# Weathering the arts

The Gazette

New galleries open as climate change, pandemic chase artists indoors, 1E

The Gazette

Sunday, January 22, 2023

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# PRIVATE TUITION



Sara Sievert looks at her son lan's drawing as they prepare for the school day Friday at their home in Anamosa. Education is more than about "math and reading scores" to Sievert, whose children attend St. Patrick School in Anamosa, which serves 93 students in grades PreK-6. "For us, it's about having that moral compass and having God in their life on a daily basis," she said. (Geoff Stellfox/The Gazette)

## While some see a choice, others see a curse

## Private schools could grow as state money hits

By Erin Murphy, Gazette Des Moines Bureau

ES MOINES — An infusion of hundreds of millions of dollars every vear soon could hit the private school market in Iowa, thanks to a proposed state-funded private school financial assistance package being pushed by Gov. Kim Reynolds and Republican state lawmakers.

That money could have a significant impact on the private school industry in Iowa, which as of the 2022-2023 school year included 183 schools and 33,692 students, according to state education department data. That's about 7 percent of the 486,476 students in the state's public

But could that impact be limited in who would benefits? Nearly half of Iowa's 99 coun-– 42 — do not have a private school within

► PRIVATE SCHOOLS, PAGE 7A

## **Education funding** boost, but not all for public schools

By Grace King, The Gazette

ne of Jennifer Jordebrek's favorite memories with her children is making rosaries — a prayer necklace — out of Cheerios for a school project.

INSIDE

**Democats** 

plan, 5A

decry private

school tuition

• Linn

Her family has spent thousands of dollars to send its three children, from a young age, to Xavier Catholic Schools in Cedar Rapids, prioritizing a faithbased education.

'We appreciate how (faith) is interwoven throughout the entire school day. They start each class with prayer, and before football and basketball games they say the rosary," Jordebrek said.

She is in favor of Gov. Kim Reynolds' private

► SCHOOLS, PAGE 6A

## Here's what lowa's private school tuition bill does

By Tom Barton, Gazette Des Moines Bureau

ES MOINES — Iowa lawmakers could begin debating as early as Monday the proposal by Gov. Kim Reynolds to establish taxpayer-funded educational savings accounts, which Iowa families could use to pay for private school tuition and other related expenses.

The proposal, which has moved through the legislative process at breakneck pace for such a large and complex piece of legislation, has sparked passionate debate.

Iowans crowded into the Capitol and packed legislative hearing rooms over the past week to sound off on the fast-tracked proposal, after the idea had failed previously. Some wore bright yellow shirts that read "YES to ESAs." Others held signs that said "NO VOUCHERS" in

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## PHASE 2

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# NATION/WORLD

# Lawyer: More classified docs at Biden home

FBI's 13-hour search reveals more material

**Associated Press** 

WASHINGTON — The FBI searched President Joe Biden's home in Wilmington, Del., on Friday and located six additional documents containing classified markings and also took possession of some of his notes, the president's lawyer said Saturday.

The documents taken by the FBI spanned Biden's time in the Senate and the vice presidency, while the notes dated to his time as vice president, said Bob Bauer, the president's personal lawyer. He added that the search of the entire premises lasted nearly 13 hours. The level of classification, and whether the documents removed by the FBI remained classified, was not immediately clear as the Justice Department reviews the records.

The extraordinary search followed more than a week after Biden's Biden told reporters attorneys found six classified documents in the president's home library from his time as vice president, and nearly three months after law-yers found a "small number" of classified records at his former offices at the Penn Biden Center in Washington. It came a day after Biden maintained that "there's no there there" on the document discoveries, which have become a political headache as he prepares to launch a re-election bid and undercut his efforts to portray an image of propriety to the American public after the tumultuous presidency of his predecessor, Donald

'We found a handful



The access road to President Joe Biden's home is seen Jan. 13 from the media van in Wilmington, Del. The Justice Department has searched Biden's home in Delaware and located six documents containing classification markings and also took possession of some of his notes, the president's lawyer said Saturday. (Associated Press)

of documents were filed in the wrong place," Thursday in California.

"We immediately turned them

President Joe Biden

over to the Archives and the Justice Department." Biden added that

he was "fully cooperating and looking forward to getting this resolved quickly.

The president and first lady Jill Biden were not at the home when it was searched. They were spending the weekend at their home in Rehoboth Beach, Del.

It remains to be seen whether additional searches by federal officials of other locations

might be conducted. Biden's personal attorneys previously conducted a search of the Rehoboth Beach residence and said they did not find FBI, he added, "had full any official documents or classified records.

The Biden investigation also has complicated the Justice Department's probe into Trump's retention of classified documents and official records after he left office. The Justice Department says Trump took hundreds of records marked classified with him upon leaving the White House in early 2021 and resisted months of requests to return them to the government, and that it had to obtain a search warrant to retrieve them.

Bauer said the FBI requested that the White House not com-

ment on the search before it was conducted, and that Biden's personal and White House attorneys were present. The access to the President's home, including personally handwritten notes, files, papers, binders, memorabilia, to-do lists, schedules, and reminders

going back decades.3 The Justice Department, he added, "took possession of materials it deemed within the scope of its inquiry, including six items consisting of

documents with classification markings and surrounding materials, some of which were from the President's service in the Senate and some of which were from his tenure as Vice President."

Attorney General Merrick Garland has appointed former Maryland U.S. Attorney Robert Hur as a special counsel to investigate any potential wrongdoing surrounding the Biden documents. Hur is set to take over from the Trumpappointed Illinois U.S.

Attorney John Lausch in overseeing the probe.

"Since the beginning, the President has been committed to handling this responsibly because he takes this seriously,' White House lawver Richard Sauber said Saturday. "The President's lawyers and White House Counsel's Office will continue to cooperate with DOJ and the Special Counsel to help ensure this process is conducted swiftly and efficiently."

The Biden document discoveries and the investigation into Trump, which is in the hands of special counsel Jack Smith, are significantly different. Biden has made a point of cooperating with the DOJ probe at every turn — and Friday's search was voluntary — though questions about his transparency with the public remain.

For a crime to have been committed, a person would have to 'knowingly remove" the documents without authority and intend to keep them at an "unauthorized location." Biden has said he was "surprised" that classified documents were uncovered at the Penn Biden Center.

Generally, classified documents are to be declassified after a maximum of 25 years. But some records are of such value they remain classified for far longer, though specific exceptions must be granted. Biden served in the Senate from 1973 to 2009.

#### THE GAZETTE

(USPS 95-680)

Established January 10, 1883, and published daily at 116 Third St. St. Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52401. Periodicals postage paid at Cedar Rapids, Iowa, and additional mailing

The Gazette is a publication of Gazette Communications Inc., a Folience company. Subscription rates by carrier \$9 per week; \$491.50 per year, 7-day delivery. Out-of-state delivery \$653.60 per year, 7-day delivery.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Gazette Co. Inc., 116 Third St. SE, Cedar Rapids, IA 52401.

Subscription Service: (319) 398-8333 or 1-(800) 397-8333. General number: (319) 398-







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# Yellen: Debt standoff risks 'calamity'

Treasury secretary expects Congress will ultimately vote to raise debt limit

#### **Associated Press**

DAKAR, Senegal — U.S. Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen said in an Associated Press interview Saturday she expects Congress will ultimately vote to raise America's debt limit, but demands by House Republicans for spending cuts in return for backing an increase are "a very irresponsible thing to do" and risk creating a "self-imposed calamity" for the global economy.

The Biden administration and Republican lawmakers have been at loggerheads over how to increase the government's legal borrowing capacity. On Thursday, the government bumped up against the \$31.381 trillion debt cap, forcing the U.S. Treasury Department to take "extraordinary" accounting steps to keep the government running.

Asked in the interview, conducted during her trip to Africa, about such talk of withholding approval for a higher debt limit unless there are accompanying spending cuts, Yellen called wthat stance "a very irresponsible thing to do" and said it could have serious consequences even before "the

day of reckoning."
"It is possible for markets to become quite concerned about whether or not the U.S. will pay its bills," she said, pointing to the negative economic impacts of a debt showdown

As for a potential default, she said, that "would impose a self-imposed calamity in the United States and the world economy." The Treasury's extraordinary steps so far mean that the U.S. government should be able to operate until some point in June, when the limit would need to be increased to avoid what could be significant economic damage.

Yellen said she has not spoken with U.S. Rep. Kevin McCarthy, the newly elected Republican speaker of the House. McCarthy has yet to



In this image taken from video, Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen speaks during an interview with the Associated Press on Saturday in Dakar, Senegal. (Associated Press)

spell out the size and target of the spending cuts that he contends are needed to put the federal government on a healthier financial path.

President Joe Biden and administration officials have called for a "clean increase" not linked to cuts — to the borrowing capacity, saying that the risks of an extended impasse could lead to a deep recession that would echo dangerously worldwide if faith

is lost in the credit of the U.S.

government.

'Congress needs to understand that this is about paying bills that have already been incurred by decisions with this and past Congresses and it's not about new spending," Yellen said. She said she believes in making sure that government debt levels are sustainable, "but it can't be negotiated over whether or not we're going to pay our bills.'

Despite the dire warnings, Yellen said she believes the situation ultimately will be defused because lawmakers can appreciate the escalating danger if the federal government was unable to pay all

of its bills: crashing financial markets, mass firings, and an economic downturn that could jeopardize America's place in the world hierarchy.

"I believe in the end we will find a way around this," Yellen said.

The treasury secretary sat down for the Saturday interview in the middle of a continent-spanning trip, in which she met with her Chinese counterpart in Switzerland before heading to Senegal, Zambia and South Africa.

The Biden administration is trying to signal its support for improving the economies of African countries, many of which have young populations that will eventually make those nations the drivers of growth in decades to come. At an African nation summit held in Washington last month, Biden said he would visit the continent this year in a sign of the desire to increase engagement with the United

America is trying to appeal to African countries on moral terms, saying that aid and loans from the U.S. will be transparent and fair in ways

that Chinese investments have not been.

Relations between the U.S. and China — the world's two largest economies — have taken on an increasingly antagonistic streak amid the geopolitical fallout from China's friendship from Russia, the persistence of the coronavirus and an era of open globalization that has given way to national security

The past two U.S. presidential administrations have challenged China's trade practices, with the Biden administration limiting the export of advanced computer chips as it simultaneously tries to boost the U.S. sector.

'This is not competition with China — we want to deepen our engagement with Africa," Yellen said. "We want to make sure that we don't create the same problems that Chinese investment has sometimes created here. That we have transparency, that we have projects that really bring broad based benefits to the African people and don't leave a legacy of unsustainable debt.'

#### DOOR OF NO RETURN: YELLEN VISITS ONETIME **SLAVE-TRADING POST**

GOREE ISLAND, Senegal — U.S. Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen paid a solemn visit Saturday to the salmon-colored house on an island off Senegal that is one of the most recognized symbols of the horrors of the Atlantic slave trade that trapped tens of millions of Africans in bondage for generations.

Yellen, in Senegal as part of a 10-day trip aimed at rebuilding economic relationships between the U.S. and Africa, stood in the Goree Island building known as the House of Slaves and peered out of the "Door of No Return," from which enslaved people were shipped across the Atlantic.

She was guided on a tour through various corridors and tight quarters in the house, shaking her head in disgust at what she was told about the economics of how slaves were valued.

"Goree and the trans-Atlantic slave trade are not just a part of African history. They are a part of American history as well," Yellen said later in brief remarks during

"We know that the tragedy did not stop with the generation of humans taken from here," she added. "Even after slavery was abolished, Black Americans many of whom can trace their descendance through ports like this across Africa — were denied the rights and freedoms promised to them under our Constitution."

Later, in an interview with the Associated Press, Yellen said that while promoting diversity and racial equality is a key goal, "the administration has not embraced reparations as part of the answer."

The economic benefits that major slave-trading nations, including the United States, reaped for hundreds of years on the backs of unpaid labor could amount to tens of trillions of dollars, according to research on the commerce.

And in the U.S., African slaves and their children contributed to the building of the nation's most storied institutions, including the White House and Capitol. according to the White House Historical Association.

Associated Press

## Top Biden aide Ron Klain expected to leave White House soon

Longest serving Democratic chief of staff in modern times

#### **Associated Press**

REHOBOTH BEACH, Del. White House chief of staff Ron Klain, who has spent more than two years as President Joe Biden's top aide, is preparing to leave his job in the coming weeks, according to a person familiar with Klain's plans.

Klain's expected departure comes not long after the White House and Democrats had a better-than-expected showing

in the November elections. buoyed by a series of major legislative accomplishments, including a bipartisan infra-

**Ron Klain** White House

chief of staff

structure bill and a sweeping climate, health care and tax package that all Republicans rejected.

His tenure as chief of staff is the longest for a Democratic president in modern times.

The person familiar with Klain's plans was not authorized to discuss the matter publicly and spoke on condition of anonymity to confirm the development, which was first reported by the New York Times.

The White House did not return calls or emails seeking comment on Klain's expected

Now that Republicans have regained a majority in the House, the White House is preparing to shift to a more defensive posture. GOP lawmakers are planning multiple investigations into the Biden administration, examining everything from the chaotic U.S. withdrawal from Afghanistan to U.S. border policy. Republicans are pledging to investigate the president's son,

Hunter Biden. Klain's departure also comes as the White House struggles to contain the fallout after classified documents dating from Biden's time as vice president were discovered at his home in Wilmington, Del., and at his former institute in Washington. Attorney General Merrick Garland has appointed a special counsel to investigate the matter.

Among those on the shortlist to succeed Klain include Steve Richetti, counselor to the president; Labor Secretary

Marty Walsh; former White House COVID-19 response coordinator Jeff Zients; Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack, a former Iowa governor; and Anita Dunn, a White House senior adviser.

Klain, a longtime Democratic political operative, has overseen a West Wing that has been largely free of the high-stakes drama that permeated the upper echelons of the Trump administration. Klain has been an outspoken proponent of Biden's agenda via Twitter, where he frequently engages with reporters to defend the president's record.



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# German caution on Ukraine arms rooted in political culture

**Associated Press** 

BERLIN - Germany has become one of Ukraine's leading weapons suppliers in the 11 months since Russia's invasion, but Chancellor Olaf Scholz also has gained a reputation for hesitating to take each new step — generating impatience among allies.

Berlin's perceived footdragging, most recently on the Leopard 2 battle tanks that Kyiv has long sought, is rooted at least partly in a post-World War II political culture of military caution, along with present-day worries about a possible escalation in the war.

On Friday, Germany inched closer to a decision to deliver the tanks, ordering a review of its Leopard stocks in preparation for a possible green light.

There still was no commitment, however. Defense Minister Boris Pistorius rejected the suggestion that Germany was standing in the way but said, "we have to balance all the pros and contras before we decide things like that, just like that."

It's a pattern that has been repeated over the months as Scholz first held off pledging new, heavier equipment, then eventually agreed to do

Most recently, Germany said in early January that it would send 40 Marder armored personnel carriers to Ukraine — doing so in a joint announcement with the U.S., which pledged 50 Bradley armored ve-

That decision followed months of calls for Berlin to send the Marder and stoked pressure for it to move up another step to the Leopard tank.

There is a discrepancy between the actual size of the commitment and weapons deliveries - it's the second-largest European supplier and the hesitancy with



German Chancellor Olaf Scholz speaks to soldiers Oct. 17 in front of a Leopard 2 main battle tank after the Army's training and instruction exercise in Ostenholz, Germany. (dpa via Associated Press)

which it is done," said Thomas Kleine-Brockhoff, a Berlin-based senior analyst with the German Marshall Fund of the United States think

Scholz, an unshakably self-confident politician with a stubborn streak and little taste for bowing to public calls for action, has stuck resolutely to his approach. He has said that Germany won't go it alone on weapons decisions and pointed to the need to avoid NATO becoming a direct party to the war with Russia.

As pressure mounted last week, he declared that he wouldn't be rushed into important security decisions by "excited comments." And he insisted that a majority in Germany supports his government's "calm, well-considered and careful" decision-making.

Speaking at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, on Wednesday, Scholz listed some of the equipment Germany has sent to Ukraine, declaring that it marks "a profound turning point in German foreign and security policy.'

That is, at least to some extent, true. Germany refused to provide lethal weapons before the invasion started, reflecting a political culture rooted in part in the memory of Germany's own history of aggression during the 20th century—including the Nazi invasion of the Soviet Union.

"No German chancellor, of no party, wants to be seen out front in pushing a military agenda you want to try all other options before you resort to that," Kleine-Brockhoff said. "And therefore for domestic consumption, it is seen as a positive thing for a German chancellor not to lead on this, to be cautious, to be resistant, to have tried all other options."

Scholz does face calls from Germany's centerright opposition and some in his three-party governing coalition to be more proactive on military aid; less so from his own center-left Social Democratic Party, which for decades was steeped in the legacy of Cold War rapprochement pursued by predecessor Willy Brandt in the early 1970s.

Scholz "decided early on that he does not want to lead militarily on Ukraine assistance. Kleine-Brockhoff said, though "he wants to be a good ally and part of the alliance and in the middle of the pack."

But the cautious approach "drives allies crazy" and raises questions over whether they can count on the Germans, Kleine-Brockhoff acknowledged.

Berlin kept up its caution on the Leopard tank remains to be seen.

even after Britain announced last week that it would provide Ukraine its own Challenger 2

The hesitancy isn't just an issue between Berlin and Kyiv, since other countries would need Germany's permission to send their own stocks of German-made Leopards to Ukraine. On Wednesday, Polish Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki said Warsaw would consider giving its tanks even without Berlin's permission.

"Consent is of secondary importance here. We will either obtain it quickly, or we will do the right thing ourselves," Morawiecki said.

British historian Timothy Garton Ash wrote in the Guardian and other newspapers last week that "to its credit, the German government's position on military support for Ukraine has moved a very long way since the eve of the Russian invasion.'

But he argued that the tank issue has become "a litmus test of Germany's courage to resist (Russian President Vladimir) Putin's nuclear blackmail. overcome its own domestic cocktail of fears and doubts, and defend a free and sovereign Ukraine, and that Scholz should lead a "European Leopard plan." Whether that will eventually happen

## U.S. labels Russia's Wagner Group a criminal organization

**Bloomberg News** 

WASHINGTON The Biden administration designated Russia's Wagner Group a transnational criminal organization in a new effort to blunt the mercenary company's powerful role on the battlefield in Ukraine and around the world.

New sanctions will be coming in this week against the group, which the U.S. estimates has about 50,000 personnel deployed in Ukraine, National Security Council spokesman John Kirby said on Friday.

The Treasury Department's designation will give the administration new authorities to impose financial restrictions on Wagner and those who work for it.

"These actions recognize the transcontinental threat that Wagner poses," Kirby said at a

briefing. "Our message to any company that is considering providing support to Wagner is simply this: Wagner is a criminal organization that is committing widespread atrocities and human rights abuses.'

The move marked the latest effort to disrupt the group, which has gained in prominence and power around the world despite a raft of U.S., U.K. and European Union sanctions. The group's leader, Yevgeny Prigozhin, is considered a major ally and supporter of Russian President Vladimir Putin and his war effort in Ukraine.

Administration officials debated labeling Wagner a foreign terrorist organization but have so far withheld that designation despite urging from some members of Congress.

## Peru closes Machu Picchu amid protests against government

**Associated Press** 

LIMA, Peru — Peru indefinitely shut the tourist site Machu Picchu on Saturday in the latest sign that antigovernment protests that began last month are increasingly engulfing the South American country.

The Culture Ministry said it had closed the country's most famous tourist attraction as well as the Inca Trail leading up to the site 'to protect the safety of tourists and the population in general.

There are 417 tourists stuck in Machu Picchu who can't get out, more than 300 of whom are foreigners. Luis Fernando Helguero, the They also want Contourism minister, said at a news conference.

The closure of the Incan citadel that dates back to the 15th century and often is referred to as one of the new seven wonders of the world comes as protesters have descended on the capital of Lima, largely from remote Andean regions, to demand the resignation of President Dina Boluarte.

Police raided Peru's most important public university in Lima on Saturday to evict protesters from far-away

provinces who were being housed at the campus while participating in big demonstrations that began in the capital Thursday.

Protests, which until recently had been concentrated in the country's south, began last month shortly after President Pedro Castillo, Peru's first leader with a rural Andean background, was impeached and imprisoned after he tried to dissolve Congress. More than 55 people have died in the ensuing unrest.

Demonstrators are demanding the resignation of Boluarte, the former vice president sworn into office Dec. 7 to replace Castillo. gress dissolved and new elections held. Castillo is currently detained on charges of rebellion.

Some of the tourists stranded in Machu Picchu have chosen to leave by walking to Piscacucho, the nearest village, "but that involves a walk of six, seven hours or more and only a few people are able to do it," Helguero said.

The train service to Machu Picchu has been closed since Thursday due to damage to the

## Brazil's army chief fired after capital uprising

**Associated Press** 

BRASILIA, Brazil — President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva fired Brazil's army chief Saturday amid concerns over threats to the country's democracy following the Jan. 8 uprising in the capital by far-right protesters.

The official website of the Brazilian armed forces said Gen. Julio Cesar de Arruda had been removed as head of the army. He was

replaced by Gen. Tomas Miguel Ribeiro Paiva, who was head of the Southeast Military Command.

In recent weeks, the military has been targeted by Lula after supporters of former President Jair Bolsonaro stormed through government buildings and destroyed public property. Lula said several times in public that there were definitely people in the army who allowed the rioting to occur.

Rioters who stormed through

the Brazilian Congress, the presidential palace and the Supreme Court in Brasilia sought to have the military intervene and overturn Bolsonaro's loss to Lula in the presidential election.

More than a thousand people were arrested on the day of the riot, which bore strong similarities to the Jan. 6, 2021, riots at the U.S. Congress by mobs who wanted to overturn former President Donald Trump's election loss.



# Linn Dems decry private school tuition plan

GOP Sen. McClintock says he remains undecided on bill

**By Tom Barton,**Gazette Des Moines Bureau

CEDAR RAPIDS

— A group of mainly
Democratic Linn County
lawmakers voiced opposition Saturday during
a legislative forum to Republican Gov. Kim Reynolds' private school assistance bill, and decried what they see as "meanspirited" legislation from Republican lawmakers
targeting LGBTQ and low-income Iowans.

Lawmakers could begin debating as early as Monday Reynolds' flagship proposal to allow parents to use \$7,598 in public funds — the amount the state spends per pupil on public K-12 education — for a savings account to send their child to a private school.

The governor's office estimates the program would cost \$341 million annually once fully implemented. Besides letting families spend the funds on private schools, the plan also provides new funding to public districts — estimated at about \$1,200 per student — for those who live in the district but attend private schools.

Linn County Democratic state lawmakers said the move will divert funds away from already struggling public schools.

"You're pulling money out of a district that is going to make it harder for (public school students) to get their services," Rep. Tracy Ehlert,



Linn County state lawmakers answer questions during a legislative forum Saturday in Cedar Rapids hosted by the Linn County League of Women Voters. (Photo courtesy of Linda Langston)

D-Cedar Rapids, who works in early childhood education, said at the Linn County League of Women Voters forum.

Reynolds, who on Friday released an "open letter" advocating for the proposal, argued it will give more options to parents and increase the quality of education for all Iowa students.

"For most Iowa families, a public education will continue to be their first choice," she wrote. "But for families who otherwise can't afford a private school that may be a better fit for their children, it makes new opportunities attainable."

Rep. Eric Gjerde and Sen. Molly Donahue, both Cedar Rapids Democrats who have or currently work in public schools, argue the measure would siphon resources from public schools to fund the education of a few students at private schools, which lack the same kind of oversight, transparency and accountability.

"There is massive inequality in this," said Sen. Todd Taylor, D-Cedar Rapids.

While supporters say the legislation gives families more educational options, Gjerde, Donahue and others noted those expanded options are not available to all students.

Rep. Sami Scheetz, D-Cedar Rapids, said private schools may remain inaccessible for many. Nearly half of Iowa's 99 counties, most of them rural, do not have any private schools.

Cedar Rapids Demo-

forum Saturday in Cedar Rapids
y of Linda Langston)

cratic Sen. Liz Bennett,
the first openly LGBTQ
woman to serve in the
Iowa Senate, said LGBTQ students and others
do not have guaranteed
acceptance to private
institutions, nor do they

have the anti-discrimi-

nation policies of public

Gjerde noted his twin daughters, who have phonological disorders and dyslexia, would likely be denied admission in a private school because of the additional educational needs they require.

Public schools "welcome every single student that walks through our door, regardless of their situation," said Gjerde, who worked as a special-education teacher in Iowa for 20 years. "A school choice as the

governor has put it is literally that — schools get to choose who they have in their building. Parents and students may not be able to choose because a school might say 'no.'"

Sen. Charlie Mc-Clintock of Alburnett, the lone Republican to participate in Saturday's forum, said he has not yet decided whether to support the bill. McClintock said he still is reviewing it along with comments from constituents.

"The jury still is out here," he said. "I don't have an answer today, but I will promise you as I've always done, I will vote the will of the people of District 42."

All Linn County state lawmakers were invited to participate in Saturday's forum. Rep. Cindy Golding, R-Cedar Rapids, declined the invitation, according to the League of Women Voters. Rep. Thomas Gerhold, R-Atkins, cited a scheduling conflict and Rep. Elizabeth Wilson, D-Marion, was ill, according to the league.

Democratic lawmakers also called out Republicans for advancing 'mean-spirited" legislation that would impose strict limitations on what food items SNAP recipients could use the benefits to buy, including fresh meat, white bread, sliced cheese and canned fruits and vegetables. It also would require an asset limit on SNAP recipients and require Medicare recipients to work at least 20 hours a week to receive health care benefits.

Reps. Art Staed and Jeff Cooling, both Cedar Rapids Democrats, said that will inflict unnecessary financial strain on Iowa's most vulnerable residents struggling to keep up with the rising cost of food and still reeling from inflation and job losses.

GOP lawmakers as well put forward a bill that would prohibit teaching about gender identity and sexual orientation in certain grades, and would prohibit schools from taking steps from affirming or recognizing a student's preferred gender identity in school without written consent from their parents.

Supporters say it reinforces parents' rights to make decisions regarding the upbringing of their children. But Bennett and Donahue said the measure undermines LGBTQ support in schools, and that parental notification requirements could effectively require teachers to "out" LGBTQ students grappling with their personal identity to potentially unsupportive family members.

"If we want to keep growing as a state, we have to stop with this hateful and divisive rhetoric that we're hearing in the Statehouse," Scheetz said.

The next Linn County forum will be from 10 to 11:30 a.m. Feb. 18 at a yetto-be-determined location. The league also will host a forum from 10 to 11:30 a.m. March 18 at the Kirkwood Linn Regional Center, 1770 Boyson Rd., Hiawatha.

Comments: (319) 398-8499; tom.barton@thegazette.com

## Five (not-so-great!) reasons people stay with bad Internet service

Sponsored by ImOn Communications

We all know how frustrating it can be to reach a crucial moment in an episode of our favorite show and suddenly face the dreaded spinning wheel of signal buffering. Or the pain and embarrassment of being the person in an important Zoom meeting who keeps freezing up or dropping signal altogether. So why do we put up with the frustration, pain and sometimes even embarrassment of unreliable Internet service?

Change is difficult – very few people would dispute that. But switching Internet service might not be as difficult as people think. Here are some common reasons people give for not changing Internet service providers:

- 1. The installation process will be a hassle and I'll have to miss a whole day of work to get it done.
- 2. I'm not sure switching will be any better I don't want to get stuck with poor customer
- 3. My email address is tied to my current provider it will be too difficult to change!
- 4. I don't want to get locked into another long-term contract with a new provider.
- 5. I currently get a discount on my Internet service through the Affordable Connectivity Program and don't want to lose that discount.

While these might seem like perfectly valid reasons to tolerate buffering video and dropped signals, switching is easier than you think!

Let's break these down one "reason" at a time.

## The installation process doesn't have to be hard!

While some providers will schedule your install weeks from initially ordering, they'll also give you an 8-hour window



of time during which you have to sit at home and wait for your install technician to show up. There are others that understand the inconvenience of this and have better processes. ImOn Communications, for example, can schedule your installation either the same day you place your order or the very next day, and provides a specific time the install technician will be at your home and how long it will take. Additionally, the install tech will contact you to let you know they're on their way. If they are running early or late, they'll contact you and give you the option to reschedule if it doesn't work. Does that sound like too much of a hassle? Especially if it means faster, more reliable Internet is the reward?

## What happens if (when) something does go wrong?

Let's face it, few of us have ever experienced flawless Internet service – one where the signal never slows, buffers, or even drops due to unforeseen circumstances. What you need to be sure of before switching providers is that you're choosing a company that will respond quickly and thoroughly. And the good news is those companies do exist! Usually it's better to get your service from a company with true local operations,

because that means all their service technicians are located in your community and can respond quickly when there are problems. Look for claims on the company's website that talk about average service repair times – you should expect repairs within a couple of days, not weeks!

# Changing your email address should be the least of your worries!

Some people still use the email address their internet service provider gave them when they signed up for service. While it can seem like a big, scary hassle to change email addresses, there are free email services out there that make it simple. Take Google's Gmail for example. Google offers step-by-step instructions for setting up an email account (free) and transferring old emails from your current account to your new Gmail account.

There is some effort involved in changing your email address. But that one-time effort doesn't mean you should put up with dropped signals, buffering streaming or slow service response. And there is help available to get it done.

#### No need to get stuck in a contract.

Life is full of uncertainty. It's not always easy to predict where

you'll be working, or even living, multiple years into the future. So why would you want to lock yourself into a multi-year contract with expensive early exit fees? The good news is you don't have to. Most providers have moved away from locking new customers into actual contracts. At ImOn, you can lock in an introductory promotional price for two years without having to enter into a contract that includes expensive fees for exiting early. Check this (not-so-great) reason off your list!

## You can keep (or add!) the ACP discount!

The Affordable Connectivity
Program (ACP) is an FCC benefit
program that helps ensure
that households can afford the
broadband they need for work,
school, healthcare and more. There
are many ways that a household
can qualify for the program – if
you haven't checked your eligibility
yet, you should! It's easy to check
at affordableconnectivity.gov.
ImOn Communications is among
the group of Internet providers
that participates in this federal
program.

Even if you are already enrolled in the program with one provider, switching Internet services does not mean you will lose your discount! And you don't have to reapply or qualify. There is a simple transfer process that your new Internet provider will help you with once you sign up for their service.

Don't put up with a frustrating Internet experience because you fear the process of switching. It's likely easier than you think, and if you choose the right provider, there is ample help available to make it smooth, quick and easy.



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# Schools/Bill would alter landscape

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school assistance proposal, which would designate millions in public funding every year to help pay for students to attend private schools. Her two oldest sons graduated from Xavier High School and her youngest son, Noah, is a junior there.

Jordebrek and her husband are paying about \$7,000 this year for Noah's education at Xavier High, with the rest subsidized by their parish at St. Ludmila Catholic Church in Cedar Rapids. Jordebrek estimates the family paid up to \$12,000 a year when all three of the boys were in the Catholic school system, with the cost fluctuating from year to year and elementary and middle school costing less than high school.

Jordebrek — along with many other private school parents — says the program would give parents more choice in education and help them find a school that best fits the needs of their family. She said it has been "at times a struggle" to put three boys through Catholic school, but "we don't regret it."

"We wanted them to be educated in the Catholic faith ... As parents, we can use all the help we can get in raising our children," Jordebrek said.

Reynolds' proposal would allow parents to set up an education savings account that would receive \$7,598 per student from the state — a student's full per-pupil funding at a public school — that can be used for tuition, supplies and other expenses at a private school.

Reynolds' office estimates the bill would cost \$106.9 million in the first year, and by full implementation in the fourth year, \$341 million annually. The nonpartisan Legislative Services Agency has yet to release its own analysis of the proposal.

The state now spends a total of about \$3.6 billion annually on PreK-12 education, and public education advocates say it's not enough. School districts in Iowa have been asking the Legislature for years to approve more aid, but lawmakers have been giving them only about half what they sought. Now, lawmakers are considering approving millions more — but not all of it for public schools.

"I understand where public schools are coming from,"
Jordebrek said. "I firmly hope public schools can be fully funded and believe they should be. ... There are many wonderful public schools across the state, and I don't want to see them be negatively impacted."

Over 1,800 students living within the Cedar Rapids Community School District currently are enrolled in nonpublic schools, according to the Iowa Department of Education. About 16,000 students attend Cedar Rapids district schools.

This is the second-highest number of students enrolled in non-public schools in any one district after Des Moines Independent Community School District, which has 2,593 students enrolled in non-public schools. The total number of students in Iowa enrolled in non-public schools is 33,692.

### MONEY FOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS 'A PITTANCE'

Opponents of the education savings account say the legislation would be detrimental to public schools, especially those in rural areas with already strained budgets.

The measure would give public school districts an estimated \$1,205 in funding from the state for each student who lives in the district but attends a private school — not only for students who choose to leave for private schools, but students who already are in them.

Opponents say it's not

enough.

Angela Morrison, College Community School District chief financial officer, said the



Matt Weibel works Friday with kindergartners on letter sounds while volunteering at Hoover Community School in Cedar Rapids. When Matt had a "baseball size" brain tumor a few years ago, the school rallied around the family, and the teachers donated gift cards and gas money. He volunteers at the school, which his two children attend. (Nick Rohlman/ The Gazette)



Sara Sievert zips up the jacket of her son lan, 5, as they prepare to leave Friday for the school day at St. Patrick School in Anamosa. (Geoff Stellfox/The Gazette)

money does little to minimize the impact the education savings accounts could have on public schools. "You're still losing \$7,500" for children who leave, she said.

Calculating the financial impact on districts is difficult and depends on how many students either leave for private schools or who start there in kindergarten.

Using the current numbers for the Cedar Rapids district, for example, the district would get about \$2.2 million in new money for the 1,842 students who live in the district but attend private schools. Under that math, the district could lose about 340 students in a single year — taking into account the net loss per student of about \$6,385 — to break even with the proposed increase. After that, the district would lose money under the bill.

The Cedar Rapids district has lost about 1,400 students over the last five years, making for an average of 280 students a year. It's not clear how many of those were students going to private schools, open enrolling in other districts or moving out of the area.

Private schools don't have to admit students from a lower socioeconomic status — who may not be able to afford private school even with the education savings account — or students with learning disabilities or behavior problems, Morrison said.

"It's your right to send your student anywhere you want, but it's the public's responsibility to make sure we have strong public schools," College Community Superintendent Doug Wheeler said. "We take all students — we take students that are difficult to help — and we persist with that for 13 years."

Mary Kenyon, whose kids are a junior and a freshman at Iowa City High School, said the extra money is "a pittance" compared with the money private schools could receive.

Iowa already has "great school choice" through open enrollment, Kenyon said. "You can select any public school to attend if you're not satisfied with the one you're districted to. I do not support taking taxpayer money and allocating it to private schools."

Public schools have a

"promise to educate every student who comes through their doors no matter their needs," Kenyon said, while private schools can "cherry pick students."

## PRIVATE SCHOOL PLACEMENT EXAMS

Chris McCarville, president of Xavier High School, said the school doesn't admit all students who apply "not because we don't want to, but because we don't have the staff in place to do so," such as special education teachers.

"The answer is never that we don't want you here. We have conversations with parents and students to make sure on both sides that it's going to be beneficial."

Some students who attend Xavier High have Individualized Education Plans — which lay out the special education instruction, supports and services a student needs to thrive in school — or 504 Plans, the formal plans that schools develop to give kids with disabilities the support they need. McCarville said the school partners with local public school districts to accommodate the students' needs.

Trinity Lutheran School in Cedar Rapids — a school for K-8 with about 250 students, including the early childhood center — has a "screening process" that includes an entrance exam to "make sure there's students here we can help," Principal Mark Miller said.

"If we can't help, we feel like we're doing them an injustice, such as if we can't provide some special education needs they might have," Miller said.

The entrance exam helps
Trinity Lutheran determine
a child's placement in the
school. For example, a family might want its child to be
in fourth grade, but the test
indicates it might be better for
the child to be in third grade.
It is not a tool used to turn
students away from Trinity
Lutheran, Miller said.

Miller also said there are a few — "not very many" — students at the school with Individualized Education Plans or 504 Plans.

Trinity Lutheran also has a "Trinity Plan" for students who need extra help and teachers are available for study hall at the end of the "It's your right to send your student anywhere you want, but it's the public's responsibility to make sure we have strong public schools."

**Doug Wheeler,** College Community superintendent

school day, Miller said. "We make adjustments in their (homework) assignments. For example, if a math assignment is 20 problems, it might be adjusted to 10 problems," Miller said.

### 'LOSING TRUST' IN PUBLIC SCHOOL

Education is more than about "math and reading scores" to Sara Sievert, whose children attend St. Patrick School in Anamosa, which serves 93 students in grades PreK-6.

"For us, it's about having that moral compass and having God in their life on a daily basis," she said.

Mindy Walderbach last year transferred her youngest two children out of Linn-Mar schools and into St. Joseph Catholic School in Marion after losing "a little bit of trust" in the public school administration. Walderbach's oldest daughter still attends Linn-Mar High School.

"I know my younger children will thrive better in private schools," Walderbach said.

St. Joseph's is a part of the Xavier Catholic Schools, a collaboration of PK-12 Catholic schools in the Cedar Rapids and Marion area.

When it comes to paying for private school, Walderbach said families have to take a hard look at their budget and think about "what am I going to give up and is it worth it?"

Jeff Cater had three children attend Xavier Catholic Schools. His daughter later transferred to Kennedy High School in Cedar Rapids to be a part of the swim team.

"I don't want to think about or add up all the tuition I paid," Cater said. "I can't even imagine. Sending our kids there took a lot of sacrifice.

"A lot of families already enrolled in private school have figured out a way to make it work for them financially," Cater said. The proposed vouchers "will open the door to kids" who previously faced barriers to private school because of tuition, he said.

Even so, he hesitates to support the private school tuition assistance proposal "whole-heartedly," questioning if it will adversely affect public schools.

### KEEPING PUBLIC MONEY IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Many parents of children in public schools say they don't want public dollars going to private schools. They also don't think private schools will welcome or be able to serve all students and their

Matt and Sarah Weibel's two children attend Hoover Community School, one of the most diverse schools in Cedar Rapids. Of the 420 students, 75 percent are historically marginalized students and 82 percent are economically disadvantaged and qualify for free or reduced-price lunch.

Already, they are having conversations with their son, Brandon, 11, a fifth-grader, about racism. He's noticing that his classmates are treated differently because of the color of their skin and asking why, Sarah said.

Their daughter, Elizabeth, 8, a second-grader at Hoover, is a special needs student and receives occupational and speech therapy services through the school. There is "no way" private schools could provide the level of services Elizabeth needs, Sarah said.

When Matt had a "baseball size" brain tumor a few years ago, the school rallied around the family, and the teachers donated gift cards and gas money. The Hoover principal was the first person Sarah told about Matt's health outside their immediate family.

Although Matt still struggles with daily migraines, extreme weakness and tremors, he began volunteering at the school this year. Earlier this month, he worked one-on-one with kindergartners, helping them recognize letters and their sounds.

Sarah worries what will happen to Hoover's food pantry, clothing drive and other community resources the school provides to the neighborhood if some money is redirected to private schools.

"Money for public schools needs to stay with public schools," Matt said.

schools," Matt said.
Eric Hunerdosse, parent to a kindergartner at Hills Elementary in the Iowa City Community School District, also values the diversity his daughter is exposed to at school.

"Is our child interacting with people who speak different languages, have different family dynamics — like two moms or two dads or grandparents who are the primary caregivers — and from different socioeconomic backgrounas?" sala Huneraosse, a former school counselor who now works for Panorama Education, which works with Iowa schools to help educators act on data to improve student outcomes. "That's something we value as a family.'

## BUILDING COMPETITIVE SCHOOLS

Scott Drzycimski, leader of a "yes committee" to rally support from voters for a proposed \$312 million bond referendum in the Cedar Rapids district, is concerned about students leaving the schools for private education if the bill passes. The district's general obligation bond issue, if approved, would fund a sevento 10-year plan to improve secondary schools.

"That's something the district does need to consider as they're putting together the (school improvement) plan," Drzycimski said.

Some supporters of the legislation say it will create good competition between public and private schools and lead to better education for kids. "If that's the case, our buildings are part of that competition," Drzycimski said.

Cedar Rapids interim Superintendent Art Sathoff there is a "fundamental concern with taking public tax dollars and using them for private purposes."

"There will be impacts on public education and the 90 percent of students that are served by public schools because there will be less money available for public schools," Sathoff said.

Comments: (319) 398-8411; grace.king@thegazette.com

Erin Murphy of The Gazette's Des Moines

# Private schools/\$340 million influx

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areas where there are no private schools are in rural areas, with fewer and smaller towns. And many private schools are near or at capacity, and would find it difficult to add students.

The proposal, which likely will be debated this week in the Iowa House and Senate, is to offer state funding to any Iowa student who wishes to attend a private school. The student would receive \$7,590 every year to be put toward tuition, textbooks, classroom materials and other types of educational programming expenses.

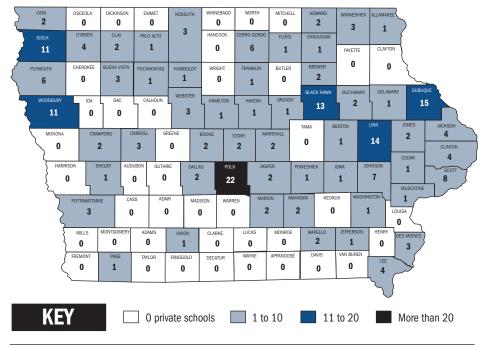
The program would be open first to new kindergartners, students who didn't attend a private school the year before and students from low-income families. It would be gradually phased in, becoming available for more private school students until, in the fourth year, it would be available to all K-12 Iowa students.

At full implementation, the governor's staff has estimated, the program will cost the state more than \$340 million annually.

A Republican legislator who chairs the Iowa Senate's budget committee said last week he believes that number will actually be higher. The state's nonpartisan fiscal analysis agency has not yet completed its analysis of and cost projections for the proposal.

#### their borders. Most of the Non-public schools in Iowa counties

Forty-two of lowa's 99 counties have no private schools. In the counties with private schools, not all of them go all the way through 12th grade.



Source: Iowa Department of Education

Gazette map

Some have suggested the new money pouring into the private school industry could lead to the creation of more private schools.

"Over time, quite possibly," said Tom Chapman, executive director of the Iowa Catholic Conference, which lobbies state lawmakers on issues that are important to the Catholic bishops in Iowa. "I think, over time as those resources become available for families, there could be expansion."

Florida's private school financial assistance program, one of the first in the country, was established in 1999. From the 2000-2001 school year to 2021-22, the number of private schools in Florida has increased 53 percent, according to data from the state's education department. Private school enrollment has increased 19.3 percent over that same period.

Iowa House Speaker Pat Grassley, a Republican from New Hartford, last week said the creation of expanded or new private schools in the state "is definitely a possibility" under the proposal.

"Obviously, there are some available slots that exist right now, but there could be (more)," Grassley said. "But I also look at that as more competition, creating more choice for parents. So that may be a byproduct. But I don't think it happens just today. But, over the course of time, I think that's a real possibility."



Speakers wait their turn to voice their opinion during a public forum about school vouchers last Tuesday at the Iowa Capitol in Des Moines. (Bryon Houlgrave/Freelance)

Asked if there's enough room to accommodate the roughly 14,000 students the governor's office estimates would be eligible for the program in the first year, Grassley said he expects some private schools may choose to expand and create more slots, while others "like the way that they are."

"It's just like in the public school system right now. We have schools that have reached a certain capacity that will only take students that are living within their border, because they've reached capacity," Grassley said. "So I think that's going to be a conversation that they'll have to have in each community."

Trinity Lutheran, a K-8 school in Cedar Rapids that is accredited by the state and the National Lutheran School Association, has about 250 students, including the school's early childhood center. The school has 32 openings and is exploring options to expand, said Principal Mark Miller.

"We're running out of room and need more classrooms," Miller said.

However, Miller said the school would not use money from the educational savings accounts from the proposed legislation to finance a building project. He said he supports the proposal, but that it has "very little to do with the financial benefit."

"I think there are parents who would like to have their kids in our school because of who we are and how we operate, that are not able to because they can't afford it," Miller said.

Tom Barton and Grace King of The Gazette contributed to this report.

Comments: (515) 355-1300, erin.murphy@thegazette.com

# Proposal/Details of the bill before lawmakers

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bold text and "I support Iowa's public schools." More than 1,650 Iowans submitted writ-

wans submitted written comments. House Democrats, who oppose the bill, said 73 percent of the comments submitted online opposed the bill, while 27 percent were in favor.

Here's a rundown of what the bill would do.

#### WHAT'S IN THE BILL?

The proposal would create taxpayer-funded educational savings accounts, valued at \$7,598 in the first year — the amount the state spends per pupil on public K-12 education — that families could use for private school tuition and other education expenses.

The program would be phased in over three years. In the third year, all K-12 students — including private school students — would be eligible for the funding, with no income restrictions.

The proposal also allows public school districts to use unspent funding from Teacher Leadership and Compensation. Professional Development and Talented and Gifted categorical funds to increase teacher salaries. The governor and House Republicans have said the funding has been underutilized due to the prescriptive nature of the funding and process required to reallocate it.

## HOW WILL THAT AFFECT FUNDING TO PUBLIC SCHOOLS?

Public schools would lose out on the per-pupil funding for any students who chooses to attend a private school. School districts, though, would get roughly \$1,200 in state funding for each student who lives in the

#### E. Iowa students in non-public schools

This is the number of students in Eastern lowa enrolled in non-public schools by school district

School district	Students
Alburnett Community School District	22
Anamosa Community School District	55
Belle Plaine Community School District	11
Benton Community School District	105
Cedar Rapids Community School District	1,842
Center Point-Urbana Comm. School District	8
Central City Community School District	8
Clear Creek Amana Comm. School District	34
College Community School District	130
English Valleys Community School District	6
Highland Community School District	13
H-L-V Community School District	7
Iowa City Community School District	1,139
Iowa Valley Community School District	4
Linn-Mar Community School District	446
Lisbon Community School District	10
Lone Tree Community School District	3
Marion Independent School District	88
Midland Community School District	6
Mid-Prairie Community School District	30
Monticello Community School District	75
Mount Vernon Community School District	26
North Cedar Community School District	1
North Linn Community School District	5
Olin Consolidated School District	5
Solon Community School District	15
Springville Community School District	11
Tipton Community School District	2
Vinton-Shellsburg Comm. School District	10
Washington Community School District	77
West Branch Community School District	15
Williamsburg Community School District	77

Source: Iowa Department of Education

Gazette graphic

district but attends a private school, regardless of whether the student is a recent transfer or has always attended private school.

That's new funding Reynolds and supporters argue could benefit some districts. But for districts with declining enrollment who lose a student to private school, it would be a net loss of \$6,385 per student. While districts would get the estimated \$1,205, they also lose the \$7,590 state aid per pupil. So for every student who leaves, a district would need five

or six already in private schools to make it a wash.

#### HOW MUCH WILL IT COST?

The governor's office estimates roughly 14,000 eligible students would participate in the program in the first year, which would cost the state about \$107 million in additional state funds deposited in the accounts for parents enrolling children in a private school this fall.

Reynolds' office estimates an additional

roughly 6,000 students will apply in the second year, which would cost the state roughly \$156.2 million that year. By the third year, every Iowa family would qualify to receive an account, regardless of income.

The governor's office estimates nearly 20,000 new students would apply for private school assistance in the third year. That would cost the state roughly \$313.8 million in the third year. By full implementation in the fourth year, the governor's office estimates that the total annual cost of the government-funded scholarships would be roughly \$341 million.

The governor's office based its estimate on the assumption that about 1 percent of public school students are likely to transfer.

In total, over the course of four years, the plan would cost the state roughly \$918 million

roughly \$918 million.

Over the same time period, the state is estimated to spend \$15.2 billion on public education and collect \$39.2 billion in overall revenue, with expectations of increasing K-12 spending by roughly 2.5 percent each year, according to Republican

budget estimates. Reynolds has recommended that legislators provide \$190 million more to public K-12 schools in the next academic year.

According to the governor's office, Reynolds' budget proposal would leave a \$2 billion unspent balance in the state's general fund budget.

Democrats note the only information Republicans have provided about the bill's cost come from their own estimates and those of the governor—not the nonpartisan Legislative Services Agency.

The agency has not

analyzed the fiscal impacts of the bill, and Democrats have said they'd like to see those estimates before it goes to a floor vote. House Democratic Leader Jennifer Konfrst of Windsor Heights said the agency's fiscal estimate may come Monday.

House Speaker Pat Grassley, R-New Hartford, said he'd like to see the fiscal estimate, but he pointed to the numbers coming out of the governor's office and said Republicans have been transparent about the cost of the program.

### WHO WOULD BE ELIGIBLE?

Year 1 (2023-24)
• All kindergarten students

• All public school students

• Private school students at or below 300 percent of the federal poverty level (\$83,250 for a family of four)

Year 2 (2024-25)

• All kindergarten students

• All public school students

• Private school students at or below 400 percent of the federal poverty level (\$111,000 for a family of four)

Year 3 (2025-26) • All K-12 students in Iowa, regardless of income

### WHAT EXPENSES WOULD THE LAW ALLOW?

The money is to be spent on private school tuition or other expenses, such as private tutoring, textbooks or schoolrelated fees or payments for "educational therapies." That includes fees for private online classes; vocation and lifeskills classes approved by the Iowa Department of Educations; materials and services for students with a disability from an accredited provider,

including the cost of paraprofessionals and assistants; standardized test fees; and advancedplacement exams for college-level courses offered by high schools.

The money is not to be spent on food, clothing, transportation or disposable school supplies, such as pencils and paper, according to the bill's sponsor.

### WHEN DO THE ACCOUNTS EXPIRE?

Money remains in a student's individual account until he or she graduates high school, turns 21 or is removed from a private school, whichever occurs first. Any leftover money is transferred to the Iowa Department of Education to be deposited into the state's general fund.

#### HOW WILL THIS NEW PROGRAM BE ADMINISTERED?

Similar to the state's "529" College Savings Iowa Plans, which are managed by investment company Vanguard and overseen by the Iowa State Treasurer's Office, the accounts would be created in the state treasury under the control of the Iowa Department of Education. A private company would administer the program and oversee those payments.

Funding for the savings account would come from money appropriated to the Department of Education from the state's general fund.

ClassWallet administers Arizona's school voucher program, which has faced questions about lax financial oversight in recent years, and is registered in support of Reynolds' bill.

Erin Murphy of The Gazette Des Moines Bureau contributed. Comments: (319) 398-8499;

# Recorded lectures, remote teachers

Teacher shortages worse in South

#### **Washington Post**

ROSEDALE, Miss. — It's near the end of the day at West Bolivar High School, and Jordan Mosley is stuck. The 15-yearold sophomore stares at her laptop and restarts the video.

