



Consumer price growth slows.

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# HARRISON DAILY TIMES

SINCE 1876



Smith, Tygart to USA Baseball Collegiate Ntl Team training camp.

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## Ryall new director of Heritage

By The Associated Press

LITTLE ROCK — The legislative affairs director for the Arkansas Department of Parks, Heritage and Tourism is taking over as director of its Heritage Division.

Gov. Sarah Huckabee Sanders on Monday announced she was naming Marty Ryall to replace outgoing Arkansas Division of Heritage Director Jimmy Bryant. Bryant is retiring at the end of June.

"I have a deep love and respect for our state, its unique history, her natural beauty, and our rich heritage," Ryall said in a statement. "It is a great responsibility and challenge that I am humbly honored to accept."

Ryall has served as the department's legislative affairs director since January and before that he was director of governmental affairs for Arkansas PBS. He's also a former executive director of the Republican Party of Arkansas.

"I appreciate Jimmy Bryant's service to our state and know that Marty is the perfect candidate to take up Jimmy's role," Sanders said in a statement. "Together, we will take Arkansas Heritage to the top."

Ryall's annual salary as Division of Heritage director will be \$120,000, effective July

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## County maintains 1,000 miles of roads



Boone County Judge Robert Hathaway addressed the crowd at the Eggs and Issues Breakfast held Tuesday, June 13. Hathaway gave an update on the county's maintenance of the roads and bridges. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO/LEE H. DUNLAP

### Eggs, Issues, County update

By DONNA BRAYMER  
donnab@harrisdaily.com

The Harrison Regional Chamber of Commerce and Quadivium.com sponsored the Eggs and Issues Breakfast on Tuesday, June 13, and the Boone County elected officials gave an update on the county's business in the Signature Bank Community Room.

Judy Kay Harris, the County Circuit Clerk, warned the crowd they would not be smiling when she finished her report. "We desperately need jurors. Out of the last pool of 515, we may have 75 possible

jurors. We have some big cases coming up and we need jurors. We may not like what this represents, but to make the process work and to get justice for the victims we need jurors. If your name is chosen for jury duty, please respond and be willing to serve. We need you and want you."

Harris said the pool of jurors comes from a list of people in the county with a valid driver's license. "It has nothing to do with voter's registration. So please get registered to vote."

The question was asked about the time period a juror serves. "They can serve any time during a four month period and can be asked to serve

on multiple trials. If someone shows up as requested, the county pays them \$20. If they are chosen they are paid \$50 a day. I know that's not much money, but I do feed you very well," she said.

Judge Robert Hathaway reported on the roads the county maintains. "We have 800 miles of dirt roads in the county and 250 miles of paved roads. The road department crew recently striped about 30 miles of roads at a cost of \$45,000. We have a striping machine, but it takes about five people to operate that equipment. We only have a department of 35 people, so that takes a big chunk

See **UPDATE**, Page A8

## NATIONAL FLAG DAY



In the U.S., Flag Day is celebrated on June 14, and commemorates the adoption of the flag of the United States on June 14, 1777, by resolution of the Second Continental Congress. The resolution states: "Resolved, That the flag of the thirteen United States be thirteen stripes, alternate red and white; that the union be thirteen stars, white in a blue field representing a new constellation." June 14 was officially established as Flag Day in 1919 by President Woodrow Wilson and in 1949, June 14 was established as National Flag Day by an Act of Congress. This photo was taken prior to the Memorial Day ceremony on May 29, at the Boone County Courtpark in downtown Harrison. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO/LEE H. DUNLAP

## Donald Trump pleads *not guilty* to federal charges

By The Associated Press

MIAMI — Donald Trump became the first former president to face a judge on federal charges as he pleaded not guilty in a Miami courtroom Tuesday to dozens of felony counts that he hoarded classified documents and refused government demands to give them back.

The history-making arraignment, centering on charges that Trump mishandled government secrets that as commander-in-chief he was entrusted to protect, kickstarts a legal process that will unfold at the height of the 2024 presidential campaign and carry profound consequences not only for his political future but also for his own personal liberty.

Trump approached his

arraignment with characteristic bravado, posting social media broadsides against the prosecution from inside his motorcade and insisting as he has through years of legal woes that he has done nothing wrong and was being persecuted for political purposes. But he sat scowling inside the courtroom with his arms crossed as a lawyer entered a not guilty plea on his behalf in a brief arraignment that ended without him having to surrender his passport or otherwise restrict his travel.

But the gravity of the moment was unmistakable as he answered to 37 felony counts that accuse him of willfully retaining classified records that prosecutors say could have jeopardized national security

See **TRUMP**, Page A8

## Newton Co. watching out for data centers

By JEFF DEZORT  
jeffd@newtoncountytimes.com

During the Newton County Quorum Court meeting held June 4, George Fowler informed the court members that he was appointed to chair the county's Broadband committee. That committee met for the first time at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, June 7, at the county library. County officials were invited to attend the meeting to have ques-

tions answered and to have input in the statewide project to make broadband services available to every resident.

The Quorum Court has taken a keen interest in a situation that has developed in neighboring Boone County regarding the proposed installation of an information gathering and data center designed exclusively to produce cryptocurrency called bitcoin, or

See **DATA CENTERS**, Page A8

## HPS GOBSmobile



Kids look at books and do crafts inside the Harrison Public Schools GOBSmobile Tuesday morning, June 13, at the parking lot near the city pool. The Tuesday schedule for the HPS GOBSmobile is 9 a.m. at the Youth Center; 10:30 a.m. at the Harrison Middle School; noon at Forest Heights; and 1 p.m. at Pre-K Center. The Thursday schedule is 9 a.m. at the Youth Center; 10:30 a.m. at the Harrison Middle School; noon at Skyline; and 1 p.m. at the Kindergarten Center. Teachers and staff included Kim Ross Bryant, Will Potts, Eric Ostberg and (bus driver) Rick Harness. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO/LEE H. DUNLAP

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# Consumer price growth slowed last month

Inflation shows signs of steady decline

By The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Consumer prices in the United States cooled last month, rising just 0.1% from April to May and extending the past year's steady easing of inflation. At the same time, some measures of underlying price pressures remained high.

Measured year over year, inflation slowed to just 4% in May — the lowest 12-month figure in over two years and well below April's 4.9% annual rise. The pullback was driven by tumbling gas prices, a much smaller rise in grocery prices than in previous months and less expensive furniture, air fares and appliances.

Tuesday's inflation figures from the government arrived one day before the Federal Reserve is expected to leave

interest rates alone after imposing 10 straight rate hikes dating back to March 2022. After a two-day meeting, the Fed will likely announce that it's skipping a rate hike but may hint that it will resume raising rates as soon as July.

Last month's drop-off in overall inflation isn't likely to convince the Fed's policymakers that they're close to curbing the high inflation that has gripped the nation for two years. The central bank tends to focus more closely on "core" prices, which exclude volatile food and energy costs and are considered better able to capture underlying inflation trends. These prices remain stubbornly high.

Core prices rose a sizeable 0.4% from April to May, the sixth straight month of increases at that level or higher. Compared with a year ago, core inflation slipped from 5.5% to 5.3% but is still far above the Fed's

target of 2%.

Yet some positive signs, even in the measures of core prices, suggest that underlying inflation pressures may be receding. The outsize increases in core prices were driven mainly by rising rents and by another spike in used car prices. Real-time data suggests that increases in those categories will soon recede and help cool inflation.

"Outside of those two components, the trend has become very encouraging," Stephen Juneau, an economist at Bank of America, said in a research note. "We should continue to see improvement in core" prices.

Economists say inflation is being driven by a narrower set of goods and services. Excluding housing costs — which include rents and hotel prices, which jumped last month — prices actually dipped 0.1% from April to May. And they're up just 2.1% from a year ago.

Rents rose 0.5% from April to May, down from the peak gains of 0.7% to 0.8% last year. Used car prices soared 4.4% just from April to May. Those two factors alone drove four-fifths of the monthly increase in core prices, according to Ian Shepherdson, chief economist at Pantheon Macroeconomics. And the government said housing costs made up three-fifths of year-over-year core inflation.

Yet it could take months for rising costs in those areas to ease back to pre-pandemic levels. Fed officials will want to see the expected price declines in rents and used cars actually materialize before they extend any pause in rate increases.

"There's progress, it's encouraging," said Eric Winograd, chief economist at asset manager AllianceBernstein. "I think it's enough for the Fed to pause tomorrow....But I don't think it is enough that we can sound the all-clear."

Gas prices, adjusted for seasonal patterns, fell 5.6% from April to May; they're down nearly 20% from a year ago. And grocery prices ticked up just 0.1%, a relief to consumers, though they're still 5.8% higher than they were a year ago.

With housing making up such a large proportion of inflation, economists are closely tracking real-time measures of rents in new apartment leases. The government's measure of rents is now incorporating the sharp

increases that occurred in 2021 and 2022 as many people moved to gain more space during the pandemic. But as newer leases with much smaller rent increases feed into the government's measure, rental costs should drop.

According to ApartmentList, which tracks new leases, average rents nationally rose just 0.9% in May from a year earlier. That's down from a 17.6% spike in 2021. The decline reflects a jump in the construction of apartment buildings at a time when demand for apartments has slowed.

"If you're a renter out there, you've got a lot more vacant units, nationally speaking," than at any time since the pandemic, said Rob Warnock, senior research associate at Apartment List.

Still, the stubbornness of underlying inflation reflects a fundamental challenge for the Fed: The economy has steadily defied long-standing forecasts for a recession, dating back more than a year. Instead, businesses have kept hiring at a healthy pace, average paychecks are climbing and workers are freely spending their larger wages.

Though a resilient economy is great for households and businesses, it may also be helping fuel chronically high inflation. Some economists argue that many companies are keeping prices artificially high, more than is needed to cover their own higher costs,

to drive profit growth. The nation's consumers might have to pull back, en masse, before most businesses will reduce prices. In the meantime, steadily robust hiring is allowing Americans, as a whole, to keep spending.

The Fed has raised its benchmark rate by a hefty 5 percentage points over the past 15 months — the fastest pace of rate increases in four decades. Those hikes have led to much higher costs for mortgages, auto loans, credit cards and business borrowing. The Fed's goal is to slow borrowing and spending, cool the economy and tame inflation — without causing a deep recession. It's a notoriously difficult task.

There are some signs that the Fed's efforts are having the desired effect. Inflation is expected to take another big step down in the figures for June that will be reported next month. Price growth could slide as low as 3.2% from a year earlier, according to some economists' estimates. That would be significantly below inflation's peak of 9.1% in June 2022, the highest level in four decades.

A sharp decline next month as well would reflect the fact that food and gas prices soared in both May and June last year. As those months drop out of the year-over-year inflation calculations, they are replaced with smaller monthly gains. The effect can sharply lower measures of annual inflation.



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- Avoiding Guardianship with Power of Attorney
- Medicaid: Protect Your Assets from the Nursing Home
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## Buttigieg vows federal help to fix collapsed interstate

By The Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — U.S. Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg promised Tuesday to help repair the East Coast's main north-south highway as quickly as possible and said that the destruction of a section of I-95 will likely raise shipping costs because truckers must now travel longer, pricier routes.

Visiting the site where an out-of-control tractor-trailer hauling gasoline flipped over on an Interstate 95 off-ramp and caught fire, Buttigieg said he expected that the accident will put "upward pressure" on costs along the East Coast.

Buttigieg said he had not seen any sort of estimate of cost increases, but said the industry is working to make the most of alternative routes. He suggested that the U.S. Department of Transportation is working with route-selecting software firms such as Google and Waze to optimize their products.

"At the end of the day, there's no substitute for I-95 being up and running in full working condition," Buttigieg said.

One body was pulled from the wreckage.

Pennsylvania's transportation secretary, Michael Carroll, said he ex-

pects to release a replacement plan on Wednesday for the roughly 100-foot-long section of I-95.

For now, I-95 will be closed in both directions for weeks as the summer travel season starts, upending hundreds of thousands of morning commuters and disrupting countless businesses.

The elevated southbound portion of I-95 will have to be demolished, as well as the northbound side, officials say.

The driver of the tractor-trailer was feared dead, although the coroner has yet to identify the victim. Pennsylvania State Police said a body was turned over to the Philadelphia medical examiner and coroner but did not identify the remains or respond when asked whether they belonged to the driver.

Authorities say the driver was headed northbound, navigating a curving off-ramp when the vehicle went out of control and landed on its side, rupturing the tank.

The damaged I-95 segment carries about 160,000 vehicles daily, believed to be the busiest roadway in Pennsylvania, state officials said.

PennDOT rated the span as in good condition earlier this year, with another inspection set for 2025.



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## SMITH, TYGART to USA Baseball Collegiate National Team Training Camp

By UA Communications

FAYETTEVILLE — Arkansas pitchers Hagen Smith and Brady Tygart have been invited to the 2023 USA Baseball Collegiate National Team Training Camp.

The training camp features 56 of the premier non-draft eligible college players for a four-game Stars vs. Stripes intrasquad series from June 25-28. USA Baseball will name a final 26-man Collegiate National Team roster after the training camp that will represent the United States in a friendship

series against Chinese Taipei and Japan from June 30-July 12.

Smith wrapped up his true sophomore campaign as the 32nd All-American in program history. The left-hander, who made 18 appearances with 11 starts on the mound, went 8-2 with a 3.64 ERA, a team-leading 102 strikeouts and two saves in 71 2/3 innings of work.

In SEC play, Smith worked in a variety of roles, making 11 appearances with five starts, and compiled a 5-1 record with a 3.07 ERA. He racked up 65

Hagen Smith was one of two Arkansas pitchers that were selected to the USA Baseball Collegiate National Team Training Camp. He led the Hogs to a No. 3 national seeding in the last NCAA Tournament. CRAVEN WHITLOW/NATE ALLEN SPORTS SERVICES



Brady Tygart of the University of Arkansas looks to the plate before pitching. Tygart along with Hagen Smith were selected to the 2023 USA Baseball Collegiate National Team Training Camp. CRAVEN WHITLOW/NATE ALLEN SPORTS SERVICES



strikeouts over 44 innings while limiting opposing hitters to a .201 batting average.

Tygart, meanwhile, finished his true sophomore season with a 3-1 record and a 3.20 ERA in 25 1/3 innings on the mound. The right-hander began the year as the Razorbacks' relief ace, making four appearances out of the bullpen and recording one save before he was sidelined by an injury.

Returning as a starter, Tygart made six more appearances, including four starts in SEC play and two in the postseason. He logged a 1.80 ERA and 12 strikeouts in 10 innings of work against SEC oppo-

nents, limiting opposing hitters to a minuscule .094 batting average.

All four training camp games will be played at the USA Baseball National Training Complex in Cary, N.C. The series begins on June 25 at 3 p.m. ET, with three games following over the next three days. Game two will be on June 26 at 6 p.m. ET, game three on June 27 at 7 p.m. ET, and game four on June 28 at 6 p.m. ET.

Since 1979, 21 Razorbacks have suited up for the USA Baseball Collegiate National Team. Robert Moore and Jaxon Wiggins most recently made the roster in 2021.

## Wake Forest, Oral Roberts give new look to CWS filled with name brands

By ERIC OLSON  
AP Sports Writer

OMAHA, Neb. — The College World Series has its usual mix of regulars in the eight-team field, but it's a couple of relative newcomers that could provide the biggest storylines at the annual two-week party at Charles Schwab Field.

