

WOMEN’S SOCCER

Brunswick grad Wickes playing professionally in Portugal, **B1**

WORLD

Turkey, Pakistan and Saudi Arabia sign a mutual defense deal, **A3**

Today's weather
HIGH: 85
LOW: 62
Sunrise: 6:30
Sunset: 8:35

THE GAZETTE
Serving Medina County Since 1832

SATURDAY, August 8, 2026

\$3.00

RECIPIENTS OF OHIO ARTS COUNCIL FUNDING

Arts groups receive grants

Madisyn Woodring
The Gazette

Arts organizations in Medina County were recent recipients of Ohio Arts Council funding, which will be used to further support the arts locally. More than 1,000 grants totaling just over \$24 million were approved by the Ohio Arts Council. Buckeye Community Theatre was one of the recipients, receiving \$4,080 in ArtSTART grant

funding. Buckeye Community Theatre Executive Director Kimberly States said the youth theater provides opportunities for children to be on stage for performances and off stage through internships based in areas like costuming, choreography and lighting. “We also care a lot about making theater accessible, so we always have a performance that is sensory friendly

for those with sensory sensitivities,” she said. “We also make that performance pay what you will, so the audience who attends that performance can choose to pay any price, including \$0 to attend that performance.” This year’s grant funding will go toward the organization’s internships and offsetting the costs of the show where audience members pay what they choose, States said.

“(Theater) is a wonderful way for children to express themselves,” she said. “It also teaches so many life skills like how to collaborate with others, confidence, public speaking and time management. There’s so many skills that you can learn in theater and in art that transfer over to any career.” ORMACO, which stands for Ohio Regional Music Arts and Cultural Outreach, received a \$10,250 Ohio artists

on tour grant and a \$9,761 sustainability grant. ORMACO Executive Director Tom Sigel said the sustainability grant will fund the organization’s everyday operations. The Ohio artists on tour grant will partially fund its outreach programs such as the “World Tour of Music” and concerts at Medina County’s libraries.

See **ARTS, A2**

MEDINA COUNTY FAIR

Sensory Day comes back



KELLYN FLOHR / GAZETTE PHOTOS

Children participate in activities inside the sensory barn during Sensory Day at the Medina County Fair on Friday.

Kellyn Flohr
The Gazette

MEDINA — The Medina County Board of Developmental Disabilities partnered with the Medina County Fair on Friday to host Sensory Day, giving individuals with developmental disabilities the opportunity to enjoy a more sensory-friendly fair experience. Now in its second year, the event featured accommodations and activities designed to make the fair more accessible for people of all ages with developmental differences. From noon to 2 p.m., select rides operated with reduced lights and sound to create a quieter environment for fairgoers. Throughout the day, attendees could enjoy games, activities, farm animals and the fair’s sensory bus and sensory barn. “There is a sensory barn open to give them a space to enjoy while being at the fair,” said Patti Hetkey, community relations manager for the Medina County Board of Developmental Disabilities. The sensory bus and barn gave attendees a place to participate in activities while taking a break from the sights and sounds of the fair. Participants also had the opportunity to take part in the Fair Friends Show, where they partnered with members of the Junior Fair Board to show animals in



Families enjoy activities on Friday inside the sensory barn during Sensory Day at the Medina County Fair. “Our goal is to make the fair more inclusive so that individuals can get the rich Medina County Fair experience that everyone enjoys,” Hetkey said. The event was designed to give attendees the opportunity to participate in many of the same activities available throughout the Medina County Fair while providing accommodations to better meet their needs. Contact reporter Kellyn Flohr at (330) 591-5392 or kflohr@medina-gazette.com.

Sheriff’s K-9 demonstration draws crowd

Kellyn Flohr
The Gazette

MEDINA — Fairgoers gathered Friday afternoon at the Medina County Fair pavilion to watch members of the Medina County Sheriff’s Office K-9 Unit demonstrate how police dogs assist deputies in the field. Deputy Caylum York and his K-9 partner, Creed, opened the demonstration with a narcotics detection exercise. Creed searched three boxes, immediately alerting to the one containing the target scent. The demonstration was repeated, and Creed again located the correct box. Sgt. Mike Lyon said the sheriff’s office uses dual-purpose Belgian Malinois that are trained for a variety of law enforcement duties. “We handle all of our K-9 responsibilities. They are dual-purpose dogs,” Lyon said. Lyon said the dogs are

trained in narcotics detection, tracking, article searches, building searches and apprehensions. He said the dogs respond only when directed by their handlers. “They’re only based on command,” Lyon said. “They’re not naturally vicious dogs.” Creed and Boone, Lyon’s K-9 partner, are both about 4 years old. Lyon said the dogs were born and trained in Czechoslovakia before coming to the United States, where they completed six weeks of training alongside their handlers at Excel K-9. Lyon said both the dogs and their handlers complete annual state certification testing to remain certified. Throughout the demonstration, Lyon said the K-9s are rewarded after successfully completing tasks.

See **K-9, A2**

BRUNSWICK HIGH SCHOOL Student in top 10 for Shining Star CLE scholarship competition

Madisyn Woodring
The Gazette

BRUNSWICK — Incoming Brunswick High School senior Sofia Krueger will soon perform against some of the top youth vocalists in Northeast Ohio as part of the Shining Star CLE scholarship competition. Shining Star CLE is a program put on by Mandel JCC. High school students who will be graduating between 2027 and 2030 who live in Ashtabula, Cuyahoga, Geauga, Lake, Lorain, Medina, Portage, Stark, Summit and Wayne counties can participate. Mandel JCC stated that 166 high school students auditioned for the competition this year. Students went through

a video audition, and the top 25 advanced to the semifinals after another virtual audition. In the third round, the semifinalists performed live in front of a panel of judges and went through a short interview. The top 10 students and two alternates will perform live again for the final round. Krueger is one of a select group of students who advanced to the finale, and she auditioned by performing “Forget Her” by Jeff Buckley. She went into the competition because her choir teacher encouraged her to try out. “I love singing, and I’ve been singing since I was like 3 years old,” she said.

See **STUDENT, A2**



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Monday

Chippewa Lake Village Council, regular meeting, 7 p.m., village community center, 24 Circle Crest Drive.
Granger Township trustees, regular meeting, 4 p.m., admin building, 3717 Ridge Road.
Lodi Village Council, regular meeting, 7 p.m., village hall, 110 Ainsworth St.
Medina County Board of Elections, special meeting to conduct board business, 1 p.m., board of elections, 3800 Stonegate Drive, Suite C.
Seville Village Council, regular meeting, 7 p.m., council room, 120 Royal Crest Drive.
Wadsworth Board of Control, regular meeting, 1:30 p.m., mayor's office, 120 Maple St.
Wadsworth Board of Education, regular meeting, 7 p.m., James R. McIlvaine Performing Arts Center, 625

Broad St.
Wadsworth Economic Development and Planning Committee, regular meeting, 5 p.m., council chambers, 120 Maple St.
Tuesday
Brunswick Hills Township trustees, work session, 6 p.m., followed by a regular meeting at 7 p.m., Brunswick Hills Township Town Hall, 1918 Pearl Road.
Buckeye Board of Education, regular meeting, 6 p.m., elementary media center, 3140 Columbia Road.
Chatham Township trustees, regular meeting, 7 p.m., Chatham Community Center, 6306 Avon Lake Road.
Granger Township Zoning Commission, regular meeting, 6:30 p.m., administration building, 3717 Ridge Road. — canceled.
Litchfield Township Zoning

Commission, regular meeting, 6:30 p.m., town hall, 9256 Norwalk Road.
Liverpool Township Board of Zoning Appeals, public hearing, 7 p.m., Liverpool Township office, 6801 School St.
Lodi Board of Public Affairs, regular meeting, 6 p.m., village hall, 110 Ainsworth St.
Medina Board of Education, regular meeting, 6 p.m., professional development center at Garfield, 234 S. Broadway St.
Medina County commissioners, regular meeting, 9:30 a.m., commissioners' hearing room, 144 N. Broadway St., virtual option at www.facebook.com/MedinaCountyCommissioners.
Montville Township trustees, special meeting to go into executive session, 6 p.m., followed by a regular meeting, admin building, 6665 Wadsworth Road.
Sharon Township trustees, regular

meeting, 7 p.m., township administration building, 1322 Sharon Copley Road.
Wadsworth Public Service Committee, regular meeting, 6 p.m., council chambers, 120 Maple St.
Wednesday
Lafayette Township Zoning Commission, regular meeting and public hearing, 6:30 p.m., safety services building, 6367 Technology Lane.
Montville Township Zoning Commission, regular meeting, 7 p.m., admin building, 6665 Wadsworth Road.
Wadsworth Public Safety Committee, regular meeting, 4:45 p.m., council chambers, 120 Maple St.
Thursday
Cloverleaf Local Schools Finance Committee, regular meeting, 8 a.m., central office, 7600 Buffham Road.

Guilford Township Zoning Commission, regular meeting, 7 p.m., town hall, 3800 Greenwich Road.
Medina County Health Department Health Center Co-applicant Board, regular meeting, 11:30 a.m., health department, 4800 Ledgewood Drive.
Medina Historic Preservation Board, regular meeting, 5 p.m., followed by Planning Commission at 6 p.m. and Board of Zoning Appeals at 7 p.m., rotunda, 132 N. Elmwood Ave.
Medina Township trustees, regular meeting, 7 p.m., town hall, 3799 Huffman Road.
Wadsworth Cable TV Commission, regular meeting, 4 p.m., council chambers, 120 Maple St.
York Township Board of Zoning Appeals, regular meeting, 6:30 p.m., York Town Hall/Fire Station Complex, 6609 Norwalk Road.

ALMANAC

The Associated Press
Today is Saturday, Aug. 8, the 220th day of 2026. There are 145 days left in the year.

Today's history

- In 1814, during the War of 1812, peace talks between the United States and Britain began in Ghent, Belgium.
- In 1815, Napoleon Bonaparte set sail for St. Helena to spend the remainder of his days in exile.
- In 1876, Thomas Edison received a patent for his electric pen — the forerunner of the mimeograph machine.
- In 1908, Wilbur Wright made the Wright Brothers' first pub-

lic flying demonstration, at Le Mans racecourse in France.

Today's birthdays

Actor Nita Talbot is 96. Actor Dustin Hoffman is 80. Actor Connie Stevens is 88. Actor Larry Wilcox is 79. Actor Keith Carradine is 77. Movie director Martin Brest is 75. Radio-TV personality Robin Quivers is 74. Percussionist Anton Fig is 73. Actor Donny Most is 73. Rock musician Dennis Drew (10,000 Maniacs) is 69. TV personality Deborah Norville is 68. Rock musician The Edge (U2) is 65. Rock musician Rikki Rockett (Poison) is 65. Rapper Kool Moe Dee is 64.

BLOTTER

Sheriff's Office

Sunday, July 26
1:05 p.m. — Johnson Road, Wadsworth Township; a citation or summons was issued after a traffic crash with injuries occurred.
10:03 p.m. — Columbia Road/ Neff Road, Liverpool Township; an adult was arrested after a traffic stop.
Tuesday, July 28
9:53 a.m. — Friendsville Road, Westfield Township; a warrant was issued after a protection order was violated.

2:36 p.m. — River Walk Drive, Liverpool Township; a report of fraud was forwarded to the detective bureau.
4:31 p.m. — Grassy Branch Drive, Liverpool Township; phone or text harassment was reported.
Wednesday, July 29
1:09 p.m. — Lafayette Road, Harrisville Township; a citation or summons was issued after a road rage incident.
3:31 p.m. — Chardoney Drive, Wadsworth Township; an animal complaint was forwarded to another agency.

WEATHER

TODAY: Partly cloudy 85/61
SUNDAY: Mostly sunny 85/67
MONDAY: Thunderstorms 83/67
TUESDAY: Thunderstorms 81/65

CORRECTIONS & CLARIFICATIONS

The Medina Gazette is committed to providing accurate news coverage. Call us at (330) 721-4060 to let us know about factual errors.

LOTTERY

Ohio (Friday)

Midday Pick 3: 2-3-5, **Pick 3:** Not available at press time.
Midday Pick 4: 5-5-2-8, **Pick 4:** Not available at press time.
Midday Pick 5: 2-7-6-3-2, **Pick 5:** Not available at press time.
Rolling Cash 5: Not available at press time.
Rolling Cash 5 jackpot is \$235,000.
Classic Lotto jackpot is \$1.3 million.

Millionaire for Life

THURSDAY: 7-20-42-48-51, **Millionaire Ball:** 3.
FRIDAY: The numbers were not available at press time.

Mega Millions

FRIDAY: The numbers were not available at press time.
Next Mega Millions jackpot is an estimated \$70 million.

Powerball

WEDNESDAY: 14-20-59-60-61, **Powerball:** 25, **Power Play:** 2.
Next Powerball jackpot is an estimated \$856 million.

Ohio (Thursday)

Pick 3: 9-4-3.
Pick 4: 3-8-6-2.
Pick 5: 1-8-3-1-8.
Rolling Cash 5: 10-13-25-30-34.

THE GAZETTE

Saturday, August 8, 2026, No. 192
Medina (non-toll area).....(330) 725-4166
All other Ohio areas..... (800) 633-4623

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PUBLIC MEETINGS

Medina student-athlete earns academic honor

Keirsten Trayte of Medina was named to the 2026 Academic All-Conference Team by the American Rivers Conference.
Trayte, a senior biomedical sciences major at Buena Vista University, was one of 30 student-athletes recognized. Students selected for the team must meet conference eligibility requirements and maintain a cumulative grade-point average of at least 3.5.

Medina student inducted into Phi Kappa Phi

Emily Cheng of Medina was elected to membership in The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi at The Ohio State University. Membership in the honor society is by invitation and recognizes academic achievement across all disciplines.

Local students present research at Baldwin Wallace

Students from Medina County were among more than 220 Baldwin Wallace University students who presented research and creative projects during the university's annual Ovation Day of Excellence.
The following local students participated:

- Joey Brick, Medina
- Marissa Brigger, Brunswick
- Ryan Bentkowski, Brunswick
- Mia Fourtounis, Hinckley
- Mack Fisher, Brunswick
- Corinne Haberny, Medina
- Matthew Horner, Medina
- Kaitlyn Junn, Medina
- Teaghan Knierim, Valley City
- Claire Lind, Medina
- Mia Macron, Medina
- Liz Melville, Brunswick
- Makenna Mincey, Brunswick
- Michael Rodak, Medina
- Nicole Rawlins, Medina
- Maddie Safran, Brunswick
- Albert Selby, Valley City
- Jenna Shepard, Valley City
- Noah Smith, Medina
- Hannah Tramonte, Wadsworth
- Jayanti Upadhyay, Brunswick
- Jahnavi Upadhyay, Brunswick
- Michael Watson, Brunswick
- Zach Mihok, Valley City

Historical society to host open house Sunday

The Medina County Historical Society will hold an open house 1-4 p.m. Sunday at the John Smart House Museum, 206 N. Elmwood Ave., and the McDowell-Phillips House Museum, 205 S. Prospect St.
Visitors can view a new exhibit on the history of medicine in Medina County



PHOTO PROVIDED

Incoming Brunswick High School senior Sofia Krueger will soon be performing against some of the top youth vocalists in Northeast Ohio as part of the Shining Star CLE scholarship competition.



KELLYN FLOHR / GAZETTE

K-9 Boone demonstrates his skills during a Medina County Sheriff's Office K-9 Unit presentation Friday at the Medina County Fair.

WHATZIT?

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

W E L C O M E A R M S

SOLUTION UNDER: WANT TO BUY VEHICLES

ARTS

From A1

“Looking at the arts on a local level, it helps strengthen the fabric of a community,” he said. “It builds friendships, and it helps people from different backgrounds get to know one another. The arts create a sense of belonging and infuse culture into the community.”

The following other Medina County organizations received funding from the Ohio Arts Council:

- \$6,183 sustainability grant for Main Street Medina.

K-9

From A1

“They are constantly working,” Lyon said.

Following Creed's demonstration, Lyon introduced Boone and explained how the dogs assist deputies during searches for suspects in buildings and open areas, as well as during apprehensions.

Lyon also demonstrated the communication device attached to Boone's collar, saying that the collar emits a tone to signal the dog while they are working.

“We have our own radio for him that's used for communication only,” Lyon said.

The handlers answered questions from spectators throughout the demonstration while explaining the role K-9s play in law enforcement across Medina County.

Contact reporter Kellyn Flohr at (330) 591-5392 or kflohr@medina-gazette.com.

- \$3,322 ArtSTART grant for Protestant Episcopal Church.
- \$10,500 TeachArtsOhio grant for Cloverleaf Schools.
- \$867 Ohio artists on tour grant and \$6,458 sustainability grant for Access the Arts.
- \$2,896 ArtSTART grant for the Wadsworth Square Foundation.

“The arts are important for everybody,” Sigel said. “Music, arts and culture nourish the soul, and that's quite important to have.”

Contact reporter Madisyn Woodring at (330) 721-4049 or mwoodring@medina-gazette.com.

TURKEY, PAKISTAN AND SAUDI ARABIA

Countries sign a mutual defense deal

The Associated Press

Pakistan, Turkey and Saudi Arabia have signed a mutual defense agreement, while the Iran-backed Houthi rebels have stepped up attacks on Saudi-linked targets.

Pakistan, Turkey and Saudi Arabia sign mutual defense deal

Oil-rich Saudi Arabia, nuclear power Pakistan and Turkey, which has NATO's second-largest army and a rapidly growing defense industry, signed a mutual defense agreement on Friday.

The deal stipulates that an armed attack on either of the three countries will be regarded as an attack against them all. It was signed during a meeting in Saudi Arabia between Saudi

Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and Pakistan's Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, Pakistan's foreign ministry said.

"The Agreement is intended to strengthen collective deterrence against any act of aggression," the ministry said in a statement.

The deal comes at a time when Saudi Arabia, whose critical infrastructure and oil facilities have come under attack as part of the war in Iran, has been looking to diversify its defense partnerships.

US would end blockade if an acceptable Strait of Hormuz deal emerges, official says

If an acceptable deal is reached to reopen the Strait of Hormuz, U.S. President Donald Trump would end the U.S. blockade of Iranian ports as

long as the terms of the agreement are respected, a U.S. official said Friday.

The administration has been told by regional mediators that a deal between Iran and Oman on the crucial waterway could be finalized in the coming days, the official said. The U.S. would study whatever comes from the Iran-Oman talks before taking a position.

The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss internal administration deliberations, reiterated that the U.S. would not accept any agreement that allows Iran to charge tolls or service fees or otherwise interfere with ships.

Houthi rebels blamed for attack on eastern Yemen

Iran-backed Houthis launched attacks on Marib province in east-

ern Yemen on Friday morning, in the latest escalation with Saudi-backed forces, a military official with the forces in Marib said.

The official, who spoke on the condition of anonymity because he wasn't authorized to speak to the media, said the missiles were fired from west of the Yemeni capital, Sanaa.

Qassem Bahaibah, health minister in Yemen's internationally recognized government, said in a statement on social media that the attacks targeted a refugee camp and residential areas, killing at least two people and injuring 14 others.

Houthi military spokesperson Yahya Saree said in a statement late Friday that the rebel group targeted a Saudi-backed military camp in Marib, using drones and missiles to destroy storage facilities and military equip-

ment. He added that the rebel group will target any Saudi-supported troop buildup or allied groups meant to keep the Saudi blockade on Yemen.

Separately, the rebel group struck the Najran region in southwestern Saudi Arabia near the Yemeni border on Thursday, the official spokesperson of the Saudi-led Coalition to Restore Legitimacy in Yemen, Maj. Gen. Turki al-Malki, confirmed in a statement on X overnight.

He said the attack wounded 11 civilians, including a woman and a child who suffered second-degree burns, and accused the rebels of carrying out "indiscriminate shelling against civilian objects."

The Houthis did not immediately claim the attack on Najran in Saudi Arabia.

Senate confirms Hamilton to lead FEMA

Gabriela Aoun Angueira
The Associated Press

The Senate on Friday confirmed Cameron Hamilton as head of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, returning the former Navy SEAL to the embattled agency he led temporarily last year only to be fired after he publicly opposed eliminating it.

Hamilton was among a group of 74 nominations approved by the Senate, including President Donald Trump's pick to lead the Transportation Security Administration, David Cummins, and his choice for ambassador to Brazil, Daniel Perez.

Upon his swearing in, Hamilton will take over an agency whose future has been uncertain since Trump threatened to get rid of it days into his second term. Hamilton's nomination signaled that Trump may be moving on from that idea, but his Republican administration is still promising drastic changes in how the government handles disasters.

Hamilton will have to shepherd that overhaul while stabilizing an agency of more than 20,000 employees recovering from Kristi Noem's chaotic tenure as Department of Homeland Security secretary, during which FEMA saw mass staff departures, disruptions to grant programs and delays of disaster aid.

While her successor, former Oklahoma Sen. Markwayne Mullin, has worked to reverse some of the upheaval, Democrats are accusing Trump of politicizing disaster relief. Trump has approved 80 percent of disaster requests from Republican governors but only about 60 percent from Democratic governors, a July analysis by The Associated Press found.

