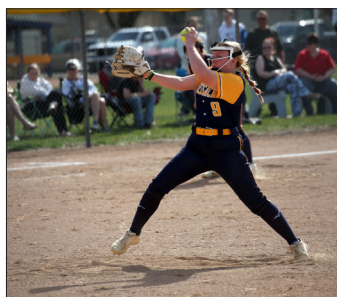


Staying hot

Sioux Valley softball looks to stay hot at the plate.

PAGE 8



Dividing time

An expert offers advice on dividing perennials.

PAGE 3



Weather

Increasing clouds, with a high near 43. Windy, with a west northwest wind 15 to 20 mph — increasing in the afternoon.

MORE WEATHER ON PAGE 3



The Brookings Register

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911 down for about three hours

BROOKINGS — 911 service in South Dakota and three other states — Nebraska, North Dakota and Texas — was down for approximately three hours Wednesday night.

A release from the South Dakota Department of Public Safety said the service was restored by around 11 p.m. Wednesday night and the outage was caused by Lumen, the third-party company all four states used for 911 calls.

Workers installing a light pole in Missouri cut into a fiber line, knocking out 911 service for emergency agencies in Nebraska, Nevada and South Dakota, an official with Lumen, the third-party who operates the fiber line the states' 911 service relies on, said Thursday.

The outages, ironically, occurred in the midst of National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week.

— From staff reports

Lottery



24 - 29 - 44 - 47 - 54

Powerball: 2

Next Jackpot: \$98 million

No jackpot winner Wednesday



2 - 4 - 11 - 25 - 27

Next Jackpot: \$62,000

No jackpot winner Wednesday



10 - 20 - 24 - 29 - 38

Star ball: 1

Next Jackpot: \$2.95 million

No jackpot winner Wednesday



6 - 9 - 19 - 27 - 42

Lucky ball: 2

\$7K per week

No jackpot winner Wednesday



8 52078 00110 2

Ivy Center expansion date set for May

By MONDELL KECK
The Brookings Register

BROOKINGS — The groundbreaking ceremony for the Ivy Center's expansion project kicks off at 4 p.m. on May 7, and the public is invited to take part.

Commissioner Mike Bartley provided the information to his peers on the Brookings County Commission at Tuesday morning's meeting — and included the fact that the fundraising effort is "going extremely well." So well that they're roughly within \$600,000 of the overall estimated project cost of

almost \$6 million.

"There'll be some fundraising requests at the open house for opportunities for people to donate to that facility," Bartley said. "It's a phenomenal project — it's taken a long time to get there, but it's there and they're going to start construction here shortly."

Regarding the open house, he said participants will be able to walk through the current facility.

"On that tour of the facility, people will see different video screens, placards and posters that explain what will

change in that facility and what the new facility will allow them to do and how it will work," Bartley said.

Refreshments and coffee will follow the open house, along with the actual groundbreaking where spades will be put into the soil near the Ivy Center, which is at 211 Fourth St.

In other business, commissioners heard reports from department heads regarding roads, pocket gopher trapping and red flag conditions.

Highway department

See COUNTY, page 2



Krystal Schoenbauer / SDPB

Brandy and Scott Louwagie of Sioux Falls, S.D., have been foster parents for nearly 10 years and adopted three children from foster care

Foster need still persists

Editor's note: This is the eighth in a series of stories on children that Jackie Hendry, producer and host of South Dakota Public Broadcasting's "South Dakota Focus" will write for South Dakota News Watch.

SIOUX FALLS — South Dakota has more children in the foster system than families to care for them. On average, there were more than a thousand children in the system in any given month last year but just over 800 foster families licensed statewide.

Children enter the system for a number of reasons, but the leading causes of foster placement in the state are neglect, parental substance abuse and parental incarceration, according to the National Data Archive on Child Abuse and Neglect.

The shortage of foster families is not a new problem.

In May 2023, Gov. Kristi Noem launched the Stronger Families Together initiative to highlight the need. In an email, a spokesperson for the Department of Social Services said 2,000 families have reached out for more information since the program's launch, and 669 families have completed screening and training to become licensed foster care providers.

But the need persists.

"Foster families are needed in all communities across South Dakota, most critically in the western and central parts of the state," the DSS spokesperson continued.

Two foster families in the Sioux Falls area — where most foster families in the state are located — share their stories in hopes of encouraging other families to get involved.

Tammy Vande Kamp is a nurse practitioner in the mental health field in Hartford. She and her husband have been foster parents for two years. Like many foster families, the Vande Kamps get regular emails from the Department of Social Services looking for placements for kids with nowhere else to go.

"I mean — we're full. We have right now four foster children and two biological children living in our home, so we're at capacity, and it's sad," said Vande Kamp.

Vande Kamp often hears prospective foster parents fear getting too attached.

"I used to feel the same way," she said. "I learned through classes and through the program that we were teaching them how to be attached. We're trying to teach these children to attach so that when they're older, when

See FOSTER, page 2

12 jurors finally found for Trump trial

NEW YORK (AP) — A jury of 12 people was seated Thursday in former President Donald Trump's history-making hush money trial, propelling the proceedings closer to opening statements and the start of weeks of dramatic testimony.

The court quickly turned to selecting alternate jurors.

The jury includes a sales professional, a software engineer, a security engineer, an English teacher, a speech therapist, multiple lawyers, an investment banker and a retired wealth manager.

The first-ever trial of a former American president will unfold in the middle of this year's race for the White

House, ensuring that the legal troubles of the presumptive Republican nominee will be a dominant issue in the contest against Democratic incumbent Joe Biden.

The trial will almost certainly feature unflattering testimony about the Trump's personal life before he became president, with allegations that he falsifying business records to suppress stories in the final days of the 2016 election about his sexual relationships.

The jury selection process appeared wobbly earlier in the day when two jurors were dismissed, one after expressing doubt about her ability to

be fair following disclosure of details about her identity and the other over concerns that some of his answers in court may have been inaccurate.

But lawyers who began the day with only five jurors settled on the remaining seven for the panel in quick succession, along with one alternate. Judge Juan Merchan has said his goal is to have six alternates.

In other developments, prosecutors asked for Trump to be held in contempt over a series of social media posts this week, and the judge barred reporters from identifying jurors' employers after expressing privacy concerns.

▼ JOHN KUBAL



KUBAL IS A WRITER AT THE BROOKINGS REGISTER AND A 35-YEAR NAVY VET.

CURMUDGEON'S CORNER

Read some history. Please

I'm a history buff. I'd guess that I've been avidly reading American history, and Western European history that has ties to American history, since about the third grade at St. Joseph's Catholic School in Sioux City.

Much of the history taught during my eight years at St. Joseph's had a hint of Catholicism interwoven into the fabric. Even at that young age I began judging the good and the bad sides of the men — white, Catholic, and Protestant — who made history. I recall a hint of "Black History" via the story of George Washington Carver's scientific work with peanuts.

Back in those years, we celebrated two of our nation's most well-known presidents with individual recognition of their birthdays: George Washington, born Feb. 22, 1732 (That was according to the Gregorian calendar, which superseded the Julian calendar, according to which he was born on Feb. 11, 1731), and Abraham Lincoln, born Feb. 12, 1809. Now we celebrate Presidents' Day on the third Monday in February.

Back in those growing up days, I always considered Lincoln the greater of the two. My rationale was simple: Washington owned slaves; Lincoln freed the slaves. Obviously too simple.

Checking the Mount Vernon website, and having visited Mount Vernon again in 2023, I learned that Washington had inherited slaves from a variety of sources. Upon his death in 1799, Mount Vernon had 317 slaves living on the estate. Washington owned 123 of them and his will provided for their release from bondage.

While Lincoln freed the slaves, at the time of his assassination in April 1865 our nation's African

See KUBAL, page 2



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FOSTER: Kids need people

Continued from page 1

they're adults, they can attach to other people. They can trust people."

Vande Kamp said she was sad saying goodbye to her first foster child, but she was also happy to reunify him with his mother.

