

OHIO STATE

Smith has other goals to accomplish, **B1**

BUSINESS & POLITICS

Three networks sue over White House ban, **B6**

Today's weather
HIGH: 62
LOW: 55
Sunrise: 7:15
Sunset: 7:24

THE GAZETTE

Serving Medina County Since 1832

TUESDAY, September 22, 2026

\$2.50

POTENTIAL CHANGES COMING TO WADSWORTH SCHOOLS

Residents asked to do survey

Brooke Adams
The Gazette

WADSWORTH — Wadsworth Schools is asking residents to weigh in on potential changes ranging from elementary-school assignments and transportation to kindergarten, extra-curricular activities and graduation requirements.

The survey, open through Wednesday, comes as the district considers how it would operate if it does not

secure additional revenue before the 2027-28 school year.

One of the survey's questions asks whether the board of education should consider closing one of the district's five traditional K-4 elementary schools if enrollment continues to decline and enrollment allows for a closure.

The question does not identify a particular school for closure.

Superintendent Andrew Hill said

the board is examining areas where the district provides services beyond state minimum operating requirements. He said enrollment projections, community input, available revenue and legal requirements would factor into any decisions.

"Right now, the board is looking at all areas where our services exceed those required by the state's minimum operating standards," Hill said.

The survey asks residents to con-

sider several of those areas.

For elementary schools, respondents can weigh maintaining the current geographic assignment system, assigning students to K-4 schools regardless of where they live or another approach.

Transportation is another focus. The district asks whether it should reduce transportation to state minimums. Hill told the board Sept. 14 that Wadsworth currently transports

students in kindergarten through eighth grade who live at least 1 mile from school, while the state minimum generally applies to students in those grades who live more than 2 miles from their assigned school.

The survey also asks whether extra-curricular activities should remain affordable, move toward full cost participation fees or follow another model.

See **SURVEY**, A2

BRUNSWICK HILLS

New fire chief sworn in



MADYSYN WOODRING / GAZETTE

Scott Altshuler is sworn in at Brunswick Hills Fire Station No. 2 on Saturday.

Madysyn Woodring
The Gazette

BRUNSWICK HILLS TWP. — Scott Altshuler is the newest fire chief of the Brunswick Hills Fire Department, bringing more than 30 years of experience to the role.

Altshuler was sworn in at Brunswick

Hills Fire Station No. 2 on Saturday. Trustee Ryan Nixon said former Fire Chief Anthony Strazzo left the role earlier this year, and the township has been looking for a replacement for months.

"We finally got Scott (Altshuler) in the door to do an interview with him, and he spoke with us for about a half hour,

and after that we kind of looked at each other," Nixon said. "We had a couple firefighters in the room with us, and when Scott (Altshuler) walked out the door, we made that nod that this is our guy. It worked out well, and we're happy to have him."

See **CHIEF**, A2

LITCHFIELD TOWNSHIP

Renewal road levy to be on Nov. ballot

Madysyn Woodring
The Gazette

LITCHFIELD TWP. — Litchfield Township residents will vote whether to renew a levy that goes toward maintaining the township's roads this November.

The 1-mill renewal levy would last five years and raise \$69,300 a year. Upon passage, homeowners will pay \$14 a year per \$100,000 in home valuation.

Trustee Joe Seifert said it is the renewal of a levy that has been around since the '90s. He described the funds as "critical" since they are used for road upkeep, salting, plowing and ditching.

"Over the past six years, we've seen a tremendous rise in costs of everything, including equipment, salt, paving

What is it: 1-mill renewal levy.
Duration: Five years.
How much would it raise: \$69,300 annually.
Purpose: Fund the upkeep of township roads.
Cost to homeowner/taxpayer: \$14 annually per \$100,000 in assessed home value.

and we still have to maintain the roads on 1996 dollars," he said. "Imagine running your household on the income you made in 1996 today. That is our challenge."

Seifert said the township has 20 miles of roads. It costs around \$40,000 a mile to chip seal a road, including minor repair work.

See **LEVY**, A2

MEDINA HIGH SCHOOL

Homecoming Week activities being planned

Kellyn Flohr
The Gazette

MEDINA — Medina Schools is inviting students, families, alumni and community members to celebrate Medina High School's Homecoming Week from Oct. 5-10.

The week will feature several community events, including the annual homecoming parade, powderpuff football game, varsity football game and a postgame fireworks display.

The Homecoming parade will begin at 6 p.m. Oct. 8 at Garfield Elementary School. Participants will travel north on Broadway Street to Union Street, then continue to Medina High School.

Medina Schools Director of Community Relations Amy

Busby said this year's homecoming parade and activities will feature popular board game themes while also incorporating patriotic elements in recognition of the nation's 250th anniversary.

"The theme this year is board games, and we want to include a reference to America 250 during the parade," Busby said.

Following the parade, the community is invited to Ken Dukes Stadium for the annual powderpuff football game, featuring Medina High School junior and senior girls. The game is expected to begin at 7 p.m.

Admission is \$5, and tickets will be available at the gate on the day of the event.

See **HOMECOMING**, A2

HIGHLAND HIGH SCHOOL

Alumni military honor wall to recognize graduates who served

Brooke Adams
The Gazette

MEDINA — More than 180 Highland High School alumni have already been submitted for recognition on a new military honor wall that organizers hope to unveil at the school by Veterans Day.

That number is nearly dou-

ble what organizers initially expected.

The Highland Alumni Military Honor Wall will recognize individual Highland graduates who have served in the U.S. armed forces. It will be installed in the theater lobby beside an existing military display that recognizes Vietnam veterans.

Kristen Oberhaus, who is helping lead the project through the Highland High School Alumni Committee, said her two daughters' military service inspired her to add to the wall.

"I have two daughters who served in the military, so they were my inspiration to do this," Oberhaus said. "To recognize all the veterans who

went to Highland."

Organizers initially estimated they would receive about 100 names. More than 180 have been submitted through an online form promoted through social media and email.

See **WALL**, A2

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WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/MEDINAGAZETTE



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ALMANAC

The Associated Press

Today is Tuesday, Sept. 22, the 265th day of 2026. There are 100 days left in the year.

Today’s history

■ In 1776, during the Revolutionary War, Capt. Nathan Hale, 21, was hanged as a spy by the British in New York.

■ In 1957, Haitian women were allowed to vote for the first time, 153 years after Haiti became an independent country; François Duvalier was elected president.

■ In 1961, President John F. Kennedy signed congressional legislation making the Peace Corps a permanent federal agency within the State Department; it became an independent agency in 1981.

■ In 1975, Sara Jane Moore fired two shots in an unsuccessful attempt to assassinate President Gerald R. Ford outside a San Francisco hotel, missing Ford by inches.

■ In 1980, the Persian Gulf conflict between Iran and Iraq erupted into a full-scale war that would continue for nearly eight years.

■ In 1985, rock and country music artists participated in Farm Aid, a concert staged in Champaign, Illinois, to help the nation’s farmers.

■ In 1993, 47 people were killed when an Amtrak passenger train derailed and plunged off a bridge into Big Bayou Canot near Mobile, Alabama.

■ In 2014, the United States and five Arab nations launched airstrikes against the Islamic State group in Syria, sending waves of planes and Tomahawk cruise missiles against an array of targets.

■ In 2018, militants disguised as soldiers opened fire on an annual military parade in southwest Iran, killing at least 25 people and wounding over 60. An Arab separatist movement claimed responsibility for the terror attack, the deadliest on Iranian soil in nearly a decade.

Today’s birthdays

Singer-choreographer-actor Toni Basil is 83. Musician King Sunny Adé is 80. Football Hall of Famer Harold Carmichael is 77. Rock singer David Coverdale (Deep Purple, Whitesnake) is 75. Actor Shari Belafonte is 72. Singer Debby Boone is 70. Country singer June Forester (The Forester Sisters) is 70. Singer Nick Cave is 69. Singer Andrea Bocelli is 68. Singer-musician Joan Jett is 68. Actor Scott Baio is 66. Actor Bonnie Hunt is 65. Actor Mireille Enos is 52. Soccer player Thiago Silva is 42. Actor Tatiana Maslany is 41. Actor Tom Felton is 39. Actor Curry Barker is 27. Singer Jessie Murph is 21. Olympic gold medal skateboarder Coco Yoshizawa is 17.

LEVY

From A1

“We do apply for a lot of grants,” he said. “We have gotten some (Ohio Public Works Commission) grants, and that has helped out through the years. It’s really helped us try and stay afloat.”

Litchfield has streamlined and created more efficiency where it could, Seifert said.

“We’re doing the best we can with the funds and being as fiscally responsible as we possibly can,” he said. “We’re being as efficient as we can with what we have to work with, the resources we have to work with, and we’re committed to continuing to manage everything that way moving forward.”

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

WEATHER

TODAY: Evening showers 61/54

WEDNESDAY: Showers 60/50

THURSDAY: Partly cloudy 67/41

FRIDAY: Mostly sunny 68/45

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 (Monday)

Midday Pick 3: 0-7-7, **Pick 3:** Not available at press time.

Midday Pick 4: 5-0-3-0, **Pick 4:** Not available at press time.

Midday Pick 5: 2-0-4-0-8, **Pick 5:** Not available at press time.

Rolling Cash 5: Not available at press time.

Classic Lotto: Not available at press time.

Kicker: Not available at press time.

Rolling Cash 5 jackpot is \$130,000.

Classic Lotto jackpot is \$3.2 million.

Millionaire for Life

SUNDAY: 14-28-30-37-42, **Millionaire Ball:** 3.

MONDAY: The numbers were not available at press time.

Mega Millions

FRIDAY: 4-9-24-56-68, **Mega Ball:** 1.

Next Mega Millions jackpot is an estimated \$261 million.

Powerball

MONDAY: The numbers were not available at press time.

Next Powerball jackpot is an estimated \$313 million.

THE GAZETTE

Tuesday, September 22, 2026, No. 230

Medina (non-toll area).....(330) 725-4166

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PUBLIC MEETINGS

Today

Brunswick Hills Township trustees, public hearing, 6 p.m., followed by a special meeting at 6:30 p.m. to discuss the employee handbook followed by a regular meeting at 7 p.m., Brunswick Hills Township Town Hall, 1918 Pearl Road.

Chatham Township trustees, regular meeting, 7 p.m., Chatham Community Center, 6306 Avon Lake Road.

Hinckley Township trustees, special meeting to conduct township business, 4:30 p.m., administration building, 1410 Ridge Road. Visit hinckleytp.org for the Zoom option.

Litchfield Township Board of Zoning Appeals, regular meeting, 6:30 p.m., Town Hall, 9256 Norwalk Road.

Medina County commissioners, regular meeting, 9:30 a.m., commissioners’ hearing room, 144 N. Broadway St., virtual option at www.facebook.com/MedinaCountyCommissioners.

Medina County Career Center, regular meeting, 6 p.m., main campus, 1101 W. Liberty St.

Medina County Democratic Party Executive Committee, regular meeting, 7 p.m., Zoom. Executive Committee and Central Committee appointments may be considered. Contact medinademsinfo@gmail.com for instructions on how to attend the meeting.

Montville Township trustees, special meeting to go into executive session, noon followed by a regular meeting, admin building, 6665 Wadsworth Road.

Sharon Township trustees, department head meeting, 5 p.m., township administration building, 1322 Sharon Copley Road.

Talk and Walk at Ray Mellert Park

As part of the senior fall prevention challenge, the Fall Prevention Committee of Cleveland Clinic Medina Hospital will host a Talk and Walk at Medina’s Ray Mellert Park, 331 North Huntington St., at 10 a.m. Thursday. The guest speaker will be committee member Ann Marie Flannery.

Falls are the leading cause of injury and death among older adults, with nearly one in four seniors experiencing a fall each year. About 37 percent of falls lead to injuries that require medical treatment or restrict activity for at least one day, resulting in 9 million injuries

WALL

From A1

The wall will feature interlocking, honeycomb-shaped panels in Highland colors. Each panel will include the name of a Highland alumnus or alumna, graduation year and branch of military service.

The Highland Alumni Committee is working with the Highland Foundation for Educational Excellence on the project. The foundation provided \$16,034 in initial funding, and organizers are seeking donations to reimburse that investment. Donors will be recognized with a plaque.

The goal is to have the wall completed in November so it can be presented around Veterans Day.

The project is intended to grow beyond its initial installation. Organizers plan to continue accepting submissions from alumni not included in the first round and hope to add names annually around Veterans Day.

The wall also could become an educational resource for Highland students.

Oberhaus said information



GAZETTE FILE

Medina students, families gather before a previous year’s Medina High School homecoming parade.

HOMECOMING

From A1

Homecoming festivities will continue Oct. 9 when the Medina Battling Bees varsity football team hosts the North Royalton Bears at 7 p.m. at Ken Dukes Stadium.

The homecoming queen and her escorts will be introduced during the Marching Musical Bees’ pregame show.

Fans are encouraged to remain at the stadium after the game for a fireworks display sponsored by Medina High School Student Council. The fireworks are expected to begin about 10 minutes after the game ends.

Throughout the week, residents and local businesses are encouraged to display green and white ribbons in support of Medina High School.

“It’s a great opportunity to support the Bees,” Busby said. “It’s going to be a great weekend of celebration.”

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

SURVEY

From A1

Residents are asked about kindergarten separately, including whether they would be willing to pay tuition for full-day kindergarten if the district moved to a half-day program. Another question asks whether the district should maintain its current graduation requirements or reduce them to state minimums.

Hill told the board that full-day kindergarten, extracurricular activities, gifted services, some technology resources, additional high school electives, smaller K-2 class sizes and neighborhood school assignments are among the services that go beyond state minimum requirements.

Those questions build on a survey the district conducted in May that received 834 responses. That survey asked residents to rate the importance of services including mental health resources, extracurriculars, technology, high school electives, gifted services, smaller K-2 class sizes, neighborhood schools and transportation beyond state minimums.

Hill told the board the spring results provided useful feedback but also showed the need for additional information. For example, the district did not ask respondents whether they had children in elementary school, something Hill said could have provided more context for responses about neighborhood schools.

The district’s financial outlook is part of the backdrop to the current survey.

At the Sept. 14 board meeting, Hill said the district’s updated forecast shows a roughly \$2.4 million deficit in fiscal 2029. Without additional revenue or further reductions, that deficit is projected to exceed \$13 million in fiscal 2030.

“We cannot control whatever that outcome is on the November ballot,” Hill told the board, referring to the district’s efforts to secure additional revenue. “If we’re not successful in November

and you decide to go back in May next year, we can’t control what that outcome will be in May at the ballot.”

Hill said the board will continue discussing what the district’s future could look like if it doesn’t secure additional revenue.

The survey results will give the board additional community input as it weighs those options. Hill said the board is expected to continue the discussion after the survey closes.

The survey is available at tinyurl.com/5x93jd3x. The Board of Education is scheduled to discuss next steps on Thursday.

Contact Brooke Adams at 440-822-8373 or badams@medina-gazette.com.

CHIEF

From A1

Altshuler started his career in the fire service in Arizona “by accident.”

“I was actually out there for pharmacy school, and things didn’t work out the way I expected there,” he said. “A friend of mine said, ‘You always wanted to do emergency stuff. How about fire?’ That’s kind of how it started.”

Then, Altshuler came back to Ohio, his home state, and got a full-time job in the fire service in Solon.

“I was there for 24.5 years, became an officer there, and I was also the EMS coordinator there,” he said. “I also teach paramedic and EMT programs.”

As a Brunswick resident, Altshuler felt the chief role at the Brunswick Hills Fire Department was a good fit for him and

the township. He described the experience thus far as “a whirlwind.”

“What I’m looking forward to is moving the department forward,” he said. “A lot of younger people in the department are eager to learn, and the experiences I have, I’m hoping will be able to benefit them.”

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

MIDEAST DEVELOPMENTS

Iran official warns U.S. over escalation

The Associated Press

Iran's Revolutionary Guard warned Monday that it would "change the geography of the war" if the United States escalates the conflict.

Meanwhile, the British military said an "unknown projectile" struck a tanker as it entered the Strait of Hormuz on Monday, injuring two crew members.

The Israeli military remains on alert as much of the country shuts down for Yom Kippur, the holiest day in Judaism.

Here is the latest news from the Middle East on Monday.

Iran's Revolutionary Guard issues warning if US escalates war

A spokesperson for Iran's paramilitary Revolutionary Guard, Hossein Mohebbi, said Monday that "the war is not over" and warned that Iran would change its weapons, military tactics and targets if the conflict with the U.S. escalates.

"We will certainly change the geography of the war," Mohebbi said in a statement carried by Iranian state media. "We will certainly bring new weapons with new capabilities into the battle." He said the Guard had prepared for a long-term war.

"Our targets will no longer necessarily be the same as before," he said, according to the Islamic Republic of

Iran Broadcasting, adding that Iran has targets that have not yet been struck.

The more than six-month war began with U.S. and Israeli strikes on Iran on Feb. 28. The conflict has included repeated attacks and efforts to negotiate an end to the fighting, with no agreement reached to reopen the Strait of Hormuz or revive talks over Iran's nuclear program.

U.K. to offer Saudi Arabia aerial refueling to counter Houthi attacks

Prime Minister Andy Burnham says Britain has agreed to provide limited military support to Saudi Arabia to repeal attacks by Iran-backed Houthi rebels in Yemen.

Burnham told reporters as he flew to the United Nations General Assembly in New York that he had agreed the Royal Air Force will provide air-to-air refueling of Saudi planes. The agreement is for a matter of weeks, but Burnham said it will be kept under review.

The conflict between the Houthis and Yemen's Saudi-backed government has reignited, with Houthis aiming missile and drone strikes at Saudi Arabia, including one that targeted Riyadh on Saturday before being intercepted.

The United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operations Center (UKMTO) said a tanker was struck by an "unknown projectile" as it headed into the Strait of Hormuz. Two crew members sustained minor injuries.

The UKMTO said Monday the vessel is reportedly continuing to its next port of call under its own power. No reports indicated any environmental impact at this time.

Tehran has asserted control over much of the Strait of Hormuz since the U.S. and Israel launched the war on Feb. 28. In peacetime, about 20 million barrels — roughly a fifth of the world's oil supply — passed through Hormuz each day.

Some tankers are again traversing the strait, but traffic is well below what it once was.

Houthi leader lashes out at Saudis in TV speech

In Yemen, the leader of the Iran-backed Houthi rebels used the anniversary of his group's overthrow of the Yemeni government to lash out at Saudi Arabia.

In a pre-recorded speech aired Monday, Abdul Malik al-Houthi said his group's demands include an end to what he called Saudi "aggression" and the blockade the Saudi-led coalition has imposed on the rebels for

about a decade.

"Stop the aggression and end the blockade. Our demands represent the legitimate rights of our people," he said in the speech aired by the Houthi-run al-Masirah channel.

The Houthis descended from their stronghold in northern Yemen, taking over the capital of Sanaa in September 2014 and forcing the country's government into exile in Saudi Arabia.

The following year, Saudi Arabia led a multi-national coalition that entered the war in an attempt to restore the government. The coalition imposed an air and sea blockade on the Houthi-held areas, as part of its war efforts.

WHO reports 680 new casualties in a week in Yemen

The World Health Organization says 680 people were killed or injured across Yemen over the course of a week as fighting between the Houthi rebels and Saudi-backed government forces continues.

WHO said on Monday in a post on X that 164 people were killed and 516 injured between Sept. 13 and Sept. 18. This brings the total number of casualties since Aug. 6 to 3,672, including 674 deaths and 2,998 injuries.

Lahj province in southwestern Yemen is currently an active front line where 58 deaths and 226 injuries were

reported within six days, according to the U.N. agency.

