

## UKRAINE

Two U.S. veterans helping in the war against Russia are reported missing. **A15**

## ECONOMY

Federal Reserve unveils biggest target interest rate hike since 1994. **C1**



## ARTS NEWS

Stand-up comedian Ben Roy is about to have a (sacred) cow in Denver. **E1**

# The Denver Gazette

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THURSDAY, JUNE 16, 2022

### IN DENVER & STATE

## HEALTH WORKER VAX MANDATE TO EXPIRE

The requirement that Colorado health care workers be vaccinated against COVID-19 will be allowed to expire next month, state health officials said Wednesday, ending a successful mandate that contributed to high vaccination levels among providers and staff. The decision ends the rule nearly a year after the board adopted it at Gov. Jared Polis' urging. **A4**

## EPA ISSUES NEW LIMITS FOR SAFE PFAS LEVELS

Concentrations of "forever chemicals" in drinking water that are much lower than previously believed may pose negative health effects, the Environmental Protection Agency warned in a new advisory issued Wednesday that lowers the agency's recommendations on safe limits. **A10**

### IN SPORTS

STANLEY CUP FINAL GAME 1 • COLORADO LEADS SERIES 1-0

**AVALANCHE 4, LIGHTNING 3, OT**

## ONE DOWN, THREE TO GO



The Avalanche's J.T. Compher celebrates after Andre Burakovsky, not pictured, scored in overtime of Game 1 of the Stanley Cup Final on Wednesday in Denver.

CHRISTIAN MURDOCK, THE DENVER GAZETTE

Despite blowing a two-goal lead, the Avalanche successfully shake off the rust after their sweep of the Oilers with a 4-3 victory over the Tampa Bay Lightning in overtime Wednesday at Ball Arena. **Coverage, D1-D5**

## Colorado River states planning for emergency

States have 60 days to reach deal or face cuts

BY MARIANNE GOODLAND  
The Denver Gazette

The commissioner for the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation told a U.S. Senate committee Tuesday that the seven states of the Colorado River Basin must come up with an emergency deal — and fast — to conserve 2 million to 4 million acre-feet of water in the next year to protect the entire river system.

If the states, including Colorado, fail to agree on a plan, the bureau will step in and impose water cuts, Camille Calimlim Touton warned during the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources hearing on short and long-term solutions to drought in the West. Colorado Sen. John Hickenlooper is a member of that committee.

The timeline for the states to come up with an emergency deal for the water reductions is drastic: Touton gave them only 60 days.

The commissioner gave her testimony as persistent drought conditions have

SEE RIVER • PAGE 8

# DAILY ROUNDUP

## TODAY IN THE GAZETTE



### COLORADO POLITICS

Outside spending in Colorado's state House primaries has reached levels generally reserved for the general election. **A12**



### AROUND THE WEST

The Yellowstone River hit 16 feet in Montana's biggest city, Billings, disabling the water treatment plant. **A13**

## Denver Gazette Guide

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## Trending videos



CORY MORSE, THE GRAND RAPIDS PRESS VIA THE ASSOCIATED PRESS  
**GRAND RAPIDS, MICH.:** An officer charged with second-degree murder in Patrick Lyoya's shooting has been fired.



THE ASSOCIATED PRESS  
The Gates Foundation and four family charities get \$4 billion as part of Buffett vow to give away nearly all his net worth.



THE ASSOCIATED PRESS  
K-pop pioneers BTS face anger from shareholders in their management company after announcing a break.



THE ASSOCIATED PRESS  
**SAN DIEGO:** For the first time in more than 35 years, an aardvark pup has been born at the San Diego Zoo.

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### LOTTERIES

**Powerball:** Est. jackpot: \$279 million; 19, 28, 41, 42, 51  
Powerball 7 – Powerplay 2

**Powerball Double Play:** 3, 44, 47, 48, 67; Powerball 11  
**Mega Millions:** Est. jackpot: \$273 million; 30, 37, 38, 42, 58  
Megaball 22 – Megaplier 2

**Lucky for Life:** \$1,000 a day for life; 13, 17, 19, 32, 37 Lucky Ball 13

**Colorado Lotto:** Est. jackpot: \$7.8 million; 6, 17, 19, 20, 25, 37

**Colorado Lotto Plus:** 15, 16, 24, 25, 28, 30

**Cash 5:** 2, 4, 9, 14, 16 – Drawing held daily.

**Pick 3:** Midday: 7, 4, 5; Evening: 7, 1, 6; – Drawings held daily.

SOURCE: COLORADOLOTTERY.COM

### CORRECTIONS

The Denver Gazette corrects errors of fact in this space. If you find mistakes, please call 303-569-5810 during business hours.

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## State to let health worker vax mandate expire

BY SETH KLAMANN  
The Denver Gazette

The requirement that Colorado health care workers be vaccinated against COVID-19 will be allowed to expire next month, state health officials said Wednesday, ending a successful and at times contentious mandate that contributed to high vaccination levels among providers and staff.

The decision, conveyed to the Colorado Board of Health on Wednesday, ends the rule nearly a year after the board adopted it at the urging of Gov. Jared Polis.

Officials from the state Department of Public Health and Environment told the board Wednesday that all health workers who were going to get vaccinated had done so by now and that they wanted to “balance the necessity of high vaccination rates with the business needs of health care facilities.”

Even with the state’s rule expiring on July 14, many Colorado facilities will still be subject to a federal vaccination requirement: Roughly a third of the state’s health facilities are subject to a Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services rule mandating vaccinations, a health department official told the board. Organizations can also still require that their workers be vaccinated, as Denver Health and UHealth have.

In a statement Wednesday, a UHealth spokeswoman said the system was not planning to change its vaccination re-



THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Rebecca Hong, right, a registered nurse, administers the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine to hospital worker Kudusan Tekle in Denver.

quirement. Still, the state’s decision means two-thirds of facilities will no longer be required by the state to employ only vaccinated — or exempted — workers. Though the rule had received broad support, its 100% uptake requirement drew concern from some health care organizations that warned that the mandate’s threshold was “aspirational” and would harm their already-stressed staffing levels.

Despite that concern, statistics presented Wednesday demonstrated the mandate’s efficacy and its limited negative impact on staffing levels: When the rule was first approved, roughly 70% of health workers were vaccinated. As of June 1, that rate had improved to 94%. What’s more, the health department’s Anne Strawbridge told the board, only

1% of employees — a broad group that includes not only front-line providers but officer workers, executives and support personnel — had left their job because of the requirement.

Indeed, prior to Wednesday’s meeting, the rule seemed set to endure. Health department officials told the board in March that though they were still gathering feedback from “stakeholders,” they intended to return to the board in May to ask that the vaccine requirement be made permanent.

But the topic wasn’t brought before the board in May, and on Wednesday, Strawbridge told its members the rule would be allowed to expire in a month. She said the share of health care workers who’ve been vaccinated has remained steady for the past three

months. She said that indicated “all employees who intend to get vaccinated have done so and those who sought an exemption have done so.”

Despite the rule’s success, Strawbridge said, the department realized “that many facilities continue to struggle and the vaccine requirement is one aspect of a very complicated issue,” in terms of staffing.

In November, The Denver Gazette spoke with representatives from every major hospital system in the state, all of whom said the vaccine mandate had had a minimal effect on staffing. The Colorado Hospital Association said it was a “very small piece” of staffing shortages. Still, some health officials have said it could impede facilities’ ability to hire new employees.

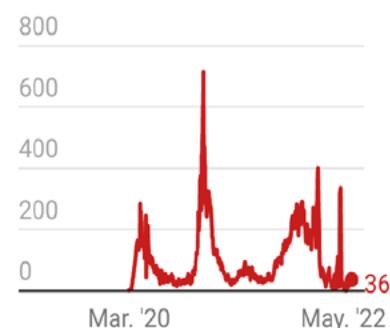
Though this mandate will end, Strawbridge suggested that some rule related to COVID-19 vaccinations may later be instituted. A newly passed law will require the health department to draft rules on staffing standards, including some related to infection control. No decisions have been made yet, she told the board, but “the department envisions that COVID-19 vaccinations will be part of the conversation.”

When the health board enacted the rule in August, Denver was fresh off announcing its own vaccine requirement for a broad swath of city and public-facing workers. The city ended that requirement in February.

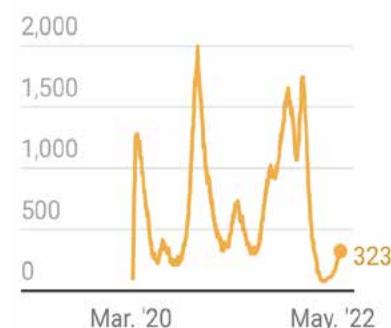
### CORONAVIRUS IN COLORADO

As of Wednesday

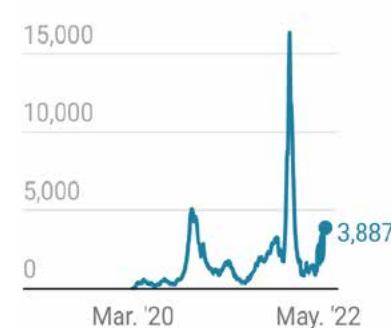
7-DAY TOTAL DEATHS



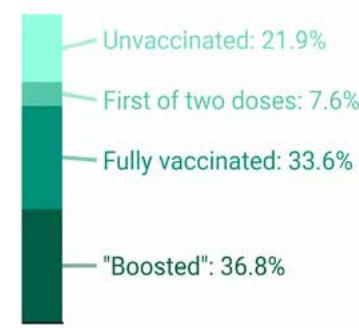
HOSPITALIZATIONS \*



7-DAY AVERAGE OF NEW DAILY CASES



VACCINATIONS IN COLORADO



\*UPDATED WEEKLY

SOURCE: COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT; CHARTS BY EVAN WYLOGE, THE DENVER GAZETTE

# Denver businesses reap Stanley Cup benefit

BY DAVID MULLEN AND DENNIS HUSPENI  
The Denver Gazette



PHOTOS BY CHRISTIAN MURDOCK, THE DENVER GAZETTE

Top, Alexander Kimose helps fans at the Altitude Authentics store in Ball Arena shop before Game 1 of the Stanley Cup Final on Wednesday in Denver. Avalanche defenseman Cale Makar's jersey sold out in the first 30 minutes the store was open. Above, fans wait in line outside the shop to get Stanley Cup patches put on their jerseys and other Avalanche gear.

Hockey fans flocked to downtown Denver late Wednesday afternoon and the town seemed abuzz as cup frenzy gripped the Mile High City for the first time in 21 years.

Crowds started gathering after 4 p.m. near Ball Arena, the site of game one of the Stanley Cup Final between the Avalanche and Tampa Bay Lightning.

Bars, restaurants and sports apparel stores especially enjoyed the fans as the puck dropped.

Downtown bars and restaurants began preparations as soon as the Avalanche soared past the Edmonton Oilers in the Western Conference finals last week.

Dave Keefe, owner of Brooklyn's at Ball Arena, said the sports bar added staff members to prepare for the series and staffers were looking forward to each game.

"For us, we live and die off of what happens in Ball Arena — so summer is typically the slowest quarter of the year for us," Keefe said. "To have hockey into the summer almost into July is huge."

Research has shown that cities that host the Stanley Cup see between \$4 million and \$8 million in economic impact per game, said Chelsea Rosty, Denver Economic Development & Opportunity's chief of staff.

"That research is as late as 2019, when the world was open and people patronized bars and restaurants," she said. "We don't know what the impact will be to Denver, but we hope it's more. Either way, it will be a large impact for the city."

Thousands of fans are expected to gather at watch parties across metro Denver, including the Colorado Avalanche Pepsi Zero Watch Parties at the Tivoli Quad on the Auraria Campus.

Tivoli Brewing Company is co-hosting the event and is one of three establishments that were granted expanded alcohol service during each game.

Denver's Excise and Licenses waived a 30-day advance notice requirement for bars and restaurants to apply for expanded service areas — such as patios, grassy areas or parking lots.

Besides Tivoli, Ball Arena and McGregor Square were also granted expanded alcohol service, said Eric Escudero, a spokesman for the Excise and Licenses Department.

"With the Avalanche making the Stanley Cup and recognizing the fact that many bars and restaurants were negatively impacted by the pandemic, we've been looking for any way we can help those businesses continue to recover and make up for any lost income," Escudero said. "Stanley Cup finals watch parties are getting a lot of interest, and it's a golden opportunity for some of the bars and restaurants."

Ari Opsahl, CEO of Tivoli Brewing Company, said 10,000 people were expected to attend the first watch party, which should bring in much more revenue than a typical Wednesday.

"We couldn't be more excited," Opsahl said. "It means more now than ever."

While many fans will carry open beers and drinks across the approved areas, the Denver Police Department does not anticipate any additional problems caused by the expanded service.

"The Denver Police Department does not have any enforcement concerns related to these permits as

SEE CUP • PAGE 6

# DougCo schools sued over public-records rejection

BY SETH KLAMANN  
The Denver Gazette

A Douglas County resident opened a new front in his transparency crusade against the county's school district Tuesday, filing a lawsuit seeking to shake loose documents he argues are public record.

The latest suit revolves around four binders, a Facebook photo and a retreat. The Douglas County school board's four new members were pictured holding the binders at what they've described as a training retreat in November, shortly after they won an election that swung control of the board to a more conservative majority.

The binders, and their contents, have drawn scrutiny in recent months among residents critical of the new members, and resident Robert Marshall, who's also running for a state House seat, filed a records request seeking their release.

The district's records manager, Ioana Marin, denied Marshall's request. While he argues the binders are public record, Marin and the district have said the materials were used by the newly elected board members before they actually became public officials and before they became subject to the state's public records laws.

Because they haven't been released, the binders' contents are unclear. The board's newly elected vice chair, Christy Williams, said in a Facebook post that the binders contained information about how to conduct public meetings and about the state's public records and open-meeting laws.

After Marin reiterated her rejection last month, Marshall now wants a Douglas County District Court judge to determine the status of the binders.

It's his second suit against the district: In early February, he sued the school board, and its four new mem-

bers, alleging they had broken Colorado's open-meeting law in the run-up to their contentious decision to fire then-Superintendent Corey Wise. That lawsuit is still ongoing, though a Douglas County judge issued a preliminary ruling siding with Marshall in March.

The board's four newly elected leaders have denied any wrongdoing related to Wise's firing, and they've said their discussions about Wise's tenure complied with state law.

The two lawsuits are connected by more than just the parties involved. In this latest suit, Marshall links the four new members' apparent understanding of the open-meeting law — which he contends they violated — with the material in the binders and the training they received at the retreat.

Part of that training came from Will Trachman. Trachman, a conservative attorney, was then hired as outside counsel by the school board at its first

post-election meeting in December, with the new members' four votes trumping dissent from their three peers. Trachman later resigned.

While the district has said that the binders were used before the members became public officials, Marshall and his attorney, Steve Zansberg, argue the four board leaders have kept the binders "as training documents and reference (since) they took office." Those members have not attended other training sessions, Marshall and Zansberg allege, and the binders "have been 'maintained or kept' by these public officials 'for use in the exercise of' their official functions. They are, therefore, 'public records.'"

Reached for comment Wednesday, Zansberg, who is also representing Marshall in the open-meeting litigation, declined to comment beyond what was contained in the lawsuit. A school district spokeswoman also declined to comment.

## CUP

FROM PAGE 5

applicants must still follow applicable laws/ordinances," Doug Schepman, a police spokesman, wrote in a statement to The Denver Gazette. "Our message to everyone is to have fun rooting for the Avalanche, avoid overindulging if you consume alcohol, and plan for a safe, sober ride home."

Stanley Cup festivities will extend into the suburbs, with the Lone Tree Brewing Company hosting a watch party for each game.

Mike Webster, the brewery's tasting room manager, said he believes the Avalanche's success could bring more people out of their homes and make it feel "prepandemic."

"The pandemic has affected everyone, but hopefully more people will come in and enjoy being back out," Webster said.

Apparel stores are also reaping the benefit of the Av's deep playoff run.

"Business has been strong across all our locations," said Derek Friedman, owner of the Sportsfan stores on the 16th Street Mall, Federal Boulevard and Park Meadows Shopping Center. "We're pretty well stocked."

Unless you're looking for a Cale Makar No. 8 jersey — those have been hard to come by for weeks.

Friedman said they sold out of the official jerseys weeks ago, so they use blank jerseys and assembly kits with



CHRISTIAN MURDOCK, THE DENVER GAZETTE

Nick and Addie Brunning exchange high fives before leaving pregame activities at Brooklyn's before Game 1 of the Stanley Cup Final in Denver.

licensed material.

When the Avalanche defeated Edmonton, apparel stores were able to churn out Western Conference champions shirts and hats quickly — and the same will be true if the Avalanche win the Stanley Cup. It's called a "hot market" in the retail business.

"We have a license for the finished product and have two shirts ordered from the local printers," Friedman said. "In this case, it's a win-win scenario. When the Avalanche won the west and moved into the Stanley Cup Final, we gave the green light to that local printer. ... Let's just say the folks in New York were sad while the folks in Denver were happy."

If the Avs lose, those Stanley Cup

champion shirts will end up in South America, he said.

"That happened with the Broncos. They lost (Super Bowl 48), but then two years later the Broncos won. We got to see both sides.

"We sold a ton of shirts and hats — everything folks could get their hands on. When the Avs win, it will be exactly the same."

Friedman said if there's a parade, his downtown stores will benefit greatly.

"Certainly this is a massive shot in the arm," he said. "This is certainly a prayer we all have. When the Avs win, we'll all be a little more excited and happier. We've got a significant employee bonus tied to this if it happens, so they'll be happy too."

## Denver, Tampa mayors make bet

As the Colorado Avalanche face off against the Tampa Bay Lightning in the Stanley Cup Final, Denver Mayor Michael Hancock made a friendly wager Wednesday with Tampa Mayor Jane Castor.



Michael Hancock

If the Avalanche win the series, Castor will send local goodies to the Mile High City and flaunt an Avs jersey.

If Tampa Bay wins its third straight Stanley

Cup, Hancock will wear a Lightning jersey and send local brews and steaks to The Big Guava.

"So I heard Mayor Jane Castor said it's time for Lord Stanley to get its Tampa tan once again," Hancock said in a video posted Wednesday on Twitter. "Well, we happen to believe that Lord Stanley belongs in the great state of Colorado, in the Mile High City of Denver."

The Avalanche are returning to the Stanley Cup Final for the first time since 2001, when they defeated the New Jersey Devils in a seven-game series.

DAVID MULLEN, THE DENVER GAZETTE



TIMOTHY HURST, THE DENVER GAZETTE

Two people sit at an overlook at Daniels Park on Wednesday in Sedalia.

# DougCo votes to seize historic park over gun laws

BY CAROL MCKINLEY  
The Denver Gazette

Douglas County is squaring off against the City and County of Denver in a surprise attempt to seize a 1000-acre historic park owned by Denver in retaliation for the city's recently enacted concealed-carry gun laws.

Monday, Douglas County Commissioners went into Executive Session during a mid-day meeting to discuss what it would take to seize the park under Eminent Domain and then voted 2-1 in favor of moving forward.

Eminent Domain is a legal way for the government to force a landowner to sell for a public project, but it has to pay the owner fair compensation. In the past it's been used to buy farm land in order to build roads and bridges. The Army has been known to buy land and convert it to an area where a soldier could train for war.

In May, Denver passed a law forbidding concealed weapons in its parks. But a road which runs through Daniels Park belongs to Douglas County, where concealed carry is legal. Critics say this could mean that a person who is carrying a concealed weapon would be legal in one place and breaking the law just a few feet away.

The one dissenting vote came from

Douglas County Commissioner Lora Thomas, who warned constituents that the issue was coming Sunday night in her weekly newsletter.

"George Teal has insisted that the commissioners have a discussion on Monday at 1:30 regarding use of the county's Eminent Domain powers to take Daniels Park, located in Douglas County between Castle Pines and Highlands Ranch, from the park's owner — the City and County of Denver — because of Denver's recent decision to 'impinge on our Constitutional Rights ensured by the 2nd Amendment.'"

She told The Denver Gazette that she wrote the post after a citizen sent her a screenshot from a GOP Facebook page where Commissioner George Teal threw out his idea for consideration. In the post, which was obtained by The Gazette, he said his idea stemmed from Denver's recent city gun ordinance, which he believes is in violation of the Constitution.

Scott Gilmour, deputy executive director of Denver Parks and Rec, said that he found out about Douglas County's attack from the media, and Wednesday afternoon had still not received a phone call from anyone representing the county to explain its position. He's already spoken with the city's le-

gal team and with the Denver City and County real estate department, which assessed the property at a value of \$20 a square foot.

"Do you think the voters of Douglas County are going to pay \$800 million for Daniels Park when they get to enjoy it for free?" Gilmour asked. He said that the issue would most likely have to go to Douglas County residents, who would have to decide whether or not to spend the money.

Daniels Park, which is in Sedalia and borders Castle Pines, has belonged to Denver for over 100 years and is one of 22 parks in the Denver Mountain Parks system which are located outside of city limits. It is popular with hikers, used for Indigenous ceremonies and has a bison herd roaming the property.

In the '70s, an area in the northern part of Daniels Park was designated by the city to the Tall Bull Memorial Council for use in Indigenous ceremonies and educational events. Last year, Denver signed a 25-year agreement to give the group unlimited access to the sacred land.

Jennifer Wolf, who is Ojibwe, Santee and Ponca, said that Tall Bull Memorial Council routinely use the land to reclaim their culture and remarked that

this attempt to seize the park feels like a broken promise. "We've endured 500 years of land grabs and the fact that Douglas County would consider taking a place of tremendous significance to Native Americans is atrocious."

A statement that was identified as coming from the Douglas County Commissioners Wednesday afternoon, but that Thomas said did not include her opinion, stressed the strong partnership that Douglas County and the City and County of Denver have regarding Daniels Park.

"We are pleased to start conversations with our elected counterparts in Denver as to what it would look like for Douglas County to potentially own and maintain this park in the future." The statement called the idea a "win/win" for Denver and Douglas County.

But Gilmour doesn't see this as a win/win. "How can it be a positive for both sides when you have a county talking about using Eminent Domain against you for your land?" Gilmour said.

Thomas told The Denver Gazette that this is a battle Douglas County doesn't want to fight. She hopes there's a way to talk things out. Said Thomas, "It's a perfect time to pick up the phone, schedule a meeting and let's have some discussions."

## RIVER

FROM PAGE 1

hammered Western states and compelled them to voluntarily reduce their allocations from the Colorado River, which supplies water to nearly 40 million people in cities from Denver to Los Angeles and farmlands from the Rocky Mountains to the U.S.-Mexico border.

The river has long been overallocated, and its reservoirs have declined dramatically since 2000, during a severe drought that research shows is being intensified by global warming and that some scientists describe as the long-term “aridification” of the Southwest.

Touton underscored the gravity of the challenge, saying it is unlike any other in the bureau’s 120-year history.

“The science of the system across the West and especially in the Colorado River basin indicate one of immediate action,” she said. “But in the Colorado River basin, more conservation and demand management are needed in addition to the actions already underway.”

Touton’s testimony indicated Colorado might have to resume looking at demand management, a program of compensation for voluntary water-use reductions the state had put on pause.

Four million acre-feet of water is not just a drop in the bucket. Indeed, the magnitude of the cuts to water allocation brought into sharp focus the peril.

Andy Mueller, general manager of the Colorado River District, told Colorado Politics the four Upper Basin states — Colorado, Wyoming, New Mexico and Wyoming — consume about 3.5 million acre-feet annually from the river. The three Lower Basin states — California, Nevada and Arizona — consume about 8.5 million acre-feet annually, he said.

Even if Nevada and Arizona were to give up their entire annual water allocation, it wouldn’t be enough to cover 4 million acre-feet.

In a statement, the head of Arizona’s water department called for a “united approach,” saying the commissioner’s description of the situation “should remove any remaining doubt that the Colorado River states and our federal partners have a duty to take immediate action — no matter how painful — to protect the system from crashing.”

“I have seen the data Commissioner Touton has seen, and I agree with her conclusions,” Tom Buschatzke, director of the Arizona Department Of Water Resources, said in a statement, adding the states must come up with a proposal and avoid having the federal government take “drastic action unilaterally.”

Buschatzke also cited U.S. Sen. Mark Kelly of Arizona, who noted Arizona’s



CHRISTIAN MURDOCK, THE DENVER GAZETTE

Morning light shines down on the town of Palisade and the Colorado River with the Book Cliffs in the background.

“junior” water-rights status and said if his state absorbed the loss of 2 million to 4 million acre-feet of water, it would “wipe out water deliveries to cities, tribes and farms in Phoenix and in Tucson.”

Touton told the Senate committee that the bureau announced two drought-response plans to raise water levels in Lake Powell by 1 million acre-feet within the next year. The first is to release 500,000 acre-feet of water from Utah’s Flaming Gorge Reservoir, tied to the drought-contingency plan approved by the four Upper Basin states in 2019. Another 480,000 acre-feet will be left in Lake Powell by reducing Glen Canyon Dam’s annual release volume from 7.48 million acre-feet to 7 million acre-feet, and that’s tied to the 2007 interim guidelines that control the operations of both Glen Canyon and Hoover dams.

Colorado’s Blue Mesa Reservoir in Gunnison County was tapped last year, along with Flaming Gorge and Navajo Reservoir in southwest Colorado, to put more water into the system to keep electricity going at Lake Powell. Blue Mesa is now at its lowest level since it was first filled in the 1960s, according to Karl Wetlaufer of the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Natural Resources Conservation Service. It will take significant snow and rainfall to raise those water levels, he said during a meeting of the state’s Water Availability Task Force last month.

Touton noted the bureau has the authority to act unilaterally to protect the system.

“And we will protect the system,” she said, adding that, for now, the bureau



COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Commissioner Camille Calimlim Touton of the Bureau of Reclamation testifies before a U.S. Senate committee Tuesday about the dire situation facing the Colorado River Basin after more than two decades of drought.

is trying to work cooperatively with the states and tribes in reaching a consensus in the next 60 days. “Faith is not enough. We need to see the action.”

Demand management, referred to by Touton during her testimony, was a key part of the Drought Contingency Plan the basin states agreed to in 2019. Under the plan, Colorado, New Mexico, Utah and Wyoming would look into paying people to conserve water and store it in Lake Powell.

Mueller said the four states are already doing their part, reducing consumption from 4.5 million acre-feet to 4 million.

“It’s been declining because of drought, when the water is not there, either legally or physically,” Mueller said, adding ranchers and farmers on Colorado’s Western Slope are just not

taking their full allotment.

The push for a new emergency deal to cope with the Colorado River’s shrinking flow comes just seven months after officials from California, Arizona and Nevada signed an agreement to take significantly less water out of Lake Mead and six weeks after the federal government announced it is holding back a large quantity of water in Lake Powell.

Despite those efforts and a previous deal among the states to share in the shortages, the two reservoirs stand at or near record-low levels. Lake Mead near Las Vegas has dropped to 28% of its full capacity, while Lake Powell on the Utah-Arizona border is now just 27% full.

Ian James of the Los Angeles Times contributed to this report.

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# DIA makes slight changes to security checkpoints

BY DAVID MULLEN  
The Denver Gazette

Slight changes to Denver International Airport's security checkpoints began Wednesday and aim to shorten lines.

The airport in partnership with the Transportation Security Administration added a limited number of TSA PreCheck lanes at the south security checkpoint and standard security at the north checkpoint, according to a news release.

"The additional lanes will provide passengers arriving from the hotel and transit center on the south end and international arrivals on the north end more options to access the appropriate screening lanes on either end of the terminal," airport officials said in the release.

Officials are encouraging travelers to use the airport's primary checkpoints:

North Security Checkpoint is open from 4 a.m. to 8 p.m.

- TSA PreCheck: This checkpoint is primarily for TSA PreCheck passengers.

- CLEAR Customers: A CLEAR lane is available on the east side of this checkpoint for travelers who are CLEAR customers with TSA PreCheck.

- Premium/Premier Traveler Lane: This lane is available on the west side of this checkpoint.

- Standard Screening: There will be up to three standard screening lanes open. South Security Checkpoint is open 24/7.

- Standard Screening: This checkpoint is dedicated to standard screening travelers.

- TSA PreCheck: There will be up to



THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Travelers line up at the south security checkpoint Thursday in the main terminal of Denver International Airport in Denver.

two TSA PreCheck lanes open from 4 a.m. to 8 p.m. PreCheck passengers traveling after 8 p.m. will receive an expedited screening through the standard lanes at this checkpoint.

- CLEAR Customers: A CLEAR lane

is available at this checkpoint for standard screening.

A-Bridge Security Checkpoint is open from 4:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.

- This checkpoint is for standard travelers only.

# EPA issues new health advisory limits for safe PFAS levels

BY SCOTT WEISER  
The Denver Gazette

Concentrations of "forever chemicals" in drinking water that are much lower than previously believed may pose negative health effects, the Environmental Protection Agency warned in a new advisory issued Wednesday.

The EPA announced the advisory — which drastically lowers the agency's recommendations on safe limits for drinking water — a day after another federal agency said residents of the Security-Widefield area in El Paso County near Peterson Space Base showed elevated levels of "forever chemicals" in their blood, compared to the national average.

The EPA said its 2016 recommendation of safe maximum lifetime per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) concentrations of 70 parts per trillion is inadequate "in light of newly available science and in accordance with EPA's responsibility to protect public health."

Studies suggest that high levels of PFAS — ubiquitous chemicals used in industry that can be found in nonstick cookware, stain-resistant fabrics and carpets and cosmetics — might lead to increased cholesterol levels, decreases in infant birth weights and higher risk of high blood pressure or preeclampsia in pregnant women, as well as increased risk of kidney and testicular cancer.

"People on the front lines of PFAS contamination have suffered for far too long," said EPA Administrator Michael S. Regan. "That's why EPA is taking aggressive action as part of a whole-of-government approach to pre-

vent these chemicals from entering the environment and to help protect concerned families from this pervasive challenge."

The new lifetime health advisory level recommendations are 0.004 parts per trillion for PFOA and 0.02 ppt for PFOS, the two most prevalent types of PFAS.

An EPA fact sheet described the new health advisory levels as "below the levels at which analytical methods can measure PFOA and PFOS."

In Colorado, the Fountain-Widefield-Security area is one of the state's biggest PFAS contamination sites due to the long-term use of PFAS-containing firefighting foam at Peterson Air Force (now Space Force) Base beginning in the 1970s. More than 80,000 people are affected.

Water and soil testing in 2016 by the Air Force revealed PFAS levels of 240,000 parts per trillion in soil samples and more than 88,000 parts per trillion in groundwater at seven locations on the base. The base is now a designated EPA Superfund site.

Other PFAS contamination sites include Buckley Air Force Base in Aurora and the Suncor Refinery in Commerce City.

Manufacturing of firefighting foam containing PFAS chemicals ended in the early 2000s, but tens of thousands of gallons still remain stored in fire departments nationwide and can still be used because the federal government has not issued regulations banning its use.

In February, Colorado Attorney General Phil Weiser filed a lawsuit in Den-

ver District Court against 15 firefighting foam manufacturers and distributors, claiming the companies should pay for investigation, reporting, monitoring and cleanup costs, as well as damages and restitution.

Weiser said while production has stopped, distributors continue to sell the foam, even as they know it poses health hazards associated with its use.

As of 2019, the Air Force has spent more than \$357 million at 22 Air Force installations nationwide to clean up contamination, including more than \$50 million for the Peterson AFB remediation.

The Colorado Legislature created a PFAS cash fund in 2018 that provides funding for sampling, emergency assistance and infrastructure.

The law imposes a fee of \$25 per tank truckload of fuel products manufactured in, transported into, or transported within Colorado.

In 2022, lawmakers capped the PFAS cash fund at \$8 million. The law also outlaws the use of PFAS chemicals in many product categories, including carpets, cookware, cosmetics, and furniture, and gives the Colorado Department of Health and Environment authority to designate products containing intentionally added PFAS chemicals for prohibitions on production, sale, or distribution. The law takes effect in 2024.

Under the new law, Class B firefighting foams for use at gasoline, special fuel or jet fuel storage and distribution facilities — one of the primary sources of PFAS contamination — will be strict-

ly regulated to prevent releases of the foam starting in 2024.

The EPA's lifetime health advisories identify contaminant levels that the EPA believes will protect "all people, including sensitive populations and life stages" against adverse health effects from lifetime exposure, including from other sources, such as food, air and consumer products.

"Forever chemicals," such as PFAS, do not readily break down and can accumulate in human and animal tissue and crops over time. In humans, PFOA has a half-life of 3.8 years (1,387 days), according to the EPA.

The EPA also said epidemiological studies of exposure to PFOA and adverse health outcomes in humans are currently inconclusive, and a link to health problems has not yet been confirmed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Research into the health effects of PFAS on humans is ongoing.

The EPA also announced \$1 billion in grant funding from the federal Emerging Contaminants in Small or Disadvantaged Communities Grant Program. This is the first of \$5 billion that can be used to reduce PFAS in drinking water in communities facing disproportionate impacts nationwide.

EPA's health advisories are non-enforceable and non-regulatory. Instead, they provide technical information to drinking water system operators — and to federal, state, tribal and local officials — on the health effects, analytical methodologies and treatment technologies associated with drinking-water contamination.

# Elbert County blasts Griswold for appointing election supervisor

BY MARIANNE GOODLAND  
The Denver Gazette

Elbert County's commissioners this week blasted Secretary of State Jena Griswold for pursuing what they described as a blatant "partisan political action" when she appointed a supervisor tasked with ensuring an accurate primary elections in the county.

The commissioners said they have "full and complete confidence" in Elbert County, where Clerk Dallas Schroeder, who copied the hard drives of his county's election hardware, gave them to attorneys not authorized to possess those copies.

Schroeder, under a court order, later turned those copies over to Griswold's office, which last week appointed Christi Coburn as the county's election supervisor. Coburn, under Griswold's order, will monitor decisions made by Schroeder and his staffers in administering the 2022 primary election.

