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The Daily Mail

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WEDNESDAY, JULY 20, 2022

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Deputy's son gets 4 years

By Bill Williams
Columbia-Greene Media

CATSKILL — The son of a Greene County sheriff's deputy was sentenced to prison for a 2020 burglary in Windham, where several guns were stolen, including one belonging to the deputy.

Jose Gofmanas, 23, of Schenectady, was sentenced on July 12 by Greene County Judge Charles M. Tailleux in Greene County Court to 4 years in state prison plus 5 years post-release supervision, Greene

County District Attorney Joseph Stanzione said Tuesday.

Gofmanas was also ordered to pay \$2,793 in restitution to the Greene County Sheriff's Office, Stanzione said.

Gofmanas had previously pleaded guilty to second-degree attempted burglary.

The Greene County Sheriff's Office conducted the investigation into the theft of the weapons taken during a residential burglary in Windham between Dec. 24 and Dec. 29, 2020, police said.

A Glock Model 22 pistol owned by the Greene County Sheriff's Office was among the stolen weapons.

Two other firearms including a Smith & Wesson Model MP-40 and a Remington 870 shotgun were also taken, along with assorted jewelry and cash.

Also taken from the residence was a stun gun and a bulletproof vest.

The weapons were all properly secured in the home, which had been forcibly

entered, police said.

As police searched for Gofmanas, he was identified as the son of a Greene County sheriff's deputy.

State Police became involved in the case when Gofmanas was identified as a suspect in the burglary as agencies began searching for him. Police also requested assistance from the public as to Gofmanas's whereabouts.

Several police agencies were searching for Gofmanas when he was located, taken

into custody and charged in 2021.

According to New York Penal Law, a person is guilty of second-degree burglary when he knowingly enters or remains unlawfully in a building with intent to commit a crime therein, and when the building is a dwelling.

Second-degree burglary is a class C felony.

Gofmanas sentence of 4 years in prison is far from the maximum he could have received. New York Penal



Jose Gofmanas

Law guidelines list 15 years at the maximum sentence for second-degree burglary. The minimum sentence he could have received was 3 1/2 years.

By Ted Remsnyder
Columbia-Greene Media

CATSKILL — Greene County is moving forward with a planned justice center set to be constructed behind the Greene County Courthouse on Main Street in Catskill.

During a special Public Works Committee meeting on Monday night, legislators unanimously passed a resolution to award a construction management services contract for \$565,000 to Freeman Project Services of Cairo.

The full Legislature will vote on the contract resolution Wednesday.

The county previously hired the Lacey Thaler Reilly Wilson architectural firm of Albany in April to provide architectural, design and engineering services for the project.

"They've commenced their research and they're doing their spacial analysis right now," Greene County Administrator Shaun Groden said. "Tomorrow night's action will be to hire the construction manager who will then work with the architect and make decisions about the construction style. Are we going to use pre-constructed panel walls

See CENTER A11

Committee launches justice center project



The site of the proposed Greene County Justice Center behind the Greene County Courthouse on Main Street in Catskill.

FILE PHOTO

Drug arrest suspects plead guilty



File photo

Two men, who were arrested on drug charges on the Thruway in Catskill last year, have pleaded guilty.

By Bill Williams
Columbia-Greene Media

CATSKILL — A man from the Capital Region and another man from New York City have pleaded guilty to fentanyl and cocaine charges lodged against them following a traffic stop in Catskill in 2021.

Ramion Burt, 45, of Albany, and Marion Frampton, 43, of the Bronx, each admitted Monday to conspiring to distribute and possessing with intent to distribute fentanyl and cocaine, U.S. Attorney Carla B. Freedman said Tuesday.

The two men were stopped by state police while driving north on the New York State Thruway in Catskill on Feb. 26, 2021.

While searching the car, police found 31 grams of fentanyl in a plastic bag in Frampton's boot, Freedman said. Troopers also discovered an

additional 53 grams of fentanyl and 496 grams of cocaine in the glove compartment.

In their guilty plea, Burt and Frampton admitted to driving from Albany to New York City to pick up fentanyl and cocaine for distribution. On the drive back to Albany, they were stopped by police.

Burt and Frampton admitted to possessing the fentanyl and cocaine, and intending to distribute them. Both men each have a prior federal conviction related to drug trafficking, Freedman said.

The two men were indicted on March 18, 2021, that alleged that Burt and Frampton conspired to distribute more than 40 grams of fentanyl and cocaine, and possessed more than 40 grams of fentanyl and cocaine with intent to

See GUILTY A11

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Weather

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TODAY	TONIGHT	THU
Partly sunny, hot and humid	Partly cloudy and warm	Heavy t-storms; breezy, hot
HIGH	LOW	92
94	72	63

COLUMBIA-GREENE



Weather

FORECAST FOR HUDSON/CATSKILL

TODAY	TONIGHT	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
Partly sunny, hot and humid	Partly cloudy and warm	Heavy t-storms; breezy, hot	Partly sunny	Mostly sunny and hot	Hot; a stray p.m. t-storm
HIGH 94	LOW 72	92	89	91	91
94	72	63	65	65	63

Shown is today's weather. Temperatures are today's highs and tonight's lows.

U.S. gasoline prices fall to two-month low with pump pain easing

Alex Longley
Bloomberg

U.S. retail gasoline prices fell below \$4.50 a gallon for the first time since mid-May, starting to ease pressure at the pump for millions of Americans.

The nationwide average was at \$4.495 a gallon, according to data released on Tuesday by the American Automobile Association. Prices have fallen more than 10% since hitting a record last month and are on a 35-day slide, the longest run of declines since April 2020.

A run up in gas prices this year has helped fan the fastest rate of inflation in decades, with U.S. consumer prices growing at 9.1% on a year earlier in June. President Joe Biden, under pressure to bring down costs at the pump, has just completed a trip to Saudi Arabia in which he said he expects further oil supply increases.

On Monday, Biden tweeted that oil and gas companies should be passing on lower costs to consumers, with headline crude prices slumping from their June peak.



Fuel prices at a Chevron gas station in San Francisco on June 9, 2022.

BLOOMBERG PHOTO BY DAVID PAUL MORRIS

ALMANAC

Statistics through 1 p.m. yesterday

Temperature	Precipitation
Yesterday as of 1 p.m.	24 hrs. through 1 p.m. yest.
High 88	Trace
Low 71	16.96
	NORMAL 21.29

SUN AND MOON

	Today	Thu.
Sunrise	5:37 a.m.	5:38 a.m.
Sunset	8:27 p.m.	8:26 p.m.
Moonrise	12:07 a.m.	12:29 a.m.
Moonset	1:29 p.m.	2:34 p.m.

Moon Phases	Last	New	First	Full
	Jul 20	Jul 28	Aug 5	Aug 11

Forecasts and graphics provided by **AccuWeather, Inc.** ©2022

CONDITIONS TODAY

AccuWeather.com UV Index™ & AccuWeather.com RealFeel Temperature®

82 88 91 95 99 101 101 101 101 97 95
8 a.m. 9 a.m. 10 a.m. 11 a.m. Noon 1 p.m. 2 p.m. 3 p.m. 4 p.m. 5 p.m. 6 p.m.

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NATIONAL WEATHER TODAY

Shown are noon positions of weather systems and precipitation. Temperature bands are highs for the day.

Legend: showers t-storms, rain, flurries, snow, ice, cold front, warm front, stationary front

NATIONAL CITIES

City	Today Hi/Lo W	Thu. Hi/Lo W	City	Today Hi/Lo W	Thu. Hi/Lo W
Albuquerque	101/72 c	97/73 pc	Little Rock	102/79 t	99/75 pc
Anchorage	59/53 sh	58/51 r	Los Angeles	87/65 pc	84/65 pc
Atlanta	90/75 t	93/73 t	Miami	92/81 s	92/81 pc
Atlantic City	89/78 s	90/79 t	Milwaukee	87/70 c	90/69 t
Baltimore	94/76 s	97/72 t	Minneapolis	88/70 pc	89/68 s
Billings	93/61 s	96/62 s	Nashville	96/77 pc	94/72 pc
Birmingham	95/78 s	94/75 t	New Orleans	94/80 s	92/79 t
Boise	100/67 s	100/67 s	New York City	94/78 s	95/76 t
Boston	91/75 pc	90/73 t	Norfolk	92/77 t	96/75 t
Charleston, SC	90/77 t	93/76 t	Oklahoma City	104/76 pc	97/74 pc
Charleston, WV	90/73 pc	87/66 t	Omaha	93/69 s	98/71 s
Charlotte	92/75 t	95/72 t	Orlando	96/76 t	97/77 pc
Cheyenne	91/60 pc	92/62 pc	Philadelphia	96/79 s	97/76 t
Chicago	88/70 s	90/71 t	Phoenix	111/89 pc	111/90 pc
Cincinnati	92/71 t	87/72 s	Pittsburgh	90/72 pc	84/69 t
Cleveland	92/72 t	87/69 s	Portland	89/66 pc	83/66 t
Columbus, OH	91/72 t	87/70 s	Portland	89/61 s	84/58 pc
Dallas	108/83 s	99/83 t	Providence	94/73 pc	89/72 t
Denver	95/65 s	97/67 pc	Raleigh	94/76 s	97/74 t
Des Moines	91/68 s	97/69 s	Richmond	94/77 s	96/74 t
Detroit	91/70 t	90/69 pc	Sacramento	99/60 s	98/60 s
Hartford	96/74 s	93/70 t	St. Louis	97/74 s	98/78 s
Honolulu	85/75 pc	85/75 pc	Salt Lake City	89/75 s	102/78 s
Houston	101/80 s	100/79 pc	San Francisco	68/55 pc	70/56 pc
Indianapolis	93/71 s	91/71 s	Savannah	91/76 t	93/75 t
Kansas City	93/68 s	97/74 s	Seattle	82/58 s	81/57 pc
Knoxville	90/75 t	92/70 t	Tampa	93/81 t	95/81 s
Las Vegas	110/89 s	110/89 pc	Washington, DC	94/79 s	95/75 t

Weather(W): s-sunny, pc-partly cloudy, c-cloudy, sh-showers, t-thunderstorms, r-rain, sf-snow flurries, sn-snow, i-ice.

New Yorkers accused of defrauding Chinese investors, selling Trump access

Bryan Pietsch
The Washington Post

With promises of green cards and access to prominent U.S. politicians - including then-President Donald Trump - two New Yorkers enticed Chinese investors into giving them millions, filtering the foreign money into American political campaigns, all while skimming the funds to support their luxurious lifestyles, federal prosecutors said Monday, announcing fraud charges against the pair.

Sherry Li, 50, and Lianbo "Mike" Wang, 45, of Oyster Bay, a hamlet on the North Shore of Long Island, were arrested Monday, according to court records, and charged with wire fraud, money laundering and conspiracy to defraud the United States, the Justice Department said in a statement.

The pair dangled green cards to Chinese investors, promising that if they put money into their feigned real estate project - which included plans for a sprawling school, the "Thompson Education Center," and an amusement park in New York state - they would receive legal residency in the United States through the EB-5 Immigrant Investor Program, prosecutors said.

According to U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS), the program "sets aside EB-5 visas for participants who invest in commercial enterprises" in certain areas, particularly

rural ones like Sullivan County, N.Y., where Li and Wang, naturalized U.S. citizens, had promised to develop the complex, saying they chose the location specifically because "it clearly fits within [USCIS's] target area definition for the EB-5 program."

Prosecutors said Li and Wang defrauded more than 150 investors as part of the scheme, raising about \$27 million - including \$16.5 million from people who were expecting a green card for their investment and \$11 million from investors who thought the project's parent company would go public.

They also presented a vestige of relationships with high-ranking Trump administration officials, issuing news releases about Li cozying up to politicians such as Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin, Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross and Trump at galas and breakfasts. They sold access to Trump fundraisers, prosecutors said, by filtering the Chinese money through the bank accounts of their businesses and bringing the investors as guests, with Li and Wang making the donations.

In one instance, they charged 12 non-U.S. citizens \$93,000 per person, a haul of more than \$1 million, to attend a June 2017 Trump fundraiser with the president before illegally donating \$600,000 to the fundraising committee, the Justice

Department alleged.

Beneath the facade, Li and Wang siphoned off the money to fund their lifestyles, the Justice Department said, using the investors' money to pay for clothes, jewelry, housing, vacation travel and "upscale dining."

The real estate project was a sham, too, the United States alleged, with the only funds actually put toward the project being used "merely to create and perpetuate the fiction that the [Thompson Education Center] Project was a viable development project that was actually under construction." The project, which Li announced in 2013 as the China City of America, has yet to come to fruition. Its Facebook page categorizes it as a Chinese restaurant.

Prosecutors alleged in court documents that Li and Wang lied to investors by telling them they were "guaranteed to receive a green card in return for their investment," that the project was already under construction, that the project's parent company would go public on the New York Stock Exchange and that their "ties to high-ranking elected and government officials assured the [Thompson Education Center] Project of political support to attain regulatory approvals."

None of that was true, prosecutors said.

Not a single investor received a temporary or permanent green card, prosecutors said.

Instead, USCIS in 2017 started issuing "notices of intent to deny" applications for green cards "because USCIS did not find [the project's] business plan credible."

It is illegal for foreign nationals to donate money "directly or indirectly" to federal, state or local campaigns or to a committee of a political party. It is also illegal for anyone to "solicit, accept, or receive" such contributions from a foreign national.

It was not immediately clear whether Li and Wang had legal representation. Overnight messages to a phone number and email address associated with Li's company did not immediately elicit a response. Representatives for Trump, who was not named in the suit, did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Breon Peace, the U.S. attorney for the Eastern District of New York, said in a statement that Li and Wang had tricked investors "by misleadingly claiming that their fictitious project had the support of prominent politicians." Furthermore, he said, "the defendants were able to perpetrate this fraud by then selling access to U.S. politicians" at fundraisers.

Peace said his office was "committed to protecting our democratic process from those who would expose it to unlawful foreign influence, and investors from the predatory fraudsters who would steal their money."

Regular coffee drinkers had lower chance of dying in 7-year period

Linda Searing
The Washington Post

People who drink a moderate amount of coffee - up to 3 1/2 cups a day - might have a better chance at a longer life span, even if their coffee is lightly sweetened with sugar, according to research published in *Annals of Internal Medicine*.

For about seven years, the researchers tracked the coffee consumption and health of 171,616 participants, who were an average of nearly 56 years old and were free of cancer and cardiovascular disease when the study started. They found that those who regularly drank 1 1/2 to 3 1/2 cups of coffee a day,

whether plain or sweetened with about a teaspoon of sugar, were up to 30% less likely to die in that time frame from any cause, including cancer and cardiovascular disease, than were those who did not drink coffee.

The type of coffee - whether instant, ground or decaffeinated - made no difference, but the results were described as inconclusive for the use of artificial sweeteners. The latest research does not prove that coffee alone was responsible for participants' lowered mortality risk. Still, over the years, research has revealed a variety of health benefits for coffee, linking its

consumption to a reduced risk for Type 2 diabetes, Parkinson's disease, depression and more.

Nutritionists often attribute the benefits of coffee to the abundance of antioxidants in coffee beans, which may help reduce internal inflammation and cell damage and protect against disease.

HUDSON RIVER TIDES

Low Tide: 3:14 a.m. 0.72 feet
High Tide: 8:59 a.m. 3.98 feet
Low Tide: 3:33 p.m. 0.33 feet
High Tide: 9:34 p.m. 4.19 feet

COLUMBIA-GREENE MEDIA

The Register-Star/The Daily Mail are published Tuesday through Saturday mornings by Columbia-Greene Media (USPS 253620), 364 Warren St., Unit 1, Hudson, N.Y. 12534, a subsidiary of Johnson Newspaper Corp. Periodicals postage paid at Hudson, N.Y., and additional mailing offices. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Register-Star, 364 Warren St., Unit 1, Hudson, N.Y. 12534.

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CALENDAR

EDITOR'S NOTE: Most events and meetings are cancelled or have been moved online due to the virus outbreak. Please call ahead to confirm.

Wednesday, July 20

- Catskill Town Board Board Committee 6:30 p.m. Town Hall, 439 Main St., Catskill
- Greene County Legislature regular meeting No. 7 Greene County Office Building, 411 Main St., Catskill

Thursday, July 21

- Coxsackie Village Planning Board 6 p.m. 518-731-2718

Monday, July 25

- Catskill Village Planning Board 6:30 p.m. Robert C. Antonelli Senior Center, 15 Academy St., Catskill 518-943-3830

Tuesday, July 26

- Catskill Town Planning Board 6:30 p.m. Town Hall, 439 Main St., Catskill

Wednesday, July 27

- Athens Village Board 6:30 p.m. Athens Fire Department, 39 Third St., Athens Consult the village website for updates the day of the meeting
- Catskill Central School District School Board Public Hearing 1 on Code of Conduct and Safety Plan 6:15 p.m. Special Meeting 6:30 p.m. CHS Library, 341 Main St., Catskill 518-943-4696
- Catskill Town Zoning Board of Appeals 6 p.m. Town Hall, 439 Main St., Catskill
- Catskill Village Board of Trustees 6:30 p.m. Robert C. Antonelli Senior Center, 15 Academy St., Catskill 518-943-3830

Monday, Aug. 1

- Athens Town Board 7 p.m. Athens Volunteer Firehouse, 39 Third St., Athens 518-945-1052 Changes will be on the Town of Athens web page
- Cairo Town Board 7 p.m. Town Hall, 512 Main St., Cairo
- Greene County Board of Electrical Examiners 1 p.m. Greene County Office Building, 411 Main St., 4th Floor, Room 469, Catskill

Tuesday, Aug. 2

- Durham Town Board workshop meeting 7:30 p.m. Town Hall, 7309 Route 81, East Durham

Thursday, Aug. 4

- Ashland Town Planning Board 6 p.m. Town Hall, 12094 Route 23, Ashland

Monday, Aug. 8

- Ashland Town Board 7:30 p.m. Town Hall, 12094 Route 23, Ashland

Wednesday, Aug. 10

- Athens Town Zoning Board of Appeals 7 p.m. Athens Town Hall, 2 First St., Athens
- Athens Village Board 6:30 p.m. Athens Fire Department, 39 Third St., Athens Consult the village website for updates the day of the meeting
- Jewett Town Board 7 p.m. Jewett Municipal Building, 3547 County Route 23C, Jewett

Monday, Aug. 15

- Athens Town Board 7 p.m. Athens Volunteer Firehouse, 39 Third St., Athens 518-945-1052 Changes will be on the Town of Athens web page
- Greenville Town Board 7 p.m. Town Hall, 11159 Route 32, Pioneer Building, Greenville

Tuesday, Aug. 16

- Athens Village Planning Board 6:30 p.m. Village Hall, Meeting Room, 2 First St., Athens 518-945-1551
- Durham Town Board 7:30 p.m. Town Hall, 7309 Route 81, East Durham
- Hunter Town Board 7 p.m. Town Hall, 5748 Route 23A, Tannersville

Wednesday, Aug. 17

- Catskill Central School District School Board Public Hearing on Code of Conduct and Safety Plan 6:15 p.m. CHS Library, 341 Main St., Catskill 518-943-4696
- Catskill Library Board 6:45 p.m. at either the Catskill Library, 1 Franklin St., Catskill or Palenville Library, 3303 Route 23A, Palenville

Wednesday, Aug. 24

- Athens Village Board 6:30 p.m. Athens Fire Department, 39 Third St., Athens Consult the village website for updates the day of the meeting

Sellout crowds jam Grey Fox Festival

By Maura Rosner
Columbia-Greene Media

OAK HILL — Performers played to sellout crowds at the Grey Fox Bluegrass Festival on Saturday and Sunday as the musical event didn't miss a beat after a two-year pandemic-forced layoff.

The festival celebrated its 23rd Annual Bluegrass Academy for Kids. Classes included harmony singing, sectional practice and ensemble playing. On Sunday, the Academy held a rehearsal and each young musician received certificates for their participation. Students and their instructors played the Big Gig on the High Meadow Stage.

Seventh-grader Izzy Butte of Baltimore, Maryland, attends a magnet performing arts school. Her mother was one of the festival's volunteers. Izzy's father is a guitarist and she decided she wanted to learn to play the guitar. She attended the Bluegrass Academy for Kids.

"I busked with a few of the other students from the Academy," Izzy said. "One day we made \$188. Another day, we earned \$82."

Many crowd favorites graced the stage by day and night Saturday and Sunday. While Steve Earle and the Dukes played the main stage, children were seen running around, playing catch and singing along with the music.

The festival featured a family stage with a schedule of its own. Children and their families could enjoy music, puppetry, square dancing, storytelling and craftmaking, instruction such as hula hoop workshops.

The Grey Fox Bluegrass Festival's 2022 artist-in-residence was 14-time Grammy-award winning dobro master Jerry



Steve Earle and the Dukes performing Saturday, July 16 on the Main Stage.



Peter Rowan's Free Mexican Airforce and Los Texmaniacs played the Catskill Stage.

Douglas, who has performed with the likes of John Hiatt and other folk musicians.

"Jerry Douglas is to the resonator guitar what Jimi Hendrix was to the electric guitar, elevating, transforming, and reinventing the instrument in countless ways," Festival Assistant Director Mary Burdette said. "Douglas is a free-wheeling, forward-thinking

recording and touring artist whose output incorporates elements of country, bluegrass, rock, jazz, blues and Celtic into his distinctive musical vision."



Sierra Hull and Grey Fox Bluegrass Festival's artist-in-residence Jerry Douglas.



Audience dancing along with the live music.



Izzy Butte of Baltimore, Maryland, was a volunteer and student at the Grey Fox Bluegrass Academy for Kids.



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Correction

In the story "Grey Fox returns to Walsh Farm" in the Saturday-Sunday, July 16-17, 2022, edition of The Daily Mail, this year's festival was not dedicated to the memory of pioneering five-string banjoist Bill Keith but all proceeds from the sale of his tour T-shirts brought to the festival by his wife Claire were donated to the Bluegrass Academy for Kids.

Catskill Food Festival

Food Vendors Wanted

September 17, 2022
Noon - 6pm · Dutchman's Landing Park, Catskill
RAIN OR SHINE!

For more information contact Patricia Bulich
Email pmckenna@registerstar.com
or Call 518-828-1616 x2413

OR

For more information contact Rhona Schiffres
Email rschiffres@columbiagreene.com
or Call 315-661-2513 or 845-656-7424

THE DAILY MAIL

Established 1792

Published Tuesday through Saturday by Columbia-Greene Media

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MARY DEMPSEY
EXECUTIVE EDITOR

OUR VIEW

A lesson for elected officials

The prosecution and guilty plea of former Prattsville Town Supervisor Kory O'Hara was a remarkable feat of patience and perseverance. O'Hara pleaded guilty Monday in federal court to wire fraud in connection with a \$24,915 grant extended to Prattsville in the wake of Hurricane Irene. We credit patience because Irene devastated Prattsville in August 2011, nearly 11 years ago, and because O'Hara admitted in court Monday that between 2013 and 2015, nearly a decade ago, he obtained false invoices from a Prattsville-based modular home business, Moore's Homes, claiming to reflect construction work performed on O'Hara's automotive garage, O'Hara's Service Station, which Moore's Homes did not perform. O'Hara issued checks to

Moore's Homes reflecting payment on the invoices, but Moore's Homes returned all of the money, according to the U.S. Attorney's Office.

Still serving as town supervisor, O'Hara then submitted the false invoices and checks to Prattsville and the New York State Housing Trust Fund Corporation to fraudulently obtain \$24,915 in grant proceeds under the New York Main Street Program.

"The New York Main Street Program was designed to make sure that grant money would be used to rebuild Prattsville in the wake of Hurricane Irene," U.S. Attorney Carla Freedman said. "As town supervisor, O'Hara knew the rules, but chose not to follow them. Instead, he took grant money fraudulently."

O'Hara, who is facing up to 20 years in prison and a

maximum fine of \$250,000, is required to pay \$24,915 in restitution to the state.

With the power of its historic floods, Hurricane Irene scoured homes and businesses off their foundations, propped mobile homes against trees in wooded areas and was blamed for the deaths of at least four people. While residents struggled to rebuild their lives, O'Hara was busy fraudulently obtaining the funds meant to assist them. O'Hara was elected supervisor to lead his townspeople. Pulling Prattsville through the disaster could have been his crowning achievement. Instead, it was his downfall.

Let Kory O'Hara's case be a lesson for all elected leaders who would betray the trust of their communities by exchanging honor and courage for gold.

ANOTHER VIEW

Border Patrol stopped counting migrant deaths. We need that information now

The Dallas Morning News
The Dallas Morning News

The tragic deaths of 53 migrants in a San Antonio truck last month was appalling, but it may be only a narrow insight into the loss of life on and near the southern border. An actual number of recent immigrant deaths is hard to come by because U.S. Customs Border and Protection has not been reporting it. In fact, the agency has not reported official border deaths since 2020.

After a series of recommendations included in a Government Accountability Office report last April, CBP has at last promised to resume counting the dead as it should have been all along. But we will have to wait until late September to have a clearer picture. Meanwhile, an important piece of information is missing to know what exactly is going on at the border, and we still have at least two months of summer weather with record

high temperatures.

Counting the number of migrant deaths is not only a legal requirement that CBP has with Congress, but an accurate report would also inform Border Patrol, an agency that is part of CBP, on how we might reduce the frequency of these deaths.

We are glad the CBP has decided to take the necessary steps, but sadly the agency needed a chiding from the GAO to get its act together. A spokesperson from CBP did not answer questions on why the agency stopped counting migrant deaths altogether.

Beginning in 2017, the Border Patrol collected and reviewed information on migrant deaths through its Missing Migrant Program. This was a crucial tool for families to know about their loved ones' fates, but also to help Border Patrol to identify high-risk areas for migrants.

According to the non-

profit Washington Office on Latin America, "migrants continue to die at the U.S.-Mexico border, usually of drowning, dehydration, exposure, or falls from the border wall, with a frequency that seems unprecedented."

Some anecdotal evidence includes 25 Nicaragua citizens who have drowned in the Rio Grande since March 4, according to WOLA. And Mexico's migration authorities report that 37 bodies were recovered between January and May.

The GAO was clear about the need to reevaluate the way Border Patrol collects and reviews information about its Missing Migrant Program activities. CBP promised it will have a plan ready for December. We wonder why it ever stopped its review. Knowledge of what is happening at the border is important for humane and effective enforcement.

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

'I was not born with a silver spoon in my mouth but a laundry basket practically on my head.'

MAGGIE L. WALKER

The Daily Mail welcomes letters to the editor. All letters must contain a full name, full address and a daytime telephone number. Names will be published, but phone numbers will not be divulged.

Letters of less than 400 words are more likely to be published quickly. The newspaper reserves the right to edit letters for length, clarity and content. Letters should be exclusive to this publication, not duplicates of those sent to other persons, agencies

or publications. Writers are ordinarily limited to one letter every 30 days.

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The Daily Mail
364 Warren St., Suite 1
Hudson, NY 12534
- E-mail: editorial@thedailyemail.net



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The Daily Mail
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ONLINE

www.hudsonvalley360.com

Who are your neighbors and why you need to know

It was the early 1980s when my husband and I were seeking a respite from the stresses of our demanding business life in New York City. We would scout the Sunday New York Times real estate section assiduously, hoping to find an affordable country home within a reasonable driving distance to the big city. We just wanted a pretty little place where we could find fresh air, open spaces, peace and quiet. A place to unwind and relax.

An ad hit our eyes one Sunday that seemed perfect, located in some place called Canaan, New York, Columbia County. We hadn't heard of either, but quickly made an appointment with the agent who advertised the house. At that time, this agency was one of the few in this quiet little town.

We high-tailed it out of the city on a snowy Friday night in March, eager to see this house. We were excited as we crawled up the Hudson, the weather slowing the West Side Highway, along with the other City folks escaping to their homes or weekend hideaways. Finally on our way, we headed Upstate on the Taconic State Parkway, and delighted in the beauty of the landscape that opened up just past Poughkeepsie in Dutchess County, exactly half way to our destination.

