republicans set to participate in 4th presidential debate

Here's who's in and who's out

By MEG KINNARD  
Associated Press

COLUMBIA, S.C. — The field of candidates onstage for the fourth Republican presidential debate will be the smallest yet.

Four hopefuls will participate in tonight's debate at the Moody Music Hall at the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa, according to the Republican National Committee.

To qualify for the fourth debate, candidates needed at least 6% support in two national polls or 6% in one national poll as well as two polls from four of the early-voting states — Iowa, New Hampshire, Nevada and South Carolina. All the polls used for qualification must have been approved by the RNC.

The White House hopefuls also

needed at least 80,000 unique donors, with at least 200 of those coming from 20 states or territories. They also had to sign an RNC pledge promising to support the party's eventual nominee.

A look at where the candidates stand:

### WHO'S IN Ron DeSantis

Initially seen as the top rival for Donald Trump, DeSantis has been locked in a battle for a distant second place to the front-runner, as well as wading through challenges within his operation.

Over the weekend, several staffers parted ways with the super PAC that has been sustaining much of DeSantis' early-state efforts. That's been particularly true in Iowa, where DeSantis shifted some of his Florida-based campaign staff and where he recently

See DEBATE, page 6



Lily Byrne/Staff Reporter

The band Indecisive performs a cover of "Jackie and Wilson" by Hozier on Tuesday morning at Cortland High School. The Modern Band class gives young musicians a different way to learn both music and other skills.

## 'The perfect amount of unstructured'

Modern Band program gives students creative freedom

By LILY BYRNE  
Staff Reporter

lbyrne@cortlandstandard.com

It was 8 a.m. The high schoolers skipped their morning coffee — they didn't need it. They were rocking out, tuning basses, cheering friends and debating whether the color of the stage lighting matched the vibe of the song.

"We have rules, but we're allowed to do pretty much what we want," said junior Jenna Phalen, who opens for bands at the Center for the Arts of Homer as Jenna Nolle. "You get to pick your own songs, and play your own things, and pick who's in

### Rock on

WHAT: Cortland Modern Band's Not-So-Silent Night

WHEN: 6:30 p.m. Dec. 21

WHERE: Rose Hall, 19 Church St. in Cortland

your band. It's the perfect amount of unstructured."

The Cortland Modern Band program has more than 80 students, and has gigs almost every month, said Jon Keefner, teacher of Cortland Modern Band. He plays pop music as his students enter the classroom, and

presents them with a note of the day on the board; Tuesday's being, "Don't wish your day away."

The program was created out of a mandatory seventh-grade general music class, where students, such as The Rollin' Rust singer James VanDeuson and nationally touring actor and musician Jack Gerhard, wanted a place to practice guitar.

"Pedagogically, yes, we are looking to develop their instrumental skills, but it's mostly about building their independence," Keefner said. "We lead with the

See BAND, page 6



AP Photo/Rebecca Blackwell

Republican presidential candidates former U.N. Ambassador Nikki Haley talks with former New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie during a break at the Republican presidential primary debate hosted by NBC News, Nov. 8, in Miami.

## Lacking counselors, US schools turn to online therapy

By JOCELYN GECKER  
AP Education Writer

Trouble with playground bullies started for Maria Ishoo's daughter in elementary school. Girls ganged up, calling her "fat" and "ugly." Boys tripped and pushed her. The California mother watched her typically bubbly second-grader retreat into her bedroom and spend afternoons curled up in bed.

For Valerie Aguirre's daughter in Hawaii, a spate of middle school "friend drama" escalated into violence and on-line bullying that left the 12-year-old feeling disconnected and lonely.

Both children received help through telehealth therapy, a service that schools around the country are offering in response to soaring mental health struggles among American youth.

Now at least 16 of the 20 largest U.S. public school districts are offering online therapy sessions to reach millions of students, according to an analysis by The Associated Press. In those districts alone, schools have signed provider contracts worth more than \$70 million.

The growth reflects a booming new business born from America's youth mental health crisis, which has proven

so lucrative that venture capitalists are funding a new crop of school teletherapy companies. Some experts raise concerns about the quality of care offered by fast-growing tech companies.

As schools cope with shortages of in-person practitioners, however, educators say teletherapy works for many kids, and it's meeting a massive need. For rural schools and lower-income students in particular, it has made therapy easier to access. Schools let students connect with online counselors during the school day or after hours from home.

"This is how we can prevent people from falling through the cracks," said Ishoo, a mother of two in Lancaster, California.

Ishoo recalls standing at her second-grader's bedroom door last year and wishing she could get through to her. "What's wrong?" the mother would ask. The response made her heart heavy: "It's NOTHING, Mom."

Last spring, her school district launched a teletherapy program and she signed up her daughter. During a month of weekly sessions, the girl logged in from her bedroom and opened up to a

therapist who gave her coping tools and breathing techniques to reduce anxiety. The therapist told her daughter: You are in charge of your own emotions. Don't give anyone else that control.

"She learned that it's OK to ask for help, and sometimes everyone needs some extra help," Ishoo said.

The 13,000-student school system, like so many others, has counselors and psychologists on staff, but not enough to meet the need, said Trish Wilson, the Lancaster district's coordinator of counselors.

See SCHOOLS, page 6

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WEATHER



Cloudy  
Tomorrow's Weather:  
High near 35  
50% chance of snow  
More on page 2

ONLINE



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.



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## Weather

### Local

**Rest of today:** A chance of snow showers, mainly between 7 p.m. and 1 a.m. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 23. Chance of precipitation is 30%. New snow accumulation of less than a half inch possible.

**Thursday:** A chance of snow. Cloudy, with a high near 35. Chance of precipitation is 50%. New snow accumulation of around an inch possible.

**Thursday night:** Mostly cloudy, with a low around 29. Southwest wind 3 to 6 mph.

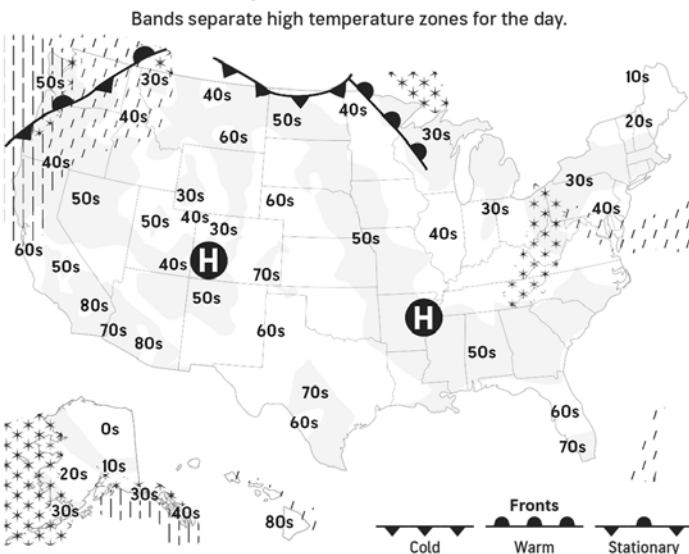
### Skies Today

<b>Wednesday, December 6, 2023</b>	
Sunset today	4:31 p.m.
Sunrise tomorrow	7:20 a.m.
Normal high temperature	38
Normal low temperature	24
Average temperature	31
New moon	Dec. 12

Forecast for Wednesday, December 6, 2023



Forecast for Wednesday, December 6, 2023



**NATIONAL SUMMARY:** A weak storm will bring widely separated rain and snow showers from western New York through western North Carolina today. Meanwhile, some rain and snow will fall on the western lakeshore of Michigan. Another storm will continue to impact the Northwest and into Northern California as showers expand across Central California and Idaho.

©2023 AccuWeather, Inc.

### Extended

**Friday:** Partly sunny, with a high near 44.

**Friday night:** Mostly cloudy, with a low around 34.

**Saturday:** Mostly cloudy, with a high near 49.

**Saturday night:** Mostly cloudy, with a low around 39.

**Sunday:** Showers. High near 52. Breezy. Chance of precipitation is 90%.

**Sunday night:** Rain and snow showers. Low around 32. Breezy. Chance of precipitation is 90%.

### City Snowfall

Dec. 4-5	Trace
Season to date	0.00 inches

### Precipitation

Dec. 4-5	Trace
Month to date	1.06 inches

# Records

## Actor Jonathan Majors' accuser recounts night of assault at NY trial

By JAKE OFFENHARTZ  
Associated Press

NEW YORK — Jonathan Majors' former girlfriend testified Tuesday that the actor was prone to fits of explosive rage, an escalating pattern that she said ultimately led to her assault in the backseat of a car and his career-halting arrest this past spring.

During hours of tearful testimony, Grace Jabbari traced the downfall of her relationship with Majors, who she described as a "kind and loving" partner increasingly unable to control his "violent temper." She said he hurled household objects at walls and often threatened to take his own life, at times referring to himself as a "monster."

"It felt like I was walking around on eggshells," said Jabbari, a 30-year-old professional dancer from the United Kingdom. "I had to be perfect."

The troubled romance came to a head on the evening of



AP Photo/Bebeto Matthews

**Actor Jonathan Majors arrives at court for his domestic abuse trial, Tuesday, in New York.**

March 25th, as the couple were riding back to Manhattan from a dinner already marred by a heated argument over Majors' recent outbursts, she told the jury. During the drive, Jabbari was leaning on his shoulder when he received a "romantic"

text message sent by a woman named Cleopatra.

After she snatched the phone out of his hands, she said Majors twisted her arm behind her back in a position that left her in "excruciating" pain. "Next I felt a really hard blow across

my head," she said, pantomiming the motion of an open hand making contact with the back of her skull.

"He's very strong. I couldn't move," Jabbari continued. "It feels very loud when you're hit in the head and just shocking."

Majors eventually pried the phone from her hands and took off through the streets of Lower Manhattan as Jabbari chased him, according to a video compilation taken from various surveillance cameras that was shown to jurors.

The testimony came on the second day of the trial against Majors, a rising Hollywood film actor whose portrayal of the comic book supervillain "Kang the Conqueror" was set to anchor the next phase of the Marvel cinematic universe.

The fate of those films and others starring Majors remains uncertain since his arrest in March for allegedly assaulting Jabbari in the back of the car.

## 'Short-term' gaming compact extension reached between Seneca Nation and NY

Niagara Gazette (TNS)

A short-term extension of the gaming compact has been agreed upon by state officials and the Seneca Nation of Indians.

Seneca Nation officials said Friday's decision was made following a face-to-face meeting between Seneca Nation President Rickey Armstrong, Sr. and Gov. Kathy Hochul, along with representatives from both governments, on the current Class III Gaming Compact which is set to expire Saturday.

The two governments have also agreed to continue negotiations on a new compact agreement.

Armstrong said after the meeting, "Over the last several weeks, our discussions with

New York State, including face-to-face meetings with Governor Hochul, have centered, in part, on the potential extension of our current compact, especially as the Dec. 9 expiration gets ever closer. As a result of those discussions between our governments, the Seneca Nation and New York State have agreed to a short-term extension of our current compact. As important, we have agreed to continue negotiations on a new compact."

According to Hochul's office, the extension runs through March 31, 2024 and will automatically renew unless one of the parties decides not to renew it or a new gaming compact is agreed upon. The terms of the compact are unchanged from before.

Armstrong said it would provide additional time for the governments to complete compact negotiations and to seek all necessary approvals in accordance with Seneca Nation, New York State, and federal law. Under the extension, the three Seneca gaming properties will continue to operate without interruption, alleviating any concerns about potential impacts for thousands of casino employees, which was a priority for the nation.

Armstrong also said that in his discussions, Governor Hochul has expressed a desire to reset the relationship between the two governments. "No issue is of greater importance to the economies of Western New York and the Seneca Nation than a fair compact. Tens of thousands of

individuals, families and businesses across Western New York are depending on an agreement that secures the significant jobs, business opportunities, and economic benefits the Seneca Nation delivers to the Western New York economy, Armstrong said.

The current gaming compact provides the Seneca Nation with exclusive rights to operate Class III casinos in Western New York, including Niagara Falls, Buffalo and Salamanca.

Under the current gaming compact, the Seneca Nation is permitted to operate three "class III gaming" facilities, which include slot machines, table games and, more recently, sports books. The casinos also offer other amenities typical of Las Vegas-style casinos.

## Obituaries

### Richard C. O'Brien

Richard C. O'Brien, 85, of Cortland, NY passed away at home surrounded by his family on Monday, December 4th. He was born on July 26, 1938, the son of the late James F. O'Brien and Beulah (Peg) Alexander.

Richard was a loving and caring husband and father. He enjoyed bowling in his younger years and then went on to play golf. He played on a golf team at Willow Brook Golf Course in Cortland for many years. He served in the United States Army from 1955-1958. Richard was also a member of the DAV in Florida.

Richard is survived by his children Kelly (Brian) Barber, Karen (Alan) Griffin, Kevin (Jane) O'Brien, Kurt (Mindy) O'Brien, and Koreen (Roger Benjamin) O'Brien, his brother Gary (Virginia) Alexander, his 9 grandchildren, his 17 great grandchildren, his brother-in-law Paul Thompson Jr., and many nieces and nephews. Richard is predeceased by his wife of 65 years Donna L. O'Brien, his brothers Robert O'Brien and James Alexander, and his stepfather Henry Alexander.

A graveside service with military honors will be held on Saturday December 9, 2023 at 10 a.m. at the Cortland Rural Cemetery, 110 Tompkins St., Cortland, NY.

In lieu of flowers, donations in his name can be made to the American Cancer Society, 5 Oak Ave, Sidney, NY 13838 or www.cancer.org, or to the Alzheimer's Association, 5015 Campuswood Dr, East Syracuse, NY 13057, or www.alz.org, in care of Donna O'Brien. To offer online condolences please visit www.wright-beard.com.

### Jacob D. Prentice

Jacob D. Prentice, 54, of Marathon, NY passed away on Dec. 3, 2023 at home surrounded by his family.

Jacob was born on November 6, 1969 in Livingston Manor, to his parents the late Elmer and Betty (McIntosh) Prentice.

He was an avid fisherman and enjoyed camping. Jacob was a person who truly loved his family and looked forward to family gatherings including barbecues and family reunions. He enjoyed taking camping trips to Old Forge, NY. Jacob was a hard worker and truly was one of a kind.

He is survived by his fiancée Kim Perry; his children daughter Aliza (Kim) Prentice-Gale and son David Prentice; his brothers Mark and Ace, and his sisters Penny, Patti, and Tami. Jacob is also survived by his beloved dog Babe.

In addition to his parents, Jacob was predeceased by his brothers Elmer Jr., Donald, William, Richard, Roger, John, and Babe; as well as his sisters Rose and Leona.

A calling hour will be held on Friday December 8th, 2023 at Wright-Beard Funeral Home, Inc. from 4 to 5 p.m.

Those wishing to make memorial contributions are asked to consider a donation to Hospice. To offer online condolences, please visit www.wright-beard.com.

### Susan Mary Sloan Bender

Susan Mary Sloan Bender, died on October 26, 2023 from complications of illnesses.

A visitation will be held on Saturday, December 9, 2023 from 1:30-2:30 from the Chapel of Riccardi Funeral Home, Cortland. Interment will follow in Cortland Rural Cemetery in Cortland, New York.

Condolences may be sent to the family by visiting, www.riccardifuneralhome.com.



### Ellen Bailey

Ellen Bailey, 94, of Blodgett Mills, NY passed away on Sunday, December 3, 2023. She was born on June 10, 1929, the daughter of the late James and Iva Perkins Doran.

Ellen was a loving wife, mother, sister, grandmother, great grandmother and friend. Ellen had many talents and worked in a variety of jobs including food service at the Cortland City School District to becoming a caregiver of the elderly.

Ellen took great pride in both her family and home and it showed. Her home was always welcoming and decorated for all seasons and holidays. She took delight in shopping and spoiling her granddaughters with the latest fashion. She took pride in her pretty gardens and lawn. Inside, she enjoyed entertaining her family and friends, who she loved dearly. She especially loved hosting holidays. Ellen loved collecting antiques, and every year, she hosted garage sales with her findings. She also enjoyed dancing, music, bingo, and camping. Prior to her husband's passing, Ellen and Robert would take road trips every summer. They had many campers starting with a Shasta to a Fifth Wheel and then a motorhome. Every August they would go on a trip, often without an actual destination.

For the last ten years of her life, she resided at UHS Senior Living at Ideal in Endicott. She received optimal care and the staff there became her family, which the family is very grateful.

Ellen is survived by her daughter Brenda (Frederick) Ludwig, her granddaughters Jolie (Gregory Whitney) Ludwig and Melissa Ludwig, and her great grandchildren Christian (Nikki Sorace) Ludwig and Caelan Whitney, and her brother Carl Doran.

In addition to her parents, Ellen is predeceased by her husband Robert Bailey, daughter Judy Bailey, and her siblings Frank Doran, Leon Doran, Richard Doran, Margaret Bond, Irene Easterling and Ruth Quail.

Calling hours will be held on Friday December 8, 2023 from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m., at the Wright-Beard Funeral Home, 9 Lincoln Ave., Cortland, NY, funeral service will follow at 1 p.m. Burial will follow in the McGraw Rural Cemetery.

To offer online condolences please visit www.wright-beard.com.

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## Lottery Winners

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

**Numbers:** Midday: 4-0-8, Evening: 1-5-6; **WinFour:** Midday: 2-0-8-2, Evening: 3-0-9-1; **Pick 10:** 1-2-7-9-14-21-27-29-30-37-40-41-48-49-52-54-56-66-71-80; **Take Five:** Midday: 4-13-26-28-32, Evening: 4-11-29-36-38; **Cash4Life:** 17-28-49-56-59, Cash Ball: 4, **Mega Millions:** 18-35-40-64-67, Mega Ball: 18, Megaplier: 4

## Making It Right

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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Kevin Conlon  
City Editor  
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# Cortland County panel backs 10% rent increase at airport

By MARGARET MELLOTT  
Staff Reporter  
[mmellott@cortlandstandard.com](mailto:mmellott@cortlandstandard.com)  
Cortland County legislators recommended Tuesday raising the cost to lease hangar space at the Chase Field Airport about 9.7%, and accepting a \$2.5 million state grant for the airport upgrades. The Highway Committee voted, 5-0, to recommend raising the hangar leasing rates. Legislators George Wagner (R-

Marathon, Lapeer) and Cathy Bischoff (D-Cortland) were absent.  
“Do you have a waiting list for the hangars now?” asked committee Chair Chris Newell (R-Cortlandville).  
“Currently, I think there’s three or four on the waiting list,” said Highway Superintendent Charlie Sudbrink. “All our hangars are full.”  
The Highway Department op-

erates Chase Field Airport.  
The monthly rent for 16 hangars would increase to \$240 from \$220; another 20 hangars would increase to \$270 from \$245; and four hangars would increase to \$340 from \$310. If approved by the Legislature Dec. 21, the increase will take effect Jan. 1.  
At full capacity, revenue from the hangar rentals would rise to \$127,200 from \$115,920.

“It’s been six years since we raised the rates,” Sudbrink said.  
Also Tuesday, legislators voted, 5-0, to accept a \$2.5 million state grant to fund a new hangar, office space and expand the parking lot at the county airport.  
“We didn’t really have any expectations of getting it, but we did,” Sudbrink said. “We had an Airport Advisory Committee meeting last Thursday (Nov. 30) and everyone was very excited.

I don’t know who’s been to the airport and who hasn’t, but our lounge is basically the size of a small office.”  
“It will make the airport more attractive,” he added.  
The funding comes from a \$49 million state initiative by the Department of Transportation to fund modernization, operational improvements, resiliency and safety enhancements at 36 public-use airports across the state.

Sudbrink has said he hopes the improvements will be completed by 2025.  
“This is pretty exciting to me,” Newell said. “It’s fun to think about ‘What if we had the money and we could do this and we could do that,’ but now we’re actually talking about yes, we’re going to have the money and can do it — it’s a matter of putting the pieces together to make it efficient.”

## Towns

### Guess who’s coming to the Water Works?

Santa Claus will make several stops this month at the Cortland Water Works, the city announced Tuesday. Maybe it’s a satellite workshop; maybe it’s a regional distribution hub. Either way, he’ll welcome children to the Broadway Avenue facility at these times and places:  
Dec. 14: 5 to 7 p.m.  
Dec. 17: 3 to 5 p.m.  
Dec. 21: 5 to 7 p.m.

### YWCA seeks help with giving tree

The YWCA of Cortland seeks to help provide gifts to 80 children picked from a giving tree in the YWCA lobby on Clayton Avenue.  
Bridges for Kids, a mentoring program, helps families provide gifts for nearly 270 children, the agency announced Tuesday. But it needs help with 80 more and offers two ways to provide it:  
Stop by the YWCA to pick a child’s tag off the giving tree. Each tag includes the child’s interests, age, clothing sizes and greatest needs.  
Buy gifts from the Bridges for Kids Holiday Assistance Amazon wish list and have them shipped to the YWCA.  
Unwrapped gifts need to arrive at the YWCA by Dec. 15. For details go to [CortlandYWCA.org](http://CortlandYWCA.org).

### Harmony music night Sunday

Harmony United Methodist Church in Harford will have its monthly music night from 7 to 8 p.m. Sunday, with refreshments following the singing. The Harmony Helping Hands Food Pantry is 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. Friday for Harford residents.

### DeRuyter board plans meeting on school musical

DeRUYTER — The school board for the DeRuyter Central School District will have a special meeting at 6 p.m. today in the school’s library and media center.  
The meeting is to discuss concerns about the district’s musical.

### Horse-drawn wagon rides with Santa on Sunday

DeRUYTER — Horse-drawn wagon rides with Santa will be offered 1 to 4 p.m. Sunday at the Coal Yard, 720 Railroad St., DeRuyter. The cost of the wagon ride is a donation of a new, unwrapped toy to be distributed to local children.



Lily Byrne/Staff Reporter

Anna Gallegos, the creative director for the 2020 edition of Ke’lab ‘zine at Tompkins Cortland Community College, shows the edition, which teaches students a number of publishing skills.

# Artists, writers ‘Ke’lab-orate’

## TC3 literary and arts journal gets students creating together

By LILY BYRNE  
Staff Reporter  
[lbyrne@cortlandstandard.com](mailto:lbyrne@cortlandstandard.com)

DRYDEN — Publishing a magazine isn’t just a bunch of writing. It’s more than art, too. It’s understanding design and technology, planning, organization, analyzing both the topic matter and finding a creative way to tell its story.

And Tompkins Cortland Community College students do all that in one class.

Ke’lab, TC3’s first literary and visual arts journal, was created to develop a collaboration between the school’s artists and writers, the Ke’lab website says.

The yearly publication features art, writing and photography, formatted with visually complementary works. It is a collaboration of the school’s creative writing, graphic design, photography and new media programs.

“There’s something about seeing your work in a clean, professional format that elevates it beyond the work

itself,” said Crystal Lyon, professional digital media art tutor and adjunct assistant graphic design professor.

TC3 previously had a writing journal, but Christine Shanks, graphic design professor and art department chair, wanted to create something to feature the works from many disciplines.

Students, faculty and staff, alumni and high school students enrolled in TC3 classes can submit up to five creative writing, art and photography entries to the publication.

Students will package creative efforts — sometimes created in response to other parts of the package — in what the class calls Ke’Lab-orations, or work created in response to another person’s work.

“An artist can respond to a piece of writing or someone can respond to artwork in writing,” Lyon said. “That’s the goal. It’s building community and celebrating everybody that is a part of the college community.”