"I knew that we gave him the best of us that we could give him, and we gave him a good start for her to then continue on."

There are several Facebook groups for foster parenting, including one Vande Kamp joined for foster parents in Minnehaha and Lincoln counties. She consistently saw posts asking for a support group for foster parents, so decided to start her own.

The group meets monthly at Tre Ministries in Sioux Falls. She acknowledges it can be a safe place to vent, but it's mostly an opportunity for foster parents to get advice from each other.

"For me personally, my best resource has been other foster moms who have been in this longer than I have."

The informal support group is one kind of resource Vande Kamp sees lacking for foster families. She wants to see communities rise to the occasion to serve children in need.

"One thing my children don't need more of is toys... They need people," she said. "They need other adults in their lives who can be positive role models. And certainly the Native American population of children need positive Native American role models."

Native American children made up 74% of children in the state foster system as of May 2023. The federal Indian Child Welfare Act prioritizes placing Native children with relatives or other Native fami-

lies. But of the 808 state-licensed foster families in South Dakota last year, just 86 were Native American.

Brandy and Scott Louwagie of Sioux Falls were one of those families.

Brandy is a member of the Rosebud Sioux Tribe. They've been fostering for 10 years and have almost exclusively had Native children placed with them.

"The responsibility that comes with being an ICWA home is just making sure those children, if they're connected with their culture, to continue that connection," said Brandy.

Brandy and Scott work for Daktronics, and both travel frequently for their role. One resource they rely on is child care.

"If we didn't have child care, there's absolutely no way we could foster," she said.

Like other foster families, the Louwagies regularly receive emails and phone calls about children who need a place to stay.

"Our licensing person just came in to relicense us," Brandy said. "She says, 'I know your hands are full, but can you take on more kids?' And we're like, we can't... But she said, 'We have so many children who need a placement.'"

The Louwagies also hear prospective foster parents worry about the time commitment or that they would get too attached to kids they'd ultimately return back to their families.

"We are so busy all the time," said Brandy, gesturing to Scott. "I mean, we have sports, doctors' visits, both of us travel — so pretty much one of us is always doing almost everything. And the thing is, yeah, the kids are what you love. That's the only reason we do foster care is because of the kids."

COUNTY: Gopher trapping event

Continued from page 1

Superintendent Brian Gustad spoke about, among other things, concrete patching on county Road 23 north of Aurora.

"There has been some traffic delays over there, but we are completed with that project," he said. He noted some work remains to be done in Aurora, but the plan is to wait until the city sewer project begins. "The truck traffic is quite extreme over there, so we're going to hold off on the ones in town just a little bit."

Beyond that, he noted that work will begin shortly on cleaning bridge decks and drains.

"It's nice to be able to catch up on some of those odds and ends that we don't always get to," Gustad said. "The weather has been cooperating and the (recent) rain was very welcome."

He also discussed plans to buy new radios for use in the county. The units would cost \$3,000 apiece and the county will need 54 of them, he said.

"Thank you for getting those quotes for us — we'll, obviously, need to take it under advisement. Study it a little bit. The need is there, so we'll have to study and figure out how we want to approach it," Bartley said.

Gustad said the highway department would be able to communicate with the sheriff's office and with the dispatch center, and they, in turn, would also be able to tune into the highway department's frequency.

"I think it would adapt to our department well, but I know it's a large expenditure."

No funding decisions were made, and it's likely the issue will return in a future meeting once commissioners and staff have determined how to tackle the topic.

Sheriff's office

Sheriff Marty Stanwick brought up red flag conditions and automatic burn bans during

his presentation to commissioners. He said the state kind of recommended a ban during such conditions, but didn't really give him the power to cite somebody if there was a violation.

"I think it's something that we need to, probably going forward — and of course I would not make that decision totally by myself," he said. "I would make sure Bob (Hill) and all the fire chiefs connect with me when we do that."

Hill, who is the county's emergency management director, said at a commission meeting earlier in April that he, too, planned to talk with the fire chiefs about the issue.

Stanwick then moved on to the April 9 pursuit on I 29 north of Brookings, praising law enforcement's role in safely ending it.

"I just want to commend my deputy for doing a good job. He was really cool," he said. "I listened to the pursuit and I want to thank (the) Codington County deputy who put the stop sticks out, and he was able to put them in an area that he would be safe. I had visions of Flandreau as I was listening to the pursuit — he was able to put it up in kind of in a bridge area, and he radioed that he was in a well-protected (area)."

Trapping gophers

Weed & Pest Department Director Misty Moser let commissioners know about the youth pocket gopher trapping event set for May 4 at 1 p.m. at the corner of 459th Avenue and 204th Street. This is open to youth and adults alike, and there is no charge.

"The only thing I ask is parents drop their kids off and pick them up," Moser said. "We're not going to be driving children from here to there."

— Contact Mondell Keck at mkeck@brookings-register.com.

KUBAL: Biographies of presidents are still relevant now

Continued from page 1

—American population was a long way from the civil rights they would be granted during the terms of future presidents. How many more of those civil rights would have been granted had the Great Emancipator lived another term in office?

Over the 70-plus years since I was introduced to American history, I've continued to pursue it. I've had some great in-the-classroom history teachers and a lot of great in-the-book history teachers whose writings live in our nation's public libraries.

And our Brookings Public Library is one of those.

As the 2024 presidential election draws closer, I find myself wondering how well-versed in American history the average voter is. Whatever the answer is, we could always take a refresher course. While there's controversy as to biography being history, I'd suggest there's some symbiotic relationship here. Since time is short between now and November, I suggest beginning with some biographies of our chief executives — learn about the good, the bad and the ugly, which I suspect all of them possessed to some degree.

A good place to start is our own public library, which has more than a dozen biographies in the The American Presidents' Series: Included are Washington, Lincoln (written by George McGovern), Andrew Jackson, Ulysses S. Grant, Franklin Delano Roosevelt, Harry S. Truman, John F. Kennedy and both Bushes.

These brief bios are

well written by recognized authors, relatively easy to read and give you a feel for what each of these men is about. Each is billed as a "distillation of his life, character, and career." And each carries the same introductory essay by noted historian Arthur M. Schlesinger Jr who waxes philosophically as to what the presidency is all about. The volumes are easy to find: each is shelved by the number 921 and the first three letters of the subject's surname: e.g., 921LIN or 921TRU.

If you read one of these shorter volumes and you find it of interest, you can move on to larger, more in-depth studies. After I read McGovern's take on Lincoln, I went on to read two more books about him, written by Jon Meacham: "The Soul of America: The battle for our better angels," published in May 2018, and "And there was light: Abraham Lincoln and the American Struggle," published in October 2022.

I read the first Meacham book early in 2020 just as the COVID pandemic was starting to kick in and Donald Trump was in the last year of his presidency. While the book had a lot of good stuff to say about Lincoln and our better angels (or lack of them?), Meacham wrote about Trump in a less-than-flattering fashion. Did his words lose Trump some votes?

I just finished Meacham's second book: a tome, with a very in-depth look at Lincoln and the good, bad and ugly elements of a very complicated moral man, astute politician, man of God and knower of human nature.

While there is no mention of Trump in this

second volume, I had to wonder if the author was somehow juxtaposing the troubled time of Lincoln with the troubling time of Trump. "A house divided against itself cannot stand," said Lincoln. It took a civil war to validate those words and piece the Union back together.

Are we in America today a house divided against

itself? An argument could be made that we are. And if we are, who can put the house together? Both the Republicans and Democrats are at each other's throats. Both parties look pretty much headed to their national conventions ready to rubber-stamp presidential candidates who are, to put it mildly, well past their sell-by dates. Can they be

stopped? Probably not.

But ... time for some thinking — probably unreal and too little, too late — outside the box. Let both the GOP and Dems go to their national conventions with a determination that it's time to help both Trump and Biden off the bus. Then, having read some biographies of America's past presidents and Schlesinger's

intro in each volume, let them as Lyndon B. Johnson once said, "... sit down and reason together." And come up with the best candidate for the job.