Fighting in Yemen displaces nearly 130,000 people

Fighting between the Houthis and government forces has so far displaced 129,438 people across seven provinces, the International Organization for Migration says.

The IOM said in an update Monday that people escaping the conflict inside the country were forced from their homes in only a few weeks, with many already fleeing more than once.

Israeli military on guard on Jewish faith's holiest day

Israel's military remained on alert even as the country woke up to the silence and empty streets of Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement, considered the holiest day for the Jewish faith.

Streetlights blinked yellow Monday as the faithful walked to the Western Wall in Jerusalem's Old City.

"For the next 25 hours, Israel is offline," the foreign ministry said on X after sundown Sunday. But the military said it bolstered its front-line forces following the killing of an Israeli settler Sunday in the occupied West Bank. The Palestinian suspect was detained after a search.

SHOOTING OF 3 PALESTINIAN STUDENTS

Jury convicts Vermont man of attempted murder

Michael R. Sisak and Amanda Swinhart
The Associated Press

Burlington, Vt. — A jury on Monday convicted a Vermont man of attempted murder in the shootings of three Palestinian college students who were walking near his home, rejecting an insanity defense rooted in his claims that he was acting on orders from U.S. and Israeli intelligence agencies.

Jason Eaton faces up to life in prison in the November 2023 attack in Burlington, which paralyzed Hisham Awartani from the waist down and wounded his friends, Tahseen Aliahmad and Kinnan Abdalhamid.

The men, all 20 at the time, had been visiting Awartani's grandmother for Thanksgiving. They were smoking cigarettes and speaking a mix of English and Arabic as they walked near the University of Vermont campus after dusk. Two of them were wearing traditional Palestinian scarves known as keffiyehs.

The jury deliberated for several hours before reaching its verdict after a weeklong trial that saw testimony from the three men, who recounted how their stroll ended in bloodshed, and defense and prosecution psychiatric experts who offered differing views of Eaton's mental health and criminal culpability.

Eaton, 51, stared ahead blankly as the verdict was read, standing alongside his lawyers — public defenders whom he tried to fire last week over his concerns that his defense

The jury deliberated for several hours before reaching its verdict after a weeklong trial that saw testimony from the three men, who recounted how their stroll ended in bloodshed, and defense and prosecution psychiatric experts who offered differing views of Eaton's mental health and criminal culpability.

hadn't been "adequately presented." Judge John Pacht, who blocked Eaton's midtrial bid to act as his own lawyer, ordered him jailed pending sentencing, which has yet to be scheduled.

Awartani and Aliahmad watched from the front row of the courtroom gallery, smiling and hugging people around them.

"The verdict cannot undo what happened or erase the trauma our families still carry, but it affirms something fundamental: Jason Eaton is responsible for what he did," Awartani's mother, Elizabeth Price, told reporters afterward.

Eaton claimed he was acting on orders from the CIA and Mossad

Eaton had pleaded not guilty but did not dispute that he was the shooter. He claimed that the CIA and Mossad transmitted their orders via FM radio and that God was commanding him to protect his Jewish neighbors. His lawyers had urged jurors to find him not guilty by reason of insanity, an outcome that would've spared him from prison but could have required that he undergo mental health treatment.

Eaton's lawyers, Margaret Jansch and Joshua O'Hara, said he had struggled with mental

health issues his whole life, including diagnoses of attention deficit, post-traumatic stress, bipolar, depression and borderline personality disorders, culminating in a psychotic break after losing his job at a credit union two weeks before the shooting.

Prosecutor Sarah George countered that Eaton was a narcissist but not legally insane. He had a grandiose sense of self-importance and lacked empathy but was fully aware of the criminality of his conduct, George said in a closing argument. He appeared nervous when police arrived at his door, repeatedly asked for a lawyer and hasn't claimed to have received any other messages directing his actions, she said.

Eaton told officers that he had a shotgun in his apartment, but didn't disclose that he had other weapons, including a Ruger .380-caliber handgun that was found in a bedroom dresser and that crime lab testing concluded was used in the shooting, George said.

Victim's mother: Eaton should've been charged with hate crimes

The shooting, weeks after the start of the Israel-Hamas war, shook Burlington, and

reverberated in the West Bank, where the three wounded men grew up and became friends as schoolmates in Ramallah before moving to the U.S. for college. It spawned calls for a hate crime investigation.

But no hate crime charges were filed as questions persisted about whether anti-Palestinian animus, an altered mental state or something else had compelled Eaton to open fire. After the verdict, Awartani's mother said Eaton's hateful rhetoric, aired at the trial, had made it clear why he targeted her son.

Days after the shooting, George said in her closing argument, Eaton had told his lawyers that he wished Awartani's grandmother had warned him that the men were "going to dress up like terrorists" and trek through his neighborhood.

"Or see, if grandma had said to them, you know, maybe now's not a great time to wear that thing on your head," George said, paraphrasing Eaton's remarks. "You know, things are a little tense when you've got American hostages over in Palestine, and we're trying to get them back."

"They were not the words of a man confused about who he shot or why," Elizabeth Price said. "They were the words a

man who saw three young men speaking the language of their childhood and wearing what made them feel closer to their far away families and homes and decided to kill them because of his own prejudices."

Victims recounted how a peaceful walk ended in bloodshed

Awartani testified last week that he first noticed Eaton standing on a porch as they approached the apartment house where he lived. Within seconds, Awartani said, Eaton was off the porch and walking toward them. His face was expressionless and he didn't say anything. As Eaton got to about 5 to 10 feet away, "he pulled out a handgun and started shooting at us," Awartani said.

Abdalhamid, a student at Haverford College near Philadelphia, said he fled and hid behind another home after seeing Aliahmad fall to the ground. He said he only realized later when he sat down that he had also been wounded.

Awartani, who was studying at Brown University in Rhode

Island at the time, was shot in the chest and the bullet ricocheted off his scapula, causing paraplegia in his spinal cord. Aliahmad, who was a student at Trinity College in Connecticut, was struck in the collarbone, and Abdalhamid was shot in the right buttock.

Jacob Pyne, who lived in a different apartment in the same house as Eaton, testified that he heard four to six gunshots, followed by footsteps going up the stairs of the apartment house. He said he ran outside and heard two men speaking, one of whom was more vocal and yelling, "I've been shot, help me." He then brought the men blankets and called 911.

Eaton didn't testify. In an opening statement last week, O'Hara told jurors that Eaton claimed he started receiving messages while listening to a local NPR affiliate. At first, the messages were encouraging and validating, the lawyer said, but subsequent messages turned dark, insisting that Eaton "has to go out and shoot somebody."

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TEXAS

Man shot by ICE officer detained

Anna Wilder and Jesse Bedayn
The Associated Press

AUSTIN, Texas — A Venezuelan man shot by a U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement officer was in custody Monday at an ICE detention center in Texas after he was released from a hospital with a bullet still lodged in his back, the man's attorney said.

Speaking by phone during a news conference, Wilber Rafael Garces Perez said doctors didn't remove the bullet because it's near his spine. He said ICE pressed for him to be released quickly from the hospital so it could move him to a detention center. He said he had received no pain medication or treatment there, and had slept on the floor, before eventually being given a "pill" by a nurse on Monday.

Perez, 28, was making a DoorDash delivery in Austin on Sunday when his car was "sideswiped" twice by ICE officers in an unmarked truck, immigration attorney Kate Lincoln-Goldfinch told reporters Monday. He was taken to a hospital, she said, but was released later Sunday into ICE custody with the bullet still inside him.

Perez said ICE officers didn't ask him to stop or turn on any flashing lights until after they had sideswiped him. He said he did a U-turn and was trying to park when the officers rammed his car and shot him in the back of the neck.

"I am not doing well due to the gunshot wound, and I have not received the medical attention that I require," Perez said, speaking in Spanish over the phone as a member of his attorney's staff translated during the news



People speak during a demonstration where a man was shot in his vehicle by an ICE officer in Austin, Texas, on Monday.

conference.

Perez was being detained at the South Texas ICE Processing Center in Pearsall, about 130 miles southwest of Austin, Lincoln-Goldfinch said. She said Perez told her in a prior phone call that he was being interrogated.

The Department of Homeland Security, which oversees ICE, has released little information and has not said what prompted the shooting. In a statement early Monday, the department said it was investigating

the shooting of a Venezuelan man in the U.S. illegally who "had a final order of removal."

Homeland Security did not immediately respond to email messages seeking further comment on the shooting.

Perez entered the U.S. legally in 2024 after using CBP One, a program begun under President Joe Biden that set up appointments with U.S. authorities to be considered for asylum, Lincoln-Goldfinch said. Presi-

dent Donald Trump ended the program on his first day in office.

Perez's attorneys said he was an asylum seeker and had a valid work permit, Lincoln-Goldfinch said. She said a judge issued a deportation order for Perez after he missed a hearing in immigration court because the hearing notice was sent to a former address.

"Not that being out of status would justify any of this at all," Lincoln-Goldfinch said of the shooting in a social

media post.

The shooting occurred amid a surge in ICE enforcement across the U.S. during Trump's second term. During the summer, it reported more than 50,000 monthly arrests in July and August — a first for the agency.

Immigration officers have come under intense scrutiny amid a series of shootings during the crackdown. At least four people have been fatally shot by federal officers during immigration enforcement operations this year.

Local advocates, leaders of the civil rights group the League of United Latin American Citizens and two Democratic congressmen who represent parts of Austin called during the news conference for the creation of an independent body to review use-of-force incidents by ICE and refer suspected crimes to prosecutors.

They also urged Congress to ban ICE officers from making traffic stops, saying the officers are undertrained and too quick to resort to violence.

Austin Mayor Kirk Watson, a Democrat, has said he wants local police to have a role in investigating the shooting. Watson said it wouldn't be appropriate for ICE to investigate on its own.

The area beneath an overpass where a large crowd of protesters had gathered Sunday near the shooting scene was quiet Monday. Trash-filled plastic bags were left below concrete pylons marked with anti-ICE graffiti.

Amid discarded police tape, people left candles, flowers and a sign that read "Justice for Wilber."

RUSSIA

Main Kremlin party wins tighter parliament control

The Associated Press

The main Kremlin party has further strengthened its already overwhelming control of parliament, according to results Monday from Russia's first wartime parliamentary election, a tightly orchestrated vote that excluded virtually any genuine opposition.

With over 95 percent of the vote counted, the top Kremlin party, United Russia, stands to get more than three-fourths of the seats in the lower house, the State Duma, a record high.

It was the first parliamentary election since President Vladimir Putin launched the full-scale invasion of Ukraine in 2022, and the first to include residents of four regions of that country that were seized and illegally annexed by Moscow later that year. At a polling station in the Russian-held part of the Donetsk region, voters dropped their ballots in a box under the gaze of an armed Russian soldier.

Voting also was held in Crimea, which was illegally annexed by Russia in 2014. Kyiv denounced the voting in those regions as illegal.

The government was "able to carry out the campaign and the voting the way it wanted, with the most optimal output," said Tatyana Stanovaya of the Carnegie Russia Eurasia Center in an online commentary.

The election followed a crackdown on dissent



EKATERINA SHTUKINA, SPUTNIK, KREMLIN POOL PHOTO VIA AP

Russian Security Council Deputy Chairman and the head of the United Russia party Dmitry Medvedev, center, and Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov, center right, stand with other party members as they watch preliminary voting results for Russian parliamentary elections at the United Russia's headquarters in Moscow on Sunday.

The Kremlin wanted the balloting to underline public support for its military action in Ukraine, and it sought to avoid

any political risks by stamping out even the slightest sign of dissent.

A massive state media cam-

paign and tight control over the vote allowed the Kremlin to maintain and even strengthen its political dominance despite economic troubles and long-range Ukrainian drone strikes on oil refineries and warehouses belonging to top online retailers that brought the conflict home for millions.

Preliminary results indicated that United Russia would get 355 out of 450 Duma seats, according to the Central Election Commission. It polled just under 58 percent of the vote for the 225 seats apportioned by parties, and also won 208 single-seat races filling the other half of the chamber.

Several smaller parties representing the "systemic opposition" that vote in sync with the Kremlin's wishes on all key

issues are set to fill most of the remaining seats. Just a handful will go to candidates who ran without a party affiliation.

The balloting was spread over three days from Friday to Sunday to boost turnout, which exceeded 59 percent, the highest for a parliamentary election in over a decade.

Electronic balloting was available in many regions and encouraged by authorities. Critics argued that it made it easier for the government to control the outcome.

Final results will be announced Friday.

Criticism of the war was silenced

The liberal Yabloko party, the only registered political entity that dared to publicly criticize the war, was removed from the ballot last month by Russia's Supreme Court, and only had a few dozen candidates in the single-seat races.

Additionally, some anti-war politicians were imprisoned or forced to flee abroad ahead of the campaign.

Preliminary results indicated that no Yabloko candidates won a seat. Despite the failure, Yabloko pointed out that five of its candidates in Moscow came second in their races with more than 10 percent of the vote each. It was a sign that "demands for peace and freedom enjoy significant support," said Ivan Bolshakov, head of the party's analytical center.

Yabloko and the Communist Party, which has criticized some aspects of government policy but carefully avoided any criticism of Putin, said many of their observers were turned away from polling stations.

Russia didn't invite observers from the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, with the Foreign Ministry accusing the group of "double standards" for its criticism of the country. OSCE Parliamentary Assembly President Pere Joan Pons said the decision was a breach of Russia's commitments as a member of the organization.

Election came amid Ukrainian attacks

The election took place against the backdrop of incessant Ukrainian drone attacks. On Sunday, Russia's Defense Ministry reported that it downed 1,110 Ukrainian drones overnight.

Moscow Mayor Sergei Sobyanin said 450 drones were downed while approaching the city in what he described as "the largest ever" attack on the capital in a failed attempt to disrupt the vote, which damaged an oil refinery and a residential building.

Three people were killed in the wider Moscow region, Gov. Andrei Vorobyov said, and the Health Ministry reported 38 others were injured and received medical treatment.

Ukraine's long-range drone strikes over the summer pounded oil refineries, triggering a widespread fuel crisis, and set ablaze sprawling warehouses of online retailers Wildberries and Ozon.

"Putin, of course, will interpret United Russia's results as confirmation of the (public) support of the war, even though it is not the case: The overall demand for ending the war is growing," said Stanovaya of the Carnegie Russia Eurasia Center.

"The main question is: What now? There are great concerns about mobilization, new repressions, harsher measures, and escalation," she wrote.

"I partially agree that Putin may perceive the election results as a green light for 'anything for the victory,' but I think the role of the elections here is greatly exaggerated," she added. "Everything depends much more on the military situation, the American factor (I don't believe new negotiations will work out), and the overall picture, where everyone is escalating."

WHATZIT?

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

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ANOTHER OPINION

Kevin Warsh
does his job,
not Trump's
command

Fed Chair Kevin Warsh and the other 11 members of the central bank's Federal Open Market Committee last week carried out their mission to control inflation by managing monetary policy and raised the key interest rate to 4 percent, even though President Donald Trump has been demanding that borrowing costs be cut.

Actually, more than demanding, as Trump has been threatening to cut off trade with any country that the U.S. has a trade deficit if interest rates aren't cut (a disastrous move). And after the Fed's action, the president said on his Truth Social that interest rates should be set at 1 percent or lower. Thankfully, Warsh and the Fed aren't listening to him.

Trump may have thought he was getting his own guy with Warsh (having replaced Jay Powell, who Trump appointed, but later wanted prosecuted), but the new chair in office since May has been true to his duty to steward the economy, not to cater to the whims of the erratic man of the White House.

The Fed is meant to be independent of the political branches of the government and take the long-term view of the country's economic stability, not what presidents or members of Congress may want. It's an excellent system that has helped maintain a robust and growing nation for decades.

The FOMC sets the price of money, interest rates. When prices are rising too fast, exceeding the target of 2 percent inflation, the FOMC slows things down by ratcheting up rates, like they did last week, for the first time in three years, boosting the federal funds rate by .25 percentage points from 3¼ percent to 4 percent. And another increase is likely coming.

Trump himself has actually made inflation worse, with his nutty (and illegal) tariffs on the whole world and with the Iran war and resulting instability of moving oil through the Strait of Hormuz. Even excluding the volatile food and energy prices, core inflation is running at 3 percent, well above the desired 2 percent.

Warsh, who said last week after the vote that, "The plain fact is that inflation is too high and has been for too long," wasn't alone. The president of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York (who always serves as the FOMC vice chair) along with presidents of the regional Federal Reserve Banks of Dallas, Cleveland, Minneapolis and Philly all agreed.

So did the six other Fed governors, including Michelle Bowman and Chris Waller (both appointed by Trump) and Powell (Trump's first chair), as well as the three governors appointed by Joe Biden.

One of those is Lisa Cook, who Trump has been trying to fire, an outrageous assault on the Fed's independence that has so far been blocked by the U.S. Supreme Court.

Last week's rate hike shows why the Fed must be unswayed from White House dictates and threats and firings. They must act solely on behalf of the economy, balancing low interest rates with inflation and high interest rates and stalling economic growth.

Of course, a rate hike will hurt consumers' credit cards, mortgages and other borrowing, but it's necessary medicine to prevent even more damaging inflation which can hurt even more.

Trump doesn't understand the economics and doesn't care. He just wants what he wants. We are lucky that the Fed remains free to act as it must.

— *The New York Daily News*

LETTERS GUIDELINES

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

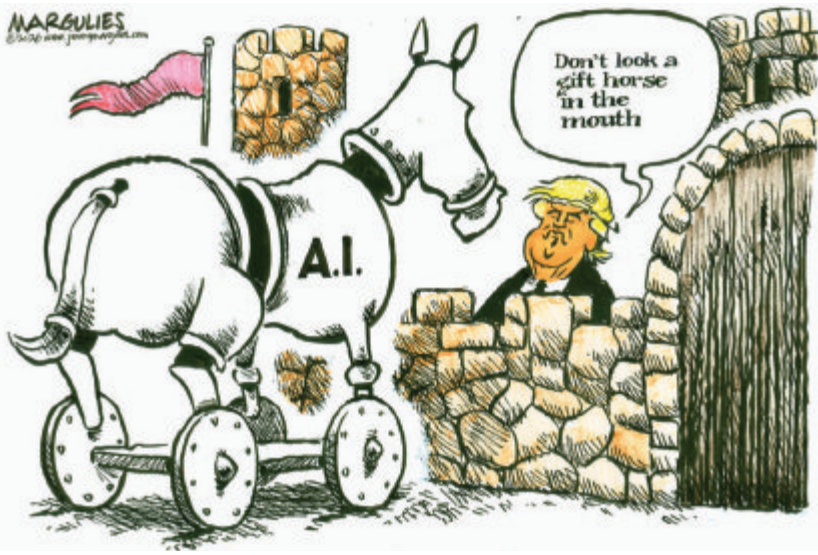
The deadline for letters concerning the Nov. 3 election is 5 p.m. Friday, Oct. 23.

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Health insurance and affordability

The healthcare affordability crisis is crushing everyone, but it has become downright calamitous for small businesses. Survey after survey after survey shows that employers expect healthcare costs to rise nearly 10 percent on average in 2027, a figure that could be twice as high for small firms.

Those businesses — a key driver of the U.S. economy — are running out of ways to make the math on healthcare coverage work. Many have been pushed to the breaking point. They need relief, and so do the millions of Americans they employ.

Americans who get their health coverage through work, which is to say most Americans, likely don't think much about the cost to their employers. They're far more likely to notice how much of their paycheck goes toward their plan's premium — and their anxiety when that amount creeps up by more than their annual raise.