Her teacher that day is a stranger — a nameless long-haired man on the screen. He explains two-column geometry proofs and how students could use the software to complete them. "Prove if the length of AB is equal to the length of EF," the man says.

But there is no one to ask for help in this classroom, where students stare sleepily at laptops amid the din of a portable air conditioner. There is only a teacher's assistant who can print out additional worksheets if they run into trouble. So Jordan, a top student, decides to wait until she can see Ms. Butler, the high school's popular math teacher and its only one.

The virtual session is not a concession to pandemic learning or a stopgap for a teacher who is sick. It is how sophomores are expected to learn geometry this year after the district could not find a teacher. In the Mississippi Delta, where schools have historically been shortchanged teaching candidates - especially those who know math — are hard to come by.

The nature and the severity of the teacher crisis differ radically from state to state, district to district and even school to school. Some districts have only recently started experiencing teacher shortages, but in many Southern states, the problem has been long-standing and only gotten worse. It doesn't help either that the state has shortchanged districts like West Bolivar Consolidated by millions of dollars, failing to fund a program that would send more money to poor districts.

Researchers have found that schools that serve high percentages of minority students and students in poverty have more difficulty finding and retaining qualified educators than whiter, more affluent schools. The West Bolivar Consolidated School District is 98 percent Black, and 100 percent of children qualify for free or reduced-price meals.

Across the country, states and school dis-

tricts desperate for candidates have resorted to shortening school weeks to make the job more appealing, eliminating requirements and, in Oklahoma, permitting school districts to hire people without any college education.

In the West Bolivar Consolidated School District, keeping schools staffed is a high-wire balancing act that relies on long-term substitutes, virtual classes and hiring educators to teach subjects they have no training in.

Throughout the fall, Superintendent Will Smith said, the district had bent so many rules to hire educators that it risked losing accreditation. "It's not fair," he said, "but what else do we have?"

#### **STRUGGLING DISTRICTS**

**Bolivar County lies** just east of the Mississippi River, its pancakeflat landscape dominated by soybean and cotton fields. It is crisscrossed with long, straight roads where traffic is often slowed by large pieces of farm equipment ambling down the highway.

Like a lot of communities in the region, the county is rich in culture, history and community pride but economically poor, having lost population when manufacturing jobs left and agriculture became more automated. Those who remain send their children to deteriorating schools that their districts struggle to run because of a dwindling tax base and a state legislature reluctant to fund schools at the perstudent rate the law is supposed to guarantee.

It's how three smalltown school districts with rival sports teams merged to become one West Bolivar Consolidated — in 2014, at the behest of state lawmakers.

When public schools were compelled to integrate here, white students moved to private schools that came to be known as segregation academies — institutions that still stand today and serve a largely white student body. The desegregation fight in the county is hardly history: In 2016, a federal judge ordered two high schools in Cleveland, the county's largest city, to consolidate into one to better integrate the student body. But at the schools that make up the West Bolivar district, there is nothing to integrate. White students left in the 1970s after courts told schools to open their doors to



Camellia Jenkins teaches an eighth-grade math class at West Bolivar High School in September. Students at the McEvans School in Shaw joined the class via Zoom because of teacher shortages. (Washington Post)

children of any race.

What's happening in West Bolivar is common across Mississippi. Researchers trying to understand the teacher shortage could find sufficient data for only 37 states, and among those, Mississippi's was the worst. For every 10,000 students there, 69 teacher positions are unfilled or filled by someone without traditional credentials. That's 159 times the ratio in Missouri, according to their working paper, published by Brown University's Annenberg Institute for School Reform.

It has been difficult to attract teachers to the district, and many of the people who work at the school grew up in the region. Smith, the enthusiastic 36-year-old who took the reins of the district last June, hopes to create an energy and a buzz that will draw people to this part of the state.

One tactic he used to excite people in his previous job, as principal of Utica Elementary Middle School near Jackson, made him a local celebrity: His school's Facebook page featured videos of him surprising teachers with monthly awards. That reputation followed nim to West Bollvar, and teachers in neighboring districts, according to Smith, tried to get out of their contracts to go work for him. He recruited his assistant superintendent from another Delta school system. He also had his own tricks for recruiting, starting his searches in January and locking staff down by February.

Still, six weeks into the school year, he had several teacher vacancies. One of the jobs he was hiring for? Middleschool math teacher.

#### **2 LESSONS AT A TIME**

On a day in late September, seventh-graders got to their seats in a math classroom overseen for the day by a teacher's assistant at West Bolivar High, where a motivational poster declared: 'I can keep going when things are tough.'

Their teacher, 42-year-old Camellia Jenkins, was 18 miles away in a classroom full of seventh-graders at the McEvans School in Shaw, Miss. Jenkins toggled back and forth, teaching two different lessons simultaneously because the McEvans students were behind in the curriculum. Piped into the classroom on laptop speakers, she was difficult to hear over the rumble of the air conditioning.

"The assignment you all are doing at West Bolivar, how are you all doing?" Jenkins asked. Later in the lesson, she asked: "What happens to the 3x now?"

'I have no clue," a student in the back mutters.

These students, in a sense, are lucky. Two other educators — one who teaches Spanish, and another who teaches high school science also split their time between the two campuses. But there were no teacher assistants available to set up a virtual class and supervise students. So when their teachers are not in the building, students work on assignments independently.

Shana Bolden, the high school science teacher, said she worries about the students

who are left to teach themselves. Those who are not reading on grade level, for example, will struggle to understand a science lesson.

And a lack of funding means neither school has a science lab, so students who want to study science in college may be woefully underprepared. Bolden said she doesn't think her brightest students are being sufficiently challenged.

You don't need a teaching credential to know children learn better from an in-person instructor than a computer program. Nafatic Butler, West Bolivar High's beloved math teacher, spelled out some of the reasons: A computer program is a one-size-fits-all approach, not taking into account that some students may learn differently from others. A computer program can't detect when a student is struggling because they need to review concepts they learned earlier.

And a computer program cannot see when a student is down, stressed or in need of something other than help with math. A computer program cannot be a confidante or a role model or a mentor.

"If they have [math] questions, I'm there," Butler said.

'If they need me, I'm there. If they need to talk, I'm there.'

Next year, though, Butler won't be there. She's planning to move to Texas, where she anticipates she won't have any trouble getting a job



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# With Roe gone, GOP debates next steps

**CQ-Roll Call** 

WASHINGTON — Political messaging and state legislative activity related to abortion ramped up ahead of two milestones for abortion rights activists and opponents — the annual March for Life, which was Friday, and the 50th anniversary of the Roe v. Wade decision, which is today.

Both dates usually attract a hotbed of political activity, but this year will be the first since the Supreme Court overturned the national right to abortion, creating a reckoning: Now that anti-abortion advocates have met their goal of overturning Roe v. Wade, what's next?

The issue has long been politically salient, but now the nuances matter. Former President Donald Trump blamed the GOP's poorer-than-expected showing in the midterm elections on how candidates had handled their messaging on abortion, such as advocating for no exceptions under state abortion bans.

Republicans are wrangling with where to go next. On the federal level, some Republicans have pushed to hold votes on additional abortion restrictions, while others have shifted to arguing for other priorities or calling for abortion policy changes to come from the state level.

At least one prominent Republican senator who won on an anti-abortion platform in 2022 cautioned the GOP not to sidestep the issue, instead blaming the advice of political consultants.

"Unfortunately, many listened to them. And now they've bought into the media narrative that it was support for the unborn that cost Republicans in the midterm elections," said Sen. Marco Rubio, R-Fla.

Because of the split Congress, any abortion-related legislation will focus more on



Anti-abortion activists march during the 49th annual March for Life rally on the National Mall on Jan. 21, 2022, in Washington. The rally drew activists from around the country who this year met their goal of having the U.S. Supreme Court to overturn the Roe v. Wade decision that legalized abortion nationwide. (Getty Images)

motivating supporters on both sides of the abortion debate. The more critical changes, meanwhile, will happen on the state and local level through state legislatures and litigation.

A senior Biden administration official said that as of Wednesday evening, state lawmakers have filed more than 60 bills in opposition to abortion rights. Planned Parenthood said state lawmakers have filed 70 bills that support abortion rights.

#### **FEDERAL LEVEL**

House Republicans started this year by passing two measures supported by abortion opponents — one that they say would increase protections for an infant born after an attempted abortion and the other condemning recent attacks on anti-abortion advocates and religious facilities.

Shortly after the votes, Speaker Kevin McCarthy, R-Calif., foreshadowed additional action sought by advocates.

"House Republicans have been committed to advancing legislation that protects the lives of the unborn and their mothers," said McCarthy. "We will continue to prioritize the defense of life and all individu-

als from violence and intimidation."

Neil O'Brian, a political scientist at the University of Oregon, said he's not surprised that House Republicans introduced abortion legislation within days of taking control of the chamber, even though the strategy could prove politically risky for Republicans who represent districts that Biden won in 2020.

"This is a core issue for their base, and this is a great opportunity to introduce legislation and force everybody to take a vote, even if it has no chance of getting passed," said O'Brian, comparing the strategy to the GOP's decadelong quest to repeal the 2010 health law.

Democrats, meanwhile, see abortion rights as a key issue heading into 2024. The Democratic National Committee says Republicans will continue to seek a federal ban, using it as a conservative litmus test leading up to the Republican presidential primaries.

#### **STATE FIGHTS**

State legislatures are expected to consider a number of new reproductive health bills as some legislatures gather for the first time since the ruling.

Four governors' seats flipped during last year's midterms. Arizona, Maryland and Massachusetts now have Democratic governors, while Nevada flipped to Republican. Both Maryland and Massachusetts hold a Democratic trifecta, with both houses of the legislature and the governorship, while Arizona and Nevada are now divided.

Democrats also flipped both Michigan chambers, the Minnesota Senate and the Pennsylvania House, though Republicans still hold control of a majority of state legislative chambers. Minnesota and Michigan are now Democratic trifectas as well.

Many state-level abortion laws end up in litigation, such as Mississippi's 15-week abortion ban that led to Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization, which overturned the Roe precedent.

Elizabeth Nash, principal policy associate of state issues at the Guttmacher Institute, said she is primarily watching five things in states looking to expand abortion rights this year.

She's tracking the expansion of shield laws that protect medical providers who see

patients from other states. She's watching efforts to expand or protect other forms of reproductive health, like contraception and sterilization. And she's following whether states that allocated one-time funding boosts for reproductive health will continue that funding in the long term.

Nash is also watching whether more states expand the scope of practice for nonphysician clinicians related to abortion, and whether states with antiquated abortion laws take steps to repeal them. Illinois, Minnesota and Michigan are among the states where Democrats are seeking to expand those types of protections. Michigan may also repeal its 1931 abortion ban.

Illinois Gov. J.B. Pritzker, a Democrat, recently signed broad new abortion protections into law, expanding what types of providers can perform abortions, easing restrictions on out-of-state providers seeking medical licensing and requiring the state Department of Public Health to work with organizations issuing grants for abortion training.

Minnesota Democratic state lawmakers have made passing legislation to codify reproductive rights their first priority. Their bill, which would include the right to abortion, contraception, sterilization, fertility and other services, was the first introduced during this session, and Democrats see the new partisan trifecta as their chance to see the bill enacted.

Conservatives are eyeing a large swath of states — including Republican-led states without abortion bans in effect, such as Montana and Nebraska, as well as action in states that allow some but not all abortions, such as Florida.

Texas and Missouri, which both ban nearly all abortions, have historically pushed for broader or more experimental restrictions.





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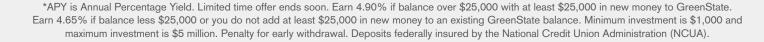
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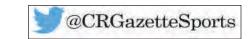
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# SPORTS



**IOWA FOOTBALL: ANALYSIS** 

# Iowa TEs again could be top choice in '23



lowa tight end Luke Lachey runs after a catch during the first half of the Music City Bowl pm Dec. 31 at Nissan Stadium in Nashville, Tenn. Lachey and Erick All Jr. could be co-No. 1 tight ends next fall. (Savannah Blake/The Gazette)

All, Lachey could add to 'Tight End U' legacy

Editor's note: First in a nine-part series look at the 2023 Iowa football team position-by-position.

By John Steppe, The Gazette

IOWA CITY — Iowa's offense had its shortcomings in 2022, but tight end contributor to the ofcertainly was not one of them.

Led by Mackey Award finalist Sam LaPorta, the position group was responsible for more receptions than Iowa's wide receivers.

The position group looks a little different now, but it could be shouldering a heavy workload again during the 2023 football season.

Here's an early look

at Iowa's 2023 tight end group in the first part of The Gazette's Iowa football winter position breakdown series:

#### **WHO'S GONE**

Sam LaPorta, a senior in 2022, likely will be one of the top tight ends in this year's NFL Draft

LaPorta was a major fense, grabbing 53 receptions as a junior in 2021 and 58 as a senior in 2022.

He had more catches in 2022 than all of Iowa's wide receivers combined.

Offensive coordinator Brian Ferentz said La-Porta "is as good a football player as I've ever coached.'

Jackson Frericks, a walk-on, was academically a senior in 2022. He did not see game action

in his Iowa career.

#### WHO'S BACK

Luke Lachey highlights the list of tight ends expected to return to Iowa in 2023.

Lachey made significant strides in his sophomore season, racking up 28 catches for 398 yards. His four touchdown receptions were a team

Addison Ostrenga appeared in all 13 games as a true freshman, although most of his contributions were on special teams.

Steven Stilianos played sparingly in his first year after transferring from Lafayette College. He took 15 snaps in eight games, according to Pro Football Focus.

► FOOTBALL, PAGE 4B

**IOWA MEN'S BASKETBALL** 

# 'Unacceptable' loss for Hawks

Buckeyes pull away, end Iowa's 4-game winning streak

By Mike Hlas, The Gazette

COLUMBUS, Ohio — A defensive downer dashed Iowa's four-game men's basketball win

Ohio State, scoring 50 points in the paint, broke away from a tied game in the first minute of the second half for a 93-77 win over the Hawkeyes (4-4 Big Ten, 12-7 overall).

"Very poor performance by our team," Iowa Coach Fran McCaffery said on the Hawkeve Radio Network postgame show. "Too many turnovers. We got just destroyed on the glass. Unacceptable today. Just not a good

periormance. "We didn't play with any sense of intelligence today at all."

The Buckeyes had a 36-29 ad-

vantage in rebounds. Iowa made 14 turnovers, leading to 15 OSU

Freshman forward Brice Sensabaugh scored a career-high 27 points in 26 minutes for the Buckeyes (3-5, 11-8), who stopped their five-game losing streak.

"He's a tremendous shotmaker," McCaffery said in his postgame news conference. You've got to make him play defense, but he scores in a variety of ways. It's not just a 3-point shooter or driver. He's got a terrific midrange game.'

Sensabaugh is a potential NBA first-round draft pick this June, like Iowa's Kris Murray, who had 22 points.

OSU Coach Chris Holtmann moved graduate transfer guard Isaac Likelele and freshman tuard Roddy Gayle into the starting lineup for this game. Likekele had 18 points, 10 rebounds and

► IOWA, PAGE 2B



lowa's Filip Rebraca drives the baseline against Ohio State's Isaac Likekele during the



Ohio State's Isaac Likekele drives to the basket against Iowa's Payton Sandfort during the second half of a Big Ten Conference men's basketball game Saturday in Columbus, Ohio. (Associated Press photos)



MIKE HLAS | THE GAZETTE



Josh Jacobs of the Las Vegas Raiders led the NFL in rushing yardage this season with 1,653 yards. None came from "running downhill." (John Locher/Associated

# Goats, yes; GOATs, no

If you have bingo cards for all situations, you're a very silly person

he less clatter in our heads, the less clutter in our heads. Let's remove some right now, starting with ..

1. "Bingo cards" These have to go. Why? Real

tweets like these: "The Lions sweeping the Packers, the Seahawks sweeping the Rams, and the Jags sweeping the Titans weren't on my 2022 bingo card.'

"Brock Purdy having 2 TD passes in 6 straight games was not on my bingo card.'

"Kirk Ferentz being active in the transfer portal and Iowa having a thriving NIL collective definitely wasn't on my Iowa football offseason bingo

What did the great game of bingo ever do to deserve silly people taking such liberties with it?

2. "Running downhill"

Why, oh why, do people continue to refer to a running back who runs straight ahead as running downhill? How many football games have you witnessed that had a player who actually ran downhill?

Do you know how hard it would be to convince athletes to play defense in football if they had to do so running up-

Plus, you'd constantly see

► HLAS, PAGE 4B



lowa State's Hason Ward (24) and Gabe Kalscheur guard Oklahoma State's Avery Anderson III in the second half of a Big 12 basket-

# **OSU** rallies past Cyclones

ISU loses Grill for most of second half

#### **Associated Press**

STILLWATER, Okla. Oklahoma State finally got a win over a ranked team after falling short twice this season.

Avery Anderson was instrumental in Oklahoma State's 61-59 victory over No. 12 Iowa State on Saturday, scoring 18 points, including the goahead free throws.

Kalib Boone added 13 points for the Cowboys, who rallied from a 16-point deficit to complete their largest comeback victory since 2009.

Oklahoma State head coach Mike Boynton was glad to top one of the league's best teams. The Cowboys held Iowa State to 41-percent shooting.

"I think it means what I've always believed about our team," he said. "It's that we're going to be able to compete with anybody when we defend move well, so Grill was at the level we're capable on the bench in a brace. or. And on a night when we make shots, that gives us a chance to beat anybody in the country.'

Earlier this season. the Cowboys lost a 15-point lead at then-No. 4 Kansas before losing by two and were within three points of then-No. 11 Kansas State but lost by eight.

Osun Osunnivi scored 15 points and Gabe Kalscheur added 14 for



Iowa State's Osun Osunniyi dunks in the first half against Oklahoma State in Stillwater, Okla.

Iowa State, which was without sharpshooter Caleb Grill for most of the second half.

Iowa State head coach T.J. Otzelberger said Grill's back was stiffening up and he couldn't Before coming out of the game, he was held scoreless for just over 17 minutes — a contrast to his average of 10.9 points per game and 38 percent from 3-point range.

'Caleb leads us in minutes played for a reason," Otzelberger said. "And obviously, I think he's one of the best rebounding guards in the Big 12. He's a tremendous shooter,

excellent defender. So, yeah, I mean, certainly we'd love to have him down the stretch. But you know what? They had their issues and injuries and things, too, and we're all going to have them. That's part of it. So there's no excuses."

Iowa State led 27-11 in the first half. The Cowboys cut their deficit to six but didn't score for nearly three minutes to close the first half, and Iowa State was up 35-25 at the break. Osunniyi, who entered the day averaging 8.6 points per game, had four dunks and 12 points in the first half.

Oklahoma State rallied early in the second half, and the Cowboys finally took a 55-54 lead on a pair of free throws by Anderson with just over three minutes to play.

Oklahoma State led 60-59 in the final minute but Anderson traveled after being trapped in the corner. Iowa State's Tre King missed a 3-pointer and committed a foul on the rebound attempt. Oklahoma State's Woody Newton made the first free throw and missed the second with 3.3 seconds left, and Iowa State missed a desperation heave.

'When you play in the best league in the country, you have to be ready for this type of fight every night out," Otzelberger said.

**MVC/BIG TEN ROUNDUP** 

# **Duax leads Panthers past UIC**

**Associated Press** 

Michael Duax scored 21 points as Northern Iowa beat UIC, 78-72, on Saturday in Chicago.

Duax added 11 rebounds for the Panthers (11-9, 7-3 Missouri Valley Conference). Bowen Born scored 18 points while shooting 4 of 9 (1 for 6 from 3-point range) and 9 of 10 from the freethrow line. Tytan Anderson shot 5 of 12 from the field and 7 of 8 from the line to finish with 17 points, while adding eight rebounds.

Trevante Anderson led the way for the Flames (9-12, 1-9) with 27 points and seven assists. UIC also got 20 points and six rebounds from Jace Carter. In addition, Toby Okani finished with 12 points and eight rebounds. The Flames extended their losing streak to seven straight.

Duax scored seven points in the first half and Northern Iowa went into halftime trailing 38-31. Northern Iowa pulled off the victory after a 13-0 second-half run erased a 10-point deficit and gave them the lead at 48-45 with 11:19 left in the half. Duax scored 14 secondhalf points.

#### **BIG TEN**

PENN STATE 76, NE-BRASKA 65 — At State College, Pa., Andrew Funk scored 23 points and Seth Lundy added 16 points for Penn State.

A layup by Camren Wynter gave Penn State a 72-59 lead with 3:05 remaining. Six straight interior points got Nebraska within 72-65 with 1:25 to go but the Cornhuskers didn't score

Penn State made 16 of its last 21 shots and finished at 68 percent in the second half, 49 percent for the game. Jalen Pickett had 12

points and 13 rebounds for Penn State but also had seven of the Nittany Lions' 10 turnovers. Funk made 5 of 10 3-pointers and 8 of 13 shots overall.

Nebraska went on a 7-0 run early in the second half and tied the score at 33 with 16:45 remaining. Lundy halted that threat with a 3-pointer and a couple of free throws. A few minutes later, Lundy drained another 3-pointer and Penn State led by nine, 50-41 with 12:22 remain-

A jumper by Jalen Pickett extended the lead to 11, but Nebraska kept within striking distance.

Derrick Walker had 20 points, six rebounds and six assists for Nebraska and Keisei Tominaga

#### **BIG TEN STANDINGS**

DIG ILII SIANDINGS					
School	Conf	All			
Purdue	7-1	18-1			
Michigan State	5-3	13-6			
Rutgers					
Wisconsin	4-3	12-5			
Michigan	4-3	10-8			
Penn State					
Northwestern	3-3	12-5			
Illinois	4-4	13-6			
lowa	4-4	12-7			
Indiana	3-4	12-6			
Maryland	3-4	12-6			
Ohio State	3-5	11-8			
Nebraska	3-6 1	0-10			
Minnesota	1-6	7-10			

**SATURDAY** Ohio State 93, Iowa 77 Penn State 76, Nebraska 65 Wisc. at N'western, ppd.

**TODAY** 

Minnesota at Michigan, 11 a.m. Michigan State at Indiana,

Maryland at Purdue, noon

added 13 points. Sam Griesel and C.J. Wilcher scored 11 each.

**BIG 12 ROUNDUP** 

## No. 14 Frogs pound No. 2 Jayhawks

**Associated Press** 

Shahada Wells scored 17 points as No. 14 TCU beat No. 2 Kansas, 83-60, on Saturday in Lawrence, Kan., in one of the worst losses in Bill Self's 20-vear coaching career with the Jayhawks.

It was Kansas' second-largest loss at home under Self. The Jayhawks fell to Texas, 84-59, on Jan. 2, 2021.

The loss snapped a 16-game winning streak at home for Kansas. The Jayhawks, who lost in overtime at Kansas State, 83-82, on Tuesday, had not lost consecutive games in the state since 1989, when it had home losses on Jan. 28 to K-State and on Feb. 1 to Missouri.

Kansas trailed by 10 at halftime and never closed the gap within single digits. TCU extended the lead to as many as 24 points. The Jayhawks shot only 32.1 percent in the second half.

TCU, which shot 54.4 percent (31 of 57) from the field, got 15 points from Mike Miles Jr. and 11 from Damion Baugh.

Jalen Wilson led Kansas with 30 points. He was coming off a career-high 38 on Tuesday against K-State. Kevin McCullar with 10 points was the only other Jayhawk in double figures.

TCU's Eddie Lampkin was hobbled with a left ankle injury suffered late in the first half. An erroneous tweet at halftime said he had a ruptured Achilles but a school spokesman later said it was a high ankle sprain. He returned and finished with 8 points

#### **BIG 12 STANDINGS**

School	Conf	All
Kansas State	.6-1	17-2
Kansas	.5-2	16-3
Texas	.5-2	16-3
Iowa State	.5-2	14-3
TCU	.4-3	15-4
Baylor	.4-3	14-5
Oklahoma State.	.3-4	11-8
Oklahoma	.2-5	11-8
West Virginia	.1-6	11-8
Texas Tech	.0-7	10-9

#### **SATURDAY**

Okla. St. 61, Iowa State 59 TCU 83, Kansas 60 K-State 68, Texas Tech 58 Baylor 62, Oklahoma 60 Texas 69, West Virginia 61

and 4 rebounds. KANSAS STATE 68, TEXAS TECH 58 — At Manhattan, Kan., Markquis Nowell had 23 points, eight rebounds and five assists for No. 13 Kansas State.

Keyontae Johnson had 15 points and 11 rebounds for the Wildcats, who won for the 11th time in 12 games. Ismael Massoud scored 12 points.

BAYLOR 62, OKLA-HOMA 60 — At Norman, Okla., Jalen Bridges scored 11 points and hit a trio of game-turning 3-pointers in the final five minutes as Baylor rallied to hold off Oklahoma. Adam Flagler had 16 points and five assists, and Keyonte George added 11 points as Baylor won its fourth straight game after opening Big 12 play with three straight losses.

TEXAS 69, WEST VIRGINIA 61 — At Morgantown, W.Va., Marcus Carr scored 19 of his 23 points in the second half to lead Texas, which bounced back from Wednesday's double-digit loss at Iowa State.



Iowa's Tony Perkins tries to shoot over Ohio State's Bruce Thornton on Saturday in Columbus, Ohio. (Associated Press)

## Iowa/Points in the paint kill Hawkeyes

► FROM PAGE 1B

7 assists after scoring a total of 10 points over his previous seven games.

After making a 3-pointer for his first points, nearly all of Likekele's points came from going to the bas-

"They just kept driving and backing a guy down and we didn't react to them," McCaffery said. We were getting back-cut. We're not physical enough and it all broke down there.

"I thought Isaac's play was phenomenal," Ohio State Coach Chris Holtmann said.

Three other Buckeyes scored in doublefigures. Filip Rebraca had 15 points and Ahron Ulis 12 for Iowa.

The Buckeyes shot 56.3 percent from the field in the game and 64.7 percent in the second half. Getting a surplus of lay-ins and dunks made a high shooting percentage

inevitable.

Ohio State had 12-0 first-half run for a 25-15 lead, but Iowa cut it to 37-35 at halftime despite not scoring a basket in the final 5:10 of the half. Ulis made a pullup jumper on the Hawkeyes' first secondhalf possession to tie the game, but a 9-0 run shortly thereafter gave the Buckeyes a cushion they didn't surrender.

This Iowa team is not going anywhere,' Fox color commentator Jim Jackson said when the Hawkeyes trailed 62-53 with 10:54 left. He was correct, but not in the way he intended. Iowa never got closer than eight points after Jackson's proclamation.

Iowa's next game is Thursday at Michigan State (6 p.m. CST).

"We've got to be better," McCaffery said. "We'll be better in the next one."

Comments: (319) 398-8440;

**WOMEN'S BASKETBALL** 

# Joens' double-double carries ISU

By Rob Gray, correspondent

AMES — It's not often that Ashley Joens is stuck in a shooting slump.

It's rarer still that those struggles crop up in bunches for Iowa State's all-time leading scorer.

So consider last night's game against Kansas a get-well game for Joens, who scored 26 points and grabbed a team-high 15 rebounds as the No. 18 Cyclones secured a 64-50 win over the Jayhawks before 10,677 fans at Hilton Coliseum.

"Every game is gonna be tough so you just have to come out ready to go and you never know who's gonna be hot one night," Joens said. "Tonight, I was hitting them. Wednesday (in a win at Oklahoma State)

I wasn't, but someone always steps up."

Joens had shot 33 percent or worse from the field in three of the past four games, but went

10 of 19 overall and 5 of 11 from 3-point range against the Jayhawks. The former Iowa City High star added a team-high four offensive rebounds and three assists as ISU improved to 13-4 overall and 5-2



in Big 12 play.

"We have had some really good games, maybe the last two or three, where we had really good balance," ISU head coach Bill Fennelly said. "There was no balance tonight. It was balanced defense and throw the

ball to Joens.

The Cyclones also won their 16th straight game in the series and led by as many as 22 points against the Jayhawks (13-5, 3-4). Backup post player Izzi Zingaro added a career-high 11 points and six rebounds. The Bolton, Ontario, Canada, native also had family at the game.

"My parents and my cousin are here, so it's definitely a great feeling to have family here, but family's always here because Hilton magic is so great," Zingaro said.

Kansas stayed in the game behind the strong interior play of 6-6 senior Taiyanna Jackson, who scored nine points before the break, but Joens was hot almost from start to finish, finishing with 15 first-half points as the Cyclones established a 31-21 lead.

ISU closed the half on a 7-0 run and drilled 7 of its 20 3-point shots before the break. Joens made 3 of 7 from behind the arc in the first 20 minutes and Lexi Donarski — who scored all of her nine points before the break — sank 3 of 5 3-point tries.

Jackson scored 13 points and grabbed 15 rebounds to lead the Jayhawks.

Joens notched her 57th career double-double and hoarded 10 or more rebounds for the 56th time in her career.

"Ashley Joens was Ashley Joens," Fennelly said. "And we could not have defended any better than we did tonight."

 ${\tt Comments: robgray 18@icloud.com}$ 

**GIRLS' WRESTLING** 

# Brown takes tourney gold

Kennedy standout pins way to Prairie Title Tournament crown

By K.J. Pilcher, The Gazette

CEDAR RAPIDS — Ella Brown is Cedar Rapids Kennedy's most experienced wrestler.

She understands the responsibility that comes with that distinction, recruiting classmates to come out before the season, sharing her knowledge with teammates in practice and performing in competition.

Brown embraces that leadership role, wanting to help build the best team possible.

"It's super important to me," Brown said. "A big thing to us is family. If you don't feel that family connection and that vibe it's not going to work. Many people say wrestling is an individual sport. Yeah, it is on the mat but off the mat it's a team sport."

Brown was one of two Kennedy champions at the Prairie Title Tournament on Saturday at Cedar Rapids Prairie. She pinned her way to the 190-pound title, helping the Cougars finish third.

The host Hawks were runner-up with 202 points, four back of first-place Cedar Falls.

The Kennedy sophomore built a 5-0 lead before pinning Prairie's Chloe Heefner in 1:50.



Cedar Rapids Kennedy's Ella Brown controls Iowa City Liberty's Abigial Carr during the Prairie Title Tournament on Saturday at Prairie High School in Cedar Rapids. (Geoff Stellfox/The Gazette)

"I felt really good,"
Brown said. "It felt like
I was getting back to
normal on how I use my
technique and not trying
to rush to make things
happen. Just going with
the flow and feeling how

the girls were moving."
All her matches were brief, recording her first two falls in 1:04 and 1:53 to reach the finals. Brown improved to 27-1 with 21 pins. She is the most accomplished wrestler on the team, placing seventh at last season's Iowa Wrestling

Coaches and Officials Association girls' state and second in Preseason Nationals.

"It's become something I love and enjoy, meeting new girls, traveling and being around different teams and schools," Brown said. "Actually finding my confidence and will to win. It drove me to be fully into this sport. I want to win."

Kennedy's Joscelyn Stricker joined Brown atop the awards stand. She used a takedown and four nearfall points for a 6-3 decision over Prairie's Luisa Meade in the 170 final.
120-pound title. Iowa City High's Claire Brown also had three pins, winning the

Prairie had a tournament-high seven finalists and four champions. The Hawks received titles from Myah Rausch (100), top-ranked Mackenzie Childers at 125, 140-pounder Jade Hynek and Erika Brokovich at 155.

All eight teams with finalists crowned at least one champion. Linn-Mar's Ally Jelinek pinned her way to the 120-pound title. Iowa City High's Claire Brown also had three pins, winning the 130 crown. Western Dubuque's Adriana Shepherd tallied two takedowns to edge Dubuque Hempstead's Katelyn Brokus, 4-3, in the 235 final.

The tournament is expected to become the annual Mississippi Valley Conference Super Meet, starting next season.

Comments: kj.pilcher@thegazette.com

#### IOWA WRESTLING

# Lee continues his blistering pin streak

All-time great's fall in 38 seconds sets tone

By K.J. Pilcher, The Gazette

IOWA CITY — Spencer Lee's body of work speaks for itself.

He has laid claim to being one of the most accomplished and dominant wrestlers, owning multiple world, national and state titles. The way he manhandles opponents has set him apart from the best competitors.

Lee's recent stretch has exemplified his superiority.

Iowa's three-time NCAA champion continued his streak of falls, decking No. 7 Liam Cronin in just 38 seconds and propelling the second-ranked Hawkeyes to a 34-6 trouncing of No. 11 Nebraska in a Big Ten Conference wrestling dual Friday night at



lowa's Spencer Lee is about to get his arm raised after pinning Nebraska's Liam Cronin in 38 seconds during the lowa-Nebraska dual meet on Friday at Carver-Hawkeye Arena in Iowa City. Iowa beat the Cornhuskers, 34-6. (Anna Moore/Freelance)

Carver-Hawkeye Arena. The pin was his fifth straight and third over a top-eight opponent.

"I'm just trying to wrestle every match as hard as I can," said Lee, who moved to 9-0 this season and extended his win streak to 47 straight. "I just happen to be getting pins. I think in the past it's been tech falls,

majors or what not. It's kind of been like points.

"For me, it's just wrestling the next position and if things happen, you take what they give you, try to get the positions that favor you and if you end up in positions where you can pin a guy you have to put him away."

it nim away." Lee ignited the soldout Iowa crowd with a shot attempt right off the opening whistle. He patiently waited to finish from his feet when Cronin attempted to dive under and grab Lee's leg, but Lee squashed him to the mat.

The 125-pound senior put him on his back and was tenacious, keeping Cronin in danger and adjusting to finish the quick fall.

"We have to keep it going," Iowa Coach Tom Brands said. "He's solid. They're quick falls. That's what we like. Get on the mat, get off the mat.

"I've said it for a long time, he's a ferocious competitor and we love it"

The three-time NCAA champion and two-time Hodge Trophy winner's dominance is no surprise, obviously. This was his sixth pin this season and 32nd overall.

He has 29 career technical falls with 14 major decisions.

Lee has 75 bonus-point victories in his 87 career wins, resulting in an 86.2 bonus-point percentage. He has been even more impressive recently.

The pin was his 10th college fall in less than a minute and the third-fastest of his career. The feats don't faze him.

"I don't keep track," Lee said. "It doesn't matter because when it's over it's over. On to the next."

Iowa (11-0, 4-0) blitzed Nebraska early, winning the first four matches, then four of the final five bouts. The Hawkeyes won their 14th straight dual and 14th in a row over Nebraska (6-3, 2-1).

Iowa wrestles No. 16
Wisconsin today in Madison, Wis., beginning at

Comments: kj.pilcher@thegazette.com

# Kirkwood's Muhl now down to 4 for 1,000

By Ryan Pleggenkuhle, correspondent

CEDAR RAPIDS — Following a 112-27 win over Marshalltown Community College on Wednesday, Muhl could count the number of wins he needs to reach 1,000 on one hand.

On Saturday, in front of a packed Johnson Hall filled with approximately 400 spectators for Kirkwood's first annual "Crowd the Court" event, the NJCAA DII's third-ranked women's basketball team (18-1) defeated Iowa Lakes Community College, 65-47, giving Muhl career win No. 996

No. 996.
"I haven't really thought a whole lot about it (getting to 1,000 wins)," Muhl said.
"I'm sure I will this



Tasia Jordan Kirkwood

summer when everything kind of settles down. During the season, we're going, now we're getting ready for Iowa Western. They're really good and we're not ready for them. So that's next on my agenda."

Muhl ranks second among active NJCAA women's basketball coaches in wins, trailing only Copiah-Lincoln's (Miss.) Gwyn Young, who recently reached the 1,000-win milestone on Jan. 12.

While Young holds a narrow lead for total wins, Muhl has done it more efficiently. This season is Muhl's 34th as a head coach and Young's 47th. Muhl holds an advantage in career winning percentage (996-165, .854) to Young's (1,000-299, .770).

"That's a lot of wins, I guess," Muhl said with a chuckle. "It's a lot of times sitting on the bench, coming to the gym and having your wife put up with it."

Kirkwood's leading scorer, Tasia Jordan, led the way Saturday. Jordan had 19 points on 7-of-10 shooting.

"You just can't teach what she has," Muhl said. "We try to go to her strengths and she's been really coachable."

The admiration between Muhl and Jordan is mutual.

"I'm more than blessed to be able to play with Coach Muhl because he knows how to develop a player at each level they need to be at," Jordan said.

As for Muhl's quest for 1,000? "He's already the GOAT (Greatest of All Time) in my opinion," Jordan said. "That would be an honor to make a little history for him."

Muhl is now just 11 wins shy of tying the alltime record for NJCAA wins, trailing David Kragel from Walters State (Tenn.) who holds the alltime record with 1,007.

He will be inducted into Kirkwood's Hall of Fame on Feb. 3.

"If you would've told me 25 years ago, I wouldn't have believed it," Muhl said. "Part of the deal is getting older and if you've done some things, you get into the hall of fame. I'm glad they're kind of doing it before you get too old. I think that's a problem with some hall of fames, sometimes people get health issues and then they can't enjoy the experience.

**NFL PLAYOFFS** 

# Mahomes hobbled, Chiefs win

**Associated Press** 

KANSAS CITY, Mo. Hobbling along on an injured ankle, Patrick Mahomes threw for 195 yards and two touchdowns last night, leading the Kansas City Chiefs to a 27-20 victory over the Jacksonville Jaguars and a spot in their fifth straight AFC title game.

Mahomes missed most of the second quarter after his ankle was landed on by a Jacksonville defender. But the All-Pro quarterback returned in the second half and, relying on guts and guile, led the Chiefs on a 75-yard TD drive in the fourth quarter that helped to ensure a date with the Bengals-Bills winner for a spot in the Super Bowl.

If Cincinnati wins today, the AFC title game will be played at Arrowhead Stadium.

If Buffalo wins, it will be in Atlanta.

Travis Kelce had a career-high 14 catches for 98 yards and two touchdowns for Kansas City. Isiah Pacheco ran for 95 yards, while Marquez Valdes-Scantling hauled in the eventual clinching touchdown with about 7 minutes left in the game.

The Jaguars, who rallied from a 27-0 deficit to beat the Chargers in the wild-card round, squandered two chances to mount another late rally. The first ended



Kansas City Chiefs quarterback Patrick Mahomes (15) takes a moment after a play against the Jacksonville Jaguars during the first half of an AFC divisional round playoff game Saturday in Kansas City, Mo. (Associated Press)

when Jamal Agnew had the ball pop loose inside the Chiefs 5 with about 5 1/2 minutes to go, and the second when Jaylen Watson made a leaping, one-handed interception to take the ball away again.

The Jaguars' last-gasp chance ended when Kansas City recovered an onside kick with 24 seconds to go.

Trevor Lawrence finished with 217 yards passing with a touchdown toss to Christian

Kirk, who was briefly hurt midway through the fourth quarter but returned to finish the game. Travis Etienne added 62 yards rushing and a touchdown.

Long before Mahomes hobbled to the sideline in pain, he was at his creative best, driving the Chiefs downfield on their opening possession.

There was a shortstopstyle sidearm sling to JuJu Smith-Schuster, a key third down pass to Kelce as he was being

dragged to the turf, and the flip pass to his tight end that gave Kansas City a 7-0 lead.

After his injury, Mahomes — who had his ankle taped — got into a heated argument with Chiefs coach Andy Reid and the training staff.

He then threw down his coat and headed to the locker room.

But that familiar red No. 15 jersey trotted onto the field to start the second half, his right ankle heavily taped.

#### **NFL PLAYOFFS**

#### **DIVISIONAL ROUND**

Saturday

Kansas City 27, Jacksonville 20 N.Y. Giants at Philadelphia, late

Today

Cincinnati (12-4) at Buffalo (13-3), 2 p.m. (KGAN)

Dallas (12-5) at San Francisco (13-4), 5:30 p.m. (KFXA)

## Football/Ortwerth joins as true freshman

#### ► FROM PAGE 1B

Johnny Pascuzzi earned plenty of praise from coaches before the 2022 season, but the redshirt freshman did not see much playing time.

Kyson Van Vugt, Cael Vanderbush and Andrew Lentsch are expected to return after not seeing game action in 2022.

Van Vugt and Vanderbush were true freshmen on scholarship, and Lentsch was a redshirt freshman walk-on.

#### **WHO'S JOINING**

Erick All Jr. was one of Iowa's highest-profile additions from the transfer portal last

All was an all-Big Ten honorable mention selection and one of quarterback Cade Mc-Namara's go-to targets in 2021 at Michigan. A season-ending injury limited All to only three games in 2022.

Zach Ortwerth will arrive as



Michigan tight end Erick All Jr. catches a pass ahead of Iowa defensive back Riley Moss during the second half of the 2021 Big Ten Championship Game in Indianapolis. All is now a Hawkeye. (Associated Press)

a true freshman from St. Louis **EARLY 2-DEEP PROJECTIONS** - near where LaPorta grew up. Ortwerth earned three-star ratings from 247Sports and

Considering Iowa's depth at tight end and lack of experience at wide receiver, it makes the most sense to project two

starting tight ends instead of

• Erick All Jr. and Luke

Addison Ostrenga

#### **OUTLOOK**

Tight end was one of Iowa's deepest positions in 2022, and that should be the case again

Replacing a Mackey Award finalist usually is a tall task, sive level of talent in the tight

All and Lachev have the potential to eventually be NFL tight ends.

All already has a rapport with Iowa's new quarterback, McNamara, from being roommates at Michigan.

Ostrenga, Stilianos and others give the Hawkeyes an enviable level of depth.

Comments: john.steppe@thegazette.com

## Hlas/Keep all that 'trickeration' within the 'fam'

#### ► FROM PAGE 1B

players on both sides rolling downhill after collisions. Some might need ski lifts to get back to their huddles.

I heard the phrase "going downhill" used by an announcer in a basketball game recently. That would be a good way to break an ankle, which announcers like to say when a ballhandler leaves a defender behind after a clever move.

Yet, I have yet to see an ankle broken on such moves, or even slightly sprained.

#### 3. "Historic"

I read that Iowa's men's basketball loss to Eastern Illinois last month was historic because the Hawkeyes had been 31.5-point favorites.

Oddly, it was excluded from all major news organizations' roundups of important events of 2022. That would seem to reduce its chances of enduring as historic.

Iowa State's men's basketball team beat then-No. 1 North Carolina in November, and a story about it on NCAA.com compared it to two other "historic wins" for the Cyclones. Curiously, neither have

displays at the Smithsonian's National Museum of American

#### 4. "Trickeration"

It happens six times out of seven, and maybe seven out of eight. A trick play happens in a football game and the TV announcers will call it "trickeration."

No such word exists. It took one commentator to call it that in a moment of insanity, and hundreds of others latched onto it so they would sound like they were keeping up with the times.

That's much like "It is what it is," an expression that should be shot into the sun at warp speed.

"Trickery" is a perfectly good word that never needed a replacement. "Trickeration" takes more time to say, thus leaving you less time to spend with your family.

However, it's never OK to say "fam" instead of "family" even though it saves two syllables and precious time. That's because "fam" is even more an-



Greta the goat — not GOAT — enjoys an afternoon snack at Brucemore in Cedar Rapids. (Geoff Stellfox/The Gazette)

noying than "It is what it is." 5. "We fans deserve better" All over sports, fans of losing teams insist they deserve better. They, of course, do not.

Each game has a loser. Every season, half of the teams finish in the bottom half of the standings. Where does it say you deserve to avoid the misery of associating yourself with an abject failure?

Any satisfaction you get from a team is something you imagine yourself deserving, so savor it when you can. That's because another crushing disappointment is headed your

Do you deserve that? Oddly

enough, yes. 6. "GOAT"

"GOAT" is a relatively new popular acronym. It stands for "Greatest of All Time." It would have been a wonderful tribute to all who receive it had the word not already held an ages-old place in sports.

Since forever, goats have fumbled late in games. Goats have missed 3-foot putts to win golf tournaments. Goats have bricked clutch free throws, let grounders go through their legs, mistaken a snake for a garden hose.

Are actual goats noble or glorious? No! They eat grass. They bleat. Civil wars would break out if people in cities started keeping them in their yards.

You cannot change animals. Pigs will never be elegant. Sheep won't become independent thinkers. Weasels won't be ethical. And goats most certainly won't be all-time greats.

Unfortunately, I did not have myself writing about goats and weasels on my career bingo

Comments: (319) 398-8440; mike.hlas@thegazette.com

#### **NATIONAL NOTES**

#### Rublev, Sabalenka advance at Open

MELBOURNE, Australia — Fifth-seeded Andrey Rublev advanced to the fourth round of the Australian Open for the third time in four years with a 6-4, 6-2, 6-3 win over Dan Evans on Saturday.

Rublev hit 60 winners, including 10 aces.

Rublev will play ninthseeded Holger Rune in the last 16. The Danish teenager beat Ugo Humbert, 6-4, 6-2, 7-6 (5), to move into the fourth round on just his second visit to Melbourne Park.

Fifth-seeded Aryna Sabalenka extended her streak to seven matches as she beat Elise Mertens, 6-2, 6-3, to reach the fourth round. The Belarusian player hit 32 winners to beat Mertens, with whom she won the doubles title in Melbourne in 2021.

Sabalenka will now play Belinda Bencic after the Swiss player reached the fourth round for the first time since 2016. beating Camila Giorgi, 6-2, 7-5, on Rod Laver Arena.

Former top-ranked Karolina Pliskova also reached the last 16 with a 6-4, 6-2 win over Varvara Gracheva. Pliskova, who last made the second week in Melbourne in 2019, did not face a break point.

Pliskova next plays Zhang Shuai, who ended the run of American qualifier Katie Volynets, 6-3, 6-2. Donna Vekic advanced to the fourth round for the second time in three years with a 6-2, 6-2 win over Nuria Parrizas Diaz of Spain.

#### Reed won't coach **Bethune-Cookman**

Pro Football Hall of Fame safety Ed Reed walked away from Bethune-Cookman in tears Saturday following a 15-minute goodbye in front of players and parents.

Reed made it clear he wasn't leaving on his own accord.

The Ed Reed Foundation announced on social media Saturday that the university declined to ratify Reed's contract and "won't make good on the agreement we had in principle, which had provisions and resources best needed to support the student athletes.'

#### Michigan fires assistant Weiss

Michigan fired co-offensive coordinator Matt Weiss on Friday amid an investigation into alleged computer crimes inside the football team's offices on campus.

Friday's development comes as there is an ongoing investigation by the UM police department of alleged computer crimes involving unauthorized access to email accounts at Schembechler Hall, which houses the football team's offices.

#### Former A's great Bando dies at 78

Sal Bando, a threetime World Series champion with the Oakland Athletics and former Milwaukee Brewers executive, has died. He was 78 after a five-year battle with cancer.

Bando hit .254 with 242 homers and 1,039 RBIs in 16 seasons with the Athletics and Brewers. The four-time All-Star, who also starred for Arizona State in college, won three straight titles with the A's from 1972-74.

Bando spent his last five seasons with Milwaukee, playing on the franchise's first winning team in 1978 and its first postseason team in 1981.

Gazette wire services

**COWBOYS** 

# Cowboys rookie learns OL versatility on the fly

**Associated Press** 

FRISCO, Texas — Tyler Smith didn't have to worry about moving around on the offensive line in college, when he was on his way to being a first-round pick of the Dallas Cowboys.

After those Tulsa days ended, Smith knew versatility could be the key to a career in the NFL. The 21-year-old probably didn't envision the left-side shuffle his rookie year has become.

Smith likely will be back at left tackle for a divisional playoff game at San Francisco tonight, returning to the spot he inherited when eight-time Pro Bowler Tyron Smith tore a hamstring in training camp.

'It's just lineman versatility," Smith said. "All year, we've kind of been shuffled around.

From just about the begin-

After drafting Smith 24th overall in April, the Cowboys put him at left guard for offseason workouts, which left



Dallas Cowboys offensive tackle Tyler Smith, in action in December, has done a lot of moving this season. He likely will be back at left tackle for a divisional playoff today at San Francisco. (Associated Press)

open the possibility of starting with Dallas. or backing up Connor McGov-

After Tyron Smith's injury less than three weeks before the opener, the rookie moved to the spot the club figured he would one day take over when the elder Smith was no longer

Tyler Smith started the first 16 games at left tackle before center Tyler Biadasz's ankle injury led to multiple changes up front, including sliding Smith over to left guard.

Now Tyler Smith is back at left tackle after 40-year-old veteran Jason Peters injured his hip in the wild-card win over Tampa Bay.

"I couldn't have imag ined it," Smith said of all the switching. "You don't want to keep your head too far in the future and fill your head up with all these scenarios.'

The most significant development came when Tyler Smith didn't move at all.

When Tyron Smith was ready for his season debut in Week 15, the Cowboys decided to leave the rookie in the spot of someone the club considers a future Hall of Famer.

Tyron Smith played right tackle for the first time since his rookie season, which said everything about the job the Cowboys thought Tyler Smith did on Dak Prescott's blind

Dallas also didn't move Tyler Smith after right tackle Terence Steele, an undrafted third-year player, tore an ACL 13 games into the season.

'I think his arrow keeps climbing," Coach Mike Mc-Carthy said. "He's very bright and he's up here every morning early. He does all the little things, too, so he's going to be a fine, fine player for a long time.

The Cowboys knew age and injuries were an issue with Tyron Smith when they drafted his understudy in April.

Unlike the three previous offensive linemen drafted in the first round by Dallas including Tyron Smith and six-time All-Pro right guard Zack Martin — Tyler Smith wasn't tabbed as a walk-in

Once in the lineup, though, Tyler Smith was good enough that the Cowboys never considered replacing him with Peters, who brought 17 years of experience at left tackle when he signed after Tyron Smith went down.

"It was probably the best thing for him is kind of getting thrown into the fire a little bit, have to figure it out on the fly," Martin said. "I think that's just going to be a great foundation for the rest of his career and his development."

**COMMENTARY** 

# Dear Tom, don't quit

By Rick Reilly, Washington Post

ear Tom Brady, Guess you heard it's Everybody Pile on Tom Brady Week.

Figures. When you're a staggeringly handsome quarterbacking demigod who's been operating at wildly unimaginable heights for 23 years, they're bound to jump on with both feet when they finally get their chance.

You have one lousy game and suddenly it's "too old, "washed up," "selfish mercenary,' "should've quit three years

But I just want to say one thing — and I think I speak for millions of us who aren't staggeringly handsome quarterbacking demigods: Don't quit.

Look, Tom, I'm out here. Real Life is nothing like NFL Superstar Life. Feeling the thrill of victory with 46 of your best friends while 75,000 people forget to breathe? Once you quit, you won't find anything like that out here. The other day I got the best parking place at Whole Foods and I fist-pumped. Actually fist-pumped. How sad is that?

You don't realize how good you have it. Out here, when somebody on a plane elbows me in the kidney to shoehorn ahead of me so he can get to his seat one

second faster, I don't have five linemen the size of Sub-Zero freezers who will fling him to the ground and step on his larynx.

Besides, you're still Tom Terrific! You'll be 46 next season, but you look 36. You were third in NFL passing yards this season, behind the Chiefs' Patrick Mahomes and the Chargers' Justin Herbert. You have toothbrushes older than those guys.