It was dark by the time we met with the agent; the snow had accumulated significantly, coating the area with a clean, white blanket, and breathtaking beauty, as we tromped around the property in our city shoes. The 1750 saltbox was even better than the ad portrayed, and that night we quickly made an offer which was just as quickly accepted. And just like that, we were on our way to becoming 'weekenders.'

We soon learned that the area was mostly conservative, ie: Republican. We also came to learn that this translated into an 'us and them' mentality, which meant the locals resented the big city

MY VIEW



AUDREY SCHOENFELD

folks invading their world. We weren't very politically astute at the time, and didn't realize that we were actually part of the 'them' group, eyed suspiciously and viewed as 'those rich City people who would come to ruin our land and way of life.' We weren't 'rich' and we had no intentions of violating this beautiful landscape in any way. But it was true that other downstate folks were also finding this secret gem, and coming up in droves to buy a country get-away. The secret was out now, and the area bloomed over time, occupied now with world-renowned artists, writers, film people and musicians. Warren Street in Hudson was now a destination spot for ardent antique seekers. Restaurateurs opened wonderful new restaurants. It was dynamic!

The locals gradually accepted the city influx, and actually came to appreciate the source of income they were bringing to the community, both with the tax base and labor, as they improved their properties inside and out; expanding them in some cases, and beautifying in other cases with exquisite landscaping.

We loved it so much, we decided to make Columbia County our primary residence around 1988. It was then I met the late John Wallace. John was involved with the Republican Party, the Police Department, the Ghent Theater and The Columbia County Board of Realtors. He seemed to be an affable fellow, seemingly disarming and pleasant. So, it came as a shock to learn that he was also a friend of the hostile and threatening

organization called The Oath Keepers. I wondered, exactly what oath is it that this group keeps?

With the recent Jan. 6 hearings being televised we have come to learn that Stuart Rhodes is the founder and leader of this vicious militia group, and has been charged with seditious conspiracy for plotting to prevent by force the transfer of presidential power to Joe Biden. We have also come to learn that Rhodes was a friend of John Wallace, and would hold meetings with him at a local diner in Ghent. It's hard to imagine John holding dear the hateful tenets of this hateful group, but he is no longer here, and cannot be questioned. But it does beg the question, just how friendly was he to Rhodes and the Oath Keepers?

So, now we all know that no place is safe and protected from these dangerous elements, that they reside everywhere, not just in big cities but in quiet little havens like ours, throughout the country, spreading their insidious venom and lies, posing danger, threats and violence wherever they go.

We were naive then, but no longer. None of us can afford to claim innocence, ignorance, or indifference. The stakes are too high to ignore the reality: our country is severely divided today, the danger and threats are prolific and real, our lives and democratic way of life are in peril.

This is why it's imperative you know who your neighbors are, which part of the divide are they on? And then ask yourself, is this what you want in your community, state, country?

Audrey G. Schoenfeld lived and worked in NYC for many years running her own typography and graphic arts studio. She and her late husband, Mel, moved up to Columbia County full time in 1990. Shortly thereafter, Audrey opened up her own real estate firm in Chatham, and is currently an active broker in the Hudson Valley and Atlanta, Georgia.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Support for Didi Barrett

To the editor:

These days, as I drive around the county, I see more and more signs and flags that say "Let's Go Brandon." For anyone who may not know what that phrase signifies, it came about during an NBC interview in October 2021 with NASCAR racer Brandon Brown, during which the reporter who was interviewing Brown thought that the crowd behind them was shouting, "Let's Go Brandon." In fact, footage later revealed that what the crowd was really saying was "F___ Joe Biden." Soon, "Let's Go Brandon" caught on,

becoming coded language for verbally flipping the bird at the president of the United States.

I'm old enough to remember a time when respect for our Commander-in-Chief was the rule of the day, even if you might not agree with that person. Now, we live in a very different time when rude signs on the roadside are commonplace. Still, I was taken aback when I saw that Brandon Gaylord, the Republican candidate for the New York State Assembly in the 106th District, had adopted "Let's Go Brandon" as a campaign slogan, used on

Facebook.

Civility matters, which is something that some people forget these days. Didi Barrett, Brandon Gaylord's opponent, does not forget that elemental truth. She is known for reaching across the aisle, particularly on behalf of veterans. We need politicians like Assemblyperson Barrett who know how to work with others to confront our difficult societal challenges, rather than politicians who rely on schoolyard taunts that divide our community.

ALAN GELB
EAST CHATHAM

Support for Josh Riley

To The editor:

In these tumultuous — and frankly scary — times we need leaders with proven experience and an actual track record. Josh Riley, who is running for the 19th Congressional District — which includes all of Columbia County — is that leader.

Riley has extensive policy and legislative experience having worked for both Ted Kennedy, former Democratic Senator from Massachusetts, and Al Franken, former Democratic Senator from Minnesota. He knows how to write legislation and wrangle bills. He's been

behind the scenes working to maneuver policy in an absolutely crazy — and often hostile — Washington legislative environment.

His primary opponent, Jamie Cheney, has perfectly fine ideas about where the country should be headed, but she has absolutely no experience in government at all.

With everything going on in this country right now, we need a steady hand who will take office already up to speed on how things work — and don't work — in D.C. It is no time for training an amateur in

the labyrinthian ins and outs of Washington.

Jamie Cheney should do the right thing and step aside and endorse Josh. What we don't need right now are Democrats squaring off against each other in expensive and unnecessary contests that do little more than highlight just how fragmented and too often flat out dysfunctional the Democratic party can be.

We need unity and we need it now.

JONATHAN WALTERS
CHATHAM

Senior Briefs

We want to hear from you. To send information to be included in Senior News, email to editorial@thedailyemail.net; mail to Register-Star/The Daily Mail, Atten: Senior News, Unit 1, 364 Warren St., Hudson, NY 12534. For information, call 315-661-2490. We would like the information at least two weeks in advance if possible.

GREENE COUNTY SENIOR CITIZENS CLUBS

CATSKILL — Some clubs may not have resumed meetings due to COVID-19.

Athens Senior Citizens meet at 1:15 p.m. the second and fourth Monday at Rivertown Senior Center, 39 Second St., Athens,

Cairo Golden Agers meet at 1:30 p.m. the second and fourth Wednesday at Acra Community Center, Old Route 23, Cairo.

Catskill Silver Linings meet at 1 p.m. the second Thursday of the Month at the Robert C. Antonelli Senior Center, 15 Academy St., Catskill.

Coxsackie Area Seniors meet at 1 p.m. the second and fourth Wednesday at Van Heest Hall, Bethany Village, Coxsackie.

Senior Citizens of Coxsackie meet at 2 p.m. the first and third Monday at the Town of Coxsackie Senior Center, 127 Mansion St., Coxsackie.

Greenville Golden Agers meet at 1 p.m. the first Wednesday at the American Legion Hall, 54 Maple Ave., Greenville.

Mountain Top Golden

Agers meet at 1:30 p.m. the fourth Thursday at Tannersville Fire Hall, Main Avenue, Tannersville.

WAJPL Golden Age Club meet at 1 p.m. the first and third Monday at Windham Town Building, 371 Route 296, Hensonville.

CATSKILL PUBLIC LIBRARY

CATSKILL — The Catskill Public Library circulation desk is at the Robert C. Antonelli Senior Center, 15 Academy St., Catskill, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Tuesdays for seniors to pick up or return library materials, or get tech help from the staff. For information, www.catskillpubliclibrary.org for details.

CATSKILL SILVER LININGS

CATSKILL — The Catskill Silver Linings are hosting a Pennsylvania Amishlands bus trip Oct. 4 through Oct. 7. Double occupancy, \$445; single, \$584. Balance due by Aug. 5. Package includes two nights lodging, two breakfasts, two dinners, railroad museum of Pennsylvania, train ride about the Strasburg Railroad, Performance of 'David' at Sight and Sound Theatre, guided tour of Amish countryside, and more. For information and reservations, contact Catskill Silver Linings, Georgianna Ramsey, PO Box 162, Round Top, NY 12473; 518-622-3257.

CATSKILL — The Catskill Silver Linings Club will host an ice cream social at 1 p.m. July 14 and a chicken barbecue at 1 p.m. Aug. 11 at the

Robert Antonelli Senior Center, 15 Academy St., Catskill

NUTRITION EDUCATION

CATSKILL — Nutrition Education with Nicole Gehman, MS, RD, CD-N, will be held at noon July 21 and Aug. 25 at the Robert Antonelli Senior Center, 15 Academy St., Catskill; 11:45 a.m. July 28 at Rivertown Senior Center, 39 Second St., Athens; 11:45 a.m. Aug. 11 at the Acra Senior Nutrition Site, Old Route 23, Cairo; 11:45 a.m. Aug. 17 at the Jewett Senior Nutrition Site. Nutritional information and/or counseling is always available. For information, call GCDHS for a nutrition referral with the dietician at 518-719-3555.

MOUNTAIN TOP GOLDEN AGERS CLUB

TANNERSVILLE — The Mountain Top Golden Agers Club is hosting the following trips. On Aug. 23, First Night, a romantic comedy at the Holiday Inn Resort in Lake George. Tickets are \$68. On Sept. 29, Four by Four at Turning Stone Casino. Tickets are \$70. On Nov. 10, Branson Country Christmas with a Veterans tribute show at The Log Cabin in Holyoke, Mass. Tickets are \$79. For reservations, call Christopher at 518-589-5815.

COFFEE KLATCH

HUNTER — The Hunter Public Library, 7965 Main St., Hunter, holds a coffee klatch 10 a.m.-noon the second Tuesday of the month July 12 with light refreshments, coffee and tea.

The elderly and driving

By Marisa Korytko
For Columbia-Greene Media

One of the most challenging and dreaded conversations a caregiver faces is telling a family member they can no longer drive. Losing the independence that driving provides can be upsetting. So, it is important to acknowledge a person's feelings and preserve his or her independence, while ensuring the person's safety and the safety of others.

A diagnosis of Alzheimer's disease is not, on its own, a sufficient reason to surrender driving privileges. The determining factors in deciding when it's time to stop driving should be based on an individual's functional abilities and driving competencies. An evaluation by a Driver Rehabilitation Specialist through the Sunnyview Rehabilitation Hospital can be of great value in helping to make this difficult decision. A driver evaluation will assess the components of driving that may be compromised by this progressive condition. Areas assessed should include: vision, visual spatial skills, attention, memory, processing speed, decision-making, judgment and motor function. Depending on the results of these assessments, an on-the-road

assessment of actual driving abilities can determine how impairments impact driving performance.

Completing an evaluation as soon as a diagnosis is made is advantageous in obtaining baseline data, as well as to provide compensatory strategies that may be used to help maintain safe driving and to set limits in preparation for the time when driving privileges need to be terminated. Discussing the issue and planning for the future is important to do while the individual with Alzheimer's has the insight needed to participate in the decision-making process.

At times, physicians, other health professionals and/or families may need to make this decision for individuals whose judgment and insight is impaired. Some of the warning signs to look for are:

- Driving at inappropriate speeds (too fast or too slow)
- Easily distracted or inattention to signs or signals
- Failure to yield
- Stopping inappropriately or for no apparent reason
- Difficulty interpreting traffic situations and identifying hazards
- Needing instructions from passengers or "co-pilot"
- Getting lost in familiar

places

- Increased agitation or irritation when driving
- Beeped at by other drivers or near misses
- Collisions or scrapes and dents on vehicle

If driving retirement is necessary, the Driver Rehabilitation Specialist can assist in the transition from driver to passenger. A professional's recommendation to stop driving may have more influence than a family member's opinion and can often minimize family conflict. Counseling about the grieving process and helping to identify alternative transportation options is another important aspect of a formalized driving evaluation. It's important to know that help is available — giving up driving is a tough decision, but you do not have to make it alone. There are resources to help you have the conversation at alz.org. To schedule an appointment through the Driver Rehabilitation Program at Sunnyview Rehabilitation Hospital, call 518.386.3595.

Marisa Korytko is the Public Relations Director for the Alzheimer's Association Northeastern New York chapter. She can be reached at mkorytko@alz.org.

Senior Menu

CATSKILL — The following is the weekly nutrition menu offered by Greene County Department of Human Services' Senior Nutrition Program. Served daily with each meal are: Bread or alternative (roll, bun, etc.) with Promise Spread and low-fat milk. Tartar sauce is served with fish meals. Menu is subject to change based on product availability and circumstance.

The menu will be the meal that is delivered to all Greene County homebound meal clients.

All persons 60 and older can receive a meal. The suggested donation for each meal is \$4. Those wishing to receive a meal are required to call the respective location at least a day in advance. Rivertown Senior Center, 39 Second St., Athens, 945-2700.

Senior Service Centers: Acra: Acra Community Center, Old Route 23B, Cairo 622-9898.

Jewett: Jewett Municipal Building, Route 23C, Jewett, 263-4392.

If you wish to pick-up a lunch at the Robert Antonelli Senior Center in Catskill call at least a day in advance, the Rivertown Senior Center to reserve.

JULY 20 THROUGH JULY 27

WEDNESDAY: Pork chop with gravy, applesauce, corn, lima beans and carrot mix, roasted potatoes, cookies.

THURSDAY: Roast turkey with gravy and cranberry sauce, green beans, sweet potatoes, stuffing, vanilla mousse with fresh blueberries.

FRIDAY: Meatball sub, garden salad, Italian mixed vegetables, fresh fruit.

MONDAY: Beef chili, mixed vegetables, white rice, plums

TUESDAY: Fish Florentine, Italian mixed

vegetables, rice pilaf, cookies.

WEDNESDAY: Baked ham with raisin sauce, sweet potatoes, broccoli, fruited gelatin. Low sodium substitute: chicken cutlets with gravy.

JULY 27 THROUGH AUG. 3

WEDNESDAY: Baked ham with raisin sauce, sweet potatoes, broccoli, fruited gelatin. Low sodium substitute: chicken cutlets with gravy.

THURSDAY: Barbecue pulled pork, cole slaw, carrots, baked beans, fresh fruit.

FRIDAY: Cranberry chicken salad, mixed greens, potato salad, fresh fruit.

MONDAY: Barbecue chicken thighs, baked beans, collard greens, apple sauce.

TUESDAY: Tortellini marinara with meatballs, Italian mixed vegetables, fruit cocktail, peanut butter cookie.

WEDNESDAY: Seafood scampi, spinach, linguini, pineapple.

AUG. 3 THROUGH AUG. 10

WEDNESDAY: Seafood scampi, spinach, linguini, pineapple.

THURSDAY: Hot roast beef with gravy, mashed potatoes, glazed carrots, fresh fruit.

FRIDAY: Chicken salad plate, mixed greens with cucumbers and tomatoes, pasta salad, whole wheat dinner roll, strawberries with whipped topping.

MONDAY: Macaroni and cheese, 3 bean salad, stewed tomatoes, fruit cocktail.

TUESDAY: Chicken divan, Monaco vegetables, white rice, tropical fruit.

WEDNESDAY: Fish Florentine, cauliflower, mashed potatoes, chocolate mousse.

THURSDAY: Roast pork with gravy, sweet potato, green beans, brownie.

FRIDAY: Chicken caesar salad, cucumber and tomato salad, fresh fruit.

MONDAY: Knockwurst, baked beans, carrots, tropical fruit. Low sodium diet: barbecue chicken.

TUESDAY: Veal Parmesan, spinach, stewed tomatoes, ziti, dinner roll, pear cup.

WEDNESDAY: Meatloaf with gravy, brussels sprouts, baked potato with sour cream, fruited ambrosia.

AUG. 17 THROUGH AUG. 24

WEDNESDAY: Meatloaf with gravy, brussels sprouts, baked potato with sour cream, fruited ambrosia.

THURSDAY: Chicken Dijon, mashed potatoes, Monaco vegetables, yogurt.

FRIDAY: Seafood pasta salad, mixed greens, cole slaw, juice, fresh fruit.

MONDAY: Beef chili, broccoli, corn bread, white rice, tropical fruit.

TUESDAY: Turkey burger with pepper and onions, potato salad, carrot coins, cookies.

WEDNESDAY: Pork chop with gravy, mashed potatoes, peas and carrots, chocolate cake.

AUG. 24 THROUGH AUG. 31

WEDNESDAY: Pork chop with gravy, mashed potatoes, peas and carrots, chocolate cake.

THURSDAY: Cheese and sausage lasagna, green beans, zucchini and tomatoes, fresh fruit.

FRIDAY: Cranberry chicken salad, mixed greens, juice, fresh fruit.

MONDAY: Beer battered fish, California mixed vegetables, macaroni salad, pears.

TUESDAY: Sweet and sour chicken, Oriental mixed vegetables, white rice, peaches.

WEDNESDAY: Meatball sub, Italian mixed vegetables, vanilla mousse with mixed berries.

What do my wife and my ex-wife get if I die?

By Russell Gloor, National Social Security Advisor at the AMAC Foundation

For Columbia-Greene Media

Dear Rusty:

I am a 77 year old married male. I am retired and started drawing Social Security at age 66, and my monthly amount is a little over \$3,000. My present wife is 52 and employed, and we have been married for 22 years. I also have an ex-wife who is 85, not married and drawing Social Security. My ex-wife and I were married 13 years.

When I am deceased, what happens to my Social Security benefits? When my present wife decides to receive SS benefits, would she draw the higher benefit of our monthly amounts? Would my ex-wife be able to increase her benefit?

Signed: Planning Ahead

Dear Planning Ahead:

In the event of your death, here is how Social Security eligibility would work for your current wife and for your ex-wife:

For your current wife, unless she is disabled, she cannot collect a survivor benefit as your widow until she is at least 60 years old. However, if she claims her survivor benefit before reaching her full retirement age (FRA), it will be reduced. Claimed at age 60, her benefit as your widow would be 71.5% of the amount you were receiving at your death. If she waited beyond age 60 to claim, her survivor benefit would continue to grow until it reached maximum at her FRA of age 67

(100% of the benefit you were receiving when you died). She would also have the option to wait until age 62 and claim her own reduced personally-earned SS benefit first while allowing her survivor benefit to grow to maximum at age 67; or she could take her reduced survivor benefit only first and allow her personally-earned SS benefit to grow to maximum at age 70. She should choose whichever strategy would give her the highest benefit for the rest of her life.

Note, too, that if your current wife were to collect any benefit before reaching her full retirement age (67) and she works, she would be subject to Social Security's earnings test. The earnings test limits how much can be earned before some of her benefits are taken away by Social Security. For reference, the 2022 earnings limit is \$19,560, but it changes annually. If the annual earnings limit in force when your wife claims is exceeded, and she hasn't yet reached age 67, SS will take away benefits equal to \$1 for every \$2 over the limit. The limit is higher, and the penalty is less in the year FRA is reached, and the earnings test goes away when your current wife is 67.

Regarding your ex-wife, if you die first, and because you were married for more than 10 years, your ex-wife will be entitled to collect a survivor benefit from you, if that amount (what you were receiving at your death) is more than she is currently receiving based on her

own lifetime work record (she would get the higher of the two amounts). Your ex-wife would need to contact Social Security to claim her survivor benefit from you, and your ex-wife collecting a survivor benefit from you will not affect your current wife's benefit in any way - both can get their full survivor benefit from you independent of each other and neither will be reduced because more than one wife is collecting.

For clarity, since you and your ex-wife are both already collecting Social Security, your ex-wife may be entitled to a spousal boost from you while you are both living, if her own personally-earned FRA benefit amount is less than 50% of your SS benefit, and that would have no effect on either your own current benefit or your current wife's survivor entitlement. Your ex-wife would need to contact Social Security directly to apply for her ex-spouse benefit from you while you are both living.

This article is intended for information purposes only and does not represent legal or financial guidance. It presents the opinions and interpretations of the AMAC Foundation's staff, trained and accredited by the National Social Security Association (NSSA). NSSA and the AMAC Foundation and its staff are not affiliated with or endorsed by the Social Security Administration or any other governmental entity. To submit a question, visit our website (amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory) or email us at ssadviser@amacfoundation.org.

NEW YORK STATE ELECTRIC & GAS (NYSEG)

Late Payment Charge and Other Waived Fees Surcharge

On June 24, 2022, New York State Electric & Gas Corporation filed tariff amendments, to become effective on July 1, 2022, with the New York State Public Service Commission to implement a surcharge in compliance with the Order Authorizing Alternative Recovery Mechanism for Unbilled Fees and Conforming Accounting Changes issued in Case No. 22-M-0119. The Late Payment Charge and Other Waived Fees Surcharge is designed to recover the late payment charges and other waived fees resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic.

How to submit obituaries and death notices

Obituaries: Are paid notices. We reserve the right to edit all copy. Funeral directors may email us the information at obits@columbiagreene.com anytime. Include life background information on the deceased, a full list of immediate survivors, services and the name of the funeral home. Any questions or for rate information, call 315-661-2446.

Funeral notices: Are paid follow-ups to obituaries. We reserve the right to edit all copy. Funeral directors may email us the information at obits@columbiagreene.com anytime. Any questions or for rate information, call 315-661-2446.

Death Notices: Are free notices that don't exceed 20 words. For more information, funeral directors may call 315-661-2446.

In memoriam ads: Are paid ads that are guaranteed to run. Call the Classified department at 315-661-2446 or send to Obits@wdt.net

Howard "Howie" E. Coon

January 24, 1935 - July 15, 2022

Howard "Howie" E. Coon, 87, a longtime resident of both Red Hook and Germantown, passed away on Friday, July 15, 2022 at the Ghent Skilled Nursing Facility in Ghent, NY.

Born on January 24, 1935, in Red Hook, NY, he was the son of the late William N. and Evelyn (Rhynders) Coon. Howie married Susan Pearl Kight on July 12, 1986 at the Rowe United Methodist Church, Milan, NY. Susan predeceased him on January 3, 2018.

Howie proudly served his country in the United States Air Force from 1952-1956.

Howie was a mail carrier based in the Red Hook Post Office from 1966 to 1992. He could often be found out on his walking route through the village.

Howie enjoyed being outdoors, watching a good sports game or participating in a round of golf. He was an avid bowler and golfer and a big fan of the Boston Red Sox. He took great pride in the condition of his well-manicured lawn. Above all he enjoyed having his family together.

Howie is survived by his loving children, Dru (Joe) Ary of Hillsdale, NY, Michael (Merilee) Coon of Red Hook, NY, Sue Jacobson (Tim Zacheus) of Clifton Park, NY; his step-children, Rene (Paul) Roosa of Valatie, NY, and Roger Kight of Red Hook, NY; his sisters Sandra (Gordon) Keeler of Millerton, NY, and Helen Coon Daniels of Hudson, NY; his grandchildren, April-Jo (David) Whalen, Hollie (Bryan) Van Tassel, Dave Coon (Lina Aguilar), Joe (Sarah) Coon, Chris Coon, Steve Coon, Paulie Roosa and Halley (Angelo) Santelli; his sixteen great-grandchildren, Riley, Parker and Fiona Whalen, Ellie and Cooper Van Tassel, Ben, Maggie, Marcus and Brett Coon, Alita Aguilar-Coon, Lucas, Owen, Madain and Quinlee Roosa, and Fiona and Enzo Santelli; his former spouse, Mary Athanas; in addition to extended family and friends.

In addition to his wife, Howard is predeceased by his siblings, Shirley Scism, Alice "Sis" Mabie, Marian Coon, and Elmer "Buddy" Coon.

Friends may call at the Burnett and White Funeral Home on Thursday, July 21, 2022 from 11 to 1PM. Funeral services will begin at 1PM. Burial will immediately follow at St. John's Reformed Church Cemetery in Upper Red Hook.

Memorial donations may be made in Howard's memory to Make-A-Wish America, 1702 East Highland Ave., Suite 400, Phoenix, AZ 85016 or Tunnel to Towers Foundation, 2361 Hylan Boulevard, Staten Island, NY 10306.

Arrangements are under the direction of Burnett & White Funeral Homes 7461 S. Broadway, Red Hook, NY.

For directions, or to sign the online guest book, please visit www.Burnett-White.com.



Helium isn't just for balloons. It's a valuable technology resource.

Jason Bittel
The Washington Post

Kids may know that balloons are bad for wildlife. This is because, when it's filled with helium, a balloon can travel many miles into the sky before it loses the ability to float. When it falls back to Earth, the string, rubber or Mylar becomes a hazard for birds, turtles and many other creatures that can become tangled in or choke on what they mistake for a tasty treat.

But many people don't realize that there's another reason to hang onto those balloons: The helium inside is a rare resource.

"I think that one of the coolest things is that helium is the second-most abundant element in the entire universe, but ironically, on planet Earth, we only have very, very small amounts," said Santiago Toledo, a chemist at American University in Washington, D.C.

This is true for a few reasons. For example, helium atoms don't like to

make bonds with other elements or even themselves. This results in them having a very low density - much lower than the density of the particles that make up air, Toledo said.

So when you force a bunch of helium into an enclosed space, such as a balloon, that low density allows the helium to rise above the heavier air around it. This is why helium balloons float.

It's also why Earth has so little of the stuff, he said. Most of the planet's helium is locked away underground, usually as a mixture with natural gas, said Toledo. But any time helium is exposed to open air, it will disappear into space.

This is kind of bad news, because helium has lots of uses beyond birthday party decorations. While most of us know it as a gas, helium becomes a liquid at extremely cold temperatures.

"We're talking about temperatures that are just about what is called 'absolute zero,' which is the coldest

anything can be in the universe," Toledo said. Because of this quirk, scientists use liquid helium to keep many types of instruments ice-cold.

If you've ever had to get a medical test called an MRI, or magnetic resonance imaging, helium was there to cool the superconducting magnets that make the machines work. In addition, helium is important for creating digital devices such as smartphones, as well as the fiber-optic cables that give us the internet. Helium is also necessary to make sure NASA's rockets work properly and is an important part of machines called magnetometers, which help the U.S. military detect enemy submarines.

The good news, said Toledo, is that balloons don't contain only helium, but instead a mixture of lightweight gases. Yet when he sees one get loose into the sky, all he can think about is how a precious resource is just floating up, up and away.

Flint water crisis costs Michigan \$53 million in legal bills so far

Beth LeBlanc
The Detroit News

DETROIT — The state has spent nearly \$53 million since 2016 for both the prosecution and defense of Michigan's top officials in the Flint water criminal and civil litigation, with costs spanning four departments and at least 25 state employees, according to records obtained and reviewed by The Detroit News.

About \$15.8 million of the \$53 million total has been spent by the attorney general's office since 2016 to investigate the actions surrounding Flint's lead-tainted water, prosecute state and local officials, and defend against civil lawsuits.

About \$37.1 million has been paid to at least two dozen firms for legal contracts associated with the defense of state employees and state departments since 2016, according to state records.

The \$53 million total has led to two rounds of criminal charges -- both of which have failed to secure any convictions -- and the state's promise to pay Flint residents \$600 million of a \$626 million civil settlement for its part in the crisis occurring under state emergency managers.

The state of Michigan has paid \$53 million for criminal and civil legal costs associated with the Flint water investigation. The Attorney General's office has accounted for \$15.8 million of the spending.

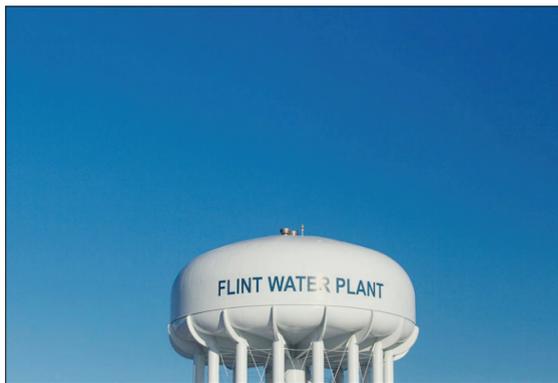
Flint Mayor Sheldon Neeley, who was a state lawmaker while money was being appropriated for the Flint-related cases, noted the total cost for Flint residents has never been a dollar amount but instead what Neeley described as a "death deficit." And the largest remaining payment Flint residents are due, he said, is justice.