### To submit

Submissions are due Feb. 12, and can be submitted at [kelabmag.weebly.com/submit-art.html](http://kelabmag.weebly.com/submit-art.html). No entries created using artificial intelligence will be accepted, the Ke’Lab website says.  
Issue 7 will be released in May.

To get a piece of art to create a Ke’lab-oration, email [kelabjournal@gmail.com](mailto:kelabjournal@gmail.com).

**To view Ke’Lab**  
Go to [kelabmag.weebly.com/online-issues.html](http://kelabmag.weebly.com/online-issues.html)

After the first issue was released in 2018, a course was created for students to work on the next editions.

“It’s basically like an internship,” Shanks said. “They have to apply for jobs based on their strengths, and then we assign those roles. I think that they really get a sense of what it’s like to work professionally, and what it’s like to work with deadlines that your

professor can’t extend.”

Angharad Gilly was the student editorial director for Issue 2, and guest editor and grant writer for issues 3 and 4. She learned how to negotiate with a team and choose what pieces to use, she said.

“It gives people a confidence boost,” Gilly said. “It’s definitely given me a confidence boost. It begins your professional portfolio.”

The skills she gained working on Ke’lab helped her in her career as an accounting clerk, she said.

“It’s a gentle way to start to get that exposure, and it’s a great portfolio piece, especially for those students who are taking the class,” Lyon said. “They leave here with marketable skills that they can put on their resume. They are part of an actual team.”

Paraprofessional tutor Anna Gallegos, creative director for the 2020 edition, said it was a very different experience to work in a professional team setting.

“It was really, really cool to meet other people and learn their workflows,” Gallegos said. “Working with a bunch of artists was nice. We spoke the same language.”

Details, such as the opacity of a box behind a poem, are important, because the smallest change can take away from the art being featured, she said.

“Sometimes it was nice to know and hear and see what everyone was doing, and sometimes there were challenges with working with people you aren’t familiar with working with,” she said.

“The online publication has grown into this lovely multimedia piece,” Shanks said. “The publication always had an online edition, but since the first one, we’ve been able to add video that plays from the online publication, animation and audio readings.”

“My favorite part is just seeing the thing,” Gallegos said. “It’s incredibly rewarding.”

# Bones of business development: Cornell programs help entrepreneur find value in the whole animal

By JACOB PUCCI  
Contributing Writer

Edlin Choi was tired of seeing animal bones, fat and other byproducts of the meat industry go to waste.

His solution? Korean bone broth.

Choi started Heart & Seoul Food Co. in November 2022 to build a network of meat producers in New York and across the Northeast and provide them an outlet to generate value from the whole animal. He got some help from the New York State Center of Excellence for Food and Agriculture and other Cornell University-based programs.

Choi said he talked with close to 50 farmers, who expressed a desire for more value-added processing in the meat industry. Choi said the majority of the farmers he spoke with said they had backlogs of bones and animal fat. Some farmers stopped taking those

parts back from the processing facility or opted to pay a rendering company to recycle the products.

“That’s totally a missed opportunity,” Choi said.

Instead of being hauled to a rendering plant, the beef and pork bones now make their way to a commercial kitchen in New York City, where Choi turns them into bone broth. Unlike most stocks and broths, which tend to range from blonde to golden brown in color, Korean bone broth has a milky white appearance rich in collagen and marrow.

Choi was selected for the Spring 2023 Food Spark cohort, offered through the New York State Center of Excellence for Food and Agriculture at Cornell AgriTech and the Cornell Agriculture and Food Technology Park and completed the eCornell Food Product Development certi-

cate program.

Choi said the Food Spark program gave him a deeper understanding of the process it takes to develop a new food product for market. It’s also led to networking connections and potential business-to-business relationships with other food entrepreneurs.

“It was a really good springboard into the full ecosystem of resources that Cornell has to offer,” Choi said.

In April, while completing the Food Spark program, Choi was also hosting his first pop-up event in Brooklyn where he served bowls of gukbap, a traditional Korean dish that translates to “soup rice” that features rice, hot broth and typically meat, vegetables and other accompaniments. Choi’s bone broth can be sipped or, because it is unseasoned, can even be used in beverages, such as matcha, golden turmeric or chai lattes.

Choi also produces rendered pork lard, which has proven to be an even bigger seller than the bone broth.

“I see a wave going back to cooking with more traditional fats,” Choi said. “We want to be part of accelerating that wave.”

Heart & Seoul has found success in e-commerce as well, which has Choi thinking about the potential of national reach made up of regional production and distribution hubs that would ensure that customers would get a product sourced from a rancher in their region.

Choi has many other ideas, too — a line of potato chips and other snacks cooked in animal fats, Korean-style blood sausage, pork rillettes, and a fast-casual restaurant built around comforting bowls of Korean gukbap.

They’re very different ventures, but they all share a common philosophy:

honoring the animal by using every part, creating a market for these lesser desirable cuts of meat and promoting food sovereignty by providing a network and dependable revenue for small meat producers.

In 2019, Choi spent several months as an intern at a farm in south Georgia that focused on regenerative agriculture and humanely raised meat.

In the future, Choi wants to have his own farm and work to integrate the Heart & Seoul business. The goal, he said, is to encourage other young, would-be first-generation farmers to take similar steps as he did and help build the food systems of the future.

*Jacob Pucci is the marketing & communications coordinator at the New York State Center of Excellence for Food & Agriculture at Cornell AgriTech.*





Mexican noodle soup with fire-roasted tomatoes offers a smoky, spicy vegetarian soup that can easily stand on its own as a full meal.

# A Mexican pantry soup in under 30 minutes

**By CHRISTOPHER KIMBALL**  
**Christopher Kimball's Milk Street**  
In the old-fashioned “fondas” scattered around Mexico, diners usually find only a handful of tables and simple, comforting dishes. A three-course lunch at many of these unpretentious mom-and-pop eateries can cost as little as a few dollars.

One of those courses might well be sopa de fideos, a much-loved soup of thin noodles lightly browned in oil, then simmered in a puree of chicken broth with roasted tomato, onion, garlic and jalapeño.

The result is a smoky, spicy vegetarian soup that can easily stand on its own as a full meal — and one that comes together with pantry ingredients in less than half an hour.

Traditional recipes often call for roasting fresh tomatoes before adding them to the soup, but in this recipe from our book “Cook What You Have,” which draws on pantry staples to assemble easy, weeknight meals, we mimic those flavors with canned fire-roasted tomatoes.

If you have only regular canned tomatoes (whole or diced) in the pantry, they'll

work fine but will lack the smoky subtleties. Vermicelli or capellini pasta work in this recipe, but the noodles should be broken to make toasting them easier. To do so easily, place them in a zip-top plastic bag and seal, then snap them into 1- to 2-inch pieces.

Chopped fresh cilantro, red onion, diced avocado, crumbled tortilla chips and crumbled queso fresco are all common toppings that lend lovely color and texture. Any combination or all of them will enhance your soup.

## MEXICAN NOODLE SOUP WITH FIRE-ROASTED TOMATOES

Start to finish: 25 minutes

Servings: 4 to 6

½ medium white OR yellow onion, halved  
3 medium garlic cloves, smashed and peeled  
2 jalapeño chilies, 1 stemmed, halved and seeded, 1 stemmed, seeded and thinly sliced  
14½-ounce can diced fire-roasted tomatoes OR diced tomatoes

Kosher salt and ground black pepper  
3 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil  
8 ounces vermicelli OR capellini, broken into 1- to 2-inch pieces

6 cups low-sodium chicken broth  
In a blender, combine the onion, garlic, the halved jalapeño, tomatoes with juices and ½ teaspoon each salt and pepper. Blend until smooth, about 1 minute, scraping the jar as needed; set aside.

In a large saucepan over medium-high, heat the oil until shimmering. Add the noodles and cook, tossing often with tongs, until golden brown, 3 to 4 minutes. Remove the pan from the heat.

Carefully stir in the puree and the broth (the liquids may splatter).

Bring to a simmer over medium-high and cook, uncovered and stirring occasionally, until the noodles are tender, 2 to 3 minutes.

Off heat, taste and season with salt and pepper. Serve garnished with the sliced jalapeño.

Optional garnish: Chopped fresh cilantro OR chopped red onion OR diced avocado OR crumbled tortilla chips OR crumbled queso fresco OR a combination

## Friend wants bestie to leave boyfriend

DEAR AMY: I hate my best friend's boyfriend.

I met my “Shari” in high school. We have been inseparable ever since. Back then, she was outgoing, radiated confidence, was down to earth, and nothing ever bothered her.

Since she began her relationship with “Stephan,” she is a completely different person.

She is unsure of herself, has no confidence, and she now has frequent anxiety attacks. I attribute all of this to Stephan. She complains about him a lot.

When I first met him, I was in his corner, but the more I hung out with him, the more red flags I saw. He isn't motivated, has no goals, and is an alcoholic. Shari also noticed all of these things.

Stephan got so drunk the night before my wedding that he forgot to drop off the liquor and food at the venue for the next day.

At the wedding, he got drunk and left right after dinner. Later, Shari went to the hotel room she paid for and found that she wasn't able to get in.

Stephan had put the security lock on the door so not even the hotel staff could access the room for her.

Shari stayed with me and my new husband the night of our wedding. She was upset and embarrassed.

Stephan has still not apologized to us for his actions, and I have not seen him since.

I want her to leave him. Our other friends don't understand why I am still friends with her after everything he has done.

I don't want to lose her as a friend. She's not responsible for his actions. I'm also terrified that she will marry him.

Amy, should I just give up on my relationship with her? How can I convince her that she needs to leave this relationship?

— Struggling Friend

**DEAR STRUGGLING:** You may not be able to convince your friend of anything at all.

The power for you will rest on your willingness to stay close with a dear friend who seems to be in an abusive and depleting relationship.

Maintaining this friendship might be very frustrating for you at times, but expressing your hatred of her boyfriend might actually cause her to defend her choices, nudge her toward him, and isolate her even more.

Instead, you should tell her that you want the very best for her, and that you know in your bones that she deserves to be treated well by someone who respects her.

You might also urge her to attend a “friends and family”

program like Al-anon. Communicating with other people who are entwined with addicts could help her to find her footing.

DEAR AMY: For years our home has been the go-to home for the holidays. We purposely created this sort of environment because we have large families on both sides and a big circle of close friends.

Our “smallest” gatherings are no less than 25 to 30 people.

The problem is that as the years have gone by, and the kids get older, the list has expanded exponentially with the adult children of our close friends wanting to bring their own friends or dates to the gathering.

I am trying not to let it bother me, but I cannot help but get increasingly annoyed with the asking and bringing extra people.

Don't get me wrong, everyone has a good time and helps, but I just feel it's RUDE to continue to put me in the position.

This Thanksgiving alone, I had SIX additional “can they come” guests I don't even know. Your thoughts?

— Exhausted

**DEAR EXHAUSTED:** Understand that each person asking to bring an extra person doesn't realize that several others have also asked.

There is something of a tradition for people to debut new partners at the Thanksgiving feast, and so if younger family members want to bring a new squeeze to meet the family, it would be hard to say no.

You may have to draw the line with your friends' adult children bringing extra people.

DEAR AMY: “First-Time Grandparents” were being excluded from their daughter-in-law's family gatherings. The DIL's parents went ballistic twice on them, so I don't understand why they would ever want to be around them unless absolutely necessary.

I've had four sons-in-law and none of the parents ever hung out.

We just saw the other in-laws at a special gathering like a baby shower, a Christening, birthday parties, things like that.

— Ninth-time Grandparents

**DEAR GRANDPARENTS:** Many in-laws do not casually socialize at all — and this approach can work best for everyone.

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.

## This recipe is sort of Greek, right?

**By TODD R. McADAM**  
**Managing Editor**  
tmcadam@cortlandstandard.com  
Every Friday is pasta night. Every. Damn. Friday.

The little guy (even though he's nearly 3 inches taller than me, he'll always be shorter) likes filled pastas: ravioli, tortellini, manicotti, maybe. The spousal unit likes straight pastas with a red sauce: marinara, fra diavolo, puttanesca, whatever-I-throw-in-the-pot.

After 15 years or more, I began to run out of ideas.

I love a good alfredo or primavera, but I might as well pack the heavy cream and cheese sauces right onto my ever-expanding tummy. At this time of year, one doesn't want to be mistaken for Santa Claus any more than one must.

So I turn to an aglio e olio

— a garlic and oil sauce. Super simple. Not too heavy. Lots of flavor. And wonderful with the right garlic.

But I like a whole meal in one pot. So rather than stick with just oil and garlic (and parsley and parmesan), I look to a collection of Greek flavors. Olives and feta, artichoke hearts and a bit of citrus. Once I was done tossing stuff into the skillet, it looked more like a Margherita pasta with some Greek overtones. But with the feta as a protein and all the other flavors, it still made a great one-pot meal.

## IT'S SORT OF GREEK, RIGHT?

1 pound flat pasta, such as

linguine, fettucini or even bucatini

1/2 cup extra virgin olive oil  
4 garlic cloves, crushed  
1 cup fresh parsley or fresh spinach

12-16 ounces grape tomatoes, halved  
6 ounces marinated artichoke hearts, halved  
Zest of one lemon  
6 ounces crumbled feta cheese  
1/2 cup pitted olives

10-15 fresh basil leaves, minced or torn  
Salt and pepper to taste  
Crushed red pepper to taste

Boil the pasta in a large pot of salted water until al dente. Drain, reserving some pasta water.

Heat the olive oil in a large



skillet over medium heat. Lower the heat and add garlic. Sauté for 10 seconds to let the garlic flavor the oil. Stir in parsley or spinach, tomatoes, artichokes and lemon zest. Continue cooking until warmed, about 30 seconds to a minute.

Toss the pasta with the sauce and a splash of the pasta water (or white wine).

Toss in feta, olives and basil. Sprinkle with salt, pepper and red pepper to taste and toss again.

**Play with it:** Feta not enough protein for you? A bit of mild seafood might help. Try some sautéed shrimp or bay scallops. A bit of white fish might do well, but be careful you don't over-stir and break it into simple flakes — unless that's what you want.

## Chicken thighs are your answer to quick weeknight dinners

**By BETH DOOLEY**  
**Star Tribune**  
(TNS)

Hands down, chicken thighs are the best choice for an easy, no-fuss weeknight supper.

First, they're almost impossible to overcook. Unlike chicken breasts, the thighs are extremely forgiving, and the meat stays succulent even after reaching the 165-degree done mark. Because chicken thighs are a fattier cut of meat, they have a more intense flavor than breasts. But no worries — most of that fat renders out and bastes the meat, keeping it moist as it cooks. As a bonus, thighs are generally priced lower than breasts and if you buy them bone-in, they provide the base for a rich chicken stock.

When it comes to cooking, the best technique is to start them in a cold pan, skin-side down, then give them a blast of heat to sear them before flipping to finish in the oven.

A little oil gets the process going, then add a handful of cherry tomatoes alongside the chicken thighs. They will blister, burst and release their juices, which, when deglazed with a little wine, becomes a light, bright sauce.

This method is open to a range of seasonal interpretations. In lieu of tomatoes, consider adding diced apples and scallions with a splash of hard cider at the end.

Now that we're into fall, broccoli and cauliflower with a dash of lemon work well. In winter, try mushrooms and minced onions and a jigger of sherry and cream. Just season to taste.

The dish works beautifully on pasta, smashed potatoes or thick slices of toasted whole grain bread, served with a simple green salad on the side. Leftovers, if there are any, make wonderful sandwiches, salads, tacos and grain bowls. And, of course, the ultimate comfort food — chicken noodle soup.

**PAN-ROASTED CHICKEN WITH BLISTERED TOMATOES**  
Serves 4.

Note: This easy weeknight dinner gets the chicken crisping on the stove while the fat renders to baste the meat. A handful of cherry tomatoes is tossed into the pan to burst alongside.

Use a large skillet so the chicken isn't crowded and has full contact with the surface. To serve, arrange the chicken and tomatoes on cooked pasta, cooked grains or toasted whole grain bread and drizzle with the sauce.

4 bone-in, skin-on chicken thighs, about 1 1/2 lb. total  
Coarse salt and freshly ground black pepper

1 tbsp. extra-virgin olive oil  
1 pint small cherry tomatoes  
2 to 3 cloves garlic, smashed  
1/2 c. dry white wine, or more as needed

Cooked pasta, for serving  
Torn parsley, for garnish

### Directions

Preheat the oven to 400 degrees. Pat the chicken dry with a paper towel and sprinkle with salt and pepper on all sides.

Film a large skillet with the oil. Place the thighs skin-side down in the skillet. Set over medium heat and cook the chicken until the fat has rendered, the skin is nicely browned, and the thighs are easy to lift with a spatula, about 20 minutes.

Flip the chicken, add the tomatoes and garlic to the pan, and place in the oven. Roast until the tomatoes have burst and the chicken is cooked through, about 15 to 20 minutes. Remove the pan and lift the chicken and tomatoes to a platter.

Whisk the wine into the pan, making sure to lift up any browned bits that have stuck to the bottom. Serve the chicken with the tomatoes and the pan sauces drizzled overall.



Chicken thighs are the best choice for an easy, no-fuss weeknight supper.

AP Photo/Larry Crowe



Our Opinion

Moot points, but major decisions

We'll admit we're a little disappointed that state Supreme Court Justice Mark Masler has declared moot a suit that Cortland County retirees brought against the county over its plan to switch their insurance coverage to a Medicare Advantage Plan from Medicare, itself.

We understand the legal principle: The county withdrew its effort on Wednesday, rendering the suit and the hearing about it Thursday (almost) moot. The judge wouldn't be deciding the facts of an ongoing issue.

But we expect the issue will return. County officials hinted that they may re-visit this in 2024, and retired Public Defender Ed Goehler, who brought the suit on behalf of his fellow retirees, promised to continue opposing it. We predict the case will simply wind up back in court in a few months or perhaps a year. A legal ruling now might avoid a few headaches.

We see the merits of both sides. The county, after misstating the switch would save \$800,000 a year, did note that it would save a bit more than \$600,000 the first year, and probably a bit more than \$300,000 in following years, although retirees note that savings will dwindle as the generation dies. We're cheap; we want to save money, too. That's about 0.8% of the county's property tax levy and a few bucks off your property tax bill.

On the other side, the retirees' pension benefits are part of the compensation for their years of service, guaranteed by contract. Reducing that benefit might not be legal. We don't know; that's why lawyers and courts were invented.

And it's very likely that the switch to a Medicare Advantage Plan would be a reduction in service. In essence, it's changing the insurance provider to a private company instead of the federal program. Recent research by Cornell University shows the plans generally make their profit by limiting access to healthcare providers and services — ironically, while costing government entities more as the companies take advantage of legal loopholes.

Goehler and other retirees have already said they're likely to face a harder time getting healthcare. When they were provided a list of available healthcare providers, they cross-checked to see what they would get. They eliminated the pediatricians (they're retirees, not children), obstetricians, providers who had left the area or were not accepting new patients. The list of more than 100 across the Ithaca area — however that may be defined — dwindled to 11.

We appreciate that the county rescinded its effort to switch providers. Clearly, they didn't have buy-in from the retirees for a decision that was rushed, which was our first and greatest complaint. This gives the county more time to make its case and win support, if support is merited. But Goehler, citing similar cases elsewhere in the state, raises a number of legal questions. And those questions deserve answers, which may in turn reduce or eliminate the confrontation we see coming.

This is the second recent suit we wish we'd heard from the courts about. A case that Cortlandville Town Justice Mary Beth Mathey brought against the town of Cortlandville to put on the November ballot a referendum to eliminate her judge position also has serious allegations of government misdeeds. She says the town board met illegally to discuss the matter and any vote it took on such a basis should be nullified. Certainly, the body of evidence suggests the town board tried to avoid public scrutiny for a decision that very much should have been made in public, although the court would have to rule on her specific claims.

A Supreme Court justice, Oliver Blaise of Broome County, also ruled the case moot when voters decided last month to preserve the position. But Mathey made very serious allegations of government corruption, and we're concerned her claim, if accurate, points to a larger problem.

The individual decisions may be moot, but the larger issues remain, and we'd appreciate a way to establish the facts so that the communities could make better decisions.

Your Opinion

Retirees win — for now

To the Editor:

The county's mean-spirited plan to force their retirees off Medicare has come to an end — for now. After voting, Mr. Fitch unfortunately discussed ways to rekindle the attack on the retirees. It would be an incredible waste of resources for the Legislature to trigger a new lawsuit by doing the same thing again.

Mr. Fitch talks about providing "information" to the retirees. The retirees don't need any more misinformation from Mr. Fitch or the insurance salesman. A short list of facts vs. the county's misinformation is as follows:

The county claimed "\$800,000 annually." Later, Mr. Corpora's affidavit admitted the savings would only be "\$315, 902."

The county claimed extensive research was done. The Corpora affidavit admitted 7 legislators watched a slide show then sent the plan to vote 9 days later.

No legislators saw the 300-page Evidence of Coverage book before voting. So they voted for a plan without knowing any details of the plan. The coverage document was only released after the county was sued.

Mr. Fitch blames the court process for running out of time to force retirees off Medicare. The county created their own time problem by waiting until August to enact their plan, in an effort to prevent effective opposition.

The county didn't tell the public the "savings" would be smaller each year since the future retirees are already locked into the Advantage plan. The savings on the present retirees was only 0.2% of the budget and would diminish each year.

Hopefully, the new Legislature will choose not to re-ignite this litigation, but if that's what they want to do, the retirees are ready for them. The county would do better to keep its promises to its former employees rather than trying to hurt them based on illusory claims of savings and slideshows.

Ed Goehler, retired Cortland County public defender  
Cortland

Good Old Days

December 6, 1973

The *Cortland Standard* will be recognized as "the industry of the month" at the Wednesday, Dec. 12 meeting of the International Management Club (IMC) to be held at the Terrace Restaurant with dinner scheduled at 6:30 p.m., preceded by a fellowship hour at 5:30 p.m.

Prior to a tour of the *Cortland Standard* for IMC members, a short program will outline the establishment and management of the 81-year-old daily newspaper and note highlights to be seen on the tour.

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.



Good riddance to George Santos

Susan Estrich



It took three votes — and a scathing, 56-page report from the House Ethics Committee — to convince the requisite two-thirds majority necessary to expel a pathological liar from the House of Representatives. The question is not whether he deserved to be expelled, but what took so long.

He has been charged with multiple felonies, including fraud and money laundering. The Ethics committee concluded that he made up his resume, defrauded donors and spent campaign funds on personal expenses — including his Botox injections.

It took all of that, and then some, for the House to act. The first two votes Santos managed to survive because most Republicans didn't want to expel someone who hadn't (yet) been convicted of a crime. The report of the Ethics committee — and close calls in an election year — changed the equation. Vulnerable Republicans didn't want to be out there defending the right of a pathological liar to be a member of the House. You would think that would be a given, but until now, it wasn't.

Due process? Santos is complaining that he was deprived of it, but it's hard to see why. Serving in Congress is not a right. It is not a license to lie. It is a privilege, and one Santos plainly had no right to.

How did he ever think otherwise? There is, to be sure, the danger that a very much divided and dysfunctional House could abuse the power to expel, wielding it as a political weapon to be used against those with whom you disagree politically. This is how the censure power is being used, whether against Adam Schiff (who treated it as a badge of glory and a hook for fundraising) or Rashida Tlaib. But this is different.

George Santos very clearly abused his power as a member of Congress. He was given the opportunity to defend himself to his peers, the members of the House Ethics Committee, and they found against him. If lying, cheating and stealing from your donors is not enough for expulsion, what is?