In his June hearing before a Senate committee, Hamilton pledged to advocate for FEMA and its workforce while promising to ensure FEMA is "objective, is fair and reasonable, follows the law, and is consistent in the approach to how we adjudicate and process claims and requests for disasters."



Hamilton



AP FILE

People work at the Federal Emergency Management Agency headquarters in Washington on Jan. 24.

He also maintained that the agency is burdened by bureaucracy and cannot be expected to respond to every disaster. "We would need to strike a new balance to encourage cost reasonableness and cost savings," he said.

Hamilton was fired from temporary role from leading FEMA

Hamilton had limited emergency management experience before Trump named him FEMA's temporary leader in January 2025. Formerly a critic of the agency, Hamilton has said he came to appreciate FEMA's mission. His tenure proved short after he broke with Noem and other DHS officials over FEMA's future.

"I do not believe it is in the best interest of the American people to eliminate the Federal Emergency Management Agency," Hamilton told a House panel in May 2025. He was fired the next day.

His stand drew admiration among some emergency management professionals.

"It tells you exactly who he is and

how he will lead when the pressure is highest and the easy answer is the wrong one," Pete Gaynor, FEMA administrator in Trump's first term, said in a statement supporting Hamilton's confirmation.

The National Emergency Management Association said it welcomes Hamilton as the FEMA administrator.

Still, some FEMA staffers have remained wary of Hamilton's role in controversial decisions last year like canceling a multibillion-dollar resilience grant program.

FEMA has been an agency under siege

Hamilton will take over in the middle of a busy summer disaster season that has already brought destructive wildfires and dangerous flooding and as FEMA manages more than 1,000 open disaster declarations. He will be FEMA's first permanent administrator in Trump's second term, overseeing an agency eager for stability.

More than 4,300 employees separated from FEMA in the 2025 budget year, more than 1,500 through voluntary reductions, resulting in a

"loss of institutional knowledge and experienced personnel," according to a Government Accountability Office report.

Since replacing Noem in March, Mullin has rehired for some eliminated positions and rescinded a rule that any expense greater than \$100,000 needed to be approved by the secretary's office — a requirement that backlogged billions of dollars in disaster aid.

But DHS has also introduced policies stirring up new controversy. Twenty-five states and the District of Columbia sued the Trump administration last month over new election security requirements in FEMA counterterrorism grants to states.

The Trump administration and lawmakers are advocating for sweeping changes to federal disaster response. At a meeting of governors last weekend, Mullin called FEMA "bloated."

"The biggest reform you're going to see is more responsibility is going to go back to your states," Mullin said, with "FEMA there for worst of the worst, not every storm."

In May, a Trump-appointed FEMA

Review Council recommended major changes to how the federal government supports states, tribes and territories during disasters. That could speed assistance but might reduce how much and how often FEMA helps. Many of the suggested changes require congressional action.

Gaynor told the AP he expects that Hamilton will work quickly to make changes within his authority. "I think his biggest priority in general is making the whole recovery system simpler for disaster survivors, for states and locals to navigate, to make it less of mystery, and cut out red tape," Gaynor said.

Senate approves 74 nominations, including for airport security

Other nominees confirmed included Cummins as head of the Transportation Security Administration, an agency also facing persistent challenges, particularly after this year's record partial government shutdown left TSA employees working for weeks without pay. The funding lapse prompted thousands of officers to call out of work and about 1,100 to quit.

Cummins is a former senior vice president at the government contractor Serco, which runs air traffic control towers at 60 American airports. He is taking over as the Trump administration seeks to expand private airport screening and cut thousands of TSA jobs.

The Senate also confirmed Perez, a close friend of Secretary of State Marco Rubio and a former speaker of Florida's House of Representatives, to be the next U.S. ambassador to Brazil.

Perez has been central to an ongoing diplomatic dispute between the Trump administration and the government of Brazilian President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva.

Earlier this week, the State Department said the Brazilian government's refusal to accept Perez's appointment was a main reason for its decision to revoke the visa of Brazil's ambassador to the United States. International diplomatic protocols demand that host countries approve any foreign ambassadors before they can take their posts.

WHITE HOUSE BALLROOM

Court: Trump can't build without congressional OK

Darlene Superville and Michael Kunzelman
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A divided federal appeals court ruled Friday that President Donald Trump's administration must stop construction of the \$400 million White House ballroom because Congress has not approved the project, a decision he blasted as "unjust" while vowing to appeal it to the nation's highest court.

Trump doesn't have the unilateral authority to build a 90,000-square-foot ballroom where the White House's East Wing stood before he ordered its demolition last fall, according to the decision by a three-judge panel from the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit.

The Republican president said on social media that the administration will immediately appeal what he called an "unjust decision" to the U.S. Supreme Court.

Friday's ruling marked the second time this week that the Trump administration has made headlines for construc-

tion plans that have been called into question. An assessment by the National Park Service found that a 250-foot-tall triumphal arch that Trump has proposed building could compromise the historical significance of dozens of sites near its planned location on a traffic circle between the Lincoln Memorial and Arlington National Cemetery.

In a 2-1 decision on the ballroom, the appeals court sided with historic preservationists who sued to stop construction of the massive structure, which has begun to rise above ground on the east side of the White House, according to the most recent aerial photos of the site. The court said it would stay its ruling for two weeks to give the administration time to appeal to the Supreme Court.

"Whether or not a massive ballroom should be constructed is for Congress to decide and is not a matter for Executive self-help," the court wrote.

"This holding has nothing at all to do with whether the proposed ballroom is desirable, or not, as a matter of policy. This ruling does not even necessarily

mean that the Defendants may not ultimately construct the ballroom.

"What it does mean," the court continued, "is that the Defendants may not do so during the district court's expeditious litigation without securing Congress's authorization, as the Constitution and laws require."

The president reacted to the ruling with a lengthy post on social media in which he quoted from a dissenting opinion issued by Judge Neomi Rao, whom he nominated. He also described the plans for the facility to include bomb shelters, a hospital and medical facilities, "Top Secret Military Facilities" and other security features.

"The Military and Secret Service are viewing this horrendous, politically motivated, and unlawful ruling as a National Security threat to our Nation in that the entire Complex is being built for the protection of our Country and, additionally, all future Presidents," Trump wrote.

After the lower court earlier this year ordered a halt to aboveground construction, the president argued that permis-

sion from Congress was unnecessary because public money was not being used to pay for it.

Trump has said he has raised hundreds of millions of dollars from corporations and wealthy people, including himself, to cover the construction costs.

But the Trump administration had requested \$1 billion for the ballroom, which Congress refused in May. In June, Democrats warned that \$350 million in funds from a tax cuts law appeared to have been redirected to the White House for security, including the ballroom.

The National Trust for Historic Preservation, the nonprofit organization that brought the lawsuit against the Trump administration, said Friday's decision affirmed "the American people's right to voice their opinions about the historic places they cherish," including the White House.

"From the beginning, our position has been clear and consistent: the law states that only Congress can authorize the construction of a ballroom at the White House," Brent

Leggs, the group's president and CEO, said in a statement. "We are pleased with the DC Circuit Court's decision to uphold the District Court's preliminary injunction, which although stayed for 14 days will block any above-ground ballroom construction unless and until Congress takes action."

The divided appeals court panel upheld an April 16 order from Leon for the Trump administration to halt aboveground work on the ballroom. Leon, who was nominated to the bench by Republican President George W. Bush, allowed construction to continue on underground work on a bunker and other "national security facilities" at the site.

The appeals court case was assigned to Judges Rao, Patricia Millett and Bradley Garcia. Millett was nominated to the court by Democratic President Barack Obama. Garcia was nominated by Democratic President Joe Biden. Both Millett and Garcia backed the decision, while Rao opposed it.

The National Trust for Historic Preservation sued over

the project in December 2025, a week after completion of the East Wing demolition to make way for a ballroom that Trump says would hold 999 people.

Government lawyers have argued that the project — the biggest structural change to the White House in more than 70 years — must move forward because it includes critical security features to guard against a range of threats, such as drones, ballistic missiles and biohazards.

"These upgrades, alterations, and improvements are essential to protecting the President, his family, and his staff, as well as the White House itself, and the entire project flows from them," government attorneys wrote in a court filing.

Attorneys for the preservation group countered that the lack of a White House ballroom doesn't constitute a national security emergency.

"That commonsense conclusion is not clearly erroneous, and there is no basis to disturb it," they wrote.

Ohio home to new Mormon temple

Peter Smith
The Associated Press

KIRTLAND — Elder Brian Garner led a small group of visitors through the sturdy wooden door of what looked like an ordinary colonial church. But nearly two centuries ago, it was where a radical departure in American religious history took hold.

“Welcome to the house of the Lord Jesus Christ,” Garner said.

The visitors walked through the church’s assembly halls and meeting rooms where Joseph Smith gathered in the 1830s with early followers of the movement that became known as Mormonism. They sang a temple-dedication hymn where it was first sung by pioneers in the faith.

The building in this small town near Cleveland is the oldest temple in the Mormon movement, and it’s drawing renewed interest since its purchase by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints two years ago from a historically related church. And that attention to the oldest temple comes as the LDS church prepares to dedicate its newest U.S. temple in a nearby Cleveland suburb.

It was in the Kirtland temple that Smith initiated rituals and proclaimed divine revelations, promising restoration of ancient rites, scriptures and beliefs that varied dramatically from those of neighboring Christian denominations. It’s also where he and others reported seeing visions of biblical prophets, angels — and even Jesus Christ.

“I would like to just give you a moment of silence to consider the fact that the Redeemer of the World was here ... not very far from where you’re seated,” Garner told the visitors. Garner is one of numerous missionaries in The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints who offer the tours.

A Mormon landmark in Ohio

Ohio is a lesser-known stop on the Mormon history trail. Better-known are the New York state sites where Smith reported his original divine

revelations — or the sites of his followers’ embattled settlements in Missouri and Illinois before their ultimate move to Utah.

But Kirtland, just northeast of Cleveland, has its own landmark status.

The building here is considered the first “temple” in the movement Smith founded — a place with a higher spiritual status than the more numerous meetinghouses where regular worship is held.

The LDS church purchased the Kirtland and other historic properties from Community of Christ, a church that also traces its roots to Joseph Smith.

On a June day in Kirtland, numerous Latter-day Saints filtered in and out of the temple, some on a multistate bus tour visiting landmarks in Mormon history.

“Just to come here and know that this is where Jesus Christ actually stood in the pulpit and spoke to Joseph and the other brethren, it’s a feeling that you can’t really describe to anybody,” said Pauline Anderson of Mansfield.

Her husband, Shae Anderson, said Ohio is a “Holy Land,” where many of the church’s Scriptures originated.

A new temple rises in nearby Independence

That same morning, another group of church members gathered about 30 miles away in Independence to unveil a new temple. Once it is dedicated on Aug. 16, it will be the first functioning LDS temple in northern Ohio in nearly two centuries. The building, and another being dedicated that same day in Brazil, will be the newest LDS temples, part of an unprecedented global expansion of temple sites.

It features a modern design, but its cupola resembles that of the Kirtland structure — an architectural hat tip to its forerunner.

“It is fitting that today, in the same region where the first temple was built in this dispensation, another temple now stands,” Mathias Held, an official with the church’s temple

department, said at a media preview event.

Church representatives hosted several open houses for the public to see the new temple’s ornate rooms. After its dedication, the temple will be open only to church members in good standing. There, the faithful will partake of rites such as baptisms on behalf of the dead and marriages deemed as sealing couples for eternity.

The old Kirtland building, in contrast, has remained open to the public as a historic site because it’s not a functioning temple.

‘I felt like I was going home’

More than 53,000 people visited the Kirtland temple in 2025, with others visiting historic homes and businesses used by early church members in and near Kirtland, said Pace Clarke, the Ohio Historic Sites Manager for the church.

“This temple is the origin of all Latter-day Saint temples,” Clarke said. “All of those temples point back to what was first taught here.”

For Reese Anderson of Bountiful, Utah, who was on a multistate tour of the church’s historic sites, the appeal of visiting Kirtland was simple: “I felt like I was going home.”

As a young man in New York, Smith asserted that he received divine instructions to restore the true teachings of the ancient Christian church.

Kirtland became a hub of early converts. Smith moved there in 1831. Soon church members began work on a temple. Its design reflects the builders’ familiarity with the architectural styles of the time and what they believed was divine guidance, Clarke said.

The first and second floors feature large assembly halls with rows of pulpits on different levels, representing a hierarchy of the priesthood just emerging in early Mormon practice.

The third floor contains meeting rooms where Smith and other leaders inaugurated a rite that involved foot-washing and anointing by oil.

ROUNDUP



PHOTO PROVIDED BY KATE LINDON

Medina Creative Housing serves lunch following the outdoor worship service.

Medina United Church of Christ to host outdoor worship service

Medina United Church of Christ, Congregational will host Alive on the Square, an outdoor worship service, at 10:30 a.m. Aug. 23 at the Medina Square gazebo.

The service will be followed by lunch provided by Medina Creative Housing featuring sandwiches and salads from Grande Cafe and Roastery. A suggested donation is \$10 per plate. Attendees are asked to bring lawn chairs. In case of rain, the event will move inside the church at 217 E. Liberty St., Medina.

Mount Pleasant UMC to host rummage sale

Mount Pleasant United Methodist Church, 2768 Laurel Road, Brunswick, will host a rummage sale from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Aug. 15.

The sale will feature tools, hardware, vintage items, Elvis memorabilia, clothing, kitchen items and other household goods. Items will be priced at free, \$1, \$3, \$5 and \$10.

Catholic Charities accepting donations for Christmas resale event

Catholic Charities Community Services of Medina County is accepting donations of gently used Christmas decorations and other holiday items

through Sept. 30 for its Christmas resale event.

Donations may be dropped off Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Catholic Charities office, 4210 N. Jefferson St., Suite A, Medina. The resale event will be held from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Oct. 3, with proceeds benefiting the organization’s Help Yourself Food Shelf.

St. Matthew volunteers assist with Tennessee disaster recovery

Five members of St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church traveled to Carter County, Tennessee, July 12-17 to assist with ongoing recovery efforts following Hurricane Helene.

The volunteers worked with the Carter County Long-Term Recovery Group to help complete repairs to a flood-damaged home. Another mission trip to Carter County is planned for September.

First Christian Church to host Back-to-School Community Fair

First Christian Church will host a Back-to-School Community Fair 1-3 p.m. Aug. 23 on the church lawn.

The event will include free haircuts, face painting, a nail polish station, food, games and visits from local firefighters and police officers.

—from staff reports

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Preparing for New Seasons



As summer winds down, many communities prepare for the return to school and a structured schedule. This change of pace is a good opportunity for us to **re-evaluate our commitments and priorities**. Just as we prepare school supplies, we must intentionally prepare our hearts for the next spiritual season. Ask God to show you what habits or activities you need to pick up or set aside to better follow Him. Embrace the structure of a new routine as a chance to deepen your devotion and service.

Philippians 3:13-14 (NIV): "But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus."

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I prayed to the Lord,
and he answered me.
He freed me
from all my fears.
Psalm 34:4

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Taste and see that the LORD is good; blessed is the one who takes refuge in him.
Psalm 34:8

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Check directly with your local **House of Worship** for an update on any schedule changes or cancellations.

THE GAZETTE

Founded in 1832
SCOTT MAHONEY
Managing Editor

ANOTHER OPINION

Where's the sympathy for Haitians facing deportation?

Supporters of the Trump administration's decision to terminate Temporary Protected Status will quickly remind you that TPS was always meant to be temporary. They're right; it says it right in the name of the program. But does that mean Haiti's TPS designation should have been revoked in July, making some 350,000 people vulnerable to deportation?

For anyone who's been following the lawlessness and violence that's taken over Haiti since its president was assassinated in 2021, the answer is an obvious no, making the revocation an especially cruel part of President Trump's mass deportation agenda. Three Miami Republican lawmakers understood that when they supported a U.S. House measure in April to extend Haiti's TPS designation through 2029.

Now it's up to Florida's Republican Sens. Ashley Moody and Rick Scott to do their part after a similar measure failed in the U.S. Senate last month when a Missouri Republican senator blocked a motion to fast track it to a vote on the floor. The Democratic sponsors have vowed to keep pushing their bill and immigration advocates are calling on Moody and Scott to support it.

So what are the Republican senators' plans to help the hundreds of thousands of Haitians living in South Florida — people working in industries that are crucial to our economy, such as health and elderly care?

So far, they've offered a lot of words but few specifics.

The Herald Editorial Board reached out to their offices asking whether they support the Senate legislation filed by Democrats. Moody's spokesperson directed us to comments the former Florida attorney general gave to Local 10. In an Aug. 27 news segment, Moody told a reporter that TPS needs to be scaled back but "we've got to start looking at these in a case-by-case basis, so I've been meeting with the administration talking about alternative routes."

Scott's office directed us to an interview he gave ABC News last week, in which he said TPS "was always a temporary program, so we've got to come up with: How do we fix the immigration system so people, we know, are vetted?" He said he's "absolutely" concerned about Haitians' safety if they have to return to their country and that, "We've got to come up with a way so that they can continue to thrive here."

Those are nice words. No doubt the U.S. desperately needs, as Scott said, to "fix our whole immigration system" with comprehensive reform that tackles everything from work visas to undocumented immigrants and TPS holders. But Congress has attempted to pass reform for decades and failed to reach a consensus. Haitians — as Scott clearly acknowledges — don't have the luxury to wait. Just being concerned about them doesn't cut it.

A bipartisan congressional delegation that visited Port-au-Prince recently saw the real conditions in Haiti, despite the Trump administration's assertion, when TPS was cancelled, that they have improved.

"The conditions we saw on the ground were pretty horrific," U.S. Rep. Ami Bera, D-California, told the Miami Herald.

During the visit, at least three senior Haiti government officials were victims of gang kidnappings. A 6-year-old U.S. citizen had been in captivity for 46 days despite several ransom payments. Haitians who are deported could easily become the targets of this type of criminal activity.

Haiti has no fully functioning government, its capital is largely controlled by gangs and the United Nations issued a warning late last month about a surge in women and girls being raped, often by armed groups. In the first half of 2026, there were 5,500 cases of gender-based violence in the country, according to the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs.

"This is not the right time to be sending people back to Haiti," Bera concluded.

Congressional Republicans may dismiss Bera's comments as a typical open-borders, liberal plea, but TPS has bipartisan support, as became evident when Miami GOP U.S. Reps. Maria Elvira Salazar, Carlos Giménez and Mario Diaz-Balart voted to extend it.

Scott told ABC News that, "We've got a lot of wonderful Haitians in my state. I've always supported them." More words — but where is the action? Haitians are facing deportation under conditions that no humane person would consider reasonable.

We can only hope that Moody's talk with the Trump White House about finding "alternative routes" for Haitians is serious and pays off. Scott is a top ally of Trump in the U.S. Senate and Moody, who is running for election, is endorsed by the president.

The voice of Florida's senators matters for their constituents on this issue. They should start using it more.

— *The Miami Herald*

LETTERS GUIDELINES

The Gazette welcomes letters to the editor. Letters are subject to editing for brevity, accuracy and clarity.

Letters should be 250 words or fewer. Letters with more than 250 words may be edited to approximately the required length.

Include your name, full home address and telephone number for verification purposes.

BY EMAIL (preferred): letters@medina-gazette.com

BY MAIL: Letters to the Editor, The Gazette, 885 W. Liberty St., Medina, OH 44256



"NOW THROW ME THE CHAINSAW."

Democrats look ahead to 2028



CARL LEUBSDORF

The Democrats are at it again, fiddling with the presidential nominating calendar in hopes of achieving the impossible — making it even-handed towards the party's various voting groups without favoring any of the large field of potential candidates.

Their latest iteration, subject to ratification by the full Democratic National Committee and implementation by the states involved, confirms the plan Joe Biden's allies created four years ago. They placed South Carolina's predominantly black Democratic electorate in the coveted first spot on the calendar, ahead of the contests in overwhelmingly white Iowa and New Hampshire.

Iowa, which botched the counting of its presidential caucuses in both 2016 and 2020, was again pushed totally out of the early group of influential states, behind the multi-state early March Super Tuesday primaries. New Hampshire was placed third, after South Carolina and Nevada.

History has shown it is very difficult to predict the results from the order of the contests. The fact that the South Carolina Democratic electorate is more than half Black neither guarantees success by a Black candidate nor a significant boost to one who did win.

In addition, even if the full DNC ratifies this calendar, three factors will impact the decision by its Rules and Bylaws Committee:

1. The Republicans are likely to keep the calendar they have used for the last several election cycles. That means the GOP race will start with the Iowa caucuses, probably on Jan. 3, 2028, followed by the New Hampshire GOP primary on Tuesday, Jan. 11. Several prominent Republicans have talked of running, even if President Donald Trump tries to anoint a successor.

2. That means that, no matter what Democratic rule-makers say, the first Democratic primary will be in New Hampshire, on the same day as the Republicans. State law requires it. So, if the South Carolina Democratic primary is scheduled for Saturday Jan. 22, there will be a New Hampshire primary on Tuesday Jan. 11.

It may not allocate the Granite state's small trove of Democratic delegates. But it is hard to see serious Democratic candidates failing to take the opportunity to gain the psychological boost of an early victory there. Iowa Democrats could hold a non-binding straw poll at their precinct caucuses a week earlier, but they won't decide until later.