"The impact to the state of Michigan was greater and is greater than just dollars and cents," said Neeley, referring to the health effects on residents who were exposed to the lead-tainted water.

"We need to get a clear course of direction in getting justice for families. So our prayer here is to bring resolve, to bring closure. And it's going to take more dollars to bring personal closure for families of Flint and the state of Michigan. That far outweighs the monetary totals."

The costs were released to The News through a combination of informal requests and Freedom of Information Act requests a little more than two weeks after the Michigan Supreme Court ordered charges against a key defendant in the latest round of prosecutions be dismissed.

The high court found the one-judge grand jury process



GEOFF ROBINS/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES/TNS

The water tower at the Flint Water Plant in Flint, Michigan, looms large over the city March 4, 2016, nearly 2 years after the start of the city's water crisis.

to indict former state health director Nick Lyon and eight other defendants was unconstitutional. It's likely in the coming weeks that Lyon and other defendants, including former Gov. Rick Snyder, will have their cases dismissed based on the high court's decision.

Of the \$53 million total, at least \$15.1 million has been incurred since Attorney General Dana Nessel's office made the controversial decision to dismiss the cases filed under her Republican predecessor, Attorney General Bill Schuette. The \$15.1 million total reflects costs starting in fiscal year 2020, or Oct. 1, 2019, through the first three quarters of fiscal year 2022.

Of the \$15.1 million total, \$5.2 million was spent by Nessel's office and \$9.9 million was spent by the governor's office, environmental department and health department to defend state employees.

Snyder's legal team called for an end to the Flint water prosecutions in light of the recent Supreme Court opinion that's upended the most recent round of charges.

"The Michigan tax payers have funded these political persecutions for far too long and wasted millions of dollars on the attorney general's vexatious, frivolous, and bad faith prosecution of former Gov. Snyder and other public officials and employees," said Snyder's lawyer Brian Lennon. Complex prosecution

The mounting legal costs related to the Flint water litigation date back to 2016, when Schuette said he would investigate the actions leading to, exacerbating and extending the water crisis spurred by a 2014 switch of the city's water source from Lake Huron water to the Flint River.

The city, which was under state emergency management at the time, failed to put in proper corrosion controls to accommodate the different chemistry of the Flint River. The corrosive water leached lead from old lead service

lines running from the curb up to homes and into their faucets.

The result were elevated lead levels across the city, lead poisoning among some Flint residents and an alleged link to two later Legionnaires' Disease outbreaks in the Flint area that killed at least 12 people.

Schuette's investigation, contracted out to special assistant attorney general Todd Flood, led to charges against multiple state and local officials in June 2017. The most high-profile cases involved involuntary manslaughter charges against Lyon and Chief Medical Executive Eden Wells.

Some of the cases stretched into 2018 as Lyon and Wells and other defendants lawyered up. Lyon was bound over for trial in August 2018 while several other defendants charged with lesser crimes worked out plea deals that resulted in no jail time.

Flint water legal costs have mounted since the office of Michigan Attorney General Dana Nessel decided to restart the investigation from scratch and used a now-illegal one-judge grand jury to indict nine former state and local officials on criminal charges.

For each state defendant, the Michigan departments they worked for paid their legal fees since the alleged actions occurred while on the job for the state. Additionally, the departments paid legal fees associated with responding to subpoenas for both civil and criminal cases, and paid for legal representation for any employee subject to a deposition related to the case.



The costs were mounting and Flood had reportedly been paid about \$8.2 million by March 2019, according to MLive. In April 2019, Nessel fired Flood and replaced him with Solicitor General Fadwa Hammoud, a former employee of the Wayne County Prosecutor's Office, and Wayne County Prosecutor Kym Worthy.

In June 2019, Nessel's team dismissed all of the charges authorized under Schuette and said Hammoud and Worthy would restart the investigation from scratch. Nessel cited as her reasoning new evidence, drawn-out preliminary examinations, plush plea deals and the political timing of charges.

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In first hearing, Twitter to push for speedy trial against Elon Musk

Elizabeth Dwoskin
The Washington Post

In a court hearing Tuesday morning, the first since Twitter sued Elon Musk, the company is expected to ask a judge for an expedited trial, aiming to prevent the billionaire from embarking on a potentially-damaging fishing expedition for internal documents.

The high-stakes case in the Delaware Chancery Court, which pits the world's richest man against the influential social media company, could be resolved in several months - if Twitter gets its wish - or become a far longer affair if the court sides with Musk.

"The core dispute over false and spam accounts is fundamental to Twitter's value," Musk's lawyers wrote in a legal filing Friday. "It is also extremely fact and expert intensive, requiring substantial time for discovery."

Twitter sued Elon Musk last week to force him to make good on his promise to buy the social media company for \$44 billion. Musk promised to complete the deal barring a major change to the company's financials. But his team argues such contracts are now invalid because Twitter concealed key information about the extent of spam and fake accounts on its service, which they have repeatedly claimed are far more prevalent than Twitter publicly reports.

Twitter countered that arguing by taking Musk to court, arguing it has provided Musk

with extensive information about how it estimates fake accounts, and noting that Musk has yet to find any information to bolster his suspicion, despite receiving reams of data.

Musk says he hasn't received enough information to do an accurate analysis, and has pushed for a trial early next year to have enough time to get the appropriate information. He accused Twitter of dragging its feet on giving him the data he wanted on bots and then asking for "warp speed" when it came to setting a trial date.

Musk claimed in the filing that Twitter's process for assessing spam and bots is largely manual. The company has extensive AI systems that cull fake accounts, and the manual process is an additional safeguard, said people familiar with the company's inner workings, who spoke on the condition of anonymity to describe them.

Twitter claims the amount of spam and bots comprise under 5 percent of its 229 million daily active users.

In a filing late Monday, Twitter doubled down on its reasons for a quick trial that would take place in September.

"Musk offers no reason to think discovery must be so expansive that a trial must wait until next year," the document states, adding that his fixation on bots is ultimately a "side-show" his team is using to prevent the litigation and irrelevant to the contract Musk signed.

Catskill's Daguerreotype dynasty

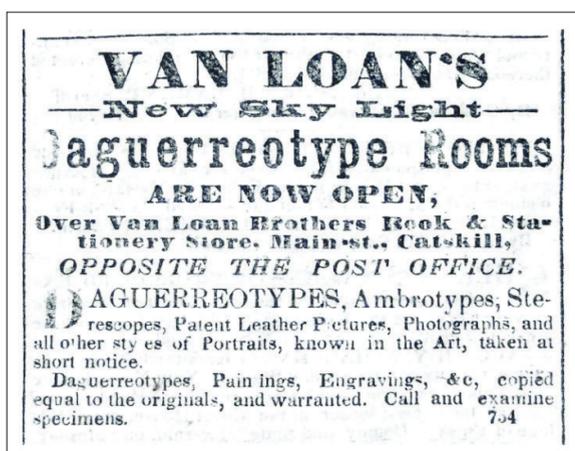
By Jonathan Palmer, Greene County Historian
For Columbia-Greene Media

In the spring of 1857 an advertisement appeared in the Greene County Whig announcing the opening of a photographic studio on Main Street in Catskill. Located above Van Loan Brothers Book Store, Van Loan's New Sky Light Daguerreotype Rooms offered the public the opportunity to have portraits and images commissioned using the most popular and exciting techniques the field of photography had to offer. Van Loan's New Skylight Room was probably not the first formal photographic studio in Catskill, but it arrived here sporting a pedigree that traced its lineage to the genius of the earliest Daguerreotypists active in the United States.

The Daguerreotype process, which was the world's first widely available photographic technique, arrived in the United States almost immediately following Frenchman Louis Daguerre's public announcement of the process in 1839. Samuel F. B. Morse, inventor of the telegraph, had visited Daguerre prior to the announcement and discussed this early period of innovation in a letter to Henry Hunt Snelling at Poughkeepsie in 1848. The principle object of Morse's letter was to clarify the timeline concerning those involved with the perfection of the daguerreotype process as a technique for making portraits — an idea that was relatively novel given the constraints initially posed by Daguerre's method.

The Daguerreotype process required lots of light, long exposures, and a sound understanding of chemistry to effect a photograph that was often difficult to see on the exposed silver plate. Starting in 1839 Samuel Morse along with a small cohort in the United States began to study, perfect, and improve on Daguerre's revolutionary but temperamental work. Morse claimed that by 1840 he, as well as Alexander S. Wolcott and John W. Draper, had all successfully attempted portraiture with improvements to Daguerre's method — an achievement with far-reaching repercussions and thus an act of considerable historical significance.

Alexander S. Wolcott and his partner John Johnson subsequently committed wholeheartedly to the advancement of daguerreotype portraiture, jointly developing methods to improve everything from the cameras themselves, to the quality of the photographic plates, and even reimagining the physical spaces in which their subjects were photographed. Wolcott and Johnson's work culminated in a novel studio located on Broadway and Chambers Streets in New York City, where in a



CONTRIBUTED IMAGE

Samuel P. Van Loan's advertisement for his Daguerreotype Studio in Catskill that appeared in the Greene County Whig during March of 1857.

room on an upper floor they had subjects sit for portraits beneath a custom-built skylight. Beneath that skylight was a circular track apparatus which allowed the entire system — subject, camera, and backdrop — to be positioned where the ambient light illuminated the sitter most fully and effectively for a timely and well-lit image.

Wolcott and Johnson's innovation, which was well suited to the commercial application of daguerreotype portraiture, proved most lucrative as a licensed product. By 1841 they had sold the rights to use their technique in England to a Mr. Richard Beard, and before July of that same year sold their studio in New York to a businessman from Catskill named Matthew Dies Van Loan who immediately took to photography with some fanfare. Van Loan's advertisement in the New York Tribune for July 1841 announced "PHOTOGRAPHIC LIKENESSES by the Daguerreotype Process. M. D. Van Loan, successor to A. S. Wolcott."

Van Loan apparently experienced favorable initial success, and received glowing editorials in the Tribune and the New-York Herald. Both papers lauded him as one of the City's eminent practitioners, with the Herald even praising his latest innovations in the technique as "Sun Painting." It was during this period that Van Loan likely began training his son Samuel in the process using the skylight arrangement, and it is possible that Matthew brought Samuel with him when he departed for Europe in the late summer of 1842 to study abroad and further improve his work.

What happened next becomes confused. Van Loan returned from Europe and the New York studio operated successfully likely into 1844, but by 1847 Matthew Van Loan was advertising in a Washington, D. C. newspaper and making portraits there. It was during this same period 1844-1847 that some authors claim Samuel Van Loan likely set up shop in Philadelphia.

Whatever transpired, both father and son left New York — Samuel to begin his photographic career, and Matthew apparently to bring his to a close. Samuel was receiving favorable editorials in a Philadelphia newspaper in 1849, the same year that his father's former Washington Studio was advertised under the name of another practitioner.

Walton Van Loan, a younger son of Matthew who went with his father to Washington, summarized the salient points of the elder Van Loan's later career in a biographical review: Matthew left Washington to seek new opportunities in California, bringing at least his second wife Julia and young Walton with him. Having worked several years at a Customs job in San Francisco, Matthew D. Van Loan died suddenly following an illness in June 1856, upon which the family returned to Catskill and Walton set up a book shop with his brother. It is unclear if Matthew, once one of the leading daguerreotypists of New York City, ever touched a camera during his last years in California.

Whether because of Matthew's death or because of increased competition in Philadelphia, Samuel Van Loan returned to Catskill with his family by 1857. Setting up his studio on the floor above the shop of his half-brothers, Samuel began advertising using the skylight system first developed by one of the pioneers of daguerreotype portraiture and popularized by his late father. He continued the business in Catskill at least through 1861, and like many of his peers in the daguerreotype trade Samuel faded into obscurity in the later years of his life. He and his wife Anna passed in 1900 and 1901 in Cairo, New York, and they were buried back in Philadelphia though over forty years had elapsed since their time there.

Questions and comments can be directed to Jon via archivist@gchistory.org

Greene County Youth Fair to be held July 28 through 31

CAIRO — The Greene County Youth Fair is a celebration of the talents of Greene County's youth, enabling them to strive for higher goals and receive encouragement for their efforts. The fair is family oriented and offers kids of all ages exciting music, displays and entertainment, along with a hands-on agricultural education.

The Greene County Youth Fair will be held at the Angelo Canna Park in Cairo. It opens at 9:30 a.m. July 28 and runs through July 31. Operating hours are 9:30 a.m.-7:30 p.m. Thursday and Friday; 9

a.m.-9:15 p.m. Saturday, ending with fireworks; hours are 9 a.m. Sunday with closing ceremonies at 2:30 p.m. Admission is free.

Meet the Greene County Youth Awards winners at 9:30 a.m. Thursday. For information, www.thegreencounty-youthfair.com.

New York State Agriculture Commissioner Richard A. Ball announced the end of the bans on live poultry shows, exhibitions, auctions, sales, meets and swaps in New York. The Department had previously issued the bans on March 25 and April 14 as

highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) spread across the United States including detections in New York.

The decision to lift the bans comes as causes decrease nationwide. Additionally, as the state enters agricultural fair season, studies have shown that the majority of flocks affected in the current outbreak were infected by introductions from wild birds, rather than by farm-to-farm transmission, lending additional confidence to the decision to allow coningling of poultry again.

For further information, contact Alex at 712-249-6391.

FUNDRAISER HELD FOR ACCIDENT VICTIM



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Tiny Diner in Greeneville held a spaghetti and meatball fundraiser on July 17 for Frank and Charity Hempstead. Frank was in a motorcycle accident and is in hospital. Pictured are Senator Sue Serino; Kim Wilson, who spearheaded the benefit and works at the diner; Honeyford Memorial Post 110 of Catskill members Tom and Joy Andreassen.

Greene County Department of Human Services looking for volunteer drivers

CATSKILL — The Greene County Department of Human Services is looking for volunteer drivers to assist Homebound Senior Citizens. Here's a list of ways in which to help:

• Home delivered meals, deliver meals county wide; medical transport, transport clients to appointments in

nearby counties.

Your schedule will be made around your availability, and you will receive a tax exempt mileage reimbursement of 62.5 cents per mile.

Other ways to help: Department of Human Services, congregate meal helper, Rivertown Thrift Shop volunteer.

Outdoor agencies, libraries, nursing homes, Athens Cultural Center, Community Action, Community Hospice, Greene MEDical Arts Center, AARP.

For information, call Ruth Pforte, Greene County VSVP volunteer coordinator, at 518-719-3555.

Governor Hochul announces new COVID-19 treatment public awareness campaign to educate New Yorkers who test positive for COVID-19

ALBANY — Governor Kathy Hochul announced the launch of a new public awareness campaign on treatment options for people who test positive for COVID-19 and have symptoms. The approximately \$1 million awareness campaign will run in English and Spanish across TV, radio and digital media, encouraging New Yorkers to test early for COVID-19 and treat it as soon as possible if they test positive. The media rollout further cements the administration's commitment to educate all New Yorkers on COVID-19 treatments and how to help protect themselves from becoming seriously ill.

"We continue to build on our ongoing efforts to protect New Yorkers as we navigate the pandemic," Governor Hochul said. "Treatment is a critical tool to reduce COVID-19 symptoms and prevent serious illness, and this new public awareness campaign equips New Yorkers with the facts about treatment options that are available."

State Health Commissioner Dr. Mary T. Bassett said, "The earlier treatment is started after a positive test result, the better it works at

reducing symptoms and preventing more serious illness. This new public awareness campaign delivers an important message to all New Yorkers about the need to undergo testing as soon as symptoms appear and to contact their health care provider right away to see which treatment is the best option. Being vaccinated and boosted is still the best protection against COVID-19."

The campaign features links to resources about COVID-19 treatment options on the State Health Department's website at health.ny.gov/CovidTreatment. The multiplatform ads encourage New Yorkers who test positive for COVID-19 and are experiencing symptoms to talk to their health care provider about their treatment options. The ads will run on TV, radio and digital media until August 2022.

If you test positive for COVID-19 and have symptoms, ask your health care provider if free treatment makes sense for you. Don't delay. The sooner you start treatment the better it works. Being vaccinated and boosted is still the best protection

against COVID-19. But if you do get sick, stay home. And if you test positive, talk to your health care provider right away about your treatment options. Test early. Treat early. Learn more at health.ny.gov/CovidTreatment.

This announcement follows the launch of a new free hotline, announced by the Governor, for those who test positive for COVID-19, but don't have a health care provider, as part of the administration's ongoing efforts to keep New Yorkers protected throughout the pandemic. All New Yorkers outside of New York City, regardless of income or health insurance coverage who test COVID-19 positive, are eligible to be evaluated for treatment by calling 888-TREAT-NY (888-873-2869) or completing an evaluation at the NYS COVID-19 ExpressCare Therapeutics Access website, which includes a telemedicine visit. New York City residents should call 212-COVID-19.

Visit the New York State Department of Health website for more information on New York's response to COVID-19.



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No Kid Hungry alerts families across the state: Free summer meals for kids are just a text away

ALBANY — Summer is the hungriest time of year for many kids. With 1 in 5 kids facing hunger across New York State, No Kid Hungry is alerting all families that free summer meals for kids are just a text away. Providers across the state offer free breakfast and lunch to all children 18 and under at hundreds of sites during the summer months. No registration or documentation is required to receive a free meal.

Parents and caregivers across the state can text “FOOD” or “COMIDA” to 304-304 or call 311 for the most up-to-date hours and locations of

nearby meal sites.

Summer meals offer a lifeline to the thousands of New York families facing food insecurity and contending with rising prices amid surging inflation. Summer meals can alleviate some of the additional stress and cost burdens that families experience during the summer months when children aren't getting free meals as part of the school day.

“Summer is the hungriest time of year for kids in New York—but it doesn't have to be,” said Rachel Sabella, Director of No Kid Hungry New York. “Free Summer Meals are a lifeline to families and kids.

We are so proud to support programs across New York State and want to make sure every family knows that good, healthy meals are there at no cost and close to home.”

The Summer Meals program is funded by the USDA and operated by school districts and local organizations at familiar sites throughout the community like schools, parks, pools, libraries and community centers. To find a complete listing of summer meal sites, visit No Kid Hungry's comprehensive map at <https://www.nokidhungry.org/find-free-meals>.

Celebrate local chefs with a Neighborhood Block Party

TROY — WMHT Public Media (PBS-Public Broadcasting Service), in conjunction with a myriad of community partners, has organized A Neighborhood Block Party 11 a.m.-3 p.m. July 23 to bring a celebration of food and culture to the Capital Region community. The Neighborhood Block Party will be held at the Hoosick Street Bridge in Troy.

This multicultural event will feature free food samples from Oaxaquena Triqui, an authentic Mexican restaurant in Albany; Sunhee's Farm & Kitchen, a family-owned Korean restaurant in Troy; Umana Yana, a Black woman-owned restaurant in Albany with Afro & Asian Caribbean-inspired cuisine; and Tara Kitchen, a Moroccan restaurant with multiple locations

in the region.

A Neighborhood Block Party is part of THE GREAT AMERICAN RECIPE, an uplifting cooking competition on PBS that celebrates the multiculturalism that makes American food unique and iconic. The show airs at 9 p.m. Fridays through Aug. 12h and is available to stream online.

The event in Troy, surrounded by the new murals of local artist Jade Warrick, will include a free outdoor screening of WMHT's latest documentary “BRIDGING THE DIVIDE,” which documented the Uniting Line project to reunite the North and South neighborhoods of Troy which were divided by the construction of the Collar City Bridge in the 1970s. Jade, who is also our new host of AHA! A House for Arts, will be at the event.

There will also be a screening of local content created by WMHT celebrating the rich culinary diversity of our region.

Giveaways, music, and Sesame Street nutrition educational programming will be part of the activities at the upcoming summer event.

Partners on this include: the Arts Center of the Capital Region, TRIP, the International Center of the Capital Region (ICCR), TAP Inc., the city of Troy, American Concert and Entertainment Services, Inc (ACES), Capital Roots, the Upstate Alliance for the Creative Economy (ACE), and Collar Works.

For more information on A Neighborhood Block Party in Troy and THE GREAT AMERICAN RECIPE, go to: wmht.org/recipe

New York State Division of Consumer Protection offers tips for summer travel

ALBANY — The New York State Division of Consumer Protection (DCP) reminds New Yorkers of their rights as summer travel heats up. Travel disputes remain one of the top complaints handled by DCP. In 2021, DCP fielded hundreds of complaints from consumers who had to cancel or reschedule their travel plans due to COVID-19. As more New Yorkers are traveling again, consumers should be informed of their rights, shop smart to safeguard their hard-earned money, and stay vigilant to protect themselves from scams.

There are basic travel tips that consumers should be aware of when they are booking travel:

Plan & Expect Cancellations and Delays. Pack a change of clothes, electronic device chargers and snacks in your carry-on luggage to support travel disruptions. A cancellation that impacts your return home will require additional resources, budget for an extra day or two to sustain until you can get home.

Book early morning tickets. You will have greater options for getting to your destination timely.

Consider traveling to a larger airport. Larger metropolitan airports offer more direct flights than regional airports. Direct flights avoid missed connections and cancellations in a city outside of your hometown or destination.

Do your research. Consumers should always weigh in the factors of a trip before purchase, including price, location, availability of activities and cancellation policies. Also consider whether the location has any Covid-19 restrictions in place, such as testing or vaccination status, prior to booking the trip. For a secure, digital copy of your vaccination record and/or negative COVID test result, you can retrieve your Excelsior Pass Plus here.

Get all confirmations in writing. To safeguard against scams via changes in agreements, consumers should always get confirmation of plans in writing whether booking online, over the phone, or in person. Retailers are required to disclose terms and conditions to consumers—always receive a copy of the agreement and save it for reference.

Beware of “all inclusive” or too good to be true offers. All-inclusive offers sound great but can have hidden charges and fees in their terms and conditions. Consumers may not even be aware of such fees until check-out when their bill is higher than advertised. Sometimes these offers come with an agreement to join a membership or participate in a presentation. Always inquire about mandatory fees that may not appear in the advertised price, such as resort fees and taxes. Read the fine print when taking advantage of an “all-inclusive” offer.

Evaluate the benefits of paying by your credit cards. Credit cards often offer more protection than paying by cash, check or debit card. Some credit card companies also offer perks like trip insurance or concierge service while traveling and may offer additional protections if the trip is cancelled. Check with your credit card company on the conditions of travel

expenditure reimbursement.

Review your travel agreements. The New York State Truth in Travel Act safeguards consumers against fraud, false advertising, misrepresentation, and other abuses. Travel agents and promoters must provide consumers with written disclosures of all the terms of the travel service within five days of purchase or agreement. Consumers should review the terms of the agreements fully upon receipt and ensure they align with what the consumer purchased. Consumers have until midnight of the third business day after receiving the agreement to cancel. Consumers can also cancel any time during the five-day period prior to receiving the disclosures.

Use reputable travel agents/tour companies. Consumers should research thoroughly before choosing an agent or company to work with. Keep track of arrangements and contracts, and review terms and conditions, especially the cancellation and refund policies. Reservations often require a deposit that may not be refundable. If the trip is cancelled, the deposit might only be applied toward future travel or may be forfeited altogether. Consumers should be sure they understand the policy prior to putting down a deposit.

Consider trip insurance and whether you need a ‘Cancel for Any Reason’ policy. Travel insurance can offer consumers relief in case of emergency before or during their trip, as coverage ranges from incidents of lost baggage to missed connections to potential medical emergencies. However, most standard travel insurance policies do not cover trip interruption or cancellation due to COVID-19 because such standard policies usually exclude coverage for an epidemic, pandemic, or similar public health event. Some trip insurance plans offer ‘Cancel for Any Reason’ coverage at an additional cost, which is often substantially higher than standard travel insurance and normally only allows up to 75 percent refund of traveler expenses if the trip is cancelled. Prior to purchasing a plan, review the terms of the policy and ask your insurer about coverage that may be excluded.

When all or part of a trip is cancelled, the cancellation policy and a consumer's right to a refund will vary depending on the laws that regulate the company's industry, who initiates the cancellation, when the cancellation is made, and the company's own policy.

According to the U.S. Department of Transportation, airlines must offer refunds, including the ticket price and any optional fees charged, for cancelled or significantly delayed flights, even when flight disruptions are outside their control. If an airline isn't doing that, consumers should report it to the U.S. Department of Transportation. If consumers cancel a reservation for any reason, consumers will be subject to the refund policy agreed to at the time of purchase, which may be no refund at all.

Cruise Lines. Refund options may vary by cruise line. The cruise ticket contract lays out the company's cancellation policies and your rights. For

example, you may be offered a refund, credit, or voucher for a future cruise. If you opt for a credit or voucher, make sure the expiration date is far enough out that you can use it. Read more from the Federal Maritime Commission about consumer rights and the recourse that might be available to you.

Cancellation policies for hotels, motels, and online accommodation marketplaces can vary greatly, even within the same company based on the season, room type, or length of stay. Some may offer a choice between a refundable or non-refundable rate while making the reservation. Be sure you fully understand the cancellation policy prior to making a reservation.

If a consumer is having trouble getting a refund owed for all or part of a cancelled trip, they are encouraged to file a complaint with DCP.

The Federal Trade Commission warns against common travel scams. Some signs of a scam when booking travel include the following:

You have “won” a free vacation. Scammers will sometimes entice consumers with a free trip, but then disclose fees or deposits to get access. A prize should not include spending money and is likely a scam.

The details of your trip are vague. Consumers may be offered a stay in a five-star hotel or on a luxury cruise line, but then few details about the trip are presented. Always confirm and review the name of the company and location of the trip details.

You have limited time to accept the offer. Scammers often pressure consumers to make quick decisions about a deal, making it likely that the consumer will not have time to investigate the offer. Never feel pressured to agree to any terms you have not reviewed on your own.

You must pay in an uncommon way. Cryptocurrency, wire transfers, and gift cards are difficult to trace and perfect for scammers looking to take advantage of consumers. These types of payments make it difficult for consumers to recoup their losses. If a travel company insists that you pay in one of these ways, decline the offer and report the company.

The New York State Division of Consumer Protection provides voluntary mediation between a consumer and a business when a consumer has been unsuccessful at reaching a resolution on their own. The Consumer Assistance Helpline 1-800-697-1220 is available Monday to Friday from 8:30am to 4:30pm, excluding State Holidays, and consumer complaints can be filed at any time at www.dos.ny.gov/consumer-protection.

Travel insurance is regulated by the Department of Financial Services. Consumer with complaints about travel insurance policy or ‘Cancel for Any Reason’ coverage issued in New York or by New York companies should contact DFS at www.dfs.ny.gov/complaint or through the DFS Consumer Hotline at (800) 342-3736 (212) 480-6400 or (518) 474-6600 (Monday through Friday, 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM).

DEC proposes improvements to state's forest tax law program

ALBANY — New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) Commissioner Basil Seggos announced proposed changes to the implementing regulations for Real Property Tax Law Section 480a, also known as the Forest Tax Law.

The comprehensive overhaul of these nearly 50-year-old regulations will lessen the administrative burden on participating forest landowners, help DEC promote compliance with requirements in place, and maintain and improve sustainable timber management on enrolled lands.

“The Forest Tax Law Program provides private forest landowners a significant real property tax reduction on enrolled forest lands in exchange for managing their timber resource for the long-term with the support of professional foresters,” said Commissioner Seggos.

“Privately owned forests make up to 74 percent of the total forest land area in New York, and healthy, well-managed forests are essential for supporting our economy, protecting water and air quality, providing wildlife habitat, and improving forest carbon storage and sequestration, supporting the State's climate efforts.”

To encourage the long-term management of forest lands to produce forest crops and encourage a more stable forest economy, the State of New York enacted the 480a forest tax law in

1974.

Nearly 1.4 million acres owned by approximately 4,000 private forest land are currently enrolled in the Forest Tax Law program. While the program has benefited many forest landowners, DEC is improving this successful program to further ensure the sustainability of forest ownership over time.

