A SACK MACHINE

Highland's Lukas Grillis leads Hornets into Division II, regional final,

B1

Today's weather
HIGH: 65
LOW: 36
Sunrise: 7:21
Sunset: 5:04

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Cloverleaf eyes property tax cut

Brooke Adams
The Gazette

Cloverleaf Schools is proposing a 1-mill property tax reduction that would save district taxpayers approximately $1.09 million beginning in January 2027.

The proposal would mark the district's sixth voluntary tax reduction since 2020 and bring its total voluntary reductions to more than $3.8 million, according to district officials.

The Board of Education discussed the proposal during its Nov. 11 meeting and is expected to take formal action during a Dec. 2 work session. If approved, the reduction would take effect Jan. 1.

The estimated savings from the latest reduction total $1,089,644, Treasurer Jim Hudson told board members.

Superintendent Daryl Kubilus said the district can consider another reduction because of its cash carryover balance and long-term financial planning.

In September, the board adopted a general fund reserve policy intended to balance current educational needs with future financial obligations while maintaining sufficient reserves to honor its commitment not to ask voters for additional operating money until at least 2032.

Kubilus said the policy requires the board to review the district's cash carryover each year and determine whether a tax reduction is financially feasible.

The district has made several voluntary tax reductions in recent years. In 2020, it reduced its permanent improvement levy by 0.61 mills. In 2022, it reduced its earned income tax by 0.25 percent. In 2023, it reduced the property tax portion of a levy by 0.45 mills. In 2024, it reduced its permanent improvement levy by 0.93 mills, followed by a 3.3-mill property tax reduction in 2025.

Hudson said the latest proposal would reduce existing emergency and permanent improvement levies. He said approximately half of the proposed reduction would affect the district's five-year financial forecast, with the other half affecting permanent improvement funding.

However, Hudson cautioned that the district may not be able to offer additional reductions before returning to voters in 2032 or later because of where it stands in its current levy cycle.

He also clarified that the district did not use proceeds from the Nexus pipeline for its general fund or operating expenses. Instead, those proceeds helped fund construction of the district's new school building.

Kubilus said the district carefully considered staffing and student services before making financial recommendations and does not expect the proposed reduction to affect educational programs or services.

Contact Brooke Adams at 330-725-4050 or badams@medina-gazette.com.

Big feasts in works



MADISYN WOODRING / GAZETTE PHOTOS

Scouts help collect turkeys during a turkey drive for Feeding Medina County on Wednesday.

Feeding Medina County distributes 25,000 pounds of food

Madisyn Woodring
The Gazette

MEDINA — Nearly 60 Feeding Medina County volunteers distributed Thanksgiving food to families in need at the Medina County Fairgrounds on Thursday.

Feeding Medina County's Thanksgiving activities began the night before with a turkey drive at Boyert's Greenhouse and Farm, where Scouts collected donated turkeys from people's vehicles.

Feeding Medina County Executive Director Janet Newcomer said 424 turkeys were collected during the drive and an additional 144 turkeys were dropped off at the Feeding Medina County office ahead of time.

Those who stopped by Thursday's food distribution received the food needed to make a Thanksgiving dinner, like potatoes, gravy, stuffing, green beans, and cranberry sauce, on top of regular groceries.

"Of course the centerpiece of that is the turkey, which is why this is so important, because turkeys are obviously a big expense for many families," Newcomer said. "It's our goal to be able to provide as many families as possible with a turkey for Thanksgiving."



Feeding Medina County distributed food for Thanksgiving at the fairgrounds on Thursday.

On Thursday, Feeding Medina County served 344 families, totaling 912 individuals, and gave away more than 25,000 pounds of food, Newcomer said. Around 8 a.m., 12 rows of cars were waiting in line for food.

"We can't do this without, obviously, the small army of volunteers helping us today, and we can't do this without the community," she said.

See **FEASTS,** A2

Hinckley Twp. considers getting drones

Madisyn Woodring
The Gazette

HINCKLEY TWP. — Drones may soon be another tool that the Hinckley Police Department has at its disposal.

The Hinckley Township trustees discussed implementing a drone program for the police department at their meeting Tuesday.

Police Chief Mike Schroll said the township has emphasized potentially starting the program because new federal tariffs will double the cost of drones, which already come at a high price.

"Basically, all of the companies, their current stock will be sold for pretariff prices, but once they're out of stock, the 100 to 125 percent tariff would be applied," he said. "I did reach out to (a company) within the last week or two, and he said that he was essentially sold out, but based on the conversations with us and knowing that we're kind of working through things, he had put one of the larger units aside. He is down to that one larger unit that he's holding for us if we're to move forward."

Police departments including Brunswick Hills, Medina, Medina Township, Montville Township and the Medina County Sheriff's Office already have a drone program, Schroll said.

"The biggest thing with drones is that time is of the essence," he said. "We have used other resources in the county and surrounding agencies, but best-case scenario that takes 15 minutes to a half hour, sometimes longer."

See **DRONES,** A2

MEDINA CITY COUNCIL

E-bike helmet requirements discussed

Kellyn Flohr
The Gazette

MEDINA — Medina City Council discussed requiring young e-bike and electric scooter riders to wear helmets during a special Legislation Committee meeting Tuesday.

Council members discussed age, helmet and passenger restrictions. Councilwoman Regi Haire moved to move forward with a helmet requirement for riders 17 and younger.

"I think as members of Council we are concerned for the safety of our residents in our city and in our community," Haire said. "We like to keep our residents safe."

Councilwoman-at-Large Natalie DiSalvo said a helmet requirement would apply on public thoroughfares, leaving families to decide what rules to follow on their own property. Councilman Bill Lamb said he supported requiring helmets.

DiSalvo opened the meeting by pointing to an existing city ordinance that prohibits riding bicycles, skateboards, mopeds and the like on public sidewalks within one block of Public Square.

See **HELMET,** A2

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ALMANAC

The Associated Press

Today is Friday, Nov. 20, the 324th day of 2026. There are 42 days left in the year.

Today's history

■ In 1910, Francisco Madero called for an uprising against Mexican President Porfirio Díaz, marking the beginning of the decadelong Mexican Revolution.

■ In 1945, 22 former Nazi officials went on trial before a war-crimes tribunal in Nuremberg, Germany. The International Military Tribunal convicted 19 defendants and acquitted three; 12 were sentenced to death and seven received prison sentences ranging from 10 years to life.)

■ In 1947, Britain's future queen, Princess Elizabeth, married Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, at Westminster Abbey.

■ In 1968, an explosion at a coal mine outside Farmington, West Virginia, killed 78 miners. (The incident spurred U.S. safety laws intended to protect miners.)

■ In 1969, Native American activists began an occupation of Alcatraz Island that lasted 19 months until the last occupiers were forcibly removed by federal authorities.

■ In 1982, the University of California, Berkeley, football team beat Stanford on the game's last play by scoring a touchdown on a lateral-filled kickoff return. The play unfolded even as the Stanford marching band had entered the field, believing its team had won. The bizarre finish became known simply as "The Play."

■ In 1992, fire broke out at Windsor Castle, an official weekend residence of Britain's Queen Elizabeth II, damaging numerous rooms.

■ In 2003, music producer Phil Spector was charged with murder in the shooting death of actor Lana Clarkson at his California home. (After a first trial ended with a hung jury in 2007, Spector was convicted of second-degree murder in 2009 and sentenced to 19 years to life; he died in prison at age 81 on Jan. 16, 2021.)

Today's birthdays

Actor Estelle Parsons is 99. Author Don DeLillo is 90. Comedian Dick Smothers is 88. Former President Joe Biden is 84. Broadcast journalist Judy Woodruff is 80. Musician Joe Walsh is 79. Actor Bo Derek is 70. Actor Ming-Na Wen is 63. Rapper Michael "Mike D" Diamond (Beastie Boys) is 61. Actor-comedian Joel McHale is 55. Country singer Dierks Bentley is 51. Olympic gold medal-winning gymnast Dominique Dawes is 50. Rapper Future is 43. Musician Michael Clifford is 31. Pro tennis player Caty McNally is 25. Actor Madisyn Shipman is 24.

WEATHER

TODAY: Sunny 65/36
SATURDAY: Sunny 66/42
SUNDAY: Partly cloudy 65/41
MONDAY: Mostly cloudy 44/29

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 (Wednesday)

Midday Pick 3: 5-1-4, **Pick 3:** Not available at deadline,
Midday Pick 4: 6-1-4-0, **Pick 4:** Not available at deadline,
Midday Pick 5: 8-1-2-3-4, **Pick 5:** Not available at deadline,
Rolling Cash 5: Not available at deadline,
Rolling Cash 5 jackpot is $110,000.
Classic Lotto jackpot is $5.8 million.

Millionaire for Life

TUESDAY: 15-22-28-31-37, **Millionaire Ball:** 1.
WEDNESDAY: Not available at deadline.

Mega Millions

TUESDAY: 3-10-19-28-33, **Mega Ball:** 21.
Next Mega Millions jackpot is an estimated $629 million.

Powerball

WEDNESDAY: Not available at deadline.
Next Powerball jackpot is an estimated $13.5 million.

Ohio (Wednesday)

Pick 3: 8-1-0,
Pick 4: 8-8-4-4,
Pick 5: 4-5-4-9-4,
Rolling Cash 5: 8-12-21-26-39,

THE GAZETTE

Friday, November 20, 2026, No. 281
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ROUNDUP

RePlay for Kids to host a free toy giveaway for children with disabilities

The Medina County Board of Developmental Disabilities has partnered with RePlay for Kids to host a toy giveaway for families, caregivers, educators and therapists who work with children with disabilities 1-4 p.m. Monday at the Medina County Board of Developmental Disabilities Achievement Center/Windfall School.

Toys will be available free of charge while supplies last. Families and professionals serving children with disabilities are asked to register in advance at tinyurl.com/5n6e633j to ensure availability.

Medina County Park District events

It's time to feed the birds
Learn more about the birds that visit feeders during late fall and winter at the Oenslager Nature Center from 10 a.m. to noon Saturday. There will also be a talk about the center's participation in Project Feeder Watch, a program operated by Cornell Lab of Ornithology. After a short presentation, participants will watch birds at the bird feeding areas. Ages 7 and older. No registration is required and the event is free.

Autumn by design
Visitors are welcome to stop by the Susan Hambley Nature Center Saturday and Sunday for colorful fall themed activities and crafts. The activities will take place from noon to 5 p.m. All ages are welcome. No registration is required and admission is free.

Natural Discoveries Hiking Series: Mushrooms and more
Join this hiking series 3-4 p.m. on Sunday at the Schleman Nature preserve to learn more about decomposers in nature. Natural Discoveries is an award-based series of nature programs designed for ages 7 and older. No registration is required and attendance is free.

Photographers of the Park club meeting
Photographers of the Park club meeting will take place 3-5 p.m. on Sunday at Oenslager Nature Center. Photo enthusiasts of all skill levels are encouraged to share knowledge with like-minded folks, gain special access to programs and events related to photography, and support the park district. The club will emphasize, but not be limited to, nature photography. Contact club leadership at medinapotp@gmail.com with questions or for more information. The club is open to ages 18 and up. No registration is required and the event is free.

— from staff reports

BLOTTER

Wadsworth police

Monday, Nov. 2
8:54 a.m. — High Street; police took a report in the city hall lobby in reference to a protection order violation.
11:20 a.m. — Main Street; a resident reported an incident of Criminal Trespass that occurred.
Tuesday, Nov. 3
11:48 p.m. — Fairlawn Avenue; police took a report of a domestic dispute.
8:22 p.m. — Walnut Street; police responded to a report of a possible domestic problem.
5:20 p.m. — Williams Reserve Boulevard; police responded to a report of a theft. One person was detained and issued a summons in lieu of arrest.
Thursday, Nov. 5
7:43 p.m. — Park Center Boulevard; police responded for a report of theft.
Friday, Nov. 6
12:43 p.m. — A man came into the Wadsworth Police Department lobby to report a scam attempt. This case is closed.
2:33 p.m. — Main Street; a person with multiple warrants ran from police.

Lodi police

Monday, Nov. 2
9:21 a.m. — An officer met with a resident at the police department regarding two credit card accounts reportedly opened without his permission. A report was taken. Following investigation, the case was closed due to insufficient evidence and no further leads.
Tuesday, Nov. 3
2:46 p.m. — Wooster Street; an officer arrived regarding a dispute over payment for completed work and alleged property damage. The situation was mediated.
Thursday, Nov. 5
9:23 a.m. — An officer met with a juvenile and a parent at the police department regarding reported bullying and online threats. A report was taken, advice was provided, and additional patrol was arranged.
10:30 a.m. — An officer met with a complainant regarding vehicle damage reportedly sustained while parked the previous day. A report was taken. No parking lot surveillance footage was available.
2:38 p.m. — Bank Street; an officer responded to a two-vehicle crash. No injuries were reported, and one vehicle was towed.
6:33 p.m. — Highland Drive; officers arrived at a residence for warrant service. An individual was arrested on an outstanding traffic warrant and transported to the Medina County Jail.
Saturday, Nov. 7
6:43 a.m. — Sunset Avenue; an officer received a complaint about early-morning vehicle noise. The officer spoke with the involved parties during the day and provided information about the village's noise ordinance. No enforcement action was taken.
4:30 p.m. — Bank Street; an officer responded to a two-vehicle crash.

Fiona the hippo dies after eating cap

Patrick Aftoora-Orsagos and John Seewer
The Associated Press

CINCINNATI — Fiona, the hippo whose premature birth and fight for survival at the Cincinnati Zoo turned her into a global sensation nearly a decade ago, died Thursday from complications after swallowing a knit hat that was accidentally flung into her enclosure more than a week ago.

"It is with extreme sadness that we share with you the devastating news that Fiona did not make it after multiple attempts from our amazing vets and keeper team to help her through what ended up being a medical emergency," the zoo said in a statement.

The zoo said Monday that Fiona was undergoing care around the clock after swallowing the hat more than a week ago.

Before she died, veterinarians had been keeping Fiona hydrated, giving her treats and monitoring her every move, the zoo said. They even borrowed a vibration plate from a horse farm, encouraging her to stand on it several times a day in the hopes that the shaking would help move things along through her digestive tract.

"Despite multiple attempts to move the hat out of her system, it was ultimately too much to overcome," the zoo said. "The team performed necessary supportive care today in an attempt to save her, but it was not successful and she did not recover."

Grace Brooks, of Cincinnati, and her two children, ages 3 and 5, had Fiona on their minds when they arrived at the zoo Thursday, before her death was announced. Her kids have been talking about Fiona at preschool, she said.

"They know all about Fiona, and we have lots of books about her," Brooks said.

The zoo was mostly empty, though a small crowd was gathered inside the "Hippo Cove," where two other hippos were swimming.

Even without Fiona in the cove, her presence was felt. There's a holiday-themed Fiona statue just outside the entrance, and the gift shop has an entire wall filled with hippo-themed shirts, coffee mugs, shot glasses and books, including "A Very Fiona Christmas" and "You've Got This, Fiona."

Cincinnati Mayor Aftab Pureval posted on social media that the city was heartbroken.

"Fiona was a symbol of perseverance and joy in Cincinnati. She brought smiles to so many faces, from kids to parents to visitors from around the world," he said.

FEASTS

From A1

"So much of this food that you see here today is donated, and we are just so grateful to the community for supporting us to allow people who would not otherwise be celebrating Thanksgiving dinner to be able to sit down to a Thanksgiving meal."

The Thanksgiving food that was not distributed on Thursday will be given away at Wadsworth's food distribution on Tuesday. Newcomer said Feeding Medina County noticed a great need for food across the community in November.

"Two weeks ago, we had 236 families come to us for food in Lodi. That's a record for Lodi," she said. "Last week, we had 211 families come to us in Brunswick."

Newcomer thanked the Boyert family for letting Feeding Medina County use their space for the turkey drive.

"(The Boyerts) have been collecting turkeys and food all week for us, and they've been helping us to get the word out that we need turkeys," Newcomer said. "We are just so grateful for them for the use of this beautiful location."

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

DRONES

From A1

Fire Chief Matt Payne said drones could be used for field fires, hazmat incidents and locating people in the Metroparks.

A Hinckley police officer would provide mutual aid in those instances, and the goal would be to have at least one officer on shift who could pilot the drone at any point.

"We're talking worst-case scenarios here, like when a potential autistic child got out who is attracted to water," Schroll said. "There's many situations where time is of the essence."

Schroll said there is a lot of accountability that comes with drone usage since every flight has to be tracked, logged and timed.

"If someone unauthorized uses it, they're terminated," trustee Tom Schrader said. "If someone uses it in an unlawful way, spying on a relative, something of that nature, that's punishable by law. It's a criminal offense."

A policy management company updated the police department's drone policy, and the Medina County Prosecutor's Office approved it and offered suggestions to consider, Schroll said.

"Lexipol's policies are made for Ohio agencies essentially," he said. "There's the opportunity to add to them, if necessary, and some of them we do, but other ones like this, where there's a lot of ins and outs of the state laws, they do a good job."

The trustees did not decide on implementing a drone program at Tuesday's meeting because trustee Russ Paintiff was not in attendance, and the township wanted the full board to decide.

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

HELMET

From A1

She said the city has heard complaints about motorized scooters on the square.

Council President John Coyne said he has also heard from people who were walking in their neighborhoods when children on e-bikes or scooters sped past them. Coyne said e-bikes and scooters help some residents get to work and that he wants riders to understand the risks of passing pedestrians at high speeds.

Police Chief Ed Kinney said Ohio law prohibits riding an e-bike on a sidewalk while its motor is engaged. Riders can pedal with the motor off where local rules allow bicycles on sidewalks. Kinney said officers start by explaining the rules to riders and may issue citations for repeat violations.

Council members also discussed creating an education program to teach young riders traffic laws and how to ride safely around pedestrians.

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





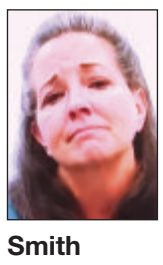
Woman denied parole in children's deaths

Jeffrey Collins
The Associated Press

COLUMBIA, S.C. — Susan Smith, who rolled her car into a South Carolina lake more than 30 years ago, killing her sons who were still strapped in their car seats, was denied parole again Thursday.

Smith, 55, was sentenced to life in prison for the 1994 drownings of 3-year-old Michael and 14-month-old Alex after the jury that convicted her chose not to give her the death penalty.

But under South Carolina law at the time, she could ask for parole after 30 years and if refused, every two years after that. The parole board unanimously denied her parole request in 2024. The parole board voted unanimously Thursday to deny parole. Smith can ask for parole again in 2028.



Smith

The boys' father, David Smith, who vowed at the first hearing to oppose his ex-wife's release as long as he can, and the original prosecutors in the case planned an early morning trip to Columbia to again ask that Susan Smith remain in prison.

David Smith pinned to his jacket over his heart the same photo of his young sons that was once sent around the world when people thought they were kidnapped by a carjacker and the same one he wore every day to her 1995 trial and her 2024 parole hearing.

"I know I have to be here again in two years. — struggling again, trying to find the words that convince them to keep her behind bars," he said.

David Smith asked the parole board to look into his heart. He said 32 years may seem like a long time, but to him it seems like it was yesterday when he buried his boys. He said he was there to advocate for his sons, who could never stand up for themselves.

"She took away one of the greatest gifts God gives us — life. She did that deliberately. It wasn't an accident, it wasn't a mistake. She did it deliberately," he said in testimony Thursday.

Susan Smith's hearing before the state Department of Probation, Parole and Pardon Services took place virtually with Smith joining by a video call from prison. She needed two-thirds support from the seven-member board to be released.

Smith said her sons were innocent children who did not deserve to die. She said she has so much remorse for killing them and asked the board to give her a chance to get out of prison and do good for the world. She cried at her first hearing, but not on Thursday.