Santos plainly should have resigned. "He could do the country and his constituents a service if he just resigned," Rep. Robert Garcia, one of the leaders of the anti-Santos effort told reporters before the final expulsion vote. "A person that fabricates their entire life story and gets elected on a lie should not be in Congress."

Even so, Republicans didn't call the vote, with Speaker Mike Johnson telling his colleagues to "vote their conscience." The

speaker voted no. Was that really his conscience talking, or was he just counting votes? What does that say about your conscience? Johnson's excuse was that he worried about setting a precedent with the expulsion of a member who has not been convicted of a crime. But what kind of a standard is that?

At a time when public respect for elected officials is in the toilet, isn't it time for those who are elected or appointed to high office to be held to a higher standard than whether they have been convicted of a crime? What is the purpose of even having a House Ethics Committee if not to police its own members? If you need Santos' vote to carry the day, isn't that proof that you shouldn't have it?

It takes a super-majority of two-thirds to expel a member. That served to protect George Santos through the first two votes, until the House Ethics Committee finally acted — albeit slowly. But it was important for the House to act, even if slowly, at least to send the message that ethics matters more than party, because it should.

Alex Murdaugh missed his calling

Kathleen Parker



As Alex Murdaugh wound up a rambling 49-minute soliloquy before a packed courtroom during his sentencing for a boatload of financial crimes, it was clear that he had missed his true calling when he became a lawyer.

Murdaugh is an actor — and not a bad one. How else could he have looked into his clients' eyes and lied, kidnapped their trust and stolen the settlement money he secured from their misfortune?

Of course, all successful trial lawyers are actors to a degree. But Murdaugh was thespian enough to seduce even folks he knew well, when they were at their weakest, for his purposes. He did the same with family members and law partners. People throw around the word "narcissist" too much these days, but it's a term you can't overuse when it comes to Murdaugh.

Even the apologies he was allowed to deliver in court recently — for too long — eventually worked around to himself. In one flourish of narcissistic jujitsu, he said it's important to him that his victims know he cares deeply about them. What? The folks he addressed in the courtroom seemed to believe him, nodding and affirming what he said. Are they so broken from his betrayals?

We had witnessed Murdaugh's skills earlier this year during his trial for the 2021 murders of his youngest son, Paul Murdaugh, 22, and wife, Maggie Murdaugh, 52. The man can cry, or seem to, better than many Hollywood stars. Last week, he appeared again before the long-suffering South Carolina Circuit Court Judge Clifton Newman, who had given him two consecutive life sentences for his two hastily decided murder convictions.

This time, Newman would sentence Murdaugh for a slew of financial crimes committed over decades. The hearing was largely pro forma since all parties had agreed to a plea deal in which Murdaugh admitted guilt to 22 of 101 charges in exchange for 27 years in state prison. He will have to serve 85 percent of this sentence, about 23 years, and forfeit his appellate rights.

Newman, who plans to retire at year's end, accepted the terms. He congratulated the attorneys for a "good job" and jubilantly skipped out of the courtroom. Not really, but I half expected him to depart with a hint of dramatic flair. That's not his style, but he has made clear that he has had enough of Murdaugh and, based on his earlier sentencing statement, wishes him worse than he got.

The tone of the financial sentencing hearing was comparatively solemn. A key difference is that, this time, Murdaugh's victims are alive, if not especially well. Each took a turn speaking directly to Murdaugh, recounting how he gained their trust only to betray them. It was a parade of sorrow, broken hearts and, in some cases, forgiveness. He is undeserving of their grace, but then, they are better than he.

"He preyed on them like a wolf does a rabbit," said Eric Bland, an attorney for the children of Gloria Satterfield, the longtime Murdaugh housekeeper, babysitter and friend. They weren't victims, he said; they were prey. We've seen Murdaugh's eyes when they narrow and lock on the object of his animus or desire. More fox than wolf, he can spot human weakness and frailty — and pounce. Satterfield's two adult sons were among those most in need of someone to trust when their mother died from injuries sustained in a fall at the Murdaugh family home. Murdaugh was a good enough lawyer to secure a \$4.3 million settlement for the young men, but he was the worst kind of actor when he decided to keep it all for himself.

Tony Satterfield, though a slight man, was a powerful presence as he stared across the courtroom at Murdaugh and said, "You lied, you cheated, you stole, you betrayed me and my family and everybody else." Even so, Satterfield said words I can't imagine uttering under the circumstances. "I forgive you," he told Murdaugh. "I will pray for you every day. ... My heart is with you."

Gloria Satterfield's sister followed, expressing similar disbelief. "She loved Paul and Buster [the surviving Murdaugh son] as her own. She trusted and loved you. Do you not have a soul?" A close friend of Murdaugh since childhood, Jordan "JJ" Jinks, broke down when he spoke. "I trusted you with everything ... What kind of animal are you?" Jinks told Murdaugh, a hunting and fishing buddy since they were 8 years old, that when he first saw him on TV in the orange jumpsuit, "I still wasn't mad at you ... I didn't believe it." (That is, that he had committed the murders.)

"But after sitting here today

and hearing some of the devious things you did to people, these victims here, that changed my mind, bro."

The courtroom remained still throughout these brief addresses and afterward, when Murdaugh hauled his lanky, 6-foot-4 frame up from the chair and began his own statement. The judge, apparently feeling magnanimous with the exit door in sight, allowed one handcuff to be removed so Murdaugh could hold his notes. He was not made to stand in the "dock," an enclosed area between the attorneys' tables where his grandfather, a former 14th circuit solicitor, insisted defendants stand.

Thus began a lengthy series of apologies to victims spliced with recriminations and accusations aimed at the media, especially social media, and others who, Murdaugh said, had misrepresented and attacked his family. He maintains they were killed by someone else.

It's a funny thing about the criminal narcissist. He can be so convincing that you want to believe him, against your better instincts. It's hard for good people to understand evil and, truthfully, you'd rather not look it squarely in the eye.

In an odd gesture of — what, manipulation, psycho-triumphalism? — Murdaugh asked his old friend Jinks to visit him in prison so they could talk. In the hallway after adjournment, I asked Jinks if he'd make that visit. He said, yes, "If he sets it up, I'll go." I asked him if he thought Murdaugh's apology was sincere. Jinks began, "I can see a con coming ..." but didn't finish his thought.

Finally, I asked if he stood by his earlier statement that he now believes Murdaugh murdered his wife and son. Jinks faltered for a few moments, trying to find an opinion among his sorrows. He settled with, "I'm on the fence."

As I said, Murdaugh is quite an actor.



# Memorials to victims of Maine’s deadliest mass shooting to be displayed at museum

**By DAVID SHARP**  
**Associated Press**

LEWISTON, Maine — Volunteers and city workers on Tuesday removed mementos, signs and other items that accumulated at the sites of the deadliest mass shooting in Maine history, reflecting a change in season and a new chapter in the area’s recovery.

The handwritten signs, cards, bouquets and other items — more than a 1,000 of them — will be archived, catalogued and prepared for exhibition at a museum in Lewiston.

Part of the process is practical: Snowfall makes it imperative to remove the memorials before they’re destroyed by either the elements or plows. But organizers also say it feels like the right time as communities continue to heal and grieve after 18 people were killed and 13 injured on Oct. 25.

“We want to make sure the community doesn’t forget what happened and how the community came together. So bringing the items together feels like next stage,” said Rachel Ferrante, executive director of the Maine Museum of Innovation, Learning and Labor, located at a former mill building in Lewiston.

The memorials were heartbreaking, and heart-warming: There were small sculptures of hands depicting the American Sign Language symbol for “love,” a nod to four members of the local deaf community who died, and there were countless signs, notes and hearts, along with votive candles from vigils. Among



*AP Photo/Robert F. Bukaty*  
**A large stuffed moose is cleared of snow before being packed away, Tuesday, at one of the several memorials for the victims of last month’s mass shooting in Lewiston, Maine.**

the more offbeat items were a bowling ball, darts and a miniature cornhole tribute. The victims were shot at a bowling alley and a bar that was hosting a cornhole tournament.

The biggest item was a stuffed moose that is now waterlogged from snow and rain.

The shootings took places days before Halloween, and the removal of items a day after the first snowfall of the season seemed to mark a symbolic change in

season. More than 20 museum workers, volunteers and city workers removed the memorials from three sites — the bowling alley and the bar where the shootings took place, and a busy street corner that became an impromptu memorial.

“We really wanted to save them before they were buried in more snow. And it’s important to the community to do that. To make sure that there’s some remembrance of this tragic event,” said

Tanja Hollander, a local artist who’s participating in the project.

The community was traumatized by the killings.

The sheer number of dead and wounded meant virtually everyone from the immediate area knew a victim or knows someone who knew one. And the attacks were terrifying, forcing people to shelter in their homes during the massive manhunt for the killer that ended when he was found dead of a self-inflicted gunshot wound.

Then came the funerals over a course of weeks.

The cataloguing of memorials has become common practice. Historians preserved such items after other mass shootings, including the attacks at Columbine High School in Colorado and the Pulse nightclub attack in Florida.

In Uvalde, Texas, some parents were upset when the city cleaned out a town square where people had left flowers, crosses and other items after 19 students and two teachers were gunned down last year.

The goal for Maine MILL, the museum, is to take possession of the items and catalogue them quickly so they’ll become accessible to the community.

There were so many bouquets and pumpkins laid at the shrines that only some of them will be saved. Some of the flowers will be dried and some pumpkins will be scanned and 3D-printed for display at the museum, Ferrante said. The rest will be composted.

## DEBATE

**continued from page 1**

completed a goal of holding events in all 99 counties.

But the state is also ground zero for DeSantis’ battle with Trump, who said as both campaigned in Iowa over the weekend that the Florida governor’s campaign was falling “like a very seriously wounded bird.”

**Nikki Haley**

Benefiting from increased attention — as well as the campaign’s shift toward foreign policy after Hamas’ surprise Oct. 7 attack on Israel — Haley is angling to keep that trend going with the fourth debate.

There could be another opportunity for Haley to mix it up with DeSantis. For weeks the campaigns have been trading escalated barbs, like Haley’s recent comparison that his effort was a “dumpster fire” contrasted with hers.

**Vivek Ramaswamy**

The political newcomer and youngest GOP hopeful has been a debate-stage target of attacks on his lack of experience. While the jabs have helped boost Ramaswamy’s campaign coffers and his name ID in the broad Republican field, he’s struggled to get much traction even as he’s filled his campaign calendar with scores of events, particularly across Iowa.

Ramaswamy has had fiery debate-night clashes with Haley, and there could be more tonight. During the last debate, Haley called the entrepreneur “scum” after he invoked Haley’s daughter during a critique of TikTok.

**Chris Christie**

The 2024 race’s most vocal critic of Trump, Christie has cast himself as the only Republican willing to take him on directly. Without Trump at the debates, Christie has been left without his intended target but has brought him up nonetheless.

In September, Christie looked directly into the camera and declared that if Trump keeps skipping debates, he

would deserve a new nickname: “Donald Duck.”

**WHO DECIDED NOT TO PARTICIPATE (AGAIN)**  
**Donald Trump**

The current GOP front-runner is skipping his fourth straight debate. Instead of going to Alabama — or holding his own counterprogramming event, as he has done for past debates — Trump is holding a closed-door campaign fundraiser in Florida.

Trump has said he’s forgoing the primary debates because he does not want to elevate his lower-polling opponents by being onstage with them. He and his campaign have also called on the RNC to cancel the remainder of the debates and instead focus on backing him against President Joe Biden.

**WHO QUALIFIED FOR PREVIOUS DEBATES BUT NOT THIS ONE**  
**Asa Hutchinson**

The former two-term Arkansas governor participated in the first debate but has failed to qualify for subsequent ones. After missing out on the second debate, he said his goal was to increase his polling numbers to 4% in an early state before Thanksgiving.

That didn’t happen, but Hutchinson has said there should not be a rush for candidates to drop out, arguing that voters should have plenty of choices when votes start in Iowa.

**WHO DROPPED OUT SINCE LAST DEBATE**

Four days after barely qualifying for the third debate last month, Sen. Tim Scott of South Carolina abruptly shuttered his bid, saying that voters “have been really clear that they’re telling me, ‘Not now, Tim.’”

On Monday, North Dakota Gov. Doug Burgum — who didn’t qualify for the third debate and wasn’t on track for the fourth — suspended his campaign, condemning “the RNC’s clubhouse debate requirements” that he argued “are nationalizing the primary process.”



*AP Photo/Rebecca Blackwell*  
**Members of the Miami Arts Studio mental health club, including from left, Salet Aquino, Dominique Rodriguez, and club president Anaëli Souto, raise awareness on World Mental Health Day, Oct. 10, at Miami Arts Studio, a public 6th-12th grade magnet school, in Miami.**

## SCHOOLS

**continued from page 1**

Therapists in the area have full caseloads, making it impossible to refer students for immediate care, she said. But students can schedule a virtual session within days.

“Our preference is to provide our students in-person therapy. Obviously, that’s not always possible,” said Wilson, whose district has referred more than 325 students to over 800 sessions since launching the online therapy program.

Students and their parents said in interviews they turned to teletherapy after struggling with feelings of sadness, loneliness, academic stress and anxiety. For many, the transition back to in-person school after distance learning was traumatic. Friendships had fractured, social skills deteriorated and tempers flared more easily.

Schools are footing the bill, many of them using federal pandemic relief money as experts have warned of alarming rates of youth depression, anxiety and suicide. Many school districts are signing contracts with private companies. Others are working with local health care providers, nonprofits or state programs.

Mental health experts welcome the extra support but caution about potential pitfalls. For one, it’s getting harder to hire school counselors and psychologists, and competition with telehealth providers isn’t helping.

“We have 44 counselor vacancies, and telehealth definitely impacts our ability to fill them,” said Doreen Hogans, supervisor of school counseling in Prince George’s County, Maryland. Hogans estimates 20% of school counselors who left have taken teletherapy jobs, which offer more flexible hours.

The rapid growth of the companies raises questions about the qualifications of the therapists,

their experience with children and privacy protocols, said Kevin Dahill-Fuchel, executive director of Counseling in Schools, a nonprofit that helps schools bolster traditional, in-person mental health services.

“As we give these young people access to telehealth, I want to hear how all these other bases are covered,” he said.

One of the biggest providers, San Francisco-based Hazel Health, started with telemedicine health services in schools in 2016 and expanded to mental health in May 2021, CEO Josh Golomb said. It now employs more than 300 clinicians providing teletherapy in over 150 school districts in 15 states.

The rapid expansions mean millions of dollars in revenue for Hazel. This year, the company signed a \$24 million contract with Los Angeles County to offer teletherapy services to 1.3 million students for two years.

Other clients include Hawaii, which is paying Hazel nearly \$4 million over three years to work with its public schools, and Clark County schools in the Las Vegas area, which have allocated \$3.25 million for Hazel-provided teletherapy. The districts of Miami-Dade, Prince George’s and Houston schools also have partnered with Hazel.

Despite the giant contracts, Golomb said Hazel is focused on ensuring child welfare outweighs the bottom line.

“We have the ethos of a nonprofit company but we’re using a private-sector mechanism to reach as many kids as we can,” Golomb said. Hazel raised \$51.5 million in venture capital funding in 2022 that fueled its expansion. “Do we have any concerns about any compromise in quality? The resounding answer is no.”

Other providers are getting into the space. In November, New York City launched a free

telehealth therapy service for teens to help eliminate barriers to access, said Ashwin Vasan, the city’s health commissioner. New York is paying the startup TalkSpace \$26 million over three years for a service allowing teens aged 13 to 17 to download an app and connect with licensed therapists by phone, video or text.

Unlike other cities, New York is offering the service to all teens, whether enrolled in private, public or home schools, or not in school at all.

“I truly hope this normalizes and democratizes access to mental health care for our young people,” Vasan said.

Many of Hawaii’s referrals come from schools in rural or remote areas. Student clients have increased sharply in Maui since the deadly August wildfires, said Fern Yoshida, who oversees teletherapy for the state education department. So far this fall, students have logged 2,047 teletherapy visits, a three-fold increase from the same period last year.

One of them was Valerie Aguirre’s daughter, whose fall-out with two friends turned physical last year in sixth grade, when one of the girls slapped her daughter in the face. Aguirre suggested her daughter try teletherapy. After two months of online therapy, “she felt better,” Aguirre said, with a realization that everyone makes mistakes and friendships can be mended.

In California, Ishoo says her daughter, now in third grade, is relaying wisdom to her sister, who started kindergarten this year.

“She walks her little sister to class and tells her everything will be OK. She’s a different person. She’s older and wiser. She reassures her sister,” Ishoo said. “I heard her say, ‘If kids are being mean to you, just ignore them.’”

## SUNY—

**continued from page 1**

Friedman said an electrical overload caused the fire.

The Cortland fire department reported via social media that the fire was accidental.

Accepting her plaque, Wright said simply, “Thank you so much.”

“You never know how you’re going to react in those kinds of moments,” said Wright, an inclusive childhood education major from Huntington, in a release from SUNY Cortland. “In that moment, it was just us being there with him and letting everyone know that, yes, we’re college kids, and that’s a different world, but we’re here with them no matter what.”

## BAND—

**continued from page 1**

question of ‘How can they be successful once they leave us?’”

While band and orchestra are popular among students, performing outside of school or post-graduation is not realistic for most students, he said. “You’re not going to Bru64 and seeing a 17-piece band with a conductor.”

Lost Marble Theory, a band of senior students who are no longer in the program, still perform locally, Keefner said.

“Keefner is the magical little key to Cortland Modern Band,” Phalen said. “He gives musicians the guts to go out and do it.”

Freshmen Andrew Femino and Hayden Parker play in the rock/metal band A.D.H.D. They play mostly original songs, with occasional screaming, Parker said.

“I just like playing music with other people,” Femino said. “I think it’s a good opportunity for the future.”

Olivia Johnson, sophomore drummer for Clown Department, hopes to perform outside of school, she said.

“I’ve had a fascination with music since the moment I entered the world, probably,” Johnson said. “This class has taught me good lessons on how people work, and how to work with people, which is something that can be very valuable just to have in life. It’s helped me figure out what it means to be a leader.”

Band and orchestra are conducive to students who like a group dynamic, Keefner said, and Cortland Modern Band is for more-independent musicians.

“Maybe not every student wants to play an orchestra instrument, and they want to play drums or guitar,” said music department Chair Sharon Phetteplace. “There’s literally a band for every kid, and that’s something most districts don’t have.”

Joel Carr, a sophomore who plays guitar for Duck Butter, took the class to improve his songwriting.

“I picked up the guitar last year, and I just fell in love with it,” he said. He specializes in lyrics that make no sense.

Band members of Indecisive said they look forward to Cortland Modern Band more than their other classes.

“You just get to socialize more, and working with music is just fun,” said Tamsin Jones, a sophomore keyboardist.

“It’s a less strict environment,” said Sydney Markoff, a senior guitar player. “We have the time to do what we want with it.”

Freshman Madelyn Kim, who sings for the band, likes that it builds her confidence. Bass player Nico Smith likes that it helps with social skills.

“This class has made my life revolve around music and I have no complaints,” Johnson said. “The musical claim-to-fame about this place is it’s where Ronnie James Dio grew up, but when I walk around Cortland, it feels like it’s a creative wasteland sometimes. I want to be able to change that.”

“There’s a heavy ‘Cortland sucks’ mentality,” Keefner said. “One of the things that make it a unique place is the music and arts scene here is really strong and really thriving. What we offer is the next generation of that.”

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AP Photo/Mark Schiefelbein, File

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, center, walks with Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell of Kentucky, left, and Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer of New York, right, at Capitol Hill on Sept. 21, in Washington.

# Zelenskyy addresses senators as WH pushes for Ukraine aid

By ZEKE MILLER  
AP White House Correspondent

WASHINGTON — Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelenskyy addressed U.S. senators by video Tuesday during a classified briefing as the Biden administration urges Congress to approve the White House’s nearly \$106 billion request for funds for the wars in Ukraine, Israel and other security needs.

Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer announced Zelenskyy’s appearance after the administration Monday sent an urgent warning about the need to approve the military and economic assistance to Ukraine, saying Kyiv’s war effort to defend itself from Russia’s invasion may grind to a halt without it.

Schumer said the administration had invited Zelenskyy to address the senators so they “could hear directly from him precisely what’s at stake.” They also heard from the secretaries of Defense, State and other top national security officials.

In a letter to House and Senate leaders and released publicly, Office of Management and Budget Director Shalanda Young warned the U.S. will run out of funding to send weapons and assistance to Ukraine by the end of the year, saying that would “kneecap” Ukraine on the battlefield.

She added that the U.S. already has run out of money that it has used to prop up Ukraine’s economy, and “if Ukraine’s economy collapses, they will not be able to keep fighting, full stop.”

“We are out of money — and nearly out of time,” she wrote.

President Joe Biden has sought a nearly \$106 billion aid package for Ukraine, Israel and other needs, but it has faced a difficult reception on Capitol Hill. There is growing GOP skepticism about the magnitude of assistance for Ukraine and even Republicans supportive of the funding are insisting on U.S.-Mexico border policy changes to halt the flow of migrants as a condition for the assistance.

“Congress has to decide whether to continue to support the fight for freedom in Ukraine as part of the 50-nation coalition that President Biden has built, or whether Congress

will ignore the lessons we’ve learned from history and let (Russian President Vladimir) Putin prevail,” National security adviser Jake Sullivan said Monday. “It is that simple. It is that stark choice, and we hope that Congress on a bipartisan basis will make the right choice.”

But negotiations over the border security package broke down over the weekend as Republicans insisted on provisions Democrats said are draconian, aides said. Talks are expected to resume this week, along with a test vote expected today.

Senate Republican leader Mitch McConnell said Monday that his party is “still at the table.”

Congress already has allocated \$111 billion to assist Ukraine, including \$67 billion in military procurement funding, \$27 billion for economic and civil assistance and \$10 billion for humanitarian aid. Young wrote that all of it, other than about 3% of the military funding, had been depleted by mid-November.

Meanwhile, the GOP-controlled House has passed a standalone assistance package for Israel as it fights the war with Hamas in Gaza, while the White House has maintained that all of the priorities must be met.

Growing increasingly uneasy about the death toll in the Israel-Hamas war, Biden’s own allies in Congress are pushing the administration to have Israel commit to reducing civilian casualties and allowing aid to Gaza before sending more military aid.

On Monday, Sen. Bernie Sanders said it would be “irresponsible” for the U.S. to send billions in military aid to Israel war without such conditions.

“What the Netanyahu government is doing is immoral, it is in violation of international law, and the United States should not be complicit in those actions,” Sanders of Vermont said in a floor speech.

“Don’t count me in to support that,” Sanders said.

The new package proposes an additional \$61 billion for Ukraine, mainly to buy weapons from the U.S., \$14.3 billion for Israel, which includes \$10.6 billion for weaponry. There’s also nearly \$14 billion for

border security, along with aid for the Asia-Pacific region and other U.S. national security provisions.

The Biden administration has said it has slowed the pace of some military assistance to Kyiv in recent weeks to try to stretch supplies until Congress approves more funding.

“We are out of money to support Ukraine in this fight,” Young wrote. “This isn’t a next-year problem. The time to help a democratic Ukraine fight against Russian aggression is right now. It is time for Congress to act.”

House Speaker Mike Johnson reiterated in a statement Monday that House Republicans will insist on border policy changes as part of a Ukraine assistance bill, and he argued Biden has “failed to substantively address any of my conference’s legitimate concerns about the lack of a clear strategy in Ukraine, a path to resolving the conflict, or a plan for adequately ensuring accountability for aid provided by American taxpayers.”

The letter followed a classified Capitol Hill briefing on Nov. 29 for the top House and Senate leaders on the need for the assistance. Defense and other national security officials briefed the “big four” congressional leaders.