3. Despite the effort to empower groups like South Carolina's African Americans and Nevada's Hispanics, money will be more important than ever. The Democrats' proportional allocation of delegates encourages more candidates to stay in the nominating race for a longer period than the GOP's winner-take-all rules, regardless of the early results, assuming they have the resources.

Biden finished fourth in Iowa and fifth in New Hampshire in 2020, before rebounding with second in Nevada and scoring his break-through victory in South Carolina. The likely size of the field may mean that a candidate has to win at least one of the earliest contests to become a major contender for the nomination.

The purpose of the new configuration is to create early contests in all parts of the country, in states with different electorates. So, after South Carolina, Nevada and New Hampshire, the early contests will include New Mexico, Michigan and Virginia. Unlike South Carolina, which has not voted for a Democratic presidential nominee since 1976, the other five have all voted for recent Democratic nominees. On the other hand, no winner of a contested New Hampshire Democratic primary has won the party's presidential nomination since John Kerry in 2004.

Even before the final calendar is approved, some prospective candidates have been scheduling appearances based on their expectation of where the early contests will be. ABC News reported late

last year that the three most visited states were Iowa, New Hampshire and South Carolina, with Nevada and New Mexico close behind.

California Gov. Gavin Newsom, one of the most active Democratic travelers, made a two-day swing through South Carolina; other visitors included former Vice President Kamala Harris, Govs. Wes Moore of Maryland and Andy Beshear of Kentucky, Sens. Cory Booker of New Jersey and Ruben Gallego of Arizona, Rep. Ro Khanna of California and former Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel.

The Nevada Independent tracked visits to the state by 13 prospective Democratic candidates and four Republicans.

Early polling has mainly reflected the degree of name identification of some prospective candidates. The four who poll the best nationally are Harris, Newsom, 2020 candidate and former Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg and U.S. Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, a favorite of party progressives.

A recent University of New Hampshire poll put Ocasio-Cortez and Buttigieg at the top.

This week's hotly contested Michigan Democratic Senate primary saw Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders and Ocasio-Cortez joined in backing fellow progressive Dr. Abdul El-Sayed by Maryland Sen. Chris van Hollen, suggesting the latter may be considering a 2028 race. But two Michigan Democrats who may run, Buttigieg and Sen. Elissa Slotkin, stayed neutral.

In 2020, 29 Democrats formally sought their party's presidential nomination and a dozen more considered running. Judging from early signs, that number may be exceeded in 2028, given the Democratic optimism that Trump's unpopularity will boost their party's chances.

This November's midterm results may not even be final when the first 2028 hopefuls declare their candidacies.

But the size of the field and the complexities stemming from the primary calendar suggest it may be sometime in the spring of 2028 before the shape of the race becomes clear.

Carl P. Leubsdorf is the former Washington bureau chief of the Dallas Morning News. Readers may write to him via email at carl.p.leubsdorf@gmail.com.

The problem with living under socialism

It has become a truism that people who are embracing socialism have never had to live under it and its ideological twin, communism. Young people seem so enamored by these train wrecks that they are willing to vote for the most radical candidates who promise them the moon and claim they can pay for it all by increasing taxes on "millionaires and billionaires."

Hoping to balance the one-sided propaganda about socialism coming from the media and candidates running for offices as socialists, Fox News has conducted interviews with people who once lived under these systems. The testimonies are a powerful rebuke to those who believe socialism is the answer to every problem.

In a one-week series, correspondent Alexandria Hoff interviewed people who fled the Soviet Union, China, Venezuela and Cuba.

Virginia attorney Marina Medvin, who left the Soviet Union, described herself as "overwhelmed" by the abundance of food in U.S. grocery stores. Hoff says: "Like many who have fled authoritarian socialist regimes, Medvin is alarmed by what she sees as the Democratic Party in America warming to socialist promises."

Medvin: "They say that the purpose of democratic socialism is to bring equality ... but what equality does it bring? That everyone is equally poor? That everyone



CAL THOMAS

is equally miserable, everyone is equally depressed?"

In Venezuela, reports Hoff, it took about 15 years for the nationalization of private industries to unravel into social and economic collapse. Daniel Di Martino: "We couldn't find milk in the grocery store and then we couldn't find chicken, then we had to line up. The government asked for our ID to buy groceries and assigned us a day of the week to go to the store."

The story of Cuba is well known, Yali Nunez escaped the failed island nation. Nunez sees democratic socialists in the U.S. blindly embracing what she fled at age 16: "None of these people have spent one day in socialism or communism ... they are selling you a story they don't even understand."

The democratic socialists, notes Hoff, claim their brand of socialism differs from the totalitarian regimes because "workers" would govern institutions and not unelected bureaucrats. The two systems are founded on lies, so why should people running on the DSA platform be trusted? Evidence reveals the objectives

of socialism and communism. As many as 100 million are estimated to have died at the hands of these totalitarian governments.

Xi Van Fleet survived China's murderous Cultural Revolution. Xi has appeared on many U.S. TV programs, warning Americans about the Maoist-communist tactics and the danger America faces if we allow these economic and political systems to further expand in our politics.

Others have testified about economic hardships, loss of liberties and other things Americans take for granted.

In an 1814 letter to John Taylor, John Adams warned: "Democracy never lasts long. It soon wastes, exhausts, and murders itself. There never was a democracy yet that did not commit suicide." Adams argued that unchecked human passions lead to self-destruction.

As I wrote in a previous book, "America's Expiration Date", the average age of democracies is 250 years. We are now at our "expiration date."

Inertia from "the greatest generation" will soon run out if we do not renew the principles upon which Adams and the other Founders built the nation.

Socialism will lead to our destruction and once destroyed it will be nearly impossible to bring back our constitutional republic.

Readers may email Cal Thomas at tcaeditors@tribpub.com.

Foo Fighters coming Monday

John Benson
The Gazette

It's times like these when Foo Fighters fans come together.

Not only is the Dave Grohl-led band bringing the band's stadium headlining tour to Cleveland on Monday at Huntington Bank Field, but the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame has scheduled a special pregame Fan Day soiree celebrating its 2021 inductee.

"The history of the Fan Days goes as far back as these big marquee concerts and events in and around downtown Cleveland have been happening," said Rock & Roll Hall of Fame Director of Fan Engagement and Guest Experience John Goerke. "We know that visitors come to Cleveland, and often they visit the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame.

"But when they're in town for a big concert, they're definitely likely to come to the Rock Hall — and particularly when those shows are next door at Cleveland Browns Stadium.

"The goal is to curate a Rock Hall experience that's really relevant to them." Included with a general admission Rock Hall ticket, Foo Fighters Fan Day features artifact spotlights, induction footage playing in Forest City Theater and a curated playlist blasting throughout the venue.

Two particular screenings of note for Goerke include the "Saturday Night Live" exhibit and "Stories of Rock: From Nirvana to Foo Fighters" presentation.

IF YOU GO

WHAT: Rock & Roll Hall of Fame presents Foo Fighters Fan Day
WHEN: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday
WHERE: Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Museum
TICKETS: \$39.50 for adults (\$34.50 for Northeast Ohio residents), \$29.50 for kids 6 to 12 and free for kids 5 and younger
INFO: (216) 515-8425 or Rockhall.com

The former highlights Grohl's dozen appearances on the iconic show, while the latter delves into his musical journey.

"The vast majority of what we're offering that day, we don't offer every day," he said.

"We'll have archivists bringing out some special Foo Fighters artifacts that aren't currently on display."

Not only are the Foo Fighters touring in support of new album "Your Favorite Toy," but opens Queens of the Stone Age (perhaps a future inductee act) also recently released new music, the alluring psychedelic track "Easy Street."

Noting there's something cool about legacy acts continuing to release new music, Goerke added a unique perspective reshaping the Hall of Fame conversation.

"It just speaks to their longevity, both as a live act, but



PHOTO COURTESY OF MICHAEL LOCCISANO

The Foo Fighters perform at the 36th Annual Rock & Roll Hall Of Fame Induction Ceremony in 2021, the year the group was inducted.

also putting out new music," he said.

"If you think a sports hall of fame, they are honoring athletes who have retired.

"They are no longer involved in the craft that made them famous.

"For many of our inductees, they're still putting out records, sometimes really critically acclaimed records, years after their inductions."

When it comes to stadium shows featuring music giants taking place a stone's throw away from the Rock Hall, fans naturally assume the artists make it a priority to visit the iconic museum.

"There have been many late-night special tours," he said, laughing.

"If we get a call that one of our inductees wants to come check out the museum, regardless of the time, we want to make sure they get that tour experience.

"But sometimes, it's just a matter of time. Their production schedule doesn't even always allow those visits.

"In the case of the Rolling Stones, our curators and our CEO were actually able to meet the band members at the show.

We brought some of the artifacts to them so they could see some of that stuff that we have on display."

Asked point blank if he expects the members of the Foo Fighters to visit the Rock Hall, Goerke said, "Whether it's the Foo Fighters or an artist coming through any of our amazing local venues in Northeast Ohio, we invite every single one of them to come through the museum."

Contact John Benson at ndiffrence@att.net

FIVE FINGER DEATH PUNCH Heavy metal at Blossom

John Benson
The Gazette

It's not too often Five Finger Death Punch and Taylor Swift seem to appear in the same sentence.

However, that's exactly what happened when Death Punch returns to Northeast Ohio Tuesday for a show at Blossom Music Center, recently followed in Tay-Tay's footsteps.

Both acts — without ownership of their master recordings — rerecorded earlier material as a way to circumvent around the fact that previous record labels sold their catalogs.

In Five Finger Death Punch's case, the band last year released "Volume 1" of their rerecorded greatest hits album.

Not only were fans understanding, but apparently Swifties took notice.

"How crazy is that, right?" said Five Finger Death Punch guitarist Zoltan Bathory, calling

ing from Mansfield, Massachusetts. "Actually, in a weird way, we picked up a lot of Taylor Swift fans. It was really interesting when the news was coming out that there's something similar between Taylor Swift and us. We have one common denominator here.

"Her fans are freaking crazy and so are ours, diehard. It was the weirdest thing these little 15-year-old girls by the thousands in the comments saying, 'There you go, boys. Let's go.' Her fans are hardcore and so are ours, in a different way. So that was really wild to see. Absolutely, I never thought that would happen."

That apparently isn't the case regarding the rise of Five Finger Death Punch, which 20 years ago was in the process of creating its debut effort, "The Way of the Fist." Bathory vividly remembers recording the album in his Hollywood apartment.

"That record is almost plat-

IF YOU GO

WHAT: Five Finger Death Punch
WHEN: 6:45 p.m. Tuesday
WHERE: Blossom Music Center, 1145 W. Steels Corners Road, Cuyahoga Falls
TICKETS: \$25 to \$165
INFO: Livenation.com

inum now, and it was literally made in my living room," he said. "We went into a studio to mix it. When the mixes were coming out, (vocalist) Ivan (Moody) and I were like Beavis and Butthead, kicking over couches, jumping around and moshing because we really knew, man, we got something. Obviously where we are today has definitely exceeded the dreams, but we had big dreams." That career is entering its third decade with the band having more



PHOTO COURTESY OF STEPHEN JENSEN

Five Finger Death Punch will play at Blossom on Tuesday.

than 15 billion global streams, 30 Top 10 rock hits and 13 consecutive No. 1 singles on Billboard's Mainstream Rock Airplay chart.

Regarding the latter, the group's recently released new album "Legacy" boasts lead single "Eye Of The Storm," which debuted at the top.

"This was the first time we took four years between albums, so we intentionally were picking the songs that would give you a snapshot of what this band is all about. We purposely picked the heavier songs.

"For the album title, it was between 'Legacy' or 'Dental Plan Activator.' We went with 'Legacy.'" When it's pointed out that these days good dental plans are hard to come by, Bathory said laughing, "If you're getting to the mosh pit on this tour, you probably should have one because the songs are heavier."

Contact John Benson at ndiffrence@att.net

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MOVIE TIMES

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Sunday: 11 a.m.; 1:30, 4:30 and 7:30 p.m.; Monday through Thursday: 1:30, 4:30 and 7:30 p.m.

Spider-Man: Brand New Day (PG-13)
Friday: 1:05, 4:10, 7:15 and 10:20 p.m.; Saturday: 10 a.m.; 1:05, 4:10, 7:15 10 a.m.;
Sunday: 10 a.m.; 1:05, 4:10 and 7:15 p.m.; Monday through Thursday: 1:05, 4:10 and 7:15 p.m.

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DESIGNS GO FROM CULT STATUS TO PARIS RUNWAYS

Celebs wear ‘fecal matter’

Beatrice Dupuy
The Associated Press

The brand name behind recent showstopping fashion moments isn't quite as delicate as their romantic and otherworldly looks. When asked what an ethereal Zendaya was wearing for the “Odyssey” premiere in New York, her stylist Law Roach responded: “Fecal Matter.”

Zendaya's angelic strapless gown with feathered white wings was the work of Matières Fécales — yes, in English, Fecal Matter — the Paris-based, high-end fashion house founded in Montreal over a decade ago that's, seemingly suddenly, everywhere.

Why Matières Fécales is called ... that

The design duo behind Matières Fécales, Steven Raj Bhaskaran and Hannah Rose Dalton, have aimed to subvert beauty with their own alien-like personal style, including dramatic white makeup, shaved heads and eyebrows, and skin boots made to look like realistic feet.

Bhaskaran and Dalton started the brand as students at Collège LaSalle Montréal, going from selling designs on the secondhand shopping platform Depop to showcasing collections at Paris Fashion Week. The designers have said the name reflects their view of the fashion industry, a perspective they initially summed up with a more vulgar word.

“There's no other word for it, but how can we say it in a glamorous way? So we're like, ‘fecal matter’ is the scientific word for it,” Dalton recalled to Vogue last year, adding they translated it into French, which “sounds way more glamorous.” Bhaskaran told the “Fashion Neurosis” podcast in March that the name was also intended to “challenge the wasteful side of fashion.”

A representative for Matières Fécales said the designers were not available for comment.

It's own category

Despite the visceral name, tastemakers from Lady Gaga to Kylie Jenner are embracing their designs.

“There is this beautiful tension in their work between the finesse and the decaying, and the strong and the soft,” celebrity stylist Brad Goreski told The Associated Press.

And after years of building a cult following, they were taken under the wings of Dover Street Market in 2024, after first meeting its president, Adrian Joffe, backstage at a Madonna show. The global retail and concept stores offer emerging brands development support, from production and distribution to sales.

Kristen Bateman, a longtime fashion and culture writer who has attended all three of the designers’ Paris Fashion Week shows, said their rise is driven by the industry’s desire to see something new.

“If you're looking at the high-fashion brands like Chanel and Dior, it all sort of starts to blend together,” she said. “And this feels like it's in its own category. ... You can't replicate it.”

From cult status to Paris Fashion Week

Milan Tanedjikov, a Collège LaSalle Montréal design teacher, had a front-row seat to Dalton and Bhaskaran's rise and says they have finally found the balance between their art and fashion.

“They have created this, like, very interesting organism together,” he said.

The designers were invited onto the official calendar for Paris Fashion Week last year, debuting “The Other,” a collection they described as an ode to being fearless with identity. It featured a collaboration pairing their striking curved-heel design with Christian Louboutin's signature red sole.

“At their very core, what drives them is absolute freedom of expression, and they want to push the boundaries of what is human,” Tanedjikov said.

In March, during Paris Fashion Week, the duo unveiled “The One Percent,” with models theatrically strutting with red paint on white opera gloves and wearing eye masks made of dollar bills. The collection showcased how “power affects us all,” they wrote on Instagram.

“What they were able to build in such a small amount of time is really insane in terms of world building and creating their world,” Augustin Maunier, Dover Street Market's director of brand development, said. “There's real storytelling behind it.”

The show's theme was a stark contrast to the billionaires who had been sitting front row at other fashion week shows. At this year's Met Gala, where Jeff Bezos was an honorary chair, actor Sarah Paulson wore a voluminous, gray, distressed ball gown from the collection, paired with the eye-covering money mask.

Demi Moore in a Barbie-pink bow

Goreski pulled from “The One Percent” for Demi Moore's wardrobe as a Cannes Film Festival jury member, telling the AP he wanted something new for Moore. Moore's frayed, full-volume, Barbie-pink ball gown with a distressed bow was a break from her usual structured looks. In 20 years of dressing Moore, Goreski said she hardly ever chooses a full-skirt “cupcake” shape, but that she fell for the designers’ artistic vision and storytelling.

“They're designing clothes for themselves,” he said. “That's authentically them, but they're bringing it to like a whole other audience.”

Clothes on Lady Gaga and a Dunkin’ ad

Early supporters of the brand fittingly included boundary-breaking performers Madonna and Lady Gaga. Madonna even invited them to DJ on her tour in 2023 and they've designed custom looks for Gaga's live performances, including Coachella. At this year's Grammys, Gaga wore a high-neck, feathered, black gown from the designers, a dark angel to Zendaya's heavenly “Odyssey” look.

Now, though, their bold designs are going beyond red carpets. In a television ad for Dunkin', Kylie Jenner wore a blush-pink, satin, structured blazer with over-the-top shoulder pads, a designer choice that generated some amusement online from those previously unfamiliar with the brand's name.

The designers created a distressed Victorian-style dress for model Gabbriette Bechtel's wedding to musician Matty Healy, a first for the brand. With their next Paris Fashion Week show set for September, fashion connoisseurs are eagerly waiting to see what's next.

“We're rooting for them because they're younger designers who have something to say,” fashion commentator Hanan Besovic, who posts online as @Ideservecouture, said.



Zendaya attends the premiere of “The Odyssey” at AMC Lincoln Square in July in New York.



Jury member Demi Moore appears at the premiere of the film “Paper Tiger” at the 79th International Film Festival, in May in Cannes, southern France.



Lady Gaga arrives at the 68th annual Grammy Awards in February in Los Angeles.

The design duo behind Matières Fécales, Steven Raj Bhaskaran and Hannah Rose Dalton, have aimed to subvert beauty with their own alien-like personal style, including dramatic white makeup, shaved heads and eyebrows, and skin boots made to look like realistic feet.

MASSACHUSETTS MOTHER KILLS 3 CHILDREN

Trial spotlights psychiatric hospital stay

EDITOR'S NOTE: This story includes discussion of suicide. If you or someone you know needs help, the national suicide and crisis lifeline in the U.S. is available by calling or texting 988.

Jennifer Peltz
The Associated Press

Lindsay Clancy's murder trial zeroed in Friday on the nearly five days that the Massachusetts mother spent in a psychiatric hospital a few weeks before she killed her three children.

Her stay is a key chapter in both the prosecution and defense narratives about her mental state when she strangled the children in their suburban home and then jumped out a second-story window.

In questioning one of her McLean Hospital psychiatrists on Friday, a prosecutor underscored that Clancy denied to hospital clinicians that she wanted to hurt anyone else or planned to kill herself. Clancy's lawyer, mean-



Clancy

while, aimed to flesh out the defense's claim that she sought mental health help for months, wasn't properly diagnosed as she went from provider to provider, and was put on a series of medications that left her worse off.

Clancy has pleaded not guilty to murder charges in the January 2023 strangling deaths of Callan, Dawson and Cora Clancy, who ranged from 8 months to 5 years old. They were found in the basement of the family's home in coastal Duxbury, Massachusetts, and their mother was lying, badly injured, in the yard. She remains paralyzed from the waist down.

Prosecutors argue that Clancy, a 35-year-old former labor and delivery nurse, was an intentional killer who

attacked her children after getting her husband out of the house by asking him to run errands. The defense doesn't dispute that she killed the children but says she shouldn't be held criminally responsible, contending that she was so mentally ill that she heard voices telling her to kill them and herself.

In the criminal trial and a medical malpractice lawsuit, Clancy's attorneys say she had bipolar disorder and postpartum psychosis — a break with reality that a small fraction of women have after childbirth — that weren't fully diagnosed until after the killings, though one of her outpatient providers considered bipolar disorder in 2022.

Clancy recounted that provider's opinion and disagreed with it after she checked herself into McLean early on New Year's Day 2023, psychiatrist Dr. Alia Goodheart told jurors Friday.

When Goodheart joined Clancy's lineup of providers that Jan. 3, the patient expressed concerns about an antipsychotic medication she'd previously been prescribed to help with insomnia, and about feeling numb, which can be a side effect of that drug, Goodheart said. She diagnosed her with insomnia with a mental health condition and tapered down the medication.

Clancy then reported she could sleep, was eager to go home in time for a long-planned belated birthday party for Cora, and booked herself follow-up outpatient care, the psychiatrist testified. The hospital discharged her that Jan. 5 with prescriptions for an antianxiety drug and a sleep aid.

"She had never stated that she had any thoughts of harming anybody else," Goodheart told jurors. And although Clancy said she'd had suicidal thoughts, she denied having

them in the moment and indeed said she had reasons not to take her own life: "her children and her family, her mother," Goodheart recalled.

When defense lawyer Kevin Reddington had his turn to question the psychiatrist, he emphasized that the hospital care team didn't do various tests — Goodheart said they weren't necessary — or learn that she had called a suicide hotline that fall. Nor did the providers talk to various outpatient clinicians who had treated Clancy over the prior months, though they did speak to her husband.

"She was very sick, wasn't she?" Reddington asked at one point.