Prior to developing these new regulatory proposals, DEC Lands and Forests staff held 10 meetings across the state with stakeholders to discuss proposed changes to 480a that would increase compliance, reduce administrative burdens to landowners and DEC, and improve forestry outcomes. The feedback resulted in proposed changes that benefit both participating landowners and assist DEC in the administration of the program by enhancing standardization and will help improve compliance. They would not alter the annual tax benefit, stumpage tax, commitment period, or penalties for non-compliance.

The proposed changes include:

Extending the period an approved forest management plan would cover from 15 years to 20 years and requiring fewer plan updates;

Providing more flexibility to enrolled landowners to complete forestry treatments by changing the work schedule from year-by-year deadlines to a 10-year work window;

Strengthening forest sustainability requirements on enrolled lands, such as explicitly banning high grading and requiring efforts to establish adequate forest regeneration.

High grading involves removing most of the commercially valuable trees at the expense of future growth and future financial return, often leaving a forest in poor condition; and

Establishing a training requirement for consulting foresters working with Forest Tax Law clients to help set clear expectations and standardize Forest Tax Law administration across the state.

The proposed changes would go into effect on March 1, 2023.

DEC is holding two virtual public comment hearings on Sept. 13, and will be accepting public comments through Sept. 19.

The public is encouraged to submit comments in writing to: NYSDEC Private Lands and Forest Utilization Section, Bureau of Forest Resource Management 625 Broadway, Albany, NY 12233-7254 or by email to: bslmregs@dec.ny.gov. The virtual public comment hearings will be held at 1 and 6 p.m. Sept. 13. For information about the new and revised regulations, as well as how to participate in the public comment hearings, visit DEC's website at <https://www.dec.ny.gov/regulations/125735.html>.

NEW YORK STATE GAS & ELECTRIC CORPORATION (NYSEG) Arrears Relief Program

On June 24, 2022, New York State Electric & Gas Corporation filed tariff amendments, to become effective on a temporary basis July 1, 2022, with the New York State Public Service Commission to implement an Arrears Relief Program in compliance with the [Order Authorizing Phase 1 Arrears Reduction Program](#) issued in Case Nos. 14-M-0565 and 20-M-0266. Under the Arrears Relief Program, a low-income customer that had arrears as of May 1, 2022, may be eligible for a one-time bill credit. Additionally, the Company will implement an Arrears Relief Program Surcharge to recover the remaining program costs related to the arrears management plan after applying the allocated funds provided by the Utility Arrears Relief Program.

Governor Hochul announces launch of first statewide mobile air monitoring initiative

ALBANY — Governor Kathy Hochul announced the launch of the historic statewide air quality and greenhouse gas mobile monitoring initiative that is deploying in the first four of 10 disadvantaged communities, home to approximately five million New Yorkers—25 percent of the State’s population—in areas overburdened by environmental pollution. Working in partnership with community-based organizations, the effort to map hyperlocal air pollution and greenhouse gases statewide at the community level is the largest ever undertaken by New York State. The initiative is using proven mobile mapping technology and professional analytics from Aclima, run exclusively on Google Cloud. Monitoring is underway in the Bronx, Buffalo/Niagara Falls, the Capital Region, and Manhattan, and six additional communities will start monitoring this fall. The initiative is bolstered by an estimated \$3 million in State grant funding - \$1 million is currently available for Community Air Monitoring Capacity Building Grants, and an additional \$2 million in new funding will support community-led air monitoring to complement the State’s efforts.

“As New York continues to forge a greener path ahead to make our state cleaner and healthier, we are also correcting decades of environmental injustices that have overburdened disadvantaged communities for far too long,” Governor Hochul said. “As someone who grew up in the shadow of a steel plant that contributed to orange skies and a polluted Lake Erie, I know firsthand the urgency of our fight against air pollution and climate change. By launching this historic statewide air quality and greenhouse gas monitoring initiative we will develop strategies to address air quality issues in New York’s most vulnerable communities, while

contributing to the state’s nation-leading climate goals.”

“Air monitoring will provide us with data to help drive solutions to reduce greenhouse gases and other air pollutants, and will improve public health in the long-run,” said Lieutenant Governor Antonio Delgado. “This project will have a significant impact on residents all across New York State, particularly in our black and brown communities which are historically overburdened by pollution.”

Aclima’s mobile monitoring fleet will collect hyperlocal data to drive solutions that reduce greenhouse gases and other harmful air pollutants to protect public health and will be critical to developing strategies to achieve the goals of New York’s nation-leading Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act. The 10 communities selected for monitoring in consultation with the Climate Justice Working Group were identified as having a disproportionate air pollution burden based on criteria developed by the CJWG, and include Buffalo/Niagara Falls, Capital Region, Bronx, Manhattan, Rochester, Syracuse, Mount Vernon/Yonkers, Brooklyn, Queens, and Hempstead. The boundaries for monitoring in each area were determined using community input and current understanding of pollution sources. In addition, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation is partnering with community-based organizations and local officials in each area to evaluate the data obtained and identify and implement solutions to reduce harmful emissions.

Department of Environmental Conservation Commissioner and Climate Action Council Co-Chair Basil Seggos said, “New York State is rapidly advancing this landmark initiative and increasing funding to support our community partners to launch this important work in neighborhoods

long overburdened by environmental pollution. It speaks directly to Governor Hochul’s successful leadership in addressing climate change and providing support and resources like today’s \$3 million for community-led initiatives that drives the improved health and well-being of all New Yorkers. Department of Environmental Conservation is eager to join New York’s many climate and environmental justice leaders to develop data-driven solutions that benefit public health and will help meet our ambitious climate goals.”

New York State Energy Research and Development Authority President and CEO and Climate Action Council Co-Chair Doreen Harris said, “New York State Energy Research and Development Authority supports Department of Environmental Conservation’s efforts to better understand the atmospheric pollution in underserved communities and the damaging impacts that it has had in those communities. Under Governor Hochul’s leadership, New York is making air quality improvement a priority as part of the State’s comprehensive work to combat climate change and create healthier communities for all New Yorkers.”

Following the submission of a Request for Qualifications in October, New York State finalized an agreement to utilize Aclima’s mobile sensing technology and software platform to obtain and analyze air quality measurements in disadvantaged communities, through the State’s contract with Google Public Sector. Aclima’s air monitoring data is being collected by mobile sensors on its fleet vehicles that measure air pollution on a block-by-block level during different times, days, and seasons. In total, the monitoring will provide an initial screening of community-level air quality sources for further evaluation. The results will

inform the State’s actions, in collaboration with our partners, to reduce emissions and help address health burdens and inequities in communities disproportionately impacted by air pollution.

Governor Kathy Hochul first announced the community air monitoring initiative during Climate Week. To ensure community participation in the process, Governor Hochul’s 2022 State of the State Address directed Department of Environmental Conservation to increase funding previously announced for Community Air Monitoring Capacity Building Grants from \$500,000 to \$1 million. This funding is now available to support capacity building for eligible community-based organizations located in or serving the 10 identified communities. The capacity-building grant can be used for, but is not limited to, developing or strengthening existing programs focused on reducing exposure and improving public health in communities most impacted by air pollution, or supporting community engagement in the state’s air monitoring program. This grant opportunity is supported by the State Environmental Protection Fund with dollars designated to environmental justice. Individual award amounts will range from \$50,000 to \$100,000. The Department of Environmental Conservation is accepting applications until 3 p.m. Sept. 14, 2022 through the New York State Grants Gateway.

The additional \$2 million announced today, for a total of \$3 million, will provide grants to improve the ability of community groups working on the ground in these areas to contribute to or bolster their own air quality monitoring efforts. This additional funding will also allow greater contributions in the identification and selection of carbon-free technology investments and other emission reduction strategies in their local neighborhoods.

Award amounts for these new grant opportunities will vary, but will fund up to \$100,000 for capacity-building projects to strengthen organizations through training, purchasing air monitoring equipment, sensor technology, community engagement and education, or consultant support, and up to \$500,000 to support community-led air monitoring. More information about these grant opportunities will be announced soon.

In addition, Aclima announced that BlocPower, a New York-based climate tech startup that is rapidly greening American inner cities, is working with Aclima and its community and government partners to train and staff workforce trainees to operate Aclima’s hyperlocal mobile environmental sensor network. Through the partnership, BlocPower will provide recruitment and workforce development support to Aclima, sourcing talent from impacted communities.

Aclima Co-Founder and CEO Davida Herzl said, “With Governor Hochul’s historic commitment, New York is the first state in the nation to measure block-level air pollution and greenhouse gases at a scale that meets the climate crisis with the urgency and reach it demands. We’re proud to support the State’s innovative data-driven approach that will help prioritize emissions reductions and create jobs in communities most in need of climate action. New York is creating a new model for the nation and the world that turns crisis into opportunity, lifts people up while drawing down emissions, and brings together the best ideas from frontline communities, the private sector and policymakers.”

U.S. State & Local Government and Education Google Public Sector Managing Director Brent Mitchell said, “We’re proud to partner with Aclima to support the State of New York to better understand the

root causes of air pollution, street-by-street, block-by-block. Through Aclima and Google Public Sector, the state will gain an in-depth picture of pollution patterns and the data analysis integral to improving not only air quality, but public health in communities across the state.”

BlocPower Founder Donnell Baird said, “Governor Hochul and New York State are leading the world on climate innovation, climate implementation, and climate jobs that pay high wages. As the data from the initial investments that New York State is making becomes public, it will become clearer and clearer that New York State is leading the world on tackling the climate crisis—the most pressing problem of our time.”

The program will identify hyperlocal information about air quality impacts in these overburdened areas and help the State identify mitigation activities, which may also support New York’s goal to reduce greenhouse gas emissions 85 percent by 2050. This first-ever statewide mobile monitoring complements Department of Environmental Conservation’s existing efforts to measure levels of outdoor air pollution at more than 50 sites across the State using continuous and/or manual instrumentation. Department of Environmental Conservation reports these measurements to EPA’s Air Quality System (AQS) API. Department of Environmental Conservation also provides an Air Quality Index (AQI) forecast for some pollutants that can be harmful to human health and current air quality measurement data for New York State. In addition, community-based organizations in New York City have also conducted hyperlocal air quality monitoring to help inform residents and policymakers about specific emissions sources and other environmental or public health concerns.

\$255M in grants available for critical water infrastructure projects statewide

ALBANY — Governor Kathy Hochul announced the availability of \$255 million in state grants for critical water infrastructure projects that will protect public health and the environment through the State’s Water Infrastructure Improvement, Intermunicipal Grant and State Septic System Replacement programs. This announcement marks the latest action by Governor Hochul to upgrade New York’s water and sewer systems, reduce water pollution and safeguard vital drinking water supplies from emerging contaminants and toxic chemicals. This infusion of public funds will continue to help make water infrastructure investments more affordable for local governments and create jobs in the manufacturing, engineering, construction, plant operations, and related industry sectors. The announcement was made in Suffolk County where \$20 million from the State’s Septic Replacement Program will help address more than 2,000 substandard or failing septic systems and cesspools that cause significant water quality impairments.

Governor Hochul’s announcement of this available funding will directly help Long Island’s water providers update their aging water infrastructure. Long Island is almost entirely dependent on a sole-source aquifer and helping water providers protect this valuable and unique groundwater source is vital to ensuring millions of people in Nassau and Suffolk have clean water to drink. This is just one more step the Governor

is taking to ensure the people of Long Island have access to clean water.

The announcement includes \$225 million in grants for municipalities to bolster New York’s actions to protect drinking water supplies. To date, more than \$400 million in state water grants has been awarded to projects that address emerging contaminants. The State’s goal is to provide grants to all communities that need help in their efforts to tackle emerging contaminants in their drinking water. As part of the ongoing statewide effort to confront PFAS pollution and help communities that are on the frontlines of PFAS contamination, this round of funding continues to prioritize grant awards for drinking water projects that address emerging contaminants. Critical wastewater projects are also eligible for grants.

The Environmental Facilities Corporation administers the WIA and IMG programs working closely with the Departments of Health and Environmental Conservation. The State has awarded more than \$1.76 billion in water infrastructure grants through EFC since 2015, including \$638 million announced by Governor Hochul in April. To date, EFC has awarded 834 WIA and IMG grants to 488 communities.

Local units of government are eligible to apply for funding for:

WIA grant awards that will fund up to 25 percent of an eligible wastewater project’s total cost, up to \$25 million.

WIA grant awards that will fund 60 percent of net eligible

project costs for projects that address emerging contaminants above the State determined Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL), with no cap on the total award.

WIA grant awards for all other drinking water projects will be awarded up to 60 percent of net project costs up to a maximum of \$5 million.

IMG awards that will fund up to 40 percent of an eligible wastewater or drinking water project for communities that share services, up to \$30 million.

Grant applications and required supporting documentation must be submitted through EFC’s website by 5 p.m. on Sept. 9.

An additional \$30 million is now available through the State Septic System Replacement Program to support home and small business owners in the targeted replacement of aging and substandard septic systems and removal of cesspools in communities statewide.

The Septic Replacement Program improves water quality by encouraging and incentivizing homeowners’ replacement of cesspools and failing or inadequate septic systems around a waterbody known to be impaired by septic system discharges. DEC and DOH identified priority geographic areas where property owners are eligible to participate based on the presence of a sole-source aquifer used for drinking water, known water quality impairment linked to failing septic systems, and/or the ability for septic system upgrades to mitigate

water quality impairments. EFC will be providing detailed information about how to access the funding to counties with identified priority geographic areas. DEC and DOH will re-evaluate priority geographic areas in future rounds of funding.

New York State will provide funds to counties to reimburse eligible property owners for a portion of the cost of replacing cesspools and septic systems and installing more environmentally effective systems. Eligible property owners can be reimbursed 50 percent of eligible costs up to \$10,000. Counties may also set graduated incentive reimbursement rates for septic system projects to maximize program participation and pollution reduction goals. A list of eligible counties and priority geographic areas within those counties is available on EFC’s website at <https://efc.ny.gov/septic-replacement>.

Governor Hochul recently announced funding is available through the State’s Consolidated Funding Application (CFA) <https://apps.cio.ny.gov/apps/cfa/>. The application is available through July 29, 2022. Available funding includes the 18th round of the Water Quality Improvement Project (WQIP) Grant Program. This year, at least \$75 million is available to help improve or protect water quality, restore aquatic connectivity in streams, combat harmful algal blooms, and upgrade aging wastewater infrastructure. Six different project types are available for funding, including Wastewater Treatment Improvement,

Non-agricultural Nonpoint Source Abatement and Control, Land Acquisition for Source Water Protection, Salt Storage, Aquatic Connectivity Restoration, and Marine District Habitat Restoration. Municipalities and Soil and Water Conservation Districts are eligible to apply for all project types; not-for-profits are eligible for select project types and grants range from \$500,000 to \$10 million depending on the project type. The Governor announced the last round of awardees in December, which included nearly \$7.8 million to improve the water quality of Patchogue Bay by reducing the amount of nitrogen entering the waterbody.

Available CFA funding also includes the Green Innovation Grant Program (GIGP) and Engineering Planning Grants (EPG). At least \$15 million in grants is available through GIGP to support green stormwater infrastructure and municipal water and energy efficiency projects. Green infrastructure practices help combat nutrient pollution by reducing stormwater runoff. Up to \$3 million has been made available for this round of EPG. Grants of up to \$100,000 are available to municipalities to help fund an engineering report for initial planning, so they can be better prepared to seek financing to help them complete their wastewater, sewer and water quality projects.

New York continues to increase investments in clean water infrastructure projects. Under the leadership of Governor Hochul, the Enacted Budget

authorizes an additional \$1.2 billion, for a total of \$4.2 billion, for the landmark Clean Water, Clean Air, and Green Jobs Environmental Bond Act. This historic initiative, to be taken up by voters later this year, would update aging water infrastructure and protect water quality; reduce air pollution and lower climate-altering emissions; restore habitats; strengthen communities’ ability to withstand severe storms and flooding; preserve outdoor spaces and local farms; and ensure equity by investing at least 35 percent, with a goal of 40 percent, of resources in disadvantaged communities.

In addition to the Clean Water, Clean Air, and Green Jobs Environmental Bond Act, the Budget includes a record \$400 million Environmental Protection Fund to support climate change mitigation and adaptation efforts, improve agricultural resources to promote sustainable agriculture, protect our water sources, advance conservation efforts, and provide recreational opportunities for New Yorkers. The budget also included another \$500 million in clean water infrastructure funding, bringing the State’s total clean water investment to \$4.5 billion since 2017.

Municipalities are asked to document their community’s wastewater infrastructure needs for submission to the EPA. To submit documentation and for resources to assist with submissions, visit <https://efc.ny.gov/needs>.

A welcome mat for wildlife

By Thomas Christopher
For Columbia-Greene Media

Until recently, my understanding of naturally based gardening has been plant-centric and frankly reactionary. To the extent it's possible, I've tried to restore whatever vegetation once flourished on the local landscape, with the idea that this would invite the return of native wildlife. After talking to Kat Tancock and Domini Clark, however, I'm taking a more imaginative view.

Both of these women are journalists based in Ontario, Canada. Kat lives in Toronto, and Domini in Hamilton. It was in a remote shepherd's hut in Wales, though, where she was vacationing that an epiphany came to Domini. While she was there, she picked up a book, "Wildling: Restoring Nature to Our Farm" by Isabella Tree. In this, Tree describes how she and her husband decided to transition the 3,500-acre family estate from marginally profitable agriculture (the land had been farmed intensively for centuries) back to a more natural state.

This story of Tree's program and its success spoke to Domini Clark. The next year she returned to Wales with her friend Kat Tancock to explore that region's "rewilding" initiatives, and Tancock became intrigued as well. Then the pandemic closed in and both women found themselves bored by enforced isolation. They decided to share their enthusiasm and in March of 2021 they founded an online magazine, "Rewilding" (www.rewildingmag.com).

I had been given a copy of Isabella Tree's book, but it seemed as irrelevant to my middle class North American experience as reruns of Downton Abbey. When I spoke to Kat and Domini last month, though, they told me that the rewilding movement — it has exponents all around the globe — actually arose from the work of American conservation biologists back in the 1990s. Several members of that scientific community had come to the conclusion that simply preserving nature in isolated preserves was inadequate. In particular, such islands could not support sufficient numbers of many of the wildlife species to maintain genetically diverse populations.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Restoring vegetation.

These pioneers began promoting what Kat and Domini described as "the three C's": maintaining "cores" such as national parks, but also creating geographical "connections" between these refuges so that wildlife could transit from one to another, and finally, restoring the "carnivores" that had too often been eliminated but which are essential for keeping the plant-eaters in a healthy balance with their environment.

Of course, maintaining a vigorous and diverse native plant flora is also essential to the success of any such program, which is where, according to Kat and Domini, gardeners come in. For to their way of thinking, rewilding, to reach its potential, must include small landscapes as well as large.

Both women were quick to point out that they are not conservation biologists. That, however, seems to me an advantage. They include interviews with a wide range of such scientists in "Rewilding," but Kat and Domini frame this information in language that a lay person such as myself finds easy to understand. I also appreciate "Rewilding's" focus on personal stories, such as Kenyan university undergraduate Lamech Opiyo, who has been recruiting both the members of his Rotary Club and secondary school students to for projects such as removing invasive plants from a national forest to enhance the habitat for native wildlife.

Another emphasis of "Rewilding" is that when we invite wildlife back into our landscapes we must accept a different relationship with it. For example, a recent article contributed by Shelley Marie Alexander a professor in the

Department of Geography at the University of Calgary and an internationally recognized canid specialist addresses the furor surrounding widely publicized reports of coyote bitings in Canada. Overwhelmingly, Alexander has found, the attacks were connected with histories of people feeding of the animals. As Kat put it to me, even as we invite wildlife into our landscapes, we have to let it remain wild.

In browsing the magazine, I found particularly inspiring Alexandra De Vylder's article to the June 2022 issue of "Rewilding" about programs in five cities. Haikou, China, she reported, by re-establishing mangrove forests and constructing wetlands along its banks cleansed the polluted and formerly concrete enclosed Meishe River. To date, 514 wetland animal species and 439 plant species have spontaneously moved in. Just as cities have become home to the majority of the global human population, so too they can become centers for rich and diverse natural communities.

To hear more of my conversation with Kat Tancock and Domini Clark, listen to the Berkshire Botanical Garden's Growing Greener podcast at www.berkshirebotanical.org.

Be-a-Better-Gardener is a community service of Berkshire Botanical Garden, located in Stockbridge, Mass. Its mission, to provide knowledge of gardening and the environment through a diverse range of classes and programs, informs and inspires thousands of students and visitors each year. Thomas Christopher is a volunteer at Berkshire Botanical Garden and is the author or co-author of more than a dozen books.

Senator Daphne Jordan encourages students to participate in the New York State Senate Summer Reading Program

ALBANY —Senator Daphne Jordan is inviting parents and guardians from across the 43rd Senate District to participate in the New York State Senate Reading Program by going to <http://www.nyread.com/>. The program, hosted in conjunction with the State Education Department and the New York State Library, is partnering with 1,100 public libraries and neighbor branches statewide. This year's theme is "Oceans of Possibilities," which is meant to connect students of all ages to the theme of oceanography and water resources.

Libraries across New York

State will host exciting activities, events, as well as fun and enriching programs like reading challenges throughout the summer. Library reading programs ensure that the joy of learning does not end with the school year, and children who participate in these programs can enhance their reading skills, prevent summer learning loss, and go back to school better prepared for a successful year.

Jordan is a lifelong advocate of libraries, literacy and lifelong learning, and was a driving force to establish the Clifton Park-Halfmoon Public Library

where she served as trustee and treasurer and currently serves as a Director of the Clifton Park-Halfmoon Library Foundation. She previously served as the Parent Representative to the Partnership Team at Shenendehowa's Shatekon Elementary. In this capacity, she helped launch a popular school-wide summer reading program and developed weekly neighborhood reading rooms during the summer for Halfmoon children, bringing together teachers, volunteers and books donated by the Friends of the Clifton Park-Halfmoon Public Library.

Tanglewood 2022 offers a wide range of music

By Dave Sear
For Columbia-Greene Media

Tanglewood, the summer home of the Boston Symphony, now in its 85th year, promises its most diverse program of music ever. There will be something for everyone. The season started early on June 17 with Ringo Starr and went on to Bonnie Raitt before it got to a string quartet in the new Learning Center where many interesting lectures and concerts will take place. On July 3 and 4 the concerts moved to the beautiful, enormous Shed where singer/songwriter James Taylor sold out Tanglewood as he always does, followed by magnificent fireworks. Taylor always donates his proceeds from that concert back to the Boston Symphony.

The official opening night of Tanglewood was July 8, with the BSO in the Shed conducted by its music director and conductor, Andris Nelsons playing Bernstein and Stravinsky, sounding as good as I've heard them in the last 82 years.

On the next night, Nelsons conducted the BSO in an unusual program that paid tribute to Afro-American music. The program offered soloists and composers, and featured a very upbeat Carlos Simon work called Motherbox Connection (2021), after which the composer was introduced to the audience which gave him a standing ovation. This was followed by a Barber work, Knoxville: "Summer Of 1915" For Soprano and Orchestra, Op. 24. The soprano, Nicole Cabell, was outstanding, with a beautiful



PHOTO COURTESY OF HILARY SCOTT/BSO

Andris Nelsons Leads First TMC Concert

high voice and strong vibrato. The orchestra in their beautiful summer whites provided some excellent brass and woodwind accompaniment and an occasional plunk on the harp. Nelsons always brings out all there is in a piece of music and never drowns out a soloist, allowing them to be heard at their best.

The concert ended with works of Ellington and Gershwin, and Nelsons pointed out various members of the orchestra to receive their well-earned applause from the audience. He is certainly a most gracious conductor.

Since there is so much more wonderful music to be heard at Tanglewood this summer, I urge you to go online and look at the program. I'm sure you will find music that you'll want to hear. I noticed that all four of Beethoven's piano concertos will be played this summer over two different concerts. On Aug. 6, Joshua Bell will be playing the Tchaikovsky Violin Concerto.

The height of the summer should be Sunday, Aug. 28 with the return of the Tanglewood Festival Chorus in a performance of Beethoven Symphony No. 9. It's also a clear symbol of the reduction in COVID levels that they can return to Tanglewood. Let's hope that it stays that way. This will close the season for the BSO, but a few concerts will continue into early September, including my old friend and colleague Judy Collins, whom I used to work with back when she started as a folk singer. She has since moved into art songs with her beautiful voice like Leonard Cohen's Suzanne.

Go to Tanglewood and enjoy.

Dave Sear is a folk singer who has given concerts and played on major folk festivals all over the country with other singers. He is a freelance writer living in Great Neck, Long Island, and also had a home in Hillsdale.

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Center

From A1

or individual blocks? What type of air conditioning system and roofing system are we going to use? All of those types of things.”

The proposed three-story Justice Center will be located on the grounds of the former Greene County Jail.

Under the current plans for the facility, the ground floor of the building would house a secure parking garage, while the state office of the Court of Administration will rent the second floor of the building, with the third floor shared by the Greene County District Attorney's Office and the Greene County Public Defender's Office.

The new building would be connected to the courthouse by an elevated pedestrian walkway.



FILE PHOTO

The proposed Greene County Justice Center would be located behind the Greene County Courthouse on Main Street in Catskill.

“There’s no offices today in the courthouse, but 40% of our caseload is in that court building,” Groden said Tuesday. “So we’re walking across the street now to go to court instead of just hopping over a bridge to go inside.”

Greene County Legislator

Michael Bulich, R-Catskill, raised concerns regarding how rising commodity prices could increase the cost of the project.

“On this type of contract, if things go awry with prices and we decide to halt this, how does this affect a contract like

this?” he said.

The Cairo company includes price estimation as part of its services, Groden said.

“The construction manager’s role is to understand commodity pricing and ordering,” he said Tuesday. “If some items are on long order or short order, does that mean we change the construction style based upon how soon the items can be sourced?”

The objective is to have those plans in place by the end of the year, with bids sent out to contractors early in 2023, Groden said.

“Then it would be the first project off the ground in the spring,” he said. “That’s my goal. We also recognize that’s a pretty aggressive schedule. You’re talking about the parking facility on the ground floor, then two stories of 14,000 to 16,000 feet per floor. There’s a lot of design and engineering there.”

Guilty

From A1

distribute in Greene County on Feb. 26, 2021.

Burt and Frampton have been held by authorities

since their arrest.

When both men are sentenced, Burt and Frampton each face at least 10 years and up to life in prison, as well as a term of post-imprisonment supervised release of at least 8 years and up to life. A defendant’s sentence is imposed by a judge based

on the particular statute the defendant is charged with violating, the U.S. Sentencing Guidelines and other factors, Freedman said.

The case was investigated by the State Police and FBI, and was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Cyrus P.W. Rieck.

The announcement on Monday was made by United States Attorney Carla B. Freedman; State Police Superintendent Kevin P. Bruen; and Janeen DiGuseppi, Special Agent in Charge of the Albany Field Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

New York issues heat advisory as historic temperatures scorch the city

Peter Sblendorio

New York Daily News

NEW YORK — The heat is here to stay in New York City.

The National Weather Service on Tuesday issued a heat advisory warning for noon to 8 p.m. on Wednesday as historically hot weather scorches the five boroughs and beyond.

Wednesday’s forecast includes a high of 95 degrees, but the NWS warns the heat index could feel like 100 during its peak. A similarly high heat index is expected Thursday.

“Hot temperatures and high humidity may cause heat illnesses to occur,” the NWS says in its advisory.

Each of the five boroughs are included in the heat advisory, which the weather service issues whenever temperatures are expected to feel like 95 to 99 degrees for two days in a row, or between 100 and 104 degrees at any point.

“With maximum heat index values ranging from the mid 90s to around 100 on Wednesday and Thursday, it is important to practice heat safety!” NWS said Tuesday. “To reduce risk during outdoor work, stay hydrated and take breaks in the shade as often as possible.”

Tuesday kicked off a brutal stretch of scorching weather in the Big Apple that could

account for one of the city’s longest streaks of consecutive 90-degree days. Eight consecutive days of 90-degree weather would crack the top 10 for longest stretches in New York.

The longest streak in the city’s history occurred in 1953, when New York recorded 12 consecutive days of 90-degree heat.