Wake Forest has been the dominant team in the country since February and is the first No. 1 national seed since 2018 to reach the CWS. The Demon Deacons haven't gone this far since their 1955 team won the national championship.

Oral Roberts is the lowest seed to make it to Omaha since Stony Brook in 2012 and is in the field for the first time since its only other appearance in 1978.

As for those familiar names, LSU is in for the 19th time, Stanford for the 18th time and third straight and Florida for the 13th. TCU will make its sixth appearance

since 2010 and Virginia its sixth since 2009, and Tennessee is back for the second time in three years.

Stanford punched its ticket with a 7-6 win over Texas on Monday in a game that ended in odd fashion. With two outs in the bottom of the ninth, Texas outfielders Dylan Campbell and Eric Kennedy lost Drew Bowser's high fly in the twilight sky. The ball dropped about 15 feet in front of Campbell, allowing Alberto Rios to score from second base.

Tennessee advanced with a 5-0 win over Southern Mississippi in a game that started four hours late because of rain and lightning in the Hattiesburg area. Drew Beam pitched six innings, and Zane Denton's three-run homer in the fifth broke open a 1-0 game.

CWS bracket play begins Friday with TCU (42-22) matched against Oral Roberts (51-12) and No. 2 Florida (50-15) against No.

7 Virginia (50-13). Saturday's openers match Wake Forest (52-10) against No. 8 Stanford (44-18) and No. 5 LSU (48-15) against Tennessee (43-20).

Wake Forest has showed no obvious weaknesses this season and is tied for sixth-most wins entering a CWS, which was first played in 1947.

The Deacons' pitching staff leads the nation with a season ERA of 2.84 and has struck out 79 in the tournament. Ace Rhett Lowder leads the nation in wins with his 15-0 record.

The Deacons have averaged 15 runs, hit 19 homers and batted .359 in their five NCAA Tournament games. Their prodigious offense was on full display in the super regional-clinching 22-5 win over Alabama on Sunday. They tied the tournament record with nine home runs, three by projected first-round draft pick Brock Wilken.

"I think that dogpile was surreal,"

he said. "Not a lot of people get to do that, and being able to do that with my best friends, that meant the world to me. Job's not finished, but we got a huge step along the way."

Oral Roberts is from the Summit League, one of the weakest conferences, and that is a big reason for its No. 4 regional seeding. The Golden Eagles are no joke, though. Wins in 23 of their last 24 games, including a three-game regional sweep and super regional win at Oregon, say as much.

Ryan Folmar's Eagles are mostly a collection of transfers from junior colleges and other Division I schools. Senior first baseman Jake McMurray is the only everyday player who has been at ORU his entire career.

The star is center fielder Jonah Cox, who will enter the CWS on a 47-game hitting streak, tied for third

See **CWS**, Page A15

## NUGGETS TAKE HOME 1ST NBA TITLE in rugged 94-89 win

By EDDIE PELLIS  
AP National Writer

DENVER — Confetti flying in Denver. The Nuggets sharing hugs while passing around the NBA championship trophy.

Those scenes that, for almost a half-century, seemed impossible, then more recently started feeling inevitable, finally turned into reality Monday night.

The Nuggets outlasted the Miami Heat 94-89 in an ugly, frantic Game 5 that did nothing to derail Nikola Jokic, who bailed out his teammates with 28 points and 16 rebounds on a night when nothing else seemed to work.

Jokic became the first player in history to lead the league in points (600), rebounds (269) and assists (190) in a single postseason. Not surprisingly, he won the Bill Russell trophy as the NBA Finals MVP — an award that certainly has more meaning to him than the two overall MVPs he won in 2021 and '22 and the one that escaped him this

year. "We are not in it for ourselves, we are in it for the guy next to us," Jokic said. "And that's why this (means) even more."

Denver's clincher was a gruesome grind.

Unable to shake the tenacious Heat or their own closing-night jitters, the Nuggets missed 20 of their first 22 3-pointers. They missed seven of their first 13 free throws. They overcame that to take a late seven-point lead, only to see Miami's Jimmy Butler go off. He scored eight straight points to give the Heat a one-point lead with 2:45 left.

Butler made two free throws with 1:58 remaining to help Miami regain a one-point lead. Then, Bruce Brown got an offensive rebound and tip-in to give the Nuggets an edge they wouldn't give up.

Trailing by three with 15 seconds left, Butler jacked up a 3, but missed it. Brown and Kentavious Caldwell-Pope made two free throws each

See **NUGGETS**, Page A16

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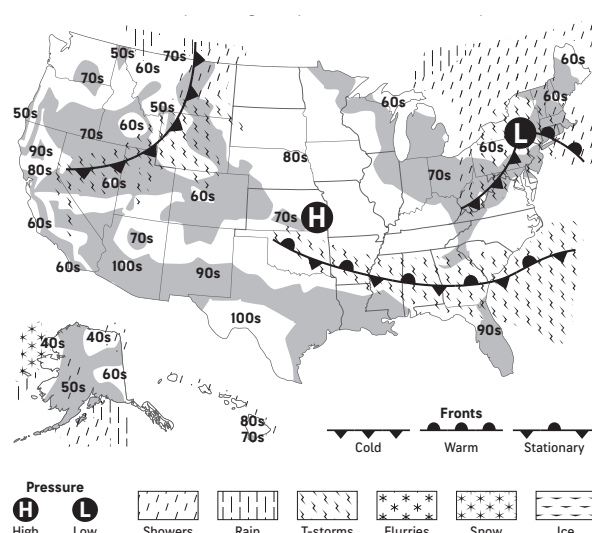
**LOCAL WEATHER**

**Today's forecast**

**Tonight:** Partly cloudy. A stray shower or thunderstorm is possible. Low 61F. Winds light and variable.

**Tomorrow:** Mostly sunny skies. High 86F. Winds light and variable.

**Tomorrow night:** Partial cloudiness early, with scattered showers and thunderstorms later during the night. Low 66F. Winds light and variable. Chance of rain 50%.



**NATIONAL SUMMARY:** As a disturbance pushes eastward tomorrow, showers and thunderstorms are expected in the Northeast. A few storms could even turn severe, with strong wind gusts being the main hazard. Additional storms, a few severe, are expected from Mississippi to the Carolinas. Hot, dry weather will take hold across the southern Plains.

**Extended forecast**

**Friday:** Scattered thunderstorms. High 84F. Winds SE at 5 to 10 mph. Chance of rain 50%.

**Friday night:** Partly cloudy. Low 66F. Winds light and variable.

**Saturday:** Some sun in the morning with increasing clouds during the afternoon. A stray shower or thunderstorm is possible. High 88F. Winds SSE at 5 to 10 mph.

**Saturday night:** Scattered showers and thunderstorms. Low 67F. Winds SSW at 5 to 10 mph. Chance of rain 60%.

**Sunday:** Variable clouds with scattered thunderstorms. High 86F. Winds SSW at 5 to 10 mph. Chance of rain 50%.

**Sunday night:** Variable clouds with scattered thunderstorms. Low 66F. Winds light and variable. Chance of rain 60%.

**Almanac**

**Sunrise** 5:55 a.m. **Moonrise** 3:21 p.m.  
**Sunset** 8:32 p.m. **Moonset** 5:23 a.m.

**Statewide**

City	High	Low	Precip
El Dorado	89	68	0.68
Fayetteville	83	59	0.03
Fort Smith	88	66	0.11
Harrison	83	62	0.00
Hot Springs	85	67	0.23
Jonesboro	88	68	0.05
Little Rock	89	69	0.09
Mountain Home	84	61	0.00
Pine Bluff	89	69	0.43
Russellville	86	55	0.21

**Today's Records**

**Record High**  
 100°F  
**Record Low**  
 47°F  
**One year ago**  
 High 91°, Low 73°  
**Ten years ago**  
 High 90°, Low 64°  
**Precip. year to date**  
 23.42 inches

**Lake and River Levels**

Location	Current level	24-hour change
<b>Buffalo River Flood Level 7 a.m.</b>		
Boxley	—	1.70
Ponca	—	1.90
Pruitt	—	3.40
Hasty	—	6.00
St. Joe	—	3.80
Hwy 14	—	3.40
<b>Lakes</b>	<b>Current level</b>	<b>24-hour change</b>
Beaver Lake	1,121.37	-0.01
Table Rock Lake	916.66	+0.16
Bull Shoals Lake	661.60	+0.01
Norfolk	557.27	-0.09

**ASK THE DOCTORS**

**Endometriosis has no known cause, can be incredibly painful**

By EVE GLAZIER, M.D., and ELIZABETH KO, M.D.

**Dear Doctors:** I've always had very painful periods, but my doctors said that was normal. When I saw a new gynecologist, she diagnosed me with endometriosis. I had surgery, and it changed everything. Can you please write about endometriosis? I think it could be helpful to a lot of women.

**Dear Reader:** Endometriosis is a sometimes-debilitating condition that is estimated to affect between 10% to 15% of women. As you have experienced, it often causes severe pain during the menstrual cycle. The condition can also lead to pain during urination, bowel movements and sexual intercourse, and can cause chronic pelvic pain. It can also cause bloating, nausea and fatigue, and it frequently contributes to infertility. It is estimated that up to 40% of women with infertility have endometriosis. To understand endometriosis, we should start with the specialized layer of tissue that lines the uterus, known as the endometrium. Over the course of each menstrual cycle, driven by the surge and ebb of reproductive hormones, the endometrium undergoes

a series of physical changes. These include a phase in which it thickens with additional blood vessels in preparation for a possible pregnancy. When a fertilized egg does not attach to the endometrium, part of the enriched layer it has created is shed. This is menstrual bleeding. In some women, tissues that are physiologically similar to the endometrium begin to grow outside of the uterus. The reasons why this occurs are not yet clear. These tissues often develop inside of the ovaries in the form of cysts, within the fallopian tubes, along the lining of the pelvic wall and on the ligaments that secure the uterus. In rare cases, they have been found far from the pelvis, in the lining of the lungs, the sac around the heart and the nervous system. Because these tissues are so closely related to the endometrial lining, they can respond to the hormonal signals that drive the menstrual cycle. That means they often swell and bleed. When they are encapsulated in the ovaries or the fallopian tubes, and if they grow close to other tissues, this causes pain that can become quite severe. And unlike in the uterus, which provides an exit point for menstrual flow, the fluid shed by these abnormal growths has nowhere to go. The

resulting bleeding can cause inflammation and infection in the tissues it touches and lead to the development of scar tissue. Diagnosis begins with a medical history and a pelvic exam, and typically also includes imaging tests. In some cases, a minimally invasive surgical procedure, known as a laparoscopy, will be used to visualize the interior of the pelvis. Treatment depends on the severity of the symptoms and the woman's wishes regarding a future pregnancy. The most conservative treatment focuses on medications to manage pain. These can include nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory medications, as well as hormonal contraceptives. Surgery may be recommended to remove excess tissue, including scar tissue. Anyone who suspects they may have endometriosis should see their doctor. As with many diseases, an early diagnosis often leads to better outcomes.

*Eve Glazier, M.D., MBA, is an internist and associate professor of medicine at UCLA Health. Elizabeth Ko, M.D., is an internist and assistant professor of medicine at UCLA Health.*

Send your questions to askthedoctors@mednet.ucla.edu, or write: Ask the Doctors, c/o UCLA Health Sciences Media Relations, 10960 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 1955, Los Angeles, CA, 90024. Owing to the volume of mail, personal replies cannot be provided.

**DEAR ANNIE**

**Dear Annie:** I love the gym. It has really helped me gain confidence and strength. I have been going to the same gym in our small town for roughly 10



**DEAR ANNIE**  
DEARRANNIE@CREATORS.COM

years. I know all the people there and enjoy my time there — until lately. There is a woman who just started going to the gym who is toxic. She really hurt a dear friend of mine, whose child was in the same class as her child, by spreading vicious rumors that she was having an affair with a tennis instructor. This was not true. She is the typical mean girl from middle school who we all choose to forget — the girl who never grew up. Aside from comforting my hurt friend, I never came into contact with this woman until she joined my gym. Now I have to see her daily, and it bothers me. It seems like every time I sign up for a class, she is also in the same class. — *Took Away My Happy Place*

**Dear Took Away:** Don't let her take away your happy place. So long as she does not try to engage you in conversation, just ignore her. The gym is a big place with lots of people, so don't let one bad apple spoil the bunch. Focus on your exercises and on the kind people, the friends you have made at the gym over the years, and you won't have time to focus on her negativity. If you consciously choose to focus your attention on all the wonderful people and experiences you have at the moment, she will become like white noise in the background, and you won't even notice her. **Dear Annie:** I was hanging out with

my closest friend, "Alice," and her friend, "Jane," and they started talking about Alice's ex-boyfriend. They asked me to leave for a minute so they could

talk privately, but then they avoided me for the rest of the day. Once Alice and I both got home, she sent a message saying our friendship wasn't working and how we shouldn't be friends anymore. I agreed with her, considering the fact that she couldn't trust me. But then, without explanation, for the next few days, Alice was friendly and nice. At that point, I was broken. I've been crying over this. What should I do?

— *Confused Girl*

**Dear Confused Girl:** Her behavior is certainly confusing; it makes no sense. One day she is nice, and the next day she is mean, and then she is nice again. If you want this friendship to continue, you have to find out why she doesn't trust you. If she makes up a reason, or if you don't agree with her, then I might pull away and find a new friend, one who is consistently kind. She might also be suffering from a mental illness. If her behavior continues to be erratic, encourage her to seek help.

*"How Can I Forgive My Cheating Partner?" is out now! Annie Lane's second anthology — featuring favorite columns on marriage, infidelity, communication and reconciliation — is available as a paperback and e-book. Visit http://www.creatorspublishing.com for more information. Send your questions for Annie Lane to dearannie@creators.com. COPYRIGHT 2023 CREATORS.COM*

**Giant inflatable ducks make a splash**

By The Associated Press

**HONG KONG** — Two giant inflatable ducks made a splash in Hong Kong's Victoria Harbor on Friday, marking the return of a pop-art project that sparked a frenzy in the city a decade ago. The two 18-meter-tall yellow ducks by Dutch artist Florentijn Hofman resemble the bath toys many played with in

their childhood. Shortly after their launch, dozens of residents and tourists flocked to the promenade near the government headquarters in Admiralty to snap photos of the ducks. Hofman said he hopes the art exhibition brings joy to the city and connects people as they make memories together. "Double duck, double luck," he said. "In a world

where we suffered from a pandemic, wars and political situations, I think it is the right moment to bring back the double luck." The inflatable ducks will stay in Hong Kong for about two weeks. Many Hong Kongers at the promenade recalled the happiness his work brought to the shopping district of Tsim Sha Tsui in 2013. Some were excit-

ed to see a pair of ducks on Friday instead of just one duck like the earlier exhibition. Among the visitors was artist Laurence Lai, who brought paint brushes to make watercolors of the ducks. Lai said the city was full of negative vibes in recent years during the COVID-19 pandemic and that it's time for the city to move on.

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# Billions in COVID-19 relief stolen or wasted

By The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Much of the theft was brazen, even simple.

Fraudsters used the Social Security numbers of dead people and federal prisoners to get unemployment checks. Cheaters collected those benefits in multiple states. And federal loan applicants weren't cross-checked against a Treasury Department database that would have raised red flags about sketchy borrowers.