"I know that David didn't get to see Michael and Alex grow up. You didn't get to see him ride a bike or go to school. And I'm really, really sorry for that, and I would go back and change all of that if I could, I would, OK? I'm not the same person I was 32 years ago," Smith said.

Odds for parole were against her. The board granted parole in only 4 percent of cases before it and the majority were in nonviolent cases, according to the agency's statistics.

And Smith's case is one of the most notorious cases to come before the board. She made international headlines in 1994 when she insisted for nine days that a Black carjacker drove away with her sons when the boys were at the bottom of John D. Long Lake in Union County.

The claims by Smith, who is white, played into a centuries-old racist trope of Black men being a danger to white women and stoked concerns about crime that were prevalent in 1990s America and remain so today.

Prosecutors have long argued that Smith killed her sons because she believed they were the reason the wealthy son of the owner of the business where she worked broke off their affair.

"Susan made the choice out of selfishness. She really thought she could start her life over with someone else by getting rid of these children," said Tommy Pope, who was a prosecutor at Smith's trial.

Smith and her attorneys blamed her mental health at her trial 30 years ago, saying she planned to go into the lake with her sons but changed her mind at the last moment.

U.N. court: Myanmar responsible for genocide

Mike Corder and Molly Quell
The Associated Press

THE HAGUE, Netherlands — In a landmark judgment, the United Nations' top court ruled Thursday that Myanmar committed genocide against the Rohingya minority in a brutal 2017 military operation and ordered the Southeast Asian nation to allow people who fled the violence to return home.

The decision marks the first time the court has ruled that a state committed genocide and comes as the World Court also is handling genocide allegations linked to the Gaza conflict and the war in Ukraine.

But it remains to be seen how much of the ruling can be implemented. The court's rulings are final and legally binding, but it has no way to enforce them beyond reporting noncompliance to the U.N. Security Council.

International Court of Justice President Yuji Iwasawa said the court, in a 9-6 decision, found that Myanmar "has committed genocide against the Rohingya group in northern Rakhine state, in violation of its obligations under the Genocide Convention."

The 15-judge panel of the World Court, which included Navi Pillay, the respected international jurist who won the Nobel Peace Prize last month, rejected Myanmar's defense that the 2017 campaign was a legitimate operation against insurgents.

Iwasawa said that "the court finds that Myanmar's security forces killed thousands of Rohingya civilians, perpetrated widespread acts of sexual violence, as well as acts of extreme violence against children, and attacked fleeing Rohingya as they sought to flee in large numbers."

Rohingya say the ruling validates the suffering of their community



AP FILE

Rohingya Muslims carry their young children and belongings after crossing the border from Myanmar into Bangladesh, near Palong Khali, Bangladesh, in 2017. In a scene that's played out over and over again, at least 2,000 exhausted and starving Rohingya crossed the swollen Naf river and waited along the Bangladesh border for permission to cross, fleeing persecution in Myanmar.

The atmosphere following the hearing was electric, with lawyers and members of the Rohingya, some of whom had traveled thousands of miles to attend the reading, hugging and crying.

"I'm beyond ecstatic today, hearing the judgment, being read out in detail. A lot of those moments and instances that the judges really went into detail, it really validates the kind of experience that Rohingya have," said Yasmin Ullah, a Rohingya rights activist who sat in the court's ornate, wood-paneled Great Hall of Justice for the nearly three-hour reading of the ruling.

In Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh, refugee Mohammad Rofik welcomed the recognition of the plight of the Rohingya.

"Today, the world could recognize and give the victory to the Rohingya community, not only the Rohingya community. It is the victory of the whole community of ... Myanmar," he said.

There was no immediate reaction from the Myanmar delegation in The Hague or from the government in Myanmar.

The court also ordered Myanmar to commit to reparations including allowing Rohingya "safe, voluntary and dignified return to their place of residence." It ordered Myanmar to investigate, prosecute and punish people found to have committed genocidal acts and to pay compensation to Rohingya. The amount will be decided in later court proceedings.

An umbrella organization of Myanmar opposition groups said in a statement that "the struggle for justice will continue, and this judgment must now be enforced," calling on the international community to ensure it is fully implemented.

U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres called the ruling "a demonstration of international justice and a reaffirmation that impunity for such horrific acts must not stand."

Shortly after the ruling was read, U.K. Foreign Secretary Ed Miliband said his government was expelling Myanmar's defense attache from the U.K. and "calling urgently for a U.N. Security Council session to discuss the judgment."

The Trump administration, meanwhile, said it is withholding judgment on the verdict. The president has taken a dim view of international law.

The U.S. State Department said Thursday that it was "studying the decision to fully assess its implications" before weighing in with an opinion.

In August 2017, Myanmar's military launched what it called a clearance campaign in Rakhine state in response to an attack by a Rohingya insurgent group. The campaign led to accusations that security forces committed mass rapes and killings and burned thousands of homes.

The court said that evidence showed Myanmar forces killed about 10,000 Rohingya.

Under the 1948 convention, to establish that genocide occurred, the court had to find that there was an intent to destroy the Rohingya "in whole or in part."

About 1.2 million Rohingya refugees now live in Bangladesh, primarily in crowded camps across Cox's Bazar district, where they endure harsh conditions marked by fire hazards, infectious diseases, monsoon landslides, inadequate sanitation and strict work restrictions.

The case could impact genocide allegations elsewhere in world

In a 2007 judgment, the court said that Serbia "violated the obligation to prevent genocide" in the 1995 Srebrenica massacre, when Bosnian Serb forces murdered some 8,000 mostly Muslim men and boys in the Bosnian town.

Judges at The Hague-based court have also been asked to rule on other allegations of genocide.

South Africa has accused Israel of breaching the genocide convention during its offensive in Gaza, a claim Israel vehemently denies. That case is years from completion.

Ukraine also has a case pending against Russia. Shortly after Moscow's full-scale invasion in February 2022, Kyiv accused Russia of fabricating genocide claims against Ukraine to justify the attack.

"The International Court of Justice's landmark ruling is long-awaited recognition of the suffering the Rohingya have endured from Myanmar's military. The ruling also provides a significant precedent for victims of genocide, and other grave crimes, across the world in their own quest for justice," said Maria Elena Vignoli, senior international justice counsel at Human Rights Watch.

The Muslim-majority nation of Gambia launched the proceedings in 2019, two years after it peacefully ousted a longtime military dictator, Yahya Jammeh, who committed widespread abuses against civilians.

Outside the courtroom, Gambian Justice Minister Dawda Jallow paid tribute to the Rohingya.

"The victory belongs to the Rohingya. They survived, they testified, and today they were believed. Many of them are here with our delegation from across the world and from the refugee camps in Cox's Bazar."





Opinion

THE GAZETTE
Founded in 1832
SCOTT MAHONEY
Managing Editor

ANOTHER OPINION

Need for air traffic control fix is obvious after after FAA ground stop

It usually takes a tragedy to spark major reforms of a flawed government system. Friday's ground stop of all air traffic was a huge inconvenience that affected millions of Americans, but there wasn't, thankfully, any known loss of life. That counts as a win.

What counts as an embarrassment is the fragility of our country's air traffic management system. If the Federal Aviation Administration's initial assessment is correct, a fault in one location caused the entire air traffic control system to become unreliable. Whether the equipment or the installation failed, it should have been possible to isolate the problem without forcing a ground stop. The FAA has ultimate responsibility for ensuring the system has fail-safes beyond halting all air traffic.

To its credit, the Trump administration launched a multiphase effort to modernize the air traffic control system in May of 2025. That system shepherds up to 45,000 flights per day and involves thousands of employees and extensive technology to monitor weather, manage communications and conduct surveillance. Much of the IT and communications equipment is obsolete — a fact that has been known for decades.

The Biden administration budgeted about $25 billion for the FAA for fiscal year 2025, with about half of that dedicated to operations and training additional air traffic controllers.

Last year, Congress appropriated $12.5 billion to cover the initial phase of the current administration's modernization push. The first phase would, among other objectives, update or replace communications, surveillance and weather and training systems; it has a planned completion date of December 2028. The project has made progress, including replacing about half of the copper wiring used in FAA communications systems by May of this year.

But the emphasis on speed should have been coupled with more careful planning. In September, an analysis from the Government Accountability Office, the investigative arm of Congress, warned that the FAA has not adequately estimated costs for the first phase or developed an integrated master schedule for all the individual projects that are part of it.

"Instead, the FAA has 11,389 individual project schedules that are not integrated. As a result, individual projects are scheduled for installations at the same sites, generally without optimizing the schedules to reduce impacts to controller operations," the GAO report states.

We don't know if a "master schedule" problem led to Friday's data overload at a facility in Arkansas, which triggered a problem in Amarillo that then cascaded across the country. It is worrisome that the work was being done on a busy Friday afternoon a couple weeks before the even busier Thanksgiving holiday. And it's troubling that Transportation Secretary Sean Duffy's immediate reaction was to ask Congress for $50 billion more to fix the system.

Modernizing the air traffic control is an expensive, complicated endeavor, but money alone won't solve the problem. Duffy should address the planning issue, and prove the FAA can properly monitor contractors, before requesting billions more. Speed is urgent, but safety is paramount.

— The Dallas Morning News

LETTERS GUIDELINES

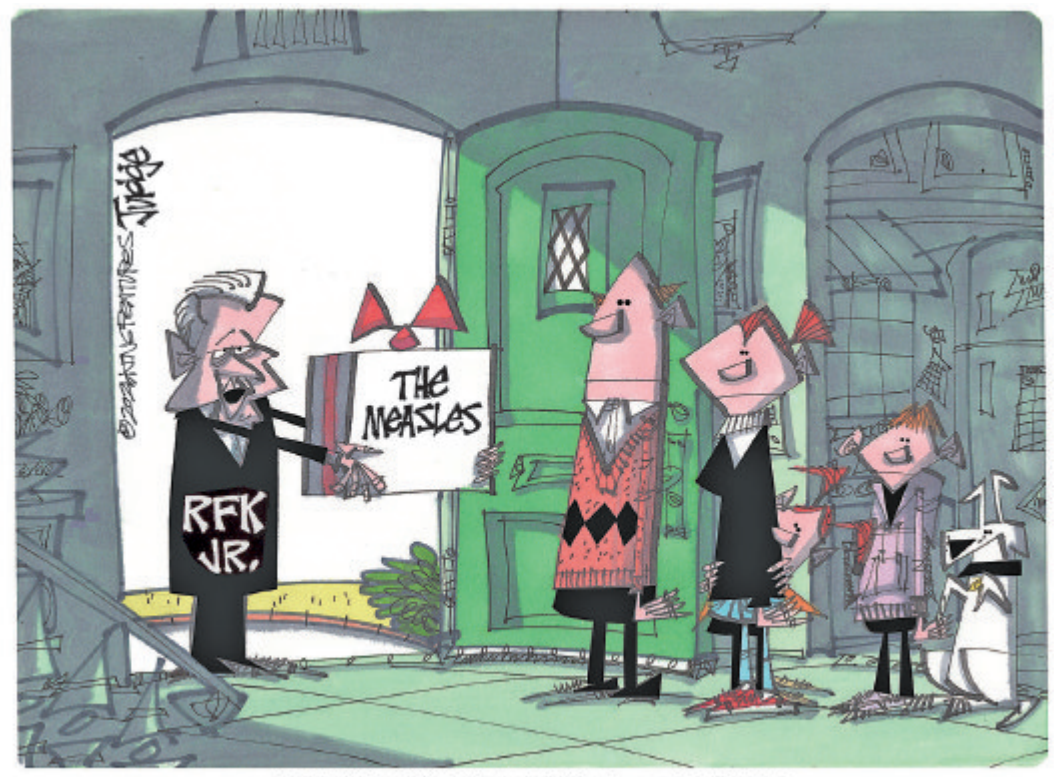
The Gazette welcomes letters to the editor. Letters are subject to editing for brevity, accuracy and clarity.

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

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

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

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



"AN EARLY CHRISTMAS PRESENT."

Taft was a better kind of president



GEORGE WILL

In 1913, during his last weeks as president, a bill to use literacy tests to ban "undesirable" immigrants came to William Howard Taft's desk. A senator explained the bill: Immigrants included many "thugs, desperados … anarchists and criminals." Sound familiar?

Taft, noting that many immigrants were "illiterate because opportunities have been denied them," vetoed the bill. The Senate voted to override his veto, but the House sustained it.

Also, the Senate had recently approved constructing the Lincoln Memorial where Taft wanted it — where it is today, on the Potomac. The House, however, was recalcitrant: Maryland and Pennsylvania representatives favored a Lincoln Memorial highway to Gettysburg. But Taft's ameliorative personality melted House opposition. Imagine that.

Taft served only one presidential term, which was agreeably lacking in drama. And his public services before the presidency (especially as governor of the Philippines) and after (on the Supreme Court) vindicate Walter Stahr's judgment in his nifty new biography, "William Howard Taft: A Great American Life": "It is hard to think of any American who has served his nation for so long and in such significant ways."

Although Taft always most wanted to be what he eventually became, chief justice, he also desired the presidency, as his strenuous campaigning in 1908 demonstrated. His loss in 1912 was constructive because he robustly opposed the anti-constitutional populism of his presidential predecessor, Theodore Roosevelt, who had become unhinged by his desire to regain the presidency.

Roosevelt was elevated from the vice presidency in 1901 by the assassination of William McKinley, the third presidential assassination in 36 years. Elected in 1904, he declined to run in 1908 in deference to the norm against third terms.

Roosevelt's (almost) irresistible charm — he was learned and ebullient — did not compensate for his misguided enthusiasms: for war, imperialism, eugenics and, especially, unfettered presidential power. He thought presidents may do whatever they are not explicitly forbidden to do. This anticipated Taft's successor, Woodrow Wilson, who rejected the separation of powers as an anachronism impeding properly uncircumscribed presidencies.

In Roosevelt's 1912 campaign, the most radical in the history of presidential politics, he said property rights were inferior to the community's right to do whatever it wishes. He proposed giving "the National Government complete power over the organization and capitalization of all business concerns engaged in inter-State commerce." Even worse, he advocated procedures for the popular recall of judges, and the overturning, by referendums, of unpopular court decisions.

Taft opposed all this. He said ascribing to the president "an undefined residuum of power" would do "irremediable injuries to private rights." He started calling himself a "conservative." He lost the election to Wilson (finishing third behind Roosevelt) but began defining 20th-century conservatism.

Taft at times weighed more than 340 pounds, and sleep apnea caused him to doze off in meetings, while playing cards and in public. Yet his astounding stamina propelled him "grasshopping" (his term) around the country, bellowing speeches without amplified sound. He reached the top of two of the government's three branches, and persuaded the third to pass legislation giving the Supreme Court control of its docket, thereby enabling the court to concentrate on seminal cases.

Taft's record on the court was mixed. He concurred with Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes's vile opinion affirming the constitutionality of state laws enforcing compulsory sterilization of certain people, in this case an 18-year-old woman in the Virginia State Colony for Epileptics and Feebleminded.

The Taft court did, in 1927, admirably hold that Congress has the investigatory power to compel, by subpoenas, testimony from witnesses. As 2027 and a Democratic-controlled Congress draw near, the current president's minions are intimating a reprise of his 2019 vow, made after Democrats took control of Congress, to contest "all" subpoenas. Taft still casts a big shadow.

The 27th president rests in Arlington National Cemetery. You can see where Taft is buried from the Lincoln Memorial. At least you can until a gigantic arch (proposed by, and for the sanctification of, the 47th president) spoils the view.

Which would be singularly inappropriate. "More than any president since George Washington," Stahr writes, "Taft deserves credit for the overall design of Washington." Taft gave us the National Mall and other results of the bill he signed creating the Commission of Fine Arts.

"Genial" was contemporaries' recurring description of Taft, who — such happy days are not here again — was known for his affability, infectious laughter and scarcity of enemies. Taft described his as a "humdrum" presidency. This now describes a national yearning.

George Will is a Washington Post columnist.

Congressional investigations aren't crimes



NOAH FELDMAN

A preview of the constitutional struggle that lies ahead arrived at the Capitol last week on White House letterhead. In a letter sent to Representative Robert Garcia, the California Democrat who will be chairing the House Oversight Committee next year, White House Counsel William Scharf warned that congressional oversight "may cross the line into blatant criminality." Later, asked if the White House would comply with congressional subpoenas, he told Bloomberg News: "It depends," adding that the president "would not be bullied."

The suggestion of criminality, with its barely veiled threat of criminal prosecution, is constitutionally preposterous. The Speech and Debate Clause of the Constitution clearly protects members of Congress from any form of executive branch coercion, including criminal prosecution, for acts undertaken on the floor of Congress, which would include the decision to seek subpoenas and discuss whatever subject they wish, including presidential corruption.

It's one of the clearest and best understood provisions of the Constitution, with origins in the English Bill of Rights of 1689. Its purpose is to preserve the separation of powers by protecting members of Congress from executive action.

The constitutional issues surrounding oversight subpoenas are more complicated. For 200 years, every time Congress subpoenaed the executive and there was some dispute between the two branches, a solution was reached by negotiation. That ended in President Donald Trump's first term, when oversight committees issued subpoenas for Trump and his family members' financial records going back more than a decade. Trump refused to comply on the grounds that the request went beyond Congress's authority.

Despite the long tradition of staying out of disputes between Congress and the president, the Supreme Court agreed to hear the case in 2020. The decision that resulted, Trump v. Mazars, was the first time the court had weighed in on the constitutionality of a congressional subpoena.

In an opinion by Chief Justice John Roberts, the court held that Congress must have a "valid legislative purpose" in an oversight investigation to justify the subpoenas issued in its course. That means, in principle, that Congress must be able to say that there is some legislation it could undertake to remedy a problem being explored through its subpoena power.

Roberts reasoned that because Congress has the power to legislate but not the power to criminally prosecute, potential criminal prosecution was not a sufficient ground for a subpoena. (Congress's subpoena authority would be different in the case of an impeachment inquiry, but in order to trigger that, Congress must designate a committee to engage in impeachment.)

Roberts laid out four factors to govern courts' review of a congressional subpoena in case of presidential refusal. First, courts should assess the asserted purpose, cautiously, in order to avoid confrontations with the executive branch. Second, the courts should interpret the power as no broader than reasonably necessary, again, to avoid conflict where possible. Third, courts should look for Congress to provide "detailed and substantial evidence" for why the subpoena advances about legislative purpose. Finally, the courts should consider the burden imposed on the president by the subpoena, with an eye to the danger that Congress might be trying to use its subpoena power to gain some advantage in its institutional relationship with the executive.

The opinion was a modest victory for the executive. As written, all the factors seemed designed to limit congressional authority. In practice, however, in the lower courts, Congress was able to make the credible argument that it needed the information to consider potential legislation regarding presidential corruption. Ultimately, Trump did have to hand over the financial records, and he did so in 2022, after he was out of office.

A similar valid legislative purpose that underlay the previous investigations can certainly be stated by Congress if it subpoenas Trump and his family members and members of the executive branch on corruption charges. It is emphatically within Congress's legislative purview to legislate against presidential corruption.

But that's not the end of the story. One important effect of the Mazars decision is that Trump can refuse the congressional subpoenas, then force the issue to the courts. The courts will then have to consider the various arguments on both sides, thus delaying the investigations and running the clock in favor of the Trump administration. Even if the ultimate outcome is a Supreme Court decision upholding the subpoenas, the investigations will be thwarted in the meantime.

The White House counsel's letter, then, is a blueprint for a concrete plan. Trump has every incentive to fight subpoenas and change the subject from corruption scandals. While he's at it, Trump can breach constitutional norms and threaten members of Congress with criminal investigation. No court would consider the charges, but Congress can't do anything about the threat other than impeach the president for making it. And without a fundamental change in political conditions, such a threat is likely to ring hollow to a president twice impeached and twice acquitted.