"I don't know what you mean," Goodheart responded.

If convicted of murder, Clancy faces life in prison without parole. If found not guilty due to a lack of criminal responsibility, she would be committed to a state mental health facility.

FUNERAL HOME IN CHICAGO

Over 50 bodies found improperly stored

Dave Collins
and Cybele Mayes-Osterman
The Associated Press

CHICAGO — More than 50 bodies were found improperly stored and decomposing Thursday at a Chicago funeral home run by a couple who previously operated a crematory that was similarly shut down because of mishandled remains, authorities said.

Illinois state officials, meanwhile, suspended the license of one of the funeral home's directors, alleging bodies were being kept in an unrefrigerated area in "deplorable conditions."

The discovery came months after neighborhood residents began noticing a "stench" emanating from the funeral home, which led some to complain to the city.

The Cook County Medical Examiner's Office said it was notified by state and local officials that bodies were being stored improperly at South Chicago Chapel, and investigators and forensic pathologists were dispatched Thursday. The remains were in various states of decomposition, officials said.

"Staff is assessing the conditions of the remains, searching for documentation regarding identification of the decedents as well as death certificates. This process could take several days to ensure proper disposition," the medical examiner's office said in a statement, adding that family notifications will be made following the identifications.

Police said Friday that their preliminary statement on the case incorrectly said that fire department officials declared the scene a hazardous materials incident.

No arrests have been announced, but city police said detectives are investigating.

Messages for the funeral home were left by phone and through its website Friday.



TYLER PASCIAK LARIVIERE / CHICAGO SUN-TIMES VIA AP

Chicago police investigate South Chicago Chapel after authorities discovered dozens of decomposing bodies in the funeral home's basement on Thursday.

Funeral home client, community advocate express dismay

Later Friday, a small number of residents and people seeking information about their deceased loved ones gathered in front of the brick-walled funeral home, which is on a South Chicago street lined with trees, homes and businesses.

Latasha Johnson, 55, said her mother's funeral was held at South Chicago Chapel on Thursday before authorities arrived and she later heard of their gruesome discovery. She said authorities told her that her mother's body would have to undergo an autopsy and she would have to identify

the remains in a day or two.

"I'm discombobulated," she said. "My heart is broken."

Blaise Von Bruchhaeuser, who described herself as a community advocate for the neighborhood, said it was upsetting that complaints about a terrible odor had been made for months before the decomposing bodies were found.

State business records show that funeral director Johanna Morgan incorporated South Chicago Chapel Inc. in 2022 and her funeral director's license was temporarily suspended on Wednesday.

The state Department of Financial and Professional Regulation said the license suspension was due to

"a finding that Respondent's continued practice is a danger to the public safety, interest and welfare due to Respondent allowing multiple decedents to be kept in an unrefrigerated area with deplorable conditions including rodent infestation, causing decomposition and maggot infestation of the bodies."

The state business records also list Clark Morgan, who state officials say is Johanna Morgan's husband, as the funeral home's president. The Department of Financial and Professional Regulation said Clark Morgan's funeral director license was revoked in 2024 for practicing with an expired license and "unprofessional conduct" that it did not specify.

Funeral home owners also ran crematory that was shut down by the state

State Comptroller Susana Mendoza said Friday that Johanna and Clark Morgan previously ran a crematory in Chicago Heights, south of Chicago, which had its license revoked last year after authorities discovered improperly stored bodies and hundreds of cremated remains that had never been returned to their families.

"Horried. Again," Mendoza said in a statement. "The discovery of decomposing remains waiting to be laid to rest this week at a South Side funeral home is heartbreaking and an abomination. These are people — someone's mother, father, sister, brother, child or friend, and they deserve better."

Both Johanna and Clark Morgan are listed in Cook County court records as defendants in connection with lawsuits involving Heights Crematory in Chicago Heights, south of Chicago.

Messages were left Friday at phone listings for the Clarks and an attorney listed in records as their business agent. Public records indicate the Clarks live in the Chicago suburb of Evergreen Park.

The case is the latest in a series of incidents involving mishandled remains over the past three years.

Last month, police arrested two men in Pueblo, Colorado, for allegedly mishandling at least two dozen decomposing bodies and other remains found behind a hidden door in a funeral home.

That followed the discovery of 18 bodies in various stages of decomposition at a funeral home in Georgia in 2024. In 2023, nearly 200 decomposing bodies were found in a building in Colorado, and another 31 decomposing bodies were discovered at an Indiana funeral home.

IDAHO IN-N-OUT BURGER DRIVE-THRU

New video shows gunman shooting victims

Sarah Raza and Ed White
The Associated Press

Police released video Friday of a mass shooting that killed three people at an Idaho In-N-Out Burger, and praised an employee from a nearby store who engaged the gunman outdoors, slowing him down and possibly preventing more deaths as authorities were catching up.

The story of heroism told by police for the first time adds to the list of at least three more people who confronted the gunman with their own weapons as well as numerous others who rushed to comfort victims.

"What happened here was violent, frightening and deeply traumatic," Twin Falls Police Chief Matthew Hicks said during a news conference.

The video revealed more details of the chaotic scene last weekend. The gunman walked up to the drive-thru window four times and opened fire, killing an In-N-Out employee, police said.

Ten people were shot — inside the restaurant, directly outside, on an adjacent busy road and at a car charging station in a Twin Falls visitors center lot, Hicks said.

He said investigators still don't have a motive for the shooting. The gunman, Chad Williams, 24, killed himself.

It should have been a "normal Saturday afternoon," Hicks said. "Employees showing up for work. Visitors coming to see our beautiful city. Instead they were confronted with chaos, fear and now loss."



TWIN FALLS POLICE DEPARTMENT VIA AP

Chad Williams holding a gun approaches a car in an In-N-Out drive-thru in Twin Falls, Idaho, on Aug. 1.

A man who encountered the gunman is a 'hero'

As the shooting unfolded, employees from nearby stores fled to a walking trail. When the gunman headed to the trail, he came across two people, including one with his hands in the air talking to him, according to the video.

That man distracted the gunman from possibly pursuing others on the trail. Williams subsequently killed himself as police closed in. His body was found near a canyon.

"To that young man, you are a hero," Hicks said. "Your courage, your composure, your selflessness in that moment likely gave others the time they needed to escape harm. This

community is grateful for you, and we will never forget what you did that day."

Hicks also praised the work of an off-duty state trooper, who shot at Williams from inside the restaurant, and former police officer A.J. James, who was wounded while confronting him. Authorities previously credited an armed civilian who fired back and

diverted Williams from the restaurant.

An off-duty officer helps the wounded

James ran toward the sound of gunfire from the drive-thru window, while the off-duty officer inside the In-N-Out exchanged gunfire with Williams through the window and directed workers out of the building, Hicks said.

He acted "heroically and unbelievably" to try to slow down the shooter, the police chief said, declining to release the off-duty officer's name.

Braxton Steube said he was the person who encountered Williams on the trail after fleeing a Dick's Sporting Good store.

"I said, 'I have a family.' I said, 'You don't have to do this. I'll tell you whatever you want. I'll do anything,'" Steube told KMVT-TV. "He started to like tear up a bit, it seemed. And he said to me, 'Just get away from me, man.'"

Steube said the gunman shot at him and missed.

The Twin Falls In-N-Out, 130 miles southeast of Boise, the state capital, had opened in July as part of the chain's expansion into Idaho.

Police identified those killed as Ashley Garibay, 23, of Stockton, California; Dale Schultz, 66, of Salt Lake City; and Christopher Claunch, 59, of Hagerman, Idaho.

Williams had briefly attended the College of Southern Idaho and previously lived in Arizona.

Girls tennis

Check out the Medina County season preview. Page B3



Sports

WWW.MEDINA-GAZETTE.COM

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Section

B

Saturday, August 8, 2026

WOMEN'S SOCCER

Wickes gearing up to make pro debut

Ryan Isley The Gazette

Jordyn Wickes loved playing soccer when she was younger, but she didn't really see herself playing much past college.



Wickes

"I knew once my college career ended that I wasn't quite done with the game yet, which is not something I was expecting," she said. "I just

Not only did the Brunswick graduate play four years at Michigan State, she recently signed her first professional contract with Vitoria Sporte Club in Guimaraes, Portugal.

fell more and more in love with the game, and once my career was over, I knew I wasn't ready to hang up my cleats just yet."

Once Wickes finished her engineering degree at Michigan State, she trained with the Cleveland Ambassadors and played semi-professionally with the California Storm of the Women's Premier Soccer League while also signing with Next Wave Women's Football Recruitment in hopes of finding a landing spot to further her career.

The next thing the 2020 Gazette MVP and 2021 Gazette Senior Female Athlete of the Year knew, she was on a

plane to Portugal.

"The more I learned about the club and the city and everything that they're doing to help grow not only, you know, Vitoria's Women's team but women's football as a whole here in Portugal, I just knew this was the perfect place for me and the right fit," Wickes said. "So I signed a contract, and I'll be here for at least 10 months, if not two years."

It took Wickes a bit to adjust to the time difference — Portugal is eight hours ahead of California and five ahead of Ohio — but once she got settled in, she noticed one major difference.

"I think just the the daily quality of life here really, in comparison to America, it's a lot calmer, it's a lot slower," Wickes said. "They take their time. They enjoy the little things here more, and I'm really trying my best to acclimate to that side of things because I think it's really beautiful. They have such an appreciation for their daily life and the details of it, the way they do everything."

That includes the way people dress. One thing Wickes noticed was that the Portuguese don't go about their daily lives in sweatpants and T-shirts.

"I'm going to training in jeans

now, which is not something I can ever say I thought I would do or have ever done before," Wickes said with a laugh.

Wickes is more than willing to make those adjustments and see how different things can be.

"The details matter here, and they appreciate the beauty of it," she said. "Being able to take it all in and slow down in comparison to the American lifestyle and the way we've always carried ourselves back home, that's been, I think, the hardest adjustment. But I'm excited about it, because I think it increases that quality of life and the ability to appreciate all the small things around here."

See WICKES, B3

FOOTBALL

Oberlin cancels season Black River now looking for new foe

Todd Shapiro The Gazette

Friday night lights won't shine in Oberlin this fall.

Oberlin City Schools announced Thursday it was canceling the 2026 football season due to a lack of players, giving Black River an open date in Week 10.

While the Phoenix had 14 potential players show up during a July 29 meeting, attendance for Monday's first mandatory practice was in the single digits.

"Going into the summer we felt pretty good about where our numbers would sit, but once we got into the summer the numbers were just not where we needed them to be," Oberlin athletic director Julian Acosta-Gorman said. "During our summer workouts and liftings we'd have six kids one day, eight kids the next day, maybe 10 on a good day."

"It just wasn't in the cards with our numbers. We knew we had to give other districts time to replace us on their schedules and we know we can't safely put our children in a position where we have no depth and ask them to play every snap."

Numbers have been a concern in the Oberlin program for years. The Phoenix canceled its game against Wellington in 2023 after injuries left it unable to field a team.

The 2025 season was one of Oberlin's most successful in recent years. The team went 2-8 with back-to-back wins over Brooklyn and Toledo Woodward and finished the season with 23 players in uniform.

The Brooklyn win snapped a 31-game losing streak that was the longest in the state at the time.

The loss of nine seniors from that team, plus the loss of coach Kenny Washington in the offseason, proved to be too much.

"We've talked to every single boy in our school building and the ones who go to JVS and the ones who are CCP (College Credit Plus) students. We also recruited girls we thought might be interested," Acosta-Gorman said. "We talked to everyone we could and tried to build hype around the program."

Thanks to the recently passed Student Athlete Mobility Act, there might be hope for student-athletes from Oberlin to suit up for another team this fall.

The law, signed by Ohio Gov. Mike DeWine on July 7, allows student-athletes to petition to play a sport for a public school in a bordering district if their school does not offer the sport.

Black River had been anticipating Oberlin potentially not having a team, and athletic director Rob Clarico said he is hopeful to find a Week 10 opponent. Potential options listed on the OHSA website are D-VII Leipsic (11-2 in 2025) or D-IV Waverly (1-9), but both are more than a two-hour drive from Sullivan Township.

Contact Todd Shapiro at sports@medina-gazette.com.

BROWNS



MATT DURISKO / AP

The Browns' Alex Wright (91) and Ronnie Hickman celebrate against the Steelers on Dec. 28.

New mentality

Coordinator wants to disguise more coverages

Scott Petrak The Gazette

BEREA — Exactly how the defense will look under new coordinator Mike Rutenberg remains a mystery.

That's how he wants quarterbacks to view the coverages he employs.

A theme from interviews in the first week-plus of training camp has been the emphasis on disguising coverages. Rutenberg inherited an attacking four-man front from departed coordinator Jim Schwartz and will keep it. His influence will be on the back end.

"The stuff that we were good at, he wanted to keep, and the stuff that he was good at, he wanted to buff over," safety Ronnie Hickman said Tuesday.

"So a lot of it is still the same, but it's a new DC, so there's going to be things that are different."

Ephraim Banda spent three years as safeties coach under Schwartz. The defensive assistant coaches were retained when Schwartz resigned after not getting the head coaching job, and Banda was given the title of pass game coordinator. He's charged with helping Rutenberg install and execute his vision.

"Rudy really wants to make it hard on quarterbacks, and when it comes to the back-end piece and disguise, he's a savant — he's really good in that area," Banda said. "His ability to sit there and say, 'OK, does this look like that?' And if it doesn't, a really good 20-year quar-

terback who gets paid \$240 million will say, 'Yep, that's not it.'

"So he does a great job in that area, and he's really pressed us. It's something we've had to work really hard on. Shoot, we had a conversation about an hour ago about it in our meeting room and we're going to continue to press it, continue to work on it, and I think it's going to benefit us at the end of the day."

Rutenberg is in his first year as a coordinator and play caller. He spent last year as pass game coordinator with the Falcons after four seasons as linebackers coach with the Jets. He's also coached defensive backs in college and the NFL.

See BROWNS, B3

PRESEASON FOOTBALL: HIGHLAND VS. MENTOR LAKE CATHOLIC

Strong start Impact plays spark Hornets

John Urchek The Gazette

GRANGER TWP. — The Highland football team was able to shake off early jitters Friday to defeat Mentor Lake Catholic 17-6 in its first scrimmage.

The action didn't start out how either the offense or defense would have preferred, with quarterback Johnny Prucha throwing an interception on his first pass of the morning and a blown coverage in the secondary leading to a 47-yard Cougars touchdown.

However, Highland cleaned up mistakes quickly as it prepares to welcome Division II state semifinalist Walsh Jesuit to North Gateway Tire Field for the Aug. 21 season opener.

"I feel like it was a pretty good scrimmage," All-Gazette linebacker Evan Foust said. "We made some mistakes and we've got to learn to fix them, but I feel like the team played well overall. I'm pretty happy with how we played today."

In addition to leading the rapidly improving first-string defense, Foust ran the ball twice for 9 yards and caught one pass for 4 yards while splitting time in the backfield with Colton Winston (7 carries, 13 yards, TD; 2 receptions, 38 yards).

The scrimmage was played with teams alternating offense and defense for 10-minute periods.

Following Prucha's interception, he led the Hornets on a 47-yard drive that ended with a 40-yard field goal by All-Gazette kicker Jonah Kowza for a 3-0 lead.

The first string closed its final period with a pair of touchdowns. After Prucha hit Ben Radigan for a 10-yard gain on a fourth-and-4 from the Highland 36-yard line, he found Jake Weber down the seam for a 55-yard bomb that was the highlight of the day.

"I felt like we started slow, but we bounced back and looked great out there," Prucha said. "I connected with Jake, who ran a great route. It all came together, and we did great."

Though this is Prucha's first year starting after the graduation of Grady Gibb, Weber said it felt like old times with fellow receivers Radigan, Frankie Iannaggi and Anthony DePompei.

"The chemistry has kind of been there," Weber said. "We've grown up playing together. Obviously, it's kind of a new offense, but we've been playing quarterback and receiver for a while now."

See HORNETS, B3



Foust



Weber

TV & RADIO: WEEKEND

Today

BASEBALL	
2 p.m., MLB — Youth boys: RBI Nike Boys Senior Championship, TBD, from Vero Beach, Fla.	
4:10 p.m., FS1 — MLB: Athletics at Boston	
7:15 p.m., FOX; WOBL 107.7-FM, 1320-AM, WMMS 100.7-FM, WTAM 1100-AM — MLB: Cleveland at Chicago White Sox	
BASKETBALL	
1 p.m., CBS — WNBA: Las Vegas at Minnesota	
3:30 p.m., ABC — WNBA: Indiana at Chicago	
8:30 p.m., NBATV — WNBA: Seattle at Portland	
BOXING	
10 p.m., ESPN — MVPW-05: Main Card, from Orlando, Fla.	
CYCLING	
9:30 a.m., NBCSN — UCI: Women's Tour de France, Stage 8	
FOOTBALL	
Noon, ESPN, NFL — Pro Football Hall of Fame Enshrinement Ceremony: From Canton	
7 p.m., CBSSN — CFL: Hamilton at BC	

GOLF	
9 a.m., GOLF — USGA: U.S. Women's Amateur, Quarterfinals, from Ooltewah, Tenn.	
Noon, FOX — LIV: Third round, from Bedminster, N.J.	
1 p.m., GOLF — PGA Tour: Wyndham Championship, third round, from Greensboro, N.C.	
3 p.m., CBS — PGA Tour: Wyndham Championship, third round, from Greensboro, N.C.	
3 p.m., GOLF — USGA: U.S. Women's Amateur, semifinals, from Ooltewah, Tenn.	

GYMNASTICS	
12:30 p.m., NBCSN — USGA: Xfinity U.S. Gymnastics Championships (also 4 p.m. on NBC, 4:30 on NBCSN)	
HOCKEY (MEN)	
2 p.m., NHL — Hlinka Gretzky Cup: Bronze Medal Game, TBD, from Alberta, Canada	
7 p.m., NHL — Hlinka Gretzky Cup: Gold Medal Game, TBD, from Alberta, Canada	

HORSE RACING	
5 p.m., FOX — Whitney Stakes: From Saratoga Springs, N.Y.	

MOTORSPORTS	
10:55 a.m., FS1 — FIM MotoGP: Great Britain Grand Prix, Sprint Race, from Northamptonshire, England	

Noon, FS1 — Indy NXT Series: Practice, from Portland, Ore.	
12:35 p.m., CW — NASCAR O'Reilly Auto Parts Series: Qualifying, from Newton, Iowa	

1 p.m., FS1 — NTT IndyCar Series: Practice, from Portland, Ore.	
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2:05 p.m., TRUTV — NASCAR Cup Series: Practice, from Newton, Iowa	
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3 p.m., FS1 — Indy NXT Series: Qualifying, from Portland, Ore.	
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3:10 p.m., truTV — NASCAR Cup Series: Qualifying, from Newton, Iowa	
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5 p.m., CW — NASCAR O'Reilly Auto Parts Series: HyVee Perks 250, from Newton, Iowa	
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7 p.m., FS1 — NTT IndyCar Series: Qualifying, from Portland, Ore.	
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RODEO	
10 p.m., CW — PBR: Team Series, Day 2, from Sunrise, Fla.	

SOFTBALL	
3 p.m., ESPN2 — Little League World Series: Orange Bracket Championship, TBD, from Greenville, N.C.	

6 p.m., ESPN2 — Little League World Series: Purple Bracket Championship, TBD, from Greenville, N.C.	
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7 p.m., ESPNU — Athletes Unlimited: All-Star Cup, Team Kowalik vs. Team Ricketts, from Rosemont, Ill.	
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TENNIS	
12:30 p.m., TENNIS — Canada-ATP/WTA: Live; ATP/WTA: Round of 16, doubles second sound	

Sunday

BASEBALL	
12:15 p.m., NBCSN, PEACOCK — MLB: Cincinnati at Washington	
2 p.m., ESPN — Little League World Series: Southeast Region semifinal, TBD, from Warner Robins, Ga.	
2:10 p.m., Guardians.TV; WOBL 107.7-FM, 1320-AM, WMMS 100.7-FM, WTAM 1100-AM — MLB: Cleveland at Chicago White Sox	
4 p.m., ESPN — Little League World Series: Southwest Regional semifinal, TBD, from Waco, Texas	
4:10 p.m., MLB — MLB: L.A. Dodgers at Arizona	
8:20 p.m., NBC, PEACOCK — MLB: Houston at San Diego	

BASKETBALL	
12:30 p.m., ABC — WNBA: Las Vegas at New York	
1 p.m., CBS — BIG3: Week 8 games, from Boston	
3:30 p.m., NBC, PEACOCK — WNBA: Dallas at Minnesota	
7 p.m., ESPN — WNBA: Golden State at Los Angeles	

CYCLING	
9:30 a.m., NBCSN — UCI: Women's Tour de France, Final stage	

GOLF	
8 a.m., GOLF — Ladies Euro Tour: PIF London Championship, final round, from Saint Alban, England	

11 a.m., FOX — LIV: Final round, from Bedminster, N.J.	
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1 p.m., GOLF — PGA Tour: Wyndham Championship, final round, from Greensboro, N.C.	
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3 p.m., CBS — PGA Tour: Wyndham Championship, final round, from Greensboro, N.C.	
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3 p.m., GOLF — USGA: U.S. Women's Amateur, Championship Final Match, from Ooltewah, Tenn.	
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GYMNASTICS	
1:30 p.m., NBC — USGA: Xfinity U.S. Gymnastics Championships (also 4 p.m. on NBCSN, 6 p.m. on NBC)	

MOTORSPORTS	
7:30 a.m., FS1 — FIM MotoGP: Great Britain Grand Prix, from Northamptonshire, England	

1 p.m., FS1 — NTT IndyCar Series: Warmup, from Portland, Ore.	
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2 p.m., FS1 — Indy NXT Series: Grand Prix of Portland, from Portland, Ore.	
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3:30 p.m., USA — NASCAR Cup Series: Iowa Corn 350 Powered by Ethanol, from Newton, Iowa	
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4 p.m., FOX — NTT IndyCar Series: OnlyBulls Grand Prix of Portland, from Portland, Ore.	
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RODEO	
Noon, CBS — PBR: Team Series, Day 3, from Sunrise, Fla.	
2 p.m., CW — PBR: Team Series, Day 3, from Sunrise, Fla.	