“They were clear that Ukraine needs the aid soon — and so does our military need the aid soon,” Schumer told The Associated Press in an interview at the time.

Schumer said earlier Monday that both Republicans and Democrats in his chamber agree on funding for Ukraine, as well as Israel, but that the funding has been halted for weeks by GOP demands that border security policy be included in a final package.

Schumer, a New York Democrat, said Republicans have pressed for “indefinite detention” of asylum seekers and granting the executive branch power to “shut down” the asylum system, measures that Democrats say go too far.

He is expected to push forward Biden’s supplemental funding package this week, but Republicans are threatening to block its passage with a filibuster as they insist on border security provisions.

# North Dakota Gov. Doug Burgum ends GOP presidential bid

By JACK DURA  
Associated Press

BISMARCK, N.D. — North Dakota Gov. Doug Burgum ended his long-shot presidential campaign on Monday, blaming his inability to resonate in the race on the Republican National Committee’s strict requirements to qualify for the debate stage.

The second-term governor and wealthy software entrepreneur dropped his bid just hours before the RNC was to release the list of candidates who had met the polling and donor qualifications for the fourth debate, being held today in Alabama. He also failed to qualify for the third debate last month.

He blamed the RNC, which sets qualifications for the debates, for “nationalizing the primary process and taking the power of democracy away from the engaged, thoughtful citizens of Iowa and New Hampshire.”

“It is not their mission to reduce competition and restrict fresh ideas by ‘narrowing the field’ months before the Iowa caucuses or the first in the nation New Hampshire primary,” Burgum wrote in his statement announcing his departure. “These arbitrary criteria ensure advantages for candidates from major media markets on the coasts versus America’s Heartland. None of their debate criteria relate to the qualifications related to actually doing the job of the president.”

An RNC spokesperson did not immediately respond to a request for comment on Burgum’s remarks.

Burgum was little known nationally when he launched his 2024 presidential campaign in June, touting his priorities of energy, the economy and national security, as well as his small-town roots and leadership of the sparsely populated state.

He participated in the first two Republican debates, meeting donor requirements of the Republican National Committee by offering \$20 Biden Relief Cards — a jab at rising inflation rates during President Joe Biden’s term — in exchange for \$1 donations.

The tactic drew skepticism over its legality, though Burgum’s campaign said its legal advisers had reviewed and approved the method.

Ultimately, he was unable to gain much traction against his rivals in a contest dominated by former President Donald Trump. He joins former Vice President Mike Pence, Sen. Tim Scott of South Carolina, radio show host Larry Elder, businessman Perry Johnson, former Texas congressman Will Hurd and Miami Mayor Francis Suarez in suspending his bid.

Burgum had been one of two lower-tier candidates scheduled to appear this coming weekend at an event billed as an “action conference” in South Carolina, hosted by the state GOP.

Burgum injected millions of his own money into the race, accounting for \$12.2 million of the \$15.1

million raised by his campaign from March through September, according to Federal Election Commission filings. A super PAC supporting his bid spent over \$19 million from July to November, according to filings.

Burgum nearly missed his first opportunity for national public exposure when he ruptured his Achilles tendon the day before the inaugural debate in August in Milwaukee. But he persevered through, later telling reporters that he stood on one leg behind the podium.

Former North Dakota Republican Gov. Ed Schafer called Burgum’s campaign “pretty gutsy.” But hailing from such a little-populated state, with just three electoral votes and little national profile, brings no leverage or power, Schafer said.

“In the structure of a presidential race, it’s virtually impossible for a state like North Dakota to play in the game,” said Schafer, a former U.S. agriculture secretary. Raising campaign money from North Dakota also presents an increasing challenge, he added.

Burgum is in his second term as governor and is eligible for a third in 2024, though he hasn’t indicated whether he plans to run again. He and his family will gather over the holidays “to consider future possibilities,” said senior political adviser Dawson Scheffer.



Burgum

# NY Rep. Santos offering personal videos for \$200

By ANTHONY IZAGUIRRE  
Associated Press

ALBANY — George Santos already has a new gig.

The former congressman, fresh off his historic expulsion last week, has created a Cameo account where the public can pay for a personalized video message.

Screenshots of his account — with the bio “Former congressional ‘Icon!’” — started to spread online Monday morning. By the afternoon, users, including several lawmakers, were posting clips of Santos offering advice, blowing kisses and making cracks about Botox.

“Screw the haters. The haters are going to hate,” he said in one of the videos shared by Nebraska state Sen. Megan Hunt. “Look, they can boot me out of Congress but they can’t

take away my good humor or my larger-than-life personality nor my good faith and the absolute pride I have for everything I’ve done.”

The price for a personalized video from Santos started at \$75 and by Monday evening went as high as \$200. He is also selling text messages for \$10.

Santos did not immediately return a voicemail seeking comment on Monday, but added a link to the Cameo account on his personal account on X, formerly known as Twitter.

Last week Santos was expelled from the House following a scandal-plagued tenure in Congress and a looming criminal trial. He is only the sixth member in the chamber’s history to be ousted by colleagues.

Days later, he appeared to be in good spirits, smiling as he told another

Cameo user: “You know, Botox keeps you young, fillers keep you plump.”

The videos mark the latest bizarre turn for Santos, a once up-and-coming Republican who flipped a district in New York but whose life story began to immediately unravel as he entered the spotlight.

Reports detailed that he lied about having Jewish ancestry, a career at top Wall Street firms and a college degree, among other things.

Then came a sprawling federal indictment in which he is accused of stealing the identities of donors and using their credit cards to make tens of thousands of dollars in unauthorized charges, and wiring some of the money to his personal bank account.

Santos has pleaded not guilty and has a trial scheduled for next year.



AP Photo/Mark Schiefelbein, File

Rep. George Santos, R-N.Y., speaks to reporters as he leaves a caucus meeting of Republican House members Oct. 12 on Capitol Hill, in Washington.

# Yellen going to Mexico as Treasury launches a new fentanyl strike force

By FATIMA HUSSEIN  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen is heading to Mexico this week to promote her agency’s new strike force to help combat illicit fentanyl trafficking as the U.S. and China step up efforts to stop the movement of the powerful opioid and drug-making materials into the United States.

In Mexico City, Yellen will talk with government and private sector leaders about stopping illicit finance that funds the drug trade and boosting supply chains through her “friendshoring” initiative. A major focus of the trip will be on stopping fentanyl financing.

The Counter-Fentanyl Strike Force announced Monday will bring together personnel and intelligence from throughout the Treasury Department — from its sanctions and intelligence arms to IRS Criminal Investigations — to more effectively collaborate on stopping the flow of

drugs into the country.

The creation of the group and Yellen’s Mexico trip are the beginning of the Biden administration’s plan to redouble its efforts to stem the tide of illegal fentanyl after President Joe Biden and Chinese President Xi Jinping met in California in November. At the meeting, they announced that China is telling its chemical companies to curtail shipments of the materials used to produce fentanyl to Latin America.

China has also resumed sharing information about suspected trafficking with an international database.

Mexico and China are the primary source countries for fentanyl and fentanyl-related substances trafficked directly into the U.S., according to the Drug Enforcement Administration. Nearly all the precursor chemicals that are needed to make fentanyl are coming from China.

Among other things, the Treasury task force will analyze the financial

flows of trafficking organizations, especially those that rely on cryptocurrency to move funds; work with local law enforcement in areas hardest hit by the fentanyl epidemic and use financial institution records to detect transactions related to drug and human smuggling.

“Combating the flow of deadly fentanyl into communities across the United States is a top priority for President Biden as well as the Treasury Department,” Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen in a statement. She said the new group will “allow us to bring the department’s unrivaled expertise in fighting financial crime to bear against this deadly epidemic.”

The Biden administration has taken a slew of actions against fentanyl traffickers — charging powerful traffickers with drug and money laundering offenses and announcing indictments and sanctions against Chinese companies and executives blamed for importing the chemicals used to make the dangerous drug.



# Back pain? Get ready to wait for a physical therapist

**By MARK KREIDLER**  
**KFF Health News (TNS)**

At no point along his three-year path to earning a degree in physical therapy has Matthew Lee worried about getting a job.

Being able to make a living off that degree? That's a different question — and the answer is affecting the supply of physical therapists across the nation: The cost of getting trained is out of proportion to the pay.

"There's definitely a shortage of PTs. The jobs are there," said Lee, a student at California State University-Sacramento who is on track to receive his degree in May. "But you may be starting out at \$80,000 while carrying up to \$200,000 in student debt. It's a lot to consider."

As many patients seeking an appointment can attest, the nationwide shortage of PTs is real. According to survey data collected by the American Physical Therapy Association, the job vacancy rate for therapists in outpatient settings last year was 17%.

Wait times are generally long across the nation, as patients tell of waiting weeks or even months for appointments while dealing with ongoing pain or post-surgical rehab. But the crunch is particularly acute in rural areas and places with a high cost of living, like California, which has a lower ratio of therapists to residents — just 57 per 100,000, compared with the national ratio of 72 per 100,000, according to the association.

The reasons are multifold. The industry hasn't recovered from the mass defection of physical therapists who fled as practices closed during the pandemic. In 2021 alone, more than 22,000 PTs — almost a tenth of the workforce — left their jobs, according to a report by the health data analytics firm Definitive Healthcare.

And just as baby boomers age into a period of heavy use of physical therapy, and COVID-delayed procedures like knee and hip replacements are finally scheduled, the economics of physical therapy are shifting. Medicare, whose members make up a significant percentage of many PT practices' clients, has cut reimbursement rates for four years straight, and the encroachment of private equity firms — with their bottom-line orientation — means many practices aren't staff-



Steven M. Falk/The Philadelphia Inquirer/TNS

**Anthony Greco, 16, chats with his mom, 36-year-old Krystine Greco, both of South Philadelphia, during an Oct. 31 physical therapy session at Strive at 18th Street and Oregon Avenue after an e-scooter accident. According to survey data collected by the American Physical Therapy Association, the job vacancy rate for therapists in outpatient settings last year was 17%.**

ing adequately.

According to APTA, 10 companies, including publicly held and private equity-backed firms, now control 20% of the physical therapy market. "What used to be small practices are often being bought up by larger corporate entities, and those corporate entities push productivity and become less satisfying places to work," said James Gordon, chair of the Division of Biokinesiology and Physical Therapy at the University of Southern California.

There's a shortage of physical therapists in all settings, including hospitals, clinics, and nursing homes, and it's likely to continue for the foreseeable future, said Justin Moore, chief executive of the physical therapy association. "Not only do we have to catch up on those shortages, but there are great indicators of increasing demand for physical therapy," he said.

The association is trying to reduce turnover among therapists, and is lobbying Congress to stop cutting Medi-

care reimbursement rates. The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services plans a 3.4% reduction for 2024 to a key metric that governs pay for physical therapy and other health care services. According to the association, that would bring the cuts to a total of 9% over four years.

Several universities, meanwhile, have ramped up their programs — some by offering virtual classes, a new approach for such a hands-on field — to boost the number of graduates in the coming years.

"But programs can't just grow overnight," said Sharon Gorman, interim chair of the physical therapy program at Oakland-based Samuel Merritt University, which focuses on training health care professionals. "Our doctoral accreditation process is very thorough. I have to prove I have the space, the equipment, the clinical sites, the faculty to show that I'm not just trying to take in more tuition dollars."

All of this also comes at a time when

the cost of obtaining a physical therapy doctorate, which typically takes three years of graduate work and is required to practice, is skyrocketing. Student debt has become a major issue, and salaries often aren't enough to keep therapists in the field.

According to the APTA's most recent published data, median annual wages range from \$88,000 to \$101,500. The association said wages either met or fell behind the rate of inflation between 2016 and 2021 in most regions.

A project underway at the University of Iowa aims to give PT students more transparency about tuition and other costs across programs. According to an association report from 2020, at least 80% of recent physical therapy graduates carried educational debt averaging roughly \$142,000.

Gordon said USC, in Los Angeles' urban core, has three PT clinics and 66 therapists on campus, several of whom graduated from the school's program. "But even with that, it's a challenge,"

he said. "It's not just hard to find people, but people don't stay, and the most obvious reason is that they don't get paid enough relative to the cost of living in this area."

Fewer therapists plus growing demand equals long waits. When Susan Jones, a Davis, California, resident, experienced pain in her back and neck after slipping on a wet floor in early 2020, she went to her doctor and was referred for physical therapy. About two months later, she said, she finally got an appointment at an outpatient clinic.

"It was almost like the referral got lost. I was going back and forth, asking, 'What's going on?'" said Jones, 57. Once scheduled, her first appointment felt rushed, she said, with the therapist saying he could not identify an issue despite her ongoing pain. After one more session, Jones paid out-of-pocket to see a chiropractor. She said she'd be hesitant to try for a physical therapy referral in the future, in part because of the wait.

Universities and PT programs graduate about 12,000 therapists a year, Moore said, and representatives of several schools told KFF Health News they're studying whether and how to expand.

In 2018, USC added a hybrid model in which students learn mostly online, then travel to campus twice a semester for about a week at a time for hands-on instruction and practice.

That bumped USC's capacity from 100 students a year to 150, and Gordon said many of the hybrid students' professional skills are indistinguishable from those of students on campus full time.

Natalia Barajas received her PT doctorate from USC last year and was recently hired at a clinic in nearby Norwalk, with a salary of \$95,000, a signing bonus, and the opportunity to earn more in incentives.

She's also managing a lot of debt. Three years of tuition for the USC physical therapy program comes to more than \$211,000, and Barajas said she owes \$170,000 in student loans.

"If it were about money alone, I probably would have shifted to something else a while ago," Barajas said. "I'm OK with my salary. I chose to do this. But it might not be the perfect situation for everybody."

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## NCAA NCAA asks D-I schools to pay athletes

By RALPH D. RUSSO  
AP College Sports Writer

LAS VEGAS — NCAA President Charlie Baker is asking members to make one of the most dramatic shifts in the history of college sports by allowing highly resourced schools to pay some of their athletes.

In a letter sent to more than 350 Division I schools Tuesday, Baker said he wants the association to create a new tier of NCAA Division I sports where schools would be required to offer at least half their athletes a payment of at least \$30,000 per year through a trust fund.

Baker also proposed allowing all Division I schools to offer unlimited educational benefits and enter into name, image and likeness licensing deals with athletes.

He said the disparity in resources between the wealthiest schools in the top tier of Division I called the Football Bowl Subdivision and other D-I members — along with the hundreds of Division II and III schools — is creating “a new series of challenges.”

“The challenges are competitive as well as financial and are complicated further by the intersection of name, image and likeness opportunities for student-athletes and the arrival of the Transfer Portal,” wrote Baker, the former Massachusetts governor who took over at the NCAA in March.

Baker is scheduled to speak today at the Sports Business Journal’s Intercollegiate Athletic Forum in Las Vegas.

Division I is currently divided for football into the FBS, which has 133 schools, and FCS (Football Championship Subdivision).

Baker’s proposal is aimed at creating a new subdivision, covering all sports, where the richest athletic departments in the so-called Power Five conferences — the Big Ten, Southeastern Conference, Big 12, Atlantic Coast Conference and Pac-12 — can operate differently than the rest, while still competing with the rest of Division I.

Conference realignment starting in 2024 will move the Pac-12 out of that group.

The proposed shift would not require all members of a conference to be part of the new subdivision. Schools would be allowed to make that determination individually.

Baker noted athletic budgets in Division I range from \$5 million and \$250 million annually, with 59 schools spending over \$100 million annually and another 32 spending over \$50 million. He said 259 Division I schools, however, spend less than \$50 million on their athletic programs.

Baker said the difference in the way schools that participate in revenue-generating college sports such as major college football and basketball operate and the vast majority of college sports is complicating attempts to modernize the entire enterprise.

“The contextual environment is equally challenging, as the courts and other

## High School Boys Basketball Homer’s defense gives spark in win

By PAUL CIFONELLI  
Sports Editor  
pcifonelli@cortlandstandard.com

The Homer boys basketball team got stops when it needed to and used some clutch fast-break buckets to beat OnTech Charter 44-35 in the Trojans’ first game of the season Tuesday night at Homer High School.

OnTech’s Mesiah Miller knocked down a 3-pointer midway through the fourth quarter to make it a 37-34 Homer lead, but the Trojans responded by outscoring OnTech 7-1 the rest of the way. OnTech scored the first nine points of the fourth.

Homer also went on an 11-3 run late in the third quarter to create some separation and held a 13-2 lead through one quarter. All the Trojans’ big stretches came due to successful defensive trips, something head coach Ken Updike was pleased with in the season opener.

“If we don’t guard then we don’t win that game,” Updike said. “On a night where I thought we executed on offense besides the part where the ball goes in the basket, we had some good shots and we had some guys who you want to take shots. Without being able to guard and rebound and keep a quicker team in front, that’s a tough game to win.”

A lot of Homer’s defensive success came from tipping passes and forcing difficult shots inside the paint. Kaden Durham had two big rejections and tipped a lot of passes atop the Trojans’ 3-2 zone and Durham, Wyatt Wilbur, Daniel Hartnett and Max Franco controlled the boards.

Homer played five guys standing 6-foot or taller Tuesday and Updike knows that has to be an advantage on a nightly basis for the Trojans.

“That’s something we’ve discussed and watched on film,” Updike said. “You need



Homer’s Mitchell Earle looks at the center of the court while handling the ball Tuesday night at Homer High School. Earle finished with seven points in the Trojans’ 44-35 win.

to use your assets and we talk about being long at sometime positions one through five. It’s definitely something we need to continue to work on. Something we’ve discussed as a team is that we’re going to have to hang our hat on playing defense and take some pride in it.”

For as much as the Trojans’ defense stepped up, the offense struggled. Homer was missing shots near the rim in half-court sets and was able to be sped up at

times by a chaotic OnTech defense.

Wilbur appeared frustrated at times after some of those missed chip shots. Wilbur finished with a team-high 14 points, but Updike is confident his senior won’t be shooting like that all season.

“I don’t think Wyatt Wilbur misses those much,” Updike said. “On any given night if he has those shots, those are the shots you’re looking for. Then maybe after you miss a couple it starts to weight on

you a little bit.”

“Wyatt is a returning senior who was going to be a big part of what we do last year,” Updike added. “Now he’s missing his running mate, so maybe he’s got a little weight on his shoulders as far as being a scorer. Those are the shots we’re going to ask Wyatt to take and he’s going to continue to take. I don’t have any doubts that he’s going to be able to make those shots.”

Durham followed Wilbur up with nine points, Mitchell Earle contributed seven, Franco had six, Hartnett notched four and Tyler Van Etten had two points to round out Homer’s scoring.

The Trojans are back in action at 7 p.m. Friday at Syracuse Academy of Science.

### BOYS BASKETBALL MARATHON 38, OXFORD 35

Bryce Hartman got a steal with eight seconds left in the game and Bode Carter knocked down a free throw to put Marathon up three and seal the win. Zach Birdsall led the Olympians with 13 points.

Carter followed up Zach Birdsall with seven points. Jacob Byron scored five points, Hartman added four points, Camdyn Kashuba and Austin Poth each had three points, Blake Birdsall notched two points and Colton Oram scored one point.

### TULLY 57, MANLIUS PEBBLE HILL 32

Tully controlled the game from the opening tip, leading 32-12 at halftime and 51-18 through three quarters.

### CINCINNATUS 54, STOCKBRIDGE VALLEY 48

John Schuyler scored eight of his 12 points in the fourth quarter Monday night to lead Cincinnati to a win. Camden Stafford led the team with 23 points after going 10-for-12 from the free throw line.

See SCHOOLS, page 11

## Cortland falls to Chittenango in home opener



Cortland’s Cal Albright looks to drive toward the basket against Chittenango Tuesday at Cortland Junior-Senior High School. Albright led the Purple Tigers with nine points in their 69-30 loss.

By MATT CZEITNER  
Sports Reporter

mczeitner@cortlandstandard.com

The Cortland boys basketball team ran into a strong Chittenango team Tuesday night at Cortland Junior-Senior High School and the Bears took a commanding lead and never let up as they defeated the Purple Tigers 69-30.

Chittenango used a dominant first half to quickly blow things open. The Bears scored 51 points in the first two frames and held Cortland to only 10.

The second quarter was completely lopsided, with Chittenango outscoring Cortland 26-2. The Bears were led by star Ryan Moesch and got 31 points in the first half from their go-to option. The Purple Tigers had no answer for Moesch. He used his speed and shot-creating ability to get to comfortable spots all over the court and knocked down shots. Moesch finished with 35 points on 9-for-14 shooting and 5-of-9 from the 3-point line.

Cortland knew Moesch and Chittenango would be a difficult task and did what it could, but the Bears proved to have

### Chittenango 69 Cortland 30

too much firepower.

“The game plan was to keep the ball out of Moesch’s hands as much as possible,” Cortland head coach Jeremy Milligan said. “We wanted to double team him off screens, but he is just so fast, athletic and is a fantastic ball player. He is probably one of the best in Central New York right now.”

Chittenango bringing its high-scoring offense to Cortland’s home court was inevitable and to compete with the Bears, the Purple Tigers had to generate offense. That was the issue for the home team Tuesday, as it could not knock down shots and the opposition ran away with it.

“We knew it was going to be a tough battle and we talked before the game and said if we were going to compete, we knew we were going to have to match them making some buckets because we knew we weren’t going to stop them,” Milligan said. “I thought we had a ton of great, open looks in the first half. We just have

## National Football League

## Jaguars QB Lawrence has a high ankle sprain

By MARK LONG  
AP Pro Football Writer

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. — Jacksonville Jaguars quarterback Trevor Lawrence has a high ankle sprain that could force him to miss the first game of his NFL career.

Coach Doug Pederson said Tuesday that tests on Lawrence’s right ankle showed “everything’s stable, everything’s good.” He added that surgery “is not necessarily something that would be warranted at this time.”

“We’ll see where he’s at in a couple days,” Pederson said

roughly 12 hours after a 34-31 overtime loss to Cincinnati.

Pederson said Lawrence’s injury “looked worse than it really was. Very fortunate there.” He declined to say if Lawrence has a realistic shot at playing Sunday at Cleveland (7-5).

“I’m not going to put that timetable on Trevor, not going to put him in a box like that,” Pederson said. “We’ll see how he is in a couple of days.”

The Jaguars (8-4) will be without receiver Christian Kirk for “some time” because of a core muscle injury that likely will need surgery. Kirk was injured

on Jacksonville’s first offensive play, staying on the ground after a 26-yard gain and then gingerly walking to the locker room.

But it was Lawrence’s injury about three hours later that had the home crowd really panicked.

Left tackle Walker Little stepped on Lawrence’s ankle on a third-down play, causing him to twist it as he was sacked. Lawrence tried to get up, but dropped to the ground, ripped off his helmet and threw it in disgust. He was helped off the field and into the tunnel for X-rays, which were negative.

It ended an otherwise stellar

night for Lawrence, who completed 22 of 29 passes for 259 yards and two touchdowns. He also ran for a score.

Backup quarterback C.J. Beathard said Lawrence was “in good spirits” in the locker room after the game and added “obviously he’s sore right now.” Lawrence left the stadium in a walking boot and on crutches.

Beathard completed 9 of 10 passes for 63 yards off the bench.

He would make his 13th career start if Lawrence can’t go. He last started a game in Week 16 of the 2020 season with San

Francisco. He is 2-10 as an NFL starter.

Lawrence has been very durable since Jacksonville drafted him with the No. 1 overall pick in 2021.

He injured a toe last year at Detroit but was able to return to the game, and he sprained his left knee against Indianapolis in mid-October and has played with a brace since. He hasn’t missed a game in three seasons.