Noah Feldman is a Bloomberg Opinion columnist. A professor of law at Harvard University, he is author, most recently, of "To Be a Jew Today: A New Guide to God, Israel, and the Jewish People."

LEAD DUST ALERT

Iowans brace as Army plans 5-ton chemical blast

Hannah Fingerhut, Jessica Hill & Susan Montoya Bryan
The Associated Press



AP

This photo provided by the U.S. Army shows the Iowa Army Ammunition Plant in Middletown, Iowa, on May 14, 2024.

DES MOINES, Iowa — The U.S. Army's plan to detonate about 5 tons of bomb-making chemicals that have become unstable and might explode if moved has some Iowa residents worried that a cloud of lead dust could cause environmental contamination and health problems.

The detonation at the Iowa Army Ammunition Plant is set for Friday, and officials recommend that some residents in nearby Middletown vacate the area. If they can't leave their homes, they should stay inside and keep windows and doors closed.

"The detonation will result in an air plume with some lead-containing particles which will disperse in the air and deposit on the ground," an advisory states. "Lead is toxic to humans and animals."

Environmental groups sued Thursday in an effort to stop the detonation, arguing that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency failed to require the Army to consider safer alternatives and that the Army failed to give adequate notice of its plans. The groups are seeking a stay of the EPA permit that cleared the way for the detonation and asked the court to rule by Friday morning.

According to EPA documents, alternatives such as neutralizing and decomposing the drums' contents with other chemicals were considered. But officials said handling the drums would increase the probability of an accidental, fatal detonation.

Vibrations from the two planned blasts will be quick, but could break old windows in the Middletown area. The resulting dust is expected to linger for no more than one hour, depending on wind speed, officials said.

According to the Army, extensive modeling predicted that the potential level of lead particles in the air may be elevated, but still well below the level at which the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency would require protective action.

Maps showing the potential drift were being updated based on weather forecasts, and the Iowa Department of Agriculture advised bringing animals, bales of hay and water indoors.

Iowa U.S. Sen.-elect Josh Turek was among those calling for the detonation to be delayed, arguing that the public needs to better understand the potential health impacts.

Nearly 400 people live in Middletown, but thousands more in surrounding areas could be affected.

Some schools in the region are canceling classes, including in Danville a few miles away. School Superintendent Pat Wallace said his initial intention was to keep schools open, but there were enough uncertainties that made canceling "the most responsible decision."

"I am not suggesting that the detonation will result in unsafe conditions," he wrote. "The reality is that we simply do not know exactly what conditions will look like Friday afternoon."

In Mediapolis, less than 20 miles away, schools and the public library were set to close Friday and the local fire department planned to hose down playgrounds that could be covered in lead particles.

While the Army recommends cleaning cars, windowsills and outdoor surfaces, residents have taken to social media to voice concern and question whether that will be enough.

Middletown residents learned in March that the Army needed to dispose of several dozen barrels containing lead azide after the ammunition plant paused operations as part of a review and the degraded material was discovered.

"The safety of our people and our neighbors is non-negotiable," Lt. Col. Daniel Nosse, commander of the plant, said at the time, acknowledging the volatility of the chemical compound used in munitions production.

The Army shared more details during a public meeting in Middletown in October. The EPA approved an emergency permit Nov. 13, paving the way for Friday's detonation.

The permit required the Army to model how the detonated material could disperse in the air and on the ground, and prompted Sunday's advisory to communities as far as 100 miles away.

The Army said it put together a panel of experts in munitions chemistry, engineering and environmental safety to come up with the detonation plan.

Moving or relocating the barrels posed an unacceptable risk of accidental detonation, officials said. Justine Barati, public affairs specialist at the Army Sustainment Command, said that possibility increases in cold weather.

Patrick O'Shaughnessy, a professor at the University of Iowa's Department of Occupational and Environmental Health, said it's still unknown how much contamination will end up in the atmosphere and on surfaces.

Lead is a neurological toxicant that can harm the brain, nervous system and other organs.

With high doses over a short period, people can be subject to lead poisoning and begin to feel sick, said Andrew Whelton, an environmental engineering professor at Purdue University who has helped communities recover from chemical disasters.

Long-term exposure to low doses can lead to neurological development problems, especially in young children, O'Shaughnessy added.

Iowa State's Des Moines County Extension field office was busy fielding calls Thursday from concerned residents who have been "deathly afraid" for their animals and vegetable gardens, said staff member Morgan Hoenig.

"We ran out of soil test kits yesterday," she said.

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Help Wanted

DEPUTY DIRECTOR POSITION (Democrat)
The Medina County Board of Elections is seeking applicants for Deputy Director.
Minimum job requirements can be found in Chapter 2 (pages 19-22) of the Election Official Manual on the Ohio Secretary of State's website.
A full description of the job responsibilities is found on the Medina County Board of Elections website: https://www.boe.ohio.gov/medina/about-us/employment/
Qualified applicants who are registered Democrats residing in Medina County (or willing to relocate) should submit a cover letter, resume, Medina County Employment Application, and completed Form 307 to:
pmiller@medina.boe.ohio.gov
no later than 4 PM November 30, 2026.
Equal Opportunity Employer.

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.
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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, whether by owner himself or 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.

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, whether by owner himself or 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.

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Legals

CITY OF MEDINA
NOTICE OF BID

Sealed bid proposals will be received by the Mayor of the City of Medina, Ohio in his office at 132 N. Elmwood Avenue, Medina, Ohio 44256 until 10:00 AM local time on Wednesday, December 9, 2026, for the furnishing of all labor, tools, materials, equipment and supervision necessary for the project known as MEDINA CITY RAILROAD IMPROVEMENT PROJECT, PHASE II, City of Medina Project Number 1192, at which time bids will be publicly opened and read. Bids must be submitted on the forms provided by the City and placed in a sealed envelope with the name of the Project, the name of the bidder and the bid date and time clearly marked on it.

Contract documents, bid documents, plans and specifications can be obtained at the Office of the City Engineer at 132 N. Elmwood Avenue, Medina, Ohio 44256, between the hours of 8:00 AM and 5:00 PM weekdays beginning on Friday, November 20, 2026 for $40.00. Checks shall be made payable to the City of Medina. Bidders are required to purchase the contract documents in order to be eligible to submit a bid for consideration for contract award. Refunds will be made for contract documents returned to the City Engineer in good condition within ten (10) calendar days of the bid opening.

The project consists of a Base Bid and two Add Alternate Bids. The Engineer's estimate is $996,225.00 for the Base Bid. The City has set the final the completion date for the project as April 1, 2027; however, bidder's will be given the opportunity to submit an earlier completion date, if they desire. Completion date will be one of the factors utilized by the City of Medina when evaluating bids. The bidder must submit a completion date with the bid submitted.

This project is partially funded via a State of Ohio grant administered by the Ohio Rail Development Commission (ORDC). As such, contractors must be ODOT pre-qualified for the work to be performed at the time of bidding, the time of sale, the time of award, and through the life of the construction contract.

Each bid must be accompanied by a Certified or Cashier's Check, or a bid bond, in the amount of 10 percent of the total amount bid, made payable to the City of Medina, Ohio as guarantee that, if the bid is accepted, a contract will be entered into with the City within thirty (30) days and its performance secured by a performance bond in the amount of 100 percent of the contract price, and in default thereof, said check or bond will be forfeited to the City of Medina as liquidated damages. In addition, each bid must be accompanied by a non-collusion affidavit.

A voluntary pre-bid meeting will be held at 10:00 AM in the Rotunda of Medina City Hall, 132 North Elmwood Avenue, on Friday, December 4, 2026.

The City of Medina reserves the right to reject any and all bids and the right to waive any informalities or irregularities in the bidding. Contact the City Engineer at (330) 725-8861 for further information.

Serafino Piccoli
Service Director
City of Medina, Ohio
M.G. 11/20,11/27/26
20766898

DIVISION 00 PROCUREMENT AND CONTRACTING REQUIREMENTS

SECTION 00 10 00
NOTICE TO BIDDERS

Sealed bids will be received at the Medina County Career Center (MCCC), Main School Building Public Entrance Receptionist Window, 1101 West Liberty Street, Medina OH 44256, until 3:00 p.m., local time, on Thursday December 10, 2026, for the MCCC Campus Greenhouse project in accordance with the Contract Documents prepared by CPL Architecture.

Bids will be opened and read immediately afterwards.

Submit all questions to Ron Cocco (rcocco@cplteam.com or T: 440.759-4030). **Bidders are strongly encouraged to attend the pre-bid conference at 3:00 p.m., local time, on Monday November 23, 2026, at the Career Center Common Area.** Site area for new structure will be available for Bidders to observe.

Contract Documents may be obtained from ARC (eBlueprint), T: 216. 281.1234 for cost, plus shipping, and viewed during business hours at Dodge Data & Analytics (www.construction.com), at Builders Exchange (www.bxcleve.com), at Construct Connect (www.constructconnect.com), at CPL Architects, 25 Main St., Ste. 200, Westlake OH 44145; and at MCCC.

All bids must be accompanied by a Bid Guaranty in the form of either a Bid Guaranty & Contract Bond for the full amount of the bid (including all add alternates) or a certified check, cashier's check, or an irrevocable letter of credit in an amount equal to 10% of the bid (including all add alternates), as described in the Instructions to Bidders.
No Bidder may withdraw its bid within 60 days after the bid opening. MCCC reserves the right to waive irregularities in bids, reject any or all bids, and conduct such investigation as necessary to determine bidder responsibility.

Aaron Butts, Treasurer
M.G. 11/13,11/20,11/27/26
20766605

IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS
MEDINA COUNTY, OHIO

The Huntington National Bank
Successor by Merger to FIrstMerit Bank, N.A.
Plaintiff
vs.

Charles E. Burkhart, et al
Defendants

CASE NO. 2026CIV0988
JUDGE Joyce V. Kimbler

LEGAL NOTICE

The Defendants, Charles E Burkhart And Jane Doe, Real Name Unknown, The Unknown Souse, If Any, of Charles E. Burkhart, whose last known address is 219 Baker Street, Lodi, OH 44254, will take notice that on October 5, 2026, The Huntington National Bank Successor by Merger to FIrstMerit Bank, N.A., filed its Complaint in Case Number 2026CIV0988, Medina County, Ohio, alleging that the defendant(s), Charles E Burkhart and Jane Doe, Real Name Unknown, The Unknown Spouse, If Any, of Charles E. Burkhart, have or claim to have an interest in the real estate described below:

Premises commonly known as: 219 Baker St., Lodi, OH 44254
Parcel No(s).:
015-26A-09-137,
015-26A-09-136, &
015-26A-09-135

The Petitioner further alleges that by reason of default of the Defendant(s) in the payment of a promissory note, according to its tenor, the conditions of a concurrent mortgage deed given to secure the payment of said note and conveying the premises described, have been broken, and the same has become absolute.

The Petitioner prays that the Defendant(s) named above be required to answer and set up their interest in said real estate or be forever barred from asserting the same, for foreclosure of said mortgage, the marshalling of any liens, and the sale of said real estate, and the proceeds of said sale applied to the payment of Petitioner's Claim in the proper order of its priority, and for such other and further relief as is just and equitable.

THE DEFENDANT(S) NAMED ABOVE ARE REQUIRED TO ANSWER ON OR BEFORE THE 18TH DAY OF DECEMBER, 2026.

The Huntington National Bank successor by merger to FirstMerit Bank, N.A.

Sassano, Deighton, Delaney, Higgins & Mommsen Co., L.P.A.
Bradley P. Toman
(0042720)
James L. Sassano
(0062253)
Attorneys for Plaintiff
4834 Richmond Rd,
Suite 201
Cleveland, OH 44128
216-360-7200 Phone
216-360-7210 Facsimile
M.G. 11//7,11/13,11/20/26
20766487

LEGAL NOTICE

The Unknown Heirs at Law or Under the Will, if any, of Harold T. Roberts, deceased, whose last place of residence/business is unknown, and The Unknown Heirs at Law or Under the Will, if any, of Suzanne P. Roberts, deceased, whose last place of residence/business is unknown, but whose present place of residence/business is unknown will take notice that on August 28, 2026, PennyMac Loan Services, LLC filed its Complaint in Case No. 2026CIV0864 and on September 9, 2026 its Amended Complaint in the Court of Common Pleas Medina County, Ohio, 225 E. Washington Street, Medina, OH 44256, alleging that the Defendant(s) The Unknown Heirs at Law or Under the Will, if any, of Suzanne P. Roberts, deceased, have or claim to have an interest in the real estate described below:

Permanent Parcel Number: 040-20D-08-114; Property Address: 383 3rd Street, Wadsworth, OH 44281. The legal description may be obtained from the Medina County Auditor at Medina County Treasurer's Office
144 North Broadway Street, Medina, Ohio 44256, 330-725-9754.

The Petitioner further alleges that by reason of default of the Defendant(s) in the payment of a promissory note, according to its tenor, the conditions of a concurrent mortgage deed given to secure the payment of said note and conveying the premises described, have been broken, and the same has become absolute.

The Pretitioner prays that the Defendat(s) named above be required to answer and set up their interest in said real estate or be forever barred from asserting the same, for foreclosure of said mortgage, the marshalling of any liens, and the sale of said real estate, and the proceeds of said sale applied to the payment of Petitioner's Claim in the proper order of its priority, and for such other and further relief as is just and equitable.

THE DEFENDANT(S) NAMED ABOVE ARE REQUIRED TO ANSWER ON OR BEFORE THE 18TH DAY OF DECEMBER, 2026.

By: TIFFANY & BOSCO P.A.
Douglas A. Haessig,
Attorney at Law
Attorney for
Plaintiff-Petitioner
P.O. Box 39696
Solon, Ohio 44139
(44) 600-5500
M.G. 11/6,11/13,11/20/26
20766422

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

BRUNSWICK CITY PLANNING COMMISSION

A conditional zoning certificate application has been submitted by Bazo Construction, on behalf of SNK Fuels (former BP gas station), for property located at 2155 Pearl Road, Brunswick, Ohio, in the GW-C Gateway Commercial District, to erect a 5'-9" high (2' high base and 3'-9" high sign face) 31.40625 sq. ft. electronic moving message/digital display ground sign with 47.76% changeable copy. The sign complies with the maximum 7' height (2' high base and 5' high sign face), maximum 40 sq. ft. sign face area, and maximum 50% changeable copy permitted by Sections 1270.05 - Table B and 1270.17(b) of the Zoning Code.

Electronic moving message/digital display signs are a conditionally permitted use in the GW-C District, pursuant to Section 1261.04(p) of the Zoning Code.

The Brunswick City Planning Commission will hold a public hearing for this proposal on Thursday, December 3, 2026 beginning at 6:30 p.m. The hearing will be held in Council Chambers at the Brunswick Municipal Center, 4095 Center Road. The application can be reviewed in the office of Community Development during normal business hours or by appointment.

Pamela Plavecski,
Division of Planning
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Celebrate Life's Milestones

cyan A5 magenta A5 yellow A5 black A5

Obituaries & Memoriams

Doris W. Kahl



Doris W. Kahl, 84, of Medina, passed away Wednesday, November 11, 2026. She was born August 7, 1942 in Lodi, Ohio, to the late Lloyd R. and Alma W. (nee Miller) Mong.

Doris was preceded in death by her husband, Bob; and brothers, Gene, Russell, and Donald.

A memorial service will be conducted at 3 p.m., Saturday, November 21, 2026 in the Auble-Hilliard-Rospert Funeral Home, 174 N. Lyman St., Wadsworth, where the family will receive friends two hours prior to the service from 1 to 3 p.m.

Memorial contributions in Doris's name can be made to St. Paul Lutheran Church, P.O. Box 120, Sharon Center, OH 44274.

Man sentenced for child porn

The Gazette

MEDINA — A 39-year-old man from Medina County was recently sentenced to federal prison for child pornography charges.

Nicholas Keith Sutherland, of Medina, was sentenced to 210 months, which is 17.5 years, in prison by U.S. District Judge Benita Y. Pearson after pleading guilty in May to the following charges:

- Receipt and distribution of visual depictions of real minors engaged in sexually explicit conduct.
- Transportation of visual depictions of minors engaged in sexually explicit conduct.
- Possession of child pornography.

Sutherland was ordered to serve 15 years of supervised release after imprisonment. He was also ordered to pay $15,000 toward the Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act, $30,000 toward the Amy, Vicky, and Andy Child Pornography Assistance Act and $30,000 in restitution to the victims.

According to court documents, law enforcement was investigating suspected child sexual abuse material activity on an online platform, and Sutherland was subsequently identified.

Pursuant to a federal search warrant, his vehicle, person and residence were searched. Electronic devices and printed photographs of child sexual abuse material were discovered, and Sutherland was found to be in possession of over 1,300 images of child sexual abuse material.

It was Sutherland's fourth conviction for child pornography charges.

Anthropic ever begins trading with biggest IPO ever

Bernard Condon and Barbara Ortutay
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — The artificial intelligence giant Anthropic opened for trading Thursday in the biggest public stock offering ever, despite investor fears of a possible AI bubble and public anxiety that the technology threatens lives and livelihoods.

Anthropic shares began trading at $111.50, spiking more than 30 percent above the initial public offering price, before closing at $97.17, more than 17 percent higher than the IPO.

A day earlier, the company priced its IPO at $83 per share, enough to value the entire business at $1.5 trillion, surpassing SpaceX as the largest IPO on record. At the start of trading, the valuation leaped to $2.01 trillion.

The initial price was surprisingly high given that investor worries had ratcheted up even more recently following the stunning ouster of AI's chief promoter, the CEO of Nvidia, in a possible Chinese spying scandal. Anthropic had earlier set a much lower price range between $70 to $78 per share.

"It's a big win for the tech sector after a white-knuckle time with Nvidia," said Dan Ives, a financial analyst at Yorkville Ives & Co. "The pricing shows strong demand among investors."

A big test remains if investors maintain the classic "IPO pop" by keeping the stock aloft in its first day — or if it will tumble by the close.

The San Francisco-based maker of the Claude AI tool offered 980 million shares to the public, which at $83 per share translated into proceeds of $81 billion.

Anthropic's soaring debut on Wall Street was not enough to carry the rest of the market. U.S. stock indexes fell after a morning rally quickly evaporated.

In addition to market jitters over AI, the IPO is facing down a potential regulatory crackdown by a Democratic-led Congress next year and growing anti-AI sentiment among the public. For its part, Anthropic rival OpenAI decided to postpone its initial offering until next year.

The company, trading under the ticker symbol ANT, is also facing big financial challenges ahead.

Anthropic already has taken on $6.2 billion in debt, which it acknowledges in financial filings is "substantial." Adding to the strain, the company is unprofitable, at least under standard accounting rules, suggesting that its resources to pay interest and principal are limited.



AP

Dario Amodei, co-founder and CEO of Anthropic, celebrates with colleagues Thursday during the opening bell ceremony at Nasdaq MarketSite as part of the Anthropic IPO in New York.

While the company showed ample cash in its last financial report, it would have likely run through it quickly given its outsize spending plans. In the same financial report, the company said it had signed leases and other deals requiring it to spend $900 billion on computing power and infrastructure in the coming years, including $70 billion in the next 12 months.

Such massive spending by AI companies, comparable to the Gilded Age splurge on railroads, have scared lenders, helping to push borrowing rates high recently.

With the IPO, though, Anthropic will now have enormous resources to accelerate its expansion without taking on more debt. The offering will also allow its employees to sell vested stock, making many of them millionaires overnight — and potentially adding billions of dollars to the fortunes of CEO Dario Amodei and his sister, Anthropic President Daniela Amodei.