"We are extremely disappointed that the current Secretary of State, Jenna Griswold, has chosen to depart from the long-held standards of conduct of her predecessors to blatantly pursue partisan political action," the commissioners said in a statement. "The suspicious timing of her latest election order – issued just as voters are receiving ballots – yet based on information publicly available to her for over six months seems timed more for maximum political impact than to ensure election security or voter confidence."

The commissioners added: "Though she has issued multiple election orders over the past several months, Ms. Griswold has never expressed any concern regarding the counting of Elbert County votes."

The commissioners defended Schroeder and county's elections staff, saying they "ensure that all votes properly cast in Elbert County are counted and tabulated accurately."

"This has been confirmed by bi-parti-



COURTESY OF LYNN BARTELS

Elbert County Clerk Dallas Schroeder, left, and his deputy, Rhonda Braun, attend a Colorado County Clerks Association conference Jan. 12 in Colorado Springs.

san hand counts of key races, in the last two election cycles," they said.

In naming Coburn as election supervisor, Griswold said her appointee would "ensure a secure, accurate, and timely conduct of the upcoming election."

"Our local elections are secure," the county's commissioners insisted.

Commissioners also said they welcome observation of the county's election procedures, that voters can be confident their votes are correctly counted and can trust the results of local elections.

Schroeder, who never publicly raised any concerns about the accuracy of election results Elbert County's in either 2020 or 2021, said in a court filing that he made the copies of the county's Dominion Voting Systems hard drive with the assistance of two individuals who were not employees of the clerk's office because he believed he had a "statutory duty" to preserve election records. He also argued that by doing, so he was complying with instructions from the secretary of state to backup election data and that he feared a "trusted build" might "erase or alter electronic records of the November 2020."

Those copies were turned over to two attorneys, including former Republican state Rep. Joe Stengel of Littleton, according to 9News.

Griswold had sued to obtain those copies. It is a violation of the Secretary of State's rules for individuals not employed by the county clerk's office to have access to election materials, including hard drives.

Schroeder said the two individuals who assisted him were Shawn Smith of Colorado Springs, who is with the U.S. Election Integrity Project, and Mark Cook, an IT security consultant who appears to be associated with another election integrity group, Great American Rebirth, and, from emails, also appears to have been involved in an attempt to do a post-2020 election third party audit in Sacramento.

USEIP, which alleged fraud and other irregularities in the 2020 election resulted in the election being stolen from former President Donald Trump, is being sued by the NAACP, the League of Women Voters and Mi Familia Vota in U.S. District Court for Colorado for voter intimidation.

Elbert County's three commissioners are all Republicans.

# Brighton OKs 9.11% increase in water bill

BY LINDSEY TOOMER  
The Denver Gazette

Brighton residents face higher water bills after the its council increased the city's water rates and added a water treatment plant fee.

The 9.11% increase, which becomes effective July 1, effectively resets water rates to what they were in 2019, according to a news release from the city.

The city decreased rates by 8% in 2020 to spend down funding reserves, which have since been depleted. The city also noted that water rates hadn't increased since 2017.

The city estimated that an average single-family home that uses about 4,000 gallons of water in the winter will see an increase of about \$8.48 per month. In the summer, the average household that uses 14,500 gallons of water will see about a \$13 increase per month. The 9.11% increase will only apply to water usage charges, a city spokesperson said, while the full utility bill includes water, wastewater and storm drainage.

The new water treatment plant fee – which will start at \$6 a month – will kick in on the first day of 2023 to finance construction of a new plant, said the city which noted that its current plant is more than 25 years old.

The city said the new plant will allow Brighton to better meet residents' needs, doubling the capacity of the existing plant. The project is expected to break ground in July and is intended to get completed in the summer of 2025.

A city spokesperson said the water rate hike is estimated to generate about \$1.1 million annually, with \$550,000 anticipated for the six months it's in effect this year.

The city said the reserves – funds saved over the years when revenue is higher than expenses – in the water fund reached \$12.9 million in 2019. At the start of this year, the fund only held \$2.3 million, which is below the recommended minimum of \$5.5 million to have in case of emergencies.

# July vehicle registration reminders will be delayed

The Denver Gazette

Coloradans whose vehicle registration is set to expire in July will receive an annual reminder notice later than usual, state officials announced Wednesday.

These notices are traditionally sent out a month before a registration expires.

But because of fiscal year programming updates, the reminders won't be mailed until July 6, according to the

Colorado Division of Motor Vehicles.

Officials encouraged residents to double-check when their registration expires and plan ahead.

Registration renewals can be completed online at mydmv.colorado.gov.

## Outside spending in state House primaries nears \$2M

BY MARIANNE GOODLAND  
Colorado Politics

Spending on primaries for the state House by independent expenditure committees is nearing \$2 million, the kind of spending you usually only see in a general election.

Much of that spending reflects the division between Democratic party elites versus the party's more progressive wing, as well as the division among the House Republican caucus's hard right and more moderate factions.

At least 19 IECs in the past month have put money into General Assembly primary races, with those funds going almost entirely to state House candidates. There are 24 open seats in the House for the November general election, but the primary races are almost all safe seats for Democrats or Republicans.

The hottest race on the left is in House District 6, the primary between former House Dem legislative aide Katie March and progressive activist Elisabeth Epps. Between the two, spending is at just under \$270,000, but it favors March at more than \$173,000.

Almost all of March's money comes from one group: Democrats for Progressive Leadership. According to TRACER, Colorado's campaign finance database, the IEC gets its money from the "We Mean Business Coalition," which lists an address in Wheat Ridge and which doesn't identify its donors.

The Colorado Working Families Party IEC, which gets its major contributions from the Service International Employ-



KATHRYN SCOTT, SPECIAL TO THE DENVER GAZETTE

Spending to back House Minority Leader Hugh McKean totals \$282,182.

ees Union, is backing Epps with just under \$100,000 in spending.

Another of the races with hot spending: House District 34, currently held by Rep. Kyle Mullica, a Thornton Democrat who's trying to make the leap to the state Senate.

The Democratic candidates are Jenny Willford and Sam Nizam, and IECs have so far spent at least \$228,413, a sum larger than normally seen in a general election contest, much less a primary. The spending favors Nizam, with support from the Colorado Democracy Project, which gets its money from former DaVita CEO Kent Thiry, and Voters for Colorado's Future, which is run by former House Speaker Terrence Carroll, D-Denver.

Backing Willford is the Colorado Labor Action, which has received more than \$682,000 from the Colorado Education Association and SEIU, a union affiliated with the state employee union.

In Aurora-based House District 42, Colorado Labor Action is also backing Democratic Rep. Mandy Lindsay of Aurora in the rematch with Gail Pough from last January's vacancy committee election to the tune of more than \$88,000.

On the GOP side, two races are seeing the most spending so far.

The first is in House District 51, the seat held by House Minority Leader Hugh McKean of Loveland. IECs backing McKean include the conservative

education IEC Ready Colorado Action Fund; a new IEC, Making Colorado Affordable Again, which received contributions from Ready Colorado; and Prosperity through Property Rights, an IEC with a long history of backing moderate Republicans. Spending to back McKean totals \$282,182.

His opponent, former House GOP comms director Austin Hein who worked for McKean's predecessor, has only received about \$4,000 from two IECs, both tied to anti-abortion groups.

IECs backing McKean are also spending in favor of Republican candidates for two House districts currently represented by the hard right of the GOP caucus. In House District 45, term-limited former House Minority Leader Patrick Neville's district, IECs such as Making Colorado Affordable Again and Ready Colorado are backing Lisa Frizell or opposed to Bill Jack, her primary opponent. So far, the IECs have spent \$286,659 to back Frizell.

In House District 44, currently held by term-limited Littleton Republican Rep. Kim Ransom, IEC spending to the tune of \$113,549 favors Anthony Hartsook over his primary opponent, Terry Dodd, and from the same IECs backing McKean and Frizell.

Rep. Mary Bradford, R-Colorado Springs, who struggled to get onto the ballot, is backed by the same IECs in her race against Karl Dent.

There is one more major reporting period left before the June 28 primary, with a deadline of June 22 and reporting on June 27.

## \$2B 2017 transportation bill fully funded, helping 129 projects

BY MARIANNE GOODLAND  
Colorado Politics

Colorado Treasurer Dave Young on Wednesday announced the state has wrapped up the last four \$500 million sales of certificates of participation that are intended to help finance transportation projects across the state.

Certificates of participation (COPs) are akin to bonds, but under Senate Bill 17-267, the state is putting up as collateral state buildings, under lease-purchase agreements.

Wednesday's sale resulted in \$500 million in COPs, with \$2 billion now raised for transportation projects since 2019.

"Creating well-paying jobs across the state, these projects have had a transformational change in the lives of farmers, ranchers, workers and families across Colorado," Young said in a statement. "These infrastructure improvements are the economic engine of our state, easing commutes, making it easier to visit parts of our beautiful state, and allowing Colorado products to reach far and wide across the country."

According to Young's office, SB 267 helped fund 129 projects across the state: paving miles of rural roads, adding billions of dollars into local communities and economies across the state, creating local jobs, and easing

traffic congestion points.

The COPs have been the primary funding source for CDOT's progress on their 10-year plan for capital construction. The Treasurer's Office said 41% of the 10-year plan has been completed as a result of the legislation, sponsored by Sens. Lucia Guzman, D-Denver, and Jerry Sonnenberg, R-Sterling, and in the House by the unrelated Reps. K.C. Becker, D-Boulder and Jon Becker, R-Fort Morgan.

Proceeds will fund strategic transportation projects designated for priority funding on CDOT's program project list, with at least 25% of such proceeds being expended to fund projects in ru-

ral counties. At least 10% of the proceeds must be expended for transit purposes or for transit-related capital improvements.

SB 267 also raised the dollar amount small businesses could claim for business personal property tax purposes, increased the client copay for certain Medicaid services, and created enterprise status — akin to a state-run business — for the hospital provider fee, which pools a fee levied on outpatient and daily patient bed counts at hospitals, combines it with federal dollars, and then redistributes it to hospitals in Colorado to pay for uninsured health care services or Medicaid services.

## Yellowstone floodwaters rush toward Billings

The Associated Press and Reuters

**RED LODGE, MONT.** • Floodwaters that rushed through Yellowstone National Park and surrounding communities earlier this week moved through Montana's largest city on Wednesday, flooding farms and ranches and forcing the shutdown of its water treatment plant.

The water in the Yellowstone River hit its highest level in nearly a century as it traveled east to Billings, Mont., home to nearly 110,000 people. It hit 16 feet, a foot higher than the water plant needs to work effectively.

The historic floodwaters raged through the nation's oldest national park earlier this week and may have forever altered the human footprint on Yellowstone's terrain and the communities that have grown around it.

The floodwaters tore out bridges and poured into nearby homes. They pushed a popular fishing river off course — possibly permanently — and may force roadways nearly torn away by torrents of water to be rebuilt in new places.

“The landscape literally and figuratively has changed dramatically in the last 36 hours,” said Bill Berg, a commissioner in nearby Park County. “A little bit ironic that this spectacular landscape was created by violent geologic and hydrologic events, and it's just not very handy when it happens while we're all here settled on it.”

The unprecedented flooding drove more than 10,000 visitors out of park and damaged hundreds of homes in nearby communities, though remarkably no was reported hurt or killed. The only visitors left in the massive park straddling three states were a dozen campers still making their way out of the backcountry.

Park officials shut down all five entrances to Yellowstone to inbound traffic on Tuesday, marking the park's first disaster-related closing in summer since wildfires roared through the area in 1988.

The flooding washed away cabins, swamped small towns and knocked out power. It hit the park as a summer tourist season that draws millions of visitors was ramping up during its 150th anniversary year.

The park could remain closed as long as a week, and northern entrances may not reopen this summer, Superintendent Cam Sholly said.

“I've heard this is a 1,000-year event, whatever that means these days. They seem to be happening more and more



PHOTOS BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

frequently,” he said.

Sholly noted some weather forecasts include the possibility of additional flooding this weekend.

Sholly said the park's harder-hit northern tier would likely remain closed to visitors through the season. But the southern end of Yellowstone, encompassing Old Faithful Geyser and many of the park's other famous geothermal features, could reopen on a limited basis in a week or less, depending on how extensive the damage there turns out to be, he said.

Sholly said the park would probably explore a timed-entry or reservation system to prevent overcrowding of the park's southern loop when it reopens.

Montana Gov. Greg Gianforte declared a statewide disaster, with rescue and relief efforts focused in three counties.

Businesses in hard-hit Gardiner had just started really recovering from the tourism contraction brought by the coronavirus pandemic, and were hoping for a good year, Berg said.

“It's a Yellowstone town, and it lives

Above, a house is pulled into Rock Creek in Red Lodge, Mont., on Tuesday by raging floodwaters. Left, a bridge along the Yellowstone River had been swept away Wednesday near Gardiner, Mont.

and dies by tourism, and this is going to be a pretty big hit,” he said. “They're looking to try to figure out how to hold things together.”

During peak summer season, up to 750 Park Service employees work in Yellowstone, along with 3,500 concessions workers who staff the park's nine hotels and other guest facilities such as restaurants and gift shops.

Mike Darby, owner of the historic Irma Hotel in Cody, Wyo., at Yellowstone's East Gate, said two years of pandemic constraints followed by record high gasoline prices and spiraling inflation “have just been the perfect storm — and now we have this devastation in the park.”

Darby said he expects local residents will band together to help each other and visitors navigate an uncertain season, much as they did during the 1988 fire.

“People love Yellowstone, and no matter what happens, it's not going anywhere,” he said. “It's always going to that special place for so many.”

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# UKRAINE CRISIS

## Ukraine ignores Sievierodonetsk ultimatum

Biden to send \$1B more in weapons aid

BY PAVEL POLITYUK  
AND ABDELAZIZ BOUMZAR  
Reuters

**KYIV/NIU-YORK, UKRAINE** • Ukraine ignored a Russian ultimatum to surrender the eastern city of Sievierodonetsk on Wednesday as the United States announced more weapons for Kyiv, which warned that arms deliveries were taking too long.

Sievierodonetsk has become the focal point of the war. Russia had told Ukrainian forces holed up in a chemical plant there to lay down their arms from Wednesday morning as it fights for control of eastern Ukraine.

Ukraine says more than 500 civilians, including 40 children, remain alongside soldiers inside the Azot chemical factory, sheltering from weeks of Russian bombardment. Russian-backed separatists in the area say up to 1,200 civilians may be inside.

The mayor of Sievierodonetsk, Oleksandr Stryuk, said Russian forces were trying to storm the city from several directions but the Ukrainians continued to defend it and were not totally cut off, even though all its river bridges had been destroyed.

Moscow said it had opened a human-



REUTERS

A damaged tram is seen at a shelled depot Wednesday in Kharkiv, Ukraine.

itarian corridor from Azot on Wednesday to allow civilians to escape to Russian-controlled territory. It accused Ukraine's forces of disrupting that plan and using civilians as human shields, which Kyiv denies.

"There are no obstacles for civilians to leave ... except for the decision in principle by the Kyiv authorities themselves," Russia's defense ministry said in a statement. Reuters was unable to

verify that claim.

Serhiy Gaidai, governor of the Luhansk region containing Sievierodonetsk, said Ukraine's army was defending the city and trying to stop Russian forces from taking its twin city Lysychansk on the opposite bank of the Siverskyi Donets river. Reuters could not immediately verify the battlefield accounts.

Luhansk is one of two eastern provinces Moscow claims on behalf of separat-

ist proxies. Together they make up the Donbas, an industrial region where Russia has focused its assault after failing to take Ukraine's capital Kyiv in March.

Addressing dozens of NATO defense ministers meeting in Brussels to debate their next moves, U.S. Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin said the invasion was at a pivotal moment.

"We can't afford to let up and we can't lose steam. The stakes are too high," he said at the start of the talks.

NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg said the alliance was "extremely focused on stepping up support" for Ukraine.

President Joe Biden later announced \$1 billion worth of new weapons aid for Ukraine that includes anti-ship rocket systems, artillery rockets and rounds for howitzers. Biden, who spoke with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky by phone on Wednesday, also announced an additional \$225 million in humanitarian aid to Ukraine.

Kyiv is pleading for faster and more frequent deliveries of weapons as Russian President Vladimir Putin seeks full control of the Donbas and a swathe of southern Ukraine.

Western nations have promised Ukraine NATO-standard weapons but deploying them is taking time. Zelensky said there was no justification for delays.

## 2 U.S. veterans from Alabama reported missing in Ukraine

The Associated Press

**BIRMINGHAM, ALA.** • Two U.S. veterans from Alabama who were in Ukraine assisting in the war against Russia haven't been heard from in days and are missing, members of the state's congressional delegation said Wednesday.

Relatives of Andy Tai Ngoc Huynh, 27, of Trinity and Alexander Druke, 39, of Tuscaloosa have been in contact with both Senate and House offices seeking information about the men's whereabouts, press aides said.

Rep. Robert Aderholt said Huynh had volunteered to go fight with the Ukrainian army against Russia, but relatives haven't heard from him since June 8, when he was in the Kharkiv region of northeastern Ukraine, which is near the Russian border. Huynh and Druke were together, an aide to Ader-



Alexander Druke, left, and Andy Tai Huynh

holt said.

"As you can imagine, his loved ones are very concerned about him," Aderholt said in a statement. "My office has placed inquires with both the United States Department of State and the Federal Bureau of Investigation trying to get any information possible."

Rep. Terri Sewell said Druke's mother reached out to her office earlier this

week after she lost contact with her son.

The U.S. State Department said it was looking into reports that Russian or Russian-backed separatist forces in Ukraine had captured at least two American citizens. If confirmed, they would be the first Americans fighting for Ukraine known to have been captured since the war began Feb. 24.

"We are closely monitoring the situation and are in contact with Ukrainian authorities," the department said in a statement emailed to reporters. It declined further comment, citing privacy considerations.

John Kirby, a national security spokesman at the White House, said Wednesday that the administration wasn't able to confirm the reports about missing Americans.

"We'll do the best we can to monitor

this and see what we can learn about it," he said.

However, he reiterated his warnings against Americans going to Ukraine.

"Ukraine is not the place for Americans to be traveling," he said. "If you feel passionate about supporting Ukraine, there's any number of ways to do that that are safer and just as effective."

A court in Donetsk, under separatist control, sentenced two Britons and a Moroccan man to death last week. The Britons and Moroccan were accused of being mercenaries and seeking the violent overthrow of the separatist government in the Donetsk region. The Russian military has said it considers foreigners fighting with Ukraine to be mercenaries and claims they are not protected as combatants under the Geneva Convention.

## 2022 PRIMARIES

# Big Trump win in S.C.; election deniers advance in Nevada

BY BRIAN SLODYSKO  
The Associated Press

**WASHINGTON** • Donald Trump notched a significant victory in South Carolina, where his preferred candidate easily ousted five-term Rep. Tom Rice, the first Republican to be booted from office after voting to impeach the former president last year. But another high-profile GOP target of Trump in the state, Rep. Nancy Mace, held back a challenger.

Meanwhile, in Nevada on Tuesday, two election deniers who have tirelessly promoted the former president's lies about voter fraud won their primaries for key positions of power in the state.

Takeaways from the latest round of primary elections:

### Split decision in South Carolina

Rice and Mace have been objects of Trump's anger ever since a mob of his supporters stormed the U.S. Capitol to stop the certification of Joe Biden's presidential election win.

Their transgressions? Mace stated on national TV that Trump's "entire legacy was wiped out" by the attack, while Rice became an apostate for joining a small group of Republicans who voted with Democrats in favor of Trump's second impeachment.

Voters ultimately rendered different judgments on the duo. Rice's largely rural district booted him in favor of the Trump-endorsed state Rep. Russell Fry. Mace prevailed in her suburban Charleston district.

### Election deniers advance in Nevada

Two Republican candidates who ar-

dently pushed Trump's lies about voter fraud costing him the 2020 presidential election won nominations to top offices in Nevada on Tuesday.

Jim Marchant, a former state lawmaker, won the GOP nomination for secretary of state, the office that oversees elections in the perennial presidential battleground that Trump narrowly lost in both 2016 and 2020.

Marchant has made appearances around the country with other Trump allies, including MyPillow CEO Mike Lindell, to cast doubt on the election results, despite the fact that courts, election officials from both parties and his own attorney general have said the vote was legitimate.

Marchant will face Democrat Cisco Aguilar in November. Aguilar is a lawyer and former chair of the Nevada Athletic Commission who was unopposed in the Democratic primary.

Adam Laxalt, the state's former attorney general, won the GOP nomination for U.S. Senate in Nevada on Tuesday after promoting Trump's lies about fraud in the state in the 2020 election, including spearheading legal challenges to the vote-counting process.

Laxalt, who was backed by the former president, insisted in 2020 that ineligible and dead voters cast ballots in the presidential election in Nevada, despite the state's Republican secretary of state, Barbara Cegavske, insisting that the results showing Biden's victory were accurate and reliable. Cegavske was prevented by term limit laws from running again.

Laxalt will face Democratic Sen. Catherine Cortez Masto in November in



THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Nevada Republican U.S. Senate candidate Adam Laxalt celebrates his victory with family, friends and supporters Tuesday at the Tamarack Casino in Reno, Nev.

what Republicans see as one of their best chances to flip a seat and to win back control of the chamber.

### Texas House seat flips

A once solidly Democratic district in South Texas will now be represented by a Republican after Mayra Flores won a special primary election to finish the term of former Democratic Rep. Filemon Vela, who resigned this year to become a lobbyist.

Flores, a GOP organizer who is the daughter of migrant workers, will only hold the seat for several months before the district is redrawn to be more favorable to Democrats. But her victory in the heavily Hispanic Rio Grande Valley is an ominous sign for Democrats.

They are not only losing ground in a region they long dominated, but Flores' success as a candidate also demonstrates that Republicans are making

inroads with Hispanic voters.

### From South Carolina to White House?

Also in South Carolina, Republican Tim Scott coasted to an easy and unopposed primary win Tuesday for what he says will be his last term in the Senate. But another state is also on his mind — the presidential proving ground of Iowa.

It's become an article of faith that there are no "accidental" trips to Iowa by ambitious politicians. And Scott, the Senate's sole Black Republican, has made several visits, including one last week. He certainly has the money to contend. As he campaigned for reelection to the Senate, Scott amassed a jaw-dropping \$42 million. That's more than double the \$15.7 million average cost of a winning Senate campaign in the 2018 midterms. It's also more than enough to launch a Republican presidential campaign in 2024.

# New Mexico sues county over refusal to certify primary results

Reuters

New Mexico's secretary of state is suing Otero County's Republican-led commission after it refused to certify June's primary election results, citing conspiracy theories about voting machines.

The three-person commission in Otero County, in southern-New Mexico, on Monday voted against certifying the results of the June 7 primary election for races including governor, congress and attorney general despite the coun-

ty clerk's assurances that the vote was sound.

"We have a big issue with trust right now," commissioner Couy Griffin, a founder of Cowboys for Trump, said during the meeting in which he speculated that Dominion Voting Systems' machines could be hacked or manipulated.

Secretary of State Maggie Toulouse Oliver on Tuesday sued the commission in the Supreme Court of the State of New Mexico, stating they were acting

"illegally" and "appeasing unfounded conspiracy theories."

Toulouse Oliver, a Democrat, said the commissioners had not offered any evidence of issues with the vote tabulators or election returns.

Griffin did not immediately respond to a request for comment. He was found guilty by a judge in March of breaching the U.S. Capitol during the Jan. 6, 2021 riot. He has yet to be sentenced.

Toulouse Oliver warned other counties may follow suit in refusing to cer-

tify results.

U.S. Rep. Adam Kinzinger, one of the 10 House Republicans who voted to impeach then-President Trump on a charge of inciting the deadly Jan. 6 attack, said Otero's vote was a harbinger of more election turmoil ahead.

"Wake up America and GOP, this will destroy us," Kinzinger tweeted on Wednesday.

"This is now the plan for MAGA, place people in low levels who can refuse to do their basic duty," he said.

## Biden targets transgender bans in Pride Month order

Reuters

**WASHINGTON** • President Joe Biden on Wednesday signed an executive order aimed at curbing discrimination against transgender youth and drying up federal funding for the controversial practice of “conversion therapy.”

Biden’s executive order asks the federal health and education departments to expand access to gender-affirming medical care and find new ways to counter a flurry of bills passed in U.S. states by conservative lawmakers this year that ban these treatments for transgender youth.

The order asks federal agencies to ensure that federally funded programs do not offer conversion therapy, which tries to force LGBTQ youth to change their sexual orientation, and the Federal Trade Commission to consider policing such practices that seek to change a patient’s sexual orientation or gender identity as deceptive businesses.

A study backed by the Trevor Project, an LGBT anti-suicide advocacy group, found that some \$650 million



THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

President Joe Biden celebrates after signing an executive order at an event to celebrate Pride Month on Wednesday in the East Room of the White House.

is spent on conversion therapy annually, including payments from insurance companies and Medicaid, the federally-funded healthcare program for lower income people.

“We have a lot more work to do, a lot more work to do,” Biden said before signing the executive order at a Pride Month reception at the White House. Decrying what he called the “ul-

tra-MAGA” agenda, a reference to former President Donald Trump’s campaign slogan, Biden said states have introduced hundreds of bills targeting LGBTQ people, that parents of transgender youth are being harassed in Texas and Mickey Mouse is targeted in Florida for Walt Disney’s defense of gay rights.

“These attacks are real and consequential for real families,” Biden said.

The measures also include encouraging the placement of LGBT children in foster homes that support their sexual orientation and creating a new working group on LGBT homelessness. They come after the Department of Justice has challenged some conservative state laws on trans kids as unconstitutional.

The White House said more than 300 “anti-LGBTQI+” laws were introduced in state legislatures over the past year, a reference to bills barring classroom discussion of gender identity, blocking access to healthcare to help young people transition, and restricting participation in sports.

## Legislation for victims of burn pits advances in move toward final vote

Reuters

**WASHINGTON** • Legislation to improve health care and benefits for veterans exposed to toxic military burn pits in Iraq and Afghanistan advanced with bipartisan support in the Senate on Wednesday, clearing the way for a final vote.

The legislation, which would cost \$180 billion over four years, would cover injuries suffered by service members exposed to toxic smoke from the burn pits, which has been linked to respiratory illnesses and rare cancers.

It would also expand federal research on the impact of the burn pits which were used by the military until the mid-2010s to dispose of plastics, chemicals, human waste and other garbage on foreign bases in Iraq, Afghanistan and other countries.

The legislation passed the House last year but the Senate modified it to phase in coverage more gradually. It will have to pass the House again before Biden can sign it into law.

Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer said on the Senate floor



U.S. MARINES, FILE VIA REUTERS

Marines dispose of trash in a burn pit March 3, 2012, as their convoy, headed to Patrol Base Sre Kalad in Khan Neshin District, Afghanistan, waits for a sandstorm to pass.

ahead of the vote that 3.5 million servicemembers had been exposed to the toxic-burn pits since Sept. 11, 2001, and called the years of denials of coverage “a confounding indignity” to veterans.

The bill will also expand coverage of health issues caused by Agent Orange, a toxic deforestation spray used by the military during the Vietnam War.

## Fauci tests positive for COVID-19

The Washington Examiner

Dr. Anthony Fauci, the federal government’s top infectious disease expert, tested positive for COVID-19 on Wednesday.

Fauci, who is vaccinated and double boosted, is experiencing mild symptoms, the National Institutes of Health announced.

“Dr. Fauci will isolate and continue to work from his home. He has not recently been in close contact with President Biden or other senior government officials,” the NIH said. “Dr. Fauci will follow the COVID-19 guidelines of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and medical advice from his physician and return to the NIH when he tests negative.”

Fauci, 81, is the director of the NIH’s National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases and the chief medical adviser to Biden. He has long been a crusader for COVID-19 mitigation measures, such as social distancing, mask-wearing, and self-quarantining if necessary. While Fauci said earlier this year that the United States was emerging from “the full-blown pandemic phase of COVID-19,” he has continued to warn the public about



THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Dr. Anthony Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, testifies during a Senate Appropriations subcommittee hearing May 17 on Capitol Hill.

the risk of contracting the virus.

His diagnosis is the latest in a string of positive results among government officials, such as Health and Human Services Secretary Xavier Becerra, who tested positive this week for a second time.

Fauci was scheduled to brief Congress on the country’s response to the pandemic on Thursday.



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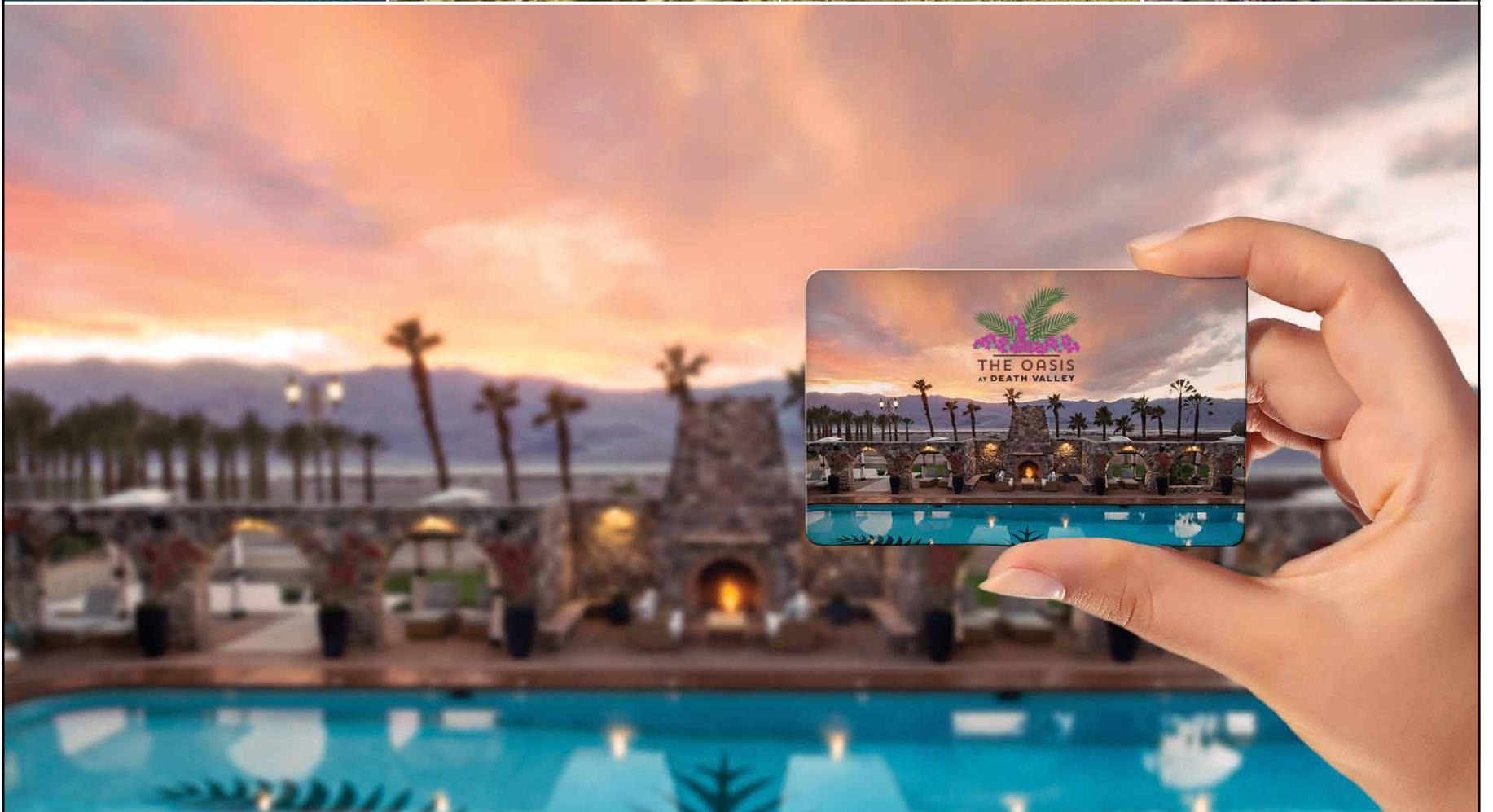
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A WORLD OF UNFORGETTABLE EXPERIENCES



## COVID shots for kids under 5 a step closer

### First shipments could arrive in Colorado by next week

Staff and wire reports

COVID-19 shots for U.S. infants, toddlers and preschoolers moved a step closer Wednesday and, depending on when federal officials give final approval, the first shipments of the doses could arrive in Colorado in the next week.

The Food and Drug Administration's vaccine advisers gave a thumbs-up to vaccines from Moderna and Pfizer for the littlest kids.

The outside experts voted unanimously that the benefits of the shots outweigh any risks for children under 5 — that's roughly 18 million youngsters. They are the last age group in the U.S. without access to COVID-19 vaccines and many parents have been eager to protect their little children.

If all the regulatory steps are cleared, shots should be available next week. Heather Roth, the head of the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment's immunization branch, said Wednesday that the state could receive its first shipment by June 20. More than 67,000 doses will be available here within the first 10 days, she said.

"This is a long-awaited vaccine," said one panel member, Dr. Jay Portnoy of Children's Hospital in Kansas City, Mo. "There are so many parents who are absolutely desperate to get this vaccine and I think we owe it to them to give them a choice to have the vaccine if they want to."

Dr. Peter Marks, FDA's vaccine chief, opened the meeting with data showing a "quite troubling surge" in young children's hospitalizations during the omicron wave, and he noted 442 children under 4 have died during the pandemic. That's far fewer than adult deaths, but should not be dismissed in considering the need for vaccinating the youngest kids, he said.

"Each child that's lost essentially fractures a family," Marks said.

While endorsing the vaccines, some panel members said they believe chances are minimal for severe illness and death in young children.

"Risks from vaccination are very low, but so are risks from COVID-19 for the youngest kids," said Dr. Cody Meissner of Tufts University.

FDA reviewers said both brands appear to be safe and effective for children as young as 6 months old in analyses posted ahead of the all-day meeting. Side effects, including fever and fatigue, were generally minor in both, and less common than seen in adults.

The two vaccines use the same technology but there are differences. In a call with reporters earlier this week, vaccine experts noted that the shots haven't been tested against each other, so there's no way to tell parents if one is superior.