Yet employers typically foot around 80 percent of that premium. And as costs get steeper each year, they must decide how much to absorb themselves, and how much to ask their employees to shoulder. For some small businesses, that decision is more existential: Do they keep their doors open, or do they offer their employees healthcare?

The healthcare industry hasn't seen double-digit inflation in 20 years — and back then, coverage was comparatively cheap. The situation is dire for small businesses. Over half of small-group insurers, which typically offer plans for companies with under 50 employees, expect to raise rates between 10 percent and 20 percent, according to a recent analysis by health policy researchers at KFF.

For companies grappling with other pressures, like tariffs, surging costs could obliterate razor-thin margins. "People's backs are up against a wall to a degree that they haven't been before," says Ellen Kelsay, president and CEO of Business Group on Health, which each year surveys employers about healthcare benefits.

Smaller firms have already pared back coverage over the past decade amid the



LISA JARVIS

steady rise in healthcare costs. Throughout the aughts, roughly 80 percent of companies with under 200 workers offered health benefits; by 2025, that had dropped to just 59 percent, according to KFF's annual employer health benefits survey.

Yet small business owners also know how much their employees value healthcare. One recent survey of people with employer-sponsored insurance found that 96 percent considered it important to their household's financial security — and 85 percent said they'd leave their job if their employer stopped offering the benefit.

That's backing small business owners into a corner. They might want to offer coverage, but it could mean cutting salaries or forgoing new hires or investments.

Some are turning to compromises. An increasingly popular approach is to jettison traditional plans for Health Reimbursement Arrangements, or HRAs, under which workers receive a set amount of money to buy their own insurance. As Bloomberg recently reported, some 20,000 companies opted for HRAs in 2026, an increase of 53 percent over the prior year.

Yet that solution is far from ideal. Not only does it risk dumping far more medical costs on workers, but it comes at a time when buying insurance has gotten much more expensive. Republicans' refusal to renew Biden-era subsidies that made Affordable Care Act plans more accessible has caused premiums to spike in many parts of the country — a situation that will only worsen in 2027.

To be clear, big companies and their employees aren't exempt from the pain, either. A survey by Marsh found that two-thirds of large businesses will ask workers to pay a greater share of their monthly premiums in 2027. Others are asking employees to pay more when they see a doctor or

paring back the care they cover.

Yet bigger companies are in a better position to deal with rising costs. They have more negotiating power and alternative plan options open to them when trying to defray costs.

And they also have more wiggle room when looking for places to save. Strategies include limiting eligibility for family members and cutting back on certain benefits, such as paying for the popular but expensive GLP-1 obesity medicines. (Employees, of course, might wonder how many premiums or GLP-1 prescriptions could be covered by their CEO's annual windfall.)

But if healthcare costs continue to surge — and all signs point to things getting worse before they get better — big corporations will eventually run out of options, too.

If there's any silver lining to be found in this grim trend, it's this: The pain has become so acute that large corporations are finally taking a close look at where their healthcare dollars are going — and demanding more accountability and transparency from the U.S. healthcare system's many middlemen.

That could shift the broader dynamics in areas of healthcare where reform has been too slow coming. For example, a recent survey found the share of employers wedded to the big three pharmacy benefit managers dropped to 54.3 percent this year — and more than half of those still in contract with those behemoths were considering shifting to a new and more transparent partner within the next three years. Ideally that scrutiny will help everyone, big and small.

Yet companies alone can't fix the broader system. Lawmakers need to treat healthcare affordability as the five-alarm fire that it is. One obvious first step would be to restore the subsidies that made higher-quality ACA plans accessible to millions. That would instantly ease the pressure on the little guys that are so crucial to the U.S. economy — and offer relief to millions of workers who deserve access to basic care.

Lisa Jarvis is a Bloomberg Opinion columnist.

Trump loves to spend taxpayers' money



JACKIE CALMES

Donald Trump Jr. has a lot more in common with his dad than just a name, sharing the president's penchant for shady dealings and for kleptocratic Russians. Sometimes the two proclivities go together. That was the case in May, we learned last week from ProPublica, when Don Jr. married his second wife during a three-day Bahamian bacchanal bankrolled partly with hundreds of thousands of dollars from a Putin-allied oligarch the Trump scion met only recently.

I had to wonder — recalling Don Jr.'s response in 2016 on learning Russia helpfully wanted to dump dirt on Hillary Clinton — whether he replied in kind when his new Russian friend, Umar Kremlev, offered the wedding gift, er, gift: "If it's what you say I love it."

My second thought was that Don Jr. is just like his dad in wanting to spend other people's money, even as the Trump family has accrued billions since President Trump has been back in office. (Cue the continued silence from the sleuths of Hunter Biden's laptop.)

Just days before ProPublica's expose, at the recent midterm Republican convention in Dallas, the elder Trump proffered a gift of \$5,000 to every one of the roughly 270 million adult Americans. But the eponymous "Trump dividend" would come only if Republicans keep their House and Senate majorities after the November midterm elections.

The tab? More than \$1 trillion, roughly \$1.3 trillion. How generous Trump is with the U.S. Treasury, despite the news just last month that rattled bond markets and raised interest rates: The United States' gross debt has exceeded \$40 trillion. As Trump told CNBC in 2016: "I love debt. I love playing with it." We can't say he didn't warn us. Even before his proposed \$K giveaway, Trump was on track to break his first-term record for adding to the unsustainable U.S. debt (\$8.4 trillion).

Trump's unprecedented offer of a post-election payout provoked predictable cries of "bribery" from Democrats and other critics. But legality aside, even the appearance of a bribe isn't what bothers me most about the proposal.

For one thing, it won't happen. No one will be receiving a \$5,000 Trump dividend, just like no one received the DOGE dividend or \$2,000 tariff refund he previously promised. Even if Republicans pull off a miracle and retain control of Congress, those in power show no zeal for his budget-buster, not after their complicity in adding trillions to the debt since last year with tax cuts, war costs and this, that and the other Trump pet project. And Congress indeed would have to act, under the Constitution, despite suggestions from the obsequious Treasury secretary, Scott Bessent, that Trump could act alone. (But "I'm not ready to discuss it at present," Bessent told a House committee on Tuesday.)

No, what bothers me most about Trump's idea — what outrages me — is the damnable fiscal irresponsibility of it.

Trump has turned much of historical Republican orthodoxy on its head, including on immigration, trade and policy toward Russia. But his utter disregard for annual deficits — a record \$2 trillion for this fiscal year that ends Sept. 30 — and his shameful profligacy with taxpayers' money is something Americans haven't seen in their lifetimes, in either party. Worse, Trump implies otherwise, that he is fiscally responsible, and he does it with lies that are so easily refuted, so often contradicted by his own words, that it's a marvel that even such a chronic prevaricator as himself can utter them.

Last week Trump was still claiming that the \$5,000 dividend will be paid for because "we're taking in trillions and trillions of dollars" in revenue from his inflationary tariffs on more than half of the goods imported into the country. The actual number isn't even close to that, and he should know it: The data that nonpartisan analysts are crunching are from the government he supposedly runs.

In 2026, tariff revenue through August was just under \$200 billion, but more than half of that already has been spent on refunds to big corporations including Amazon, Walmart and Home Depot, in keeping with a Supreme Court ruling against some of Trump's tariffs. And as if Trump's dividend proposal weren't mendacious enough, in making it he seems to have forgotten his claim in his State of the Union address in February that he would use the tsunami of tariff revenue to abolish the federal income tax.

And one last thing: Even if each adult American got \$5,000, subtract from that the nearly \$2,000 that each household has paid, on average, because of higher tariffs since Trump took office, according to the nonpartisan Tax Foundation.

In this one dumb idea, in sum, the giveaway manifests just about all that is wrong with Trump as president: The lying, of course. Fiscal recklessness. The trashing of commendable Republican doctrines. The Trump bubble of sycophantic yay-sayers. And, in turn, the seat-of-his-pants policy idiocy, from war-making to White House demolishing.

The lack of any actual policy deliberation behind Trump's \$5,000 shocker was clear in his lackeys' flailing and contradictory reactions — not just Bessent's specious claim of presidential authority, but also Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick's inane insistence the administration could somehow "earn the money that Donald Trump wants to pay out" and National Economic Council Director Kevin Hassett's comment, contrary to Bessent's, that the White House is indeed looking to Congress for funds.

The good news? Americans get it. Recent polls have the percentage approving of Trump's handling of the economy as low as 28 percent. Significant majorities say they are worse off since he became president again.

Such numbers portend an election result that isn't likely to be changed by a promise of \$5,000. Especially from a serial promise-breaker.

Jackie Calmes is a columnist for The Los Angeles Times.

Do what I want to make the world better

Daniel Neman
St. Louis Post-Dispatch

Things would be so much better if everybody just did what I want. My wife came to me the other day with a jar of soup she had bought. She wanted me to taste it before she threw it out, to make sure I agreed with her that it was so bad we shouldn't even try to eat it. I tasted it. I threw it out. It wasn't cheap, either. It was the French onion soup by Rao's. Rao's is pricey, but their tomato sauce is superb and their dried pasta (both of which are also pricey) is excellent. Their first cookbook is an absolute classic. So we tried their soup. It was so sweet you could barely taste the onions. The sweetness hit

you in the face like a halibut. Only then did my wife check the nutrition information on the label. Just one cup contains 9 grams of sugar. To see exactly how much sugar that is, I weighed 9 grams of granulated sugar and it came to nearly two full teaspoons. For a cup of French onion soup. Onion soup is naturally sweet. The simple act of caramelizing onions by slowly cooking them in oil brings out the inherent sweetness in the onions — that's why it's called caramelizing. But this stuff was practically dessert. If everybody did what I want, all onion soup would be savory. I recently found myself driving through the almost unbearably charming town of Annapolis, Maryland. We stopped for gas and thought

it might be nice to have a little breakfast. It was 1:45 p.m. This is not unusual for me. I am a night owl. I have been one since high school. When people say "Nothing good ever happens after midnight," I always think, "Nothing good ever happens before noon." It was a quarter to two, and we were feeling breakfasty. My wife remembered that there is a truly great bagel place in town, Naval Bagels. The name makes more sense when you recall that Annapolis is home to the U.S. Naval Academy. As I pumped the gas at what literally may have been the slowest gas pump in the country, my wife looked up how to get to Naval Bagels from where we were. By the time I (finally!) got back into the car, she had bad news: They close at 2 p.m. Even if we could get there in time, we don't want to be those people who go to a shop just as they're trying to lock the door. I couldn't believe it. Who closes a bagel store at 2 p.m.? That's prime breakfast time, or at least lunch. I get that my hours might not be the same as other people's. In many ways, that's great for me. Imagine going through life and almost never encountering traffic. But bagel shops and other places I want to go to ought to be required — by law, if necessary — to stay open until at least 3 p.m., if not 5 p.m. We were disappointed, but not for long. My wife noticed a national bagel chain right across the driveway from the gas station.

We walked in. Even though there were people at a couple of tables, the place looked empty and a little desolate. Only then did I take another look at the door. They close at 2 p.m., which was just a few minutes away. They were obviously getting ready to shut down. We were those people who wanted to get in just as they're locking the door. We ordered as quickly as we could, apologizing all the while and explaining that we both worked in restaurants in our youth and we know how everyone hates the last table that just never leaves. But think how much better life would be if everyone just did what I want and bagel shops were open all afternoon long.



Arda Jooharian, co-owner of Fountain Grains & Greens, poses on Aug. 4.

Proteinmaxxing is reshaping dining in Los Angeles

Nava Rawls
Los Angeles Times

LOS ANGELES — It's lunchtime at Fountain Grains & Greens in East Hollywood, a counter-service restaurant where customers increasingly prefer their rice and vegetable bowls piled high with hunks of chicken or steak. More and more, diners are leaning into "proteinmaxxing," the viral health trend that promotes increased protein intake with the goal of boosting metabolism, decreasing appetite and increasing muscle mass. As orders flood into the restaurant via online food delivery services and a walk-up window, a butcher slices through whole chickens while one cook flips thin slabs of steak and chicken on a grill. Another builds rainbow-colored bowls overflowing with blackened chicken, rice, leafy greens, fresh vegetables and other thoughtfully placed garnishes. Many of the restaurant's customers pay extra for double or triple add-ons of eggs, chicken or steak. Daniel Rasmussen is a Fountain Grains & Greens regular who tries to consume 190 to 200 grams of protein each day, roughly half of which he can get through adding a chicken breast and egg to his bowl. "I'm trying to hit 100, 120 grams a day," said Vera Iwanoff, who often orders the restaurant's market bowl with extra chicken or steak to meet her daily protein goal. Like Rasmussen, she doesn't use the proteinmaxxing label, but said, "I've never thought about protein this much in my life." Protein consumption is also a priority for the Trump administration. This year, the federal government's recommended daily allowance of protein was set at 1.2 to 1.6 grams per kilogram or 80 to 110 grams for a 150-pound adult, up from the longstanding RDA of 0.8 grams per kilogram or approximately 55 grams of protein per day for a 150-pound adult. In announcing the change, Secretary of Health and Human Services Robert F. Kennedy Jr. declared, "We are ending the war on protein." Since opening Fountain Grains & Greens two years ago, co-owner Arda Jooharian said she has seen a shift in how customers order. "Sales of our proteins and modifiers have increased 300 to 400 percent. They'll substitute out three ounces of chicken and get a full chicken breast, which is eight ounces of



The crispy rice bowl and kimchi bowl is shown on Aug. 4.

chicken." Jinell Singletary, owner of Urban Comfort Foods in Carson, has also seen a change in how her older, majority Black customer base orders. "Black men are definitely ordering more protein," she said. "So much so that we had to create a policy around it [to charge for protein add-ons] because it wasn't something that we considered at first." Last November, Sweetgreen restaurants briefly offered a Protein Max Protein Bowl that claimed to contain 106 grams of protein. The fast-casual chain still offers an entire section of protein plates in addition to its classic bowls. Chipotle has undergone a similar shift, now offering a "high protein menu," with some bowls made in collaboration with major athletes. Some attribute the recent emphasis on protein intake to the rise of GLP-1 medications, which often decrease appetite and make it challenging to eat enough protein to preserve lean muscle mass during weight loss. A 2026 Gallup poll found that 11 percent of U.S. adults take GLP-1s for weight loss purposes, up from 3 percent in 2024. Yet this isn't the first time protein-rich meals have dominated modern mainstream diet culture. In the 1970s, cardiologist Robert C. Atkins developed the Atkins diet, which limits carbohydrates while increasing protein and fat intake. It reached peak popularity in the early 2000s. Meat-heavy paleo diets, which aim to mirror hunter-gatherer eating habits, as gastroenterologist Walter L. Voegtlin described in his 1975 book "The Stone Age Diet" surged in popularity after the 2002 publication of Loren Cordain's "The Paleo Diet." In 2020, a ketogenic or keto diet promoting high-fat and low-carbohydrate consumption in order to burn fat was the most Googled diet in the United States. The American Medical Assn. and some nutrition experts, however, warn that consuming too much protein could cause digestive issues, weight gain, gout and other adverse effects. Kacie Carter, a nutritionist, chef and the founder of Honey Hi, a gluten-free breakfast and brunch spot in Echo Park, said, "I'm not of the mind that we should be 'maxxing' anything." This hasn't stopped proteinmaxxing influencers, who detail their meals on social media, often featuring protein bowls and "steakboards" — cutting boards loaded with strips of steak, chicken, fried eggs, potato, fruit, avocado and other high-protein foods. Vegetarian food influencers demonstrate non-meat ways to increase protein in everyday meals with Greek yogurt, beans and cottage cheese. To keep up with the portions of protein her customers order, Singletary, who opened Urban Comfort Foods in October, has switched to a different distributor for beef and lamb. Her signature and build-your-own bowls range in price from \$12.50 to \$19.50, with flavors that reflect Black food cultures.

See **PROTEIN**, A7

A quick fix of fish piccata

Linda Gassenheimer
Tribune News Service

Here's a simple, elegant dinner featuring tender cod fillets topped with a silky lemon-caper sauce. The bright lemon complements the mild cod, while briny capers add just the right amount of savory flavor. Asparagus and rice are prepared in the microwave, making this a complete meal with minimal cooking and no extra pan to clean.

Helpful Hints

Any type of fish fillet such as haddock or tilapia can be used. Green beans can be used instead of asparagus.

If you prefer you can use fish or vegetable broth — whatever is on hand.

Countdown

Assemble ingredients. Make side dish of rice and asparagus and set aside. Make fish.

Shopping List

To buy: 3/4 pound cod fillet, 1 package corn starch, 1 container no-salt-added chicken broth, 1 small bottle capers, 1 package microwavable brown rice, 1 lemon, 3/4 pound asparagus. Staples: flour, olive oil, garlic, salt, black peppercorns

FISH PICCATA	
3/4 pound cod fillet 2 tablespoons flour 2 teaspoons olive oil 2 crushed garlic cloves 1 teaspoon cornstarch 1 cup reduced-fat, no-salt-added chicken broth, divided use 1 tablespoon lemon juice 1 tablespoon capers	bits remaining in the skillet. Cook to reduce the broth by half. Mix the corn starch in the remaining chicken broth. Add the broth, lemon juice and capers to the skillet. Cook stirring until sauce starts to thicken, about 1 to 2 minutes. Return the cod to the skillet and cook for 1 minute. A meat thermometer should read 123 degrees. Timing is for a 1/2-inch-thick fillet. Cook a few minutes more if needed. Divide the cod in half and place over the rice and asparagus on the two dinner plates. Spoon sauce on top. Yield 2 servings. Per serving: 223 calories (23 percent from fat), 5.8 g fat (0.9 g saturated, 2.3 g monounsaturated), 72 mg cholesterol, 32.4 g protein, 9.1 g carbohydrates, 0.5 g fiber, 210 mg sodium.

ASPARAGUS AND RICE	
3/4 pound asparagus 1 package microwavable brown rice (to make 1 1/2-cups cooked) 2 teaspoons olive oil Salt and freshly ground black pepper	instructions. Measure 1 1/2-cups and save any remaining rice for another meal. Add rice, oil and salt and pepper to taste to bowl, with asparagus and toss to combine. Divide in half and place onto 2 dinner plates. Yield 2 servings. Per serving: 260 calories (21 percent from fat), 6.2 g fat (1.1 g saturated, 2.7 g monounsaturated), no cholesterol, 7.8 g protein, 45.6 g carbohydrates, 5.9 g fiber, 10 mg sodium.



Fish Piccata, featuring tender cod fillets topped with a silky lemon-caper sauce, is shown.

Spicy stir-fry features oyster mushrooms, more

Gretchen McKay
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

When I head to a favorite farmers market, I usually have a few very specific ingredients in mind so I can make a few very specific dishes — say, heirloom slicing tomatoes for sandwiches, corn for Mexican elote or cilantro and other fresh herbs for a bright and zesty chimichurri.

This past weekend, for example, I was on the hunt for plump and juicy Italian plums so I could make one of my husband's favorite end-of-summer desserts: Marian Burros' plum torte, which has been a favorite recipe ever since it was published in The New York Times way back in 1983. (It's fabulous!)

While there were piles (and piles) of another favorite summer stone fruit —yellow peaches — I could not find the small, egg-shaped purple fruit that cooks up so wonderfully jammy. But I still walked away from the market with a smile, thanks to a beautiful display of locally cultivated fungi sitting next to the cash register.

Oyster mushrooms with broad, fan-like caps and ruffled edges immediately caught my eye. In an instant, I was pondering what I could make for dinner that night instead of fretting over what I wouldn't be able to make for dessert.