After your Tampa Bay Bucs lost to the Dallas Cowboys on Monday night, ESPN's Marcus Spears had the gall to say, "I don't think Tom Brady will win you games anymore."

Apparently, Spears's Wi-Fi was out on New Year's Day, when you dropped two 50-yard-plus dimes for touchdowns, coming from behind to beat Carolina.

You know who can't win you games anymore? Marcus Spears. Because he retired. At 31.

Besides, all these people hollering for you to quit ... Why? Because you're 45? Because you've broken about every age record for non-kickers in NFL his-

Why would you quit something that nobody in history has done better? You are the GOAT. And after you quit, what will you go off and do? Play golf? Meh. You're going to be de-

cent as a Fox broadcaster, sure, but you're no Charles Barkley.

Out here, in Real Life, there's not going to be a room full of reporters wanting to hear about your every move.

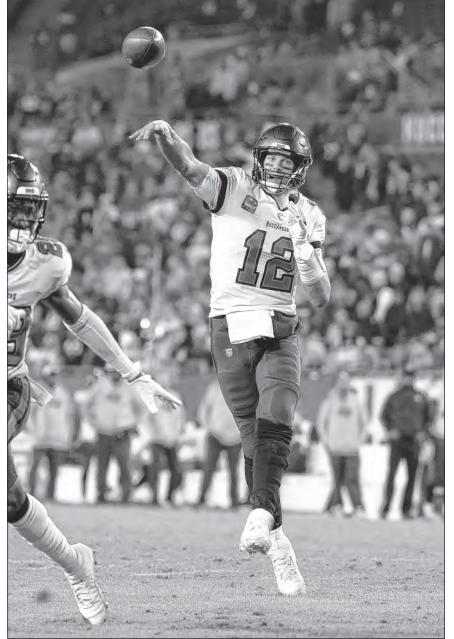
You knew what a dumb idea it was to briefly retire last year. It's still a dumb idea. It's not just me hoping you keep playing. About a dozen teams out there probably don't want you to quit either — because they could use a living legend. Not every day a guy with seven Super Bowl rings walks through the door.

I mean, dude, look at your choices ... San Francisco, where you'd be about 26 minutes from where you grew up ... Denver, where maybe you could rent Russell Wilson's house, which has 12 bathrooms, one for every game the Broncos lost this season ... the New York Jets, who haven't had a big-time quarterback since Joe Namath was wearing a white fur coat in '71.

Remember what you said after you beat the Los Angeles Rams this year in OT with yet another clockticking miracle? "That was awesome ..."

Trust me, very few things out here are that kind of awesome.

Although watching you play football comes close.



Tampa Bay Buccaneers quarterback Tom Brady, making a successful throw for a two-point conversion during Monday's loss to Dallas in the NFL wild-card playoffs, needs to come back. (Associated Press)

**COMMENTARY** 

## 49ers-Cowboys rivalry defined the NFL for 2 decades

By Dieter Kurtenbach, Mercury News

► ANTA CLARA, Calif. — The 49ers-Cowboys rivalry is the NFL, pure and distilled.

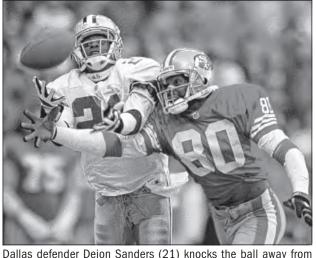
When folks who don't follow the NFL think of a game — this is the matchup that comes to mind.

It looks right. It feels right. And today at Levi's Stadium, arguably the league's two premier franchises will face off in the playoffs for a ninth time in their storied his-

It's red versus blue, silver versus gold. It's California versus Texas, big tech versus big oil. It's mountains versus prairies, academics versus showmanship.

It's two teams looking for that sixth Lombardi Trophy.

This rivalry gave us



Dallas defender Deion Sanders (21) knocks the ball away from San Francisco receiver Jerry Rice in this 1996 game. The 49ers-Cowboys playoff history is a rich one, but today's game won't live up to that past. (Associated Press)

Roger the Dodger, The Catch, Joe Cool and "How Bout Them Cowboys?" The 49ers and Cowboys' showdowns defined the league in the 1970s and then again in the 1990s.

And now that they're

set to meet in back-toback postseasons, it's been suggested these two teams could define the 2020s, too.

I disagree with that notion. I say you should savor every aspect of the buildup to today's 49ers-

Cowboys NFC divisional game these two teams round game — and the contest itself — because I'm not sure Dallas and San Francisco will meet again on this stage, or a

better one, anytime soon. You can blame Dallas for that.

First off, when it comes to defining an era, you have to play in bigger games. It's early in the decade, but the Cowboys and 49ers' most recent playoff meetings pale compared to the teams' showdowns of

In the 1990s, these teams met in the NFC Championship Game for three straight years. They might as well have played in the Super Bowl itself — such was the dominance of the NFC's two best teams.

Of the team's first seven showdowns, six were NFC Championship Games — the biggest

can play against one another. The one playoff game that wasn't a championship showdown — a divisional round game in 1972 — featured an incredible Dallas comeback from 21-3 down (a big deficit in those days).

Meanwhile, the Niners and Cowboys played a wild-card game last season and a Divisional Game this year. These two meetings weren't collision courses games that seemed inevitable throughout the regular season. Dallas didn't even win its division.

This is no Kansas City-Buffalo.

No, this matchup is merely positive happenstance — good fate for fans and Fox, which will televise today's game.

Now, I expect the Niners — who have made the playoffs three of the past four years — to

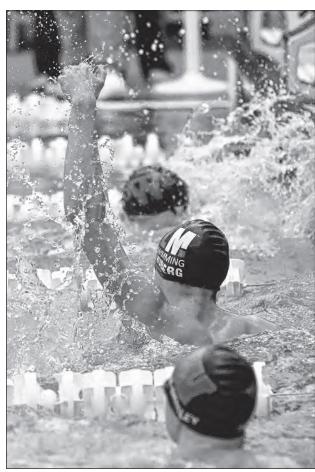
make postseason play an annual occurrence in the years to come, thanks in part to the team's newfound (and low-cost) quarterback stability. Overall, San Francisco can make the case it's the best-run organization in the NFL — as evidenced by how many members of its front-office and coaching staff are annually poached.

But with Kyle Shanahan at the helm of the team and John Lynch running the show in the offices — with team CEO Jed York staying out of both men's way these days — the Niners' winning machine should keep rolling for years to come.

There's nothing about the Dallas Cowboys that seems stable.

It's a great rivalry. One of the best in sports. But its best days are be-

#### **BOYS' SWIMMING**



Linn-Mar's Hudson Huberg celebrates winning the 200-yard medley relay during the MVC Championship Meet on Saturday at the Linn-Mar Aquatic Center in Marion. Linn-Mar's team of Huberg, Blake Behrens, Parker Macho and Colin Taylor won with a time of 1:37.43. (Cliff Jette photos/Freelance)

## No. 5 Linn-Mar swims away with MVC title

Depth reigns as Lions win team championship for first time in 6 years

By Mike Condon, correspondent

MARION — Tom Belin laughed when reminded of his comment leading up to Saturday's Mississippi Valley Conference Super meet.

The veteran Linn-Mar boys' swimming coach predicted that the meet would likely go down to the final event to decide a winner.

Belin's athletes had other ideas.

The fifth-ranked Lions won just three of the 11 events contested at the Linn-Mar Aquatic Center, but used their superior depth to rack up the points, to win their first MVC team title in six seasons.

Linn-Mar's depth had the title secured before the final relay was even contested. The Lions finished with 326 points. Cedar Falls (286.5) edged Iowa City West (286) for runner-up honors, and Cedar Rapids Washington took fourth with 280.

'What happened today was clearly a team victory," Belin said with a smile. "We didn't win many events, but if you go back and look at the scoring it was a total team effort and that's what we had today.'

Although Linn-Mar didn't rack up many wins, the Lions had topthree finishers in nine of the 11 events.

"Everybody performed as well as they could," Lions senior Blake Behrens said. "This was something we haven't done (winning an MVC title) in six years. We've had a lot of great talent come through this

program so winning today means a lot.'

Two of Linn-Mar's three wins came in the relays with Behrens and fellow senior Ryan Horsey leading the way. Belin was quick to point out just how much those two have helped set the

"That's what makes this team good," he said. "We've had guys who have stepped up and maybe would not have had the opportunity if it weren't for certain circumstances that gave them the chance. The athletes we have on this team have risen to the moment.

One of those who has met almost every challenge this year is Hudson Huberg. The freshman was Linn-Mar's lone individual winner, taking the 50-vard freestyle in 21.43 seconds and anchoring Lion wins in the 200 medley and 200 free relays.

"Hudson is a great example of a guy who has worked on the little things," Belin said. "He has such a bright future. He is a talented swimmer who is still learning to do so many things. He really performed well today."

Huberg was happy with his first MVC meet.

"I have to admit I was a little nervous before the 50 free," he said. "It certainly helped swimming in our pool. It is my favorite pool to compete

Iowa City West's Holden Carter was a double winner, taking titles in the 100 butterfly and 100 backstroke. Iowa City High also had a double winner in Joe Polyak. The Little Hawk standout captured the 200 IM and 100 breaststroke gold medals.



Linn-Mar's Blake Behrens competes in the 200-yard individual medley Saturday at the Linn-Mar Aquatic Center.

#### **SPORTSDAY**

#### **EVENTS OF AREA INTEREST**

**College wrestling** ■ Iowa at Wisconsin, TBA;

Southwest Minnesota State at Upper Iowa, 2 p.m. Men's basketball

■ Loras at Mount Mercy, 2 p.m. Pro hockey ■ Toledo at Iowa Heartlanders, 2:05 p.m.

#### ON TELEVISION

(Live, first-run same-day tape) NFL playoffs

■ Bengals at Bills, 2 p.m., KGAN: Cowboys at 49ers, 5:30 p.m., KFXA

■ Nets at Warriors, 7:30 p.m., **NBATV** 

#### NHL ■ Kings at Blackhawks, 6 p.m., NBCS Chicago

**NBA** 

Men's basketball ■ Michigan State at Indiana, 11 a.m., KGAN; Butler at Connecticut, 11 a.m., KFXA; Minnesota at Michigan, noon, BTN; Memphis at Cincinnati, noon, ESPN2; Maryland at

Purdue, noon, FS1; Temple at Houston, 2 p.m., ESPN; Furman at Wofford, 3 p.m., ESPNU; Washington State at Colorado, 5 p.m., ESPNU Women's basketball

■ Massachusetts at Dayton, 11 a.m., ESPNU; N.C. State at Louisville, noon, KCRG; UCF at South Florida, 1 p.m., ESPNU; Arkansas at South Carolina, 2 p.m., ESPN2; Seton Hall at Marquette, 2 p.m., FS1; Wisconsin at Penn State, 4 p.m., BTN

#### Pro soccer

■ Manchester City vs. Wolverhampton Wanderers, 8 a.m., USA; Arsenal vs. Manchester United, 10:30 a.m., **KWWL** 

#### Pro tennis

■ Australian Open, 9 a.m. (same-day tape) and 6 p.m.,

#### Pro golf

■ Hilton Grand Vacations Tournament of Champions, 1 p.m., KWWL; The American Express, 2 p.m., Golf Channel

College wrestling ■ Iowa at Wisconsin, 2 p.m.,

#### Women's gymnastics

■ Michigan at Michigan State, 6 p.m., BTN; Utah at Oklahoma, 7 p.m., ESPN

Winter World University Games ■ Men's Hockey and Closing

#### Ceremony, 4 p.m., ESPN Rugby

■ Men's and Women's: Hamilton, 2 p.m. (same-day

#### tape), CNBC **NBA G League**

■ College Park Skyhawks at Fort Wayne Mad Ants, 2 p.m., **NBATV** 

#### Skiing

■ Kitzbuhel-Men's Slalom, 4 p.m. (same-day tape), KWWL Boys' basketball

■ Archbishop Stepinac (N.Y.) at Christ The King (N.Y.), 76 p.m.,

#### ON RADIO\*

#### NFL playoffs

■ Bengals at Bills, 1:30 p.m., KGYM; Cowboys at 49ers, 5:15 p.m., KGYM \*Listings submitted by radio stations

#### **CONTACT US**

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#### **Boys' swimming**

Saturday MVC Super Meet At Linn-Mar Aquatic Center

Teams — 1. Linn-Mar 326, 2. Cedar Falls 286.5, 3. IC West 286, 4. CR Washington 280, 5. IC High 242, 6. Dub. Hempstead 227, 7. Dub. Senior 149, 8. CR Kennedy 84, 9. CR Jefferson 71, 10. Waterloo 60.5.

Events Events
200-yard medley relay — 1. Linn-Mar
(Parker Macho, Blake Behrens, Colin Taylor, Hudson Huberg) 1:37.43, 2. IC West
(Holden Carter, Winston Fan, Ian Caballero,
Christian Janis) 1:38.25, 3. CR Washington
(Caio Carvalho, Brian Forester, Seth Williams, Marcus Seifert) 1:39.81

200 freestyle — 1. John Butler (CF) 1:44.51, 2. Max Gerke (ICW) 1:45.47, 3. Lukas Swanson (ICW) 1:47.89.

200 individual medlev — 1. Joe Polyal 200 individual medley — 1. Joe Polyak (ICH) 1:55.63, 2. Cole Wilson (CF) 1:58.03, 3. Blake Behrens (LM) 1:58.90.
50 freestyle — 1. Hudson Huberg (LM) 21.43, 2. John Weigel (ICH) 21.63, 3. Marcus Seifert (CRW) 22.16.
100 butterfly — 1. Holden Carter (ICW) 50.50, 2. Parker Macho (LM) 53.23, 3. Cole Wilson (CF) 54.00
100 freestyle — 1. John Weigel (ICH) 46.84, 2. Hudson Huberg (IM) 47.09, 3. Jan Lucas

Hudson Huberg (LM) 47.09, 3. Ian Lucas

(CRW) 48.90
500 freestyle — 1. Max Gerke (ICW)
451.52, Lukas Swanson (IC West) 4:55.45, 3.
Connor Schaffel (L.M) 4:57.26.
200 freestyle relay — 1. Linn-Mar (Blake Behrens, Ryan Horsey, Colin Taylor, Hudson Huberg) 1:27.68, 2. IC High (Charlie Pfohl, Kento Yahashiri, Joe Polyak, John Wiegel) 1:29.70, 3. Cedar Falls (Drew Langner, Jack Considine, John Butler, Cole Wilson) 1:30.15.
100 backstroke — 1. Holden Carter (ICW) 100 backstroke — 1. Holden Carter (ICW, 51.90, 2. John Butler (CF) 52.59, 3. Parket Macho (LM) 54.26.

100 breaststroke — 1. Joe Polyak (ICH) 58.06, 2. Blake Behrens (LM) 59.36, 3. Kento Yahashiri (ICH) 1:00.38.
400 freestyle relay — 1. IC West (Lukas

wou meestyne relay — 1. IC West (Lukas Swanson, Max Gerke, Holden Carter, Winston Fan) 3:14.64, 2. IC High (Charlie Pfohl, Philip Berry-Stoelze, Joe Polyak, John Weigel) 3:16.37, 3. Cedar Falls (Drew Langner, Liam McGrane, Cole Wilson, John Butler)

#### Honors

MVC Valley Division Athlete of the Year — Holden Carter, Iowa City West MVC Valley Division Coaching Staff of the Year — Head Coach Tom Belin and the Linn-Mar coaching staff

MVC Mississippi Valley Division Athlete of the year — John Butler, Cedar Falls
MVC Mississippi Division Coaching Staff of
the Year — Head Coach Cliff Paulsen and the
Cedar Falls coaching staff

#### Girls' basketball

#### Saturday RIVER VALLEY SHOOTOUT At Mount Vernon

Maquoketa 70, Wilton 46 Anamosa 38, North Cedar 24 Mid-Prairie 49, Bellevue 34 OTHER AREA

Benton Comm. 60, Waverly-Shell Rock 45 Dubuque Senior 61, Crestwood 53 Easton Valley 38, West Carroll (III.) 26 North Polk 58, Solon 44 Waterloo West 63, Waukon 36

#### Friday

METRO/IOWA CITY

METRO/IOWA CITY
Cedar Falls 52, C.R. Xavier 49
C.R. Jefferson 62, C.R. Washington 37
C.R. Kennedy 45, C.R. Prairie 38
Iowa City Liberty 39, Iowa City High 25
Iowa City Regina 63, Durant 33
Linn-Mar 58, Iowa City West 48
MISSISSIPPI VALLEY
Cedar Falls 52, C.R. Xavier 49
C.R. Jefferson 62, C.R. Washington 37
C.R. Kennedy 45, C.R. Prairie 38
Dubuque Senior 47, Western Dubuque 42
Dubuque Wahlert 49, Dbq. Hempstead 38
Iowa City Liberty 39, Iowa City High 25
Linn-Mar 58, Iowa City West 48
WAMAC
Benton Community 67, South Tama 12
Mount Vernon 47, West Delaware 42
Solon 59, Independence 23
Vinton-Shelsburg 60, Center Pt-Urbana 43

Vinton-Shellsburg 60, Center Pt-Urbana 43
RIVER VALLEY

RIVER VALLEY

Bellevue 48, Camanche 28
Cascade 62, Maquoketa 58 (OT)
Dyersville Beckman 50, Northeast 46 (OT)
lowa City Regina 63, Durant 33
Mid-Prairie 50, West Liberty 48
Monticello 52, Anamosa 15
Tiston at Willen Tipton at Wilton TRI-RIVERS

Bellevue Marquette 63, Prince of Peace 36 Calamus-Wheatland 66, North Cedar 24 Edgewood-Colesburg 79, Central City 48 Maquoketa Valley 93, Starmont 13 Midland 50, Easton Valley 47 North Linn 63, Alburnett 24 Springville 68, East Buchanan 57 NICL EAST

Dike-New Hartford 71, Jesup 29
Oelwein 53, Union Community 30
Sumner-Fred'burg 51, Wapsie Valley 28
NORTHEAST IOWA

Decorah 71, Crestwood 38 Waukon 51, New Hampton 38 Waverly-Shell Rock 55, Charles SOUTH IOWA CEDAR English Valleys 66, Belle Plaine 29 Iowa Valley 49, Tri-County 36 Montezuma 49, Lynnville-Sully 41

North Mahaska 62, HLV 33 Sigourney 51, Keota 29 UPPER IOWA Lansing Kee 34, Clayton Ridge 32 MFL MarMac 52, Turkey Valley 46 North Fayette Valley 62, Postville 27 South Winneshiek 65, West Central 27

OTHERS Collins-Maxwell 68, Meskwaki 26 Highland 46, Pekin 24 Mount Pleasant 44, Washington (Iowa) 35 North Tama 46, Colo-Nesco 23 Louisa-Muscatine at Hillcrest Academy

#### Linn-Mar 58, Iowa City West 48

At Linn-Mar IOWA CITY WEST (48): Meena Tate 5-19 2-2 12, Carolyn Pierce 1-3 0-0 3, Melae' Lacy 0-4 4-4 4, Anna Prouty 4-9 2-3 10, Grace Fincham 2-5 2-3 7, Lucy Wolf 4-7 0-0 10, Keiko Ono-Fullard 1-1 0-0 2, Elle Barnett 0-0 0-0 0, Aly Skala 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 17-48 10-12 48.

Aly Skala 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 17-48 10-12 48. LINN-MAR (S8): Ellie Daubenmier 3-7 0-0 6, Tessa Casebolt 1-5 4-4 6, Taylor Brunson 4-13 5-6 14, Dreya Kern 3-5 0-0 9, Zoe Ken-nedy 6-9 8-8 23, Meredith Koenen 0-0 0-0 0, Emily Koranda 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 17-39 17-18 50

Haltime: Linn-Mar 27-19. 3-point goals: West 4-15 (Tate 0-4, Pierce 1-2, Lacy 0-2, Fincham 1-3, Wolf 2-4), Linn-Mar 7-14 (Brunson 1-6, Kern 3-4, Kennedy 3-4). **Team** (Brunson 1-6, Kern 3-4, Kennedy 3-4). Team fouls: West 19, Linn-Mar 8. Fouled out: none. Rebounds: West 25 (Prouty 9), Linn-Mar 31 (Kennedy 14). Assists: West 5 (Fincham, Wolf 2), Linn-Mar 11 (Brunson 4). Steals: West 6 (Tate, Fincham 2), Linn-Mar 7 (Brunson 3). Turnovers: West 11, Linn-Mar 14.

#### Boys' basketball

#### Saturday METRO/IOWA CITY

W.D.M. Dowling 61, Iowa City West 54 AREA Oelwein 66, Don Bosco 54 English Valleys 65, Cedar Valley Christian

Indianola 86, Clear Creek Amana 53

#### Friday

METRO-IOWA CITY
Cedar Falls 62, C.R. Xavier 59
C.R. Kennedy 64, C.R. Prairie 27
C.R. Washington 71, C.R. Jefferson 27
Durant 65, Iowa City Regina 53 lowa City Liberty 68, Iowa City High 56 Linn-Mar 72, Iowa City West 71 (OT)
MISSISSIPPI VALLEY CONFERENCE r Falls 62, C.R. Xavier 59 Cevan Hand Val. C.R. Prairie 27
C.R. Washington 71, C.R. Jefferson 27
Dubuque Senior 68, Western Dubuque 49
Dubuque Wahlert 75, Dub. Hempstead 50
Iowa City Liberty 58, Iowa City High 56
Linn-Mar 72, Iowa City West 71 (OT)

WAMAC

WAMAC
Benton Community 66, South Tama 38
Center Point-Urbana 72, Vinton-Shellsburg 59
Mount Vernon 67, West Delaware 42
Solon 76, Independence 51

Solon 76, Independence 51 Williamsburg 76, Clear Creek-Amana 62 RIVER VALLEY RIVER VALLEY
Bellevue 80, Camanche 60
Cascade 70, Maquoketa 59
Durant 65, Iowa City Regina 53
Dyersville Beckman 58, Northea:
Mid-Prairie 65, West Liberty 44
Monticello 74, Anamosa 34
Wilton 71, Tipton 43
TRI-RIVERS
Calamus Wheatland 90, North 66

TRI-RIVERS
Calamus-Wheatland 80, North Cedar 52
Central City 82, Ed-Co 53
Prince of Peace 63, Bellevue Marquette 57
East Buchanan 85, Springville 64
Easton Valley 75, Midland 36
Maquoketa Valley 83, Starmont 33
North Linn 64, Alburnett 47
SOUTH IOWA CEDAR
Bello Plaine 67, English Valleys 42

Belle Plaine 67, English Valleys 43 BGM 63, Colfax-Mingo 37 BGM 63, Coltax-Mingo 3/ lowa Valley 61, Tri-County 26 Keota 67, Sigourney 55 Montezuma 84, Lynnville-Sully 74 North Mahaska 87, HLV 61 NORTHEAST IOWA

Charles City 63, Waverly-Shell Rock 57 Decorah 85, Crestwood 57 New Hampton 57, Waukone 37 UPPER IOWA

Clayton Ridge 66, Lansing Kee 48 MFL.Mar-Mac 89, Turkey Valley 32 North Fayette Valley 61, Postville 50 South Winneshiek 65, West Central 46 OTHERS

Collins-Maxwell 73, Meskwaki School 9 Colo-NESCO 56, North Tama 54 Dike-New Hartford 77, Jesup 64 LaPorte City Union 56, Oelwein 46 Louisa-Musc. 47, Hillcrest Academy 46 Mount Pleasant 58, Washington (Iowa) 51 Pekin at Highland, no report

#### College wrestling

Saturday IOWA COLLEGES Upper Iowa 30, Augustana 11 Friday **BIG TEN** 

#### Iowa 34, Nebraska 6

lowa 34, Nebraska 6
(Individual fakedowns in parentheses)
125 pounds — Spencer Lee (I) pinned Liam
Cronin, :38 (1,0); 133 — Brody Teske (I) dec.
Kyle Burwich, 5-2 (1,1); 141 — Real Woods
(I) dec. Brock Hardy, 6-4 (0,2); 149 — Max
Murin (I) pinned Dayne Morton, 3:47 (3,0);
157 — Peyton Robb (N) dec. Cobe Siebrecht,
7-2 (2,0); 165 — Patrick Kennedy (I) major
dec. Bubba Wilson, 12-4 (5,0); 174 — Mikey
Labriola (N) dec. Nelson Brands, 3-2 (1,0);
184 — Abe Assad (I) dec. Lenny Pinto, 6-5
(2,1); 197 — Jacob Warner (I) dec. Silas
Alfred, 3-2 (0,1); Hwt. — Tony Cassioppi
pinned Cale Davidson, 6:39 (6,0).

MEET STATISTICS

#### MEET STATISTICS

Takedowns — Iowa 18, Nebraska 8. Re-ersals — Iowa 3, Nebraska 1. Escapes versals — Iowa 3, Nebraska 1. Escapes — Iowa 11, Nebraska 12. Nearfall points — Iowa Nebraska 0. Penalty points (awarded)
I lowa 2, Nebraska 0. Riding-time points
I lowa 2, Nebraska 1. Total match points —
wa 63, Nebraska 31. Attendance — 14,905. Iowa 63, Nebraska 31. Attendance

#### Men's basketball

#### Saturday **BIG TEN**

Ohio State 93, Iowa 77
Penn State 76, Nebraska 65
Wisconsin at Northwestern, ppd.
BIG 12

Oklahoma State 61, Iowa State 59 Kansas State 68, Texas Tech 58 TCU 83, Kansas 60

Texas 69, West Virginia 61

MISSOURI VALLEY

Northern Iowa 78, Illinois-Chicago 72

Drake 97, Evansville 61 Southern Illinois 61, Missouri State 57 Belmont 78, Bradley 76 Murray State 82, Indiana State 73 Valparaiso at Illinois State late

Valparaiso at Illinois State late AP TOP 25 Oklahoma State 61, No. 12 Iowa State 59 No. 10 Virginia 76, Wake Forest 67 No. 13 Kansas State 68, Texas Tech 58 No. 16 Auburn 81, South Carolina 66 No. 9 Tennessee 77, LSU 56 No. 20 Marquette 74, Seton Hall 53 No. 21 Baylor 62, Oklahoma 60 No. 21 Baylor 62, Oklahoma 60 No. 21 Baylor 62, Oklahoma 60
No. 22 Providence 75, DePaul 64
No. 11 Arizona 58, No. 5 UCLA
No. 14 TCU 83, No. 2 Kansas 60
No. 25 Arkansas 69, Ole Miss 57
No. 18 Charleston 87, Northeastern 61
Duke 68, No. 17 Miami 66
No. 8 Xavier 85, Georgetown 82
No. 4 Alabama 85, Missouri 64
No. 7 Texas 69, West Virginia 61
No. 19 Clemson 51, Virginia Tech 50
No. 24 Florida Atlantic at UTEP, late

### IOWA COLLEGES Upper Iowa 84, Minot State 73 Kirkwood 81, Iowa Lakes 77 Coe 87, Simpson 76 Luther 79, Nebraska Wesleyan 65

MidAmerica Nazarene 89, Mount Mercy

#### AT COLUMBUS, OHIO

AT COLUMBUS, OHIO

IOWA (77): Murray 9-19 0-0 22, Rebraca 5-7 5-6 15, Perkins 2-7 4-5 8, Ulis 4-9 3-3 12, C.McCaffery 2-7 0-0 6, Sandfort 2-7 0-0 6, Dix 2-3 0-0 6, Bowen 0-0 0-0 0, Mulvey 1-1 0-0 2. Totals 27-60 12-14 7.

OHIO STATE (93): Key 4-10 3-4 11, Sensabaugh 10-12 3-3 27, Gayle 4-7 1-1 9, Likekele 7-12 3-5 18, Thornton 0-4 0-0 0, Sueing 4-9 1-2 10, McNeil 4-5 0-0 10, Holden 0-1 2-2 2, Okpara 3-4 0-0 6. Totals 36-64 13-17 93.

Halffine—Ohio St. 37-35. 3-Point Goals—lowa 11-24 (Murray 4-9, Dix 2-3, Sandfort 2-4, C.McCaffery 2-5, Ulis 1-3), Ohio St. 8-16 (Sensabaugh 4-5, McNeil 2-2, Likekele 1-1, Sueing 1-4, Gayle 0-1, Thornton 0-3). Rebounds—lowa 25 (Murray 7), Ohio St. 33 (Likekele 10). Assists—lowa 15 (Murray 4), Ohio St. 15 (Likekele 7). Total Fouls—lowa 17, Ohio St. 15. (Likekele 7). Total Fouls—lowa 17, Ohio St. 17. Att—13,630 (18,809).

#### AT STILLWATER, OKLA.

IOWA STATE (59): Osunniyi 7-15 1-4 15, Grill 0-1 0-0 0, Holmes 3-13 2-2 8, Kalscheur 5-13 2-3 14, Lipsey 3-6 2-3 8, T.King 5-10 0-0 10, Watson 0-0 0-0 0, Jones 1-4 0-0 2, Ward 1-1 0-0 2. Totals 25-63 7-12 59.

OKLAHOMA STATE (61): Boone 4-9 5-6

OKLAHOMA STATE (61): Boone 4-9 5-6
13, Anderson 5-9 6-9 18, Newton 3-6 1-2 9,
Thompson 0-1 1-2 1, Wright 3-6 0-0 8, Asberry 2-5 1-37, Harris 1-42-2 5, Cisse 0-0 0-0
0, Q.Williams 0-1 0-0 0, Smith 0-0 0-4 0. Totals
18-4116-28 61.

Halftime—lowa St. 35-25. 3-Point Goals—
lowa St. 2-9 (Kalscheur 2-4, Griffl 0-1, Holmes
0-1, Osunniyi 0-1, T.King 0-2), Oklahoma St.
9-21 (Anderson 2-3, Asberry 2-4, Newton
2-4, Wright 2-4, Harris 1-4, Thompson 0-1,
Q.Williams 0-1). Fouled Out—T.King. Rebounds—lowa St. 35 (T.King 8), Oklahoma
St. 27 (Newton, Asberry 6). Assists—lowa St.
11 (Holmes 6), Oklahoma St. 12 (Anderson
5). Total Fouls—lowa St. 23, Oklahoma St. 12.
Att—6,656 (13,611). **-6,656** (13,611).

AT CHICAGO NORTHERN IOWA (78): Betz 2-5 0-0 5, Born 4-9 9-10 18, Campbell 2-3 0-2 6, Ty.Anderson 5-12 7-8 17, Duax 8-16 3-4 21, Wolf 3-4 0-0 7, Henry 1-6 2-2 4, Daniel 0-1 0-0 0. Totals 25-56 21-26 78. Wolf 3-4 U-U , Henry 1-6 2-2 4, Daniel U-I U-U
O. Totals 25-56 21-26 78.

ILLINOIS-CHICAGO (72): Skobali 2-4 0-0
6, Tr.Anderson 9-13 3-4 27, Carter 8-14 0-0
20, Jones 0-3 0-0 0, Okani 5-15 1-2 12, Jackson 3-5 1-2 7, Yaklich 0-1 0-0 0, Fens 0-0 0-0
0, Brownell 0-1 0-0 0. Totals 27-56 5-8 72.

Halffime—III.-Chicago 38-31. 3-Point
Goals—N. lowa 7-20 (Campbell 2-3, Duax 2-5, Wolf 1-2, Betz 1-3, Born 1-6, Ty. Anderson 0-1), III.-Chicago 13-28 (Tr. Anderson 6-7, Carter 4-9, Skobali 2-4, Okani 1-5, Brownell 0-1, Jones 0-1, Yaklich 0-1).
Fouled Out—Jones. Rebounds—N. lowa 34 (Duax 11), III.-Chicago 20 (Okani 8).
Assists—N. lowa 16 (Henry 6), III.-Chicago 17 (Tr. Anderson 7). Total Fouls—N. lowa 12, III.-Chicago 21. Att—2,312 (9,500).

#### Women's basketball Saturday **BIG TEN**

Purdue 75, Minnesota 56 **BIG 12** lowa State 64, Kansas 50 West Virginia 67, Texas Tech 57 Oklahoma State at Oklahoma, late TCU at Kansas State, late

MISSOURI VALLEY Northern Iowa 79, Illinois-Chicago 44 Drake 84, Valparaiso 51 AP TOP 25 No. 18 Iowa State 64, Kansas 50

No. 5 UConn 79, Butler 39 No. 16 Gonzaga 82, Saint Mary's 57 Oklahoma State at No. 15 Oklahoma, late **IOWA COLLEGES** 

Simpson 69, Coe 56 Kirkwood 65, Iowa Lakes 47 Luther 81, Nebraska Wesleyan 42 MidAmerica Nazarene 81, Mount Mercy

#### Minot State 72, Upper Iowa 61

AT HILTON COLISEUM KANSAS (50): Jackson 6-8 1-5 13, Franklin -13 1-3 11, Kersgieter 2-7 0-0 4, Mayberry -17 2-2 10, Prater 3-10 1-2 7, Jessen 0-0 0-0 Telegdy 0-0 0-0 0, Strom 0-1 0-0 0, Vuksic 0-2 0-0 0, Eltayeb 2-3 1-2 5, Totals 21-61

IOWA STATE (64): Kane 0-3 0-0 0, Donar-

IOWA STATE (64): Kane 0-30-00, Donar-ski 3-110-09, Fritz 2-7 0-05, Joens 10-19 1-3 26, Ryan 1-7 2-2 4, Diew 3-8 0-0 9, Zingaro 4-12 3-4 11, Espenmiller-McGraw 0-0 0-0 0, Totals 23-67 6-9 64
Haltime—lowa State 31-21. 3-Point Goals—Kansas 2-16 (Franklin 0-1, Kersgieter 0-2, Mayberry 2-7, Prater 0-3, Strom 0-1, Vuksic 0-2), Iowa St. 12-31 (Donarski 3-5, Fritz 1-3, Joens 5-11, Ryan 0-3, Diew 3-8, Zingaro 0-1). Assists—Kansas 10 (Franklin 4), Iowa St. 13 (Ryan 6). Fouled Out—None. Rebounds—Kansas 42 (Jackson 15). Iowa St. 18 (Rebounds—Kansas 42 (Jackson 15). Iowa St. 10 (R Rebounds—Kansas 42 (Jackson 15), Iowa St. 43 (Joens 15). Total Fouls—Kansas 13, lowa St. 12. Technical Fouls—None. Att—10,677.

#### Late Friday MISSOURI VALLEY Illinois State 78, Indiana State 68 Belmont 75, Missouri State 66 Evansville 73, Bradley 56

AP TOP 25 No. 4 Stanford 74, No. 8 Utah 62 No. 9 UCLA 51, Washington 47 No. 22 Villanova 73, Creighton 57 Oregon Sate 68, No. 23 Oregon 65

#### **Pro tennis**

Saturday AUSTRALIAN ÖPEN At Melbourne, Australia **MEN'S SINGLES** 

Third Round
Andrey Rublev (5), Russia, def. Daniel Evans (25), Britain, 6-4, 6-2, 6-3.
Holger Rune (9), Denmark, def. Ugo Humbert, France, 6-4, 6-2, 7-6 (5).
Alex de Minaur (22), Australia, def. Beniamila Paris France (5) Alex de Minaur (22), Australia, der. Benla-min Bonzi, France, 7-6 (0), 6-2, 6-1. Tommy Paul, United States, def. Jenson Brooksby, United States, 6-1, 6-4, 6-3. Jeffrey John Wolf, United States, def. Mi-chael Mmoh, United States, 6-4, 6-1, 6-2.

Third round

Donna Vekic, Croatia, def. Nuria Parrizas
Diaz, Spain, 6-2, 6-2.
Karolina Pliskova (30), Czech Republic,
def. Varvara Gracheva, Russia, 6-4, 6-2.
Zhang Shuai (23), China, def. Katie Volynets, United States, 6-3, 6-2.
Belinda Bencic (12), Switzerland, def. Camila Giorgi, Italy, 6-2, 7-5.
Aryna Sabalenka (5), Belarus, def. Elise
Mertens (26), Belgium, 6-2, 6-3.
Linda Fruhvirtova, Czech Republic, def.
Marketa Vondrousova, Czech Republic, 7-5,
2-6, 6-3.

#### Pro football NFL Playoffs DIVISIONAL ROUND

Saturday Kansas City 27, Jacksonville 20 N.Y. Giants at Philadelphia, late Today (lowa times)

Cincinnati at Buffalo, 2 p.m. Dallas at San Francisco, 5:30 p.m.

#### Chiefs 27, Jaguars 20

Cilicis 21, Jaguais	_	U
Jac	0	K
First downs20		:
Total Net Yards349	9	3
Rushes-yards19-144	4	30-14
Passing		2
Punt Returns3-23	3	3-
Kickoff Returns3-13	1	0-
Interceptions Ret0-0	)	1.
Comp-Att-Int24-39-		27-37
Sacked-Yards Lost2-15	2	0-
Punts4-47.75	5	4-50.
Fumbles-Lost1-	1	0-
Penalties-Yards5-40	)	3-3
Time of Possession24:59	9	35:
Jacksonville7 3	0	10—
Kansas City 7 10	3	7—
KC—Kelce 8 pass from Mahor kick), 7:56.		(Butk

Jac—Kirk 10 pass from Lawrence (Patterson kick), 5:04.

KC—FG Butker 50, 14:09.

KC—Kelce 1 pass from Henne (Butker

KC—Kelce 1 pass from Henne (Bufker kick), 3:54.

Jac—FG Patterson 41, :27.

KC—FG Butker 50, :08.

Jac—Eflenne 4 run (Patterson kick), 11:49.

KC—Valdes-Scantling 6 pass from Mahomes (Butker kick), 7:08.

Jac—FG Patterson 48, :25.

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

BISHING—Lacksonville Etienne 10.

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

RUSHING—Jacksonville, Etienne 10-62, Hasty 4-36, Lawrence 3-26, Kirk 1-18, Agnew 1-2. Kansas City, Pacheco 12-95, McKinnon 11-25, Toney 1-14, Mahomes 3-8, Moore 1-3, Gray 1-0, Henne 1-(minus 1).

PASSING—Jacksonville, Lawrence 24-39-1-217. Kansas City, Mahomes 22-30-0-195, Henne 5-7-0-23.

RECEIVING—Jacksonville, Kirk 7-52, ZJones 5-83, Engram 5-31, Etienne 3-18, Agnew 2-5, M.Jones 1-21, Hasty 1-7. Kansas City, Kelce 14-98, Toney 5-36, Smith-Schuster 2-29, Gray 1-27, Ju.Waston 1-12, Pacheco 1-6, Valdes-Scantling 1-6, Bell 1-4, Moore 1-0.

MISSED FIELD GOALS—None.

MISSED FIELD GOALS—None.

#### Girls' wrestling

## Saturday

PRAIRIE TITLE TOURNAMENT
At Cedar Rapids Prairie
Teams — 1. Cedar Falls 206, 2. C.R. Prairie
202, 3. C.R. Kennedy 173, 4. Western Dubuque
125, 5. (tie) Dubuque Senior and Linn-Mar
114, 7. (tie) C.R. Jefferson and Dubuque
Hempstead 106, 9. lowa City High 95, 10.
Dubuque Wahlert 61, 11. lowa City Liberty
57, 12. Waterloo West 37, 13. C.R. Washington
20, 14. lowa City West 12.
Championship matches
100 pounds — Myah Rausch (CRP) dec.

Championship matches

100 pounds — Myah Rausch (CRP) dec.
Natalie Blake (CF), 5-0; 105 (round robin) – 1.
Lauren Whitt (CF), 2. Sunsha Pierre (CRJ);
110 — Hope Chiattello (CF) pinned Kenedy
Stolk (DS), 1:16; 115 — Hannah Reel (DS) major dec. Olivia Hallam (CRK), 15-2; 120 — Ally
Jelinek (LM) pinned Destin Vheopner (CF),
3:00; 125 — Mackenzie Childers (CRP) pinned
Apryl Halsor (CF), 1:52; 130 — Claire Brown
(ICH) pinned Anna Johnson (CF), 5:31; 135 —
Ayla Osterkamp (DH) dec. Hayley Setrum
(LM), 4-3; 140 — Jade Hynek (CRP) pinned
Sarah Roling (WD), 3:53; 145 — Jolee Strohmeyer (DS) pinned Claire Hynek (CRP),
3:16; 155 — Erika Brokovoich (CRP) dec.
Josie Jecklin (WD), 3-2 TBI; 170 — Joscelyn
Stricker (CRK) dec. Luisa Meade (CRP),
6-3; 190 —Ella Brown (CRK) pinned Chioe
Heefner (CRP), 1:50; 235 —Adriana Shepherd (WD) dec. Katelyn Brokus (DH), 4-3.

#### **Boys' wrestling**

#### Saturday CLYDE BEAN DUALS At Iowa City High

At lowa City High
Pool A results

lowa City High 50, C.R. Xavier 24
C.R. Kennedy 47, West Liberty 30
lowa City High 69, West Liberty 12
Clear Creek Amana 51, C.R. Kennedy 18
lowa City High 39, Clear Creek Amana 33
C.R. Xavier 58, West Liberty 24
C.R. Xavier 58, C.R. Kennedy 33
Clear Creek Amana 54, West Liberty 21
lowa City High 61, C.R. Kennedy 13
Clear Creek Amana 45, C.R. Xavier 19
Pool B results

Dubuque Hempstead 67, Oskaloosa 9

Dubuque Hempstead 67, Oskaloosa 9 Mount Vernon 70, Muscatine 9 Dubuque Hempstead 56, Columbus/ WMU/LT 15

WMU/LT 15
Mount Vernon 78, Oskaloosa 6
Mount Vernon 66, Columbus/WMU/LT 9
Muscatine 45, Oskaloosa 28
Dubuque Hempstead 64, Muscatine 11
Columbus/WMU/LT 54, Oskaloosa 21
Mount Vernon 39, Dubuque Hempstead 31
Columbus/WMU/LT 54, Muscatine 22

#### Boys' bowling

#### Friday METRO/IOWA CITY Cedar Falls 3,179, C.R. Xavier 2,911 Cedar Falls — Jackson Saterlee 277-463. C.R. Xavier — Matt Simoneau 236-411.

AREA Decorah 2,676, Forest City 2,567

Decorah — Cade Averhoff 202-403. Girls' bowling

Friday

METRO/IOWA CITY

Cedar Falls 2,579, C.R. Xavier 2,162 Cedar Falls — Anna Frahm 234-461. C.R. Xavier — Miranda Nolte 179-314. AREA Decorah 2,375, Forest City 2,238

#### Decorah - Katie Einck 193-385. Women's swimming

IOWA COLLEGES Iowa 131, Vanderbilt 131

Saturday

Friday LARRY WIECZOREK INVITATIONAL At Iowa City lowa winners Women's 200 — Lasarah Hargrove, 23.79. Men's 200 — Khullen Jefferson, 21.07.

#### **Junior hockey**

College track

USHL Friday

Cedar Rapids 6, Green Bay 2 Dubuque 2, Des Moines 1 Waterloo 5, Chicago 4 Team USA 5, Muskegon 4 Madison 4, Youngstown 2 Fargo 3, Sioux Falls 1 Tri-City 4, Omaha 0

#### **Pro basketball**

#### NBA Friday

Orlando 123, New Orleans 110 Atlanta 139, New York 124 Golden State 120, Cleveland 114 Dallas 115, Miami 90 L.A. Clippers 131, San Antonio 126 Brooklyn 117, Utah 106 Denver 134, Indiana 111 Sacramento 118, Oklahoma City 113 L.A. Lakers 122, Memphis 121

#### **Pro hockey**

#### NBA Friday Pittsburgh 4, Ottawa 1 Colorado 4, Vancouver 1

Saturday Buffalo 6, Anaheim 3

#### **YOUTH SPORTS**



Sleep is an essential part of any athlete's training regimen. Studies have shown that without "proper sleep, athletes suffer from poorer reaction times, longer recovery times, and worsened performance." (The Gazette)

# Get some sleep

For athletes young and old, performance depends on getting plenty of rest

By Nancy Justis, correspondent

s your young athlete getting enough sleep? When I was a young athlete, there wasn't a TV in every bedroom, a video game on every set, a phone in every hand. The only things I needed to worry about was getting my homework and chores

practices. That's not the case in today's youth competitive sport

done, and being on time for

I watch my two grandsons maneuver their responsibilities on a daily basis and, honestly, I don't know how they do it. They have school, homework, church and home responsibilities

One has a TV in his bedroom, the other a TV just steps away, video games, training on top of practices and games, and yes, personal

I asked the 14-year-old recently how much sleep he thinks he gets each night. His response was "probably seven hours." I said that's not er, compared to those with 72 enough.

"I'm not going to bed at 8:30," he said.

An article by Gordon MacLelland of Working With Parents in Sport noted "Postexercise recovery with extra sleep accelerates the building of muscle, strength and

A Clinical Journal of Sports Medicine study found that adolescents who played a game following a night of fewer than eight hours of sleep were nearly twice as likely to get injured.

endurance. "Without proper sleep, athletes suffer from poorer reaction times, longer recovery times, and worsened performance.

He noted sleep deprivation does not negatively affect aerobic capacity, but it does affect reaction time.

Reduction in reaction time puts athletes at greater risk of injury. A Clinical Journal of Sports Medicine study found that adolescents who played a game after a night of fewer than eight hours of sleep were nearly twice as likely to get injured.

Lack of adequate sleep can have detrimental longterm effects, as well. A study published in the American Academy of Sleep Medicine followed 80 Major League Baseball players over three seasons. Players who scored high for sleepiness were less than 40 percent likely to still percent of players who scored low on sleepiness.

Lack of sleep also impacts mental focus, mood and stress levels. Sleep deprivation is linked to increased levels of the stress hormone cortisol. Lastly, sleep deprivation has been shown to inhibit production of glycogen and carbohydrates that provide a source of energy.

Does more sleep lead to better performance? The short answer is yes.

The recommended amount of sleep for an average adult is seven-to-nine hours per night and they should get 10 hours in the weeks surrounding their training and competition. Adolescents should aim for at least nine hours.

Heavy or deep sleep is important because growth hormones are released during this time and promotes tissue repair and recovery of body and muscles.

Athletes wishing to improve their quality of sleep should follow these tips:

- Follow a regular sleep schedule, seven days a week. The bedroom is only for bedroom activities.
- Make the bedroom dark and quiet. Consider blackout curtains, earplugs to reduce noise and a fan to circulate air while blocking out other noises.
  - Avoid screens.

Nancy Justis is a former competitive swimmer and college sports information director. She is a partner with Outlier Creative Communications. Let her know what you think at njustis@cfu.net

**MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL** 

## Sosa debate isn't going away for Cubs fans or ownership

By Paul Sullivan, Chicago Tribune

f it isn't obvious by now that Tom Ricketts wants no part of a Sammy Sosa reunion, I don't know what else the Chicago Cubs chairman can say to end the discussion.

Except perhaps by shouting: "No Sammy now. No Sammy

The Sosa conundrum won't go away until Ricketts definitively says "not on my watch." Because his family has no intention of selling the Cubs, I can envision his kids answering the same questions about Sosa's status at the 2043 **Cubs Convention in Arlington** 

Instead, Ricketts keeps leaving the door open as if it's totally out of his control. He even said Saturday at the Cubs Convention that perhaps the Cubs and Sosa someday would "find a way that works for everyone."

The Sammy-in-exile saga, which lost steam during the pandemic thanks to the cancellation of the Cubs Convention in 2021 and '22, was front and center again this weekend at the resumption of the annual fan fest.

Last Friday, Ricketts was on stage introducing the newest members of the team's Hall of Fame, teasing the fans without saying their names to help build suspense. Some fans began chanting, "Sam-my, Sam-my.

"Not Sammy," an annoyed Ricketts replied. "He's not even eligible yet.

That's true. According to those involved in the voting process, Sosa won't be eligible until 2024 because of an arbitrary cutoff date the Cubs set. Why they wanted to keep kicking the can down the road on Sosa's eligibility is a question only the Cubs can answer.

Anyway, Ricketts then announced the new Cubs Hall of Famers, Mark Grace and Shawon Dunston, both of whom were Sosa's teammates in the 1990s. Dunston retired after the 2002 season and Grace retired after 2003. Sosa last played for the Cubs in 2004 and retired after 2007.

Ricketts was asked last weekend during a questionand-answer session with his sister, Laura, "What's the problem with Sammy?" He answered that he sees "both sides" of the debate but had "nothing new to report at the



Former Chicago Cubs outfielder Sammy Sosa, laughing in this 1999 photo, continues to be a hot topic with Cubs fans and ownership, (Associated

end of the day."

It was a meandering way of saying, "Not happening, dude."

Later, another fan pointedly told Ricketts the reason he became a Cubs fan was "watching Sammy Sosa," not because of the current owners. Ricketts answered that the Baseball Hall of Fame voters have an issue with Sosa, who hasn't come close to being elected. He made no mention of performance-enhancing drugs, but it was obvious what that issue was.

Ricketts added that he wants to be "thoughtful" about ending the Cubs' long separation with Sosa and that the story isn't over.

"I don't think the final chapter is written on this," he said.

Apparently the final chapter will be written when Sosa becomes eligible for the Cubs Hall of Fame next year. Will he get in, forcing the Cubs to honor him with a plaque and an invitation to the ceremony?

I later asked Ryne Sandberg, who will have a statue erected in 2024, how he felt about Sosa being honored at Wrigley Field. He sounded in favor of a reunion, assuming Sosa apologized.

But Sandberg then talked about the need to play the game "the right way." He said "respect the game" or play it the right way" 28 times during his Baseball Hall of Fame

Virtually no one believes Sosa will admit to using PEDs at this point, much less apologize for it. That roadblock will not be removed.

MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL

## Wainwright burns to win once more with Cardinals

By Benjamin Hochman, St. Louis Post-Dispatch

or the veteran performer, one last tour. For the rookie performer, a first big gig.

This year provides both for the same person, Adam Parrish Wainwright, the retiring ballplayer who, with hopes of similar pitch execution, will perform his original country songs Monday for 750 people.

'I'm so much more worried about singing than I've ever been about any baseball game my entire life," said Wainwright, who's playing a show benefiting his charity, Big League Impact, at Boondocks Pub in Springfield, Ill.

Asked where the nerves rank from, say, pitching in the low minor leagues to facing to Carlos Beltran at Shea Stadium, Wainwright said, "I'm telling you, I wasn't nervous for any of those. But I know I'll be nervous (on stage), I just

"I'll tell you this: I'm going to go into it expect-

ing to be locked in like I'm pitching, because that's how I get ready for things. So, we'll see if that works.'

We'll have to see if he becomes a singer like Adam Levine or a songwriter like Rufus Wainwright. But in regard to getting locked in, that preparation and dedication is what gave him such a long and strong career. And it's that dire fire — an inner indefatigable wildfire — that has him back for his 19th

He wants to win (another) World Series. And he wants prove his awful September wasn't simply who he is now.