“It’s good to get C.J. a full week of preparation. Trevor will stay mentally sharp and obviously see where he’s at,” Pederson said. “It’ll be good for C.J.”



## Major League Baseball

# Ohtani met Dodgers in LA for 2-3 hours, manager Roberts says

By **TERESA WALKER**  
**AP Sports Writer**  
NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Shohei Ohtani met with the Los Angeles Dodgers a few days ago at Dodger Stadium, manager Dave Roberts revealed Tuesday at the winter meetings.

The two-way star is expected to command a record contract of \$500 million-plus on the free agent market coming off his second AL MVP award in three seasons.

“He has a very good poker face,” Roberts said.

The meeting lasted two-to-three hours.

“We want to respect Shohei’s wishes as far as being private,” Roberts said, “but obviously people talk. I don’t think I need to share what we talked about.”

Roberts at first hesitated before giving a few details.

“It’s a good possibility,” he said. “Yeah, we met with him. I don’t want to — I’d like to be honest and so we met with Shohei and we talked and I think it went well. I think it went well. But at the end of the day, he’s his own man and he’s going to do what’s best for himself, where he feels most comfortable.”

Ohtani led the AL with 44 homers and hit .304 with 96 RBIs, eight triples and 20 stolen bases for the Los Angeles Angels in a season that ended Sept. 3 because of an oblique injury.

He was 10-5 with a 3.14 ERA in 23 starts on the mound, striking out 167 and walking 55 in 132 innings before tearing the ulnar collateral ligament in his right elbow on Aug. 23. He had surgery on Sept. 19 that will keep him off the mound until 2025.

Ohtani has not spoken with reporters since Aug. 9, failing to get on a conference call after his MVP award.

“I don’t know if it was more of a pitch,” Roberts said. “I think it was more of just sort of getting familiar, more familiar with him. I think that he had questions for us, just trying to get more of the landscape. But being in this league for six years, he’s got a pretty good idea of the Dodgers, what we’re about, the city itself. And so for me, and speaking for our guys, it was just a pleasure to get to spend some time with him.”

Ohtani met with the Dodgers before signing with the Angels in December 2017 for a \$2,315,000 bonus — because of his age, he was restricted by the amount of teams’ international signing bonus pools.

Ohtani earned \$3 million, \$5.5 million and \$30 million in his three seasons of arbitration eligibility. His contract is expected to top the \$426.5 million, 12-year contract of Angels outfielder Mike Trout that began in 2019.



AP Photo/Mark J. Terrill, File

**Angels’ Shohei Ohtani celebrates as he rounds first after hitting a two-run home run during the seventh inning against the Yankees July 17, 2023, in Anaheim, California.**

# Yankees covet pitcher Yamamoto at winter meetings

By **RONALD BLUM**  
**AP Baseball Writer**  
NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Dave Roberts started to dodge the big question about Shohei Ohtani, rocking back and forth in his seat and staying silent for three seconds before his big admission:

“Yeah, we met with him,” the Los Angeles Dodgers manager said Tuesday at the winter meetings, making Roberts’ club the first to publicly admit a sit-down with the unique two-way player likely to break baseball’s salary record.

Officials on other teams danced meticulously around the question as if choreographed by Bob Fosse. Toronto general manager Ross Atkins, who sparked speculation of a possible meeting by holding his Monday media availability on Zoom rather than at the winter meetings hotel, had this to say: “Some meetings that occur, that don’t occur, I’m not going to get into the specifics of.”

New Chicago Cubs manager Craig Counsell batted away Ohtani queries as if in a cross-examination. After saying he had not met with Ohtani, Counsell was asked whether anyone in the Cubs front office had. Counsell replied: “I have not.”

Japanese pitcher Yoshinobu Yamamoto, another prized free agent, could be sought by the New York Yankees and Mets, who set payroll records this year in their third season under owner Steve Cohen. The Mets’ projected final 2023 payroll is about \$346 million and their luxury tax roughly \$102 million.

“I don’t know if anybody can compete with Steve Cohen,” Yankees general manager Brian Cashman said. “He’s obviously a titan of industry. He’s had a lot of success and built an empire which has allowed him to do things like the Mets. ... We can just concentrate on what we’re going to concentrate on. Obviously, it’s a player of interest and we’ll compete for him and see where that takes us, and it will be enough or won’t be enough.”

Cashman also has talked about trying to acquire slugger Juan Soto from San Diego.

The outfielder is eligible for free agency after next season, and Padres president of baseball operations A.J. Preller has discussed swaps.

New Padres manager Mike Shildt plans to meet with Soto in Miami on Dec. 17.

“He’s a transformational bat. He’s one of the best hitters in the game. So he’s impact, period,” Cashman said. “I know A.J. probably is being open-minded to do a lot of different things.”

In the meantime, the Yankees made



AP Photo/George Walker IV

**Yankees general manager Brian Cashman responds to questions during the Major League Baseball winter meetings Tuesday, in Nashville, Tennessee.**

a rare trade with the rival Boston Red Sox, acquiring outfielder Alex Verdugo for reliever Greg Weissert and two minor league pitchers.

Only one relatively small signing was announced during the day. Tampa Bay agreed to a \$1.1 million, one-year contract with reliever Chris Devenski, a deal that includes a club option for 2025.

Erick Fedde, a 30-year-old right-hander who spent this year with the NC Dinos in South Korea, agreed to a \$15 million, two-year contract with the Chicago White Sox, a person familiar with the deal said. The person spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because the agreement was subject to a successful physical.

Also, Cleveland won the MLB draft lottery and will have the top pick for the first time when selections are made on July 14. Roberts said Ohtani met with the team

at Dodger Stadium for two-to-three hours a few days earlier and called the two-time AL MVP “our top priority.”

“I think that he had questions for us, just trying to get more of the landscape. But being in this league for six years, he’s got a pretty good idea of the Dodgers, what we’re about, the city itself,” Roberts said.

Cashman went to Japan to watch Yamamoto and saw him pitch his second career no-hitter on Sept. 9 for the Orix Buffaloes against the Lotte Marines.

“A lot of teams went over there with their executives and I certainly wasn’t going to make the mistake of not being one of the executives that went over there, too,” Cashman said.

“Certainly a negotiation is an important part of it, but I also think those type of personal touches are also important.”

## National Hockey League

# Sharks skate to dramatic 5-4 win over Islanders

By **SCOTT CHARLES**  
**Associated Press**

NEW YORK — William Eklund scored in the closing seconds of overtime, Tomas Hertl had a hat trick and the San Jose Sharks erased a three-goal, third-period deficit to defeat the New York Islanders 5-4 on Tuesday night.

Kevin Labanc also scored and Kaapo Kahkonen made 33 saves for the Sharks.

Julien Gauthier, Brock Nelson, Mike Reilly and Ryan Pullock scored for the Islanders who began a six-game homestand with a loss. Simon Holmstrom and Bo Horvat each added two assists and Ilya Sorokin finished with 27 saves.

Mikael Granlund set up Eklund for a one-time shot with 5 seconds to play in the three-on-three overtime period.

Hertl recorded the equalizer and completed his sixth career hat trick at 18:30 to even the score at 4-4. He buried a rebound 1:49 prior to the equalizer to pull the Sharks to within a goal.

Labanc redirected Nikita Okhotiuk’s shot from the point to

pull the Sharks within two goals at 11:55 of the third period.

New York scored two goals on special teams within a 3:10 stretch in the third period to expand its lead to three goals.

Reilly’s short-handed goal at 5:17 of the third gave the Islanders a 3-1 edge. Holmstrom set up Reilly in the high slot and collected his second assist of the game. Pullock connected on a one-timer on the power play at 8:27 and gave New York a 4-1 lead. Jean-Gabriel Pageau picked up his 300th career point with an assist on the goal.

Nelson scored his team-leading 11th goal to give the Islanders a 2-1 lead at 5:27 of the second period. Defenseman Noah Dobson and Horvat assisted.

Gauthier opened the scoring at 9:26 of the first period when he fired a wrist shot past the glove of Kahkonen. Holmstrom set up Gauthier, earning his first assist of the season.

Hertl evened the score at 1-1 by beating Sorokin with a wrist shot on the glove side. Anthony Duclair drove to the net, collected his own rebound and



AP Photo/Adam Hunger

**Islanders center Brock Nelson, right, shoots in front of Sharks defenseman Mario Ferraro during the second period Tuesday, in Elmont.**

found Hertl all alone in the slot at 12:19 of the first period.

**SENATORS 6, RANGERS 2**  
OTTAWA, Ontario (AP) — Brady Tkachuk and Vladimir Tarasenko each scored twice to lead the Ottawa Senators to an impressive 6-2 win over the league-leading New York Rangers on Tuesday night.

Anton Forsberg made 33 saves for the Senators, while Claude Giroux and Drake Batherson also scored for the Senators (10-10-0).

Artemi Panarin and K’Andre Miller scored for the Rangers (18-5-1), while Igor Shesterkin stopped 30 shots.

Trailing 5-2 to start the third period, the Rangers had a great chance to get back in the game with a two-man advantage for 85 seconds but failed to capitalize.

The Rangers came into the game with points in 17 of their last 19. They had chances throughout the night, but Fors-

berg was solid when called upon.

Trailing 2-0 after the first, New York looked to get back in the game and while they had a better second period in the end the Senators led 5-2 after 40 minutes.

Panarin had a power-play goal just 39 seconds into the second to make it 2-1, but Tarasenko regained the two-goal lead with his first in 13 games. Miller got the Rangers right back in it scoring 22 seconds later.

Ottawa made it 4-2 when Batherson buried a Tarasenko rebound. Blake Wheeler looked like he had a sure goal, but Jakob Chychrun batted it out of the air to help Forsberg out.

Tkachuk scored his second late in the period taking a rebound off the back boards and beat Shesterkin short side.

Tkachuk opened the scoring tipping an Artem Zub shot, and with just under two minutes remaining Giroux beat Shesterkin with a wraparound goal.

Ridley Greig returned to the Senators lineup after missing 10 games with a high ankle sprain.

## National Basketball Association

# Antetokounmpo, Bucks breeze past Knicks 146-122

By **RICH ROVITO**  
**Associated Press**  
MILWAUKEE — Giannis Antetokounmpo had 35 points and 10 assists, Damian Lillard added 28 points, and the Milwaukee Bucks beat the New York Knicks 146-122 on Tuesday night to reach the semifinals of the NBA’s inaugural In-Season Tournament.

The Bucks posted a season high in scoring, shooting 60.5% (23 of 38)

from 3-point range and 60.4% overall to set up a matchup with Indiana in Las Vegas on Thursday.

Milwaukee is 5-0 in tournament play and extended its home winning streak to nine games. The Bucks (15-6) have won 10 of 12 overall.

Julius Randle scored a season-high 41 points for the Knicks, whose three-game winning streak was snapped. Jalen Brunson added 24 points and R.J.

Barrett scored 23 for New York, which earned a wild-card berth in the knockout round through a point-differential tiebreaker.

Antetokounmpo had an injury scare less than two minutes into the game. After tipping in a missed shot, he landed on Randle’s foot and rolled his left ankle. Antetokounmpo fell to the floor in pain.

He eventually limped up the court

but stayed in the game and tallied 10 of the Bucks’ first 13 points.

After a tightly contested first half, the Bucks pulled ahead by as many as 18 points in the third quarter. Milwaukee led by as many as 27 in the fourth and coach Adrian Griffin emptied his bench, giving rare playing time to Antetokounmpo’s brother, Thanasis, and Robin Lopez, the twin brother of starting center Brook Lopez.

Lillard swished three step-back 3-pointers in the waning stages of the second quarter to give the Bucks a 75-72 lead at halftime. It was the highest-scoring first half this season for Milwaukee.

The Knicks had gone 10-3 since losing to the Bucks in Milwaukee on Nov. 3 in the opener of tournament group play.



# NCAA

continued from page 9

public entities continue to debate reform measures that in many cases would seriously damage parts or all of college athletics,” he wrote.

Mountain West Commissioner Gloria Nevarez said during the Sports Business Journal’s Intercollegiate Sports Forum that subdivision can be a trigger word in the NCAA, stoking worries some schools will be shut out of championship events or lose out on revenue. Nevarez didn’t read Baker’s proposal that way.

“When I read it ... it talked about space to make governance,” she said.

Baker and college sports leaders have been pleading with Congress to help the NCAA with a federal law to regulate the way athletes can be paid for NIL deals.

“I am 100% supportive of your efforts. Intercollegiate Athletics needs the proactive and forward thinking you are providing,” Ohio State athletic director Gene Smith said in a post on social media platform X.

Smith oversees one of the largest athletic departments in the country with operating expenses of above \$225 million annually.

Former Southern California and NFL star Reggie Bush called schools paying athletes, “Long overdue.”

Bush, who was being inducted into the College Football Hall of Fame on Tuesday night in Las Vegas, was the focus of an NCAA impermissible benefits infractions case during his USC career that resulted in the vacation of a national title for the Trojans and Bush’s 2005 Heisman Trophy victory.

Baker’s letter is an aggressive first step toward a major shift for the NCAA. To turn his vision into detailed legislation will take member feedback, lots of work by the Division I Council and final approval from the Division I Board of Directors.

There is no timetable to bring the proposal to fruition.

The NCAA is also facing a new round of legal threats that could force its members to share some of the billions in revenue generated by major college football and basketball, along with giving athletes employees status. One antitrust case working its way through federal court could cost the NCAA billions in damages.

Baker called on NCAA member schools to create a new framework to make what he called “fundamental changes.”

“First, we should make it possible for all Division I colleges and universities to offer student-athletes any level of enhanced educational benefits they deem appropriate. Second, rules should change for any Division I school, at their choice, to enter into name, image and likeness licensing opportunities with their student-athletes,” he wrote. “These two changes will enhance the financial opportunities available to all Division I student-athletes.”

Currently, schools are allowed — though not required — to provide athletes \$5,980 per year in educational benefits under NCAA rules.

Baker said the changes would help level the playing field between men’s and women’s athletics by forcing schools to abide by gender equity regulations as they invest.

He said schools in a new tier of Division I should be allowed, while staying compliant with Title IX, to “invest at least \$30,000 per year into an enhanced educational trust fund for at least half of the institution’s eligible student-athletes.”

A new D-I subdivision should also allow members to create unique rules regarding “scholarship commitment and roster size, recruitment, transfers or NIL,” he said.

Mid-American Conference Commissioner Jon Steinbrecher said Baker’s proposal merely defines what already exists: The power conference schools have separated themselves financially, already provide greater benefits to athletes and have some autonomy in the NCAA legislative process.

“I think probably a lot of people are saying this is the precursor of the great breakout (of power conferences from the NCAA),” Steinbrecher said. “I would suggest to you it’s exactly the opposite. It’s taking the pressure valve off.”

## National Football League

# Jets sign QB Rypien off Seahawks

By DENNIS WASZAK Jr.  
AP Pro Football Writer

The New York Jets waived Tim Boyle after two starts and signed Brett Rypien off the Seattle Seahawks’ practice squad Tuesday in the team’s latest shuffle at the quarterback position.

Boyle mostly struggled while replacing the benched Zach Wilson the past two games. He was 41 of 63 for 327 yards and one touchdown with three interceptions — including a Hail Mary that was returned 99 yards for a touchdown against Miami — in two losses as the starter.

The Jets (4-8) are mired in a five-game losing streak and their offense has been unable to consistently produce with Aaron Rodgers sidelined since tearing his left Achilles tendon four snaps into his debut with New York in the season opener.

On Monday, coach Robert Saleh said he wasn’t ready to announce a starting quarterback for the Jets’ game Sunday against Houston.



AP Photo/Seth Wenig

**Jets quarterback Tim Boyle passes against the Falcons during the first quarter, Sunday, in East Rutherford, New Jersey. The team waived Boyle Tuesday after two starts.**

Boyle was unlikely to get the start, leaving Wilson and veteran Trevor Siemian as the options. The Athletic reported Monday according to sources

that Wilson showed some reluctance to starting after doing so for the nine games after Rodgers was hurt. Saleh dismissed the report, saying Wilson came

to his office to tell him he wanted to start.

“Well, let’s be clear: If he was reluctant to play, guys, he wouldn’t be here,” the coach

said Monday before adding: “The young man wants the ball. He wants to start. He believes he’s the best quarterback in the room and best quarterback for this team and the guy who gives us the best chance to win.”

Still, Saleh was uncertain how the team would go forward at quarterback.

Bringing in Rypien adds another twist to the Jets’ quarterback situation.

The 27-year-old nephew of Super Bowl 26 MVP Mark Rypien has played in 10 NFL games, including four starts, since signing with Denver as an undrafted free agent out of Boise State in 2019. He is 98 of 168 for 950 yards and four TDs with nine INTs in his career.

Rypien has some familiarity with Jets offensive coordinator Nathaniel Hackett, who was the coach of the Broncos when the quarterback was there last season. Rypien was among Denver’s final cuts this summer and signed with the Los Angeles Rams.

# Daboll: DeVito to stay Giants’ starting QB

By TOM CANAVAN  
AP Sports Writer

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. — Tommy DeVito will remain the New York Giants’ starting quarterback, while veteran Tyrod Taylor expressed disappointment with the decision.

Coach Brian Daboll made the announcement Tuesday morning before the Giants (4-8) started practicing for Monday night’s home game against the Green Bay Packers (6-6).

“I think Tommy’s done a good job. He’s improved in each of the games he’s played,” Daboll said. “I thought he played well the last two games, made good decisions, was accurate with the football and earned the right to play.”

An undrafted rookie free agent who started the season on the practice squad, DeVito has started the past three games for New York with Jones out for the season with an ACL injury and Taylor on injured reserve with four broken ribs.

After losing to Dallas in his first start, DeVito and the defense led New York to consecutive wins over Washington and New England before the Giants had a bye week after the win over the Patriots on Nov. 26.



AP Photo/Seth Wenig

**Giants quarterback Tommy DeVito walks off the field after playing against the Patriots Nov. 26, in East Rutherford, New Jersey.**

The Giants started the 21-day window for Taylor to start practicing with the team on Monday, but they also released quarterback Matt Barkley, an indication that Taylor will be added to the active roster for the Packers game.

Taylor said he and DeVito had a competition Monday at practice and that

convinced the staff to keep DeVito as the starter.

While Daboll said the 34-year-old Taylor handled his decision like a pro, the 13-year veteran did not agree with it.

“I’m disappointed but it’s part of the game,” said Taylor, whose contract with the team runs out after this season.

## College Football

# Travis, Norvell and Coleman headline No. 4 FSU’s haul of AP All-ACC football honors

By AARON BEARD  
AP Sports Writer

Florida State quarterback Jordan Travis is The Associated Press offensive player of the year in the Atlantic Coast Conference, while North Carolina State linebacker Payton Wilson is the unanimous choice as the league’s top defensive player for the 2023 season.

Travis’ selection in voting by 14 media members who cover the conference headlined a haul of honors for the fourth-ranked Seminoles.

That included Mike Norvell as coach of the year, Michigan State transfer receiver Keon Coleman as the league’s top newcomer and FSU claiming 13 positions on the AP’s All-ACC first and second teams.

That comes after the Seminoles (13-0) won their first ACC championship since the 2014 season, though they were snubbed for the four-team College Football Playoff after losing Travis to a late-season in-

jury. Travis was a second-team pick at quarterback last year behind North Carolina quarterback Drake Maye, who was the offensive player of the year. They flipped positions this year, with Travis the unanimous first-team pick while Maye was the second-team pick on all 14 ballots.

Travis — who accounted for 27 touchdowns — was joined by Wilson, North Carolina running back Omarion Hampton and Virginia receiver Malik Washington as unanimous first-team picks.

Wilson ranked fifth in the Bowl Subdivision with 11.5 tackles per game, Hampton was No. 5 in rushing (120.2 yards) and Washington was No. 2 in receiving (118.8).

FSU’s 13 All-ACC picks, including Coleman being voted at both receiver and as an all-purpose player, were more than twice the totals by UNC and Miami (six each) as the next-closest teams.

No. 16 Louisville, which lost to FSU in the ACC title game, and Duke each had four All-ACC picks.

The 2023 Associated Press All-Atlantic Coast Conference team, as selected by a panel of 14 sports writers who regularly cover the league.

Players at all positions are listed alphabetically by name, school, height, weight, class and hometown; “u-” denotes unanimous selections:

### First team Offense

u\_QB — Jordan Travis, Florida State, 6-1, 212, R-Sr., West Palm Beach, Florida

u\_RB — Omarion Hampton, North Carolina, 6-0, 220, So., Clayton, North Carolina

RB — Jawhar Jordan, Louisville, 5-10, 185, R-Jr., Long Island, New York

u\_WR — Malik Washington, Virginia, 5-8, 194, grad., Lawrenceville, Georgia

WR — Keon Coleman, Flor-

ida State, 6-4, 215, Jr., Opelousas, Louisiana

TE — Bryson Nesbit, North Carolina, 6-5, 235, Jr., Charlotte, North Carolina

OT — Darius Washington, Florida State, 6-4, 306, R-Jr., Pensacola, Florida

OT — Graham Barton, Duke, 6-5, 314, Sr., Brentwood, Tennessee

OG — D’Mitri Emmanuel, Florida State, 6-2, 309, R-Sr., Charlotte, North Carolina

OG — Christian Mahogany, Boston College, 6-3, 322, grad., Elmwood Park, New Jersey

C — Bryan Hudson, Louisville, 6-5, 305, R-Sr., Georgetown, Kentucky

PK — Andres Borregales, Miami, 5-11, 170, Jr., Miami

All-purpose — Keon Coleman, Florida State, 6-4, 215, Jr., Opelousas, Louisiana

### Defense

DE — Ashton Gillotte, Louisville, 6-3, 270, Jr., Boca Raton, Florida

DE — Antwaun Powell-Ry-

land, Virginia Tech, 6-3, 244, Jr., Portsmouth, Virginia

DT — Tyler Davis, Clemson, 6-2, 300, Sr., Apopka, Florida

DT — DeWayne Carter, Duke, 6-3, 305, R-Sr., Pickerington, Ohio

u\_LB — Payton Wilson, North Carolina State, 6-4, 238, grad., Hillsborough, North Carolina

LB — Jeremiah Trotter Jr., Clemson, 6-0, 230, Jr., Hainesport, New Jersey

LB — Cedric Gray, North Carolina, 6-2, 235, Sr., Charlotte, North Carolina

CB — Elijah Jones, Boston College, 6-2, 184, grad., Harlem, New York

CB — Nate Wiggins, Clemson, 6-2, 185, Jr., Atlanta

S — Kamren Kinchens, Miami, 6-0, 205, Jr., Miami

S — Jonas Sanker, Virginia, 6-1, 210, Jr., Charlottesville, Virginia

P — Porter Wilson, Duke, 6-5, 231, grad., Akron, Ohio

HOCKEY  
Skaneateles at Cortland/Homer, 7 p.m. Thursday

GIRLS VOLLEYBALL  
Fabius-Pompey at Cincinnati, 7 p.m. today  
Weedspout at DeRuyter, 7 p.m. today  
East Syracuse-Minoa at Tully, 7 p.m. Thursday

WRESTLING  
Homer at Canastota, 6 p.m. today  
Groton at Marathon, 5 p.m. today  
Cazenovia at Southern Hills, 6 p.m. today at Fabius-Pompey Junior-Senior High School  
Newark Valley at Moravia, 6 p.m. today  
Cortland at Marathon, 6 p.m. Thursday

INDOOR TRACK & FIELD  
Homer, Tully at Onondaga Community College, 4:30 p.m. today  
Cortland at Onondaga Community College, 4:30 p.m. Thursday

BOWLING  
Homer at Cortland, 3:30 p.m. today at Cort-Lanes  
Groton at Odessa-Montour, 4 p.m. Thursday at Harborside Lanes

SWIMMING & DIVING  
Dryden at Watkins Glen, 5 p.m. Thursday

UPCOMING SCHEDULE  
BOYS BASKETBALL  
Marathon at Newfield, 7 p.m. today  
Owego Apalachin at Dryden, 7 p.m. today

GIRLS BASKETBALL  
Utica Proctor at Cortland, 6:45 p.m. today  
Cato-Meridian at Tully, 7 p.m. today  
Skaneateles at Homer, 4:30 p.m. Thursday  
Newfield at Marathon, 5:30 p.m. Thursday  
Union Springs at Groton, 6:30 p.m. Thursday  
A-P-W at Tully, 7 p.m. Thursday  
Southern Cayuga at Moravia, 5:15 p.m. Thursday

BROOKFIELD 3,  
DeRUYTER 0

Molly Stanton’s four aces led DeRuyter in a 24-26, 12-25, 22-25 loss.