"You can't compare the vaccines directly," said Dr. Jesse Goodman of Georgetown University, a former



THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A boy receives a dose of China's Sinovac COVID-19 vaccine at a community vaccination center Feb. 25 in Hong Kong.

FDA vaccine chief.

If the FDA agrees with its advisers and authorizes the shots, there's one more step. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention will decide on a formal recommendation after its own advisers vote on Saturday. If the CDC signs off, shots could be available as soon as Monday or Tuesday at doctor's offices, hospitals and pharmacies.

Roth, of the Colorado health department, said vaccine administration here will be handled by a mixture of pediatric and family practice clinics; school-based health centers; community health centers and safety net clinics; large hospitals and local public health agencies; and some retail pharmacies.

Roughly 270 Colorado providers have signed up to distribute vaccines in the first two waves of shipments, Roth said. Orders for the Pfizer dose have thus far outstripped those for Moderna's vaccine. Pfizer's vaccine is for children 6 months through 4 years; Moderna's vaccine is for 6 months through 5 years.

Moderna's shots are one-quarter the dose of the company's adult shots. Two doses appeared strong enough to prevent severe illness but only about 40% to 50% effective at preventing milder infections. Moderna added a booster to its tests and expects to eventually offer one.

Pfizer's shots are just one-tenth its adult dose. Pfizer and partner BioNTech found that two shots didn't provide enough protection in testing, so a third was added during the omicron wave.

Pfizer's submitted data found no safety concerns and suggested that three shots were 80% effective in preventing symptomatic coronavirus infections. But that was based on just 10 COVID-19 cases; the calculation could change as more cases occur in the company's ongoing studies.

Several advisers, noting that protection is low after two Pfizer doses, worried that some parents might end up skipping the third shot, or mistakenly thinking their kids are better protected between shots, leaving them vulnerable.

Roth told Colorado's board of health Wednesday that parents were most ready to get their children vaccinated in January, when it appeared doses were set to be approved for toddlers and young kids. After that didn't happen, she said, hesitancy has increased, and the share of parents who say they'll get their kids vaccinated as soon as possible has fallen.

Educating parents must be done "very, very carefully so that they are not misled about what the vaccines actually provide," said Dr. Archana Chatterjee of Rosalind Franklin University.

The same FDA panel on Tuesday backed Moderna's half-sized shots for ages 6 to 11 and full-sized doses for teens. If authorized by the FDA, it would be the second option for those age groups. Currently, Pfizer vaccine is their only choice.

Denver Gazette reporter Seth Klamann contributed to this report.

# DOJ files hate-crime charges against Buffalo shooting suspect

BY SARAH N. LYNCH  
Reuters

**WASHINGTON** • The Justice Department on Wednesday filed federal hate crime charges against a white supremacist accused of killing 10 Black people in Buffalo, N.Y., last month, saying he was driven by a desire to “prevent Black people from replacing white people.”

Payton Gendron faces 26 counts of hate crimes and firearms offenses, according to the charges.

The complaint contains chilling details about the May 14 shooting, including a moment when Gendron turned to a white male victim who had been shot in the leg and said “sorry” before moving on, according to a sworn statement filed by an FBI agent.

“We will be relentless in our efforts to combat hate crimes and support communities terrorized by them, and to hold accountable those who perpetrate them,” said Attorney General Merrick Garland, who traveled to the site of the shooting on Wednesday and met with victims’ families.

Gendron, 18, could potentially face the death penalty if found guilty. Garland declined to say whether it would be sought if Gendron is convicted.

Gendron already faces the possibility of life in prison without parole on 25 New York state charges, including first- and second-degree murder and domestic terrorism motivated by hate. He has pleaded not guilty.

A lawyer representing Gendron in the state case could not be reached for comment.

Gendron allegedly killed 10 people



THE ASSOCIATED PRESS  
Attorney General Merrick Garland visits the Tops Friendly Market grocery store Wednesday in Buffalo, N.Y., the site of a May 14 mass shooting in which 10 Black people were killed.

and wounded three at the Tops Friendly Markets in a predominantly Black neighborhood in Buffalo before police said he surrendered to officers inside the grocery store.

The gunman broadcast the attack in real time on the Twitch livestreaming service and apparently posted a white supremacist rant before the attack saying that he had been inspired by previous racially motivated mass killings.

According to the criminal complaint, the semi-automatic rifle used had the names of others who committed mass shootings written on it, as well as phrases such as “Here’s your reparations!” and “The Great Replacement.”

“The Great Replacement” refers to a false conspiracy theory that various

elites are engineering the replacement of white populations with nonwhite immigrants.

The FBI said it had uncovered a hand-written note in Gendron’s bedroom in which he apologized to his family for committing “this attack” and said he had to do it “for the future of the White race.”

The FBI also located sketches of what appeared to be the layout of the supermarket.

The Buffalo shooting and a mass shooting just 10 days later at an elementary school in Uvalde, Texas, have prompted a bipartisan effort in the Senate to enact tougher gun laws, though there were signs on Wednesday of snags on passing a bill.

# Cop charged with murder in Lyoya’s death is fired

The Associated Press

**DETROIT** • A Michigan police officer charged with murder after shooting Patrick Lyoya in the back of the head has been fired, officials said Wednesday.

Christopher Schurr, a Grand Rapids officer for seven years, waived his right to a hearing and was dismissed, effective last Friday, said City Manager Mark Washington.

Schurr’s dismissal was recommended by police Chief Eric Winstrom after a second-degree murder charge was filed Thursday.

Washington declined further comment, noting the criminal case and a likely lawsuit over Lyoya’s death.

Schurr’s attorney, Matt Borgula, said he wasn’t representing the officer in the labor matter and had no comment.

Lyoya, a Black man, was killed at the end of a traffic stop on April 4. He ran and physically resisted Schurr after failing to produce a driver’s license.

Schurr, who is white, claimed Lyoya had control of his Taser when he shot him. Defense lawyers said the officer feared for his safety.

The confrontation and shooting were recorded on video. Schurr, 31, had been on leave while state police investigated the shooting and prosecutor Chris Becker decided whether to pursue charges.

# Confederate flag-toting man, son convicted in Capitol riot

The Associated Press

**WASHINGTON** • A federal judge on Wednesday convicted a Confederate flag-toting man and his son of charges that they stormed the U.S. Capitol together during the riot on Jan. 6, 2021, to obstruct Congress from certifying Joe Biden’s presidential victory.

U.S. District Judge Trevor McFadden delivered the verdict from the bench after hearing two days of testimony without a jury for the trial of Kevin Seefried and his adult son, Hunter.

McFadden convicted both Delaware

men of a felony count: obstruction of an official proceeding, the joint session of Congress for certifying the Electoral College that day.

The judge also convicted the Seefrieds of misdemeanor charges that they engaged in disorderly conduct and illegally demonstrated inside the building. But he acquitted Hunter Seefried of other misdemeanor charges for clearing a shard of glass from a broken window at the Capitol.

They will remain free pending separate sentencing hearings in September.

McFadden, whom President Donald Trump nominated for the court in 2017, presided over two previous bench trials for Capitol riot defendants. He acquitted one of all charges and partially acquitted another.

Widely published photographs showed Kevin Seefried carrying a Confederate battle flag inside the Capitol after he and Hunter Seefried, then 22, entered the building through a broken window.

McFadden rejected the defense argument that Kevin Seefried never intended to interfere with the congressional

proceedings. “I find that he knew what he was doing,” McFadden said.

The judge described Kevin Seefried as the “prime mover” in their decision to go to Washington on Jan. 6. McFadden said Hunter Seefried’s guilt on the obstruction charge was a “closer question,” but the judge ultimately concluded that the son engaged in “aggravated conduct” that supported a conviction.

“Hunter Seefried showed a pattern of deception and minimization of his actions” when an FBI agent interviewed him after the riot, McFadden said.



REUTERS

Arizona fire Capt. Kevin Goodman demonstrates a bulletproof vest made by his company, Escape Armour on Friday outside Phoenix.

# Fire official designs bulletproof vest to fit school backpacks

Reuters

Arizona fire Capt. Kevin Goodman says his company, Escape Armour, exists for one reason: to prevent the loss of even a single child in a school shooting.

Goodman, who has four children, designed a bulletproof vest that easily fits into school backpacks, so kids can have it with them at all times. It's not the first such product, but he says his armor uses better materials.

"So to be able to make something that possibly could protect a child in this kind of horrible situation some time, I mean, that's why I do it," he told Reuters.

Goodman, who has worked as a firefighter, fire captain and fire investigator, as well as an engineer, in Arizona since 1998, took Reuters outside Phoenix city limits to demonstrate how the vest works.

Using a mannequin to simulate a child, he fired several shots using a 9mm rifle, 9mm handgun and .45-cal-

iber handgun.

As he removed an armor plate from the vest — which did not let any bullets through — he commented on where each shot hit.

"These two hits here would have pierced right through my heart. These on the right side would have gone through my right lung. And these lower ones over here, there's two hits here, these would have easily gone through my left side lung," Goodman said.

Escape Armour offers two different products: a foldable vest that comes in three sizes and a stand-alone shield that makes any backpack bulletproof.

Nineteen children and two teachers were killed in Uvalde, Texas, on May 24, in the deadliest U.S. school shooting in a decade. There have been at least 239 mass shootings in the United States this year, according to the Gun Violence Archive, a nonprofit research group.

# Abortions rose in 2020, first increase in 30 years

The Washington Examiner

More women received abortions in the U.S. during 2020 than in the decades prior, reversing recent trends and marking the first increase in the number of abortions in more than 30 years.

Roughly 930,160 abortions were performed in 2020, marking a 1% increase from the year before and an 8% increase from 2017, equaling out to about 1 in 5 pregnancies that year, according to data from the Guttmacher Institute. At the same time, the country reported a 6% decline in births from 2017 to 2020, with 3.6 million babies being born over the three-year period.

The data coincide with a highly anticipated decision from the Supreme Court on *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization* that would effectively overturn the 1973 landmark decision *Roe v. Wade*, which legalized abortion nationwide. The court is set to release its decision this month, with politicians bracing for a storm of backlash after a leaked draft opinion suggested justices would vote to reverse *Roe*.

Over the last decade, from 2011 to 2017, the number of abortions fell by 20%, with abortion rights advocates attributing this to changing societal perceptions on the procedure, contraceptives, sexual activity, and infertility. Before the 2020 reversal, abortion trends in the country had been steadily declining for decades.

Southeastern states, including Florida and Texas, which now have some of the strictest laws surrounding abortion, saw the highest increased rates of abortion between 2017 and 2020, according to the data. The number of abortions in Texas increased by 7% between 2017 and 2019, falling 2% between 2019 and 2020. Florida saw a 9% increase between 2017 and 2020, with most of the increase stemming from abortions in 2020.

At least 26 states are preparing to impose severe restrictions on abortion should *Roe v. Wade* be reversed by the Supreme Court. Thirteen states already have trigger laws in place that would automatically ban the procedure if the decision is overturned.

# Transition treatment can start younger, new guidelines say

The Associated Press

A leading transgender health association has lowered its recommended minimum age for starting gender transition treatment, including sex hormones and surgeries.

The World Professional Association for Transgender Health said hormones could be started at age 14, two years earlier than the group's previous advice, and some surgeries done at age 15, a year or so earlier than previous guidance. The group acknowledged potential risks but said it is unethical and harmful to withhold early treatment.

The association provided The Associated Press with an advance copy of its update ahead of publication in a medical journal, expected later this year. The international group promotes evidence-based standards of care and includes more than 3,000 doctors, social scientists and others involved in transgender health issues.

The update is based on expert opinion and a review of scientific evidence on the benefits and harms of transgender

medical treatment in teens whose gender identity doesn't match the sex they were assigned at birth, the group said. Such evidence is limited but has grown in the last decade, the group said, with studies suggesting the treatments can improve psychological well-being and reduce suicidal behavior.

Starting treatment earlier allows transgender teens to experience physical puberty changes around the same time as other teens, said Dr. Eli Coleman, chair of the group's standards of care and director of the University of Minnesota Medical School's human sexuality program.

But he stressed that age is just one factor to be weighed. Emotional maturity, parents' consent, longstanding gender discomfort and a careful psychological evaluation are among the others.

"Certainly there are adolescents that do not have the emotional or cognitive maturity to make an informed decision," he said. "That is why we recommend a careful multidisciplinary assessment."

# High court faults Medicare cuts for outpatient drugs

BY ANDREW CHUNG  
Reuters

The Department of Health and Human Services exceeded its authority when it cut billions of dollars in annual Medicare reimbursements to a group of nonprofit hospitals that cater to poor and uninsured people, the Supreme Court ruled on Wednesday.

The justices, in a 9-0 decision authored by Justice Brett Kavanaugh, sided with the hospitals, which sued after HHS starting in 2018 reduced by \$1.6 billion the government's yearly Medicare payments for outpatient drugs that had helped subsidize the operations of these hospitals.

The American Hospital Association said after the ruling that it intends to seek reimbursement for hospitals that receive discounts on medications through a federal program called "340B" and were "affected by these unlawful cuts."

The justices overturned a lower court's 2020 decision that HHS had the authority to reduce the reimbursements. They found that the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit wrongly let HHS close a gap between the reimbursement rates paid to these hospitals and the discounts they



THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The Supreme Court building is seen June 9 on Capitol Hill.

receive through the 340B program.

The rate adjustment, the justices found, was an impermissible interpretation of the federal law governing Medicare, the vast government program that provides health insurance

for the elderly and disabled.

"The question is whether the statute affords HHS discretion to vary the reimbursement rates for that one group of hospitals when, as here, HHS has not conducted the required survey of

hospitals' acquisition costs. The answer is no," Kavanaugh wrote in the ruling.

"This decision is a decisive victory for vulnerable communities and the hospitals on which so many patients depend," the American Hospital Association, which filed suit along with several nonprofit health care systems and other plaintiffs, said in a statement.

The Supreme Court's current conservative majority, which has displayed an assertiveness on a range of issues, has shown skepticism toward the power of federal agencies in recent years.

But the justices opted not to use the case to impose further limits on a landmark 1984 Supreme Court ruling in a case called *Chevron v. Natural Resources Defense Council* that directed judges to defer to federal agencies' interpretation of U.S. laws that may be ambiguous. This doctrine is called "Chevron deference."

Starting in 2018, HHS under then-President Donald Trump cut payments for outpatient drugs by 28.5% to hospitals receiving money under 340B. The department found that reimbursements were too high because these hospitals obtain the drugs from manufacturers at a deep discount, an issue that also resulted in excessive patient co-payments.

## BRIEFLY

### Brazil police find remains in search for U.K. journalist

**ATALAIA DO NORTE, BRAZIL** • Police have found human remains in their search for British journalist Dom Phillips and Brazilian indigenous expert Bruno Pereira after a suspect confessed to killing them in the Amazon rainforest, investigators said on Wednesday.

The suspect, a fisherman who had clashed with Pereira over his efforts to combat illegal fishing in indigenous territory, led police to a remote burial site where the remains were unearthed, detective Eduardo Fontes told a news conference.

The news marks a grim conclusion to a case that has raised global alarm.

Phillips, a freelance reporter who has written for the *Guardian* and the *Washington Post*, was doing research for a book on the trip with Pereira, a former head of isolated and recently contacted tribes at federal indigenous affairs agency Funai.

Police had previously identified their primary suspect as fisherman Amarildo da Costa, known as "Pelado," who

was arrested last week on weapons charges. His brother Oseney da Costa, 41, or "Dos Santos," was taken into custody on Tuesday night.

### Israel: Gaza aid worker guilty on terror charges

**BEERSHEBA, ISRAEL** • An Israeli court on Wednesday found a Gaza aid worker guilty of terrorism charges in a high-profile case in which his employer, independent auditors and the Australian government say they have found no evidence of wrongdoing.

Mohammed el-Halabi, the Gaza director for the international Christian charity World Vision, was arrested in 2016 and accused of diverting tens of millions of dollars to the Islamic militant group Hamas that rules the territory.

The trial, and his prolonged detention, have further strained relations between Israel and humanitarian organizations that provide aid to Palestinians.

Both he and World Vision have denied the allegations and an inde-

pendent audit in 2017 also found no evidence of support for Hamas. His lawyer, Maher Hanna, has said el-Halabi turned down several plea bargain offers on principle that would have allowed him to walk free.

El-Halabi has not yet been sentenced. World Vision said he would appeal the ruling, which was largely based on classified information that has not been made public but was shared with the defense.

The district court appeared to rely heavily on a confession by el-Halabi that has not been made public. His lawyer has said the confession was given under duress to an informant and should not have been admitted as evidence.

### Britain vows more Rwanda deportations after setback

**LONDON** • The British government vowed Wednesday to organize more flights to deport asylum-seekers from around the world to Rwanda, after a last-minute court judgment grounded the first plane due to take off under

the contentious policy.

Home Secretary Priti Patel said "preparation for the next flight begins now" despite legal rulings that none of the migrants earmarked for deportation could be sent to the East African country.

"We will not be put off by the inevitable legal last-minute challenges," Patel told lawmakers.

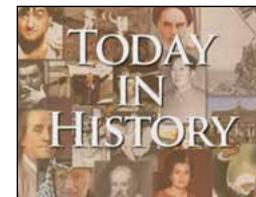
Under a deal signed in April, Britain plans to send some migrants from countries including Iraq, Afghanistan and Syria who arrive illegally in Britain as stowaways or in small boats to Rwanda, where their asylum claims will be processed. If successful, they will stay in the African country, rather than returning to Britain.

Prime Minister Boris Johnson's government says the plan is a legitimate way to protect lives and thwart the criminal gangs that send migrants on risky journeys from France across the English Channel. Human rights groups have called the idea inhumane and a waste of money. Britain paid Rwanda 120 million pounds (\$150 million) up front for the deal.

DENVER GAZETTE WIRE SERVICES

# TODAY IN HISTORY

## KEY EVENTS FOR JUNE 16



**Video online**  
Check out today's video from The Associated Press.

**In 1858**, accepting the Illinois Republican Party's nomination for the U.S. Senate, Abraham Lincoln said the slavery issue had to be resolved, declaring, "A house divided against itself cannot stand."

**In 1903**, Ford Motor Co. was incorporated.

**In 1933**, the National Industrial Recovery Act became law with President Franklin D. Roosevelt's signature. (The Act was later struck down by the U.S. Supreme Court.)

The Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. was founded as President Roosevelt signed the Banking Act of 1933.

**In 1941**, National Airport (now Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport) opened for business with a ceremony attended by President Franklin D. Roosevelt.

**In 1963**, the world's first female space traveler, Valentina Tereshkova, 26, was launched into orbit by the Soviet Union aboard Vostok 6; Tereshkova spent 71 hours in flight, circling the Earth 48 times before returning safely.

**In 1970**, Kenneth A. Gibson of Newark, N.J., became the first Black politician elected mayor of a major Northeast city. Chicago Bears running back Brian Piccolo, 26, died at a New York hospital after battling cancer.

**In 1977**, Soviet Communist Party General Secretary Leonid Brezhnev was named president, becoming the first person to hold both posts simultaneously.

**In 1978**, President Jimmy Carter and Panamanian leader Omar Torrijos signed the instruments of ratification for the Panama Canal treaties during a ceremony in Panama City.

**In 1999**, Thabo Mbeki took the oath as president of South Africa, succeeding Nelson Mandela.

**In 2011**, U.S. Rep. Anthony Weiner, D-N.Y., announced his resignation from Congress, bowing to the furor caused by his sexually charged online dalliances with a former porn performer and other women.

Osama bin Laden's longtime second-in-command, Ayman al-Zawahri, took control of al-Qaida.

**In 2012**, Egyptians began going to the polls for a two-day runoff to choose their first freely elected president; Islamist candidate Mohammed Morsi emerged the winner.

China launched its most ambitious space mission to date, carrying its first female astronaut, Liu Yang, and two male colleagues on a 13-day mission to an orbiting module that ended safely.

**In 2015**, real estate mogul Donald Trump launched his successful campaign to become president of the United States with



THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

**In 1950**, scenes about the ruins show the work created by the Khmers and their slave artisans at Angkor, Cambodia.

a speech at Trump Tower in Manhattan.

**In 2016**, President Barack Obama traveled to Orlando, Fla., the scene of a deadly nightclub shooting that claimed 49 victims; the president embraced grieving families and cheered on Democrats' push for new gun control measures. Walt Disney Co. opened Shanghai Disneyland, its first theme park in mainland China.

**In 2017**, President Donald Trump acknowledged for the first time that he was under federal investigation as part of the expanding probe into Russia's election meddling as he lashed out at a top Justice Department official overseeing the inquiry.

A St. Anthony, Minn., police officer was

acquitted of manslaughter in the fatal shooting of Philando Castile, a Black motorist who had just informed the officer that he was carrying a gun.

Former German Chancellor Helmut Kohl died at his home in Ludwigshafen; he was 87.

Actor Stephen Furst, who played naïve fraternity pledge Flounder in the hit movie "Animal House," died in Moorpark, Calif., at age 63.

**In 2020**, federal authorities announced murder and attempted murder charges against an Air Force sergeant, Steven Carrillo, in the fatal shooting of a federal security officer outside a U.S. courthouse in Oakland, Calif. (Carrillo, who had ties to the far-right, anti-government

"boogaloo" movement, pleaded guilty to a federal murder charge after prosecutors agreed not to seek the death penalty.)

A statue of Christopher Columbus that stood in a St. Louis park for 134 years was removed; park officials said it had symbolized a "historical disregard for indigenous peoples."

**In 2021**, after a three-hour summit in Geneva, President Joe Biden and Russia's Vladimir Putin emerged largely where they started, with deep differences on human rights, cyberattacks, election interference and more.

Actor Frank Bonner, best known as salesman Herb Tarlek on the TV series "WKRP in Cincinnati," died at 79.



# Rocky Mountain News

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SUNRISE EDITION

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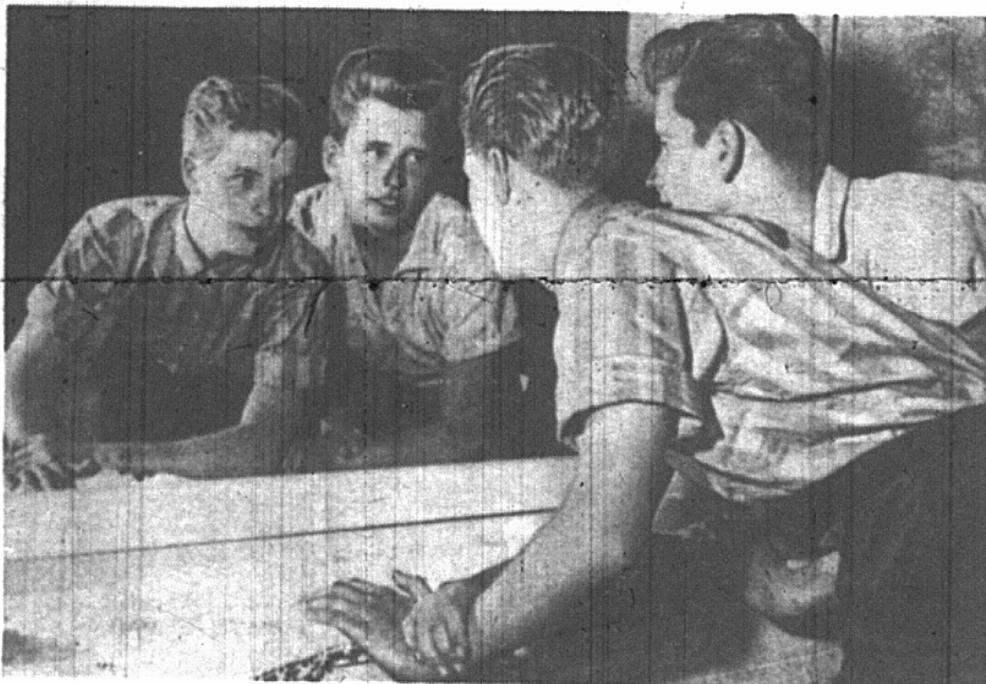
FORECAST

PRICE 5 CENTS

96 PAGES

## Bystander Wounded; Roy Engberg Gets Away

# Slay Suspect Battles FBI on Capitol Hill



Wayne Tiess, left, and Ronald Warehol admire their offending pompadour hair style in a mirror.

—UPI Telephoto

Roy Lee Engberg, Denver ex-convict sought in the slaying of a Kansas City, Mo., man, escaped Friday night from FBI agents after a gun battle in the 1400 block of Pennsylvania st., according to police.

Engberg, 28, blasted his way out of an apartment with a gun as the federal agents closed in on him. One man was wounded in the gun battle.



Scores of police closed Engberg on the neighborhood and began an apartment-to-apartment hunt for the suspect, who has sworn he will not be taken alive. The shooting started at 1416 Pennsylvania st.

Victim of the shooting was identified as Earl E. Clemens, 60, of 1416 Pennsylvania st. He was reported in fair condition in Denver General Hospital with a wound of the left leg.

Clemens' manager of the apartment house, was wailing the lawn when he was shot.

(Continued on Page 7)

## Boys Face Graduation Ban Over Lack of Part in Hair

CHICAGO, June 15—(UPI)—Two eighth grade students may not receive their graduation diplomas with their classmates Wednesday because their hair isn't parted.

The mother of one boy protested the principal's ruling. She planned to meet with the principal.

"Why should my son change his hair style? He got a haircut just last week," complained Mrs. Raymond T. Warehol, mother of Ronald, 15.

Ronald, along with Wayne Tiess, also 15, face the possibility of getting their diplomas from the principal's office at Mark Twain School instead of on the stage. (Nobody here could recall Mark Twain having parted his hair when he remembered even to comb it.)

Miss Mary P. Mackin, principal, made the "or else" order after deciding the haircuts of the two students "did not come up to normal good grooming standards."

"I see nothing wrong with Ronald's haircut," Mrs. Warehol said, "and Wayne's mother feels the same way. Ronald combs his hair into a pompadour. Neighbors don't see anything wrong with it either."

## Secret Army Scorching Earth in Algeria

ALGIERS, June 16—(AP)—Scorching the Earth as they threatened to do, European Secret Army demolitionists heavily damaged the municipal hospital Friday, shattered the massive City Hall Friday night and burned private stores through out the capital.

A big power dam to the east was reported wrecked.

Reporters saw six bodies carried out of the City Hall wreckage. Authorities reported 43 others were injured there.

Officials said some of the fiercest battles would lay Algeria waste before its abandonment by the de-facto and take-over by Moslems.

The climactic Secret Army offensive against Moslem rule officially began Thursday midnight. Twenty-four hours later it

had spread, with an estimated toll, across the countryside.

By early Saturday, the grim and desperate pledge of the Secret Army to leave ruins for an independent Algeria appeared to be coming true.

From Rome to the west came a new threat of scorched earth destruction as the Secret Army admitted it may not be able to set up autonomous European states as planned.

"In such case, even more than in A. L. our means being superior, we will practice the systematic destruction, executing the rule that the land should not be delivered intact to the enemy. We will apply this rule with a relentless vigor," said a Secret Army spokesman in a private broadcast.

More about France on Page 20

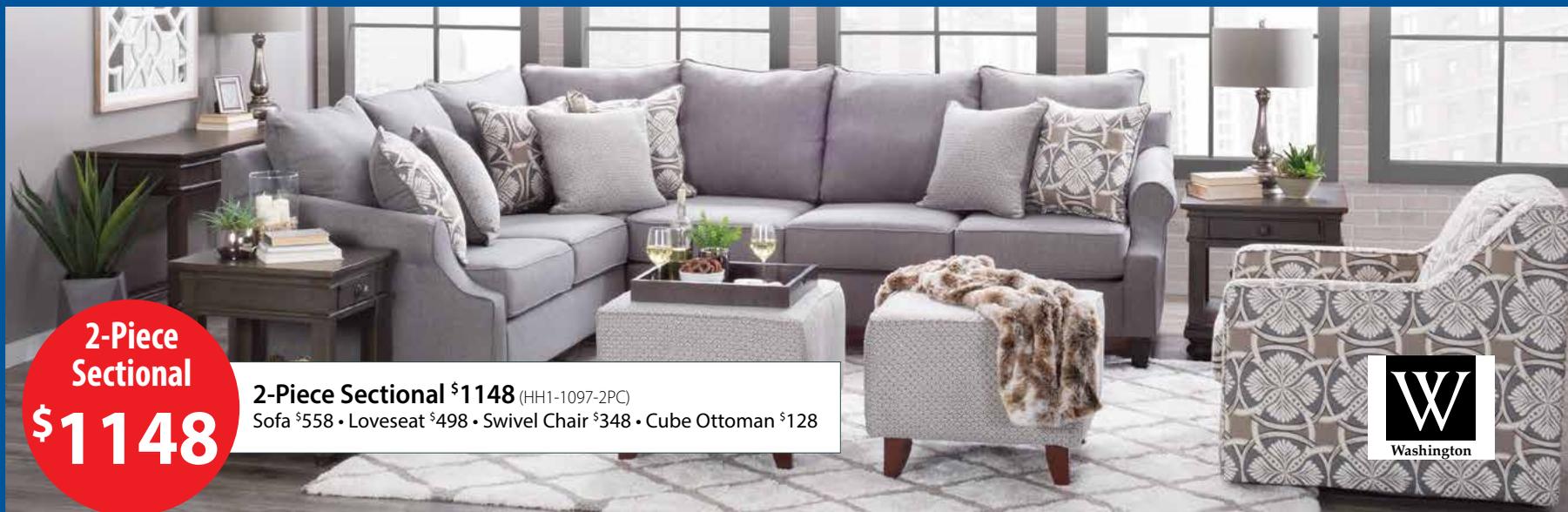
Editor's note: Every day, The Denver Gazette reprints some of the best front pages of the Rocky Mountain News as pulled from its 100-plus-year archives.

### 60 YEARS AGO IN THE ROCKY MOUNTAIN NEWS

The sixties were to see many battles over hair, but most of those involved length. But it is only 1962, so in this case, the students are in trouble for their pompadours. The principal says they are unacceptable because they lack parts, and it doesn't matter that their moms are fine with them. It is noted in the story that this is the Mark Twain School in Chicago, and it is doubtful the author's hair would pass the principal's test.



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GAZETTE EDITORIAL

# Hold Colorado's judiciary accountable

Try waving off a subpoena with a “no thanks” if you’re ever served with one. Good luck. That’s a privilege reserved only to Colorado’s highest court and the secretive and insular Judicial Department over which the court presides.

It seems those in charge of the state’s courts can swat away a subpoena — even when it’s part of an investigation into allegations of misconduct by the very same court system. In a sense, it’s the judge sitting in judgment over his own trial.

As reported this week by The Gazette, the Judicial Department refused to comply with a subpoena issued five months ago by the state’s Commission on Judicial Discipline. The commission has been trying to enlist the high court’s cooperation in a commission inquiry into the alleged cover-up of misconduct by judges.

The commission included that revelation in a report it released Tuesday at the first gathering of a legislative committee studying the investigation and discipline of judges for misconduct, and the need for reform. The commission said the Judicial Department scoffed at the subpoena, issued in late January. The department claimed the commission had no subpoena power.



MICHAEL KARLIK, THE DENVER GAZETTE  
The Ralph L. Carr Colorado Judicial Center in downtown Denver houses the Colorado Supreme Court and Court of Appeals.

It’s the latest troubling development in a disturbing saga involving the courts that has been the focus of The Gazette’s ongoing coverage. The Gazette has exposed what amounts to

a fundamental breakdown in accountability by the department and the Colorado Supreme Court. That’s over and above specific allegations of misconduct that are alarming in their own right.

Early last year, the public learned the court’s then-chief justice allegedly approved a multimillion-dollar contract for a high-level employee who faced firing and had threatened a tell-all sex-discrimination lawsuit. The suit promised to reveal years of alleged

judicial misconduct that went unpunished or was covered up.

The Commission on Judicial Discipline also noted in its report to the legislative committee how it was thwarted in beginning its own investigation into that scandal when the Supreme Court refused to issue the funding the commission needed to pay investigators it hired.

The headline-making allegations in fact spurred multiple investigations and audits, as detailed in Gazette coverage — and all the inquiries have run into one hurdle or another.

Hence, the commission’s report this week. It recommends nine changes to the discipline process, including firming up the right to subpoena evidence. Several of the recommendations would require a change to the Colorado Constitution, which established the commission. Those changes could only be implemented by a statewide ballot question put to voters.

Our hope is the bipartisan legislative committee will carefully consider the recommendations in an effort to call the state’s highest court and the Judicial Department to account. The need for reform is clear and urgent.

As it is right now, allegations against judges are subject to a commission whose independence is compromised and its authority second-guessed by the very same judiciary. That has to change.

Colorado cannot afford to have a judiciary that is above the law it is charged with interpreting and enforcing.

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## NATIONAL EDITORIAL

# Biden must reject China's illegal claim over Taiwan Strait

Escalating its global assault on democratic sovereignty and international law, China has now declared sole ownership over the Taiwan Strait.

The public assertion Monday follows reports that China has spent recent months lecturing U.S. officials that the strait is its sovereign territory — rather, that is, than largely being characterized by international waters.

An East China Sea waterway separating democratic Taiwan from Communist China, the strait extends 80 miles at its narrowest point. China claims that Taiwan is a breakaway province that must be re-subjugated under Beijing's rule. In contrast, the United States and many other democracies believe Taiwan is a sovereign democracy whose 24 million citizens are entitled to continued freedom.

Still, it's hard to overestimate the aggressive nature of China's latest claim. Declaring sovereignty over the strait, China is suggesting that the waterway is as much Chinese territory as Beijing or Shanghai are Chinese cities. In turn, China is providing a legal basis to justify the future use of military force to defend the strait from foreign intrusions. The U.S. and its allies, indeed the international community at large, cannot accept Beijing's invention of nonexistent sovereignty. Allowing

that invention to succeed would make de facto China's seizure of Taiwan's democracy.

Moreover, it would send a distinct message of American weakness. Allowing Beijing to eviscerate international maritime law unilaterally would shatter the post-Second World War, U.S.-guaranteed understanding that international waters and airspace are shared spaces — areas open to all so as to benefit the peace, prosperity and freedom of all.