They might also consider Dwight D. Eisenhower's words: "It's not the size of the dog in the fight, it's the size of the fight in the dog."

Have a nice day. Read some American history.

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LOCAL



Photo courtesy of Corona Tools

When dividing perennial plants use a sharp spade or Hori Hori garden knife to easily cut plants into smaller sections.

Dig, divide, boost your garden's beauty

By MELINDA MYERS
For the Register

Overcrowded, poor flowering, and floppy perennials can be invigorated with a shovel and a bit of your time and energy. Dividing perennials is an excellent way to improve their appearance and create new plants to use in other spaces in your landscape.

As the old garden adage states "divide spring flowering perennials in late summer or early fall, divide fall bloomers in spring, and summer blooming perennials in either spring or fall." Some gardeners prefer to enjoy the spring blooms and divide soon after the flowers fade. Most gardeners have found the best time to divide is when they have the time and can provide proper post-transplanting care.

Reduce the stress on plants by dividing perennials on a cloudy, overcast day when the plants won't dry

out so quickly. Make sure the plants are well-watered a day or two in advance of dividing.

Dig up the whole plant using a garden fork or sharp spade, like Corona Tools' DigMaster Nursery Shovel (coronatools.com), with its narrow, hardened steel blade. A shovel with a long handle and narrow blade makes it easier to access plants in small and hard-to-reach spots in the flower garden.

Carefully lift the plant out of the soil. Depending on the plant and the tenacity of its roots, you may be able to gently pull the roots apart with your hands. Otherwise, use a sharp spade or knife, such as a Hori Hori garden knife, or a reciprocating saw to cut the plant into smaller sections. Some gardeners place two garden forks back-to-back in the center of the clump and pull the forks apart to make the divisions.

Discard the dead center, if needed, in the compost pile. Make sure each division has at least three to five healthy shoots and adequate roots. The larger the division, the quicker it will fill in the space and possibly need dividing sooner than smaller divisions.

Replant the divisions as soon as possible. In the meantime, store them in a cool, shaded location and keep the roots covered and moist.

Prepare the soil before planting. You can plant one of the divisions in the original spot once the soil is amended. Use the others to fill in bare areas or start new garden beds. Dig a hole large enough to accommodate the roots. Plant the division at the same depth it was growing. Some gardeners set it slightly higher so it can settle in place. Either way, make sure the roots are not exposed and the crown, the part where the roots meet the stems, is not buried.

Gently firm the soil around the plant and water thoroughly. Check the soil moisture every few days and water deeply and often enough to keep the roots slightly moist. Reduce your watering frequency as the plant begins to develop a more robust root system.

Start by dividing just one or two overgrown plants. As you master the technique, you will find it easier to divide perennials when needed to keep your gardens looking their best.

Melinda Myers has written more than 20 gardening books, including the recently released "Midwest Gardener's Handbook, Second Edition" and "Small Space Gardening." She hosts The Great Courses "How to Grow Anything" instant video series and the nationally syndicated Melinda's Garden Moment TV & radio program. Myers is a columnist and contributing editor for Birds & Blooms magazine and was commissioned by Corona Tools for her expertise in writing this article. Myers' website is www.MelindaMyers.com.

From the garden



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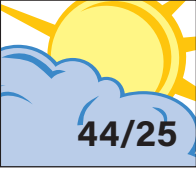

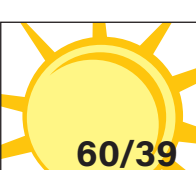
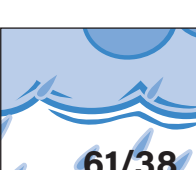
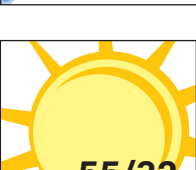
Anniversary


Leslie- 60th

It is Jerome and Maxine Leslie's 60th wedding anniversary on April 25. A card shower is welcome and can be mailed to 529 Hansina Ave, Volga, SD 57071.

Brookings weather

 <p>44/25</p>	<p>Friday Increasing clouds, with a high near 44. Windy, with a west northwest wind 15 to 20 mph increasing to 25 to 30 mph in the afternoon. Winds could gust as high as 40 mph. Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 25. Blustery, with a west northwest wind 15 to 25 mph, with gusts as high as 30 mph.</p>
 <p>48/26</p>	<p>Saturday Sunny, with a high near 48. Northwest wind around 15 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph. Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 26. West wind 5 to 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.</p>
 <p>60/39</p>	<p>Sunday Sunny, with a high near 60. Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 39..</p>
 <p>61/38</p>	<p>Monday Showers, mainly after 1pm. High near 61. Chance of precipitation is 80%. Night: A 40 percent chance of showers before 1am. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 38.</p>
 <p>55/32</p>	<p>Tuesday Mostly sunny, with a high near 55. Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 32.</p>

Information from the National Weather Service Forecast Office, Sioux Falls



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OPINION

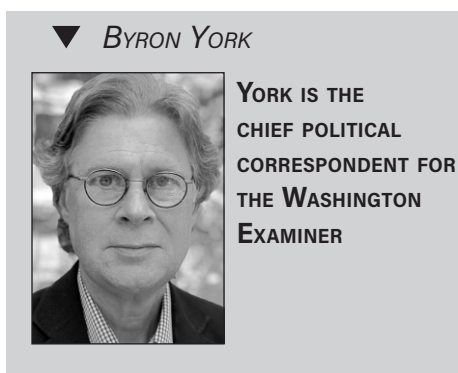
Support growing among Latinos for strict border enforcement

■ The polls show Biden is losing support among Latinos.

A new poll by Axios and Noticias Telemundo finds that 42% of Latino Americans support building a wall or fence along the entire U.S.-Mexico border. When pollsters asked the same question in December 2021, the number was 30%. That's a significant increase as the border crisis created by President Joe Biden's policies worsens.

It's also a more severe action than virtually anyone is now proposing. The border is about 2,000 miles long, but some of that is physically impassable and does not need a wall. Former President Donald Trump proposed building a wall on about 1,000 miles. That was enough for many Democrats to unite in hysterical opposition. Now, the Latino voters polled say they would like to see a wall or fence along the entire 2,000-mile border.

The new poll also finds that 64% of those surveyed support "giving the president the authority to shut U.S. borders



if there are too many migrants trying to enter the country." And 38% of those surveyed support "sending all undocumented immigrants in the U.S. back to their country of origin." In 2021, that number was 28%.

In all, the poll marks a real shift in the direction of stricter border enforcement. It's a significant change. One explanation for the change is that the context in which Latino voters consider the question has changed, too. At various times in the past, the majority of illegal border crossers came from Mexico or Central America,

especially the Northern Triangle countries of El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras. Now, with Biden's virtually open border, the situation is much different. People are coming from all over the world, in large numbers, to cross illegally into the United States.

On Feb. 22, Fox News' Bill Melugin posted on X, "Internal [Border Patrol] data we've obtained reveals more Chinese nationals have crossed illegally into Border Patrol's San Diego sector in recent months than Mexican nationals." Melugin published the top 10 nationalities apprehended in the San Diego sector since Oct. 1, 2023. Four of them were not from Mexico, Central America or South America — China, Turkey, Guinea and India. In the period Melugin listed, 28,000 people from Colombia crossed illegally into the United States, while 21,000 came from China, 6,100 from Turkey, 5,000 from Guinea and 5,000 from India.

Given that, if the point of polling Latino voters is to gauge their views on people coming illegally to the United States from Latin American countries — that's not the way things work today. These days, illegal crossers are entering the U.S. from

everywhere. Perhaps that is contributing to the changing views of Latino Americans toward border security.

In any event, Latino Americans are an important voting bloc, and in the 2024 presidential election, it appears they are moving more toward Trump than Biden.

In 2016, Hillary Clinton beat Trump among Hispanic voters by a whopping 38 points, 66% to 28%. In the 2020 election, Biden beat Trump among that group by 21 points, 59% to 38%. Now, a New York Times-Siena poll in March found Trump leading Biden by 6 points, 46% to 40%. That's a huge change in eight years.