## SCHOOLS

continued from page 9

Jack Stafford made three triples in a 13-point effort and Trevor Shevalier, Mason Walker and Josh Roberts all added two points in the win.

GIRLS BASKETBALL  
MORAVIA 42,  
WEEDSPORT 37

Jordan Smith scored six of her team-high 10 points in the fourth quarter as Moravia won the frame 13-7 to move to 2-1 on the season. Smith had a double-double, also contributing 11 rebounds, two steals and four blocks.

GIRLS VOLLEYBALL  
TULLY 3, ONONDAGA 0

Sam Garback had seven kills, five aces, two blocks and two digs as Tully moved to 4-0 with a 25-7, 25-18, 25-13 win.

Anna Lund notched 17 as-

sists, eight digs, five aces, one kill and one block, Maddy Lund contributed 12 digs and four kills and Karissa Olender had nine digs and an ace. Maria Altman (nine digs), Kaylynne Bennett (eight kills, one ace, four digs), Rowan Usherwood (six kills, three aces, five digs), Adeline Russ (two digs) and Elaina Iozzo (one ace) also aided the Black Knights’ effort.

Annabelle Stanton had five assists and two aces, Adelia Leonardo notched four kills and Chelsey Prince had three kills, an ace and a dig. Selena Rodriguez (three kills, one ace), Shanley Nicholas (two aces) and Angelena Rodriguez (one kill) contributed for the Rockets as well.



# Black, Latino students lack access to certified teachers, data shows

By COLLIN BINKLEY and ANNIE MA  
Associated Press  
WASHINGTON — America’s Black and Latino students are at a disadvantage in nearly every measure of educational opportunity, with less access to advanced classes, counselors and even certified teachers, according to data recently released by the U.S. Education Department.

The findings reflect inequities that have lasting implications for students’ ability to learn effectively, go on to college and earn degrees.

“We view education as the springboard that puts the American dream within reach. Yet access to educational opportunity in this country remains unequal,” Education Secretary Miguel Cardona said.

The data was released as part of the Civil Rights Data Collection, a federal survey of nearly every public school in the nation. It was gathered during the 2020-21 school year, when many schools remained at least partially closed for the COVID-19 pandemic.

America’s education system has long had deep educational disparities. Nearly seven decades after the Supreme Court ordered schools to desegregate, the new data offers a glimpse of basic differences that endure in schools serving predominantly Black and Latino students.

For example, a growing body of evidence has tied instruction from certified teachers to better outcomes from students. Yet Black and Latino students are more likely to attend schools with lower percentages of certified teachers, according to the new data.

About 522,000 students, or about 1% of all students, went to schools where fewer than half the teachers met all state certification requirements. In those schools, 66% of students were Black or Latino.

There was a similar divide when it came to school counselors. Overall, 77% of public schools had at least one counselor, and 43% had at least one police officer or security guard.

But compared with their white peers, students of color were more likely to be in schools that had security staff but no counselor. Black students and those of more than one race were 1.2 times more likely to attend those schools, while the rate was 1.4 for Native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islanders, American Indians and Alaska Native students, the Education Department found.

Cardona called it an “appalling” disparity in light of rising rates of mental health challenges for young people.

Barriers extended to students’ access to higher level classes. Taking advanced



AP Photo/Jacquelyn Martin  
**Students at Ballou High School listen as First Lady Michelle Obama speaks during her visit to the school in Washington, Wednesday, March 30, 2011.**

classes improves a student’s chances of going to college, studies find. But Black and Latino students were far less likely to have access to or enroll in those classes.

Black students represented 15% of all high school students, but they made up just 8% of students in Advanced Placement science and 6% in AP math. Latino students represented 27% of all high school students but made up 20% in AP science and 19% in AP math.

White and Asian students, by contrast, were overrepresented in AP classes.

The percentage of Black and Latino students in AP math and science is mostly unchanged from 2017-18, the last school year covered by the survey, with a slight increase in Latino enrollment in both tests.

“I’m a person of color, and it often makes me wonder why people of color always get the bottom of the barrel,” said Sonya Thomas, executive director of Nashville PROPEL, an organization that works with parents to advocate for students of color. “It’s so disheartening. Our children deserve the very best and we need to hold the state and federal government accountable.”

Advocates have been pointing out inequity in advanced course offerings for years. Research has shown that low-in-

come students and students of color are less likely to take advanced math and science courses, even in schools where AP courses are offered.

“These new CRDC data reflect troubling differences in students’ experiences in our nation’s schools,” said Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights Catherine E. Lhamon. “We remain committed to working with school communities to ensure the full civil rights protections that federal law demands.”

At many schools with larger rates of minority students, taking advanced courses wasn’t even an option. The number of courses in math, science and computer science was fewer at the 5,500 public high schools where Black and Latino students represented more than 75% of all students.

In 35% of schools with high Black and Latino enrollment, calculus wasn’t offered, while it was available at 54% of schools with low Black and Latino enrollment.

The Education Department found that students with disabilities and those learning English also faced unequal access. Students in both groups had lower enrollment in math and science classes compared with enrollment among all students, for example.

# Inside the AP African American Studies class that sparked outrage

By MEGAN TOMASIC  
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette (TNS)

PITTSBURGH — Trevor McGlynn shot his hand into the air one day while sitting in a third-floor Allderdice High School classroom. The 16-year-old junior was eager to give his take on an 1829 speech calling on slaves to demand their freedom.

“I think one of the important things that I saw was the question that he asked, ‘Do you believe that this assertion is swallowed by millions of the whites,’” Trevor said while reading from David Walker’s 1829 article “Appeal,” which argued that Black people do not have an opportunity for advancement within the current society so those who are enslaved and free should find another country where they are welcome.

His comment kicked off a back and forth between the 22 students in the Advanced Placement African American Studies class, one group of whom read from “Appeal” and another that read from the 1843 “An address to the slaves of the United States” by Henry Highland Garnet, which stated Black people have been in the U.S. for generations so they have a right to stay.

“This is their land more than Africa is their land,” 17-year-old senior Akiua Weinkle said of Garnet’s speech. “Yes they’re descendants from people from Africa and their ancestors who were brought here were brought from Africa but they have no connection to that land physically. It’s been over 10 generations since they were brought here.”

The discussion that took place minutes before the bell rang and class ended, wasn’t a debate between students; rather, it was an analysis of two well-known speeches written by Black men years apart that called for the rebellion of Black people living in America after years of slavery and oppression by their white counterparts.

The speeches were part of an ongoing lesson on radical resistance — or how Black people began pushing back against systems of oppression — taking place in teacher Brian Nolte’s AP African American Studies course last month, a class that has sparked national attention after some Republicans accused it of being “woke” and indoctrinating students. At least five conservative states are currently limiting its implementation.

Eruptions over the class and its coursework, which aims to “explore the vital contributions and experiences of African Americans,” according to the nonprofit College Board, the developers of the course, comes during its pilot phase where it is being tested at around 800 schools across the country.

But that number is nearly twice the total schools that were originally planned following a surge in demand as the course continued to make national headlines. The increase in interest came after last year, when 60 schools including Allderdice participated in the first year of the pilot. The course will be open to all districts in 2024-25.

According to Mr. Nolte, AP African American Studies is like a U.S. history course but it “takes into the life, the perspective, the ideas that African Americans would have going through the Civil War, going through slavery, going through the Great Depression, going through any one of these events that you could think of that would encompass U.S. history. It’s just from the Black perspective.” The idea, he said, is to incorporate viewpoints that have been left out of history “because all stories deserve and have a right to be told and be heard especially when we’re talking about learning.”

He used the speeches by Walker and Garnet as an example of telling the story of American history through the eyes of two Black men.

“The only thing that really gets put into history books in a typical classroom would be the idea of what are we going to do in terms of moving Native Americans or how are we going to expand westward as white pioneers venture off into this unknown land,” Mr. Nolte said. “Instead we talk about it from a real perspective of enslaved and freed Black men and women here in the United States.”

AP African American Studies came to the Squirrel Hill school last year at the advocacy of social studies department chair Michele Halloran. From there, Mr. Nolte was chosen to lead the course because he had studied similar topics before and previously taught a non-AP African American history class. He also underwent additional summer training that focused on how to present information covered in the class.

At Allderdice, 111 high schoolers are enrolled in the class, up from 72 last year. Mr. Nolte noted that Pittsburgh Public has been “very supportive” of the course so far.

But controversy around AP African American Studies came to a head in January when Florida officials rejected the AP course based on their reading of preliminary documents, saying it “lacks educational value.” Republican Gov. Ron DeSantis called it “woke” curriculum and an example of progressive “indoctrination.” The Washington Post reported.

And in February, the College Board finalized a plan for the course, which omitted some left-leaning figures included in the original draft such as Kimberlé W. Crenshaw, a scholar and writer on civil rights and critical race theory, and Angela Davis, a political activist and academic who is known for her membership in the Communist and Black Panther parties.

The College Board denied watering down the course; instead, they said changes were in the works prior to pushback from conservative lawmakers.

But since then, several conservative states have taken a stance against the AP course.

Arkansas in August decided to drop the course, saying it does not comply with the classes they want to offer. In North Dakota before a school district can offer the class it would have to review course materials to see if they conflict with the state’s law and rules that restrict how topics such as critical race theory are taught. Officials in Mississippi and Virginia also questioned the course, but the Virginia Department of Education this month said that a stripped-down version of the class can be offered to high school students. The decision came after Gov. Glenn Youngkin ordered a review of the class after banning the teaching of “divisive concepts.”

At the same time, New Jersey and Illinois, both Democrat-led states, emphasized the need for AP African American Studies.

“I think it’s flat out racism,” Sadie Primack, a 16-year-old junior, said of lawmakers limiting access to the course. “I think that it is important that we have this class. It’s a rebellion.”

Haydon Aiello, also a 16-year-old junior, added, “I think it’s better to have the class. I don’t think there’s a single reason I can name not to have it.”

## APAFRICAN AMERICAN STUDIES

One by one, each of the 22 students stood up from their seats during last month’s class, each holding a poster designed to reflect resistance in any form.

Some posters were bright orange with flames, a symbol for the burning of homes. Others depicted broken tools, an effort by slaves to slow production on plantations. A few students pinpointed specific moments in history including the 1739 Stono Rebellion in South Carolina, the largest slave revolt ever staged in the 13 colonies.

The 30-second speeches were some of the first steps Mr. Nolte is taking to prepare students for a formal presentation that will be part of the AP test at the end of the year. This is the first year that students can earn college credit through the test; last year, the College Board required all students enrolled in AP African American Studies to take the test, but they did not earn credit.

“It’s now high stakes and it matters,” Mr. Nolte said.

But for teens who chose to take AP African American Studies, information they’re learning is invaluable and is giving them a new perspective on history.

“I have never heard of a lot of things we’ve done in this class,” Sadie said. “I feel like a lot of curriculum through middle school and high school is just repetitive of what happened in the Civil War and that’s great and important that we talk about it but we have skipped over ... tons of events that need to be talked about.”

For Trevor, who was quick to dive into difficult discussions during the class, AP African American Studies is vital for everyone to learn regardless of their own backgrounds.

“It’s important for people to learn and it’s important for everybody to have this availability of information because it teaches students about either their history or their peers’ history and even their country’s history as a whole,” Trevor said. “It’s history that students need to know regardless of who they are or where they came from.”

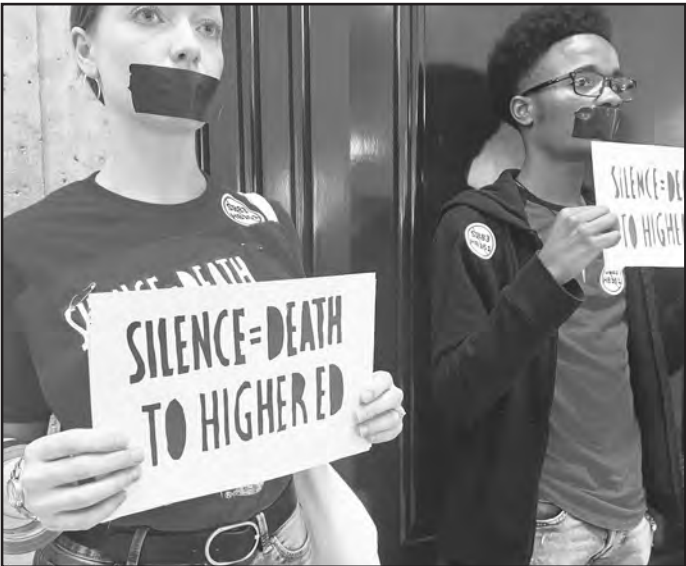
# Ohio bill to ban most diversity training in higher education stalls in GOP House

By SAMANTHA HENDRICKSON  
Associated Press/  
Report For America  
COLUMBUS, Ohio —

A GOP-sponsored bill that would ban nearly all diversity and inclusion training requirements at Ohio’s public colleges and universities and bar public universities from taking stances on “controversial” topics doesn’t have the votes to move forward in the Legislature, according to the House’s conservative leader.

House Speaker Jason Stephens, a rural southern Ohio Republican, told reporters Nov. 28 that he wouldn’t be pushing the contentious legislation to a floor vote in the GOP-dominated House, as it simply doesn’t have enough support despite having cleared the conservative state Senate.

The multifaceted measure would drastically change the way students learn and faculty teach across the nation’s fourth-largest public



AP Photo/Samantha Hendrickson, file  
**Opponents of a multifaceted higher education bill protest across the Ohio Statehouse in Columbus, Ohio, May 17, 2023.**

university system, and comes alongside other Republican-led states targeting diversity, equity and inclusion in higher education.

Supporters of the measure have called it necessary to rid

higher education of bias, promote “intellectual diversity” and help protect conservative speech on campuses.

Senate President Matt Huffman, a Lima Republican, has long championed the mea-

sure, and the Senate voted to approve the legislation mostly along party lines in May. Three GOP members broke away from their party to join Democrats in voting against the measure.

Dozens of university students and faculty, as well as the 61,000-student Ohio State University, have spoken out against the bill.

Many have argued the legislation encourages censorship and allows the Legislature to micromanage higher education — particularly when it comes to defining subjective terms like “bias,” “intellectual diversity” and “controversial matters.”

Several changes were made to the bill since the May vote, including nixing the heavily opposed ban on faculty strikes during contract negotiations — something many House Republicans expressed concern over. But that doesn’t appear to have made it more palatable, at least to Stephens.

# Maine teachers question adding Holocaust, genocide and eugenics to science education

By PATRICK WHITTLE  
Associated Press

AUGUSTA, Maine — Teachers and science advocates are voicing skepticism about a Maine proposal to update standards to incorporate teaching about genocide, eugenics and the Holocaust into middle school science education. They argue that teachers need more training before introducing such subjects that are both sensitive and nuanced.

While critics of the proposed updates said they are borne of good intentions — the proposal states that science has “sometimes been used by those in power to oppress and abuse others” — they also

said that injecting the materials into a middle school science curriculum could distract from conventional scientific principles and could jeopardize science education.

The proposal states that science education in the state should reflect that “misinterpretation of fossil observations has led to the false idea of human hierarchies and racial inequality.” The proposal also states that “historically, some people have misused and/or applied the ideas of natural selection and artificial selection to justify genocide of various groups, such as Albinos in Africa or Jews in Europe.”

The proposed updates have drawn the attention of teachers’ groups in the state as well as national organizations that advocate for a better understanding of science. The concern in Democrat-controlled Maine contrasts conflicts over education in some more conservative states, where criticism has focused on the teaching of climate change, U.S. history and evolution in recent years.

The Maine Science Teachers Association testified before the state that adding the proposed content to education standards without providing professional training for teachers could jeopardize science education.



# Do we need humanoid robots?

By MATT O'BRIEN  
AP Technology Writer

Building a robot that's both human-like and useful is a decades-old engineering dream inspired by popular science fiction.

While the latest artificial intelligence craze has sparked another wave of investments in the quest to build a humanoid, most of the current prototypes are clumsy and impractical, looking better in staged performances than in real life. That hasn't stopped a handful of startups from keeping at it.

"The intention is not to start from the beginning and say, 'Hey, we're trying to make a robot look like a person,'" said Jonathan Hurst, co-founder and chief robot officer at Agility Robotics. "We're trying to make robots that can operate in human spaces."

Do we even need humanoids? Hurst makes a point of describing Agility's warehouse robot Digit as human-centric, not humanoid, a distinction meant to emphasize what it does over what it's trying to be.

What it does, for now, is pick up tote bins and move them. Amazon announced in October it will begin testing Digits for use in its warehouses, and Agility opened an Oregon factory in September to mass produce them.

Digit has a head containing cameras, other sensors and animated eyes, and a torso that essentially works as its engine. It has two arms and two legs, but its legs are more bird-like than human, with an inverted knees appearance that resembles so-called digitigrade animals such as birds, cats and dogs that walk on their toes rather than on flat feet.

Rival robot-makers, like Figure AI, are taking a more purist approach on the idea that only true humanoids can effectively navigate workplaces, homes and a society built for humans. Figure also plans to start with a relatively simple use case, such as in a retail warehouse, but aims for a commercial robot that can be "iterated on like an iPhone" to perform multiple tasks to take up the work of humans as birth rates decline around the world.

"There's not enough people doing these jobs, so the market's massive," said Figure AI CEO Brett Adcock. "If we can just get humanoids to do work that humans are not wanting to do because there's a shortfall of humans, we can sell millions of humanoids,

billions maybe."

At the moment, however, Adcock's firm doesn't have a prototype that's ready for market. Founded just over a year ago and after having raised tens of millions of dollars, it recently revealed a 38-second video of Figure walking through its test facility in Sunnyvale, California.

Tesla CEO Elon Musk is also trying to build a humanoid, called Optimus, through the electric car-maker's robotics division, but a hyped-up live demonstration last year of the robot's awkwardly halting steps didn't impress experts in the robotics field. Seemingly farther along is Tesla's Austin, Texas-based neighbor Aptiv, which unveiled its Apollo humanoid in an August video demonstration.

All the attention — and money — poured into making ungainly humanoid machines might make the whole enterprise seem like a futile hobby for wealthy technologists, but for some pioneers of legged robots it's all about what you learn along the way.

"Not only about their design and operation, but also about how people respond to them, and about the critical underlying technologies for mobility, dexterity, perception and intelligence," said Marc Raibert, the founder of Boston Dynamics, best known for its dog-like robots named Spot.

Raibert said sometimes the path of development is not along a straight line. Boston Dynamics, now a subsidiary of carmaker Hyundai, experimented with building a humanoid that could handle boxes.

"That led to development of a new robot that was not really a humanoid, but had several characteristics of a humanoid," he said via an emailed message. "But the changes resulted in a new robot that could handle boxes faster, could work longer hours, and could operate in

tight spaces, such as a truck. So humanoid research led to a useful non-humanoid robot."

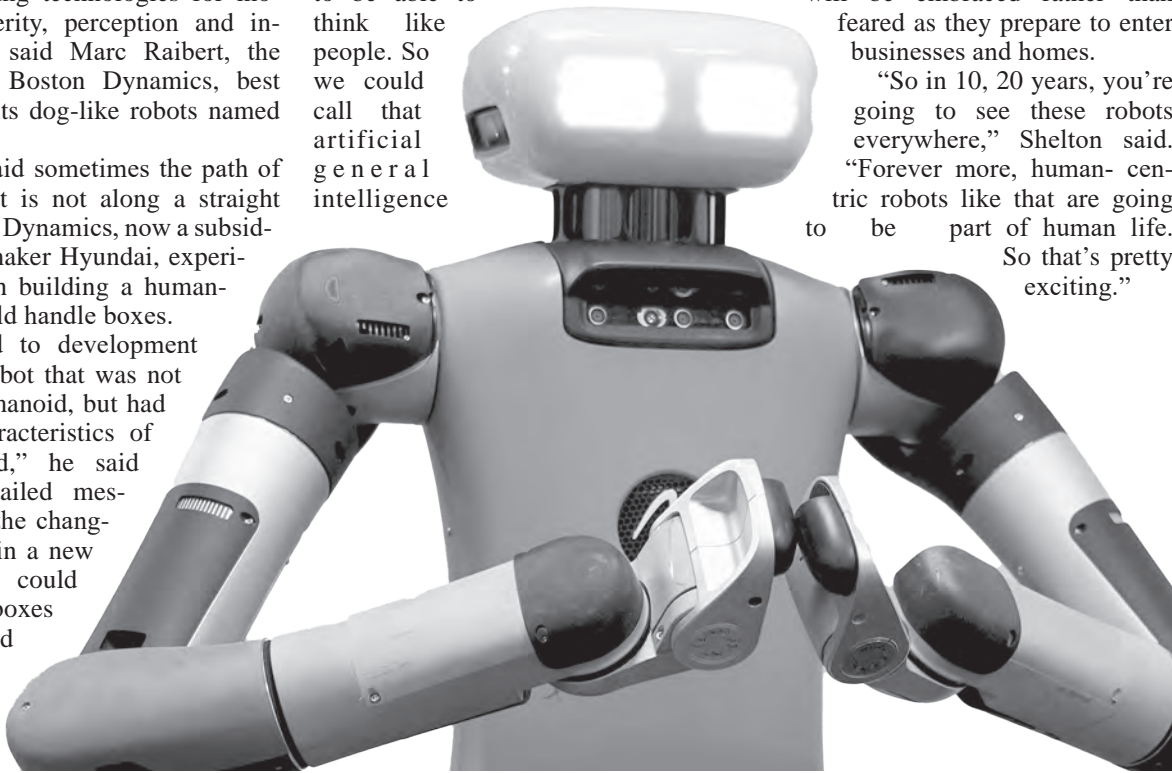
Some startups aiming for human-like machines focused on improving the dexterity of robotic fingers before trying to get their robots to walk.

Walking is "not the hardest problem to solve in humanoid robotics," said Geordie Rose, co-founder and CEO of British Columbia, Canada-based startup Sanctuary AI. "The hardest problem is the problem of understanding the world and being able to manipulate it with your hands."

Sanctuary's newest and first bipedal robot, Phoenix, can stock shelves, unload delivery vehicles and operate a checkout, early steps toward what Rose sees as a much longer-term goal of getting robots to perceive the physical world to be able to reason about it in a way that resembles intelligence.

Like other humanoids, it's meant to look endearing, because how it interacts with real people is a big part of its function.