"I think, sometimes, failure is what drives you more than success," said Wainwright, 41, who has 195 career wins. "And I failed and didn't pitch like I should've and could've — and that just drove me crazy. But it's got me sending videos and pictures of me working in front of the mirror to (new pitching coach) Dusty Blake at 10:30 at night. Because



St. Louis Cardinals starting pitcher Adam Wainwright waits with his teammates while being taken out of a National League Wild Card game against the Los Angeles Dodgers in 2021. Wainwright wants another World Series title in his final season. (Los Angeles Times)

I just don't want that to happen again. So I'm just making sure I stay on top and do everything I can to be good.'

There will be pomp. Any time a great Cardinal retires, there are ceremonies and honors and homages (and, of course,

merchandise for sale). But last year, Wainwright saw the symmetry of Albert Pujols emptying the tank and playing otherworldly baseball, all while saying goodbye to baseball.

Talk about a precedent. And setting a tone. 2023 Cardinals. This club That's why "Waino" will

have a sturdy season. He sees how a final run can be done. And for a guy who already pitches every game like it's his last, imagine when he's actually pitching his last

That leads us to the hasn't won a game in the National League Championship Series since 2014 and hasn't won a World Series since 2011, when Wainwright was injured. As Wainwright said Sunday at Winter Warm-up: "It's been a few too many years. We need to do that again."

And he can sure affect that. The Cards are counting on him. They need this guy to thrive within the silo that is

As for the Wainwright confidence, consider that two years ago, he had a 3.05 ERA and finished seventh in the Cy Young voting. And last year, he entered September with a 3.09 ERA. Alas, he exited last year with a 3.71 ERA.

"Expectations are high, right?" said John Mozeliak, the Cardinals president of baseball operations who gave Wainwright a contract extension of around \$17.5 million.

... I think any time you ever want to bet against Adam Wainwright, you're probably making a bad bet.

# OUTDOORS



WILD SIDE | ORLAN LOVE

# A 'BIG' reveal

From the depths of Lake of the Woods, a big fish story

WILLIAMS, Minn. — The deepest mystery of the depths — what lurks there? revealed itself Jan. 13 through a 10-inch hole in the ice atop Lake of the Woods.

With the exception of Doug Reck's three big walleyes, including a 28-incher, our annual ice fishing trip had lacked luster.

The walleyes and saugers we go there to catch had been fewer and smaller than usual. Still, the seven of us — Doug, Jim Brace, Mike Stafford and Phil Steffen, all of Winthrop; Dean Baragary of Monti; and Mike Mullnix and I of Quasqueton — had caught enough in four days for three delicious fish fries.

Unseasonably fine weather, with no precipitation and daily high temperatures around 30 degrees Fahrenheit, almost compensated for the slow fishing, and we were having comfortable fun in heated shacks on the fifth and final day of our visit.

By 9 a.m. I and my shack mates, Jim and Dean, had caught several skinny saugers. Like every other fish I'd caught that week, they put up little resistance as they traveled the 28 feet from the bottom to the ice-covered surface as fast as I could turn the handle of the little spinning reel attached by electrician's tape to my ice fishing rod.

The next bite itself was inauspicious, unheralded by a fish-indicating red mark on my sonar unit, just a "tick" barely felt through the cork handle of my slender graphite rod. The tick triggered a reflex strike that bent my rod tip straight down toward the hole.

The presence at the end of my line would not move, and I'd have thought I was snagged had there been anything on the lake's smooth bottom to snag.

Big fish, I reported to my shack mates, who promptly reeled in their lines to prevent tangles with an uncontrollable



Orlan Love poses with the 40-inch northern pike he caught Jan. 13 through the ice of Lake of the Woods. (Jim Brace)

fish, while I removed my sonar unit's transducer from the hole through which I hoped to land the fish.

Soon the fish noticed the meager pressure I was exerting with my rod tip and began to swim away from it, stripping the line from my reel at an alarming rate. While the fish swam and the drag on my reel screeched, I contemplated my terminal tackle, which consisted of a 3/32 ounce tungsten jig, tied to a short length of 6-pound monofilament leader tied to a minuscule swivel, which was in turn tied to my reel's 6-pound braided main

Needless to say, I was not heartened that three of my notoriously suspect knots stood between me and a fish with the potential to make my week.

The superior weight and strength of the fish soon dashed my initial hope that I'd hooked a big walleye. I next



Dean Baragary of Monti battles a big fish while ice fishing Jan. 10 on Lake of the Woods. The fish turned out to be a 6-pound eelpout. Long considered a rough fish by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, the eelpout was upgraded to gamefish status last year. (Orlan Love/correspondent)

reckoned it too big and strong to be an eelpout. That left sturgeon, muskellunge and northern pike, the latter seeming most likely. Time would tell — if my knots and light tackle held to-

gether

Twice I coaxed the big fish off the bottom, hoping to get it close enough to identify. Twice it made dragscreeching, tacklestraining runs that

The big yellow ruler affixed to one of the shack's walls said it easily exceeded the Minnesota DNR's 40-inch trophy standard, according to which we could have kept the fish had we been so inclined.

threatened to strip all the line from my spool. Only the tight grip of my right hand kept the too-loosely-taped reel from separating from my rod.

On its third ascent the by-then tired and befuddled fish came all the way to the bottom of the transparent ice, permitting its identification as a giant northern pike. As it lay there, its back against the ice, Jim pushed downward with his gaff, allowing me to pull its massive head into the hole.

Jim lifted it out with the gaff, while I dropped my rod and held it still on the wooden floor of the shack.

I borrowed Jim's pliers to remove the jig, which I could not find. It was out of sight in the fish's belly, with only my gossamer line visible among the several hundred fang-like and needlepoint teeth lining the northern's jaws.

Jim snipped the line and photographed me and the fish. The big yellow ruler affixed to one of the shack's walls said it easily exceeded the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources' 40-inch trophy standard, according to which we could have kept the fish had we been so inclined.

Our fun having already been had, we pushed her beak first back into the lake. With a whoosh she dived for the bottom, any curiosity she might have had about what lurks above the ice presumably satisfied.

#### **FISHING REPORT**

This weekly fishing report from the lowa DNR is compiled from information gathered from local bait shops, angler creel surveys and county and state parks staff. You can check the activity of your favorite lake or stretch of river within each district, including which species are being caught, a rating of the bite, as well as a hot bait or lure pattern. Find the full report at iowadnr.gov/fishing/fishing-reports

#### **CEDAR RIVER**

From Nashua to La Porte City, there has been little angling activity with the bump in river levels. Walleye are "good." Most anglers are having good success fishing plastics tipped with a minnow.

#### **PLEASANT CREEK LAKE**

There had been 6 to 8 inches of ice in most areas, but rain may have softened shorelines and other areas so check ice often. The bite has been fairly slow, but picks up toward sunset. Black crappie are reporting "slow," Bluegill are "fair."

#### **IOWA LAKE**

Mostly 6 to 7 inches of ice, but there is some water along shorelines. Remember, no ice is safe ice. Black crappie and bluegill are "fair."

#### **LAKE MACBRIDE**

There is variable ice, soft shorelines and seams, so use caution. Most commonly used areas have 4 to 7 inches of ice, but there has not been much fishing activity the past week. Black crappie are "slow." Try fishing over deeper brush or look for fish suspended 15 to 25 feet down over open water. Bluegill are "fair." Try fishing rock piles in 10-20 feet of water; size is marginal.

For more information, contact the Lake Macbride Fisheries Station, (319) 624-3615.

#### WAPSIPINICON RIVER

There has been little angling activity with the bump in river levels. Walleye are "fair." Most anglers are having good success fishing plastics tipped with a minnow.

### MANCHESTER DISTRICT STREAMS

With the recent rainfall events, interior rivers are up and dirty. Lakes in the Cedar Falls/ Waterloo area have been slow to fair for panfish. Ice averages are around six inches; use extreme caution wherever one goes. Trout streams are receding from recent rainfall but should be good by the upcoming weekend.

For further information contact your local bait shop for the most recent up-to-date information. For more information, contact the Manchester Hatchery, (563) 927-3276.

#### NORTH PRAIRIE LAKE

Anglers are catching trout, bluegill and crappie.

Black crappie are "fair." Try a waxworm tipped on an ice fishing jig or use a dead stick tipped with a live crappie minnow.
Bluegill also are "fair." Use a waxworm tipped on an ice fishing jig. Rainbow Trout are "fair." Try jigging flashy jigs. You need a valid fishing license and paid trout fee to fish for or possess trout.

#### MISSISSIPPI RIVER

People are all over the board on backwater ice fishing with some good ice and some bad ice reported. Lots of district ramps have opened but ice flows are present near ramps at times. The lowa DNR ramp has large ice chunks on it and is unusable. If you have angling questions, please call the Bellevue Fisheries Management Station, (563) 880-8781.

**Pool 12** — Yellow perch are "good." Small yellow perch are being reported with an occasional keeper. Some anglers are using minnows on tip down rigs for best results.

**Pool 13** — Rainbow trout are "excellent." The Bellevue kids trout pond is open and vegetation free. It is a nice safe place to fish with kids on warmer winter days. If you plan on keeping fish please keep only two fish per child.

# Minnesota DNR leader says funding needed

**By Dennis Anderson,** Minneapolis Star Tribune

Appointed Department of Natural Resources commissioner in 2019 by Gov. Tim Walz, Sarah Strommen is the first woman to lead the conservation agency.

In the interview below Strommen, now reappointed by Walz, looks back at recent conservation successes and also at challenges that lie ahead.

The interview has been edited for length and clarity.

Q: Did Gov. Walz call you into his

office to let you know you were being reappointed and what he wanted you to do in the next four years?

A • We had an informal conversation. One of the governor's goals, for example, is to ensure Minnesota is the best state for kids to grow up. In our conversation, I also discussed what's on my plate.

Q. Which is ...?
A. The top item is continuing our work to ensure the future of conservation and outdoor recreation funding.
The citizens group we put together in recent

years developed a fourpronged plan. Some of these ideas we hope to implement within a year or so. Others will take time. There is no single solution. • What's the first

• step?
• Optimizing the
• funding we have,
en route to achieving
at the end of four years
a more stable source of
funding, when perhaps
a larger portion of our
budget will come from
the General Fund. An-

ment a state excise tax on outdoor gear.

• Future conservation funding is a

other idea is to imple-

challenge because projections show a decline in hunting and fishing participation. Won't that falloff be accelerated if you raise license fees, as some have suggested? Or, as another example, increase state park fees?

• We don't want
• to get to a point
where we price people
out of the outdoors.

Is the DNR hav-

Is the DNR having success recruiting more people to outdoors activities, including hunting and fishing? Or have those efforts stalled?

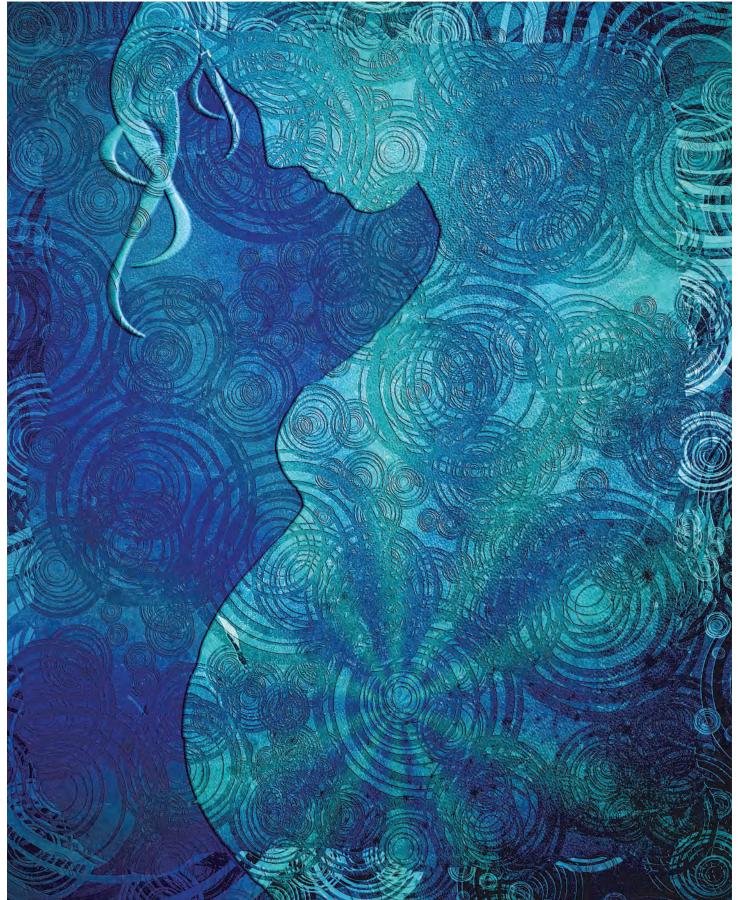
A • Connecting people to the out-

doors is a personal priority of mine. There's clearly an educational benefit to being active outdoors, not only to individuals but to communities and the state.

• Hunting and fishing and fishing and fishing licenses are the backbones of DNR funding. Is the DNR improving conditions for hunters and anglers to encourage more participation?

A • In some cases the • opportunities for fishing and hunting are better now than they were four years ago, and in other cases, maybe not.

# INSIGHT



Adobe Stock

# Help or harm?

GUEST COLUMN | ELIZABETH FELDMAN

# Crisis pregnancy centers use shame and deceit to manipulate the vulnerable

t age 10, I found myself volunteering at an anti-abortion center after my mom signed me up as part of my homeschool curriculum. It happened after she found me reading ahead in my school materials about how our bodies develop and puberty.

This so-called "crisis pregnancy center" used deceit and shame to manipulate vulnerable people looking for health care. Many people who walked into its doors were completely unaware of the center's mission. For six months, I listened to medically untrained staff say everything and anything to keep women from having abortions.

If they wouldn't listen to the center's religiously laced propaganda, staff threatened to violate their privacy by calling family members or partners to expose the person's pregnancy and that they were considering abortion. These women were only seeking information and possibly help. The staff considered themselves to be heroic soldiers in the army of Christ.

For months, I saw firsthand the misleading tactics and intentional manipulation of pregnant people by the crisis pregnancy center. No one should be tricked, coerced, shamed or forced into giving birth if they don't want to. Not then, and certainly not now.

Currently, I'm worried more Iowans are going to be fooled by these anti-abortion centers. Iowa politicians in power want to ban abortion. Now that the U.S. Supreme Court has overturned federal protections for abortion and the Iowa Supreme Court erased Iowa's constitutional protections for abortion, we are on the fast track to an abortion ban. It could happen, through the Legislature or through the courts, but our protections will be gone.

As politicians work diligently to outlaw abortion, they tell Iowans that they are funding sexual and reproductive health care. That's not true. They are funding crisis pregnancy centers. Earlier this year, politicians approved

► FELDMAN, PAGE 4C

CONDITION OF THE STATE | KIM REYNOLDS

## MOMS program can help connect pregnant women with support

Note: This is an excerpt from Gov. Kim Reynolds' Condition of the State address on Jan. 10. We invited the governor's office to provide a guest column supporting the MOMS program but received no response.

A s you can already tell, much of the focus of tonight's speech is on our children. On how we set them up for a fulfilling and productive life.

But that task doesn't start when they're in grade school. It begins when life does, before the child is even born.

That's why I've fought so hard in the courts to make sure that this legislative body can do what it so clearly has the power to do: protect the unborn.

It's also why we created the MOMS program last year. When fully operational, this statewide network of nonprofits will connect women with pregnancy support services, including safety net resources, housing assistance and recovery and mental health treatment.

It sends a powerful mes-

sage: that a pro-life state is one that surrounds every person involved in a pregnancy — born and unborn, mother and father — with protection, love and support.

Every woman facing an unplanned pregnancy deserves to know she is worthy of this, that she is not alone. Just ask Sarah Hurm.

When she was 26 and a single mother to three, Sara found out she was pregnant with No. 4. Her first reaction was to break down in tears under the stress: How would she ever make it work? What would people say?

Looking for help, she called the father, who told her they needed to be "responsible adults." To him, that meant abortion.

Feeling like she had no choice, she scheduled an appointment where she took the first pill to induce a chemical abortion.

Immediately, she was filled with regret. She had heard the baby's heartbeat, and the sound replayed in

► REYNOLDS, PAGE 3C



**24-HOUR DORMAN**TODD DORMAN

# Republican crusade against kids continues

S o the Republicans' crusade against transgender kids, and school districts such as Linn-Mar that offer those kids support, is now out in paperback.

Its title is sort of dry, House File 9. But it's a real page-

Under the bill, Linn-Mar's policy of creating a support plan for transgender students — while leaving it up to those students as to whether their parents are informed — would be prohibited. There could be no plan to shield them from bullying and harassment without parental permission.

No school employee could "willfully withhold information" from parents if they know a student is transgender or is transitioning. Lawmakers would turn trusted teachers into informants, cutting off a support system at school for marginalized kids who desperately need it.

ately need it.

This is all done in the name of "parents' rights." Never mind if a kid knows their home situation better than school officials or lawmakers under the Golden Dome of Wisdom, now the Midwest subsidiary of DeSantis, Inc. As U.S. Rep. Ashley Hinson said often during the campaign, kids "belong to parents." Belongings don't have rights.

In an ideal world, kids should feel comfortable coming out to their parents. I wish they all could. But the world is often far less than ideal for transgender kids.

"There are some parents out

► DORMAN, PAGE 4C



TO A CANDID WORLD
ALTHEA COLE

## Fact-check on private school accusations

probably won't endear myself to my journalism colleagues for writing this, but it is a fact that I am not a fan of fact-checking. My brother, who's almost as smart as I am, put it best many moons ago, when he surmised that a fact-checker "controls the context around the plain".

text around the claim."

The guy has a point. A handful of people could research the same exact claim and each assign it a different rating based on the context within which they review it. With the fact-checker's own perspective playing such a large role in the overall determination, it's not that difficult for a fact-check to look less like a tool of reporting and more like an opinion piece.

That theory, however, makes fact-checking right up my alley as an opinion writer. So I'm going to wade in here and examine a claim that's been thrown around quite a bit during these last (and first) two weeks of the state legislative session as the battle rages over the Students First Act, which, if passed, will create Education Savings Accounts. ESAs allow an equal portion of per-pupil state education dollars to follow an Iowa student to an educational setting of their choice, public or

nonpublic. It's a simple claim, with a

► COLE, PAGE 4C

## QUOTES OF THE WEEK

"A lot of that community engagement was at the front end."

Cedar Rapids School Board President David Tominsky, explaining why the board is not releasing the names of three finalists for the superintendents' position. A final pick could be announced this week

"This is just the first step in giving educational freedom to lowa's students and parents."

Gov. Kim Reynolds, in a statement after committees in the House and Senate approved her plan to provide publicly funded scholarships to private school students

"I don't know where we're going to get another \$341 million to put into this program, except by shortchanging the public schools again."

**Democratic Sen. Herman Quirmbach,** ranking
member of the Senate
Education Committee, who
opposes private school
scholarships

#### "This looks fantastic. It's a great step."

Marion City Council
Member Sara Mentzer,
reacting to plans for
moving the caboose in City
Square Park to a pocket
park along the Grant Wood
Trail

"It is a very rare event. Something that you don't normally see, of course, in January."

Meteorologist Tim Gross, discussing tornadoes that touched down in Eastern lowa on Monday

"It's not very often kids have someone who looks like them who they can work closely with and who can encourage and support them to be their best self."

Monique Clark, who facilitates the African American Awareness Program at Taft Middle School, discussing its benefits

#### **COMMUNITY LETTERS**

### lowans need school choice

The Iowa Legislature is considering school choice legislation that would provide opportunities for more students to attend private schools. If your child's public school is performing poorly, school choice is just what you need.

Using private organizations to provide public services is common and, in most cases, uncontroversial. Medicare recipients use private hospitals, for example. Students use publicly funded scholarships at private colleges.

School choice, on the other hand, is controversial because public school teachers have so much political influence. They want to protect public schools for the pay and the extraordinary job security.

If you're on the side of the teachers, then, by all means, you should oppose school choice. If you're on the side of the students, however, you should let parents choose the best schools for their children.

George Olmsted Cedar Rapids

### Tax dollars for communist schools?

I totally agree with The Gazette's Jan. 14 guest column by Norman Sherman. Would the state be so willing to support a private Muslim school? An atheist school? A communist school? What's good for the goose is good for the gander. Tax dollars are for public schools!

Renee Schultz Tipton

### Cole reduces funding debate to single issue

In her Jan. 15 column, Althea Cole asks us to consider that public dollars already flow to private entities. And if that were the only argument against the educational voucher bill moving its way through the Legislature, then she might have a point. She's right that public dollars often flow to private companies, for better or worse. But there are typically regulations and oversight when they do so (or there should be). The voucher bill specifically includes an antiregulation clause, meaning



Editorial cartoonist Joe Heller is based in Green Bay, Wis. Comments: Hellertoon.com

that private schools can vacuum up public money while continuing to discriminate against LGBTQ students or those who need educational accommodations. I'm all for considering multiple views on an issue, but reducing this one to what Cole argues isn't very honest.

Mike Schluckebier Iowa City

## **Education plan makes** governor's intent clear

Gov. Reynolds and her compatriots in the Legislature have come up with a plan they say will improve both public and private schools. Briefly summarized, the plan is to reduce money available for one and increase funding for the other.

Perhaps I'm just slow but I don't see how that will work. Seems to me to be just another bit of Republican fantasy. Similar to the "tax cuts pay for themselves" Republican domains

The underlying fact here is that the vast majority of private schools in Iowa are Christian schools. I think the intent of their proposal clear.

Scott Byram r Iowa City

## Governor's plan will be devastating

I just wanted to say that I appreciate the information that Mr. Covington gave us (Jan. 11, "Whose priorities for Iowa?") and that I am

very concerned about this situation. I do not want my tax dollars being given to private schools.

I want to see our public schools be number one in the nation again like they were when I went to school. This is too important for our Legislature to decide. Let the people of Iowa make the decision on a ballot referendum. This is another sad attempt by Republicans to privatize a public institution for profits. I'm tired of my tax dollars benefiting people that have more money than I do.

I also believe that this idea is conflicting with the separation of church and state as a large number of private schools are religiously affiliated. I have seven grand-children that attend public school in Iowa. I believe if the governor's plan gets passed it will be devastating for the future of public schools.

Bradley Thomas Monroe

## Finally, the end of public schools

Finally, we're going to get rid of public education.

We don't need to have everyone educated, only the elite. We don't need educated workers. Anyone can run the robots which make everything now. We don't need workers; just bosses. Future leaders can go to expensive special education schools to learn how to boss.

Getting rid of public schools gets rid of those silly school diversions like music, art and sports. Think of the money saved by shuttering gyms and football fields. Too many kids go to school and college only to be the night manager of some fast food joint. Certainly the average worker doesn't need to be able to read and write. Machines do that.

And teachers: arrogant part timers who would be better suited for digging ditches. All those school staffers would be useful doing menial work. Side benefit: we wouldn't need all those immigrants to do those jobs.

Plato nailed it in about 375 BC when he considered only philosopher kings, not just anybody, to be worthy of leading. Future leaders would be chosen early by their rich parents to be schooled thusly to be philosopher kings.

And in the 1848 "Communist Manifesto," it was absurdly proposed that the state provide "free education for all children in public schools." So clearly public education is a Communist plot to overturn the natural order of things where the rich dominate the poor.

But we're waking up and finally destroying our outdated and useless public schools.

> David Overby Peosta



GUEST COLUMN | KURT ULLRICH

# Sculpting new, snowy life from the grays of winter

n a recent cold morning I was awakened by the raspy calls of dozens of jet-black American crows, once again in a frenzy in a field in front of my house. I don't know why they gather here, and I try not to attach any meaning to it, though the scene of black birds swarming in front of skeletal trees up by the road feels like I've wandered onto the set of an old Hitchcock movie.

Snow in ditches around here has turned black. My first thought was that microscopic residue from tire-wear caused it. Wrong. The sooty blackness on top of snow in ditches comes from black Iowa topsoil swirling about from nearby farm fields, which is what a friend first suggested, a friend much brighter than I, a woman, of course. Have I mentioned how much I love women? A woman once said to me, "Talking to you is like talking to one of my girlfriends." That, my fellow travelers, is a compliment of the highest order. Men, take note.

For just a little while a week or so ago the small amount of snow around here was perfect for making snow sculptures. I gave up on snowmen when I was 12, turning instead to snow-people and snow-animals. On this day I wasn't wearing gloves, so I quickly threw together what I call my five-minute cat, one already returning to a watery state when I snapped the photo. Ashes to ashes. Some of you might properly and correctly guess the cat's name. Luna.

I'm running headlong with this prose, as usual, not really sure if there is any point to be made, never sure where it's going. I conclude nothing, offer no advice, no melodrama, no admonitions, no politics, yet here we are, you and I, just waiting to meet, maybe on a quiet street, or in a busy grocery store, or at an adjoining table in a simple restaurant, places where we can chat, share a moment or two of smiling sweetness and, despite likely never meeting again, warm ourselves, away from our aloneness.

Today at a nearby grocery I handed a young cashier some cash, saying, "Check my work: I'm a local high school grad." He laughed. Despite being many decades apart, we chatted briefly about our shared experiences, then I said, "Even if you didn't get a good education, I hope you had a good experience." He stopped, looked me straight in the eye and said, "I didn't have either one." I never know what to make of these encounters. Sometimes I think I should simply keep my mouth shut, however these brief interactions with others often remind me that we never truly know or understand the lives of those we meet.

Here in the bleak midwinter, under a cold, gray sky, it's a time for listening to sad music and I've resurrected one of my favorites, a song written by Jamie Cullum and Clint Eastwood called "Gran Torino." Performed on piano and sung by Cullum, the song gives me great pause, helping me to explore the beauty and subtlety of deep grief and intense longing, longing for the company of those who have gone before. The lyrics ache and whisper, "Your world is nothing more than all the tiny things you've left behind."

Kurt Ullrich lives in rural Jackson County. His book "The Iowa State Fair" is available from the University of Iowa Press.

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**GUEST COLUMN | KURT ROGAHN** 

# Public dollars for private schools won't help education

y stomach turns at hearing bloviation about "failing public schools." It worsens as I read Gov. Kim Reynolds' desire to divert public tax dollars to private schools. This legislative steamroller must stop. Success for "Education Savings Accounts" ultimately could rout Iowa's economic development.

Granted, in her Condition of the State message, Reynolds tried sounding sympathetic to children. 'Some kids may have ambitions and abilities that require a unique educational setting; others may experience bullying or have special needs." However, shift-ing \$7,598 per student to Education Savings Accounts — no matter the family's wealth will bleed Iowa public schools, financially, educationally, and socially, diminishing so many more kids' opportunities.

Financially, stripping this near \$7,600 sum from a public school still leaves it with fixed costs. A teacher's salary won't fall proportionately per student lost (nor should it). The school still is on the hook for heat and lights and bus fuel. Nor can you trust, in the long run, stated promises to compensate. Moreover, Education Savings Accounts help no one in wide swaths of Iowa: 40 percent of Iowa counties have no private schools.

Though Reynolds acknowledges most Iowa schools have no problem providing a strong foundation in reading, writing and math. "there are some schools that consistently test in the bottom 5 percent that, for whatever reason, need more help. Aha, as if such scores

were a mystery.

One thing I learned in 10 years as Gazette education writer: Standardized tests can show you year-to-year progress, when talking individuals or within a group. Compare school against school, however, and test scores say more about parents' income than school quality. Don't just take my word. As education historian and analyst Diane Ravitch, a former U.S. Assistant Secretary of Education, blogged several years ago, "Scores on standardized tests are highly correlated with family income, over which teachers have no control." Ravitch has written whole, worthwhile books about this.

In Cedar Rapids, test scores are particularly high in a northeastside elementary school where children of wellpaid avionics engineers

Take that school's staff, however, and swap it with that of an inner-city southwest side school where low family income qualifies nearly every student for free lunch: Would next year's test scores in either school change?

That's not to say

high expectations, competent instruction, and strong curriculum make no difference.

Yet it's a challenge to compensate within the classroom for what takes place outside it. Middle- and upperincome homes more likely have books in them (so reading comes easier there). Parents of means take their children on summer vacations, some of which involve museums or historic sites. By contrast, some (not all) low-income children never venture outside their city of birth (limiting their outlook), their family life is more likely unstable, they can grow up unused to regular mealtimes and bedtimes (yielding an altered sense of time), and they more likely endure moving from house to house as unpaid rent comes due. Children in poverty live a hard life. Their schools need more resources — not punishment.

Yet politicians tout "school choice" as fostering "competition, as if a school were like a factory or a grocery store. Factories and groceries can control inputs. Public schools cannot. Follow through on Reynolds' plan, and families leaving public schools will be the ones whose parents show up for conferences and concerts and sports events, who contribute to the performing arts and sports booster clubs, who help maintain Iowa stability, educational performance, and values.

Though Reynolds cites "special needs" in shifting dollars to private schools, don't kid yourself, with private schools less likely to provide for special needs. Meanwhile, as public schools' scores and co-curricular activities wither, those who wrongly use test results as a cudgel will get to say, "See?

Only they don't see. Nor do a lot of other folks to whom I've tried to explain this stuff for

Althea Cole's excellent Jan. 14 column exploring today's impurity in public spending — namely, public dollars already fund church-run Head Start programs and support Pell grants awarded those attending churchaffiliated colleges and universities — made me rethink this issue, particularly when Cole warns, "Be careful what you wish for.

Still, I turn that right back at Reynolds and her wealthy out-ofstate supporters. Public dollars for private K-12 schools increases race- and class-based separation. Always has.

Always will. Resulting conditions in public schools cannot enhance Iowa's economic development. Be careful what you wish for.

Kurt Rogahn of Cedar Rapids retired in 2017 from a 42-year including nearly 27 years with The Gazette (1978 to 2005). He is now a volunteer with multiple boards and organizations



**EDITORIAL FELLOW | AUSTIN WU** 



A crop duster flies over a field Aug. 4, 2011, off of Highway 92 east of Washington. (The Gazette)

# Missing the field for crops: talk on aerial application

few months ago, I talked with a representative from the National Agricultural Aviation Association, which bills itself as the "voice of the aerial application industry" — or the use of aircraft to apply pesticides, seeds, or fertilizer. As a child (perhaps partially as the result of growing up with both parents working at what was then Rockwell Collins) I was fascinated with aircraft, especially smaller, propeller-driven general aviation, so this discussion was of some personal interest to me. It centered on a few key claims about the benefits of using aircraft for agricultural purposes:

• By improving yields, aerial application of fertilizers and pesticides can reduce the need for forests and wetlands to be tilled over

• Aerial application of fertilizers and pesticides is an integral component in no-till farming, carbon sequestration and environmentally conscious agriculture more generally.

• New technologies in aerial spraying eliminate most of the externalities once associated with it, like toxic pesticides drifting over to human settlements, resulting in adverse impacts to human and environmental health.

These claimed benefits are especially salient in Iowa, given the environmental impact agriculture has had on the state thus far. Iowa is one of the most ecologically altered areas in the United States. having lost 99 percent of its prairies, 95 percent of its wetlands, and 75 percent of its forests since 1850 — mostly to agricultural cultivation. Issues abound with erosion of topsoil, resulting in water pollution and the loss of fertile soil, resulting in reduced agricultural productivity. If agricultural

application could mitigate both of these challenges, surely this would be of great benefit to the

However, perception of agricultural experts at the University of Iowa is much more mixed, ranging from straightforward rebuttals to larger questions about default modalities of thought in American agriculture as a whole.

In correspondence with. Christopher Jones, for example, he noted that even with great advances in agricultural productivity in recent decades, of which aerial application technologies are a part of, there has been no significant move to restore natural lands in Iowa, or the "Corn Belt" more broadly (indeed, I have previously written about the link between the dearth of preserved land and agriculture in Iowa for the Iowa City Press-Citizen).

Furthermore, even with the industry representative admitting some past challenges with the inadvertent distribution of aerially applied pesticides, all of the people I reached out to noted continuing externalities associated with aerial application, including fish kills from fungicides and human illness and poisoning from exposure to aerially applied pesticides. With investigation into aerial application incidents only happening reactively to the reporting of issues, the scale of aerial pesticide exposure in Iowa is largely unknown.

However, perhaps the largest counterpoint was that when it came to framing aerial application as an environmentally friendly method (vis-à-vis erosion mitigation and land preservation), aerial application advocates were missing the forest for the trees — or perhaps in this case, missing the

field for crops. Jones noted that by far the largest contributor of greenhouse gas emissions from agriculture in Iowa — which, in turn, is the single largest source of greenhouse gas emissions in the state — is not diesel fuel, kerosene, or avgas used to power tractors or propel aircraft. It's actually nitrous oxide from the application of nitrogen fertilizer, and methane from livestock, which are in turn fed from crops grown with nitrogen fertilizer. With 300 and 80 times more warming power than carbon dioxide, respectively, it does not matter what method by which the fertilizer is applied, from a tractor, an aircraft or otherwise — its direct impact, and the wider system it supports, still has the same adverse effect on the environment. So long as aerial application was used in the service of increasing corn cultivation, using nitrogen fertilizer produced with natural gas, there was simply no way for it to be truly environmentally friendly.

When initially planning this article, my focus was much narrower, such as toward the potential impacts of the continued use of leaded fuel in piston-engine agricultural aircraft — I did not anticipate the "full answer" to my questions to be a deconstruction of American agriculture writ large. However, with a little more preparation, perhaps I should not have been so naïve. In the European Union, discussions beginning in the early 1990s have resulted in aerial spraying being banned virtually entirely since 2009 "to minimize negative effects for human and environmental health' and "with exceptions granted only under strict conditions.

Austin Wu is a Gazette editorial fellow.

## **Reynolds**/Let's promote strong families

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her mind. It weighed on her when she picked up her children from school. How is this life different from theirs, she wondered. And it weighed on her when she went to bed that night.

The next morning she called the abortion pill reversal hotline, where help is available 24/7. And, thankfully, it was. The staff immediately connected her with a local doctor, who administered a reversal that saved her baby's life.

Today, Sarah volunteers at a pregnancy clinic that provides support to women facing unplanned pregnancies. She shares her story and her compassion with mothers who are facing the same decision she was. She helps give them the support that was

missing for her, support that should be available to every expectant mother.

Sarah and her children, including her son Isaiah who is celebrating his fourth birthday tomorrow, are here with us tonight.

Please join me in recognizing them for their courage to fight for

There's one aspect of Sarah's story I don't want you to miss the father of her son was not there to support her; in fact, he did the

It's impossible to overstate the importance of paternal involvement for mothers and children alike.

One pregnancy support center estimated that 85 percent of their clients would carry their child to term if they had a supportive

Studies show that without a father present, a child is more likely to have behavioral issues, live in poverty and die in infancy. With him, those indicators and others are reversed. Mothers are more likely to receive prenatal care, have a healthy birth and experi-

ence less stress as a parent. Tonight, I'm calling on the legislature to expand the MOMS Program to promote paternal involvement and address the needs of fathers. This new funding would allow us to provide nonprofit grants to assist at-risk dads, as well as mentorship for school-age males. This session, in everything we do, let's promote strong and healthy families.

Kim Reynolds is the governor of Iowa.

# Cole/Facts matter

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tremendous implication: "Private schools have no accountability." I review it from my long-established perspective, which my previous editorials dating back almost 10 months indicate is one that favors ESAs. I make no bones about context here: I'm not trying to prove the claim correct because I have never once believed that it is.

I don't have to work too hard to demonstrate how the notion of private schools being unaccountable is just flat-out wrong. On its map of state regulations for nonpublic schools, the U.S. Department of Education has a sizable list of standards determined by the state of Iowa for accredited nonpublic schools in Iowa. Among them: That nonpublic teachers must hold a license or a certificate for the type of position in which they are employed. Nonpublic schools must maintain adequate staffing. They must have a calendar year of at least 180 days, must have an attendance policy with a minimum number of days of attendance required each quarter, and must establish a policy to address truancy.

Just like in public schools, curriculum standards also must be met by accredited nonpublic schools, which state law requires be presented with a "multicultural, gender-fair approach." Iowa Code 256.11 establishes rules across the board for public and private schools alike: Elementary standards include language arts, social studies, math, science, art, and more. Grades 7 and 8 specify the same, with the exception of replacing traffic safety education with those uncomfortable units on sexually transmitted diseases. By grades 9-12, the requirements get even more detailed. Save for the tiniest exceptions, they are identical between public and accredited nonpublic schools.

Professional development for staff is also required for private schools in Iowa. Iowa Administrative Code carves out specific rules for nonpublic schools in that they must "align with school achievement goals and shall be based on student achievement needs and staff professional development needs." Nonpublic schools are also obligated to include the costs of professional development in their budget.

More rules for private schools exist beyond that. They must keep detailed student records and furnish them when requested. They must fly the American flag and the flag of Iowa on a flagpole. Corporal punishment is dently of the state. Iowa Adminprohibited — no getting rapped on the knuckles by a nun with a ruler. They even have to offer their 17-1/2-year-old students the opportunity to register to

Importantly, state law makes no distinction between public and private schools for requirements reporting child abuse or handling dangerous weapons, including procedures for students suspended or expelled for the possession of such on school grounds.

The point is pretty clear: A



Ann Gale of Grimes listens to a public forum on school vouchers from an overflow area Tuesday at the Iowa Capitol in Des Moines. (Bryon Houlgrave/Freelance)

long and detailed list of state laws and rules exist for the operation of accredited private schools. "Accredited" is an important word, and the most obvious indicator of the fallacy behind the notion that private schools are unaccountable. Prior to meeting ongoing requirements of schools in Iowa, the accreditation process ensures that a school — public or private — has achieved what the state

considers "minimum, uniform requirements" to be established as an educational institution.

The Students First Act requires that any nonpublic school that wishes to open its doors to students using ESA dollars be an accredited school. The accreditation process wouldn't be new to existing nonpublic schools, who already face requirements for certain kinds of assistance.

'In order to get any kind of support — state funding, like for help with transportation, textbooks, Area Education Agencies, you have to be accredited by the state of Iowa," says Jan Doel-linger of Cedar Rapids. After a career spanning 40 years as a teacher and administrator in various Lutheran schools, Doellinger now serves as the assistant to the president for Schools for the Lutheran Church of the Missouri Synod Iowa District East, and is deeply involved in the accreditation process for Lutheran schools in her area.

While private schools may continue to use the Iowa Department of Education's process for becoming accredited, an alternate option was added in 2013 to allow nonpublic schools to obtain accreditation indepenistrative Code outlines criteria for determining and maintaining a list of regional or national organizations "recognized as reliable authorities concerning the quality of education offered by a school." One of the six independent agencies recognized by the state of Iowa is National Lutheran School Accreditation,

Doellinger described the rigorous NLSA accreditation process as an "ongoing cycle" that starts with a committee of school

community members meticulously evaluating itself through a self-study. On-site visits are completed by a diverse team of outside experts who spend several days interviewing parents, students and faculty to confirm that what they observe matches the self-study completed by the school. After that visit, the team of experts will make a formal recommendation about the school's accreditation. The process is repeated every five years.

"Our goal is to meet or exceed state standards," says Doel-linger. Not only are the standards high — the stakes, are, too. Should a Lutheran school's five-year NLSA accreditation process not be completed, or should it reveal processes that are deficient, the school would lose their accreditation. The loss of enrollment and tuition revenue would follow, and the school would surely have to close. To avoid doing so demands a degree of accountability no law or rule could ever aim to do.

That's what critics of school choice seem to be unable to recognize — that accountability exists outside the scope of government oversight. The ultimate accountability private schools face is to the families relying on them to provide a top-quality education to their students. Should they fail in that mission, those families will hold them accountable by taking their children — and their education dollars — elsewhere. Educators like Doellinger

strongly disagree with the characterization that school choice will pit public schools against private schools. No private school is trying to poach students from their local district or tap into a free-flowing well of taxpayer dollars to fill their coffers. School choice is about ensuring that each student has the ability to take advantage of the best learning available, afforded to them through no more or less than their equal share of funding. Should a student find that environment in a private school, will that environment be exempt from accountability? This fact-check renders a verdict of "False."

Comments: 319-398-8266; althea.cole@thegazette.com

## Feldman/Keep abortions legal

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\$500,000 in taxpayer money to fund these anti-abortion centers. They sold it to their constituents, as their answer to supposedly help struggling families. Now, the governor is asking for another \$1.5 million.

Iowa's More Options for Maternal Support, or MOMS program, mirrors a Texas program called Alternatives to Abortion. It was created under the leadership of then Deputy **Executive Commissioner** of the Texas Health and **Human Services Commis**sion Kelly Garcia, who now oversees the Iowa Department of Health and Human Services.

Texas lawmakers provided \$5 million in start up funding its first year. Almost two decades later, it now receives \$100 million a year, despite being riddled with fraud. It has yet to show results because it lacks any oversight. Iowa politicians liked the program so much, they invited Texas officials here to replicate it.

Iowa elected officials are now leveraging the program in their march to ban abortion, saying it will help provide Iowans with necessities like formula and diapers and other support. Just to be clear, these anti-abortion centers are not licensed or subject to any kind of government oversight.

My personal experiences at the center had an effect on my view of sexuality and abortion, leaving me terrified of sex and men because of the misleading and inaccurate information they spewed at both me and the unknowing people who came to them seeking help. I made rules for myself out of fear. I had to dress a certain way. I couldn't be friendly with men because it could be mistaken for flirting. And there had to be at least one other person in the room with me if I was talking to a man.

It wasn't until I was older and exposed to more It is critical that Iowa ed to question the values that had been ingrained in me by both my family and the anti-abortion center.

Things changed when I fell in love. He was 18, a year older than me. We were friends for two years before falling in love and eventually lived together. It took me more than two years to get over the guilt of having sex outside of marriage.

Four years later, shortly after we broke up, I found out I was pregnant.

the crisis pregnancy center, unwanted pregnancy was a punishment from God for sinful behavior. I literally stayed up at night agonizing over the fact I might go to hell. I carried a lot of shame and releasing myself from it was something that I had to put effort into overcoming.

I prayed a lot. I slowly but steadily came to terms with the fact that the religion I had deeply committed myself to didn't make sense to me. Nor did the false ideals that the anti-abortion center had ingrained in me. They weren't loving or accepting, and I didn't want to be a part of it.

I chose to have an abortion. After having an ultrasound, I was told my pregnancy was ectopic. In layman's terms, the fertilized egg had attached to the outside of my uterus, which can be life-threatening. There was no chance of survival for the embryo. I had already made the decision to have an abortion. This news just cemented it. It also helped ease some of the guilt I felt.

I have come to realize with time how traumatic and unnecessary that guilt was in the first place. Whether medically necessary or not, my decision to seek an abortion was a personal choice, made for personal reasons. No one else had any business shaming or guilting me.

My family, church, and entire upbringing pressured me. Doing what was best for me was a painful decision, one not made lightly. But what if I hadn't had any options? What if I had been forced to carry my non-viable pregnancy to the point that I died just to uphold the religious beliefs of others? Does that sound extreme? If we continue to treat

people's right to reproductive health care as an issue of morality or politics, healthy young women will lose control over their bodies and futures. diverse people that I start-does not become the next Texas by banning abortion and rapidly growing an expensive program that financially and publicly props up these antiabortion centers.

Iowans, join me this spring by telling our elected officials- those elected to represent us-that we need to keep abortion legal in Iowa, not fake health centers that feed people misinformation that is often medically inaccurate.

Elizabeth Feldman lives in Des

## Dorman/A supportive adult can head off suicide threat

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there who are not going to do the right thing when they get that information," said Keenan Crow, director of policy and advocacy for One Iowa, an LGBTQ advocacy group. "And we know that because just off the top of my head, about 10 percent of our youth population here in the U.S. is LGBTQ identified, but about 40 percent of our homeless youth population is LGBTQ identified. And that number goes even higher for trans folks, in terms of their disproportionate portion there.

'So it's, it's a very dangerous thing to out a kid. The information about someone's sexual orientation, or their gender identity, should be controlled, the flow of that information should be controlled by that person, regardless of what their age is, what their sex is, what their race or socioeconomic status, none of those things actually change that principle," Crow said.

Turning adults at school into snitches rather than a possible source of support is also harmful.

"The one thing we know that dramatically decreases risk of suicidality for LGBTQ folks is having one supportive adult in their lives, just one, that's all that it takes to knock off a huge percentage of suicide risk. And, in many cases, a teacher is that one person, and this would effectively take that away," Crow said.

Crow cited a recent study from the Trevor Project, a group dedicated to preventing suicide among LGBTQ youth. Among those surveyed, 52 percent of transgender and nonbinary youth in Iowa seriously considered suicide during the past year, while 22 percent attempted suicide.

Eighty-seven percent of LG-BTQ kids in Iowa said recent politics negatively affected their lives "sometimes" or "a lot." And 73 percent of LGBTQ youth say they've experienced discrimination.

But that's just how Statehouse Republicans want it. They've declared open season on these kids.

The bill, sponsored by 40 Republicans, fans those political flames. It bans school staff from "encouraging, pressuring or coercing" kids to undergo medical procedures and treatments to affirm a student's gender identity.

"It's written in a way to be inflammatory and divisive and to make accusations that they couldn't possibly backup, because that's not happening, Crow said.

House File 9 is not the only anti-LGBTQ bill on the GOP agenda. House File 8 prohibits any classroom materials or curriculum that discusses sexual orientation or gender identity in grades K-3. Senate File 83 bans lessons pertaining to gender identity through eighth grade. They're similar to Florida's infamous "don't say gay" law.

'It doesn't prohibit the student from coming in and

discussing those (issues) them- making every educator think selves, but we're just trying to go back to saying we're going to let the kids be innocent,' said Rep. Skyler Wheeler, R-Orange City, according to the Des Moines Register.

Kids apparently can't be innocent and also receive ageappropriate lessons about the world as it is and about people living in their communities, perhaps even friends and family. The message is being LGBTQ is wrong and shameful, something that should be hidden away. LGBTQ Iowans should keep quiet and retreat to the shadows because they make old, white conservatives uncomfortable. Their discomfort must be enshrined in state

"This is Iowa." So says the marketing campaign trying to get people to move here. Good

These bills are also designed to do far more than what their plain language indicates. Backers hope to spawn a chilling effect in public schools,

twice about discussing LGBTQ people and issues at any grade level. Otherwise they risk being dragged before the school board to face accusations from the chorus of perpetual outrage, egged on by our so-called

Are lawmakers prepared to own the harm their actions might cause? Of course not. They just know they'll make damn fine applause lines on the campaign trail. Tragic consequences be damned.

Gov. Kim Reynolds famously declared that in Iowa, we know the difference between boys and girls. We also know how to attack kids and make their lives miserable for political gain. Our once proud history of protecting civil rights is a page-turner Republicans refuse to read. Now they're wielding the eraser and a big barrel of whitewash.

Comments: (319) 398-8262; todd.dorman@thegazette.com

# IOWA TODAY



Farm Manager Drew Erickson talks Tuesday about the roller that teams use to naturally terminate cover crops instead of using chemicals at Rodale Institute Midwest Organic Center in Marion. (Savannah Blake photos/The Gazette)

# Organic research hub strives for healthier soil, waterways

Rodale Institute Midwest Organic Center was established in 2019

By Brittney Miller, The Gazette

ARION — In mid-January, the Rodale Institute Midwest Organic Center's 30 acres were in a period of transition. Remnants of crops still marked the fertile ground; some cover crops were beginning to sprout in plots; a tractor was tucked away out of sight.

By growing season, the land in Marion — leased within the Indian Creek Nature Center's Eztel Sugar Grove Farm — will be a buzzing hub of organic agriculture research once again.

The Midwest Organic Center was established in 2019 as the first regional resource center of the Pennsylvania-based Rodale Institute, a nonprofit organization researching organic farming. The institute is especially known for its 40-year trial comparing conventional and organic agriculture.

That legacy is extended at the Midwest Organic Center, where the team researches different organic agriculture techniques. Every plant on the property is grown without any synthetic fertilizers, herbicides or pesticides. The resulting field conditions and crop yields are analyzed and shared with farmers throughout the Midwest.

The team is working toward a future where synthetic fertilizers and chemicals aren't needed in agriculture — one that could improve water quality, bolster human health and still garner profits for farmers.

'It's raining glyphosate on us," farm manager Drew Erickson said, referring to an herbicide used in products like

► ORGANIC, PAGE 4D



Farm Manager Drew Erickson points out rolled rye Tuesday at Rodale Institute Midwest Organic Center in Marion. The rye cover crop is mechanically terminated through the use of a roller, instead of using chemicals.

## I.C. schools explore expanding preschool options

Funding, space needed to offer more programs

By Grace King, The Gazette

IOWA CITY — The Iowa City Community School District is planning to continue expanding its preschool offerings, adding two new preschool programs with before- and after-school care for the 2023-24 school year, Superintendent Matt Degner said. The location of these programs has not yet been decided.

The district also is reach-

ing out to other cities and school districts in Johnson County to seek a vote on

officials in a joint entities

meeting earlier this month to

explore ways 4-year-old pre-

local-option sales tax, with plans to devote 10 percent of revenue to Iowa City schools for preschool programming. Degner and Iowa City school board member Lisa Williams met with other city and school

**Matt Degner** Iowa City superintendent

Local-option sales tax is a voter-approved tax whose revenue is received by counties or cities in Iowa and can be expanded for any lawful purpose. In Johnson County, only the cities of Hills, Lone Tree, Solon, Swisher and West Branch have a localoption sales tax. In certain counties, at least 50 percent of the revenue must be used for

school offered by the district

can be enhanced.

approved after Jan. 1, 2019. The proposal from the district would have each city funding services for children ▶ PRESCHOOL, PAGE 2D

from its jurisdiction. For the measure to be put on a ballot, cities and school districts must have their decision and revenue purpose statements finalized by April, according to an agenda from the joint entities meeting Jan. 9. A group of representatives from each entity will be appointed to work on the edu-

enrolled in the program

cational campaign. The entities involved in the property tax relief if the tax is discussion include the cities of Coralville, Hills, Iowa City, Lone Tree, North Liberty,

# Town's drinking water pollution returns

**EPA** had declared Nichols a Superfund site after testing of shallow wells

By Jared Strong, Iowa Capital Dispatch

NICHOLS — Four years ago, John O'Connell was told the water at his house was finally safe to drink.

For more than a decade, an agricultural company had supplied him and some of his neighbors with bottled water while it attempted to clean the nitrate, herbicides and pesticides from the soil of its former location not far from O'Connell's backyard.

In December 2018, the now-Colorado company sent him a letter with "good news."
It said test-

ing by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources "found the amount of nitrate in the drinking water is now below the Iowa drinking water standard," indicating that there were no more potential health hazards from consuming it.

It said the deliveries of bottled water would cease in two weeks.

O'Connell has been drinking his tap water ever since. The problem is that the amount of nitrate in his water is now higher than it was in that final Iowa DNR test four

Nichols, a town of about 340 southeast of Iowa City, is among an unknown number of smaller communities in the state where residents use individual, shallow wells for their drinking water. Because they are so shallow — usually less than 30 feet deep — the wells are highly susceptible to contamination.