Thanks to their meaty texture, oyster mushrooms make an excellent substitute for beef, pork or chicken in any number of dishes. (They become slightly chewy

when cooked.) Their porous, spongy flesh, which is filled with air pockets, also make the fungi an excellent medium for soaking up whatever other flavors are in the pan. Another plus: Since they cook in a flash, they're a perfect building block for an quick midweek meal.

Inspired by a recipe for a spicy stir-fry that I found online as I stood in line at the register, I decided to buy one of the feathery clusters.

The original recipe calls for pounded and finely chopped fresh lemongrass, a culinary herb with a fresh, citrusy aroma and flavor that's easy to find in most Asian markets. Unfortunately, it can be an oddball item in smaller grocery stores. No worries: I substituted ready-to-use lemongrass paste, and added a splash of fresh lime juice just before serving to add some of the missing zing. A handful of sugar snap peas gives the dish its crunch and bright green pops of color; chopped jalapeno peppers and a finishing sprinkle of crushed red pepper flakes add a little heat.

I served most of the stir-fry with a side of steamed white rice, and tossed the leftovers with cooked ziti for lunch the next day. Both were pretty tasty.

Cook's note: Oyster mushrooms should have firm, gray or tan caps with a velvety texture and a mild, fruity aroma. Avoid ones with broken edges, dark discolorations or slimy gills. They're best within a few days of harvest.



TNS
This versatile stir-fry brings together oyster mushrooms, onion, lemongrass and sugar snap peas.

SPICY OYSTER MUSHROOM AND LEMONGRASS STIR-FRY

Mushrooms are mostly water, so they release their internal juices as they heat up in a dry pan. So don't worry if the sauce seems dry at first. Add more or less jalapeno or Fresno chile, depending on taste.	quartered, seeds removed, finely chopped 2 cloves garlic, chopped 2 teaspoons Madras-style curry powder ¼ teaspoon sugar 1/3 teaspoon ground turmeric, optional ½ teaspoon kosher salt, plus more to taste 10-12 ounces oyster mushrooms, torn into thick, bite-size pieces 4 ounces (about 1 cup) sugar snap	peas, ends trimmed, strings removed 1 tablespoon fish sauce Splash of fresh lime juice Chopped green onion, for garnish Crushed red pepper flakes, for garnish Cooked white or brown rice, for serving	onion starts to soften, about 2 minutes. Add Fresno chile or jalapeño, chopped garlic, curry powder, sugar, ground turmeric (if using) and kosher salt. Cook, stirring, until fragrant, about 30 seconds. Add torn oyster mushrooms and cook, stirring, until coated. Increase heat to high and cook, stirring often, until firm-tender, 2-3 minutes. Add sugar snap peas and cook, stirring, until warmed through and	glistening, about 1 minute. Add fish sauce and a splash of lime juice and cook, stirring, 30 seconds. Taste stir-fry and season with more salt if needed. Transfer to a platter to serve. Garnish with green onions and pepper flakes and serve with hot cooked rice. Serves 4. PG tested SOURCE: adapted from Bonappetit.com
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A butcher prepares chicken at Fountain Grains & Greens on Aug. 4.

PROTEIN

From A6

One popular order is the Diaspora Delight with blackened salmon and jollof rice. Many of her customers add sides of garlic shrimp or honey jerk chicken, with full-size protein sides costing between \$7 and \$10. Additional 2- and 4-ounce sides of Cajun barbecue chicken, jerk chicken and suya beef can be added for \$2 and \$4.

Bowls at Fountain Grains & Greens range from \$16 to \$36 (when a 5-ounce grilled hanger steak replaces the usual two-thirds of a chicken thigh in the kimchi bowl), with add-ons ranging from \$4 to \$18.

But restaurant owners are finding that customers' willingness to pay for extra protein does not mean added profits.

"We have not raised our protein prices since we opened, but our costs have gone up," said Fountain Grains & Greens' Jooharian.

Since the restaurant's 2024 opening, with a menu designed by chef and co-owner Aric Attebery, Fountain Grains & Greens pays 15 percent more for chicken and 25 percent more for steak. "There were all the supply chain issues," Jooharian said. "Fertilizer became super expensive, so more difficult for the farmers."

As a small business, Singletary at Urban Comfort Foods said that she's had to do a lot of "back-and-forth" with distributors to help reduce some of the overhead costs of protein, but negotiation hasn't been easy.

"It doesn't matter how much we've gone viral," she said. "We're not the big guys, so they don't see the value in us getting those discounts."

At Fountain Grains & Greens, the owners' dedication to using local, carefully sourced ingredients also makes it difficult to meet the increased demand for protein.

The rice, according to co-owner Andrew Pettingell, comes from a regenerative farm in Chico. The bowls contain freshly sprouted grains. The chicken is brought in whole before being butchered and brined in-house. Continuing this practice is not cheap.

"There is a cost in doing that business, but that's the cost we want to pay," Pettingell said. "We want to be supporting the local farms, and we want to serve the best quality ingredients we can, because we're looking for hope that more people [will] start to recognize what they're eating."

The charcoal-grilled hanger steak, which Pettingell said is sourced from natural beef ranchers, is by far the biggest cost.

"We don't make money off [the steak], but ... it's not always about that," he said. "It's a long journey getting people to switch their minds into the investment in eating higher-quality proteins and vegetables and grains. We're committed to that."

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Obituaries & Memoriams

Lucille ‘Lucy’ Lou Ann Pritt

Lucille ‘Lucy’ Lou Ann (Walden) Pritt, 71, of West Salem, Ohio, loving wife, mother, and grandmother gained her wings Saturday, September 19, 2026 while surrounded by family.



Born April 24, 1955 in Medina, Ohio, Lucy was the fourth of five children, born to the late Elmer M. and Helen M. Walden. She was raised in Mallet Creek, Ohio and graduated from Buckeye High School in 1973. It was there that she met the love of her life, Virgil Pritt.

Shortly after graduation, Lucy married her high school sweetheart. Together they made their home just outside of West Salem, Ohio, where they built a life that included having two children, a few dogs and cats, 52 wonderful years of marriage, and countless treasured memories.

Lucy dedicated her life to her family and was always there with a listening ear, a warm embrace, words of encouragement, and a loving smile. She loved flowers, feeding the squirrels, having family gather together for the holidays, and playing with her kitties. She was ‘adopted as Mom’ by all the neighborhood kids.

She was preceded in death by her parents; brother, Kenneth Walden; and sister, Virginia Arnold.

Lucy leaves behind to cherish her memory her devoted

husband, Virgil L. Pritt of West Salem, Ohio; her son, Robert L. (Jacquelyn) Pritt of Wadsworth, Ohio; her daughter, Jessie L. (Richard) Varney of West Salem, Ohio; her grandsons, Jerrod (Ashley) Varney and Jacob (Makayla) Varney, both of Las Vegas, Nevada; her granddaughter, Jaylin Varney of West Salem, Ohio; her great-grandchildren, Alexis and Leo; her sister, Frances (Ben) Lawson of Mansfield Ohio; her brother, Frank Walden of Medina, Ohio; her mother-in-law, Marilyn L. Pritt of West Salem, Ohio; several nieces, nephews, extended family, and dear friends.

Lucy’s kindness, gentle spirit, and unwavering love for her family will be deeply missed and forever remembered by all who knew her.

Visitation will be held Thursday, September 24, 2026, from 1 to 2 p.m. in Matteson Funeral Home, 40 Congress Street, West Salem, Ohio. The funeral service will follow at 2 p.m. in the funeral home with Jon Hunter officiating. Burial will take place afterward in Hazzard Cemetery in West Salem, Ohio.

The Matteson Funeral Home staff is honored to serve Lucy’s family and the community. If you would like to share a photo or memory of Lucy with the family, please do so at mattesonfh.com

U.S. NORTHEAST Flights disrupted due to technical problems at key air traffic center

Josh Funk
The Associated Press

Hundreds of flights were canceled in the U.S. Northeast due to technical problems at a key regional air traffic control center, as every major airport in the New York City area ground to a halt for several hours Monday just as numerous foreign leaders were flying to the United Nations General Assembly.

However, President Donald Trump’s flight from Washington to New York was able to depart as scheduled.

The technical problems happened at the same Federal Aviation Administration facility in Philadelphia that caused numerous disruptions at Newark Liberty International Airport in the spring of 2025.

Regional control centers like these have two lines that carry data in and out: the primary and the backup. The FAA said a circuit on the primary failed Monday morning, and when the system tried to switch to the backup, workers discovered that the fiber optic line had been cut. Transportation Secretary Sean Duffy said an Amtrak construction crew was to blame.

The outage affected flights for Philadelphia as well as Kennedy, LaGuardia and Newark airports.

By early afternoon, some flights were starting to resume at LaGuardia, Kennedy and in Philadelphia. However, significant delays were expected through the rest of the day.

Some airlines were allow-

ing their customers to change flights without charging them fees. The FAA advised travelers to check the status of their flights with their airline before heading to the airport.

FAA administrator Bryan Bedford told reporters that the agency is working to restore the primary connection as soon as possible by installing a new circuit on the primary line, while also working to repair the backup fiber optic line. He said it’s not clear how long that will take. Verizon said its technicians are working to restore service as soon as possible.

“That fiber break is probably 13 hours to repair. It’s massive,” Bedford said, according to a video posted online by a CBS transportation reporter. He said that the FAA may be able to install a new circuit to get the primary line working again even before the fiber line is fixed.

The primary circuit that failed is due to be replaced as part of the overhaul of the nation’s air traffic control system.

Also Monday, the FAA began testing a new computer system that uses AI to help predict schedule conflicts and weather issues to help air traffic controllers reroute traffic. But that system is initially being tested only in the Washington, D.C., area, so it does not appear to be linked to the outages.



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DEATH ELSEWHERE Model Presley Gerber, 27



AP FILE

Presley Walker Gerber attends an event in New York in 2019.

2018, he appeared alongside his mother — whose famous beauty mark he inherited — in a Pepsi Super Bowl ad that paid homage to her 1992 commercial for the soda brand. That same year, he and his sister shot a campaign for Calvin Klein jeans.

Gerber later signed with DNA Models. His biography on the agency’s website describes him as an entrepreneur and model who was inspired by “his mother’s legendary modeling career and his father’s lucrative business career.” Rande Gerber’s businesses have included restaurants, nightlife companies and Casamigos — a tequila brand he cofounded with George Clooney and Mike Meldman that was sold to Diageo in a \$1 billion deal.

Gerber was open about his struggles with addiction.

Gerber’s modeling biography also described him as an “avid surfer and skater.” In an Instagram video posted in July

2025, Gerber described growing up as a dedicated athlete who spent hours in the water nearly every day — a routine that came to a halt when he started working. With less physical activity, Gerber said, he was put on more medication and his quality of life suffered.

“For me it took 10 years of looking back at my life being like, ‘Well, what changed?’ A lot of the time people would ask like, ‘You were such a happy kid; what happened to you?’” he recalled. “What happened was life happened and I wasn’t able to worry about one thing, which was my next meal and then get back in the ocean. Like I had to start making money, I had to start — I got a job.”

In an interview with Vogue last month, Kaia Gerber praised her brother for being so open about his experience with addiction.

“My parents for most of our lives were very, very private

and didn’t share anything— and now we have this absolute teacher, my brother, who says, ‘I’m gonna be very human for everyone,’” she told the magazine. “There’s only so much you can hide from the world. And trying to put a lid on something just makes the person feel like you’re ashamed of them.”

In addition to his testimonial videos, Gerber’s Instagram was a collection of modeling shoots and memories that stretched back to childhood. His life around cameras influenced his own interest in photography as an art form.

“I have always been the type of person to stop and take a picture when everybody is just focused on the destination,” he told Vogue in 2016, on the occasion of his runway debut. “I feel like people walk by a countless amount of beauty in the world every day, and I hope that I don’t miss all of it.”

YOSEMITE Helicopter crashes, pilots killed

Rebecca Boone
The Associated Press

Two helicopter pilots were killed when their aircraft crashed Sunday afternoon while conducting water drops on a wildfire at Yosemite National Park, officials say.

The pilots were the only people on board and were employed by the contract aircraft company Precision. One of the pilots was Greg King, who used to work for the Alaska Division of Forestry & Fire Protection and fought several wildland fires in that state before moving to Precision, said agency spokesperson Emery Johnson.

King’s close relatives work at the agency and gave their permission to release his name, Johnson said. The identity of the second pilot has not yet been released.

At least 14 people have died while helping with wildfires in the U.S. this year, the most since 2022 when 25 deaths were recorded, according to government reports. In August, two helicopter pilots died while helping fight a fire in Utah and a helicopter pilot in Colorado crashed

into a reservoir.

Details about the circumstances surrounding Sunday’s crash were not immediately released. It will be investigated by the Federal Aviation Administration and the National Transportation Safety Board.

The Super Puma helicopter had been using a water bucket to help suppress the fire when it went down near a lake, said Benjamin Cossel, a spokesperson with the Federal Complex Incident Management Team overseeing the firefighting response.

The Alaska forestry and fire agency called the deaths a devastating loss for the entire wildland firefighting community.

“Greg was a dedicated aviator and a dear friend to many of us. We are mourning both pilots who bravely supported firefighting efforts, and our hearts go out to their families,” the agency statement said.

Precision wrote on social media that the company was “struggling to find the words.”

“We ask for privacy and compassion for their families and our team as we grieve

this tremendous loss,” the statement said.

Roughly 580 people are fighting the Dome Fire, which started Sept. 15 near Wawona, California, according to the National Interagency Fire Center. It’s burning on about 4.7 square miles and is about 15 percent contained.

The crash site was southeast of Ostrander Lake, which is roughly 7 miles northeast of Wawona and roughly 9 miles south of Yosemite’s iconic El Capitan.

Other firefighters who have died this month include one in Oklahoma who suffered a medical emergency while fighting a wildfire, and another in Oregon who was hit by a tree that broke while he was cutting it in Mt. Hood National Forest.

Also in August, a wildfire officer was killed in Oklahoma after getting trapped while evacuating a burning building in a wildland fire; a firefighter died following a medical emergency during a wildfire in Minnesota; and a bulldozer operator got overrun by flames in Oregon.

In June, four firefighters got trapped in a fire in western Colorado.



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BROWNS



Browns coach Todd Monken earned his first career victory Sunday.

Monken sends message

Coach was fired up after first win as NFL coach

Todd Monken had something in the back of his mind all week. Actually, it might have been in the front.

After the Browns were embarrassed in an opening loss to the Jaguars, former Steelers coach and new NBC analyst Mike Tomlin quoted JuJu Smith-Schuster, one of his former players, and said “the Browns are the Browns.”

Monken, the first-year Browns coach, stewed about the loss and his role in it all week. He believed the problems could be fixed and went to work to do just that. He never forgot Tomlin’s quip.



SCOTT PETRAK

So Sunday, after the Browns outlasted the Buccaneers 23-19 in Tampa, Florida, Monken high-fived Browns fans in the rain-soaked stadium, then saved his best line for his news conference walk-off.

“Browns are gonna Browns.” (Expletive) that. The guys took that

to heart,” he said, quickly leaving the podium.

If he were holding a mic, he would’ve dropped it.

Monken, 60, has gotten a quick introduction to everything that comes with being coach of the Browns. He may have talked to predecessor Kevin Stefanski about what to expect, but living it is a unique reality.

Monken inherited quarterbacks Deshaun Watson, Shedeur Sanders and Dillon Gabriel, who will likely never — or never again — be franchise cornerstones. Then he held a competition between Watson and

Sanders for the starting job. Watson, the front-runner and eventual winner, wasn’t good during the preseason and ripped the home fans.

Then came the 34-10 loss to the Jaguars, questions about sticking with Watson and the expectation that if he stumbled again against Baker Mayfield and the Buccaneers he would be replaced for the home opener next Sunday by Sanders.

Many fans had turned against Monken due to the decision, the opener and some of his quotes. So much for a honeymoon.

See PETRAK, B2

Watson saves job with comeback

Scott Petrak
The Gazette

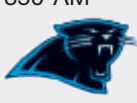
The end appeared imminent. After Sunday, the question for the Browns became: Can this be the start of something good?

Quarterback Deshaun Watson’s starting job was on the line heading into the matchup with Tampa Bay. Another poor performance after a clunker in the opening loss to the Jaguars, and he was likely to be benched in favor of Shedeur Sanders for the home opener this week against the Carolina Panthers.

Watson quieted that talk, at least temporarily, with a 23-19 win on the road over the Buccaneers.

He gave coach Todd Monken reason to believe, and hope the uncertainty at the position

**NEXT UP**
WHO: Carolina at Cleveland
WHEN: 1 p.m. Sunday
WHERE: Huntington Bank Field
TV/RADIO: WJW TV-8; WKRK 92.3-FM; WNCX 98.5-FM; WKNR 850-AM



evaporates with consistent play.

“I’m happy for Deshaun, the way he’s played, and I expect continued improvement,” he said Monday. “There’s a lot of football left in him. He just hasn’t played in awhile, and learning our system and trying to get him consistent with his drops and his reads is part of the process.”

“I see him as a young player. I know people don’t want to see it that way and I haven’t been here, but I see him as still a very young player that is going to continue to grow.”

Watson, 31, went 24-for-30 (80 percent) for 238 yards, two touchdowns, no interceptions, two sacks and a stellar 121.9 passer rating. He led the Browns (1-1) back from a 16-6 third-quarter deficit, completing the comeback with a 12-play, 68-yard touchdown drive in the fourth.

Watson said he didn’t feel like his back was against the wall. Regardless, he played one of his best games in five years with the Browns when he needed it the most. His career in Cleveland may have been over if he had flopped in the matchup with Baker Mayfield.

See BROWNS, B2



Browns quarterback Deshaun Watson and tackle Tytus Howard (71) celebrate the win over the Buccaneers.

OHIO STATE
FOOTBALL

More goals

Smith isn’t done quite yet

Joe Reedy
The Associated Press

COLUMBUS — One Ohio State milestone down, two to go for Jeremiah Smith.

The superstar junior set Ohio State’s career receiving yardage record in just 33 games during Saturday’s 59-3 victory over Kent State. After taking over the top spot from Michael Jenkins, Smith was already focused on what’s next.

“It means a lot. Put a lot of hard work into it, but I have two more to get,” Smith said after having five receptions for 85 yards and not playing in the second half. “I didn’t think too much about records and stuff like that, but the opportunity presented itself and I just took full advantage.”

Smith goes into the Big Ten opener against Illinois on Saturday with 179 receptions for 2,958 yards and 30 touchdowns. He needs 27 catches to surpass Emeka Egbuka’s 205 and six touchdowns to move past Chris Olave’s 35.

Smith became the school’s career receiving yardage leader in just 33 games with a 23-yard reception during the first quarter. Jenkins had 2,898 yards in 41 games from 2000-03.

**Smith**

**NEXT UP**
WHO: Illinois at Ohio State
WHEN: Noon, Saturday
WHERE: Ohio Stadium
TV/RADIO: WJW TV-8; WKNR 850-AM



Jenkins congratulated Smith in a recorded message shown on Ohio State’s videoboard during a media timeout after the record was set.

“It’s hard to put anybody above him,” coach Ryan Day said. “Thirty-three games to break the all-time receiving record at Ohio State. I think that speaks more than anything to him and his mindset.”

Smith also needs 42 yards to become the first Ohio State receiver and the 13th in Big Ten history to reach 3,000 yards. Purdue’s John Standeford holds the conference mark with 3,788 yards, which has stood since 2003.

Smith has 21 receptions for 400 yards and three touchdowns in No. 7 Ohio State’s first three games. He played only the first half in the wins over Ball State and Kent State.