"We want to be able to provide labor to the world, not just for one thing, but for everybody who needs it," Rose said. "The systems have to be able to think like people. So we could call that artificial general intelligence



Agility Robotics' robot Digit performs gestures at the company's office in Pittsburgh, Aug. 16, 2023. Agility co-founder Jonathan Hurst said, "We're trying to make robots that can operate in human spaces."

AP Photo/Matt Freed

# Europe's world-leading generative AI rules facing a make-or-break situation

By KELVIN CHAN  
AP Business Writer

LONDON — Hailed as a world first, European Union artificial intelligence rules are facing a make-or-break moment as negotiators try to hammer out the final details this week — talks complicated by the sudden rise of generative AI that produces human-like work.

First suggested in 2019, the EU's AI Act was expected to be the world's first comprehensive AI regulations, further cementing the 27-nation bloc's position as a global trendsetter when it comes to reining in the tech industry.

But the process has been bogged down by a last-minute battle over how to govern systems that underpin general purpose AI services like OpenAI's ChatGPT and Google's Bard chatbot.

Big tech companies are lobbying against what they see as overregulation that stifles innovation, while European lawmakers want added safeguards for the cutting-edge AI systems those companies are developing.

Meanwhile, the U.S., U.K., China and global coalitions like the Group of 7 major democracies have joined the race to draw up guardrails for the rapidly developing technology, underscored by warnings from researchers and rights groups of the existential dangers that generative AI poses to humanity as well as the risks to everyday life.

"Rather than the AI Act becoming the global gold standard for AI regulation, there's a small chance but growing chance that it won't be agreed before the European Parliament elections" next year, said Nick Reiners, a tech policy analyst at Eurasia Group, a political risk advisory firm.

He said "there's simply so much to nail down" at what officials are hoping is a final round of talks today. Even if they work late into the night as expected, they might have to scramble to finish in the new year, Reiners said.

When the European Commission, the EU's executive arm, unveiled the draft in 2021, it barely mentioned general purpose AI systems like chatbots. The proposal to classify AI systems by four levels of risk — from minimal to unacceptable — was essentially intended as

product safety legislation.

Brussels wanted to test and certify the information used by algorithms powering AI, much like consumer safety checks on cosmetics, cars and toys.

That changed with the boom in generative AI, which sparked wonder by composing music, creating images and writing essays resembling human work. It also stoked fears that the technology could be used to launch massive cyberattacks or create new bioweapons.

The risks led EU lawmakers to beef up the AI Act by extending it to foundation models. Also known as large language models, these systems are trained on vast troves of written works and images scraped off the internet. Foundation models give generative AI systems such as ChatGPT the ability to create some-

thing new, unlike traditional AI, which processes data and completes tasks using pre-determined rules.

Chaos last month at Microsoft-backed OpenAI, which built one of the most famous foundation models, GPT-4, reinforced for some European leaders the dangers of allowing a few dominant AI companies to police themselves.

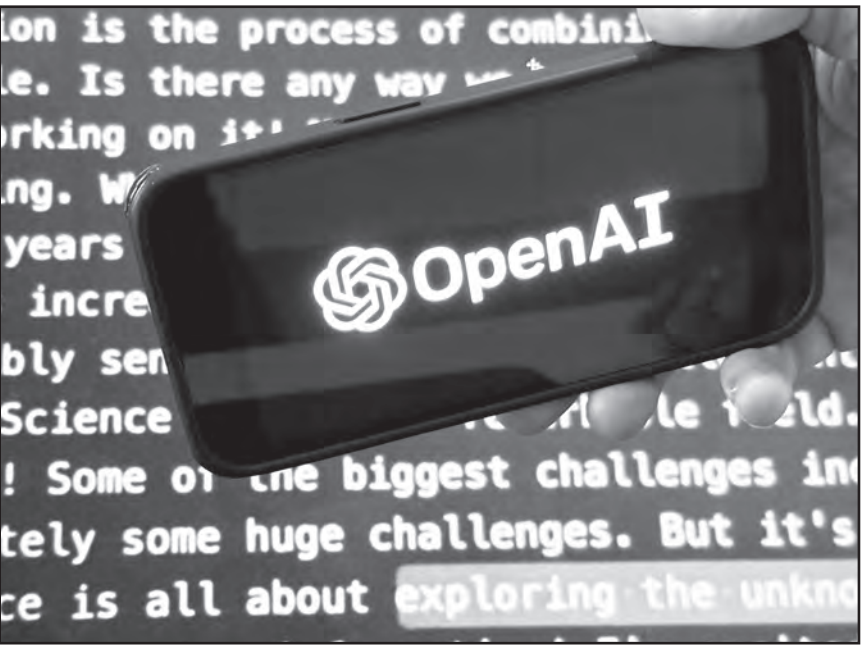
While CEO Sam Altman was fired and swiftly rehired, some board members with deep reservations about the safety risks posed by AI left, signaling that AI corporate governance could fall prey to boardroom dynamics.

"At least things are now clear" that companies like OpenAI defend their businesses and not the public interest, European Commissioner Thierry Breton told an AI conference in France days after the tumult.

Resistance to government rules for these AI systems came from an unlikely place: France, Germany and Italy. The EU's three largest economies pushed back with a position paper advocating for self-regulation.

The change of heart was seen as a move to help homegrown generative AI players such as French startup Mistral AI and Germany's Aleph Alpha.

Behind it "is a determination not to let U.S. companies dominate the AI ecosystem like they have in previous waves of technologies such as cloud (computing), e-commerce and social



AP Photo/Peter Morgan, File

The OpenAI logo appears on a mobile phone in front of a screen showing part of the company website in this photo taken on Nov. 21, 2023 in New York.

media," Reiners said.

A group of influential computer scientists published an open letter warning that weakening the AI Act this way would be "a historic failure." Executives at Mistral, meanwhile, squabbled online with a researcher from an Elon Musk-backed nonprofit that aims to prevent "existential risk" from AI.

AI is "too important not to regulate, and too important not to regulate well," Google's top legal officer, Kent Walker, said in a Brussels speech last week. "The race should be for the best AI regulations, not the first AI regulations."

Foundation models, used for a wide range of tasks, are proving the thorniest issue for EU negotiators because regulating them "goes against the logic of the entire law," which is based on risks posed by specific uses, said Iverna McGowan, director of the Europe office at the digital rights nonprofit Center for Democracy and Technology.

The nature of general purpose AI systems means "you don't know how they're applied," she said. At the same time, regulations are needed "because otherwise down the food chain there's no accountability" when other companies build services with them, McGowan said.

if you'd like. But what I mean more specifically is the systems have to be able to understand speech and they need to be able to convert the understanding of speech into action, which will satisfy job roles across the entire economy."

Agility's Digit robot caught Amazon's attention because it can walk and also move around in a way that could complement the e-commerce giant's existing fleet of vehicle-like robots that move large carts around its vast warehouses.

"The mobility aspect is more interesting than the actual form," said Tye Brady, Amazon's chief technologist for robotics, after the company showed it off at a media event in Seattle.

Right now, Digit is being tested to help with the repetitive task of picking up and moving empty totes. But just having it there is bound to resurrect some fears about robots taking people's jobs, a narrative Amazon is trying to prevent from taking hold.

Agility Robotics co-founder and CEO Damion Shelton said the warehouse robot is "just the first use case" of a new generation of robots he hopes will be embraced rather than feared as they prepare to enter businesses and homes.

"So in 10, 20 years, you're going to see these robots everywhere," Shelton said. "Forever more, human-centric robots like that are going to be part of human life. So that's pretty exciting."

## Technology bits

### Meet Amazon Q: An AI-powered chatbot built for business

NEW YORK (AP) — Amazon finally has its answer to ChatGPT.

The tech giant said last month it will launch Q — a business chatbot powered by generative artificial intelligence.

The announcement, made in Las Vegas at an annual conference the company hosts for its AWS cloud computing service, represents Amazon's response to rivals who've rolled out chatbots that have captured the public's attention.

San Francisco startup OpenAI's release of ChatGPT a year ago sparked a surge of public and business interest in generative AI tools that can spit out emails, marketing pitches, essays, and other passages of text that resemble the work of humans.

That attention initially gave an advantage to OpenAI's chief partner and financial backer, Microsoft, which has rights to the underlying technology behind ChatGPT and has used it to build its own generative AI tools known as Copilot. But it also spurred competitors like Google to launch their own versions.

These chatbots are a new generation of AI systems that can converse, generate readable text on demand and even produce novel images and video based on what they've learned from a vast database of digital books, online writings and other media.

Amazon said that Q can do things like synthesize content, streamline day-to-day communications and help employees with tasks like generating blog posts. It said companies can also connect Q to their own data and systems to get a tailored experience that's more relevant to their business.

The technology is currently available for preview.

While Amazon is ahead of rivals Microsoft and Google as the dominant cloud computing provider, it's not perceived as the leader in the AI research that's led to advancements in generative AI.

A recent Stanford University index that measured the transparency of the top 10 foundational AI models, including Amazon's Titan, ranked Amazon at the bottom. Stanford researchers said less transparency can make it harder for customers that want to use the technology to know if they can safely rely on it, among other problems.

The company, meanwhile, has been forging forward. In September, Amazon said it would invest up to \$4 billion in the AI startup Anthropic, a San Francisco-based company that was founded by former staffers from OpenAI.

The tech giant also has been rolling out new services, including an update for its popular assistant Alexa so users can have more human-like conversations and AI-generated summaries of product reviews for consumers.

### Kiss live 'Kiss' tours goodbye as band becomes first in US to become digital

By MARIA SHERMAN  
AP Music Writer

On Saturday night, Kiss closed out the final performance of their "The End of the Road" farewell tour at New York City's famed Madison Square Garden.

But as dedicated fans surely know — they were never going to call it quits. Not really.

During their encore, the band's current lineup — founders Paul Stanley and Gene Simmons as well as guitarist Tommy Thayer and drummer Eric Singer — left the stage to reveal digital avatars of themselves. After the transformation, the virtual Kiss launched into a performance of "God Gave Rock and Roll to You."

The cutting-edge technology was used to tease a new chapter of the rock band: after 50 years of Kiss, the band is now interested in a kind of digital immortality.

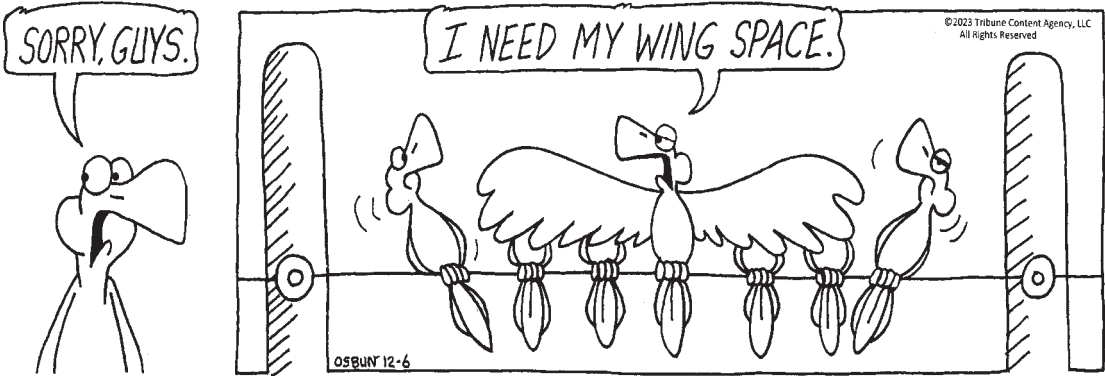
The avatars were created by George Lucas' special-effects company, Industrial Light & Magic, in partnership with Pophouse Entertainment Group, the latter of which was co-founded by ABBA's Björn Ulvaeus. The two companies recently teamed up for the "ABBA Voyage" show in London, in which fans could attend a full concert by the Swedish band — as performed by their digital avatars.

Per Sundin, CEO of Pophouse Entertainment, says this new technology allows Kiss to continue their legacy for "eternity." He says the band wasn't on stage during virtual performance because "that's the key thing," of the future-seeking technology. "Kiss could have a concert in three cities in the same night across three different continents. That's what you could do with this."

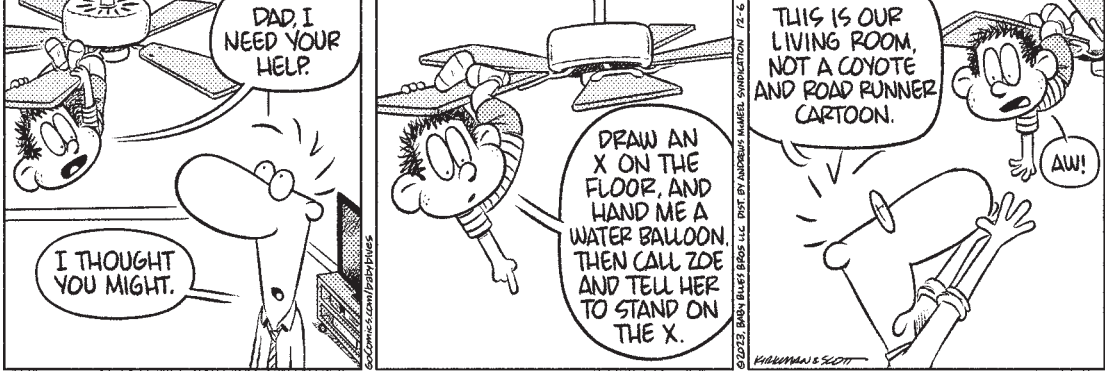
In order to create their digital avatars, who are depicted as a kind of superhero version of the band, Kiss performed in motion capture suits.



ANIMAL CRACKERS



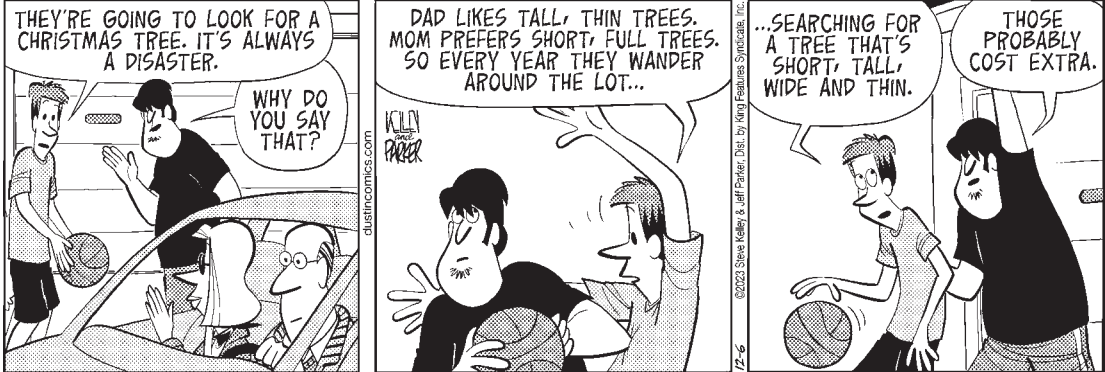
BABY BLUES



BEETLE BAILEY



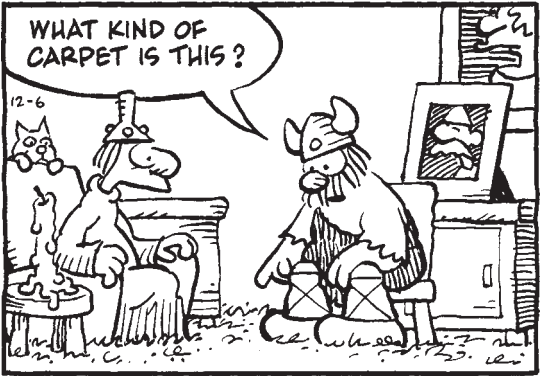
DUSTIN



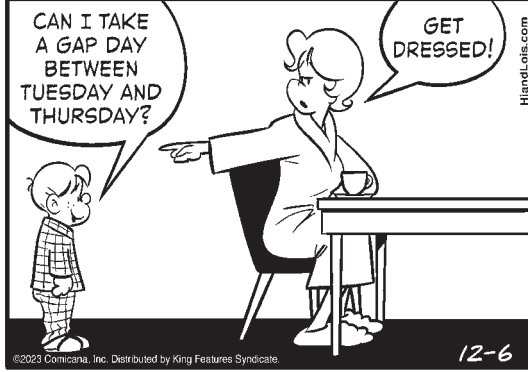
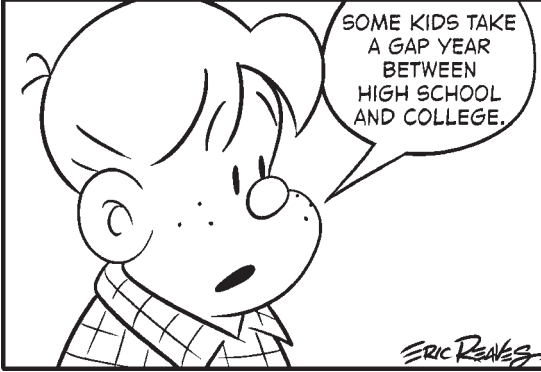
GARFIELD



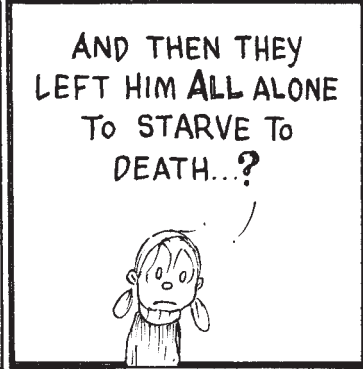
HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



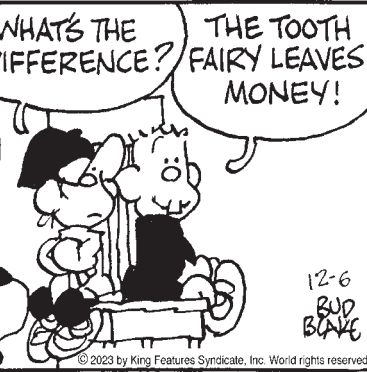
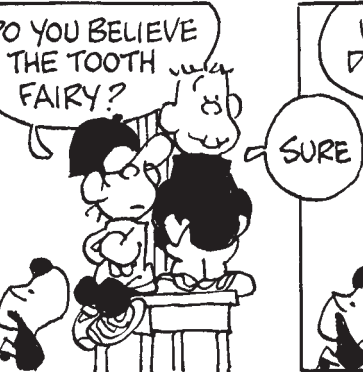
HI AND LOIS



MUTTS



TIGER



ZITS



Astrological Forecast

By Magi Helena

Thursday, December 7, 2023

**ARIES (March 21-April 19):** Your obvious sincerity or reinforcement of higher standards can help turn you into a star wherever you go. Do your best to make intelligent decisions about seasonal gifts while your judgment may be enhanced.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20):** Referrals or recommendations could help increase your business successes. People may prefer to deal with successful people so put your talents on display. Satisfy other people's expectations and they should come back for more.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 20):** A loved one may be as charming as they are infuriating. Do your best to be understanding and forgive someone for occasional emotional outbursts. Keep an eye out for bargains, especially those that can favorably impact your budget.

**CANCER (June 21-July 22):** You may need to be well organized to manage your social obligations. You might think you are responsible for more than your fair share of the planning activities, but you can earn recognition for your generosity.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22):** Daydreaming may need to wait for your free time. Do your best to avoid wasting energy on the non-essentials for now. It's important to your overall happiness is to honor your promises and retain the support of loved ones.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22):** You could land on your feet if you are willing to remain flexible and retain your independence. Keep abreast of the latest techniques and state-of-the-art technologies by reading and listening whenever possible.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22):** To get along better with someone you may need to change your perspective or agree to go along, at least temporarily. You might become fascinated with some new tech that could make an excellent gift.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21):** This could be the time of year when your generosity can get the better of your usually thrifter nature. Your compassion for others might move you to give some extra dollars to your favorite charitable endeavor.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21):** A family member might have loftier expectations and be unwilling to accept a more casual attitude. Do your best to show off your creative streak or bask in praise without contributing to household irritations.

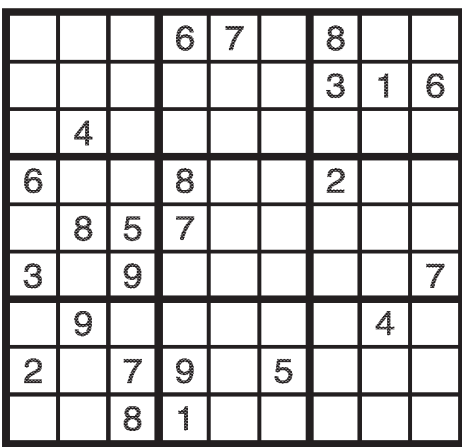
**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19):** Use all the tools in your toolbox to your advantage. You could find a plus side to the influx of new online applications. Do your best to remain open-minded or forgiving if someone acts impulsively.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18):** Money may not always buy happiness. It can be more sensible to have more coming in than going out. Your budget might be squeezed by ongoing obligations, and it might be time to take advantage of payment plans.

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20):** There can often be safety in numbers. You could benefit from a consensus from your mentors or within an organization you belong to. Do not allow yourself to be talked into making a foolhardy decision.

**IF DECEMBER 7 IS YOUR BIRTHDAY:** You may be ready to roll up your sleeves and dive right in to get tasks completed so there can be plenty of time for end-of-the-year family gatherings and celebrations. Your intelligent financial sense may be enhanced, making this a potentially excellent time to address your budget, and put sharp profit-making tactics into play. Relax in January when your financial skills might fail to deliver as much punch and people may not appreciate your leadership efforts.

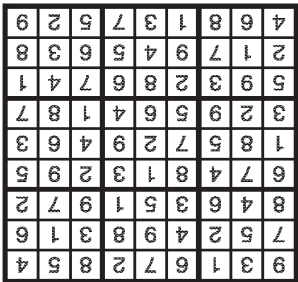
Sudoku



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!

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



ANSWER:

Cryptoquote

A XYDLBAAXR  
is LONGFELLOW

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

12-6 CRYPTOQUOTE  
F Q G J U J P C D K G B D R R D Z R D  
V E V P Q L G R J, O Q U Z F R L D G H D  
E V Q J V C G X, G Z C H Q D G J D R G  
A U R U V Z E V Q J V K V Q Q V M.  
— K D W V C X O D G J J U D  
Yesterday's Cryptoquote: FAMILIES ARE LIKE  
FUDGE — MOSTLY SWEET, WITH A FEW NUTS.  
— LES DAWSON

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 School

course

5 Third-

party

account

11 Pale

tan

12 Horse-

related

13 Clothing

line

14 Mas-

saged

15 Nile

serpent

16 "Buenos

—"

17 Tribal

leader

19 Reservoir

maker

22 Stunned

states

24 Marry in

haste

26 A party

to

27 Concept

28 Early

computer

30 Wave's

top

31 Baseball's

Williams

32 Writer

Asimov

34 Made a

sketch

35 Drama

division

38 Ill will

41 Like an

eyesore

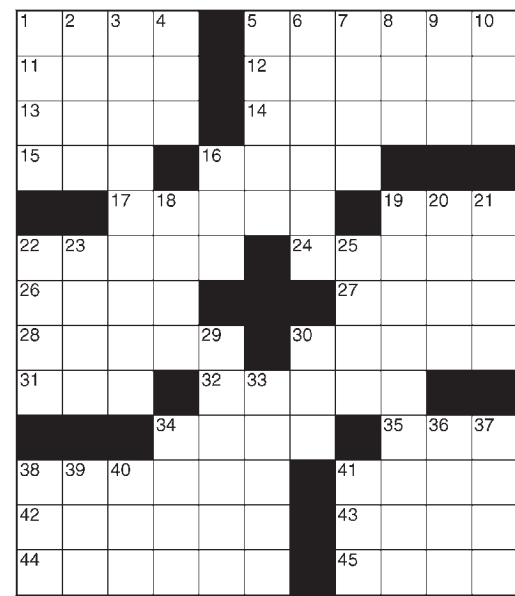
42 Ancient

43 Shortly

ACHE	BRUCE
SHONE	LETON
HOLD	THEFORT
EKE	HOW PAR
NEURAL	VILE
SPEND	EASE
DEFER	
ECTO	ORDER
SAWS	RAINED
TRE	ITS DIE
HOLD	THELINE
ELVIS	DAVID
REEDY	PENS

Yesterday's answer

19 Geometric	30 Crow
shape	call
4 Engine	20 Gorillas
sound	and
5 Spine-	33 Squalid
tingling	34 Singer
6 Geometric	Celine
shape	21 Ham or
7 Chicago	36 Artery
team	problem
8 Vault part	37 TV's Daly
9 Low digit	scheme
10 Marry	38 Spoil
16 Dentist's	22 Losing
deg.	Rice
18 Singer	23 Writer
Horne	today
	25 Old Italian
	coin
	40 Summer
	sign
	29 Geometric
	shape
	41 Much of
	N. Amer.