Of course, the first two examples are actual election results, while at this point in the 2024 race we're relying on polls that might not be accurate and, in any event, might change before the election. But there have been many, many surveys suggesting movement of Latino voters away from Biden and toward Trump. Shifting Latino views on border security are part of that, but remember that the top issue for Latino voters, as it is for everyone else, is the economy and inflation. Put it all together, and it appears falling Latino support will be a major problem for Biden's reelection effort.

Commentary

Bigger field of Democratic candidates will spark healthy debate

It looks like hard work has paid off for the state's Democratic Party as it gets ready to field its biggest slate of legislative candidates in recent memory. This may not mean the end of Republican super-majorities in the Legislature, but it's the best shot that Democrats have had to whittle away at the GOP's lead in legislators and earn some standing when it comes to making decisions about the future of the state.

In the 2024 legislative session, there were four Democrats in the 35-member Senate and seven Democrats in the 70-member House. These lackluster numbers are a direct result of the state party's inattention to candidate recruitment in the last few election cycles.

According to the Secretary of State's website, this year Democrats are fielding 19 Senate candidates and 33 House candidates. This showing affords Democrats a better chance of increasing their numbers in Pierre.

This commentary was written by Dana Hess of South Dakota Searchlight, an online news organization



While the party leaders can take credit for recruiting more candidates, it's still a long way from fielding a full slate of 105 candidates. Republicans, on the other hand, have ceded only one Senate race to Democrats and failed to field candidates for just two House races.

A South Dakota Searchlight story quoted a couple of longtime political watchers who gave the Democrats credit for fielding more and better candidates this year. Of course it's up to the voters to decide if that's true.

From a numbers standpoint, Democrats are fielding 52 candidates. With 33 House candidates, they have automatically ceded control of the House to Republicans. In the Senate, Republicans aren't assured of a majority with Democrats fielding 19 candidates, nine more than in 2022. Democrats have a decent chance to make inroads in the Senate as 10 Republican senators are retiring.

While more Democratic candidates are welcome on the ballot, this is in no way meant as an endorsement of any Democratic ideals, policies or candidates. It is an

endorsement of a better way of civic life when the wants, needs and future of the state are debated by candidates who come at the issues from opposite points of view.

For its part, the state's Republican Party seems to never have met a primary election challenge it didn't like. With 44 contested races to qualify for the Republican ballot, there will certainly be plenty of GOP-on-GOP squabbling before the June 4 primary. Those debates, however, are largely between candidates who agree on basic issues all the while trying to enhance their conservative bona fides.

That's nowhere near the kind of debate that South Dakotans need as they vote for candidates in November who will set the course for the state's immediate future.

It's hard to tell what Democratic Party officials were thinking in the last few election cycles as they allowed so many ballots to have blank spots where there should have been Democratic candidates listed. This year's showing was better, but Republicans are still in line to automatically be gifted 16 Senate seats and 37 House seats without a challenge from Democrats.

Democrats look forward to the day when they are more than just an afterthought in legislative proceedings. Obviously the state's Democratic Party has a long way to go, but this year's crop of legislative candidates is likely to help provide for the kind of lively debate on the issues that South Dakotans deserve during an election.

letter to the editor

Beacon Hill raffle a big success

The Beacon Hill Rifle and Pistol Club would like to thank the following for supporting our range improvement

- plan first phase raffle.
- We could not have done it without you and everyone that bought tickets. Thank you.
- Silencer Central
- Brett Woolworth
- Shari Layman
- Dave Miller
- Rich Widman
- Mike Cotton

- Harry Manshiem
- Interstate battery
- Craft Chophouse
- Blue Tide Car Wash
- BCOAC
- Burlage
- Midland Contracting
- Lance Trucking
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- Brookings Register

- Town & Country Shopper
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- Brookings Muni Golf
- Brookings Country Club
- 1st Amendment & Design

Rich Widman
Brookings

Spring mornings are something special

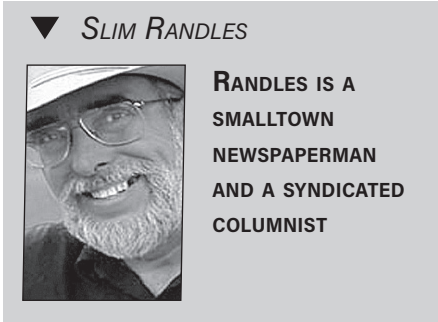
■ We always enjoy the annual feast of green

Spring mornings are a lot like Christmas. Each day we get up and go out into the yard, or walk along

the creek or visit the horses in the pasture. And each day, each morning, we find something new the sun has brought us.

Pinfeather leaves of an unbelievable green now start showing on cottonwoods that have stood like stark ghostly frames all through the cold winter. Hopeful blades of grass peek through clumps of brown left over from last summer's verdant pasture. Everywhere we look there is something new and different.

A lot of this Christmas-in-spring is kept just among us, because we might be accused of



being ... well ... poetic if we told people why we were really carrying that coffee cup out into the yard. So we say lame things like "I think I'll get some of that fresh air this morning." What we really mean, of course, is "I want to see if Richardson's bay mare has had that foal yet."

Some of us have worked very hard last fall and winter to prepare for this spring. By grafting, OK, we have a Granny Smith apple tree. Let's see if we can't get a branch of Rome Beauties or Jonagolds to grow on it, too. And we understand

completely that where we live no olive tree can survive the winter. That isn't supposed to stop us from trying, is it?

Nature pitches us a boatload of challenges each day that we're alive. This plant needs more water than falls naturally here. That tree can't take the temperatures we get. This little tree needs soil with more organic matter in it.

And those challenges are the stuff winter dreams are made of. We do the best we can to cure the lack, the freeze, the drought, and then we wait for April. We wait impatiently until we can come out of the house some morning and check the grafts on the apple tree and see tiny green leaves coming on the grafted branch. We search the bare ground where we planted that new kind of seed that won't grow here - to see if it'll grow here.

It is a continuing feast of green, a triumph of anticipation. An April morning can make us want to sing.

WHAT'S ON YOUR MIND?

Letters to the editor should be limited to 300 words. Letters will be edited for length and clarity. Preference will be given to first-time or infrequent writers.

If you can't be brief, Speak Out offers another readers' forum. Articles for Speak Out must be less than 600 words.

Each letter and Speakout piece must be signed and include the writer's address and phone number, for verification purposes.

Send letters to:

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P.O. Box 177
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email: dkott@brookingsregister.com

Our Reps in Washington, D.C.

■ SEN. JOHN THUNE

United States Senate
SD-511
Washington, D.C. 20510
Phone: 202-224-2321
Fax: 202-228-5429
Toll free 1-866-850-3855
Website:
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■ SEN. MIKE ROUNDS

Hart Office Bldg, Suite 716
Washington, D.C. 20515
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Toll free 844-875-5268
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NATION

Efforts to ban TikTok renewed

WASHINGTON (AP) — Legislation that could ban TikTok in the U.S. if its China-based owner doesn't sell its stake won a major boost late Wednesday when House Republican leaders included it in a package of bills that would send aid to Ukraine and Israel. The bill could be law as soon as next week if Congress moves quickly.

The TikTok legislation, which passed the House in March and has widespread support in both chambers, was included in the House foreign policy package after negotiations with the Senate over how long the Chinese technology firm ByteDance Ltd. would have to sell its stake for the app to continue operating in the United States. President Joe Biden has said he would sign the TikTok legislation if it reaches his desk.

The bill was included in the national security package after it won a key endorsement from Senate Commerce Committee Chairwoman Maria Cantwell, who said in a statement that she had successfully pushed to extend the period from six months to a year to give the company enough time to find a buyer. While the original legislation had a six-month deadline for TikTok to be

sold, the new House bill would give nine months and a possible three-month extension if a sale was in progress.

"Extending the divestment period is necessary to ensure there is enough time for a new buyer to get a deal done," said Cantwell, who had previously expressed doubts about the bill. "I support this updated legislation."