The state doesn't maintain a list of similar Iowa towns, but department officials can recall several in the area of Nichols. One of them was Hills, about 13 miles from Nichols. The city switched to a municipal water supply about 10 years ago. The Iowa DNR had determined that a cache of fireworks — which had been buried after a torrential storm soaked the explosives before its Fourth of July celebration — had contaminated the city's groundwater. The new public water system cost about \$5 million at the time.

But despite the Iowa DNR's recommendation that Nichols also switch to a city-treated water system, the shallow wells remain.

A recent test of O'Connell's water by a county public health department — which he requested at the suggestion of Iowa Capital Dispatch showed that the water has a nitrate concentration that exceeds federal safety standards.

Nitrate limits the amount of oxygen in blood and is particularly dangerous for infants who can suffer from "blue baby syndrome" if they consume too much. It also has been linked to cancers

► NICHOLS, PAGE 8D



# Leader explores how to be 'better together'

By Izabela Zaluska, The Gazette

IOWA CITY — Since being hired to lead Better Together 2030, executive director Cady Gerlach has been "planting a lot of seeds" for potential projects as Johnson County communities work toward a shared future.

Gerlach started in August 2022 to lead the long-term visioning project focused on improving Johnson County, as well as help implement the "All in Vision" plan.

The "All in Vision" plan focuses on five pillars — environment, neighborhoods and districts, well-connected mobile region, inclusive economic ecosystem, and re-imagining social services — each with projects that will help 'transform" the area.

Better Together 2030 includes four groups — Iowa City Area Development Group, Iowa City Downtown District, Think Iowa City and Iowa City Area Business Partnership — along with leaders from local government, business, education and other areas of the county.

Gerlach spoke with The Gazette recently about her career and community involvement, as well as what's to come with the visioning process and how the community can get involved.

"The work is really twofold," Gerlach said. "It's making sure that the community is invested in the plan and able to implement it how it works for them and their organizations, but then it's also implementing projects that keep things moving and keep us all moving toward the same north star."

#### **GETTING INVOLVED**

Gerlach, who is from Colorado, moved to Iowa City in 2013 to practice law at Meardon, Sueppel & Downer. Gerlach received her law degree from Syracuse University College of Law in 2013.

Gerlach got involved in helping get Iowa City's opportunity to put all Downtown Self-Support-



Cady Gerlach stands for a portrait Wednesday at the Merge co-working space in Iowa City. (Nick Rohlman/The Gazette)

ment District renewed in 2015, which she said got her interested in community engagement in Iowa

She worked at the law firm about five years before being hired as general counsel and director of strategic operations and resource management at Shelter House in 2018.

"Getting to support that staff and do that work was really, really meaningful," Gerlach said about working at Shelter House.

It was during her time at Shelter House that Gerlach got involved with the Project Better Together team, which formed in 2020 to respond to the effects of the pandemic. Project Better Together evolved into Better Together 2030 to focus on long-term planning.

When Better Together 2030 announced it was hiring an executive director to help lead and guide the long-term vision. Gerlach said she "jumped at the chance" to turn the work she was doing in her free time to a full-time career.

'It really gives me an of the things that I love

and all the things I love being involved in into direct action and into working with just amazing community members across the entire county that want to make this the best place to live and work and play," Gerlach

Gerlach, who lives in Iowa City with her husband and two children, said this area is "everything our family wants." She wants that to be the case for all residents.

"It doesn't work for everybody, and I want it to work for everybody because it's an amazing community," Gerlach said. "It can work for everyone, but we all need to focus on these pillars to really make it a thriving system for everybody.

#### FROM PLAN TO ACTION

Gerlach's first work in her new role was putting the "All in Vision" plan together using work and community input gathered in the months leading up to it. Then it was time to share the plan with the community.

"We developed a plan that works for our community as a north star that we can all be rowing

direction," Gerlach said. "I think COVID proved the concept that we were able to not only collaborate, but that we were able to actually work better together if we could all focus our energy and resources toward a common issue and problem.'

Gerlach has presented the plan to city officials, city staff, community groups, various boards and nonprofits. She said the work is ongoing "to make sure that we're getting the plan in front of everyone.'

"Now it's time to put this all into action," Gerlach said.

Work groups around each of the five pillars are forming and are anticipated to start meeting in the first quarter of

2023, Gerlach said.

More information on how the community can get involved will be shared Feb. 8 during an annual banquet hosted by the Iowa City Area Business Partnership, Think Iowa City and Iowa City Area Development Group.

"I'm excited to see the work groups form this year and really get these pillars off the ground in a very locally engaged way and allow community members to get involved in different work," Gerlach said.

#### 'FOR EVERYBODY'

Gerlach said she also is looking forward to seeing community groups amplify the work. Some initiatives underway

include the Inclusive **Economic Development** Plan, making the Iowa River a destination and a child care wage enhancement program.

Gerlach added she thinks neighborhood associations will take a bigger role this year.

She also has a goal of working with small communities in Johnson County, like Lone Tree and Swisher, to make sure that they are involved in the plan as well and their projects align with the vision.

'We're all in this county, and we're all together and we all face similar but different issues," Gerlach said.

Better Together 2030, with the help of interns from Cornell College, has started to collect data to get a starting point of where communities are. Gerlach said she hopes the data can be displayed so the community "can help keep us accountable and also keep themselves accountable for how we're doing."

The data will be tracked over the coming years to see what improvements have been made.

Gerlach said a common theme during the visioning and community input process was creating a sense of belonging. "This can be a place

for everybody, but we do need some transformational projects that will help direct our community efforts," Gerlach said. 'We also need to make sure that we can manage future disruptions, which COVID taught us and these projects will also continue to help us. Comments: (319) 339-3155;

izabela.zaluska@thegazette.com

## Preschool/Full-day options

#### ► FROM PAGE 1D

Oxford, Shueyville, Solon, Swisher, Tiffin and University Heights. Also involved are the Clear Creek Amana school board, Iowa City school board, University of Iowa and Johnson County Board of Supervisors.

The district launched a preschool pilot program with before- and after-school care during the 2022-23 school year at Wickham and Shimek elementary schools. The sites operate from 7 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Before- and afterschool care is operated by Champions, a national child care provider. The cost for families who use it is \$120 a week for morning preschool with before- and after-school care and \$130 a week for afternoon preschool with before- and after-school

The Iowa City district offers about 42 sections of preschool in its schools with about 600 students enrolled. Morning programs are offered Monday through Friday from 7:55 to 10:45 a.m. Afternoon programs are offered Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday from noon to 2:55 p.m.

Full-day programs are offered at Twain and Hills elementary schools for income-eligible families in those attendance

The Gazette spoke with Superintendent Matt Degner recently about the future of preschool in the Iowa City school district.

 Are district officials • Are cusulet offering looking into offering more full-day preschool options with before- and after-school care?

• One of (the school A board's) goals is to continue to try to ramp up our preschool offerings and opportunities to families. We know a halfday environment can be a significant challenge for families trying to figure out a drop off and pick up during the work day. What we would really like to do is continue to expand on that pilot program in years moving forward.

The other thing we tried to do is offer a nopay option for families on child care assistance for (before- and afterschool care). That was an important part of our (request for proposal) we put out to Champions.

• Does the district • have a full-day preschool program?

• There are two sec-A: tions of full-day preschool for incomeeligible families. Those are at Twain and Hills funded through a Shared Visions grant. Only two

of our sites qualify for that grant. That's what allows us to do full-day session at those sites. Some of our concern is that's not sustainable either. We're continuing to think about how we can do more full-day options without this grant

 What are the challenges of operating full-day preschool programs?

 I think a couple A challenges are adequate space currently at our buildings. That space issue is one we've talked about with move to middle schools. Some classroom space will be freed up as sixth-graders leave the elementary schools and are added to middle school. We hear from families they would like more preschool offerings, just the half-day program doesn't work.

The state funds halfday preschool. That's a great step. We would really like to see it funded at the all-day level. I don't think that's likely based on conversations we're seeing. I think it's something we should continue to push for. It's what our families need and deserve, and we will continue to list it as a legislative priority and advocate for that.

Comments: (319) 398-8411; grace.king@thegazette.com



#### **Thursday, February 9** C.S.P.S. Hall

Doors Open 5:30 p.m.

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Community Partners







#### **WEEK IN IOWA**

RECAP OF NEWS FROM ACROSS THE STATE



Freshman Jacy Gates walks along the path after class Thursday on the Coe College campus in Cedar Rapids. (Savannah Blake/ The Gazette)

#### **IN THE NEWS**

Lawmakers tee up private school assistance: A bill allowing parents to use taxpayer dollars to pay for private school tuition and expenses is set for floor votes in the House and Senate early this week. The bill quickly passed through committees in both chambers over the last two weeks. After passing through the Legislature, the bill will go to Gov. Kim Reynolds' desk for a signature.

The program, which is estimated to cost \$341 once fully implemented, was one of Reynolds' key priorities for the session. Democrats urged those opposed to the bill to call their representatives over the weekend and voice their opposition.

Sioux City woman charged with voter fraud: The wife of a Woodbury County supervisor was charged with voter fraud Jan. 12 for allegedly fraudulently filling out voting materials and casting absentee ballots on behalf of others in two elections. Authorities say Kim Phuong Taylor, 49, approached elderly members of Sioux City's Vietnamese community and filled out ballots and other forms in their names for the 2020 primary and general election in which her husband, Jeremy Taylor, was a

candidate. The FBI continues to investigate the case. according to a U.S. Justice Department news release. A trial was scheduled for March 20 in U.S. District Court in Sioux City.

Bill banning "gay panic" defense advances: Lawmakers moved forward a bill that would prevent a defendant from using a victim's sexual orientation or gender identity as a mitigating factor if charged with a violent crime or assault. It's the third time the bill has been under consideration. The so-called gay panic defense has been used successfully in other states, and some states have already banned it.

Lawmakers try to fix depleted funds for veterans: A fund designed to give emergency financial assistance to Iowa veterans would get a boost under proposals from Iowa lawmakers. The lowa Veterans Trust Fund ran out for the first time in a decade in October. Separate bills would increase the annual allocation to the fund from \$500,000 to either \$800,000 or \$1 million.

Ransomware, cybersecurity bills advance: Bills dealing with cybersecurity and ransomware moved forward in the Iowa House last week. One bill would make it a crime to launch a ransomware attack, and provide penalties up to a Class C felony depending on the amount of money lost in the attack. Another would create a cybersecurity unit

in the state's Office of the Chief Information Officer and require government entities to report cybersecurity incidents to the office.

**Top National Guard** general to retire: Maj. Gen. Ben Corell, the adjutant general of the Iowa National Guard, will retire March 1 after more than 30 years in the Guard and three years at its helm. Corell said he has given his recommendation for his successor to Gov. Kim Revnolds, who will appoint the next leader of the Guard.

#### THEY SAID ...

I think we've come up with a really good bill here. I think the governor proposed a really strong bill that addressed any concerns that may have existed over the last two years in the debate that we've had. — Iowa House Speaker Pat Grassley on Gov. Kim Reynolds' private school assistance proposal.

"Remind your legislators that we don't work for the governor; we work for constituents. So we're asking lowans to let them know that and remind them that we are not here to do the governor's bidding; we're here to do the work of the people." — lowa House Minority Leader Jennifer Konfrst on Gov. Kim Reynolds' private school assistance proposal.

#### **ODDS AND ENDS**

**UI Hospitals addressing** gap: University of Iowa Health Care expects to open a new primary care location in southeast Iowa City by 2025 in an effort to address a "health care access gap" in that area. Officials said southeast Iowa City has the fewest primary care options in the city despite being the most densely populated.

Bill would scrap gender balance: A bill proposed in the Iowa Senate would eliminate the requirement that state and local boards and commissions have an equal number of men and women. A Republican senator said the requirement is no longer needed and said leaders have a difficult time filling open board positions.

#### **WATER COOLER**

**COVID cases fall:** lowa reported 1,690 COVID-19 cases Wednesday, a drop from the previous week. There were 177 people hospitalized with COVID-19 in the state, down from 222 the previous week.

Jeff Kaufmann re-elected GOP chair: Republican Party of Iowa Chairman Jeff Kaufmann was unanimously re-elected last weekend to a two-year term as chairman. Since 2015, when Kaufmann was elected to his first term, Republicans have increased their numbers in both state government and lowa's federal congressional delegation.

Gazette-Lee Des Moines Bureau

**NEWSTRACK** | CATCHING UP ON AN EARLIER STORY

# As Iowans file taxes, which recent changes are in effect?

By Erin Murphy, Gazette Des Moines Bureau

#### BACKGROUND

DES MOINES — Tax documents are beginning to arrive in Iowans' mailboxes, and soon those Iowans will be filing their taxes.

State lawmakers have made many changes to Iowa's tax laws in recent years, particularly by reducing state income tax rates. So what should Iowans expect when they see their taxes this year and prepare to file?

#### WHAT'S CHANGED SINCE

Federal deductibility: While moving to lower state income tax rates, lawmakers also implemented a phaseout of Iowans' ability to take a deduction on their state taxes of their federal tax payment.

But federal deductibility still lives — for now. For the vast majority of Iowans, this will be the last year they

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can deduct their federal taxes while filing. Next year, for most Iowans, that option goes away.

**Income tax rates:** The most recent state income tax overhaul, which was spearheaded by Republican state lawmakers, reduces state income tax rates over four years until it reaches 3.9 percent for everyone.

But those changes did not start until Jan. 1 of this year. So they will not show up on the tax returns that Iowans file this year.

For this year's tax returns, Iowans will have paid state income taxes at the old rates, covering nine brackets, depending on one's income ranging from .33 to 8.53 percent. Starting this year, Iowa will have just four tax brackets: the top rate is reduced to 6 percent, and descending income brackets will be taxed 5.7, 4.82 and 4.4 percent. That can be

seen on paychecks now, and will show up in next year's tax filings.

Each year, those numbers will be reduced until 2026, when Iowa will have just one state income tax rate of 3.9 percent.

The changes are expected to save Iowa income taxpayers nearly \$2 billion annually - but also reduce the

revenues that fund state government by that same amount.

**Retirement income:** Similarly, this year's tax filings will still include taxes paid on retirement income earned in 2022.

This year's filings will not yet show another recent change. Starting Jan. 1, Iowans are no longer paying state taxes on retirement income. Those changes will be seen in next year's tax filings.

#### **FILINGS AND RETURNS**

Kraig Paulsen, director of the state revenue

and budget management departments, said he does not expect

any issues that would cause state refunds to be delayed this year. He said the revenue department typically



Kraig **Paulsen** 

issues refunds within 30 days of a tax filing, and that will continue to be the goal this year.

Paulsen said much of that 30-day window is needed to prevent fraud by ensuring the accuracy and legitimacy of filings and refunds.

The Iowa Department of Revenue's website at tax.iowa.gov has resources to answer frequently asked questions about taxes, forms for emailing tax questions and for tracking refunds.

Comments: (515) 355-1300; erin.murphy@thegazette.com

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# Organic/'We're here to support farmers'

#### ► FROM PAGE 1D

Roundup. "There's so many health issues that we're having, and there's more and more research coming up that's tracing that back to the use of glyphosate. But agriculture — through cover cropping, through organic practices, through limiting tillage — can play a big part in reducing nitrogen and all of those things feeding these rivers with a chemical soup."

#### **RESEARCH IN PROGRESS**

In the summers, Linda Sturm-Flores, the Midwest Organic Center's research technician, collects data from the acres of crops: taking soil samples, tissue samples, moisture readings, temperature readings. Research director Jean Bertrand Contina holds an integral role in the center's studies, too.

One of the team's many research projects investigates how three different tillage treatments may affect vegetable productivity. Some plots are not tilled, some plots are tilled and left bare and some plots are tilled and covered with black plastic mulch.

Tilling disrupts soil's structure and microorganisms, while no-tillage methods promote soil health, require less labor, decrease erosion and retain water. Yet most Iowa farmers still till their plots.

Corn, a driving force of Iowa's economy, is of interest to the center, too. The team is testing how different amounts of locally produced fertilizer pellets — made from organic poultry manure — affect corn yields in hopes that farmers can reduce how much they apply and increase profitability. The study is in its second year.

"That's the cool and tricky thing about farm research: It needs to be done year after year after year to account for



Farm Manager Drew Erickson talks Tuesday about the research that happens on the organic acreage at Rodale Institute Midwest Organic Center in Marion. (Savannah Blake/The Gazette)

different weather phenomenons," Erickson said. "We try to repeat studies every year for at least for a couple of years."

The Midwest Organic Center collaborates with other organizations, like the Practical Farmers of Iowa, the Iowa Organic Association and Iowa State University. The team's goal is for their findings to be published in research papers.

Any food-grade crops from the center's studies go to Feed Iowa First.

"We're not trying to compete with farmers," Erickson said. "We're here to support farmers. ... We're doing this so we can tell farmers, 'Don't try this' or 'This is the technique you need to use."

#### **INNOVATIVE EQUIPMENT**

The Midwest Organic Cen-

ter is an advocate for cover crops — and it has an interesting way of re-purposing them when growing season comes around.

Instead of terminating the plants with the herbicides, like most farmers do, the team uses what's called a roller crimper: a large cylinder with a chevron-like pattern that attaches to a tractor. As the tractor rolls along, the roller crimper rotates and packs the cover crop to the ground, where it serves as a layer of mulch to protect the soil, prevent weeds and create organic matter that improve soil health

Seeds are planting behind the tractor following the rolling process.

The center's team is using rye as its cover crop in three different densities. They're experimenting by planting black beans at three different seed-

ing rates to find which system

creates the best yield.

"I think in organic, there's always a need for tillage in the system to incorporate manure or to control weeds," Erickson said. "But if we can reduce that with rotational tillage, that's kind of what we're chasing."

#### **SPREADING THE WORD**

There's a fairly large amount of small organic vegetable producers in Iowa who grow organic, Erickson said. The challenge is swaying large-scale corn and soybean growers to shift from conventional farming to newer organic methods.

"We're fighting an uphill battle in Iowa," Erickson said. "They've got to see it work here before they're going to even think about it."

To share its findings, the Midwest Organic Center hosts monthly field days for anyone interested in organic farming. The team also shares its research at conferences and webinars.

Starting this year, the team will follow in the footsteps of the Rodale Institute by setting up a long-term trial comparing organic crop rotations to conventional rotations side by side.

The team is figuring out what crops or methods — like livestock rotation — could yield the best overall harvest when integrated into rotations of corn and soybeans.

They are trying to find markets for those alternative crops, too.

The second phase of the project starts later this year, when acres of land will be covered in cover crops. In year two, the team will start weaving different crops into the organic rotations.

Alongside the long-term study, the team also will set up sensors in the soil to track nitrogen and herbicide runoff from the different plot trials. They hope to find that their organic practices lead to cleaner soils that translate to cleaner waterways for Iowans.

"I get nervous when my daughter comes home from camp and she's like, 'We swam in the creek today,'" Erickson said. "We've got to do something to clean up the water because we all drink it. We all want to go swim in our rivers. We all want to go paddling on the weekends or tubing."

Brittney J. Miller is the Energy & Environment Reporter for The Gazette and a corps member with Report for America, a national service program that places journalists in local newsrooms to report on under-covered issues.

Comments: (319) 398-8370; brittney.miller@thegazette.com

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Mike Hager, Medicare Sales Associate



## TIMEMACHINE



A LOOK BACK AT PEOPLE, PLACES, EVENTS IN EASTERN IOWA

# VOOLWORTH'S

## C.R. had chain's largest store in Iowa before its closing in 1986

By Diane Fannon-Langton, correspondent

new five-and-dime store opened on a rainy July 2, 1902, at a double storefront at 217-219 First Ave. East in Cedar Rapids.

The Woolworth's opening got billing in The Gazette that day.

An immense crowd of prospective purchasers surrounded the entrance for several hours before the establishment was in readiness to receive them," the paper reported. "At one time the store was so crowded that the manager was compelled to close the doors and deny admittance until those on the inside had been waited upon.'

The reporter speculated the crowd would have been twice as large if the weather had been nice.

#### **APOLOGY**

The store's manager, Walter M. Smith, was conscientious, as evidenced in an item Smith asked The Gazette to publish before the month was out.

"Last Saturday evening, three boys came into our place of business and one of them purchased a 5-cent ball. In changing the red ball purchased for a white one, the clerk being present, I made the mistake of thinking that a ball had been stolen. I took two of the boys and detained

them for a little while. 'I regret the mistake that I made more than I can express in words. The store was full of people, and I took the action I did without proper investigation or care, and I ask space to make this correction and apology, that it may reach those of the large number of customers who heard the boys wrongfully accused.

Frank W. Woolworth conceived of the idea of a 5-cent store in 1879 in Utica, N.Y. That one failed, but a few months later, it was followed by a 5-and-10-cent store in Lancaster, Pa., that succeeded. Woolworth associates opened other stores, and in 1912, the 596 stores merged into the F.W. Woolworth Co.

#### **COMING TO C.R.**

The chain's first expansion to the west included the store in Cedar Rapids, Woolworth's No.

In 1906, the popular store was remodeled and improved at the cost of \$6,000 — just under \$200,000 in today's dollars.

On May 19, 1916, the public was invited to visit the second new Woolworth's that would be opening at Second Av- kitchen, air conditioners.



This photo, taken around 1904, shows the interior of the Woolworth's five-and-dime story at 217 First Ave. SE in Cedar Rapids. The store opened in 1902. (Gazette



Don Fandel and Jim Caswell remove the giant red Woolworth letters from the storefront at 117 Second Ave. SE on Jan. 7, 1987, after the state's largest Woolworth's closed in Cedar Rapids in December 1986. (Gazette archives)

enue and Second Street SE and listen to the music of the Ballheim Orchestra. Nothing was sold until the next day. Woolworth's operated both stores until closing the First Avenue store in

In 1939, a two-story addition was added to the Woolworth's building under the supervision of a former West Liberty man, R.K. Johnson of Minneapolis, who was the district construction superintendent for the Woolworth stores.

The addition offered a

a freight elevator and a lounge for women. The store's entrance was widened and an 86-foot-long luncheonette counter added with stainless steel equipment. Wood floors were replaced with asphalt tile linoleum.

The store expanded again in 1950, acquiring the space at 213 Second Ave. SE and building on a vacant lot at the rear. Woolworth's then occupied a quarter of the block with the exception of the space holding the Dows Building.

In 1956, a second Woolworth's opened at the new Town & Country Shopping Center on First Avenue East at 36th Street.

#### **BIGGEST IN IOWA**

The downtown Woolworth's made its final move in 1964 across the street to the United Fire and Casualty building, 117 Second St. SE. It took the company seven months and \$400,000 to prepare 30,000 square feet of sales space on the main floor and basement and another 11,000 square feet for offices, stockrooms, a bakery and utility rooms on the



This postcard shows the Cedar Rapids Woolworth's store when it was in the United Fire and Casualty building at 117 Second St. SE. The store opened there in 1965 as the largest Woolworth's in lowa and among the largest in the nation. (Gazette archives)

#### WHAT ARE YOU **INTERESTED IN?**

 Have a suggestion of where the Time Machine should travel? We want to look back at key people, places and events in Eastern Iowa and need your help. Email d.fannonlangton@gmail.com

 Time Machine is online, too, with additional time lines, photos and other materials at thegazette.com.

second floor before its grand opening Aug. 25,

The new Woolworth's was the largest in Iowa and one of the largest in the country. It featured two "crystal balustrade"

escalators, a main floor Coach Light Room restaurant that seated 124, a signature lunch counter, and 48-inch-tall letters on two sides of the building in the company's signature red.

#### **POPULARITY WANES**

The popularity of fiveand-dime stores waned in the 1970s with the growing popularity of malls.

The Cedar Rapids Woolworth's, after more than 80 years of operation, closed after Christmas 1986. By the end of 1993, the company had closed all of its Iowa stores, including those in Clinton, Dubuque and Keokuk. The chain's remaining 400 stores closed in 1997.

## Oral Histories LIVE!

#### PETER TEAHEN

February 7, 2023 at 6:00 PM historycenter.org/teahen

This event is sponsored by Mike & Wilson.



## **CHEW ON THIS!**

**Lunch & Learn: Valentines, Love Letters and Keepsakes** 

**February 14, 2023** 12:30 PM historycenter.org/valentine Sponsored by Rob & Kathy Cook



#### **OBITUARIES**

#### OBIT INDEX IN TODAY'S GAZETTE

CEDAR RAPIDS: Fern Schneider Carie, James Landrum "Lanny" Parker, Kary Kent Stolba **CENTER POINT:** Myron M. Mohr MANCHESTER: Betty Jean (Glew) Sutton MARION: Debbie Sue Fields, Sue Ann Ford MONTICELLO: Margaret Laura Thoeni **OLIN:** Ervin VonSprecken

ROBINS: Delores "Dee" M. Pilsner SHELLSBURG: Linda Charlene Mahr OTHER DEATHS: John "Jack" A. Henderson (Charlotte, N.C.), Deborah "Debbi" Kaye Schmidt (Wichita Falls, Texas), Merlin Levi Studt (Show Low, Ariz.)

#### OTHER NOTICES

#### **MECHANICSVILLE**

Janice R. Bennett, 74, died Wednesday, Jan. 18, 2023. Iowa Cremation, Cedar Rapids.

#### IN MEMORY OF

Ty John Casey 1/20/1983 - 5/13/2022

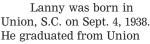


Celebrating you on what would have been your 40th birthday. Love at first sight when you were 5, it changed our family. It should come as no surprise that losing you has done the same. We're sure missing you.

#### JAMES LANDRUM "LANNY" PARKER

Cedar Rapids

On Jan. 17, 2023, James Landrum "Lanny' Parker left us to join his deceased parents H.E. "Skin" and Pollyanna Porter-Parker; his son, Perrin Landrum Parker; and his daughter, Dawn Michelle Parker; leaving behind his adoring wife, Karen Koontz Parker, the love of his life.



High School, where he was in the National Honor Society and a quarterback on the winning football team. After attending the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, he returned to Union to be trained as the eventual manager of the family retail-furniture business - Parker's Furniture Co. His brother P.K. "Skip" Parker partnered with him a few years later. The two of them spent their careers working together expanding the family business in South Carolina to include stores in Union, Greenwood, Laurens, Clinton, Gaffney and Newberry.

Lanny was a member of the Boy Scouts of America, Rotary Club, Lion's Club, Elk's Club and Kiwanis Club. He was also a member of The Little Theater in Union, where his favorite role to perform was Elwood P. Dowd in "Harvey."

In 1994, when Lanny married Karen, he established his permanent residence in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, Karen's hometown, and he became a regular commuter between Iowa and South Carolina, until his retirement from Parker's Furniture in 2003. Lanny and Karen traveled the world together for many years. Learning the history of countries, they visited and meeting residents were particularly enjoyable for Lanny. When they weren't traveling, you could find Lanny on the tennis court, in session with his personal trainer or on the golf course with Karen.

Lanny dealt with cancer as he did with everything in life, head-on, analytically, with a plan and a delightful sense of humor. As a way of coping with his debilitating disease, he began making bird houses and bird feeders. In one year, he made and gave away more than 200, which affectionately earned him the name "Bird Man."

Although Lanny frequently said he was from planet HaHa, he has left a lot of family and friends back here on planet Earth who will sorely miss him, including his wife, Karen; his sons, Myles Gordon "Duke" Parker (Lori) and Eric Landrum Parker; brother, P.K. "Skip" Parker (Wanda); sister, Rosemary Parker Keller; granddaughters, Kristin Parker, Michelle "Missy" Parker Seymore and Ashley Parker Brimm; grandson, Grant Landrum Parker; great-granddaughter, Olivia Grace Seymore; niece, Teri Parker Lewis; nephews, Alex and David Parker; special friends who made his cancer journey easier; and devoted furryfriend Duchess.

At age five Lanny was instructed by his dad to take care of the family, as his dad was leaving for WWII. He took the instruction seriously and spent his life taking care of the family. As he approached his journey to the stars, he passed the baton to his oldest son Duke with the same instruction.

A memorial service will be held at 11 a.m. Tuesday, Jan. 24, 2023, in the Chapel of Memories at Cedar Memorial, 4200 First Ave. NE, Cedar Rapids.

The family has requested that in lieu of flowers memorials be directed to Connie Maxwell Children's Ministries, P.O. Box 1178, Greenwood, SC 29648-1178 (www.conniemaxwell.com).

Online condolences may be left at www.cedarmemorial.com under obituaries.

#### FERN SCHNEIDER CARIE

Cedar Rapids

A beautiful soul, Fern Schneider Carie, 99, of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, passed away peacefully Thursday, Jan. 19, 2023, at the Dennis and Donna Oldorf Hospice House of Mercy in Hiawatha, Iowa. A visitation will be held from 4 to 6 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 25, at Murdoch-Linwood Funeral Home and Cremation Service in Cedar Rapids. A funeral service will occur at the funeral



home at 11 a.m. Thursday, Jan. 26. Burial will follow at Linwood Cemetery in Cedar Rapids.

Fern was born Feb. 15, 1923, in Beebe, S.D., the daughter of George and Hazel (Gay) Schneider. She was united in marriage to Vernon Carie on Oct. 26, 1940, at First Lutheran Church in Cedar Rapids. Fern started at Square D and later went to work for Collins Radio for many years. She was always proud to share her Collins Radio clock number 3130 with her family. In her later years, Fern attended Calvary Baptist Church in Cedar Rapids with her family and grew to adore her pastors at the church, who would give her hugs whenever they saw her.

Survivors include her adored daughter, Jacquelyn (John) Walker of Cedar Rapids; grandchildren, Michelle Horak, Stacie (Patrick) Shannon, Keri (Trevor) Cook, Breanna Walker and Ryan Walker; and greatgrandchildren, Matthew Shannon, Andrew Shannon, Aliyah Walker, Kaylee Cook, Kianna Cook, Trace Cook and Rylan Walker.

She was preceded in death by her treasured husband, Vernon Carie; parents, George and Hazel Schneider; siblings, Charles Schneider and Marilyn Davis; and many nieces and nephews.

Her husband, Vern, fondly referred to Fern as "Fernie Baby," which she loved. To say Fern was adored by her family would be an understatement. In her later years, Fern was warmly taken care of by her daughter in Jacque's home and was blessed to have spent her last days surrounded by her grandchildren and daughter. In recent years, Fern enjoyed birthday party celebrations in Galena, Ill., and Lake Geneva, Wis., and even participated in a "dance party" for her 98th birthday celebration!

Vern and Fern loved celebrating life by dancing to old-time music and musicians such as Louis Armstrong, Tommy Dorsey, Pete Fountain, Al Hirt, Frank Sinatra, etc. They also hosted years and years of St. Patrick's Day parties at their winter home in Mesa,

Fern was a member of the Malta Chapter No. 415 of the Eastern Star, Daughter of the Nile Shrine Auxiliary, V.F.W. Auxiliary, Past President of the Firefighters Auxiliary, Ladies Park Golf League and served for many years as an election official.

Memorials may be directed to the Dennis and Donna Oldorf Hospice House of Mercy in Hiawatha, Iowa, in place of flowers. Her family is ever so grateful for Fern's fantastic care in the last days of her life by Dr. Maryanne Nelson and the hospice house.

Please share a memory of Fern at www.murdochfuneralhome.com under obituaries.

#### **BETTY JEAN (GLEW) SUTTON**

Manchester

Betty Jean (Glew) Sutton, 96, of Manchester, Iowa, passed away on Wednesday, Jan. 18, 2023, at the Good Neighbor Home in Manchester. She was born on Jan. 6, 1927, in Delhi, the daughter of Russell and Rose (Harbach) Keith. Betty was raised and educated in the Delhi area and was a graduate of Delhi High School. After graduation, Betty taught country school at Pleasant Valley between Delhi and Hopkinton.



She taught until her marriage to Leonard Glew in June 27, 1948. Three children were born to this union. They farmed near Delhi until Leonard passed away in 1974. Betty continued to live on the farm and was then married to Richard "Dick" Sutton on Jan. 2, 1983. In 2002, they moved to the Gernand Center in Strawberry Point. While at the Gernand Center Betty revived the butterfly garden. After Dick's death, Betty continued to live there until 2013. Betty then moved to The Meadows in Manchester.

Betty loved flower gardening, square dancing and card playing. She did genealogy work for many years, and also authored her own autobiography titled "92 Years with Betty." Betty and Dick loved spending their winters in Texas. Faith and family were the most important things to her. Betty rarely missed attending her grandchildren and great-grandchildren's events. She was a faithful, active and devoted member of First Lutheran Church in Manchester.

Survivors include her three children, Vicki (John) Zietlow of Manchester, Dennis (Melanie) Glew of Riverdale and Danny (Cathy) Glew of Manchester; eight grandchildren; and 16 great-grandchildren.

Betty was preceded in death by her parents; her husband, Leonard Glew; and her second husband, Richard Sutton.

In lieu of flowers the family request memorials be given to First Evangelical Church for the sound system. Online condolences may be sent to www.leonard-

Memorial service: 11 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 4, at First Evangelical Lutheran Church in Manchester, Iowa, with the Rev. Tony D. Ede officiating.

Visitation: 9:30 to 11 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 4, at First Evangelical Lutheran Church in Manchester, Iowa. Private family inurnment at a later date.

#### **DEBBIE SUE FIELDS**

Marion

Debbie Sue Fields, 69, of Marion, passed away Thursday, Jan. 19, 2023, at the Views of Marion. Visitation will be from 4 to 7 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 24, at Brosh Chapel and The Avacentre, located at 2121 Bowling St. SW, Cedar Rapids. Celebration of Life service will be 10:30 a.m. Wednesday, Jan. 25, at Brosh Chapel. Burial will be in Cedar Memorial Cemetery.



Debbie was born Sept. 13, 1953, in Cedar Rapids, the daughter of Robert and Adeline (Harrelson) McLaud. She graduated from Cedar Rapids Jefferson High School, class of 1971. Following she earned a dental assistant degree from Kirkwood College in 1972. Debbie was united in marriage to Dewayne Fields on Aug. 20, 1977, at St. Wenceslaus Catholic Church in Cedar Rapids. She worked in the dental field for over 20 years, ranging from family practices to the University of Iowa Dental College, and later retired from Rockwell Collins in 2018. Debbie enjoyed arts, crafts, sewing, painting, occasionally visiting the casino, downhill skiing, going on ocean cruises and traveling to St. Maartens.

Debbie is survived by her husband, Dewayne "W.C." Fields; her nieces and nephews, Stacy Rouse, Debra (Craig) Steele, Tracy (John) Owens, Shelly (Eric) Reese, Danielle Light (Jon Berger), Mark (Angela) Phillips, Ryan Phillips, Sara Montague, Katie (Bill McKenna) Montague and Gina (Matt) Anderson; many great-nieces and great-nephews; her sisters-in-law. Beverly (Gary) Montague and Janice Phillips; and former brother-in-law. Dennis Holidav.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her sister, Diana Holiday; a nephew, Robert McFarland; and a brother-in-law, Jim Phillips.

Memorials may be directed to Hospice of Mercy. Online condolences may be expressed to the family at www.broshchapel.com.

#### **KARY KENT STOLBA**

Cedar Rapids

Kary Kent Stolba, 70, of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, passed away Jan. 19, 2023, at UnityPoint Health-St. Luke's Hospital. Per his wishes, no funeral services will be held at this time.

Kary was born Jan. 18, 1953, to Vernon and Phyllis (Merrill) Stolba in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. He married Teresa Havlik on Dec. 6, 1986. Kary worked with the Local 81 as a Union Insulator. He was a lifelong



Iowa Hawkeyes fan and enjoyed cheering on the Minnesota Vikings. He always enjoyed traveling to the mountains, and spending time with his granddaughter.

He was preceded in death by his parents and brother, Kurt Stolba.

Kary is survived by his loving wife, Teresa Stolba; daughter, Kaitlin (Tony) Krueger; granddaughter, Hadley Krueger; brother, Jay Stolba; sister-in-law, Andrea Stolba; niece, Rachel Stolba; nephews, Matt Stolba and August Stolba; along with many friends.

Online condolences may be directed to the family at www.cedarmemorial.com under obituaries.

#### **MARGARET LAURA THOENI**

Monticello

Margaret Laura Thoeni passed away on Monday, Jan. 16, 2023. A memorial service will be held at 2:30 p.m. Feb. 4, at the First Presbyterian Church in Monticello, Iowa. Visitation will begin at 1:30 p.m. Saturday at the church until the time of the service. Afterwards, we will gather in the church basement at 3:00 pm for coffee time; a routine pause in Margaret's days that

she especially enjoyed.



Margaret was a remarkably active, able 90 yearold up to her last breath. She loved planning road trips, learning new things, playing cards, reading, coffee time with dear friends and being with family. She was a strong, knowledgeable, generous, independent woman who embraced life with enthusiasm every day until the

Margaret Laura Thoeni was born in Monticello. Iowa, on Feb. 11, 1932, to Ruth Nelson and Irving Eilers. During her 60 years of marriage to Robert Thoeni, she was the bookkeeper for the family feed and seed business. When both she and Robert retired, they enjoyed many memorable years traveling the world

together and spending time with family. Margaret is survived by her two daughters, Janine (Eric) Wahl of Monticello, Iowa, and Janda (Lorenzo) Canalis of Wimberley, Texas; three grandchildren, Ian (Rene) of Bogart, Ga., Amy (Blake) Duplant of Austin, Texas, and Matthew (Brianna) Wahl of Des Moines, Iowa; and seven great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Robert Thoeni.

#### **MERLIN LEVI STUDT**

Show Low, Ariz.

Merlin Levi Studt, 73, of Show Low, Ariz., formerly of Solon, passed away Thursday, Dec. 15, 2022. There will be no services or memorials.

He is survived by children, Marshall (Kelly) Studt and Melinda (Terry) Ganka; grandsons, Jay, Tyler and John Ganka; brother, Floyd (Kriss) Studt; and many nieces and nephews.

Merlin was preceded in death by his wife, Sharon, April 2021; parents, Raymond and Dorothy Studt; brother, William Studt; and sister, Anna McAtee.



#### **SUE ANN FORD**

Marion

Sue Ann Ford, 75, of Marion, Iowa, passed away on Saturday, Jan. 14, 2023, surrounded by family at Knapp Medical Center in Waslaco, Texas. In accordance with the family's wishes, cremation has taken place. A celebration of Sue's life is being planned for a later date.



Sue was born on Dec. 3, 1947, in Anamosa, Iowa, the daughter of Louis

Lawrence and Betty Jean (Butzloff) Kouba. She graduated from Wyoming High School in Wyoming, Iowa. On Sept. 26, 1970, Sue was united in marriage to James Leighton Ford on her parent's farm in Jones County, Iowa. She worked at various local greenhouses. Sue also worked for HACAP, Linn CO-OP and as a secretary for Ketelsen's R.V. in Hiawatha. For many years she enjoyed traveling with James in their R.V. to the southern states of Florida, Arizona and Texas. Sue loved her flowers and garden. She was a talented and gifted artist. Sue mastered and taught many crafts including gourd carving, basket making, jewelry and card making. She enjoyed teaching these crafts to people wherever she went. Sue loved spending time with her friends and family, especially her grandchildren. She will be greatly missed by all who knew and loved her.

Sue is survived and lovingly remembered by her husband of 52 years, James Ford of Marion; two children, Tammi (Benjamin) Morrison of Marion, and Cameron (Melissa) Ford of Alburnett, Iowa; six grandchildren, Weston, Cashton and Laityn Morrison, Ella Thompson, and Nora and Easton Ford; and brother, Richard (Linda) Kouba of Celina, Texas.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Louie and Betty Kouba.

In lieu of flowers, memorials in Sue's memory may be made to either the American Cancer Society or to the favorite charity of the donor's choice.

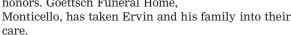
Please share a memory of Sue at www.murdochfuneralhome.com under obituaries.

#### **ERVIN VONSPRECKEN**

Olin

Ervin VonSprecken, 88, died Tuesday, Jan. 17, 2023, at Highland Ridge Care Center, Williamsburg, following a period of declining health.

Graveside services will be held 1 p.m. Saturday, June 17, at Oakwood Cemetery, Monticello, Iowa, with military honors. Goettsch Funeral Home,



Surviving are two sons, Michael (Debra) and Mitchell (Lyn); a granddaughter, Ashley; a greatgranddaughter, Cara; and his in-laws, Pat Kordick, Ramona VonSprecken, June Hunter, Kay Kalberg and. Rick Hunter.

He was preceded in death by his parents; his wife, Judith, in 2006; two brothers, Glenn and Lavern; and a brother-in-law, Dave Kordick.

Ervin Duane Von Sprecken was born Jan. 17, 1935, at Center Junction, Iowa. He was the son of Frederick and Ella Petersen, VonSprecken. Ervin graduated from the Olin High School in 1953. Ervin served in the U.S. Army from 1954 until, 1956. He returned home and married Judith Hunter on Dec. 21, 1958, at St. John Lutheran Church, Olin. Ervin farmed north of Olin. He also worked at the Iowa Men's Reformatory, where he taught welding for Kirkwood College. He retired after 35 years in 1992. In retirement the couple spent the winters in Weslaco, Texas, and the summers at McGregor, Iowa.

Ervin had numerous patents, one for a fireplace grill another for an aftermarket tailgate for trucks. Ervin had been very involved in the Olin community. He served on the School Board and was a member of the Olin Community Club and a member of St. John Lutheran Church. He was an avid outdoors man, enjoying fishing, camping and hunting. He received several awards for conservation farming and was a member Jones Co. Ducks Unlimited. He enjoyed watching the Hawkeyes, game shows and playing cards.

#### JOHN "JACK" A. HENDERSON

Charlotte, N.C.

John "Jack" A. Henderson, 96, passed away Dec. 23, 2022, at Aldersgate UMRC in Charlotte, N.C. Born Jan. 23, 1926, in Cranston, R.I., he was the son of the late John and Florence Henderson. Jack served in the U.S. Army Airforce in the Pacific during World War II. He graduated from Bucknell University in 1951, where he received a B.S. degree in commerce and finance.



Jack lived in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, for 30-plus years, working in sales for Lehigh Portland Cement Co. and retired to Pinehurst, N.C., with his wife of 61 years, Ruth. There he enjoyed many years of golfing and bowling, doing both into his 90s. He also loved summers at his family cabin on Lake Vermillion, Minn. He was a friend to many and will be greatly missed by his family and friends.

Jack was preceded in death by his wife, Ruth; son, Robert; grandson, Sean; and sister, Jean Spangler.

He is survived by his daughter, Ruth Wadsworth (Ed) and grandsons, John, Robert and Greg; his son, John Henderson (Signe) and granddaughters, Lisa Locker, Erin Henderson and Dana Burger; and six great-grandchildren.

A Celebration of Life will be held April 15, 2023, at Westminster Presbyterian Church in Cedar Rapids. Interment will follow at Cedar Memorial Cemetery, Cedar Rapids. Memorials may be offered in honor of Jack to Westminster Presbyterian Church, 1285 Third Ave. SE, Cedar Rapids, IA 52403. Carolina Cremation of Charlotte is assisting the Henderson family. Online condolences may be made at www.carolinacremation.com.

#### **DELORES "DEE" M. PILSNER**

Robins

Delores "Dee" M. Pilsner, 85, of Robins, died peacefully with her family by her side on Wednesday, Jan. 18, 2023, in the Dennis & Donna Oldorf Hospice House of Mercy. Funeral Mass: 11:00 a.m. Thursday, Jan. 26, at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church. A rosary will be held Wednesday, Jan. 25, at Cedar Memorial Park Funeral Home at 4 p.m. followed by a visitation



until 7 p.m. Burial: Cedar Memorial Park Cemetery. Survivors include her husband of 55 years, Victor; her daughters, Christine M. Sievers (James) of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, and Debra D. Frett of Cedar Rapids, Iowa; her grandchildren, Eric Sievers, Katrina Haugen, Jeffrey Sievers and Brent Sievers; many greatgrandchildren; and her siblings, LeRoy Kropp, Mary Dvorak, Joyce Horacek and Johanna Kropp.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her daughter, Karen Dvorak Sievers; and her grandson, Edward Sievers.

Delores was born March 14, 1937, in Athen, Wis., the daughter of Fred and Clara (Felzkowski) Kropp. She married Edward J. Dvorak in Athens, Wis. in 1954. He died in 1963. She then met and married Victor H. Pilsner on Feb. 10, 1968, in Stratford, Wis., and moved to Cedar Rapids. Vic and Dee owned and operated D&V IND Supply for 40 years. She was a member of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church and Polka Club of Iowa. She loved spending time with her family and friends, reading, dancing and gardening. Dee and Vic spent springs fishing in Minnesota-she was the fisherman of the two. They traveled most of the states and gambling for fun. Dee was loved by all she met and will be greatly missed by her family and friends.

The family would like to extend a special thanks to Mercy Medical Center and the Dennis & Donna Oldorf Hospice House for all the loving care they gave to Delores.

#### **LINDA CHARLENE MAHR**

Shellsburg

Linda Charlene Mahr, 78, of Shellsburg, passed away on Wednesday, Jan. 18, 2023, at Mercy Medical Center in Cedar Rapids. Celebration of Life services will be at a later date. Brosh Chapel and The Avacentre is caring for Linda and her arrangements.

Linda was born April 28, 1944, and later adopted by Harry and Annette Derr. where she gained two

amazing brothers. She later graduated from Evanston

Linda is survived by her children, Deanna (David) Shada and Laurie (Jamie Bennett) Sorenson; four grandchildren, Mallory (Brian) Boge, Dalton (Darian Stueck) Shada, Brayden Bennett and Logan Bennett; two great-grandsons, Lennox and Landry Boge; three brothers, John (Polly) Derr, Ron (Sandi) Derr and Darrell (Gladna) Dowling; and one sister, Sharon (Roy)

In recent years, Linda was able to track down her biological brother and sister and was blessed to get to know them.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Harry and Annette Derr

Linda enjoyed spending time with her friends and family. She enjoyed day trips to "somewhere" and traveling when she could.

Memorials may be directed to the family. Online condolences may be expressed to the family at www.broshchapel.com.

#### **DEBORAH "DEBBI" KAYE SCHMIDT**

Wichita Falls, Texas

Deborah "Debbi" Kaye Schmidt, 74, died peacefully on Monday, Jan. 16, 2023, at Tiffin House Assisted Living and Memory Care in Georgetown, Texas. She resided there since December of 2020 after she was diagnosed with Alzheimer's.



She was preceded in death by her parents, Donald and Barbara Mitchell.

Debbi is survived by her husband, Dennis Schmidt; daughter, Jodi Schmidt; son, Bret Schmidt (Ashley); grandson, Brayden Schmidt; sisters, Donni Benson (David) and Carla Brown (Jeff); brother, Steve Mitchell (Diana); and numerous nieces, nephews, cousins, family and friends.

Debbi was born May 15, 1948, in Emporia, Kan., to Donald and Barbara Mitchell. She was a teacher for many years, beginning in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, and finishing in Wichita Falls, Texas. In Wichita Falls, she taught at both Lamar Elementary and Crockett Elementary in second, third and fourth grades. Debbi was married to Dennis Schmidt for almost 50 years.

Besides spending time with her family and friends, Debbi enjoyed painting, sewing, knitting, tutoring, her dogs and spoiling her only grandchild. She was very involved with First Christian Church of Wichita Falls and volunteered for the annual Coats for Kids drive done with the local elementary schools. Debbi will be greatly missed, but never forgotten.

A memorial service will be held at 2 p.m. Saturday, May 20, at First Christian Church in Wichita Falls, Texas. Donations can be made in her name to First Christian Church for Coats for Kids.

#### MYRON M. MOHR

Center Point

Myron M. Mohr, 73, of Center Point, Iowa, died Tuesday, Jan. 17, 2023, at his home following a long illness. Public visitation will be 4 to 6 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 24, at White Funeral Home, Independence, Iowa. Private graveside services will be held at a later date in Wilson Cemetery, Independence. Memorials may be directed to the family. Online condolences may be placed at www.white-mthope.com.



Myron Merrill Mohr was born May 6, 1949, in Davenport, Iowa, the son of George Arnold Mohr and Ruby Eileen (Fuglsang) Mohr. He graduated from Clarence High School with the class of 1967. On Feb. 24. 1980, he was united in marriage to Carma Jo Scott in Hiawatha, Iowa. They made their home in Independence for a time, before moving to Center Point, where they spent the last 30 years. Myron worked at Rockwell Collins in Cedar Rapids, for nearly 40 years, retiring in 2005. He was a member of the IBEW Local

Myron enjoyed watching sports of all kinds, especially NHRA races. He loved his children and grandchildren more than anything and his furry faithful companions, Dolly and Freddy, watched over him and brought him comfort during his long illness.

Left to honor Myron's memory is his wife of 43 vears, Carma Jo Scott Mohr of Center Point, Iowa: his five children, Todd Mohr, Barry Mohr, Yance (Terri) Mohr, all of New Mexico, Jenny Mohr of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, and Mandy (Jacob) Moore of Taiwan; many grandchildren and great-grandchildren; two sisters. Onita (Bill McClain) Mohr of Decorah, Iowa, and Iola Bicknese of Clarence, Iowa; one brother, Tim Mohr of Clarence, Iowa; and many nieces and nephews. He is also survived by his brothers and sisters-in-law, Larry (Sue) Scott of Independence, Iowa, Mike Scott of Urbana, Iowa, Ruben (Karen) Scott of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, Nile (Pat) Scott and Jim (Blain Moncrief) Scott, all of Texas, and Linda Davenport of Cedar Falls, Iowa; and his mother-in-law, Marilyn Scott of Independence,

He was preceded in death by his parents; one sister, Sandra De La Mater; one brother, Gordon Mohr; his father-in-law, Robert Scott; and sister-in-law, Cindy

The family would like to thank UnityPoint Hospice for the exceptional care provided to Myron. Also, they wish to thank the EMTs at Center Point Ambulance and Fire Department who have always been there for them.

White Funeral Home, Independence, is in charge of arrangements.

## **Entire Fairfield** ambulance staff resigns

By Andy Hallman, Southeast Iowa Union

FAIRFIELD — The owner of CARE Ambulance confirmed that his entire ambulance staff in Fairfield resigned last week, but the company is making up the staff shortfall by sending employees from other locations.

**CARE** Ambulance owner and CEO Bob Libby told the Jefferson County Ambulance Service Agency during its meeting Tuesday that eight staff members resigned the day before. Libby told the Southeast Iowa Union that those eight consisted of four paramedics and four EMTs. CARE Ambulance is based in Iowa City, and it is sending employees from Iowa City to work in Fairfield.

We've reached out to lots of people, and we've been able to staff it like the county wants," Libby told the Union.

When asked what prompted the resignations, Libby said, "I suspect they're just not happy with a decision we made. We asked one person to leave, and she took everybody with her.'

Libby confirmed that the person he asked to leave was base manager Judy Heisel.