It's obvious that General Secretary Xi Jinping is newly determined to test President Joe Biden. The Chinese leader wants his counterpart to see this declaration and pause in fear. He wants Biden to worry that any future U.S. military transits of the Taiwan Strait will risk the death of American sailors.

Biden must stare down this outrageous threat.

While a Navy spokesman has already affirmed that the U.S. will keep sailing through international waters, includ-

ing the strait, those words don't mean anything unless Biden is willing to act in kind. As such, the president should immediately order a Navy transit through the strait in direct riposte to China's action. Biden should ask allies

such as Australia, Britain, France, Japan and India to join this show of resolve. If France and India reject that request, they will only expose their own weakness.

It would be a serious mistake to underestimate

Xi's personal and political resolve on the Taiwan question. Nevertheless, any sign of U.S. weakness will only embolden the Chinese leader.

A multilateral flotilla would be particularly valuable in this regard in that its presence would force Xi to choose between escalating against many nations at once rather than just the U.S. Were China to fire on or harass the flotilla, it would put immense pressure on the European Union to impose its own sanctions on Beijing and further isolate China's global interests.

This is a priority concern among

Chinese leaders following the relatively united and strong Western isolation of Russia that has followed President Vladimir Putin's war in Ukraine.

We must not allow ourselves the comfortable delusion that this is only about Taiwan. China's clawing ambitions reach far further.

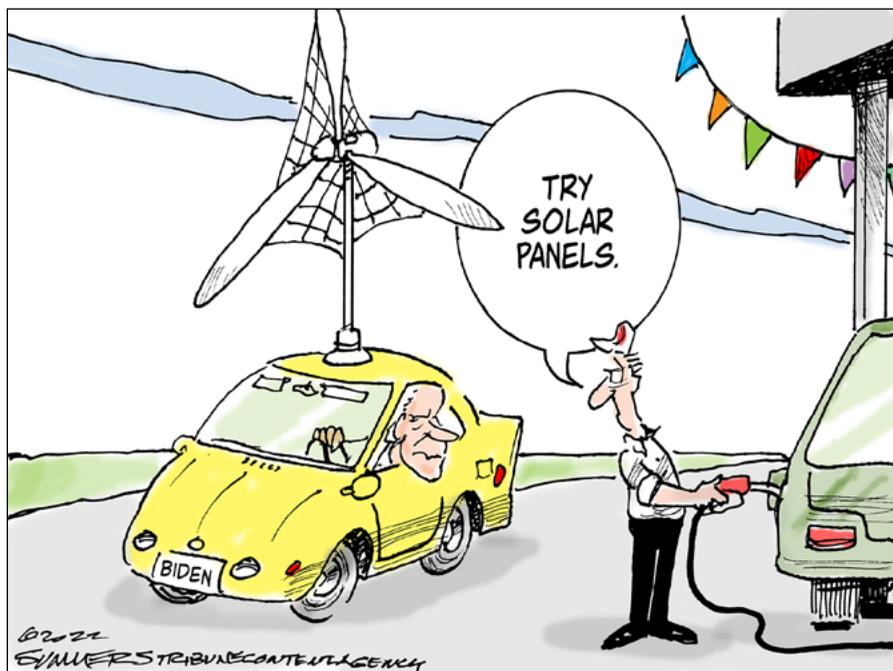
Without notifying Tokyo, for example, China just sent an undersea survey vessel into Japan's exclusive economic zone. The U.S. is also involved in a standoff with China over the freedom of the South China Sea. Those international waters account for approximately \$5 trillion in annual trade flows.

So, if China is able to consolidate its claims of ownership over the near entirety of the South China Sea (only by seeing a map can you understand how ridiculous these claims truly are), it will be able to extract the political fealty of sovereign nations in return for its allowing their import-export markets.

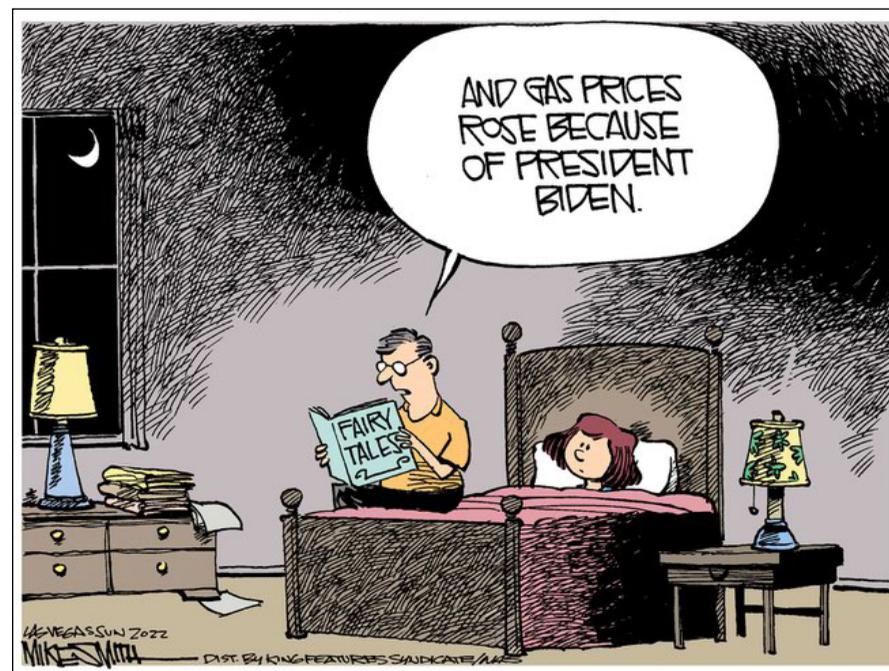
Whether it is intellectual property, territory or human lives, China does not have the right to claim ownership over things that fundamentally do not belong to it. For reasons both moral and strategic, Biden must reject Beijing's latest outrage with immediate physical action.

**THE WASHINGTON EXAMINER**

Whether it is intellectual property, territory or human lives, China does not have the right to claim ownership over things that fundamentally do not belong to it.



DANA SUMMERS, TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE



MIKE SMITH, KING FEATURES

## Who was worse, Democrats or Trump?

OPINION



**JAY  
 AMBROSE**

Congressional Democrats have started a multinetwork TV series on the Jan. 6 Capitol riot, and a federal judge has said what so many others are saying. If successful in its purpose, the wild, furious, deadly and disgusting eruption to keep Joe Biden out of the White House on the basis of voting fraud could “permanently have ended the peaceful transition of power, undermining America democracy and the Constitution.”

This is absurd. As much a horror as the riot was, there is no way the propagandized rioters could have enabled President Donald Trump to stay in office. Whatever his narcissistic villainy, he did not endanger the American future more than the iniquities of Democrats.

Courts across the nation early on found humongous evidence that Trump was F-minus erroneous in calling the presidential election a fraud. Police would have showed up at the Capitol riot even if he told them to go away. Among those he used to like, his own attorney general and other advisers let him know face-to-face that the real fraud was his yappy mouth, which he pretty much kept closed during the first three hours of watching the riot on TV. Apparently cheering inwardly, he did nothing to intervene as 114 cops were injured, another died, four others experienced trauma to the extent that they later committed suicide and one unarmed, rebellious woman was shot to death by a policeman.

Members of Congress and varied aides ran and prayed for their lives as the marauders sought out a committee verifying state electoral votes, the last step required for the Biden inauguration.

Vice President Mike Pence, chairman of the committee, who was in hiding, did call for police help and was intent on certifying the election as law required in the absence of state mistakes and despite harsh words from his boss. Even if torture had made him invalidate the votes, they would not have stayed invalidated for long. What the Democrats want right now, of course, is for Trump to go to prison and for their party to win the midterms along with the 2024 presidential election.



HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE VIA THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

In this image from video, former Attorney General William Barr, center, speaks during a deposition to the House select committee investigating the Jan. 6 attack on the U.S. Capitol that was shown as an exhibit at the hearing Monday on Capitol Hill in Washington.

... I worry, too, about the Democrats, their use of power, their disregard for the Constitution and their limited grasp of democracy in a republic.

They will never agree that hundreds of riots by Black Lives Matter probably helped inspire what happened at the Capitol.

While he does not have a feather to support him on the voter fraud theory, Trump does not appear technically guilty of riot incitement, and he did have reason to believe Democrats and their friends would resort to treachery to erase his presence.

Early on, for example, the Mueller investigation aimed to get him evicted

from office for conspiring with Russia in the commission of crimes. Even after two years of putting people in prison for nothing to do with the allegation, the only evidence consisted of falsehoods from the Clinton campaign, aides talking to Russians like aides in other campaigns and Trump seeming to like Russian President Vladimir Putin. As for obstructing justice, Trump was fighting injustice.

No, another Capitol riot should never happen and punishment can be

a deterrent. But the mostly partisan congressional impeachment effort after Jan. 6 was aimed not at a sitting president as required by the Constitution, but at a private citizen. Here was a bad joke evident to every literate person except politically indoctrinated legalese schemers.

The proceeding also required the supervision of the chief justice of the Supreme Court, who refused to participate.

With no applause for troubling Trump, I worry too about the Democrats, their use of power, their disregard for the Constitution and their limited grasp of democracy in a republic.

Jay Ambrose is an op-ed columnist for Tribune News Service. Readers may email him at [speaktojay@aol.com](mailto:speaktojay@aol.com).

## Can America ever ‘do big things’ again?

OPINION



GEORGE  
WILL

WASHINGTON • With a shaved head atop a solid slab of a body, Mitch Landrieu is built like a bullet. But an amiable one, whose happy job is to efficiently dispense \$1.2 trillion from a legislative cornucopia to the federal agencies, governors and mayors. Which is easier said than done.

He was lieutenant governor of a red state, Louisiana, 2004-2010, and mayor of a blue city, New Orleans, 2010-2018, and since November has been President Joe Biden’s choice to oversee implementation of the infrastructure legislation. Landrieu became mayor with much post-Katrina reconstruction remaining to be done.

And Biden knows that after the 2008-2009 recession, President Barack Obama concluded that the stimulus funding for “shovel-ready” infrastructure projects proved that “there’s no such thing”: His projects had to surmount nearly 200,000 environmental approvals. Lawyer-ready, not shovel-ready.

Two months ago, Georgia celebrated the completion of an almost \$1 billion infrastructure project, the deepening of the 38-mile Savannah River channel through which container ships, the symbols and enablers of globalization, approach the nation’s third-busiest port. The five-foot deepening involved not some recondite engineering challenge; essentially it required moving muck. And it took almost seven years — after 14 years consumed surmounting environmental and other regulatory hurdles.

Time was, the nation did things quicker. Beginning in 1930, it built the Empire State Building, then the world’s tallest building, from a hole in the ground to its topping off, in 410 days. It built the Pentagon, the world’s largest low-rise office building, in 16 months — during World War II. That was then. This is now:

Nine years of permitting processes, 2003-2012, were required before the construction of a San Diego desalination plant. Philip K. Howard, a Manhattan attorney (Covington & Burling) and student of coagulated government, notes that five years and 20,000 pages of environmental and other



THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE  
 New Orleans Mayor Mitch Landrieu delivers his speech in the Synod Hall during a conference on Modern Slavery and Climate Change on July 21, 2015, at the Vatican.

compliance materials (there were 47 permits from 19 federal, state and local agencies) preceded the project of raising the roadway on New Jersey’s Bayonne Bridge, which involved no serious environmental impact because it used existing foundations.

“Everything,” Landrieu acknowledges, “is a slog.” In his first six months on his current job, he pushed \$110 billion “out the door.” About half of the \$1.2 trillion will fund what most people think of as infrastructure — roads, bridges, airports, ports. The other half will fund infrastructure capaciously defined — expanded access to high-speed internet, cleaning the Great Lakes, the Everglades and other waters, installing 500,000 electric vehicle charging stations (about 10% of what will be needed, Landrieu says), etc.

The word “infrastructure,” denoting shiny new things everyone can see and use, polls well, so the phrase “human infrastructure” was coined to give momentum to social programs. Landrieu, however, defends at least some of this semantic legerdemain. Unemployment is low, workers are

scarce, and so federal spending for day care is infrastructure at one remove because it gets more women into the workforce.

Commentator Ezra Klein, arguing that America needs “a liberalism that builds,” says the nation “is notable for how much we spend and how little we get.” This tendency will be made worse by Biden’s “buy American” policy.

His liberal industrial policy will make the \$1.2 trillion buy fewer construction materials: The Peterson Institute for International Economics estimates that buy American requirements probably cost taxpayers more than \$250,000 for every job supposedly saved, and the Heritage Foundation cites a report that “deregulating procurement” would add 363,000 jobs.

Klein says Japan, Canada and Germany build a kilometer of rail for \$170 million, \$254 million and \$287 million, respectively. The United States: \$538 million. “The problem,” he says, “isn’t government. It’s our government ... Government isn’t intrinsically inefficient. It has been *made* inefficient.”

But perhaps the U.S. government is

unusually susceptible to being made so because of what University of Michigan law professor Nicholas Bagley calls “the procedure fetish.” (“Inflexible procedural rules are a hallmark of the American state.”) The result is what Howard calls “rule stupor.” All *this* is made in America by a homegrown chimera: the progressive aspiration to reduce government to the mechanical implementation of an ever-thickening web of regulations that leaves no room for untidy discretion and judgment. Nowadays, add “equity” and “environmental justice” to the lengthening list of ends that an infrastructure project must include.

“We are,” Landrieu says, “in a short-term world solving long-term problems.”

One such problem is that Americans no longer believe what Biden says the infrastructure law will prove: that the nation “can do big things again.” Landrieu’s task is to make the law prove rather than refute this.

George F. Will writes a twice-weekly column on politics and domestic and foreign affairs.

## *Avoid policies that might worsen inflation*

OPINION



**CATHERINE RAMPPELL**

Has it finally happened? Is greed ... dead?

After months of complaining that “profiteering” corporations were driving up inflation, progressive populists seem to have gotten their wish. Corporate profits fell last

quarter. Target, for instance, reported its net income shrank roughly by half in its most recent fiscal quarter from a year earlier and warned last week that its margins will narrow further in the current quarter. Walmart and other erstwhile “profiteering” retailers have also recently reported slimmer profits.

Who knew self-righteous tweets about “price-gouging” corporations could be so effective?

On Monday, stocks entered a bear market, meaning they closed 20% below their recent peak. Sure, maybe investors are worried about lower returns because monetary policy is tightening; or maybe, just maybe, investors believe all that anti-corporate browbeating worked and companies will simply stop trying to make so much money.

Unfortunately, despite what those populists predicted, the declining fortunes of Big Business have not coincided with any reduction in inflation. Inflation reached yet another 40-year high in May.

It is almost as though rapid and unpredictable price growth does not create an awesome environment for companies to operate in.

Anyone who’s looked at economic basket cases such as, say, Argentina might have predicted as much. But this seems to be news to some progressive Democrats, who have argued for months that corporations love today’s inflationary environment because it gives them an “excuse” or “cover” to gouge consumers.

These populists claim that rising prices are not, primarily, caused by changes in supply and demand related to the pandemic and other shocks. Rather, they say that greedy corporations are conspiring to push prices ever higher, using inflation as a “smokescreen.”

“This isn’t about inflation. This is about price-gouging,” Sen. Elizabeth Warren, D-Mass., argues. Grocery



GETTY IMAGES

prices, she claims, have been rising because “greedy corporations are charging Americans extra just to keep their stock prices high.” Echoes her colleague Bernie Sanders, I-Vt.: “The problem is not inflation. The problem is corporate greed.”

Their evidence for the greedflation theory was that prices companies charge had risen faster than input costs, which meant (at least for a while) that profits were growing.

That does sound sort of suspicious.

But this is what you’d expect if consumer demand is really strong and supply remains constrained. Goods flew off shelves last year, and companies had trouble keeping items in stock because supply chains remained snarled.

Their costs rose, but they were also able to sell their limited wares at higher prices because consumers were flush with cash and eager to buy whatever was available.

Today, companies’ revenues are still rising — but their costs (labor, fuel, materials) are rising even faster. What’s more, some supply chains seem to have improved; the volume of cargo coming through the Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach, for example, is near record highs. After struggling to keep products in stock for much of

the past two years, many companies have now replenished their depleted inventories.

That means many firms are spending more per product sold and have accumulated more products in hopes of selling them. Some items they’ve been stocking up on aren’t selling, though, as consumer tastes have shifted (more dress clothes, fewer yoga pants).

The result is that even as consumer spending continues to rise, companies’ costs are rising even more. So their profits have shrunk.

That’s not because American companies suddenly turned altruistic, after having been shamed by the viral TikToks of grandstanding greedflationists. As I’ve written several times: Companies are always greedy, meaning they always hope to maximize profits. Their ability to raise prices and make money is determined by demand and supply, which have been wacky and unpredictable lately.

Somehow the greedflationists failed to notice that the fact pattern no longer fits their preferred narrative — that is, prices and profits have recently been heading in opposite directions.

Warren tweeted Friday that “giant corporations are using inflation as a cover story to jack up prices and pad

profits.” Apparently progressive activists who’d been listening to corporate earnings calls for evidence of “ruthless profit-rigging schemes” have tuned out the last few.

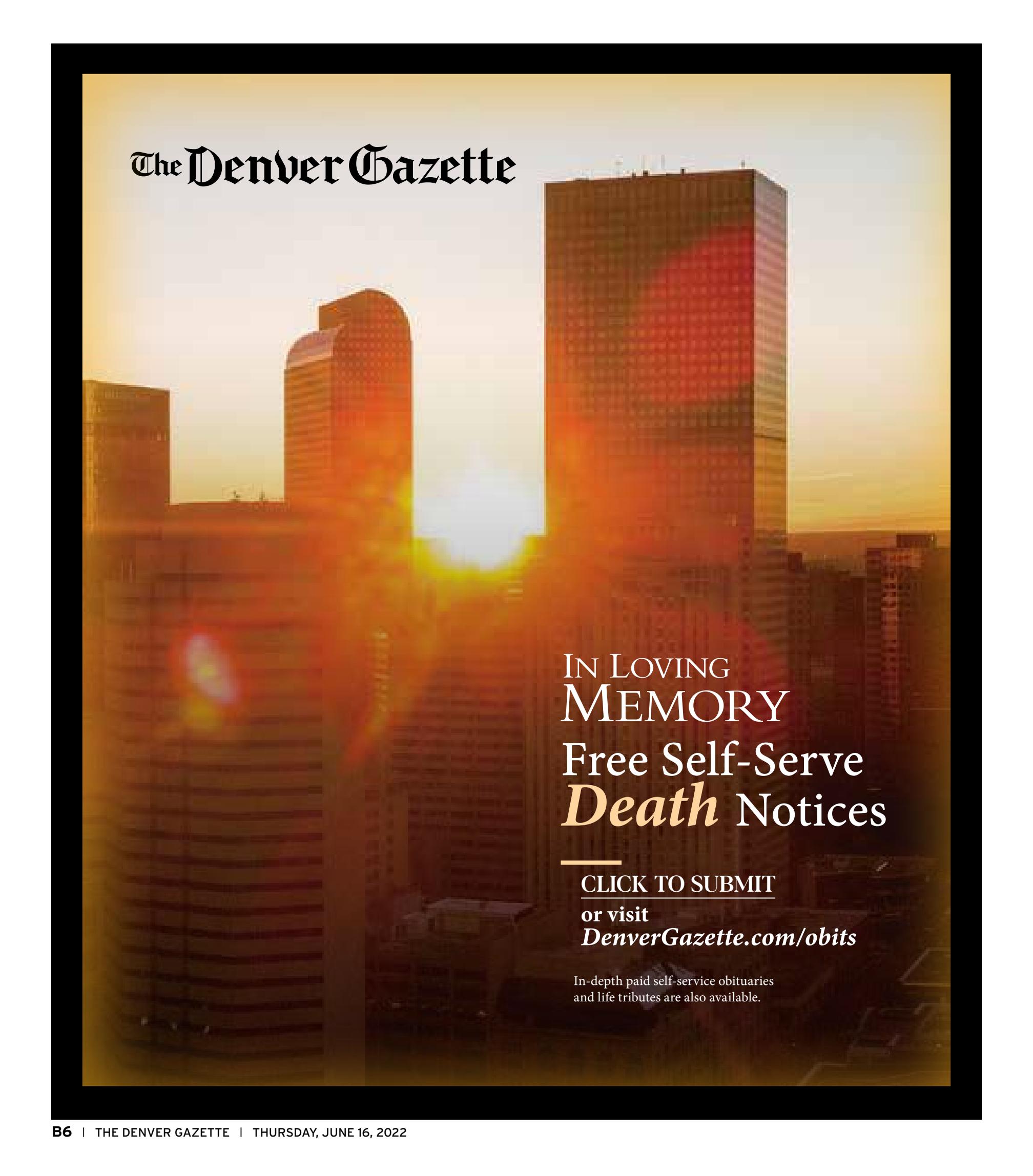
There are, of course, some sectors where profits are still booming. Oil and gas companies are doing phenomenally well. But, again, that’s not because they suddenly turned up the greed dial. There was a huge supply shock, in which Russian energy was effectively taken offline. Meanwhile, demand for energy has remained quite strong.

That has driven up energy prices and profits.

As I’ve also said before: Greedflationist demagoguery was at best a source of confusion. At worst, the misdiagnosis of inflation’s causes has distracted from remedies that might modestly help (repealing tariffs and shipping restrictions or fixing the immigration bottlenecks contributing to labor shortages) and has created momentum for policies that might make inflation worse (such as price controls).

But if greedflationists continue to promote their theory, the least they can do is update their talking points.

Catherine Rampell is an opinion columnist at The Washington Post.

A photograph of the Denver skyline at sunset. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a warm, golden glow that silhouettes the buildings. The sky is a mix of orange, yellow, and light blue. The buildings are dark against the bright sky.

The Denver Gazette

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## DAILY DATA

### THE DAY ON WALL STREET

↑	DOW JONES	30,668.53	+303.70
↑	NASDAQ	11,099.15	+270.81
↑	S&P 500	3,789.99	+54.51
↑	GOLD	\$1,819.60	+\$6.10
↓	OIL	\$115.31	-\$3.62

### Bloomberg Business

For the current market data, go to [bloomberg.com/markets](https://www.bloomberg.com/markets).

### Wall Street rallies after statement from Fed

**NEW YORK** • The S&P 500 rallied Wednesday to snap a five-session losing skid after a policy announcement by the Federal Reserve that raised interest rates to market expectations as the central bank seeks to fight rising inflation without sparking a recession.

### BRIEFLY

#### Homebuilder sentiment hits 2-year low in June

**WASHINGTON** • Confidence among single-family homebuilders dropped to a two-year low in June as high inflation and rising mortgage rates reduced affordability for entry-level and first-time buyers, a survey showed Wednesday.

The National Association of Home Builders/Wells Fargo Housing Market index fell two points to 67 this month, the lowest reading since June 2020. It was the sixth straight monthly decline in the index. A reading above 50 indicates that more builders view conditions as good rather than poor.

REUTERS



REUTERS

People shop in a supermarket Friday in New York.

## Retail sales post their first decline in 5 months

BY LUCIA MUTIKANI  
Reuters

**WASHINGTON** • Retail sales unexpectedly fell in May as motor vehicle purchases declined amid rampant shortages, and record high gasoline prices pulled spending away from other goods.

The first drop in sales in five months reported by the Commerce Department on Wednesday also suggested that high inflation was starting to hurt demand.

It followed in the wake of major retailers like Walmart and Target cutting their profit forecasts because of cost pressures.

“While high personal savings and strong job and wage growth help, consumers are facing stiff headwinds from four-decade-high inflation, rapidly rising borrowing costs and the bear market in equities,” said Sal Guatieri, a senior economist at BMO Capital Markets in Toronto.

The national average price of gas-

oline jumped to an all-time high of \$4.439 per gallon in May, according to data from the U.S. Energy Information Administration. Prices at the pump have since risen above \$5 per gallon.

The decline in monthly retail sales was led by receipts at auto dealerships, which dropped 3.5% after increasing 1.8% in April. Online store sales fell 1.0%. There were declines in sales at electronics and appliance retailers as well as furniture stores.

The decline in retail sales also reflected a gradual rotation of spending from goods to services. Receipts at bars and restaurants, the only services category in the retail sales report, increased 0.7% last month.

Annual consumer prices increased by the most in nearly 40-½ years in May. With inflation eroding wage gains, consumers are turning to savings, accumulated during the pandemic, and taking on debt to maintain spending.

## Fed unveils its biggest rate hike since 1994

BY HOWARD SCHNEIDER  
AND ANN SAPHIR  
Reuters

**WASHINGTON** • The Federal Reserve raised its target interest rate by three-quarters of a percentage point on Wednesday to stem a disruptive surge in inflation, and projected a slowing economy and rising unemployment in the months to come.

The rate hike was the biggest announced by the central bank since 1994, and was delivered after recent data showed little progress in its battle to control a sharp spike in prices.

Central bank officials flagged a faster path of rate hikes to come as well, more closely aligning monetary policy with a rapid shift this week in financial market views of what it will take to bring price pressures under control.

“Inflation remains elevated, reflecting supply and demand imbalances related to the pandemic, higher energy prices and broader price pressures,” the central bank’s policy-setting Federal Open Market Committee said in a statement at the end of its latest two-day meeting in Washington.

“The committee is strongly committed to returning inflation to its 2% objective.”

The statement continued to cite the Ukraine war and China lockdown policies as sources of additional inflation pressures.

Fed Chair Jerome Powell, speaking to reporters at a press conference after the decision, said policymakers “came to the view” that they needed to do more frontloading to get rates to a more neutral range more quickly. “Seventy-five basis points seemed like the right thing to do at this meeting, and

SEE FED • PAGE 2

# What Americans face now as Fed raises rates

BY LINDSAY DUNSMUIR AND ANN SAPHIR  
Reuters

The Federal Reserve's big interest rate hike on Wednesday — and the expectation of more to come — is aimed at bringing down 40-year high inflation topping 8% on an annual basis in recent months.

But the largest rate increase in a quarter century won't deliver immediate inflation relief. It will take time for higher borrowing costs to ease price pressures.

That could mean more pain for Americans already digging into their wallets to pay more for gas, groceries and pretty much everything else.

"It's going to be an uncomfortable period where inflation is running high and borrowing costs are also going to rise," says Oxford Economics' Kathy Bostjancic.

Here's what the Fed's rate hikes means for consumers:

## Will this make it more expensive to buy a home?

One of the sectors the Fed has been watching closely is the interest-rate sensitive housing market, where prices

have risen 38% since the start of the pandemic. The surge has been driven by low borrowing costs, put in place by the Fed to cushion the economy from the COVID-19 pandemic, meeting an upswell in demand and a shortage of properties for sale.

Mortgage rates have already risen sharply since the Fed began signaling late last year it would likely tighten policy, with the average contract rate on a 30-year fixed-rate mortgage reaching 5.65% last week, the highest level since late 2008, the Mortgage Bankers Association reported earlier on Wednesday.

"Mortgage rates are definitely going to go up over the next few weeks," said Matthew Pointon, senior property economist at Capital Economics, with daily mortgage data showing the average 30-year fixed rate now around 6.28% and possibly going above 6.5% over the next few weeks.

Worse is set to come, Pointon says, with mortgage rates probably not peaking until the middle of next year.

## Will this bring down the cost of my gas and groceries?

In short, no. That's one of the difficul-

ties the Fed is facing. By raising rates it can cool demand in the economy by making borrowing costs more expensive, nudging consumers and businesses to curb spending, but it can't do anything about supply shocks.

The spike in global food prices is mostly due to the impact of Russia's invasion of Ukraine, two grain exporting powerhouses that accounted for 24% of global wheat exports by trade value, 57% of sunflower seed oil exports and 14% of corn from 2016 to 2020, according to data from UN Comtrade.

Ditto oil prices after U.S.-led sanctions that took Russian energy supplies off the global market.

## Will my auto payment and credit card costs go up?

If you've got outstanding loans without fixed interest rates, the answer is a simple yes. Though the Fed doesn't control what banks or car dealers charge for such loans, credit card rates and auto loans typically rise when the Fed's policy rate does.

Household debt has been rising rapidly, with consumer credit up more than 8% in the first quarter to \$1.5 trillion, a

recent Fed survey showed.

## Could the Fed raising rates impact my job?

By raising rates high enough to decisively dent inflation, the Fed will at the very least spark a period of slower economic growth. But investors are skeptical the Fed can achieve its aims without inducing a recession, often defined as two consecutive quarters of negative growth.

Fed policymakers think they may yet be able to avoid a big spike in firms laying off workers. That's because, the thinking goes, the unemployment rate is currently 3.6%, low by historical standards, and there are almost two job vacancies for every worker, so firms could conceivably cut back on job openings without cutting actual jobs.

But many do worry.

"If our monetary policy brings about a slowdown of the economy, we're all going to pay the price," Groundwork Collaborative executive director Lindsay Owens told activists gathered this week across the street from where Fed policymakers were meeting in Washington.

## FED

FROM PAGE 1

that's what we did."

Moreover, Powell said an increase of either three-quarters of a point or a half point would "most likely" be the appropriate outcome of the central bank's next meeting in late July. Still, Powell said he did not expect increases of the size of Wednesday's 75-basis-point hike to "be common."

The action raised the short-term federal funds rate to a range of 1.50% to 1.75%, and Fed officials at the median projected it would increase to 3.4% by the end of this year and to 3.8% in 2023 — a substantial shift from projections in March that saw the rate rising to 1.9% this year.

The tightening of monetary policy was accompanied by a downgrade to the Fed's economic outlook, with the economy now seen slowing to a below-trend 1.7% rate of growth this year, unemployment rising to 3.7% by the end of this year, and continuing to rise to 4.1% through 2024.

While no Fed policymaker projected an outright recession, the range of economic growth forecasts edged toward zero in 2023 and the federal funds rate was seen falling in 2024.

Stocks pared gains immediately following the release of the statement and economic projections in choppy trading. Treasury yields rose while the dollar gained against a basket of currencies.

Interest rate futures markets also reflected about an 85% probability that the Fed will match Wednesday's 75-basis-point increase at its next policy meeting in July. For September's meeting, however, the greater probability — at more than 50% — was for a 50-basis-point increase.

"The Fed is willing to let the unemployment rate rise and risk a recession as collateral damage to get inflation back down. This isn't a Volcker moment for Powell given the magnitude of the hike, but he is like a Mini-Me version of Volcker with this move," said Brian Jacobsen, senior investment strategist at Allspring Global Investments.

The new Fed projections are a break with recent central bank efforts to cast tighter monetary policy and inflation control as consistent with steady and



THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Federal Reserve Chairman Jerome Powell speaks during a news conference following an Open Market Committee meeting Wednesday at the Federal Reserve Board Building in Washington.

low unemployment.

The 4.1% jobless rate seen in 2024 is now slightly above the level Fed officials generally see as consistent with full employment.

Since March, when Fed officials projected they could raise rates and control inflation with the unemployment rate remaining around 3.5%, inflation has stubbornly remained at a 40-year high, with no sign of it reaching the peak Fed policymakers hoped would arrive this spring.

Even with the more aggressive interest rate measures taken on Wednesday, policymakers nevertheless see inflation as measured by the personal consumption expenditures price index at 5.2% through this year and slowing only gradually to 2.2% in 2024.

Inflation has become the most pressing economic issue for the Fed and begun to shape the political landscape as well, with household sentiment worsening amid rising food and gasoline prices.

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# Biden blasts oil refiners for record high gas profits

Reuters

**WASHINGTON** • President Joe Biden on Wednesday demanded oil refining companies explain why they are not putting more gasoline on the market, sharply escalating his rhetoric against industry as he faces pressure over rising prices.

Biden wrote to executives from Marathon Petroleum, Valero Energy and Exxon Mobil and complained they had cut back on oil refining to pad their profits, according to a copy of the letter seen by Reuters.

The letter is also being sent to Phillips 66, Chevron, BP and Shell, a White House official, who declined to be identified, told Reuters.

“At a time of war, refinery profit margins well above normal being passed directly onto American families are not acceptable,” Biden wrote, adding the lack of refining was driving gas prices up faster than oil prices.

U.S. energy companies are enjoying bumper profits as the Russian invasion of Ukraine has added to a supply squeeze which has driven crude oil prices above \$100 a barrel, and as fuel

demand has remained robust, despite record high gasoline prices.

U.S. refining capacity peaked in April 2020 at just under 19 million barrels per day, as refiners shut several unprofitable facilities during the coronavirus pandemic.

As of March, refining capacity was 17.9 million bpd, but there have been other closures announced since.

U.S. refiners are running at near-peak levels to process fuel — currently at 94% of capacity — and say there is little they can do to satisfy Biden’s demands.

“Our refineries are running full out,” Bruce Niemeier, corporate vice president of strategy and sustainability at Chevron, told Reuters on the sidelines of a New York energy transition conference on Tuesday, before Biden’s letter was made public.

Biden said the industry’s lack of action is blunting the administration’s attempts to offset the impact of oil-rich Russia’s invasion of Ukraine, such as releases from the nation’s oil reserves and adding more cheaper ethanol to gasoline.



REUTERS

Gas prices over the \$6 mark are advertised May 26 at a 76 Station in Santa Monica, Calif.

## Report: Tesla leads automakers in self-driving vehicle crashes

Reuters

**WASHINGTON** • Tesla reported 273 vehicle crashes since July involving advanced driving assistance systems, more than any other automaker, according to data auto safety regulators released Wednesday.

Automakers and tech companies reported more than 500 crashes since June 2021, when the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration issued an order requiring the information. But a safety board said the data was not standardized so it was hard to evaluate performance of each carmaker’s system.

Car companies are rushing to add driver assistance systems, saying these improve safety by handling some maneuvers. Regulators are trying to understand the practical effect of the changes. But automakers collect and report data in different ways, making it difficult to evaluate systems performance.

The current report contains “a ‘fruit bowl’ of data with a lot of caveats, making it difficult for the public and experts alike to understand what is

being reported,” National Transportation Safety Board Chair Jennifer Homendy said in a statement. “Tesla collects a huge amount of high-quality data, which may mean they’re overrepresented in NHTSA’s release.”