If Congress passes the TikTok legislation, it would be an extraordinary and unusual moment in which both parties unite against one company — something lawmakers are usually reluctant to do. But the popular social media app has prompted widespread outrage on Capitol Hill, where there is bipartisan concern about Chinese threats to the United States and where few members use the platform themselves.

Opponents say they believe the ban would be unconstitutional, and there would be likely court challenges if it passes. There has been aggressive pushback from the company, content creators who make money on the app and some of the platform's 170 million U.S. users, many of whom are young. In some cases, lawmakers have received profanity-laced calls from users who were prompted by the app



AP Photo/Ted Shaffrey

A man carries a "Free TikTok" sign in front of the courthouse where the hush-money trial of Donald Trump got underway Monday in New York.

to call their representatives in Congress.

To date, the U.S. government has not provided evidence that shows TikTok shared U.S. user data with the Chinese government, or that Chinese authorities have tinkered with the company's popular algorithm, which influences what Americans see.

Since mid-March, the company has spent \$5 million on TV ads opposing the legislation, according to AdImpact, an advertising tracking firm. The ads have included a range of content creators,

including a nun, extolling the positive impacts of the platform on their lives and arguing a ban would trample on the First Amendment.

TikTok, which declined to comment on how much it was spending on TV ads, has also spent money on Facebook and Instagram ads that, among other things, talk about investments in data safety. In addition, the company has mounted a lobbying campaign in Washington that included flying in content creators who rely on the platform for income.

Across the Nation

U.S., U.K. issue new sanctions on Iran

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. and U.K. on Thursday imposed a new round of sanctions on Iran as concern grows that Tehran's unprecedented attack on Israel could fuel a wider war in the Middle East.

The sanctions are meant to hold Iran accountable for its weekend attack and to deter further such activity. But the practical impact is likely to be limited because many of the targeted companies already were

subject to U.S. sanctions and the individuals singled out for new sanctions are unlikely to have assets in U.S. jurisdictions.

Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control targeted 16 people and two entities in Iran that produce engines that power the drones used in the April 13 attack on Israel. OFAC also sanctioned five firms involved in steel production and three subsidiaries of Iranian automaker Bahman Group — which is accused of materially supporting Iran's military and other sanctioned groups. A representative from Bahman was not immediately available for comment.

Additionally, the U.K. targeted several Iranian military branches and individuals involved in Iran's drone and ballistic missile industries.

President Joe Biden said in a statement that he had directed U.S. Treasury "to continue to impose sanctions that further degrade Iran's military industries." "Let it be clear to all those who enable or support Iran's attacks," he said, "we will not hesitate to take all necessary action to hold you accountable."

U.K. Prime Minister Rishi Sunak said in a statement that the sanctions "will further limit Iran's ability to destabilize the

region."

In addition, the U.S. Commerce Department is imposing new controls to restrict Iran's access to commercial grade micro-electronics, which applies to items manufactured outside the U.S. that are produced using U.S. technology.

The actions come after U.S. officials earlier this week warned that they were readying new sanctions in response to Iran's activity in the region and to prevent future attacks. Lawmakers on Capitol Hill also have been quickly pushing forward legislation that would financially punish the Islamic Republic and its leaders.

Deputy State Department spokesman Vedant Patel told reporters Thursday that the U.S. reimposed travel restrictions on the Iranian delegation at the United Nations that prevents them from traveling outside a

two-block radius of U.N. headquarters. These restrictions were imposed during the Trump administration but were lifted very early on by the Biden administration.

Google fires 28 workers in aftermath of protests

(AP) — Google has fired 28 employees in the aftermath of protests over technology that the internet company is supplying the Israeli government amid the Gaza war, further escalating tensions surrounding a hot-button deal.

The firings confirmed by Google late Wednesday came a day after nine employees were arrested during sit-in protests at offices in New York and

Sunnyvale, California, after the company called police.

The dissent roiling Google centers on "Project Nimbus," a \$1.2 billion contract signed in 2021 that calls upon Google and Amazon to provide the Israeli government with cloud computing and artificial intelligence services.

The protests are being organized primarily by a group called No Tech For Apartheid. Google says Nimbus isn't being deployed in weaponry or intelligence gathering.

In a statement, Google attributed the firing of the 28 employees to "completely unacceptable behavior" that prevented some workers from doing their jobs and created a threatening atmosphere. The Mountain View, California, company added it is still investigating what happened during the protests, implying more workers could still be fired.

In a blog post, No Tech For Apartheid accused Google of lying about what happened inside its offices during what it described as "peaceful sit-in" that received overwhelming support from other workers who weren't participating in the protest.

"This flagrant act of retaliation is a clear indication that Google values its \$1.2 billion contract with the genocidal Israeli government and military more than its own workers," No Tech For Apartheid asserted.

The contract raising the ire of some Google workers runs within the company's cloud computing division that is overseen by a former Oracle executive, Thomas Kurian.



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CK VAN DAM AUTHOR TALK AND BOOK SIGNING

SUNDAY, APRIL 21 @ 2 PM

Reschedule from March 25

Join CK, author of "Lone Tree Claim", as she discusses the spark that started this book and her vast research of women homesteaders on the Dakota plains. This event is FREE and open to the public and refreshments will be provided.

Open from 10am - 5pm (Mon - Sat) and 1pm - 5pm (Sun)
977 11th Street, Brookings, SD • 605-688-6226 • AgMuseum.com

RECORDS/LOCAL

60s Plus Dining

Brookings

April 22-26
 Monday: Sweet and sour chicken, rice, stir fry vegetables warmed fruit, coleslaw
 Tuesday: Mushroom Swiss burger, mashed potatoes, carrots, fruit, bread
 Wednesday: Ham and scalloped potatoes, capri blend vegetables, cherry pear crisp, bread
 Thursday: Lasagna, warmed apples, bread stick, lettuce salad with tomatoes
 Friday: Barbecued shredded beef, au gratin potatoes, peas, fruit, bun
 For more information, call 605-692-1407.

Bruce

April 22-26
 Monday: Closed
 Tuesday: Barbecued chicken, au gratin potatoes, peas, fruit, bread
 Wednesday: Spaghetti with meat sauce, lettuce salad with tomato, mixed fruit, bread
 Thursday: Country fried steak, mashed potatoes and gravy, vegetable, fruit, bread
 Friday: Pork roast, mashed potatoes and gravy, carrots, pears, bread

Elkton

April 23-27
 Tuesday: Cook's choice
 Wednesday: Mini-pan pizza, lettuce salad, fruit
 Thursday: Broasted chicken, potato, coleslaw, fruit, toast
 Friday: Crispy chicken sandwich, bun, potato, peas, fruit
 Saturday: Taco salad with meat, cheese and vegetables, chips, fruit.

Friday, April 12

10:31 a.m. The Brookings Police Department received a report of a school bus accident involving a bicyclist at the intersection of Fourth Street and Main Avenue. The bicyclist was pronounced dead on the scene.

Saturday, April 13

1:34 a.m. BPD officers conducted a traffic stop resulting in an arrest for DUI.

1:51 a.m. Brookings police conducted a traffic stop. The driver was arrested for driving under the influence.

1:55 a.m. An officer conducted a traffic stop in the 300 block of Third Avenue. The driver was arrested and charged with driving under the influence.

2:59 a.m. Brookings police stopped a motor vehicle. The driver was arrested for driving under the influence.

Police Log

4:48 a.m. Officers responded to a report of a stolen vehicle.

9:47 a.m. Officers took a vandalism report.

1:43 p.m. Officers took a stolen vehicle report. The vehicle was later recovered.

5:14 p.m. Officers responded to a theft of a motor-vehicle

Sunday, April 15

12:31 a.m. Brookings Police made contact with a driver of a vehicle. The driver was arrested for driving under the influence.

2:46 a.m. Brookings Police conducted a traffic stop. The driver was arrested for driving under the influence.

Monday, April 15

5:30 p.m. Officers were dispatched to a residence for

a disturbance. A report was completed.

8:32 p.m. Officers responded to a report of vandalism. The incident is still under investigation.