Criminals and gangs grabbed the money. But so did a U.S. soldier in Georgia, the pastors of a defunct church in Texas, a former state lawmaker in Missouri and a roofing contractor in Montana.

All of it led to the greatest grift in U.S. history, with thieves plundering billions of dollars in federal COVID-19 relief aid intended to combat the worst pandemic in a century and to stabilize an economy in free fall.

An Associated Press analysis found that fraudsters potentially stole more than \$280 billion in COVID-19 relief funding; another \$123 billion was wasted or misspent. Combined, the loss represents 10% of the \$4.2 trillion the U.S. government has so far disbursed in COVID relief aid.

That number is certain to grow as investigators dig deeper into thousands of potential schemes.

How could so much be stolen? Investigators and outside experts say the government, in seeking to quickly spend trillions in relief aid, conducted too little oversight during the pandemic's early stages and instituted too few restrictions on applicants. In short, they say, the grift was just way too easy.

"Here was this sort of endless pot of money that anyone could access," said Dan Fruchter, chief of the fraud and white-collar crime unit at the U.S. Attorney's office in the Eastern District of Washington. "Folks kind of fooled themselves into thinking that it was a socially acceptable thing to do, even though it wasn't legal."

The U.S. government has charged more than 2,230 defendants with pandemic-related fraud crimes and is conducting thousands of investigations.

Most of the looted money was swiped from three large pandemic-relief initiatives launched during the Trump administration and inherited by President Joe Biden. Those programs were designed to help small businesses and unemployed workers survive the economic upheaval caused by the pandemic.

The pilfering was wide but not always as deep as the eye-catching headlines about cases involving many millions of dollars. But all of the theft, big and small, illustrates an epidemic of scams and swindles at a time America was grappling

with overrun hospitals, school closures and shuttered businesses. Since the pandemic began in early 2020, more than 1.13 million people in the U.S. have died from COVID-19, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Michael Horowitz, the U.S. Justice Department inspector general who chairs the federal Pandemic Response Accountability Committee, told Congress the fraud is "clearly in the tens of billions of dollars" and may eventually exceed \$100 billion.

Horowitz told the AP he was sticking with that estimate, but won't be certain about the number until he gets more solid data.

"I'm hesitant to get too far out on how much it is," he said. "But clearly it's substantial and the final accounting is still at least a couple of years away."

Mike Galdo, the U.S. Justice Department's acting director for COVID-19 Fraud Enforcement, said, "It is an unprecedented amount of fraud."

Before leaving office, former President Donald Trump approved emergency aid measures totaling \$3.2 trillion, according to figures from the Pandemic Response Accountability Committee. Biden's 2021 American Rescue Plan authorized the spending of another \$1.9 trillion. About a fifth of the \$5.2 trillion has yet to be paid out, according to the committee's most recent accounting.

Never has so much federal emergency aid been injected into the U.S. economy so quickly. "The largest rescue package in American history," U.S. Comptroller General Gene Dodaro told Congress.

The enormous scale of that package has obscured multibillion-dollar mistakes.

An \$837 billion IRS program, for example, succeeded 99% of the time in getting economic stimulus checks to the proper taxpayers, according to the tax agency. Nevertheless, that 1% failure rate translated into nearly \$8 billion going to "ineligible individuals," a Treasury Department inspector general told AP.

An IRS spokesman said the agency does not agree with all the figures cited by the watchdog and noted that, even if correct, the loss represented a tiny fraction of the program's budget.

The health crisis thrust the Small Business Administration, an agency that typically gets little attention, into an unprecedented role. In the seven decades before the pandemic struck, for example, the SBA had doled out \$67 billion in disaster loans.

When the pandemic struck, the agency was assigned to manage two massive relief efforts — the COVID-19 Economic Injury Disaster Loan and Paycheck Protection programs, which would

swell to more than a trillion dollars. SBA's workforce had to get money out the door, fast, to help struggling businesses and their employees. COVID-19 pushed SBA's pace from a walk to an Olympic sprint. Between March 2020 and the end of July 2020, the agency granted 3.2 million COVID-19 economic injury disaster loans totaling \$169 billion, according to an SBA inspector general's report, while at the same time implementing the huge new Paycheck Protection Program.

In the haste, guardrails to protect federal money were dropped. Prospective borrowers were allowed to "self-certify" that their loan applications were true. The CARES Act also barred SBA from looking at tax return transcripts that could have weeded out shady or undeserving applicants, a decision eventually reversed at the end of 2020.

"If you open up the bank window and say, give me your application and just promise me you really are who you say you are, you attract a lot of fraudsters and that's what happened here," Horowitz said.

The SBA inspector general's office has estimated fraud in the COVID-19 economic injury disaster loan program at \$86 billion and the Paycheck Protection program at \$20 billion. The watchdog is expected in coming weeks to release revised loss figures that are likely to be much higher.

In an interview, SBA Inspector General Hannibal "Mike" Ware declined to say what the new fraud estimate for both programs will be.

"It will be a figure that is fair, that is 1,000% defensible by my office, fully backed by our significant criminal investigative activity that is taking place in this space," Ware said.

Ware and his staff are overwhelmed with pandemic-related audits and investigations. The office has a backlog of more than 80,000 actionable leads, close to a 100 years' worth of work.

"Death by a thousand cuts might be death by 80,000 cuts for them," Horowitz said of Ware's workload. "It's just the magnitude of it, the enormity of it."

A 2022 study from the University of Texas at Austin found almost five times as many suspicious Paycheck Protection loans as the \$20 billion SBA's inspector general has reported so far. The research, led by finance professor John Griffin, found as much as \$117 billion in questionable and possibly fraudulent loans, citing indicators such as non-registered businesses and multiple loans to the same address.

Horowitz, the pandemic watchdog chairman, criticized the government's failure early on to use the "Do Not Pay" Treasury Department database, designed to

keep government money from going to debarred contractors, fugitives, felons or people convicted of tax fraud. Those reviews, he said, could have been done quickly.

"It's a false narrative that has been set out, that there are only two choices," Horowitz said. "One choice is, get the money out right away. And that the only other choice was to spend weeks and months trying to figure out who was entitled to it."

In less than a few days, a week at most, Horowitz said, SBA might have discovered thousands of ineligible applicants.

"24 hours? 48 hours? Would that really have upended the program?" Horowitz said. "I don't think it would have. And it was data sitting there. It didn't get checked."

The Biden administration put in place stricter rules to stem pandemic fraud, including use of the "Do Not Pay" database. Biden also recently proposed a \$1.6 billion plan to boost law enforcement efforts to go after pandemic relief fraudsters.

"I think the bottom line is regardless of what the number is, it emanates overwhelmingly from three programs that were designed and originated in 2020 with too many large holes that opened the door to criminal fraud," Gene Sperling, the White House American Rescue Plan coordinator, said in an interview.

"We came into office when the largest amounts of fraud were already out of the barn," Sperling added.

In a statement, an SBA spokesperson declined to say whether the agency agrees with the figures issued by Ware's office, saying the federal government has not developed an accepted system for assessing fraud in government programs. Previous analyses have pointed to "potential fraud" or "fraud indicators" in a manner that conveys those numbers as a true fraud estimate when they are not, according to the statement.

Han Nguyen, a spokesman for the SBA, said Monday that "the vast majority of the likely fraud originated in the first nine months of the pandemic programs, under the Trump administration." For the COVID-19 economic injury disaster loan program, Nguyen said, SBA's "working estimate" found \$28 billion in likely fraud.

The coronavirus pandemic plunged the U.S. economy into a short but devastating recession. Jobless rates soared into double digits and Washington sent hundreds of billions of dollars to states to help the suddenly unemployed.

For crooks, it was like tossing chum into the sea to lure fish. Many of these state unemployment agencies used antiquated computer systems or had too few staff to stop bogus claims from being paid.

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**Funerals Tomorrow**

NAME	TIME	LOCATION
There are no funerals at this time		

**Deaths**

**Linda Williams**, Western Grove, died Monday, June 12. Funeral at 10 a.m., Friday, June 16 at Coffman Funeral Home in Harrison.

*The Harrison Daily Times is pleased to publish death notices of reasonable length at no charge to the family. Expanded obits, with more detail and information or photos, may be purchased as paid advertising through a funeral home or by contacting the newspaper at obits@harrisonsdaily.com. Our front desk can be reached at 870-741-2325 for more information.*

**Jesus Porras, Jr.**  
 75, Harrison

Jesus "Jessie" Porras Jr., 75, of Harrison, died Saturday, June 10 (2023). He was born on Sep. 2, 1947, in Los Angeles, California, the son of Jesus and Angela (Lechuga) Porras Sr. Jessie leaves behind his two sons Timothy and Jesse, and many family members and friends. Care entrusted to Diamond State Crematorium and Mortuary Services.

**Roy Gaffney**  
 76, Harrison

Roy Lee Gaffney, 76, of Harrison, died Thursday, June 8 (2023). He was born Aug. 1, 1946, in Colfax, Iowa, to Roy and Nellie Hite Gaffney. Roy leaves his children, many loving family members, and friends. A private service will be held at a later date. Care entrusted to Diamond State Crematorium and Mortuary Services.

**Ted Kaczynski, the Unabomber, dies in prison at 81**

By The Associated Press

Theodore "Ted" Kaczynski, the Harvard-educated mathematician who retreated to a dingy shack in the Montana wilderness and ran a 17-year bombing campaign that killed three people and injured 23 others, died Saturday. He was 81.

Branded the "Unabomber" by the FBI, Kaczynski died at the federal prison medical center in Butner, North Carolina, Kristie Breshears, a spokesperson for the federal Bureau of Prisons, told The Associated Press. He was found unresponsive in his cell early Saturday morning and was pronounced dead around 8 a.m., she said. A cause of death was not immediately

known.

Before his transfer to the prison medical facility, he had been held in the federal Supermax prison in Florence, Colorado, since May 1998, when he was sentenced to four life sentences plus 30 years for a campaign of terror that set universities nationwide on edge. He admitted committing 16 bombings from 1978 and 1995, permanently maiming several of his victims.

Years before the Sept. 11 attacks and the anthrax mailing, the Unabomber's deadly homemade bombs changed the way Americans mailed packages and boarded airplanes, even virtually shutting down air travel on the West Coast in July 1995.

**James Hayes**

83, Harrison

James Loy Hayes, 83, of Harrison, passed away on Monday, June 12 (2023) at his home surrounded by his family.

He was born Oct. 14, 1939, at Siloam Springs, to Edward and Kate Tussinger Hayes. He worked for many years for C & H Building Supply and Judy's Insulation, but his heart was cattle farming. He loved to be on his farm and working and watching his cattle. He was a member and former Exalted Ruler of the Elks Lodge #2311. He was a United States Navy veteran, serving during the Vietnam era as a radio man and Chief Petty Officer. He was a former president of the Lumberman's Association. He was preceded in death by his parents; his first wife, Carolyn Campbell Hayes; a son, James Jeffery Hayes; a daughter, Tracy Jean Hayes; two brothers; and three sisters.



Survivors include his wife, Shirley Sisco Hayes of Harrison; a daughter and son-in-law, Darcey and James Aliano of Capps; a stepson, Timothy Shawn (Tracy) Hayes of Las Vegas, Nevada; a stepdaughter, Susan Ann Hayes of Seattle, Washington; 11 grandchildren; 18 great-grandchildren; and other relatives and friends.

A memorial celebration of life will be held at 2 p.m. on Friday, June 16, at Holt Memorial Chapel with Brother Joe Bass officiating. Arrangements are under the direction of Holt Memorial Chapel.

Memorials may be made to the Elks Lodge, Post Office Box 2495, Harrison, Arkansas 72602-2495 or Camp Jack, 411 South Pine Street, Harrison, Arkansas 72601.

The online obituary and guestbook are available at HoltChapel.com

**Carolyn Raulston Jones**

Carolyn Raulston Jones, a beloved resident of Springfield, Missouri, peacefully passed away on Saturday, June 10 (2023) at Cox Medical Center South in Springfield, Missouri.

Born on Feb. 14, 1944, in Ellis, Carolyn was the cherished daughter of Martha and Guy Raulston. She was preceded in death by her loving parents, as well as her brother, JB Raulston, and sister, Fern Nicholson.



Carolyn graduated from Harrison High School, Class of 1962, and embarked on a successful career in the banking field. She dedicated her talents to First Federal Bank in Harrison, where she retired as Senior Vice President, Loans.

In 1991, Carolyn entered a joyous union with her beloved husband, Mike Jones. They resided in Huntsville, and later made their home in Branson, Missouri. Ultimately, they settled in Springfield, Missouri, where Carolyn spent her final years.

Left to cherish her memory are her devoted husband, Mike H. Jones, and her six loving children: Forrest, Suzanne, Kim, Sonny, Angela and Keaton. She also leaves behind a host of adoring grandchildren, great-grandchildren, nieces, nephews, cousins, and many others who were touched by her presence. Carolyn is survived by her sisters, Patty Frederick and Faye Crowell.

Carolyn's final resting place will be at the Missouri Veterans Cemetery of Springfield, Missouri.

In accordance with her wishes, there will be no formal services.

**Dustin Davis**

43, Harrison

Dustin Michael Davis, 43, of Harrison, leaped into the loving arms of our Lord and Savior on Wednesday, June 7 (2023) at Harrison.



Dustin will be remembered for his kind and gentle nature, sense of humor, how he went out of his way to help anyone in need and how passionately he loved his family and friends. Our hearts will not heal on this side of heaven, however we will smile fondly every time we think back on the memories each of us shared with him.

Dustin was born April 28, 1980, in Harrison. He was a 1998 graduate of Harrison High School and a 24 year employee of FedEx. His first job was at Edwards Grocery while in high school where he formed lifelong friendships. He had a witty sense of humor, was an excellent cook and enjoyed time with friends both near and far. He had a very special close-knit relationship with his Grandma.

He was preceded in death by his loving grandpa, Johnny Davis; great-grandparents, L. W. and Vivian Gregory; great-grandmother, Dortha Davis; and great-aunt, Betty Ann Gregory.

Dustin is survived by parents, D'Anna and Butch Cowles of Harrison; grandma, Naomi Davis of the home; brother and sister-in-law, Jason and Britnie Cowles of Batavia; two sisters and brothers-in-law, Brandi and Junior Overturf of DeQueen and Danielle and Cody Stanley of Harrison; aunt and uncles, Tina and Roger Turner Jr. of Harrison and Tonya and Ola Coker of Greenville, Texas; uncle, Mike Davis of Lead Hill; aunt and uncles, Karen and Tommy Griffin of Avon Park, Florida and Wendy and Ricky Land of Summerville, Georgia; uncle, J. D. Cowles of Lake Wales, Florida; cherished cousins, Shelby Turner, Jessica Hayes, Ashley Braden, Brittany Lewis, Stephen Thompson, Cayle Davis, Laekon Dees, Hope Davis, Lindsey Davis and Greg Davis, Angie Fann, Beth Dorado, Brian Griffin, Richard Land, Derek Land, Jesse Barnett, Steven Barnett, Leslie Cowles, and Stephanie Higley; his nieces and nephews, whom he dearly loved, Shai, Austin & Hailey Cowles, Joshlynn, Zade and Jaxx Overturf; and a host of extended family and friends whom he also loved.

A family conducted Celebration of Life will be held at 10 a.m. on Saturday, June 17, at Eagle Heights Baptist Church Venue, 703 East Walters Avenue, in Harrison with Pastor Heath Kirkpatrick of Woodland Heights Baptist Church officiating. All friends and relatives are invited to gather to honor Dustin's life and share memories.