SOFTBALL	
10 a.m., ESPN — Little League World Series: Third-Place Consolation, TBD, from Greenville, N.C.	

3 p.m., ABC — Little League World Series: Championship, TBD, from Greenville, N.C.	
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8 p.m., MLB — Athletes Unlimited: All-Star Cup, Team Ricketts vs. Team Garcia, from Rosemont, Ill.	
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TENNIS	
12:30 p.m., TENNIS — Canada-ATP/WTA: Live; ATP/WTA: Round of 16, doubles second round; WTA: Doubles quarterfinals	

TRANSACTIONS

BASEBALL	
American League	
CLEVELAND GUARDIANS — Placed RHP Slade Cecconi on the 15-day IL. Recalled RHP Franco Aleman from Columbus (IL).	
National League	
NEW YORK METS — Claimed 3B Gabriel Arias off waivers from Cleveland.	
FOOTBALL	
National Football League	
CHICAGO BEARS — Signed DB Xavier Woods to a contract. Placed DB Dallas Flowers on injured reserve.	
CLEVELAND BROWNS — Signed T/G Jack Conley and CB Jeadyn Lukus to contracts. Waived/injured WR Jamari Thrash. Waived LB Reid Carrico. Placed G Kendrick Green on injured reserve. Claimed DT Patrick Jenkins off waivers from the N.Y. Jets.	
DALLAS COWBOYS — Signed RB Jashaun Corbin to a contract. Waived RB Dominic Richardson.	
DETROIT LIONS — Waived/injured CB De'Shawn Rucker. Signed DL Ben Stille to a contract.	
TENNESSEE TITANS — Signed G Peter Skoronski to a multi-year contract extension.	
WASHINGTON COMMANDERS — Signed WR Stefon Diggs to a contract.	

BETTING LINE

MLB	
American League	
Favorite	Underdog
RED SOX -\$229/+\$187	Athletics
RANGERS -\$144/+\$121	Orioles
Guardians -\$124/+\$103	WHITE SOX
Rays -\$120/+\$101	MARINERS
National League	
PIRATES -\$141/+\$117	Mets
Reds -\$143/+\$120	NATIONALS
CARDINALS -\$158/+\$147	Rockies
Dodgers -\$173/+\$143	at ARIZONA
Interleague	
Braves -\$134/+\$112	YANKEES
MARLINS -\$164/+\$137	Angels
PHILLIES -\$177/+\$139	Blue Jays
Cubs -\$170/+\$140	ROYALS
BREWERS -\$151/+\$125	Twins
Tigers -\$111/-\$108	GIANTS
Astros -\$121/+\$102	PADRES

BASEBALL

American League	
East Division	
Tampa Bay	W L Pct. GB
New York	61 46 .596
Boston	64 51 .557 4½
Baltimore	63 51 .553 5
Toronto	56 59 .487 12½
	52 62 .466 15
Central Division	
Chicago	W L Pct. GB
Cleveland	59 55 .518 —
Minnesota	57 59 .491 3
Detroit	56 59 .487 3½
Kansas City	48 68 .414 12
West Division	
Houston	W L Pct. GB
Texas	59 57 .609
Seattle	57 58 .496 1½
Athletics	56 60 .483 3
Los Angeles	45 70 .391 13½
Los Angeles	47 71 .383 14½
Thursday's games	
Cincinnati 6, Athletics 5	
L.A. Angels 4, Baltimore 1	
N.Y. Mets 13, Cleveland 6	
Chicago Cubs 3, Toronto 2 (11)	
Detroit 11, Seattle 0	
Minnesota 4, Kansas City 3	
Toronto 12, Chicago White Sox 11 (13)	
Friday's games	
Baltimore at Philadelphia, late	
Atlanta at N.Y. Yankees, late	
Athletics at Boston, late	
L.A. Angels at Miami, late	
Cleveland at Chicago White Sox, late	
Minnesota at Milwaukee, late	
Chicago Cubs at Kansas City, late	
Baltimore at Texas, late	
Houston at San Diego, late	
Tampa Bay at Seattle, late	
Detroit at San Francisco, late	
Today's games	
Atlanta (Sale 12-6) at N.Y. Yankees (Cole 5-5), 3:05 p.m.	
Athletics (Jung 4-7) at Boston (Bennett 7-4), 4:10 p.m.	
L.A. Angels (Ureña 7-7) at Miami (Alcantara 12-6), 4:10 p.m.	
Toronto (Scherzer 1-4) at Philadelphia (Nola 3-9), 6:05 p.m.	
Chicago Cubs (Holmes 4-4) at Kansas City (Lugo 4-7), 7:10 p.m.	
Minnesota (Bradley 9-4) at Milwaukee (Gasser 3-4), 7:10 p.m.	
Baltimore (Bradish 7-10) at Texas (deGrom 7-7), 7:15 p.m.	
Cleveland (Williams 11-6) at Chicago White Sox (Kay 8-5), 7:15 p.m.	
Detroit (Jobe 0-0) at San Francisco (Roupp 7-10), 7:15 p.m.	
Houston (Lambert 8-5) at San Diego (King 6-8), 7:15 p.m.	
Tampa Bay (Jax 3-1), 8:10 p.m.	
(Kirby 8-9), 8:50 p.m.	
Sunday's games	
Athletics at Boston, 1:35 p.m.	
Atlanta at N.Y. Yankees, 1:35 p.m.	
Toronto at Philadelphia, 1:35 p.m.	
L.A. Angels at Miami, 1:40 p.m.	
Chicago Cubs at Kansas City, 2:10 p.m.	
Cleveland at Chicago White Sox, 2:10 p.m.	
Minnesota at Milwaukee, 2:10 p.m.	
Baltimore at Texas, 2:10 p.m.	
Detroit at San Francisco, 4:05 p.m.	
Tampa Bay at Seattle, 4:10 p.m.	
Houston at San Diego, 8:20 p.m.	

National League	
East Division	
Atlanta	W L Pct. GB
Philadelphia	62 54 .634
Miami	59 58 .600 12½
Washington	56 61 .479 15
New York	50 66 .431 20½
Central Division	
Milwaukee	W L Pct. GB
Chicago	67 49 .578 5½
St. Louis	57 58 .496 15
Cincinnati	56 68 .491 15½
Pittsburgh	52 69 .487 16
West Division	
Los Angeles	W L Pct. GB
Arizona	61 46 .600 —
San Diego	60 56 .517 9½
San Francisco	48 67 .417 21
Colorado	45 70 .391 24
Thursday's games	
Cincinnati 6, Athletics 5	
N.Y. Mets 13, Cleveland 6	
Milwaukee 5, Pittsburgh 2	
Chicago Cubs 3, Toronto 2 (11)	
Philadelphia 7, Washington 3	
Atlanta 11, Miami 3	
San Diego 5, Arizona 1	
Friday's games	
N.Y. Mets at Pittsburgh, late	
Toronto at Philadelphia, late	
Cincinnati at Washington, late	
Atlanta at N.Y. Yankees, late	
L.A. Angels at Miami, late	
Minnesota at Milwaukee, late	
Chicago Cubs at Kansas City, late	
Colorado at St. Louis, late	
Houston at San Diego, late	
L.A. Dodgers at Arizona, late	
Detroit at San Francisco, late	
Today's games	
Atlanta (Sale 12-6) at N.Y. Yankees (Cole 5-5), 3:05 p.m.	
L.A. Angels (Ureña 7-7) at Miami (Alcantara 12-6), 4:10 p.m.	
Toronto (Scherzer 1-4) at Philadelphia (Nola 3-9), 6:05 p.m.	
N.Y. Mets (Stock 0-1) at Pittsburgh (Chandler 4-8), 6:40 p.m.	
Cincinnati (Burns 13-1) at Washington (Alvarez 2-3), 6:45 p.m.	
Chicago Cubs (Holmes 4-4) at Kansas City (Lugo 4-7), 7:10 p.m.	
Minnesota (Bradley 9-4) at Milwaukee (Gasser 3-4), 7:10 p.m.	
Colorado (Freeland 3-10) at St. Louis (Liberatore 5-8), 7:15 p.m.	
Detroit (Jobe 0-0) at San Francisco (Roupp 7-10), 7:15 p.m.	
Houston (Lambert 8-5) at San Diego (King 6-8), 7:15 p.m.	
L.A. Dodgers (Yamamoto 11-7) at Arizona (Paad 6-1), 8:10 p.m.	
Sunday's games	
Cincinnati at Washington, 12:15 p.m.	
Atlanta at N.Y. Yankees, 1:35 p.m.	
N.Y. Mets at Pittsburgh, 1:35 p.m.	
Toronto at Philadelphia, 1:35 p.m.	
L.A. Angels at Miami, 1:40 p.m.	
Chicago Cubs at Kansas City, 2:10 p.m.	
Minnesota at Milwaukee, 2:10 p.m.	
Colorado at St. Louis, 2:15 p.m.	
Detroit at San Francisco, 4:05 p.m.	
L.A. Dodgers at Arizona, 4:10 p.m.	
Houston at San Diego, 8:20 p.m.	

BASKETBALL

WNBA	
EASTERN CONFERENCE	
Atlanta	W L Pct. GB
Indiana	19 11 .633 —
New York	19 13 .594 1
Washington	17 12 .586 1½
Chicago	12 19 .387 7½
Toronto	10 21 .323 9½
Connecticut	7 23 .233 12
WESTERN CONFERENCE	
Minnesota	W L Pct. GB
Las Vegas	25 7 .781 —
Golden State	22 9 .710 2½
Dallas	21 9 .700 3
Dallas	19 12 .613 5½
Los Angeles	12 18 .400 12
Portland	12 19 .387 12½
Phoenix	12 20 .375 13
Seattle	6 27 .182 19½
Thursday's games	
Las Vegas 86, Indiana 84 (OT)	
Los Angeles 89, Minnesota 82	
Portland 97, Toronto 83	
Friday's games	
Atlanta at Washington, late	
Phoenix at Connecticut, late	
Golden State at Dallas, late	
Today's games	
Las Vegas at Minnesota, 1 p.m.	
Indiana at Chicago, 3:30 p.m.	
Seattle at Portland, 8:30 p.m.	
Sunday's games	
Las Vegas at New York, 12:30 p.m.	
Phoenix at Washington, 3 p.m.	
Dallas at Minnesota, 3:30 p.m.	
Golden State at Los Angeles, 7 p.m.	

TENNIS

ATP National Bank Open	
At IGA Stadium	
Montreal	
Purse: \$9,415,725	
Surface: Hardcourt outdoor (seedings in parentheses)	

MEN'S SINGLES	
Round of 32	
Daniel Merida, Spain, def. Alex Michelsen, United States, 6-4, 6-7 (4), 6-1.	
Tallon Griekspoor, Netherlands, def. Matteo Arnaldi (30), Italy, 3-6, 6-4, 6-3.	
Ben Shelton (5), United States, def. Zizou Bergs (31), Belgium, 6-3, 6-2.	

WTA National Bank Open	
At Sobeys Stadium	
Toronto	
Purse: \$7,433,076	
Surface: Hardcourt outdoor (seedings in parentheses)	

WOMEN'S SINGLES	
Round of 32	
Aina Korneeva, Russia, def. Iva Jovic (13), United States, 6-3, 6-4.	
Elena Rybakina (2), Kazakhstan, def. Ann Li (28), United States, 6-2, 7-5.	
Leylah Fernandez (30), Canada, def. Mirra Andreeva (5), Russia, 6-1, 6-4.	

FOOTBALL

CFL	
EAST DIVISION	
Montreal	W L T Pts PF PA
Toronto	7 4 0 16 273 217
Hamilton	3 5 0 6 187 234
Ottawa	0 7 0 0 166 247
WEST DIVISION	
Edmonton	W L T Pts PF PA
Saskatchewan	6 2 0 12 229 200
Calgary	5 2 0 10 232 195
Winnipeg	4 5 0 8 253 295
BC	2 5 0 4 187 201
Friday's game	
Ottawa at Saskatchewan, late	
Today's games	
Edmonton at Montreal, 3 p.m.	
Hamilton at BC, 7 p.m.	

SOCCER

MLS	
EASTERN CONFERENCE	
Nashville	W L T Pts GF GA
Inter Miami CF	12 2 4 40 35 14
New England	11 5 5 38 45 32
Chicago	9 6 2 29 32 23
New York City FC	7 6 5 26 31 24
Cincinnati	7 6 5 26 45 44
Charlotte FC	7 7 4 25 29 27
New York	7 7 4 25 29 39
D.C. United	5 5 8 23 26 29
Orlando City	6 10 2 20 47 20
Columbus	5 8 2 20 26 28
Toronto FC	3 8 17 24 32
Philadelphia	4 10 4 16 25 33
CF Montréal	4 10 4 16 24 35
Atlanta	3 12 3 12 19 33
WESTERN CONFERENCE	
Vancouver	W L T Pts GF GA
Los Angeles FC	10 3 4 34 38 17
San Jose	10 5 4 34 35 19
Houston	9 6 2 29 25 24
Real Salt Lake	8 6 3 27 29 25
FC Dallas	7 5 6 27 32 25
Miami City	7 7 7 22 24 21
Portland	7 8 3 24 33 33
Seattle	7 7 3 24 20 22
Minnesota United	6 6 6 24 20 25
Colorado	7 10 1 22 27 25
LA Galaxy	5 7 7 22 24 31
San Diego FC	5 7 6 21 32 29
Austin FC	4 9 5 17 22 36
Sporting KC	4 12 2 14 18 46
NOTE: Three points for victory, one point for tie.	
Today's game	
Houston at New England, 4:30 p.m.	

WESTERN CONFERENCE						
	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Vancouver	10	3	4	34	35	19
Los Angeles FC	10	5	3	33	37	24
San Jose	10	4	3	33	37	24
Houston	9	6	2	29	25	24
Real Salt Lake	8	6	3	27	29	25
FC Dallas	7	5	6	27	32	25
St. Louis City	7	6	5	26	24	24
Portland	7	8	3	24	33	25
Seattle	7	7	3	24	20	22
Minnesota United	6	6	6	24	20	25
Colorado	7	10	1	22	27	35
LA Galaxy	5	7	2	17	22	27
San Diego FC	5	7	6	17	32	25
Austin FC	4	9	5	17	22	36
Sporting KC	4	12	2	14	18	46
NOTE: Three points for victory, one point for tie.						
Today's game:						
Houston at New England, 4:30 p.m.						

USL	
EASTERN CONFERENCE	
Tampa Bay	W L T Pts GF GA
Charleston	11 2 5 38 33 19
Detroit City FC	10 3 4 34 35 19
Orlando City	10 4 3 33 37 24
Atlanta United	9 6 2 29 25 24
Philadelphia Union	8 6 3 27 29 25
FC Cincinnati	7 5 6 27 32 25
NYC City FC	7 6 5 26 24 24
Washington Spirit	7 8 3 24 33 25
Seattle Sounders	7 7 3 24 20 22
Minnesota United	6 6 6 24 20 25
Colorado Rapids	7 10 1 22 27 35
LA Galaxy	5 7 2 17 22 27
San Diego FC	5 7 6 17 32 25
Austin FC	4 9 5 17 22 36
Sporting KC	4 12 2 14 18 46

GIRLS TENNIS: SEASON PREVIEW

Hantz highlights five All-Gazette picks returning

Ryan Isley
The Gazette

There will be plenty of talent returning to the Medina County girls tennis courts this fall, as five of the eight All-Gazette picks are back. That includes three-time honoree and 2025 Gazette MVP Lily Hantz of Highland, who owns a career record of 85-22. She qualified for the Division I state tournament in doubles with Claire Schlak.

Ava Tople also returns for the Hornets, who will jump from the Suburban League American Conference to the National Conference after 10 straight conference titles. Two other Highland returners earned All-Gazette honorable mention a year ago, Alyssa Boucher and Vanessa Demming.

Medina also has two returning All-Gazette players in senior M.J. Pimpo and sophomore Emma Morse. Last season, Pimpo finished second



Hantz

at the No. 2 singles spot in the Greater Cleveland Conference Tournament, while Morse won the GCC title at third singles. This season, Morse will play first singles, with Pimpo at second singles.

Junior Julianna Ulm returns for Brunswick after being named All-Gazette, finishing fourth at first singles in the GCC Tournament and reaching the sectional quarterfinals.

Here's a closer look at the county's five teams:

Brunswick
Coach: Kevin Naugle (4th season).
Last season: 12-9, 2-3 (4th in Greater Cleveland Conference).
Key letterwinner lost: Alexis Markowski (HM All-Gazette).
Returning letterwinners: Julianna Ulm (All-Gazette first singles, jr.), Ella Kaetzel, second singles, sr.), Valerie Markowski, third singles, jr.).
Newcomers: Avery Wimberly (first doubles), Paetyn McKinley (first doubles), Ulayna Kashtanova (second doubles), Eva Martin (second doubles.).
Noteworthy: Despite players being in unfamiliar positions, Naugle believes he



has a talented team and that Ulm will be phenomenal to watch.

Cloverleaf
Coach: Nicole D'Amico (4th season).
Last season: 7-10, 6-4 (3rd in Metro Athletic Conference).
Key letterwinners lost: None.
Returning letterwinners: Kinley Walters (first singles, jr.), Nina Spry (doubles, sr.), Sage de Luna (second singles, sr.).
Newcomers: Vanessa Oakes (third singles, jr.), Ava White (doubles, sr.), Maddie Young (doubles, jr.), Marlena Zufan (doubles, sr.), Addie Sustersic (doubles, fr.).
Noteworthy: While the Colts have only three returning letterwinners, they also have a lot of freshmen who D'Amico believes have the potential to be great players.

Highland
Coach: Ty Damon (1st season).
Last season: 13-3, 7-0 (1st in SL American).
Key letterwinners lost: Claire Schlak (Three-time All-Gazette), Sarah Kelly (All-Gazette), Elise Mancini (HM All-Gazette).
Returning letterwinners: Lily Hantz



(Gazette MVP, 3-time All-Gazette, singles, sr.), Ava Tople (All-Gazette, singles, sr.), Alyssa Boucher (HM All-Gazette, doubles, sr.), Vanessa Demming (HM All-Gazette, doubles, sr.).
Newcomers: Sophia Bublitz (singles, jr.), Lacy Piechowiak (doubles, sr.), Taylor Keller (doubles, sr.).
Noteworthy: Change is the key word around Highland, as Damon enters his first season and the Hornets move from the SL American to the SL National. What isn't changing, however, is that Highland still has a good amount of talent.

Medina
Coach: Pete Hoffmann (22nd season).
Last season: 8-7, 3-2 (3rd in GCC).
Key letterwinner lost: Ashley Wallace (All-Gazette).
Returning letterwinners: Emma Morse (All-Gazette, first singles, so.), M.J. Pimpo (All-Gazette, second singles, sr.), Chase Kremer (third singles, sr.), Ella Bresler (first doubles, sr.), Nellie Alber (first doubles, sr.).
Newcomers: Faith Zabka (doubles, sr.), Julie Adams (doubles, sr.), Ruby Gabrielsen (doubles, sr.), Megan Raklovits (doubles, sr.), Emma Koehler (doubles, jr.).
Noteworthy: The Bees will compete in the SL for the first time this season, joining the National Conference after a stay in the GCC, something Hoffmann



is excited about. The program is thriving with 63 players overall, making up two varsity squads and two junior varsity teams.

Wadsworth
Coach: John Hutchinson (2nd season).
Last season: 7-12, 2-5 (T-5th in SL National).
Key letterwinners lost: Tess Demiter (HM All-Gazette).
Returning letterwinners: Bailey Blum (1st singles, sr.), Brooke Pinkerton (singles/doubles, jr.), Olivia Evans (singles/doubles, jr.), Macey Milano (2nd doubles, sr.), Holly Turner (2nd doubles, sr.), Julia Hartman (singles/doubles, jr.), Emily Kerstetter (doubles, jr.), Sadie McKenzie (singles, jr.).
Newcomers: Elena McCabe (2nd singles, so.), Haley Carr (singles/doubles, fr.), Maelia Whitman (singles, jr.).
Noteworthy: The Grizzlies will be without junior Tessa Demiter, who was honorable mention All-Gazette last season after she decided not to play. Blum will take the role of first singles, and Hutchinson has been impressed with how much she worked in the offseason and how well she is hitting the ball.