Tuesday, April 16

2:23 a.m. officers took a report of theft of a backpack.

8:14 a.m. Officers received a traffic complaint. The vehicle was later located and the driver was cited.

1:21 p.m. Officers took a report of a mental health call.

3:57 p.m. Officers made a warrant arrest.

6:28 p.m. Brookings police officers responded to a report of a suspicious person. Five individuals were cited.

6:57 p.m. Officers responded to a noise complaint.

Court Report

Court report 3-14

CLASS II MISDEMEANORS

Audulio Gomez Garcia, 39, Lake Preston, no driver's license, fined \$132.50.

Jon Michael Love, 47, of 20731 471st Ave. Lot 5, driving with suspended license, fined \$282.50.

Gavin Joe Quick, 19, Sioux Falls, speeding on interstate highway, fined \$97.50; seat belt violation, fined \$25.

Bradley E. Pietig, 63, Olivia, Minnesota, speeding on other roadways, fined \$97.50.

Daniel Roy Snyder, 68, Arlington, seat belt violation, fined \$25.

Jordan Boyd Pratt, 33, De Smet, speeding on other roadways, fined \$117.50.

Jason Henry Nixon, 23, of 1214 Christine Ave., seat belt violation, fined \$25.

Macy D. Bohnet, 15, Volga, illegal lane change, fined \$132.50.

Mara Ann Fick, 21, Luverne, Minnesota, municipal speeding, fined \$91.50.

VFW Auxiliary News

Third Sunday Breakfast will be held in April

Third Sunday Breakfast in April! The Third Sunday Breakfast project usually ends in March and starts again in August. However, this year the auxiliary members will be having their Third Sunday Breakfast on April 21. to benefit some of the veterans programs they support locally and nationally. The breakfast fare will be pancakes, biscuits and gravy, sausages, scrambled eggs, juice and coffee. The prices will be \$8 for a single entree or \$10 if you would like both pancakes and biscuits and gravy.

If you know of an organization that is a local nonprofit, please encourage them to send a letter of interest to Jan Olson, 1924 9th Ave. S., Brookings, SD 57006 or jano@mchsi.com. Please include the name of your organization, the purpose and two contact persons along with their contact information. The eight nonprofit organizations for the 2024-2025 year will be selected in June. Have your organization's information to Olson so that your group can be considered for this year coming year.

Market Report

Soybean Processors, Volga (Any size self-unloading trucks or wagons accepted)	Meal Hi-Pro (April) 332.60 Meal Hi-Pro (May) 329.60 (For more information, visit www.sdsbp.com.)	Corn (June) 3.91 Corn (Oct.) 3.96 Soybeans (April) 10.58 Soybeans (May) 10.66 Soybeans (June) 10.70 Soybeans (Oct.) 10.90 (For more information, visit www.agfirstfarmers.com)
	AgFirst Farmers Cooperative, Brookings Corn (April) 3.93 Corn (May) 3.88	

Agenda

BMU

The Brookings Municipal Utilities Board will meet at 11:45 a.m. Monday in the Utility Building at 525 Western Ave. The lone item on the agenda is approval of bills and claims.

- Invitation for a citizen to schedule time on the agenda for an item not listed
- Approve agenda
- Approve minutes
- Budget
- Annual towns and township meeting
- Chemical
- DOT billing
- Townships/contracts
- Vehicle tracker
- Employees
- Youth gopher trapping event
- DOT contract/bid and gophers
- Weed and pest grant

Weed and Pest Board

The Brookings County Weed and Pest Board will meet at 1 p.m. Tuesday in the Brookings City & County Government Center at 520 Third St. Items on the agenda include:



Enjoy Grandma Virginia's secret pancake recipe and fixings while supporting Great Futures!



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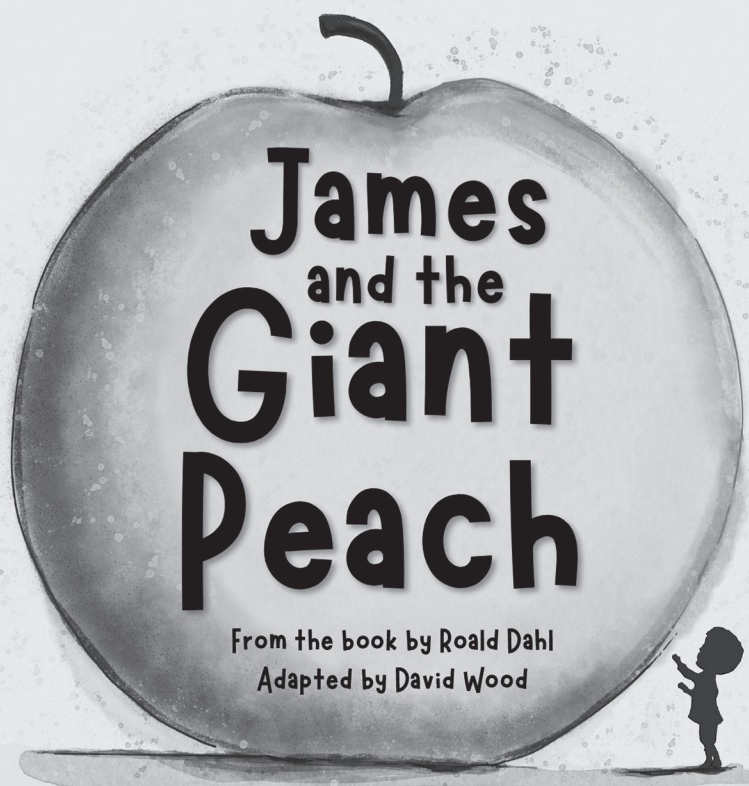
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Andrew Holtan/Register

Sioux Valley's Zaylee Lantgen pitches the ball during a 12-2 win over Baltic on Thursday afternoon in Volga.



Andrew Holtan/Register

Sioux Valley's Morgan Lemme hits a double during a 12-2 victory over Baltic in five innings on Thursday afternoon in Baltic. It was the third-straight win for the Cossacks and Sioux Valley is now 4-1 on the season.

Sioux Valley improves to 4-1 with win over Baltic

By ANDREW HOLTAN
The Register

VOLGA - The Sioux Valley softball team won its third-straight game on Thursday afternoon as the Cossacks beat Baltic 12-2 in five innings.

Sioux Valley had 14 hits and in all three games during this win streak the Cossacks have scored in double digits. Sioux Valley head coach Tatum Sonnenberg said the offense is hot right now because her team is making both adjustments in the batter's box and on the base paths.

"I think what's working is our girls are building a lot of confidence in their bats. They're not afraid to stick with what they know, but they're also making good adjustments [at the plate] and running the bases too. So, not only getting on with their bats, but trusting that their teammates are going to get them over when they get

on base," Sonnenberg said.

The Cossacks (4-1) scored five runs in the first inning. Cassidy Smith led off the inning with a double and then scored on a single from Amelia Jacobson. Savana Guthmiller then walked and Jacobson scored on a single from Abby Axtell. Guthmiller scored on a steal of home and Axtell scored on a sacrifice fly from Morgan Lemme to make it 4-0. The final run of the inning came on an RBI single from Riley Stirling.

Sioux Valley added another run in the second inning. Guthmiller led off the inning with a single and then came around to score on a double from Lemme to make it 6-0.

Baltic scored its only two runs of the game in the top of the third and both runs came from a double. Sioux Valley would answer with two runs of its own in the bottom of the inning.

Stirling walked and

Smith then bunted for a single. Lemme then came to the plate with the bases loaded after Axtell was hit by a pitch and she hit a double to center field and that made it 8-2 heading into the fourth.

Neither team scored in the fourth. Sioux Valley then scored four runs with two outs in the fifth. Guthmiller led off the two-out rally with a double and scored on an Axtell single. Lemme then hit Axtell home with a single and Cameron Uecker followed with a double to send Axtell home. Uecker then scored on a single from Katie Richarz and that ended the game due to the 10-run rule.