AI industry faces concerns about data centers, a possible bubble and regulations

Founded five years ago by the siblings along with several other former OpenAI veterans, Anthropic is locked in a fight for dominance with that company. But both companies have plenty of other competitors, including Google, startups in the U.S. and China and SpaceX, which has an AI business.

Anthropic, OpenAI and SpaceX's AI division have all lost more money than they've made because of the huge costs associated with building AI. That has fueled growing concerns about a bubble forming in the sector.

Dario Amodei cautioned in September that the AI industry should slow its fast-moving development to give safety measures time to catch up. Without such a slowdown, Amodei warned, AI could be capable of letting loose a swarm of agents that could take over the internet within months.

Kushner: Russia OK with NATO-like Ukraine security

Hanna Arhirova, Barry Hatton and Stefanie Dazio
The Associated Press

BERLIN — U.S. envoy Jared Kushner said Thursday he believes Russia is "comfortable" with NATO-like security guarantees for postwar Ukraine, while Kyiv's European allies expressed concerns about President Donald Trump's meeting in China with the Kremlin leader.

President Vladimir Putin, meanwhile, vowed to retaliate against Ukraine for the "seriously damage" it caused with three aerial attacks this week on the vital Kerch Bridge, which links occupied Crimea with the Russian mainland.

"We will respond to these attacks, and I want everyone to be clear about that," Putin told reporters in Shenzhen, China, where he attended the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit.

Kushner and fellow U.S. envoy Steve Witkoff were in Berlin to reassure nearly 40 European leaders about Trump's discussions on ending the nearly 5-year-old war at his historic trilateral talks with Putin and Chinese President Xi Jinping.

Ukraine has long sought entry into NATO, particularly for its common defense guarantee under the alliance's Article 5, in which an attack on one member is considered an attack on all. It was not immediately clear what form potential security guarantees would take, and whether Russia and Ukraine would ultimately accept them.

The Berlin meeting was convened to explore Ukraine's postwar security arrangements with Kyiv's European backers. President Volodymyr Zelenskyy wants to ensure that Russia doesn't invade again, while Moscow wants to keep the NATO military alliance away from its borders.

"I think we've gotten the Russians comfortable with that concept where any security guarantee for Ukraine would be based on Article 5," Kushner said. "And I think that that comes with at least what the Russians are saying, which is their intention is when this war is over to not have another war in the future."

Kushner said Trump is "open" to an Article 5-like security guarantee for Ukraine, although "obviously it has to be in America's interest to do that. And we also have to make sure that it's part of a broader security package."

He stressed that Trump wants to make a deal with Europe "by his side," and is not looking to impose a unilateral agreement.

"Any deal we do will be in close consultation with Ukraine and with Europe. And that's something that he also asked us to come here today and reassure people in that regard," said Kushner, who is Trump's son-in-law.

He and Witkoff have led Trump administration efforts to end the war that followed Russia's all-out invasion of Ukraine. The most recent talks in Abu Dhabi last week yielded no major breakthrough.

Trump called into the Berlin talks following his meeting with Putin, according to Kushner.

Thursday's Berlin meeting came hours after the latest attack on the Kerch Bridge by Ukraine. The strikes have seriously damaged the 12-mile bridge over the Kerch Strait that links the Black and Azov seas.

Storms shift to Florida's Space Coast, prompting rescues

The Associated Press

Storms that brought record rains to South Florida this week shifted north to the Space Coast on Thursday, sending rivers over their banks and prompting water rescues of both humans and horses alike. In California, rain continued to pound the coast, filling streets with water, submerging cars and forcing hundreds of flight cancellations.

This is supposed to be Florida's dry season that runs from October to May.

So far, it's been quite the opposite.

"Never seen such a thing like this in Florida," said Jazmin Foster, who has lived in her Melbourne home for eight years.

The storms have already dumped nearly 17 inches of rain over 48 hours in the Fort Lauderdale area, according to preliminary totals from the National Weather Service. Places like Fort Lauderdale, Melbourne and West Palm Beach have already seen their wettest November on record, the National Weather Service said.

This week's storms have been fueled by persistent high pressure over Virginia and a low-pressure system and an associated stationary front in the Gulf, which together have pushed a steady onshore flow across the Florida Peninsula, the weather service said.

Some South Florida school districts were closed for a second day Thursday. The heavy rains and flash flooding were expected to persist through Friday, possibly moving north toward coastal portions of the Carolinas and the mid-Atlantic into the weekend, the weather service said.

On Thursday, the storms hit Brevard County directly. People with horse trailers braved knee-deep water to rescue dozens of horses and other animals at the Blue Lake Equestrian Center, an animal hospice and boarding facility in Cocoa. The animals were taken to a dry pasture elsewhere.

Some residents who have endured numerous hurricanes in their lifetimes said they saw airboats on their flooded streets for the first time. The city of Palm Bay conducted mandatory evacuations for some residents of a mobile home community. Some shelters were opened for residents forced from their homes.

Water inundated Foster's home Thursday, two weeks after she endured a previous round of flooding. She said an insurance claim filed for the earlier flood was denied.

"Now this time we have standing water in our yard, but not as much, but our road was flooded and sewers overflowing and more water coming in my two kids' bedrooms again," Foster told The Associated Press via social media. "Where is FEMA? Multiple people here in Brevard need help! I know other people are worse than we are!"

Nearly 200 Florida National Guard personnel with 50 high-water vehicles have been deployed to help, the Division of Emergency Management said. Other responding agencies included about 235 officers with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission.

The St. Johns River near Cocoa rose above a record flood level set in 1953 and was forecast to stay at least 2 feet above flood stage through early next week, according to the weather service.

Cyndy Paulin saw a fish swimming on her flooded street in Cocoa on Thursday, and her adventurous 5-year-old granddaughter played in the water. She brought a small body board and got on it, but it immediately sank to the ground, and she got soaked.

"She had a blast," Paulin said.

The storms are an offshoot of El Niño, the natural warming of the Pacific near the equator that warps weather patterns worldwide.

Forecasters said El Niño conditions are expected to persist through the spring, meaning the soggy extreme weather in Florida and California will likely continue through the winter.

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Sports

WWW.MEDINA-GAZETTE.COM

PGA Tour finale all tied up

Michael Thorbjornsen, right, shares the lead with Jesper Svensson at the RSM Classic in St. Simons Island, Georgia. **Page B2**



In this section:

Comics & puzzles
Pages B4-5

Section **B**
Friday, November 20, 2026

HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL: THE PLAYOFFS

Hornets' Grillis has been a sack machine

Albert Grindle
The Gazette

When Lukas Grillis gets his claws dug into a jersey, opposing offensive linemen are powerless to stop him.

The Highland junior doesn't look the part of a powerhouse defensive end at 6-foot-1, 210 pounds. His production, however, outpaces 6-5, 260-pound five-star recruits as the top-seeded Hornets (11-1) gear up to play third-seeded Nordonia (11-1) tonight in the Division II, Region 5 championship at Twinsburg Tiger Stadium.



Grillis

One of the most respected aspects of coach Mike Gibbons' program is that Highland wins consistently without high-end college players. Grillis is hopeful an updated highlight film will get colleges looking his way, but capturing the Hornets' first regional title since 2013 comes first.

TONIGHT
WHO: Highland (11-1) vs. Nordonia (11-1)
WHAT: Division II, Region 5 championship
WHEN: 7
WHERE: Twinsburg Tiger Stadium
TV/RADIO: OHSAA.tv; Spectrumnews1.com

Grillis' statistics are unworldly with 23½ tackles for loss and 17½ sacks among 77 total tackles. The tackles for loss are the most by a Highland player since former Ohio State great Mike Kudla last played in 2001, while his sack total is believed to be a school record, though high school defensive statistics have tended to be compiled inconsistently throughout history.

"I love to hit people," Grillis said. "You have your own assignment when you're playing defensive line. Defensive end, it's C-gap and C-gap only. That's my own little spot, and I contain and do everything to make sure the C-gap is mine. That's my one job."

Featuring a high-revving motor, unusual raw strength and tremendous hand technique, Grillis has gone from student to teacher in less than a calendar year. He was the lone sophomore starter for a defense that allowed a meager 7.5 points on 170.3 yards per game last season, compiling 51 tackles, 11 for loss and four sacks and particularly playing well in a regional final loss to eventual state champion Avon.

Grillis was brought up to speed by then-seniors Dan Miller and Cody Bendau. This fall, he's mentored sophomore end Isaac Demming and junior tackle Jacob Arvanetes — the Hornets now rotate between three- and four-man fronts — and, along with All-Ohio linebacker Evan Foust, has spearheaded a unit that leads Medina County in scoring average (14.6 points), tackles for loss (69), sacks (33) and turnovers forced (22).

The consistency has been remarkable. While Grillis boasts efforts of four sacks at North Royalton and three at home vs. Nordonia, he's had a sack in 10-of-12 games and leads county linemen in overall tackles by 17.

"It was crazy. My best football memories are from last year with (Bendau) and (Miller) because those guys were just dudes," Grillis said. "It was so fun being with them. (They taught me) hard work, never give up and go into the game with a killer mindset.

"It's been a big difference (this year). Last year I'd have dudes come up to me and saying, 'Let's go!' and hyping me up. Now I have to go to the guys and do that to them. I have to be the role model that (Miller) and (Bendau) were for me last year for the kids along the D-line."

Grillis' biggest strength is exactly that: strength. He's proud of a 315-pound bench press, 500 squat and 465 deadlift, but he believes genetics are the true secret to the family's "sick strength." Grillis routinely overpowers opposing tackles, especially when he gets his arms extended, reads the play, sheds the block and pursues the ball.

See **GRILLIS,** B3

GOLF

She did it her way

Korda looking for big finish, not afraid to make mistakes

Doug Ferguson
The Associated Press

NAPLES, Florida — Nelly Korda arrived at the LPGA Tour's season finale with the potential for history in front of her. A victory in the CME Group Tour Championship puts her in the LPGA Hall of Fame at age 28 and moves her past Annika Sorenstam atop the tour's career money list.



Korda

That's of little concern. Korda has spent much of her week looking back at what led to another stellar season and the one trophy — the U.S. Women's Open at Riviera — she desperately wanted.

Reflections are not all positive.

Imagine a video of all the great golf played around the world this year with each star player getting only one highlight. What would she choose? The high-risk wedge she played to a tuck pin when she won the first major of the year at The Chevron Championship? That 3-foot putt that lipped in on the 18th at Riviera for a one-shot victory?

She chose a missed short putt, the occasional nemesis in her game.

"I feel like as athletes, as golfers, we want to be such perfectionists that people don't realize we make mistakes, and we miss what amateurs miss," Korda said Wednesday. "Athletes should just be more vulnerable as human beings. Sometimes we are put under such a microscope where we can't mistakes — whereas you can make mistakes and still rise to the occasion."

That's what she considers the key to her year. She started the season by playing in the final group in six straight tournaments — three wins, three runner-up finishes. This followed a season in which she didn't win at all, coming off seven wins in 2024.

Korda was dressed to the nines Tuesday night at the awards banquet to accept LPGA player of the year, which she clinched with two tournaments left in the season.

Through a few tears after hearing big sister Jessica narrate a video of her season — Korda hates crying in public — she preached a message of accepting mistakes instead of living up to a reputation of sheer greatness.

"I was so tired of being afraid to make mistakes that it blocked me up even more," she said at the banquet. "I told myself that I just don't want to

See **KORDA,** B2

BROWNS



AP

Browns tight end Harold Fannin Jr. runs with the ball after a reception Sunday in a win over the Texans at Huntington Bank Field.

Tight end Fannin Jr. walks into new role

Second-year player chosen by Monken as one of the captains in Sunday's win

Scott Petrak
The Gazette

Harold Fannin Jr. caught seven passes for 91 yards. He set up the winning touchdown in the final minute with a 30-yard gain down the seam that included his signature won't-go-down-easy run after the catch.

The walk that might've meant the most to him was from the sideline to midfield for the coin toss as one of the game captains chosen by coach Todd Monken. It was a first for the second-year tight end.

"Thank him for allowing me to be captain," Fannin said Sunday after the 27-24 come-from-behind win over the Texans. "Growing up, never thought I'd be an NFL captain. Here I am."



Fannin Jr.

Fannin was outstanding as a rookie in 2025 after getting drafted in the third round out of Bowling Green. He led the Browns with 72 catches for 731 yards and six touchdowns.

He's on pace to eclipse those numbers this year, with 44 catches for 544 yards and four touchdowns through Cleveland's 6-4 start, and is gaining a national reputation as someone who can make a defender look silly on a tackle attempt. He stiff-armed two Saints for a 39-yard touchdown in overtime and it took four defenders to bring him down on the key play against the Texans.

Veteran receiver Jerry Jeudy was asked if he'd ever seen a player that looked as difficult to tackle.

"I'm not going to lie, no. That boy's a beast," Jeudy said. "You can't just tackle that boy. He's different though. He keeps doing his thing every time. That's just him."

While Monken has raved about Fannin with the ball in his hands, calling him a "bull," it was Fannin's progress off the field that inspired Monken to name him a captain.

"He earned being a captain this week. Up until that point, he had not," Monken said. "He earned it by his diligence. He earned it by the work that he put in, not on the practice field, but what are you doing at night? Are you looking at the installs? When you come in the building, are you ready to go? Are you understanding the development piece of this in terms of you as a

See **BROWNS,** B2

cyan B1 magenta B1 yellow B1 black B1

TV & RADIO

Basketball

12:30 p.m., ESPN2 — College men: Shriners Children Charleston Classic, Oklahoma State vs. Minnesota, from Charleston, S.C.

2 p.m., CBSSN — College men: Greenbrier Tip-Off, George Washington vs. UAB, from White Sulphur Springs, W. Va.

3 p.m., ESPN2 — College men: Shriners Children Charleston Classic, Northwestern vs. Virginia Tech, from Charleston, S.C.

4:30 p.m., CBSSN — College men: Greenbrier Tip-Off, Rhode Island vs. Liberty, from White Sulphur Springs, W. Va.

5 p.m., ACC — College men: Manhattan at Miami

5:30 p.m., ESPN2 — College men: Shriners Children Charleston Classic, Dayton vs. Utah, from Charleston, S.C.

7 p.m., ACC — College men: Loyola (Md.) at Virginia

7 p.m., BTN — College men: Oakland at Purdue

7 p.m., CBSSN — College men: Baha Mar Hoops Bahamas Championship, Third-Place Game, from Nassau, Bahamas

7:30 p.m., PRIME VIDEO — NBA: Toronto at Detroit

7:30 p.m., TNT, truTV — College men: Iowa at Xavier

8 p.m., CBS — College men: Kentucky vs. Indiana, from Indianapolis

8 p.m., ESPNU — College men: Georgia at Georgia Tech

9 p.m., ACC — College men: Marshall at North Carolina

9 p.m., BTN — College men: E. Illinois at Illinois

9:30 p.m., CBSSN — College men: Baha Mar Hoops Bahamas Championship, championship, TBD, from Nassau, Bahamas

10 p.m., PRIME VIDEO — NBA: Houston at Denver

11 p.m., ESPN2 — College men: Saint Louis at Saint Mary's (Calif.)

11 p.m., BTN — College women: Baylor at Southern Cal

Football

6 p.m., FS1 — College: Iowa State at UCF

7 p.m., YouTube; WEOL.com — High school: Division II, regional final, Highland vs. Nordonia, from Twinsburg

7:30 p.m., ESPN — College: Clemson at Duke

7:30 p.m., ESPN2 — College: Bowling Green at Toledo

8 p.m., CW — College: UTEP at Air Force

8 p.m., FOX — College: Oregon at Michigan State

9 p.m., FS1 — College: New Mexico at Wyoming

Golf

Noon, GOLF — PGA Tour: The RSM Classic, second round, from St. Simons Island, Ga.

3 p.m., GOLF — LPGA Tour: CME Group Tour Championship, second round, from Naples, Fla.

Soccer (men)

7:45 a.m., FS2 — FIFA U-17 World Cup: Group stage, Belgium vs. Vietnam, from Doha, Qatar

9:45 a.m., FS2 — FIFA U-17 World Cup: Group stage, Italy vs. Jamaica, from Doha, Qatar

2:25 p.m., USA — Bundesliga: FC Koln at Bayern Munich

FOOTBALL

NFL

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

East	W	L	T	Pct.	PF	PA
Buffalo	8	1	0	.889	287	199
New England	5	5	0	.500	221	242
N.Y. Jets	2	8	0	.200	194	254
Miami	1	8	0	.111	148	224
South	**W**	**L**	**T**	**Pct.**	**PF**	**PA**
Jacksonville	7	2	0	.778	269	144
Houston	3	6	0	.333	233	219
Indianapolis	3	7	0	.300	208	271
Tennessee	1	8	0	.111	167	239
North	**W**	**L**	**T**	**Pct.**	**PF**	**PA**
Cincinnati	7	2	0	.778	278	193
Pittsburgh	6	3	0	.667	198	182
Cleveland	**6**	**4**	**0**	**.600**	**188**	**220**
Baltimore	4	6	0	.400	209	259
West	**W**	**L**	**T**	**Pct.**	**PF**	**PA**
Kansas City	7	2	0	.778	237	156
Denver	7	2	0	.778	198	186
Las Vegas	4	6	0	.400	251	289
L.A. Chargers	1	8	0	.111	144	239

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

East	W	L	T	Pct.	PF	PA
N.Y. Giants	5	3	1	.611	203	196
Dallas	4	6	0	.400	286	282
Washington	3	5	1	.389	196	223
Philadelphia	2	7	0	.222	148	221
South	**W**	**L**	**T**	**Pct.**	**PF**	**PA**
Carolina	4	5	0	.444	219	236
Tampa Bay	3	6	0	.333	202	178
New Orleans	3	6	0	.333	202	236
Atlanta	3	7	0	.300	201	258
North	**W**	**L**	**T**	**Pct.**	**PF**	**PA**
Detroit	7	2	0	.778	257	199
Minnesota	7	2	0	.778	176	126
Chicago	7	2	0	.778	241	184
Green Bay	6	4	0	.600	226	221
West	**W**	**L**	**T**	**Pct.**	**PF**	**PA**
San Francisco	8	1	0	.889	281	196
Seattle	6	4	0	.600	223	175
L.A. Rams	6	4	0	.600	248	187
Arizona	3	7	0	.300	184	289

Today's game
Indianapolis at Houston, 8:15 p.m.

Sunday's games
Arizona at Kansas City, 1 p.m.
Baltimore at Carolina, 1 p.m.
Miami at Buffalo, 1 p.m.
New Orleans at Chicago, 1 p.m.
Pittsburgh at Philadelphia, 1 p.m.
Tampa Bay at Detroit, 1 p.m.
Tennessee at Dallas, 1 p.m.
N.Y. Jets at L.A. Chargers, 4:05 p.m.
Jacksonville at N.Y. Giants, 4:25 p.m.
Las Vegas at Denver, 4:25 p.m.
Minnesota vs San Francisco (at Mexico City), 8:20 p.m.
BYE WEEK: Cleveland, New England, Atlanta, Green Bay, L.A. Rams, Seattle

Monday's game
Cincinnati at Washington, 8:15 p.m.