Contact Ryan Isley at sports@medina-gazette.com.

BROWNS NOTES

Campbell confident in team's cornerbacks

Scott Petrak
The Gazette

BEREA — Tyson Campbell left Jacksonville in a hurry. He can't wait to go back for the opener.

"I really feel like God doesn't — nothing really happens by coincidence with him, so it happens for a reason," the veteran cornerback said Friday before training camp practice.

"I'm excited to see what it's gonna be."

The Browns will start their season against the Jaguars on Sept. 13. Campbell was the No. 33 pick of the Jaguars in 2021 and started 59 games in four-plus seasons.

But the Jaguars traded him to the Browns at midseason last year in a rare trade of players at the same position. Greg Newsome was sent to Jacksonville, became a free agent and signed with the Giants. Campbell has become a fixture on a Cleveland defense expected to be among the league's best again this season.

He believes he and five-time Pro Bowler Denzel Ward can form the league's top corner tandem.

"The way we come to work each day, trying to get better, try to help each other get better each day, I think we could be the best duo in the league," Campbell said. "But you gotta continue to put the work in and let the play do the talking."

General manager Andrew Berry recently called Campbell the most underrated player on the team.

"That's up to everybody else," Campbell said. "I always consider myself the best and try to operate that way. I know everybody's entitled to their own opinion and what not, but I just try to focus on my job and be the best corner I could be."

Defensive backs coach/pass game specialist Brandon Lynch said Campbell doesn't get distracted by things like ratings.

"The great thing about Tyson is he puts the focus on the work," Lynch said. "We don't outwardly think about how people may view him. The young guy just works. He's a guy that as soon



Campbell



SUE OGROCKI / AP FILE

Tyson Campbell wants to have a larger impact in his second season with the Browns.

as we're talking about the coverages, he's talking about the second-level players, the third-level fits. He openly speaks to the young men on the field about things they can do better."

Campbell, 26, was immediately thrown into the fire after the trade, starting against the Steelers only a few days after he arrived. The transition off the field wasn't easy.

"It probably took that whole season, really, once I got to the offseason and was able to have a little bit more free time to see the city and get comfortable," he said of settling in. "Being in a comfy home and being able to know different areas around me."

Campbell made a nifty interception Thursday, undercutting a crossing route to pick a Deshaun Watson pass.

"Mainly everybody being on the same page and trusting the guy next to them that they're going to execute their job," Campbell said. "When you have 11 guys knowing the scheme, the game slows down for you and you're able to execute effectively."

Roster moves

The Browns claimed defensive tackle Patrick Jenkins off waivers from the Jets. Jenkins (6-foot-2, 293 pounds) was undrafted out of Tulane in 2025 and spent part of last year on Atlanta's practice squad.

Mason Graham returned to practice after missing a couple of days, but defensive tackle remained severely short-handed. Mike Hall Jr., Kalia Davis, Sam Kamara and Elijah Chatman were still sidelined, and Maliek Collins is on the PUP list.

The injuries kept coach Todd Monken from practicing for 2.5 hours in pads Thursday — the maximum allowed by the collective bargaining agreement.

"We didn't have enough bodies. We're short at D-tackle, so you can't go that long," he said.

- Tackle/guard Jack Conley was re-signed and cornerback Jeadyn Lukus was signed. Lukus (6-2, 205) is a rookie out of Clemson. He was undrafted, signed with the Titans and waived last Saturday.
- Receiver Jamari Thrash (injury designation) and linebacker Reid Carrico were waived. Guard Kendrick Green was placed on injured reserve. Thrash was a fifth-round pick in 2024.

Crunch time

For the first time in camp, Monken ended practice Thursday with four defensive linemen pass rushing against five offensive linemen. Quarterback Taylen Green was

the only other player in the drill.

"It's basically to win the game," Monken said. "When you're on the field, you're going to have to shut down the opposing offense with pass rush with four (linemen). If you don't get to the quarterback, against these quarterbacks in the NFL, they're going to probably score. And if you're trying to find a way to score to win the game, you're going to have to be elite at pass protection."

"So that's all it is. At the end of the game, after a two-hour practice, what do you got left?"

Quality reps

Linebacker Easton Mascarenas-Arnold has spent a ton of time with the starting defense in the first two weeks of camp. He opened as the No. 3 linebacker, then when Carson Schwesinger was sidelined with a minor injury, Mascarenas-Arnold joined Quincy Williams in the nickel package. He's filled in for Schwesinger, who remained out Friday, as the signal caller.

Mascarenas-Arnold was undrafted last season out of USC. He played 16 games with one start and had nine tackles.

"All he does is work, and we were just talking about it yesterday — his attention to detail," Monken said. "He rarely makes the same mistake twice. Every day is the same for him in terms of his attitude, his energy, his body language."

Contact Scott Petrak at (440) 329-7253 or spetrak@chroniclet.com.

BROWNS

From B1

Safety Grant Delpit referred to Rutenberg's scheme as "exotic."

"I mean, listen, it's a lot," he said. "If you watch Atlanta's defense from last year, so it's a lot of crossover stuff obviously. But trying to mix it into what we do well as well. Don't want to switch it up too much."

"But it's going to be different, man. It's a lot of new calls. It's a lot of new terms. It's a lot more communication, a lot more disguise. So I know our offense is hating it right now, so that's a good sign for us."

The defensive line has spent

a lot of time in the backfield during training camp, while the next two levels have been opportunistic, piling up the interceptions — 17 through nine practices. Turnovers are the goal, and the disguise is designed to create them.

"It lends a lot into the 'ball is oxygen' (mantra)," Banda said. "Those two things go hand in hand."

"I'm excited to see where it all goes. It's heading in the right place, and I'm looking forward to seeing what it looks like actually in games."

The Browns forced only 18 turnovers, including 11 interceptions, in 17 games last year. Defensive backs coach/

pass game specialist Brandon Lynch said the pile of interceptions early in camp is a sign of things to come.

"It's infectious. We want to supply the city," he said. "It's really everybody doing their job and working on the precision and being precise."

"We'll never put scheme over our style. We want to make sure our mind is always working so we're staying ahead of plays, we're always communicating. We say communicate, attack the ball, play fast. Then we want to be the most violent team in the NFL."

Coach Todd Monken initially downplayed the

increase in disguise, stressing the defense would continue to attack. But asked again, he acknowledged the tweaks.

"Us having the corners that we have, it does allow you to be able to mix coverages and to be able to play a ton of man," he said of Denzel Ward and Tyson Campbell. "Right now, we're still in the install stages, so we'll still see where we end up in terms of how much we're able to mix coverages."

The safeties' pre-snap responsibilities have increased.

"We're the ones who are really showing the disguise, us and whoever's that nickel or that third safety," Hickman

said. "The more reps we get at it, the better we get at it."

Run game coordinator/linebackers coach Jason Tarver said the key to pulling off the disguise is communication.

"We have different terms for when to disguise and when not to, so we're working on both of those right now," he said. "And, what happens when you're disguising, is sometimes you're a little further away when you communicate. So we're working through that."

Contact Scott Petrak at (440) 329-7253 or spetrak@chroniclet.com. Like him on Facebook and follow him @scottpetrak on X.

HORNETS

From B1

"We've got good chemistry, and it's only going to get better with more scrimmages and practices."

Winston capped the first string's final drive with a 1-yard touchdown run. Earlier on the drive, he caught a 38-yard wheel route to keep the drive moving.

Highland is coming off a D-II,

Region 6 final appearance, while the Cougars were D-IV, Region 13 semifinalists.

Following Lake Catholic's touchdown, which did not end with an attempted conversion, the Cougars moved the ball again but stalled on downs at the 10-yard line. That red-zone stop seemed to fuel Highland's defense, which forced two simulated punts and a turnover on downs over its final three first-string possessions.

The punts came after Lake Catholic

went backwards from the initial line of scrimmage of the 30.

Foust had a sack, another tackle for a loss and would have had an interception if not for the play being blown dead for a simulated sack. End Lukas Grillis also made a couple impact plays with a couple of hard hits defensively.

"We came out a little slow," Foust said. "We came together and started to figure it out. When we work as a team, our defense is unstoppable."

While the Hornets have plenty to

work on as they get ready for Walsh Jesuit, there also was plenty to like for coach Mike Gibbons and his staff.

"It's the first scrimmage, so you see some good things and some things you definitely need to correct if we want to be a good team," Gibbons said. "I thought the physicality was good on both ends. It's the first step in a long journey. I'm proud of our kids."

Contact John Urchek at jurchek@medina-gazette.com.

WICKES

From B1

She also had to adjust to the culture of the city when it comes to soccer and its appreciation of the sport. Shortly after arriving, there was a public unveiling of the women's and men's Vitoria SC teams.

It was unlike anything Wickes had been a part of.

"It was probably the coolest experience I've ever had in my life," she said. "The entire city showed out. They had a runway built out for it. There was us and the guys team, and we did jersey presentations and introduced the rosters and all of it. There were so many people there. It was absolutely insane."

Wickes has spent her first couple of weeks in Guimaraes acclimating herself to the culture and learning about the passion of the fans, who she is quickly realizing are one of the most loyal in the area.

"Oh, my goodness, the more I learn about it, the happier I am, the more excited I am to be able to be here and to represent them," Wickes said. "I think Vitoria is probably the strongest fan base. They're so passionate about their football players and the way you hold yourselves and carry yourself. It is so incredible, and I love being a part of it."

"They hold you to a higher standard. They're not just there to enjoy and to watch the game. Obviously, that's part of it, but they live, breathe and die football around here."

With the passion of the fan base, there is a burden to perform once you step onto the field.

That is something Wickes looks forward to.

"Don't get me wrong: It's a lot of pressure, and I hope to hold up to their standards," she said. "But I love that they demand the best from you around here, and like I said, they live, breathe and die for it around here. So it's an incredible environment to be a part of."

After just a few weeks, Wickes feels like she is right where she belongs and believes Vitoria is in a place where it can compete.

"This is why we do everything we do, so that we can compete at the highest level in the games and win championships," she said. "I have so much belief and faith in this team and what we're building here and our ability to perform at the highest level. I am so excited to be able to prove it to everyone what we've been building."

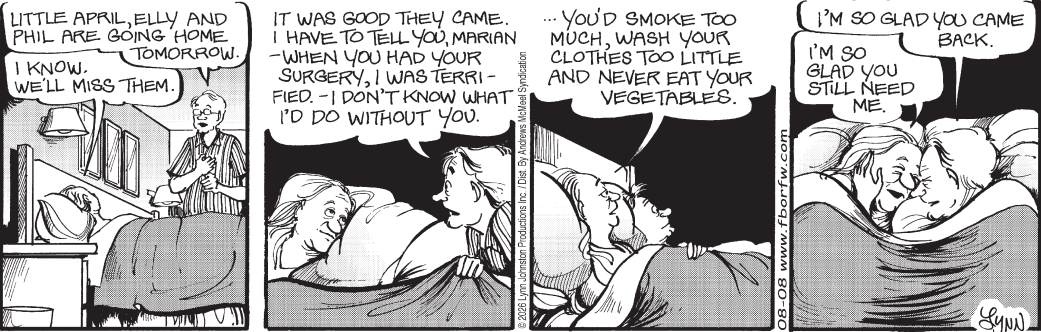
The energy and enthusiasm for the opportunity flows with each sentence that emanates from Wickes, who cannot wait to get started with her new club.

"I am so excited to be a Vitoria women's football player and to be here and represent them," Wickes said. "I want nothing more than to put on the jersey, lace up the boots and be able to represent this city on the football pitch and just play for them."

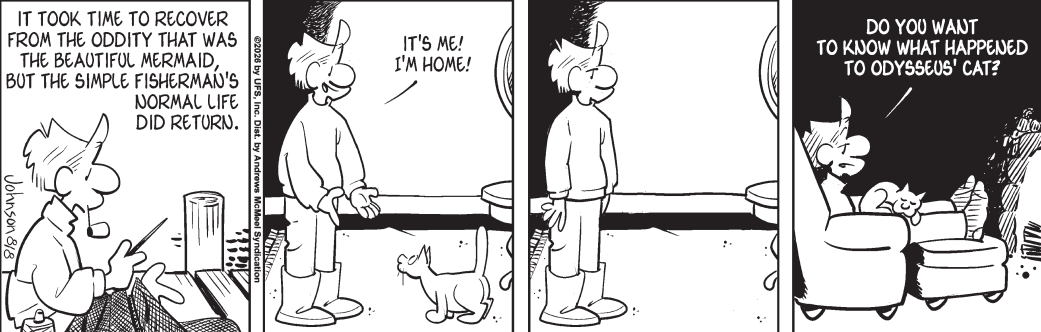
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COMICS

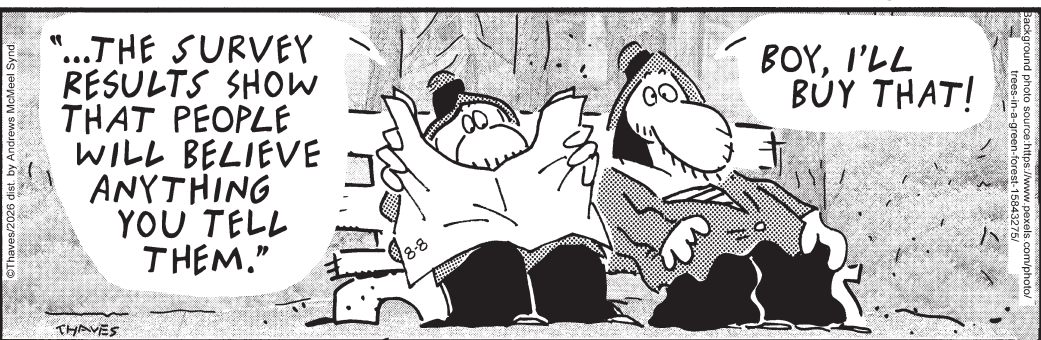
FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE



ARLO AND JANIS



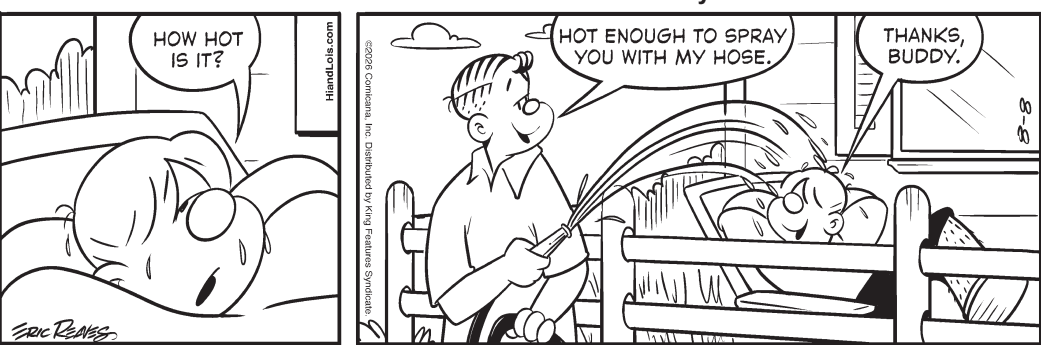
FRANK & ERNEST



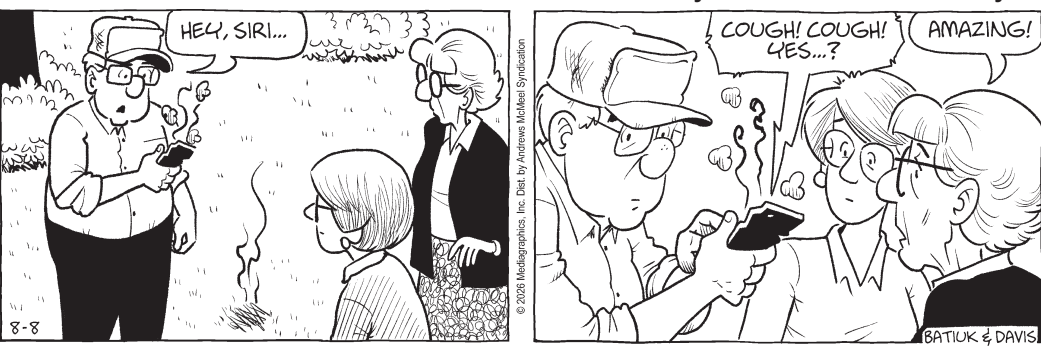
GARFIELD



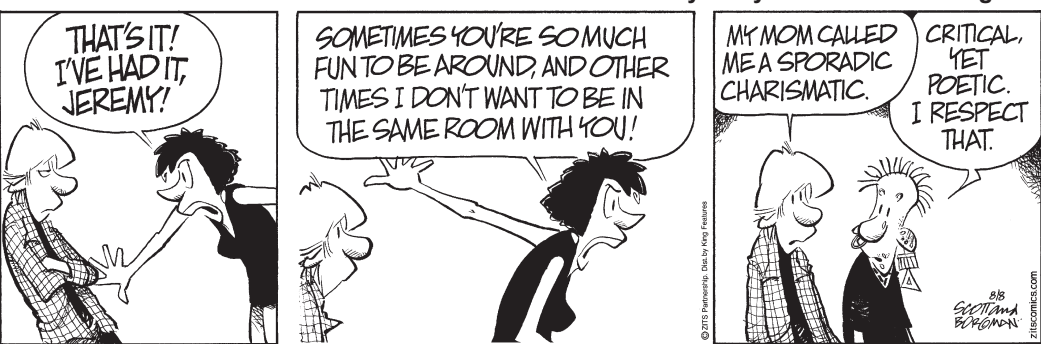
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CRANKSHAFT



ZITS



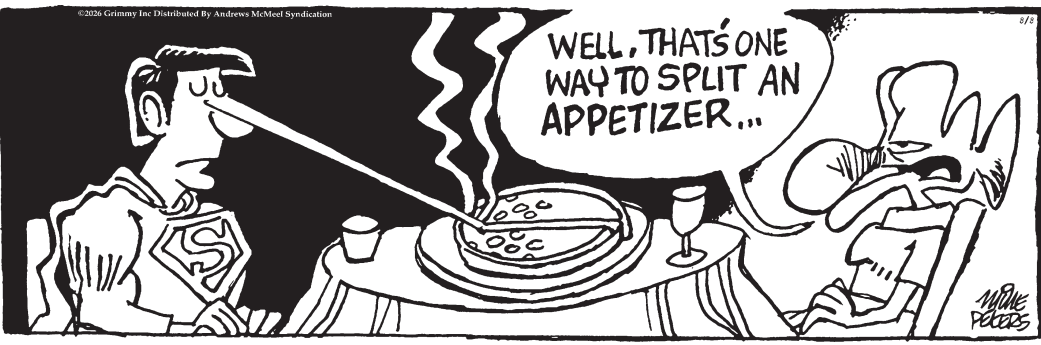
HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



THE BORN LOSER



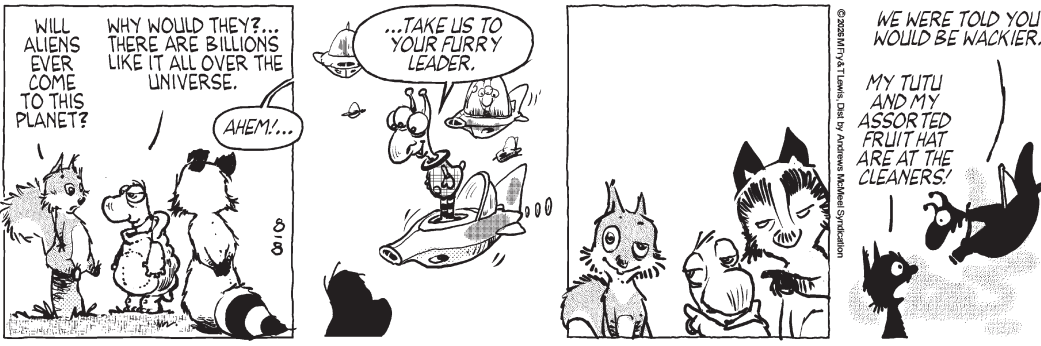
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FRED BASSET