Tesla’s advanced driver assistant software dubbed “Full Self Driving” has also created confusion about vehicle capabilities.

NHTSA ordered companies to quickly report all crashes involving advanced driver assistance systems and vehicles equipped with automated driving systems being tested on public roads. Of the 392 such crashes reported by a dozen automakers since July, six deaths were reported and five serious injuries. Honda Motor identified 90 crashes. Companies also reported 130 crashes involving prototype automated driving systems, while 108 involved no injuries and one was a serious injury crash.

NHTSA said in releasing the first batch of data that it has already been used to trigger investigations and recalls and helped inform existing defect probes.

## Lego to invest over \$1B in U.S. factory

Reuters

**COPENHAGEN, DENMARK** • Toymaker Lego said Wednesday it will invest more than \$1 billion in a factory in the United States, which will be carbon-neutral, to shorten supply chains and keep up with growing demand for its colored plastic bricks in one of its biggest markets.

The factory in Chesterfield County, Va., will be the Danish company’s second in North America and seventh worldwide, after it announced a new factory in Vietnam last year.

The investment is in line with a decade-old strategy of placing production close to its key markets, which the company says has been beneficial as the global retail industry faces pandemic-related supply chain issues. The plant will also be carbon neutral.

“Our factories are located close to our biggest markets, which shortens the distance our products have to travel,” Chief Operations Officer Carsten Rasmussen said in a statement.

The factory will be powered by renewable energy produced at an onsite solar park, the company said.

Lego has pledged to replace oil-based plastic bricks with ones made from sustainable materials by the end of the decade.



REUTERS FILE

The Lego logo is pictured above the main gate of the new Legoland New York Resort theme park during a press preview of the park April 28, 2021, in Goshen, N.Y.

The 160,000-square-meter factory is scheduled to be operational in the second half of 2025 and will employ more than 1,760 people.

Lego closed a smaller factory in Connecticut in 2006, and the U.S. market is currently supplied from a factory in Mexico.

The company now employs around 2,600 people in the United States, where it operates 100 stores.

Lego produces roughly 100 billion bricks each year and employs around 24,000 people worldwide.

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# OVERTIME HEROICS

Andre Burakovsky scores the game-winning goal after the Avs take the early lead in the Stanley Cup Final with Monday's Game 1 win at Ball Arena. **Story, D2**

CHRISTIAN MURDOCK, THE DENVER GAZETTE

## PAUL KLEE

Ball Arena got a little nervous, but Game 1 proved hockey's biggest stage belongs in Colorado. **D4**

## WOODY PAIGE

The speed of the Avalanche made the Lightning look uncomfortable in Game 1. **D5**

# AVALANCHE 4, LIGHTNING 3, OT

GAME 1

# Burakovsky nets OT winner in Game 1

BY GEORGE STOIA  
The Denver Gazette

It felt like only a matter of time for the Avalanche.

Colorado controlled the pace for most of Game 1 of the Stanley Cup Final against the Lightning, creating opportunities for all 61 minutes and 23 seconds of regulation and overtime. But Tampa Bay goaltender Andrei Vasilevskiy — who is considered the best goalie in hockey — impressively kept the high-powered Avalanche out of the net for the entire second and third periods.

It was Andre Burakovsky who finally broke the wall Vasilevskiy built Wednesday night, scoring the game-winning goal in overtime. The goal gave the Avalanche a 4-3 win and a 1-0 series lead in the final. And despite being the lesser experienced team going up against the back-to-back champs, the Avalanche's belief never wavered.

"We've been good in overtime in the playoffs and there's no reason for us to not feel confident and with the crowd behind us, that was definitely helpful," Avalanche captain Gabriel Landeskog said. "They're a good team. They don't make it easy on you. You have to earn everything you get ... It was a resilient win."

The Avalanche didn't show any rust after nine days off, jumping out to a 2-0 lead in the first period thanks to goals from Landeskog and Valeri Nichushkin. Tampa Bay's Nicholas Paul cut the deficit to one, but not for long, as Artturi Lehkonen scored on a 5-on-3 power play goal to make it 3-1 at the end of the first period.

The second period was a different story, as the Lightning scored two goals in 48 seconds to tie the game at 3 at the end of the second period. Ondrej Palat and Mikhail Sergachev scored the two goals for Tampa Bay, while Vasilevskiy found his groove with 11 saves in the period.

"I wasn't very concerned at all," Landeskog said. "I have a lot of confidence in this group and we've been through a lot worse this season and a lot crazier things. For us, obviously, we'd like to stay on the gas, but at the same time, they're the Tampa Bay Lightning ... They're a good team. They're going to find ways to score goals. It's just about managing it and getting back on it. I thought we did a really good job of resetting."

The Avalanche again controlled the pace in the third period, but had no



JERILEE BENNETT, THE DENVER GAZETTE

The Avalanche's Andre Burakovsky, right, controls the puck while being defended by the Lightning's Mikhail Sergachev during the second period of Game 1 of the Stanley Cup Final on Wednesday at Ball Arena in Denver.

goals to show for it and failed to capitalize on a power play opportunity in the final 1:24 of regulation.

The Lightning only had five shots on goal in the period, compared to the Avalanche's 11.

Colorado wasted little time to end it in overtime, with Burakovsky scoring on assists from Nichushkin and J.T. Compher.

Burakovsky, who has been in and out of the Avalanche lineup this postseason battling injuries, said he barely slept the night before the game due to excitement. And, despite the little sleep, the former Stanley Cup winner with the Capitals in 2018 delivered in the biggest moment.

"I've been through it, so I kind of know what to expect," Burakovsky said of playing for the Stanley Cup. He and Andrew Cogliano are the only Avs to have won the Cup previously. "I know what's at stake here. I was kind of nervous, though. I had problems sleeping last night and woke up at six in the morning and couldn't wait to play the game."



**PLAYOFFS NEXT**  
Stanley Cup Final: Lightning at Avalanche (Game 2), 6 p.m. Saturday, ABC

The Avalanche will need players like Burakovsky if they want to win three more games and take home the cup. While it was clear Colorado is a handful offensively, it was equally as clear that Vasilevskiy is going to give the Lightning a good chance to win every night.

As expected, the Avalanche appear to be in for what will likely be a difficult and long Stanley Cup Final.

"You have to give Tampa credit. You knew they weren't going to go away. They found a way to break us down," Avalanche coach Jared Bednar said. "We just need to keep moving forward with our process and doing what it

Tampa Bay	1	2	0	0	—	3
Colorado	3	0	0	1	—	4

First Period—1, Colorado, Landeskog 9 (Rantanen, Byram), 7:47. 2, Colorado, Nichushkin 6 (MacKinnon), 9:23. 3, Tampa Bay, Paul 4 (Point, Hedman), 12:26. 4, Colorado, Lehkonen 7 (Landeskog, Rantanen), 17:31 (pp).  
Second Period—1, Colorado, Landeskog 9 (Rantanen, Byram), 7:47. 2, Colorado, Nichushkin 6 (MacKinnon), 9:23. 3, Tampa Bay, Paul 4 (Point, Hedman), 12:26. 4, Colorado, Lehkonen 7 (Landeskog, Rantanen), 17:31 (pp).  
Third Period—None.  
Overtime—7, Colorado, Burakovsky 2 (Nichushkin, Compher), 1:23.

Shots on Goal—Tampa Bay 8-9-5-1—23. Colorado 15-10-12-1—38.  
Power-play opportunities—Tampa Bay 0 of 3; Colorado 1 of 3.  
Goalies—Tampa Bay, Vasilevskiy 12-6-0 (38 shots-34 saves). Colorado, Kuemper 7-2-0 (23-20).  
A—17,778 (18,007). T—2:51.  
Referees—Gord Dwyer, Kelly Sutherland.  
Linesmen—Steve Barton, Ryan Daisy.

takes for us to have success. The guys just stuck with it. It was good resiliency from our group."

# AVALANCHE 4, LIGHTNING 3, OT

GAME 1



JERILEE BENNETT, THE DENVER GAZETTE

Avalanche goaltender Darcy Kuemper makes a save during the second period of Game 1 of the Stanley Cup Final on Wednesday at Ball Arena in Denver.

## Kuemper does enough to protect home ice in Game 1

BY VINNY BENEDETTO  
The Denver Gazette

The break between rounds was a long one for each member of the Avalanche, but no one had a layoff as long as Darcy Kuemper.

Colorado's starting goaltender left the ice midway through the opening game of the Western Conference final on May 31 with an injury that forced him to watch the rest of the series. Avalanche coach Jared Bednar credited Pavel Francouz for his play in Kuemper's absence but decided to go back to his starter for Wednesday's Game 1 of the Stanley Cup Final.

"Darcy is a guy that we've leaned on heavily all year long. That's why we brought him in to do this job," Bednar said. "I thought he was pretty good tonight. The goals that we gave up and

the chances that we gave up, we made some big mistakes on."

After more than two weeks off, Kuemper made 20 saves in the Avalanche's 4-3 overtime win over Tampa Bay.

"I tried to stay as sharp as I could in practices and treat those like games," Kuemper said. "Obviously, it was a long time off for everybody, but even longer for me. (You) just got to put yourself in the best position to be ready to go. I thought we all did a great job with that. We came out strong right away."

Kuemper's counterpart, Andrei Vasilevskiy, made 34 saves for Tampa Bay, but Colorado's goalie is trying not to look at it as an individual matchup.

"He's the best goalie in the world," Kuemper admitted. "I can't worry about trying to outplay him. I just got to go out there, play my game, and do

what I can to help the team win."

After the Avalanche jumped out to a 2-0 lead, Nicholas Paul got behind the Avalanche defense and beat Kuemper for the first time.

The two other goals scored against the Avalanche goalie struck like Lightning, as Ondrej Palat and Mikhail Sergachev scored goals less than a minute apart to tie the game at 3 with six-plus minutes left in the second period.

"They're a good team," Colorado forward Gabriel Landeskog. "They're going to find ways to score goals."

Palat's goal came after Nikita Kucherov beat Devon Toews and found his teammate at the back door. Sergachev's shot traveled through traffic and beat a screened Kuemper.

"They scored two quick ones there, but all you can do is stop the next one,"

Kuemper said. "That was my mindset."

Nothing got past Kuemper the rest of the way, allowing the Avalanche to protect home-ice advantage.

"I thought he played well," Avalanche forward Artturi Lehkonen said. "It's not easy to come back."

Kuemper won't have as long of a layoff with Game 2 scheduled for Saturday at Ball Arena.

"Darcy's been our starter. He's played some real good hockey for us this year. The injury kind of set him back a little bit. He was trying to play through it, and it wasn't working out. He had some complications, but the last week of practice, he was doing a bunch of work to get back," Bednar said.

"He made some big saves for us, got us a win, so I was pretty happy with his performance."

# AVALANCHE 4, LIGHTNING 3, OT

GAME 1



CHRISTIAN MURDOCK, THE DENVER GAZETTE

Avalanche center Nathan MacKinnon, right, takes a shot on goal as Lightning left wing Nicholas Paul defends during the third period of Game 1 of the Stanley Cup Final on Wednesday at Ball Arena in Denver.

## *Speed thrills! Sakic's blueprint on display in Avs' Game 1 win*

### COMMENTARY



**PAUL KLEE**

The Denver Gazette

What, the Avs worry?

Not this Stanley Cup-ready outfit. Not the one assembled by Joe Sakic.

One thing that will never stop being amazing is how quickly Sakic turned the “embarrassment” of the NHL’s worst team into the future of the NHL. On the night the Avs lit up lower downtown with its first Stanley Cup Final in 21 years, Super Joe’s masterful blueprint came through again.

Speed thrills.

Andre Burakovsky’s goal finished off a 4-3 win over the Tampa Bay Lightning only 2:23 into overtime of Game 1 Wednesday. One final, mad rush closed an awesome opener to a series that sure has the makings of one that will go the full distance of seven games. And the two attributes of Sakic’s rebuild were on display on the game-winning score: speed and depth.

Star players Nathan MacKinnon,

Mikko Rantanen and Cale Makar had to leap over the boards to join the group hug, because they didn’t need to be on the ice for the winner. What a beauty of a sequence, too: JT Compher with the steal, Valeri Nichushkin with a sweet pass to Burakovsky, who fired a laser past the left glove of Tampa Bay goalie Andrei Vasilevkiy. Andre beat Andrei.

Game 2 is Saturday night at Ball Arena. Buckle up.

The cheapest seat I saw on Ticketmaster at puck drop was over \$800. Hey, for that kind of cheese, you deserved an extra period of world-class hockey. And this was world-class hockey: an Avs team that must go through the two-time champion Lightning to start a run of its own.

The Avs built a 2-0 lead, and I’ll wager \$5 Ball Arena hasn’t gotten that loud since the 2001 Stanley Cup Final. Less than 10 minutes into the series, and the opponent looked like all the others, a step slow, stunned at the Avs’ speed.

It’s not. These are the champs we’re talking about. MLB hasn’t seen a three-peat since the 2000 Yankees, the NBA since the ’02 Lakers, the NHL since the ’83 Islanders. The NFL’s never seen it.

“We’re looking to dethrone the

champs,” Sakic said.

If Sakic had a dime for every time he’s asked to compare these Avs with his Stanley Cup winners in 1996 and 2001, he would probably donate it to his favorite side job, raising money for the Food Bank of the Rockies. That’s just the kind of Colorado legend he is. But what I appreciate most about Sakic’s magic in rebuilding the Avalanche from a 48-point squad to a Cup finalist is how he took entertainment value into account. The GM wasn’t about to build a heavy, slogging contender.

“You want to win, but you also want to entertain,” Sakic said.

After a Game 1 played at the highest level of hockey, no one there was going to complain about plopping down \$800 for a memory; at least, until the next time the gas tank’s empty.

“The right team won,” Tampa coach Jon Cooper said.

The last time Denver hosted a Stanley Cup game, Alex Tanguay was scoring two goals in a Game 7 win over the New Jersey Devils — almost 7,700 long days ago. LoDo welcomed back the best playoff round in pro sports with a sight to behold: “We want the Cup! We want the Cup!” They roared loudest at Cale Makar’s intro and second-loudest when Colorado lifer Dalton Risner

pounded a Coors in his luxury suite.

But between the Denver East national champs, DU Pioneers champs and the Avalanche, this city knows great hockey. And the fact Ball Arena didn’t belt out “All the Small Things” with its usual decibel level was a show of respect for the Lightning.

Ball Arena got a little nervous in Game 1. No doubt. This has “long series” written all over it, and the Avs could not afford to drop a home game on a rare off-night by Vasilevkiy.

As the Avs gave away a 3-1 lead, it was clear they must go through Tampa’s pride as much as its gifted roster. Tampa’s won 11 straight playoff series. The Avs have 11 series wins in the past 20 years. Back-to-back Cup titles assures the Lightning aren’t fazed by two-goal deficits.

For the first time this postseason, the Avs are obligated to pick on somebody their own size and skill.

But it’s worth remembering that “All the Small Things” broke onto the scene smack in the middle of the golden era for Avs hockey. And as Blink-182 blasted Ball Arena and outside at a packed watch party, LoDo felt like the good ol’ days. Sakic was and is in the middle of both.

Back in the Stanley Cup Final, the Avs let it rip.

# AVALANCHE 4, LIGHTNING 3, OT

GAME 1

## *No complacency for aggressive Avs in crucial opening win*

### COMMENTARY



#### WOODY PAIGE

The Denver Gazette

The Fabalanche won 1!  
1-2-3-4.

1 minute 23 seconds into the bonus period the Avs scored a fourth goal to defeat the Lightning in the opener of the Stanley Cup Final on Wednesday night at the puck arena.

After a T.O. in the O.T., Andre beat Andrei ... vsky past ... vskiy.

Euphoria erupted. The Avalanche had awaited and anticipated this victory for 21 years.

“Amazing” and “awesome” was how Andre Burakovsky described his winning laser against Andrei Vasilevskiy.

The Avs’ Steal Curtain caused a turnover shortly into overtime, and J.T. Compher, who had been a hero earlier in the playoffs, slid the puck to Valeri Nichushkin, who also had been a hero earlier in the playoffs, across the ice to Burakovsky, who is the hero now in the playoffs.

Vasilevskiy, the most valuable player in the 2021 Stanley Cup Playoffs and the best goal-protector in hockey, couldn’t react quickly enough on his left side as “Burky” blurred the shot into the nets.

And the drama that had been rising throughout the third period and reached a crescendo in overtime ended instantaneously. The NHL champions of the past two seasons lost to the Cup wannabes.

What a way to start the series. This is not about to be easy-going or stress-free for either team. They play again Saturday night in Denver. It will be a hot time in the old Cowtown again.

For the fifth consecutive game in the postseason the Avalanche attacked the opposing goalie with at least 35 shots. But this goalie is not old or a backup or mediocre or inexperienced in the Final. Yet, Vasilevskiy surrendered three goals (including one in a five-on-three predicament) in the first period before finding his game and shutting out the Avs for more than 48 minutes.

The Avs’ 38th attempt escaped him, though.

On the other end of the ice, Darcy Kuemper was back as a starter after



CHRISTIAN MURDOCK, THE DENVER GAZETTE

Avalanche left wing Artturi Lehkonen, left, crashes into Lightning goaltender Andrei Vasilevskiy during the first period of Game 1 of the Stanley Cup Final on Wednesday at Ball Arena in Denver.

missing most of the Western Conference finals with an eye-vicinity injury. Coach Jared Bednar and his staff had refused to announce who would be the No. 1 goaltender for Game 1. Kuemper, who had won six games in the postseason, was declared 100 percent healthy, but his replacement, Pavel “Frankie” Francouz, was 6-0 in the playoffs. However, GM Joe Sakic — who, as the Lightning, had won two Stanley Cups — brought Kuemper to Denver for moments like this.

Kuemper appeared self-assured at the outset, but he really wasn’t tested by tentative Tampa Bay early.

Game 1 seemed like the Roadrunner against Wile E. Coyote.

The speed of the Avalanche unsettled the Lightning for most of the first 20 minutes. The horn blew for Gabriel Landeskog 7:47 into the first peri-

od, and the Avs had a 3-1 at the first interlude.

Although the Avalanche had eight days without a game, they were the aggressors while the Lightning played on their heels of their skates while falling behind by two. Home teams with leads of two goals or more in the opening game almost always win, and the Avalanche had won every Game 1 in the previous series.

So 3-1 looked comfortable until the Lightning struck twice in 48 seconds of the second period and began to act like the dynasty-seeking team they are. The Avs were uncomfortable and the tie at 3 at the beginning of the third period was disconcerting for thousands of people who had paid thousands of dollars to attend the first Stanley Cup game on the edge of downtown since 2001.

The Avs were the provokers in the third period, but Vasilevskiy was a wall and didn’t allow megastars Nate MacKinnon or Cale Makar to bust out despite a combined nine shots, and the busy Nichushkin’s six attempts were turned aside

But, the maroon and blue were in excellent position when the Lightning’s Pat Maroon sand-wedged the puck over the glass and drew a two-minute delay-of-game penalty with less than two minutes remaining. The Avs jammed everything possible at the Lightning, but regulation ended the way the game started — uncertain.

But Tampa Bay was overwhelmed in overtime and suffered a turnover and an over and out.

The fabulous Avalanche won their 13th game in the postseason and their first game in the Stanley Cup Final.

SPORTS

GUARDIANS 7, ROCKIES 5

# Miscues haunt Rockies in another loss to Cleveland

BY DANIELLE ALLENTUCK  
The Denver Gazette

If fans were hoping to watch a sloppy baseball game, boy did they go to the right place on Wednesday.

Five of the 12 runs scored between the Guardians and the Rockies were the result of either errors or wild pitches. One team managed to clean it up as the game went on, and it wasn't the Rockies. The Guardians took game two of the interleague series 7-5.

The Rockies were on both sides of the mistakes.

The good came as Elias Díaz and Ryan McMahon scored in the second off a throwing error from Guardians' starter Konnor Pilkington. In the third, Brendan Rodgers crossed home on a wild pitch, and CJ Cron made it on a very basic fielding error from Oscar Mercado, who let the ball drop out of his glove. From there they couldn't get any momentum, going 3-for-12 with runners in scoring position. They had their best shot in the seventh, with Brendan Rodgers on third and José Iglesias at the plate, but left fielder Steven Kwan made an incredible diving catch to end the inning.

The Rockies own errors and wild pitches, meanwhile, came back to cost them the game. The Rockies have committed an error in 12-straight home games, the longest streak in franchise history. They lead the league with 52 this season.

One of those errors came from Díaz, who has committed four in the past 18 2/3 innings. On Saturday, he cost the Rockies in the first game of a double-header when he made an errant throw to third base and allowed a runner to score. He did the same thing in the fifth inning on Wednesday when the Guardians attempted a double steal, letting a run in for Cleveland.



THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Rockies third baseman Ryan McMahon fields a grounder by the Guardians' Myles Straw during the eighth inning Wednesday in Denver.

Díaz was sharp last season with the Rockies, heating up at the plate after a slow start and putting on a catching clinic almost every night. The Rockies rewarded him with a \$14.5 million, three-year deal, but his performance hasn't matched what he did a year ago, he's hitting just above .200 and has seven errors now.

Díaz, who at one point was the primary catcher, is now splitting more time with backup catcher Brian Serven as his slump continues.

"We need Ellie to get going," Black said. "You saw what he did last year, he was one of the best catchers in baseball, especially in the second half. We'll continue to work with him and support

him and get him going. He's down a little bit."

The Guardians took the lead in the fifth, scoring three runs to drive out Austin Gomber, who only made it through 4 2/3 innings, giving up five runs on nine hits. The inning got away from Gomber, and he lost location of

Cleveland	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg.
Straw cf	5	0	0	0	0	2	.212
Rosario ss	5	4	3	1	0	0	.271
Ramírez dh	5	1	4	0	0	0	.307
Gonzalez rf	3	1	0	1	1	1	.361
Miller 2b	4	1	1	1	0	0	.263
Naylor 1b	4	0	1	1	0	3	.276
Clement 3b	3	0	0	0	1	0	.207
Mercado lf	2	0	2	1	0	0	.211
a-Kwan ph-lf	2	0	0	0	0	0	.272
Maile c	3	0	0	0	1	1	.213
Totals	36	7	11	5	3	7	

Colorado	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg.
Joe lf	5	1	2	0	0	1	.258
Blackmon dh	5	0	2	0	0	2	.254
Rodgers 2b	3	1	1	0	2	0	.259
Cron 1b	4	1	1	0	0	0	.289
Daza cf	4	1	2	1	0	0	.338
Iglesias ss	4	0	0	0	0	0	.308
McMahon 3b	4	1	1	0	0	1	.232
Grichuk rf	4	0	1	0	0	1	.254
Díaz c	4	0	1	1	0	0	.205
Totals	37	5	11	2	2	5	

Cleveland	011	031	001	-	7	11	2
Colorado	022	000	100	-	6	11	1

a-flíed out for Mercado in the 5th.  
E—Pilkington (1), Mercado (1), Díaz (7). LOB—Cleveland 7, Colorado 7. 2B—Miller (17), Ramírez (19), Mercado (6), Naylor (10), Daza (6), Cron (14), Joe (10). 3B—Rosario (4). HR—Rosario (1), off Gomber. RBIs—Mercado (16), Rosario (14), Miller (31), Naylor (34), Gonzalez (7), Díaz (12), Daza (16). CS—Iglesias (2). SF—Miller, Gonzalez.  
Runners left in scoring position—Cleveland 4 (Miller, Gonzalez, Kwan, Maile); Colorado 2 (Iglesias, Daza). RISP—Cleveland 1 for 9; Colorado 3 for 12.  
Runners moved up—Clement. GDP—Rodgers.  
DP—Cleveland 1 (Rosario, Naylor).

Cleveland	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Pilkington	4 1/3	6	4	2	1	3	69	3.67
De Los Santos	1 1/2	2	0	0	0	0	14	2.55
Sandlin, H, 5	1	2	1	1	1	1	28	3.00
Stephan, H, 3	1/2	0	0	0	0	0	2	4.03
Shaw, W, 3-0	1	0	0	0	0	1	10	3.38
Clase, S, 13-15	1	1	0	0	0	0	9	1.71

Colorado	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Gomber, L, 3-7	4 2/3	9	5	5	1	4	89	6.43
Smith	1 1/2	1	1	1	2	1	26	18.90
Chacín	2	0	0	0	0	2	18	6.53
Estévez	1	1	1	1	0	0	15	5.23

Inherited runners scored—De Los Santos 1-0, Sandlin 1-0, Stephan 2-0, Smith 1-0. WP—Pilkington, Smith.  
Umpires—Home, Chris Conroy; First, Carlos Torres; Second, Ron Kulpa; Third, Charlie Ramos.  
T—3:02. A—23,838 (50,445).



**NEXT**  
Guardians at Rockies, 1:10 p.m.  
Thursday, ATT-RM, 850 AM

# Tyler Kinley, Rockies' top reliever, likely out for rest of season

BY DANIELLE ALLENTUCK  
The Denver Gazette

Tyler Kinley, the Rockies' top reliever, is likely out for the rest of the season with an arm injury.

Kinley started feeling soreness last week while the team was in San Francisco — something he's experienced before — and the team thought a few days off would do the trick. The symptoms didn't dissolve on their own though, and an MRI revealed a right elbow

sprain and a flexor tear. He will undergo a procedure soon, and they'll determine next steps from there.

Kinley was in the middle of the best season of his career, and had given up just two earned runs in 24 innings. His 0.75 ERA was the second-lowest in the National League on June 8, the last game he pitched. Kinley had a chance to make his first All-Star team.

"It's frustrating for Tyler first and foremost because he was throwing the ball

so well and was in such a good place fundamentally with his mechanics, mentally with his confidence and his place on the team," manager Bud Black said. "It was just trending upward, his career path ... to have this happen is such a bummer."

Kinley revamped his slider in the off-season, which in turn has helped his fastball improve. The slider is his swing-and-miss pitch, while the fastball is usually his setup. His confidence

has grown. And the Rockies have trusted him in key late-inning spots this season.

The good news for Kinley is that he will likely not need a second Tommy John surgery, which would have been career-threatening news.

"It's tough," he said on Tuesday, before he had the results of the MRI. "Even days I feel great and I'm told I can't pitch that day is tough for me. There's not much I can do."

SPORTS

MLB ROUNDUP

# Astros throw 2 immaculate innings in win over Rangers

The Associated Press

**ARLINGTON, TEXAS** • Astros starter Luis Garcia and reliever Phil Maton each threw an immaculate inning — nine pitches, three strikeouts — and Martín Maldonado keyed a six-run first inning that sent Houston over the Texas Rangers 9-2 on Wednesday.

Maldonado hit a two-run double in the first and later homered for the AL West-leading Astros.

Garcia (4-5) struck out nine without a walk over six innings while limiting Texas to two runs and four hits. He had a span of five consecutive strikeouts that began with an immaculate second inning — when he threw only nine pitches to strike out Nathaniel Lowe, Ezequiel Duran and Brad Miller.

Those were the first three batters Maton faced after replacing Garcia to start the seventh. And Maton also recorded a nine-pitch, three-strikeout inning.

Astros and Rangers officials said it was the first time in MLB history to have two nine-pitch, three-strikeout innings in the same game — either both by one team, or each team recording one.

The Astros sent 11 batters to the plate in the first inning. The first nine faced fill-in starter Tyson Miller (0-1).

## Dodgers 4, Angels 1

**LOS ANGELES** • Tyler Anderson of the Los Angeles Dodgers lost his no-hit bid in the ninth inning against the Angels when he gave up a one-out triple to Shohei Ohtani.

Anderson (8-0) threw a career-high 123 pitches. He struck out eight and walked two in lowering his ERA to 2.82. The left-hander was pulled after Ohtani sent a line drive into right field that eluded a diving Mookie Betts.

Craig Kimbrel allowed an RBI single to Matt Duffy before closing it out.

## Yankees 4, Rays 3

**NEW YORK** • Aaron Judge hit his major league-leading 25th home run, No. 9 batter Kyle Higashioka followed an intentional walk with a three-run drive and New York beat Tampa Bay for its 13th straight win at home.

Nestor Cortes (6-2) outpitched Shane Bieber (7-3) in a matchup of stellar starters with sub-2.00 ERAs, and Clayton Kershaw matched Mariano Rivera's team record of 28 consecutive scoreless appearances, remaining perfect in 11 save chances.

## Braves 8, Nationals 2

**WASHINGTON** • Austin Riley homered twice, rookie Spencer Strider allowed one hit over 5 2/3 innings, and Atlanta



THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Astros starting pitcher Luis Garcia throws during the first inning Wednesday against the Rangers in Arlington, Texas.

beat Washington for its 14th straight victory.

Orlando Arcia had a homer, three singles and a walk for the Braves, who swept a three-game series at Washington.

## Phillies 3, Marlins 1

**PHILADELPHIA** • Garrett Stubbs hit a three-run homer with two out in the ninth inning, sending Philadelphia past Miami.

Alec Bohm sparked the winning rally with a one-out single against Tanner Scott (2-2). Pinch-hitter J.T. Realmuto walked before Yairo Muñoz struck out swinging.

That brought Stubbs to the plate, and he drove a 2-2 fastball deep to right for his third homer.

## White Sox 13, Tigers 0

**DETROIT** • Yoán Moncada had five hits and five RBIs and Chicago completed a three-game sweep of Detroit.

Moncada, Danny Mendick and Seby Zavala homered for Chicago. The White Sox finished with 22 hits, compared to four for the Tigers. Davis Martin (1-2) pitched 5 1/3 innings of three-hit ball.

## Red Sox 10, Athletics 1

**BOSTON** • Rafael Devers homered in his fourth straight game and Alex Verdugo hit his first home run in almost two months as Boston beat Oakland.

Rookie Josh Winckowski (1-1) earned his first major league win in his second start.

The 23-year-old righty allowed four hits, struck out three and walked one in five scoreless innings.

## Brewers 10, Mets 2

**NEW YORK** • Corbin Burnes bounced back from his two shortest outings of the season to pitch six innings of two-run ball, Willy Adames got two of his three hits in a seven-run fifth and Milwaukee routed New York.

Manager Craig Counsell got his 564th victory with the Brewers, breaking the franchise record. Counsell passed Phil Garner, who managed 1,180 games for the team from 1992-99.

## Blue Jays 7, Orioles 6, 10 innings

**TORONTO** • Vladimir Guerrero Jr. hit his 16th homer, then singled home the winning run in the 10th inning to lift Toronto over Baltimore.

Orioles rookie Adley Rutschman hit his first career home run and got his first two RBIs. Ryan Mountcastle homered twice, but Baltimore lost for the eighth time in nine meetings against Toronto.

## Diamondbacks 7, Reds 4

**PHOENIX** • Zac Gallen pitched seven effective innings despite an early bout of wildness, and Arizona used a four-run eighth inning to top Cincinnati.

Geraldo Perdomo hit a two-run homer for the Diamondbacks, who avoided a three-game sweep.

## Twins 5, Mariners 0

**SEATTLE** • Ryan Jeffers hit an RBI single off the center-field wall to break a scoreless tie in the seventh inning Minnesota beat Seattle.

Twins starter Sonny Gray, making his first appearance since going on the

## STANDINGS

### AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	46	16	.742	—
Toronto	37	25	.597	9
Tampa Bay	35	27	.565	11
Boston	34	29	.540	12½
Baltimore	27	37	.422	20
Central Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Minnesota	37	28	.569	—
Cleveland	31	27	.534	2½
Chicago	30	31	.492	5
Detroit	24	38	.387	11½
Kansas City	21	41	.339	14½
West Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Houston	39	24	.619	—
Texas	29	33	.468	9½
Los Angeles	29	35	.453	10½
Seattle	28	35	.444	11
Oakland	21	43	.328	18½

### NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	41	23	.641	—
Atlanta	37	27	.578	4
Philadelphia	32	31	.508	8½
Miami	28	33	.459	11½
Washington	23	42	.354	18½
Central Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	41	23	.641	—
Atlanta	37	27	.578	4
Philadelphia	32	31	.508	8½
Miami	28	33	.459	11½
Washington	23	42	.354	18½
West Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Los Angeles	39	23	.629	—
San Diego	40	24	.625	—
San Francisco	35	27	.565	4
Arizona	30	35	.462	10½
Colorado	27	36	.429	12½

injured list with a strained pectoral muscle on June 2, threw five shutout innings.

## Royals 3, Giants 2

**SAN FRANCISCO** • Whit Merrifield broke a 2-2 tie with an eighth-inning sacrifice fly and Kansas City edged San Francisco to avoid a three-game sweep.

Brandon Belt homered for the Giants, whose five-game winning streak ended.

## Pirates 6, Cardinals 4

**ST. LOUIS** • Bryan Reynolds hit a tie-breaking two-run homer in the seventh inning and Pittsburgh ended a nine-game skid by beating St. Louis.

Reynolds hit his 11th homer of the season after Tucupita Marcano singled with two outs off reliever Andre Pallante (2-1).

## Padres 19, Cubs 5

**CHICAGO** • Manny Machado singled for his 1,500th hit and launched a two-run homer on a four-RBI night to help San Diego beat reeling Chicago.

Machado was one of five Padres with three hits as San Diego routed the Cubs for the second straight hot night at Wrigley Field. Jorge Alfaro added a two-run homer and three RBIs as San Diego improved to 40-24 in winning its third straight and seventh in nine.

# SEASON 38

SEPTEMBER 2022 – MAY 2023

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**2022**

SEPTEMBER 17, 2022

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A NEW INDIE-ROCK  
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Music Direction by Angela Steiner

**OCT. 7-30, 2022**

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Oct. 13 & 27 at 10 a.m.

**THE JEDI  
HANDBOOK**

Directed by Geoffrey Kent  
**NOV. 25-DEC. 18, 2022**

**acts of faith**

Directed by Helen R. Murray and  
starring Betty Hart

**JAN. 20-FEB. 5, 2023**

THE YEAR OF  
**MAGICAL  
THINKING**

Directed by Christy Montour-Larson  
**FEB. 9-26, 2023**

*Toni Stone*

Directed by Kenny Moten  
**MARCH 10 – APRIL 2, 2023**  
Student matinees: Thursdays  
March 23 & 30 at 10 a.m.