That doesn’t figure to be the case the rest of the season, especially with the Buckeyes (2-1) having road games next month against No. 17 Iowa, fifth-ranked Indiana and No. 12 Southern California.

“I think we’re pretty good where we are. We’ve got a long way to go. Always room for improvement for myself and the offense,” Smith said.

When it comes to individual accolades, Smith’s focus remains on trying to become the first wide receiver since Alabama’s Devonta Smith in 2020 to win the Heisman.

However, Miami’s Malachi Toney is also catching the interest of voters. The sophomore is second in the nation in receptions (28) and receiving yards (444).

See OSU, B3

TV & RADIO

Baseball

6:45 p.m., GuardiansTV; WOBL 107.7-FM, 1320-AM, WMMS 100.7-FM, WTAM 1100-AM — MLB: Cleveland at Boston
7:05 p.m., TBS, truTV — MLB: Tampa Bay at N.Y. Yankees
10:10 p.m., TBS, truTV — MLB: San Diego at L.A. Dodgers

Basketball

8 p.m., ESPN — WNBA: Minnesota at Indiana
10 p.m., ESPN — WNBA: Los Angeles at Las Vegas

Hockey

7 p.m., NHL — NHL: Preseason, Florida at Carolina
10 p.m., NHL — NHL: Preseason: Vegas at San Jose

Soccer (men)

8 p.m., BTN — College: Indiana at Wisconsin

Soccer (women)

1 p.m., CBSSN — UEFA Champions League: Group stage, Manchester City at Bayern Munich

3 p.m., CBSSN — UEFA Champions League: Group stage, HB Køge at Arsenal

Tennis

6 a.m., TENNIS — Billie Jean King Cup: Finals, quarterfinal; Seoul-WTA, Singapore-WTA: Early rounds

11 p.m., TENNIS — Billie Jean King Cup: Finals, quarterfinal; Seoul-WTA, Singapore-WTA, Chengdu-ATP, Hangzhou-ATP: Early rounds

6 a.m. (Wed.), TENNIS — Billie Jean King Cup: Finals, quarterfinal; Seoul-WTA, Singapore-WTA, Chengdu-ATP, Hangzhou-ATP: Early rounds

BASEBALL

American League

East Division									
	W	L	Pct.	GB					
z-Tampa Bay	95	60	.613	—					
z-New York	89	66	.574	—					
y-Atlanta	87	72	.538	11½					
Toronto	77	79	.494	18½					
Baltimore	75	81	.481	20½					
Central Division									
	W	L	Pct.	GB					
Cleveland	81	75	.519	—					
Chicago	80	76	.513	—					
Detroit	73	83	.468	8					
Minnesota	73	83	.468	8					
Kansas City	67	89	.429	14					
West Division									
	W	L	Pct.	GB					
Texas	78	78	.500	—					
Houston	77	79	.494	—					
Seattle	73	83	.468	5					
Athletics	61	95	.391	17					
Los Angeles	60	96	.385	18					
y-cinched wild card									
z-cinched playoff berth									

Sunday's games
Cleveland 1, Athletics 0
Tampa Bay 5, Boston 1
Pittsburgh 4, Kansas City 3
Atlanta 4, Houston 2
Chicago White Sox 8, Detroit 1
Toronto 7, Texas 2
Seattle 2, Colorado 1
Minnesota 8, L.A. Angels 0
Arizona 8, N.Y. Yankees 4
Milwaukee 3, Baltimore 0
Monday's games
Toronto at Baltimore, late
Washington at Detroit, late
Minnesota at San Francisco, late
Today's games
Tampa Bay (Martinez 15-4) at N.Y. Yankees (Rodon 6-3), 1:05 p.m., 1st game
Toronto (Scherzer 3-8) at Baltimore (Bassitt 8-5), 6:35 p.m.
Washington (Kent 1-4) at Detroit (Anderson 5-6), 6:40 p.m.
Cleveland (Griffin 15-5) at Boston (Tolle 9-6), 6:45 p.m.
Tampa Bay (Rasmussen 15-5) at N.Y. Yankees (Fried 5-4), 7:05 p.m., 2nd game
Chicago White Sox (Kay 9-9) at Kansas City (Lynch 6-5), 7:40 p.m.
N.Y. Mets (Manaea 5-7) at Texas (Gore 8-11), 8:05 p.m.
Houston (Javier 2-6) at Seattle (Gilbert 12-10), 9:40 p.m.
L.A. Angels (Kikuchi 1-6) at Athletics (Basso 1-3), 9:40 p.m.
Minnesota (Bradley 11-6) at San Francisco (Molina 3-1), 9:45 p.m.
Wednesday's games
Washington at Detroit, 1:10 p.m.
Minnesota at San Francisco, 3:45 p.m.
Toronto at Baltimore, 6:35 p.m.
Tampa Bay at N.Y. Yankees 7, 7:05 p.m.
Cleveland at Boston, 7:10 p.m.
Chicago White Sox at Kansas City, 7:40 p.m.
N.Y. Mets at Texas, 8:05 p.m.
L.A. Angels at Athletics, 9:40 p.m.
Houston at Seattle, 10:10 p.m.

AL WILD CARD

East Division									
	W	L	Pct.	GB					
z-New York	89	66	.574	+9½					
y-Boston	84	72	.538	+4					
Chicago	80	76	.513	—					
Houston	77	79	.494	3					
Toronto	77	79	.494	3					
y-cinched wild card									
z-cinched playoff berth									

National League

East Division									
	W	L	Pct.	GB					
x-Atlanta	92	64	.590	—					
Philadelphia	86	70	.551	6					
Miami	76	80	.487	16					
Washington	73	83	.468	19					
New York	71	85	.455	21					
Central Division									
	W	L	Pct.	GB					
x-Milwaukee	98	58	.628	—					
Chicago	87	69	.558	11					
Pittsburgh	79	77	.506	19					
St. Louis	76	80	.487	22					
Cincinnati	72	84	.462	26					
West Division									
	W	L	Pct.	GB					
x-Los Angeles	96	60	.615	—					
San Diego	87	69	.558	9					
Arizona	82	74	.526	14					
San Francisco	84	92	.410	32					
Colorado	57	99	.365	39					
x-cinched division									

Sunday's games
Chicago Cubs 9, Cincinnati 1
Philadelphia 7, N.Y. Mets 2
Pittsburgh 4, Kansas City 3
St. Louis 5, Washington 3
Atlanta 4, Houston 2
Seattle 2, Colorado 1, 10:10 p.m.
San Diego 7, Miami 3
L.A. Dodgers 3, San Francisco 1
Arizona 8, N.Y. Yankees 4
Milwaukee 3, Baltimore 0
Monday's games
Washington at Detroit, late
Minnesota at San Francisco, late
Today's games
Milwaukee (May 7-9) at Philadelphia (Wheeler 13-5), 6:40 p.m.
St. Louis (Pallante 12-7) at Pittsburgh (Jones 4-6), 6:40 p.m.
Washington (Kent 1-4) at Detroit (Anderson 5-6), 6:40 p.m.
Cincinnati (Abbott 6-11) at Atlanta (Ritchie 1-3), 7:15 p.m.
Miami (Junk 6-9) at Chicago Cubs (Gausman 9-12), 7:40 p.m.
N.Y. Mets (Manaea 5-7) at Texas (Gore 8-11), 8:05 p.m.
Arizona (Soroka 8-9) at Colorado (Freeland 4-10), 8:40 p.m.
Minnesota (Bradley 11-6) at San Francisco (Molina 3-1), 9:45 p.m.
San Diego (Ray 13-8) at L.A. Dodgers (Yamamoto 14-8), 10:10 p.m.

NL WILD CARD

East Division									
	W	L	Pct.	GB					
Chicago	87	69	.558	+1					
San Diego	87	69	.558	+1					
Philadelphia	86	70	.551	—					
Arizona	82	74	.526	4					

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

AP top 25

The Top 25 teams in The AP college football poll, with first-place votes in parentheses, total points based on 25 points for a first-place vote through one point for a 25th-place vote, and previous ranking:

	Record	Pts	Prv
1. Texas (58)	3-0	1706	1
2. Georgia (3)	3-0	1580	2
3. Notre Dame	3-0	1517	3
4. Ole Miss (3)	3-0	1488	8
5. Indiana (4)	3-0	1467	4
6. Miami (Fla.) (1)	3-0	1445	5
7. Ohio State	2-1	1415	6
8. Alabama	3-0	1182	10
9. BYU	3-0	1090	11
10. LSU	2-1	1078	7
11. Texas Tech	4-0	907	12
12. USC	4-0	850	14
13. Penn State	3-0	825	15
14. Tennessee	3-0	752	17
15. Utah	2-1	692	23
17. Iowa	3-0	561	18
18. Michigan	3-0	432	19
19. Missouri	3-0	369	20
20. Oregon	3-0	364	21
21. Florida	3-0	269	—
22. SMU	2-1	212	16
23. Texas A&M	2-1	202	9
24. Mississippi State	3-0	179	—
25. Houston	2-1	127	22
Others receiving votes: Washington 107, Kentucky 98, West Virginia 93, Oklahoma 91, Oklahoma State 50, Boise State 48, Virginia Tech 46, Western Michigan 27, Duke 20, Tulsa 18, Arizona 12, Pittsburgh 10, UCLA 10, James Madison 7, North Dakota State 6, Kansas State 3, Nebraska 2.			

FOOTBALL

NFL

AMERICAN CONFERENCE						
East						
	W	T	Pct.	PF	PA	
Buffalo	2	0	1.000	77	62	
New England	1	1	0	.500	30	16
N.Y. Jets	1	1	0	.500	40	30
Miami	0	2	0	.000	26	62
South						
	W	T	Pct.	PF	PA	
Jacksonville	1	1	0	.500	47	30
Tennessee	0	2	0	.000	30	47
Houston	0	2	0	.000	37	56
Indianapolis	0	2	0	.000	53	74
North						
	W	T	Pct.	PF	PA	
Cincinnati	2	0	1.000	53	33	
Cleveland	1	1	0	.500	33	53
Baltimore	1	1	0	.500	58	47
Pittsburgh	1	1	0	.500	23	33
West						
	W	T	Pct.	PF	PA	
Kansas City	2	0	1.000	64	40	
Las Vegas	2	0	1.000	53	27	
Denver	1	1	0	.500	30	44
L.A. Chargers	0	2	0	.000	28	52

NATIONAL CONFERENCE						
East						
	W	T	Pct.	PF	PA	
Philadelphia	2	0	1.000	48	42	
N.Y. Giants	1	0	1.000	28	20	
Dallas	1	1	0	.500	57	48
Washington	0	2	0	.000	42	61
South						
	W	T	Pct.	PF	PA	
Carolina	1	0	1.000	71	62	
New Orleans	1	1	0	.500	54	48
Tampa Bay	0	2	0	.000	46	56
Atlanta	0	0	.000	16	54	
North						
	W	T	Pct.	PF	PA	
Minnesota	2	0	1.000	48	25	
Detroit	1	1	0	.500	62	71
Chicago	1	1	0	.500	62	46
Green Bay	1	1	0	.500	42	56
West						
	W	T	Pct.	PF	PA	
Seattle	2	0	1.000	44	17	
San Francisco	2	0	1.000	62	20	
Arizona	1	1	0	.500	33	45
L.A. Rams	0	1	0	.000	7	27

Thursday, Sept. 17
Buffalo 41, Detroit 31
Sunday's games
Cleveland 23, Tampa Bay 19
Carolina 34, Atlanta 3
Cincinnati 20, Houston 6
Minnesota 9, Chicago 3
New England 20, Pittsburgh 3
New Orleans 24, Baltimore 17
Philadelphia 24, Tennessee 20
Denver 20, Jacksonville 13
Las Vegas 26, L.A. Chargers 14
Dallas 37, Washington 20
San Francisco 35, Miami 13
Green Bay 20, N.Y. Jets 17 (OT)
Seattle 31, Arizona 7
Dallas 37, Washington 20
Kansas City 33, Indianapolis 30 (OT)
Monday's game
N.Y. Giants at L.A. Rams, late
Thursday's game
Atlanta at Green Bay, 8:15 p.m.
Sunday, Sept. 27
Carolina at Cleveland, 1 p.m.
Cincinnati at Pittsburgh, 1 p.m.
Houston at Indianapolis, 1 p.m.
Kansas City at Miami, 1 p.m.
L.A. Chargers at Buffalo, 1 p.m.
N.Y. Jets at Detroit, 1 p.m.
New England at Jacksonville, 1 p.m.
Seattle at Washington, 1 p.m.
Tennessee at N.Y. Giants, 1 p.m.
Arizona at San Francisco, 4:05 p.m.
Minnesota at Tampa Bay, 4:05 p.m.
Baltimore vs Dallas at Rio de Janeiro, 4:25 p.m.
Las Vegas at New Orleans, 4:25 p.m.
L.A. Rams at Denver, 8:20 p.m.
Monday, Sept. 28
Philadelphia at Chicago, 8:15 p.m.

BASKETBALL

WNBA

Sunday's games
Minnesota 101, Connecticut 89
New York 106, Toronto 69
Washington 93, Indiana 77
Las Vegas 105, Portland 84
Los Angeles 98, Seattle 77
Monday's games
Atlanta at New York, late
Dallas at Phoenix, late
Today's games
Connecticut at Washington, 7:30 p.m.
Minnesota at Indiana, 8 p.m.
Toronto at Chicago, 8 p.m.
Golden State at Portland, 10 p.m.
Los Angeles at Las Vegas, 10 p.m.

LOCAL SCHEDULE

Today

MLB
Cleveland at Boston, 6:45 p.m.
VOLLEYBALL
Buckeye at Westlake, 6 p.m.
Black River at Columbia, 6:30 p.m.
Brunswick at Euclid, 6:30 p.m.
Ravenna at Cloverleaf, 6:30 p.m.
Highland at Medina, 7 p.m.
North Royalton at Wadsworth, 7 p.m.
BOYS SOCCER
Norton at Cloverleaf, 5 p.m.
St. Thomas Aquinas at Medina Christian, 5:30 p.m.
Solon at Highland, 7 p.m.
North Royalton at Medina, 7 p.m.
Hudson at Wadsworth, 7 p.m.
Brunswick at Shaker Heights, 8 p.m.
GIRLS SOCCER
Norton at Cloverleaf, 7 p.m.
BOYS GOLF
Barberton at Wadsworth (Pine Valley G.C.), 3 p.m.
Hudson at Ravenna (Windmill Lakes G.C.), 4 p.m.
GIRLS GOLF
Brunswick at Sectional Preview (Big Met G.C.), noon
GIRLS TENNIS
Highland/Medina/Wadsworth at Suburban League National Conference Tournament (Highland), 8 a.m.

Wednesday

MLB
Cleveland at Boston, 7 p.m.
VOLLEYBALL
Euclid at Medina Christian, 7 p.m.
BOYS SOCCER
Bay at Buckeye, 7 p.m.
GIRLS SOCCER
Shaker Heights at Brunswick, 7 p.m.
Buckeye at Bay, 7 p.m.
Highland at Solon, 7 p.m.
Wadsworth at Hudson, 7 p.m.
Medina at North Royalton, 7:15 p.m.
BOYS GOLF
Black River at Pleasant Valley Division III Sectional (Pleasant Valley G.C.), 9 a.m.
Brunswick at Greater Cleveland Conference No. 4 (Windmill Lakes G.C.), 9:15 a.m.
North Royalton at Highland (Pine Hills G.C.), 3 p.m.
GIRLS GOLF
Highland/Medina/Wadsworth at Suburban League No. 4 (Tanglewood G.C.), 9 a.m.
GIRLS TENNIS
Highland at Cooley, 4 p.m.
Twinsburg at Medina, 4 p.m.
Our Lady of the Elms at Wadsworth, 4 p.m.
Chippewa at Cloverleaf, 4:30 p.m.

BROWNS NOTES

Rushing attack has struggled

Scott Petrak
The Gazette

The Browns offense was much better Sunday, scoring 23 points in the Week 2 win over the Buccaneers.

It still has one important area that needs significant improvement.

The Browns rushed for 44 yards on 23 carries, averaging 1.9 an attempt. That follows 87 yards on 22 attempts, a 4.0 average, in the opening loss to the Jaguars.

They're 31st in the NFL with 65.5 yards a game.

"We are what the statistics bear out, and we got to scheme it better," coach Todd Monken said Monday. "We got to coach it better. We got to call it better, and we certainly can block it better. We had a few other opportunities out there that we left on the field, but it's not good enough."

Things have been so bad, quarterback Deshaun Watson led the team in rushing each game with 38 in the opener and 22 on Sunday. Running back Quin-

ATHLETES OF THE WEEK



Football
Brayden Beier, Cloverleaf:
Senior tight end/outside linebacker caught two touchdowns as Colts set school record for largest margin of victory with 64-0 decision over Springfield. ... TDs from Isaac Smith covered 33 and 34 yards. ... Also added two sacks and two pass breakups on defense. ... Third season as starter.





Volleyball
Averie Shell, Wadsworth:
Junior setter tied career high with 39 assists as Grizzlies remained in first-place tie in Suburban League National Conference with sweep of Brecksville. ... Averaging conference-best 9.0 assists per set, including 39 helpers against Medina on Sept. 1. ... Third varsity season, second as rotation player.





Boys soccer
Dimitri Tenenika, Buckeye:
Senior posted three goals to lead Bucks to 4-0 Cleveland West Conference victory over Normandy. ... His play helped Buckeye secure 1-1 non-league tie against Midview. ... Bucks are 2-0-1 in past three games. ... Tied for team lead and among Medina County's top scorers with four goals and one assist.





Girls soccer
Amelia Gallagher, Brunswick:
Freshman netted game-winning goals in Blue Devils' 1-0 victories over Cleveland Heights and Medina. ... Scored second-half goal off pass from Katie Callahan to beat Tigers. ... Posted second-half goal off feed from Natalie Davis to defeat Bees. ... Among Medina County's top scorers with nine goals.





Boys cross country
Matthew Jenkins, Cloverleaf:
Senior finished second with time of 16:30.90 at Cedarville Friendship Invitational. ... Effort led Colts (44) to win nine-team invitational championship. ... Topped previous season best of 16:48.8 at Wooster Invitational. ... Among Medina County's top times. ... Fourth-year varsity runner.





Girls cross country
Isla Nolan, Brunswick:
Freshman placed fifth in 18:57.40 at Massillon Jackson's Heckspacular Invitational. ... Beat previous season-best time of 19:36.6 at Party at the Polo Field and ranks among the best in Medina County this season. ... Has led Brunswick in all four races this season. ... First-year varsity runner.





Boys golf
Declan West, Medina: Junior carded 9-over-par 81 at St. John's Jesuit Titan Invitational at Sylvania Country Club. ... Fired 5-over 75 at third Suburban League tournament at Windmill Lakes Golf Club. ... Turned in 1-over 37 at Fox Meadow Country Club in non-league triangular. ... Third-year varsity golfer.





Girls golf
MacLaine Bell, Cloverleaf:
Senior carded 21-over 94 to help Colts secure second place at Metro Athletic Conference championship at Pine Valley Golf Club. ... Recorded hole-in-one on 91-yard 12th hole. ... Average of 48.9 is among Medina County's best. ... Fourth-year varsity golfer.





Girls tennis
Vanessa Oakes, Cloverleaf:
Junior posted 6-1, 6-1 third singles victory over Julia Cook to help Colts to 4-1 Metro Athletic Conference win over Woodridge. ... Triumphed 1-6, 7-5, 1-0 (8) over Nora Fanizzi at same position in 4-1 MAC loss to Tallmadge.