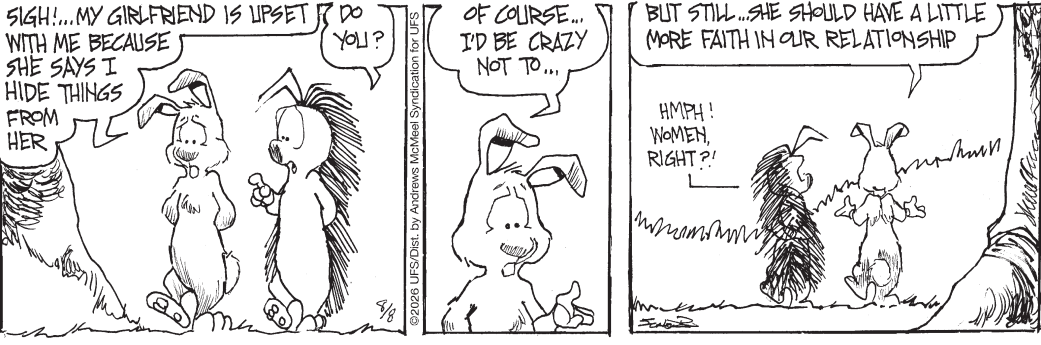
OVER THE HEDGE



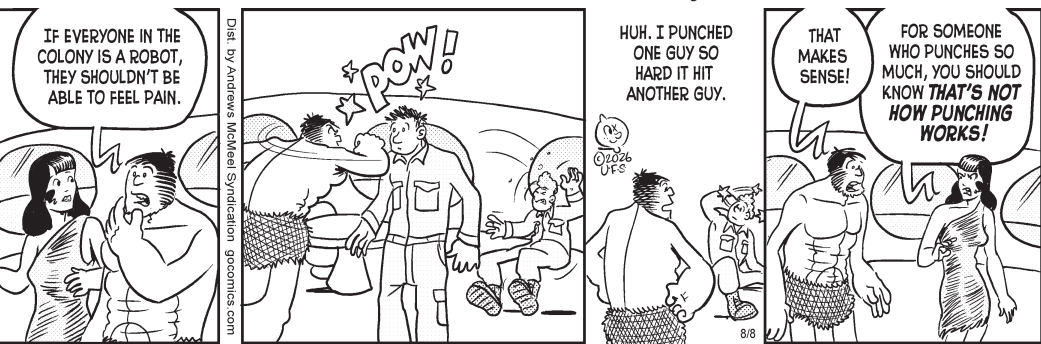
DUSTIN



THE GRIZZWELLS



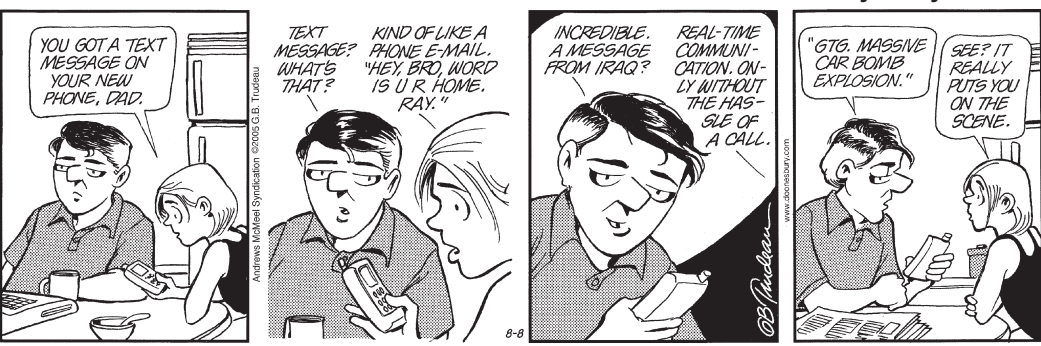
ALLEY OOP



MONTY



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ZIGGY



DENNIS THE MENACE



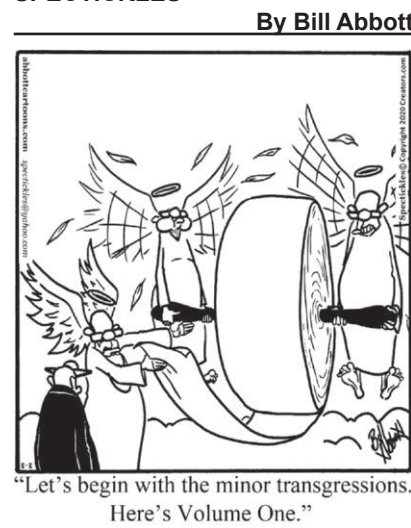
THE FAMILY CIRCUS



CLOSE TO HOME



SPECTICKLES



CROSSWORD

- ACROSS
- 1 Papa

4 2,000 pounds

7 Phony

11 — it or lose it

12 Dummy

13 Big sandwich

14 Catchall abbr.

15 Copycat

16 City in the Silver State

17 Femme fatale

19 Able-bodied seaman

21 Type measures

22 Shade tree

23 Courage

27 Musical drama

31 Optimistic

32 Detest

34 Take

35 Had a snack

36 Duffer’s cry
- 37 Clamping device

38 Military decoration

40 Pleasure

42 Massage

44 Take it on the —

45 Keg

48 Texas landmark

51 Gothic arch

52 Mild cheese variety

55 Levy

56 War god

57 — Scotia

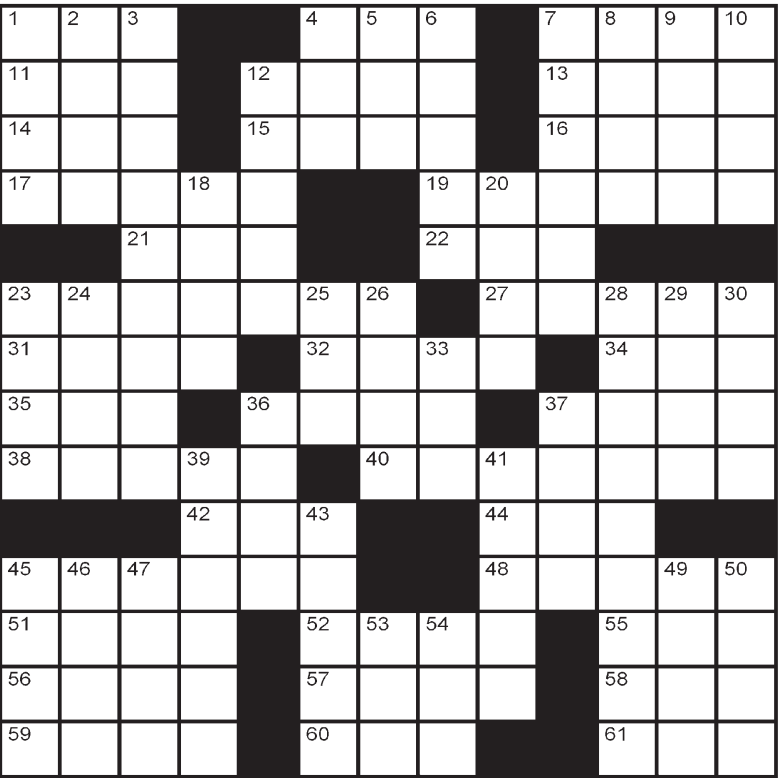
58 Suffix with meteor

59 Season

60 Poor grade

61 “— you believe it?”
- DOWN
- 1 Membership fees

2 Wine city in Italy



8-8 © 2026 UFS, Dist. by Andrews McMeel Syndication for UFS

ASTROGRAPH

ARIES (March 21-April 19): If someone’s committed to misunderstanding, let them. You could receive some pushback today if you trigger something that’s unhealed. A new creative direction could be coming into focus.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Any purchases or other money moves made today will likely be driven by high emotion and not solid reasoning. Wait for feelings to settle before finalizing anything. Something at home could be moving forward.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): If the world pushes, you could default to digging your heels in or meeting the push with equal or greater aggression. The more you can stay in the place of the neutral observer, the better the likelihood of being satisfied with your choices.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Both shame and fear can glue you in place, anger often moves things. Learn from your past by learning to face what keeps you stuck. It’s how you build your life up to be better than before.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Your path could start to look like a yellow brick road unfolding magically in front of you. Don’t be afraid to take the first step. Opinions could be all over the place, making cohesion difficult today.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Lean in to the ‘a-ha’s’ that emerge now, your growth could be both rapid and visible. Do your best to create cooperation today, though it could be difficult to bring all parties together for a few hours.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): A friend circle can be magic in your life, offering both ideas and solidarity. Some of your usual comfortable online ‘watering holes’ might deliver content that repels or aggravates you today.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Trying to mop up some kind of disagreement could just create greater entanglements today. While it’s a positive day in the Universal sky, things aren’t peaceful in your shared financial realm now.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Feathers could be easily ruffled for a few hours and cooperation could seem impossible. Stay neutral and let these vibes pass. New ideas could bring improvements if implemented.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): If things seem impossible, even a five-minute break can be a tiny reset. While you need to do what’s needed, you may need more than one reset before you’re through today. Adjust expectations accordingly.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): If you’re in a relationship, your partner could have the perfect plan for the evening, or for eternity. If you are

Answer to Previous Puzzle

J	A	R		C	A	W		A	S	O	F		
A	G	O		C	O	L	A		R	E	N	O	
B	U	T		A	M	I	D		E	V	E	R	
S	E	C	E	D	E			E	R	N	E	S	T
			G	E	T	S		I	A	N			
A	S	C	O	T		O	A	F		S	G	T	
C	E	O			P	U	R	E		E	A	R	
R	A	N		D	A	R	K		A	G	E		
E	N	D		O	R	C		E	S	S	A	Y	
			I	S	M		E	T	C	H			
L	I	T	T	E	R			E	L	E	V	E	N
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V	I	O	L		T	A	R	T		I	T	S	
E	S	N	E		S	P	A			N	U	T	

3 Lessened

4 Summit

5 Poem

6 Scandinavian

7 Seafood item

8 Shoe part

9 Florence’s river

10 Anchor

12 — macabre

18 The green-eyed monster

20 African plant

23 “Dracula” author — Stoker

24 Repetition

25 Greek letter

26 Length measure

28 Mysterious

29 Too hasty

30 Aid and —

33 Golf peg

36 Duct for smoke

37 Bottle

39 Collar

41 Andes animal

43 Combine

45 Feather scarves

46 Taj Mahal location

47 Bobbin

49 — Hari

50 Plow pullers

53 Female deer

54 Old greeting

Newspaper Enterprise Association

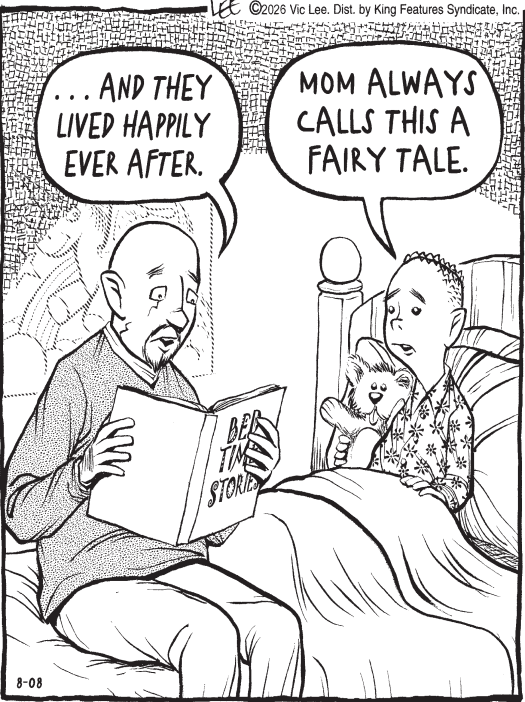
single, assert boundaries as needed. Use art or music as a catalyst for expressing strong emotions.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): When you’re in a current carrying you forward, swim hard with extra momentum. A flashpoint at home could help release pent-up frustrations and ultimately move things in a better direction.

IF TODAY IS YOUR BIRTHDAY: Insights for your journey through life could be flying in now; next steps could come into perfect clarity. While much of 2026 thus far has likely presented challenges, July should have kicked off an easier remainder of the year. Don’t let the scope of your future become frightening, you came here for a reason, and life will provide all that’s needed to fulfill your mission. September could make you want something enough to be dumb about it, don’t go there. It can also bring you charm, beauty, creative talent, and a new source of income. October brings more important cosmic answers, along with a potential windfall. When enough good lands, you can believe in life again. Even more opens up in November, much of what you need and want is staging to land then.

PARDON MY PLANET

By Vic Lee



CELEBRITY CIPHER

Celebrity Cipher cryptograms are created from quotations by famous people, past and present. Each letter in the cipher stands for another.

“ U ’ N X W X X J V P K A M W X K G P C X U O D
Q Z U L U J R G J O G K L U J R , G J O Q B X J
L B X Z X ’ C W X X J J D G K L U J R U ’ N X W X X J
G W V X L D E G A X G V U N U J R Q Z U L U J R . ”
— X E E G L B D E H C D J

Previous Solution: “I would love to teach and coach the catchers in spring training. But right now my priority is to be with my family.” — Yadier Molina

TODAY’S CLUE: ǝ ʌɹɐnbə ʌ

CELEB NEWS

Documentary brings Stevie and Lindsey back together again

Lindsey Buckingham and **Stevie Nicks’** famously tumultuous dynamic is on the mend with the help of an upcoming Fleetwood Mac documentary.

The “Go Your Own Way” musician, 76, described the group’s “healing” Thursday when speaking to E! News at Variety’s Power of Young Hollywood bash.

“Stevie and I are talking all the time now,” Buckingham said of the two-time Rock & Roll Hall of Fame inductee, 78, who he met in high school and began dating shortly into college.

Their romance ended two years into their Fleetwood Mac run, but spawned some of the band’s most storied songs, including but not limited to “Dreams,” “Go Your Own Way,” “Silver Springs” and “The Chain.”

Buckingham explained that working on Apple TV’s upcoming doc about the beloved band “has been a very circular healing process for all of us.”

“We had left things in 2019, maybe as far as I was concerned, not in a very good place for all the wrong reasons,” Buckingham said, referring to their world tour from 2018 to 2019.

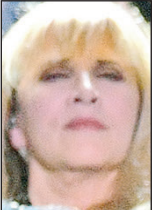
“No one was happy about it, and all of that has been healed and worked out.”

In 2024, Nicks said the band will never again tour following the 2022 death of keyboardist **Christine McVie**, whose celebration of life marked the last time Nicks and Buckingham had spoken.

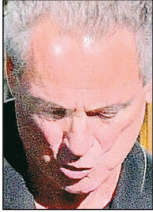
“You could not say that I did not give him more than 300 million chances,” said Nicks.

Buckingham told a 2009 BBC documentary that for “the lion’s share” of his and Nicks’ relationship, “There has been distance and animosity of some kind, mixed in with everything else, too.”

His latest update on their dynamic comes just under a year after the remastered re-release of their 1973 debut, “Buckingham Nicks.”



Nicks



Buckingham

Amanda Knox says comedy show honors her murdered roommate

Amanda Knox, the American student convicted and later acquitted of the murder and sexual assault of her British roommate **Meredith Kercher** 19 years ago in Italy, is defending herself against accusations from Kercher’s sister that her comedy show at the Edinburgh Fringe festival in Scotland trivializes violence against women.

Knox, now 39, said Thursday in a post on Instagram that her show “honors Meredith Kercher’s memory and calls out the violence that was done to her and to me.”

The show is called “Cartwheel,” a reference to a story that claimed Knox did cartwheels in the police station after Kercher’s death.

The show debuts Friday evening and is due to run for 11 straight nights at the annual mish-mash of stand-up, theater and musical offerings in the Scottish capital.

The show is being marketed as a woman “approaching forty, juggling motherhood and finally getting around to being furious about the whole wrongful-imprisonment thing. Especially when half the world is telling her to get over it, while the other half still thinks she’s guilty.”

Knox was a 20-year-old student in Perugia when Kercher was found stabbed to death on Nov. 2, 2007, in her bedroom in the apartment they shared with two Italian women.



Knox

The case made global headlines as suspicion quickly fell on Knox and her boyfriend of just days, **Raffaele Sollecito**. She served nearly four years in prison during the investigation, initial murder trial and when she was freed by an appeals court in Perugia. The couple were acquitted by Italy’s highest court in 2015.

Another man, **Rudy Hermann Guede**, from the Ivory Coast, was eventually convicted of murder after his DNA was found at the crime scene. He was freed in 2021, after serving most of his 16-year sentence.

Knox returned to the United States in 2011 and has since established herself as a global campaigner for the wrongly convicted.

— from wire reports

DEAR ABBY

Dear Abby: I have a chronic illness and have been on a long-term leave of absence from my job for two years now. I have always surrounded myself with good people and have been blessed with great friends and family. When I was diagnosed, everyone was supportive. There were many platitudes, not the least of which was the ole standby, “Let me know if you need anything.” I have never asked anyone for anything, soldiering on and refusing to be a burden.

My mom recently passed, and I’m struggling. Now, for the first time, I need actual face time. I’m extremely lonely, and all I would like is an occasional lunch or a quick diet soda with a friend. But, Abby, no one calls or responds to any of my messages. I didn’t know there was a time limit on “let me know if you need anything.” I know others out there understand what I’m going through, and I wonder if you have any words of encouragement.

Not Always Sunny in Utah

Dear Not Always Sunny: Please accept my sympathy for the loss of your mother. It’s shameful that your old friends and co-workers have conveniently forgotten that they offered to help you after



ABIGAIL VAN BUREN

your diagnosis. However, because they apparently have, you will have to do something about your feelings of isolation and loneliness on your own.

My first thought is to reach out to a support group (in person or online) for the illness you have. The second would be to contact your religious adviser if you have one. Another (depending on your mobility) would be to volunteer some of your free time to a cause you believe in or become a foster for shelter animals.

Finally, rather than waiting for your phone to ring, consider going out and having an occasional lunch or soft drink so you are exposed to other people rather than sitting alone at home and becoming increasingly depressed.

Dear Abby: My son and daughter-in-law think it’s OK to have cameras on me and my husband when we watch

their children. It has been going on for six years, and I’m uncomfortable babysitting them while being recorded.

I know my son and his wife watch the footage, because comments have been made about what we have discussed while babysitting. I’m tired of sucking it up and allowing this. This would mean that I probably wouldn’t get to see my grandchildren anymore. What should I do?

Hate Being Filmed in the Midwest

Dear Hate Being Filmed: Are the cameras running all the time, or just when you are babysitting? If they are on all the time, then you are not being singled out. Because you find the idea of your son and daughter-in-law listening in on what you thought were private conversations, perhaps you should start doing the babysitting at your home instead of theirs. However, if that isn’t viable, you may either have to bite the bullet and accept the status quo or remove babysitting from the equation.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

SENSE AND SENSITIVITY

Dear Harriette: I went to Ariana Grande’s concert at the Barclays Center in Brooklyn. I had an amazing time at the concert, especially since she’s my favorite singer of all time. As a result of my excitement, I felt the need to purchase a \$50 T-shirt. When leaving the concert, I made it all the way out of the arena before realizing I left the shirt I just bought at my seat. I ran back into the building, but I was stopped by security. After explaining the situation to security, they kindly escorted me back into the building and I was able to retrieve the shirt.

I’m extremely grateful that I was able to get the shirt back, but I am embarrassed and mad at myself for forgetting in the first place. Do you have any advice for me on how to be less forgetful and not lose things? I feel like stuff like this constantly happens to me.

Forgetful Fan

Dear Forgetful Fan: Let’s start with how fortunate you were to be able to retrieve your purchase — I’m so happy for you that your shirt was still there and nobody swiped it. That’s awesome.

As far as forgetfulness goes, you may want to put some checklists in place, especially when you are excited. Make



HARRIETTE COLE

a mental list — or even write one down or type a note in your phone — of what you have to do in any given situation, and then go through the list before transitioning to something else. At the concert, for example, before leaving you should go through a list of checking for your bag, your cellphone, your wallet, your keys and your purchases. Do the same before any transitional moment so that you keep yourself in order.

Dear Harriette: I think I may be dating two men who share mutual friends, and I’m not sure how to handle it. I’ve been up-front that I’m dating casually and not ready for exclusivity — I’m still figuring out what I want and who feels like the right fit. Recently, after exchanging social media information, I realized that two men I’ve really been enjoying seem to move in overlapping circles. They don’t appear to be friends, but they may know of each other. I’ve been honest

that I’m seeing other people, but this feels a bit closer than I expected. I haven’t been physically intimate with either of them beyond kissing, so it doesn’t feel like I’ve crossed a line. Still, I’m wondering if I should disclose this connection out of transparency. At the same time, I worry that saying something could cost me both relationships before I’ve had the chance to decide. What do you suggest? How can I protect my interests while still being respectful to these two gentlemen?

Mutual Friends

Dear Mutual Friends: You need to decide which one of these guys you like. It will be awkward and potentially embarrassing if either finds out about the other. Yes, you have told them you aren’t exclusive with them, but you all will feel some kind of way if they find out. Do yourself a favor and choose which one — if either — you would like to explore more of a relationship with, and stop seeing the other one.

Harriette Cole is a lifestyle and founder of DREAMLEAPERS, an initiative to help people access and activate their dreams. You can send questions to askharriette@harriettecole.com or c/o Andrews McMeel Syndication, 1130 Walnut St., Kansas City, MO 64106.

NEGOTIATED BY THE LATE SEN. LINDSEY GRAHAM

Senate passes Russia sanctions bill

Mary Clare Jalonick
and Lisa Mascaro
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Senate overwhelmingly approved a punishing Russian sanctions package Friday, the result of a year-long campaign by the late Sen. Lindsey Graham to reinforce U.S. support for Ukraine and try to force President Vladimir Putin's hand as the grinding war drags on.

The bipartisan legislation, which passed the Senate 86-11, would penalize countries that continue to buy Russian oil, gas and other exports seeking to deprive Putin of revenues fueling the war. It comes after Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy visited the Capitol hours after Graham's funeral, met with senators from both parties and watched from the gallery as the Senate took the first procedural votes last week on the sweeping legislation.

"Today, President Zelenskyy is watching from Ukraine — and Putin is watching from Moscow," said Sen. Richard Blumenthal, D-Conn., who had worked with the late South Carolina senator on the package.