BASKETBALL

NBA

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division	W	L	Pct.	GB
Philadelphia	13	3	.813	—
Boston	11	4	.733	1½
New York	8	6	.571	4
Toronto	5	10	.333	7½
Brooklyn	3	11	.214	9
Southeast Division	**W**	**L**	**Pct.**	**GB**
Miami	9	6	.600	—
Atlanta	9	6	.600	—
Orlando	6	8	.429	2½
Washington	5	11	.313	4½
Charlotte	4	10	.286	4½
Central Division	**W**	**L**	**Pct.**	**GB**
Detroit	10	4	.714	—
Cleveland	**8**	**8**	**.500**	**3**
Indiana	5	10	.333	5½
Chicago	4	10	.286	6
Milwaukee	1	14	.067	9½

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division	W	L	Pct.	GB
San Antonio	12	3	.800	—
Houston	12	4	.750	½
Memphis	11	4	.733	1
Dallas	8	7	.533	4
New Orleans	5	11	.313	7½
Northwest Division	**W**	**L**	**Pct.**	**GB**
Minnesota	11	4	.733	—
Portland	9	5	.643	1½
Denver	8	5	.615	2
Oklahoma City	9	6	.600	2
Utah	3	13	.188	8½
Pacific Division	**W**	**L**	**Pct.**	**GB**
L.A. Lakers	13	3	.813	—
Golden State	8	7	.533	4½
Phoenix	7	7	.500	5
L.A. Clippers	4	9	.308	7½
Sacramento	1	13	.071	11

Wednesday's games
Houston 119, Indiana 104
Memphis 124, Cleveland 121
Philadelphia 121, Orlando 116
Miami 137, Milwaukee 130
Washington 103, Toronto 99
Atlanta 117, Oklahoma City 112
Dallas 116, Golden State 94
Detroit 122, New Orleans 109
Denver 105, Boston 101
Phoenix 128, Sacramento 107
Utah 109, L.A. Lakers 97
Chicago 137, Brooklyn 107

Thursday's games
Golden State at Memphis, 8 p.m.
L.A. Clippers at San Antonio, 8 p.m.
New York at Minnesota, 8 p.m.
Portland at Milwaukee, 8 p.m.

Today's games
Charlotte at Atlanta, 7 p.m.
Indiana at Cleveland, 7:30 p.m.
Orlando at Brooklyn, 7:30 p.m.
Toronto at Detroit, 7:30 p.m.
New Orleans at Oklahoma City, 8 p.m.
Washington at Chicago, 8 p.m.
Phoenix at Utah, 9:30 p.m.
Houston at Denver, 10 p.m.
Sacramento at L.A. Lakers, 10 p.m.

HOCKEY

NHL

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Tampa Bay	21	14	5	2	30	79	61
Ottawa	22	14	6	2	30	70	62
Montreal	22	13	5	4	30	72	66
Boston	22	14	7	1	29	76	56
Florida	23	12	8	3	27	72	68
Buffalo	21	8	9	4	20	58	74
Detroit	22	8	11	3	19	58	68
Toronto	23	8	13	2	18	72	82
Metropolitan Division	**GP**	**W**	**L**	**OT**	**Pts**	**GF**	**GA**
Carolina	21	16	3	2	34	87	47
New Jersey	22	15	7	0	30	82	64
N.Y. Rangers	22	13	8	1	27	67	58
N.Y. Islanders	20	10	6	4	24	65	57
Washington	19	10	9	0	20	64	70
Philadelphia	24	7	11	6	20	57	80
Pittsburgh	20	7	11	2	16	62	71
Columbus	19	7	12	0	14	46	63

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Central Division	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Minnesota	23	16	3	4	36	83	51
Dallas	21	13	6	2	28	60	53
Colorado	22	12	7	3	27	86	68
Nashville	22	11	6	5	27	67	66
Utah	23	11	9	3	25	77	79
Winnipeg	22	10	9	3	23	67	74
St. Louis	21	10	9	2	22	63	65
Chicago	21	6	13	2	14	52	86
Pacific Division	**GP**	**W**	**L**	**OT**	**Pts**	**GF**	**GA**
Edmonton	23	17	3	3	37	92	62
Vegas	23	13	6	4	30	77	67
Anaheim	22	11	10	1	23	85	85
San Jose	24	10	12	2	22	65	86
Calgary	22	10	11	1	21	56	76
Seattle	18	9	8	1	19	59	66
Los Angeles	19	6	11	2	14	52	63
Vancouver	23	5	17	1	11	66	100

NOTE: Two points for a win, one point for overtime loss.

Wednesday's games
Boston 4, Detroit 1
Montreal 3, New Jersey 2
Utah 4, Colorado 1

Thursday's games
Buffalo at Washington, 7 p.m.
Los Angeles at Toronto, 7 p.m.
Montreal at Carolina, 7 p.m.
N.Y. Islanders at Winnipeg, 7 p.m.
Philadelphia at Ottawa, 7 p.m.
St. Louis at Pittsburgh, 7 p.m.
Edmonton at Tampa Bay, 7:30 p.m.
Columbus at Chicago, 8 p.m.
Minnesota at Calgary, 8 p.m.
Anaheim at Colorado, 9 p.m.
Vancouver at Seattle, 9:40 p.m.
Dallas at Vegas, 10 p.m.

Today's games
No games scheduled

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

Top 25 schedule

Today's game
No. 14 Oregon (7-3) at Michigan State (3-7), 8 p.m.

Saturday's games
No. 1 Georgia (9-1) at South Carolina (6-4), 7:30 p.m.
No. 2 Utah (10-0) at TCU (5-5), 9 p.m.
No. 3 Notre Dame (9-1) vs. SMU (7-3), 7:30 p.m.
No. 4 UCLA (10-0) at Michigan (5-5), 3:30 p.m.
No. 5 Miami (9-1) vs. Virginia Tech (6-4), 7 p.m.
No. 6 Indiana (9-1) at Washington (6-4), 3:30 p.m.
No. 7 Alabama (8-2) vs. Chattanooga (7-4), 2 p.m.
No. 8 Texas (8-2) vs. Arkansas (4-6), 3:30 p.m.
No. 9 Tennessee (8-2) vs. LSU (6-4), 3:30 p.m.
No. 10 Wake Forest (9-1) at Georgia Tech (3-7), Noon
No. 11 Texas Tech (9-1) at Baylor (6-4), 3:30 p.m.
No. 12 BYU (8-2) at Kansas (4-6), noon
No. 13 Iowa (8-2) at Illinois (6-4), 2:30 p.m.
No. 15 Boise State (9-1) vs. San Diego State (5-5), 9:30 p.m.
No. 16 Ohio State (7-3) at Nebraska (6-4), noon
No. 17 Kentucky (7-3) at Missouri (6-4), 7:30 p.m.
No. 18 Southern Cal (7-3) vs. Maryland (4-6), 6:15 p.m.
No. 19 Arizona (7-3) at Kansas State (4-6), 7 p.m.
No. 20 Houston (7-3) at West Virginia (5-5), 1 p.m.
No. 21 Louisville (7-3) vs. Pittsburgh (6-4), 7:30 p.m.
No. 22 Liberty (9-1) vs. W. Kentucky (4-6), 1 p.m.
No. 23 Florida (6-4) vs. Vanderbilt (4-6), noon
No. 24 Memphis (8-2) at Navy (3-6), noon
No. 25 Mississippi (6-4) vs. Wofford (5-6), noon

LOCAL SCHEDULE

Today

FOOTBALL
Highland vs. Nordonia, Division II, Region 5 final (Twinsburg), 7 p.m.

BOWLING
Cloverleaf vs. Springfield (Spins Bowl Akron), 3:45 p.m.

Saturday

COLLEGE FOOTBALL
Ohio State at Nebraska, noon

GIRLS BASKETBALL
Wadsworth at Dublin Coffman, 11 a.m.

BOWLING
Buckeye at Ravenna Girls Tournament (Spins Bowl Kent), 10 a.m.
Brunswick at Greater Cleveland Conference No. 1 (Wickliffe Lanes), 2 p.m.

GOLF

Thorbjornsen, Svensson go low

Pair shares low score, lead PGA Tour finale

The Associated Press

ST. SIMONS ISLAND, Ga. — Michael Thorbjornsen spent the last few weeks working on his iron play and saw it pay off Thursday in the rain and wind at Sea Island. He made five of his seven birdies inside 10 feet for a 6-under 64 to share the low score with Jesper Svensson in the RSM Classic.



Svensson

Thorbjornsen, one of the group of rising young stars who won the Rocket Classic this year for his first PGA Tour title, had five birdies in a seven-hole stretch around the turn at the tougher Seaside course, which included an 8-foot par save.

Svensson, who needs at least a two-way tie for second to finish among the top 100 in the FedEx Cup to keep a full card for next year, birdied his last four holes on the easier Plantation course for an 8-under 64.

Max Greyserman and Garrick Higgo each shot 65 on the Plantation, while Sea Island member Keith Mitchell shot 65 at Seaside.

The final tournament of the PGA Tour brings different levels of pressure, mainly for those who want to be fully exempt next year by finishing in the top 100.

Greyserman, who came in at No. 91 and should be safe, only thinks about posting the best score he can. Emiliano Grillo (No. 113) is well aware what's at stake.

"Everybody knows what they need to do out there," Grillo said after a 66 at Plantation. "Yeah, good start. Hopefully many more of these. I know what I need to do and it was good."

Thorbjornsen is among nine players in the field who finished in the top 50 on the PGA Tour and are exempt for all the $20 million signature events. He felt the missing piece was his iron game, not giving himself enough birdie chances.



AP

Michael Thorbjornsen hits from the 11th tee during the first round of the RSM Classic on Thursday on St. Simons Island, Georgia.

"We've worked very hard on my irons, just having more control," Thorbjornsen said. "My driving stats have been pretty decent these past couple years and I haven't really been able to take advantage of it. So trying to get the ball closer to the hole. That gives you more birdie looks but also less bogey chances."

Ten of the top 16 players on the leaderboard to par came into the week outside the top 100. Svensson is at No. 135. He spent most of his day trying to keep himself and his golf clubs dry and negotiating a wind that wasn't as strong as practice rounds but no less a nuisance.

The Swede had seven birdies on the back nine at Plantation and only wants to keep going.

"You can't really deny the situation that you're in," Svensson said. "Not really thinking of it when you're playing as much as trying to hit the right areas and hit some good shots. That's number one task really and see where that takes me."

Brooks Koepka has been working with new coaches, including Brad Faxon with his putting that hurt him so much this year. Playing for the first time in six weeks, the five-time major champion opened with a 67 on Seaside.

Blades Brown, at No. 54 in the world, had a pair of birdies late in his round to salvage a 69 at Seaside. Ben James, the PGA Tour University's No. 1 player who is one spot behind Brown in the world ranking, shot 68 at Plantation.

Erik van Rooyen, who contended last week in the Austin Championship, ended his season when he had to withdraw with a rib injury.

KORDA

From B1

play golf that way. I don't want to live life that way. I want to be able to breathe. So, I went into this year saying, 'OK, I'll figure it out.' If I make a mistake, I'll go into it with a mindset of I'll just figure it out."

That she did. Now comes the final act at Tiburon Golf Club, a season finale for the top 60 players all with an equal chance at the $4 million prize, by far the largest in women's golf. Anyone who wins is crowned the Race to CME Globe champion.

The leading contenders are familiar faces — Haeran Ryu, who won two straight majors after Korda, and Jeeno Thitikul, the defending champion at Tiburon who briefly overtook Korda at No. 1 in the world last year when the American was not winning.

"I think it's a course that you just need to go aggressive on it because like you don't have anything to lose," Thitikul said. "I think everyone who came here, we just came here for bonus. It's the last event of the year. I feel like going for the pin is the only answer to be able to hoist the trophy."

Korda was in good spirits during the pro-am Wednesday, singing and dancing to music as she rode the cart on a resort course that requires a half-dozen cart rides between greens and tees. It was not built for walking.

Her last victory was the U.S. Women's Open the first week in June. She has played only eight times since then, skipping the four-tournament swing through Asia again to recharge and reset.

Dating to her big breakthrough in 2021, when she won her first major at Atlanta Athletic Club, reached No. 1 in the world for the first time and won Olympic gold in Japan, she has yet to win on the LPGA Tour from July until November.

"Still trying to figure out that middle part of the year," she said.

She says it has nothing to do with a post-U.S. Open letdown. It seems similar to Rory McIlroy, chasing a Masters green jacket for 17 years until finally winning — to complete the career Grand Slam — and then going five months before his next victory.

"As for losing motivation or knowing one of the biggest wins I wanted in my career was checked off, that doesn't mean I have less motivation," Korda said. "It's actually the opposite. I want to be in that position more and more."

NFL

Rams' Nacua suspended 3 games

Star WR penalized can serve suspension while on injured reserve

Greg Beacham
The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Los Angeles Rams receiver Puka Nacua has been suspended for three games for violating the NFL's personal conduct policy, and he will serve the ban while already on injured reserve.

The All-Pro receiver won't be paid during his suspension, which was announced Thursday.

But thanks to the timing of his ban, Nacua won't miss any games that he wouldn't already miss because of his sprained knee ligaments and turf toe.

Nacua went on injured reserve last week, and he is eligible to return both from IR and his suspension when the Rams (6-4) host the Cowboys on Dec. 20.



AP

Rams wide receiver Puka Nacua runs the ball during the second half against the Commanders in Landover, Maryland, on Nov. 8.

BROWNS

From B1

player and what goes into being an elite player? And I think he's come a long way in that regard.

"Not that he was below the line, but it's one thing to be a rookie and to have things not be expected. It's another to take those next steps, the expectations rise in everything that you do. And he's done a great job over the last month of really elevating certain parts of his preparation."

Fannin said he's not watching more film away from the building but has sharpened his focus on the daily grind under the direction of run game coordinator/tight ends coach Jeff Blasko.

"I'd probably say Jeff emphasizes in walkthrough making it game-like, so that whatever we do in the ACT, which is like the walkthrough, we do in practice, we do in the game," Fannin said Wednesday before the players dispersed for the bye. "So I think (Monken) probably noticed that. I feel like my preparation has always been good, but I've been extra focused on taking care of my body and stuff like that.

"Probably just my consistency. I don't know how it was before, but he probably see a step in consistency doing it every day, just coming to work, ready to work."

Fannin said there wasn't a conversation with Monken about improving in that area but Blasko is always talking to him about getting more consistent.

Tight end Blake Whiteheart has had behind-the-scenes access to watch Fannin develop over the last two seasons.

"He's always been on top of the stuff, but just I feel like his detail and just how he conducts himself in meetings and just how he's been preparing for the games has just been really, really good," Whiteheart told The Chronicle-Telegram. "Intentional in walkthroughs, intentional in practice and asking good questions. You definitely want that from one of your best players.

"And he's definitely one of our best weapons. He's one of our best players on our team, one of the best in I think the whole NFL. So being in that room and seeing how much better he's getting every game and seeing the opportunities, how he takes advantage of it, I think is due to how he prepares and how he's maturing as a player and as a person for sure."

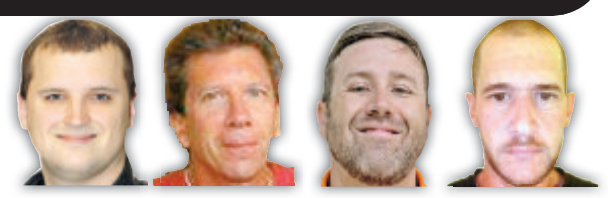
Quarterback Deshaun Watson is a beneficiary of Fannin's growth. With the game on the line against the Texans, Monken told Watson to let it rip down the seam and Watson trusted Fannin to make the play.

"I thought he was down, then I looked up at the jumbotron and he's still trying to get into the end zone," Watson said. "He's a beast, he's a bull, man. It's been cool, I got to watch him a little bit last year from the sideline, and now I get to play with him, he's definitely a quarterback's friend.

"So it's super dope to be able to play with a guy like that and be so young. Hopefully I continue to play with him for a very long time and continue to stack the types of plays we've been making."

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Gazette Pick-It Line



	Albert Grindle	Rick Noland	John Urchek	Chad Grant
Overall	60-13	58-15	56-17	55-18
Last week	1-0	0-1	1-0	1-0
Highland vs. Nordonia				

HIGHLAND HORNETS (11-1)

COLORS: Green and black
CONFERENCE: Suburban League National Conference (champion)
COACH: Mike Gibbons (12th season, 107-32 record)
PLAYOFF APPEARANCES (23-15 record): 2026, 2025, 2024, 2023, 2022, 2021, 2020, 2017, 2015, 2014, 2013 (D-II state semis), 2011, 2009, 2008, 2001, 2000
NOTEWORTHY: Lukas Grillis had another big game last week against Mayfield with seven tackles, including 2½ for loss and a sack to move his season totals to 23½ tackles for loss and 17½ sacks. Fellow end Isaac Demming also starred with 2½ tackles for loss, while Owen Zielinski, Jacob Arvanetes, Nathan Capotosto and Bryce Boggs shared the other two. Jake Weber broke up three passes, while Chatham Phillips, Ryan Haney and Grillis had one apiece.



Running back Levi Clark

- Evan Foust has sewn up the Medina County tackling championship with 106 after surpassing Medina's Evan Colon (104) last week.
- Over the last three games, sophomore Levi Clark has 26 carries for 184 yards (7.1 average), three catches for 73 yards (24.3) and three touchdowns.
- Jake Weber (970) and Anthony DePompei (923) are on the cusp of 1,000 all-purpose yards this season. All-purpose yards are comprised of rushing, receiving and returns of interceptions, fumbles, kickoffs and punts.
- Last week represented the Hornets' sixth game without a turnover this season, including second straight.
- Highland's 276 rushing yards against Mayfield were a season high, bettering 214 against North Royalton.
- Jonah Kowza has made 46 consecutive extra points.
- The Hornets are averaging only 35.4 penalty yards over the last five games.
- Highland needs 76 passing yards to join 2024 (2,410) and 2013 (2,021) as the only teams in school history with at least 2,000.
- The Hornets have 109 points in first quarters this seaon. Their opponent, Nordonia, has 115.
- The defense has allowed fewer than 100 rushing yards in four of the last six games. Mayfield had 54 last week.

NORDONIA KNIGHTS (11-1)

COLORS: Green and white.
CONFERENCE: Suburban League National Conference (runner-up).
COACH: Scott Barwidi (1st season)
PLAYOFF APPEARANCES (25-20 record): 2025, 2024, 2023, 2022, 2021, 2020, 2018, 2015, 2014 (D-II state runner-up), 2013, 2012, 2008, 2007, 2006 (D-II state semis), 2004, 2003, 2002 (D-II state runner-up), 1999, 1988, 1985
NOTEWORTHY: Nordonia has been on a roll since losing to Highland 23-21, when it was without top receivers Dominick Jackson and Collin Atha. The Knights edged Hudson 23-9, pulled away late from Wadsworth to win 42-33 and upset Walsh Jesuit 23-21.

- Quarterback Steven Fakult shared SL National Conference Offensive Player of the Year with Hudson running back Reno Ferri, while hybrid safety Brock Barwidi shared defensive player of the year with Foust. Tight end/linebacker Karsen Fisher is committed to Toledo.
- Led by Fakult (184-for-293, 2,766 yards, 29 touchdowns, 11 interceptions; 89 carries, 301 yards, 4 TDs) the spread offense boasts impressive depth and run/pass balance. C.J. Mayes (105 carries, 541 yards, 9 TDs), Brayden Myers (44, 269, 2) and Shawn Zivkovich (48, 261, 3) rotate at running back, while the receiving corps boasts Jackson (50 catches, 805 yards, 7 TDs) Grant Kaminski (38, 496, 7), Brock Barwidi (27, 431, 5), Atha (26, 422, 4), Jamiere Davis (15, 332, 4) and Fisher (13, 185, 1).
- Nordonia has had a reputation for below-average defenses in recent years, but this year's team features eight senior starters and allows a respectable 19.3 points per game. Linebacker Trent Foster had a big game against Walsh Jesuit (12 tackles, 1 for loss) to go over 100 tackles for the season, Fisher has 6½ sacks and Brock Barwidi does a bit of everything with 95 tackles (3 for loss), six interceptions, 10 pass breakups and 27 punt returns for 315 yards that include a 77-yard touchdown at Wadsworth. Davis (7 pass breakups, 3 INTs) and Jackson (9, 2) are standout backs.
- Scott Barwidi replaced Jeff Fox, who left after 14 seasons to become athletic director at his alma mater, Willoughby South. Barwidi has coached the seniors since they were in fourth grade, and his son, Brock, is the Knights' best all-around player.
- Nordonia and Highland played a memorable game for first place in the old SL on Oct. 25, 2013. While current Browns cornerback Denzel Ward picked off the Hornets' Bruce Kinsey for a 10-yard touchdown and caught a 24-yard TD from David Murray, Highland ultimately held on 28-25. Ward and the Knights went on to become the D-II state runners-up in 2014, falling to Cincinnati LaSalle.