CARE Ambulance's contract with the Jefferson County Ambulance Service Agency requires the company to staff two full-time advanced life services ambulances, which means having a paramedic on every rig. However, CARE announced in December that, due to a shortage of paramedics, it could only staff one ambulance fulltime, and another that would run from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Libby said that, de-

ite the resignations

his company still can staff 1.5 ambulances. Earlier this month, District Court Judge Myron Gookin issued a ruling requiring CARE to fulfill its contract.

The Union asked Libby if he could comply with Judge Gookin's ruling.

"I can't promise two (advanced life services) ambulances every day," he said. "We will when we can."

Jefferson County **Attorney Chauncey** Moulding said that most of Tuesday's meeting with the ambulance service agency was in closed session, as the team of lawyers for the Jefferson County agency discussed strategy related to upcoming mediation with CARE. The two sides have agreed to meet with a mediator Tuesday in Iowa City.

'We are continuing to try to make this work," Moulding said. "We want the contract to be fulfilled. We're trying to avoid further conflict, because (CARE) is our partner."

Libby said he wants the people of Jefferson County to know that he and his company are doing the best they

"A lot of people think we've left, but we're far from gone," he said. "We're trying to find a solution to a problem that is global. The county is working well with us, and we're working the best we can.

# Nichols/Municipal water is unlikely

#### ► FROM PAGE 1D

and thyroid disease and might be harmful to

Years ago, the Iowa DNR had been testing O'Connell's water every three months. But as soon as the water dipped below the standard, the state ceased the samplings. The department made that decision despite regular fluctuations in the nitrate concentrations and a recommendation from the testing company to continue.

They told us it's safe," O'Connell said. "It's excellent, crystalclear water.

Nichols is situated among crop fields in a low-lying area of southeast Iowa. The water table beneath the surface is so high that residents can ram pipes about 15 feet into the ground to pump water for their homes.

There are no state regulations that govern how deep those wells need to be and no warning for new residents who might buy those homes later.

About 25 years ago after at least one of the town's residents tested a well and found it was contaminated by farm chemicals — the Iowa DNR sampled most of the town's wells and found that about 50 of them had nitrate concentrations that exceeded federal safety standards. About 18 of the residential wells had unsafe amounts of the herbicide alachlor, and four had excessive levels of the herbicide atrazine.

Long-term exposure to alachlor can damage the liver, kidneys, spleen and eves and might cause cancer. Atrazine is a hormone disrupter that can negatively affect unborn children and has been linked to a variety of cancers.

The Iowa DNR suspected two local agricultural suppliers of contaminating the groundwater. After one of them refused to aid the state's investigation, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency stepped in and declared Nichols a "Superfund site."

That led to years of water sampling and soil mitigation. Residents with unsafe wells were supplied with filtration systems or bottled water.

Over time, the town's collective memory of the water troubles has faded. The city clerk, for example, who has lived in Nichols for six years and married someone who grew up there, said in a recent interview he had no idea about the contamination.

The fact that neither of the two companies believed to be the sources of contamination were fined gnaws at some. One of the companies had closed its facility and razed all of its buildings about a decade before the Iowa DNR and EPA investigations.

'It had the look of a cover-up," said Darrell Mattingly, a former Nichols mayor and restaurant owner who now lives in Muscatine.

#### **COMPLACENT TOWN**

Years before the state started looking into Nichols, there were indications of troubling groundwater pollution. The south side of town was underwater in 1993, when repeated heavy rains caused widespread flooding in the Midwest.

As a result, Muscatine County health officials tested wells in the area for bacteria and nitrate and found most of them had unsafe nitrate levels. But nothing was done.

The Iowa DNR launched a larger inves-



A flag flies Jan. 25, 2020, outside the Nichols post office. (Associ-

tigation into the contamination in March 1997 that included a citywide survey of private wells. That was spurred by a resident's complaint about well contamination.

As the state prepared for the testing, it sought support from the community that would be crucial for it to be successful. Representatives of the Iowa DNR and the state public health department met with the Nichols City Council, its mayor and lawmakers.

The efforts were publicized by local media, and in July 1997, the Iowa DNR held a town meeting attended by about two dozen residents. It lasted about 90 minutes. The public officials stressed that pregnant women and young children were most at risk.

The state had garnered enough support for the testing, and later in July, a team of state and county officials went door-to-door to sample the town's water. The results showed a definitive pattern of contamination - a plume that was apparently moving east to west through the town's groundwater.

Monsanto, a prominent producer of the chemicals that had invaded the water, said it would tap into its Well Assistance Program to install charcoal filters at homes and would consider helping fund a public water system.

Those filters are effective at eliminating the threat of pesticides but do nothing for nitrate. to 24 residents, along with a two-year supply of filters and said it would retest the water once each year.

A community water supply could draw deeper, less contaminated water and treat it more effectively, but it would cost millions. It was the surest way to solve the town's water quality issues. In the meantime, the Iowa DNR planned more sampling of the areas that were likely the source of contamination.

Most of the town's sandpoint wells were completely unregulated by the state when they were installed. They are created by driving metal pipe that is typically less than 2 inches in diameter into the sandy, lowlying ground near rivers, where the water table is relatively close to the surface.

In October 1997, surveys were mailed to each house to gauge interest in a public water supply. About 60 percent of those who responded said they favored the idea. But by that time, Monsanto had decided it was unlikely to contribute money to fund the project.

Some in town were miffed by the state's insistence that they move forward with the project. In particular, the Iowa DNR officer who was the main liaison to the town had "a swagger to him that wasn't a good swagger," recalled Mattingly, the former mayor.

By February 1998, the plan had completely fizzled.

"It is my understanding that persons on the City Council have suggested to (the Iowa DNR liaison) that he not return to Nichols," an attorney who represented one of the companies suspected of contamination wrote to the state.

Residents were amhivalent about their water, and the chief of Iowa DNR's Compliance and Enforcement Bureau noted that problem in an emailed response to the attorney.

"The citizens are not drinking safe water," wrote Michael Murphy. "The filters provided by Monsanto will remove pesticides; they do nothing for nitrate, and if not closely maintained, may exacerbate bacterial problems. That is not a permanent solution."

Some in town figured they had been drinking the water all their lives and hadn't suffered any negative health effects. Others knew the water was bad and didn't drink it, and they didn't want to spend a bunch of money to fix the problem.

"We just deal with it," said Heather Bixby, who bought her house more than 20 years ago and raised four kids there. "I don't want to worry about a high water bill."

She first moved to town with her parents as a teen and later bought the house next door. Both homes are near one of the contaminated sites and until about four years ago, the family had their wells tested every three months to monitor the nitrate level

Bixby said she buys packs of water from a Walmart in Muscatine to drink.

#### **RELUCTANT COMPANIES**

For years before the state and federal investigations into Nichols' groundwater contamination, it was apparent that something was amiss on the west side of town where the now-razed Amoco Cropmate site was located.

A farmer had noted to the Iowa DNR that "not many weeds grow in this area." O'Connell, the neighbor of Bixby who had lived there since 1984, had noticed it, too.

"The ground was pretty much dead for a long time," he said. "Nothing would grow.'

Amoco had been bought by United Agri Products by the turn of the century, and it, along with Monsanto, largely complied with requests from the state to help remedy the situation.

Amoco had operated at the 7.5-acre site from 1967 to 1987, according to Iowa DNR records. Historical aerial photos of the site showed it had three buildings with three large holding tanks, 10 smaller tanks and trailermounted tanks that were thought to contain fertilizers, herbicides and pesticides.

The entire site was razed in 1987, and the state later found that "soil removal action taken when Cropmate left the site in 1987 was not as complete as initially indicated.'

United Agri Products indicated it had no records of significant spills of the products there. "Small spills and leaks common to such an operation likely occurred, but were addressed by employees at the time of occurrence," the company reported.

About a year after the start of the Iowa DNR's investigation — in February 1998 — United installed nine monitoring wells to test for contaminants. Initial test results showed significant nitrate contamination of up to 419 parts per million. That is about 42 times the federal threshold of what is safe to drink — 10 parts per million.

Late that year, United began supplying bottled water to 13 households in the southern part of town. Two residents who were offered the free water declined it. Those deliveries of water continued for 20 years as the company and the Iowa DNR waited for nitrate concentrations to decline

to a safe level. In May 2001, the company planted 900 hybrid poplar trees on the property to help clean the soil, at the direction of the EPA. The next month, the EPA declared Nichols a Superfund site, which enabled the agency to take action against United Agri Products and Nichols Agriservice.

Nichols Agriservice, which still operates just north of the former Amoco site but is under different ownership, was initially reluctant to aid the investigations and blamed nearby farmers and flooding for the town's problems.

An attorney for Nichols Agriservice accused the Iowa DNR of targeting the company against the wishes of the town. The company is the largest employer in Nichols.

"No constructive action has been taken to address the groundwater contamination on the north part of Nichols." the Iowa DNR wrote to the EPA in September 1998 "Nichols Agriser vice, the potential responsible party for the Nichols Agriservice site, has resisted taking any meaningful action to investigate the extent and potential source(s) of the groundwater contamination."

The company had been among the first in the state to install a concrete containment structure to hold its fertilizer and herbicide tanks to prevent spillage into the soil, although the Iowa DNR discovered notable cracks in the structure. It was built in 1987, when the state first required the containment structures.

In December 2000, nearly three years after the start of the investigations, Nichols Agriservice agreed to install four not track which towns monitoring wells and subsequently constructed a new building to house its herbicide and fertilizer products.

Initial test results showed nitrate contaminations as high as 34 parts per million about three times what is considered the safe limit.

In a November 2001 administrative agreement with the EPA, Nichols Agriservice said it would continue to monitor the groundwater and remove contaminated soil from its property. Four months later, the company excavated 300 tons of contaminated soil from its property roughly 10 times more than it had expected to remove.

Nichols Agriservice was subsequently sold to new owners. The former Amoco Cropmate has been succeeded by at least two companies, most recently Nutrien Ag Solutions, of Loveland, Colo.

Neither company was ultimately fined for contaminating the groundwater. It's unclear how much they spent to mitigate the contaminations of their sites.

Matt Culp, a senior environmental specialist for the Iowa DNR's contaminated sites division, said there were a confluence of uncommon factors that led to the groundwater contaminations. The facilities released the chemicals into the ground on the west side of town, where they flowed east with ease in a shallow, sandy aquifer.

"It's an issue that's kind of timeless," Culp said. "These sites kind of resurface every once in a while.'

#### **STATE TESTING CEASES**

The water quality issues in Nichols "would be less likely to exist if the state had a law which would require wells to be at least 30 feet deep," an Iowa DNR officer noted early in the state's investigation.

Culp disagrees. It's true that shallower wells are more likely to be at risk of contamination, but there are other factors to consider.

"The real world is just more complicated than to say, 'Thou shalt always drill to this depth," he said.

When the Iowa DNR assesses the susceptibility of community water supplies, it focuses on the thickness of the confining layer that lies between the land surface and the water aquifer. That layer is made of materials such as clay and shale that slow the flow of water. Aquifers with confining layers thinner than 25 feet are considered highly susceptible to contamination. Aquifers have low susceptibility when the layers are at least 100 feet.

Alluvial aquifers like the one beneath Nichols do not have a confining layer. And sandpoint wells have no depth requirements under Iowa

"We don't recommend people install them or use them for drinking water," said Erik Day, who oversees the state's private well permit program.

The state started to require permits to construct private wells about 20 years ago long after the sandpoint wells of Nichols were driven into the ground and wells in basements are no longer allowed.

Drilled wells are often required to be at least 40 feet deep but in certain situations can be as shallow as 20 feet

The Iowa DNR does rely primarily on sandpoint wells. Most residents of Fruitland, a town of about 950 that lies 12 miles southeast of Nichols, have them. and many of the wells have nitrate concentrations that exceed safety thresholds, according to county tests.

The Iowa DNR asked the EPA to take over the Nichols investigation and cleanup in late 1998 about two years after it began. The EPA oversaw it for about 16 years, until all that remained was long-term monitoring of a handful of residential wells near the no discussions about former Cropmate site. The EPA asked the state to resume its oversight role in 2014.

By 2016, just one of the residential wells had nitrate concentrations

that exceeded the federal drinking water standard: John O'Connell's.

That year, his quarterly tests showed concentrations of 11, 13, 11 and 9.3 parts per million. The final test was below the 10 parts per million safety threshold, but the company that was testing the water, Cardno, recommended the testing continue.

Five days after that letter, the Iowa DNR released Crop Production Services (now known as Nutrien Ag Solutions) from its testing require-

But in September 2022, O'Connell's water had nitrate in a concentration of 10.6 parts per million. Culp suspects that agricultural fertilizers that are applied to farmland near Nichols is a likely contributor to that contamination.

'If a well that was previously below — has finally fallen below the standard — starts to show a trend, or if it bumps up a little bit over 10, we don't rush back in there," Culp said. "We just don't have the resources or the time to do that. What would draw us back into a situation like that would be that if there were reported to us a growing trend of nitrate, in this case, concentrations that were beginning to impact the town again.'

#### **MUNICIPAL WATER?**

There has not been a concerted effort to retest the town's wells for contamination.

Private well owners in Iowa can often have their water tested by county officials for free, but only a handful have done so in Nichols in the four years since the Iowa DNR's sampling ceased. The tests measure concentrations of nitrate and bacteria.

There were no tests of Nichols water by Muscatine County in 2019 or 2020, county records show. There were four tests in 2021, and one of them revealed unsafe nitrate levels in a well about one block south of O'Connell's house. In 2022, there were two tests, including O'Connell's that showed unsafe nitrate concentrations. County records did not include data from the last month and a half of that year

It's unlikely that Nichols will have municipal water service in the near

Aeneas Schmitz, the city clerk, said city leaders are focused on a sewer project that is expected to cost about \$1.3 million and might begin this year. The work would include repairing sewer lines that have the potential to leak into the groundwater that residents drink. Schmitz said there has been no serious talk about a municipal water system and that he didn't know what it might cost to build one.

There are two municipal water supplies within about five miles to which Nichols could potentially connect. To the north is West Liberty, a city of about 3,800 that Water Superintendent Danny Goodale said lacks the capacity to provide water to Nichols. To the west is Lone Tree, a city of about 1,300. Lone Tree City Clerk Steph Dautremont said she didn't know whether the town could provide water to Nichols. She said there have been such an arrangement.

Nichols' elected city leaders have not responded to multiple requests to comment.

This article first appeared in the Iowa Capital Dispatch.

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NGEO	65	74 6	5 149	197	276	(6:00) Vikings	Vikings: The Rise and	d Fall	<b>Vikings</b> "As Far E	East as Baghdad"	Vikings "The Fall	l of Francia"	Vikings "The Wil	d West"	Vikings "The Se	cond Viking Age"
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TBN TBS	66	61 6	6   76	139	247	Big Bang			Huckabee Big Bang		Eric Metaxas		Praise (N) '77) Harrison Ford		Praise (N) ark Hamill.	Movie
TLC	40	98 4	0   189	183	280	(5:00) <b>90 Day</b>	90 Day Fiancé: Happi	ily Ever After	? "Tell All: No Lin	nits Part 4" (N)	MILF Manor (N)		90 Day Fiancé (N	1)	90 Day "Tell All:	No Limits Part 4"
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USA	31	62 3	1   79	105	242	(6:00) Law-SVU	Law & Order: SVU "T	rophy" I	Law-SVU "Her No	egotiation"	Law-SVU "Surrer	nder Benson"	Law-SVU "Psych	o/Therapist"	Law-SVU "Beast	's Obsession"
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MAX	325	256 32	25 325	310	515	(5:05) <b>Conan</b>	*** The Purge: Anal Zach Gilford, Frank Gr	rchy ('14) Car	men Ejogo,	(:45) *** Lara Cı	oft: Tomb Raide	r ('01) Jon Voight,	lain Glen,	(:25) \** ★ Lara Cr	oft Tomb Raider	: The Cradle of
SHOW		200 3	_	+		(4:55) ♥★★	Zach Gilford, Frank Gr Your Honor "Part Elev		<b>Your Honor</b> "Par	t Twelve" (N)	globetrotting adve	neration Q	abled artifact.   <b>Your Honor</b> "Par	Life ('03) Gerard t Twelve"	The L Word: Ge	
				1	040	Shooter ('07)	BMF "Devil's Night"		BMF "Devil's Nigh	,	"Looking Ahead"	(N) (SF)			"Looking Ahead"	(:45) <b>♀</b>
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STZENL	424	162 42	4 34F	346	537	(6:20) ** ★ Stay ('	05) Naomi Watts, Ryar	Gosling,	<del>ÿ</del> ★★ Dangerous	Beauty ('98) Ruft		(:55) <b>***★ The Hil</b>	Is Have Eyes ('06	) Kathleen Quinla		(:45) <b>਼∗∗ Fun</b>
			+			(c.co) to the English	e Room ('19) Logan M	iller,	Jacqueline Bisset <b>₽ Singularitv</b> ('17	, Catherine McCo 7) John Cusack, C	armen	(:35) <del>\$\diamodel**</del> ★★ Enemy	Bloodthirsty mutan Mine ('85) Louis (	Gossett Jr., Brion		Size ('12) (P)
STZENS		161 42	_	+		Deborah Ann Wo	I, Taylor Russell.		Argenziano, Juliai	n Schaffner.		Quaid. A space p	ilot and his enemy	unite to survive.		(16)
TCM	75	70 7				International	♥★★★★ 12 Angry Me man holds out against	11 fellow juro	rs in a murder tria	al.	Rogers. Two juro	rs fall in love while	sitting in on a mu	rder trial.	Norma Shearer.	
			_					. 5 .								
	380	220 38	319	327	553	(4:35) * Sense	**★★ The Switch ('10) Robinson, Jennifer An	Jason Batem iston	an, Thomas	(:45) \ ★★ The Na Scarlett Johansso	nny Diaries ('07)	Laura Linney, Pau	ıl Giamatti,	The Souvenir Honor Swinton By	(19) Tom Burke,	Tilda Swinton,

### YOUR EASTERN IOWA WEATHER

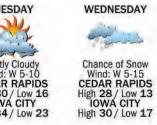
#### CEDAR RAPIDS/IOWA CITY Highs are for today; lows are for tonight



SUNDAY Jan. 22











E
am
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m

28/11
58 in 2002
-27 in 1930
27/20
29
21
1.13'
1.10'
1.10'
1.13' va Airport)

DAYLIGHT	
Sunset tonight	5:09 p.m.
Sunrise tomorrow	7:27 a.m.
Today's daylight	9 hrs. 41 min.
IOWA CITY	
Normal high/low	28/11
High/low temp Saturday	30/23
24-hour high Friday	32
24-hour low Friday	23
Total precipitation for January	1.19"
Total precipitation for 2023(Precipitation totals at Iowa City Mu	

#### RIVER LEVELS IN EASTERN IOWA

Waterloo (13)	6.12	falling
Cedar Rapids (12)	4.20	rising
Conesville (13)	6.82	falling
Marshalltown (19)	10.14	falling
Belle Plaine (15)	6.95	falling
Marengo (15)	6.86	falling
Iowa City (24)	10.23	falling

Lone Tree (16)	5.07	falling
Columbus Jct (23)	10.46	falling
Wapello (21)	12.23	falling
WAPSIPINICON RIV		falling

wapeno (ZI)	12.23	iaiiiig
WAPSIPINICON F Independence (1: Anamosa (14)	2) 5.39	falling falling
CORALVILLE POO		falling

MISSISSIPPI RIVE	R	
La Crosse (12)	5.50	falling
Lansing (17)	8.27	steady
McGregor (16)	4.38	falling
Guttenberg (15)	6.74	rising
Dubuque (17)	8.31	rising
Bellevue (17)	5.85	rising
Quad Cities (15)	6.57	falling
Muscatine (16)	7.55	steady

#### TOP WEATHER STORY Highlights from history, trivia and events in weather

#### Seasons and Earth's tilt

We know that Earth's seasons are caused by the tilt in our planet's axis, but how did Earth become tilted and how does the tilt cause the seasons?

Earth was actually hit by a large object, which caused our planet's axis to tilt to a 23.45-degree angle. In December, the Southern Hemisphere is tilted toward the sun while the Northern Hemisphere is tilted away from the sun, which is why it's winter in the Northern Hemisphere during December and summer in the Southern Hemisphere. In June, the Northern Hemisphere is tilted toward the sun, which means summer is beginning there, while the Southern Hemisphere is tilted away from the sun.

— Meteorologist Hannah Messier

For up-to-date weather info, visit www.kcrg.com/weather

#### **IOWA CLIMATE/SATURDAY**

IOWA CLIMATE/ SATURDAT			
<b>EASTERN IOWA</b>		Waterloo	30/19/none
Anamosa	27/19/none	Williamsburg	30/23/none
Davenport	32/23/none		
Decorah	25/16/none	ACROSS THE	STATE
Dubuque	24/18/none	Ames	31/24/none
Independence	27/18/none	Council Bluffs	30/21/none
Manchester	27/18/none	Des Moines	32/25/none
Monticello	27/19/none	Fort Dodge	27/19/none
Muscatine	36/27/none	Mason City	27/18/none
Tama	30/21/none	Ottumwa	31/25/none
Washington	32/25/none	Sioux City	22/7/none

## TRAVFI FRS'

IKAVELEKS				
WEATHER				
Atlanta Boston Chicago Cincinnati Cleveland Dallas Denver Detroit Honolulu Houston Indianapolis Kansas City Las Vegas Los Angeles Memphis Milwaukee Minneapolis Nashville New Orleans New York Omaha Orlando Philadelphia Phoenix Portland, Ore. Raleigh/Durham St. Louis Salt Lake City San Francisco Seattle Sioux Falls Tampa	52/39/sh 41/36/m 34/24/sn 34/31/sn 35/31/sn 55/35/sun 35/15/sn 35/29/mix 82/69/cdy 60/38/sun 35/29/sn 36/23/cdy 52/34/sun 62/42/pc 49/33/sh 34/23/sn 24/13/cdy 50/35/sh 62/43/tst 44/39/m 27/16/cdy 82/63/tst 44/38/m 59/37/sun 44/34/mix 45/40/m 40/29/mix 28/16/sn 57/44/pc 44/32/cdy 22/11/cdy 77/62/tst			
Raleigh/Durham St. Louis Salt Lake City San Francisco Seattle Sioux Falls	45/40/rn 40/29/mix 28/16/sn 57/44/pc 44/32/cdy 22/11/cdy			

sun=sunny, pc=partly cloudy, cdy=cloudy, sh=showers, tst=thunderstorms, rn=rain, sf=snow flurries, sn=snow



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# BUSINESS 380



Artist John Paul Schafer poses for a portrait Thursday in front of one of his well-known paintings, at Gallery One, a new exhibition space he opened in December at 4341 First Ave. SE in Cedar Rapids. (Geoff Stellfox/The Gazette)

# Area artists take their work indoors

Climate change, pandemic prompt opening of galleries in C.R., Marion



Artist Priscilla Steele completes a chine collé print on Jan. 15 at the Campbell Steele Gallery in Marion. She and her husband, Craig Campbell, reopened their gallery in Uptown Marion in December. (Geoff Stellfox/The Gazette)

#### **GALLERIES**

- **What:** Campbell Steele Gallery, 1064 Seventh Ave., Marion. Hours by appointment and posted on facebook.com/campbellsteelegallery. Online: campbellsteele.com/
- **What:** Gallery One, 4341 First Ave. SE, Suite 123, Cedar Rapids. Hours: 2 to 6 p.m. Thursday and Friday, noon to 4 p.m. Saturday, and by appointment. Online: schaferfineart.com/

By Diana Nollen, The Gazette

fter years of taking their works on the road, two farreaching local artists have moved indoors.

Global warming was the impetus for Priscilla Steele to reopen Campbell Steele Gallery at 1064 Seventh Ave., in Uptown Marion, in December. She and husband Craig Campbell live upstairs, as they had before moving to Omaha in 2017. They returned to Marion in January 2020.

The pandemic was the incentive for John Paul Schafer to open Gallery One in December in the Glenbrook Centre, at 4341 First Ave. SE in Cedar Rapids, a short walk from his studio at the home he shares with husband Brian Smith.

Both moves made good sense for the established artists, from professional and personal points of view.

#### WEATHER WOES

"With climate change, art fairs will become a different animal, because every weather event seems to be extreme," said Steele, now 71, citing two memorable instances. "I've had one display fly over

"I've had one display fly over mine when a tornado was close by in Madison, Wis.," she said. "Everybody was yelling, 'Evacuate to the state Capitol, evacuate to the state

► GALLERIES, PAGE 3E



# Firing managers for off-duty misconduct

Texas coach's case shows off-duty behavior can lead to dismissal

hat happens in Las Vegas, stays in Las Vegas!" Remember that saying?
Generally, an employee's off-duty conduct is none of the employer's business. One exception, however, comes when there is some relationship between the off-duty conduct and the employer's business that poses a risk to the business.

This month, the University of Texas fired Longhorns men's basketball head coach Chris Beard after his arrest on a third-degree felony domestic violence charge that followed an altercation with his fiancee, who called 911. The coach was accused of choking and biting her and causing abrasions. Despite her 911 call, she is now denying the events happened.

When the coach's attorney disputed the evidence, the school's attorney cited the coach's "lack of perspective" as another failure of judgment: "Your letter this morning reveals that Mr. Beard does not understand the significance of the behavior he knows he engaged in, or the ensuing events that impair his ability to effectively lead our program. This lack of self-awareness is yet another failure of judgment that makes Mr. Beard unfit to serve as a head coach at our university."

#### FIRST, VERIFY

Before an employer does anything about alleged misconduct, it is important to verify the information's accuracy to the extent possible. No employer wants to operate under information that is a rumor or an erroneous news report.

If law enforcement records can be

► THE LAW, PAGE 3E

# 'Right-to-repair' movement marks small victories

Big Tech would rather you buy new

#### **Bloomberg News**

Some of us are old enough to remember the days when you could easily swap out a dud battery in your flip phone. Nowadays, repairing virtually any electronic device — from a smartphone to a gaming console, microwave oven or fan — can cost more than buying a new one.

Companies make it hard for technicians to get inside their products, source parts or update software. So devices are just thrown away, generating potentially hazardous waste and forcing consumers to buy new items whose production further taxes the environment.

After long resisting calls from campaign groups for a "right to repair" gadgets, some big manufacturers are starting to change their tune.

• What's behind the right to
• repair movement?
• Since the first electronic consumer goods emerged in the
1950s, buyers have tried to keep
them going by repairing or replacing

#### ► REPAIRS, PAGE 2E



The Apple iPhone 14 in shown during its release in 2022. Apple has begun allowing some third parties to fix its devices and agreed in 2021 to supply parts for iPhone 12 and iPhone 13 owners to fix their display, battery and camera. (Bloomberg News)

# Repairs/Few electronics properly recycled

#### ► FROM PAGE 1E

broken parts. Today, it's clear that many products are designed to be unfixable. Manufacturers use non-standard screws, seal devices with glue or solder parts together unnecessarily, making it virtually impossible to replace components.

The growing complexity of gadgets means technicians need detailed manuals and tools that can be hard or impossible to source. Some manufacturers even tweak the software so their equipment doesn't work properly when parts are replaced. They're even accused of updating software to deliberately impair product performance with age.

Apple, which says it engineers "each software release to make sure it runs beautifully on all supported devices," has been a particular focus of grievance.

• What are the • complaints about Apple?

• Apple, like other A tech firms, doesn't usually share spares with repair shops it hasn't approved.

Critics say this makes independent repairs pointless as it can cost more than buying a new device. When other workshops do switch out batteries or screens, users can be plagued by glitches and error messages.

Apple says unverified parts can lead to poor performance and serious safety issues.

The tech giant has made some concessions in recent years. In 2019, it launched a program



Julian Roby helps attach the cab to a John Deere tractor in 2016 at the Deere assembly plant in Waterloo. The company recently yielded to pressure from right-to-repair advocates, saying it will begin sharing information farmers need to fix their machines without involving a Deere-approved repair shop. (Brandon Pollock/ Waterloo-Cedar Falls Courier)

allowing third parties to fix devices no longer under warranty and began training more than 265,000 repair technicians. Then in 2021, it announced plans to supply parts so that iPhone 12 and iPhone 13 owners can fix their display, battery and camera.

Right-to-repair campaigners say the parts, and the tools Apple rents to customers, can be so expensive that it's still cheaper to replace the phone altogether.

• What about other industries?

A • While the cam-paign's main focus is electronic devices like phones and laptops, it encompasses a range of goods from toasters to refrigerators, cars, motorbikes and tractors.

Independent motor repair shops in Maine are lobbying for access to the diagnostic data they need to repair many cars and trucks.

Deere & Co. traditionally allowed no one but. its own technicians to touch the electronics in its famous green and yellow tractors. Some

farmers resorted to buying older models with simpler components that they could still fix.

This month, the company agreed to grant farmers access to diagnostic and repair codes, manuals and product guides. However, it wasn't clear whether Deere would share all the information farmers need to mend the machinery without involving an approved repair shop.

What's at stake?
A Discarded
electronics generated an estimated 53.6 million tons of waste in 2019, and only 17 percent of that was properly recycled. The trash contains heavy metals and compounds including arsenic, lead, mercury and cadmium which, if not disposed of appropriately, can expose communities to the risk of cancer and birth defects.

The production and shipment of new devices to replace unfixable ones, not to mention the mining of the necessary raw materials, burns energy, often resulting in the emission of greenhouse gases responsible for global warming.

Researchers have estimated that the production of a smartphone, for example, emits from 40 to 80 kilograms of carbon dioxide equivalent, about the same as driving a typical passenger car as many as 200 miles.

As more people purchase cellphones and other gadgets, emissions from their production multiply. The study's authors noted that in the previous 50 years, consumption of electronic

devices grew sixfold though the world's popu-•How are Big Tech lation only doubled. •firms resisting the

right to repair? Companies, including Apple, Google, Microsoft and Tesla, have spent heavily on lobbyists to make a case that rightto-repair laws would expose industry secrets, give third parties access to sensitive information

and put the safety and

security of consumers at

When Apple representatives fought a right-to-repair bill in Nebraska in 2017, they told lawmakers it would turn the state into a "mecca" for hackers. Critics say the industry opposes a free market in repairs because it would lower prices for this work and encourage more people to get their gadgets fixed, hammering sales of new

. What are govern-•ments doing? Laws enacted in the A. European Union and the United Kingdom are forcing makers of washing machines, dishwashers, refrigerators and TVs to ensure parts are replaceable with common tools that consumers can use easily. The EU is looking into regulating mobile phones, tablets and computers.

In France, manufacturers must provide a "repairability score" for some electronic devices. Apple, for instance, gave its iPhone 12 Pro Max, released in late 2020, a 6 on a scale of 0 to 10.

President Joe Biden asked federal officials in 2021 to introduce measures limiting manufacturers from barring selfor third-party repairs of their products. Several U.S. states considered right-to-repair bills since then, but many were voted down or dismissed, according to consumer groups tracking the proposals.

New York became the first state to pass a bill in December. Campaigners said it was gutted by amendments that meant it would still be impossible to carry out costeffective independent repairs.

• Are any of the new measures making a difference?

A • It's too early to say • since many were delayed to allow manufacturers time to adapt.

Consumer rights advocates are already voicing frustration that some of the new rules only benefit professional repairers as they don't guarantee the right to repair for consumers and nonprofits.

Also, the legislation often focuses on physical components, not software. Replacing a faulty part may be of no use if your device also needs a software update.

Many right-to-repair bills fail to address the practice, common among manufacturers, of selling entire modules of parts instead of the single component that needs replacing, which can make repairs expensive. For example, a consumer looking to replace drum bearings in a washing machine may have to replace the whole drum, making the repair almost as expensive as a new machine.



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# Galleries/Timing was right for galleries

#### ► FROM PAGE 1E

Capitol, evacuate to the state Capitol.'

'A van drove up by my booth, and if my booth had been destroyed by the weather, our family would have been just really in bad shape. The guy hopped out of his van, ran for the state Capitol, and I said, 'Mister, I'm putting my work in your van.' And that's exactly what I did. I didn't lose anything — I saved it all."

That was 1993. She had a similar experience in 2000 at the prestigious, highly competitive Cherry Creek Arts Festival in Denver, Colo.

"Every day, these huge thunderheads would back up to the Rocky Mountains and threaten — with all of their grayness — our safety.'

On the last day, "the heavens opened up and rained holy hell down," she said. "I had 5 inches of water coursing under my display."

She had sold a piece that was 4 feet wide and 6 feet tall and was holding it for the customer to pick up later. So she and her assistant, Anna Fry O'Donnell, "threw plastic sheeting over it, and ran through this river in the street." Steele's van was right across the street, and they were able to save the work.

Steele has averaged about 15 art fairs per season, going as high as 20 in year, but as O'Donnell pointed out after the Colorado event, they work in a gallery with walls and a roof, so why try to move it all outdoors?

"I don't want to, at this age, continue with outdoor art fairs in the cycle of climate change that we're experiencing," Steele said.

#### **PANDEMIC PAUSE**

Schafer, 52, felt the need to have a gallery space to not only display some of the pieces he's been taking to art fairs, but also to have a place where he can sit down with clients to discuss commission works.

The pandemic gave him the nudge he needed, along with fortuitous turns of events.

He had been showing his paintings in other people's galleries, but with that comes price markups so the gallery owners could get a slice of the sales, as well as other caveats that had him relinquishing more control than he wished. That method of doing business also is unpredictable, since gallery shows can be infrequent, he added.

So in 2015, Schafer decided to take his works on the road, averaging 12 to 15 outdoor art fairs each season, mostly around the Midwest.

'I did that right up until everything shut down in 2020," he said. "I just haven't really been motivated to return to the art fair scene since the



Artist Priscilla Steele works on a print Jan. 15 in her studio inside the reopened Campbell Steele Gallery at 1064 Seventh Ave. in Marion. (Geoff Stellfox/The Gazette)

pandemic.

'Art fairs have come back," he noted. He was accepted into Denver's Cherry Creek festival last July, "but it's a very different show now than it used to be, because of the impacts of the pandemic. So it's been really hard for me to judge whether or not I could have as much success doing art fairs.
"Having a gallery now

makes sense," he said, when factoring the travel expenses, booth rental and insurance for each art fair. "It's a considerable amount of overhead. And when you start to look at it from that perspective, you start to wonder if you shouldn't just have a brick-andmortar place and save yourself the hassle of having to travel every-

"The trade-off is that you don't have the concentration of people" in a gallery that artists have at fairs. "After being at this for 30-plus years, I do have a following and a pretty faithful following — that I feel like I can appeal to now with a space of my own."

#### **FALLING INTO PLACE**

The stars began quickly lining up for both the Campbell Steele Gallery and Galley One open-

Campbell and Steele had bought the historic 1895 Kendall Hardware Building in 1991, creating an art gallery and performance space along Marion's busy Seventh Avenue. They sold the building in 2017 and reclaimed it in 2020 'because the people who were buying it had decided not to proceed," Steele said.

The couple moved in Jan. 6, about a monthand-a-half before the

pandemic shutdown. Within months, they were hosting Marion Public Library staffers after the August 2020 derecho damaged and closed the nearby library.

When the library employees moved into the new library, which opened in November, Steele and Campbell were left with an empty space full of possibilities. No moss grew under their feet.

#### **NEW STEELE**

On Dec. 8, the public was invited inside to see "New Steele," a stunning exhibition of botanical and figurative work Steele created in her Omaha and Marion studios over the past few years, as well as her ongoing hand-coloring of circus-themed engravings she created in the late 1970s.

"Fifteen minutes before we opened the door. Craig and I looked at each other because we had only had like three weeks from the time the library moved out to become the gallery again," Steele said. "We had figured out how we were going to do it, but we hadn't done it physically.

"And within three weeks, this is my favorite presentation of the gallerv ever.

Visitors also can see her studio in the back of the first floor, where audiences once flocked for the Liars Theatre and Music in the MUD entertainment series Campbell created.
"You turn the cor-

ner, and I have an open studio. And to my deep pleasure, everybody was looking at the press, and the accouterments around the press that enlightened you as to how this is done," she said of

her opening crowd. "And room screens for her, as then all of the etchings and engravings stretched on the drawing boards, because that's what you must do with a print that is still wet from the press.'

It's all done by hands that have created art her entire life, in ways not touched by technology.

"People don't expect to walk into the 19th century and see somebody cutting metal with a little tiny chisel," Campbell said. "It's like, 'Where am I?'

"New Steele" will be on the walls through Jan. 28, and like with that show, gallery talks and demonstrations will be offered with each new exhibition. The gallery has no set hours, but Campbell does post business hours sometimes daily, sometimes weekly on Facebook.

"As a very small and very personal business, we are always available 'by appointment' when a customer needs us," Campbell said.

Steele's intaglio etchings also are available in the online store, campbellsteele.com/shop, "for as little as \$28," Campbell noted, adding that Steele's larger drawings generally run from \$2,500 to \$8,000.

For years, Campbell and Steele pooled their talents, creating theatrical scenery across the Midwest, including many years at Theatre Cedar Rapids while their three children were growing

These days, Campbell, 68, and a fine-wood artist, is taking on a supporting role.

"My goal with this space is to support Wink's work," he said, using his wife's nickname. He's built items like trifold screens and

well as crafting his own pieces.

"But I've done enough. Honestly, I have no personal goals. I have 'Priscilla Steele' goals," he said. "I've done enough, I've accomplished enough. ... I like that that's fun. We're a good team.'

#### **SCHAFER GALLERY**

Schafer met Tom and Kelly Belin in the summer of 2021. The Belins began collecting Schafer's art, commissioning two large works for their home. In the fall, Schafer discovered two spaces were available in a building the Belins own along First Avenue SE. He asked to see the units.

"Kelly brought me in here one day, and she really had her doubts. She didn't think it was — in her words — 'boujee' enough for an art gallery. And I said, 'Oh, I'll 'bouiee' it up.'

"Anyway, the moment I stepped in the door, I could just see it. I could see it already manifest. It was the right amount of space. I liked that it faces north. I like that I'm right off First Avenue. I have these very easy landmarks. Everybody knows the A-frame next door. ... I can point to Cedar Memorial as a major landmark that most everyone knows."

It checks off so many boxes, being affordable, conveniently located and just a 90-second walk from his home studio to the gallery. He said he realizes most people just see a residential building and don't realize it has this stretch of retail

"Rather than let that be a hindrance, I'm just hoping that in time, as people learn that I'm here, then people will

be able to find me much easier," he said, noting signage has been ordered, too.

He signed the lease and was in the building Dec. 1, ambitiously opening his first show Dec. 15.

For the inaugural show, he's exhibiting the abstract work he's painted between 2005 and 2020, much of which he's taken on the art fair circuit.

"I think a lot of my local audience is already familiar with the work that's up. So I thought since this was what I was already rotating, it made sense to use this for my inaugural show," he said.

It will be on view through the end of February, and a new show will go up in March, displaying work he created in 2022. He's planning to change out the galleries quarterly. Down the road, he may bring in other artists to show their work in one of the galleries, while keeping his own in the other

Because Schafer enjoys working on a large scale, the average price for his art is \$10,000. Commissioned pieces are his "bread and butter," and he was able to seed the gallery with a portion of a recent \$45,000 commission for three pieces for Mercy Medical Center's new heart center.

"This was a turnkey opportunity for me to open a gallery," he said, 'and I'm funding it all myself. I can say that's primarily true throughout my career — that I've always been able to underwrite the costs of my own projects....

"I take pride in being able to keep myself solvent.'

Comments: (319) 368-8508; diana.nollen@thegazette.com

## The Law/Most Iowa workers are 'at will' but still have rights

#### ► FROM PAGE 1E

checked, the employer should do so. Remember two things:

- The employer's investigation does not need to meet the "beyond a reasonable doubt" standard of proof. Rather, the employer's investigation should determine if it is more likely than not the events occurred.
- The employer risks a defamation lawsuit if it makes statements about

its employee that are not means they can be fired substantially true.

After an investigation substantiates offduty misconduct, the employer generally has two choices on how to deal with it: keep the employee but impose discipline, or terminate the

employee. If you fire the employee, will the employee have a case?

Most Iowa employees are considered to be employed "at will," which

at any time for any reason, and they can quit at any time for any reason. They may or may not receive unemployment compensation, depending on the seriousness of the off-duty misconduct.

Even "at will" employees are entitled to certain legal protections against unlawful discrimination and also cannot be fired for reasons that violate the law or Iowa's public

#### THE LAW

There is not one "wrongful termination" law in Iowa. Instead, these rights are located throughout the case law and in the Iowa Code and include some of the following more popular claims: retaliation for filing a workers' compensation or other workplace claim: violation of a state or federal discrimination law; breach of an explicit or implied contract of employment or promise

of continued employment; or constructive termination

Each year, hundreds of these types of lawsuits are filed. While many of these claims are tossed out by the court without a trial, defending them costs businesses time and money and result in damage to employee morale and public trust.

Finally, does the employee have a contract that governs their termination?

If so, the employer needs to determine whether the off-duty misconduct is sufficient to support termination under the contract clause. If the employer does not take the contract terms into consideration, the employer could face a breach of contract claim in court.

Wilford H. Stone is a lawyer with Lynch Dallas in Cedar Rapids. Comments: (319) 365-9101: wstone@lynchdallas.com



Brandon Spradlin, president of Impact Recycling Partners, a division of American Box, stands near pallets of recycled boxes in the company's North Philadelphia headquarters. The company pays businesses for cardboard boxes that have been opened, collects them and resells them to other businesses that will reuse the boxes instead of recycling the cardboard. (Philadelphia Inquirer)

# **Company wants retailers** to reuse food, drug boxes

Philadelphia Inquirer

Groceries and pharmacies run on acres of folded, corrugated cardboard. Food. drink and drugmakers use truckloads of boxes to move their products to store shelves. When they're done, it's off to the recycler, the landfill, or the incinerator.

American Box & Recycling Co., based in Philadelphia, is pushing an alternative approach.

"Instead of baling them for the 'recycling' market at \$35 a ton, companies like us will pay between \$100 and \$200 a ton" for once-used, suitable boxes, then sell and deliver box loads to new users, through American Box's Impact Recycling Services unit, said Brandon Spradlin, a packaging industry veteran who was named chief executive last year.

When this works, it means higher payments to manufacturers, lower costs for the next round of box users, less waste, and bigger profits for the cals in East Brunswick, N.J. company that puts the deals together.

Buyers include off-price retailers such as Philadelphiabased Rick Forman's Turn7 stores, which sprang up during the pandemic to sell trailerloads of unwanted merchandise sold cheap by Amazon, Walmart and other shippers.

American Box also is approaching liquidators, wholesalers and "reverse logistics" companies that handle customer returns, Spradlin said.

The company has 80 buyers for used boxes, including four of the largest U.S. off-brand

ing to skids loaded with plastic straps during a recent tour of the worksite.

It takes 300 trailers to handle the volume at company sites.

#### LANDFILL DIVERSION

Spradlin estimates that American Box clients have collected \$27 million in recent vears from "landfill diversion" resales of boxes and other materials, such as plastics, straps, metal tabs and pallets. Sales of "once-used" boxes rose during the pandemic and have remained higher than before.

"The once-used box program they created for us has helped us contribute to our sustainability goals and created a recurring revenue stream," giving more than 115,000 of his company's boxes "a second life," said Deepak Sreedharala, director of operations at Raritan Pharmaceuti-

"We're showing them how we could give them better revenue by stacking their boxes up and letting us take them for resale," said Art Sanders, who now manages American Box's Tipp City site, where he started as a laborer when it opened in 2018.

#### **PRICE SWINGS**

The familiar practice of recycling — collecting boxes at a shredder and forming the fibers into new boxes — faces sharp and rapid prices swings that can make it tough to forecast costs and revenues.

Corrugated recycled pa-"And we pick up other mate-rials," Spradlin added, gestur-the kind Amazon and UPS leave at your door, with waved layers reinforcing flat sides hit its highest price in at least 15 years (adjusted for inflation) during the pandemic shutdowns of 2021, as delivery services swelled with increased demand.

But prices then collapsed to nearly the lowest prices on record in late 2022, as stores reopened, according to Bureau of Labor Statistics data.

Low prices can leave municipal recyclers, shippers and factories with mountains of cardboard they can't easily sell. There are similar overloads of unsellable plastic waste and other scraps, which can end up in landfills or incinerators, defeating waste managers' goals.

Spradlin says the used-box trade is "insulated" from the worst of those price swings. "

When old corrugated container, or OCC, prices are at a low, "it gives us tremendous ability to go into an organization and offer a much nigher price for the boxes than a recycler could pay because we have buyers who want them as is," without the expense of recycling, Spradlin said.

"Reuse is where we all want to go, but I'm not seeing much yet. I think it's going to take time," said Tony Sciarrotta, who runs the Reverse Logistics Association, an Atlanta-based group for merchants who buy and sell deepdiscount goods.

# Apple introduces faster MacBook Pros, Mac minis

**Bloomberg News** 

Apple rolled out its first new products of 2023 last week, offering faster versions of its high-end Mac-Book Pro laptops and the Mac mini desktop.

The new 14-inch and 16inch MacBook Pros look the same as the prior models, which launched at the end of 2021, but add more powerful M2 Pro and M2 Max chips to replace the M1 Pro and M1 Max processors.

The new notebooks mark Apple's first expansion of the M2 chip, which debuted in the MacBook Air and a lowend MacBook Pro last year.

The new Macs bolster a product line that brought in \$40.2 billion last year, accounting for more than 10 percent of the tech giant's revenue. The company also plans to bring a variation of the M2 chip to its high-end Mac Pro desktop computer later this year.

And Apple is working on new versions of the Mac-Book Air, including a larger model with a 15-inch screen.

The chips in the latest models offer modest performance gains and continue Apple's shift away from using Intel processors inside of its Mac computers. The M2 Pro will now sport as many as 12 main processing cores — an indicator of performance — up from a maximum of 10 cores.

The graphics capabilities will now reach up to 19 cores, up from a previous high of 16. The M2 Max doubles performance for graphics, climbing to as many as 38 cores from a prior maximum of 32 cores.

The laptops also get a memory boost, to a maximum of 96 gigabytes on models with the highest-end M2 Max chip. That's up from a prior limit of 32 gigabytes on both. Storage continues to top out at 8 terabytes.

Battery life has been slightly increased, going to 18 hours from 17 hours on the 14-inch model and up to 22 hours from 21 hours on the 16-inch variation.

Apple also said that the new MacBook Pros gain Wi-Fi 6E, which can offer faster wireless performance in some circumstances, in addition to a more powerful HDMI port for driving more advanced external displays.

The Mac minis also look the same as the prior model and arrive over two years after the last update. The Mac mini adds the same M2 chip as the MacBook Air and 13-inch MacBook Pro, while the M2 Pro version includes the same chip as in the new high-end MacBook Pro.

## How much faster can computers get?

San Diego Union-Tribune

A group of 10 universities, led by the University of California, San Diego, is undertaking a \$50.5 million effort to greatly improve the speed and efficiency of computers, work that could do everything from make drug discovery faster to create better weather forecasts.

The coalition, which includes such schools as Stanford and UCLA, hinges on making advances in software and next-generation computer chips. Among other things, both are needed to more rapidly move data from memory sources to processors.

"Right now, it takes an average of 6.5 years and tremendous computing power to determine which pharmaceutical compounds should be tested in clinical trials - and more than 90 percent of the trials fail," said

Tajana Simuni Rosing, the UCSD computer engineering professor who is leading the project. "We plan to shrink this

timeline so that drug discovery will take days rather than years, and results will be more accurate."

The Semiconductor Research Corp., a North Carolina-based consortium that brings industry, government and universities together on major projects, will provide \$35 million of the funding The rest will come from the schools involved in the project.

UCSD was given a leadership role, in part, because it is one of the largest computer and engineering centers in the country. The campus is home to the San Diego Supercomputer Center, the Halicioglu Data Science Institute and the Jacobs School of Engineering, which has nearly 10,000 students.

#### **BUSINESS NOTES**

The Gazette's Business Notes is a compendium of the week's promotions, new hires, certifications, added business lines and business events, among other items, in Cedar Rapids, Iowa City and the rest of the Corridor.

Information and photos can be submitted to Business Notes by email to businessnotes@thegazette.com, or on our site at thegazette.com/businessnotes

#### **NEW HIRES**

Skywalk Group hired Bridget Morales as a business operations analyst.

#### **PROMOTIONS**

**Bob Lamkins** was recently promoted to vice president, mortgage lender at Hills Bank's Iowa City office.

#### **BOARDS**

The following have been elected to three-



Coffey



Hall



Kimberly Hillyard



Shadia Igram





Bob Lamkins



**Bridget** Morales

Alliance, as president; Lisha Coffey, president of Travero, as vice president; Kathy Hall, retired executive director at Kirkwood Community College Foundation, as secretary; and Kimberly information, email mark. Hillyard, wealth adviser hermann@scorevolunat Choreo, as treasurer.

Acme Tools, which includes a retail store in Cedar Rapids, has made Newsweek's list of Best Online Shops 2023 in the DIY, Tools and Supplies

#### **INSIGHTS AND SESSIONS**

The next monthly in-person workshop for



Doug Neumann

Nji skills is on Thursday, sponsored by SCORE. It will be held at Scott's Family Restaurant from 7:30 to 9 a.m. and at the Chrome Horse from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. For more

Akwi

teer.org. The Gazette Business Breakfast panel's third-

quarter discussion, "A Small Business' Tool Kit for 2023: Lessons we've learned and challenges – and opportunities for which we can be prepared," now is online at https://bit.ly/3eD04Wv. Panelists are Paul Andreasen, founder and owner, Saucy Focaccia;

CEO, Almost Famous Popcorn; and Kymberly Stevenson, Targeted Small Business Development Program manager, Iowa Economic Development Authority. The discussion series was sponsored by Bergan-

The final 2022 installment of the "Gazette Spotlight on ..." series of recorded interviews also is available to view at business.thegazette.com. This group recognizes businesses and organizations for their focus on growth. Interviewed are Luke Bishop of BAE Systems; Matt Swift of Big Grove; Sarah Nelson of CommUnity Crisis Services; and Drew Martel of Foundation 2.

In addition, the Better Business Bureau Cedar Rapids office joined The Gazette in speaking with Marc Meyer of Inteconnex. The series was sponsored by TrueNorth Cos.



year terms at Brucemore's board of Trustees: Shadia Igram, accounting manager of Cedar Graphics, and Akwi Nji, director of communications and school and

community relations for the Waterloo Community School District. The board elected **Doug** Neumann, executive director of the Cedar Rapids Metro Economic

# **COVID** savages Chinese pork demand

Dip could hamper soybeans purchased as feed for pigs

#### **Bloomberg News**

It's the time of year in China when whole hams and cured sausages should be flying off the shelves as households prepare for the Lunar New Year, the biggest festival in the nation's calendar.

But as hundreds of millions of people grapple with an unprecedented coronavirus outbreak, the country's fondness for the celebratory dishes that usually accompany gatherings with friends and family is in deep freeze. The price of pork, China's favorite meat, has plunged.

As infections rip through the population, fewer people are gathering at home or in restaurants, and they're spending less on pricier items such as meat, while the sick eat lighter meals.