Every day through next Monday has a projected high temperature above 90 degrees, while the subsequent days are expected to hit the high 80s.

This weekend is poised to be especially hot, with highs of about 96 on Saturday and Sunday.

New York opened cooling

centers throughout the five boroughs on Tuesday to help New Yorkers beat the heat.

“I can’t emphasize enough that, yes, it’s supposed to be hot during the summer, but it’s the consecutive 90-degree days that make it really hard for our body to handle,” Fox Weather meteorologist Amy Freeze told the New York Daily News.

“If you don’t have air conditioning, you don’t have a lot of time to cool off in the evening hours, because our temperatures don’t drop as dramatically in the summer.”

Bystander rescues 4 kids from fire, then jumps out window to save a 5th

Cathy Free

The Washington Post

Nicholas Bostic was on his way to get gas one night last week around midnight when he saw flames leaping from the front of a two-story house in Lafayette, Ind.

He slammed on his brakes, turned his car around and pulled into the driveway. Then he realized he’d left his phone at his home a few miles away and couldn’t dial 911.

Bostic, 25, jumped out of his car and tried to flag down another driver, but the person didn’t stop. He wasn’t sure whether anyone was in the home, so he ran to the back of the house, found an unlocked door and rushed inside. All he saw was smoke.

“I shouted, ‘Anybody here? Get out! Get out! Fire!’” he said, recalling that he felt his eyes and nostrils stinging from the smoke in the early morning of July 10.

He didn’t hear a response, and he was about to leave, he said. Then he saw a teenager at the top of the stairs with some younger kids.

Seionna Barrett, 18, was babysitting her three siblings and her sister’s friend while their parents were out on a date night playing darts. Seionna had smelled smoke and was frantically trying to wake up everyone to get them out of the house when Bostic busted through the back door.

Bostic said he hustled everyone outside - then Seionna told him the baby was missing. Bostic would soon learn she was referring to 6-year-old Kaylani, nicknamed “Baby K,” who was still in the burning house.

“I ran inside and looked under beds and closets, but I couldn’t find her,” he said. “But when I got to the stairs that led

downstairs, I heard some faint crying.”

The staircase was full of smoke, and the heat seemed unbearable, he said, adding that he hesitated for a moment before plunging down the stairs.

“I thought, ‘I don’t want to die here,’” he said.

But he held his breath and followed the crying in the darkness until he reached Kaylani and quickly scooped her up.

“I rolled her up in my arm like a football, then felt my way back up the stairs,” Bostic said. “It was extremely hot and smoky, and it was painful to breathe. The only light I could see was coming from the rooms upstairs. So I headed up there.”

He broke open a window with his right fist, tightly wrapped the girl around his left side and leaped two stories to the ground, landing on his right side, sparing the girl from the force of his fall, he said.

Bostic had saved five lives in under 15 minutes.

“His selflessness during this incident is inspiring,” said Lt. Randy Sherer of the Lafayette Police Department.

Bostic - who works as a pizza maker for Papa John’s - is bashful about praise and told Sherer he was just an ordinary guy, he said.

“What he doesn’t understand is his actions weren’t ordinary, they were extraordinary,” Sherer said. “He went down those stairs to save that little girl when he thought it was impossible just moments before. He knew he was risking his life. There’s only one way to define that: courageous and heroic.”

David and Tiera Barrett had rushed home from their darts game as soon as Seionna called to tell them that the house was on fire.



Photo courtesy of Amy O’Shea.

Bostic with the children he saved, one week after the fire. From back left is Bostic’s girlfriend, Kara Lewis, Shaylee Barrett, Livian Knifley, David Barrett, Kaleia Barrett, and Seionna and Kaylani Barrett.



Photo courtesy of Lafayette, Ind., Police Department.

Body-camera footage from the Lafayette Police Department captured the Barrett family home in flames.

They arrived to find their home engulfed in flames and “Baby K” in an ambulance with

minor injuries. Bostic was also being sent by ambulance to a hospital to be treated for smoke

Man, 31, shot dead at Brooklyn ‘Law & Order’ set, police sources say

Brittany Kriegstein, Thomas Tracy

New York Daily News

NEW YORK — A 31-year-old man was fatally shot early Tuesday as he guarded a “Law & Order” film set in Brooklyn, police said.

The unidentified victim was providing security and guarding equipment trucks for the “Law & Order: Organized Crime” film crew on N. Henry St. near Norman Ave. in Greenpoint around 5:15 a.m. when the gunman approached, the sources said.

The victim was sitting in a car -- with a traffic cone perched on the roof -- when the shooter yanked open the door and shot the victim in the neck and head.

“It happened so quick, too fast. I don’t even know who would do this or why or what,” said another security guard for the show who witnessed part of the shooting. The guard did not wish to be named. “It was quiet. (There was) just a pop and the dude ran. I looked out my side mirror window and I seen him running towards Nassau.”

EMS rushed the victim to Woodhull Hospital, where he died. His name was not immediately released.

It was not immediately clear if anyone involved with the production was present at the time of the shooting.

There was no clear motive as of Tuesday morning and police were investigating all angles, including whether the shooting stemmed from a dispute over parking, a police source said.

Residents of the block recalled hearing three shots -- followed by bedlam.

“Then (there was) a car sound, and then yelling,” resident Ian Oberholtzer, 35, said. “I guess people were freaking out. It seems kind of detached from everyday life around here, it’s not the kind of thing you’d expect from the block.”

Film crews are quite common in Greenpoint, said Oberholtzer, who didn’t believe the killing was over parking.

“They shoot a lot over here, so the parking routine is pretty normal -- them setting up cones, moving their cars,” he said. “(There are) plenty of parking spots at 5 a.m. I have no idea what happened.”

The victim had a wife and three children, the set guard said.

“He was a great guy. Cheerful, always laughing, making somebody laugh. It’s crazy,” he said of the victim. “We’ve been doing this for like five, six years already. (We) put the fliers up, put out the cones, you know? We come 24 hours in advance to start clearing out the parking, so we’re here before everybody.”

A notice posted on the block by the Mayor’s Office of Media and Entertainment indicated that filming of the third-season episode was set to begin at 6 a.m.

Vehicles not involved in the shoot were supposed to be removed from the area beginning at 10 p.m. Monday.

Cops are scouring the area for surveillance footage that can help them identify the shooter.

The victim, a Queens resident, had a criminal record, but it was not immediately clear if his past had anything to do with the shooting.

“Law & Order: Organized Crime” stars Christopher Meloni reprising his role as Det. Elliot Stabler from “Law & Order: Special Victims Unit.” In this incarnation of the “Law & Order” franchise, Stabler and his team lead investigations into widespread criminal organizations.

Emails to the Mayor’s Office of Media and Entertainment and NBC Universal were not immediately returned.

inhalation and first-degree burns on his buttocks, right ankle and right arm.

Firefighters had arrived on the scene after a neighbor called 911.

By the time firefighters arrived, Seionna; Shaylee, 13; Kaleia, 1, and Shaylee’s friend, Livian Knifley, 13, were safely out of the house. They were shaken but otherwise unharmed, said David Barrett, 39.

“We feel very blessed for what Nick did,” Barrett said. “He’s a real hero, and my daughter’s a real hero for waking the kids up. I don’t like to think about what might have happened if Nick hadn’t shown up. I’m grateful beyond words.” Barrett said he works as an assistant principal at Tecumseh Junior High School in Lafayette and he and his wife had rented their home for about six years. The Lafayette Fire Department is still investigating the cause of the fire, but officials say it may have started on the front porch, he said.

“It’s scary how fast it spread - we lost everything,” Barrett said, explaining that all his physical possessions were ruined.

Except one. Barrett said when he returned to the house the next day, the “Love” plaque on the family’s living room wall had not been touched by the fire.

“It was like a sign,” he said. “Everything had been burned down and all that remained was love. The love shown by Nick and the community has been great.”

A vacation at his school who is on vacation offered her house for the family to use until they can find a new place, Barrett said. And residents of Lafayette rallied to raise money for the Barrett family, including

scheduling a bowling tournament, a band festival and a silent auction to help replace their belongings.

Valerie Holdman also set up a Facebook fundraiser for Bostic to help pay for his three-day hospital stay and other medical bills. Her niece was on a sleepover at the house that night. More than \$35,000 has been donated so far. A separate GoFundMe for Bostic has raised more than \$220,000.

“I get chills when I think of what could have happened,” Holdman said. “A couple of more minutes, and they might not have made it. Helping with Nick’s medical bills is the least we can do.”

“When I met Nick, I cried for what must have been five minutes,” said Livian’s grandmother, Faith Holdman Bohannon. “He truly is our hero.”

Bostic said he appreciates the help from the community.

“The last thing on my mind at the time was the medical bills, but yeah, going to the hospital is expensive,” he said. “I’m really grateful that everyone has been so kind and giving. But more than anything, I’m grateful those kids are still here.”

On July 17, he met the family formally for the first time after David Barrett invited him to attend church services with them, Bostic said.

“It was a nervous moment and also tear-jerking,” Bostic said. “I was just trying to do what was right that night, and to know they’re all okay, I just wanted to cry.”

David Barrett said he feels the same way.

“Nick is far more than a friend to us,” he said. “He’s now officially a part of our family.”

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NEWS

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NEWS ■ **MEDIA**
ALLIANCE



Nets trying to trade Durant but deal not imminent

Kristian Winfield
New York Daily News

There has been no traction on any Kevin Durant trade now more than two-and-a-half weeks removed from his June 30 request for the Nets to deal him to one of his preferred destinations.

The latest updates from ESPN's Adrian Wojnarowski don't provide much new information: The Nets want the kitchen sink, the stove and oven, the refrigerator, the island and the floorboards in any deal for the two-time NBA Finals MVP, and most teams have been unwilling to meet Brooklyn's asking price because doing so could very well remove them from championship contention after acquiring Durant in a trade.

Which means the Nets and Durant could be in stalemate territory: It's unclear if Durant would consider rescinding his trade request and returning to Brooklyn amicably. If he is firm in his request out of Brooklyn, this situation could drag into September training camp. Remember: The Rockets infamously dragged James Harden's trade request into the regular season before Harden made things awkward in media availabilities. Houston eventually conceded and traded Harden to Brooklyn.

But it cost the Nets immensely: Caris LeVert, Jarrett Allen and Taurean Prince were involved in the Harden deal, as were the rights to every recognizable draft pick through 2026. Rudy Gobert's trade to Minnesota and Dejounte Murray's trade to Atlanta reset the trade market. Few if any teams have the resources to pull off a deal for Durant and still have the pieces to compete for a championship.

"Brooklyn has an owner in Joe Tsai who, in my sense, is not interested in taking a diminished trade package to just move Kevin Durant 3/8 on," Wojnarowski said on ESPN's Get Up on Monday. "And I think as long as you have an owner committed to getting the type of trade package you want, you can play this out over time, and that's my sense in Brooklyn."

Woj also said the Miami Heat remain "a very motivated team" in the Durant sweepstakes, but a deal with Miami remains complicated and would likely

See **NETS B5**



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

The Columbia Clippers 16U won the 2022 Eastern New York Travel Baseball Madness Tournament with a 13-2 victory over the Brunswick Buckeyes.

LOCAL BASEBALL: 16U Clippers win ENYTB Madness Tournament

Tim Martin
Columbia-Greene Media

LATHAM — Jack Mullins went 3 for 4 with an RBI and pitched a four innings of two-hit ball as the Columbia Clippers 16U defeated the Brunswick Buckeyes 16+SL, 13-2, to win the 2022 Eastern New York Travel Baseball Madness Tournament.

Mullins collected three singles and didn't allow a run or walk with one strikeout in his four innings on the mound. Derrick Dellea pitched one inning, allowing two runs and one hit.

Mason Ferrer had a triple and single with three RBI for the Clippers. Brady Holzhauer tripled and drove in two runs, Zach Rowe had a double and

single with an RBI, Troy Super singled and drove in two runs, Cam Horton singled and drove in a run, Dellea singled and Matt Buono drove in a run.

In the semifinal round of the tournament, the Clippers scored two runs in the top of the seventh inning and held on to defeat the Greene County Outlaws 16+M, 4-3.

Trailing 3-2 after six innings, Mason Ferrer led off the Clippers' seventh-inning rally by drawing a walk. Brady Holzhauer's single put runners on the corners and Cam Horton's base hit and an outfield error allowed two runs to score to give the Clippers the lead for good.

The Outlaws got their lead-off man

on base in the bottom of the seventh on an error, but Troy Super retired the next three batters in order to lock up the win.

Rowe had a double and single for the Clippers. Mullins added a double, Horton had two singles and two RBI, Holzhauer singled and drove in a run and Ferrer and Tyler Van Allen both singled.

Rowe pitched two innings, allowing three runs and three hits with four strikeouts and no walks. Super pitched four strong innings of shutout ball in relief, surrendering just two hits with six strikeouts and no walks.

Julian Silinovich doubled and drove in a run and Corey Cunningham had

two singles for the Outlaws.

Chase Carey and Silinovich shared mound duties for the Outlaws, striking out five, walking four and allowing four runs and 10 hits.

On Saturday, Holzhauer threw a no-hitter with 10 strikeouts as the Clippers defeated the Cohoes Blackhawks, 13-0.

Horton belted a triple and double with three RBI in support of Holzhauer. Kyle Bartlett added a double and an RBI, Rowe doubled, Mullins collected two singles and an RBI, Holzhauer, Ferrer, Super and Buono all singled and drove in a run and Dellea, Ewan McComb and Van Allen each had an RBI.

Five key questions facing the Yankees in the second half

Matthew Roberson
New York Daily News

There hasn't been much to fret about on 161st Street in the Bronx this summer. The Yankees have already run away with the division lead while employing the likely MVP and one of the league's best pitching staffs.

Still, none of that will matter if the club falls short of its singular goal: the first World Series championship since 2009. Before they can worry about that, though, the Yankees have a few questions to address.

5. IS THE SEVERINO INJURY SERIOUS?: A strain in his right lat muscle knocked Luis Severino out of the Yankees' rotation just before the All-Star break. On Saturday, manager Aaron Boone said that Severino will not throw a baseball for at least

two weeks, meaning he'll miss a few starts after the break as well.

While the Yankees' 13-game lead in the American League East provides a lot of regular season leeway, Severino is hugely important to their grander aspirations. Heading into a playoff series with a determined Gerrit Cole, a rejuvenated Severino and the always even-keeled Jordan Montgomery should provide some confidence.

Nestor Cortes Jr. and Jameson Taillon are both very good at times — and for Cortes, the first-time All-Star, those good times have outweighed the bad this year — but fatigue is a worry for him while Taillon struggled down the stretch last season in his first pennant race.

See **YANKEES B5**



SARAH STIER/GETTY IMAGE

In this file photo, Luis Severino of the New York Yankees pitches during the first inning against the Detroit Tigers at Yankee Stadium on June 4 in New York.

Juan Soto defeats Julio Rodriguez in thrilling home run derby

Mike DiGiovanna
Los Angeles Times

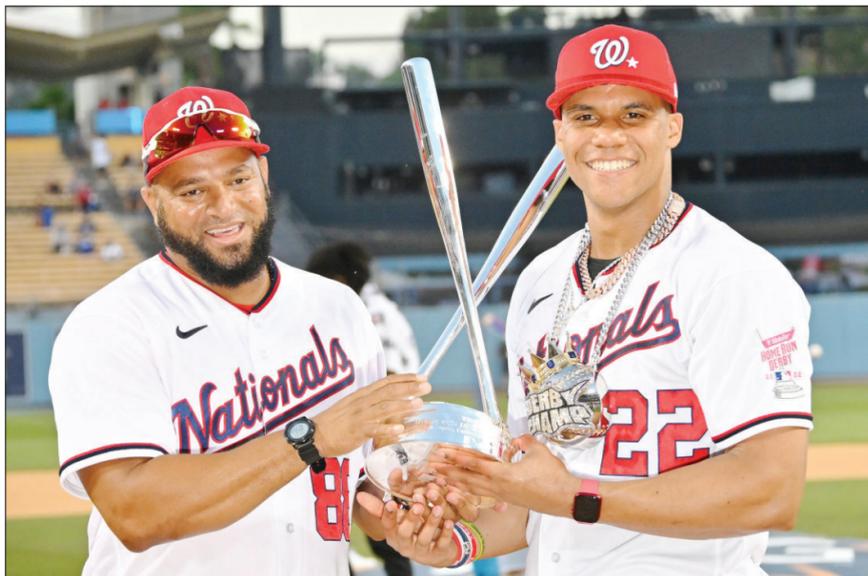
It was almost like a passing of the torch, from one of baseball's most decorated Dominican stars, a 42-year-old future Hall of Famer in the twilight of his career, to a pair of the game's most prolific, young Dominican sluggers.

Juan Soto, a 23-year-old Washington star who has already won a World Series ring and recently turned down a 15-year, \$440-million extension offer from the Nationals, beat Seattle Mariners rookie phenom Julio Rodriguez, 21, to win the All-Star Game home run derby in Dodger Stadium on Monday night.

After failing to produce a homer in the first 10 swings of the final round, the left-handed-hitting Soto regained his power stroke, sending one drive 471 feet into the right-field pavilion, to hit 19 homers in the two-minute round and one minute of bonus time.

That was one more than Rodriguez, a fellow Dominican who mashed 32 homers in a first-round win over Rangers shortstop and former Dodger Corey Seager and 31 bombs in a semifinal win over two-time defending derby champion Pete Alonso of the New York Mets.

But to produce the first derby final between players 23 and younger, Soto had to eliminate a grizzled veteran and sentimental favorite who is nearly twice his age and was a surprise



JAYNE KAMIN-ONCEA/USA TODAY

Washington Nationals right fielder Juan Soto (22) celebrates with the trophy and his coach Jorge Meija after winning the 2022 Home Run Derby at Dodger Stadium on Monday.

entrant in the semifinal round: Albert Pujols. "He was one of the first Dominicans to put our country on the map," Soto said of Pujols,

the St. Louis Cardinals slugger who played most of the past 10 seasons for the Angels before finishing 2021 with the Dodgers. "I feel

really proud to continue the next generation after he carried it for more than 20 years."

Pujols, participating in his fifth derby, was so sure that he would be eliminated after accumulating only 13 homers in his first-round matchup with Philadelphia slugger Kyle Schwarber that he gave his batting gloves to Padres pitcher Joe Musgrove's cousin.

And his fellow All-Stars were so sure that the 22-year veteran, who is expected to retire after this season, would be done after one round that they all streamed toward home plate to envelop Pujols in a group hug in what appeared to be a farewell salute.

But Schwarber, who leads the National League with 29 homers, struggled to find the outfield seats and hit only 13 homers, forcing a one-minute, tiebreaking swing-off.

Pujols, who called timeout early in the first round to switch to a lighter bat, got his batting gloves back, found a second wind and crushed seven homers to Schwarber's six to advance to the semifinals, where he lost to Soto 16-15.

"Oh, that was a really special moment," Soto said of the Pujols salute. "This could be his last derby and All-Star Game, so we should be there for him and give him some power so he can keep going."

"We all know his skills are going down a little

See **DERBY B5**

ML Baseball

AMERICAN LEAGUE

	East			GB
	W	L	Pct	
NY Yankees	64	28	.696	—
Tampa Bay	51	41	.554	13.0
Toronto	50	43	.538	14.5
Boston	48	45	.516	16.5
Baltimore	46	46	.500	18.0
Central				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Minnesota	50	44	.532	—
Cleveland	46	44	.511	2.0
Chi. White Sox	46	46	.500	3.0
Detroit	37	55	.402	12.0
Kansas City	36	56	.391	13.0
West				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Houston	59	32	.648	—
Seattle	51	42	.548	9.0
Texas	41	49	.456	17.5
LA Angels	39	53	.424	20.5
Oakland	32	61	.344	28.0

Saturday's games

Minnesota 6, Chi. White Sox 3
Toronto 6, Kansas City 5, 10 innings
Seattle 3, Texas 2, 10 innings
Cleveland 10, Detroit 0
Houston 5, Oakland 0
Baltimore 6, Tampa Bay 4, 11 innings
NY Yankees 14, Boston 1

Sunday's games

Toronto 4, Kansas City 2
NY Yankees 13, Boston 2
Detroit at Cleveland, PPD
Tampa Bay 7, Baltimore 5
Chi. White Sox 11, Minnesota 0
Oakland 4, Houston 3
Seattle 6, Texas 2

Monday's games

No games scheduled
Tuesday's game
American vs. National, at Los Angeles 8 p.m.

NATIONAL LEAGUE

	East			GB
	W	L	Pct	
NY Mets	58	35	.624	—
Atlanta	56	38	.596	2.5
Philadelphia	49	43	.533	8.5
Miami	43	48	.473	14.0
Washington	31	63	.330	27.5
Central				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Milwaukee	50	43	.538	—
St. Louis	50	44	.532	.5
Pittsburgh	39	54	.419	11.0
Chi. Cubs	35	57	.380	14.5
Cincinnati	34	57	.374	15.0
West				
	W	L	Pct	GB
LA Dodgers	60	30	.667	—
San Diego	52	42	.553	10.0
San Francisco	48	43	.527	12.5
Colorado	43	50	.462	18.5
Arizona	40	52	.435	21.0

Saturday's games

St. Louis 11, Cincinnati 3
NY Mets 2, Chi. Cubs 1, 11 innings
Colorado 2, Pittsburgh 0
Atlanta 6, Washington 3
Philadelphia 10, Miami 0
San Francisco 2, Milwaukee 1
NY Mets 4, Chi. Cubs 3, 10 innings
San Diego 4, Arizona 3

Sunday's games

Washington 7, Atlanta 3
Philadelphia 4, Miami 0
Cincinnati at St. Louis, PPD
Chi. Cubs 3, NY Mets 2
Pittsburgh 8, Colorado 3
San Francisco 9, Milwaukee 5
Arizona 3, San Diego 1

Monday's games

No games scheduled
Tuesday's game
American vs. National, at Los Angeles 8 p.m.

Interleague Saturday's game

LA Dodgers 7, LA Angels 1

Monday's games

No games scheduled
Tuesday's game
American vs. National, at Los Angeles 8 p.m.

2022 MLB DRAFT

- Baltimore Orioles - Jackson Holliday, SS (Stillwater High School)
- Arizona Diamondbacks - Druw Jones, CF (Wesleyan School)
- Texas Rangers - Kumar Rocker, RHP (Vanderbilt)
- Pittsburgh Pirates - Terrarm Johnson, SS (Mays High School)
- Washington Nationals - Elijah Green, CF (IMG Academy)
- Miami Marlins - Jacob Berry, RF (LSU)
- Chicago Cubs - Cade Horton, RHP (Oklahoma)
- Minnesota Twins - Brooks Lee, SS (Cal Poly)
- Kansas City Royals - Gavin Cross, RF (Virginia Tech)
- Colorado Rockies - Gabriel Hughes, RHP (Gonzaga)
- New York Mets - Kevin Parada, C (Georgia Tech)
- Detroit Tigers - Jace Jung, 2B (Texas Tech)
- Los Angeles Angels - Zach Neto, SS (Campbell)
- New York Mets - Jett Williams, SS (Rockwall-Heath High School)
- San Diego Padres - Dylan Lesko, RHP (Buford High School)
- Cleveland Guardians - Chase DeLauter, RF (James Madison)
- Philadelphia Phillies - Justin Crawford, CF (Bishop Gorman High School)
- Cincinnati Reds - Cam Collier, 3B (Chipola Junior College)
- Oakland Athletics - Daniel Susac, C (Arizona)
- Atlanta Braves - Owen Murphy, RHP (Riverside-Brookfield High School)
- Seattle Mariners - Cole Young, SS (North Allegheny High School)
- St. Louis Cardinals - Cooper Hjerpe, LHP (Oregon State)
- Toronto Blue Jays - Brandon Barriera, LHP (American Heritage School)
- Boston Red Sox - Mikey Romero, SS (Orange Lutheran High School)
- New York Yankees - Spencer Jones, RF (Vanderbilt)
- Chicago White Sox - Noah Schultz, LHP (Oswego East High School)
- Milwaukee Brewers - Eric Brown, SS (Coastal Carolina)
- Houston Astros - Drew Gilbert, CF (Tennessee)
- Tampa Bay Rays - Xavier Isaac, 1B (East Forsyth High School)
- San Francisco Giants - Reggie Crawford, 1B/LHP (UConn)

Pro basketball

WNBA

Sunday's games

Las Vegas 91, Connecticut 83
Washington 70, Minnesota 57
Atlanta 85, Phoenix 75
Seattle 81, Indiana 65

Tuesday's games

New York at Connecticut, 11:30 a.m.
Atlanta at Las Vegas, 10 p.m.
Indiana at Los Angeles, 10:30 p.m.

Wednesday game

Seattle at Chicago, Noon

Baseball Flashbacks

1902 — John McGraw makes his managerial debut for the New York Giants, dropping a 5-3 decision to the Philadelphia Phillies.
1909 — Cleveland shortstop Neal Ball completes the first unassisted triple play in history, lifting the Naps to a 6-1 victory over the Boston Red Sox.
1910 — Cy Young, 43, becomes the first and only pitcher to earn 500 wins, reaching the plateau in Cleveland's 5-2, 11-inning win over Washington.
1927 — The New York Giants hold John McGraw Day to honor the manager's 25-year anniversary of his first game. The Chicago Cubs spoil the occasion, beating the Giants 8-5.
1936 — Future Hall of Fame pitcher Bob Feller makes his major-league debut as a 17-year-old. Feller tosses a scoreless inning in the Cleveland Indians' 9-5 loss to the Washington Senators.
1942 — Boston Red Sox pitcher Mike Ryba helps out on the other side of the plate, spending time at catcher in both ends of a doubleheader against the Cleveland Indians.
1959 — Enos Slaughter, 43, becomes the oldest player in the 20th century to have a multi-homer game, leading the New York Yankees to a doubleheader sweep of the Chicago White Sox.
1960 — Juan Marichal makes his major-league debut, tossing a one-hit shutout with 12 strikeouts as the San Francisco Giants silence the Philadelphia Phillies 2-0.
1974 — Dick Bosman of the Cleveland Indians tosses a no-hitter in a 4-0 win over the Oakland Athletics.
1977 — The National League scores four runs in the first inning, then holds on to beat the American League 7-5 at the All-Star Game at Yankee Stadium.

Mets' Alonso has dominated the Home Run Derby ... and he's happy to do it

Chelsea Janes

The Washington Post

LOS ANGELES — In the first two years after Pete Alonso debuted for the New York Mets in 2019, he did not allow anyone else to win a Home Run Derby. Everyone from Shohei Ohtani to Vladimir Guerrero Jr., Ronald Acuña Jr. and Juan Soto participated. He vanquished them all.

But Monday night at Dodger Stadium, the fever broke: Alonso fell to Seattle Mariners rookie sensation Julio Rodríguez in the semifinals. When time ran out, when his run of derby wins was over, Alonso headed straight to Rodríguez, removed his cap and tipped it to him. He didn't look crushed. After all, he almost certainly will be back.

But Alonso has made the derby his own in a way few stars ever have, in a way few stars ever have been willing to do, year after year. Some worry about their swings, their health, their energy for the second half. Some do it once for the experience, then decide not to try it again next time.

Those are nearly unfathomable notions for Alonso, whose biggest concern as of a week ago would be whether he would still be able to participate if he were not named an All-Star despite having driven in more runs than any Mets player ever has by this time of year. This is his event. This is his thing, and everyone in baseball knows it.

"People are just born to do certain things, and he's born for that," Soto said. "He is a guy who loves it and has a lot of power. Not many guys love it more than he does."

Few guys love baseball more than Alonso, who can be so earnest on the field, in interviews or in a Mets love letter in the Players' Tribune that discerning observers might wonder if he is playing a role.

When a driver ran a red light and crashed into Alonso's truck, flipping it, during spring training, he debated whether to tell the media, whether to address his teammates. He wasn't hurt — not physically. But he was grateful. Ultimately, he decided to tell reporters and to hold a meeting with his teammates to explain what happened — but mostly to



JAYNE KAMIN-ONCEA/USA TODAY

New York Mets first baseman Pete Alonso (20) hits in the first round during the 2022 Home Run Derby at Dodger Stadium on Monday.

tell them to live life to the fullest.