Word of the Day

avoirduois (av-er-duh-POYZ)

**Definition:** (noun) Avoirduois is synonymous with weight and heaviness, especially as related to the body. It also refers to the series of units of weight based on the pound of 16 ounces and the ounce of 16 drams.

**Example:** The coach limited his recruiting to linebackers of a certain avoirduois.

— Courtesy Merriam-Webster Online



# 'Leave the World Behind' is a terrific blend of thriller, disaster and satire

By MARK KENNEDY  
AP Entertainment Writer

Imagine that it's close to midnight and there's a knock at the door of your luxurious weekend rental home. A man is standing there, calmly apologizing. He says it's his home and that he and his daughter need your help. He's also dressed immaculately in a tux.

What would you do?

Did the tux make a difference? Would the man's race?

That early scene is when Netflix's "Leave the World Behind" really kicks into gear and never slackens as this terrific, apocalyptic, psychological thriller races to its conclusion, exploring race, affluence and responsibility along the way.

The luxurious home becomes a castle of sorts as the outside world crumbles. The man who says he's the owner tries to ex-



JoJo Whilden/Netflix via AP

**This image released by Netflix shows from left, Mahershala Ali, Myha'la Herrold, Julia Roberts and Ethan Hawke in a scene from "Leave the World Behind."**

plain why he's turned up. "Under the circumstances, we thought you'd understand," he says. But understanding is in short supply here. Adapted from Rumaan Alam's acclaimed novel, the movie is set against an end-of-

days disaster in which technology — Wi-Fi, TV, phones, internet — has gone silent due to a cyberattack and there's been a massive blackout. Well-to-do Amanda (a tart Julia Roberts) and her Atlantic magazine-quoting husband

Clay (a hangdog Ethan Hawke) must work with the even-more-well-off G.H. (a calmly sophisticated Mahershala Ali) and his savvy daughter Ruth, (a superb Myha'la). The racial divide easily swamps their joint class affiliation.

Also along for the disaster are Amanda and Clay's children, a "Friends"-obsessed daughter (a soulful Farrah Mackenzie, who even wears her hair in a "Rachel" 'do) and her older, slightly bratty 16-year-old brother (a brooding Charlie Evans).

It's a story brilliantly adapted and directed by Sam Esmail, showrunner of "Mr. Robot," who has made "Leave the World Behind" into a homage of Alfred Hitchcock.

"Leave the World Behind," a Netflix release that starts streaming Friday, is rated R. Three and a half stars out of four.

## Contract Bridge

### Deductive reasoning

West dealer.

Both sides vulnerable.

**NORTH**

♠ 8 2  
♥ Q J 8 5 3 2  
♦ 5 3  
♣ J 10 9

**WEST**

♠ 10 3  
♥ A K 9  
♦ A K J 10 4  
♣ K 6 2

**EAST**

♠ 6 5  
♥ 7 6 4  
♦ 9 7 6  
♣ 8 7 5 4 3

**SOUTH**

♠ A K Q J 9 7 4  
♥ 10  
♦ Q 8 2  
♣ A Q

The bidding:

West	North	East	South
1 ♦	Pass	Pass	Dble
Pass	1 ♥	Pass	3 NT

Opening lead — ace of diamonds.

**This deal occurred** in the final of the 2001 Grand National Teams. It illustrates the type of deductive reasoning that separates the top players from the rest of the pack.

**The deal** is remarkable on several counts, not the least of which is that both South players, holding the A-K-Q-J-x-x of spades, never bid the suit! Instead, both Souths, after doubling West's opening diamond bid, bid three notrump at their next turn.

**At one of** the tables, West cashed the A-K of diamonds and continued the suit, no doubt expecting to regain the lead with a heart or club before declarer could make nine

tricks. This strategy backfired when declarer took the diamond queen and cashed seven spades and the ace of clubs to make the contract.

**At the other table**, West was Kyle Larsen, who won his first national championship at the tender age of 18. Having listened closely to the bidding, Larsen pondered what kind of hand South could have to bid three notrump missing all the high cards Larsen was looking at.

**There was only one logical explanation:** South must have a solid spade suit — at least seven cards in length — plus the ace of clubs and queen of diamonds, at least twice guarded. The declarer, Jill Meyers, did not need to have the queen of clubs, but was likely to have it.

**Once Larsen had credited South** with this hand, the question was what he could do about it. In due course, he came up with the solution, which is not apparent even with all four hands in view.

**After leading the diamond ace**, he cashed the A-K of hearts. This had a devastating effect on South, who could not find a safe discard on the second heart. If she discarded a diamond, Larsen could run the suit; if she let go a club, Larsen could safely shift to that suit, leaving her with just eight tricks.

**In practice, Meyers** discarded a spade, whereupon Larsen played the king and another diamond and then sat back and waited to take the setting trick with the club king.

Tomorrow: The art of card-reading.  
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[adawson@cc.cnyric.org](mailto:adawson@cc.cnyric.org)  
Deadline for applications  
will be December 7, 2023

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mobility care  
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to students with  
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and/or intellectual  
disabilities. Must possess  
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skills and be able to work  
collaboratively with the  
instructional staff to create  
a team approach that  
ensures student success.  
NYS certification as a  
School Social Worker  
required. MSW required.  
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DeRuyter Central School,  
711 Railroad Street,  
DeRuyter, NY 13052.

### HELP WANTED

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Applicants must complete  
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Cortland County  
Personnel Department,  
60 Central Avenue,  
Cortland, NY 13045  
or by calling 753-5076.  
Applications and  
full job description and  
requirements can also be  
downloaded from the  
Cortland County website at  
[www.cortland-co.org/personnel](http://www.cortland-co.org/personnel)

**Vacancy:**  
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Vacancies:**  
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Assistant Director, Musical  
Choreographer, Musical  
Costumer, Musical Set  
Supervisor, Musical  
Technical Supervisor.  
Send letter of interest to  
Mr. Stephen Rafferty,  
6-12 Principal,  
DeRuyter Central School,  
711 Railroad Street,  
DeRuyter, NY 13052  
or you may email him at  
[rafferty@deruytercentral.org](mailto:rafferty@deruytercentral.org)  
by December 8, 2023.

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Or send letter of interest  
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Recruitment Department,  
PO Box 4754,  
Syracuse, NY 13221  
or email to:  
[recruitment@ocmboces.org](mailto:recruitment@ocmboces.org).  
For more information,  
visit our website at:  
[www.ocmboces.org](http://www.ocmboces.org)  
EOE

### HELP WANTED

**Vacancy:**  
DeRuyter Central School:  
**Secretary 1  
(Guidance Office  
Secretary).**  
12 Month, Civil Service  
position. 37-1/2  
hours/week, Civil Service  
(Secretary 1) Exam  
Required. Application  
packet must include Letter  
of Interest, Resume,  
3 Current Letters of  
Reference, Completed  
DCS Application (available  
on the DCS website),  
Completed Civil Service  
Application (available on  
the DCS Website).  
Send packet to  
Mr. Stephen Rafferty,  
6-12 Principal,  
DeRuyter Central School,  
711 Railroad Street,  
DeRuyter, NY 13052, or  
you may email him at  
[rafferty@deruytercentral.org](mailto:rafferty@deruytercentral.org).  
Application deadline:  
December 8, 2023.

**Maintenance Mechanic**  
The Cortland Housing  
Authority has an opening  
for 2 full-time Maintenance  
Mechanic positions.  
Must possess two years of  
full-time or its part-time  
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This position is in the  
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Applicants must complete  
a Cortland County Civil  
Service Application,  
which can be obtained  
from the Cortland County  
Personnel Department,  
60 Central Avenue,  
Cortland, NY 13045  
Applications can also be  
downloaded from the  
Cortland County website at  
[www.cortland-co.org/personnel](http://www.cortland-co.org/personnel)

### HELP WANTED

#### JOB OPENING BUILDING MAINTENANCE FOREPERSON

The Cortland Housing  
Authority has an opening  
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Maintenance Foreperson.  
Must possess 3 years  
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Personnel Department,  
60 Central Avenue,  
Cortland, NY 13045  
or by calling 607-753-5076.  
Applications can also be  
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Cortland County website at  
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**Contact:** [rmarsh@cortlandstandard.com](mailto:rmarsh@cortlandstandard.com)

**Cortland Standard**



# Putin to discuss Israel-Hamas war during trip to UAE

MOSCOW (AP) — Seeking to reassert Russia’s role in the Middle East, President Vladimir Putin will make a one-day trip to the United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia to focus on the Israeli-Hamas war and then will host Iran’s president in Moscow this week, the Kremlin said Tuesday.

Today’s talks in both countries will focus on bilateral relations and the war between Israel and Hamas, spokesman Dmitry Peskov said. Issues related to oil price caps under OPEC+ will also be on the agenda, he added.

Putin will also hold talks with Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi in the Kremlin on Thursday, Peskov said in a conference call with reporters.

His visit to Saudi Arabia and the UAE comes at a time when Russia wants to advance its role as a power broker in the conflict in the Middle East.

Putin has sought to cast the war as a failure of U.S. diplomacy, charging that Washington had opted for economic “hand-outs” to the Palestinians and abandoned efforts to help create a Palestinian state.

He has suggested Moscow could play the role of mediator, thanks to its friendly ties with both Israel and the Palestinians, charging that “no one could suspect us of playing up to one party.”

Putin’s trip was first announced on Monday by his foreign affairs adviser Yuri Ushakov, speaking

to the Russian news outlet Life.

Pro-Kremlin analyst Sergei Markov observed that Saudi Arabia and the UAE have been important allies for Russia, noting that Moscow has profited from high oil prices thanks to the OPEC+ deal it anchored together with Riyadh.

The close ties with the UAE provided one of the avenues for bypassing Western sanctions on Moscow, he added.

Putin visited China in October and made several trips to former Soviet nations in recent months.

The International Criminal Court issued an arrest warrant for Putin in March for war crimes, accusing him of personal responsibility for the abductions of children from Ukraine.

Since the warrant was issued, Putin chose not to attend a BRICS summit in South Africa because the country would be obliged to arrest Putin upon arrival as a signatory to the international court’s treaty.

Neither Saudi Arabia nor the UAE have signed the ICC’s founding treaty.

The notice against Putin in March was the first time the global court issued a warrant against a leader of one of the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council. The ICC said in a statement that Putin is accused of the war crime of “unlawful deportation” of children from occupied areas of Ukraine to Russia.



Mikhail Klimentyev, Sputnik, Kremlin Pool Photo via AP  
**Russian President Vladimir Putin holds the annual meeting of the Presidential Council for Civil Society and Human Rights, via video conference, in Moscow, Russia, Monday.**

# 3 ships hit by missiles in Houthi attack in Red Sea, US warship downs 3 drones

**By JON GAMBRELL**  
**Associated Press**

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates — Ballistic missiles fired by Yemen’s Houthi rebels struck three commercial ships Sunday in the Red Sea, while a U.S. warship shot down three drones in self-defense during the hourslong assault, the U.S. military said. The Iranian-backed Houthis claimed two of the attacks.

The strikes marked an escalation in a series of maritime attacks in the Mideast linked to the Israel-Hamas war, as multiple vessels found themselves in the crosshairs of a single Houthi assault for the first time in the conflict. The U.S. vowed to “consider all appropriate responses” in the wake of the attack, specifically calling out Iran, after tensions have been high for years now over Tehran’s rapidly advancing nuclear program.

“These attacks represent a direct threat to international commerce and maritime security,” the U.S. military’s Central Command said in a statement. “They have jeopardized the lives of international crews representing multiple countries around the world.”

It added: “We also have every reason to believe that these attacks, while launched by the Houthis in Yemen, are fully enabled by Iran.”

The attack began around 9:15 a.m. local time in Houthi-controlled Sanaa, Yemen’s capital, Central Command said.

The USS Carney, a Navy destroyer, detected a ballistic missile fired from Houthi-controlled areas of Yemen at the Bahamas-flagged bulk carrier Unity Explorer. The missile hit near the ship, the U.S. said. Shortly afterward, the Carney shot down a drone headed its way, although it’s not clear if the destroyer was the target, Central Command said.

About 30 minutes later, the Unity Explorer was hit by a missile. While responding to its distress call, the Carney shot down another incoming drone. Central Command said the Unity Ex-



Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Ryan U. Kledzik/U.S. Navy via AP  
**The USS Carney seen in the Mediterranean Sea. The American warship and multiple commercial ships came under attack Sunday, in the Red Sea, the Pentagon said, potentially marking a major escalation in a series of maritime attacks in the Mideast linked to the Israel-Hamas war.**

plorer sustained minor damage from the missile.

Two other commercial ships, the Panamanian-flagged bulk carriers Number 9 and Sophie II, were both struck by missiles. The Number 9 reported some damage but no casualties, and the Sophie II reported no significant damage, Central Command said.

While sailing to assist the Sophie II around 4:30 p.m. local time, the Carney shot down another drone heading in its direction. The drones did no damage.

The Carney, an Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer, has shot down multiple rockets the Houthis have fired toward Israel during that nation’s war against Hamas in the Gaza Strip. It hasn’t been damaged in any of the incidents and no injuries have been reported on board. The Defense Department initially described the assault as simply an attack on the Carney before providing more

details. Houthi military spokesman Brig. Gen. Yahya Saree claimed two of Sunday’s attacks, saying the first vessel was hit by a missile and the second by a drone while in the Bab el-Mandeb Strait, which links the Red Sea to the Gulf of Aden. Saree did not mention any U.S. warship being involved.

“The Yemeni armed forces continue to prevent Israeli ships from navigating the Red Sea (and Gulf of Aden) until the Israeli aggression against our steadfast brothers in the Gaza Strip stops,” Saree said. “The Yemeni armed forces renew their warning to all Israeli ships or those associated with Israelis that they will become a legitimate target if they violate what is stated in this statement.”

Saree also identified the first vessel as the Unity Explorer, which is owned by a British firm that includes Dan David Ungar, who lives in Israel, as one of its officers. The Number 9 is linked

to Bernhard Schulte Shipmanagement.

The Sophie II’s owner, Kyowa Kisen of Imabari, Japan, told The Associated Press that the ship’s crew were safe and the vessel did not sustain serious damage. Managers for the two other ships could not be immediately reached for comment.

Israeli media identified Ungar as being the son of Israeli shipping billionaire Abraham “Rami” Ungar.

Iran has yet to directly address the attacks. However, Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amirabbollahian threatened “that if the current situation continues, the region will enter a new phase” over the Israel-Hamas war.

“All parties who are after igniting a war are warned, before it’s too late stop the killing of women and children, of which a new round has started,” Amirabbollahian said.

Iran’s top diplomat described

his comments as coming after conversations with “resistance forces” in the region — a description Tehran uses for the Shiite militias it backs, including groups in Iraq, the Houthis and Lebanon’s Hezbollah, as well as the Sunni fighters of Hamas. All have threatened or attacked Israel, Iran’s regional archrival, during the war.

The Houthis have launched a series of attacks on vessels in the Red Sea, as well as launching drones and missiles targeting Israel. Analysts suggest the Houthis hope to shore up waning popular support after years of civil war in Yemen between it and Saudi-backed forces.

The U.S. has stopped short of saying its Navy ships were targeted, but has said Houthi drones have headed toward the ships and have been shot down in self-defense. Washington so far has declined to directly respond to the attacks, as has Israel, whose military continues to try to describe the ships as not having links to their country.

Global shipping had increasingly been targeted as the Israel-Hamas war threatens to become a wider regional conflict — even as a truce briefly halted fighting and Hamas exchanged hostages for Palestinian prisoners held by Israel. However, the collapse of the truce and the resumption of punishing Israeli airstrikes on Gaza and a ground offensive there had raised the risk of more seaborne attacks.

In November, the Houthis seized a vehicle transport ship also linked to Israel in the Red Sea off Yemen. The rebels still hold the vessel near the port city of Hodeida. Missiles also landed near another U.S. warship last week after it assisted a vessel linked to Israel that had briefly been seized by gunmen. Separately, a container ship owned by an Israeli billionaire recently came under attack by a suspected Iranian drone in the Indian Ocean.

The Houthis had not directly targeted the Americans for some time, further raising the stakes in the growing maritime conflict.

# Case aims to halt jet parts export to Israel

THE HAGUE, Netherlands (AP) — Human rights lawyers went to court in the Netherlands on Monday to call for a halt to the export of fighter jet parts to Israel that could be used in attacks on Gaza.

The organizations allege that delivery of parts for F-35 jets makes the Netherlands complicit in possible war crimes being committed by Israel in its war with Hamas.

The civil case in The Hague opened as the Israeli military renewed calls for mass evacuations from the southern town of Khan Younis as it widened its ground offensive. The rights lawyers want The Hague District Court to issue an injunction banning the exports of F-35 parts that are stored in a warehouse in the town of Woensdrecht.

# More bodies found after sudden eruption of Indonesia’s Mount Marapi, 22 dead

**By MARDI ROSA TANJUNG**  
**Associated Press**

BATU PALANO, Indonesia — Rescuers searching the hazardous slopes of Indonesia’s Mount Marapi volcano found 11 more bodies of climbers who were caught by a surprise weekend eruption, raising the number of confirmed dead to 22, officials said Tuesday. One person remained missing.

More than 50 climbers were rescued after the initial eruption Sunday, and 11 others were initially confirmed dead. New eruptions on Monday and Tuesday spewed more hot ash as high as 2,620 feet into the air, reducing visibility and temporarily halting search and recovery operations, said Abdul Malik, chief of the Padang Search and Rescue Agency.

The bodies of two climbers were located on Monday

and nine more on Tuesday, the National Search and Rescue Agency said.

One climber remained missing and was presumed dead because of being very close to the eruption site, said Edi Mardianto, the deputy police chief in West Sumatra province.

The rescuers contended with bad weather and difficult terrain, along with winds that brought heat from the eruptions.

Sixteen bodies had been taken to a hospital for identification by late Tuesday, as more than 200 rescuers, including police and soldiers, struggled to bring the others down the mountain and search for the missing climber, Malik said.

Marapi has stayed at the third highest of four alert levels since 2011, indicating above-normal volcanic activ-

ity under which climbers and villagers must stay more than 1.8 miles from the peak, according to Indonesia’s Center for Volcanology and Geological Disaster Mitigation.

Officially, climbers were only allowed below the danger zone and had to register at two command posts or online. However, local officials acknowledge that many people may have climbed higher than permitted and villagers may also have been in the area, making the number of people stranded by the eruption difficult to confirm.

Marapi spewed thick columns of ash as high as 9,800 feet in Sunday’s eruption and hot ash clouds spread for several miles.

Nearby villages and towns were blanketed by tons of volcanic debris that blocked sunlight, and authorities rec-

ommended that people wear masks to protect themselves from the ash.

About 1,400 people live on Marapi’s slopes in Rubai and Gobah Cumantiang, the nearest villages, about 3 to 3.7 miles from the peak.

Marapi is known for sudden eruptions that are difficult to predict because the source is shallow and near the peak, and its eruptions are not caused by a deep movement of magma, which sets off tremors that register on seismic monitors.

Marapi has been active since a January eruption that caused no casualties.

It is among more than 120 active volcanoes in Indonesia, which is prone to seismic upheaval due to its location on the Pacific “Ring of Fire,” an arc of volcanoes and fault lines encircling the Pacific Basin.

## LEGALS

**CITY OF CORTLAND BID NOTICE**  
**Janitorial Services**  
Cortland Housing Authority is accepting bids for our 2 High-Rise Buildings in the City of Cortland.  
If interested, stop in at the Cortland Housing Authority at 42 Church St., or call (607)753-1771 ext. 236, or email lboyce@cortlandha.com for a bid packet which details the scope of work. Bids must be received by 3:30 p.m. on December 11, 2023.

**NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY**  
Notice of Formation of Westan Excavation, LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 2023-11-29. Office location: Cortland County. SSNY designated as agent of Limited Liability Company (LLC) upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY should mail process to Secretary of State: 8 Hooker Avenue Homer NY 13077. Purpose: Any lawful purpose

**NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY**  
PARSONS HOCKEY LLC. Filed 10/30/23. Office: Cortland Co. SSNY desig. as agent for process & shall mail to: c/o Tom Parsons, 4032 Kinney Gulf Rd, Cortland, NY 13045. Purpose: General

**NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY**  
Notice of Formation of Van Patten Realty LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 2023-11-30. Office location: Cortland County. SSNY designated as agent of Limited Liability Company (LLC) upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY should mail process to The LLC: 7429 Otisco Road Preble NY 13141. Purpose: Any lawful purpose

**NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY**  
Notice of Formation of Fox Trot, LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 2023-11-15. Office location: Cortland County. SSNY designated as agent of Limited Liability Company (LLC) upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY should mail process to Secretary of State: 4232 Sweeney Road Cortland NY 13045. Purpose: Any lawful purpose

**CITY OF CORTLAND BID NOTICE**  
**Janitorial Services**  
Cortland Housing Authority is accepting bids for janitorial services at 2 of our locations.  
17 River St. Homer, NY & 3705 Route 13 Truxton, NY.  
If interested, stop in at the Cortland Housing Authority at 42 Church St., or call (607)753-1771 ext. 236, or email lboyce@cortlandha.com to request a bid packet which details the scope of work. Bids must be received by 3:30 p.m. on December 12, 2023.

**NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY**  
Notice of Formation of SCF AG, LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 2023-11-29. Office location: Cortland County. SSNY designated as agent of Limited Liability Company (LLC) upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY should mail process to SCF AG, LLC: 1702 Tallet Road DeRuyter NY 13052. Purpose: Any lawful purpose

**CORTLAND COUNTY BID NOTICE**  
**The Board of Trustees of Tompkins Cortland Community College, Counties of Tompkins and Cortland (in accordance with section 103 of Article 5A of the General Municipal Law) hereby invite the submission of**  
**Sealed Bids on:**  
**Job Posting Services in Specified Publications**  
**Sealed Bids will be received until 2:00 pm local time on December 19, 2023 in the Purchasing Office at Tompkins Cortland Community College in Dryden, New York at which time they will be publicly opened.**

**Specifications and bid forms may be obtained from the Purchasing Office at Tompkins Cortland Community College in Dryden, New York, kpc@tompkinscortland.edu .**

**The Board of Trustees hereby reserves the right to waive irregularities and accept or reject any bid or any part of any bid.**

**Submit Sealed Bids according to the General Instructions to:**

**Tompkins Cortland Community College  
Purchasing  
170 North Street  
P.O. Box 139  
Dryden, New York 13053**