'Sales are slow, and demand has been very sluggish," said Zhou Huan, who runs a



Cuts of pork are for sale at a wholesale market in Beijing, though sales have dropped about 50 percent as people hesitate to gather in homes and restaurants because of surging coronavirus cases. (Bloomberg News)

butcher shop in Beijing. Zhou said orders fell by about two-thirds from what might be expected at this time of year after the government effectively abandoned its zero

COVID policies in early December. "People suddenly vanished. No one was out.

Pork is China's staple protein, accounting for about 60 percent of all

meat consumed in the world's most populous country, according to McKinsey & Co.

Raising hogs is a business that includes millions of family smallholders, giant agricultural concerns, and the trading houses that ship animal feed from farmers as far afield as the United States and Brazil to fatten the world's big-

gest herd. And the lunar holiday, or Spring Festival, which falls this year at the end of January, is when pork is usually most in demand.
Pork bought at China's

main wholesale markets fell to about 64,000 tons last month, almost half that of a year ago, according to the Agriculture Ministry. Producers are now losing money after pig prices dropped by about a third since the start of December, according to Shanghai JC Intelligence.

"Consumption may have hit rock bottom, but prices could fall further," said Pan Chenjun, a senior analyst with Rabobank.

The ramifications extend beyond the domestic hog industry. Pork is a key food component in the consumer price in-dex, so falling prices will be welcomed by a central bank wary of the infla-tionary impact of China's reopening.

But the foreign farmers that supply animal feed — including in Iowa

will be less sanguine. China's import bill for soybeans alone topped \$60 billion last year.

## Given the cost of chicken eggs, more people are trying plant-based eggs

**Bloomberg News** 

At the end of 2022, something strange happened in the U.S. egg market: On a per-unit basis, consumer prices for plant-based eggs fell below those for chicken eggs.

While the phenomenon is likely temporary, it is undeniable evidence that at least one corner of the plant-based food market can be cost-competitive. And consumers seem to have noticed - plant-based egg sales rose over the same period.

Average U.S. prices for chicken-laid eggs, which industry experts refer to as "shell eggs," rose 51 percent last year, according to data firm IRI, with an average per-dozen price of \$4.17. In the same 52-week period, per-unit prices for plant-based eggs averaged \$4.43.

But in the final 12 weeks of the year, ings shifted Shell egg prices were 81 percent compared with that same period in 2021, for an average per-unit price of \$5.24. Prices for plant-based eggs, meanwhile, dropped a bit — averaging \$4.42.

That made plant-based eggs "almost \$1 dollar cheaper on a unit basis," says John Crawford, IRI's vice president of client insights for dairy, who described the price of chicken eggs as "ridiculously high." The number of shell eggs sold by unit fell during the fourth quarter of 2022 compared with a year earlier, while sales of liquid plant-based eggs by unit went un

Egg industry experts expect it will take six or seven months for egg-laying chicken flocks — decimated by bird flu — to recover and prices to drop.

For now, the market for plant-based eggs remains minuscule — \$30 million in the U.S., where vegan eggs make



A shopper checks a carton of eggs last May inside a grocery store in San Francisco, Calif., when a dozen eggs cost far less than they do today. The increased cost of eggs has more people trying plantbased "eggs" made from mung beans. (Bloomberg News)

up roughly 8.5 percent of all liquid egg sales, but only 0.13 percent of total egg sales. Some 99 percent of sales in the liquid plant-based egg category are of a single brand: Just Egg, made by California-based start-up Eat Just.

Eat Just uses mung beans as the base for Just Egg, which has been available in the U.S. since 2019. The consumer cost for one 12-ounce Just Egg container, equivalent to about eight real eggs, was nearing \$8 as recently as late 2019, more than 1.5 times the price tag at the end of 2022. Eat Just says sales of Just Egg products at grocery stores, natural food stores and mass retailers grew 17 percent over the 52-week period ending Dec. 3, 2022.

As the soaring price of shell eggs gives plant-based alternatives a temporary boost, Eat Just is leaning into the moment. Last Sunday, the company ran a full-page in the New York Times noting: "Plants don't get the flu."

The company also pitches its product as cholesterol-free eggs, and eggs that are better for the environment. Eat Just estimates that it has saved 10.9 billion gallons of water and 16,135 acres of land use since launching, by making eggs from plants instead of chickens. It also estimates avoiding emissions of 52.3 million kilograms of carbon dioxide equivalent, akin to taking more than 11,000 cars off the road for a year.

### P&G reports drop in sales as consumers watch spending

**Bloomberg News** 

Procter & Gamble sold fewer household staples than expected last quarter as consumers grew more cautious about higher prices.

The total volume of goods sold fell 6 percent in the three months ended in December, worse than the 2.6 percent decline that analysts had estimated.

Chief Financial Officer Andre Schulten said in an interview that shoppers are finishing off the products in their pantries before restocking, and they're being more measured in their use of

items such as paper towels. Inflation has curtailed consumer spending, putting an end to the pandemic boom that the maker of Tide detergent and Pampers diapers had experienced.



Procter & Gamble reported last week that its sales dropped in the fourth quarter of 2022. Pictured above is its plant in Iowa City. (The Gazette)

Volume fell in all categories, P&G said last week, citing a "market contraction" for most. Even so, shoppers' reaction to price hikes is "much more benign than we would've expected," Schulten said.

P&G is one of many companies that have passed on higher costs to consumers, with prices rising about 10 percent last quarter alone. That propelled organic sales

up 5 percent even as the company sold fewer items.

In a statement announcing the quarterly results, CEO Jon Moeller acknowledged the "very difficult cost and operating environment," while adding that P&G's actions have helped it to maintain growth despite the challenges.

The company, which has a manufacturing facility in Iowa City, is taking a different approach from the 2008 recession. It now offers a broader range of price points for its products, allowing it to retain consumers even if they need to downgrade from higher-end laundry detergent or shampoo to a cheaper product. P&G frequently says that the efficacy of its products will keep shoppers buying even in an economic downturn.

## **Next food** crunch: Tight supplies of onion rings, french fries

**Bloomberg News** 

Onion rings and fries will be tight this year, according to Portillo's CEO Michael Osanloo another challenge for restaurant operators that are grappling with high food and labor costs.

The limited supply is largely due to a bad crop year for the onions that are used for the fried appetizers. The cost and availability of French fries also are a concern, Osanloo said in an interview in Chicago, adding that prices for the two items have gone up dramatically.

"It's French fries and onion rings that have been the biggest nightmare in terms of both supply and cost increases, and that's industry-wide," he said.
While inflation-rate increases

are slowing compared with 2022, food expenses still are a top area of concern for restaurants this year. The industry has been steadily raising prices despite tighter family budgets, economic uncertainty and a decline in consumer sentiment.

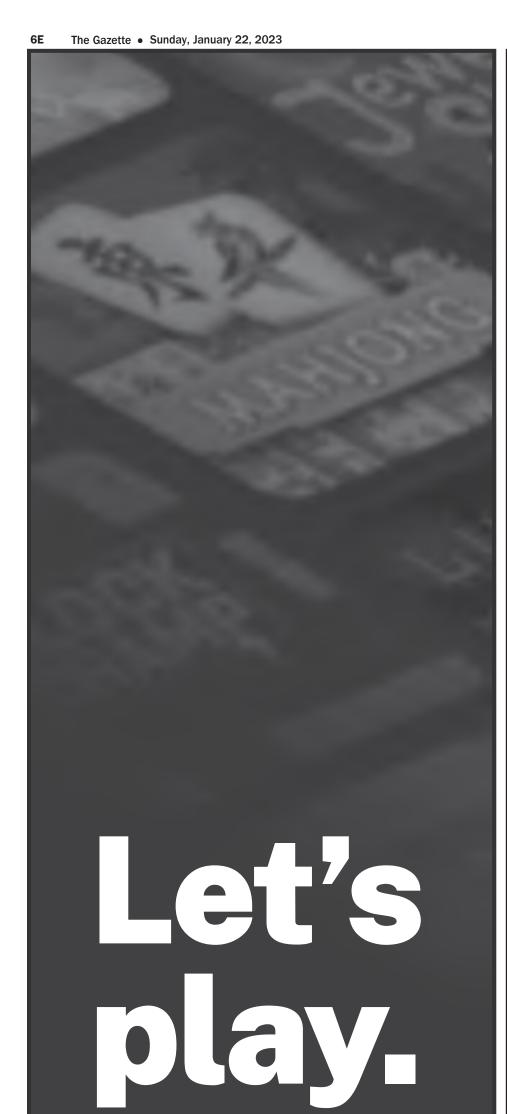
Data from the National Onion Association shows that 2022-23 production levels for the U.S. are almost 5 percent lower than the previous year. Restaurant distributor U.S. Foods Holding has reported that onion harvests are lower than last year, while sellers are expecting tight supply this summer, according to its Jan. 13 Farmer's Report.

'I'm nervous about onion rings," Osanloo said. "There's a certain type of onion that makes onion rings really good and apparently 2022 was a really bad year for these crops." He added that frying oil also has gotten more expensive.

Onion rings and fries are important menu items for the chain that was founded in 1963 as a hot-dog stand in Villa Park. Ill.

Portillo's last year introduced a plant-based hot dog and will offer a new Rodeo Burger in May following a test in Florida. It's a bacon cheeseburger topped with onion rings and barbecue sauce, and will be a permanent item, Osanloo said. The burger will include an upgraded cut of bacon from what the chain previously offered.

'Bacon isn't bacon. There's great bacon and then there's OK bacon," he said. "We're not proud of our bacon right now. We're going to the highest-end commercially available bacon — a dramatic improvement.



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Sunday's Crossword Solved																				
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01/22/23

#### **NEW YORK TIMES CROSSWORD ANSWERS**

01/22/23

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**Today's Answer** 

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WUZZLES®

1. A skeleton in the closet

2. Longstanding feud

Answers 3. Bookends

# JUMBLE.

Answer .

EIGHTY HYBRID OSPREY THROWN

BRID SPRAIN OWN FLINCH

After using the highest quality feathers to make the pillows, they were —

DOWNRIGHT PERFECT

# Al creates images, but who gets the credit?

Artists call foul as apps scan their digitized creations

**Associated Press** 

NEW YORK — Countless artists have taken inspiration from "The Starry Night" since Vincent Van Gogh painted the swirling scene in 1889.

Now artificial intelligence systems are doing the same, training themselves on a vast collection of digitized artworks to produce new images you can conjure in seconds from a smartphone app.

The images generated by tools such as DALL-E, Midjourney and Stable Diffusion can be weird and otherworldly but also increasingly realistic and customizable — ask for a "peacock owl in the style of Van Gogh" and they can churn out something that might look similar to what you imagined.

But while Van Gogh and other long-dead master painters aren't complaining, some living artists and photographers are starting to fight back against the AI software companies creating images derived from their works.

Two new lawsuits — one last week from the Seattle-based photography giant Getty Images — take aim at popular image-generating services for allegedly copying and processing millions of copyright-protected images without a license.

Getty said it has begun legal proceedings in the High Court of Justice in London against Stability AI — the maker of Stable Diffusion — for infringing on intellectual property rights to benefit the London-based startup's commercial interests.

Another lawsuit in a U.S. federal court in San Francisco describes AI image-generators as "21st-century collage tools that violate the rights of millions of artists." The lawsuit, filed 13 by three worl ing artists on behalf of others like them, also names Stability AI as a defendant, along with San Francisco-based image-generator startup Midjourney, and the online gallery DeviantArt.

The lawsuit alleges that AI-generated images "compete in the market-place with the original images. Until now, when a purchaser seeks a new image 'in the style' of a given artist, they must pay to commission or license an original image from that artist."

#### WHAT IS 'FAIR USE'?

Companies that provide image-generating services typically charge users a fee. After a free trial of Midjourney through the chatting app Discord, for instance, users must buy a subscription that starts at \$10 per month or up to \$600 a year for corporate memberships.

The startup OpenAI also charges for use of its DALL-E image generator, and StabilityAI offers a paid service called DreamStudio.

Stability AI said in a statement that "anyone that believes that this isn't fair use does not understand the technology and misunderstands the law."

Midjourney CEO David Holz, in a December interview, described his image-making service as "kind of like a search engine" pulling in a wide swath of images from across the internet. He compared copyright con-

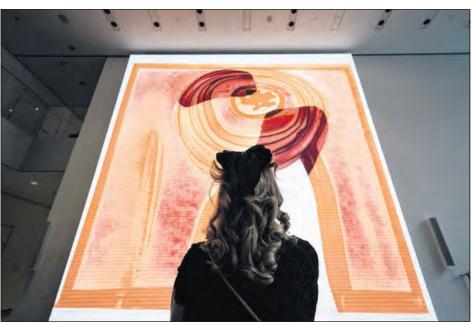


Artist Refik Anadol on Tuesday describes his work inside the Davos Congress Center in Davos, Switzerland. A new Al-generated installation — called "Unsupervised" — by Anadol at the Museum of Modern Art in New York City, is meant to be a thought-provoking interpretation of the New York City museum's prestigious collection. He is one of the artists who's embracing Al, even with its threat of using copyrighted arts and photos by others. (Associated Press photos)



bright side of Al technology, while other artists and photographers worry about copyrighted work being used without permission or compensation.

The



A visitor on Jan. 11 looks at artist Refik Anadol's "Unsupervised" exhibit at the Museum of Modern Art in New York City.

cerns about the technology with how such laws have adapted to human creativity.

'Can a person look at somebody else's picture and learn from it and make a similar picture?" Holz said. "Obviously, it's allowed for people, and if it wasn't, then it would destroy the whole professional art industry, probably the non-professional industry, too. To the extent that AIs are learning like people, it's sort of the same thing and if the images come out differently, then it seems like it's fine.'

#### WHAT'S REAL?

The copyright disputes what's AI. And while mark the beginning of a some have safeguards

backlash against a new generation of impressive tools — some of them introduced just last year — that can generate new visual media, readable text and computer code on command.

on command.

They also raise broader concerns about the propensity of AI tools to amplify misinformation or cause other harm. For AI image generators, that includes the creation of nonconsensual sexual imagery.

Some systems produce photorealistic images that can be impossible to trace, making it difficult to tell the difference between what's real and what's AI. And while some have safeguards in

place to block offensive or harmful content, experts fear it's only a matter of time until people use these tools to spread disinformation and further erode public trust.

"Once we lose this capability of telling what's real and what's fake, everything will suddenly become fake because you lose confidence of anything and everything," said Wael Abd-Almageed, a professor of electrical and computer engineering at the University of Southern California.

As a test, the AP submitted a text prompt on Stable Diffusion featuring the keywords

"Ukraine war" and "Getty Images." The tool created photo-like images of soldiers in combat with warped faces and hands, pointing and carrying guns. Some of the images also featured the Getty watermark, but with garbled text.

AI also can get things wrong, like feet and fingers or details on ears that can sometimes give away that they're not real, but there's no set pattern to look out for. Those visual clues also can be edited. On Midjourney, users often post on the Discord chat asking for advice on how to fix distorted faces and hands.

With some generated images traveling on social networks and potentially going viral, they can be challenging to debunk since they can't be traced back to a specific tool or data source, according to Chirag Shah, a professor at the University of Washington, who uses these tools for research.

"You could make some guesses if you have enough experience working with these tools," Shah said. "But beyond that, there is no easy or scientific way to really do this."

#### BRIGHT SIDE

For all the backlash, there are many people who embrace the new AI tools and the creativity they unleash. Some use them as a hobby to create intricate landscapes, portraits and art; others to brainstorm marketing materials, video game scenery or other ideas related to their professions.

There's plenty of room for fear, but "what else can we do with them?" asked the artist Refik Anadol last week at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, where he displayed an exhibit of climate-themed work created by training AI models on a trove of publicly available images of coral.

At the Museum of Modern Art in New York, Anadol designed "Unsupervised," which draws from artworks in the museum's prestigious collection — including "The Starry Night" — and feeds them into a digital installation generating animations of mesmerizing colors and shapes in the museum lobby.

The installation is "constantly changing, evolving and dreaming 138,000 old artworks at MoMA's archive," Anadol said. "From Van Gogh to Picasso to Kandinsky, incredible, inspiring artists who defined and pioneered different techniques exist in this artwork, in this AI dream world."

Anadol, who builds his own AI models, said in an interview that he prefers to look at the bright side of the technology. But he hopes future commercial applications can be fine-tuned so artists can more easily opt out.

"I totally hear and agree that certain artists or creators are very uncomfortable about their work being used," he said.

For painter Erin Hanson, whose impressionist landscapes are so popular and easy to find online that she has seen their influence in AI-produced visuals, the concern is not about her own prolific output, which makes \$3 million a year.

She does, however, worry about the art community as a whole.

"The original artist needs to be acknowledged in some way or compensated," Hanson said. "That's what copyright laws are all about. And if artists aren't acknowledged, then it's going to make it hard for artists to make a living in the future."

# DRIVE

#### AUTO REVIEW | 2022 MERCEDES C300 4MATIC AND 2023 MERCEDES EQE 350 4MATIC



The 2023 Mercedes EQE 350 4MATIC looks like a big computer mouse — to match its big, computer-like lithium ion battery underneath. (Detroit News photos/TNS)



The 2022 Mercedes C300 4MATIC gains a more muscular exterior to match its throaty engine and

# Split personality

#### Mercedes' electric EQE and gas C300 cater to different consumers

By Henry Payne, Detroit News

ETROIT — The luxury segment is in the midst of a massive identity crisis. Startup automakers Tesla and Rivian have done giant cannonballs into the country club pool, turning the heads of swells from their establishment dates.

The establishment has responded with a rush to the wardrobe department. The grand dame of them all, Mercedes, however, just doubled down on making more of its outrageously elegant jewelry.

For 2023 Mercedes has rolled out the electric EQE and the mild-hybrid, internal combustion engine-powered C300. They flaunt similar interiors that are best in luxe — lovely layouts updated for the electronics revolution sweeping the industry. But while the interiors remind that the German maker is autodom's best tailor, the exoskeletons indicate the different drivetrains behind the signature three-star logo on each grille.

Mercedes envisions different customers for my EV and ICE testers. The EQE is a smartphone on wheels; the C300 bristles with animal aggression to match its engine's growl.

Following the Mercedes brand's six-figure halo EQS, the EQE debuts Mercedes' electric look in the mid-size sedan class for the eye-watering standard price of \$75,950. That's \$20K north of the gas-fired E-class, and Merc doesn't even pretend that the pair are competitors.

On its website, Mercedes separates EVs into a separate "Electrics" category, indicating the EQE's desire to compete against

vehicles like the Tesla Model 3 and BMW i4.

"I think this is the most compelling competitor to Tesla," said my 30-year-old son Sam after negotiating a tight turning radius with the Merc's four-wheel-steer feature.

From 4WS to auto-lanechanging, EQE goes head-on against Tesla's signature sci-fi tech while maintaining its reputation for elegance. The interior's centerpiece is a gorgeous 12.3-inch console screen housed in a silver-framed tablet that rolls up the dash like a wave. A 17.7-inch-wide Hyperscreen also is available, but the standard screen is plenty. The screen runs on Merc's latest MBUX software and the graphics are mesmerizing, the response instant, its ergonomics superb (flipping through radio channels, for example). Heading downtown, I pulled the console stalk into DRIVE, then set adaptive cruise control on the steering wheel. EQE glided along like a magic carpet with whisper-quiet, buttery-smooth acceleration.

I barely drove the car — just keeping my hand on the wheel to assure the system that I was awake. Occasionally, I flicked the turn signals for automatic passes when balked by slower traffic. Mercedes complements this laptop-on-wheels experience with an exterior design that looks like a giant computer mouse.

For those who ache for exterior drama, the C300 delivers.

The compact Merc sat on its rear-wheel-drive haunches in my driveway. Long snout sniffing the turf. Big grille, meaty jowls. A predator waiting to pounce. It's a dramatically different statement than the Giant Mouse.

Enthusiasts will blanch at the turbo-4 drivetrain (a \$60K jewel with a similar engine to a Volkswagen GTI? Really?) but at least Merc massages it with the latest goodies. A mild-hybrid, 48-volt battery provides low-end torque until the turbos kick in. Speaking of kicking in, I punched the Mode selector to SPORT + and the C300 did a credible launch control, complete with engine growl that warmed my heart. For all its instant electric torque, the EQE can't inspire that emotion.

As with the EQE, allow me to recommend the C300's all-wheel drive for Michigan winters.

The C300's real revelation is an interior on par with the sci-fi EQE. Even the rear seats are reasonably roomy. The same MBUX infotainment system is here.

You could spend weeks in the Mercedes exploring their electronic goo-gaws. But the bottom line of this review of siblings is the bottom line.

The C300 delivers a similar buttery-smooth drivetrain and interior experience to the buttery-smooth EQE EV for \$30,000 less. Not to mention all the inherent travel advantages of a gas car versus an EV. In sync with its impressive navigation software, EQE can identify charging stations on the way to your long-distance destination. But the C300 will get you there more quickly with America's ubiquitous gasoline infrastructure.

Impressively, Mercedes doesn't break stride in offering these two electrified gems. Whether you're a new or longtime customer, Merc's 2023 models display a brand very comfortable with its



The 2022 Mercedes C300 4MATIC cockpit features all the latest digital features, although the haptic, touch steering wheel controls are a bit too clever.

#### AT A GLANCE

- What: 2022 Mercedes C300 4MATIC
- Vehicle type: Front-engine, AWD five-passenger sedan • Price: \$46,600, including \$1,050 destination fee (\$63,440 AMG Line as tested)
- Powerplant: 2.0-liter turbo-4 cylinder with 48-volt mildhybrid assist
- Power: 255 horsepower, 295 pound-feet of torque
- Transmission: 9-speed automatic
- Performance: 0-60 mph, 5.3 seconds (Car and Driver). Top speed, 130 mph
- Weight: 3,957 pounds
- Fuel economy: EPA, 23 mpg city/33 highway/27 combined
- Highs: Modern, lovely interior; sexy exterior
- Lows: Over-engineered controls; 4-banger doesn't match luxury wardrobe
- Overall: 3 stars
- What: 2023 Mercedes EQE 350 4MATIC • Vehicle type: Battery-powered, all-wheel-drive five-
- passenger sedan
- Price: \$78,950, including \$1,150 destination fee (\$93,840 as tested)
- Powerplant: 90.6 kWh lithium-ion battery with dual-electric
- Power: 288 horsepower, 564 pound-feet torque
- Transmission: Single-speed direct drive
- Performance: 0-60 mph, 5.3 seconds (Car and Driver);
- top speed, 130 mph • Weight: 5,488 pounds
- Fuel economy: EPA MPGe 97 (est.); range, 300 miles
- Highs: Modern interior; all-wheel-steer maneuverability
- Lows: Generic exterior; gets pricey
- Overall: 3 stars

#### **MOTORMOUTH**

## Loud, howling fan engine doesn't indicate a problem

By Bob Weber. Tribune News Service

• My 2008 BMW 328 with • the six-cylinder engine and 82,000 miles runs beautifully. But once the temperature gauge reaches 180 degrees, the electric cooling fan comes on full and stays on, even given the cooler fall weather. Pulling into the garage, the whooshing howl of the fan is very loud. It takes 30 seconds for the fan to wind down from its stratospheric RPM. Is this normal operation? — E.W., Williamsburg,

• Yes, Virginian, it is A · Yes, virginian, in a normal. The engine is happiest when running at the designed running temperature. In your BMW's case that is about 200 degrees — even in cold weather.

• We have a 2013 Ford • C-Max and a 2020 Ford Fusion. We usually burn 87-octane gas containing 10 percent ethanol. Lately I'm seeing 88-octane unleaded with 15 percent ethanol. I know we shouldn't use E85 but I'm wondering if we could use the 88-octane with more ethanol. - TC, Richfield, Wis.

 As of the 2013 model • year, Ford vehicles can use E15 gasoline, while prior model years are limited to E10. To see fuel requirements specific to your vehicle, check your owner's manual. By the way, E15 has 85 percent gasoline, the opposite of E85 which has 15 percent gasoline. But increased alcohol provides decreased miles per gallon.

• I have a 2012 Hyundai
• Elantra with 67 and the idle is sometimes a little bit shaky. I brought it to the Hyundai dealer twice who replaced my engine under class action suit for a piston slap noise. They found nothing wrong. I was told to use fuel system cleaner or super unleaded, but it hasn't helped. — M.F., Braintree Mass.

A • After a decade of driv-ing, the idle air control valve may be getting dirty. When that happens, idle is often uneven, especially on a cold engine. A thorough throttle body cleaning may be all you need.

• I put a new set of Mi- chelin Primacy Tour A/S 235/55 tires on my 2017 GMC Acadia. It seems like after 7,000 miles they are really

riding hard. This tire is sup-• Elantra with 87,000 miles posed to be quiet and smooth riding, but they are not. Can these tires get hard? — B.M., Portsmouth, Va.

 No, new tires don't get hard. New tires typically feel different from the old, worn tires. Just be sure they are inflated to the pressures found on the car's door. Some tire techs mistakenly inflate the tires to the maximum pressure figure molded into the tire's sidewall.

 $_{\bullet}$  For the last year I've • had an intermittent problem with my dome and other lights not coming on my 2011 Toyota Avalon. The 7.5 amp fuse blows each time. For a while I was able to just replace the fuse, and everything would work for many months. Recently the fuse is blowing in

a day or less. I've had a Toyota dealer look at this and they did not charge me initially. They replaced the front ceiling console that has the door rocker switch and map lights. This was costly and unfortunately the problem was not solved. Since they guarantee their work for a year, they and Toyota will now work together to solve the problem. There are no TSBs on this problem. - S.P., Bartlett, Ill.

A • I am not sure whether • there is a short circuit somewhere or if there is a power surge when the lights come on. Try installing a 7.5 amp slow-blow fuse. If it does not blow, one or more lamps may be demanding too

Send questions along with name and town

much current.

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50 Blk strs 2Xvac on roughage#825 60 Blk-Bwf strs 2Xvac weaned running out#625-650 100 Blk strs-hfrs vac weaned#600-750

75 Blk strs-hfrs 2Xvac weaned#600-700 57 Blk strs-hfrs 2Xvac weaned running out#700-850

out#700-850
50 Blk strs-hfrs vac weaned#600-700
51 Blk strs-hfrs vac weaned#600-700
51 Blk strs-hfrs vac weaned#375-575
31 Blk strs-hfrs vac weaned#560-750
30 Blk strs-hfrs vac weaned#550-750
30 Blk strs-hfrs vac weaned#500-600
30 Bwf-Herf strs vac weaned#500-700
31 Blk strs-hfrs vac weaned#600-700
24 Blk strs-hfrs vac weaned#600-700
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17 Blk strs-hfrs vac weaned#600-700
18 Blk Red strs-hfrs vac weaned#600-700

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CONTACT Melissa Lennie 319-310-2843

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#### January 22 | 2-3:30 PM

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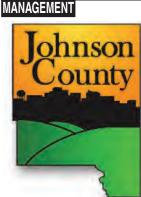
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#### How should lawmakers dress?

By Karla L. Miller, Washington Post

The Missouri House of Representatives recently considered updating its dress code to require female lawmakers to wear "business attire, including jackets" on the floor and lower gallery of the House. Previously, the code required only "a blazer or sweater" with a dress, skirt or slacks.

On paper, the change looks innocuous, and more in line with the existing rule for men: "business attire, including coat, tie, dress trousers, and dress shoes or boots." But context matters.

The proposal generated backlash for exclusively targeting women and the extent to which they cover themselves. Attempts to impose and enforce restrictions on how women present themselves tend to spark concerns that more consequential restrictions on women are in the works. Given the present fight for birth control and abortion rights, that sensitivity is not unreasonable.

Workers hoping to get ahead in any industry have to make the same distinction between merely dressing

for their settings and going beyond to achieve a desired effect: to win confidence, look authoritative and project "executive presence."

Employers and legislative leaders have the right to set dress codes to establish group coherence and identity. But they get into trouble when they design rules that focus too heavily on effects that have little to do with the requirements of the setting — for example, trying to make female employees girlier.

In most workplaces, public or private, the purpose of the dress code is simply to establish a minimum collective standard that still allows for diversity of expression, beliefs and needs. Smart rule makers will consider the effect on people covered by those rules, solicit general input to make the wording detailed and inclusive — ideally before laying down accidental land mines — and enforce the rules consistently.

Ultimately, although the Missouri House adopted the jacket rule, it did concede a dissenting lawmaker's point, adding cardigans as a less expensive and more adaptable option.

**FOCUS: WORK** 

#### The best jobs in health care

**Atlanta Journal-Constitution** 

Is being a nurse better than being a doctor? According to U.S. News & World Report, at least one sort of nurse is

Nurse practitioners have the best health care job for 2023, the news site wrote. Not only that, they ranked No. 2 for 100 best jobs and for best STEM jobs.

Nurse practitioners are registered nurses who have a higher degree, which allows them to "take patient histories, perform physical exams, order labs, analyze lab results, prescribe medicines, authorize treatments and educate patients and families on continued care," U.S. News wrote.

Here are the top 10 health care jobs:

1. Nurse practitioner

Projected jobs: 112,700 Median salary: \$120,680 Education needed: master's

2. Physician assistant
Projected jobs: 38,400
Median salary: \$121,530
Education needed: master's

3. Physical therapist

Projected jobs: 40,400 Median salary: \$95,620 Education needed: doctorate

**4. Dentist** 

Projected jobs: 7,700 Median salary: \$160,370 Education needed: doctorate

**5. Veterinarian**Projected jobs: 16,800
Median salary: \$100,370
Education needed: doctorate

**6. Physician**Projected jobs: 19,400
Median salary: \$208,000
Education needed: doctorate

7. Orthodontist
Projected jobs: 300
Median salary: \$208,000
Education needed: doctorate

8. Registered nurse
Projected jobs: 195,400
Median salary: \$77,600
Education needed: bachelor's

9. Oral and maxillofacial surgeon
Projected jobs: 300
Median salary: \$208,000
Education needed: doctorate

**10. Nurse anesthetist**Projected jobs: 5,300
Median salary: \$195,610
Education needed: master's



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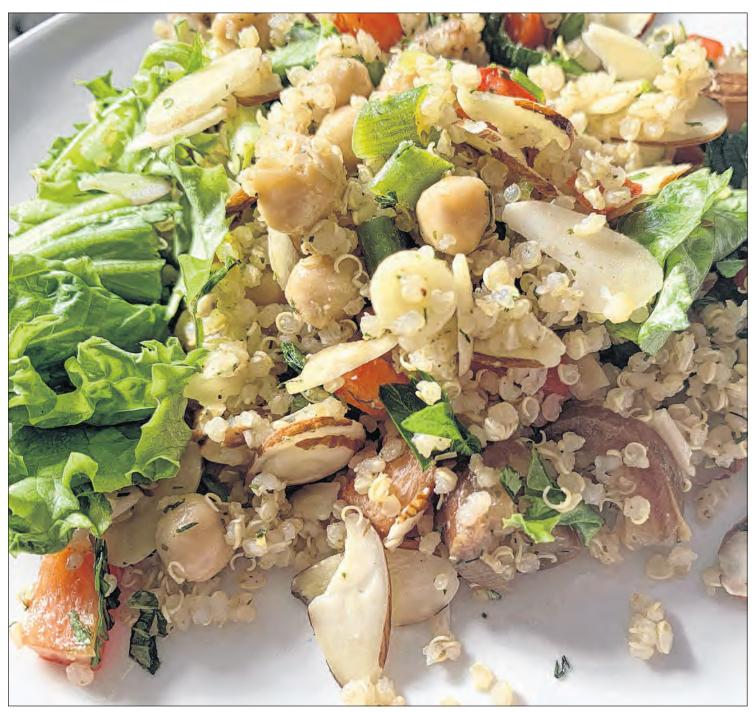
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# LIVING



**SWEET AND SPICY** | LISA WILLIAMS



Quinoa-Chickpea Salad with Fresh Herbs. (Lisa Williams)

# What's for

# Quinoa-chickpea salad with fresh herbs a healthy lunch — or supper — option

fter all my years of career life, how to fill the lunchbox remains an ongoing exercise. For me, the obvious answer has always been 1) last night's leftovers or 2) a veggie-filled salad or 3) takeout.

It's always a welcome treat when lunch is provided at professional association meetings because preparing my own lunch is one less decision I have to make. I do love the occasional restaurant meal, but some days it's too cold to venture out, or I don't have time. Lately, my quinoa-chickpea salad has come to the rescue.

This recipe began last summer as a way to avoid standing in front of a hot stove to prepare supper. I like having two or three salads on hand in the refrigerator for those hot days and evenings. Easy salads work well for supper and as leftovers the next day at lunch.

This salad travels well to work and as a potluck offering. It remains satisfying even now in deep winter. It's a bountiful, colorful and nourishing dish that fits the salad-as-a-meal category. And, when you combine a grain with a legume, that equals a complete protein.

With roughly equal amounts of canned chickpeas and cooked quinoa as the base, the salad is built by adding bell pepper, scallions, dates and generous amounts of chopped parsley, cilantro and mint.

The simple dressing is made with olive oil, lemon juice, wine vinegar and whatever spices I happen to be in the mood to add. The final touch is a handful could use Great Northern. Cooked lenor so of sliced almonds, toasted if I have

You can add, substitute and experi-

#### **RECIPE**

#### **QUINOA-CHICKPEA SALAD** 1 can chickpeas, rinsed and drained

- 1 1/2 to 2 cups cooked and chilled quinoa 2 to 3 scallions, finely chopped, including
- green tops 1 bell pepper (or more), any color you
- 1 large carrot, freshly shredded and/or a

few sliced radishes

- 1/2 cup chopped dates or other dried fruit (raisins, cranberries, cherries)
- 1/2 cup each of fresh herbs, chopped:
- flat-leaf parsley, cilantro, mint
- 1/3 cup, approximately, of sliced almonds, lightly toasted and cooled To a large bowl add chickpeas, scal-

lions, bell pepper, carrot and dates. Start by adding half the prepared dressing. Toss well. Fold in quinoa and then chopped herbs, gently stirring until all ingredients and dressing are evenly incorporated, but taking care not to mash the quinoa.

Taste for seasoning and add as much your liking. remaining dressing as you like, but not so much that the salad is soaked. Sprin-

kle almonds over the top. Allow salad to rest in the refrigerator or at room temperature until serving so the spices can settle.

#### Dressing

1/2 cup olive oil

- 3 tablespoons lemon or lime juice, plus grated zest
- 1 tablespoon white or red wine vinegar 1/2 teaspoon garlic powder 1/2 teaspoon Dijon vinegar

Salt and pepper to taste

Optional spices, such as: 1 teaspoon coriander, 1/2 teaspoon cardamom, 1/4 teaspoon cumin; or 1 1/2 teaspoon garam masala; or 1 1/2 teaspoons of any prepared spice

mixture that you like For the dressing, mix all ingredients in a small jar and shake vigorously until all ingredients are well combined. Taste and adjust salt and pepper according to

Source: Lisa Williams

ment with this recipe. I sometimes toss in sliced radishes, shredded carrots or bits of leftover cooked broccoli. Don't like quinoa? Use rice or another grain you prefer. Instead of chickpeas, you tils that have been very well drained and have not been overcooked could work well, too. But really, take this idea and

make the salad your own.

I encourage you to keep the abundance of chopped, fresh herbs. I like parsley, cilantro and mint because they harmonize and it's nice to have an herbal surprise in each bite. You can use one or more herbs to suit your fancy. Fresh herbs are full of nutrients and their green flavor reminds me of sunshine.



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#### **THEATER**

#### "Cosi Fan Tutte"

Set in front of (and behind!) the cameras of a 1980s soap opera, this star-studded and shoulderpadded production empowers Mozart's female characters like never before.

- When: 2 p.m. today • Where: Paramount Theatre, 123 Third Ave. SE. Cedar Rapids
- Cost: \$19 to \$69

#### **EDUCATION**

#### **Opioids, Overdose** Response & Naloxone

Carrie Hough, a prevention specialist at Community & Family Resources in lowa, explores what opioids are, how they work, and also explains how to identify an opioid poisoning/overdose and respond with naloxone, the lifesaving medication that can reverse an overdose. Participants in the training may sign up to receive a free naloxone kit via mail.

- When: 1 to 2:30 p.m. Wednesday
- Where: lowa City/ Johnson County Senior Center, 28 S. Linn St., Iowa City
- Cost: Free

#### **OUTDOORS**

#### Snowshoe/ **Cross-Country Ski Demo**

but don't know where to start? Come to this trial of snowshoes and crosscountry skis, which are available for rental this winter. The Cedar Rapids Rollin' Rec Mobile will be on-site with kids' sizes of snowshoes and winter fun activities.

- When: 1 to 4 p.m. Thursday
- Where: Soko Outfitters, 41 16th Ave. SW, Cedar
- Rapids • Cost: Free

#### **HOBBY**

#### How to Make a Milk Jug Greenhouse

Linn County Master Gardener Karla McGrail will teach you the easiest, cheapest way to get native plants for your home garden.

- When: 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Thursday
- Where: Marion Public Library, 1095 Sixth Ave., Marion
- Cost: Free

#### **THEATER**

#### "A Walk in the Woods"

Two superpower arms negotiators in the 1980s go on a series of nature walks as they try to solve nuclear proliferation and prevent the next great conflict.

• When: 7:30 p.m. Thursday to Saturday; 2 p.m. Jan. 29

• Where: Riverside Theatre, 119 E. College

St., Iowa City • Cost: \$15 to \$35

# This gingery, garlicky chicken soup from Smitten Kitchen is a keeper

**By Ann Maloney,** Washington Post

If you cook regularly, you probably have a stash of recipes that you consider "keepers" — the ones you make again and again because you love the flavor and they always turn out just right.

But do you have 100 such recipes? Me neither. For her third cookbook, "Smitten Kitchen

book, "Smitten Kitchen Keepers," food blogger and author Deb Perelman decided to gather only recipes that met those stringent criteria.

"I realized how much I wanted to be able to hand my kids a collection of recipes specifically written with making them forever in mind," she writes in the introduction to her third cookbook.

Perelman began her Smitten Kitchen cooking site in 2006, and in the years since, she has amassed a loyal fan base with her comforting, straightforward cooking. She has more than 1 1/2 million followers on her delicious Instagram. (If you love to cook or are just learning to cook and you're not following her on social media, do yourself a favor and start.)

She's also gathered lots of knowledge and real-life experience. Perelman claims to have read every one of the 350,000 comments posted to her recipes because she wants to anticipate the challenges home cooks might face. For this cookbook, she writes that she worked through more than 500 recipe ideas to arrive at these 100 sweet and savory dishes.

The appeal of Perelman's recipes is that she makes them at home, in her small New York kitchen, and her ingredients are, for most folks, easily accessible.

When I read that this soup was the first recipe she developed for the cookbook, I decided to try it. She says it is her go-to soup on a chilly weeknight.

The soup provides fine examples of what makes her recipes so popular.

Often, she includes tips that are transferrable to cooking in general. In this recipe, she notes that instead of buying chicken stock, she simmers boneless, skinless chicken thighs — fattier and so more flavorful than the breast meat with aromatics to create a base. Then she adds the ginger and garlic to give what would be a mild, comforting soup some oomph.

She also frequently shares a little something that's easy to do but gives the dish a bit of polish.

In this case, the soup is finished at the table with a quick sauce made of Chinkiang vinegar, soy sauce, sesame oil and chili crisp for heat.

And Perelman anticipates issues that might arise for home cooks. For example, she notes that you should add the noodles right before serving or they will keep "drinking" the broth until there is little left.

(I live in a house of two, and this soup makes 12 cups, so that cued me to think about this issue as I was cooking. I knew we would not eat this in one sitting, so I cooked the noodles separately, drained them and added them to the serving bowls before ladling over the soup. Then I stored the noodles and soup



Ginger Garlic Chicken Noodle Soup. (Justin Tsucalas/Washington Post)

separately in the refrigerator.)

I made the soup twice, loved it and then asked a friend to try it out as well. She served it at a dinner party and got raves all around.

Is it a keeper? Yes. And so is this cookbook.

## GINGER GARLIC CHICKEN NOODLE SOUP

35 minutes 6 to 8 servings

Smitten Kitchen blogger and cookbook author Deb Perelman says this is her go-to soup on a chilly weeknight. It's the first recipe she developed for her cookbook "Smitten Kitchen Keepers." Instead of buying chicken stock, she simmers boneless, skinless chicken thighs with aromatics to create a base. The soup also gets a flavor boost from ginger, garlic and scallions. It is finished at the table with a quick sauce made of Chinkiang vinegar, soy sauce, sesame oil and chili crisp for heat. To accommodate varying spice preferences, serve the chili crisp separately at the table, so people can add as much as they like.

Storage Notes: Refrigerate for up to 4 days (see NOTES).

Where to Buy: Chinkiang vinegar, also called black rice vinegar, can be found at well-stocked supermarkets, Asian markets and online.

Notes: Add the noodles right before serving or they will keep "drinking" the broth until there is little left. If you do not plan to eat all of the soup at once, add the carrot as directed and cook for about 3 minutes. Then cook the noodles separately, drain them and add them to the serving bowls before ladling over the soup; store the soup and noodles separately in the refrigerator.

If you do not have ramen

noodles, you can use your favorite thin noodles, including Chinese noodles and angel hair pasta.

Chinkiang vinegar is ideal for this sauce, but if you don't have it, substitute with rice vinegar, white wine vinegar or apple cider vinegar.

#### FOR THE SOUP

10 cups water

2 pounds boneless, skinless chicken thighs, trimmed of visible fat

6 cloves garlic, thinly sliced One (3-inch) piece fresh ginger, minced or finely

1 bunch scallions (8 ounces), sliced, whites and greens separated

2 teaspoons fine salt, plus more to taste

Freshly ground black pepper, to taste (optional) 8 ounces curly or other

8 ounces curly or other dried ramen noodles (see NOTES)

1 large carrot, cut into matchsticks (about 1 cup)

#### FOR THE SAUCE

- 1/4 cup Chinkiang vinegar (see NOTES)
- 1/4 cup low-sodium soy sauce
- 2 tablespoons toasted sesame oil

Make the broth: In a 4- to 5-quart pot over high heat, combine the water, chicken, garlic, ginger, scallion whites, salt and pepper, if using, and bring to a boil. Reduce the heat to mediumlow and simmer, uncovered, stirring occasionally, until the chicken is tender and cooked through, about 15 minutes.

Chili crisp, to taste (optional)

Make the sauce: While the chicken simmers, in a small bowl, whisk together the vinegar, soy sauce, sesame oil and chili crisp, to taste, if using.

Make the soup: Using a slotted spoon or tongs, transfer the chicken to a cutting board. Add the noodles (see NOTES) and car-

rots to the broth and cook following the directions on the noodle package, about 3 minutes.

While the noodles cook, using two forks, shred the chicken into bite-size pieces. Return the chicken to the pot and rewarm for 2 minutes. Taste, and season with more salt and/or pep-

per, as needed, keeping in mind that the finishing sauce will add both saltiness and heat.

Divide the soup among bowls. Add the scallion greens, and drizzle each bowl with 1 teaspoon of the soy sauce mixture, placing extra sauce and chili crisp on the table, if desired.

Nutrition information per serving (1 1/2 cups), based on 8 | Calories: 266; Total Fat: 6 g; Saturated Fat: 1 g; Cholesterol: 94 mg; Sodium: 912 mg; Carbohydrates: 26 g; Dietary Fiber: 2 g; Sugar: 2 g; Protein: 26 g

Source: Adapted from "Smitten Kitchen Keepers" by Deb Perelman (Alfred A. Knopf, 2022)





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#### LIVING



Made with slow-cooked pork shoulder, sausage and meatballs, this rich Sunday sauce can be served on any kind of pasta. (Gretchen McKay/Pittsburgh Post-Gazette)

# Sunday sauce can warm winter's heart

By Gretchen McKay, Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

This hearty, stick-to-yourribs pasta sauce is among my eldest son Dan's favorite dishes to make when he's stuck all day indoors, and double-tasked with feeding a hungry crowd. Simmered for hours on the stovetop, it's both rich and filling, with three different kinds of meat — pork shoulder, Italian sausage and meatballs — adding a luxurious succulence and texture. Hot cherry pepper hoagie spread (we prefer Cento) lends a spicy undertone that helps cut through the intense rich-

ness We enjoyed it over homemade gnocchi and then again the next day for lunch over spaghetti, but any long noodle or tubular pasta will work. You can refrigerate any leftovers for up to a week or stick it in the freezer for a future supper for up to two months.

Serve with a tossed green salad and lots of crusty Italian bread. A glass of red wine completes the meal.

#### **DANNY'S SUNDAY SAUCE**

Yield: 10 to 12 servings Dan uses a meatloaf mix of ground pork, veal and beef. 1/2 cup olive oil, plus more for pan 1 1/2 -2 pounds boneless pork shoulder, cut into chunks

1 pound mild Italian sausage 1 pound beef meatballs, premade or homemade

- 1 yellow onion, chopped 1 stalk celery, chopped
- 2 carrots, peeled and chopped 2 28-ounce cans Italian plum
- tomatoes, with or without basil. crushed
- 1 cup tomato puree or sauce 2 generous tablespoons hot cherry pepper hoagie spread, such as
- 1 cup dry white wine
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 cup or more to thin sauce Salt and ground black pepper, to

Cooked pasta, for serving Grated Parmesan cheese

In large Dutch oven, heat olive oil over medium heat. Season pork shoulder with salt and pepper, then add to pan. Sear pork

until brown on both sides, then remove from pan and set aside.

Add onion, celery and carrots to hot oil and cook over medium heat until onion is translucent and carrots and celery are tender. Add garlic and cook for another minute or so, being careful not to burn. Stir in sandwich spread.

Deglaze pan by adding white wine, scraping up any browned bits on the bottom of pan, then reduce heat and cook until wine is almost evaporated, about 3 to 5 minutes.

Add tomato puree or sauce and stir to combine. Stir in crushed tomatoes and cooked pork. Rinse cans with about 1 cup of water and add to pan.

Simmer sauce, slightly covered, over low heat for 2 1/2 hours,

then add Italian sausage. Stir to make sure meat is submerged, then continue cooking for another 60 minutes.

In separate pan, sear meatballs in a little bit of olive oil. Add meatballs to saucepan, and gently stir to combine. Continue simmering the sauce for another hour or so, or until sauce reduces to desired consistency and pork easily shreds with a fork. Season to taste with salt and pepper.

To serve, add cooked pasta to a large bowl and spoon sauce over top, along with a little hot pasta water and a tablespoon or 2 of olive oil. Toss to combine, then serve in warmed bowls, with grated Parmesan.

Source: Dan McKay

## Shrimp Sliders feature flavorful sauce

By Linda Gassenheimer, Tribune News Service

Shrimp sauteed in garlicky butter fills these little mini burger rolls. A sauce of mayonnaise, mustard, scallions and some Old Bay seasoning is spread on the rolls. Old Bay is a blend of herbs and spices, usually celery salt, red and black pepper and paprika. It's mostly used to season shellfish.

For the Quick Potato Salad, I doctored up deli potato salad with some sliced carrots and chopped chives.

#### **HELPFUL HINTS**

- You can substitute Old Bay seasoning with some paprika, salt and pepper.
- You can use any type of lettuce.
- Buy peeled and deveined shrimp.

#### **COUNTDOWN**

- Make potato salad and set aside.
- Mix the mayonnaise, scallions and mustard together in a small bowl
- and set aside. • Toast the slider rolls. 4 lettuce leaves
- Saute the shrimp and assemble the sliders.

#### **SHRIMP SLIDERS** Yield: 2 servings

1/4 cup reduced-fat



Shrimp Sliders and Quick Potato Salad. (Linda Gassenheimer/TNS)

- mayonnaise 2 scallions, thinly sliced or chopped
- 2 teaspoons Dijon mustard 4 whole wheat slider (mini
- hamburger) rolls
- 1 tablespoon butter 3 sliced garlic cloves
- 3/4 pound peeled and
- deveined shrimp 2 teaspoons Old Bay
- seasoning
- Mix the mayonnaise,
- scallions and mustard together in a small bowl and set aside. Open the slider rolls and toast them in a toaster oven or under the broiler. Place 2 rolls each

on two dinner plates next to the potato salad.

Heat the butter and garlic in a medium size non-stick skillet for 1 minute. Add the shrimp and saute 3 minutes or until they turn pink. Sprinkle with the Old Bay seasoning. Place a lettuce leaf on the bottom half of the slider rolls. Divide the shrimp into 4 portions and place on the lettuce leaves. Spread the mayonnaise mixture on the top half of the buns and place them on the shrimp.

Per serving: 463 calories (38% from fat), 19.7 g fat (5.9 g saturated, 4.6 g monounsaturated), 292 mg cholesterol, 39.7 g protein, 30.8 g carbohydrates, 5.1 g fiber, 698 mg sodium.

Source: Linda Gassenheimer

#### **QUICK POTATO SALAD** Yield: 2 servings 1 cup deli potato salad

1/4 cup sliced carrots 2 tablespoons chopped

Place potato salad in a bowl. Add the celery and chives. Mix well.

Per serving: 227 calories (69% from fat), 17.4 g fat (2.7 g saturated, 3.2 g monounsaturated), 13 mg cholesterol, 1.6 g protein, 15.5 g carbohydrates, 1.8 g fiber, 290 mg sodium.

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# Rice and beans dish full of comfort

By G. Daniela Galarza, Washington Post

henever I got sick as a kid, my mom wouldn't make chicken soup — she'd serve me mushy rice and yogurt. Many rice-eating cultures eat rice and yogurt together as a meal or to ease an upset stomach. I grew to love the simple meal; it was calming and nourishing enough to sustain me through the worst of a fever. It's still something I yearn for, whether I'm feeling under the weather or just want a dose of comfort.

This recipe for herby rice and beans, served with a pat of butter and a dollop of yogurt, is a grown-up version of my childhood comfort food. It was inspired by two Persian dishes: sabzi polo, an herbaceous rice often served with kebabs or roasts, and ghormeh sabzi, a stew of herbs, lamb and kidney beans.

Though herb-forward dishes are popular around Nowruz, the Iranian new year, which takes place in the spring, I've adapted this recipe to use dried herbs, which are easy to find year-round.

I borrowed the multistep, one-pot technique from a method Iranians sometimes use to make rice dishes such as tahdig. You start by boiling rice in plenty of salted water, as if it's pasta, before steaming it. I like adding a dried lime — a signature ingredient in ghormeh sabzi — to the water, to start flavoring the rice as it cooks. You don't need to rinse it before boiling it this way as you'll drain away all of the excess starchy water, leaving behind fluffy, individual grains of rice.

That same pot gets rinsed out, dried and used to saute a big bunch of sliced scallions until they start to caramelize. Then in goes lots of finely chopped spinach and several tablespoons of dried herbs, including fenugreek.

Dried fenugreek is fairly easy to find at spice shops; it



Herby Rice and Beans. (Rey Lopez/Washington Post)

may also be labeled methi. If you have access to fresh, use that, finely chopped. Whether dried or fresh, fenugreek will add its signature sweet-bitter scent to the dish — and per-fume your whole home as the rice cooks.