"I just love coming to the yard. I really take pride in what I do. This is my craft. This is my job. And as much as I take myself seriously, I love having fun along the way," Alonso said in a recent interview. "Your time is limited. I want to enjoy every single day I have here."

Persistent enthusiasm often meets skepticism in major league clubhouses. The game is too hard, too often, for anyone to enjoy every second. The schedule is too punishing, too often, for anyone in his right mind to be grateful every day.

But in everything from the detail with which he situates his old-school stirrups before each game to the notes he writes himself at his locker, from exuberant interviews to famously adding an emphatic "F" to "LGM" on social media, Alonso offers daily evidence that he is not so much trying to seem like a perfect New York baseball star but that he cannot help but be this way.

"That is him. He is a gem. He is completely transparent," said former Mets bench coach Dave Jauss, now an adviser for the Washington Nationals. "He loves his teammates. He loves the game. He's great for our industry."

Dodgers' Betts is his harshest critic, and it's what fuels him to be great

Jorge Castillo

Los Angeles Times

LOS ANGELES — Mookie Betts never wanted to live in Los Angeles.

He didn't enjoy his short trips here as a visiting player. Bad traffic. Sprawling. It was overwhelming for someone who spent most of his life in Nashville and Boston, smaller cities that are easier to navigate. He never saw himself here.

But he didn't have a choice in February 2020, not after the Boston Red Sox traded their franchise cornerstone to the Dodgers. He was introduced at a news conference on the field at Dodger Stadium. He was in Arizona for spring training the next day.

"Coming out here," Betts said last week, "I was already kind of skeptical."

A month later, Major League Baseball suspended operations and the world shut down. Suddenly, there was a possibility that Betts, a free agent that offseason, would never play a game in a Dodgers uniform. In retrospect, the pause might have cemented Betts' future in Southern California.

The pandemic allowed for Betts to drive around L.A. without the gridlocked freeways, slowly familiarizing himself with the city. By the time a 60-game season beginning in late July, with a three-week training camp at home, was salvaged, Betts was more comfortable with his surroundings. He envisioned the opportunities. He saw a future here.

That vision, and \$365 million, prompted Betts to sign a 12-year contract extension the day before his first game as a Dodger. It's the second-largest contract in MLB history.

"My point to him was, 'We're partners,'" Dodgers president of baseball operations Andrew Friedman said. "You don't have to worry about anything contractually and everything is around just helping the Dodgers win."

Two years later, Betts, 29, started the first All-Star Game at Dodger Stadium since 1980 as one of the faces of the franchise. He's rebounded from, by his standards, a disappointing season to

fuel the Dodgers to the best record in the National League while garnering the respect of his peers.

"I think everyone knows Mookie as a superstar, but he's so nice, he's so kind, polite to so many people," said Dodgers shortstop Trea Turner, who also started in the All-Star Game on Tuesday. "I really respect him off the field, even more so than on the field."

It will be Betts' sixth career All-Star Game appearance and fourth as a starter. The outfielder has won a World Series with two of MLB's flagship franchises. He's been named the American League most valuable player and National League MVP runner-up. He's a five-time Gold Glove winner, a four-time Silver Slugger winner and a batting champion.

Everyone agrees he is one of the best players in the world. Everyone except Betts.

"He still doesn't think he's very good," Dodgers pitcher David Price said. "I got to tell him every day how good he is, but that's just the type of player, type of person Mookie is."

Nobody in the Dodgers clubhouse has known Betts longer than Price. They were teammates for four seasons in Boston, winning a World Series against the Dodgers in 2018, before they were shipped to L.A. In those six years, Price said, Betts' lack of self-confidence has periodically surfaced -- a rarity among elite athletes whose egos often don't allow for vulnerability.

One story Price relayed: In 2016, Price's first season with the Red Sox, he walked into the clubhouse in New York at 12:30 p.m. for a series opener against the Yankees. It was early, early enough to believe that teammates weren't yet in the batting cage. So when he and Red Sox second baseman Dustin Pedroia heard the thwacks coming from down the hall, they assumed it was a coach's kid. It wasn't.

"It's Mookie in there hitting, and after every swing, going, 'Man, I suck. What is going on?'" Price said.

Another story: Price opted out of the

2020 season, citing COVID-19 concerns, but remained in constant contact with players, coaches and front-office members. When Betts' Dodgers career got off to a slow start in front of cardboard cutouts, Price spoke to Friedman.

"Go up to him and tell him how good of a player he is, how much fun you have watching him play," Price said. "The real Mookie Betts showed up after the first couple of weeks and that was really fun."

The Dodgers posted the best record in the majors that summer and won their first World Series in 32 years. Betts was in the middle of it all, dazzling in the batter's box, on the bases and in right field.

"I think that is Mookie's fuel," Friedman said. "I think he goes through a lot of periods where he doesn't feel like he's one of the best players on the planet and it probably contributes some to his work ethic. But it is astonishing to be as talented as he is and the times that he will question that."

Then last year happened. Betts was good but regressed from his production in 2020. Injuries, notably a hip problem, limited him to 122 games, but he said that wasn't why he didn't fulfill his expectations at the plate. "I just was in my own head," Betts said. "People play through injuries all the time and are successful all the time. But that injury, though it did hurt, it only hurt running. It didn't hurt hitting. Hitting was all a me thing."

His .264 average and .854 on-base-plus-slugging percentage were his worst since 2017. The start to this season was worse. He went eight for 45 with two extra-base hits in his first 11 games. Then, on April 22, he hit his first two home runs against the San Diego Padres. After the game, he said he had to "take ownership for sucking."

"Once I was able to look in the mirror and own that, then I was able to take steps to help myself," said Betts, who has been playing with a cracked rib for a few weeks. "I wasn't blaming other people. I was just blaming myself, but I was just blaming it on, 'Oh, I

didn't have a good swing' or 'I got a strike called so I didn't really get the at-bat that I should've gotten.' Things like that. Those are all excuses. Everybody gets screwed sometimes. It's not about that. It's about how you handle what's next."

Betts has listened to mental health audio books to help overcome mental hurdles. In early May, amid a torrid stretch, he said he listened to "Can't Hurt Me" by David Goggins, a marathon runner and former Navy SEAL.

He recently finished listening to "Will," a memoir by actor Will Smith. "It definitely changed my perspective on life in general," Betts said. "He's the one that helped me with being focused on 3/8 where my feet are and not worrying about fear, not being scared of things -- especially when it hasn't happened."

Ron Roenicke, a special assistant in the Dodgers' front office, was Betts' bench coach in Boston in 2018 and 2019. Without hesitation, he labeled Betts a perfectionist in everything he does, whether it's baseball or all the off-the-field hobbies he's picked up. "He's not OK with just being one of the guys," Roenicke said. "He's tremendously talented, but you look at his frame 5 feet 93/8 and whatever he is, 170 pounds, he gets everything out of what he has. If he was just super confident, cocky, he would probably have a different personality. He wouldn't get after it like he does."

And he probably wouldn't have become a perennial All-Star with generational wealth. He definitely wouldn't live in Los Angeles. But this is home now.

He got married here during the winter. He spends his free time during the season bowling at a few alleys and has subbed in for friends in leagues. He picked up DJing during the pandemic and has a turntable set up in the Dodgers' clubhouse. He has special handshakes with everyone around, down to the team's sideline reporter and a public relations official.

He's even comfortable. Sometimes he's even confident. Sometimes he's even comfortable. Sometimes he's even confident.

Sale injury a lame excuse for Red Sox to become trade deadline sellers

Jason Mastrodonato
Boston Herald

Sorry, but this can't be how Xander Bogaerts' career with the Red Sox comes to an end.

It doesn't matter that Chris Sale walked off the Yankee Stadium mound holding his freshly-broken pinky high in the air for all to see. Whether or not he pitches again this year is to be determined.

The Red Sox have been in playoff contention without winning a single game that Sale has pitched, and they can be in playoff contention again while Sale rehabs his fourth significant injury in the last four years.

If Rafael Devers was out for the year, different story. But this team is deeper than Sale. They've proven that. And while a healthy and effective ace of his stature - trade for one? - would've surely catapulted the Red Sox from Wild Card contenders to legitimate threats to unseat the Yankees and Astros as the class of the American League, it's too late to give up on this team now.

Sure, the Red Sox limped into the first half while going 6-14 over their final 20 games and 0-10-1 in series against A.L. East opponents.

Their performance this weekend was embarrassing as they were outscored 27-3 in their final two games and struck out a season-high 16 times on Sunday.

If Sale is out for a significant time period, it's going to be a grind for the Red Sox to outlast the Rays, Blue Jays, Mariners, Guardians, White Sox and, yes, the Orioles to capture one of the three Wild Card spots.

So be it. Baseball is a grind. Yeah, the Red Sox got kicked in the teeth this weekend. They got shown up by the Rays and Yankees thanks largely to terrible defense, a lack of focus and some poor pitching performances.

It would be asinine to conclude that the Red Sox can contend with the Yankees and Astros right now. We haven't seen enough to believe that's possible.

But at this point in the franchise's arc, as it's coming down from the 2018 high but still loaded with talent on a roster that will cost John Henry and Co. more than \$200 million this year, selling cannot be an option.

The Red Sox had two bad weeks and now the season is over? That's not how baseball



Chris Sale (41) of the Boston Red Sox leaves the field with a dislocated pinky finger after getting hit by a line drive from Aaron Hicks of the New York Yankees in the first inning at Yankee Stadium on Sunday.

works.

If they were stinking it up in June but suddenly had two great weeks in July, we'd be talking about how this team is worth investing in.

Instead, they had a great June, going 20-6, albeit against lesser competition, but now it's time to trade Bogaerts, Nathan Eovaldi, J.D. Martinez, Kike Hernandez, Christian Vazquez, Michael Wacha and Rich Hill?

All of them will be eligible for free agency at the end of the season, but only two of

them, Bogaerts and Martinez, have proven to be healthy and performing at an elite level. Eovaldi could soon join that category, but his velocity was down in his first start after an extended layoff with back inflammation and it's too soon to say just what his value might be.

Two-month rentals of Bogaerts and Martinez could net the Sox a few nice prospects. Would they be franchise-altering prospects? Almost certainly not.

A bigger mistake would be

giving up on these guys now, turning the Red Sox into a total rebuild and making the next two months (two years, maybe?) an unwatchable mess while we're supposed to focus more on the box scores in Worcester and Portland than the actual big league team.

Watching prospects develop into franchise stars is a fun B-plot. It's not the A-plot.

This is Boston, not Tampa Bay or Pittsburgh.

The Red Sox play in front of 30,000-plus at Fenway Park, not 7,000-plus in Cleveland.

It shouldn't be this easy to turn a contending team in this market into a selling team.

The Red Sox asked for patience when they traded Mookie Betts to Los Angeles. They sold the fans on the promise of Alex Verdugo, Jeter Downs and Connor Wong.

Here we are, three seasons later, and all three of those guys are on the big league roster while the Red Sox are 13 1/2 games worse than the Dodgers entering the break. Prospects aren't always better than proven big-leaguers, a lesson we learn quite often.

Bogaerts and Martinez remain two of the game's best hitters. With Rafael Devers

batting in front of them, the Sox continuously boast a two-three-four part of the lineup that is as scary as any team in baseball.

Fix the perimeters of this team. Get Trevor Story, Wacha, Hernandez and Hill healthy. Acquire an impact bat to play right field. Promote Triston Casas to play first base. Find a legitimate, game-changing pitcher in the trade market and use pieces from the 11th-ranked farm system in baseball to acquire him. Make sure he's got a few years of team control and the Sox have a chance at being competitive in 2023, Devers' last season under contract.

And hey, this may sound crazy, but maybe even try to sign Bogaerts to a contract extension.

The only reasonable argument to turn the Red Sox into sellers at the Aug. 2 deadline would be if they lost nine of 11 leading up to it. They'd need to look terrible, as bad as they looked this weekend, on a regular basis.

Even then, it'd be difficult. This can't be how the Red Sox wave goodbye to the greatest shortstop in team history.

Derek Jeter documentary shows 'candid, open and vulnerable' side of Yankees great

Peter Sblendorio
New York Daily News

NEW YORK — ESPN's new Derek Jeter documentary series promises to be the ultimate curveball for fans of the Yankees great.

The seven-part "The Captain" shows the Hall of Fame shortstop like never before, with in-depth interviews from Jeter, his family and former teammates that explore his famously private life and career, director Randy Wilkins said.

"(Audiences are) going to be introduced to a candid, open and vulnerable Derek Jeter who is peeling the layers back a little bit, both on the professional side and the personal side," Wilkins told the New York Daily News.

"They're going to see a Derek Jeter that will take people on an emotional journey. He is far from the public persona that people recognize so well over his 20-year playing career. You're just gonna see the man himself. You're gonna see the human side of Derek Jeter."

Jeter became interested in reflecting on his career through a

documentary around the time he was voted into the Baseball Hall of Fame in 2020, realizing his two young daughters never got to see him play. He and wife Hannah Jeter had a third daughter last year.

He sat down for 30 hours of interviews with the Bronx-born Wilkins, a Spike Lee protégé who says he was repeatedly surprised by Jeter's story as he worked on the series, premiering Monday on ESPN and ESPN+ after the MLB Home Run Derby.

"The immediate thing that comes to mind is how much his identity as a biracial Black man influenced the way he perceived the world and the way the world interacts with him," Wilkins said.

"The experiences he had as a young man in Kalamazoo, Mich., and as he was coming up through the ranks of the Yankees minor league system. He's had experiences that really molded the way that he interacts with the public and his world view."

Wilkins interviewed 90 people for "The Captain," including

retired Yankees Mariano Rivera, Andy Pettitte, Jorge Posada and Alex Rodriguez.

The director says "it wasn't difficult" for Jeter to open up about his complicated relationship with Rodriguez, who was famously critical of him in an Esquire interview before they became teammates in 2004.

"(Jeter) was very open about it and I would say in some ways eager to express what happened in their relationship. The thing that made it difficult is because there was so much nuance to it," Wilkins said.

"Having A-Rod be a part of the film helps it a lot, because now we have both perspectives on it. It's clear that on both sides, at some point, the Esquire article kind of violated a trust that Derek had with Alex, and Alex was aware of that. I think that things kind of went south after that, and then they're teammates, and it's difficult to reconcile personal issues in New York City. Two big stars, big media capital, and you still have to go out and win."

The 48-year-old Jeter won five World Series during his 20

seasons with the Yankees and ranks sixth in MLB history with 3,465 hits. He was named the Yankees captain in 2003, and his No. 2 was retired by the team in 2017.

Jeter originally reached out to the Oscar-winning Lee to direct "The Captain," but Lee was already working on another documentary. He recommended

Wilkins, whom he'd taught at NYU's graduate film school before collaborating with him on many movies. Lee served as an executive producer on "The Captain."

Wilkins -- a Yankees fan who always considered Jeter his favorite player -- says deciding to helm the documentary series was "the quickest yes I've ever

given."

"He's a big star and an icon, but for me he's a human being just like anybody else," Wilkins said. "I firmly believe in presenting yourself as you are, and not changing who you are or approaching people with ulterior motives. This is who I am, and this is who you're gonna get, and I think Derek respected that."

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The Braves have an All-Star third baseman again — His name is Austin Riley

Gabriel Burns

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

LOS ANGELES — An All-Star performance brought this Mississippi kid to Southern California.

Braves third baseman Austin Riley wasn't sure he'd get the call. He was considered one of the top All-Star "snubs," players considered deserving of earning the illustrious honor but for whatever reason weren't selected.

When Nolan Arenado backed out, it opened a spot for Riley. He experienced his first All-Star media day Monday.

"There's a lot going on; I'm just trying to take it all in," Riley said. "You never know if you'll get another one of these, so I'm just taking it in and enjoying it. It's been great. It's been crazy. Obviously late notice, I was trying to get everything together. I'm just happy I'm here."

To call Riley a reserve doesn't do his season justice. Third base is a crowded position — Manny Machado started for the National League - yet Riley is unquestionably near the top of the field.

Riley, the Braves' first All-Star third baseman since Chipper Jones, is hitting .285/.348/.575 with 27 homers, 22 doubles, 61 RBIs and 55 runs scored. His 208 total bases lead the NL. His 3.5 fWAR is tied for 18th among all major leaguers. It ranks fifth among third basemen, behind Rafael Devers, Arenado, Machado and Jose Ramirez.

The 25-year-old Riley leads all third basemen in home runs (he has five more than Devers). He's second in RBIs and hits, and third in doubles, slugging and OPS. Riley was seventh in MVP voting a year ago - he had a case to rank even better



GEOFF BURKE/USA TODAY

Atlanta Braves third baseman Austin Riley (27) gestures towards his dugout after hitting a double against the Washington Nationals during the first inning at Nationals Park on Saturday.

- and his encore season has been superb.

"I couldn't be prouder of him," said Braves lefty Max Fried, who's played with Riley since 2016 in the minors.

It's been a few years since Riley was the red-hot rookie in 2019. He played left field when he arrived in the majors due to Josh Donaldson's

presence at third. Riley carried the Braves' offense in May 2019, homering eight times in his first 16 games and earning Rookie of the Month.

Despite his start, Riley had a rocky road to stardom. The strikeouts piled up. There were defensive lapses. There were injuries. Riley's potential as a middle-of-the-order bat was evident, but he

hadn't put it together.

Riley admits that feels like it was a long time ago.

"I'm glad I'm not in the outfield anymore, but I think I learned a lot," he said. "Just going through the struggles from the offensive side that year, I think I learned a lot about myself as a player. But, really, it was about learning where I fit in."

Riley appeared in 80 games during his rookie season. He played in 51 during the truncated 2020 campaign. The past two years have been his only full seasons. And in that time, Riley is hitting .296 with a .907 OPS. He has 60 homers and 168 RBIs over those 252 games.

"I think just learning my swing and learning how to adjust to pitchers when they make the adjustments," Riley said of his success. "In '19, whenever they made an adjustment, obviously I didn't. I think now I've learned how to make those in-game adjustments and adjust day to day."

Riley makes it sound simple, but he's made a quantum leap few achieve. He's improved his plate discipline and he's hitting for average, a trait most didn't expect him to develop (he hit .303 last season). Riley has an increasingly mature approach that's rare with his power profile. He's also improved defensively.

"What Austin did when he first came up, how hot he was at the beginning, and then he went through what he went through, then to come back and turn it around and turn into - in my opinion, he's going to be a perennial All-Star now," said Dodgers first baseman Freddie Freeman, Riley's former teammate.

Yankees

From B1

As such, the Yankees either need to make sure that Severino can be a full go in the games that actually matter, or upgrade the rotation as a precaution. Severino has an up-and-down postseason history but absolutely possesses the stuff and attitude to handle the bright lights. If he's fully healthy by autumn, the Yankees are in good hands. If not, they have a potentially exploitable hole.

4. WHICH RELIEVERS CAN YOU TRUST IN OCTOBER?: On the Yankees' active roster (meaning injured veterans Zack Britton and Chad Green do not count), Aroldis Chapman and Jonathan Loaisiga

are the only relievers with more than two innings of post-season experience. Unfortunately for the Yankees, both Chapman and Loaisiga have fallen down the bullpen totem pole thanks to injury and poor performance.

Clay Holmes and Michael King have tasted little morsels of big games. But Holmes' was just two innings in the Wild Card game last fall while King's was also two innings, coming in an empty stadium in 2020. Wandy Peralta and Lucas Luetge have proven to be very dependable, and have both been in Major League Baseball for a long time, but neither has ever stepped foot on the mound in a postseason game.

Boone has expressed optimism that Britton, who had some outstanding playoff series for the Yankees in 2019

and 2020, could be back at some point. But that's a big gamble to put in a 34-year-old, surgically repaired arm who's thrown just 18.1 MLB innings since the pandemic season. Ron Marinaccio has some juice, but he's also a rookie.

Nobody seems quite sure what to make of Miguel Castro, who's liable to walk the bases loaded before getting three straight strikeouts. Both Marinaccio and Castro are on the injured list right now too, but could be in the running for a postseason roster spot assuming they recover properly.

Throw in Domingo German and potentially some new faces at the trade deadline, and the Yankees will have several options for their playoff bullpen, it's just a matter of figuring out who can actually get people out.

3. WHAT HAPPENS WITH

JOEY GALLO?: Joey Gallo is not going to be getting any post-season at-bats. The Yankees will be fine sacrificing some outfield defense in the playoffs for dudes who are actually hitting the ball.

Gallo's defense could make him a nice late-game replacement if, say, Giancarlo Stanton, Matt Carpenter, or both are playing the outfield in a tight game. But defense alone probably doesn't justify a spot on the playoff roster, and certainly won't earn Gallo a place anywhere near the starting lineup.

The question here is if something can be figured out before the embarrassment of leaving Gallo at home in October becomes a reality. The best option is probably to package him in a deadline deal with other, more desired players, telling the trade partner that

they can have who they want if they also agree to take on Gallo's sub-.170 average.

It's been a flatly horrendous stretch for Gallo, who's approaching his one-year anniversary in pinstripes. If the Yankees win the whole thing, he'll get a ring either way, but heading to a smaller market where fans are less boo-happy might ultimately make him happier than riding the bench to the World Series.

2. WILL JUDGE BREAK MARIS' HOME RUN RECORD?: Aaron Judge already tied Maris' franchise record for home runs before the All-Star Game. While he'll repeat over and over that the only thing he cares about is winning, Judge surely has some of his sights set on the single-season record too.

In order to reach 62 homers and wrestle the record

away from Maris' 1961 season, Judge will need 29 bombs in the team's final 70 games. Assuming they have the AL's top seed all locked up — which won't be easy as Houston keeps breathing down their neck — would the Yankees rest Judge in September or let him pursue history?

1. CAN THE YANKS GET OVER THE ASTRO-SIZED HUMP?: Let's be honest. It would take a massive upset — or a colossal failure, perhaps injury-related — for the Yankees and Astros not to meet in the American League Championship Series.

The last two times they faced off in the ALCS, the Astros got the upper hand. Will the third time be a charm for the Yankees?

Derby

From B1

bit, but when you cheer for him and give him that positive energy, things can change, and he showed up after that. Winning that round was amazing. I think it was a special moment for him, and even

for ourselves, to see a legend go out like that."

Pujols expressed gratitude to the fans in Chavez Ravine, where he provided a key bat off the bench and was a mentor to so many Dodgers players last season.

"I want to thank all the Dodgers fans for your support," Pujols said in an on-field interview with ESPN. "This is for you guys. God

bless you. It's awesome to come back here one last time. I'm honored and humbled, and I'm glad to put a smile on the faces of the fans, because that's what it's all about."

Soto, who hit a record 520-foot homer in last summer's derby in Colorado, hit one 482 feet in his first-round win over Cleveland's Jose Ramirez.

"It feels good, and it feels

bad at the same time," Soto said, when asked what it's like to hit a ball 482 feet. "Because you hit it, and you don't have the time to see how far it goes. But it feels really amazing at the end of the day when you see the video and see how far it lands. It's really impressive what my skills can do."

The same can be said for Rodriguez, who demolished Seager in the first round and

had little trouble dispatching Alonso 31-23 in the semifinals.

"I had so much fun out there," said Alonso, who hit a 480-foot shot that caromed off the roof and over the left-field pavilion in a first-round win over Atlanta's Ronald Acuna Jr. "I thought I put up a great performance, but J-Rod, I mean, he was just better tonight. He was absolutely electric."

As was Soto.

"This just tells you how much talent is coming up, not only in the Dominican Republic, but in Puerto Rico, Venezuela and the entire Caribbean," Soto said. "We're starting to see the stars getting younger and younger, and that makes me proud."

Nets

From B1

require two additional teams because as long as Ben Simmons is on Brooklyn's roster, the Nets cannot acquire Bam Adebayo (or Donovan Mitchell) due to the collective bargaining agreement rules on players who sign rookie max contract extensions.

Durant's path to Phoenix, which the Daily News reported was his preferred trade destination, has also been complicated now that the Suns have matched Deandre Ayton's \$133M offer sheet, the largest in NBA history. Now that Phoenix has matched Indiana's offer, the Suns cannot trade Ayton until Jan. 15, cannot trade him to Indiana for a year, and cannot trade him anywhere without his consent.

The Toronto Raptors have been unwilling to trade reigning Rookie of the Year Scottie Barnes in a deal for Durant, which is a nonstarter for Brooklyn.

"There are still other teams out there," Wojnarowski said. "There's no deal imminent for Brooklyn, but they are still trying to find a trade for Durant."

The risk, however, comes into play the closer the Nets creep toward training camp, and on Monday, the team



SARAH STIER/GETTY IMAGES

In this file photo, Kevin Durant (7) of the Brooklyn Nets dribbles during the first half against the New York Knicks at Barclays Center March 13.

announced its four-game, early-October preseason schedule: Oct. 3 in Brooklyn against James Harden, Joel Embiid and the Philadelphia

76ers; Oct. 6 in Brooklyn against the Miami Heat; Oct. 12 in Milwaukee against Giannis Antetokounmpo and the Milwaukee Bucks; and

Oct. 14 in Minnesota against Karl-Anthony Towns and the Timberwolves.

Is Durant the type of player who, when met with an unrealized trade request, will pull a Ben Simmons? Will Durant no-show training camp? Will he hold-out and put pressure on the Nets front office to move him?

And will opposing teams weaken their offers if this situation becomes more toxic when all parties return from vacation to kickstart the season in Brooklyn?

The longer the Nets wait to strike a deal, the more prone they become to getting off to a poor start to the season if a disgruntled star is in a city he no longer wants to represent. **JOB NOT FINISHED**

The Nets are not finished building their roster, even if Durant was to stay. Brooklyn acquired TJ Warren and Edmond Sumner in free agency and traded a 2023 first-round pick to Utah for three-and-D wing Royce O'Neale, but the Nets still have their taxpayer mid-level exception available.

That mid-level exception is worth a maximum of \$20M over a three-year deal and can be split between multiple free agents. As it stands, Brooklyn's biggest remaining need is depth at the center and at the point guard spot with Andre Drummond and Goran Dragic both leaving for the Chicago Bulls.

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Ranking all 30 MLB teams at the All-Star break

Paul Sullivan
Chicago Tribune

Outside of the regression of the Chicago White Sox and Toronto Blue Jays and the rise of the Baltimore Orioles, the 2022 season hasn't seen too many huge surprises.

The preseason favorites — the Los Angeles Dodgers, New York Yankees and Houston Astros — have dominated their respective divisions, while rebuilding teams such as the Cincinnati Reds, Oakland A's and Chicago Cubs remain bottom-feeders.

With the All-Star break on deck, it's time to update our rankings for the first time since the start of the season.

Instead of traditional power rankings of the strongest teams, our list is based on overall talent level, ability to withstand injuries, management's willingness to make in-season adjustments and ownership's propensity to do whatever it takes to win this year.

(Opening-day rankings in parentheses) New York Yankees (2)

Is it the best team in baseball history or just media hype in the Twitter age? The Yankees are on pace for 115 wins, but they're 2-3 against the Houston Astros, the team they should face in the American League Championship Series.

Houston Astros (7)

Dusty Baker's ninth life might be his best managing job yet. The hated Astros remain America's best bet to save us from a Yankees-Mets World Series.

New York Mets (10)

No wonder White Sox Chairman Jerry Reinsdorf didn't want Steve Cohen buying the Mets. Spending tons of money apparently works, and hiring a wise, old man in Buck Showalter was the correct move to take the Mets to the next level.

Los Angeles Dodgers (1)

The tracks of Freddie Freeman's tears took on a life of their own, but the former MVP made the best lineup in baseball even stronger. With so many current and former All-Stars on the roster, the Dodgers can cruise into the postseason without adding on. But they will anyway because they're the Dodgers.

Atlanta Braves (5)

They woke up four games under .500 on June 1 and suddenly remembered they were the world champions. The Braves went on a 14-game winning streak and entered the final weekend of the first half winning 31 of 41 games and challenging the Mets in the NL East.