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ISLAND**

A New Musical for a  
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Directed by Helen R. Murray  
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May 4 & 11 at 10 a.m.

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## SPORTS

### GOLF • U.S. OPEN

# Focus turns from Saudi money to golf's toughest test

The Associated Press

**BROOKLINE, MASS.** • The U.S. Open isn't the only American major that has felt like an afterthought, lost among chatter and innuendo about topics unrelated to birdies and bogeys.

Golf was no longer the primary concern going into the 1990 PGA Championship at Shoal Creek in Alabama. The club founder had said Shoal Creek would not be pressured into accepting a Black member.

Corporate sponsors began to withdraw TV advertising, protests were planned and Shoal Creek extended membership to a Black insurance executive a week before the PGA.

Until the first tee shot, most of the stories were on the controversy and its ripple effect in golf, not whether Nick Faldo could win his third major of the year.

Battle lines were drawn at the 2003 Masters between activist Martha Burk and her demands that Augusta National have a female member, and club chairman Hootie Johnson who stubbornly said that day may come, but "not at the point of a bayonet."

Tiger Woods was going for an unprecedented third straight Masters, and he got 10 questions from the media about social issues and the chaos at Augusta. And then when Thursday arrived, rain washed out the opening round.

The difference is the U.S. Open has been overshadowed by a development not of its own doing.

Just its luck, a return to The Country Club for the 122nd Open and its century-old heritage came one week after the Saudi-funded LIV Golf rebel series began outside London.

Phil Mickelson and Dustin Johnson, the two biggest defectors, are among 14 players suspended by the PGA Tour for signing up and who are now playing the U.S. Open.

Rumors have rampant all week that more players could be signing up for the Saudi money next week.

Mickelson defended his decision. Rory McIlroy said players who signed up for the 54-hole events with no cut and guaranteed money are "taking the easy way out."

Golf, anyone?

"We're praying that changes tomorrow," USGA chief Mike Whan said Wednesday. "Even I can say that you don't have to ask how we feel about it. Ask 156 players that are grinding it out to get to tomorrow. They're trying to focus on the same thing we're trying to focus on."

"I think — hopefully — as soon as we



THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Phil Mickelson hits on the 16th hole during a practice round for the U.S. Open on Wednesday at The Country Club in Brookline, Mass.

tee this up tomorrow, we'll have something else to talk about, at least for the next four days."

It starts with a local flavor. Michael Thorbjornsen of Stanford, who grew up in the Boston area and won a U.S. Junior Amateur, hits the opening tee shot from No. 1. Fran Quinn, who is 57 and lives about 40 minutes away from Brookline, will start on No. 10.

Mickelson has received only cheers and support — not quite as raucous as in other years — during his practice rounds. He can expect a few renditions of "Happy Birthday" during his opening round because he turns 52 on Thursday.

What they face is an old-styled course, dense rough around most of the tiny greens, fescue framing fairways that are not the narrowest for a U.S. Open and still an important part of keeping big numbers off the card.

The par-3 11th hole is 131 yards by the card and likely will play under 100 yards at some point. The fifth hole is short enough that players can drive the green.

The U.S. Open typically is about precision over power, with patience key for anyone.

Recent history, however, leans toward big hitters — Jon Rahm last year, Bryson DeChambeau at Winged Foot, Gary Woodland at Pebble Beach, Brooks Koepka back-to-back and Johnson at Oakmont.

"You should probably have an advantage if you're a little bit longer," said John Bodenhamer, the USGA's chief championships officer who sets up the course. "How it plays here, I don't know. We're going to find out. It's been 34 years since we've been here."

That was in 1988, when Curtis Strange beat Nick Faldo in a playoff. Both were known for precision iron play and avoiding big mistakes.

"This will be a good old-fashioned U.S. Open with rough, and we'll see how they navigate that and what they use off the tee," Bodenhamer said. "I am telling you, with these small greens and the firmness, they're going to need to be in the fairway."

As for the prize money, the U.S. Open

has fallen in line with other majors, if not a step up.

The PGA Tour set the tone by jacking up the purse of The Players Championship to \$20 million with hopes the majors might tag along.

The Masters and PGA Championship bumped their purses to \$15 million (both at least a \$3 million increase), while the U.S. Open has gone up \$5 million to \$17.5 million.

That doesn't compare with the \$25 million in prize money the LIV Golf series is offering for its 54-hole events that last week only had four of the top 50 players in the world.

This is about history, a trophy that dates to 1895, making it the second-oldest championship in golf. That should be enough to get anyone's attention over four days.

"We're here at major championship, and we're here to win the U.S. Open, and we're here to play and beat everyone else in this field, in this great field," two-time major champion Collin Morikawa said.

"That's what it's about."

## SPORTS

GOLF • U.S. OPEN

# Disrupters vs. Dreamers as two worlds of golf collide

The Associated Press

**BROOKLINE, MASS.** • Two worlds of competitive golf collide this week at the U.S. Open.

One world seeks to blow up the status quo, posing the largest threat to the PGA Tour in its 54-year history. It is spearheaded by six-time major winner and fan favorite Phil Mickelson, who along with former No. 1 Dustin Johnson took \$150 million or more to leave the sport's pre-eminent tour and play in the new Saudi-backed LIV Golf series.

The other world is inhabited by the likes of Ben Silverman and Davis Shore.

They are among the young, the journeymen, the amateurs and the dreamers who made it through qualifying to earn spots in the 156-player field at The Country Club outside of Boston.

Starting Thursday, they will play alongside the millionaire disrupters in America's open golf tournament — an event that, in theory at least, any pro or amateur with a handicap of 1.4 or less is eligible to win.

“For anyone at our level, it's another opportunity,” said Shore, a 23-year-old from Tennessee who plays on minor league tours in Canada and Latin America and has career earnings of around \$15,000. “It's a chance to play against the best in the world. And that's what you want. It's also a good opportunity to hopefully cash a big check. We don't get that opportunity very much playing at this level.”

Theirs is a level of puddle-jumper flights to far-flung outposts, cheap rent-a-cars, fast-food drive-throughs and bunking with roommates. Players make cuts, then use that money to pay to travel to the next week's tournament.



THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Ben Silverman watches his shot during a practice round ahead of the U.S. Open on Tuesday at The Country Club in Brookline, Mass.**

Shore, who went through 54 holes of qualifying this spring to make his second straight U.S. Open, spoke to The Associated Press earlier this month after the first round of the Royal Beach Victoria Open on the PGA Tour Canada. He would finish tied for 13th. He earned \$3,325. By qualifying for the U.S. Open, he received a \$10,000 travel stipend for the trip to Brookline.

Without those funds, he said, “I don't know how I would make it work.”

Neither he nor Silverman profess to be paying much attention to the LIV Tour, which has been the talk of The Country Club this week and which awarded a record-setting \$4.75 million to the winner of its inaugural event, Charl Schwartzel, last weekend. The

winner at this week's national championship — which, like the other three majors, is closely connected to but not run by the PGA Tour — will make in the neighborhood of \$2.25 million.

There is a lively and divisive debate about what message the breakaway players are sending by cashing checks from LIV Golf. The league is bankrolled by the Saudis, and the league's front man, former No. 1 Greg Norman, touts the series as a “force for good” in golf.

But to many, this is nothing more than the kingdom's attempt to use sports to scrub its much-criticized human rights record.

LIV guarantees money to all 48 players in the field before they hit a shot. Mickelson received a reported \$200

million simply for moving over to play in the series; Johnson received a reported \$150 million. Last weekend's last-place finisher made \$120,000, or nearly 10 times what Shore has banked in his 15 months as a pro.

The “win-to-earn” format is a concept that has long separated golf and tennis (and bowling and a few other sports) from the worlds of pro football and basketball and soccer, where the checks clear no matter how the teams — or the players on them — fare.

The up-and-comers such as Shore and Silverman have bought into the system as it is, and are hoping to earn or regain a foothold there.

Now 34, Silverman began his pro career in 2013 with the help of backers who funded him. Thanks to a strong 2017 on the Korn Ferry that earned him a promotion to the PGA Tour, he has been able to pay them back with part of his \$1.5 million in earnings, most won between 2017 and 2019.

Shore was one of the country's top junior golfers coming up through high school. Alabama won the recruiting battle, but a series of hip and back injuries hampered him throughout college. He turned pro in 2021, and his early days as a professional have been a winding road through Peru, Ecuador, Chile and Mexico.

He sees some of the players who were invited to the LIV tour — players with resumes that are barely more accomplished than his — and credits it to them being at the right place at the right time.

Though the “right place” in golf's future is now up for debate, certainly, this week, that place is The Country Club.

## Wicked rude: LIV XIV ready for traditional Boston welcome

The Associated Press

**BROOKLINE, MASS.** • Every loud-mouth from Yarmouth and Masshole from Athol has descended on The Country Club this week, when 14 golfers in the U.S. Open field will face the American public for the first time since defecting to an upstart, Saudi Arabi-an-backed tour.

The injection of genuine international intrigue is expected to energize the legendarily obnoxious Boston sports fan and make the staid, secretive enclave look more like a Sam Adams commercial casting call.

Guys named Sully and Fitz lined the fairways and greens at the 140-year-old club during the practice rounds, ready to greet their least favorite golfers with the same reception their ancestors gave the Redcoats at Lexington and Concord.

“It's going to be loud, and it's going to be a lot of fun,” said defending U.S. Open champion John Rahm, who has stuck with the PGA Tour and eschewed the bigger, guaranteed paydays offered by LIV Golf.

“There hasn't been a U.S. Open here in a very long time, so they're hungry

for it, and you can tell,” Rahm said. “It almost feels like with what's going on in the world of golf, they almost want to show their presence even more. I don't know exactly what to expect, but I'm really looking forward to it.”

More tentative was Phil Mickelson, a six-time major champion who is the biggest name among the LIV XIV. He said in February that Saudi regime funding the new tour had some “scary (expletive)” but still took a reported \$200 million to play on it.

One of the most popular players in the world, Mickelson said on Monday

that he was unsure if his supporters would abandon him.

Just in case, he buttered up the locals like a Parker House roll.

“The Boston crowds are some of the best in sports,” Mickelson said during a 25-minute media session after arriving in this Boston suburb from last week's LIV event outside of London.

“I think that their excitement and energy is what creates such a great atmosphere,” he said. “So whether it's positive or negative towards me directly, I think it's going to provide an incredible atmosphere to hold this championship.”

## SPORTS

**NBA FINALS: WARRIORS AT CELTICS** • GOLDEN STATE LEADS SERIES 3-2

# Warriors ready for first chance to close out Celtics

The Associated Press

**BOSTON** • Stephen Curry and the Warriors have been within a game of clinching a championship in three of Golden State's previous five trips to the NBA Finals during his 13-year NBA career.

Back again and with a 3-2 series lead on the Celtics, Curry says he'll lean on that experience when he takes the court at Boston's TD Garden on Thursday night.

"You just understand what the nerves are like," Curry said. "At the end of the day, once you get out there, you just have to be in the moment. You got to be present as much as possible, not worry about the consequences of a win or a loss. The only opportunity you have is that 48 minutes."

The Warriors' core of Curry, Klay Thompson and Draymond Green is still around from the 2015 championship run. They're on the verge of capturing their fourth title in eight seasons with new additions to the floor — like Andrew Wiggins and Jordan Poole — who have never been in this position.

Curry's advice to them: Lie to yourself a little bit.

"The more you can trick your mind



THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Warriors guard Stephen Curry celebrates during the second half of Game 5 of the NBA Finals against the Celtics on Monday in San Francisco.

into being in the moment and staying there, that's the best advice I can give anybody in that situation," he said. "Be-

cause it's going to be the hardest game you probably ever played in your career because of what the stakes are."



### PLAYOFFS NEXT

NBA Finals: Warriors at Celtics (Game 6), 7 p.m. Thursday, ABC

The stakes will be equally high for the Celtics, who let the turnover demons that have haunted them at times throughout the postseason prevent them from seizing a commanding 3-1 series lead.

Boston limited Curry to his lowest scoring output of the finals in Game 5, but couldn't overcome 18 turnovers.

The Celtics dropped to 1-7 this postseason when committing 16 turnovers or more — and lost consecutive games for the first time since the end of March.

But they have a chance to force Game 7 — and the chance is coming at the Garden, where they are 6-5 in the playoffs.

"It's the first to four. It's not over with," Tatum said. "So as long as it's not over with, you got a chance."

## Winning Wiggins: Warriors All-Star shining in NBA Finals

The Associated Press

**BOSTON** • Andrew Wiggins' critics always focused on what they thought he wasn't.

Not driven enough to be the No. 1 pick in the draft, they said. Just not good enough to be an All-Star starter, they argued.

One more victory by the Golden State Warriors and all that will matter is what Wiggins is: an NBA champion.

"He's shining on the brightest of stages in the playoffs. You can tell how much he's enjoying it," fellow All-Star Stephen Curry said Wednesday. "It's just amazing to see things working out in his favor in terms of kind of dispelling all the narratives around him and who he is as a basketball player right in front of your eyes."

The Warriors have won two straight games to take a 3-2 lead into Game 6 on Thursday, and Wiggins is as big a reason as any. The forward from Canada had 17 points and a career-high 16 rebounds in Game 4, then followed that with 26 points and 13 boards.

Wiggins had recorded consecutive

double-doubles just once in his career before doing it in the two biggest games he's ever played.

"It's always great being able to showcase what you can do, what you worked for," Wiggins said. "So I'm just happy to be able to be here on the biggest stage and help my team win."

Even those who wanted to dismiss Wiggins had to concede he could score. The No. 1 pick in the 2014 draft averaged 16.9 points when he won Rookie of the Year honors, and he never scored fewer than 17 per game again. But that rarely translated to winning, with Minnesota only making one playoff appearance while he was there, and it was easy to wonder what there was to Wiggins' game besides the points.

Turns out, there's a lot.

Coach Steve Kerr is surprised by how well Wiggins rebounds. On defense, the 6-foot-7 Wiggins has taken on the tough assignments, doing his best to contain Dallas All-Star Luka Doncic in the Western Conference finals and now taking his turns on Celtics swingmen Jayson Tatum and Jaylen Brown.

It's a versatility the Warriors say they knew was there, no matter how much it went unnoticed by others.

"He's taken on every challenge that we have thrown in front of him, and that's been huge," Draymond Green said. "And we need him to do that for one more win."

Skepticism about Wiggins followed him to the NBA after he managed just four points in his final college game, when Kansas was upset by Stanford in the 2014 NCAA Tournament. He took only six shots, a lackluster effort that created questions about how hard he was willing to work when things weren't coming easily.

But Green said he was assured by Tom Thibodeau, the current Knicks coach who guided the Timberwolves to the lone postseason appearance with Wiggins, that the Warriors would love how hard Wiggins defends and competes.

They had acquired Wiggins in February 2020 along with a first-round pick when they dealt D'Angelo Russell to Minnesota. Wiggins played well enough to be voted to start his first

All-Star Game this season, though even that didn't earn him accolades that had been missing. Wiggins was viewed as a player who had been miscast as a No. 1 option in Minnesota, and the reason he was playing well for Golden State was because he didn't have that burden on a team led by Curry.

Yet when Curry struggled in Game 5, missing all nine 3-point attempts, Wiggins looked every bit the part of main man. Curry will likely still be the NBA Finals MVP if the Warriors win the series. But Wiggins has at least made it a discussion instead of a foregone conclusion.

"It's amazing what you do with opportunity," Curry said. "Take away the comparisons, the narratives around him as a No. 1 pick, what everybody wanted him to be, his first six years in the league looked like. There's a reason we wanted him here. There's a reason that trade made sense for us. There was a high hope that he would be able to figure it out at this level in terms of taking his scoring ability, his athleticism, his defensive potential, just taking it to another notch."

## SPORTS

### OLYMPIC SPORTS

# Olympics may not include Nordic combined for first time

The Associated Press

Nordic combined, which uniquely tests skiers on jaw-dropping jumps and heart-pounding trails, has been a part of the Winter Olympics since 1924. Its time might be up.

It is the only Olympic sport without women and the International Olympic Committee is due to make a decision later this month about whether to allow women to compete in Nordic combined at the 2026 Milan-Cortina d'Ampezzo Games.

There is the possibility, however, that Nordic combined is dropped entirely from the Olympics, according to athletes and advocates.

"What I heard loud and clear in back channels is that the solution to take care of the gender equity dirty secret is to take men out of the program for 2026," said Billy Demong, a five-time Olympian in Nordic combined and member of USA Nordic's board of directors. "To take away one of the original sports from the first Winter Olympics would be tragic, short-sighted and misguided."

The IOC said final decisions on the 2026 Olympics program of medal events are scheduled to be decided at a June 24 meeting of its executive board, chaired by president Thomas Bach.

"We're seeing sports such as ski mountaineering added and I'm hearing the IOC does not want to increase the number of athletes and the solution is take men out of Nordic combined," Demong said Tuesday in an interview with The Associated Press.

Men in the Nordic combined have been publicly pushing on social media and elsewhere for women to be included, adding a mixed team format as another Olympic medal event, and are now bracing for their future as athletes on the world's stage.

Jasper Good, who competed for the



THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

From left, Jasper Good, Jared Schumate and Taylor Fletcher compete during the cross-country stage of the Nordic combined 10 kilometers at the U.S. Olympic team trials at the Mount Van Hoevenberg Olympic Sports Complex on Dec. 24 in Lake Placid, N.Y.

U.S. earlier this year at the Beijing Olympics, said he was "blindsided" by the possibility.

"Information is trickling to us from athlete groups from around the world and national governing bodies, and most of us didn't realize the sport is in jeopardy," he said.

International Ski Federation Nordic combined race director Lasse Ottesen said he has not heard officially from the IOC about men potentially being eliminated from the Olympic program.

"We do hear speculation from different sides," Ottesen said Wednesday. "If the IOC, for some reason, would make a decision not to include women for the '26 events, what would happen with the men's? Would that be sort of a signal to say you're on for the '26 events, but for '30, we are thinking

gender equality and then the men are out."

Nordic combined skiers must have finesse and fearlessness for ski jumping while training to have the strength and stamina necessary for a 10-kilometer cross-country course.

The athlete who wins the ski jumping stage starts the cross-country race in the front of the pack, followed by the rest of the competition in their order of finish and then they race to the line for gold.

While Nordic combined is a fringe sport in the United States, it is very popular in parts of Europe and Japan.

"It's really big in countries like Norway, Germany and Austria," U.S. Olympic Nordic combined skier Jared Schumate said. "Those three countries usually dominate the world cup podi-

ums, and Olympic podiums. And obviously, we don't have quite the same fame."

Annika Malacinski is one of dozens of women around the world who have sacrificed a lot of time and money to go for Olympic gold. The 21-year-old Malacinski, who has American-Finnish dual citizenship and competes for the U.S., had high hopes of competing in China dashed in 2018.

The IOC executive board considered denied an application then that would have allowed her and other women to compete in Nordic combined at the Beijing Games.

IOC sports director Kit McConnell said then that development in terms of the universality, competitiveness, and following was needed.

During the 2022 season, nearly 40 women competed at the highest level of the sport in a successful follow to the debut World Cup season for women a year ago.

"There's no reason that we shouldn't be in the Olympics," said Norway's Ida Marie Hagen, who finished No. 2 in the World Cup standings. "The level is getting higher. There's also a lot of athletes from different continents."

The IOC is proud to point to improvements made toward gender equality, saying the Beijing Games set new marks for female competitors by increasing participation to 45% from 41% in 2018.

The 2024 Paris Games are expected to be the first Olympics with as many women as men competing.

Alas, the Olympics' Instagram post to point that out led to another round a flurry of responses calling for women to be included in Nordic combined.

"It makes it just so much more intense, especially when the decision is only a week away," Malacinski told the AP.

#### ON THE AIR THURSDAY

##### AUSTRALIAN RULES FOOTBALL

5:30 a.m. (Friday) FS2 — AFL Premiership: Essendon at St. Kilda

##### CFL FOOTBALL

5:30 p.m. ESPN2 — Montreal at Toronto

##### GOLF

7:30 a.m. USA — PGA Tour: The U.S. Open, First Round, The Country Club, Brookline, Mass.

12 p.m. NBC — PGA Tour: The U.S. Open, First Round, The Country Club, Brookline, Mass.

1 p.m. GOLF — LPGA Tour: The Meijer Classic, First Round, Blythefield Country Club, Belmont, Mich.

3 p.m. USA — PGA Tour: The U.S. Open, First Round, The Country Club, Brookline, Mass.

##### HORSE RACING

1 p.m. FS2 — NYRA: America's Day at the Races

##### MLB BASEBALL

10 a.m. MLBN — MLB Draft Combine: From San Diego

1 p.m. ATT-RM — Cleveland at Colorado

5 p.m. MLBN — Regional Coverage: Tampa Bay at NY Yankees OR Texas at Detroit

8 p.m. MLBN — LA Angels at Seattle

##### NBA BASKETBALL

7 p.m. ABC — NBA Finals: Golden State at Boston, Game 6

##### TENNIS

3 a.m. TENNIS — London-ATP, Halle-ATP, Berlin-WTA, Birmingham-WTA Early Rounds

4 a.m. TENNIS — London-ATP, Halle-ATP, Berlin-WTA, Birmingham-WTA Early Rounds

3 a.m. (Friday) TENNIS — London-ATP, Halle-ATP, Berlin-WTA, Birmingham-WTA Quarterfinals

4 a.m. (Friday) TENNIS — London-ATP, Halle-ATP, Berlin-WTA, Birmingham-WTA Quarterfinals

## THREE GAMES OUT

JUNE - JULY

#### COLORADO AVALANCHE



Saturday: vs. Lightning (Game 2), 6 p.m., ABC  
Monday: at Lightning (Game 3), 6 p.m., ABC  
Wednesday: at Lightning (Game 4), 6 p.m., ABC

#### COLORADO RAPIDS



Sunday: at New York City FC, 3 p.m., ESPN+  
June 25: at Portland Timbers, 8:30 p.m., ESPN+  
July 4: vs. Austin FC, 7 p.m., ALT, ESPN+, 92.5 FM

#### COLORADO ROCKIES



Thursday: vs. Guardians, 1:10 p.m., ATT-RM, 850 AM  
Friday: vs. Padres, 6:40 p.m., ATT-RM, 850 AM  
Saturday: vs. Padres, 7:10 p.m., ATT-RM, 850 AM

#### COLLEGE SCHEDULES

Click on the links below to view schedules:  
DU: denverpioneers.com/calendar; CU: cubuffs.com/calendar; CSU: csurams.com/calendar

# SPORTS ODDS

## Thursday's top betting videos

**SPORTS  
GRID**»

Online betting  
For more betting content  
powered by SportsGrid, go to  
[betting.denvergazette.com](http://betting.denvergazette.com).



Game 6 Preview 6/16: Warriors Vs. Celtics



PHOTOS BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

College World Series Odds: Texas Outright (+420) Favorites



U.S. Open Outlook: Justin Thomas



U.S. Open Outlook: Dustin Johnson

## BETTING LINE

### MLB

#### Thursday

#### National League

FAVORITE	LINE	UNDERDOG	LINE
San Diego	-164	at CHICAGO CUBS	+138
Philadelphia	-210	at WASHINGTON	+176
at N.Y. METS	-132	Milwaukee	+11

#### American League

at BOSTON	-138	Oakland	+118
at TORONTO	-245	Baltimore	+200
at N.Y. YANKEES	-167	Tampa Bay	+148
Texas	-126	at DETROIT	+108
LA Angels	-120	at SEATTLE	+102

#### Interleague

at COLORADO -120 Cleveland +102

### NBA

#### Thursday

FAVORITE	OPEN	O/U	UNDERDOG
at BOSTON	4	(210)	Golden State

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# SPORTS

## SCOREBOARD

### BASEBALL

#### KANSAS CITY 3, SAN FRANCISCO 2 CONT.

San Francisco	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	AVG.
Totals	33	2	7	2	3	8	
González rf-If	5	0	1	0	0	1	.302
Yastrzemski cf-rf	4	0	0	0	1	1	.269
Flores 3b	3	0	0	0	0	1	.242
Pederson lf	2	0	1	0	0	0	.269
a-Slater ph-cf	2	0	0	0	0	1	.235
Belt dh	3	1	1	1	1	1	.231
Estrada 2b	3	1	0	1	0	0	.268
Crawford ss	4	0	1	0	0	1	.222
La Stella 1b	4	0	2	0	0	1	.239
Casali c	2	0	1	1	0	0	.233
c-Ruf ph	1	0	0	0	0	1	.219
Kansas City	200000010_3	4	0				
San Francisco	000200000_2	7	1				

a-pinch hit for Pederson in the 5th. b-doubled for Rivera in the 8th. c-struck out for Casali in the 9th. E\_Crawford (8). LOB\_Kansas City 2, San Francisco 9. 2B\_Witt Jr. (15), Benintendi (11), González (11). HR\_Belt (5), off Heasley. RBIs\_Merrifield (27), Belt (12), Casali (13). SB\_Estrada (9). SF\_Merrifield, Casali, S\_Lopez.

Runners left in scoring position\_Kansas City 0; San Francisco 4 (La Stella, Belt, González, Slater). RISP\_Kansas City 0 for 2; San Francisco 0 for 7. Runners moved up\_La Stella.

Kansas City	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Heasley	4	5	2	2	2	4	92	3.72
Garrett	1	0	0	0	0	0	18	6.32
Clarke	11-3	2	0	0	0	1	25	5.40
Cuas, W, 1-0	1	0	0	0	1	1	18	1.08
Barlow, S, 7-8	12-3	0	0	0	0	2	25	1.63

#### MINNESOTA 5, SEATTLE 0

Minnesota	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Totals	34	5	8	5	4	4		
Buxton cf	5	0	0	0	0	2	227	
Correa ss	5	1	1	1	0	1	304	
Urshella 3b	4	0	1	0	0	0	.262	
Sánchez dh	3	2	1	0	1	0	.218	
Arraez 2b	3	0	1	2	1	1	.354	
Miranda 1b	3	0	0	0	1	0	.216	
Jeffers c	3	1	2	1	1	0	.181	
Kepler rf	4	0	1	0	0	0	.243	
Celestino lf	4	1	1	1	0	0	.330	

a-lined out for Trammell in the 7th. E\_Kepler (2). LOB\_Minnesota 6, Seattle 7. 2B\_Jeffers (6), Correa (11), Kepler (9), Trammell (7), Rodríguez (11). RBIs\_Jeffers (16), Correa (20), Arraez 2 (21), Celestino (5).

Runners left in scoring position\_Minnesota 4 (Miranda, Correa, Kepler 2); Seattle 5 (France, Torrens 2, Toro 2). RISP\_Minnesota 2 for 10; Seattle 0 for 10.

Runners moved up\_Celestino, Buxton, Moore, Torrens. GDP\_Sánchez, France.

Minnesota	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Gray	5	3	0	0	0	3	65	2.09
Jax, W, 4-0	1	0	0	0	0	2	11	2.59
Smith, H, 12	2-3	1	0	0	1	0	15	3.00
Thielbar, H, 7	1-3	0	0	0	0	0	4	5.16
Duran	1	0	0	0	1	1	13	5.21
Cotton	1	1	0	0	1	1	16	2.03

#### SEATTLE

Seattle	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Gonzales, L, 3-7	6	2-3	3	1	2	2	90	3.41
Sewald	1-3	1	0	0	0	0	5	3.04
Murfee	2-3	3	3	1	1	29	1.93	
Romo	1-3	0	0	0	0	0	5	6.39
Elias	1	1	1	1	1	1	20	4.76

Inherited runners-scored\_Thielbar 2-0, Sewald 2-1, Romo 1-0. WP\_Murfee, Romo.

Umpires\_Home, Adrian Johnson; First, Angel Hernandez; Second, D.J. Reyburn; Third, Dan Merzel. T\_3:00. A\_15,329 (47,929).

#### N.Y. YANKEES 4, TAMPA BAY 3

Tampa Bay	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Totals	34	3	7	3	3	8		
Diaz 3b	5	1	2	0	0	1	.270	
Ramírez dh	4	0	0	0	0	0	.286	
b-Mejia ph	1	0	0	0	0	0	.202	

Margot rf	3	1	2	1	1	1	.317
Arozarena lf	2	1	0	0	1	0	.265
Paredes 1b	3	0	0	0	0	0	.197
a-Choi ph-1b	1	0	1	0	0	0	.288
Pinto c	4	0	1	0	0	2	.182
Kiermaier cf	0	0	0	1	0	0	.225
Phillips cf	3	0	0	0	0	1	.171
Walls ss	4	0	1	0	0	2	.148
Bruján 2b	4	0	0	0	0	1	.151

New York	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Totals	26	4	3	4	2	9		
LeMahieu 2b	4	0	0	0	0	1	.256	
Judge cf	3	1	1	1	0	2	.313	
Rizzo 1b	3	0	0	0	0	0	.218	
Stanton rf	3	0	0	0	0	1	.268	
Donaldson 3b	3	1	0	0	0	1	.230	
Torres dh	2	0	0	0	1	0	.250	
Hicks lf	3	0	0	0	0	3	.222	
Kiner-Falefa ss	2	1	1	0	0	0	.274	
Higashioka c	3	1	1	3	0	1	.177	
Tampa Bay	00001020_3	7	1					
New York	10003000x_4	3	1					

a-singled for Paredes in the 8th. b-grounded out for Ramirez in the 9th. E\_Phillips (2), Cortes (1). LOB\_Tampa Bay 8, New York 0. 2B\_Diaz 2 (6), Margot 2 (10). HR\_Judge (25), off McClanahan; Higashioka (3), off McClanahan. RBIs\_Margot (24), Choi (32), Pinto (3), Judge (49), Higashioka 3 (10). CS\_Torres (2).

Runners left in scoring position\_Tampa Bay 3 (Phillips, Margot, Pinto); New York 0. RISP\_Tampa Bay 3 for 9; New York 1 for 3.

Tampa Bay	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
McClanahan, L, 7-36	3	4	1	2	7	98	1.84	
Thompson	1	0	0	0	0	1	7	6.30
Armstrong	1	0	0	0	0	1	17	1.12

New York	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA	
Cortes, W, 6-2	5	1-3	3	1	1	3	4	91	1.94
Peralta, H, 6	12-3	0	0	0	0	3	21	1.50	
Castro, H, 7	2-3	1	2	2	0	0	11	3.72	
Luetge, H, 5	1-3	2	0	0	0	0	10	4.08	
Holmes, S, 11-11	1	1	0	0	0	1	22	0.29	

Inherited runners-scored\_Peralta 2-0, Luetge 2-2. IBB\_off McClanahan (Kiner-Falefa). HBP\_Castro (Arozarena).

Umpires\_Home, Cory Blaser; First, Mark Ripperger; Second, Phil Cuzzi; Third, Malachi Moore. T\_2:58. A\_35,104 (47,309).

#### TORONTO 7, BALTIMORE 6

Toronto	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Totals	35	6	6	6	0	11		
Mullins dh	5	1	1	0	0	0	.243	
Hays rf	3	2	1	1	0	0	.291	
Mountcastle 1b	4	2	2	3	0	1	.267	
Rutschman c	4	1	2	0	0	0	.192	
Odor 2b	4	0	0	0	0	1	.204	
Nevin 3b	4	0	0	0	0	2	.202	
Stowers lf	4	0	0	0	0	3	.143	
Mateo ss	3	0	0	0	0	2	.210	
McKenna cf	4	0	0	0	0	2	.224	

a-lined out for Trammell in the 7th. E\_Kepler (2). LOB\_Minnesota 6, Seattle 7. 2B\_Jeffers (6), Correa (11), Kepler (9), Trammell (7), Rodríguez (11). RBIs\_Jeffers (16), Correa (20), Arraez 2 (21), Celestino (5).

Runners left in scoring position\_Minnesota 4 (Miranda, Correa, Kepler 2); Seattle 5 (France, Torrens 2, Toro 2). RISP\_Minnesota 2 for 10; Seattle 0 for 10.

Runners moved up\_Celestino, Buxton, Moore, Torrens. GDP\_Sánchez, France.

Minnesota	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Gray	5	3	0	0	0	3	65	2.09
Jax, W, 4-0	1	0	0	0	0	2	11	2.59
Smith, H, 12	2-3	1	0	0	1	0	15	3.00
Thielbar, H, 7	1-3	0	0	0	0	0	4	5.16
Duran	1	0	0	0	1	1	13	5.21
Cotton	1	1	0	0	1	1	16	2.03

#### SEATTLE

Inherited runners-scored\_Thielbar 2-0, Sewald 2-1, Romo 1-0. WP\_Murfee, Romo.

Umpires\_Home, Adrian Johnson; First, Angel Hernandez; Second, D.J. Reyburn; Third, Dan Merzel. T\_3:00. A\_15,329 (47,929).

#### N.Y. YANKEES 4, TAMPA BAY 3

Tampa Bay	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Totals	34	3	7	3	3	8		
Diaz 3b	5	1	2	0	0	1	.270	
Ramírez dh	4	0	0	0	0	0	.286	
b-Mejia ph	1	0	0	0	0	0	.202	

### SOCCER

Doncic, DAL	G	FG	FT	PTS	AVG
Antetokounmpo, MIL	15	160	104	475	31.7
Jokic, DEN	12	140	91	380	31.7
Butler, MIA	5	61	28	155	31.0
Morant, MEM	17	166	111	466	27.4
Curry, GS	9	81	65	244	27.1
Ingram, NO	21	190	103	568	27.0
Durant, BKN	6	56	39	162	27.0
Tatum, BOS	4	32	34	105	26.3
Mitchell, UTA	23	195	136	602	26.2
Edwards, MIN	6	53	37	153	25.5
Embiid, PHI	6	50	28	151	25.2
Booker, PHO	10	78	73	236	23.6
Siakam, TOR	10	79	47	233	23.3
Brown, BOS	6	51	31	137	22.8
McCollum, NO	23	185	95	520	22.6
Towns, MIN	6	49	18	133	22.2
Brunson, DAL	6	39	43	131	21.8
Irving, BKN	18	145	72	388	21.6
Hunter, ATL	4	28	21	85	21.3
	5	39	16	106	21.2

### FG Percentage

Claxton, BKN	FG	FGA	PCT
Cousins, DEN	19	24	.792
Ayton, PHO	105	164	.640
Boucher, TOR	26	42	.619
Clarke, MEM	56	91	.615
Adebayo, MIA	104	175	.594
Jokic, DEN	61	106	.575
Booker, BKN	21	37	.568
Nance, NO	22	39	.564
Curry, BKN	22	39	.564

### Rebounds

Valanciunas, NO	G	OFF	DEF	TOT	AVG
Antetokounmpo, MIL	6	33	53	86	14.3

## EVENTS

If you have an event taking place in the Denver area, email information to [carlotta.olson@gazette.com](mailto:carlotta.olson@gazette.com) at least two weeks in advance. All events are listed in the calendar on space availability.