Standings

CLEVELAND WEST CONFERENCE

School	Ovr.	Conf.	PF	PA
Rocky River	11-1	7-0	42.6	10.8
Lakewood	8-3	5-2	33.1	25.2
Buckeye	**6-6**	**5-2**	**26.0**	**25.3**
North Olmsted	5-6	4-2	26.1	30.7
Bay	3-7	3-4	22.1	25.1
Valley Forge	2-8	2-5	12.9	30.1
Westlake	2-8	1-6	30.2	32.4
Normandy	0-10	0-7	3.7	51.6

GREATER CLEVELAND CONFERENCE

School	Ovr.	Conf.	PF	PA
Mentor	10-2	6-1	35.2	20.9
Strongsville	8-4	6-1	34.1	22.1
Riverside	7-4	6-1	31.2	23.6
Brunswick	**6-5**	**4-3**	**27.5**	**36.2**
Euclid	4-7	3-4	19.0	26.5
Lorain	2-8	1-6	23.1	42.7
Shaker Heights	2-8	1-6	11.4	32.5
Cleveland Heights	1-9	1-6	15.9	27.3

LORAIN COUNTY LEAGUE

School	Ovr.	Conf.	PF	PA
Keystone	10-1	6-0	36.7	14.9
Columbia	9-2	5-1	39.0	17.6
Firelands	7-5	4-2	26.8	22.6
Brookside	3-7	3-3	33.0	45.0
Black River	**3-7**	**2-4**	**18.8**	**30.0**
Clearview	1-9	1-5	15.4	41.8
Wellington	1-8	0-6	13.8	31.3

METRO ATHLETIC CONFERENCE

School	Ovr.	Conf.	PF	PA
Norton	9-2	6-1	37.0	14.7
Cloverleaf	**8-3**	**6-1**	**32.3**	**17.1**
Streetsboro	9-3	6-1	36.3	22.2
Woodridge	8-3	5-2	35.5	17.3
Roosevelt	6-4	4-3	30.3	16.3
Tallmadge	5-5	3-4	19.8	20.0
Ravenna	4-6	2-5	23.6	29.6
Field	3-7	2-5	11.7	39.6
Cuyahoga Falls	3-7	1-6	20.9	32.9
Springfield	0-10	0-7	2.9	40.7

SUBURBAN LEAGUE
National Conference

School	Ovr.	Conf.	PF	PA
Highland	**11-1**	**7-0**	**33.8**	**14.6**
Nordonia	11-1	6-1	38.9	19.3
Wadsworth	**9-3**	**5-2**	**32.1**	**16.0**
Hudson	9-4	4-3	34.8	16.9
Solon	5-6	3-4	14.9	27.5
Medina	**2-8**	**2-5**	**18.6**	**35.3**
North Royalton	4-7	1-6	19.7	32.7
Stow	2-8	0-7	26.3	33.8

Playoff pairings

DIVISION I

Region 1 — No. 1 St. Edward (11-1) vs. No. 3 Mentor (10-2) at Parma Byers Field
Region 2 — No. 2 Springfield (10-2) vs. No. 4 Huber Heights Wayne (8-4) at Piqua High School
Region 3 — No. 4 Powell Olentangy Liberty (8-4) vs. No. 6 Pickerington North (10-3) at Columbus St. Francis DeSales High School
Region 4 — No. 1 Cincinnati Princeton (12-0) vs. No. 2 Cincinnati Elder (10-2) at Paycor Stadium, Cincinnati

DIVISION II

Region 5 — No. 1 Highland (11-1) vs. No. 3 Nordonia (11-1) at Twinsburg High School
Region 6 — No. 1 Toledo Central Catholic (10-2) vs. No. 3 Avon (10-2) at Clyde High School
Region 7 — No. 1 Columbus Bishop Watterson (11-0) vs. No. 3 Massillon (11-1) at Zanesville High School
Region 8 — No. 1 Cincinnati Anderson (11-1) vs. No. 2 Harrison (10-2) at Mason High School

DIVISION III

Region 9 — No. 2 Notre Dame-Cathedral Latin (11-1) vs. No. 8 Youngstown Ursuline (9-4) at Ravenna High School
Region 10 — No. 2 Ontario (11-1) vs. No. 4 Wapakoneta (9-3) at Ohio Health Field at Harding Stadium, Marion
Region 11 — No. 1 Steubenville (10-2) vs. No. 3 Columbus East (11-1) at New Philadelphia High School
Region 12 — No. 1 Bellbrook (12-0) vs. No. 2 Tipp City Tippecanoe (11-1) at Xenia High School

DIVISION IV

Region 13 — No. 3 West Branch (11-1) vs. No. 5 West Geauga (11-2) at Stow High School
Region 14 — No. 2 Shelby (12-0) vs. No. 4 Clear Fork (10-2) at Mansfield Arlin Field
Region 15 — No. 1 Gnadenhutten Indian Valley (11-0) vs. No. 2 New Lexington (11-1) at Coshocton High School
Region 16 — No. 2 London (10-2) vs. No. 5 Urbana (10-3) at Marysville High School

DIVISION V

Region 17 — No. 1 Perry (12-0) vs. No. 3 Girard (12-0) at Ashtabula Lakeside High School
Region 18 — No. 4 Archbold (11-1) vs. No. 10 Coldwater (9-4) at Findlay Donnell Stadium
Region 19 — No. 1 Ironton (11-1) vs. No. 2 Beverly Fort Frye (11-1) at Jackson High School
Region 20 — No. 4 Waynesville (10-2) vs. No. 6 Middletown Bishop Fenwick (8-5) at Lakota East High School

DIVISION VI

Region 21 — No. 1 Kirtland (11-1) vs. No. 2 Canfield South Range (11-1) at Uniontown Lake High School
Region 22 — No. 1 Liberty Center (12-0) vs. No. 7 Carey (9-4) at Lima Senior High School
Region 23 — No. 4 Woodsfield Monroe Central (9-3) vs. No. 7 Sugarcreek Garaway (10-3) at Meadowbrook High School
Region 24 — No. 2 Cincinnati Deer Park (11-1) vs. No. 9 St. Henry (10-3) at Northmont High School

DIVISION VII

Region 25 — No. 2 Cuyahoga Heights (11-1) vs. No. 4 New Middletown Springfield (9-3) at Louisville High School
Region 26 — No. 1 Leipsic (12-0) vs. No. 2 Bascom Hopewell-Loudon (12-0) at Millbury Lake High School
Region 27 — No. 1 Willow Wood Symmes Valley (12-0) vs. No. 2 Danville (12-0) at Logan High School
Region 28 — No. 1 Maria Stein Marion Local (12-0) vs. No. 7 New Bremen (8-5) at Sidney High School

My, things have changed

Teams have improved greatly since Week 4 meeting

Albert Grindle
The Gazette

The Highland football team witnessed firsthand what happens when Nordonia is locked in, as the Knights cut a 23-0 halftime deficit to 23-21 in the final seconds of the Suburban League National Conference opener in Week 4.

The top-seeded Hornets (11-1) fully believe third-seeded Nordonia (11-1) is a much-improved team since then, especially since the Knights were without two-way standout Dominick Jackson, but Highland believes it is much-improved, too, heading into the Division II, Region 5 championship game tonight at Twinsburg Tiger Stadium.

The Hornets are seeking their first regional title since 2013, when Bruce Kinsey and the boys won three tight games to capture Region 4. Nordonia is searching for its first since 2014, when current Browns cornerback Denzel Ward, David Murray and Alex Alders led the Knights to the state final before falling to Cincinnati LaSalle.



Haney

"We're having a lot of fun on all these cold days," Highland right tackle Ethan McCarthy said. "We're just putting our heads down and working through it. We're a team, and we're sticking together. That's the vibe we've got right now."

Nordonia is driven by a deep senior class that boasts D-II Northeast Inland District Offensive Player of the Year Steven Fakult at quarterback, SL National Conference co-Defensive Player of the Year Brock Barwidi at outside linebacker, Jackson at wide receiver and cornerback and Toledo recruit Karsen Fisher at H-back and inside linebacker. A large chunk of those 12th-graders play both ways, though a loyal commitment to timeshares at multiple positions — similar to Avon — keeps everyone fairly fresh.

The Knights have won eight straight since losing to Highland, including 23-9 over Hudson, 42-33 over Wadsworth and 23-21 over Walsh Jesuit. They are averaging 35.8 points during that run under first-year coach Scott Barwidi, who played with Highland monster back Ryan Haney's father, Jason, at what was then called Baldwin-Wallace College (now Baldwin Wallace University).

"They're a completely different team. They're way better than they were before," McCarthy said. "We're going treat them like that, and we're preparing like they're like any other team we haven't played before."

While the left-handed Fakult is the engine that drives a diverse spread offense built around inside zone running, balance is what really makes Nordonia unique. C.J. Mayes (105 carries, 541 yards, 9 TDs), Brayden Myers (44, 269, 2) and Shawn Zivkovich (48, 261, 3) split time at running back, while the receiving corps has Jackson (50 catches, 805 yards, 7 TDs), Grant Kaminski (38, 496, 7), Brock Barwidi (27, 431, 5), Collin Atha (26, 422, 4), Jamiere Davis (15, 332, 4) and Fisher (13, 185, 1).

Led by second-team All-Ohio linebacker Evan Foust (Medina County-leading 106 tackles) and sack machine Lukas Grillis (23½ tackles for loss, 17½ sacks), Highland's defense has been hot with averages of 9.1 points and 208.1 yards since a pedestrian four-game start to the season. The Hornets have allowed a meager combined seven points on 252 yards in 31-7 and 32-0 blowouts of SL American Conference members Brecksville and Mayfield to open the preseason.

"We all have to do our job," said Haney, who had a key third-down pass breakup against Mayfield. "We make them earn it. That's all we do. We can't let up big plays. If they do score, they're earning it. They'll pay for that at the end of the game.

"What impresses me (about Nordonia) is they have good drive, they have good energy and they want to compete."

The Knights had an average defensive reputation in recent years but have righted the ship this season with eight seniors in the starting lineup. Blitzing surprisingly little out a 3-4 scheme, Nordonia prefers instead to change fronts, stunt linemen and mix coverages, including using Brock Barwidi as the deep middle man in Cover 2.

Linebacker Trent Foster had a big game last week against Walsh Jesuit (12 tackles, 1 for loss) to surpass 100 tackles for the season, Fisher has 6½ sacks and Brock Barwidi does a bit of everything with 95 tackles (3 for loss), six interceptions, 10 pass breakups and 27 punt returns for 315 yards that include a 77-yard touchdown at Wadsworth. Davis (7 pass breakups, 3 INTs) and Jackson (9, 2) are standouts in the backfield.

Highland's offense turned heads last week with a brilliant performance that featured emergency quarterback Anthony DePompei rushing for 119 yards and throwing for 123. Starter Colton Wadle (ankle) has looked sharp in practice and is expected to play, but the Hornets also have had game-changing performances from Foust (59 carries, 287 yards; 16 catches, 313 yards, team-high 12 TDs), Levi Clark (57 carries, 429 yards, 7 total TDs), Jake Weber (36 catches, 639 yards, 9) and Ben Radigan (18, 412, 5) at various times this season.

The line of Jacob Cirino, Wyatt Sitz, Spencer Marquis, Nolan Farley and McCarthy, left to right, also is coming off arguably its best performance of the season with a season-high 276 yards on the ground.

"The connection on the O-line is a lot better than what it was in the earlier weeks," McCarthy said. "We're calling things out and communicating. We've just built this bond that's inseparable, and I think that's one of our keys to success."

Highland is well aware its lone regional title came in 2013 and that no one expected the inexperienced team to be in this situation.

The SL National Conference will have a member in the state semifinals. The Hornets figure that may as well be them.

"We're just taking it week by week," Haney said. "We have a certain mentality that we want to make it as far as we can. The farthest we've ever made it is the state semifinals in 2013, and we want to match that.

"Actually, we want to go farther than that. We don't really care who we play. We just care that if we prepare right, we'll beat them."

Contact Albert Grindle at (330) 721-4043 or agrindle@medina-gazette.com.

GRILLIS

From B1

What makes him elite, however, is hand fighting honed from ringing up a 28-7 record for the tradition-rich wrestling team last season. Grillis can quickly shock his man with a two-hand punch and throw him to the ground but also slap his man's hands upward, allowing him to get under the shoulders and create leverage to break into the backfield with power and speed.

A first-team All-Big Ten choice as a senior at Ohio State, Kudla always said quick hands are what separate good defensive ends from great ones. Grillis also lives by the philosophy, combining that with his no-holds barred approach to the game.

"The kid's got a motor. He's non-stop," Gibbons said. "Wrestling has a big impact with how he plays on the football field. He's an aggressive kid and plays with great leverage. He plays violent all the time."

Grillis will be a marked man tonight after sacking Nordonia's Steven Fakult three times in a 23-21 victory on Sept. 11. The Hornets rolled to a 23-0 halftime lead in that one, though the Knights are now brimming with confidence considering they were without top receivers Dominick Jackson and Collin Atha and have won eight straight games since, including a 23-21 upset of Walsh Jesuit last week.

Taking first-year defensive coordinator Mike Nettling's favorite saying of "put him in the torture chamber" to heart, Grillis believes setting the tone will again determine Highland's chances at victory.

"Our defense when we're watching film (in the fieldhouse), we all have killer mindsets," he said. "Next play, next play, we're always ready to go. We never let up.

"I'd say coming off the bat super hard (is the key). Last time we we played them, we came out punching. We were going crazy. That's what stopped their momentum early."

Albert Grindle at (330) 721-4043 or agrindle@medina-gazette.com.

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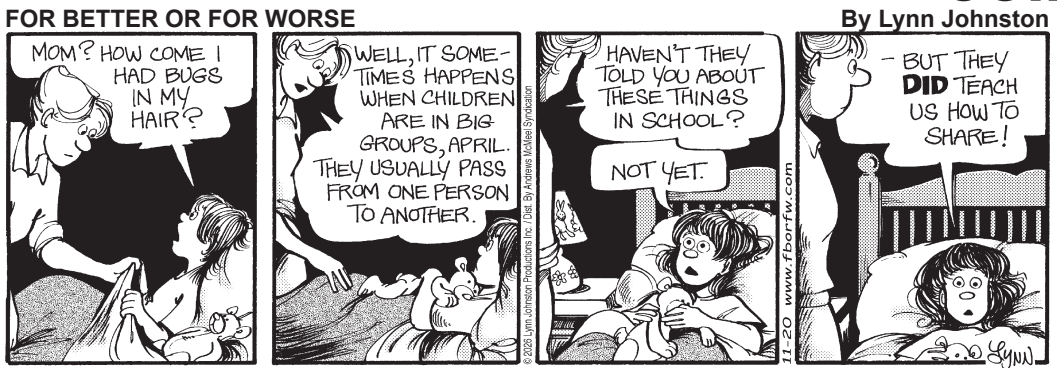
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COMICS

FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE

By Lynn Johnston



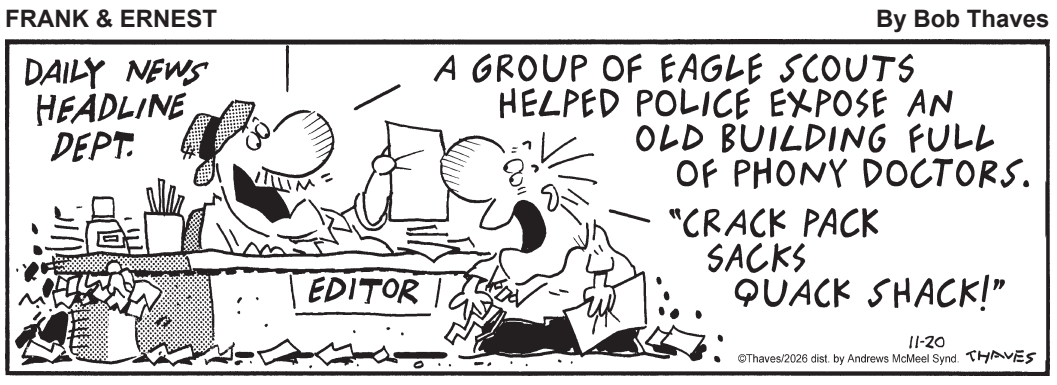
ARLO AND JANIS

By Jimmy Johnson



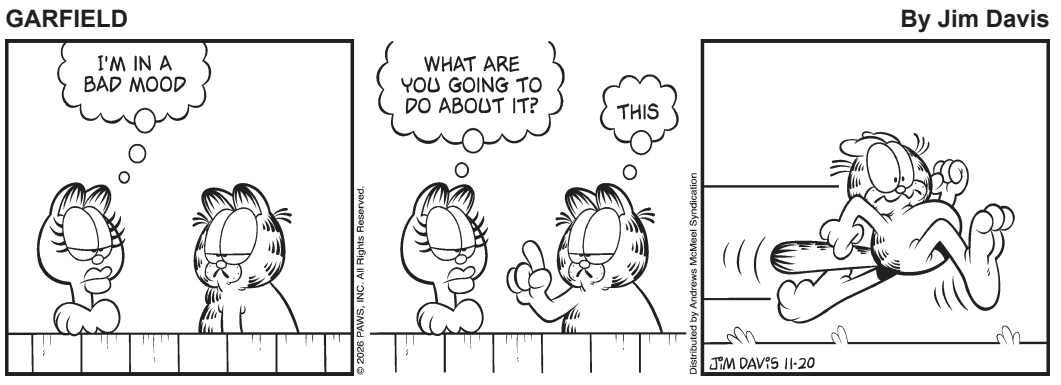
FRANK & ERNEST

By Bob Thaves



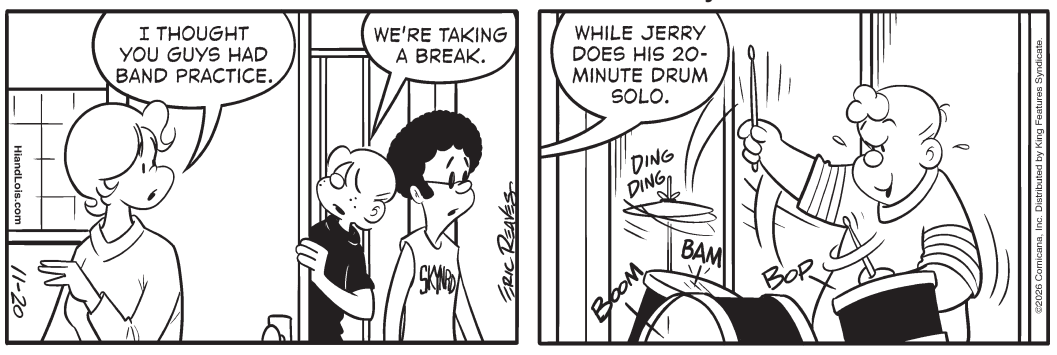
GARFIELD

By Jim Davis



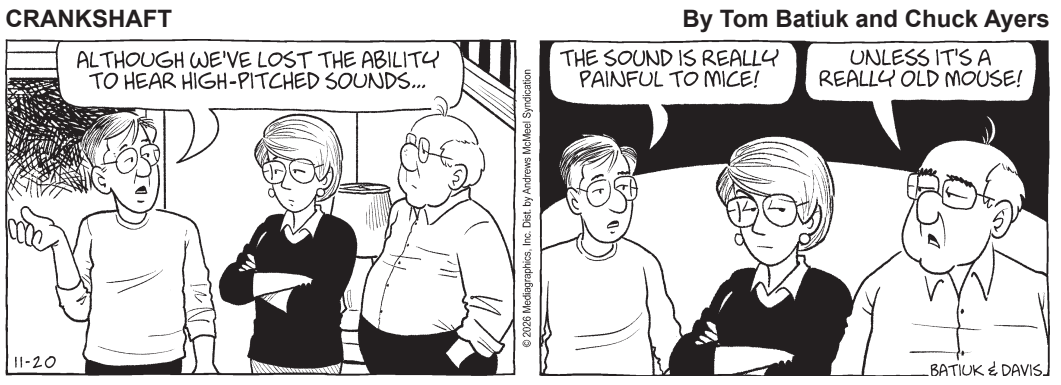
HI AND LOIS

By Mort Walker and Dik Browne



CRANKSHAFT

By Tom Batiuk and Chuck Ayers



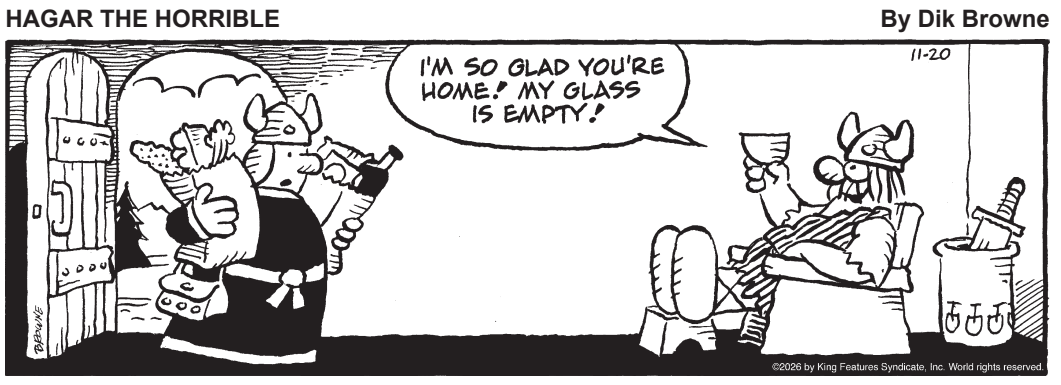
ZITS

By Jerry Scott and Jim Borgman



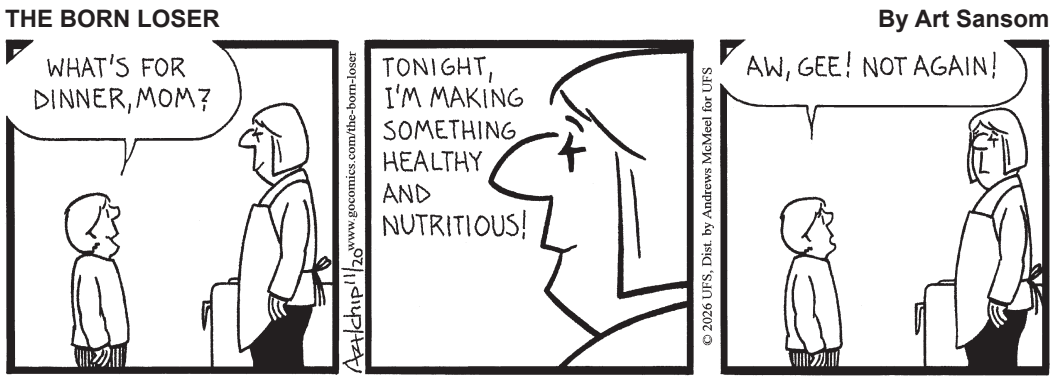
HAGAR THE HORRIBLE

By Dik Browne



THE BORN LOSER

By Art Sansom



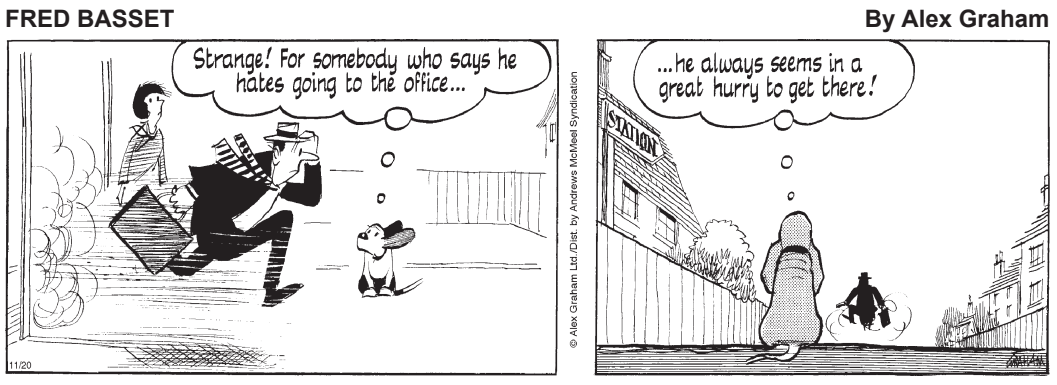
MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM

By Mike Peters



FRED BASSET

By Alex Graham



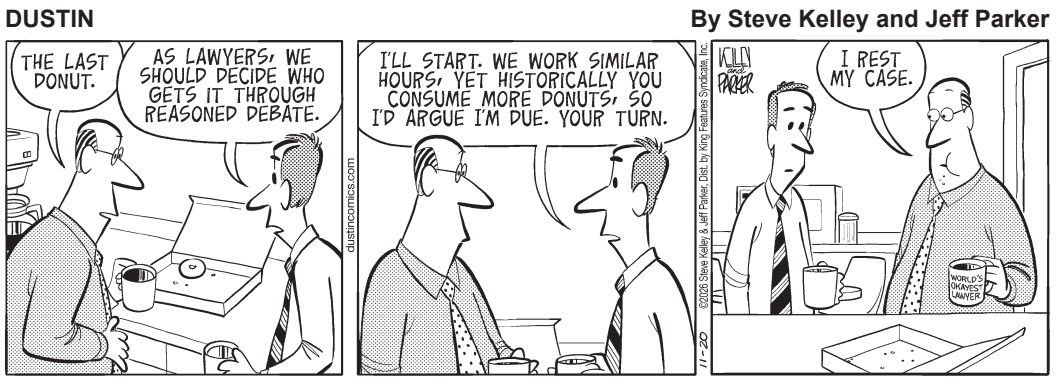
OVER THE HEDGE

By Michael Fry & T. Lewis



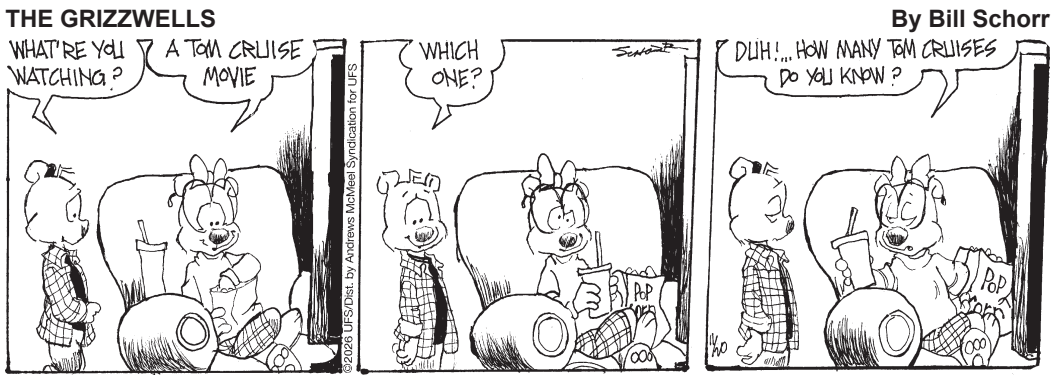
DUSTIN

By Steve Kelley and Jeff Parker



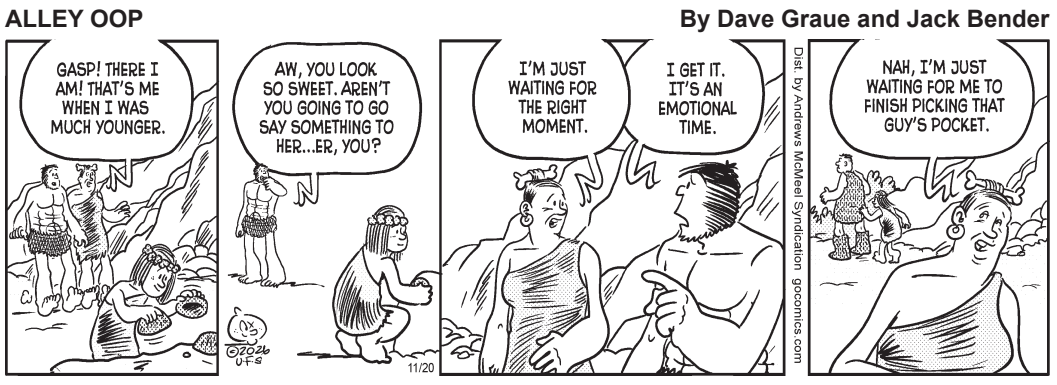
THE GRIZZWELLS

By Bill Schorr



ALLEY OOP

By Dave Graue and Jack Bender



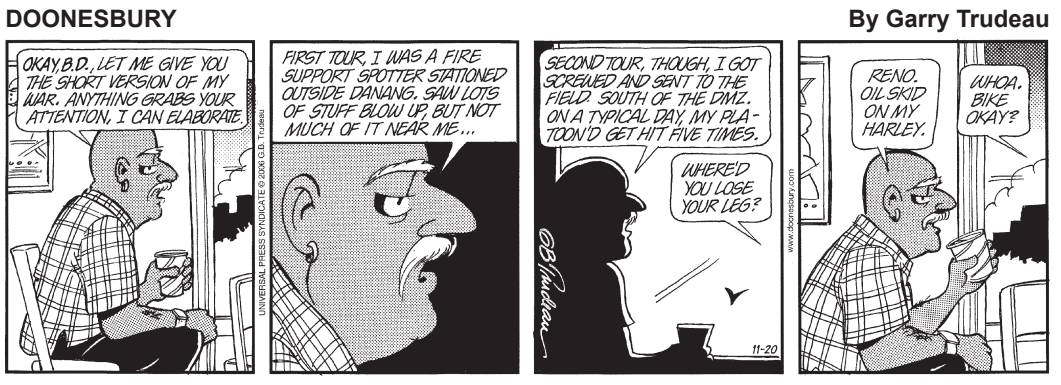
MONTY

By Jim Meddick



DOONESBURY

By Garry Trudeau



ZIGGY

By Tom Wilson



DENNIS THE MENACE

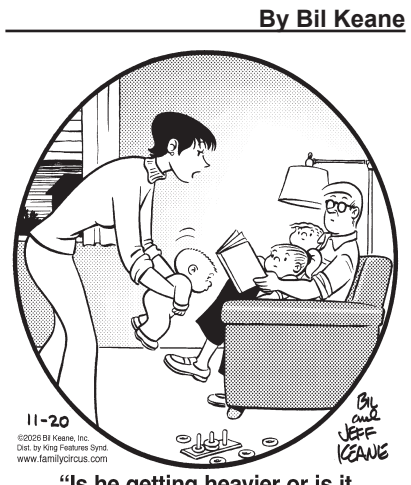
By Hank Ketcham



"AHA! TIME TO RUIN MY APPETITE!"

THE FAMILY CIRCUS

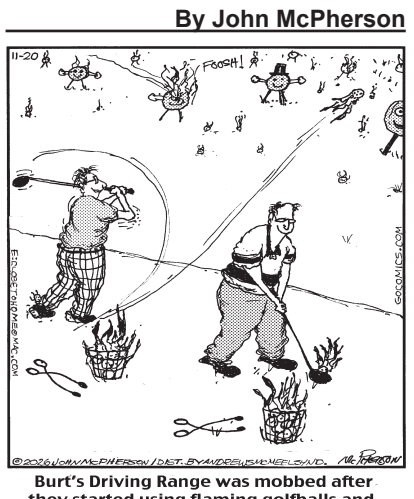
By Bil Keane



"Is he getting heavier or is it just late in the day?"

CLOSE TO HOME

By John McPherson



Burt's Driving Range was mobbed after they started using flaming golfballs and hay bale targets.

SPECTICKLES

By Bill Abbott



"Any reason why our health insurance plan goes away in November?"

CROSSWORD

ACROSS

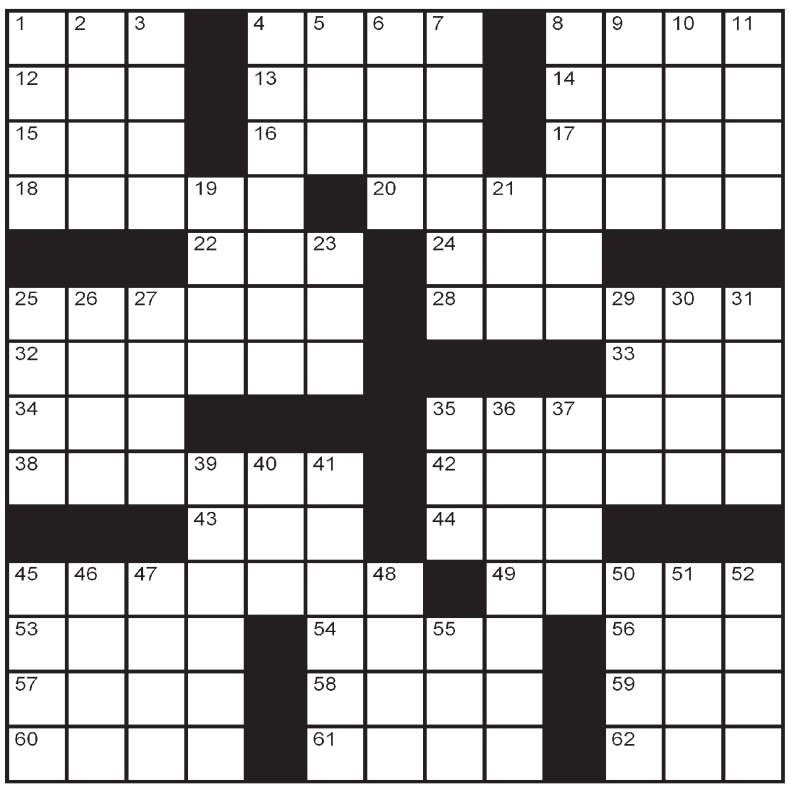
1 Director's cry
4 Structures made by beavers
8 Tablets
12 Santa —, California
13 "— — Rhythm"
14 Ancient Greek coin
15 Bear hair
16 Mouselike creature
17 Big book
18 Chew the scenery
20 Put off
22 Supply with weapons
24 Disloyal one
25 Cower
28 Made a point
32 Marvel character — Raccoon
33 Anger
34 "Much — About Nothing"
35 Confound
38 Brainiac
42 Dozing
43 Schuss
44 Had a bite
45 Sumptuous
49 Synagogue leader
53 Prima donna
54 Desert in Asia
56 Hgt.
57 Golf event
58 Praise
59 Sinbad's bird
60 Peruse
61 Brink
62 To the — degree

DOWN

1 Simple eatery
2 E pluribus —
3 Poi source
4 Separate
5 In the past
6 Give shape to
7 Directs
8 Edible tuber
9 "— — Named Sue"
10 Igloo shape
11 Winter glider
19 Cistern
21 Varnish ingredient
23 Encountered
25 Rugged cliff
26 Went on
27 Desktop picture
29 Abundant
30 First name in mysteries
31 Profound
35 Sheep's cry
36 Sitting on, as a horse
37 Jumping insect
39 Ait
40 Cousin to a banjo
41 "— White Female"
45 Fragrance
46 Plumbing piece
47 Part of the eye
48 Frog's cousin
50 Farm structure
51 Ink stain
52 Hankering
55 Annoy

Answer to Previous Puzzle

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



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ASTROGRAPH

Newspaper Enterprise Association

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Don't tie your self-worth to current circumstances. Circumstances will shift. Your self-worth shouldn't. Today could test your self-concept — remind yourself of your integrity, your achievements, and what you stand for.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Old phantoms coming up bring you golden opportunities to heal the wounds that created them in first place. Your triggers are your trailhead to freedom. A relationship could be a priority now.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Social anxiety could arise today even if that's not normally a thing for you. The vibe should pass within hours, don't let it drive any decisions or reassurance-seeking. Just let it pass; you should feel better.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): The footing could be a little perilous today out in the world — inner sensibilities and outer circumstances could shift rapidly from positive to negative, and back again. Tread lightly and stay under the radar for a day or two.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): The current state of intel could be worrisome, it could be hard to get clear information. Don't let what you do find drive fears — the intel isn't actually clear even if it's presenting as certainty.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): It's a nice strong day generally, but you should absolutely avoid any type of financial collaboration or joint investment for several days. A lot could be hidden or misrepresented. Speak out if you're so moved.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): A relationship could go from heaven to hell and back again for a few days. But it should be very temporary. Rather than making issues larger, a better plan could be to let three days go by, then assess what's needed after that.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): The earlier you get things done today, the better they should go — a couple of days of interruptions or obstacles is likely to set in later today. Be patient, do what you can, keep expectations realistic.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): A search for freedom can be its own trap if you can't mobilize yourself enough to handle basic business — this could be the issue for a few days but will likely pass after that. Prepare for a launch.

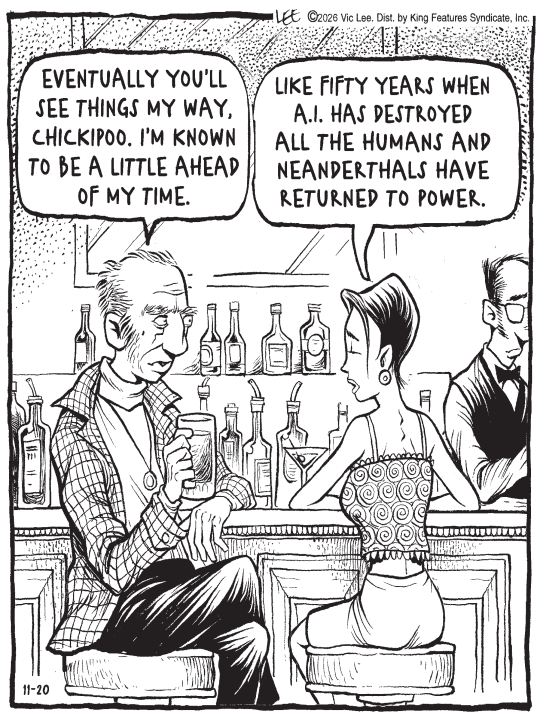
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Your home space isn't likely feel like much of a nest for a few days, there could be more than one unaccustomed challenge to deal with. Near the end of this cycle could come some nice, fresh, kindred energy.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Don't say it, don't text it, don't email it, don't post it. Your sense of what and how to communicate could be deeply off for a couple of days. Hold back instead of taking an action that could easily have consequences.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Today is the highest-scoring day in November but it's not recommended for a significant financial action or making an important purchase. There's just too much chaos in your money sector for a couple of days.

IF TODAY IS YOUR BIRTHDAY: A period of relative quiet could last another 3-4 weeks before the Universe gets busy delivering you some mighty gifts for the last part of 2026 — gifts that go far beyond what holidays typically bring. Healing is the first gift, whether of a person, a relationship, or of something else that you might have given up on. Out of the blue, a cascade of assistance could arrive, the help could come from multiple sources, but all ultimately comes from Source. You could feel much more resourced and provided for, life should seem easier, and one of the benefits will likely be additional money. An impulse to show off your abilities could work in your favor if it's a demonstration of competency, if it's a 'hold my beer and watch this' move, just don't. Revealing what you've worked to build within yourself could bring benefits well into the new year.