COMMENTARY: COLLEGE FOOTBALL



DUANE BURLERSON / AP

Michigan wide receiver Andrew Marsh (3) runs for a touchdown over UTEP cornerback Kaleb Miles.

Michigan knows it must be better

John Niyo
The Detroit News

All the pieces are there for Michigan, scattered throughout three games ... and three wins, second chances included.

But the time for do-overs is past, and coach Kyle Whittingham hopes his team understands that now after watching the Wolverines commit another false start before passing their final non-conference test Saturday, Saturday at Michigan Stadium.

That it ended in a 52-17 rout over UTEP was encouraging. That it began with a sluggish effort and an uncomfortable deficit for most of the first half was concerning, though. More than a bit confusing, too, after what Michigan's coach described as another week of "outstanding preparation."

Maybe an emotional letdown was inevitable after last week's stirring win over Oklahoma, which came on the heels of that season-opening Hail Mary escape against Western Michigan. But on wet, gloomy Saturday afternoon, the Wolverines came out looking like a team that would rather be sitting at home on the couch than playing a seven-touchdown underdog in the Big House.

So even after his team scored 10 quick points in the final two minutes before halftime to take a 17-14 lead into the break, Whittingham let his team know in the locker room their effort — and their lack of enthusiasm — was unacceptable.

"Every week's a little bit different, but I told them, 'Hey, we're going to be just fine if we'll get excited about what we're doing,'" the coach said. "I said if you guys just play and have the same energy you had last week against a top-10 team, then that's who we can be."

Much to Whittingham's relief, that's who they were after that. The Wolverines ratcheted up the intensity and completely dominated the third quarter, scoring touchdowns on four straight possessions while holding the Miners to minus-5 yards of offense. And for the first time all season, that meant Whittingham got to rest his starters and play some of his reserves in the fourth quarter.

It might be the last time for a while, too, as Big Ten play gets underway next week with a visit from Iowa. Michigan's

first road trip follows that — at Minnesota, possibly at night — and then come marquee games against ranked opponents in Penn State and Indiana, the defending national champ.

"We know moving forward, I mean, it's real now," said receiver Andrew Marsh, who finally broke loose with 10 catches for 105 yards and a touchdown Saturday. "Every game's a good game, so we gotta do more."

That's been the mantra for a couple weeks now: "Do More." Whittingham started hammering away with that message after the near-miss in the opener against Western Michigan, and the players are starting to repeat it daily.

But Saturday's first half was another reminder that it takes more than rote memorization to win football games. Even against an opponent that's physically overmatched like UTEP, a team that went 2-10 in Conference USA a year ago and began this season with a 51-0 loss at Oklahoma. It doesn't matter that Michigan beat the Sooners on this field seven days earlier. They still had to do more than simply show up here.

"It's very obvious that when we play with the passion and energy that we need to display, they're a really good football team," Whittingham said of the Wolverines. "Hopefully, through three games we've learned that lesson. We've got to be able to bring the same mentality and the same energy week after week. You can't pick your spots."

You can't spot good teams a lead the way the Wolverines did again Saturday, either.

Michigan came into this game as one of the most-penalized teams in the country, having racked up 20 in the first two games. They'd also been careless with the football offensively, and both those issues were a problem early in Saturday's contest.

On the game's opening drive, Michigan appeared to have it first-and-goal at the 2-yard line, but a holding penalty on Eli Owens negated Jordan Marshall's 14-yard run. Two plays later, Bryce Underwood dropped back to pass, then decided to tuck it and run. Only he forgot to tuck it, and Underwood fumbled almost as soon as he absorbed some contact.

On the ensuing possession, Dom Nichols wiped his own third-down sack

off the board with an offside penalty. So instead of a UTEP punt from midfield, the Miners had third-and-1. And the play they called wasn't a halfback dive, either. It was a well-executed fake that drew both safeties in and left receiver Carver Cheeks streaking wide open down the field for an easy 45-yard touchdown pass.

The Miners scored another touchdown off a turnover midway through the second quarter, forcing a fumble by freshman Savion Hiter and then sending a shudder through the stadium with an 18-yard pop pass for a 14-7 lead on the very next play.

"We only had six possessions (in the half)," Whittingham said, "and if you give it away on two of the six and have a three-and-out, it doesn't leave a lot of room for production."

It does leave plenty of room for improvement, however, and that's what the Wolverines are banking on going forward, particularly on offense.

A young line has battled injuries all month — right tackle Andrew Sprague was a late scratch Saturday — but might've had its best performance to date in this game. Marshall is dealing a nagging ankle injury, too, but the Wolverines did finish with 185 yards and three touchdowns on the ground against UTEP, albeit with 42 carries.

Most important, though, Underwood is starting to look more comfortable in the pocket now that he's been unleashed as a runner. The sophomore was 19 of 25 for 223 yards and two touchdowns Saturday, and as Whittingham noted, that career-best passer rating also came with some explosive plays. Which is something this young team is going to need to beat better competition in the Big Ten.

Getting Marsh more involved was no accident, either. The talented sophomore only had five catches for 28 yards in the first two games, "and that needed to change," Whittingham said.

It did, obviously. But they know it can't stop there. Not with what's coming next.

"I feel like we've gotten better and better each week," Marsh said, "and we're just now starting to kind of play our ball, really play to our level. ... But it's really just about doing more. I mean that's kind of been the emphasis throughout the facility: Just do more. Every day, every week."

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OSU

From B1

“Malachi is going off week in, week out. For the competition, I see him go off, so I’m trying to have a good game as well,” Smith said. “I mean, we’re both from Dade County, so always trying to have a little competition here and there.”

Even though the conference yardage mark could be within reach, the other two are not. Purdue’s Taylor Stub-

blefield has the Big Ten mark of 325 receptions and Braylon Edwards had 39 touchdown catches in his three years at Michigan.

“The work he puts in day in and day out is like no receiver I’ve ever seen in my life,” wide receiver Brandon Inniss said. “If you have the mindset and work ethic and the drive he does, I mean, you see what you can do along with the physical traits, obviously.”

Relive the Moment

BUY SPORTS PHOTOS

local youth and school photos published from the pages of the

MEDINA COUNTY

M

G

GAZETTE

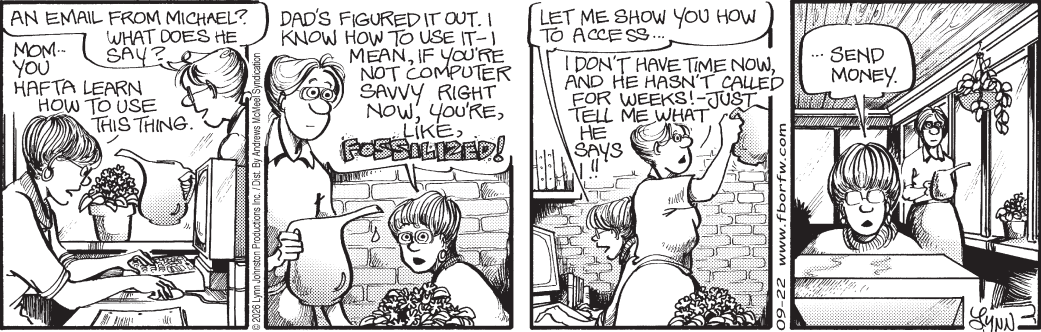
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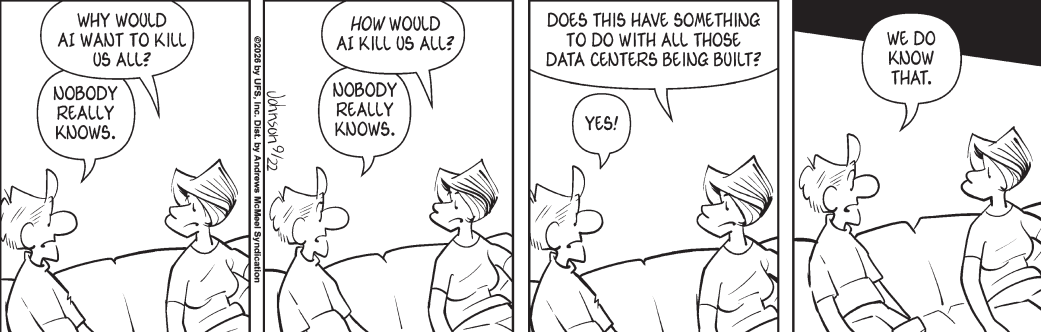
COMICS

FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE



By Lynn Johnston

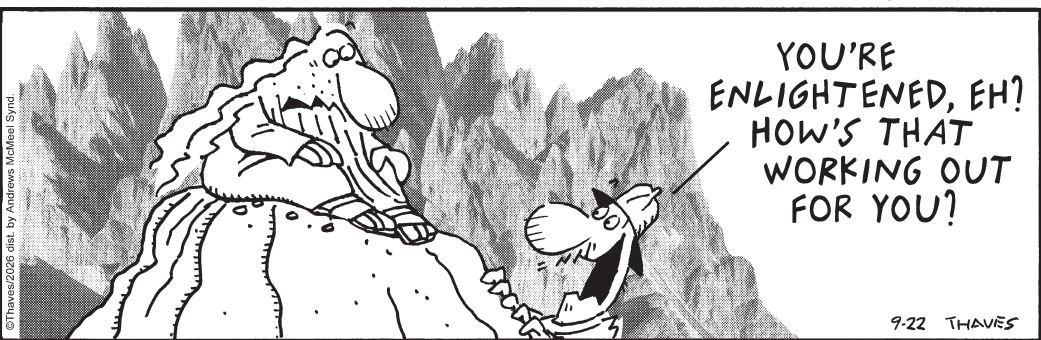
ARLO AND JANIS



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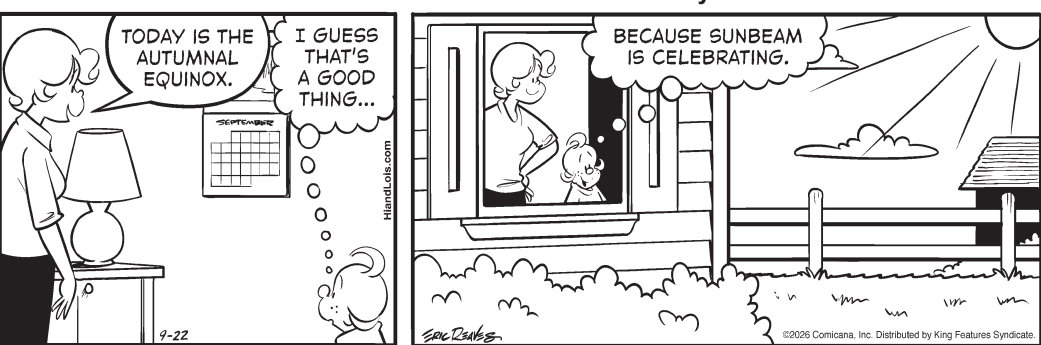
FRANK & ERNEST

By Bob Thaves



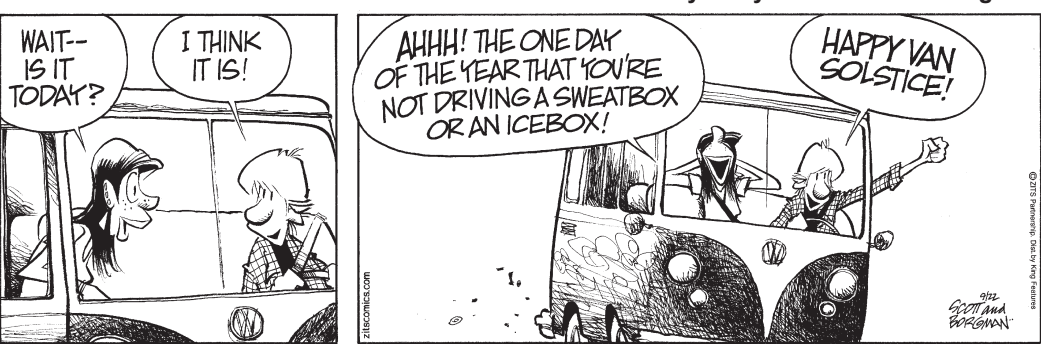
HI AND LOIS

By Mort Walker and Dik Browne



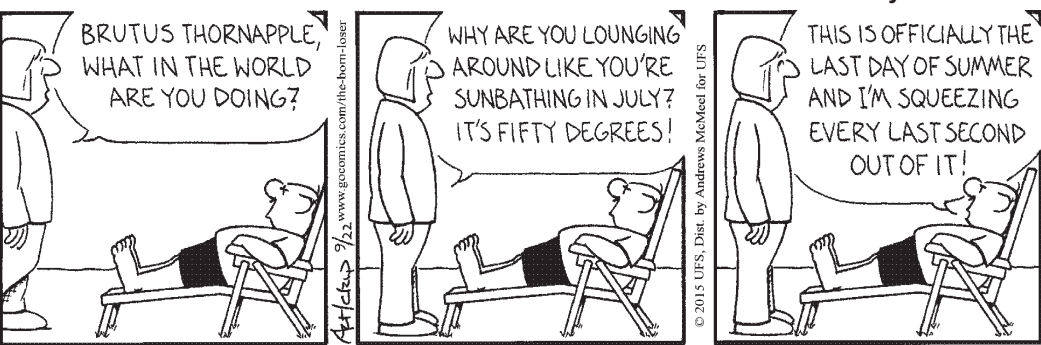
ZITS

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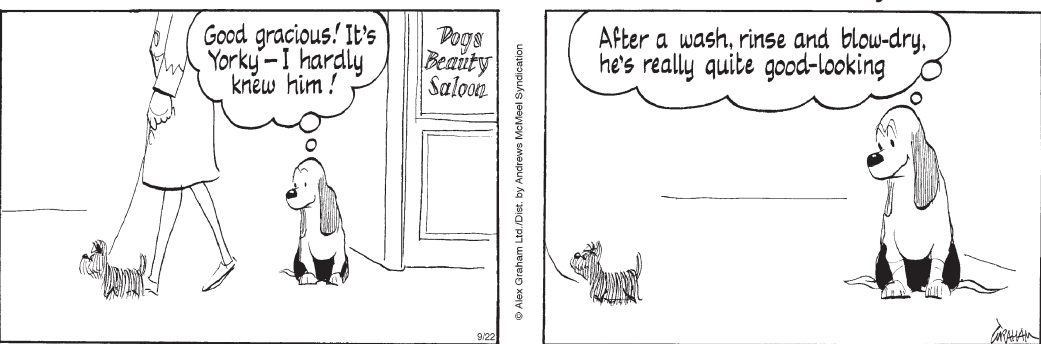
THE BORN LOSER

By Art Sansom



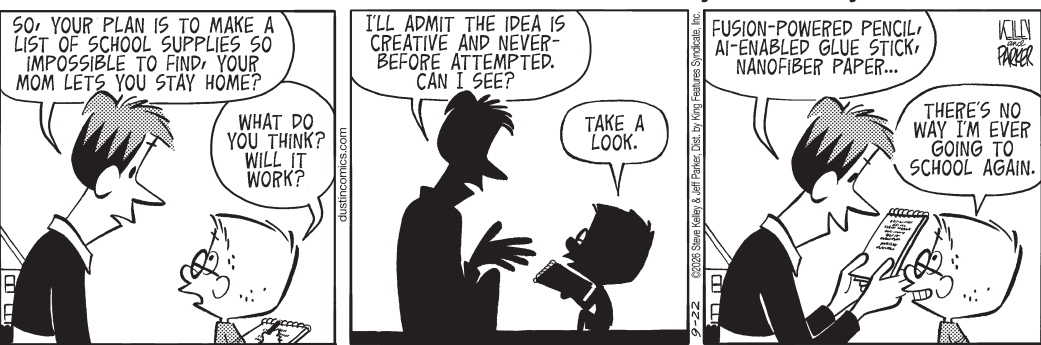
FRED BASSET

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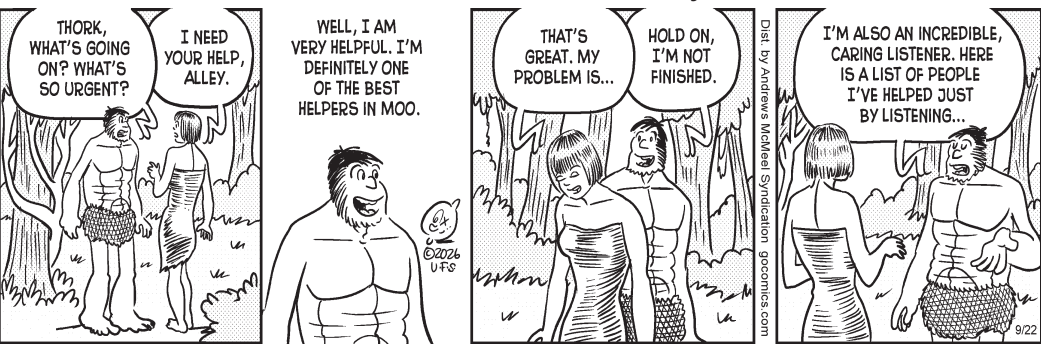
DUSTIN