Tampa Bay Rays (13)

Starter Shane Bieber this week became the 17th Rays player -- and 12th pitcher -- on the injured list. But you don't hear manager Kevin Cash complaining about it because the Rays have an abundance of depth and play through injuries.

Milwaukee Brewers (8)

The Brewers have no real stars in their lineup



New York Yankees center fielder Aaron Judge (99) hits an RBI single against the Boston Red Sox during the fourth inning at Yankee Stadium on Sunday.

outside of Christian Yelich, yet they're fourth in baseball in home runs and getting enough starting pitching to lead the majors' weakest division. How long can this last? At least until 2023.

Philadelphia Phillies (15)

Replacing manager Joe Girardi with Rob Thomson proved to be the right move by GM Sam Fuld. But they're 3-9 against the Mets, and Bryce Harper is out with a fractured thumb, leaving it all on Kyle Schwarber to carry the load. So far, so good.

St. Louis Cardinals (12)

The "meh" contender in the "meh" division. The Cardinals should be running away with the NL Central with sluggers Paul Goldschmidt and Nolan Arenado, but they're still treading water at the halfway mark under first-year manager Oliver Marmol.

Boston Red Sox (17)

They have nothing to play for but a wild-card spot, and losing two of three to the Cubs sent them into a tailspin in July. Ace Chris Sale came back hoping to lift the Red Sox but lasted only one inning in his second start before suffering his next deflating injury, a broken left pinkie after getting hit on the hand by a line drive. San Diego Padres (3)

Their latecollapse last year is fresh in everyone's minds, so skepticism remains after another strong start. Bob Melvin replaced Jayce Tingler, but it could be 2021 was the players' fault after all. Padres fans are piling on President A.J. Preller.

Seattle Mariners (14)

Give peace a chance? No thanks. A disappointing season turned around after their epic brawl

with the Angels. The M's went 11-1 during the player suspensions and roared into the weekend with 14 wins in 15 games.

Toronto Blue Jays (6)

Still living off their potential instead of living up to it, which led to Charlie Montoya's firing Wednesday. Like the White Sox, the Jays still have hope that their talent will make a difference in the long run. What else is there?

Miami Marlins (19)

The Marlins posted a 2.56 ERA in 15 games from June 29 through Thursday, and Sandy Alcantara might be the best starter in baseball. But all that pitching is being wasted on a young team that's always a couple players short of turning the corner.

Minnesota Twins (21)

Give the Twins credit for staying in first place this long. But they had better hang on because Carlos Correa probably will opt out for more money after the season. Then it's back to the rebuild.

Baltimore Orioles (30)

Brandon Hyde should be AL Manager of the Year if the Orioles finish above .500 after a 110-loss season. Even the weakest link in the AL East is better than some contenders with superior records.

Chicago White Sox (4)

Baseball's biggest bust in the first half? Hall of Fame manager Tony La Russa is taking a beating on Twitter, sports-talk radio and the Sox post-game show. GM Rick Hahn can't be happy with the way his team has played.

Cleveland Guardians (23)

New name, same old team. The Guardians are a young bunch accidentally contending in a

bad division. When the players get better, they'll be dealt for more prospects. It's a vicious cycle in Cleveland.

Texas Rangers (20)

The Rangers went big this offseason, setting a record by spending more than a half-billion dollars on players, notably signing Corey Seager and Marcus Semien to long-term deals. They still suck, and their longest winning streak is four games.

San Francisco Giants (9)

They won 107 games last season but will be lucky to finish .500 the way they've been playing since June. Defensively inept is a polite way of putting it.

Colorado Rockies (25)

Kris Bryant playing third base appears to be history, but his back issues aren't, so the Rockies have some explaining to do if he doesn't revert to form.

Detroit Tigers (16)

Javier Baez needed an audience to perform to but somehow wound up in Detroit. This was supposed to be the year they turned the corner, but it's still the same old Lions ... I mean Tigers.

Arizona D'backs (24)

Their No. 5 starters combined for a 7.93 ERA, so they called up Dallas Keuchel to stop the bleeding. Should we tell them? Nah.

Los Angeles Angels (11)

Firing manager Joe Maddon for Phil Nevin was like replacing Steve McQueen with Don Knotts. The Angels hitters have a strikeout rate of over 26%, which is worse than many T-ball teams.

Chicago Cubs (27)

The rebuild that can't be called a rebuild looks a lot like a rebuild that's going the wrong way. But Cubs fans are leading the league in beer-cup snakes, so there's that. Pittsburgh Pirates (28)

The Bucs lost to the Cubs 21-0 and it still wasn't their low point of the season.

Cincinnati Reds (26)

At least Joey Votto seems to be having fun while the Titanic sinks. The Reds' only saving grace is getting to play in the same division as the Cubs and Pirates.

Kansas City Royals (No. 18)

Ten players couldn't make the trip to Toronto because they were unvaccinated, which should be embarrassing to baseball and the Royals front office. But GM Dayton Moore and manager Mike Matheny are embarrass-proof.

Washington Nationals (22)

Juan Soto reportedly turned down a \$440 million, 15-year contract offer to remain with the Nationals that would have been the most lucrative in baseball history. And that's a shame, because he's the only player worth watching on that team.

Oakland Athletics (29)

Four fans at an A's game reportedly were injured by bullet fragments from people in Oakland shooting bullets in the air to celebrate the Fourth of July. One more reason to avoid going to an A's game.

Inside the 'crazy' plan to boost track and field's popularity before the 2028 Olympics

Andrew Greif

Los Angeles Times

With a gold-medal stride and an image gracing Nike marketing campaigns, Sanya Richards-Ross was one of the United States' most successful track and field stars during her decade-plus career — a stature she sustained, every year, by leaving the United States.

The strongest competition, attention and most lucrative paydays each summer came in the Diamond League, the sport's Europe-centric circuit.

Returning home, she noticed a "huge difference."

"We used to compete in Carson and we used to have a decent meet there, but there were so few track meets in L.A.," Richards-Ross said. "You think about the big cities in the United States — L.A., New York, Miami, those places that have such vibrant culture and people love to be entertained. We always wondered why there weren't greater opportunities for us to compete in those places?"

That is set to soon change. And it's one part of an ambitious plan on which track and field's U.S. and global leaders are staking the future of the sport in the country.

USA Track & Field will begin a circuit of meets in five U.S. cities next summer that its chief executive, Max Siegel, likened to the Diamond League in the quality of its international fields. Los Angeles will host one meet, Siegel said, adding a desire to reach fans particularly in hotbeds such as Florida, Texas and California.

The series is part of a strategic plan formed by USATF and backed by World Athletics to take advantage of what it has called a critical six-year window in hopes of making track and field the country's fifth-most-followed sport by the 2028 Summer Olympics in Los Angeles.

"Whether you think we're crazy or not," Siegel said, "it gives us something to shoot for in terms of how they measure where track and field is in the ecosystem."

That crowded ecosystem is why the question of how to grow track and field's popularity persists like few others within the sport.

A World Athletics-contracted Nielsen study from 2019 found that track and field was the eighth-most followed U.S. sport, with 37% of slightly

more than 1,000 respondents indicating they were interested in it. To move into the top five behind football (66%), baseball (56%), basketball (55%) and soccer (47%), track and field would need to surpass swimming, tennis and motor racing.

"It's the code that's never been cracked, that the No. 1 participatory sport in high school just doesn't mean that you're going to have full stadiums and relevant athletes walking down every main street in the USA," said Paul Swangard, an instructor of advertising and sport brand strategy at the University of Oregon who has called track meets for 30 years.

Other figures suggest Siegel's optimism isn't misplaced: Separate Nielsen research conducted this year found that track and field is the most likely sport that Americans will follow for both men and women's competitors.

"If we don't create a fanbase and entertain them in the next five to six years where we have mass appeal of Eugene, and then the not-too-far-down-the-road LA 2028 — if we don't capitalize and create a product that people want to consume and can follow, I don't know that we're going to have a chance," said Jesse Williams, the founder of Santa Monica-based Sound Running, which has staged meets in Southern California since 2019.

"I don't know that we have too many more opportunities. That's me being a little anxious about it, as far as we don't want to miss this window."

It's why Siegel's plan hinges heavily on this month's world outdoor championships at Oregon's Hayward Field — the first time the meet has been held in the U.S. — acting as a springboard for fans' interest that USATF hopes its upcoming domestic circuit can then hold.

In fitting fashion, USATF's six-year plan, dubbed its "journey to gold," faces numerous hurdles. One of the most daunting is how to turn Southern California into an engine fueling such growth.

The first seven-foot-high jump and sub-four-minute mile run on U.S. soil took place in the Memorial Coliseum in 1956. Eight years later, it hosted a USA-USSR dual meet that drew more than 50,000 fans. Carl Lewis wore the singlet of Santa Monica Track Club

while becoming one of track's biggest stars, and was one of eight Olympic gold medalists to represent the club. At UCLA's Drake Stadium, Jackie Joyner-Kersey honed the versatility that led to six Olympic medals and four heptathlon world championships.

Los Angeles was the sport's "epicenter," said Don Franken, a longtime meet promoter whose father, Al, was the marketing wizard behind big-drawing, long-running Southern California meets. Then after the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics, he called it more difficult to sustain interest outside of the four-year Olympic cycle.

"There are so many reasons why L.A., if you can catch the fire here in L.A. for the sport, I think it will spread," Franken said. He called USATF's plan "a smart idea because there's been so few events in recent years in Los Angeles and really so few major events."

Though many of the sport's stars still grow up or train in the entertainment industry's backyard, Southern California has receded as track and field's biggest stage.

The Coliseum track was removed in 1993. The Sunkist Invitational, a Franken-promoted staple of the indoor track calendar for 44 years, ended because of a lack of sponsorship in 1994. The U.S. outdoor national championships have been staged in Southern California only twice since 1990, the last in Carson in 2005.

Eugene has become their de facto home, hosting the last four Olympic trials, after Walnut's Mt. San Antonio College was awarded, then lost, its bid for 2020.

"That one Eugene town, they're die-hard track fans," said Kendall Ellis, a 400-meter star at USC who has qualified for the world championships. "But for the rest of America, for the most part, there is just not enough respect and passion and support for the sport of track and field as a whole. I think L.A. is like a microcosm of that. It's a small look at it, but the issue is overarching."

Since moving to Santa Monica five years ago from Seattle, where he worked in sports marketing at running company Brooks, Williams has found success in progressively growing meets from Los Angeles to Orange County under Sound Running's umbrella. On a balmy Friday night in May, fans joined at a Sound Running meet in San Juan

capistrano to take selfies with Olympic 1,500-meter gold medalist Jakob Ingebrigtsen. He called European crowds big and loud but praised U.S. audiences for their passion and superior knowledge of the sport.

While organizing his first meet, Williams said he was stunned that it had taken only a few days, phone calls and text messages to attract quality fields.

"That was a lightbulb moment of, 'OK, people need this, we need more of this,'" he said.

"... Everything ladders up to LA 2028, so I feel like we're in the perfect market to be doing this because every year, more attention should be on this market."

Promoting track is difficult for reasons not unique to the area. Athletes regularly drop out of meets on short notice, leaving fields in flux and rivalries between the top names largely the domain of championship meets. Yet for attracting fans, "L.A., to me, is maybe the hardest market," Williams added, citing traffic, geography and the innumerable other entertainment options. He pointed to 2019's "Challenger Games," a series of races featuring social-media influencers including Jake Paul who promoted the meet to their millions of followers — only for YouTube replays to show a half-full stadium at Long Beach City College.

Siegel spoke cautiously that it can take years and capital to build awareness and promotion. In hopes of avoiding the fate of other domestic-meet circuits that have fizzled entirely or failed to reach relevancy, he said the new version would take pre-existing events with built-in fanbases and create a "festival-type atmosphere" around them, perhaps including a road race, to tap into its largest possible audience of casual runners.

Presentation matters as much as product. Siegel described the growth of "American Ninja Warrior" as a template for building passion by highlighting the stories of its main competitors. Raevyn Rogers, the 800-meter bronze medalist for the U.S. in Tokyo, excitedly discussed when a pole-vault competition was staged in the streets of Monaco and called the prospect of an elite street race in Los Angeles "insane."

"There's no one single solution to the problem," said Swangard, the sports marketing expert who during the world

championships will commentate for NBC Sports. "It's a mixture of scheduling that makes sense to the average fan, it's competition among the best athletes happening consistently so rivalries are developed and come to fruition in competition."

"The media landscape for the sport is quite fragmented, and creates a challenge for people to find and view some of this stuff. And yet if you look at the grassroots level of high school, if you feel as though road racing and participatory running is a litmus test for people's interest in the activity, there are some healthy measures to the barometer."

Both Franken and Williams questioned whether USATF, given its sprawling responsibilities to serve track and field and runners in the country at the youth, elite and masters levels, was best equipped to stage and promote such meets, just as how USA Basketball does not run the NBA. Siegel said the appeal to some sponsors has been that their investments aren't focused only on a circuit but in a nationwide market for track.

"You have 60 million people in the country that identify themselves as runners who are part of the sport," Siegel said, "who I don't think necessarily self-identify as track and field athletes."

Reaching that audience requires attracting eyes in more cities than Los Angeles.

Sebastian Coe, the president of World Athletics, which governs the sport globally, "has said it's important for track and field to grow in the United States and we have a stake in that, as well, and we want to do everything we can to make that happen," recalled Joe Gesue, a vice president of NBC Olympics and Paralympics, which holds the rights to broadcast World Athletics events through 2029 and the Olympics through 2032.

To that end, NBC will broadcast 121/2 hours from the world championships on its main feed, including a first-ever prime-time window -- four more hours than it has devoted to a previous world championship since 2007. Broadcasts on USA Network and CNBC will bring NBC's total world championships coverage time to 43 hours, a number that doesn't include its streaming on Peacock.

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PUBLIC NOTICES

GREENE COUNTY LEGAL NOTICE

Sealed bids will be received as set forth in instructions to bidders until 10:30 A.M. on Thursday, August 18, 2022 at the NYSDOT, Office of Contract Management, 50 Wolf Rd, 1st Floor, Suite 1CM, Albany, NY 12232 and will be publicly opened and read. Bids may also be submitted via the internet using www.bidx.com. A certified cashier's check payable to the NYSDOT for the sum specified in the proposal or a bid bond, form CONR 391, representing 5% of the bid total, must accompany each bid. NYSDOT reserves the right to reject any or all bids.

Electronic documents and Amendments are posted to www.dot.ny.gov/doing-business/opportunities/const-notices. The Contractor is responsible for ensuring that all Amendments are incorporated into its bid. To receive notification of Amendments via e-mail you must submit a request to be placed on the Planholders List at www.dot.ny.gov/doing-business/opportunities/const-planholder.

Amendments may have been issued prior to your placement on the Planholders list. NYS Finance Law restricts communication with NYSDOT on procurements and contact can only be made with designated persons. Contact with non-designated persons or other involved Agencies will be considered a serious matter and may result in disqualification. Contact Robert Kitchen (518)457-2124.

Contracts with 0% Goals are generally single operation contracts, where subcontracting is not expected, and may present direct bidding opportunities for Small Business Firms, including, but not limited to D/M/WBE's and SDVOBs.

The New York State Department of Transportation, in accordance with the Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, 78 Stat. 252, 42 U.S.C. 2000d to 2000d-4 and Title 49, Code of Federal Regulations, Department of Transportation, Subtitle A, Office the Secretary, Part 21, Nondiscrimination in Federally-assisted programs of the Department of Transportation and Title 23 Code of Federal Regulations, Part 200, Title IV Program and Related Statutes, as amended, issued pursuant to such Act, hereby notifies all who respond to a written Department solicitation, request for proposal or invitation for bid that it will affirmatively ensure that in any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement, disadvantaged business enterprises will be afforded full opportunity to submit bids in response to this invitation and will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability/handicap and income status in consideration for an award.

Please call (518)457-2124 if a reasonable accommodation is needed to participate in the letting.

Region 02: New York State Department of Transportation
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D264874, PIN GSEE22, Albany, Essex, Fulton, Greene, Hamilton, Herkimer, Madison, Montgomery, Oneida, Rensselaer, Saratoga, Schenectady, Warren, Washington Cos., GEOTECH SUBSURFACE EXPLORATIONS, Upstate East, NYSDOT Regions 1 & 2, Bid Deposit: 5% of Bid (~\$40,000.00), Goals: MBE: 5.00%, WBE: 10.00%, SDVOB: 6.00%

COLUMBIA COUNTY SUMMONS

SUMMONS
 INDEX NO. EF2022-386
 STATE OF NEW YORK SUPREME COURT
 COUNTY OF GREENE

ROBERT J. HOFFMAN and SUSAN M. HOFFMAN, Plaintiffs, -against- JOHN DOE "1" through "10", intended to designate the heirs at law, devisees, and successors in interest to GERTRUDE WEBER, formerly known as GERTRUDE STRUVE, Defendants.

To the above named Defendant: YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and required to serve upon plaintiffs' attorneys an answer to the Complaint in this action within twenty (20) days after the service of this Summons, exclusive of the day of service, or within thirty (30) days after service is complete if this Summons is not personally delivered to you within the State of New York. In case of your failure to answer, judgment will be taken against you by default for the relief demanded in the Complaint.

Trial is desired in the County of Greene. The basis of venue designated above is that the real property is located in the Town of Cairo, County of Greene and State of New York

Dated: July 13, 2022
 Paul M. Freeman, Esq.
 FREEMAN HOWARD, P.C.
 Attorneys for Plaintiffs
 441 East Allen Street
 P.O. Box 1328
 Hudson, NY 12534
 (518) 828-2021

STATEMENT OF NATURE OF ACTION AND RELIEF SOUGHT

- Greene County Tax Map Parcel No. 66.00-6-68 has no owner named on the actual records of the County Tax Service.
- Pursuant to Article 15 of the Real Property Actions and Proceedings Law, Plaintiffs seek a judgment against Defendants adjudging and declaring that they are the lawful owners and vested with an absolute title in fee simple to Parcel 66.00-6-68; and that Defendants, their heirs at law, devisees, successors and assigns be forever barred and enjoined from in any way, directly or indirectly, disturbing or interfering with plaintiffs' quiet enjoyment of Parcel 66.00-6-68.
- Furthermore, Plaintiffs, from 2007 to the present, have continuously, openly, regularly, and exclusively enclosed, mowed, maintained, built a deck and planted on the Parcel 66.00-6-68, as well as regularly used the same for gatherings and leisurely activities.
- By reason thereof, plaintiffs likewise claim ownership of Parcel 66.00-6-68 under adverse possession under a claim of unwritten title, with occupation being hostile, actual, open and notorious, exclusive and continuous for well in excess of 10 years prior to the commencement of this action.

GREENE COUNTY SUMMONS

SUMMONS
 INDEX NO. EF2022-386
 STATE OF NEW YORK SUPREME COURT
 COUNTY OF GREENE

ROBERT J. HOFFMAN and SUSAN M. HOFFMAN, Plaintiffs, -against- JOHN DOE "1" through "10", intended to designate the heirs at law, devisees, and successors in interest to GERTRUDE WEBER, formerly known as GERTRUDE STRUVE, Defendants.

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 Paul M. Freeman, Esq.
 FREEMAN HOWARD, P.C.
 Attorneys for Plaintiff
 441 East Allen Street
 P.O. Box 1328
 Hudson, New York 12534
 (518) 828-2021

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- Pursuant to Article 15 of the Real Property Actions and Proceedings Law, Plaintiffs seek a judgment against Defendants adjudging and declaring that they are the lawful owners and vested with an absolute title in fee simple to Parcel 66.00-6-68; and that Defendants, their heirs at law, devisees, successors and assigns be forever barred and enjoined from in any way, directly or indirectly, disturbing or interfering with plaintiffs' quiet enjoyment of Parcel 66.00-6-68.
- Furthermore, Plaintiffs, from 2007 to the present, have continuously, openly, regularly, and exclusively enclosed, mowed, maintained, built a deck and planted on the Parcel 66.00-6-68, as well as regularly used the same for gatherings and leisurely activities.
- By reason thereof, plaintiffs likewise claim ownership of Parcel 66.00-6-68 under adverse possession under a claim of unwritten title, with occupation being hostile, actual, open and notorious, exclusive and continuous for well in excess of 10 years prior to the commencement of this action.

LEGAL NOTICE NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION, OFFICE OF RIGHT OF WAY, NOTICE OF APPROPRIATION OF PROPERTY, IN THE BED OR BEDS OF A STREAM, LAKE, STREET, ROAD, HIGHWAY, OR RIGHT OF WAY. PROJECT: NEW YORK STATE THRUWAY BERKSHIRE SECTION, SUBDIVISION B-3A, TOWN OF CHATHAM, COUNTY OF COLUMBIA, MAP NO. 267, PARCEL NO. 492. TAKE NOTICE THAT PURSUANT TO EMINENT DOMAIN PROCEDURE LAW, NOTICE is hereby given that there was filed in the Office of the Department of Transportation on the 2nd day of November, 2012, description and original tracing of a map, together with a certificate as to the accuracy thereof, of property which the Commissioner of Transportation deemed necessary to be acquired immediately for purposes connected with the project identified above; that there was filed in the office of the COLUMBIA County Clerk on the 7th day of April, 2016, a copy of such description and map, whereupon the appropriation by the State of the property described in such description and map became complete and the title to such property vested in the People of the State of New York. Description and map of property which the Commissioner of Transportation deems necessary to be acquired by appropriation in the name of the People of the State of New York in fee, without right of access to and from abutting property, for purposes connected with the Thruway system of the State of New York pursuant to the applicable provisions of Article XII-A of the Highway Law; Article 2, Title 9 of the Public Authorities Law; and the Eminent Domain Procedure Law. There is excepted from this appropriation all the right, title and interest, if any, of the United States of America in or to said property. Field survey records and control report are on file in the Headquarters of the New York State Thruway Authority. All that piece or parcel of property hereinafter designated as Parcel No. 492, situate in the Town of Chatham, County of Columbia, State of New York, as shown on the accompanying map and described as follows: PARCEL NO. 492 Being all that portion of the Bed of Hunt Club Road, beginning at a point on the westerly boundary of the existing New York State Thruway, Berkshire Section, Subdivision B-3A, at its intersection with the northerly boundary of Hunt Club Road, said point being 23± feet distant westerly, measured at right angles, from station R 9+ 80± of the hereinafter described survey baseline for the reconstruction of a portion of the New York State Thruway, Berkshire Section, Subdivision B-3A, thence westerly along the last mentioned northerly boundary of said existing Hunt Club Road, 50± feet to a point 73± feet distant westerly, measured at right angles, from station R 9+89± of said baseline, thence South 11°-42'-11" East through the Bed of Hunt Club Road 35± feet to a point on the southerly boundary of Hunt Club Road, the last mentioned point being 71± feet distant westerly, measured at right angles, from station R 10+24± of said baseline, thence easterly along the last mentioned southerly boundary of Hunt Club Road 53± feet to its intersection with the first mentioned westerly boundary of said existing New York State Thruway, Berkshire Section, Subdivision B-3A, the last mentioned point being 20± feet distant westerly, measured at right angles, from station R 10+39± of said baseline, thence northerly along the last mentioned westerly boundary of said existing New York State Thruway, Berkshire Section, Subdivision B-3A, 59± feet to the point of beginning, being 2,340 square feet or 0.054 Acre more or less. The above mentioned survey baseline is a portion of the 2009 survey baseline (NAD 83/CORS 96) for the reconstruction of the New York State Thruway, Berkshire Section, Subdivision B-3A, as shown on a map and plan on file in the Headquarters of the New York State Thruway Authority and described as follows: Beginning at station R 9+59.50, thence South 08°-09'-11" East to station R 11+35.02. All bearings referred to True North at the 74°-30' Meridian of West Longitude. COMMISSIONER OF TRANSPORTATION, By: /s/ Shelley Marano, Office of Right of Way. DATED: July 13, 2022

Public Notice: Ashland Water District Users

We are in the process of Flushing the Fire Hydrants in the Ashland Water District. We will be doing this process between the hours of: **8:00AM- 3:00PM on July 21, 2022 and July 22, 2022** Any questions contact Diane at 518-734-3636 By Order of Larry Tompkins, Water Superintendent

Merchandise

730 Miscellaneous for Sale

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Announcements

610 Announcements

CENTRAL HUDSON GAS & ELECTRIC CORPORATION

ELECTRIC AND GAS ARREARS REDUCTION PROGRAM SURCHARGE

Central Hudson Gas & Electric Corporation filed revisions to its electric and gas rate schedules on June 24, 2022, as required by the Public Service Commission, to implement a new surcharge to recover the costs of the Electric & Gas Bill Relief Program targeted to assist low-income families who experienced hardship during the COVID-19 pandemic. The Arrears Reduction Program Surcharge will be included in the Miscellaneous component of all electric and gas customers' bills beginning August 1, 2022.

CENTRAL HUDSON GAS & ELECTRIC CORPORATION

Employment

415 General Help

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Public Notice

Request for Proposal for Softball Field Skinning
 The Board of Education of the Germantown Central School District invites sealed proposals for "Softball Field Skinning". Proposals must be submitted in clearly labeled envelope to Germantown Central School District, 123 Main St, Germantown, New York, 12526 Attn: Holly Sanford, Business Administrator by 2 p.m., Monday, July 25, 2022. Proposals must be completed in full and include all requested documentation

A copy of the Request for Proposal, certifications, general information and conditions, and specifications may be obtained from the District Business Office at 123 Main St, Germantown, New York, 12526 or by email at rvanalstyn@germantowncsd.org. The Board of Education reserves the right to reject any and/or all proposals and to waive any informalities discovered within.

Holly Sanford
 Business Administrator
 Benjamin Bragg
 Superintendent of Schools

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PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY
KPL GREEN LLC
Articles of Org. filed NY Sec. of State (SSNY) 6/30/22. Office in Columbia Co. SSNY desig. agent of LLC whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail process to PO Box 170, Yonkers, NY 10704. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY
Notice of Formation of SKY TOP ROAD FARM LL. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 2022-05-23. Office location: Columbia County. SSNY designated as agent of Limited Liability Company (LLC) upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY should mail process to : . Purpose: Any lawful purpose

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY
Notice of Formation of 39th Prime, LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 2022-06-10. Office location: Columbia County. SSNY designated as agent of Limited Liability Company (LLC) upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY should mail process to 39th Prime, LLC: 167 New Concord Road East Chatham NY 12060. Purpose: Any lawful purpose

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY
Notice of Formation of Jupiter Return LLC . Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 2022-03-28. Office location: Columbia County. SSNY designated as agent of Limited Liability Company (LLC) upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY should mail process to Joseph Haley : 67 Payn Ave Chatham NY 12037. Purpose: Any lawful purpose

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY
Notice of Formation of 30West Marketing LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 2022-06-22. Office location: Columbia County. SSNY designated as agent of Limited Liability Company (LLC) upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY should mail process to Stephen Robert Theiss: 65 N 3rd St Hudson NY 12534. Purpose: Any lawful purpose

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY
1023 THIRD STREET REALTY, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 06/06/22. Office: Nassau County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, 75 Heisser Court, Farmingdale, NY 11735. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY
Notice of Formation of From Scratch Food LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 2022-03-29. Office location: Greene County. SSNY designated as agent of Limited Liability Company (LLC) upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY should mail process to Chrissy Traore: 512 Route 145 Cairo NY 12413. Purpose: Any lawful purpose

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY
WS BECKER MANAGEMENT, LLC filed Arts. of Org. with the Sect'y of State of NY (SSNY) on 6/24/2022. Office: Columbia County. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served and shall mail process to: The LLC, 320 Viewmont Rd., Germantown, NY, 12526. Purpose: any lawful act.

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY
Notice of Formation of CATSKILL MAINTENANCE LLC. Arts. Of Org. filed with SSNY on 06/09/2022. Office location Greene SSNY desig. As agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served SSNY mail process to PO BOX 431, PALENVILLE, NY, 12463. Any lawful purpose.