PARDON MY PLANET By Vic Lee



CELEBRITY CIPHER

By Luis Campos

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

"L XHJ H XLRY HFY CTKERTJJ PTTFHNTC. JU ABKS JU PSHP L PSLFE L'A RBKEM PU DT HRLOT. PTTFHNT DUMJ GTTR LAAUCPHR."

— QHKE DRHKE

Previous Solution: "Filmmaking demands a lot, it takes a lot ... from you. And you are away from all the people that need you." — Alejandro Gonzalez Inarritu

TODAY'S CLUE: C = equals K

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ASKING ERIC



ERIC THOMAS

Dear Eric: I have been friends with "Jean" for more than 30 years. It was a good, supportive friendship for most of those years, and we both have much to appreciate. But for several reasons, the friendship is no longer working for either of us and has been on the downhill slide over the last four years or so.

I do not think there will be improvement due to a very negative influence over her from a near relative, on whom she is now dependent.

I was trying to just draw back, gradually, and greatly limit contact, when Jean ended up getting very ill. She is now in rehab, possibly not ever going home, but remaining there for several more years.

I have done visits, food treats and verbal support. But with the last visit, she tried to "call me on the carpet" for past events she has only a one-sided view of and, due to her circumstances, I did not feel that engaging in that topic was appropriate, with its contentious nature.

I did not see it as conducive to her well-being and regaining what health she can. So, she had her say, and I said nothing in response.

I do not want to just abandon her when she is in these circumstances, and I don't see "ghosting" as kind, but I also do not want to continue the friendship as it is and probably will remain. What is the kindest, least harmful way to deal with this situation?

Broken Friendship

Dear Friendship: It will be helpful for you to decide what, if any, contact feels right to you going forward and communicate, kindly, about that to Jean. It doesn't have to come out as an ultimatum. Indeed, it will probably be useful for you to reference the "calling on the carpet" conversation by saying something like, "I heard what you said and I acknowledge it. I don't think it's healthy for us to rehash it, but it's clear our friendship is different. I still want to support you while honoring the change that we both feel."

Then you can tell her what your plan is, whether it's continuing to bring food or send cards, or something else.

Dear Eric: A few months ago, I read a letter in your column from someone who was having trouble getting her children to call her. I have a similar issue. I have not spoken to them about it because I don't want to guilt them into calling me. I'd rather just have them call me because they want to. How do I do that?

They are very busy and there isn't a date or time that would work every month. What is a reasonable expectation for contact: once a week, once a month or something else?

Phone Home

Dear Phone Home: I want to gently encourage you to reframe the way you think about making this request. This isn't guilting your children; this is having a conversation with them about the way your relationship works.

One of the greatest gifts we can give our loved ones is a glimpse into our heads. Even after years and years of knowing and loving someone, we still don't quite have telepathy. And so being able to say, "this is something I've been thinking about" or "when you do this, it makes me feel loved" can be transformational and enlightening.

You may find that they don't have the same habits around regular phone calls as you, and people from your generation do. All is not lost, if that's the case, however. It just means you have to meet each other in the middle and find an action that makes everyone feel loved and heard – figuratively and literally.

Dear Readers: From time to time, I prepare a column dedicated to a specific theme. I'm preparing two themes for future publication.

Theme 1: Do you have what you might consider a petty grievance or a tiny problem that, despite its size, you can't quite fix? This isn't a call for complaints. We're looking for problems you actually want to solve.

Theme 2: Additionally, is there something from the past, something that seems settled — for better or worse — that you want to take another look at? Again, I'm all ears. Send them to the regular address: eric@askingeric.com.

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 rericthomas.com.

DEAR ABBY



ABIGAIL VAN BUREN

Dear Abby: I have a complex issue. I was recently diagnosed with dementia, and I have not told my mother yet. She is 91. She is in good health, and her mind is sharp, but over the past five years she has lost two children to cancer. I'm torn about telling her, but sooner or later, she's going to notice. I've been seeing a therapist, who tells me only I can make that decision. I don't know what to do. Please help me.

Unsure Son

Dear Son: I'm sorry to learn of this difficult chapter in your life. As you mentioned, your mother is going to notice eventually. Wouldn't it be better if you told her yourself, on your own terms, instead of waiting until some awkward incident forces you (or some other loved one) to explain it to her? As a mother, chances are, she will want to be there for her son in his time of need, no matter how old the two of you may be.

Dear Abby: I married my husband 30 years ago. His parents have never introduced me to their friends. My husband does the same rude thing when we see old friends of his who don't know me, and it hurts my feelings. Am I being sensitive, or am I being left out on purpose? It's like if they don't acknowledge me, I'll go away. I stand there awkwardly, waiting to be introduced. Should I introduce myself? If so, what should I say?

Not Important in the East

Dear Not Important: The reason for your husband's lack of manners may be that he never learned them from his parents, who appear to be ignorant of the social graces. The next time you're in this uncomfortable situation, speak up. Smile and say, "I'm their daughter-in-law (or his wife), 'Vivian.' Nice to meet you!"

Dear Abby: My sister's daughter is going to be a first-time mom, and I'm not happy about this. It means I'll never see my sister again. Anytime someone in my family becomes a parent, they always lie to me, assuring me things won't change, but things do change and not for the better. The new parents become impossible to talk to, and I just know this holiday season will be chaos. My wife and I have no children nor the desire to have any. Should I just avoid all family gatherings? I doubt my absence would be noticed anyway.

Unhappy Uncle

Dear Uncle: Given the attitude on display in your letter, I don't think parenthood is the main reason your relatives stop talking to you. I advise you to knock that chip off your shoulder and accept that your niece didn't get pregnant to spite you. Put on your biggest smile and congratulate the new mom. When the next family gathering comes around, you may attend with a cheerful demeanor, embrace the chaos and get to know the kids; or you may stay home alone and pout. I can't make that decision for you.

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



HARRIETTE COLE

Dear Harriette: Lately, I've been butting heads with my wife. A while back she said that she wanted to take a break from the workforce. I agreed that it was OK because I earn enough to support us comfortably. But now, months into her stay-at-home stint, I realize it isn't going exactly how I'd imagined it. After a long day at work, I often come home to find that very little has been done. I still have to tackle laundry, prepare my own dinner and lunch for the following day, and wash dishes. I don't expect my wife to wait on me hand and foot, but I thought we would have a different division of responsibilities while she was home. I've tried discussing this, but she gets defensive, insisting she didn't leave her job to have a new boss at home. How do I address this without sounding like a husband from the Stone Age?

Butting Heads

Dear Butting Heads: Sounds like your wife may be depressed. If she has stopped working and stopped engaging in basic daily activities, what is she doing all day? It is understandable that you don't want to come off as entitled or demanding, but it also makes sense that she would take on some responsibilities, especially since she has time to pitch in.

Sit down with your wife, and gently ask her to tell you what's going on with her. There is a deeper issue that is much more important than whether she washes a load of clothes or prepares a meal. Do your best to get her to open up about everything. What happened at work that prompted her to want to call it quits? What is happening now, and how is she spending her time during the day? What does she want for her life, and how can you help her to get there? Be supportive, not demanding. With patience, work to get her to talk.

Dear Harriette: My roommate borrows my things without asking. At first, it was small stuff, like shampoo or a jacket, and I didn't think much of it. Recently, I went to wear something and realized she had taken it on a weekend trip. When I told her that bothered me, she said she thought we were close enough that it wouldn't matter. I like living with her, but I don't think being friends means everything I own is available to her. How do I set a clear boundary without making our apartment uncomfortable?

Ask First

Dear Ask First: Everybody has different rules about their things. Having grown up with two sisters, I can tell you my rule was (and is) that you could not use anything of mine without asking first. Period. That rule didn't change when I began my adult life and had a roommate. You have every right to establish boundaries with your roommate that she cannot cross. Anything that you consider particularly special you may need to stash away in a locked suitcase or at the bottom of a drawer for safe keeping. But make it clear to her that she does not have permission to borrow anything without express permission from you — period.

Harriette Cole is a lifestylist 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.

THE GAZETTE
Your Home
A Weekly Special Advertising Feature
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Are home equity loans right for you?

Linda Bell
Bankrate.com

Borrowing against your home equity is one of the cheapest ways to get a large sum of cash. It's also the only type of borrowing where falling behind can cost you your home.

If you need a lump sum for something specific and lasting, like a failing roof, a kitchen renovation or wiping out credit card debt at 20 percent APR or higher, and you can afford a second payment alongside your mortgage without draining your savings, a home equity loan is worth a serious look. If you need the money for something that won't outlast the loan, your income is unsteady or you're planning to sell within a few years, the math works against you.

Pros and cons of a home equity loan

The main requirement for a home equity loan is enough equity in your home. Lenders typically require that you own 15 percent to 20 percent outright. Other criteria include good credit and a low amount of debt relative to your income.

If you check these boxes, home equity loans have several pluses:

Advantages of a home equity loan:

■ Predictable interest rate: A home equity loan has a fixed interest rate for the full term, so market swings don't affect it. You won't get surprised by a rate increase during repayment.

■ Consistent monthly payments: Because the interest rate stays fixed, your monthly mortgage payment stays consistent over the life of the loan. This consistency can make it much easier to plan and budget your monthly expenses.

■ Relatively lower interest rates:Home equity loans typically offer lower interest rates than unsecured borrowing like personal loans or credit cards. "While you may pay closing costs or other fees, it's an inexpensive alternative to an unsecured loan," says Laura Sterling, vice president, marketing at Georgia's Own Credit Union in Alpharetta, Georgia.

■ Extended repayment periods: Terms commonly run 5 to 30 years, depending on the lender. Spreading payments over a longer term lowers your monthly payment. (It also raises what you pay overall, since interest has more years to accumulate.)

■ Larger borrowing potential: Depending on your equity stake, a home equity loan can get you more than a credit card or personal loan would. We're talking five- and six-figure sums, enough to cover a full renovation, pay off high-rate debt or handle an emergency repair.

■ Possible tax advantages: If you use the money to buy, build or substantially improve the home that secures the loan, the interest may be deductible. Two conditions apply: you must itemize deductions on your return, and the deduction covers combined mortgage debt up to $750,000 if you're single or married filing jointly, or $375,000 if you're married filing separately. "Substantial" means the work adds value, extends the home's useful life or adapts it to a new use. A new roof or a kitchen remodel can qualify, but repainting and routine repairs generally don't. Check with a tax professional before you count on a possible deduction.

Disadvantages of a home equity loan:

■ Chance of losing your house:If you don't repay the loan, your lender can foreclose. Beyond losing the house, a foreclosure stays on your credit report for seven years and makes it hard to get another mortgage or most other financing for much of that time.

■ Risk of negative equity: If local home values drop, your combined loan balances can exceed what the property would sell for. "If your home value declines, you could owe more on your home than it is worth, making it hard to sell," Sterling says. Selling in that position means bringing cash to closing to cover the gap and not earning anything on the sale.

■ Turning ownership into debt:A home equity loan doesn't change your home's value; it changes how much of it you own. That means that you walk away with less when you sell, and you have less equity to fall back on if you need to borrow again later.

■ Closing costs: Expect 2 percent to 5 percent of the amount you borrow, covering charges like origination and appraisal fees, though some lenders charge just 1 percent in home equity loan closing costs. On a $50,000 loan, that's $500 to $2,500 in fees, reducing the amount of cash you walk away with. Some lenders waive these costs entirely, which is one more reason to compare offers.

■ Long funding time:The process is faster and easier than a first mortgage, but applying and getting the money still typically takes two to six weeks and often involves a home appraisal.

■ Minimum equity requirement: You typically can't borrow a home equity loan unless you'd still hold at least 15 percent to 20 percent of your home's value after borrowing. If you're a new homeowner and didn't put down much, you'll probably need to wait a while before you can tap your equity. You'll also need stronger credit and a lower debt load than you would for a personal loan or credit card.



DREAMSTIME VIA TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

If you need a lump sum for something specific and lasting and you can afford a second payment alongside your mortgage without draining your savings, a home equity loan is worth a serious look.

Are home equity loans a good idea?

Whether a home equity loan is right for you depends on five things, and each one has a clear answer.

■ How are you using the money? If the expense is a one-time cost that adds lasting value or replaces higher-rate debt, like a structural repair, a kitchen remodel or paying off high-interest credit card balances, a home equity loan is a reasonable fit. If you plan to use the money to pay for a vacation, a wedding, a car or everyday bills, think twice. You'd still be paying for it years after it's gone, with your house as collateral.

■ Can you afford the payment? If you can cover the new payment alongside your mortgage, property taxes and insurance and still keep three to six months of expenses in savings, you have the cushion this loan requires. If the payment only works if you get a raise, bonus or side income that hasn't arrived yet, push pause. Missing a home equity loan payment isn't like missing a credit card payment. Remember, your house is collateral.

■ How much equity would you have left? If you'd still own 20 percent or more of your home's value after borrowing, you have room to absorb a price decline or sell if you need to. If you'd drop below 15 percent, a modest dip in local values can leave you owing more than the house is worth, with no way to sell without writing a check at closing.

■ Will the money still be working for you when you sell? If you're putting the money into something that raises the home's sale price, like a kitchen or bath refresh before you list, a short timeline isn't a problem. If the money is going toward something that won't show up in the sale price, like tuition, medical bills or consolidating debt, and you expect to sell within a couple of years, price out a personal loan or a 0 percent introductory APR card first. Paying 2 percent to 5 percent in closing costs to borrow for 18 months is a steep premium.

■ What's your current mortgage rate? If your existing mortgage rate is well below what lenders are offering now, a home equity loan lets you tap equity without giving up that low rate. If your current rate is at or above today's rates, compare a cash-out refinance first. Replacing one loan can cost less than carrying two.

What does a $50,000 loan really cost?

Let's say you want to borrow $50,000 with a home equity loan at an 8.50 percent rate. Here's how much that loan would cost across various repayment terms. Remember: The longer you take to repay the loan, the lower your monthly payment will be, but the more interest you'll pay over time.

TermMonthly payment-Total interestTotal paid10 years$620$24,391$74,39115 years$492$38,627$88,62720 years$434$54,139$104,13930 years$384$88,404$138,404

Taking the longest, 30-year term may save $236 a month over the 10-year repayment option, but it'll cost you an additional $64,000 in interest. That's more than the loan itself. The general rule of thumb with selecting a loan term is to choose the shortest term you can reasonably afford. Use Bankrate's mortgage calculator to run the numbers on your loan offers.

Home equity loan: The wrong choice?

A home equity loan may not be the best financial move for many reasons, starting with how it's structured. The more equity you convert into debt, the less cushion you have if home values take a dive or you need to sell. If home values in your area are declining, you could end up with negative equity, meaning you owe more than your house is worth.

An unstable job and shaky finances are also a red flag. If your income dips and you fall behind, you could lose your home to foreclosure. Another mistake is using a home equity loan to cover everyday expenses or non-essential purchases. Shopping, weddings and depreciating assets like cars are all bad moves.

"I'd say the most important thing to consider is how you'll use the proceeds," says Jeff Ostrowski, Bankrate writer and housing market analyst. "If you plan to renovate your kitchen or spruce up your bathroom, that's a smart move. But if you need funds for a vacation, I'd rethink."

Do all home equity loans have fees?

Yes. Nearly all home equity loans carry fees, though which ones and how much you'll pay vary by lender. Together, they typically come to 2 percent to 5 percent of the amount you borrow, or $1,000 to $2,500 on a $50,000 loan. Some lenders waive certain costs entirely, so ask every lender what they're willing to drop.

Here's what you're likely to see on the itemized list:

■ Origination fee: This is what the lender charges you to originate, process and underwrite your loan. The amount varies by lender and the amount you're borrowing, typically 0.5 percent to 1 percent of the loan amount.

■ Appraisal fee: An appraisal determines your home's market value, which then establishes your equity and borrowing power. The cost ranges from $300 to $500, though you may pay more if the house is larger or unique. Many lenders now use an automated valuation model instead of sending an appraiser out, which can cut this fee altogether.

■ Credit report fee: The cost to pull your credit report starts at $30 but can be up to $100, if not more. If you're borrowing with more than one person, that fee could double.

■ Document preparation/attorney fees: These fees cover the cost of preparing, processing, and finalizing your home equity loan. Fees can range from $100 to $500.

■ Title fees: Since the home serves as collateral for a home equity loan, lenders conduct a title search to determine if there are any existing liens or claims on the property. This fee can range from $75 to $250, depending on location; some can be higher.

Home equity loans vs. HELOCs

Both home equity loans and HELOCs (short for home equity line of credit) let you borrow against your home equity, with your property serving as collateral for the debt. But they work differently.

A home equity loan is a type of second mortgage that lets you turn some of the equity in your home into cash. You receive it in a lump sum and repay it at a fixed interest rate through monthly payments, commonly over 5 to 30 years. Your monthly repayment amount will remain the same for the life of your loan.

In contrast, HELOCs are revolving lines of credit — like credit cards — letting you withdraw money as you need it during an initial 5- to 10-year draw period. After that, you'll enter the repayment period, which generally lasts between 10 and 20 years. During this time, you'll have to pay back the amount you borrowed, plus interest. HELOC interest rates are typically variable, fluctuating with market rates each month.

The right option depends on your borrowing needs. If you know how much you need and when, take the lump sum and the fixed rate. If the total is uncertain or the spending will play out over years, a HELOC lets you borrow only what you use.

Alternatives to home equity loans

A home equity loan isn't the only way to borrow, and it isn't always the cheapest. Compare these before you decide.

■ Cash-out refinance: This replaces your existing mortgage with a new loan for a larger amount. You receive the difference (based on your home equity) in ready money. The main upside: You'll have one monthly payment instead of two. But you'll get a new mortgage rate on your whole balance and reset repayment on your home, so this option only makes sense if today's rates are at or below what you're paying now."Many homeowners locked in low mortgage rates that they don't want to disturb, so a cash-out refinance doesn't make sense, but a home equity loan can let you tap a small amount of equity while keeping your cheap mortgage intact," says Ostrowski.

■ Personal loan: This borrowing option doesn't require collateral and can be obtained more quickly, typically in days instead of weeks. However, you typically can't borrow as much, and you'll have to repay it sooner. And you'll almost certainly pay a higher interest rate compared to a home equity loan.

■ 0 percent introductory APR credit card: If you need a smaller amount and can repay the full balance by the end of the promotional period, this option could cost nothing. But if you still have a balance when the intro period ends, your rate jumps and repayment can be pricey, so only use this option if the payoff date is realistic.

For Your Home...
Weekly tips and advice for better living

Holiday Home Guard:
Securing Your Property Before Travel Season



As families start traveling for Thanksgiving and winter holidays, November is when home burglaries historically increase. Taking proactive steps this month to secure your home's perimeter and look will deter opportunistic theft.

Start by **hardening the entry points**. Replace any loose or missing screws on door and window strike plates. Ensure all deadbolts are installed with screws that penetrate deep into the door frame, not just the trim. Check the exterior of your garage door for sensor issues and ensure the automatic opener is working correctly.

Next, focus on **light and illusion**. If you plan to be away, invest in simple smart plugs or lamp timers to automatically turn interior lights on and off at random intervals. Motion-activated floodlights on the exterior of your home are an excellent, inexpensive deterrent.

Crucially, **do not advertise your absence**. Ask a neighbor to collect mail and newspapers daily, and ensure any package deliveries are routed to a secure drop-off location or a friend's house. A house that looks lived-in, even when it's empty, is the safest house

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