By Steve Kelley and Jeff Parker



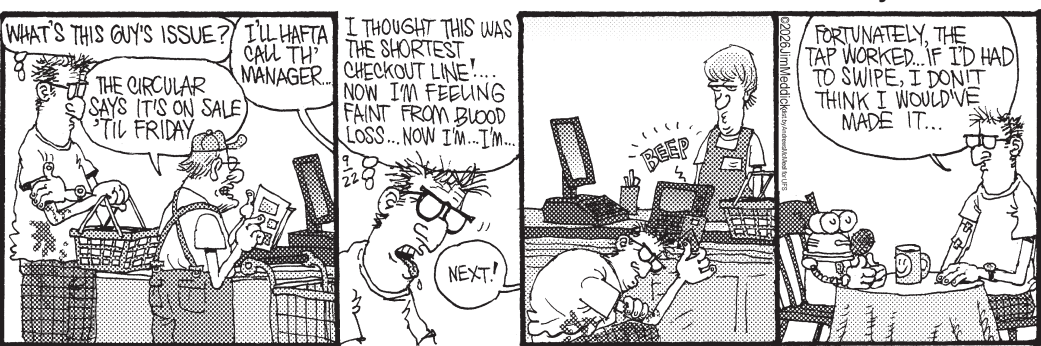
ALLEY OOP

By Dave Graue and Jack Bender



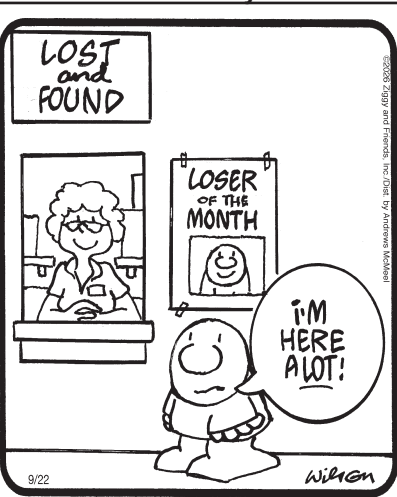
MONTY

By Jim Meddick



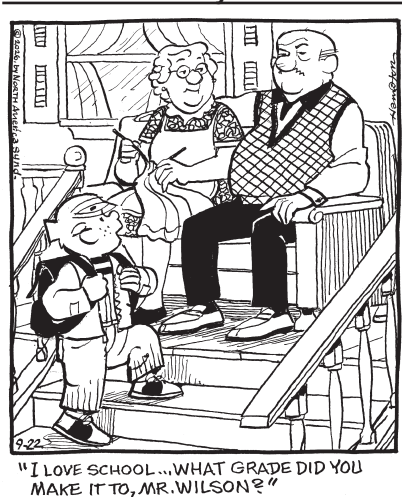
ZIGGY

By Tom Wilson



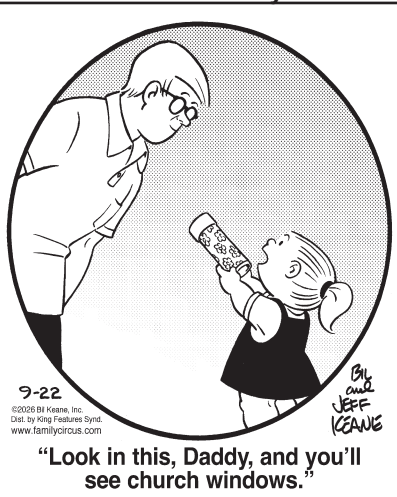
DENNIS THE MENACE

By Hank Ketcham



THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane



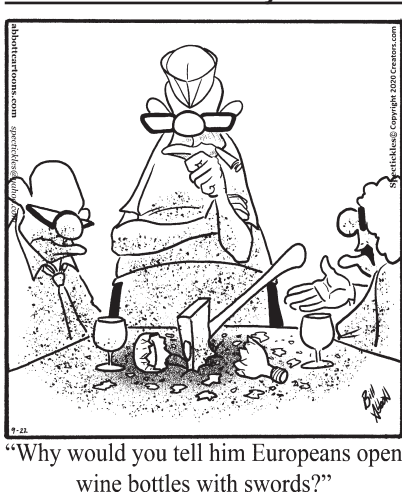
CLOSE TO HOME

By John McPherson



SPECTICKLES

By Bill Abbott



CROSSWORD

- ACROSS
- 1 Light metal

4 Tater

8 Mafia bigwigs

12 In the past

13 Relaxation

14 Release

15 Simple bed

16 Actor — Reynolds

17 Isinglass

18 Treasure stash

20 Sea duck

22 Tried for political office

23 Stunt

24 Takeout option

27 Kingly

31 Fish eggs

32 Marine seaweed

34 Fuss

35 No longer fashionable

36 Missile housing
- 37 Become darker

38 Burial chamber

40 Radical

43 Hitchcock’s “— Window”

45 Legendary bird

46 Tossed

49 Heart chambers

52 Cheer

53 Prom dress

56 Plus

57 Norway’s capital

58 Grand story

59 Chem. or biol.

60 Youngster

61 Nerve network

62 Chapeau
- DOWN
- 1 Diplomacy

2 Composer — Stravinsky

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ASTROGRAPH

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Ascending stars bring ascending odds, the rest of the week should be favorable for actions taken unless your individual transits are poor. Put your heart into friendships and relationships now.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Do more than just phone it in; there’s more in it for you too if you give your best — knowing that you consistently give your best is a component of ever-increasing self-esteem. Handle things on a granular level.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): The next month or so could be a wonderful and inspiring period for creatives. You should have lots of imagination plus an understanding of logistics and methodologies. Teach what you know.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Benevolence, wisdom, and a certain amount of confidence could help a negotiation reach resolution as long as no one starts to demand extreme concessions. Craft words carefully.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): This could go either way: Someone close could provide the reassurance you need, or, you might buck up a partner as needed. You could have increased financial means, ideas, confidence, or even certainty.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Wisdom plus assertion could go a long way toward getting things done in your daily rounds, relying on old habits can help too. You could be the strong arm or understanding ear for someone today.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Creative confidence could be yours, let yourself express freely for the next couple of days. A last lap of your inner landscape could be helpful, starting tomorrow you may have less time for self-work.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Home is a place where the emotional temperature has to matter, tune into the mood and vibe and notice where tweaks could be helpful. You could soon slide into a more introspective few weeks.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): If you’ve got a few important career tweaks to make, now could be the time, at least some of your attention could soon shift. A communication should be run through a wisdom filter first.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Exchange knowledge freely, don’t hold back what you know. Financial matters are moving into better patterns, but it’s still important to rely on facts and wisdom instead of emotions and reactivity.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): A few finishing touches on something nearly complete and you could be ready for a change of scene inwardly

CELEBRITY CIPHER

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

“ M U L W F F J X G P W F D Z Y J F P X U G C L V
G W V , Z ’ L B U Z M B F U P W M S D J Z F . Z F ’ C
B U Z M B F U T J U A . Z S U M ’ F P W O J F U
G U X X V . ” — P W D D J T J X X V

Previous Solution: “This was my audience ... When you’re a comic, you go to open mic nights. When you’re a kid, you go to your class.” — Raphael Bob-Waksberg

TODAY’S CLUE: H sɹənb ǝ
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COMICS & PUZZLES

ASKING ERIC

Dear Eric: My neighbors have boisterous parties on occasion. It’s not a matter of noise — they’re very considerate about it. But from the number of cars and the late leaving times I can only imagine that everyone is having a good time. I heard a rumor that they might be swingers, so that explains some things. The house on the other side of them is for sale. Should I let potential buyers know what they might be walking into?

Concerned Neighbor

Dear Neighbor: Leave it be. This pineapple upside-down cake is not fully baked. From what you’ve written, you have popular but conscientious neighbors about whom someone spread a rumor. A rumor that does not impact you in any way, mind you. If you were to tell a potential buyer, the thing that they’d likely be most concerned about is moving into a neighborhood where there’s too much unfounded gossip.

Dear Eric: I thought I’d add to your good advice to “Stuck Student” who was in college but not sure yet what he wanted to be yet. I spent four and a half years in college, changed my major twice and graduated with a liberal arts degree and no plan for where to go next.

I was lifeguarding and living with my parents the summer after school ended when a friend convinced me to take a computer programming class “for fun” at a local community college.

Because the class was with a buddy, we had fun and took a second one. Then I took an aptitude test at a local financial firm and was invited into



ERIC THOMAS

their technical training program. I was never very good at the programming part, but I was good at managing projects and teams and with a core understanding of technology and additional coursework it became a successful IT management career.

My point is that not knowing what you want to do in college is normal and not limiting at all. There are majors that can track you directly into a specific career path, but a college degree is mainly to learn how to think critically, analyze facts and situations and apply that learning to life.

No Hurry

Dear No Hurry: I really appreciate this perspective. Because we are a few weeks into the new school year, I thought it useful to share your letter and the letter below.

I especially like your focus on college’s ability to help one think critically. The value of critical thinking cannot be overstated. Sometimes one is in an educational environment to learn a specific skill or trade. But at other times, one is there to learn how to learn and to discover what one doesn’t know.

Dear Eric: This is a letter in reference to “Stuck Student,” a second-year college student who didn’t know what path to take. Back when I was 18 and had gone off to

DEAR ABBY

Dear Abby: My mom died of extreme old age recently. She was a sweet woman everyone loved. I sent invitations to her memorial, and I’m getting a lot of excuses for why my friends can’t attend. I am upset.

In my circle of friends (all similar ages), I was the last to graduate, get a career job, start a relationship, buy a house, be married and so forth. I’ve attended my friends’ graduations, weddings, baby showers, milestone birthdays, and family funerals, yet there hasn’t been much reciprocation.

Excuses for not attending Mom’s memorial included going to a grandkid’s soccer game and attending a 2-year-old’s birthday party. Really? I know I’m dealing with unusually strong emotions due to Mom’s death, but I want to scream, “This is MY MOM,” not some distant friend or relative. My spouse says I shouldn’t stress and that all we need is each other (said by someone who has a huge, loving family whereas my family is just me and my dad). How do I deal with my feelings of resentment, abandonment and being a low priority?

Last One in California

Dear Last One: Your spouse is right. In the final analysis, all you need is each other



ABIGAIL VAN BUREN

— though a few supportive friends would certainly be welcome. I have always said that funerals are for the living, not the deceased. Be grateful for the support you are receiving from the people who accepted the invitation to your mother’s funeral. They are your core support group; the others are mere acquaintances, so start thinking of them in those terms.

Dear Abby: I rent a two-bedroom apartment, which I shared with my best friend. When he moved away last month due to a work relocation, I advertised the room, and a couple moved in. They are friendly and pay their rent on time, but their cooking produces extremely strong smells that I cannot tolerate. My medication causes hypersensitivity to odors, and I can no longer stand to be in the kitchen because the smells linger. They also live on a very different schedule from me. As a result, my diet and sleep are both suffering. They remain unaware of how

college, I truly had no idea of what I wanted to do with my life. I naively thought that everyone picked a career and was good at it and enjoyed it. I had fears of picking something I’d neither like nor be any good at. I didn’t go see any college counselors either, unaware that this was obviously something with which they could help me.

I did drop out and worked at various jobs. Later, in my 30s, my husband pointed out that financially, this might be a good time to go back to school. By this time, I had the wisdom and maturity to understand that there was no single, magical career in which I’d completely excel, or which I’d love completely.

So, I just told myself to pick something and make it work. The local college had a nursing program and with that philosophy, I entered the program. Thirty years later I still love it. It’s complex, mentally and physically challenging, and constantly interesting. Obtaining that degree doesn’t hold you to one single path. It’s fine to be unsure, and he/she is on the right track with their studies.

Colorado Reader

Dear Reader: Yes! Thank you for sharing your experience. It’s never too late to revisit higher education. While college or vocational training are a wonderful next step for many high schoolers, it can be so rewarding to hold off on it or come back to it with some life experience and perspective under your belt.

Send questions to R. Eric Thomas at eric@askingeric.com or P.O. Box 22474, Philadelphia, PA 19110. Follow him on Instagram and sign up for his weekly newsletter at rerictomas.com.

the adjustment has affected me because I don’t feel they are doing anything wrong.

I would like to move out into a studio of my own. The lease on this apartment is currently a month-to-month, so the only thing keeping me here is the guilt I feel about burdening my roommates with this. They will have to move out, find a replacement for me or take on the full rent themselves. I want to do right by them, but I know it would be best for me to leave. What is the proper course of action here?

Doomed in Australia

Dear Doomed: There is no reason why you should feel guilty for leveling with this couple; your health must come first. Explain the problem to them and tell them that while you like them personally, your health is being affected by the cooking odors. Tell them that because you are now on a month-to-month lease, you plan to move to a smaller place of your own and give them the option of staying or moving. Consider this a first step in learning to stand up for yourself.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren. For nearly four decades, Jeanne Phillips penned this column, which was founded in 1956 by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 270135, Kansas City, MO 64127.

SENSE AND SENSITIVITY

Dear Harriette: I feel like I wasted my whole life putting my husband’s and children’s needs in front of my own. I didn’t accomplish the things that young me set out to do. I am now 63 years old and disappointed that I let the idea that I had to have a family put me into a situation where I now am dissatisfied with the way I lived my life. I gave up my career traveling the world as a flight attendant to be a stay-at-home mom. I regret this every day because I loved my job and would likely still be working it today. I stopped practicing my hobbies, which makes me so sad that I’ve missed out on continuing to practice yoga and roller-skating. I stopped because I needed to take my children to their sports practices, cook dinner, clean the house and so much more.

Now that my children are older, I find myself wondering what my life could have looked like if I had continued working and made time for the things I loved. I love my family, but I feel like somewhere along the way I lost a sense of who I was outside of being a wife and mother. I also feel angry with myself for not realizing sooner that I was allowed to have dreams and



HARRIETTE COLE

interests of my own. How can I let go of the regret for never putting myself first?

Lost

Dear Lost: Start right now to reclaim yourself. Pick up those hobbies again. Look into job opportunities that may be fulfilling for you. Put the regret down by making yourself so busy living out today’s dreams that there’s no room to lament what could have been. You’re only 63 — lace up your roller skates and get yourself into a yoga class!

Dear Harriette: I went to a gathering this summer, and we all eventually went swimming. I didn’t want to as I have gained a lot of weight and have been feeling uncomfortable in my skin. When I saw the photos that people posted from that day, I was mortified. There I was, looking like a blimp on social media. I asked my friend to

take the shot down, but it was too late. How can I get friends to not post images of me without my permission? It felt like an invasion of privacy.

No Posting, Please

Dear No Posting, Please: These days, just being out means there’s a chance that someone will photograph you and post it on social media. That doesn’t mean you can’t ask them not to, though. At a private function, you can definitely ask people not to post images of you publicly. You can also ask people to take photos down if you notice yourself posted on their page. But it’s kind of a losing battle. Social media is here to stay, and it is extremely hard to control. It will be much easier for you to present yourself in ways that make you comfortable no matter what. That could mean investing in a flattering swimsuit and cover-up so you feel relaxed.

Harriette Cole is a lifestyleist 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.

3 networks sue over White House ban

Jocelyn Noveck
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — CNN, MS NOW and Politico on Monday sued President Donald Trump's administration days after they were barred from White House grounds, calling the selective ban — based on the content of their coverage — illegal and a “blatant violation” of the First Amendment. Trump said in a post that he “cherished” a free press but not “FAKE NEWS.”

“White House access is a privilege — not a right,” the administration posted on X.

The extraordinary ban of the three news outlets' reporters, which began over the weekend, represented a clear escalation of Trump's long-running

efforts — in the courts and through administrative action — to restrict news coverage he finds objectionable or, in his words, “fake news.” They were also the latest test of First Amendment protections in the United States, where the government is constitutionally forbidden from restricting the press.

The Constitution, the banned news outlets said in their lawsuit, “does not allow a president or any other government official to deprive the press of their First Amendment rights and liberty and property interests with no notice or process based solely on his dislike of the content of their reporting.”

The three outlets filed the joint lawsuit two days after their reporters were blocked from the White House and

prevented from doing their jobs. The reporters' entry badges were disabled on Saturday, a day after Trump had suddenly announced he was barring the outlets because of reporting he considered “fake news.”

On Monday morning, the banned TV networks were reporting from an intersection just outside the White House complex. CNN, meanwhile, was removed from its pool duties, which are shared by the five major networks. It had been scheduled to cover the president's trip to New York for the U.N. General Assembly. In an email to members, the TV pool wrote there would be no replacement coverage following the White House actions.

“Effective today, the TV pool will not be covering events designated as pool coverage of the president,” said the

email, seen by The Associated Press. “This follows the White House's position preventing CNN from fulfilling its assigned pool duties. There will be no replacement pool put in place.”

CNN's chief White House correspondent, Kaitlan Collins, explained on air that this meant: “When the president does anything today, there will be no TV camera with the president that is broadcasting and sharing this footage” to the viewing public.

The White House did not respond directly to a request for comment on the lawsuit. But in a news release, it said of the three banned outlets: “The First Amendment protects their right to publish; it does not entitle them to a hard pass, briefing room seat, or place in the press pool.”

On his Truth Social platform, Trump

wrote that he “cherished” a free press. “The White House is not instituting an assault on the Free Press, something which I cherish,” the president said in his post. “It is instituting an assault on the FAKE NEWS, something that has grown like Cancer in our beloved United States of America. It is corrupt, purposeful, pervasive, fully coordinated and totally out of control. It is a threat to our National Security, and must be stopped, NOW!”

Vice President JD Vance, meanwhile, argued that Trump's decision was about “basic fairness” and not a violation of the right to free speech. Vance told reporters that the journalism of the three outlets is “effectively far-left propaganda,” and said they were still allowed to report — just not to have offices in the White House.



AP FILE

The Converse logo is displayed on the roof of the company's world headquarters in the West End neighborhood of Boston in 2016.

Converse yanks offending shoe

Dave Collins
The Associated Press

The sneaker company Converse has removed a social media ad that sparked outrage among critics who viewed it as evoking the Ku Klux Klan and lynching.

The Instagram ad photo showed K-pop singer Karina wearing a skirt and holding a pair of Chuck 70 X sneakers. Critics lashed out online, saying that a white triangular image created by lighting on the skirt resembled a KKK hood and that the way she held the sneakers made them look like the dangling feet of a lynching victim.

Converse, owned by Nike, issued a statement apologizing and saying it removed the ad.

“We’re sorry,” said the statement, first released on Friday. “We understand why this image is deeply upsetting and recognize that we got this wrong. We removed it from our channels and are working to remove it everywhere it appeared. This

should not have happened and we will do better.”

Converse, based in Boston, declined on Sunday to answer questions seeking additional information, including how the company screens ads before they are posted and how the ad was approved.

Karina and her management company, SM Entertainment Group, did not immediately respond to messages through their Instagram accounts.

Retailers and top fashion brands have issued a string of apologies over the years for products criticized as being racially insensitive.

Last month, retailer Target pulled a children's Halloween costume from its shelves after widespread social media backlash, apologizing for selling a garment that critics said evoked racist minstrel caricatures.

The Converse photo sparked swift criticism, including calls for staff involved in the ad to be fired and for a boycott of

the company. In a slew of comments on social media, posters questioned how the ad could have cleared the company's advertising vetting process. Other commenters defended Converse, saying they didn't believe it was intentional.

Lee Merritt, a civil rights attorney based in Texas, posted on Instagram that Converse's apology “doesn't undo what got past legal, marketing and leadership at every step.”

“We keep having this conversation because corporations keep failing the same test,” he wrote. “Do better means catching this before it airs — not after we're offended.”

Converse, founded in Malden, Massachusetts, in 1908, makes the iconic Chuck Taylor All Star sneaker. It was first released in 1917 as a non-skid basketball shoe, adding the signature of Taylor — a basketball player who promoted the sneaker — in 1934, according to the company's website.

Wall Street near new highs as oil prices ease

Stan Choe
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Wall Street climbed to the edge of its all-time high on Monday, and stocks rallied worldwide after oil prices and yields in the bond market surrendered their market-rattling gains from last week.

The S&P 500 jumped 1.5 percent and pulled within 0.4 percent of its record set last month. The Dow Jones Industrial Average added 366 points, or 0.7 percent, and the Nasdaq composite leaped 2.3 percent to its own all-time high as chip stocks and other companies in the artificial-intelligence industry led the way.

Stocks got help from the price for a barrel of Brent oil falling 3.4 percent to \$100.34. While that's still much higher than its roughly \$72 price from earlier this summer, it's down from the nearly \$110 it touched last week.

Oil prices have been swinging up and down as some crude from the Middle East is able to sail through the Strait of Hormuz to get to customers, though nowhere near as much as the industry would like because of the war with Iran.

With big U.S. companies continuing to deliver strong growth in profits that support their stock prices, Morgan Stanley's Michael Wilson says another leg higher in prices for oil, gasoline and other refined products is the main near-term risk he sees that could keep the U.S. stock market from rising to his forecasted target for the year's end.

The average price for a gallon of regular gasoline across the United States has already climbed to nearly \$4.48, according to AAA. That's up from less than \$4.32 just a week earlier and from \$3.18 a year ago.

Monday's pullback in oil prices helped lower the pressure coming from the bond market. The yield on the 10-year Treasury eased to 4.95 percent from 5.01 percent late Friday after crossing above

the 5 percent threshold last week for the first time since 2023.

Yields have been on the rise because of worries about inflation, big debt loads for governments worldwide and other factors. That hurts the economy because high yields make it more expensive not only for the U.S. government to borrow money to pay its bills but also for households and businesses.

Worries remain about how much oil is available for customers worldwide. But ING commodities strategists Ewa Manthey and Warren Patterson wrote in a commentary on Monday that profit-taking by investors after the recent jump in oil prices, together with hopes for discussions at this week's U.N. General Assembly and at a meeting between China's and the United States' leaders, helped improve optimism.

U.S. Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent told reporters following talks Sunday with Chinese Vice Premier He Lifeng in New York that the U.S. had “a very successful engagement” with the Chinese side.

In Beijing, China's Foreign Ministry on Monday confirmed that Xi Jinping will pay a state visit to the United States Wednesday and Friday. Experts and policymakers believe trade, tariffs and AI safety are likely among the topics to be on the agenda.