"I would like to think Lindsey Graham is watching, too," he said. "Today we say to the people of Ukraine: You

are not alone. And today we say to Vladimir Putin: You will not conquer Ukraine."

The sweeping show of force from the Senate is the most substantial move yet during President Donald Trump's second term to shift the dynamic of the more than four-year war, which has now churned longer than World War I. Congress has struggled to ensure U.S. funding and munitions flows to Ukraine, but Trump has given a nod to the sanctions package, putting pressure for the House to take it up for a vote and send it to the White House for his signature.

Graham and Blumenthal had announced a deal with the White House on the sanctions legislation on July 10 after more than a year of negotiations with the White House. Graham, who had just returned from Ukraine, died suddenly the next day, likely from an aortic tear.

The bipartisan package that carries Graham's name allows the president to impose tariffs on the world's top five purchasers of Russian oil or natural gas, including China and India. It provides exceptions for countries that import less than 15 percent of their natural gas from Russia and are taking steps to reduce those imports.

The legislation also includes sanctions on Putin, senior Russian political and military leaders, Russian financial institutions and Russian energy projects. It would expand U.S. sanctions to target older, reflagged oil

tankers that Russia uses to circumvent existing U.S. sanctions on Russian oil and energy revenues.

Democrats and some Republicans have been wary of giving Trump broad authority to slap tariffs on imports that have spiked prices for goods, worried about inflation and high costs of living for Americans. Those voting against the final package were mostly progressive Democrats.

The negotiated bill also includes waiver authority for the president, allowing the White House to waive sanctions or restrictions if the president certifies to Congress that the waiver is in the national interest.

Sen. Darline Graham, R-S.C., who was appointed by the state's governor to fill her brother's seat, said he was determined to bring an end to the Ukraine war, and she was honored to carry on his work. "This legislation hits Putin where it hurts," she said.

Bill sends 'a moral signal' to Ukraine and its allies

Zelenskyy told senators during last week's private meeting at the Capitol that Ukraine is making gains in the war, but still needs more help from the U.S. He publicly thanked them for the sanctions package and said it would send a "big signal" to Ukraine and its allies of U.S. support.

Republican Sen. Todd Young of Indiana, who attended the meeting, said the sanctions legislation

"is important as a moral signal to a country that is weary and tired, though holding its own."

New Hampshire Sen. Jeanne Shaheen, the top Democrat on the Foreign Relations Committee, said advancing the legislation now, ahead of Russia's own elections, will put pressure on Putin to seriously revisit prospects for a peace deal. And she warned that every time the U.S. backs away from tough actions, Russia ramps up its attacks.

"If we can't shut down the funding for the war machine that Russia is using against Ukraine, then they're going to keep at it," she said.

The Senate defeated an amendment by Republican Sen. Rand Paul of Kentucky and Democratic Sen. Ron Wyden of Oregon that would have removed the new tariff authority for Trump. Paul says it would be too costly for taxpayers, while Wyden and other Democrats say they don't want to give Trump any new authority to impose tariffs.

"We've got folks who are walking an economic tightrope here in America," Wyden said.

Sen. Raphael Warnock, D-Ga., who had held up passage of the package over the tariff authority, said he received a written commitment from the Trump administration through U.S. Trade Representative Jamie-Son Greer that ensures guardrails. The tariffs would be lifted once the countries are no longer on the lists

of those purchasing Russian oil and gas, or helping to evade sanctions, he said.

"We should not have to choose between putting a check on Putin's aggression and putting a check on this president's tariffs regime," Warnock said. If Trump "oversteps his power, we will see him in court."

Other Democrats say that while they are wary of giving Trump any new powers, they don't want to jeopardize the help for Ukraine.

"Weighing that against the boost for Ukraine, I think it's important to support Ukraine right now," said Connecticut Sen. Chris Murphy, D-Conn.

Package next goes to the House

The momentum from the Senate is expected to press the House to act swiftly on the Russia sanctions package when lawmakers return to session at the end of the month.

The House had already passed a separate measure in June that would provide security and reconstruction aid to Ukraine and sanction key segments of the Russian economy.

That package pushed by Democrats drew bipartisan support from Republicans, overriding objections from GOP leaders who warned the bill would undermine negotiations designed to achieve a comparable but stronger result.



Firefighters put out a fire after Russian missiles hit a warehouse in Kyiv, Ukraine, on Wednesday.

Ukraine drones hit warehouse

The Associated Press

Ukrainian long-range drones hit a warehouse of Russia's biggest online retailer in the Ural Mountains, more than 1,200 miles from the two countries' border, local officials and the company said Friday.

Ukraine has regularly hit targets in the distant Urals this year and has even struck a Russian oil refinery in western Siberia, nearly 1,550 miles from the border. The attacks are examples of how Kyiv has used drone innovation as a key part of its response to the invasion by its much bigger enemy more than four years ago.

Its successes have drawn international interest and drone cooperation agreements with nine countries, with further deals being negotiated with 15 other countries, according to Kyiv officials.

Wildberries said its warehouse in Yekaterinburg, Russia's fourth-largest city, was set ablaze by the attack. Most merchandise wasn't damaged, the company said, unlike at some of the more than a dozen other Wildberries depots struck by Ukraine in recent weeks that have burned down.

The regional governor, Denis Pasler, said three drones hit the warehouse's roof. Artyom Zhoga, the Kremlin's representative in the region, said that 800 people were evacuated from the warehouse and nobody was hurt.

Kyiv is trying to rattle the Russian public and the Kremlin with the attacks.

Russian President Vladimir Putin chaired a meeting Friday of the country's Security Council. He said in televised opening remarks that the meeting would focus on additional measures to "strengthen ... protection of infrastructure facilities" but gave no further details.

Ukraine presses on with plans for new weapons

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy is pushing for his country to keep up the pace of technological development, especially in air defense systems to help

stop Russian ballistic missiles that are exploiting Ukraine's shortage of American-made Patriot interceptor missiles and battering civilian areas.

A joint European anti-ballistic development program is already underway, Zelenskyy said late Thursday, with 10 countries engaged in developing an anti-ballistic shield. Europe is concerned about Moscow's ambitions on the continent beyond Ukraine.

"Ukraine is capable of producing its (anti-ballistic) missile and launcher, while our partners will provide the necessary components and critical elements — radars, sensors, and everything else required," Zelenskyy said on social media. "An anti-ballistic program of our own — one that is truly large-scale — will greatly benefit everyone in Europe."

At the same time, Ukraine is working on manufacturing its own ballistic missiles to use against Russia. "The tests have shown strong potential. We need to turn this into a real weapon," Zelenskyy said.

Defenders are under pressure in eastern Ukraine

Ukrainian front-line defenses in eastern regions, meanwhile, remain under strain as Russia's bigger army looks for a breakthrough after months of minimal advances that Western analysts and officials say have had a high cost for Moscow in troop casualties.

Ukraine has been evacuating children from Kramatorsk, one of the four eastern Donetsk region cities that make up the Ukrainian so-called Fortress Belt. The line of four large and heavily defended cities, about 30 miles long, has been key to denying Moscow its goal of seizing Ukraine's industrial heartland.

The head of the Donetsk region's regional military administration, Vadym Filashkin, said Friday that more than 800 people, including 91 children, were evacuated over the previous 24 hours.

Ukraine has been deploying midrange strike drones to disrupt Russia's supply lines and slow its advance.

Zelenskyy said that the recently appointed commander-in-chief of the Ukrainian armed forces, Maj. Gen. Mykhailo Drapatyi, reported to him Friday about the military situation in Donetsk.

He said in a social media post that they reached "an understanding of how to strengthen" Ukraine's defenses there but gave no details.

Russia and Ukraine sustain nightly drone attacks

Russia's air defenses downed 203 Ukrainian drones from late Thursday through early Friday, the Defense Ministry in Moscow said.

Over the past week, the Russian military struck 31 bulk cargo vessels and three tugboats that operated "in the interests of the Ukrainian armed forces," it said.

It added that late Thursday two ships were hit by Geran-4 drones in the Black Sea east and southeast of Odesa and one was struck in the Ukrainian port of Chornomorsk.

In other attacks, the ministry said that the military hit a facility assembling long-range drones in Okhtyrka in the Sumy region on Thursday. It also released a video of a train purportedly carrying military equipment struck by a Geran drone and then an Iskander ballistic missile near Vyshneve in the Dnipropetrovsk region.

Meanwhile, Russia attacked Ukraine with 147 long-range strike drones overnight, according to the Ukrainian air force.

In Ukraine's northern Sumy region, a Russian drone struck a busy market Friday morning, wounding 10 people, authorities said.

Russia also launched glide bombs and drones of various types at the regional capital, according to the head of regional administration, Oleh Hryhorov.

The attack targeted residential buildings, transport and infrastructure, wounding two people, he said.

BLACKOUTS IN CUBA

Life revolves around bursts of electricity

Andrea Rodriguez
The Associated Press

HAVANA — A 20-minute burst of electricity is a small miracle in Havana nowadays — a miracle that sometimes comes at 3 a.m.

That's when 72-year-old Leidis Rodríguez frantically cooked beans after the lights switched on this week following hours of uninterrupted blackouts.

"The power has come back on, everyone go!" Rodríguez shouted.

In the wake of sometimes dayslong blackouts in Cuba — fueled by the oil blockade imposed by the Trump administration in January — Cubans are planning their lives around the lights turning back on.

Those small bursts of relief last a few minutes or a few hours. They come at any time, day or night. Increasingly, electricity flicks on when Rodríguez and her 41-year-old daughter, Yaimara Matos, would normally be asleep.

When the power comes on, the family stops everything they're doing.

"You want to do everything at the same time — wash clothes, iron, cook, tidy the rooms, because it's impossible in the dark, and even get a little relief from the heat," Matos said. "What we used to do in 10 hours, we now have to do in two."

That's the case for Cubans across the island, whose lives have been transformed by one of the worst crises the island has seen since the Cuban revolution. Daily life has turned into a tangle of compounding crises families have to unravel.

Public transportation and cultural events have come to a standstill. So has tourism, the country's economic engine, especially as tourism companies have withdrawn, leaving 25,000 hospitality jobs vacant. Flights to the island are regularly canceled and workdays have been shortened to adjust to the new reality of a Cuba without power. Medicine shortages have worsened and food rots in fridges without power.

"If there's no electricity, there's no water because it doesn't get pumped to the tank. When there's water, there's no electricity," Rodríguez lamented.

Power outages are nothing new to the Caribbean nation. Endemic blackouts began to worsen five years ago as a result of a crumbling energy grid, decades-long U.S. sanctions and failed economic reforms by the communist-run government.

But the quality of life began to rapidly deteriorate when U.S.

President Donald Trump threatened to impose a tariff on any goods from countries that sell or provide it with oil, Cuba's main source of power. The move, combined with even more rigid sanctions, was aimed at pressuring Cuba's government into political change. The worst effects have been felt by average Cubans.

Previously, most blackouts were scheduled by the government to save power, so each family knew how long they would be without electricity — usually two or three hours. Now there is no longer any predictability: an outage can last 12 hours, 30 hours or longer. Increasingly, the entire island goes dark. Last weekend's grid collapse marked the sixth time this year.

Cubans like Rodríguez and Matos, long accustomed to adapting to crisis, have found ways to cope. The family bought a small power generator, which they're only able to run a few hours a day.

Others install solar panels — often sent by relatives abroad. Some purchase rechargeable fans or solar-powered vehicles since gasoline is also unavailable.

Lianet Barroso once cooked with a gas stove. Now she cooks over a wood fire. Unsure of when she will next get water when the power does go on, she fills up as many plastic bottles as she can.

"Life for Cubans has become difficult, harsh and sad," Barroso said.

In several municipalities, particularly in Havana, residents staged neighborhood protests after blackouts lasting more than 48 hours, banging pots and pans and burning garbage piled up on street corners.

Meanwhile, with inflation surging as Cuba's currency is increasingly devalued against the dollar, many people are struggling to even pay for food that could later go bad in a blackout.

At 10 p.m. on Tuesday, 64-year-old Caridad Delgado was preparing food for her cat during a blackout under the light of a rechargeable lamp, something the family bought with remittances from her three children, who had emigrated from the island.

Months ago at this hour, she said, "I'd probably be watching a soap opera. Now I can't even dream of it."

"There's just too much anguish, too much desperation," she said. "I try to carry on with life."

Stocks jump on news of jobless surge

Damian J. Troise
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Stocks rose on Wall Street Friday and Treasury yields fell after the government reported that employers unexpectedly cut 23,000 jobs last month.

Every major index notched a second straight week of gains, which included several fresh records. It marks a strong start to August following several weak months.

The S&P 500 rose 47.68 points, or 0.6 percent, to 7,757.64. That topped the all-time high it set on Tuesday. The benchmark index has been on a record run throughout the year.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average rose 151.83 points, or 0.3 percent, to 54,036.93. That put it just short of the record it set on Wednesday. The Nasdaq composite rose 342.26 points, or 1.3 percent, to 26,690.62.

Technology stocks, with their big market values, did much of the heavy lifting for the broader market. They are often the heaviest weights determining the market's direction. Nvidia jumped 2.3 percent and Broadcom rose 1.7 percent.

U.S. unexpectedly shed jobs; unemployment rate falls

U.S. employers unexpectedly cut jobs in July and hiring in the prior two months was revised lower, suggesting the labor market is weaker than previously thought after surprising strength earlier this year.

Nonfarm payrolls decreased 23,000 last month following a combined 103,000 downward revision to the May and June figures, Bureau of Labor Statistics data showed Friday. The unemployment rate fell to 4.1 percent as labor force participation continued to slide, and wage growth slowed.

The report suggests the labor market may be starting to falter amid rising prices and uncertainty from the Iran war, despite recent data showing strength in consumer spending and business investment. The data could also prompt the Federal Reserve to delay interest-rate increases as officials weigh inflation against risks to employment.

— from wire reports

The bond market reacted more strongly to the weaker signal on the jobs market, which can be seen as allowing the Federal Reserve more time before raising interest rates to fight inflation.

The yield on the 10-year Treasury fell to 4.64 percent from 4.67 percent just prior to the jobs update. It was as low as 4.60 percent before recovering a bit.

The yield on the two-year Treasury, which more closely tracks expecta-

Overall, the report paints a dimmer picture of the jobs market, which has been one of the brighter areas of the economy amid rising inflation and worries about household spending. It included a revision to the figures for June and May that involved slashing a combined 103,000 jobs from payrolls for those months.

The Fed has been holding interest rates steady amid worries about hotter inflation, fueled by a rise in oil prices because of the U.S. war with Iran. Wall Street expects at least one rate increase by the end of the year, with forecasts shifting for the next meeting. Expectations for a rate cut in September are down to 42 percent, from 55 percent on Thursday and from 67 percent a week ago, according to CME FedWatch.

A weakening jobs market could make matters more complicated for the Fed, which has to balance supporting job growth with fighting inflation. Raising interest rates can help tame inflation by slowing economic growth. A weaker jobs market, though, could become even shakier under higher interest rates as busi-

nesses find it more difficult to expand under increased borrowing rates.

Businesses, and Wall Street, prefer lower interest rates because it can help boost investments. That might bolster a weakened jobs market, but it could worsen already stubborn inflation.

Wall Street will get several important inflation updates next week. The most closely watched will be the consumer price index, or CPI, which measures costs for consumers. Wall Street expects it to show that inflation in July rose at a 3.4 percent rate, which would be a slight easing from the 3.5 percent rise in June. Interest rates have held stubbornly above 3 percent for most of the year.

“Today’s weak payrolls print may ease the pressure on the Fed to raise rates at its September meeting, but next week’s inflation data will still likely be the deciding factor,” said Ellen Zentner, chief economic strategist for Morgan Stanley Wealth Management, in a research note.

The jobs report caps a week dominated mostly by corporate earnings and concerns about the ongoing U.S. war with Iran.

ROUNDUP

Efforts to fire Federal Reserve governor Lisa Cook revived

WASHINGTON — The Trump administration is moving ahead with its efforts to fire Federal Reserve governor Lisa Cook, two months after the Supreme Court allowed her to retain her job while she fights the president’s effort to terminate her over mortgage fraud allegations that she has denied.

The justices, in a 5-4 decision in June, said Cook, who was nominated to the Fed’s Board of Governors by President Joe Biden, could remain in her post at least as long as her lawsuit challenging her firing goes on. The Trump administration is appealing a lower-court ruling in Cook’s favor.

Supreme Court Chief Justice John Roberts wrote in a footnote in his opinion that nothing forbids President Donald Trump from “trying again” to fire Cook, provided she is given proper notice and a chance to contest


Cook

it. Trump indicated, after the opinion, that he would do just that, vowing to “take appropriate action immediately.”

In a letter this week obtained by The Associated Press, White House aide Dan Scavino told Cook that Trump was “considering removing you from your position” but cited the Supreme Court’s requirement of proper notice in giving her until August 26 to challenge it.

The attempt to fire Cook is rooted in a criminal referral made last August by Bill Pulte, the director of the Federal Housing Finance Agency, that accused her of committing mortgage fraud by declaring two different homes — one in Ann Arbor, Michigan, and one in Atlanta — as “primary residence.” Homebuyers can get lower mortgage rates or smaller down payments on their primary homes compared to second or vacation homes.

Canadian PM Carney says U.S. trade talks are ‘nasty’

TORONTO — Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney said that trade negotiations with the United States had turned “nasty” after President Donald Trump derided America’s neighbor and its leadership while threatening to expand tariffs.

Carney said Canada remained engaged in the negotiations despite Trump’s comments, describing the talks as a fight to protect Canadian workers and businesses.

“This is a tough negotiation,” Carney said in French. “You can say ‘nasty.’ But this is a question of Canadian jobs. It’s a question of the future of Canadian businesses.”

Trump criticized Canada during a speech Wednesday in Las Vegas.

“Canada’s nasty. They are. They’re nasty,” Trump said. “I love the people, but they’re nasty. Nasty leadership.”

Carney said “we are in the middle of a tariff war with the Americans” but laughed when asked about Trump’s description. He said Canadian negotiators were in Washington this week and that he expected further conversations with Trump after speaking with him last week.

The United States already has tariffs on Canadian steel, aluminum and automobiles. Trump has threatened to impose 50 percent tariffs on more Canadian goods beginning Aug. 19.

Tariffs are taxes on imports, which companies can then pass along to consumers in the form of higher prices. The president maintains that the costs created by tariffs will cause manufacturing to relocate to the U.S., though there is little evidence of that in the economic data.

Trump’s tariff threats and repeated suggestions that Canada should become the 51st U.S. state have angered many Canadians.

— from wire reports

medina county board of developmental disabilities

Leading With HEART



MCBDD 2026 Stand Out Champions Honored

Kimberly Manix
Retired Cloverleaf
Schools Teacher

Tyler Rasey
Special Olympian,
Disability Advocate

Medina County Fair
Junior Fair Board Members

The Medina County Board of DD’s Stand Out Champion Awards celebrate the incredible people and organizations making Medina County a more welcoming and accessible place for everyone. This year’s awards shine a spotlight on the everyday champions whose kindness, creativity, and dedication are helping break down barriers and create new opportunities.

From inspiring advocates to community partners, each honoree reminds us that even small acts can make a big difference. Join us as we celebrate the people proving that disability inclusion is not just an idea, it’s something we can all help make happen each and every day.

To read more about each of the recipients visit:
www.mcbdd.org/stand-out-champion-awards/

Safety Success
Safety Town Plus+ Helps Children in Emergencies

For four fun-filled days, July 27–30, the Medina County Board of DD welcomed young learners to Safety Town Plus, a one-of-a-kind program combining the excitement of traditional Safety Town with extra support children with developmental disabilities may need. This summer marked the program’s 12th year in helping nearly 250 Medina County children to learn important safety skills. Safety Town Plus is one of only a handful of programs like it in the nation, giving children the chance to learn, grow, and thrive in a fun and supportive environment.

Upcoming Events
Community Safety Day
Tuesday, August 11 from 10:00 am - 12:00 pm
Medina Achievement Center - 4691 Windfall Rd., Medina
Enjoy a fun community event and meet local first responders. Children and adults can enjoy hands-on activities, interactive experiences, ask questions and more.

Voting Rights
Wednesday, August 19 at 6:00 pm
Held virtually
Be part of the political process by learning about voter registration, the voting process, and accessibility options to help every eligible voter participate. This fun and informative session will help you get ready to make your vote count!

Community Toddler Playgroup
Monday, September 14 from 10:00 - 11:30 am
Carolyn Ludwig Mugrage Park (4985 Windfall Rd. Medina)
Meetup with other young families to connect and share the real-life adventures of raising little ones. Enjoy activities, songs, tips for child development, and yes... snacks! All families with children ages 0-3 are welcome.

More info and register online at
www.mcbdd.org/events-calendar/

Making Sense
MCBDD Donates Sensory Kits to Fairgrounds

Visits to Medina County Fairground events just got more comfortable! The Medina County Board of DD has donated sensory kits to give visitors access to helpful tools to make navigating the sights, sounds, and excitement of fairground events a little easier. Kits can be checked out at the fair office and are filled with many sensory-friendly items. The kits are one more way our community is working together to be a welcoming, inclusive, and enjoyable place for everyone.

AUGUST 2026

330-725-7751 • www.mcbdd.org

Thank you Medina County for helping fund these services through local property tax levy dollars.

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