A private burial will be at the Grubb Springs Cemetery at a future date.

Arrangements are under the direction of Holt Memorial Chapel and online condolences may be left at www.HoltChapel.com.

**Linda Williams**

75, Western Grove

Linda Jo Salmon Williams, 75 of Western Grove, Arkansas, passed away Monday, June 12 (2023) at Washington Regional Hospital in Fayetteville.

She was born in Harrison, on Nov. 15, 1947, the third daughter of Norman (Red) and Velma (Hall) Salmon.



She graduated high school from Mt. Judea in 1965 and has remained close with her classmates throughout the years. She had a colorful work history that included selling fireworks, cooking on a river boat, assisting in several doctors' offices, and spent her last working years in hospitality. She had a sense of humor that could leave any room in laughter. She loved visiting with her friends and exchanging funny stories and jokes.

She was preceded in death by her parents. She is survived by her son and daughter-in-law, Scott and Misty Dodson, and her daughter, Allison Williams; grandchildren, Carley Roberts (Zachary), Kelsey Morrow (Jacob), Griffin Stuart, and Kamdyn Watson; great grandson, Kohen Morrow; her sisters, Norma Arellano, Kathy Parrish, and Susan Haddock; as well as a host of family and friends.

Visitation will be held from 5 to 7 p.m. Thursday, June 15, at Coffman Funeral Home in Harrison.

Services will be held at Coffman Funeral Home in Harrison at 10 a.m., Friday, June 16 with Jason Arellano and Dale Tennison officiating.

Burial will follow at McCutcheon Cemetery in Bass.

Pallbearers are Zachary Roberts, Jacob Morrow, Griffin Stuart, Hayden Moenning, Jake Moenning, Cooper Moenning, Jeff Cope, Jason Arellano, and Jace Arellano.

Honorary pallbearers are Dr. Jake McClintock and Staff, Mt. Judea Class of 1965, Melissa Campbell, Sabrina Daniels, Ultrasound and Radiology Departments at NARMC.

Memorials can be made to McCutcheon Cemetery Debbie Tennison, 11037 NC 5070 Mt. Judea, Arkansas 72655.

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## GUEST COLUMN

# State Capitol Week in Review

By STATE SENATOR BRYAN KING

**L**ITTLE ROCK – The Arkansas Human Services Department has officially petitioned the federal government for authority to make changes in the Medicaid expansion program.

The program is known as ARHOME and provides health coverage to about 312,000 Arkansas residents. The state has to first get approval from the federal government before making significant changes, because the state provides 10 percent of the funding and the federal government provides 90 percent.

People are eligible for ARHOME if their income is less than 138 percent of the federal poverty level. This year, the poverty level is \$30,000 for a family of four and \$14,580 for an individual.

Arkansas Medicaid officials are seeking authority to focus on the most poor of the ARHOME recipients, the people whose income is only 20 percent of the poverty level. The Department will assign them a “success coach” if they are not on track toward meeting certain requirements of the ARHOME program.

Success coaches will develop an individual plan to help them meet their health-related needs. If they still do not engage in taking care of their lives and their health, after three months they will be moved from ARHOME to the traditional Medicaid program. There is an incentive to take advantage of the opportunities made available through the success coach because many people consider ARHOME care to be better than traditional Medicaid.

In the ARHOME program, the government buys private health insurance for the recipient. Under traditional Medicaid, the government reimburses physicians, hospitals and pharmacies for treating Medicaid patients.

Some physicians don’t accept Medicaid patients because the reimbursement rates are less than they get from private health insurance companies.

Another change sought by state officials is in how to gauge whether or not recipients are complying with requirements to work, volunteer or continue their education. State officials say the goal is to simplify the process so that recipients don’t have to fill out paperwork to prove that they spent the required amount of time looking for work or attending class.

Instead, ARHOME officials will rely on computer data to track whether recipients are working toward self-reliance. For example, if they have taxable income it can be assumed that they have a job. The amount of income will indicate whether they work part-time or full-time.

If they get food stamps, it’s assumed they’re complying with work requirements and if they’re enrolled in adult education, it’s presumed they are taking classes. If they live with someone who has a disability, or with a dependent child or an elderly person, it is presumed that they are caregivers.

ARHOME puts a special focus on helping the most vulnerable, such as residents of rural areas with mental health problems, veterans, young people who have been incarcerated or who have lived in foster homes and pregnant women.

The Human Services Department will train 100 existing employees to be success coaches, and another ten employees to be supervisors.

More than 1.1 million Arkansas residents qualified for Medicaid services earlier this year, but state officials are trying to lower than number by requiring them to re-apply for eligibility.

This fiscal year the program will cost an estimated \$9.7 billion, with the federal government paying \$7.8 billion and Arkansas providing almost \$1.9 billion in matching funds.

*Bryan King represents Arkansas’ 28th Senate District in the state legislature. Contact him at [bryan.king@senate.ar.gov](mailto:bryan.king@senate.ar.gov)*

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To contact the Editorial Board of the Harrison Daily Times, call (870) 743-0606 or e-mail [dailytimes@harrisonsdaily.com](mailto:dailytimes@harrisonsdaily.com).

## EDITORIAL

# Summer recipe for kids: Have fun, play hard, read books

By TELEGRAPH HERALD (IOWA)

**I**t’s official: Tri-state area schools have concluded the academic year. Summer vacation is underway. Cue the kids’ whoops of joy.

Also starting soon will be the “summer slide.” And it’s got nothing to do with the equipment at the playground or the tall tubes at the local pool. No, this “slide” refers to the knowledge kids lose during the summer — and have to relearn when the next school year begins.

Studies show the slide is particularly severe among students from low-income families and can amount to two to three months of academic progress. Nine months forward and three months back is not conducive to long-term learning.

Studies show the slide can be mitigated — and sometimes even reversed — through certain summertime activities. That doesn’t mean the kids can’t trek to the pool, play soccer or go on the family vacation. Just a little work can make a big difference. Topping the list of options is reading, especially reading a variety of topics and titles.

At Carnegie-Stout Public Library and most other libraries

in the area, summer reading programs are underway with games and prizes to incentivize reading milestones through the summer months.

The importance of reading — not just for school achievement but also for life — continues to come into clearer focus. To that end, parents and caregivers of preschoolers would be wise to note the preliminary results of a small study.

Researchers watched brain activity in 4-year-olds when they were presented the same story by different means: audio only, illustrated pages of a storybook accompanied by audio voiceover and an animated cartoon.

They found that the audio-only activated language networks in the young brains but created less connectivity overall. The animated cartoon sparked lots of activity in the audio- and visual-perception networks — but not lots of connectivity among them.

The most beneficial option, brain-wise, was the storybook pages with audio. In other words, someone reading a book out loud while the child gazes at the book’s illustrations.

It might not look like it, but children who are being read to are working. Bringing those

images to life in their minds is flexing the muscle we use when we read.

Parents, grandparents and other adults can lead by example because most of us just aren’t reading enough. A Pew Research Center study from 2021 showed 23% of American adults did not read any part of a book in either paper or electronic form over the previous 12 months. The same research showed that the number of students ages 9 to 13 who said they liked to read for fun was the lowest it has ever been.

The benefits of reading are myriad — even beyond increasing comprehension, vocabulary and cognitive function. Reading books promotes critical thinking and develops empathy. It reduces stress and even helps combat anxiety and depression.

Additionally, this generation of students has not fully recovered academically from the pandemic. More effort put in over the summer can help accelerate the learning cycle to get students closer to the achievement levels we saw before COVID-19 disruptions.

So, between visits to the pool and playground, tri-state area households have their summer homework assignment. It centers on books.

## POLL

### TODAY’S POLL

Former President Donald Trump pleaded guilty on Tuesday to federal charges related to his handling of classified documents. Will he ever face a trial?

- No, there will be a deal made;
- Yes, he will want his day in court;
- No, eventually they will drop the charges;
- Yes, the Justice Department will not let this go.

### PREVIOUS POLL RESULTS

Former President Donald Trump has been indicted on federal charges related to his handling of classified documents. Will this hurt his standing with Republican voters?

**18%**

No, they are totally loyal to Donald Trump — 6

**9%**

Yes, this is a serious crime — 3

**38%**

No, they know this is more overreach by the justice department — 13

**35%**

Yes, especially when all the truth finally comes out — 12

34 PEOPLE POLLED

# Some words about words

By CHRISTINE FLOWERS

**A**s I was scrolling through my Facebook “memories,” a video popped up from seven years ago. I was in Harrisburg, speaking on the steps of the state capitol at a pro-life rally. The thing that struck me, other than the fact that it was such a large crowd of people, were the words I was using about ... words.

More specifically, I was talking about the importance of using the correct language when talking about pro-life issues.

The abortion rights movement has been able to deflect attention from the actual nature of abortion by repackaging it first as “choice,” and then when that wasn’t working well, shifting to “women’s reproductive health.” They called people like me, who opposed abortion, “anti-choice,” and refused to use the term that we prefer, “pro-life.” They discouraged the use of the word “abortionist” and opted to use the more ambiguous “doctor” or “health care provider.”

For decades, it worked. Two generations of people grew up believing that abortion was a right, instead of a human rights violation. That’s why people were so shocked when Roe vs. Wade was overturned last year, because they couldn’t believe that this benign right that they had taken for granted for almost five decades was exposed as the sham creation of a few elderly male justices.

Words matter. Language matters. Lately, I’ve begun to describe myself as “anti-abortion” as opposed to “pro-life,” for consistency and transparency. I support the death penalty in capital cases, mostly the ones involving murder or crimes against a child. Therefore, to be morally and internally consistent with my language, I cannot call myself “pro-life.” But there is no question that anyone who thinks abortion should be legal is “pro-abortion.” That’s just common sense.

I suppose my interest in language stems from the fact that I was essentially raised by nuns. In the Catholic schools of my era, you were taught reverence for words and their place in our lexicon. We would diagram sentences, and I still know the difference between a gerund, a past participle, an adjective, adverb and a subordinate clause.

I was also a teacher of foreign languages, and I understand the importance of context and connotation. And those four years of high school Latin drilled into me the beauty that

comes from unraveling knots of words, to reveal as smooth and seamless line of poetry. Gaul might have been divided into three parts, but I was more concerned with the beauty of the words, not geographical accuracy.

Beyond the abortion context, I have started to see crimes committed against language, with a view to creating false narratives. Those false narratives are then used to change society into something that is base, dishonest, and dangerous. Take, for example, the trans controversy.

It’s quite common to receive emails these days where the person provides his or her (or “their”) preferred pronouns. We are told that “trans women” are actual women, and that men can get pregnant. People tell us these things with a straight face, and if we laugh or protest, we are bigots. It is so bizarre, we now have a Supreme Court justice, Ketanji Brown Jackson, who is either unwilling or unable to define the term “woman.”

I know a bunch of third-graders who are apparently more aware than Justice Jackson of the difference between men and women. When I asked one of them the other day, she said this: “Women can be mommies. They don’t have to be mommies, but they can be mommies if they want. Men can’t, even though they can look like them.”

I want to nominate that child for the Nobel Prize in Common Sense.

The words that we use determine the rules by which we live. If we accept that a person who was born with the biological apparatus of a man is actually a woman, and if we base this on the fact that the man really believes he is a woman, then we are obligated to call that person a “woman.” Frankly, I do not want to live in that sort of world, and I do not intend to.

People can lie to themselves because they mistakenly believe that is a form of tolerance, or they can lie to themselves because they know the science and it doesn’t agree with their preconceived notions of right and wrong, real and fictitious. We can call a man a woman to be polite, and we can call a baby a fetus in order to strip it of its humanity. But in the end, the words have their own life, their own value and existence separate and apart from any dishonest purpose, and I refuse to play that game.

I said that pretty clearly seven years ago. I’m saying it now.

*Christine Flowers is a syndicated columnist. Contact her at [cflowers1961@gmail.com](mailto:cflowers1961@gmail.com).*

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## RYALL

Continued from Page A1

1 after Bryant retires, Sanders' office said.

Arkansas Heritage oversees several facilities and offices, including the state archives, the Arkansas Arts Council and the Historic Arkansas Museum.

Ryall's appointment follows the departure of three of the department's top three officials. Secretary Mike

Mills resigned his position earlier this month after less than six months. State Parks Director Shea Lewis is serving as interim secretary.

Travis Napper, the director of Arkansas Tourism, also recently announced he will step away from his position later this month to take a job in tourism consulting.

## UPDATE

Continued from Page A1

out of our staff."

The department is in the process of building five low water bridges. "We've changed from galvanized pipes to steel," Hathaway said. "The galvanized pipes rot out and the steel will last longer. This will be about \$50,000-\$60,000 a piece. That's where the majority of our budget goes."

Hathaway showed some photos of the damage even a two-inch rain can do to streets.

"We recently acquired about 25 miles of state road, some of it three lanes," he said. "One road we narrowed down to two lanes and made a bike path on one side. We had a trade-off deal with the City of Valley Springs and Highway 396. They were widening the state road and Valley Springs didn't have the money to move their water lines. So Boone County agreed to take over five miles of paved road to help them out. I made sure the state would overlay the road and they would be in good shape when we took them over."

Hathaway concluded with the information about their road budget. "We get about \$4 million a year. About \$2 million is salaries and it takes a lot of work to keep all of this up and I'm sure the other departments have the same problem."

Sheriff Roy Martin told the group they are in the process of obtaining four new vehicles and still waiting on the delivery of two. "Our fleet will be in good shape when we get the other two. We are looking into a leasing program like the city has. We are talking to the people and putting numbers together. So we will see if that works for our department."

"I want to also talk about the Quorum Court," Martin said. "The last two years, they've given all the lower end employees a \$2 raise and others \$1. That really helped us in our jail. Last year they gave everyone a \$1 raise. Right now, on the Criminal Investigation Division (CID), patrol and jail, we are almost full staff. I think that's a little unusual. If you go to other places that's not the case. But we are able to retain our employees and that helps tremendously."

"We appreciate the golf tournament the

Reserve Deputies hosted at Diamond City. They raised around \$20,000. If our deputies need something and we also use it for our angel tree if someone has a need. I think they spent \$2,500 on those kids last year. Anytime the Reserves raise money, it goes to a very good cause."

Martin gave an update on the census at the jail. "We have about 130 people in jail right now with 95 of those being felonies. They are either waiting for trial or they can't make bond. We are also holding about 20 for the Arkansas Department of Corrections (ADC). They pay us \$40 a day to keep them. That's not something we try to do, but there was some legislation passed this year that may speed up that process, plus they are looking at building some jails."

Martin also bragged on how all the elected officials were getting along. "I'm talking about the mayor, county judge's office, quorum court, city council. We've got a great relationship with everyone. Everyone is pulling together. That makes it better for everyone. That makes it better for the citizens of Harrison and the residents of Boone County."

Scott Tennyson with Arvest Bank asked a question about the jail's capacity. Martin answered, "We have 149 beds. But that's a perfect situation with the right number of females. Some of the people in jail don't get along, so we have to spread some of them apart."

Tennyson replied, "So they don't get along like the elected officials?" The crowd had a good laugh.

Harrison Regional Chamber of Commerce President/CEO Bob Largent said, "That's a good overview of everything going on in the county and elected officials. Thank you to Quadrivium for being here and sponsoring this meeting."