On Wall Street, AI stocks continued to strengthen following their worldwide slide at the start of last week. Leaders of the industry have recently warned a slowdown is needed in the industry's development for the safety of humanity.

Even if the industry leans into more measures for safety, some analysts say it will still be hungry for chips to power it all. Advanced Micro Devices rallied 9.9 percent and saw its total market value hit \$1 trillion, while Nvidia added 2.3 percent.

Shop Local to Stop Clogged Gutters and Ice Dams

Jim Carbone
Special to The Chronicle

Shopping local has become more important than ever these days. Our small businesses are an important part of our community and let's face it, the big box stores and online shopping typically do not impress when it comes to service and customer satisfaction. When considering hiring a company to work on your home, locals want and deserve a great experience from an established professional. For the past 28 years we have been providing local home owners with a service that has saved them time and money and is often considered long over due.

Spring is here and it's time to start thinking about those clogged gutters. Installing an effective gutter protection system may be a wise investment and keep everyone safe and off the ladder forever.

Many home improvement companies such as roofers, window dealers and handymen may sell gutter guards, but the products offered may not be a permanent solution. They typically use gutter protection as a source of extra income to supplement their main business and the products offered are very similar to what's available at the big box stores. These are often screens and filters, which, in most cases, still need to be cleaned. This does not accomplish the goal of staying off the ladder. Don't be fooled — all screens can clog.

Think local and call a company that's focused on gutter protection only. This way you can feel confident that all attention is being focused on the task at hand. For price considerations, keep in mind that the companies that advertise the most on TV, Internet and radio, often can be the most expensive due to the high ad costs.

The Gutter Cover Company has been specializing in gutter protection in Northeast Ohio for more than 28 years now. Proudly located in Elyria and serving Northeast Ohio since 1998, they're a family-owned local business that employs hard working, knowledgeable people who take pride in their work while at your home. With an impressive proven track record of satisfied customers, they have an

A+ BBB rating and excellent Google reviews.

The Gutter Cover team will clean, tighten, re-seal and properly align your gutters and then install the best gutter cover on the market, Gutter Topper. Manufactured right here in Ohio, Gutter Topper is a solid aluminum cover that has earned numerous excellent reviews from the top consumer research companies in the country. Independent product testing showed that Gutter Topper can handle heavy downpours up to 22 inches of rain per hour, 110 mph winds and 300 lbs. per foot without failing.

Thanks to a unique sloped and smooth self-shedding design, not even spinners, pine needles, shingle grit or seed pods can clog the gutter. It's available in 14 colors and also has a patented “bird block” system.

Gutter Topper can be installed over

the existing gutters if they're in decent condition, and if they're not, new seamless gutters are also available. When installed, a lifetime transferable warranty ensures that the gutters will be free-flowing forever.

The Gutter Cover Company also offers a safe and effective way to stop big icicles and ice damming. This is not the old-fashioned zigzag roof wires. An optional add-on product called Heater Cap can be installed with or without Gutter Topper that gently heats the gutter area with a self-regulated heat cable. An aluminum plate then covers the cable which protects it, hides it and helps spread the heat to a larger area.

Controls are even located inside the warmth of your home. Heater Cap is perfect for problem areas and can also be installed on most existing gutter covers.

We'd appreciate an opportunity to show you why we have been known locally for more than 28 years as gutter protection specialists. Our free estimates are always on time and quite casual. Give us a call and you'll see why Gutter Topper and Heater Cap are the best solutions for gutter protection and ice melting in Northeast Ohio.

Schedule a free estimate by October 22, 2026, and receive a \$300 discount on the purchase of either Gutter Topper or Heater Cap by mentioning this offer. Additional discounts are available for Seniors, Veterans, First Responders, and Health Care Workers. Call (440) 366-0688 today. View short videos of Gutter Topper and Heater Cap at gutterguard1.com.

Jim Carbone is owner of Gutter Cover Co.

Shop Local and See the Difference!

CELEBRATING 28 YEARS!

- Smooth, sloped and self-shedding profile works great for maple spinners, pine needles, roof grit and other small leaves.
- Lifetime Performance Warranty.
- **NOT** a screen or filter that can clog.
- Installation Includes:
 - Gutter & Downspout Cleaning
 - Resealing Seams & Tightening
 - Proper Slope Alignment
- Proven to handle heavy rains and 110mph winds.
- Patented “Bird Guard System” and comes in 14 colors.
- Proudly located in Elyria and locally owned since 1998.

FREE ESTIMATES • SENIOR DISCOUNTS • VETERAN DISCOUNTS

\$300 OFF Your Order (Minimum footage required)
Offer Expires 10/22/26

Always On-Time, Friendly and Professional

440-366-0688

gutterguard1.com

Heat Available For Open Gutters & Most Existing Gutter Covers

HEATER CAP

MADE IN OHIO

MasterCard VISA American Express

Election Notice

REGISTER TO VOTE

There will be a **General Election**
November 3, 2026
Polls Open at 6:30 am
Polls Close at 7:30 pm

In order to vote November 3, 2026

You must REGISTER by October 5, 2026

Extended office hours: 8:00 am to 9:00 pm

Eligibility Requirements:

- Be a citizen of the United States
- Be 18 years of age by the date of the General Election
- Be a resident of Ohio for 30 days before November 3, 2026

MOVED? CHANGED YOUR NAME?

You should **update** your registration by **October 5, 2026** to avoid voting a provisional ballot.

WHERE TO REGISTER

- Medina County Board of Elections
- Any public high school or vocational school
- Any Bureau of Motor Vehicles office
- Any agency that provides public assistance or provides services to persons with disabilities
- Public libraries
- Medina County Treasurer's Office
- **ONLINE:** VoteOhio.gov

MEDINA COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS
3800 Stonegate Dr., Suite C, Medina, OH 44256
330-722-9278
www.boe.ohio.gov/medina



Holiday FACT:

This event celebrates the culture and contributions of people who trace their roots to Spain, Mexico, Central America, South America, and the Caribbean.

Answer: Hispanic Heritage Month

Creative Coloring

Color in this picture to create your own masterpiece.

Double Word Puzzle

Unscramble the individual words to reveal letters for the phrase.

SCMTUO

123

RTYOS

4567

OPPLEE

89

IDTE

1011

H

1134567

A

N

10

1294268

Answers: custom, story, people, diet, History and culture

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

SEP

10

1936: The first world individual Speedway World Championship is held at Wembley Stadium in London.

1960: Abebe Bikila becomes the first sub-Saharan African to win an Olympic gold medal.

2002: Switzerland becomes a full member of the U.N.

NEW WORD

HISPANIC

people and cultures related to Spain and the Spanish language

How they say that in...

English: Heritage
Spanish: Herencia
Italian: Eredità
French: Héritage
German: Erbe

Did You Know?

National Hispanic Heritage Month is celebrated each year from September 15 to October 15.

Get the PICTURE?

Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

Answer: Pinata

CLASSIFIED

Medina County • 330-725-4166

Lorain County • 440-329-7100

Special Notices

WHATZIT? ANSWER
A pair of overalls

Help Wanted

We make every effort to verify all ads in our publications are legit but we sometimes fall short. Due to the volume of ads we process and the variety of ways they come to us, we cannot always spot the misleading ads.

Thank you
The Chronicle Telegram & Medina Gazette

Appliances

ADVANTAGE
Re conditioned Appliances with 1 yr warranty
330-725-2776 ~ Matt

Furniture

EMINENT Grand Theatre organ, Queen sofa bed.
440-303-7759

EARN EXTRA INCOME!

SELL YOUR UNWANTED STUFF!

IN

The Gazette

Classifieds!

885 W. LIBERTY ST.
MEDINA • 330-725-6040
medina-gazette/classifieds

Miscellaneous Items

ALSO VIEW CLASSIFIED ADS ONLINE

medina-gazette.com
chroniclet.com

Houses for Rent

EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act of 1968, the Ohio Fair Housing Act, and the Elyria Fair Housing Law which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status or national origin." This applies to all real estate sold, rented or leased through an agent. There are no exceptions under this law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis.

Automobiles

CASH PAID FOR Unwanted Vehicles (440) 864-3825

WANTED Classic or Muscle Car/Truck, any year 440-590-0193

Wanted to Buy Vehicles

ALL CARS WANTED running or not. Cash \$60-\$6000. 440-935-0121

JUNK Cars. Best price in Town. \$4,000 to 7,000 cash. 440-452-1083

Houses/Owner for Sale

EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act of 1968, the Ohio Fair Housing Act, and the Elyria Fair Housing Law which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status or national origin." This applies to all real estate sold, rented or leased through an agent. There are no exceptions under this law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis.

Legals

IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS
MEDINA COUNTY, OHIO

FIORILLI CONSTRUCTION COMPANY, INC.
Plaintiff

vs.

AIR ZOOM MECHANICAL, LLC, et al.,
Defendants,

CASE NO. 2026CIV0227
JUDGE
JOYCE V. KIMBLER

LEGAL NOTICE FOR SERVICE BY PUBLICATION

Service of summons and complaints cannot be made other than by publication on Defendant Robert Perry, otherwise known as Robert Perry, Jr. whose last known addresses are 969 high Street, Harrisburg, Ohio 43126, or 5887 Birch Bark Circle, Grove City, Ohio 43123, and/or 6364 Harrisburg-London Road, Orient, Ohio 43146, and whose current whereabouts are unknown.

To: Robert Perry, otherwise known as Robert Perry, Jr.,

To notice that on March 3, 2026, Plaintiff Fiorilli Construction Company, Inc. filed a Complaint for money judgement in the Medina County Court of Common Pleas being Case No. 2026 CIV 0227 alleging damages owed to Plaintiff in excess of over \$25,000, treble damages of the value of the property wrongfully taken, compensatory damages, punitive damages, pre-judgment and post-judgment statutory interest, reasonable attorney's fees and court costs.

Plaintiff alleges breach of contract, breach of express and/or implied warranty, unjust enrichment, gross negligence, civil theft under R.C. § 2307.60 against the name Defendants relative to the HVAC installation work for the construction project known as 24235 Valvoline Bellefontaine OH.

Plaintiff requests that Defendant Robert Perry named above be required to answer and assert any defenses he may have to the Complaint or be forever barred from asserting such defenses.

Defendant Robert Perry is required to file an Answer within twenty-eight (28) days after last publication which shall be published once a week for six (6) consecutive weeks, or he might be denied a hearing to this case. The last date of publication is September 29th, 2026

Taylor K. Dennen (0101135)
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Attorney for Plaintiff Fiorilli Construction Company, Inc.
M.G. 8/25/9/1/9/8, 9/22/9/29/26
20764199

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Legals

The following is a summary of ordinances and resolutions adopted by Medina City Council on September 14, 2026, and approved by Mayor James A. Shields on September 15, 2026. The complete text of any ordinance or resolution may be obtained at the office of the Medina City Clerk of Council, 132 N. Elmwood Ave., Medina, OH or viewed at www.medinacounty.org.

Res. 133-26 A Resolution authorizing the Mayor to file an Application for Grant Assistance from the 2026 Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG), for the Police Department.

Ord. 134-26 An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to advertise for the auction, sale or disposal of City equipment and vehicles no longer used.

Res. 135-26 A Resolution accepting the grant award from the Ohio Department of Mental Health & Addiction Services Specialized Docket Subsidy Project Funding Grant for the Medina Municipal Court Veteran's Treatment Court.

Res. 136-26 A Resolution declaring March 6, 2027 as Random Acts of Kindness Day in the City of Medina, Ohio.

Ord. 137-26 An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to advertise for competitive bids and to award a contract to the successful bidder for the South Elmwood Avenue Parking Lot Reconstruction, and declaring an emergency.

Ord. 138-26 An Ordinance repealing Ordinance No. 98-26, passed June 9, 2026 and Adopting the New Planning and Zoning Code Fee Schedule for the City of Medina, Ohio, and declaring an emergency.

Res. 139-26 A Resolution accepting the donation of \$20,000 from Murray and Susan VanEpp to assist the City of Medina with the redesign and reconstruction of the JUMP Playground.

Ord. 140-26 An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to solicit Requests for Qualifications (RFQs) from qualified design-build contractors for the replacement of the JUMP Playground at Memorial Park.

Ord. 141-26 An Ordinance authorizing the increase of the expenditure to HSH Excavating for the Service Department and declaring an emergency.

Ord. 142-26 An Ordinance amending Ordinance No. 218-25, passed December 8, 2025. (Amendments to 2026 Budget)

Res. 143-26 A Resolution approving a Petition for Special Assessments for Special Energy Improvement Projects and a Supplemental Plan or Public Improvements under Ohio Revised Code Chapter 1710; and declaring the necessity of acquiring, constructing, and improving certain public improvements described in the Supplemental Plan for Public Improvements in cooperation with the Medina County Energy Improvement District.

Ord. 144-26 An Ordinance determining to proceed with the acquisition, construction, and improvement of certain public improvements in the City of Medina, Ohio in cooperation with the Medina County Energy Improvement District and declaring an emergency.

Ord. 145-26 An Ordinance Levying Special Assessments for the purpose of

Legals

acquiring, constructing, and improving certain public improvements in the City of Medina, Ohio in cooperation with the Medina County Energy Special Improvement District, approving the C-PACE Assignment Agreement, and declaring an emergency.

Submitted by
Kathy Patton,
Clerk of Council,
City of Medina.
M.G. 9/22/9/29/26
20764935

BOARD OPENING NOTICE

The Medina County Solid Waste Policy Committee ("SWPC") is accepting applications for one candidate to serve as the Solid Waste Generator member on the committee effective October 31, 2026. The SWPC is comprised of seven members as outlined in O.R.C. 3734.54. Board member terms are two years and they receive no compensation for their service. This member will represent industrial, commercial, or institutional generators of solid wastes within the district. Applications are available at www.medinacounty.org (click on "Important Forms" then select "Commissioners" or by contacting the Medina County Commissioners' Office at rbeck@medinacounty.org or 330-722-9208. Please return applications to Clerk Rhonda Beck, Board of County Commissioners, 144 N. Broadway Street, Room 201, Medina, OH 44256 or by email at rbeck@medinacounty.org. Application deadline is Wednesday, September 30, 2026 at 4:30 p.m. M.G. 9/18/9/22/26
20765019

Legals

LEGAL NOTICE

Sale of Real Estate

MEDINA County

Foreclosure Auction.

Case# 2025CIV1251.
ONSLow BAY FINANCIAL LLC vs. McElwain, Joshua S., McElwain, Mikaela, et al. The description of the property to be sold is as follows:

Property Address: 3451 WILLOW VIEW DR, MEDINA, MEDINA, OH, 44256;

Legal Description: Full Legal Listed on Public Website; Parcel Number: 005-07A-21-037

Bidding will be available only on www.Auction.com opening on October 6, 2026, at 10:00 AM for a minimum of 7 days.

Property may be sold on a provisional sale date should the third-party purchaser fail to provide their deposit within the allotted time. Provisional Sale date: October 20, 2026 at 10:00 AM. Sales subject to cancellation. The deposit required is \$10,000 to be paid by wire transfer within 2 hours of the sale ending. No cash is permitted.

Purchaser shall be responsible for those costs, allowances, and taxes that the proceeds of the sale are insufficient to cover.

To view all sale details and terms for this property visit www.Auction.com and enter the Search Code 2025CIV1251 into the search bar.
M.G. 9/15/9/22/9/29/26
20764593

Chatter Box



“Never love anyone who treats you like you’re ordinary.”
—Oscar Wilde



Laugh Lines

What would bears be without bees? Ears.



Below the surface of a swimming dynasty



Stillwater Area High School synchronized swimmers practice their extended group routine at Stillwater Middle School in Stillwater, Minnesota..

MINNEAPOLIS -- Eight swimmers slipped below the surface of the water in unison. From the pool deck, the group looked like shadowy figures underwater. Down there in the deep end, the swimmers worked to get into position for something dramatic.

Suddenly, one of the swimmers launched out of the water, twirled 1½ rotations in a backflip, and the show was on.

“Sometimes it’s scary,” Stillwater senior Hailey Schmit said of being thrown out of the water and into the air, “but it’s also really fun.”

This isn’t horseplay at a neighborhood pool. At Stillwater High, synchronized swimming is serious business. The state championship banners spread across the wall of the aquatic center reveal an expectation of excellence.

The Ponies claimed their sixth consecutive state championship in late May.

“These girls know there are no excuses,” longtime coach Kathy Henderson said.

Synchronized swimming is a nontraditional sport that has seen participation slip in Minnesota since the COVID-19 pandemic, with only 13 programs remaining statewide. Roster numbers have dwindled as well. The teams and athletes who participate are passionate advocates of a sport that requires a particular blend of skills.

“It’s a mix of speed swimming, gymnastics, figure skating and dance,” Schmit said.

I had never seen synchronized swimming until visiting a Ponies practice. I learned a lot, including that these swimmers devote as much time and effort to their craft as athletes in other sports.

The older Stillwater swimmers practice four hours a day, six days a week. Most of that time is spent in the pool, rehearsing routines and refining individual skills

known as “figures.”

Meets feature events such as solos, duets, trios and team competitions. A team can have as many as eight swimmers. The more swimmers involved in a routine, the more complicated and challenging it becomes to get everyone in sync with the choreography set to music.

“It’s so much more interesting and more involved than just swimming laps for two-and-a-half hours straight,” said Henderson, who is in her 34th season with the program as either head coach or assistant.

Swimmers are prohibited from touching the bottom of the pool. They stay afloat using techniques called “sculling” and “eggbeaters.” They don’t use the term “treading water.” They have cool lingo to describe certain body positions such as “fishtail,” “hook” and “tabletop.”

Swimmers perform precise movements that resemble ballet while sometimes being upside down underwater. Routines last two to four minutes.

“It’s physical strength, but you also have to have insane artistry and creativity and body awareness,” said Schmit, the state’s top-ranked synchronized swimmer, who will compete for the Gophers club team next season. “It’s a lot of things combined, which I feel you don’t get with a lot of sports. This allows you to express yourself more.”

Like most of Stillwater’s older swimmers, Schmit writes her own choreography and picks music for it. The coaches help perfect their routines.

Henderson and her assistants use a microphone to communicate with swimmers inside the noisy aquatic center. Coaches stop routines and make swimmers repeat sequences if someone is a little slow with the count or if something doesn’t look properly aligned.

Stamina is essential in this sport. Among other things,

swimmers are judged by pool coverage. In other words, how much of the entire pool do they use in their routines?

The most difficult choreography takes place in the deep end. Swimmers want to get in and get out of the shallow end quickly because they can’t perform as many skills in that area.

“You want to cram as much choreography in as you can,” Henderson said. “You want to be creative and artistic, but you also want to be strong and difficult and unique.”

All those things are why the No. 1 trait Henderson expects of her swimmers is “mental toughness.”

“It takes a lot to be able to make your body do crazy stuff,” she said. “Make it look pretty with a smile on your face.”

As a team, the Ponies performed 23 routines this season of various sizes and levels of expertise. All but one of those routines qualified for the state meet, and all 22 placed in the top seven, thus earning points.

The Ponies finished with 179 points to claim the title, well ahead of runner-up Wayzata at 90.

Stillwater has never finished lower than second place in the five decades that Minnesota has declared a state champion. The Ponies carry that legacy every time they jump into the pool.

“A lot of times we talk about family,” Henderson said. “These are like your sisters for 12 weeks. You’re going to fight and cry sometimes, and in the end, you’re going to fight for each other and cry for the good reasons.”

Hanging state championship banners every year brings those happy tears.

– Chip Scoggins/Star Tribune