In total the Cossacks hit three extra base hits on Thursday. Sioux Valley has had multiple players hit multiple inside the park home runs this season, but has the Cossacks have also done a good job of just getting players on base. Sonnenberg said her lineup

wants to do whatever it takes to produce runs.

"[The versatility in our lineup] has been working fabulously. Those ones that are able to power hit and give us more than one base at a time, they're also able to sacrifice and put up a bunt or just put the ball in play for us to be able to go. So, that leaves a lot of opportunities for us to make adjustments and plays that are going to work depending on the team that we're playing," Sonnenberg said.

Lemme was 3-for-4 with five RBIs and Axtell was 3-for-4 with two RBIs. Stirling was 1-for-3 with an RBI and Uecker and Jacobson each went 1-for-4 with an RBI. Guthmiller and Smith were each 2-for-4.

Zaylee Lantgen pitched all five innings for the Cossacks. She gave up two earned runs on six hits with eight strikeouts and no walks. It was the second-straight complete game

for Lantgen and her third-straight win.

In all four of the Cossacks' wins this season they've held the opposing team to single digit runs. Sonnenberg said she thinks her team has found the right formula both in the circle and with the players behind the pitcher.

"We've had to make a lot of adjustments in our defense in finding the confidence in our voice that we need when we're out in the field. They've been able to find who to listen to and how to communicate to each other, because as teammates, we don't all communicate the same way. So when we have that confidence in each other and communication and things are going well, that creates positivity for not only our pitches to know that they have that defense behind them, but also for each of [our defenders] to know that they have a job and they're going to do that

job," Sonnenberg said.

Sioux Valley will hit the road next as the Cossacks play a doubleheader in Milbank on Monday at 5 p.m. This is the first season that Sioux Valley has had a softball team, but it is not the first time that these players have played softball. Sonnenberg said the biggest challenge coming into the season was getting everyone to work together, but she has been proud of the way her team has adjusted quickly.

"I'm very proud and aware of their abilities and I think they're starting to feel that in each other too. There have been some surprising moments when things are happening, but seeing these players from the perspective of coaching a different team playing against them, I'm not necessarily surprised that they're playing well together. I'm just proud that they've found the ability to play with anyone that is next to them," Sonnenberg said.

Kraken outlast Wild in final regular season game

ST. PAUL, Minn. (AP) — Tye Kartye tipped in a slap shot by Oliver Bjorkstrand for the tiebreaking goal with 2:40 remaining, and the Seattle Kraken held on to beat the Minnesota Wild 4-3 on Thursday night to wrap up the regular season for two teams that missed the playoffs.

Brock Faber scored 6-on-4 on a power play for the

Wild with 1:05 left and goalie Marc-Andre Fleury pulled, but Kraken goalie Joey Daccord — who had 21 saves — and the defense held up.

Brandon Tanev, who assisted on both of Gourde's third period goals, painfully blocked a shot in the final seconds that had him doubled over on the ice at the final horn.

Kirill Kaprizov scored

his 46th goal of the season on a power play in the first period, and Mats Zuccarello had the tying goal midway through the third period for the Wild.

Matty Beniers tied the game for the Kraken in the second period on a power play tip-in before Gourde's short-handed breakaway. He later scored on an empty-netter.

Beniers, the second overall pick in the 2021 draft, dropped to 15 goals and 37 points this season after the first-line center had 24 goals and 57 points in 2022-23.

Kaprizov finished with 96 points this season after a slow start, by far the second-most in franchise history behind his 105 points in 2021-22 when he had 47 goals and 61 assists to set the all-time Wild marks in all three categories. Kevin Fiala is third with 85 points in 2021-22.

When Kraken leading scorer Jared McCann made a blind pass away from

the boards toward teammate Will Borgen, Kaprizov intercepted it and flicked an unobstructed wrist shot past Daccord to give the Wild an early lead.

The Wild have had five 40-goal scorers in their 23-season history, including Kaprizov three times. Eric Staal (2017-18) and Marian Gaborik (2007-08) were the others.

Daccord had a strong season for the Kraken, but after upsetting 2022 champion Colorado in the first round of the playoffs last spring, the club took a step backward. They and the Wild were in a crowd of teams in the mix for the Western Conference wild-card spots, but they were eliminated seven games ago.

The Wild were ousted from contention five games ago, missing the post-season for just the second time in 12 years. Fleury, who signed a \$2.5 million contract extension to return for next season and received

the Wild's nomination for the King Clancy Memorial Trophy, the NHL's annual leadership and philanthropy award, was one bright spot. He passed Patrick Roy for second place on the all-time wins list in January.

The 39-year-old was presented with the Wild's Tom Kurvers Humanitarian Award on the ice before the

game, honoring his leadership on and off the ice. Kurvers, an assistant general manager for the Wild, died in 2021 of cancer.

For all the fuss made over Fleury this year, he has quickly pointed to his absence from the playoffs — for the first time since 2006 — as the overriding theme of the season.



Abbie Parr/AP

Minnesota Wild left wing Kirill Kaprizov, left, fends off Seattle Kraken defenseman Will Borgen during the first period of an NHL hockey game Thursday in St. Paul, Minn.

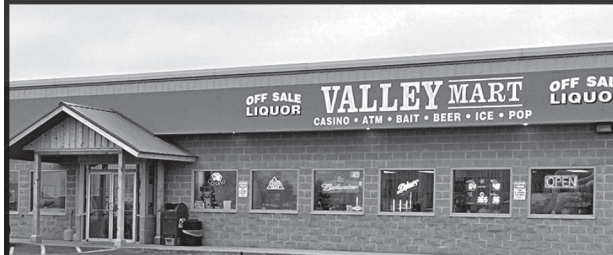
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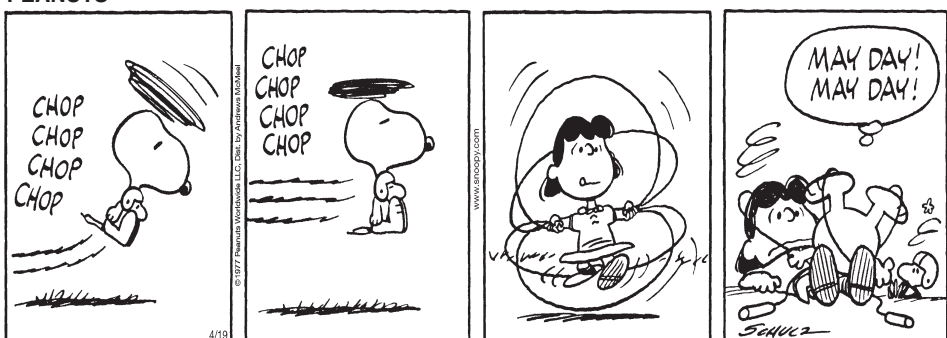
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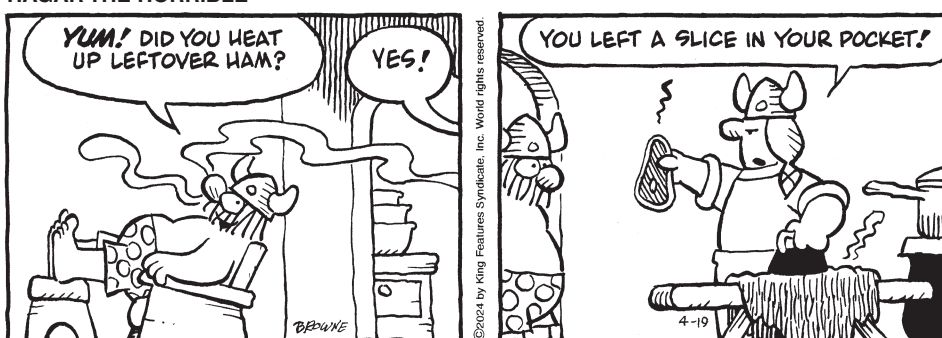
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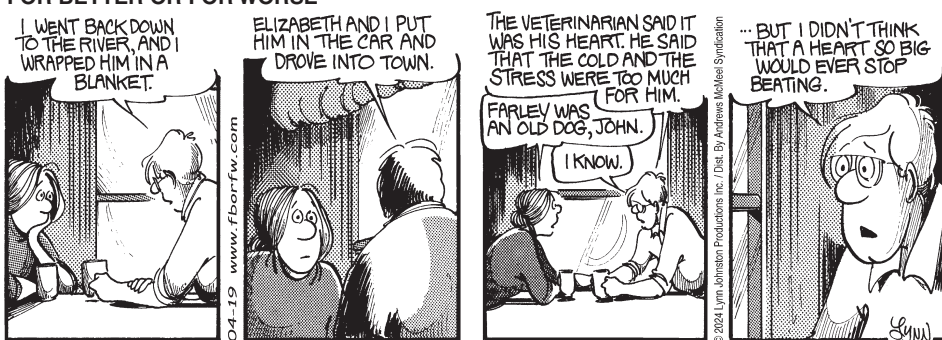
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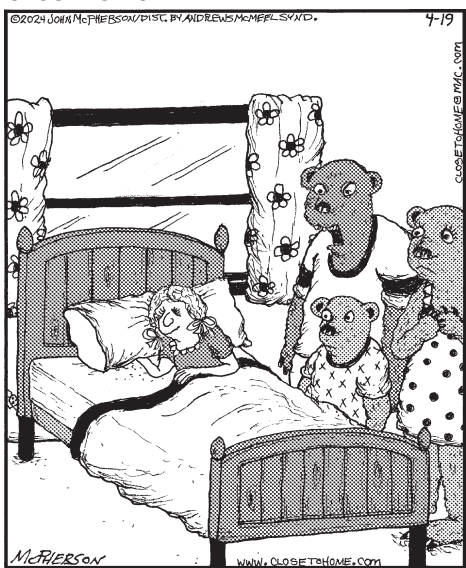
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FAMILY CIRCUS