Quadrivium Account Manager, Anna Swanson said they are a cyber security company which offers several services to aid businesses with data center hosting, server and workstation solutions as well as disaster recovery services and more. Visit Quadrivium.com or call (479) 419-4600.

## DATA CENTERS

Continued from Page A1

digital currency. Opponents have cited the facility housing arrays of computer servers would require vast amounts of electricity, would require using noise producing equipment to keep the facility cool and produce unknown effects caused by electromagnetic radiation.

Newton County JPs

want no part of data centers, but because there are no zoning regulations in the unincorporated parts of the county, the court asked Newton County Quorum Court solicitor Ben Fruehauf to delve into finding legal and other non-discriminate ways to keep them out.

Fruehauf said oth-

## TRUMP

Continued from Page A1

if exposed, and the trying to hide them from investigators who demanded them back.

The case is loaded with political implications for the 76-year-old Trump, who currently holds the dominant spot in the early days of the 2024 Republican presidential primary. Beyond that, it carries the prospect of a years-long prison sentence. Even for a defendant whose post-presidential life has been dominated by investigations, the documents probe has stood out for both the apparent volume of evidence amassed by prosecutors and the severity of the allegations.

It's also a watershed moment for a Justice Department that until last week had never before brought charges against a former president. Attorney General Merrick Garland, an appointee of President Joe Biden, sought to insulate the department from political attacks by handing ownership of the case to a special counsel, Jack Smith, who on Friday declared, "We have one set of laws in this country, and they apply to everyone."

The arraignment, though largely procedural in nature, is the latest in an unprecedented public reckoning this year for Trump, who faces charges in New York arising from hush money payments during his 2016 presidential campaign as well as ongoing investigations in Washington and Atlanta into efforts to undo the results of the 2020 race. He's sought to project confidence in the face of unmistakable legal peril, attacking Smith as "a Trump hater," pledging to remain in the race and scheduling a speech and fundraiser for Tuesday night at his Bedminster, New Jersey, club.

"They're using this because they can't win the election fairly and squarely," Trump said Monday in an interview with *Americano Media*.

The court appearance is also unfolding against the backdrop of potential protests. Some high-profile backers have used barbed rhetoric to voice support. Trump himself has encouraged supporters to join a planned protest Tuesday at the courthouse.

Some Trump supporters headed to Miami by bus from other parts of Florida, raising concerns for law enforcement officials preparing for possible unrest around the courthouse. Miami Police Chief Manuel A. Morales said downtown could see anywhere from a few thousand up to 50,000 protesters. But heading into the court appearance, there were no reports of major chaos.

Among those present were the father-son duo of Florencio and Kevin Rodriguez, who came to the U.S. fifteen years ago as asylum seekers fleeing dictatorship in Cuba.

Wearing a shirt that reads "Jesus is my savior, Trump my president," the younger Rodriguez, Kevin, said it was possible Trump was guilty of illegally retaining classified documents. But he questioned the fairness of the proceedings in light of other classified information probes concerning Democrats, including former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and President Joe Biden.

Clinton was not charged for sending classified information on a private email server after FBI investigators concluded that she had not intended to break the law. The Biden investigation remains open, but no evidence has emerged to suggest he acted willful-

er counties are also conducting similar research and have contacted the lawyers serving their interests as members of the Arkansas Association of Counties. Fruehauf said he learned those lawyers are working on a draft of a general ordinance for county judges to present to their quorum courts. He said he doesn't know what is contained in the ordinance, but it should

be presented in the near future.

In Boone County, the location of the crypto-currency data center was found to actually be inside the Harrison city limits. The Harrison City Council has placed a moratorium on such projects for a year, giving time for the city's planning commission to develop zoning regulations and building codes addressing those kinds of plants.

ly — a core claim in the Trump indictment.

"We never abandon our amigos — those who love this country and our liberty," Rodriguez added, highlighting Trump's staunch opposition to Cuba's communist government.

The crowd also included far-right internet personality Anthonie Gionet, who served a two-month prison sentence for streaming live video while he stormed the U.S. Capitol. Gionet, better known as "Baked Alaska," was livestreaming video of his interactions with other people as they waited for Trump to arrive.

Unlike in the New York case, where photographers produced images of a somber-faced Trump at the defense table, the public's view inside the room will be limited. Cameras are generally not permitted in federal courts, and a judge Monday night barred reporters from having phones inside the building.

A federal grand jury in Washington had heard testimony for months in the documents case, but the Justice Department filed it in Florida, where Trump's Mar-a-Lago resort is located and where many of the alleged acts of obstruction occurred. Though Trump is set to appear Tuesday before a federal magistrate, the case has been assigned to a District Court judge he appointed, Aileen Cannon, who ruled in his favor last year in a dispute over whether an outside special master could be appointed to review the seized classified documents. A federal appeals panel ultimately overturned her ruling.

It's unclear what defenses Trump is likely to invoke as the case moves forward. Two of his lead lawyers announced their resignation the morning after his indictment, and the notes and recollections of another attor-

ney, M. Evan Corcoran, are cited repeatedly throughout the 49-page charging document, suggesting prosecutors envision him as a potential key witness.

Trump has said he's looking to add to his legal team though no announcements were made Monday. He was expected to be represented at his arraignment by Todd Blanche, an attorney also defending him in the New York case, and Florida lawyer Chris Kise, who joined Trump's stable of attorneys last year. Under the rules of the district, defendants are required to have a local lawyer for an arraignment to proceed.

The Justice Department unsealed Friday an indictment charging Trump with 37 felony counts, 31 relating to the willful retention of national defense information. Other charges include conspiracy to commit obstruction and false statements.

The indictment alleges Trump intentionally retained hundreds of classified documents that he took with him from the White House to Mar-a-Lago after leaving office in January 2021. The material he stored, including in a bathroom, ballroom, bedroom and shower, included material on nuclear programs, defense and weapons capabilities of the U.S. and foreign governments and a Pentagon "attack plan," prosecutors say.

Beyond that, prosecutors say, he sought to obstruct government efforts to recover the documents, including by directing personal aide Walt Nauta — who was charged alongside Trump — to move boxes to conceal them and also suggesting to his own lawyer that he hide or destroy documents sought by a Justice Department subpoena.

Nauta did not enter a plea because he does not have an attorney.

## Panic, yelling as tour boat capsizes inside water tunnel

By The Associated Press

LOCKPORT, N.Y. — A passenger thrown from a boat that flipped over with 29 people aboard during a tour of a dimly lit cavern system said he fought to breathe in the chilly water under the capsized craft.

The flat-bottomed boat carrying local hospitality workers capsized Monday during a tour of an historic underground water tunnel off the Erie Canal in the west-

ern New York city of Lockport, killing one person.

"By the time I realized what happened, the boat was on top of me and I couldn't find any air pockets or anything. And I'm just trying to, like, breathe because I'm underwater," survivor Daniel Morrisette told ABC's "Good Morning America" in an interview aired Tuesday.

The unidentified person who died also was trapped after the boat operated by Lockport

Cave Tours capsized. Eleven people were brought to hospitals, mostly with minor injuries, according to officials.

Elizabeth Morrisette told GMA people were panicking and yelling loudly as they were thrown into the water, which emergency officials said was between 5 feet and 6 feet deep.

Some passengers were able to get to safety. Emergency crews used an inflatable boat to rescue about 16 oth-

ers, fire officials said.

City of Lockport Police were investigating the accident. An email seeking an update was sent to the police chief Tuesday.

The tours take visitors on an underground boat ride through a rough-hewn tunnel, which was blasted out in the 19th century to transport canal water as an industrial power source.

The attraction is about 20 miles (32 kilometers) northeast of Niagara Falls.

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#### AUCTIONS

**REAL ESTATE AUCTION**  
Mon., June 26th, 6 pm  
8246 Red Oak Drive  
Ozark, AR



**3 BR, 1 1/2 BA** on large .67ac +/- lot, wood fireplace, all electric, attached garage and nice porch off the back of the home. The property also features two nice outbuildings with concrete floors with electricity. 12x33 and 18x28. Located just east of Ozark off Highway 64. For viewing appt., contact Kent or Marc below:

**10% Buyer's premium**  
SEE FULL LIST, TERMS, & PICTURES:  
**WWW.READINGAUCTIONSERVICE.COM**  
Kent - 479-518-3737 AR LIC 2086  
Marc - 479-970-4567 AR LIC 2765  
READING AUCTION SERVICES  
Brokered by e-Cloud Realty

#### SEALED BID LAND SALE

**BID SALE DATE**  
**THURS., JUNE 15TH 10AM:**  
Grant County, Arkansas

Four (4) tracts of land totaling approximately 123.25 acres (per Tax Records) These properties are being offered through a lump sum sealed bid sale. Bids will be received until Thursday, June 15th, 2023 at 10:00am. Contact us for any combination lock codes or access details.

Whether you are looking for investment timberland and/or a recreational retreat with wildlife habitat to enjoy, these tracts offer a variety of options!

UCNealeyForestry.com  
(870) 836-5981  
UCNealey Forestry Service  
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**Boone County**



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**Boone County**

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**FIVE FAMILY GARAGE** Sale 12047 Hwy. 43 South, Harrison on Gaither Mountain-Hilltop. Thursday June 15-Friday June 16, 8am-5pm. Office chairs, coolers, cat gymnasium, Treetator waterers, wire/glass coffee table, men's & women's clothes, purses, cookware, shoes, small animal pen, coffee maker, recliner, home decor, vinyl records, much more.

**AUCTIONS & ESTATE SALES**

**Boone County**

**REAL ESTATE AUCTION** - Mon. June 26th, 6 pm, 8246 Red Oak Drive, Ozark, AR. 3 BR, 1 & amp; 1/2 BA on large .67ac +/- lot, wood fireplace, all electric, attached garage and nice porch on the back of the home. The property also features two nice outbuildings with concrete floors with electricity. 12x33 and 18x28. Located just east of Ozark off Highway 64. For viewing appt., contact Kent or Marc below: 10% Buyer's Premium. SEE FULL LIST, FULL TERMS, MORE INFO & amp. PICTURES: WWW.READINGAUCTIONSERVICE.COM  
Kent - 479-518-3737 AR LIC 2086. Marc - 479-970-4567 AR LIC 2765. READING AUCTION SERVICES, Brokered by e-Cloud Realty.

**SEALED BID LAND SALE, BID SALE DATE, THURSDAY, JUNE 15TH, 10AM:** Grant County, Arkansas. Four (4) tracts of land totaling approximately 123.25 acres (per Tax Records). These properties are being offered through a lump sum sealed bid sale. Bids will be received until Thursday, June 15th, 2023 at 10:00am. Contact us for any combination lock codes or access details. Whether you are looking for investment timberland and/or a recreational retreat with wildlife habitat to enjoy, these tracts offer a variety of options! UCNeelyForestry.com (870) 836-5981

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1 column x 2"	.....	\$120.00
1 column x 3"	.....	\$190.00

To start your ad, **CALL 870-741-7355**  
or **EMAIL [classifieds@harrisondaily.com](mailto:classifieds@harrisondaily.com)**



**Support Newspapers in the Classroom**

The *Harrison Daily Times*' Newspaper In Education program, along with its sponsors, provide newspapers for classroom use throughout the Times readership area. This "living textbook" provides over 1200 students each week with ways to learn about their community, state and the world they live in.

Newspaper In Education editor, Donna Braymer for the *Harrison Daily Times* creates a page full of material that entertains and informs student readers every week of the school year.

Teachers use the newspaper in a variety of ways in the classroom to increase literacy skills and help with math, science and social skills. In fact, the Newspaper Association of America reports

improved standard test scores from students that utilize the Newspaper In Education program.

The *Harrison Daily Times* is looking for help from readers to help support this effective literacy program. Please consider being a "Partner in Education" by sponsoring one of the 68 classrooms that are eager to participate in the NIE program.

Just mail the handy form below to send your donation to your local Newspaper In Education program. We will return the favor by listing your name in special thank you ads to let the community know of your support for the future of our students. Then everyone will know you have helped 1,200 local students smile.

**Yes, I want to support Newspapers In Education**

Yes, local schoolchildren are important to me!  
I would like to sponsor a classroom with a one-time donation for:

A week 🍎 Minimum \$15  
 A month 🍎🍎 Minimum \$45  
 A school year 🍎🍎🍎 Minimum \$75  
 This is an important program, and I am sending \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Mail with your payment to  
NIE - HDT, P.O. Box 40  
Harrison, AR 72602-0040  
or deliver to 111 W. Rush in Harrison.

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Email \_\_\_\_\_  
    # \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature \_\_\_\_\_

**If you operate a local business and would like to help, here's how...**

**CALL 870-741-2325**

for information on the NIE Business Partner Program.

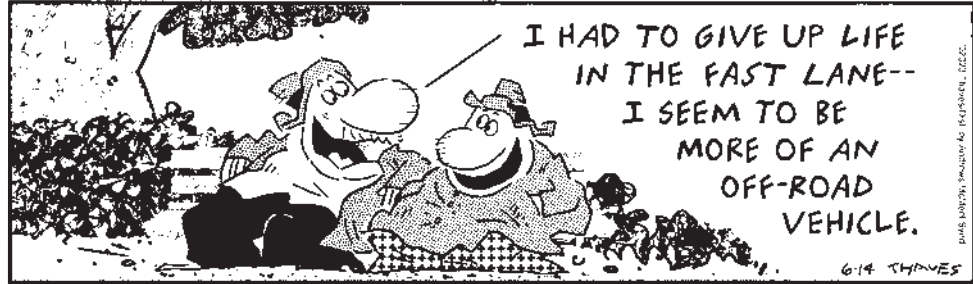
*We guarantee a lot of bang for your buck!*