GREENE COUNTY NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
The Town Board of the Town of Coxsackie has scheduled a public hearing on proposed local law #2-2022, the Solar Energy PILOT Law of the Town of Coxsackie. The hearing will take place on August 9 at 7:00 pm at Coxsackie Town Hall, 56 Bailey Street, Coxsackie, NY. All interested parties have the right to be heard. By order of the Town Board, Bambi Hotaling, Town Clerk.

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY
Notice of Formation of 247-13 139TH AVENUE, LLC. Arts. Of Org. filed with SSNY on 09/03/2021. Office location Greene SSNY desig. As agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served SSNY mail process to 23 FRANKLIN STREET, CATSKILL, NY, 12414. Any lawful purpose.

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NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY
Notice of Formation of Athens Commons LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 2022-07-05. Office location: Greene County. SSNY designated as agent of Limited Liability Company (LLC) upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY should mail process to United States Corporation Agents, INC.: 7014 13th Avenue, Suite 202 Brooklyn NY 11228. Purpose: Any lawful purpose

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY
Notice of Formation of Heidi Esterman Psychological Services, PLLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 2022-03-24. Office location: Columbia County. SSNY designated as agent of Professional Limited Liability Company (PLLC) upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY should mail process to Heidi Esterman: 4 Park Place St PO Box 555 Claverack NY 12513. Purpose: Any lawful purpose

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY
Notice of Formation of Riverview Lawn and Home. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 2022-06-19. Office location: Columbia County. SSNY designated as agent of Limited Liability Company (LLC) upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY should mail process to Eric Wied: 871 County Route 28 Main Street Niverville NY 12130. Purpose: Any lawful purpose

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY
Notice of Formation of Sammiy Slovak, LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 2022-06-23. Office location: Columbia County. SSNY designated as agent of Limited Liability Company (LLC) upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY should mail process to Samantha Slovak: 795 Frisbee Street East Chatham NY 12060. Purpose: Any lawful purpose

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY
Notice of Formation of BAYSIDE BUILDERS PS LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 2022-05-11. Office location: Columbia County. SSNY designated as agent of Limited Liability Company (LLC) upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY should mail process to : . Purpose: Any lawful purpose

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY
Notice of Formation of Hannah Williams LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 2022-06-17. Office location: Columbia County. SSNY designated as agent of Limited Liability Company (LLC) upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY should mail process to Hannah Williams: 1989 County Route 11 Hillsdale NY 12529. Purpose: Any lawful purpose

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY
Notice of Formation of Black Mesa Designs LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 2022-06-14. Office location: Greene County. SSNY designated as agent of Limited Liability Company (LLC) upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY should mail process to Black Mesa Designs LLC: 1562 County Route 54 Hannacroix NY 12087. Purpose: Any lawful purpose

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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.

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M W U V U Y H X S U X H Y N G J U X X S G F U A P
M K U H H M K M L W S G U C J , U V C X S U X ' J
E M L W K G U W . ” — J U V C W U M S

Previous Solution: "Mystique is rare now, isn't it? There aren't that many enigmas in this modern world." — Benedict Cumberbatch

TODAY'S CLUE: B equals B

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The men's golf ritual in 2022: Watch a major, then wonder about LIV

Chuck Culpepper

The Washington Post

ST. ANDREWS, Scotland — For now at least, there's a two-part ritual for men's golf majors: Watch the golf tournament, then wonder about the golf future.

Watch a guy win and maybe even dazzle, as did the 28-year-old Australian Cameron Smith on Sunday at the 150th British Open. Then: Wonder if he's going to LIV, the Saudi breakaway tour luring golfers from the PGA Tour and roiling men's golf in 2022.

Smith won and dazzled with five straight birdies from Nos. 10 to 14, a clever par save on No. 17 and another birdie on No. 18, then brought his claret jug to the news conference, then fielded the fair question about LIV as the 16th question in the queue of questions. A fair follow-up came 17th, out of the total of 31.

Question: Cam, apologies for having to bring this up in these circumstances, but your name continues to be

mentioned, has been mentioned to me this week about LIV Golf. What's your position? Are you interested? Is there any truth to suggestions that you might be signing?

Smith: I just won the British Open, and you're asking about that. I think that's . . . not that good.

Follow-up question: I appreciate that, but the question is still there. Are you interested at all? Is there any truth in that?

Smith: I don't know, mate. My team around me worries about all that stuff. I'm here to win golf tournaments.

Next question in the room: Did you have Spaghetti Bolognese last night?

A funky year found a quintessence right there, all as Smith refrained from dismissing the prospect he might become the first player to win a major tournament and then quit competitive tour golf for LIV and its soft, cut-free, 54-hole excursions. The deflection of the question left the topic open for perhaps

the coming days and weeks, even as the Daily Telegraph reported on Monday that Smith committed to playing the FedEx Cup playoffs, the balance of the PGA Tour season. The PGA Tour thus far has forbidden LIV defectors from playing in PGA Tour events.

As further sauce to the ritual, Smith on Monday morning bolted from No. 6 in the world to No. 2, behind only Scottie Scheffler and just ahead of Rory McIlroy. And both Sky Sports and Expressen of Sweden reported that Henrik Stenson, the 2016 Open champion, would bolt to LIV, jeopardizing his Ryder Cup captaincy.

Golf-wise, LIV golfers fared much better than at the U.S. Open near Boston in June, where they happened to pose no real relevance. The best golfer the new tour has snared to date, Dustin Johnson, finished tied for 24th for their highest position.

Johnson also led the LIVers at St. Andrews but nibbled at

contention during the weekend before winding up tied for sixth at 13 under par, seven shots off the lead. Others nibbled behind Johnson: Bryson DeChambeau tied for eighth, Abraham Ancer tied for 11th, Talor Gooch and Lee Westwood tied for 34th. As a cherished course got mauled and 73 players wound up under par, those 73 also included LIV players Patrick Reed, Ian Poulter and Sergio Garcia.

It ratified the words of the most accountable of the LIV players, Gooch, the 30-year-old Oklahoman ranked No. 41 in the world: "As humbly put as possible, it doesn't take a lot for us at this level to stay sharp."

For the most part, LIV talk bubbled well beneath the grand celebration of golf history at the sport's birthplace. The 2013 champion Phil Mickelson didn't get invited to the champions' dinner. The 1986 and 1993 champion Greg Norman, head honcho of LIV, didn't get invited at all.

Westwood got into a salty debate with a reporter in which Westwood charged the media as more concerned with LIV than the public, a take belied by traffic numbers around the world. Poulter finished his first round and said he heard no hecklers.

The golfers who seemed capable of handling the issues included DeChambeau, who said on Saturday, "I think over the course of time it will all work itself out. I think in some capacity we'll find a way to coexist and work together through this to make the best entertainment we possibly can for the world."

Gooch, who was a member of the winning team in the second LIV event in late June in Oregon, said on Friday, "Everybody, it feels like, is against us, and that's okay. Like you said, it's kind of banded us together, I think."

Others, such as Westwood or Smith, seemed less prepared.

As with the U.S. Open, the

four days of competitive golf drowned out the LIV talk, except in sprinkles at certain interviews and in conversations in the galleries.

Gooch owned the ribbing he took from peers for his post-win comments comparing the LIV atmosphere to the Ryder Cup.

"Yeah, a bunch of players came up, and they're like, 'Really? Really?'" he said. "I was like, 'Hold on a second, guys. Give me a little break. I just won. I was in the moment. I might have gotten a little aggressive with the comments.' No, I mean, like I said, I was just in the moment with them. We were pumped. I watch F1. I was so pumped to be able to spray champagne like they do in F1. I was in the moment. Maybe a little aggressive of a comment. Rightfully so, I've taken a little bit of heat for it."



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USWNT qualifies for 2024 Olympics with victory over Canada

Field Level Media

Alex Morgan scored on a penalty kick in the 78th minute as the U.S. women's national team qualified for the 2024 Olympics by defeating Canada 1-0 on Monday night in the final of the CONCACAF W Championship in Guadalupe, Mexico.

It was Morgan's pass to Rose Lavelle that led to defender Allysha Chapman clipping Lavelle on the right side of the box. Morgan then stepped to the spot to score her 118th international goal in her 196th game.

Alyssa Naeher made five saves for the U.S.

Canada will play the tournament's third-place team, Jamaica, in a September 2023 play-off to determine CONCACAF's second representative in the Paris Olympics.

The U.S., Canada, Jamaica and Costa Rica had already qualified for the 2023 World Cup co-hosted by Australia and New Zealand by advancing to the W Championship semifinals. The U.S. is the two-time defending World Cup champion.

In the most recent

U.S.-Canada match in August 2021, the Canadians won 1-0 in the semifinal of the Tokyo Olympics en route to winning the gold medal.

Each team entered the final with four wins, all by shutouts, and there was no separation in the first half on the scoreboard despite the U.S. leading in shots and shots on target.

In fact, Canada didn't have a shot attempt in the final 25 minutes leading to the break, and its only shots on goal came in the sixth and seventh minutes by Nichelle Prince. Naeher handled both of them easily.

Kailen Sheridan kept the Canadians in the match. She stopped Mallory Pugh's shot to the near post just 45 seconds after the opening kickoff and made a diving save to her right on Pugh in the 31st minute. In the 45th minute, she made a point-blank save of Sophia Smith's right-footed shot.

Sheridan finished with five saves in the match.

The U.S. outshot Canada 17-11, posting six shots on target to the Canadians' five.



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MIDDLE TENNESSEE
STATE UNIVERSITY

With college football in major flux, the SEC stands strong

Mark Bradley
The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

Nobody could have envisioned a sport like this. There's no governing body, the NCAA having long ago washed its hands. There's an NCAA tournament for every collegiate sport except FBS, which means "football bowl subdivision." The greatest power rests in conferences, though they're in constant flux and the sport's biggest name doesn't belong to one, at least not in football.

Those who play the sport can bank serious money, same as those in the NFL. Those who play the sport can move from campus to campus without having to spend much time in an actual class. Those who play for schools based in Los Angeles will soon know the charms of a conference game in New Brunswick, N.J.

The closest thing the sport has to a czar is Greg Sankey, commissioner of the almost-almighty SEC. His appearance at the conference's Media Days on Monday was the source of much anticipation, though much of it became Sankey singing his annual victory song.

Asked about the possibility of college football becoming a gathering of superleagues, Sankey said, "This is a superleague." Asked if the SEC's latest additions (Texas, Oklahoma) beat the Big Ten's (USC, UCLA), he said yes. Not that he's biased or anything.

"Times are changing more rapidly than ever," Sankey said.

Then: "I told our coaches (at the SEC meetings last month) that it's never going to be the same, but it doesn't have to be the way it is."

The way college football is? Well, it's different in a way that mightn't be sustainable. Whispers hold that NIL money, for some programs, could reach nine figures. Whispers



SEC Commissioner Greg Sankey holds his opening press conference to begin SEC Media Days at the College Football Hall of Fame on Monday in Atlanta.

hold that, in the effort to stay within hailing distance of the SEC and Big Ten, two of the other three Power Five conferences will be forced into some sort of merger, which would leave the third in a world of hurt.

Sankey again: "We cannot go on as we are." By "we," he meant "them." The SEC, he reminded an audience that needed no reminding, has produced six different football

national champs since 1997. What he didn't say was that the arrival of Texas and Oklahoma will raise that total to eight. That's half the 16-team league.

Those hoping for a hint of greater tectonic shifts from Sankey were left wanting. The SEC doesn't have to do anything to keep up. It's so far ahead as to have lapped the field. "The SEC will not be complacent," he said,

"even though we're in a position of strength." Then: "We're comfortable at 16 (members)."

The Big Ten is adding two teams from the same city. The SEC's footprint is wide, yes, but it's not entirely scattershot. The 16-team SEC will include teams from 12 different states, none beyond the Central Time Zone. In a tweak of the Big Ten's California dreaming, Sankey said: "We are in the southeast quadrant of the United States."

NIL money, he allowed, needs some rethinking. It has existed for 13 months. It took boosters 13 seconds to figure how to bring what was once transacted under the table into some measure of legal compliance. Sankey spoke of "incredible disparities." And then, not to say he told us so: "This is exactly what we warned about in 2019. A patchwork network of state laws is the last thing we wanted."

Sankey was the chief proponent of an expanded College Football Playoff, which the Big Ten, Pac-12 and ACC quashed. (This was before the Big Ten poached two of the Pac-12 schools.) He offered nothing new, playoff-wise, but the SEC hasn't exactly gone hungry. Every championship game since the CFP's inaugural season has included at least one SEC representative. Two of the past four have featured two.

The SEC commissioner didn't offer a road map as to where college football is headed. Even he can't know everything and, with college football, nobody knows much of anything. What is known is that Sankey's league will be fine no matter what.

"We'll watch what happens around us," he said, "and be thoughtful but be nimble."

That mightn't have been meant as a warning. It sounded like one, though.



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Rumors and lies envelop divorcee living abroad

Dear Abby,
I retired to Malaga, Spain, after my marriage of 38 years ended in divorce. I have gone to dinner with a few men since moving here. This is a lovely community with many retired residents from all over Europe and the U.K. My problem is, after a few dates, they assume that because they bought me dinner it entitles them to sex. I am fit and fairly attractive, but I may be out of touch on dating.

These men have implied to others that we DID have sex, and now single and married men are calling me. The only way they could have gotten my number is through these men. I have tried to make light of this, but I'm worried that when my sons or grandchildren visit next month, they will hear something that isn't true. How do I stop this nonsense without causing hard feelings?

Not Like That at all

What has been done to you is vile and disgusting. Someone you refused to have sex with has retaliated with the equivalent of writing your phone number on a bathroom wall. Tell your sons NOW what has been going on so they will be prepared when they visit. And if you accept any more invitations, make clear IN ADVANCE that you will be paying for your dinner yourself.

Dear Abby,
My husband and I have been trying to have a child for nine years with no success. We have been through 14 rounds of fertility drugs, only two of which were successful, but neither one produced a child. My husband wants me to stop treatments because he doesn't like what

the medications do to me, and I have agreed to stop because I think my body is just too tired. But, Abby, all of me wants to be a mother. Must I give up, or should I keep trying even though it might lead to further heartbreak?

Maternal in Washington



DEAR ABBY
JEANNE PHILLIPS

Listen to your body. It may be time to consider other options than fertility drugs. These include fostering, adoption or hiring a surrogate to help. These are subjects to pursue, first with your husband, then your physician and possibly an attorney who specializes in adoption law. And don't forget, it isn't unheard of for some women who adopt to later become pregnant without medical intervention. I wish you luck on whichever path you choose.

Dear Abby,
My son is getting married for the third time. I paid for half of his first wedding and also gave a generous gift. I gave him a significant cash gift for his second wedding. Do I give him and his new bride yet another cash gift?

They are planning a small wedding overseas, which I won't be attending. All have been — or will be — first weddings for the brides. I don't want the new bride to feel slighted, but on the other hand, it's getting really expensive for me. They live a nomadic life, so material gifts would not be appreciated by them. What's a perplexed mother to do?

Disgusted mom in Florida

Write them a check and hope the third time is the charm for your nomadic son. Then tell him you're closing your checkbook.

Horoscope

By Stella Wilder

Born today, you are destined to chart your own path in life, and even though you may not know where you are at every turn, you certainly have a destination in mind and know how to stay on the path to ensure that you get there. Despite this single-mindedness of purpose, you enjoy the side trips that life sends you on now and then. You even welcome them and at times make decisions that will delay your forward progress and take you down some rarely traveled paths full of new experiences, adventures and discoveries.

You are likely quite attractive to almost everyone for a variety of reasons, and others may never really know whether it is the physical, intellectual or spiritual to which they are drawn — but to you it really doesn't matter. You enjoy the attention, surely — though there are times when you might very well say, "Enough!"

Also born on this date are: Sir Edmund Hillary, mountaineer; Francesco Petrarca, poet; Carlos Santana, musician; Natalie Wood, actress; Omar Epps, actor; Sandra Oh, actress.

To see what is in store for you tomorrow, find your birthday and read the corresponding paragraph. Let your birthday star be your daily guide.

THURSDAY, JULY 21

CANCER (June 21-July 22) — An emotional situation is likely to rear its ugly head before you can do anything to prevent it; you must be ready to control your feelings.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) — You're eager to know how a certain contest will play out, but there's no way to know without confirming your commitment before day's end.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) — You may be sending a message that others are not ready to

receive. You may have to navigate some rough terrain before hand-delivering it.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) — The same effort that paid off for you yesterday may not have the same impact today, so you're going to have to assess, adjust and repeat.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) — Take care that a friendly contest doesn't become too serious simply because you don't know when to relinquish your advantage. It's all in fun!

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) — Someone may be trying to investigate both your motives and your methods — and you're more than willing to share one but not the other.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) — A trip down memory lane may cost you more than anticipated today, but you're willing to pay handsomely for the rewards you can reap.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) — Your autonomy may be under siege at this time. Do what you must to ensure you are free to say and do what you will — at all times.

PISCES (Feb. 18-March 20) — You have all your ducks in a row and all you have to do now is wait — but how will you fill the time? A friend offers a suggestion or two.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) — Now is no time to make vague comments about that which is not up to par. If you're going to complain, you must do so clearly today.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) — Tension rises in part today because you're not aware of what is compelling a competitor to break the rules. Soon you'll comprehend all.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) — Go over the details of a plan you've had to throw together and you'll know that you did a better job than expected. Progress is assured.

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Goren bridge

WITH BOB JONES

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Both vulnerable, South deals

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♥ 6
♦ K Q 10 8 4
♣ J 10 7 4

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♦ J 9 7 6
♣ K 6 3

EAST

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♥ K 4 3 2
♦ 5 2
♣ 9 8 5 2

SOUTH

♠ A K 10 9 8 5
♥ A Q 7
♦ A 3
♣ A Q

The bidding:
SOUTH WEST NORTH EAST
2♠ Pass 2♦ Pass
2♥ Pass 3♠ Pass
3NT Pass 4♦ Pass
6NT All pass

Opening lead: Jack of ♥

Had it been allowed in their methods, North would have made a splinter bid of four hearts rather than bidding three spades. South would surely have bid the slam in spades — a cakewalk — if he knew there were heart ruffs available in

dummy. The wrong contract, however, brought out the best in South's play.

The opening heart lead was won with South's queen as East played low. The ace and king of spades brought disappointing news, but South continued with a third round to East's queen. East shifted to the nine of clubs. South won with his ace and cashed his three remaining spades. This was the position:

NORTH

♠ Void
♥ Void
♦ K Q 10 8 4
♣ Void

WEST

♠ Void
♥ Void
♦ J 9 7 6
♣ K

EAST

♠ Void
♥ K 4
♦ 5 2
♣ 9

SOUTH

♠ Void
♥ A 7
♦ A 3
♣ Q

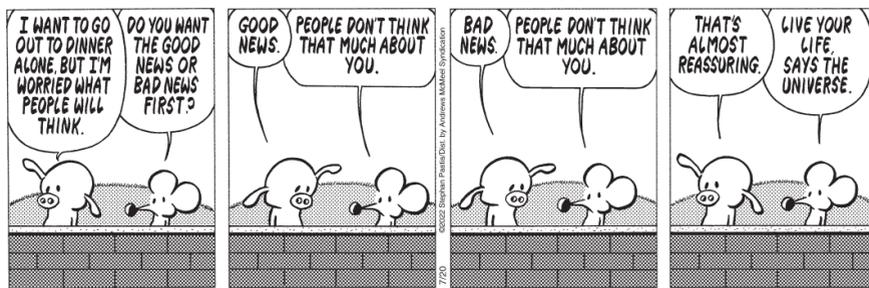
South cashed the ace of hearts, discarding a diamond from dummy, and West could not defend the position. Any discard by West would give South his twelfth trick. Very well played!

(Bob Jones welcomes readers' e-mails: tcaditors@tribpub.com)

Pickles



Pearls Before Swine



Classic Peanuts



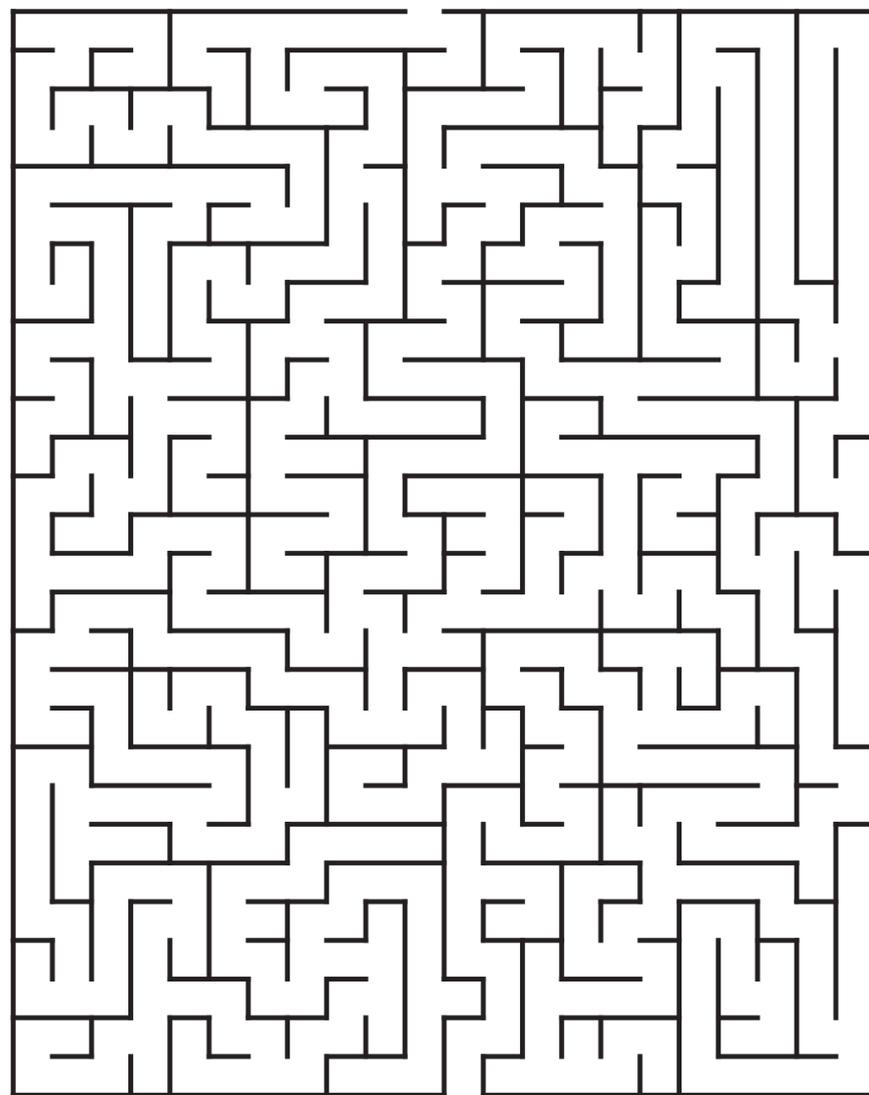
Garfield



Dark Side of the Horse



Daily Maze



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Close to Home



"They wanted to meet you. This is the family of 'Mongoo,' the pig who donated the valve to you."

Free Range



7-20 GOCOMICS.COM

Get Fuzzy



Dilbert



For Better or For Worse



Crossword Puzzle

- ACROSS**
- Fish-and-chips fish, often
 - oneself; prepare for a jolt
 - Muscle pain
 - Sound of a dull impact
 - Happen again
 - African nation
 - Learned by ___; memorized
 - Valuing too highly
 - Hole-making tool
 - Knight fight
 - Shabby & dirty
 - Up and at 'em
 - Calendar pg.
 - Pays tribute to
 - Most immaculate
 - Peru's range
 - Chimney emission
 - Brown shade
 - "It is what ___"
 - Forest opening
 - Threesome
 - ___ Angeles
 - Guinness & Baldwin
 - Lunch & dinner
 - ___ out; got rid of slowly
 - Pastor's territory
 - Even score
 - ___ up the rear; come in last
 - ___ for; symbolized
 - Interwoven locks
 - Wheel center
 - "Alice in ___"
 - "___ long way to Tipperary..."
 - Advanced in years
 - Teeming crowd
 - "___ I say more?"
 - Male singing voice
 - Follows orders
 - Plus

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
13				14					15			
16				17					18			
19			20						21			
		22	23						24			
25	26					27			28	29		
30					31	32				33	34	
35					36					37		
38				39					40			
	41	42						43				
46	47	48				49	50			51	52	53
54					55					56		
57					58					59		
60					61					62		

Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews 7/20/22

Tuesday's Puzzle Solved

WRAP	CAMEL	OFFA
IOTA	OFAGE	CLAD
RATS	LONGISLAND	
ERR	CLUE	TONGS
APRIL	MAC	
ACCRUE	WALKON	
LATEX	GLADE	VOW
GRIP	REESE	FETE
ADO	SALSA	AIRE
SNACKS	SCALDS	
FOE	THETA	
ASTIR	THIS	PAD
STRENGTHEN	SPUR	
KEEL	AWARE	PERU
SPEED	LONER	ADAM

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- DOWN**
- Purina dog
 - Preposterous
 - JFK's predecessor
 - Creeks
 - Musical variety show
 - Top cards
 - Rudely abrupt
 - Goof up
 - On the go
 - Facial feature
 - Get the ___ of; learn to do
 - Nervous
 - "...flowers that bloom in the spring, ___"
 - Venerate
 - Jolts
 - Problems
 - Heat in the microwave
 - "___ Mary, full of grace..."
 - "___ of Old Smoky"
 - Snow peas & okra
 - Align
 - Man's formal evening attire
 - Snow toy
 - Late Bernie
 - Have a snack
 - Q-tip, e.g.
 - Old Roman garb
 - Singles
 - Shapeless mass
 - Unusual
 - Secondhand
 - Wicked
 - Fraternity letter
 - ___ funk; moody

SUDOKU

THE SAMURAI OF PUZZLES By The Mepham Group

Level 1 2 3 4

5	4							
	7					9		
9		3		6	1		7	
1			5	3				
	9						1	
			6	9				8
8	9	1	7				5	
	3					7		
				2	3	4		

Solution to Tuesday's puzzle 7/20/22

7	8	5	1	6	2	9	3	4
1	9	4	8	3	7	6	5	2
6	2	3	5	9	4	1	7	8
9	5	2	3	7	6	8	4	1
8	6	1	9	4	5	7	2	3
3	4	7	2	1	8	5	6	9
2	3	9	7	5	1	4	8	6
5	1	6	4	8	3	2	9	7
4	7	8	6	2	9	3	1	5

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

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JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

DTHIC

CPYIK

MLETHE

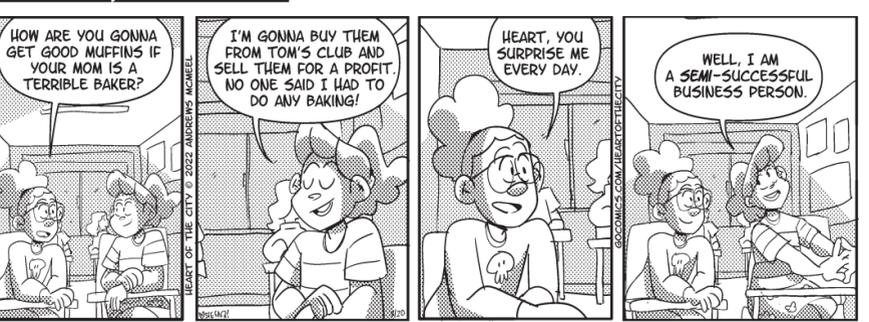
NCAELC

MEMORIZING LINES FOR THE PLAY WOULD REQUIRE A LOT OF EFFORT. SHE'D NEED TO ---

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Yesterday's Jumbles: DRAWN PANDA OUTING HYPHEN
Answer: For this guy, having huge arms and winning arm wrestling matches — GO HAND IN HAND

Heart of the City



B.C.



Wizard of Id



Andy Capp



Bound & Gagged



Non Sequitur



Rubes