Bridge

By PHILLIP ALDER

Martha Quinn, one of the original video jockeys on MTV, said, "Demand no more out of your partner than what you are willing to give yourself."

That could be applied to bridge. However, there are times when you see that partner must do something unusual. If it is possible, make it clear to him; but if it is not, hope that he also works out what is required.

In this deal, take the West hand. You are defending against four spades. You lead the heart ace: three, nine, jack.

Not fooled by South's play, you cash the heart king: seven, two, six. What would you do next?

North invited game with his three-spade response. South bid four spades

because of his nice distribution.

First, count the high-card points. You have 14 and dummy has 11. That leaves only 15 for the other two players. If East has, say, the diamond queen, the contract must surely be laydown. You need East to have the spade king or ace. Then there is a possibility of gaining two trump tricks.

At trick three, do not lead the heart queen, which would say that you are cashing a third heart winner. Instead, continue with a low heart.

Now the spotlight falls on partner, East. If he ruffs low, South overruffs, cashes his spade ace, and claims. East must realize that even if he can win this trick with his low trump (South having started with three hearts), his spade king will then

North		04-19-24	
♠	8 7 5 2		
♥	10 7 3		
♦	K 2		
♣	A K J 4		
West	East		
♠	Q 10	♠ K 3	
♥	A K Q 8 5 4	♥ 9 2	
♦	J 3	♦ 8 7 5 4	
♣	Q 10 7	♣ 9 8 5 3 2	
South			
♠	A J 9 6 4		
♥	J 6		
♦	A Q 10 9 6		
♣	6		
Dealer: South			
Vulnerable: Both			
South	West	North	East
1 ♠	2 ♥	3 ♠	Pass
4 ♣	Pass	Pass	Pass
Opening lead: ♥ A			

serve no purpose. East must ruff with his king. This effects an uppercut. South overruffs with his ace, but must now lose two trump tricks.

Dr. Roizen

Take steps to clear up the confusion about step goal

By MIKE ROIZEN, M.D. AND MEHMET OZ, M.D.

Achieving a younger ActualAge and extending your healthy longevity is a step-by-step process. We've always said that part of that process is aiming for 10,000 steps a day. But lately, a flurry of studies (wrongly) say that far fewer steps should be your ultimate target — and 10,000 is

a made-up goal. For example, a 2023 study in the Journal of the American College of Cardiology says that walking 2,700 steps daily boosts heart health significantly, reducing the risk of death by 11% — and around 7,000 to 9,000 steps daily provides optimal protection from cardiovascular problems. There are also studies that say that if you're mostly sedentary, even if you get your steps in every day, you can't overcome the health risks from hours of sitting around.

We applaud starting small and aiming high, but we also know that the more you can do (without overdoing it), the more positive results you'll see. And it turns out that in multiple studies, 10,000 steps a day provides maximum reduction of your risk of premature death and decreases dementia risk. For example, a 2023 study in the British Journal of Sports Medicine showed that the most beneficial step target is 9,000 to 10,000 steps a day. That lowered participants' risk of death over the next seven years by 39% and cardiovascular-triggered incidences by 21%.

So don't be confused by the diverse info you're hearing. Step up to a healthier life by increasing your daily distance step by step aiming for 10,000 a day.

Dr. Mike Roizen is the founder of www.longevityplaybook.com, and Dr. Mehmet Oz is global advisor to www.iHerb.com.

Celebrity Cipher

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

" SA VF T SYADKR GXOF, RAB
KTMF SA VF T SYADKR. X TJ JAYF
AO T PAJFJAYTSXMF DCTLBF."
— PAJFZXTH TCX GAHI

Previous Solution: "I'd like to branch out in film — producing, directing, all of it. I'll sleep when no one wants to hire me!" — America Ferrara

TODAY'S CLUE: W sjenba r
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Dear Abby

Dear Abby: I have a 25-year-old niece, "Meadow," who embraces the hippie lifestyle. She's kind and sweet and loves everyone. She has also opposed "the Establishment." She's heavily tattooed and has several facial piercings and thick underarm hair.

My son is the complete opposite. He is in the business world and is very professional in his manner and dress. He's getting married in three months to a lovely girl. Meadow is invited because she wanted to come. My son is nervous about her coming to the wedding. He doesn't know Meadow that well. They were close as kids but haven't seen much of each other in adulthood.

My son is worried Meadow will wear an outfit that will display the tattoos and her bushy underarm hair. He's afraid she will be a spectacle, and her appearance will become the focus of the wedding and not his lovely bride. He's also worried someone will ridicule or comment about Meadow, and he will then have to defend her, causing a disruption. None of us are close to Meadow or feel comfortable with her appearance. How do we handle her presence at the

DEAR ABBY

ABIGAIL VAN BUREN WRITES A NATIONALLY SYNDICATED ADVICE COLUMN

wedding? — Conforming In Carolina

Dear Conforming: Excuse me. Who invited this counter-culture cousin to the wedding? The time to have raised these issues was before the invitations were sent out. If Meadow is already invited, it would be terrible to disinvite her.

If someone comments on her appearance, I'm sure it won't be the first time she has heard it. If it happens, resist the urge to rush to her defense. Simply explain calmly that Meadow is there because she's family. (It's the truth.) As to her upstaging your son's bride, that won't happen if Meadow is seated at a distance from the altar.

Dear Abby: I've been regularly attending exercise classes that are offered with the membership at my gym. One of the classes I particularly enjoy is taught by a very good instructor who is friendly and welcoming. She

makes a point of speaking to everyone in attendance.

I have noticed over the last few weeks she has become decidedly unfriendly toward me. She avoids speaking to me, even though she speaks to everyone else in the class. This has been upsetting, and I realize I'm becoming depressed about it. I am not aware of anything I have done to provoke this.

Should I ask her if there was something I did to offend? Should I say nothing and continue attending her classes? Or should I just join other classes that are offered at my gym? I occasionally see her participating in other exercise classes I attend, and sometimes we are in the gym working out at the same time. — Alienated Gym Guy In Georgia

Dear Gym Guy: I am a firm believer in the adage, "seek and ye shall find." Because this teacher seems to have cooled to you and you are alone. Pose that question. Then be prepared for an honest answer.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