Garfield



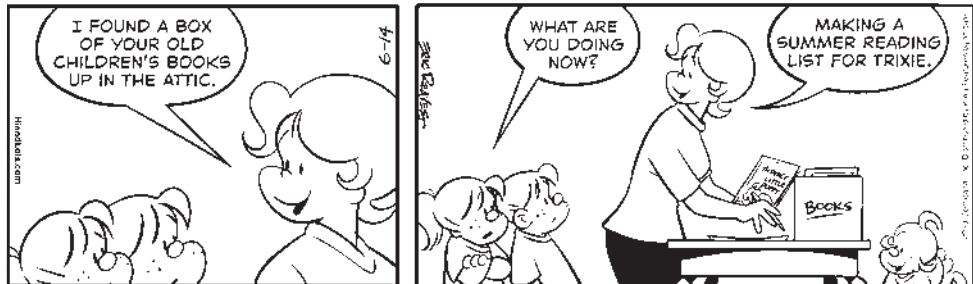
Frank & Ernest



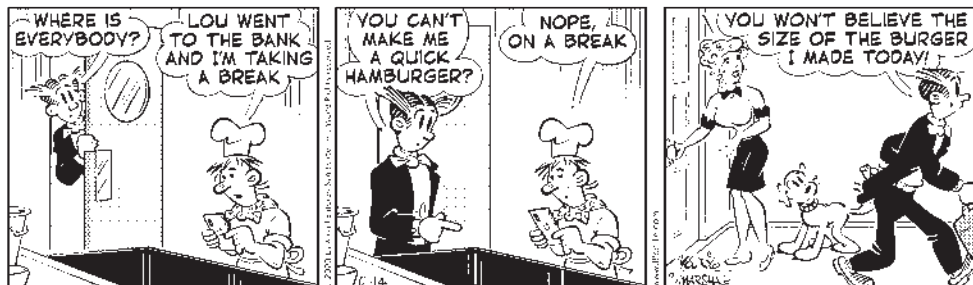
Beetle Bailey



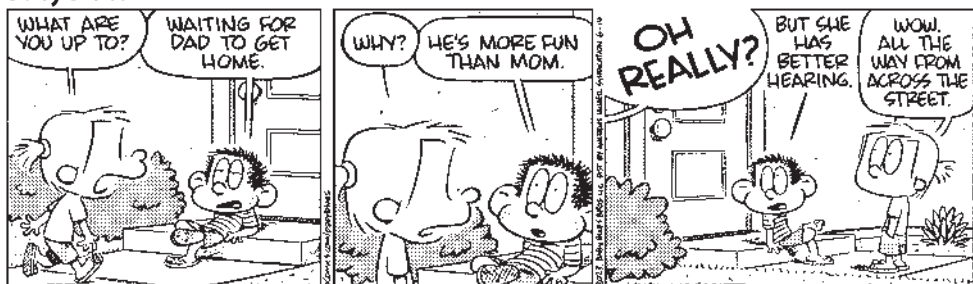
Hi and Lois



Blondie



Baby Blues



The Born Loser

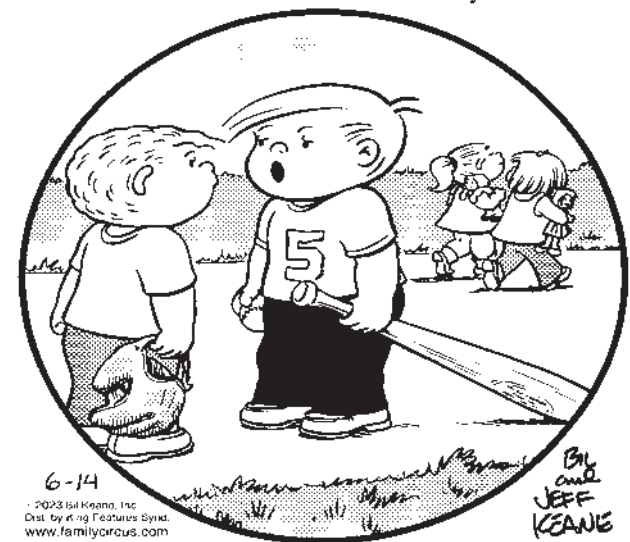


Zits

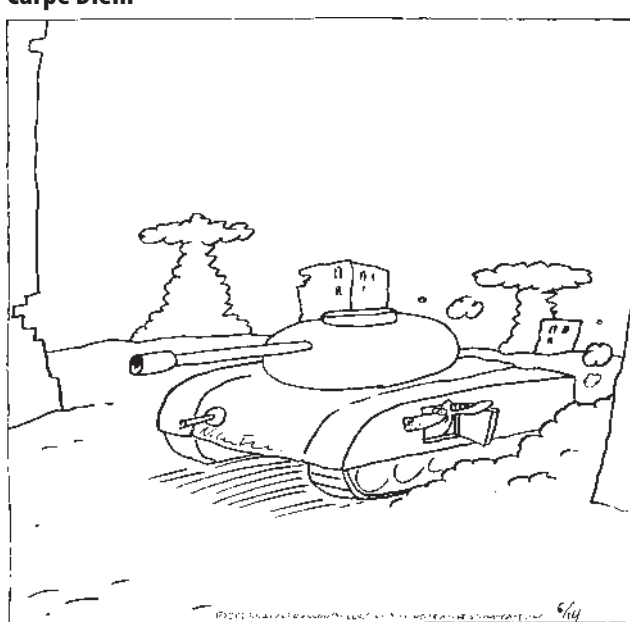


THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane



Carpe Diem



CROSSWORD

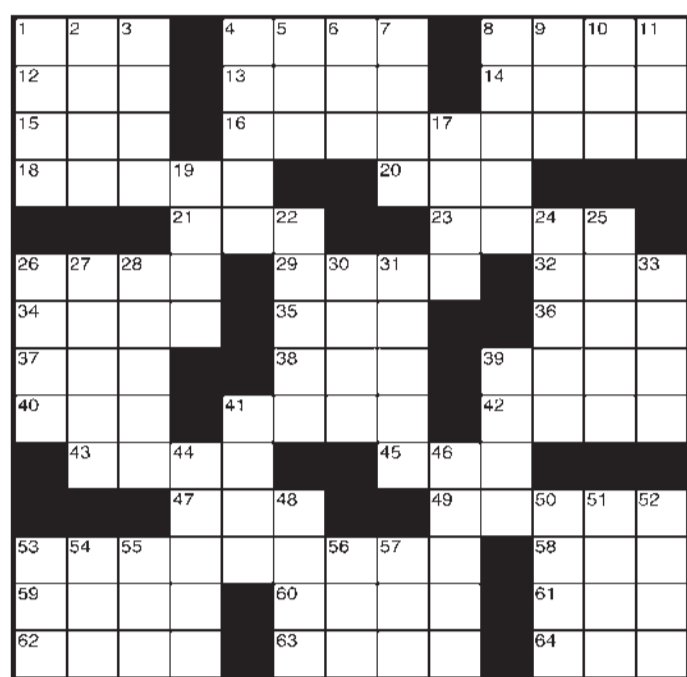
ACROSS

- 1 Ebenezer's exclamation
- 4 Yesteryear
- 8 Make an imitation of
- 12 Function
- 13 Baseball events
- 14 Bireme movers
- 15 Basketball hoop
- 16 Mat activity
- 18 Place for a pin
- 20 Wool producer
- 21 Compass pt.
- 23 Writer — Dinesen
- 26 Projectile
- 29 Goose down garment
- 32 Economic ind.
- 34 Type of rug
- 35 Believer's suffix
- 36 Bond rating
- 37 Face feature

DOWN

- 38 EMT technique
- 39 Snapshots
- 40 Play it by —
- 41 Long-active volcano
- 42 Readies the press
- 43 Overcharge
- 45 Honeycomb
- 47 Lillie or Arthur
- 49 Drip-dry fabric
- 53 Old-fashioned toy (2 wds.)
- 58 Ms. Thurman
- 59 Livy contemporary
- 60 Kind of surgeon
- 61 Jaunty lid
- 62 Errand runner
- 63 Nothing but
- 64 Before, to poets

Answer to Previous Puzzle



- 3 Fiber plant
- 4 Cries of dismay
- 5 Not just mine
- 6 I-70
- 7 To be, to Brutus
- 8 Boot bottoms
- 9 Yes, in Kyoto
- 10 Son of Val and Aleta
- 11 Food additive
- 17 Ninny
- 19 Is, to Pedro
- 22 Oust
- 24 A second time
- 25 Special skill
- 26 Roy Rogers' wife
- 27 Divas' offerings
- 28 Copy, for short
- 30 "WNBA Tuesday" aier
- 31 Scarecrow stuffing
- 33 Mountain route
- 39 Elf
- 41 Makes do with
- 44 Dwelling
- 46 Wrist opposite
- 48 Quark's home
- 50 Stringed instrument
- 51 Actor — Sharif
- 52 Cite
- 53 Fireworks noise
- 54 Eggs, to Cato
- 55 Club stint
- 56 Cholera
- 57 Vehicle

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.

"SYA NCVI XG SYA LVRXSLVC  
HLGXIL. . . CXGRHL RS XR! HKHAJ  
GRVA UVG V RSLIYH, HKHAJ GRAXZH  
XG VARXFYCVRH." — ASOHAR F.  
TXLRUASZ

Previous Solution: "I ... like women who get emotional about babies and puppies. ... The woman you marry should have a really soft side." — Chris Evans

TODAY'S CLUE:  $k$  equals  $k$

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TODAY IN HISTORY

Today is the 165th day of 2023 and the 87th day of spring.  
TODAY'S HISTORY: In 1775, the U.S. Army was established.  
In 1777, the Continental Congress adopted the Stars and Stripes as the national flag.  
In 1900, Hawaii became a territory of the United States.  
In 1982, Argentine troops surrendered their last stronghold in the Falkland Islands to the British, ending the

Falklands War.  
In 2007, Palestine's Fatah-Hamas unity government was dissolved after Hamas took control of the Gaza Strip.  
TODAY'S BIRTHDAYS: Harriet Beecher Stowe (1811-1896), author; Alois Alzheimer (1864-1915), physician; Burl Ives (1909-1995), singer/actor; Ernesto "Che" Guevara (1928-1967), revolutionary leader; Donald Trump (1946-), 45th U.S. president; Pat Summitt (1952-2016), basketball coach; Boy George (1961-), singer-songwriter.

ASTRO-GRAPH

Pay attention to what's going on around you. It will be easy to misinterpret the information you receive. The more aware you are, the easier it will be to bring about positive changes for you and for everyone your decisions will affect. Face challenges with optimism and an open mind. Accept and adjust.  
GEMINI (May 21-June 20) — A lifestyle change will help you deal with situations holding you back. Love is heading your way, and acting on your feelings will lead to progress. Make the right decisions.  
CANCER (June 21-July 22) — When asked for help, offer suggestions. Don't take on a burden that doesn't belong to you. Look for alternative ways to use your skills, and you'll discover a unique way to help lower debt.  
LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) — Redirect your energy to avoid a falling-out with someone of consequence. Take a closer look at yourself and concentrate on being your best rather than trying to change others.  
VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) — Adapt and keep moving forward. Refuse to get into a standoff with a challenger. Consider what makes you happy and strive to reach the goals you set for yourself. A change of plans will pay off.  
LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) — Handle important matters with finesse. Make changes at home that lower your overhead. An educational pursuit will give you something to think about, but don't buy into someone else's dream.  
SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) — Channel your energy into something

creative. Use your imagination and discipline to adjust to demands. Embrace challenges with optimism and use your skills to discover what makes you feel passionate.  
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) — Go the distance and see what you discover. You'll gravitate toward people from different walks of life. Pay attention to physical fitness, diet and overall health and well-being.  
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) — You've got wiggle room regarding your assets and liabilities. Make a positive adjustment to your living arrangements. Don't trust a colleague who fishes for damaging information.  
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) — Think before you act. You'll be left out if you try to challenge or change others. Communication will be the key to getting along and coming to terms with what's possible. Love is in the stars.  
PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) — Invest in your skills, experience and ideas. Don't let anyone stifle your dreams. A positive attitude will help you see what others can contribute and what you'll have to do in return.  
ARIES (March 21-April 19) — Challenging yourself physically will ease stress and help you sidestep an argument with someone who doesn't see things your way. Romance is favored.  
TAURUS (April 20-May 20) — Simplify your life instead of overextending yourself emotionally or financially. Discipline will help you reach your goal in a timely fashion. Don't hesitate to ask for help.

SUDOKU

Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

SUDOKU

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

		8		5	1	3	4	
	9			7	6			8
7	4			8				
		5			8			3
		6	7	3	5	1		
	3		4			8		
				7			8	9
9		4	5					2
	5	7	8	2		4		

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PREVIOUS SOLUTION

2	9	5	8	7	3	6	4	1
7	1	6	9	2	4	5	3	8
8	3	4	6	1	5	9	2	7
3	6	7	4	5	8	2	1	9
4	5	1	2	9	7	8	6	3
9	2	8	3	6	1	4	7	5
5	4	9	1	3	6	7	8	2
6	7	3	5	8	2	1	9	4
1	8	2	7	4	9	3	5	6

HOW TO PLAY:  
Each row, column and set of 3-by-3 boxes must contain the numbers 1 through 9 without repetition.



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If you have questions about your pension, 401(k) or profit sharing plan, call the South Central Pension Rights Project at (800) 443-2528 to get free legal advice. Funded by the U.S. Administration on Aging, SCPRP staff provides free legal assistance to anyone with a question about their retirement plan.

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The City of Fort Smith Civil Service Commission is currently accepting applications for Firefighters. Applicants must be a U.S. Citizen and at least 18 but not yet 35 years old at time of appointment (Except as provided for in Civil Service Rules). All applicants must have a High School Diploma or GED, a valid drivers license & pass extensive background & medical examinations. Starting pay is \$41,680 annually plus medical, dental, vision, life insurance & retirement benefits.

**Application deadline is end of day on SEPTEMBER 1, 2023.**

The written exam will be on October 2, 2023.

For questions call (479) 784-2222. EOE

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# Cases of check fraud escalate

### Americans warned not to mail checks

By The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Check fraud is back in a big way, fueled by a rise in organized crime that is forcing small businesses and individuals to take additional safety measures or to avoid sending checks through the mail altogether.

Banks issued roughly 680,000 reports of check fraud to the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network, also known as FinCEN, last year. That's up from 350,000 reports in 2021. Meanwhile the U.S. Postal Inspection Service reported roughly 300,000 complaints of mail theft in 2021, more than double the prior year's total.

Early in the pandemic, government relief checks became an attractive target for criminals. The problem has only gotten worse and postal authorities and bank officials are warning Americans to avoid mailing checks if possible, or at least to use a secure mail drop such as inside the post office. Meanwhile, as the cases of fraud increase, victims are waiting longer to recover their stolen money.

Check usage has been in decline for decades as Americans have largely switched to paying for their services with credit and debit cards. Americans wrote roughly 3.4 billion checks in 2022, down from nearly 19 billion checks in 1990, according to the Federal Reserve. However, the average size of the checks Americans write rose from \$673 in 1990 — or

\$1,602 in today's dollars — to \$2,652 last year.

"Despite the declining use of checks in the United States, criminals have been increasingly targeting the U.S. Mail since the COVID-19 pandemic to commit check fraud," FinCEN wrote in an alert sent out in February.

Checks are still frequently used by small businesses. Eric Fischgrund, who runs FischTank PR, a 30-person public relations firm in New York, had about 15 checks that were being mailed to him from clients stolen after they all went through the same Postal Service distribution center. Ten of them were successfully cashed by criminals.

The checks were stolen in March and Fischgrund became aware of the problem in April, when several of his clients who were never late missed payments. The Postal Service investigated and Fischgrund has recovered about 70% of the revenue, but some of the cases haven't yet been resolved.

According to the investigator on the case, the perpetrators used technology that melted ink in the "to" field of the checks so they could write in fake names. FischTank instructed all its clients to change their paper format because it was dealing with a check fraud issue.

Fischgrund said he'd never previously had an issue with check fraud in the nearly 10 years he has run his own business. Now he has a clause in invoices and new client contracts that asks for electronic payments only.

"I don't think we'll ever go back to asking

for checks as an option," he said.

Today's check fraud criminals are not small operations, or lone individuals like the Leonardo DiCaprio character in the 2002 movie "Catch Me If You Can," counterfeiting checks from his hotel room and apartment. They are sophisticated criminal operations, with participants infiltrating post office distribution centers, setting up fake businesses or creating fake IDs to deposit the checks. "Walkers," or people who actually walk in to cash these checks, receive training in how to appear even more legitimate.

In one case in Southern California last year, nearly sixty people were arrested on charges of committing more than \$5 million in check fraud against 750 people.

Criminals are getting the checks or identification information by fishing mail out of U.S. postal boxes, looking for envelopes that appear to be either bill payments or checks being mailed.

The most common type of check fraud is what's known as check washing, where a criminal steals the check from the mail and proceeds to change the payee's name on the check and, additionally, the amount of money.