### THURSDAY

**Soul X Band** – 6:30 p.m., North Green, 49th & Valentia, Denver; [liveatjacks.com](http://liveatjacks.com).

**Book Talk with Pemba Sherpa** – “Bridging Worlds: A Sherpa’s Story,” 6:30 p.m., Cherokee Ranch & Castle, Sedalia, \$32.50. Tickets: [cherokeeranch.org](http://cherokeeranch.org).



COURTESY OF REVERBNATION.COM

**Discovery Park Summer Concerts** – With Richie Law, 6:30-8 p.m., Discover Park, 20115 Mainstreet, Parker; [parkerarts.org](http://parkerarts.org).

**Chicago and Brian Wilson** – With Al Jardine and Blondie Chaplin, 7 p.m., Red Rocks Amphitheatre, Morrison, \$40.50 and up. Tickets: [axs.com](http://axs.com).

**Dan Rodriguez** – 8 p.m., Soiled Dove Underground, 7401 E. 1st Ave., Denver, \$15-\$20. Tickets: [tavernhg.com/soiled-dove](http://tavernhg.com/soiled-dove).

**Fire Motel, Pleasure Prince, Specter Poetics** – 8 p.m., Skylark Lounge, 140 S. Broadway, Denver, \$12-\$15. Tickets: [skylarklounge.com](http://skylarklounge.com).

**Bob Log III, Bolonium, Legs** – 8 p.m., Hi-Dive, 7 S. Broadway, Denver, \$15. Tickets: [hi-dive.com](http://hi-dive.com).

**Jungle Rot** – With Internal Bleeding, Valiomierda & 7:seven, 8 p.m., HQ, 60 S. Broadway, Denver, \$17. Tickets: [hqdenver.com](http://hqdenver.com).

**Little Stranger** – With Cory Simmons, 8 p.m., Lost Lake Lounge, 3602 E. Colfax Ave., Denver, \$15. Tickets: [lost-lake.com](http://lost-lake.com).

### THURSDAY-SUNDAY

**“Say My Name”** – The People’s Building, 9995 E. Colfax Ave., Aurora, \$20-\$30. Tickets: [insightcolab.org](http://insightcolab.org).

**Hanuman Festival** – Yoga and music festival, Boulder; [bouldercoloradousa.com/events/annual-events](http://bouldercoloradousa.com/events/annual-events).

CARLOTTA OLSON, THE DENVER GAZETTE

## ARTS NEWS

# Comic Ben Roy is about to have a (sacred) cow



COURTESY OF BEN ROY

Ben Roy, who will record his first hourlong comedy special *Sunday*, is known for getting up close and personal with his audience.

## ARTS



**JOHN MOORE**

The Denver Gazette

To get a picture of Ben Roy performing standup comedy, just imagine a laughing hyena tearing into a sacred cow.

Roy’s standup sets are not unlike a punk-rock show, which is fitting given that Roy is also the lead singer of the enduring party-rock Denver band SPELLS, where he’s known for getting in your face (and on your shoulders).

“In a hardcore show, you are standing on the floor nose-to-nose with the audience, and you make them part of the show,” said Roy. “The thing that I related to most about punk hardcore music was that the line between audience and performer was blurred. I love bringing that same energy to standup, because it doesn’t feel as expected there.”

But, just like punk rock, underneath that tough exterior is nothing but love. Smiling, silly, taunting, goofy love.

“I may train in *jiu jitsu* and sport tattoos, but I am certainly not known at my martial-arts gym as being a tough guy at all,” Gentle Ben said with a laugh. “I am the clown who is not as good as everybody else but loves doing it anyway. Honestly, I am just a doughy and anxious and emotional person.”

All traits that have helped make Roy one of the most visible, varied and successful comics in Denver since he moved here in 1999. Roy co-created and starred in the truTV

## COMING UP

**Comedy Special Live Taping:** Sunday at Comedy Works Downtown in Larimer Square. 7 p.m. \$18 at [comedyworks.com](http://comedyworks.com)

**SPELLS concert:** June 23 at the Bobcat club (upstairs at the Skylark Lounge), with Townies and Tuff Bluff. Doors open at 8 p.m., show at 9 p.m. \$12-\$15 at [eventbrite.com](http://eventbrite.com)

**Live monthly comedy:** The Grawlix live, combining stand-up with live sketches and video components, 8 p.m. June 25 (and the last Saturday of every month) at the Bug Theatre, 3654 Navajo St. \$15 at [bugtheatre.org](http://bugtheatre.org)

**Podcast:** “The Grawlix Saves the World,” with hosts Adam Cayton-Holland, Ben Roy and Andrew Orvedahl, available on all streaming platforms

**Sit-com:** “Those Who Can’t,” streaming on HBO Max

SEE ARTS NEWS • PAGE 2

## ARTS NEWS

FROM PAGE 1

comedy series “Those Who Can’t,” about three inept Denver teachers, with pals Adam Cayton-Holland and Andrew Orvedahl. (Together the trio comprises a wildly popular comedy superteam called The Grawlix). He has appeared on Comedy Central and HBO, and at all the major comedy festivals. He’s part of a disarmingly funny podcast called “The Grawlix Saves the World,” and he’s released four albums. But he’s better to see than to hear. And on Sunday at the downtown Comedy Works, he will be recording his first hour-long video comedy special for his new label, 800 Pound Gorilla Records of Nashville.

“This is going to be fun because it’s a longer form,” he said. “I don’t really write a series of short jokes. I tend to tell stories. I am mostly going to be doodling about two things: I talk for a fair amount about where I stand on vaccines, and why it’s hard for me to criticize what I put in my body. And it’s about where we’re heading as a people. There’s a lot about the idea of feeling lonely vs. actually being alone.”

On stage, Roy is an emotional powderkeg with a long, lit fuse, and he talks openly about everything that made him that way. “I was a (bleep) person for a long time because I grew up toxic and I was dealing with trauma from my past. I was always afraid of what people thought of me. I had a warped concept very early on of what being a ‘man’ is, and that made me overly concerned about being seen as tough.”

Speaking of tough: In John Wenzel’s seminal book “Mock Stars: Indie Comedy and the Dangerously Funny,” Roy compared surviving in comedy “to being a dirty, awkward kid from an alcoholic family surviving the first day of school.” It’s a hard life. The world may have been shocked when Will Smith came out of the audience to slap Chris Rock at the Oscars, but Roy says that kind of dangerously bad behavior has been going on for decades. It’s just not televised.

“Not that long ago, I was at a smaller comedy club and this woman threw a



“From on High” is an immersive office satire that runs through July 3 at 2550 Larimer St. in RiNo.

glass at me from the back of the room — and she hit another audience member in the back of the head,” said Roy. “The police weren’t even called.” While Roy was recording a previous album, a man rushed the stage to fight him. And at his most recent show, a man walked out of Comedy Works South shouting at Roy. This is nothing new.

“Did I say something that I can look back on now and say, ‘Yes, that could be deemed upsetting, and I probably provoked him?’ Yes. Definitely. And are there unhinged people out there who simply can’t control themselves? Yes. Definitely. I just laugh at it.”

“The Grawlix Saves the World” is a remarkable podcast for all sorts of reasons, including the hosts’ commitment to a legit weekly self-improvement challenge. For example, Roy, Cayton-Holland

and Orvedahl once challenged each other to make amends to someone they’ve hurt. Another time, to perform random acts of kindness. Another, to use less plastic.

And then there’s “Boi Crazy,” a pod-within-the-pod where these three married, testosterone-fueled fathers debate the relative hotness of other dudes — in the most sincere and, at times, catty and hilariously objectifying of ways.

Take for example, their dissection of the hunks in “Young Guns” vs. those in “Young Guns II.” We’re talking Emilio Estevez vs. Charlie Sheen vs. Christian Slater vs. Lou Diamond Phillips vs. a whole bunch of other studs.

But to Roy, it’s no contest. “Kiefer Sutherland all the way,” he said with conviction.

“If a guy tells you he has never appraised himself against the hunks of other dudes, he’s just plain lying,” Roy said. “Insecurity and low self-esteem come from knowing deep down that somebody is probably more attractive than you are — and if you are a guy, that’s when you posture up even more. And that’s where the problems begin.”

It’s side-splittingly funny, yet utterly refreshing to hear these three straight fathers share their vulnerabilities and talk so openly about what maleness should be in 2022.

“Listen, I paid my dues getting into trouble and being around toxic, violent people growing up,” Roy said. “But since I got sober and became a husband and a father, all I really know about being a good man is what we’re trying to teach our son, and that is not to be afraid to talk about your emotions; to tell people that you care about them and that you love them; and to try to treat everybody fairly and with dignity.”

Pretty punk rock. Tickets to the taping of Roy’s special on Sunday at Comedy Works are \$18 and are available at [comedyworks.com](http://comedyworks.com).

### Coloradan wins Tony Award

OK, so Colorado actor Jason Veasey didn’t technically win a Tony Award on Sunday. But the Broadway musi-

cal he’s prominently featured in, “A Strange Loop,” won the Tony Award for Best Musical. “Night of Nights. Dream fulfilled,” said Veasey, who has been involved since 2012 in the development of this authentic story about a queer young Black man facing his inner demons. “It feels right and deserved. Like winning a spelling bee that you’ve practiced for all year ... or 10.”

### More changes at Fine Arts Center

The dizzying pace of change continues at the Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center at Colorado College. Two weeks after Idris Goodwin made his surprise exit as Executive Director, Nathan Halvorson announced



Nathan Halvorson

his resignation as Associate Director of Performing Arts to become the new CEO of the Colorado Springs Conservatory effective July 1. Halvorson succeeds Linda Weise, who founded the Conservatory in

1994.

“Nathan brings with him a wealth of expertise in the performing arts and a passion for the Colorado Springs community,” said Michelle Talarico, the conservatory’s Board Chair.

“Education in the arts has been foundational to my work throughout my entire career,” said Halvorson, a lifelong theater educator and frequent theater director who last month starred in the Fine Arts Center’s “The Legend of Georgia McBride.”



COURTESY OF COMEDY WORKS

## ARTS NEWS

FROM PAGE 2

## One million meows

Meow Wolf admitted its 1 millionth visitor to its Denver Convergence Station on Wednesday. For those with calculators, that comes to 3,690 convergers per day. The massive Denver art installation reached the milestone in 271 days — three months faster than its immediate predecessor in Las Vegas.

## Awards for Denver short film

Kevin Hart and Steef Sealy's short film "The Meeting" — sort of an "Office Space" variation on "The Actor's Nightmare," was awarded Best Short Film and Best Direction last week at the Movie Play International Film Festival in London. "The Actor's Nightmare" is a play about a man who is forced to perform in a play but he does not know any of the lines.

"The Meeting" is the story of an office slacker who's called upon to lead a meeting he's not prepared to lead. It features an A-list of local actors including Mark Shonsey, Eric Mather, Abby Boes, John Ashton, Jenna Moll Reyes, Riley Holmes, Denis Berkefeldt, Max Cabot, Kevin Hart and Joey Wishnia.

P.S.: On a related but unrelated note, the new OddKnock Productions is presenting "From on High," an immersive theater piece set in an absurd corporate environment with an obsessive work culture. Audiences enter as the newest hires of a fictional 1980s megacorporation and then wander the eccentric office space and interact with the characters who work there, "There's been a great shift in the way people view work-life balance," said director Zach Martens. "We're blending familiar work life with the bizarre to discover exactly where those limits lay." "From on High" runs through July 3 at the shuttered IMAC building at 2550 Larimer St. in RiNo.

## The Juneteenth holiday is here

Denver's annual Juneteenth Music Festival returns to the historic Five Points neighborhood from noon to 6 p.m. Saturday and Sunday with performances from DJs, singers and artists, along with street vendors, food and retail merchandise along 27th and Welton streets. The block party kicks off with a parade starting at Manual High School at noon on Saturday. (For those who read here about the award-winning new anti-gang documentary "The Holly," the film's controversial subject and now Denver mayoral candidate, Terrance Roberts, has said he will be participating in the parade.) Look for a full roundup

of area Juneteenth events in Friday's Denver Gazette.

## Denver Fringe keepin' it surreal

The Denver Fringe Festival is back for its third go-round from June 23-26 in 10 venues throughout Five Points and the RiNo Art District. The wide-ranging fare spans "Josephine," an Off-Broadway bio-musical about the life of Black superstar Josephine Baker; "Desiderium Dream" by local circus troupe Soul Penny Circus; and "Un/Packing," an immersive adventure theatrical experience that toys with space, time and gender.

The festival also marks the debut of the new 2¢ Lion Theatre Company, which will premiere its new Beatles-themed multiverse rom-com called "Yesterday/Today" on June 23 at the Savoy (2700 Arapahoe St.) Truth is, local startup theater companies come and go at a dizzying rate, but 2¢ Lion, created by University of Denver grads Kevin Douglas, Gracie Jacobson and Izzy Chern, would be the only local company (at present) that is fully dedicated to the queer community on and off-stage.

Two passion priorities for Fringe Fest founder Ann Sabbah, sister of the beloved late Denver playwright Jeff Carey: The Denver Fringe includes a week-long family-friendly mini-fest for kids with free workshops and family shows; and the top price for any Fringe show is \$15 (full pass \$75) in an effort to make theater accessible to all. Ticketing and info at denverfringe.org.

## Briefly ...

• The new "Skyspace" designed by contemporary artist James Turrell will be unveiled Saturday as the centerpiece of the 2022 Green Box Arts Festival in Green Mountain Falls, west of Colorado Springs. A Skyspace is a kind of above-ground observatory with an aperture in the ceiling open to the sky. This one is billed as the first in the world to be carved into the side of a mountain — seeing it will be the reward for hikers who make it up one of two new trails to the top of Red Mountain. This will be Turrell's first permanent work in Colorado. He's known for cultivating environmental works of art that focus on human perception. ...

• Theater 29, a 30-seat boutique opened by local playwrights Lisa Wagner Erickson and Ellen K. Graham at 29th Avenue and Federal Boulevard in 2018, will make its long-awaited return to live shows June 26 with a one-night-only immersive event featuring short new plays, collaborative art installations and performance art, all set around the theme of "Emergence."

John Moore is The Denver Gazette's Senior Arts Journalist. Email him at john.moore@denvergazette.com



The 2¢ Lion Theatre Company debuts "Yesterday/Today" on June 23 at the Denver Fringe Festival.

## GOREN BRIDGE

WITH BOB JONES  
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## WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q 1 - Neither vulnerable, as South, you hold:

♠ K Q 10 9 6 2 ♥ A J ♦ K ♣ Q 10 8 6

EAST SOUTH WEST NORTH  
1♥ 1♠ Pass Pass  
Dbl ?

What call would you make?

Q 2 - North-South vulnerable, as South, you hold:

♠ 9 5 ♥ A Q 8 6 ♦ A 8 7 5 ♣ K 10 5

WEST NORTH EAST SOUTH  
1♠ Pass 1♠ ?

What call would you make?

Q 3 - East-West vulnerable, as South, you hold:

♠ K Q 4 ♥ K 7 6 4 ♦ K 9 8 6 ♣ A Q

SOUTH WEST NORTH EAST  
1NT Pass 2♥\* Pass  
?

\*Transfer to spades

What call would you make?

Q 4 - Both vulnerable, as South, you hold:

♠ 10 8 7 6 4 3 ♥ J 2 ♦ A 8 ♣ A 8 7

As dealer, what call would you make?

Q 5 - North-South vulnerable, as South, you hold:

♠ J 10 4 2 ♥ 9 ♦ A K Q 7 6 4 ♣ K 9

Right-hand opponent opens 2H, weak. What call would you make?

Q 6 - East-West vulnerable, as South, you hold:

♠ A 9 7 ♥ Q 10 5 3 ♦ K 9 8 4 ♣ 7 6

EAST SOUTH WEST NORTH  
1♥ Pass Pass Dbl  
Pass ?

What call would you make?

Look for answers on Monday.

(Bob Jones welcomes readers' responses sent to Tribune Content Agency LLC, 16650 Westgrove Drive, Suite 175, Addison, TX 75001. Email: tcaditors@tribpub.com.)

# UNITED BY FANDOM



## FANEXPO

DENVER

**JULY 1 - 3, 2022**

COLORADO CONVENTION CENTER

**GET YOUR TICKETS AT [FANEXPODENVER.COM](https://fanexpodenver.com)**

# MUST SEE MUST DO

BY LINDA NAVARRO

Last-minute changes possible because of COVID-19 restrictions. Check websites before going.



1

## FRIDAY-SUNDAY

Opa, what a cultural delight and for 55 years, the legendary **Denver Greek Festival**. Three days from Hellenic history, so much delicious Greek food, dance along to the traditional music and shop for arts and crafts from Greece. Choir performances and tours of Assumption of the Theotokos Greek Orthodox Metropolis Cathedral of Denver, 4610 E. Alameda Ave. 11 a.m.-6 p.m. General admission \$5, seniors \$3, kids 12 and under free. [thegreekfestival.com](http://thegreekfestival.com)

5

## FRIDAY-SUNDAY

The mouth-watering, tummy-rumbling smells wafting out of Empower Field at Mile High all weekend are thanks to **The Denver BBQ Festival** with pitmasters and restaurants from around the country. Get ready for amazing taste treats, teamed with ice-cold brew. Live music. Friday 5-9 p.m., Saturday 11 a.m.-8 p.m., Sunday 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Free admission, some VIP Pit Passes still available. [denverbbqfest.com](http://denverbbqfest.com)

2

## THURSDAY-SUNDAY

An amazing anniversary, 74 years, for **FIBArk**, the nation's oldest whitewater festival that is Salida's spring-runoff signature event. As they say: "First in Boating on the Arkansas." Filled with activities and competitions for spectators and athletes alike. There's a rugged Downriver Race, the Colorado Championship SUP (Stand Up Paddling) race and the crazy Hooligan Race with anything that floats except for boats. Check out the schedule at [fibark.com/whitewater-festival](http://fibark.com/whitewater-festival).



6

3

## SATURDAY

It's hot out there, but the beer is chilled at **Brewsology Brewfest**, a cider and brew Colorado history event from 7 to 11 p.m. at History Colorado Center. Early ticket tier at 6 p.m. Historic beers and the latest offerings are here for sampling. Beer artifacts, too. Tickets at [brewsology.com/denver](http://brewsology.com/denver). General admission is \$50. Early admission is \$65 for 7 p.m. to sample specialty beers. Tickets won't be sold at the door and are non-refundable. All attendees must be 21.

## FRIDAY-SUNDAY

The music of the weekend is the bagpipes at the annual **Pikes Peak Celtic Fest** on the grounds of Western Museum of Mining and Industry on North Gate Boulevard, west of the Air Force Academy. Celtic dancing by award-winning groups that will invite guests to try the traditional Irish and Highland steps, too. Highland Games competitions. Irish and Scottish food to try, including fish and chips. Hours 4-9 p.m. Friday, 9 a.m.-9 p.m. Saturday, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Sunday. Tickets and parking info: [pikespeakcelticfestival.com/festival-info](http://pikespeakcelticfestival.com/festival-info)

4

## OPENING WEEKEND

Time to "Pivot!" Sure enough, your Rachel and Chandler, Ross and Monica clue. It's an interactive **The "FRIENDS" Experience: The One in Denver**, weekly Wednesday to Sunday, through Sept. 4, at Cherry Creek Shopping Center starting this weekend. 12 rooms of the show's history to wander through and recreate memorable scenes. Or just try out your "Friends" trivia. Daily times vary. \$32 plus taxes and fees at [denver.friendstheexperience.com](http://denver.friendstheexperience.com)

## Bieber's Ramsay Hunt syndrome diagnosis

BY KAVERI CURLIN  
Tribune News Service

Fans of JBiebz — and practically everyone plugged into pop culture — are buzzing over Justin Bieber's Instagram disclosure that he is experiencing facial paralysis after a viral infection led to a condition called Ramsay Hunt syndrome.

Here's a look at Ramsay Hunt syndrome and what you can do to protect yourself against the common virus, according to UpToDate, an electronic medical encyclopedia used by health care practitioners determine diagnoses and treatment.

### What is Ramsay Hunt syndrome?

Ramsay Hunt is facial paralysis caused by varicella-zoster virus (VZV) infection of the facial cranial nerve. People with Ramsay Hunt often have associated ear pain, vertigo and altered taste perception. Ramsay Hunt is a rare disease diagnosed in 5 people out of every 100,000 in a year in the United States. Viewers of Bieber's Instagram video may have noticed his face drooping slightly, with his eye most visibly impacted.

### Is it the same virus that causes chicken pox?

Varicella-zoster virus is also responsible for those itchy chicken pox spots that normally go away after seven to 10 days post-infection. Sometimes during the course of chicken pox, the virus infects sensory neurons that are responsible for relaying information about the environment to the brain. This sensory nerve infection is what causes shingles later down the road.



TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

Canadian singer-songwriter Justin Bieber arrives for the 64th annual Grammy Awards on April 3 at the MGM Grand Garden Arena in Las Vegas.

The difference between chicken pox and shingles has to do with timing and severity. Chicken pox happens first, but most of the time the bright red rash goes away by itself. Shingles happens after the initial chicken pox exposure and can have more serious complications.

### So does Justin Bieber also have chicken pox or shingles?

Not that we're aware of. While the infection of the same virus causes all three conditions, Bieber only publicly shared symptoms of Ramsay Hunt. In

his Instagram video, Bieber said the right side of his face is paralyzed and explained how this impacts his ability to perform.

### Can I protect myself against VZV, chicken pox, shingles and Ramsay Hunt?

The varicella vaccine is 90% effective at preventing chicken pox and may lower the risk for getting shingles later in life. If you're not already vaccinated, think about getting a shot. The virus spreads through airborne droplets and

direct contact, so you should limit exposure to someone who has an active VZV infection. The rash is considered infectious until it dries out and crusts over.

### Do people diagnosed with Ramsay Hunt recover normal facial expressions?

Doctors can prescribe an antiviral medication that can fight the varicella virus. However, they don't work in every patient, and sometimes the facial paralysis is permanent.

## Prostate biopsy technique reduces infection risk

BY JASON HOWLAND  
Mayo Clinic News Network

Other than skin cancer, prostate cancer is the most common type of cancer in American men. It's the second-leading cause of cancer death in American men, behind only lung cancer.

Prostate cancer detected early has the best chance of successful treatment. If an abnormality is found during routine prostate screening, further tests can determine if it's cancer. And a certain

biopsy technique is reducing the risk of infection and helping pinpoint potential cancer.

Nearly 1 million American men have prostate biopsies every year to diagnose cancer.

"Most biopsies in this country are done with a transrectal ultrasound machine. The problem with this technique is that there is a risk of infection because the needle traverses the rectal wall and is exposed to fecal contamina-

tion," says Dr. Julio Gundian Jr., a Mayo Clinic urologist.

But a new way of performing prostate biopsy reduces the chance of infection to nearly zero.

It's an outpatient procedure called "transperineal ultrasound-guided MRI fusion biopsy."

"This technique allows us to avoid the rectum altogether," says Gundian. "We place a needle through the perineum, which is the skin between the

scrotum and the anus, directly into the prostate."

The technology superimposes an MRI on top of the ultrasound, which gives doctors a better view of the prostate.

"So this makes the procedure no longer a blind technique where we are just randomly obtaining tissue from the prostate," says Gundian.

The procedure could catch cancer earlier and nearly eliminate the risk of infection.

## Woman banned from Grand Teton for fake information

The Associated Press

**JACKSON, WYO.** • A woman accused of intentionally providing wrong information in the search for a missing Irish hiker in Grand Teton National Park has been banned from the park and ordered to pay restitution.

Heather Mycoskie, 40, must stay out of the park in northeastern Wyoming for five years and pay \$17,600 under a deferred-prosecution agreement, park officials said in a statement Thursday.

Such agreements allow defendants to avoid prosecution if they meet certain requirements.

Mycoskie allegedly reported last June that she had seen Cian McLaughlin, 27, of Jackson, the day he disappeared almost two weeks earlier and that he was headed toward Taggart Lake because he planned to jump off his favorite rock into the water.

The information proved false, and other people told investigators Mycoskie fabricated the sighting to ensure that search efforts continued, the statement from park officials said.

All other sightings put McLaughlin, who is still missing following his disappearance June 8, 2021, on trails heading toward a different area of the park, according to the statement.



THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

Visitors watch the morning sun illuminate the Grand Tetons on Aug. 28, 2016, from within the Great Room at the Jackson Lake Lodge in Grand Teton National Park in Wyoming. Heather Mycoskie, 40, accused of intentionally providing wrong information in the search for a missing man in Grand Teton National Park, has been banned from the park and ordered to pay restitution.

It wasn't clear whether McLaughlin knew Mycoskie. McLaughlin's mother, Gráinne McLaughlin, told The Associated Press she was not aware of any connection between the two.

McLaughlin had dual Irish-U.S. citizenship and in 2019 moved to Jackson

Hole, where he worked as a bartender and snowboard instructor, she said.

While Cian McLaughlin spent most of his life in Ireland, his father was from Montana and he lived there for several years as a young child. He maintained a "close connection with the States and

the mountains in particular," his mother said.

"Cian was an incredible person, full of 'joi de Vive' and we miss him dearly," Gráinne McLaughlin said in an email to the AP.

The allegedly false report from Mycoskie meant officials spent more than 500 fruitless hours searching, conducting investigations and completing reports, park officials said.

The deferred prosecution agreement allows Mycoskie to continue to use Jackson Hole Airport, which is located within Grand Teton, and the main highway through the park, as long as she does not stop or recreate.

Mycoskie's attorney until the deferred prosecution agreement was signed in February, Darci Phillips, has since been appointed as a Wyoming district judge and declined to comment Friday.

Mycoskie, formerly of Jackson, recently moved to Costa Rica. She did not immediately return an Instagram message Friday seeking comment.

She was previously married to TOMS Shoes founder Blake Mycoskie, who sold his Jackson home in November, the Jackson Hole News&Guide reported.

Searchers plan to continue looking for McLaughlin this summer.

## 28 burgers: How much a moose eats in terms of human food

BY SPENCER MCKEE  
Out There Colorado

Colorado Parks and Wildlife recently took to Twitter to share an interesting fact about the moose species. According to the department, a moose can eat up to 16,000 calories per day over the course of about 11.3 hours. That's eight times the recommended 2,000-ish calories for an adult human.

If a moose were to be snacking on human food, here's how much it would be eating:

- **28 Big Macs**, 2.5 per hour (563 calories a piece)
- **53 slices of cheese pizza** from Pizza Hut, 6.6 full pizzas, 4.7 slices per hour (300 calories per slice)
- **94 crunchy tacos** from Taco Bell, 8.3 tacos per hour (170 calories a piece)
- **168 apples**, 15 apples per hour (95 calories per apple)
- **1,777 gummy bears**, 157 bears per hour (9 calories per bear)
- **15 pints of Ben & Jerry's** Karamel



GETTY IMAGES

Sutra Core ice cream, 1.3 pints per hour (1,080 calories per pint)

• **84 glazed doughnuts** from Krispy Kreme, 7.5 per hour (190 calories per doughnut)

• **106 hot dogs**, 9.4 hot dogs per min-

ute (151 calories per hot dog). And to answer your question, Joey Chestnut set a world record eating 76 hot dogs in 10 minutes.

• **36 Caesar salads** with chicken from Panera, 3.2 per hour (440 calories

per salad)

• **10.5 "Tour of Italy" pasta samplers** from Olive Garden, 0.9 per hour (1,520 calories per entrée)

It's also important to keep in mind that moose are herbivores, meaning they only eat plants. That means all of those calories are coming from a diet that consists mostly of leaves, twigs, and aquatic plant life.

Capable of reaching more than 1,000 pounds in size, it's no surprise that moose eat a lot. It can still be a bit shocking to see it put in terms of human food.

Because moose spend so much time eating, this may mean leaving young behind while foraging. If a young moose that seems abandoned is spotted, it's likely that the calf was simply left by the mother temporarily. Do not approach or attempt to capture the animal, as this can be extremely dangerous to all parties involved. If a reason for concern exists, contact wildlife officials.

## PEOPLE IN THE NEWS



INVISION VIA THE ASSOCIATED PRESS  
Dolly Parton performs during the South by Southwest Music Festival on March 18 in Austin, Texas.

### Dolly Parton gives \$1M to disease research, again

**NASHVILLE, TENN.** • Dolly Parton is giving \$1 million to pediatric infectious disease research at Vanderbilt University Medical Center in Nashville, the organization announced Wednesday.

The new gift is one of several Parton has made to the center over the years, including a \$1 million gift in April 2020 for COVID vaccine research.

Parton's new gift will support a variety of ongoing research at the medical center, including understanding how viruses and bacteria cause disease, understanding and preventing antibiotic resistance, preventing and treating infections, diagnosing and treating infections in children with cancer, and gauging the impact of childhood infections throughout the world, according to the news release.

Parton said she supports the work because she loves children.

"No child should ever have to suffer," Parton said in a news release. "I'm willing to do my part to try and keep as many of them as I can as healthy and safe as possible."

### Members of Queen, Police, Rush to honor Hawkins

**NEW YORK** • The twin concerts for Foo Fighters' late drummer Taylor Hawkins will include Miley Cyrus, Liam Gallagher, Joan Jett, Mark Ronson, members of Queen, The Police, Rush, Kiss, The Pretenders, Mötley Crüe, Queens of the Stone Age, Rage Against The Machine, Red Hot Chili Peppers, Supergrass and comedian Dave Chappelle.

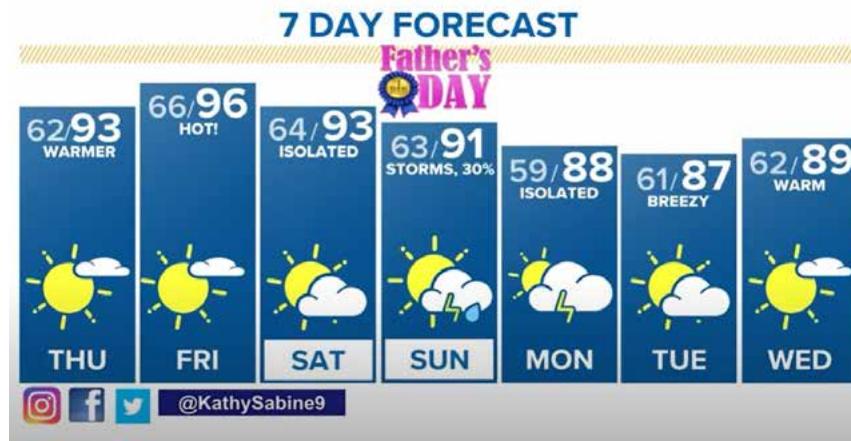
The shows will take place Sept. 3 at London's Wembley Stadium and Sept. 27 at The Kia Forum in Inglewood, Calif. Both concerts will benefit charities chosen by the Hawkins family.

Hawkins died March 25 during a South American tour with the rock band. He was 50.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

# WEATHER

## 9NEWS FORECAST



## AT A GLANCE

Warmer weather makes a comeback today and tomorrow with 90-degree temperatures in the forecast. Friday will be the warmest day of the week with highs in the mid- to upper 90s.

For more: [www.9news.com/forecast](http://www.9news.com/forecast)

## FEATURED PHOTOGRAPH



Sunday's full moon in Denver. Have you taken a Colorado weather photo or video lately? Send it to [photos@denvergazette.com](mailto:photos@denvergazette.com); include your name and information about the photo or video.

PHOTO BY BOB KRULISH

## What to watch THURSDAY

June 16, 2022

All times Mountain. Start times can vary based on cable/satellite provider. Confirm times on your on-screen guide.

### Father of the Bride

HBO Max ■ **Original Film**

This new adaptation of the classic romantic comedy is retold through the prism of multiple relationships within a large Cuban American family. Andy Garcia and Gloria Estefan lead the cast as parents surprised by the news of their eldest daughter's (Adria Arjona) upcoming wedding.

### Love & Anarchy

Netflix ■ **Season Premiere**

In Season 2 of the Swedish romantic comedy series, recently divorced Sofie (Ida Engvall) is trying to create a new life for herself and Max (Bjorn Mosten). Due to unforeseen events, she instead finds herself in the middle of a life crisis, and nothing turns out the way they had hoped. Simultaneously, the small publishing house Lund & Lagersted is doing its best to tackle the very traditional literary world while also trying to navigate the new opportunities that society offers today. David Dencik and Marina Bouras join

the returning cast in the new season.

### Rutherford Falls

Peacock ■ **Season Premiere**

The comedy returns for Season 2, with lifelong best buds Nathan Rutherford (Ed Helms) and Reagan Wells (Jana Schmieding) helping each other tackle work, romance and major changes to their small town and the Native American reservation it borders, initiated by Tribal Casino CEO Terry Thomas (Michael Greyeyes).

### Golf: U.S. Open: First Round

USA Network & NBC, 7:30 a.m. Live

The 122nd U.S. Open tees off at The Country Club in Brookline, Massachusetts, for the year's third major tournament. Defending champion Jon Rahm faces top contenders in Collin Morikawa, Patrick Cantlay, Cameron Smith, Viktor Hovland, and world No. 1 and current Masters champion Scottie Scheffler. Coverage begins on USA Network and continues this afternoon on NBC.

### MasterChef: Junior Edition

FOX, 7 p.m.

Gordon Ramsay recaps the biggest, most exciting moments of Season 8 in the new special "The Road to the Finale." The episode also includes a countdown of the best bloopers, clips and outtakes of the season.