Some criminals are going further and using the information found on a check to gather sensitive personal data on a potential victim. There have been reports of criminals creating fake entities out of personal data obtained from a check, or even opening new lines of credit or businesses with that

data as well. This allows fraudsters to create new checks using old account data.

That's why check fraud experts are saying Americans should avoid sending checks in the mail or at least take additional safety steps to avoid becoming a victim.

"If you need to mail a check, do not put a check in your residential mailbox and raise the flag to notify the postman. Drop off checks inside a post office if you have to," said Todd Robertson with Argo Data, a financial data provider.

Banks, keenly aware of the problem, are increasingly watching for signs of fraud at branches and through mobile check deposit services, including large check deposits. They're training branch employees to take steps such as looking at check numbers, because checks are typically written in order, or noticing when a check is being written for a much larger amount than the customer's previous history would indicate. Banks also now deploy software at their branches that can tell how risky a check might be.

But those systems become moot if criminals are able to persuade tellers — often at the front lines for check acceptance — to look past any red flags.

"These fraudsters are much more aggressive than they were in the past, and they are pressuring tellers to override internal systems that might flag a potentially suspicious transaction," Paul Brenda, a senior vice president at the American Bankers Association.

# Online asylum appointments halted

By The Associated Press

LAREDO, Texas — The Biden administration has stopped taking mobile app appointments to admit asylum-seekers at a Texas border crossing that connects to a notoriously dangerous Mexican city after advocates warned U.S. authorities that migrants were being targeted there for extortion.

U.S. Customs and Border Protection gave no explanation for its decision to stop scheduling new appointments via the CBP One app for the crossing in Laredo, Texas.

Several asylum-seekers told The Associated Press that Mexican officials in Nuevo Laredo, across the border from Laredo, Texas, had threatened to hold them and make them

miss their scheduled asylum appointments unless they paid them. Humanitarian groups in Laredo say they had recently warned CBP of the problems and that certain groups were controlling access to the international crossing on the Mexican side.

Migrant advocates say the situation in Nuevo Laredo, which is plagued by cartel fighting and other problems, casts doubt on the administration's argument that Mexico is a safe place for the record number of people fleeing violence in Central America and elsewhere.

Rafael Alvarez, 29, who fled Venezuela, said that after he landed in Nuevo Laredo in early June, Mexican immigration authorities at the airport seized his travel documents, including a print-out of the email confirming his CBP One appointment, and demanded he pay 1,000 Mexican pesos, about \$57. He was held with other migrants.

"They would tell us covertly, 'You're going to

put the money in this envelope and pass it to us,'" Alvarez said, recalling what officials told him and other migrants.

The officials, he said, threatened to hold them so they would have their appointments canceled. Alvarez, whose appointment was the next day, said he refused to pay and was eventually released, but five Russians who were held with him paid a total of 5,000 pesos, about \$290. They initially were asked to fork over double that amount, but they told officials they did not have that much, he said.

Alvarez said other Venezuelan friends who flew to Nuevo Laredo in late May also paid to have their documents returned.

Thousands of asylum-seekers are stuck in Mexican border towns, waiting until they can get an appointment to seek refuge in the United States after being blocked during the COVID-19 pandemic by a public health restriction called Title 42 that was lifted

last month.

Though the government opened some new avenues for immigration, the fate of many people is largely left to the CBP One app that is used for scheduling an appointment at a port of entry.

The government said it would continue to open 1,250 appointments daily by reallocating the slots for Laredo to the seven other crossings along the U.S.-Mexico border. It vowed to honor online appointments issued for the Laredo crossing before the June 3 change. The government schedules appointments two weeks out.

CBP gives priority to people with an app appointment, though people can try to be admitted by going in person without one. Anyone who has an acute medical condition or is under an immediate threat of kidnapping or death also can ask to be admitted in person.

Laredo was among the least busy crossings for asylum appointments, seeing only a fraction of appointments compared to San Diego and Brownsville.

There have been widespread complaints by migrants about being forced to pay bribes to Mexico's immigration sector, where corruption is deeply ingrained.

Earlier this month, the Mexican newspaper El Universal published video it obtained that was taken through a bus window, showing a federal agent taking bills from migrants and stuffing them in his pocket as he checked passports in the Pacific coast state of Jalisco. The agency said it had suspended two of its agents there and that it does not tolerate the rights of migrants being violated.

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# Lawsuit pits climate change against fossil fuel

By The Associated Press

HELENA, Mont. — Young people challenging Montana officials over inaction on climate change are expected back in state court on Tuesday in a first-of-a-kind trial of a lawsuit that environmentalists hope will spur changes in the fossil fuel-friendly state.

State officials have sought to downplay Montana's contributions to global warming as the trial that opened Monday is being closely watched for possible legal precedents even though the scope of the lawsuit has been narrowed in earlier rulings.

The trial is scheduled

to last two weeks with 16 young plaintiffs and their attorneys seeking to persuade District Judge Kathy Seeley that the state's allegiance to fossil fuels endangers their health and livelihoods and threatens future generations.

Grace Gibson-Snyder, 19, of Missoula, Montana — one of the plaintiffs — told the court that smoke from wildfires has gotten worse with climate change and become a "defining experience" of playing soccer in high school. The smoke regularly shrouded her hometown in unhealthy air, forced practice cancellations and kept teammates with asthma from taking the field.

"It's not pleasant," Gibson-Snyder said. "It's so uncomfortable as you're breathing deeper and deeper."

After Monday's opening court session, Gibson-Snyder said she felt empowered "to know we're being heard. We are telling our stories and I am looking forward to a shift toward a better policy and healthier future for all of us."

The case is the first of dozens of similar lawsuits to reach trial. Experts say it could set legal precedent but isn't likely to spur immediate policy changes in Montana. Its state agencies have never denied a permit for a fossil fuel project and

the state's Legislature recently passed new laws favoring oil, gas and coal over renewable energy.

The lawsuit centers on Montana's constitutional right to a "clean and healthful environment," and whether that means the state should act to protect residents against worsening climate change. By enlisting plaintiffs ranging in age from 5 to 22, the environmental firm bringing the lawsuit is trying to highlight how young people are harmed by climate change now and in the future.

A lawyer for the state said sparsely populated Montana produces "minuscule" emissions.

Montana Assistant Attorney General Michael Russell also said the harms alleged by Gibson-Snyder and the other plaintiffs can't be traced to specific actions by state officials. "Climate change is a global issue that effectively relegates Montana's role to that of a spectator," he said.

In the three years since the lawsuit was filed, the scope of the case has been narrowed to whether Montana's Environmental Policy Act — which requires state agencies to balance the health of the environment against resource development — is unconstitutional because it does not require officials to con-

sider greenhouse gas emissions or their climate impacts.

Judge Seeley has said she could rule that the state's climate change exception in its environmental law is at odds with its constitution, but she can't tell the legislature what to do to remedy the violation.

Environmentalists have called the bench trial a turning point because similar suits in nearly every state have already been dismissed. A favorable decision could add to a handful of rulings globally that have declared that governments have a duty to protect citizens from climate change.

## Playground slides doused with acid

2 children injured

By The Associated Press

LONGMEADOW, Mass. — Two children suffered what were described as "burn-like injuries" after playing on slides that had been doused with acid at a Massachusetts park, authorities said.

Police and firefighters responded to Bliss Park in Longmeadow Sunday morning for a report of a suspicious substance on the playground equipment, the fire department posted on social media. At about the same time, firefighters and emergency medical technicians went to a nearby home for a report of two children with burns who had just left the park.

"I let the kids go play. I didn't notice that there was liquid to collect at the bottom of the slide. I just assumed it was rain-

water," their mother, Ashley Thielen, told Western Mass News in Springfield. "I didn't really think much of it, and then, my baby, who is one, just started crying. That was when I knew this liquid that they were around wasn't water."

The acid left mostly superficial blisters and swelling on her children's skin, Thielen said, but it could have been much worse.

"The bottom of the slide, where it was, there was a good amount of it collected there," she said. "I was surprised he didn't start splashing in it."

Authorities determined that someone broke into a storage room where chemicals are kept at the park's swimming pool and stole some muriatic acid. The acid, which can be used for cleaning or for maintaining a pool's pH balance, was then poured on

three slides, authorities said.

Evidence was gathered and sent to the state crime lab for forensic analysis.

No one has been charged, but authorities said the suspect or suspects may have also been injured.

"We suspect that the perpetrators may have suffered acid burns to their hands or arms and their clothing may have indications of being degraded from contact with the acid," said the statement issued by the fire department in Longmeadow, a city adjacent to Springfield in western Massachusetts.

"If you know of someone with new burns to their hands or arms or may have had burned clothing, please also notify Longmeadow police," they said.

The playground has been cleaned of hazardous materials but remains fenced off.

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INCLUDES ADMISSION FOR 2 ADULTS AND 3 KIDS AGES (6-15)

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SENIORS (62+)/MILITARY MULTI-DAY GA/PIT COMBO 2 DAY \$34  
YOUTH AGES (6-15) MULTI-DAY GA/PIT COMBO 2 DAY \$15

**EVENT TIMES**  
SAT  
7:00AM - REGISTRATION OPENS  
8:00AM - SPECTATOR GATES OPEN  
9:00AM - ROUND 1 QUALIFYING SPORTSMAN SESSION  
10:30AM - ROUND 1 QUALIFYING PRO SESSION  
12:30PM - ROUND 2 QUALIFYING SPORTSMAN SESSION  
2:00PM - ROUND 2 QUALIFYING PRO SESSION

**SUN**  
8:00AM - SPECTATOR GATES OPEN  
9:00AM - ELIMINATIONS

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# Ohtani's 2nd homer lifts Angels to 9-6 win over Rangers

By The Associated Press

ARLINGTON, Texas — Shohei Ohtani homered on the first pitch of the 12th inning, going deep for the second time in the game as the Los Angeles Angels beat the AL West-leading Texas Rangers 9-6 on Monday night.

Los Angeles was down 5-1 after three innings, but Ohtani's solo homer in the seventh inning extended his hitting streak to nine games and tied

it 5-5. The two-run shot in the 12th off Cole Ragans (2-3), the fifth Texas pitcher, was Ohtani's 20th homer of the season.

Chad Wallach also hit a two-run homer in the 12th off Ragans. The Angels have won six of their last seven games.

Ohtani finished with four RBIs, pushing his season total to 50. He also had a sacrifice fly in the Angels' three-run fifth, when the other runs came in on a throwing error and

a wild pitch.

Rookie right-hander Sam Bachman (1-0) worked two scoreless innings for his first big league victory. Aaron Loup worked the bottom of the 12th, allowing an unearned run.

Ezequiel Duran hit a three-run homer in the second inning for the Rangers (41-24), who have lost three of four.

## MARINERS 8, MARLINS 1

SEATTLE — Rookie Bryce Miller and two relievers combined on a one-hitter, Ty France, Eugenio Suárez and Tom Murphy homered, and Seattle beat Miami.

Miller was superb, throwing six innings and allowing only Nick Fortes' solo home run with two outs in the fifth inning. Ty Adcock pitched two innings of relief in his major league debut, and Gabe Speier worked the ninth, finishing off the one-hitter.

Miller (4-3) relied mostly on spotting his fastball, but mixed in just enough sliders to keep the Marlins off balance. He struck out six and walked three.

Miami's Luis Arraez went hitless in four at-bats and his batting average

dipped to .391. Arraez was hitless for the second time in his 17 games.

Miami starter Jesús Luzardo (5-5) allowed five earned runs, six hits and struck out three in four innings.

## GIANTS 4, CARDINALS 3

ST. LOUIS — Mitch Haniger drove in two runs and Brandon Crawford hit a tiebreaking RBI single in the eighth inning to lead San Francisco.

Wilmer Flores had three hits for the Giants, who have won five of seven.

Haniger's single to right field in the seventh inning scored Flores and tied the game at 3-all. In the eighth, the Giants' Patrick Bailey doubled with one out off reliever Chris Stratton (1-1) and scored on a hit by Crawford, who pitched one inning of relief on Sunday in a 13-3 win over the Chicago Cubs.

Paul Goldschmidt and Paul DeJong homered for St. Louis, which has lost 10 of its last 13 games.

San Francisco's Logan Webb (5-6) gave up three runs and seven hits over seven innings, striking out six. Camilo Doval got the last four outs for his

17th save in 18th chances.

## TIGERS 6, BRAVES 5, 10 INNINGS

DETROIT — Spencer Torkelson keyed a three-run, ninth-inning rally against Raisel Iglesias with a two-run homer and hit a game-ending single in the 10th, lifting Detroit over the Atlanta Braves 6-5 on Monday night to stop the Tigers' nine-game losing streak.

Andy Ibañez began the comeback from a 4-0 deficit with a seventh-inning homer and threw out Sam Hilliard at the plate from left field in the 10th as Detroit improved to 7-3 in extra-inning games this year.

Atlanta led 5-2 when Jonathan Schoop singled off Iglesias (2-3) leading

off the ninth and Torkelson drove a sinker 440-foot to left-center for his sixth homer. Zach Short had a tying RBI single with two out.

Ibañez came up with the big throw when Eddie Rosario hit a 238-foot fly-out off Alex Lange (4-2). Hilliard tried to get his right arm around catcher Jake Rogers' left leg on a headfirst slide but was called out by plate umpire Jordan Baker.

With Ibañez on second as the automatic runner in the bottom of the 10th, Rogers popped up a bunt against former-Tiger Joe Jiménez (0-2) that third baseman Austin couldn't field. One out later, Torkelson hit a 351-foot fly that fell behind the outfield for a winning single.

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**MLB Glance**  
By The Associated Press  
All Times EDT

NATIONAL LEAGUE GLANCE EAST DIVISION					AMERICAN LEAGUE GLANCE EAST DIVISION				
	W	L	Pct	GB		W	L	Pct	GB
Atlanta	40	26	.606	—	Tampa Bay	48	21	.696	—
Miami	37	30	.552	3½	Baltimore	41	24	.631	5
Philadelphia	32	34	.485	8	New York	38	29	.567	9
New York	31	35	.470	9	Toronto	37	30	.552	10
Washington	26	38	.406	13	Boston	33	34	.493	14

CENTRAL DIVISION					CENTRAL DIVISION				
	W	L	Pct	GB		W	L	Pct	GB
Pittsburgh	34	30	.531	—	Minnesota	33	33	.500	—
Milwaukee	34	32	.515	1	Cleveland	31	34	.477	1½
Cincinnati	32	35	.478	3½	Chicago	29	38	.433	4½
Chicago	28	37	.431	6½	Detroit	27	37	.422	5
St. Louis	27	40	.403	8½	Kansas City	18	48	.273	15

WEST DIVISION					WEST DIVISION				
	W	L	Pct	GB		W	L	Pct	GB
Arizona	41	25	.621	—	Texas	41	24	.631	—
Los Angeles	37	29	.561	4	Houston	37	29	.561	4½
San Francisco	34	32	.515	7	Los Angeles	37	31	.544	5½
San Diego	31	34	.477	9½	Seattle	32	33	.492	9
Colorado	28	40	.412	14	Oakland	18	50	.265	24½

**Monday's Games**  
Detroit 6, Atlanta 5, 10 innings  
Colorado 4, Boston 3, 10 innings  
San Francisco 4, St. Louis 3  
Cincinnati 5, Kansas City 4, 10 innings  
Seattle 8, Miami 1  
Arizona 9, Philadelphia 8

**Tuesday's Games**  
Atlanta at Detroit, 6:40 p.m.  
Colorado at Boston, 7:10 p.m.  
N.Y. Yankees at N.Y. Mets, 7:10 p.m.  
Milwaukee at Minnesota, 7:40 p.m.  
San Francisco at St. Louis, 7:45 p.m.  
Pittsburgh at Chicago Cubs, 8:05 p.m.  
Cincinnati at Kansas City, 8:10 p.m.  
Washington at Houston, 8:10 p.m.  
Cleveland at San Diego, 9:40 p.m.  
Miami at Seattle, 9:40 p.m.  
Philadelphia at Arizona, 9:40 p.m.  
Chicago White Sox at L.A. Dodgers, 10:10 p.m.

**Wednesday's Games**  
Atlanta (Smith-Shawver 0-0) at Detroit (Lorenzen 2-3), 1:10 p.m.  
Milwaukee (Rea 3-3) at Minnesota (Ober 3-3), 1:10 p.m.  
San Francisco (DeSclafani 4-6) at St. Louis (Montgomery 3-7), 1:15 p.m.  
Colorado (Gomber 4-5) at Boston (Whitlock 3-2), 7:10 p.m.  
N.Y. Yankees (Cole 7-1) at N.Y. Mets (Verlander 2-3), 7:10 p.m.  
Pittsburgh (Hill 6-5) at Chicago Cubs (Smyly 5-4), 8:05 p.m.  
Cincinnati (Lively 3-4) at Kansas City (Lynch 0-2), 8:10 p.m.  
Washington (Gray 4-5) at Houston (Valdez 6-5), 8:10 p.m.  
Cleveland (Civale 2-1) at San Diego (Wacha 6-2), 9:40 p.m.  
Miami (Pérez 3-1) at Seattle (Castillo 4-4), 9:40 p.m.  
Philadelphia (Suárez 1-2) at Arizona (Kelly 8-3), 9:40 p.m.  
Chicago White Sox (Clevinger 3-4) at L.A. Dodgers (Kershaw 8-4), 10:10 p.m.

**Thursday's Games**  
Philadelphia at Arizona, 3:40 p.m.  
Colorado at Atlanta, 7:20 p.m.  
Pittsburgh at Chicago Cubs, 8:05 p.m.  
Washington at Houston, 8:10 p.m.  
Cleveland at San Diego, 8:40 p.m.  
Chicago White Sox at L.A. Dodgers, 10:10 p.m.

**Monday's Games**  
Detroit 6, Atlanta 5, 10 innings  
Colorado 4, Boston 3, 10 innings  
Cincinnati 5, Kansas City 4, 10 innings  
L.A. Angels 9, Texas 6, 12 innings  
Seattle 8, Miami 1  
Oakland 4, Tampa Bay 3

**Tuesday's Games**  
Atlanta at Detroit, 6:40 p.m.  
Toronto at Baltimore, 7:05 p.m.  
Colorado at Boston, 7:10 p.m.  
N.Y. Yankees at N.Y. Mets, 7:10 p.m.  
Milwaukee at Minnesota, 7:40 p.m.  
L.A. Angels at Texas, 8:05 p.m.  
Cincinnati at Kansas City, 8:10 p.m.  
Washington at Houston, 8:10 p.m.  
Cleveland at San Diego, 9:40 p.m.  
Miami at Seattle, 9:40 p.m.  
Tampa Bay at Oakland, 9:40 p.m.  
Chicago White Sox at L.A. Dodgers, 10:10 p.m.

**Wednesday's Games**  
Atlanta (Smith-Shawver 0-0) at Detroit (Lorenzen 2-3), 1:10 p.m.  
Milwaukee (Rea 3-3) at Minnesota (Ober 3-3), 1:10 p.m.  
Toronto (Berríos 6-4) at Baltimore (Bradish 2-2), 7:05 p.m.  
Colorado (Gomber 4-5) at Boston (Whitlock 3-2), 7:10 p.m.  
N.Y. Yankees (Cole 7-1) at N.Y. Mets (Verlander 2-3), 7:10 p.m.  
L.A. Angels (Detmers 1-5) at Texas (Heaney 4-4), 8:05 p.m.  
Cincinnati (Lively 3-4) at Kansas City (Lynch 0-2), 8:10 p.m.  
Washington (Gray 4-5) at Houston (Valdez 6-5), 8:10 p.m.  
Cleveland (Civale 2-1) at San Diego (Wacha 6-2), 9:40 p.m.  
Miami (Pérez 3-1) at Seattle (Castillo 4-4), 9:40 p.m.  
Tampa Bay (Glasnow 1-0) at Oakland (Medina 1-5), 9:40 p.m.  
Chicago White Sox (Clevinger 3-4) at L.A. Dodgers (Kershaw 8-4), 10:10 p.m.

**Thursday's Games**  
Toronto at Baltimore, 1:05 p.m.  
Tampa Bay at Oakland, 3:37 p.m.  
Detroit at Minnesota, 7:10 p.m.  
L.A. Angels at Texas, 8:05 p.m.  
Washington at Houston, 8:10 p.m.  
Cleveland at San Diego, 8:40 p.m.  
Chicago White Sox at L.A. Dodgers, 10:10 p.m.

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**CWS**

Continued from Page A3

longest in Division I history. He has had a hit in 62 of 63 games. Closer Cade Denton is tied for the national lead with 15 saves.

LSU features the top two prospects for next month's amateur draft. Center fielder Dylan Crews, the projected No. 1 pick, is batting .434 for the season to lead all CWS players. Pitcher Paul Skenes has 188 strikeouts, the most since 2011, and is threatening LSU alum Ben McDonald's SEC record of 202 in 1989.

Florida left fielder Wyatt Langford is expected to be drafted right behind Crews and Skenes and is batting .373 with 17 homers and 24 doubles, and two-way sensation Jac Caglianone

leads the nation with 31 homers and has held down the No. 3 spot in the rotation.

Catcher Kyle Teel and third baseman Jake Gelof are returning starters from Virginia's 2021 CWS team, and they headline an offense batting a nation-leading .335. Teel's .418 average is best in the ACC, and Gelof has 23 homers and a conference-high 89 RBIs.

TCU goes to Omaha with an 11-game win streak, the nation's longest, and wins in 19 of 21. The Horned Frogs are averaging 10.8 runs per game in the tournament. Second baseman Tre Richardson, never known for his power, has hit four homers since regionals.

**BRACKET 1**

\*TCU (42 - 22)

Game 1  
Friday, June 16  
1 p.m.  
ESPN

Oral Roberts (51 - 12)

Game 2  
Friday, June 16  
6 p.m.  
ESPN

Virginia (50 - 13)

Game 5  
Sunday, June 18  
1 p.m.  
ESPN

Game 9  
Tuesday, June 20  
1 p.m.  
ESPN

Game 3  
Saturday, June 17  
1 p.m.  
ESPN

\*Wake Forest (52 - 10)

Stanford (44 - 18)

Game 4  
Saturday, June 17  
6 p.m.  
ESPN

\*LSU (48 - 15)

Game 7  
Monday, June 19  
1 p.m.  
ESPN

Game 10  
Tuesday, June 20  
6 p.m.  
ESPN



**2023 NCAA Men's College World Series**  
Charles Schwab Field Omaha - Omaha, Nebraska  
June 16-25/26



\*Bracket 1  
(if necessary)  
Thursday, June 22  
1 p.m. or 6 p.m.  
ESPN or ESPN2

**BRACKET 1 WINNER**

Loser Game 11 (if first loss)

MCWS Finals  
(Best two-of-three and all games on ESPN)  
Game One - Saturday, June 24 - 6 p.m.  
Game Two - Sunday, June 25 - 2 p.m.  
Game Three - Monday, June 26 - 6 p.m.

**NATIONAL CHAMPION**

Loser Game 12 (if first loss)

\*\*Bracket 2  
(if necessary)  
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**Welcome, Megan Martin, APRN**

Baxter Health welcomes Megan Martin, a board-certified family nurse practitioner, to Baxter Health Neurosurgery and Spine Clinic, the practice of Dr. Lucas Bradley, Dr. Allan Gocio, Dr. Adam Smitherman, and nurse practitioners Brandi Anderson, William Keller, and Ashton Smitherman.

Megan is joining the clinic staff as Baxter Health expands services to better serve patients in Mountain Home, Harrison, Ash Flat, Mountain View, and West Plains. She is now accepting patients in Mountain Home as well as in Harrison alongside Dr. Gocio.

For more information or an appointment, call Baxter Health Neurosurgery and Spine Clinic at (870) 508-7080.

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# NUGGETS

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down the stretch to clinch the title for Denver.

Butler finished with 21 points.

“Those last three or four minutes felt like a scene out of a movie,” Heat coach Erik Spoelstra said. “Two teams in the center of the ring throwing haymaker after haymaker, and it’s not necessarily shot making. It’s the efforts.”

Grueling as it was,

the aftermath was something the Nuggets and their fans could all agree was beautiful. There were fireworks exploding outside Ball Arena at the final buzzer. Denver is the home of the Larry O’Brien Trophy for the first time in the franchise’s 47 years in the league.

“The fans in this town are unbelievable,” said team owner Stan Kroenke, who also owns the Colorado Avalanche, the team that won its third Stanley Cup last year. “It means a lot to us to get

this done.”

The Heat were, as Spoelstra promised, a gritty, tenacious bunch. But their shooting wasn’t great, either. Miami shot 34% from the floor and 25% from 3. Until Butler went off, he was 2 for 13 for eight points. Bam Adebayo finished with 20 points.

The Heat, who survived a loss in the play-in tournament and became only the second No. 8 seed to make the finals, insisted they weren’t into consolation prizes.

They played like they expected to win, and for a while during this game, which was settled as much by players diving onto the floor as sweet-looking jump shots, it looked like they would.

The Nuggets, who came in shooting 37.6% from 3 for the series, shot 18% in this one. They committed 14 turnovers.

The tone was set with 2:51 left in the first quarter, when Jokic got his second foul and joined Aaron Gordon on the bench. Jeff Green and Jamal Murray, who finished with 14 points and eight assists on an off night, joined them there, too.

It made the Nuggets tentative on both sides of the court for the rest of the half. Somehow, after shooting 6.7% from 3 — the worst first half in the history of the finals (10-shot minimum) they only trailed by seven.

True to the Nuggets’ personality, they kept pressing, came at their opponent in waves and figured out how to win a game that went against their type. Their beautiful game turned into a slugfest, but they figured it out nonetheless.

“What I was most proud about is, throughout the game, if your offense is not working and your shots are not falling, you have to dig in on the defensive end,” Nuggets coach Michael Malone said.

It felt almost perfect that an unheralded

and once-chubby second-round draft pick

the Pacers and Nets, have been to the finals but lost.

It was the Joker’s blossoming into a do-everything force that made the Nuggets a team to watch. Not everybody did. A shift to winning couldn’t change Denver’s location on the map — in a weird time zone in flyover territory — and it didn’t shift everyone’s view of the Nuggets. Even in Denver.

from Serbia would be the one to lift Denver to the top of a league that, for decades, has been dominated by superstars, first-round draft picks and players who lead the world in sneaker and jersey sales.

Over their near five-decade stay in the league, the Nuggets have been the epitome of a lovable NBA backbencher — at times entertaining, adorned by rainbows on their uniforms and headlined by colorful characters on the floor and bench. But never quite good enough to break through against the biggest stars and better teams to the east, west and south of them.

Before this season, there were only two teams founded before 1980 — the Nuggets and Clippers — that had never been to an NBA Finals. The Nuggets took their name off that list, then joined San Antonio as the second original ABA team to capture the NBA’s biggest prize. The other two ABAers,



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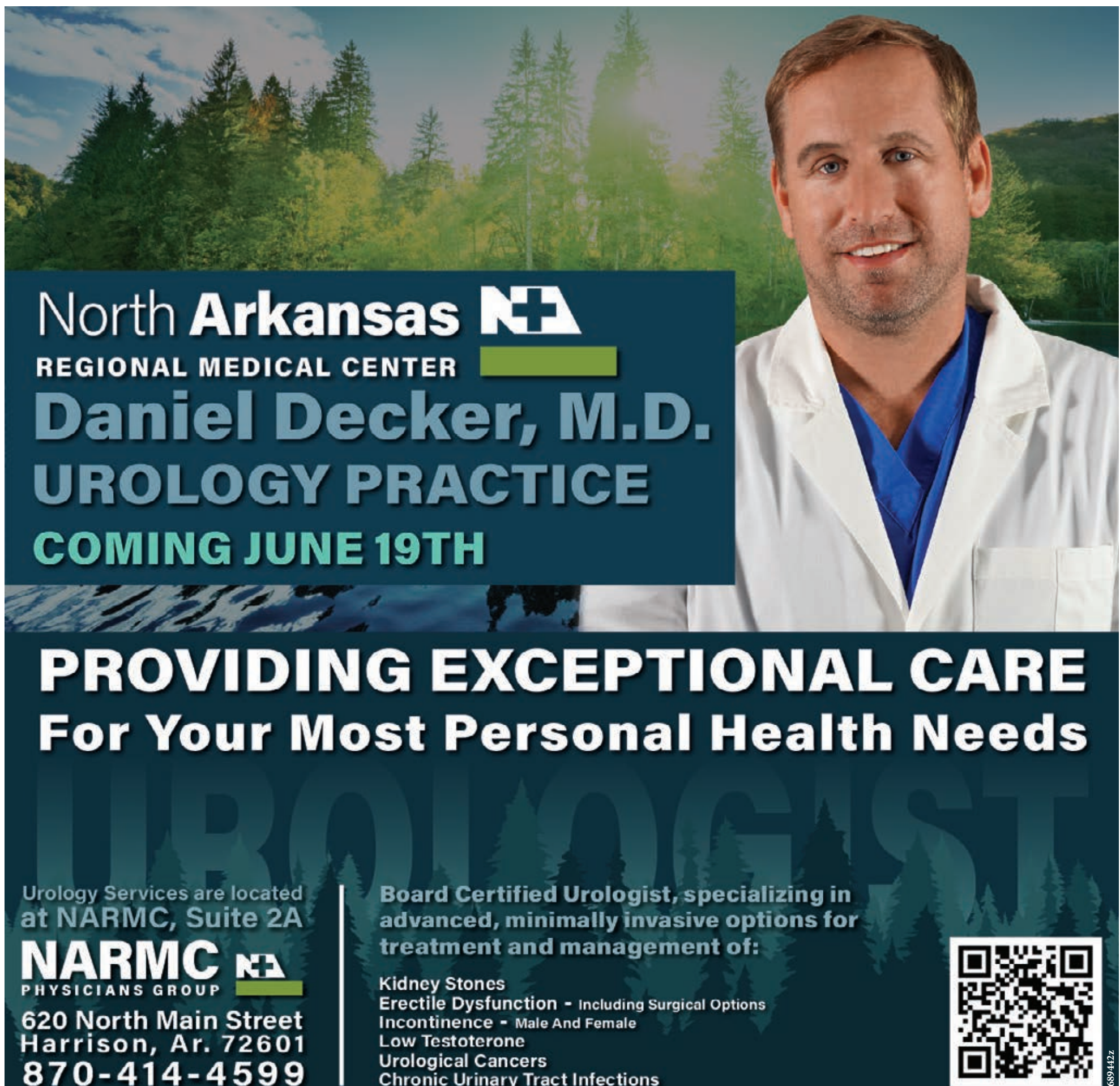


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