### Legacies

The CW, 10 p.m. ■ **Series Finale**

The spinoff of The Vampire Diaries comes to an end after four seasons. In the final episode, "Just Don't Be a Stranger, Okay?,"



KURT ISWARIENKO

Hope (Danielle Rose Russell), Lizzie (Jenny Boyd), MG (Quincy Fouse), Kaleb (Chris Lee), Jed (Ben Levin), Cleo (Omono Okojie) and Alaric (Matt Davis) reflect on recent events and ponder what comes next for each of them. Hope and Lizzie each find solace from unexpected yet welcome sources.

### The Old Man

FX, 11 p.m. ■ **New Series**

Based on the bestselling novel by Thomas Perry, The Old Man centers on Dan Chase (Jeff Bridges), who absconded from the CIA decades ago and has been living off the grid since. When an assassin arrives and tries to take Chase out, the old operative must reconcile with his past to ensure his future. With Chase flushed out of hiding, the FBI's Assistant Director for Counterintelligence Harold Harper (John Lithgow) is called on to hunt him down because of his complicated past with the rogue fugitive. Alia Shawkat, E.J. Bonilla, Amy Brenneman and Gbenga Akinnagbe also star. The seven-part series debuts with the first two episodes tonight.

## MOVIES YOU'LL LOVE



JACK ENGLISH

**Her Deadly Groom** (2020, Suspense) Kate Watson, Michael DeVorzon **LMN, 7 p.m.**

**Aquaman** (2018, Action) Jason Momoa, Amber Heard **TNT, 8 p.m.**

**Save the Last Dance** (2001, Romance) Julia Stiles, Sean Patrick Thomas **VH1, 8 p.m.**

**Guardians of the Galaxy** (2014, Science fiction) Chris Pratt, Zoe Saldana **FX, 8:30 p.m.**

**Office Space** (1999, Comedy) Ron Livingston, Jennifer Aniston **BBC America, 9 p.m.**

**Stalked by a Prince** (2022, Suspense) Natalie Hall, Jonathan Keltz **LMN, 9 p.m.**

**The Hitman's Bodyguard** (2017, Action) Ryan Reynolds, Samuel L. Jackson **SYFY, 9 p.m.**

**Uncle Buck** (1989, Comedy) John Candy, Amy Madigan **AMC, 9 p.m.**

**China 9, Liberty 37** (1978, Western) Warren Oates, Fabio Testi **TCM, 9 p.m.**

**Mean Girls** (2004, Comedy) Lindsay Lohan, Rachel McAdams **VH1, 10:30 p.m.**

**Real Genius** (1985, Comedy) Val Kilmer, Gabe Jarret **BBC America, 11 p.m.**

**The Wrong Prince Charming** (2021, Suspense) Vivica A. Fox, Cristine Prosperi **LMN, 11 p.m.**

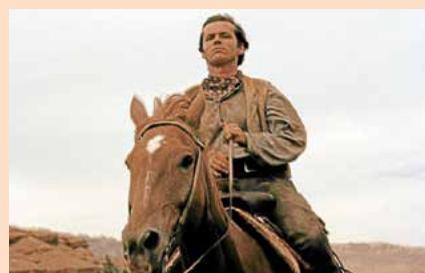
## CATCH A CLASSIC

### TCM Spotlight: Revisionist Westerns: 'Monte Hellman' & '1970s Double Feature'

TCM, Beginning at 6 p.m.

Turner Classic Movies saddles up for another evening of films in the revisionist Western subgenre. The lineup is divided into two themes. First are three films directed by Monte Hellman, a protege of low-budget exploitation cinema legend Roger Corman. The first two of these – **Ride in the Whirlwind** (pictured) and **The Shooting**, both from 1966 – star Jack Nich-

olson in early roles and are regarded as being within the "acid Western" subgenre of revisionist Western movies produced in the late 1960s/early '70s. Both films were co-produced by Nicholson, who also wrote the screenplay for **Ride in the Whirlwind**. The third Hellman feature comes from 1978: **China 9, Liberty 37**, an Italian-Spanish production starring revisionist Western staple Warren Oates and Sam Peckinpah, a master director in that genre, in a small acting appearance. Following the Hellman triple feature comes a double feature of revisionist Western classics from the 1970s, starting with **The Missouri Breaks** (1976). The Arthur Penn-directed production stars Nicholson and another legend, Marlon Brando, with supporting performances from Randy Quaid and Harry Dean Stanton.



PROTEUS FILMS

The '70s double feature, and the evening of revisionist Westerns as a whole, then concludes with **Comes a Horseman** (1978), set in the American West of the 1940s, directed by Alan J. Pakula and starring Jane Fonda, James Caan, Jason Robards and Best Supporting Actor Oscar nominee Richard Farnsworth. – Jeff Pfeiffer

TCM	*** Grey Gardens ('75, Documentary) Former socialites become recluses in decrepit mansion.	*** La Promesse ('96, Drama) Jérémie teenager befriends a widowed illegal immigrant.
TLC	My Knees <b>N</b>	Skin/Peeling <b>N</b>
TNT	NBA Basketball Washington Wizards at Boston Celtics. <b>N</b>	In NBA <b>N</b>
TRAVEL	Delicious	Delicious
TRU	Carbonaro	Carbonaro

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## TAKE OUR ADVICE

### ADVICE



**AMY  
DICKINSON**

**Dear Amy:** I am a 32-year-old mother of three. I have a restraining order against their father after years of emotional and physical abuse endured by myself and my children. I was stuck in the vicious cycle of abuse for a long time.

He has had no contact with us for over two years.

My ex's mother (my children's "grandmother") recently tried to contact my daughter via text, sending her photos of her father and the father's new girlfriend, along with their daughter (she is the same age as my youngest son, so his current girlfriend and I were pregnant at the same time).

I have access to see these text messages and pictures before my daughter does and am curious about your take on whether I should delete them/block their numbers, or allow my 8-year-old daughter to decide for herself.

I don't trust anyone in their family and never received any acknowledgment of the tremendous amount of pain and suffering her son caused me and my children. — Mama Bear

**Dear Mama Bear:** These family members are not likely to apologize for the actions of your abuser.

If they want to try to forge a relationship with your children, however, they need to understand that you are the gatekeeper.

I can't speak to the intent, but based on what you report, it sounds as if your ex or his mother might be using her ability to send text messages to your daughter as a "workaround," which could violate the valid restraining order you have against her son.

Your child should not be receiving text messages from anyone without you seeing the message first.

If your children express a desire to have contact with these family members, you will have to use your best judgment to discern if it is in their best interests.

For now, I suggest that you block this contact, given that it was uninvited and inappropriate.

If this grandmother wants to contact any of your children, she will have to go through you.

Send questions to [askamy@amydickinson.com](mailto:askamy@amydickinson.com) or to Ask Amy, P.O. Box 194, Freeville, NY 13068.

### ADVICE



**DR.  
ROACH**

**Dear Dr. Roach:** I am taking Fosamax for osteoporosis. One of the side effects is osteonecrosis of the jaw. Does this only happen if you have major dental work, such as pulling teeth or root canals, or can it happen with routine cleanings, fillings? — G.D.

**Answer:** Osteonecrosis of the jaw is a serious condition involving poor blood flow that results in death of the bone cells in the jaw. It may affect either the top portion (maxilla) or bottom (mandible).

ONJ can happen in people who aren't taking medications, especially people with certain conditions such as having had radiation to the jaw or sickle cell disease, but it is often associated with some kinds of medications used to treat osteoporosis, such as the alendronate (Fosamax) you take. It is more common with intravenous medications than with pills. Sental extractions and implants also increase risk of ONJ.

Regular dental care, such as cleanings, probably decreases the risk of ONJ by improving dental health.

ONJ is not common in people taking oral medications such as Fosamax. But most experts who use Fosamax and similar medications will hold off on treating patients with these medicines if they have dental work such as extractions or implants planned.

**Dear Dr. Roach:** I'm in my 60s and am noticing many people — mostly women — with crossed toes. It looks painful! Why don't their doctors send them to a podiatrist? Why do people just let this go? — C.D.

**Answer:** There are many common deformities of the toe, including crossover toe, hammertoe, bunions and claw toe. I'll bet many of the people you see have been to a podiatrist — at least, I hope so.

Proper footwear, orthotics, "buddy taping" a toe into place and using toe spacers all can help this condition.

Surgery is considered only when less invasive treatments have failed and the person continues having symptoms that are severe enough to make surgery, with its attendant pain, risks and recovery time, worthwhile.

Email to [ToYourGoodHealth@med.cornell.edu](mailto:ToYourGoodHealth@med.cornell.edu).

### ADVICE



**HINTS  
FROM  
HELOISE**

**Dear Heloise:** Today's paper had your column about what you should keep in your car.

I agree with everything except an aerosol to fix tires! I live in Texas, and there have actually been towns here that have reached 120 degrees in the shade, and where it almost always gets above 100 in the summer. I had a thermometer in my car, and sitting in the sun in the summer it reached 150 regularly!

Do not put any aerosols in your car! A good spare tire is a great choice, and there might be a battery-powered pump device that can handle our temperatures, but I would advise looking at the label.

Do not keep anything in your car that can't handle at least 150 degrees! Thank you for your time! — Tanda Rasco, via email

**Dear Heloise:** I have some more hints for reusing newspaper sleeves.

- They are great to put in your glove compartment or luggage to use as travel trash bags.
- Place food scraps in the sleeve and keep in the freezer until garbage day.
- Use a sleeve when you need to fish out something that fell into the garbage disposal.
- You can also use them when you clean anything gross, like the underneath side of the disposal rubber gasket. When you're done, just pull them off inside out and toss. — Linda Webb, Roland, Ark.

**Dear readers:** Gym bag smelly? If you put your sweaty exercise clothes in it, this will happen. After you have exercised and before you put your clothes inside, sprinkle baking soda over the bottom of the bag to help absorb the odors.

Baking soda also can be used for cleaning, deodorizing and cooking.

To learn more, check out my pamphlet "Heloise's Baking Soda Hints and Recipes." Get one by sending \$5 and a long, self-addressed, stamped (78 cents) envelope to: Heloise/Baking Soda, P.O. Box 795001, San Antonio, TX 78279-5001. FYI: Need to freshen your carpet? Sprinkle baking soda over it and leave it on for 30 minutes, then vacuum. — Heloise

Send hints via email to [heloise@heloise.com](mailto:heloise@heloise.com) or via post to Heloise, P.O. Box 795001, San Antonio, TX 78279-5001

## TODAY'S HOROSCOPES BY MAGI HELENA

### ARIES (March 21-April 19)

Regular physical exercise will keep you healthy and fully energized. Nip potential problems in the bud by doing what you promised to do.

### TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

There may be an opportunity to join a club or organization where you can pursue self-improvement as well as socialize.

### GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

Your ambitions for material wealth could be sparked by an inspiring story or book.

### CANCER (June 21-July 22)

Your expert advice may be in demand. You owe it to your friends and loved ones to give thoughtful guidance rather than casual assurances.

### LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

Your energy levels may be at a low point but are ready to bounce back. You might feel overly sensitive to negativity or unpleasantness.

### VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

Biting off more than you can chew lead you to feel overwhelmed. Steer clear of disagreements over shared finances.

### LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

You may meet trustworthy and fascinating people who can easily become friends.

### SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

If you rely on intuition, you might make a mistake now. You may be spacing out in a romantic mood when the boss expects your complete attention.

### SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

Respect someone's opposing viewpoint. You and a loved one may experience a temporary misunderstanding.

### CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

There's no need to worry if you are doing things correctly. Don't overthink someone's slip of the tongue.

### AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

You can gain insights into which actions produce the best results by reviewing and processing past events.

### PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

If you are evasive when questioned, you may drive a wedge between you and a loved one. Don't put off tasks or hold back.

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

### June 16

Life may seem delightful now, but a lack of direction or weighty worries might hold you back during the next four to five weeks, so don't make crucial decisions or major changes. Early August is a better time to pursue your ambitions, make smart financial and business decisions and further your own agenda.

The Denver Gazette **INTERACTIVE**

# **& PUZZLES & GAMES**

Click on the links below for today's puzzles:

**Thomas Joseph Crossword**

[denvergazette.com/puzzles/jc](https://denvergazette.com/puzzles/jc)

**Eugene Sheffer Crossword**

[denvergazette.com/puzzles/sc](https://denvergazette.com/puzzles/sc)

**Premier Sunday Crossword**

[denvergazette.com/puzzles/psc](https://denvergazette.com/puzzles/psc)

**Word Sleuth**

[denvergazette.com/puzzles/ws](https://denvergazette.com/puzzles/ws)

**Classic Sudoku**

[denvergazette.com/puzzles/cs](https://denvergazette.com/puzzles/cs)

**Mega Sudoku**

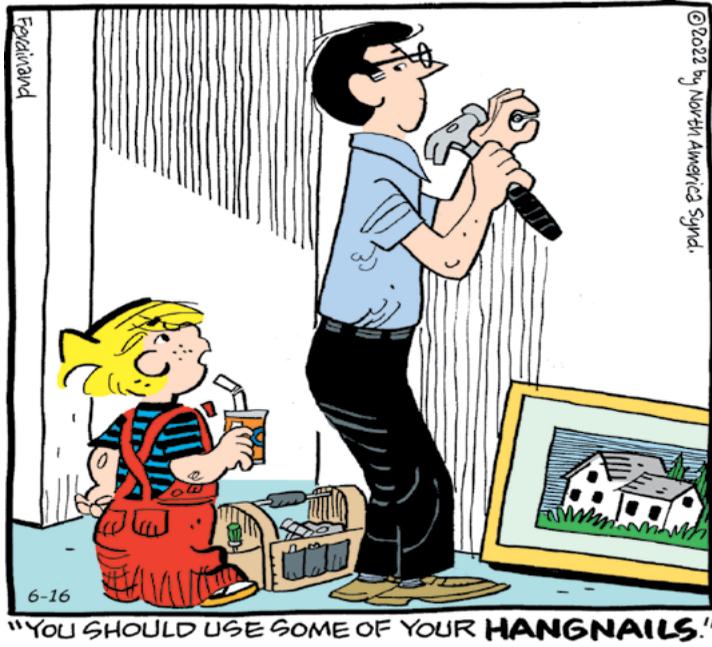
[denvergazette.com/puzzles/ms](https://denvergazette.com/puzzles/ms)

**Battleships**

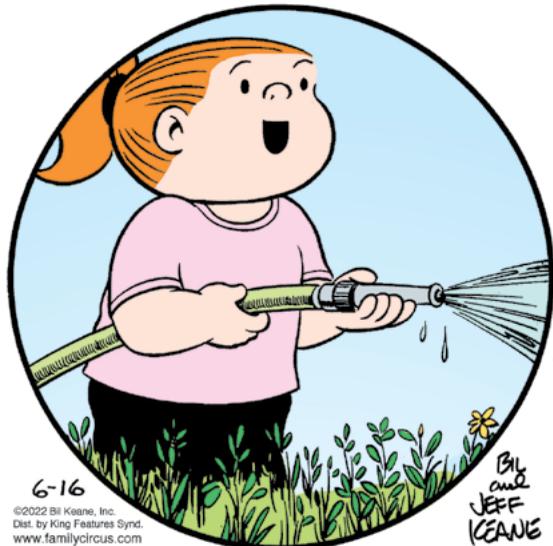
[denvergazette.com/puzzles/b](https://denvergazette.com/puzzles/b)

**More puzzles**

[denvergazette.com/puzzles](https://denvergazette.com/puzzles)

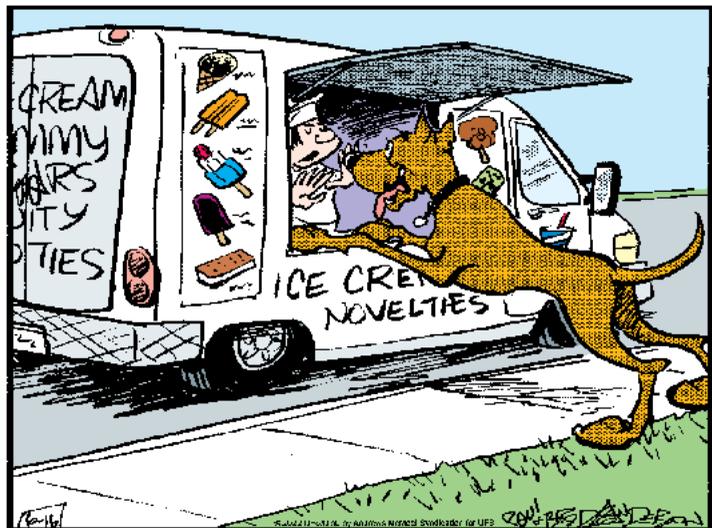


THE FAMILY CIRCUS by Bil Keane



"I'm out here, Mommy, raining on your plants."

MARMADUKE by Brad and Paul Anderson



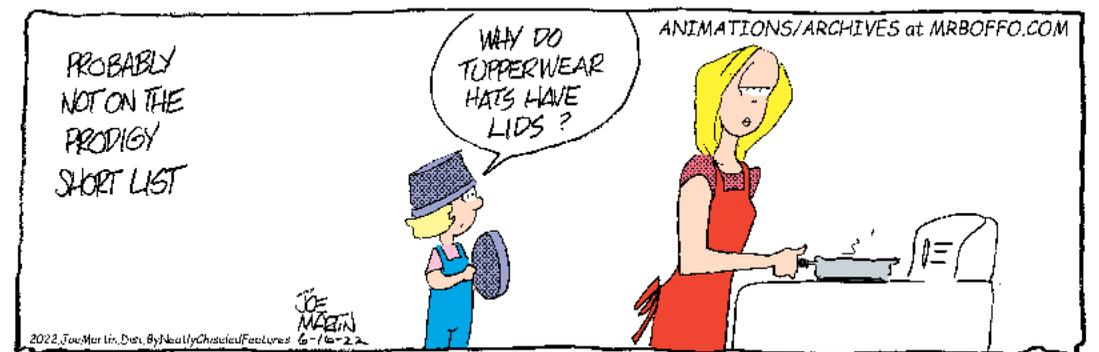
"You're not with the Health Department, and you don't get to inspect by sampling all the treats."



PICKLES by Brian Crane



MR BOFFO by Joe Martin

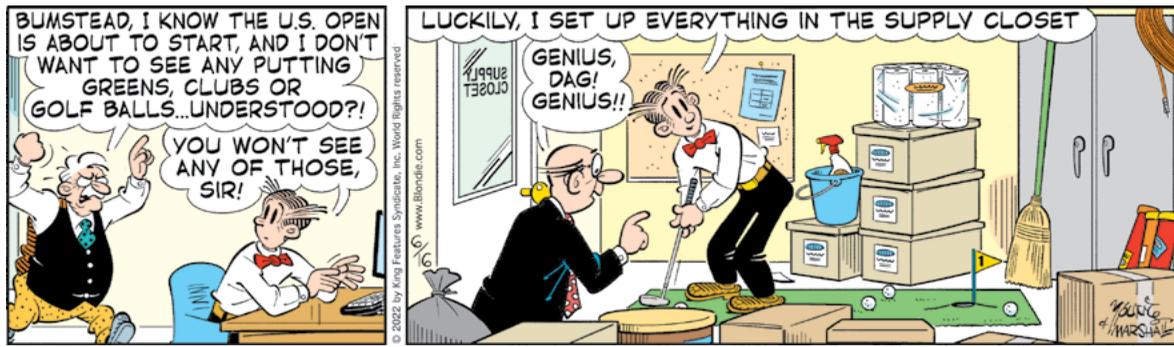


RHYMES WITH ORANGE by Hilary Price



BALDO by Hector Cantu and Carlos Castellanos





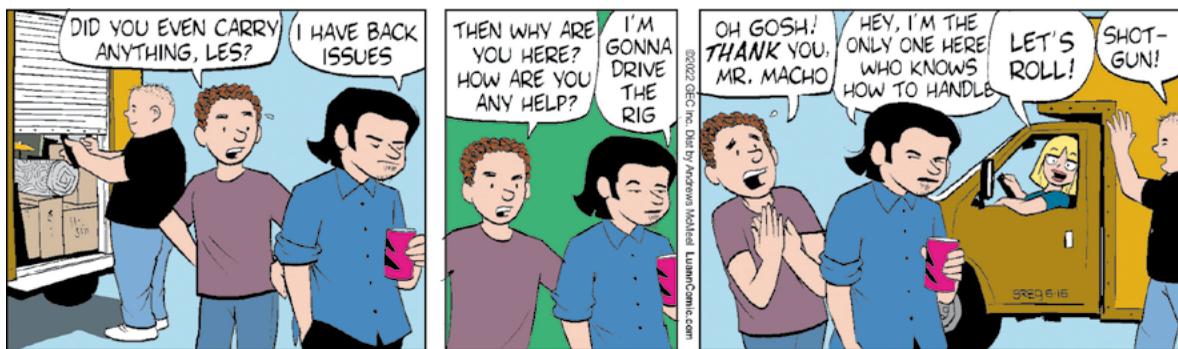
**MUTTS** by Patrick McDonnell



**FUNKY WINKERBEAN** by Tom Batiuk



**LUANN** by Greg Evans



**PEANUTS** by Charles Schulz



# SUDOKU

THE SAMURAI OF PUZZLES By The Mepham Group

Level **1** 2 3 4

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

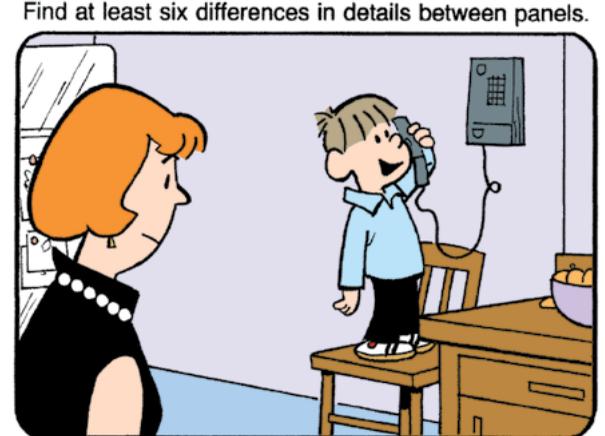
Solution to Wednesday's puzzle 6/16/22

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

Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box (in bold borders) contains every digit, 1 to 9. For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, visit [sudoku.org.uk](http://sudoku.org.uk)

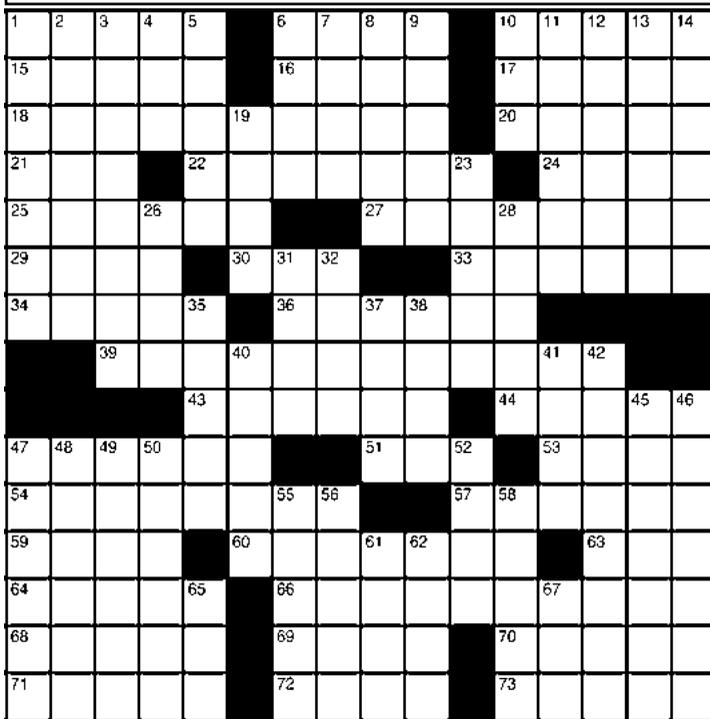
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**HOCUS-FOCUS** BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Differences: 1. Necklace is different. 2. Arm is longer. 3. Phone cord is different. 4. Hair is thicker. 5. Counter is different. 6. Nose is different.

**LOS ANGELES TIMES CROSSWORD**  
 Edited by Patti Varol and Joyce Lewis



- Across**
- 1 Fountain output
  - 6 Basics
  - 10 Cause a scene
  - 15 Join forces
  - 16 Bring (out)
  - 17 Old Scottish landholder
  - 18 \*Supply on a gift wrap station
  - 20 Cancels
  - 21 As suggested by
  - 22 Cratchit boy
  - 24 Drink that may cause brain freeze
  - 25 Go by
  - 27 \*Messaging app
  - 29 Verne captain
  - 30 "Lion" Oscar nominee Patel
  - 33 Zesty Twirls maker
  - 34 Constellation near Ursa Minor
  - 36 Chicago suburb
  - 39 \*"Some Enchanted Evening" musical
  - 43 Mato \_\_: third-largest state of Brazil
  - 44 Flower holders
  - 47 First name in mysteries
  - 51 GPS heading
  - 53 Congeal
  - 54 \*Second game of a doubleheader
  - 57 Stick (to)
  - 59 "Thanks for explaining"
  - 60 Barbecue spot
  - 63 The way things are usually done, for short
  - 64 Learned league?
  - 66 Difficult time, or what is hidden in each of the answers to the starred clues?
  - 68 Wood used in guitar-making
  - 69 Beachy vacation spot
  - 70 Minimal amount
  - 71 Paper for a pad
  - 72 Examined
  - 73 Sports
- Down**
- 1 Hang
  - 2 "The Lorax" voice role for Ed Helms
  - 3 Grade school exhibits
  - 4 NFL passing stat
  - 5 Splinter groups
  - 6 Env. directive
  - 7 Sound like an ass
  - 8 Eavotian Christians

- 9 Biergarten vessel
- 10 Off-rd. rig
- 11 First-class
- 12 "Meditation in motion" discipline
- 13 Like zombies
- 14 Coin replaced by the euro
- 19 Made haste
- 23 Haka dancers of New Zealand
- 26 A bit, in music
- 28 Faculty figs.
- 31 Amazon gadget
- 32 Celebs given the red-carpet treatment
- 35 Should, with "to"
- 37 Word in many Encyclopedia Brown titles
- 38 MBA course
- 40 Piece of land
- 41 Hankering
- 42 Keyboard instruments that sound like glockenspiels
- 45 "Casablanca" setting
- 46 Composer Sondheim
- 47 Twisted balloon shape, often
- 48 Supermodel Bündchen
- 49 Board meeting outline
- 50 Dissertations
- 52 Per item
- 55 American Eagle Outfitters loungewear brand
- 56 Unlike poetry
- 58 Pool statistic
- 61 Wear the crown
- 62 Like some dried meats
- 65 "\_\_ you decent?"
- 67 Coach Parseghian

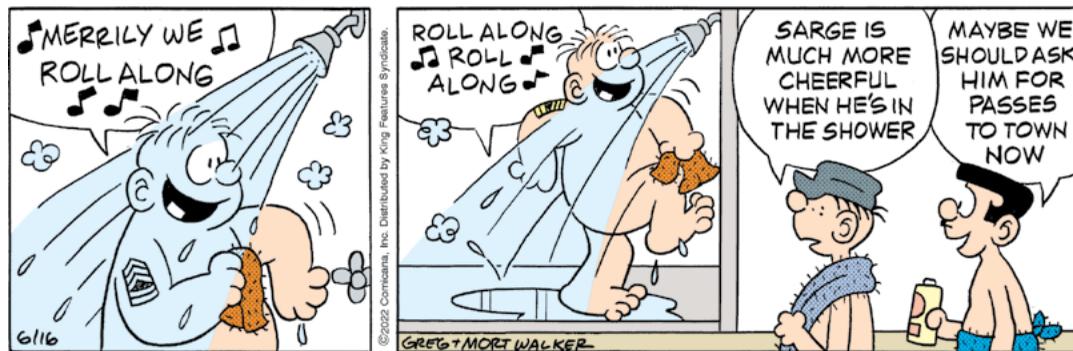
**Wednesday's Puzzle Solved**



**LOLA** by Todd Clark



**BEETLE BAILEY** by Mort, Greg, and Brian Walker



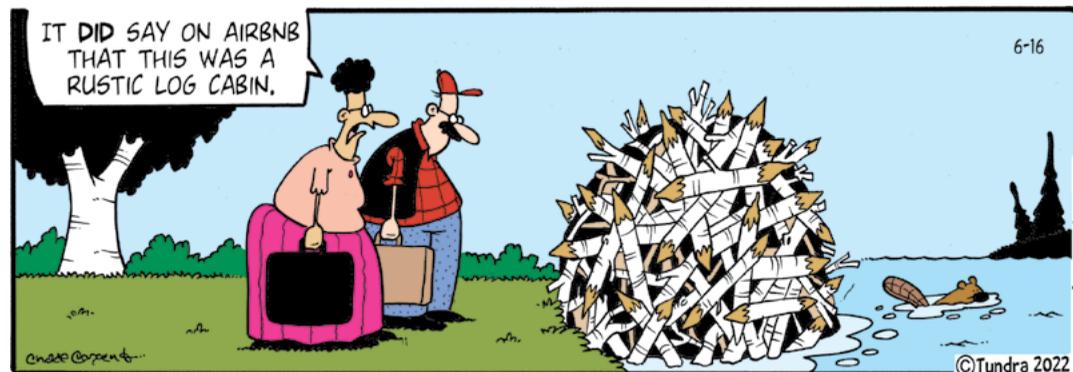
**HAGAR THE HORRIBLE** by Chris Browne



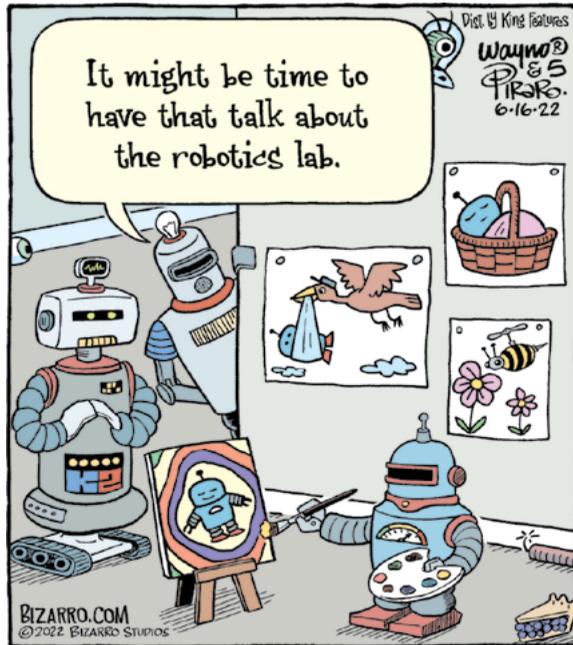
**MOTHER GOOSE** by Mike Peters



**TUNDRA** by Chad Carpenter



**BIZARRO** by Wayno and Piraro



**ARGYLE SWEATER** by Scott Hilburn



**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.

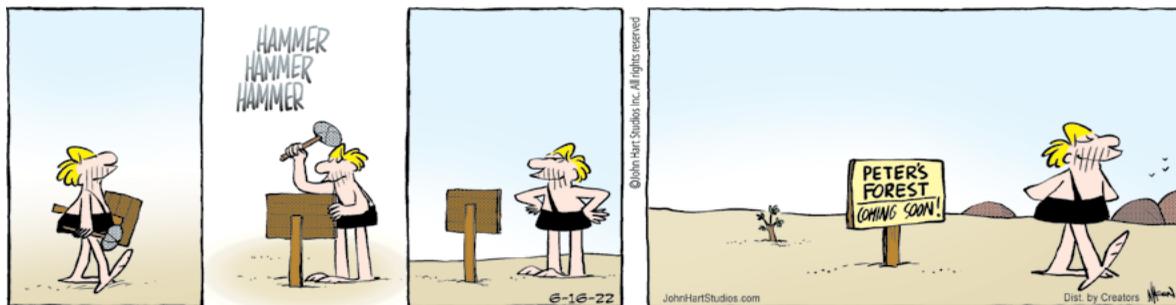
"UHIUTH FVXH VTMVSA TIXHE IDB  
UYJLDBHA. Y PDHAA LFVL'A WHJVDAH  
LFHS AVM FIM ODJF TIXH MH UDL  
YCLI LFHO." — ALVC TVDBHT

Previous Solution: "Country music isn't a guitar, it isn't a banjo, it isn't a melody, it isn't a lyric. It's a feeling." — Waylon Jennings

TODAY'S CLUE: *Q starts J*

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**B.C.** by Hart



**ZITS** by Jerry Scott and Jim Borgman



**JUMP START** by Robb Armstrong



**FRAZZ** by Jef Mallett



**WORD SALSA™**

by Tony Tallarico

Circle these English words and their Spanish equivalents that appear in the grid horizontally, vertically, diagonally and backward. Encierre estas palabras en inglés y sus equivalentes en español que aparecen al revés, horizontal, vertical y diagonalmente.

**BOTH WORDS CONTAIN A "Q"**

ENGLISH	SPANISH
BANQUET	BANQUETE
CONQUER	CONQUISTAR
EQUILIBRIAN	EQUILIBRIO
EQUIP	EQUIPAR
EQUINOX	EQUINOCCIO
LIQUID	LÍQUIDO
PIQUE	PIQUÉ
QUE	QUÉ
QUIESCENCE	BÚSQUEDA
QUEST	QUETUD
SHEQEL	SÉQUEL
TRANQUIL	TRANQUILO

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6-16-22

BANQUETQP ARBCRB  
 ÚLDBNTÉUQIPÚOTA  
 SIIYOUQUIBIC SAN  
 QUEQUIPBÚQUEUET  
 UQQUIETUDSUQNOX  
 EOICCONIUQUEUCLR  
 DILÍQUIDOTQINIA  
 ARBSOBRÉÚDSNÉUT  
 CBANQUETECQOCQS  
 OIUTIAIRBNTXSNI  
 NLEQEHSEQUELTAU  
 QIIURNQEQUIPARQ  
 UUDEBXLIUQNARTN  
 EQUILIBRIANESTO  
 RECNECSEIUQUTOC