Next, it's time to mix it all together: The parcooked rice goes in, along with a (drained and rinsed) can of kidney beans. Stir well, so the greens fall in among the grains. Then, cover tightly and allow the rice to finish cooking in the residual moisture on low heat. After about 12 minutes, you'll have wonderfully fluffy rice, tinted green and studded with plump beans. It's delicious topped with a pat of butter and creamy yogurt on the side.

#### **HERBY RICE AND BEANS** Active time: 15 minutes | Total time: 35 minutes

4 servings (makes 8 cups) Dried lime, or lemon omani, adds a sour note; if you can't find dried limes, toss the finished rice with the zest and juice of a fresh

If you don't have dried fenugreek leaves, omit them.

To substitute fresh herbs for dried, use 1 bunch each parsley and dill, finely chopped.

Kidney beans are traditional, but chickpeas or canned lentils would work well, too. Fine salt

- 1 1/4 cups (8 3/4 ounces) basmati
- 1 dried lime (lemon omani; see headnote), punctured in a few
- 3 tablespoons olive oil

- 1 bunch scallions, thinly sliced (see headnote)
- 2 cups (about 2 ounces) packed baby spinach, finely chopped 2 tablespoons dried dill
- 2 tablespoons dried parsley 2 teaspoons dried fenugreek leaves (see headnote), crushed between your fingers

Freshly cracked black pepper One (15-ounce) can kidney beans, preferably no-salt-added, drained and rinsed

Butter, for serving (optional) Fresh parsley or cilantro sprigs, for serving (optional)

Plain yogurt, for serving (optional) Bring a large (at least 4 quart) pot of well-salted water to a rolling boil. (It's important that the water tastes salty so that it seasons the rice as it cooks.) Add the rice and dried lime, and stir to be sure the

rice doesn't stick to the bottom

of the pot. Boil until the rice is al dente, about 10 minutes. Pour the rice and lime into a sieve to drain. Rinse out the pot well and dry it.

In the same pot over mediumhigh heat, heat the olive oil until it shimmers. Add the scallions and cook, stirring, until they start to brown, about 3 minutes. Add the spinach and cook, stirring, until wilted and bright green, about 2 minutes.

Stir in the dill, parsley, fenugreek and a few grinds of pepper. Gently fold in the rice, lime and kidney beans, allowing the greens to fall among the grains. Cover tightly, decrease the heat to low, and cook for 12 minutes.

Uncover and, using a fork, fluff the rice. Serve hot, family-style or on individual plates, with a pat of butter on top, and fresh herbs and yogurt on the side, if desired.

# Fear of baking? This very easy cake can help

By Bethany Jean Clement, Seattle Times

**¬** EATTLE — I was making my own birthday cake. It was so very clearly wrong. One should never make one's own birthday cake. Also, it was hot my birthday is in August — and the apartment was getting even hotter, despite all the windows thrown wide-open, as the ancient Magic Chef electric stove cranked up.

All I wanted to do was go to the lake and fling myself in; this was my clearly stated birthday wish. Baking a cake is the opposite of jumping in a lake, in August, especially. It was not the best of times in my life.

The cake was two layers, a chocolate situation. I had every confidence that the cake would be great. After a traumatic childhood baking experience with a Mad Hatter's Tea Cake from an "Alice in Wonderland" cookbook I had eventually recovered, attaining with only one thing to do. I the dawn of adulthood a degree of baking competence.

Ding! Time to test with a toothpick: clean, done. I let it cool, as much as anything could. The top was going to be a bit bumpy, so I used a serrated knife to carefully level it. The resulting scraps of cake lying there presented themselves as a fine snack; they were not. It is difficult to describe the dryness. "Arid" would be one word; any flavor had baked out, and a sandlike texture had been



This Absurdly Easy, Very Good, Not Overly Large Chocolate Cake that is also Vegan Depending on the Candy You Deploy will make you believe in your baking skills. (Seattle Times)

achieved. I looked at my own birthday cake, and the two rounds looked back at me.

There was very clearly picked up one half of the would-be cake and heaved it out the open window. It landed with a muffled thud on the concrete one story below, in the back driveway of the apartment building. I might have wept a few self-pitying birthday tears. Swimming never happened that day.

Not even raccoons would touch the cake. If anyone drove their car over either half of it, the impact did not show. There it sat, refusing to decompose, for several days, until I finally went

out and dispiritedly moved both layers to the garbage can.

This was many years ago. The relationship did not last long, but the fear of baking persisted, even after I finally figured out that it was not my fault — the old Magic Chef's thermostat had gone bad, and it was baking, madly, at about 100 degrees hotter than its setting. Meanwhile, I'd been blaming myself for making poor choices and for baking with a resentful heart, which had served to impede any real problem-solving. Live and learn! I got one of those thermometers that sits in the oven and tells you what's really happening, loyal and true.

Still, today, when I bake, I stick with what's very easy: my Aunt Edith's dinner rolls, the version of no-knead bread that's even easier than no-knead bread. I'm never going to make croissants; professional bakers do that with great skill, and then you pay them for one, and there is rejoicing. I've not gone back to pie crust; for quiche, there is Le Pichet, and for pie, there is Mom, and, again in both cases, rejoicing.

In terms of cake, I pretty much make only the following one. The recipe from Mollie Katzen upon which it is based is intended for children, so it's in my comfort zone (and

kids' recipes than whoever wrote the accursed "Alice in Wonderland" cookbook of my youth). You're supposed to mix it right in the pan for even easier-ness, but I found that substantially more messy than washing a bowl. I've made a couple other changes, too (including candy!). On her website, Katzen says to children/me, "Go ahead and put it in the oven ... and say to yourself, 'I believe.' Because a real chocolate cake will come out of that oven and you will feel like you just performed a miracle.

True! Just make sure that oven is calibrated correctly, and this cake will never make you cry.

#### **ABSURDLY EASY, VERY GOOD, NOT OVERLY** LARGE CHOCOLATE CAKE THAT IS ALSO VEGAN **DEPENDING ON THE CANDY YOU DEPLOY**

Use any kind of candy you like: A toffee candy bar, candy cane, or a chocolate bar, or a vegan chocolate bar (or sub chocolate or vegan chocolate chips). A simple design for your cutout is best, but if it causes any anxiety, skip it, and just do powdered-sugar snow.

#### Serves about six. 1 1/4 cups all-purpose flour

- 1 cup sugar
- 1/3 cup unsweetened cocoa powder (get the good stuff!)
- 3/4 teaspoon baking soda 1/2 teaspoon kosher salt 1 cup water
- 1/3 cup coconut oil (melted, if it is solid)
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract 1 teaspoon apple cider

vinegar or white vinegar about 3 tablespoons of your favorite candy bar or other candy of your choice cut up, crumbled or somewhat crushed into

approximately chocolate-

chip size Powdered/powdered sugar for dusting

A heavier paper cutout heart (or another design) that'll fit in your 8- or 9-inch pan Preheat oven to 325 degrees.

Whisk flour, sugar, cocoa, baking soda and salt together in a large bowl.

Add the rest of the stuff. except the candy, and stir until smooth.

Pour your cake batter into a 9-inch round cake pan (an 8-inch-square glass or metal baking dish works, too), using a spatula or big spoon to get it all, then to smooth the top of your imminent

Sprinkle your candy across the top of the cake

Bake on the middle rack of the oven until a toothpick stuck in the middle comes out mostly clean — some crumbs, but not wet/goopy about 28 to 33 minutes.

Let cool for about 10 minutes, then hold a plate over the top of the pan and turn it over, so that the cake now exists on a plate. If the cake won't come out, don't worry — you can serve it in the pan — keep going!

Lay your paper heart or other design atop the cake, load up a couple tablespoons of powdered sugar into a sifter or fine-mesh sieve, and let it snow, Lift paper design off carefully. Serve.

Source: Adapted from a recipe by Mollie Katzen from her book Honest Pretzels

# A recipe for the soul

After grief stole her joy for cooking, this soup helped writer begin to heal

By Tamar Haspel, Washington Post

Can I tell you about my

I want to tell you about a soup, too, But the soup is important only because my mom, the most un-momlike of moms, died a few weeks before I made it.

My sister-in-law called her "the mom who fell to earth." She was born before the autism spectrum was a thing; she just realized, early on, that her mind worked differently from other people's. She told me stories of figuring out, by rote, how other people expressed emotions, and how to respond appropriately.

It didn't always work. When I was a kid and experienced the inevitable kid tragedies, she was always there with some godforsaken constructive suggestion. It was maddening. And since she could remember, verbatim, everything she read, her suggestions often took the form of an obscure poem.

I knew, even when I was young, that my mother had some kind of special quality that I didn't quite understand, and definitely didn't share. It would have been intimidating if she had ever wielded it as a cudgel, but she never did.

She had deliberately shaped the kind of person she wanted to be, and she made it clear to me and my brothers that anyone could. "Life is theater," she used to say. What you think and feel don't matter much. You become the sum of what you say and do, and you have control over those. You get to decide. It wasn't an idea I fully grasped as a kid, but it took hold with a vengeance when I was an adult.

Sometimes, though, what you feel bleeds through. Like when someone you love dies.

My mom had been ill for a long time, and at the end of October I got a call from her caregiver that her condition had deteriorated suddenly and markedly.

My brother Aaron was on a plane to Miami Beach two days later, and my husband, Kevin, and I were a couple days behind him. Aaron found her very debilitated but with cognitive faculties intact. They talked about poetry. Kevin and I were too late.

Most of us, sooner or later, experience the death of a parent; it's an ordinary event. And many of us know the kind of mixed-up grief, edged with relief, that comes when the misery of someone very ill



Coconut Seafood Soup with Soba. (Rey Lopez/Washington Post)

finally ends. There's probably an Inuit word for it.

But grief defies its own ordinariness, and it sets about taking over your life. It becomes your cognitive wallpaper, there when you're not actively thinking about something else. It catches you off-guard at weird and inconvenient moments — in the elevator, at the bank. I got scatterbrained and stupid; I fumbled little things like my schedule and my shopping list. I kept thinking of things I wanted to ask her. And in a sign that things had really gone haywire, I stopped thinking about food.

OK, I didn't completely stop thinking about food. I stopped thinking about it as much as I usually do, which is basically all the time. I was still cooking, but it was things Kevin and I could make on autodinner. A pantry pasta sauce, a roast chicken, chili.

All my adult life, I've cooked most every day. My mother did, too. She didn't make a fuss about it, she didn't even talk about it, she just put good-tasting food on the table every night. She didn't teach me how to do it, and she didn't invite me — or anyone else to participate. She cooked solo. I internalized both the idea that cooking was an ordinary dally activity and that it was something you did alone. It took Kevin many years of patient, gradual encroachment to show me that people could cook collaboratively, and like

I was grateful for the collaboration in the wake of my mom's death, when meals were an afterthought and Kevin and I shared what little work went into what we ate. And one of the first signs that grief was waning was when I found myself, one day just after breakfast, thinking about

'I want to find a fish market," I told Kevin. "I want a Florida fish, and I want to cook something new with it."

We found a market in a Cuban neighborhood in Miami, but my pathetic Spanishlessness wasn't a problem; I just pointed to one of the shiny, clear-eyed yellowtail snappers nestled in ice. Oh, and some of those shrimp over there, too, please.

I made stock with the fish rack, and turned it all into a soup with coconut milk, green curry paste and soba noodles. That's not original or even imaginative. It's a flavor combination as old as the hills — as long as the hills are somewhere in Southeast Asia. But it marked a return to the daily routine. The ordinary daily routine.

When the tide goes out, what's revealed is exactly what was there before.

A little roughed-up, a little damp, but the selfsame sand. When grief ebbs, life's small daily joys resurface. And I — a little roughed-up, a little damp take new pleasure in them.

it's a good soup, nonest. But the night we ate it, I was overwhelmed with gratitude. Not for the soup — although it really is a good soup — but for a life where good soup is an ordinary daily joy.

My mom would have loved that soup. But she also would have wondered why I'm making such a bloody fuss about it.

#### **COCONUT SEAFOOD SOUP WITH SOBA** 40 minutes

#### 6 servings (makes about 10 cups without the noodles)

This fish soup made with coconut milk and soba noodles is as much a template as it is a recipe. Use whatever stock you have on hand and any firm, white fish you happen to like, such as cod or hake. Rice noodles work as well as soba, and you can enhance your soup with handfuls of baby spinach or a poached egg at the end.

Make Ahead: The soba noodles can be cooked and refrigerated up to 3 days in advance.

Storage Notes: Refrigerate for up to 3 days; gently reheat over medium-low heat. The soup will separate as it sits; this is fine just stir it to recombine.

Where to Buy: Thai green curry paste and soba noodles can be found at well-stocked supermarkets, Asian markets and online.

NOTE: If you're not planning to eat all of the soup at once, you may want to reserve the noodles and soup separately. If left in the soup, the noodles will soak up the broth and become gummy.

8 ounces soba noodles (see NOTE) 1 tablespoon neutral oil, such as vegetable or grapeseed, plus more as needed

4 ounces sliced fresh shiitake

1 medium yellow onion (8 ounces),

chopped 5 cloves garlic, minced or pressed

1 thumb-sized piece fresh ginger, finely grated

6 cups fish or seafood stock (may substitute chicken or vegetable stock)

One (13.5-ounce) can full-fat coconut milk

1 tablespoon Thai green curry paste



Barbara Haspel, the author's late mother, shows off a large striped bass she caught in Cape Cod Bay in 2010. (Tamar Haspel)

Fine salt Juice of 1/2 lime, plus more to taste

2 teaspoons maple syrup (may substitute brown or white sugar) 8 ounces firm, white fish, such as cod or hake, cut into 1-inch cubes

8 ounces peeled and deveined shrimp, cut into bite-size pieces

Chopped fresh cilantro, for garnish

Set a medium pot with water over high heat and bring to a boil. Add the soba noodles and cook according to package instructions, until al dente. Remove from the heat, drain and rinse under cold running water until no longer hot. Drain and set aside; you should have about 8 ounces of cooked noodles

Meanwhile, in a large pot over medium heat, heat the oil until shimmering. Add the shiitakes and cook, stirring and drizzling with a little more oil if needed, until they begin to soften, about 4 minutes. Add the onion and cook, stirring, until translucent, about 4 minutes. Stir in the garlic and ginger and cook until fragrant, 30 seconds.

Add the stock, coconut milk and curry paste and bring to a boil. Decrease the heat so the soup is simmering, taste and season to taste with salt, followed by the lime juice and maple syrup. Add the fish and shrimp and simmer until the fish is just cooked through, about 8 minutes.

Add the soba noodles and cook until heated through, about 2 minutes (see NOTE). Taste, and season with more salt and/or lime juice, if desired.

Ladle soup into bowls, generously top with cilantro and serve

Nutrition information per serving (1 2/3 cups) | Calories: 438; Total Fat: 19 g; Saturated Fat: 12 g; Cholesterol: 64 mg; Sodium: 881 mg; Carbohydrates: 41 g; Dietary Fiber: 2 g; Sugar: 5 g; Protein: 30 g

Source: Tamar Haspel

# How to make and use cauliflower rice

**Bv Aaron Hutcherson.** Washington Post

If you're looking to incorporate more vegetables in your diet, then riced cauliflower might be the solution vou've been looking for. Also called cauliflower rice or cauliflower couscous, it's cauliflower that has been broken down into small pieces resembling grain or pasta and often used as a substitute. Here's what you need to know.

Some believe that cauliflower rice was invented in 1998 by chef Ben Ford, who called it cauliflower couscous, but others say it dates back further, to the raw food movement. Regardless, its popularity is linked to the rise of the paleo diet, which prohibits the consumption of grains, legumes and dairy products. The ingredient has grown beyond that particular diet to be touted

as a replacement for rice and other grains for anyone looking to reduce their intake of carbohydrates and calories, and internet searches for "riced cauliflower" spike every January, according to Google Trends.

Though "cauliflower rice" is the most popular term colloquially, "riced cauliflower" is the phrasing you're more likely to encounter in grocery stores. (The rice industry prefers the latter term as it reduces the possibility of confusing the cut vegetable with actual rice.) You can find packages of riced cauliflower in the refrigerated and freezer sections, but since cut, raw cauliflower can start to smell sulfurous over time, I'd recommend buying the frozen stuff. Or, you could make your own at home.

Making riced cauliflower is simple. All you need is a box grater, a



Making riced cauliflower is simple. All you need is a box grater, a food processor or even just a knife. (Rey Lopez/Washington Post)

food processor or even just a knife. With any method, start by removing the leaves and reserving them for another use. If the core is tender, you can turn it into riced cauliflower along with the florets; otherwise, reserve it for another use as it won't cook up the same.

Box Grater: Cut the head into wedges

through the core. Then, as best you can, grate each piece on the largeholed side of a box grater. It may get a little messy, so grate it on a rimmed baking sheet or

contain the chaos. Food processor: Cut the cauliflower into florets and grate them using its grater-disk attachment. Alternatively, you

in a large bowl to help

can pulse the vegetable in batches with the blade attachment until it's the size of small granules resembling rice. (If any large pieces remain, remove them, empty the riced cauliflower and pulse the larger pieces in the next batch.)

Knife: It requires a lot of work, but you can finely chop the cauliflower with a large knife.

Once cut, the vegetable is best used right away or frozen, where it can be stored for months. In terms of how to use cauliflower rice, you can eat it raw in a salad, saute it in a skillet in a matter of minutes to serve as a side, fill burritos or stuffed peppers, or use it in a stir fry or in fried "rice." The flavor is that of, well, cauliflower. So if you're not a fan of the vegetable, then you're probably not going to like it cut into teeny tiny pieces, either.

What's the catch? For one, it doesn't absorb liquid like rice does, so riced cauliflower alongside stews and curries will be more watery. Also, it doesn't have any starch, meaning you shouldn't use it in dishes that rely on some rice varieties' thickening power, such as risotto, rice pudding or sushi. Lastly, cauliflower rice's lack of carbohydrates means you won't feel full for very long compared with actual rice, which could be a pro or a con depending on your eating schedule and metabolism.

Yes, riced cauliflower is a semi-passable substitute for rice. Better yet, think of it as its own thing rather than expecting the vegetable to behave like a grain. If you can appreciate cauliflower rice for what it is, then it's a worthy addition to your culinary repertoire.

#### By Alan Massengill & Doug Peterson

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- 56 To no avail 58 Get-up-and-go 59 Descendant
- 60 "Will you let me?" 61 Marvin Gave "remake" of Glenn Miller's "In the
- Mood"? 64 Direct means of access
- 67 Slow-cooked courses

- 69 Anthem played at
- Blue Jays games 70 Steve Miller Band "remake" of Screamin' Jav Hawkins' "I Put a Spell on You"?
- 72 Conditional release "Rumble in the
- Jungle" locale
- Trifling amount 76 Cowhand's seat 77 Media-regulating gp.
- 80 One-named supermodel
- 81 Most efficient socket
- 85 Corn holder Final request 88 Pet food brand 90 Allowing a draft
- 91 Jay-Z/Alicia Keys "remake" of Frank Sinatra's "New York, New York"?
- 97 Dicey 101 Connections
- 102 Paste-up pieces 103 Cola originally named Brad's Drink
- 104 Dips for Easter 107 Keeps adding to, as mashed potatoes 111 Ed Sheeran
- "remake" of the Rays' "Silhouettes"? 113 Lady Gaga "remake" of the J. Geils Band's "Love
- Stinks"? 115 Actor Stonestreet
- 116 Yankee manager before Girardi 117 Big name in
- footwear 118 Resolves a tense
- problem, say 119 Ahi, for one 120 Irritable
- 121 Knitter's ball 122 Station

- DOWN box
- 1 Hangs loosely 2 Snowbank creator
- 3 Banana Boat After Sun Gel ingredient 4 Using contemporary
- styles 5 Work in a park, perhaps
- 6 Snickered 7 Vein contents 8 "Anna Karenina"
- novelist 9 Scandinavian capital
- 10 Jewish campus group AARP concern
- 12 Plunge 13 "Metamorphoses"
- poet 14 worth 15 Brightened
- 16 Like Oscar Wilde 17 With 45-Down, West Coast racing venue
- Teen sensation. perhaps Fries, e.g.
- 26 As a companion 29 Harebrained
- 32 Maroon 34 Affectedly dainty 35 Litter cries 36 Brief "Then again
- 37 Wing support 38 Suffragist Elizabeth Stanton
- Faucet problems 40 Cries of dismay 44 Wisconsin city between Milwaukee
- and Chicago 45 See 17-Down 46 Tolerated
- 47 Medicinal shrub 49 Flora partner 50 Had a bug
- 52 Gush forth 53 Place for a pawdicure

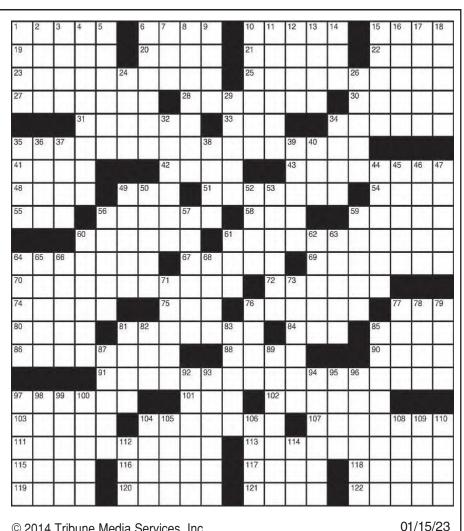
- 56 Word with mail or
- 57 Iberian capital 59 No longer novel
- 60 Dry red wine 61 Actress Thompson
- 62 Motown Records founder Berry 63 Maître's milieu 64 Brownish green
- First president with a Twitter account Pares
- Tokyo-based brewery Fideles"

Accurate

- ESPN datum Vanuatu neighbor 78 Family circle
- Twine 79 81 Guacamole ingredient
- 82 Predict-ability? 83 Spacek of "Bloodline" 1941 Bogart role
- 87 Group pic 89 Italian dessert wine 92 Struggles
- 93 Provides (with) "Julie & Julia" writer/director Froyo topping
- Made bubbles In a huff 1960s jacket style
- 99 Nadal's birthplace 100 Pet adoption org. effort 105 Sandwich with tzatziki sauce
- 106 Site for a bidding war 108 Salon sound 109 Bi- quadrupled
- 110 Place for a clutch 112 Non-Rx
- 114 Musical arcade game, for short

## **THE Sunday Crossword**

Edited by Rich Norris & Joyce Nichols Lewis



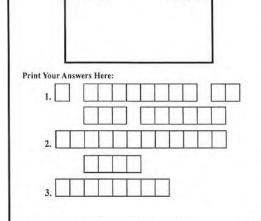
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CLOSET

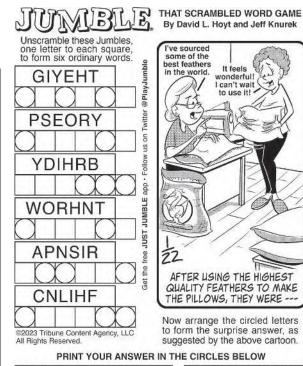
3. The Weekly "Brain Breaker" BO OK



#### SUDOKU

Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box (in bold borders) contains every digit, 1 to 9.





Daily and Sunday puzzle answers can be found online at www.thegazette.com/puzzle-answers

#### **LINDA BLACK Horoscopes**

North America Syndicate, 2023

Check the day's rating: 10 is the easiest day, 0 the most challenging.

expression flowers this year. Grow stronger with steady personal practices. Make domestic changes this winter, for energized springtime creative expression. One professional door closes this summer and another opens, inspiring studies, investigations and travel next autumn. Collaborate, communicate and connect to flourish.

Created by Tom Underwood

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) -- Today is a 7 -- Notice what's wanted and needed. It's easier to align on home projects, with Uranus direct. Unleash your domestic creativity. Apply your special touch.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20) -- Today is an 8 -- Your communications go farther than imagined, with Uranus direct now. A blockage with transmissions dissolves. New creative opportunities develop. Insight and understanding flower.

Aries (March 21-April 19) -- Today is a 9 -- Teamwork is lucrative. Discover unexpected bounty. Windfall apples drop at your feet, with Uranus direct. Discover new income. Cash flow surges. Maintain momentum.

Taurus (April 20-May 20) -- Today is an 8 -- Succeed through innovation, intellect and intuition. Barriers to personal advancement fade, with Uranus direct in your sign. Stand up and speak out for your cause.

Gemini (May 21-June 20) -- Today is a 9 -- Your intuition grows stronger, with Uranus direct. Dreams, intuition and spiriinspire. Listen and observe. You can sense the unspoken.

Cancer (June 21-July 22) -- Today is an

Today's Birthday (01/22/23). Creative 8 -- Team projects advance. Inspiring ideas abound. Creative collaborations flower, with Uranus direct. The social arena provides inspiration, motivation and solutions. Connect and coordinate.

**Leo (July 23-Aug. 22)** -- Today is a 9 -- Career opportunities clarify, with Uranus direct now. Your professional status and influence rise over the next seven months. Harness innovation, inspiration and intu-

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) -- Today is a 9 -- Educational journeys, explorations and studies flow with greater ease, now that Uranus is direct. Make philosophical insights and intellectual discoveries. Creativity abounds. Adventures entice.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) -- Today is a 9 -- Shared financial accounts grow, with Uranus direct. Your collaborations grow more lucrative. Motivate each other to take advantage of profitable opportunities. Connect the dots.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) -- Today is an 8 Creative collaboration comes easier, with Uranus direct now. A partnership that was stalled now advances. Discover fresh inspiration. Move for a shared vision.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) -- Today is a 7 -- A physical barrier dissolves. Creative energy surges to feed the heart, mind and body, with Uranus direct. Practice routines to strengthen your work and health.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) -- Today is tual rituals provide insight. Creative muses a 9 -- Tap into love, passion and creativity. Fun and romance arise intuitively, with Uranus direct for seven months. A new door opens. Connections spark.

**DEAR ABBY** 

## Boyfriend hopes to escape his current circumstances

ear Abby: I have no family and few friends — nobody close. My live-in girlfriend of two years and I argue constantly. We no longer share a bedroom, and I feel more like a roommate. I honestly feel I'm being used for money. Her 24-year-old son died from an overdose two months ago, so I can't help but feel sorry for her. She isn't working, and I don't know when she can return.

I don't have the money to move. I wish I did. I'm miserable, she's miserable and I feel stuck. I'm 46; she's 44. I pay rent and 50 percent of the utilities, which is fine. But how can I ever get out? Moving isn't cheap anymore.

I'm desperate for hope that I'm not stuck here forever. I'm afraid if I move — even if I live in a tent for now — she will give up on everything. She has two grown kids, but she was closest to the one who passed.

I feel guilty for wanting and needing to leave. At the same time, I'm miserable. She's in therapy and on medicine. Please advise.

Without Hope in North Carolina **Dear Without Hope:** Start saving whatever money you can and

explore options for other living arrangements, including renting a single room.

Staying where you are under these circumstances will make YOU sick if you don't take control of your life. Your former girlfriend is under the care of a doctor. You are NOT her lifeline. She will survive.

Dear Readers: Happy new year to my Asian readers who celebrate the Lunar New Year! The Year of the Rabbit begins today. In Chinese culture, the rabbit is known to be the luckiest of all 12 animals in the

People born in the Year of the Rabbit are calm and peaceful. They avoid fighting and arguing, are artistic and have good taste. However, they may be insecure and sensitive and dislike criticism, which causes them to be averse to change. I wish a happy, healthy new year to all who are celebrating this holiday. — Love, Abby

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.

# FALLINGWATER

Frank Lloyd Wright-designed house is one of many gems in Pennsylvania's Laurel Highlands

By Marion and Rich Patterson, correspondents

s tour guide Paul Davis led us and other visitors down a path squeezed between gigantic tulip, maple and oak trees he warned us not to be surprised by what was ahead. Despite his ad-monition, our first glimpse of Fallingwater was surprising.

For years we'd seen iconic photos of this famous Frank Lloyd Wright-designed home. All showed a stream that appeared to run through and under the home before tumbling over a boulder. That's not what we saw as we approached the home.

We followed the route visitors use to access the house built for the Kaufmann family. "The view is different from common photos," Paul remarked as we walked over a small bridge spanning Bear Run. It was the start of an hourlong ramble through this remarkable Pennsylvania house. We entered and visited socializing areas, bedrooms, the kitchen and bathrooms and ended up at a similarly styled guesthouse built uphill from Fallingwater.

Wright famously designed buildings to fit into the landscape, and Fallingwater is, perhaps, the best-known example. Made partly of local sandstone, its horizontal lines seem to blend into the hillside. Bear Run, a small stream that tumbles over a rocky bottom, actually flows to the side of the main house but under one of several cantilevered porticos off each bedroom. Access to views of the woods and stream were only steps away from bedrooms.

Although Fallingwater is best known as an example of Wright's design, we found the terrain it was built in equally fascinating. Edgar Jonas Kaufmann and his wife, Liliane Kaufmann, owned a prominent Pittsburgh furniture store and hired Wright to do the design.

Construction began in April 1936, a time when many were losing their homes during the Depression. To ensure that the stream would remain pure, they purchased its entire watershed and protected it from disturbance. Trees were left uncut to curtail erosion and are truly magnificent. The trees are now enormous and the natural area is a preserve that welcomes hikers.

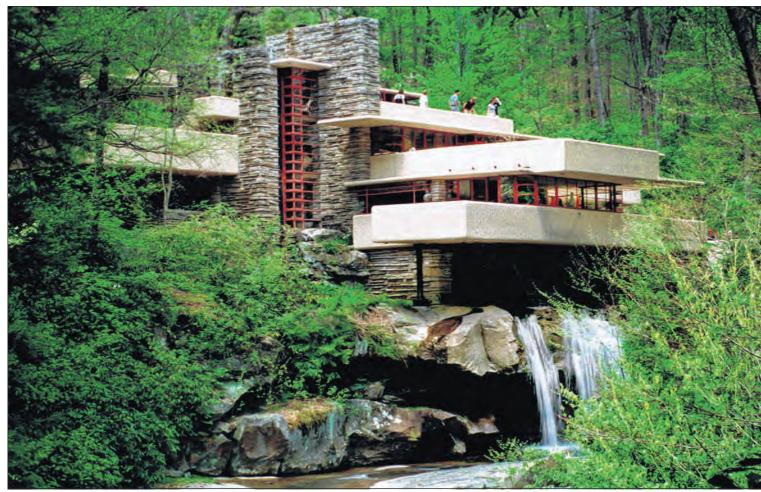
After our tour we followed a short trail and emerged at a magical spot where a bride and groom were having a photo shoot. Below us Bear Run rippled downward beneath Fallingwater's portico. It was the classic view of this iconic house that we'd seen in many

Fallingwater is about 70 miles southeast of Pittsburgh on the southern edge of the Laurel Highlands area of southwest Pennsylvania. It is owned by the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy and welcomes visitors throughout the year. Tours are popular so buying them online before a visit is wise

#### **LAUREL HIGHLANDS**

Fallingwater is adjacent to an enormous Pennsylvania state park with the odd name Ohiopyle. Yup, it's in Pennsylvania, the Keystone State, not Ohio. Its 20,633 acres of mostly dense woods span the Youghiogheny River. We bought dinner in the tiny town of Ohiopyle that's nestled in the park and then set up our tent in Kentuck Campground. Sitting quietly in the gathering darkness we marveled at towering tulip trees near our tent. Common in Eastern forests, the tree's natural range doesn't reach Iowa. They grow to immense size with trunks arrow straight.

Ohiopyle State Park offers outstanding white-water rafting, hiking on 79 miles of trails, and bicycling on an extensive network of paved routes. After dinner we



Visitors enjoy the scenery from one of the many outdoor terraces of the Frank Lloyd Wright-designed house, Fallingwater, in Mill Run, Pa. Designed and built as a private vacation home for the Kaufmann family of Pittsburgh, the house was later entrusted to the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy and has been open to the public since 1964. (Associated Press)



#### IF YOU GO

- What: Fallingwater, a Frank Lloyd Wright designed house
- Where: 1491 Mill Run Rd., Mill
- When: 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., closed Wednesdays
- Cost: \$12 to \$87, depending on tour; fallingwater.org

#### **AREA ATTRACTIONS**

- Laurel Highlands Region: golaurelhighlands.com
- The Great Allegheny Passage: gaptrail.org/
- The Ultimate Western
- **Pennsylvania Waterfall Road**

**Trip:** www.onlyinyourstate.com/ pennsylvania/western-waterfallsroad-trip-pa/

walked across the Youghiogheny on a bike trail and enjoyed watching families cycle past us as smiling rafters pulled out of the river below and upstream from the bridge

The state park and Fallingwater are within Pennsylvania's Laurel Highlands region. Named for the mountain laurel, a tall understory shrub that is the state flower, the area covers about 3,000 square miles in three thinly populated, rural and heavily timbered

Eric Knopsnyder of Go Laurel Highlands said, "Mountain laurels bloom from late May into June and rhododendrons bloom a little later." Highways wind around or over steep hillsides, making travel slow, but always scenic.

Within the region are many trails and parks. Notable among the trails are the Laurel Highlands Hiking Trail and the 333-mile Great Allegheny Passage known for bicycling,



A bride and groom use Fallingwater as the backdrop in their wedding photos. (Marion Patterson)

hiking and snowshoeing and of all things, trainspotting. From Pittsburgh, the trail cuts southeast across ridges and along valleys into Maryland to Washington, D.C. It follows in part the C&O Canal Towpath. For those who prefer motoring, several waterfall trails present enchanting views and refreshing streams.

We were surprised to learn that southwest Pennsylvania boasts national parks celebrat-

ing key events in American history. Two interpreted American tragedies. Our first stop was at the Flight 93 Memorial, a fairly large new National Park site that interprets and honors the brave passengers who, on Sept. 11, 2001, disrupted the plans of hijackers by crashing into the ground in this rural area. Hundreds of visitors filed through the exhibit area and gazed out on the meadow below where the



Mountain Laurel is Pennsylvania's state flower. (Charlotte Pletcher)

Southwest Pennsylvania has national parks that interpret two American tragedies: Sept. 11, 2001, and the Johnstown Flood of 1889.

plane crashed. The mood was somber

Our second stop at a nearby National Park site commemorated the May 31, 1889, Johnstown Flood. On that rainy day a dam above town broke, sending a wall of water rushing downstream to destroy buildings and kill 2,209 people. The death toll was far higher than the Flight 93 crash, but because the tragedy was so far back in time, visitors' mood was more contemplative than somber. After the visit we felt fortunate that we don't live below a dam and reservoir.

We will pick up three other nearby National Park sites our next time through the area. These include the Allegheny Railroad Portage National Historic Site; Friendship Hill, the home of Albert Gallatin, who helped facilitate the Louisiana Purchase; and Fort Necessity, a battle site from the French and Indian War.

The Laurel Highlands area is mountainous with windy, slow roads, but it's easy to access and traverse. Interstate 70 is the Pennsylvania Turnpike and runs through the Laurel Highlands. So does the Lincoln Highway, U.S. 30, and the old National Road, which is now U.S. 40. It is just north of the Maryland state line and Interstate 68.

Visiting the Laurel Highlands would be only a short detour for any Iowan driving to Philadelphia, Baltimore or Washington, D.C. Pittsburgh is close and packed with cultural attractions, restaurants and lodging places.

Southwest Pennsylvania teems with history, scenery, bicycle and hiking trails, and large forests filled with big trees. We've been there several times but still have much history and scenery to experience, so we'll return again.

# Festivals to jazz up winter

By Mary Ann Anderson, Tribune News Service

Jazz music just sounds better when it's played outside, whether it's underneath blue skies or the moon and stars. But that's not to say jazz isn't as good when it's played at concert halls, ballrooms, cafes and other indoor venues — because

During February, the heart of winter, great jazz festivals are going on coast to coast, some outdoors, others indoors where it's certainly warmer this time of year. February offers a calendar full of jazz designed to help you break out of the winter blahs. These six festivals offer a blend of well-known, established artists with newcomers and veterans alike.

#### **NORTH CAROLINA** JAZZ FESTIVAL

Wilmington, N.C. Feb. 2 to 4

Wilmington, perched on the banks of the Cape Fear River, is filled with historic sites related to the Revolutionary and Civil wars, plus myriad boutiques and shops, art galleries, museums and restaurants.

The festival performances are all indoors, held in the ballroom of the Hotel Ballast. Among the artists scheduled to appear in each jazzpacked performance are Steve Washington, Lenore Raphael, Steve Hobbs, Nate Najar, Jeff Rupert and Adrian Cunningham. The festival, now in its 43rd edition, is one of the oldest in the country and is among the largest traditional jazz events in the Southeast.

The North Carolina Jazz Festival is held at Hotel Ballast, 301 N. Water St., Wilmington. General admission tickets are \$15 to \$65, with patron tickets at \$215 to \$240, including Patrons' Musical Brunch. Visit www.ncjazzfestival.org for more information and to purchase tickets.

#### **FORT MOSE JAZZ AND BLUES SERIES**

St. Augustine, Fla. Feb. 10 to 19

The Fort Mose Jazz and Blues Series returns to Fort Mose Historic State Park, the site of the first legally sanctioned free African settlement in what is now the United States. The event, held outdoors beneath a canopy of live oaks and pines and surrounded by the marshes of the Florida Intracoastal Waterway, is in its second year. The



The Legendary Count Basie Orchestra performs last February at the Fort Mose Jazz & Blues Series in St. Augustine, Fla. The jazz event was the first-ever at Fort Mose, with the proceeds going partially toward a project to rebuild the original fort. This year's event starts Feb. 10. (Stacey Sather/TNS)

impressive lineup of musicians includes Gladys Knight, Mavis Staples, Christian McBride's New Jawn, Christone "Kingfish" Ingram with special guest Tinsley Ellis, Rhiannon Giddens and Valerie June. This year's series will once again benefit the Fort Mose Historical Society in its effort to raise awareness of the fascinating site that dates to the late 1600s when the first former slaves arrived in St. Augustine to live as free men and women.

Fort Mose Historic State Park, 15 Mose Trail, St. Augustine. Tickets are \$42 to \$132 and are available at Ticketmaster or www. discoverfortmose.com.

#### **BIAMP PORTLAND JAZZ FESTIVAL**

Portland, Ore. Feb. 16 to 25

The Biamp Portland Jazz Festival, known also as the PDX Festival for the three-letter code for Portland International Airport, features an opening performance by the Bill Frisell Four, with the closing weekend highlighted by Dave Holland and the Derrick Hodge Trio, Dumpstaphunk with Jon Cleary, Three Sacred Souls and Orquestra Pacifico Tropical, Keifer and the Aaron Burnett Trio. Dozens more prolific artists, including NEA Jazz Masters and Grammy Award winners, are scheduled to appear at the event, which is celebrating its 20th anniversary. PDX Jazz Executive Director Chris Doss sums up the festival by saying it "highlights our commitment toward sharing the full breadth of jazz, its roots, its future, music that has influenced jazz, and the music influenced

by jazz."

events are held at venues weekend. Four stages scattered throughout the city. Ticket prices vary by performance. For more information and to purchase tickets, visit www.pdxjazz.org.

#### **HUDSON JAZZ FESTIVAL**

Hudson, N.Y. Feb. 16 to 26 The 2023 Hudson Jazz

Festival: The Shape of Jazz Today is held at Hudson Hall, a historic landmark building dating to 1855 that is the home of New York state's oldest surviving theater. The magnificent performance hall, in the picturesque Hudson Valley and about two hours north of New York City, is the ideal venue for the festival that this year features Sarah Elizabeth Charles, Marquis Hill: New Gospel Revisited, Michael Mayo, Ulysses Owens Jr. and Generation Y, Lucy Yeghiazaryan and Vanisha Gould: In Her Words, Aaron Parks and Samantha Rise: Dreaming Home and Endea Owens and The Cookout. Don't miss Marine Penvern's Body and Soul exhibition that also begins Feb. 16 and runs through Apr. 2 and features the renowned artist's paintings, textiles

and clothing. Hudson Jazz Festival is held at Hudson Hall at the Hudson Opera House, 327 Warren St., Hudson. Tickets are \$30-\$60, while festival passes are \$102 to \$336. Visit www.hudsonhall.org for tickets and detailed information.

#### **MID-ATLANTIC JAZZ FESTIVAL**

Rockville, Md. Feb. 17 to 19 The Mid-Atlantic Jazz Festival, presented by the Jazz Academy of Music Inc., is a three-day event that occurs every

run simultaneously, with 15575 Jimmy Durante three of them for paid performances and the last an open-air atrium that offers free performances. Among the artists scheduled to appear are the Fran Vielma Orchestra, Jazz Academy of Music Orchestra with special guest Randy Brecker, the Texas Tenor Titans, Chelsey Green and the Green Project, and 2022 DC JazzPrix winner Julieta Eugenio Trio. Also offered are master classes, live interviews with performing artists, line and swing dancing and jam sessions that are free and open to the public.

The Mid-Atlantic Jazz Festival is held at the Hilton Hotel and Executive Meeting Center, 1750 Rockville Rd., Rockville. Tickets are \$25 to \$85. Grounds passes are \$5 to \$12. For more information and tickets, visit www.midatlanticiazzfestival.org or call (888) 909-6330.

#### **SAN DIEGO JAZZ PARTY**

Del Mar, Calif. Feb. 24 to 26 Experience the rhythm of jazz on Southern California's coast. The San Diego Jazz Party turne ' having begun in 1988 in downtown San Diego but now moved to the more intimate, stylish and vibrant Hilton San Diego

Del Mar. The impressive list of musicians includes Chuck Redd. Dan Barrett, Danny Coots, Duke Heitger, Ed Metz, Harry Allen, Houston Person Jr., Jason Wanner, Jon-Erik Kellso, Ken Peplowski, Paul Keller, Peter Washington, Richard Simon, Rossano Sportiello, Vinny Raniolo, Evan Christopher and Russ Phillips. It's all about the Portland Jazz Festival year over Presidents Day smooth sound of drums,



Tank and the Bangas at the Fort Mose Jazz & Blues Series in 2022. The fort, just north of St. Augustine, Fla., is an important site in Black history — it was the site of the first legally sanctioned free African settlements in the United States. (Milo Davis/TNS)

vibes, trumpets, clarinets, saxophones, pianos and guitars, with vocals by the renowned Lia Booth.

The San Diego Jazz Party is held at the Hilton San Diego Del Mar,

Blvd., Del Mar. Tickets are \$85 to \$145. All-access patron passes are available at \$250 and include a free-bar cocktail party and a jazz breakfast. Visit www.sdjp.org for additional information and tickets.

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#### **THANK YOU**

#### Thank You

Our sincere thanks to friends and family who sent cards, messages and phone calls for our 50th Anniversary. You made our day special.

Ernie and Carol Rigel

#### **Milestones Deadline**

Deadline for the **Feb. 5th** Milestones is noon on Friday, Jan. 27

#### Milestones

#### Where to find us

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Our hours are: Monday-Friday 9am-2pm

You may also mail Milestones submissions to Milestones, 116 Third St. SE, Cedar Rapids, IA 52401. Payment is required.

> Milestones submission form can be found at thegazette.com/milestones-submission-form, milestones@thegazette.com, or by calling 319-368-8873.

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Trombone Shorty & Orleans Avenue perform last February at the Fort Mose Jazz & Blues Series in St. Augustine, Fla. Fort Mose dates to the late 1600s, when the first former slaves arrived in St. Augustine to live as free men and women. (Milo Davis/TNS)

# HOME+GARDEN



For 2023, earth tones are on the rise, with chocolate browns, umbers, ochres and oranges being the colors of choice this year, replacing white and neutral interiors. (Dreamstime)

# CALLING ALL COLORS

# Bursts of color are definitely in for 2023

By Kaitlyn Keegan, Hartford Courant

f you haven't been already, it's time to start thinking about the design of your home and what's changing in the new year. As the gray trend, open shelving and massive lighting begin to make their bow, bursts of bold color, individualism, vintage furniture, irregular and imperfect and modernist curves are taking the stage.

Colors are back in a big way, with plenty of trending colors to choose from," Sharon McCormick, of Sharon McCormick Designs, said. "Magenta, golds, reds, teal and earth tones are replacing the white and neutral interiors of the past decade. We are ready for the zest of vibrant colors."

To bring color into a room, consider painting the walls, getting a new rug, new pillows or some kind of fabric and accessories.

"Don't forget ceilings as an opportunity to use color," McCormick said. "Deep colors look even more compelling on walls or built-ins when

► COLORS, PAGE 2M





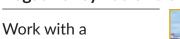
ABOVE: In the bathroom, matte black is favored for plumbing fixtures and accessories. Black fixtures match this striking black and white Moroccan tile. (Fort Worth Star-Telegram)

LEFT: Deep browns and neutral earth tone creams help create a warm and inviting living space. (Scott Gabriel Morris/TNS)

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# Superbena Royale Plum Wine a match for Color of the Year

By Norman Winter, Tribune News Service

iva Magenta is the hot new color for 2023, according to Pantone, the gurus of all things color. Specifically, it is Pantone 18-1750. In the garden world, flowers will never be able to be bred so specifically so as to reach a Pantone number. For gardeners, horticulturists, landscape and container designers, Viva Magenta becomes somewhat subjective. That being said, I nominate Superbena Royale Plum Wine verbena as a match for color of the year.

Superbena Royale Plum Wine verbena is an award-winner and one that has been out for a number of years. With so many flowers available in the industry, you may never have seen it. Last year was a banner year for color in my backyard. Orange, red, blue, yellow and purple colors were in abundance. Still, Superbena Royale Plum Wine stood out like a rare jewel, a color of royalty.

Butterflies were going to it first in March and last in October. I asked myself, how I could have missed this verbena for so many years? Of course, the answer is, if every company has 15 or more verbenas, the independent garden center simply can't have enough shelf space. There are even more petunias.

Superbena Royale Plum Wine will reach about 12 inches tall with a 2-foot spread, hence the "royale" designation. In contrast, the Superbena Whiteout and Superbena Stormburst will spread 30 to 36 inches in the South. That Superbena Royale Plum Wine was the winner of the Leader of the Pack — Summer title in the North Carolina State JC Raulston Arboretum trials says everything you need to

Superbenas like the Royale Plum Wine need a lot of sun with a soil



The Pantone color of the year is Viva Magenta and Superbena Royale Plum Wine comes close to a perfect color match in the garden. (Chris Brown Photography)

that drains freely. This is one reason they are so easy in containers. Good, lightweight potting mixes by their nature drain well. Once you have prepared your planting beds as such, you will have one of the best blooming ground covers you can

Superbenas need to be in an active state of growth to get the most riotous blooming performance. This requires you to get to know them, feed them occasionally and cut them back to generate new growth. Leaving woody, tired stems sprawling in the garden

or hanging over the rim of your containers will rarely yield the performance you desire.

If Superbenas could speak, they would tell you they were created to grow and bloom. Cutting out tired stems and giving a light fertilization will reward you with lush green growth and weeks of blooms and usually a perennial performance in my zone 8a house (most of Iowa is in zone 5). Time will tell if the recent arctic blast followed by several inch-

es of rain did them in. I tucked my containers, chock-full of ver-

benas, in the garage for about five days and they all are putting on good growth and even starting to bloom. Those in the ground aren't showing me anything yet. But even if I have to buy every year, you simply can't beat the verbena for their performance and their ability to attract butterflies and hummingbirds.

To me Superbena Royale Plum Wine could be the poster plant for Viva Magenta. Put a large eastern tiger swallowtall on it and you've got nature's version of harmony in color.

## **Colors/**Vintage furniture pieces remain stylish

► FROM PAGE 1M

lacquered."

#### **KITCHENS**

In your kitchen, the time of gray and blue cabinets is going away while white mixed with lighter wood elements is coming in.

'Pieces of furniture used as kitchen islands, rather than cabinetry, add individualism and a way to bring the design aesthetic of nearby rooms into the kitchen," she said. Quartz countertops still are trending. The

light countertops can be contrasted with items such as a black stainless steel non-scratchable

Another trend coming in are workstation sinks with built-in cutting boards, dish racks and multi-bowl sinks. This allows you to change the configuration to be able to prep and wash in one location.

#### **BATHROOMS**

In your bathroom, matte black is the star. "Matte black is the 2023 standard-bearer for bathroom plumbing fixtures and accessories," McCormick said. "Black is always chic and sophisticated. Spalike bathrooms are still wildly popular, but graphic matte black is another

Blues in bathrooms have been popular for its watery appeal, but greens are beginning to take their place. Teals and turquoise are bolder choices for the new year.

Make sure to bring luxury into the bathroom. Warm amenities such as heated towel racks, warming drawers, heated floors, heated toilet seats and bathtubs with heated backs are all trending.

#### **FURNITURE CHOICES**

As far as furniture in your home goes, curves and Art Deco are in.

"Rounded chairs and sofas lend themselves to more creative furniture arrangements," Mc-Cormick said.

Vintage finds, which have been popular during the pandemic, still are very much in style.

'Not only is it a socially conscious 'green' choice, but it's generally well-made, immediately available and often economically priced," she said. "The patina of the wood finishes lend a warmth and coziness that newer pieces may

As far as the overall feeling of your home, minimalism is out. Putting your own mark on your home with individualism, personalization and variety are in.

'Matching suites of furniture are passe," McCormick said. "It's time to pull out family heirlooms, unique pieces, collections and art to layer a room that is all yours."

Uniting the vintage furniture with an individual flare brings master craftsmanship into the home with more ornate furniture, rich wood tones and inlays replacing cookie cutter mass market pieces.

"Breakdown furniture made of materials that have plastic elements using petroleum are not sustainable and are made to be disposable in about five years only to pile up in landfills," McCormick said.

## What are some sustainable upgrades I can make in 2023?

Ask Angi

In the coldest part of the year, you may be lamenting your heating bills and the occasional inefficient use of energy in your home. But recent federal code changes mean 2023 is the year to start making energyefficient upgrades to both keep your home warm in winter and cool in summer.

Studies show that U.S. homes produce about 20 percent of the greenhouse gases in the country. To help reduce greenhouse gas emissions in homes, Congress passed the Inflation Reduction Act in August. The bill includes the High Efficiency Electric Home Rebate Act, which provides low- and moderate-income homes with point-of-sale rebates to help them reduce their greenhouse gas emissions by improving energy usage. Here are six ways to make sustainable improvements in your home this spring to prepare you for the colder days.

#### **WEATHERIZE YOUR WALLS AND WINDOWS**

Losing heat in the winter and cool air in the summer frustrates home-



owners, who see the difference in their utility bills. But lost energy also increases the greenhouse gas emissions we want to avoid. To help prevent this, look into weatherizing your home by caulking and sealing your windows and installing insulation in your walls.

Caulking/sealing windows and doors: \$50 to \$70 per window/door

• Insulation installation: \$1,600 to \$2,700

#### **REWIRE YOUR HOME**

Outdated wiring in your home causes inefficient energy use and can be dangerous, depending on the situation. Always make sure to replace any knob and tube wiring to ensure safety. A profes-

sional knows the most up-to-date codes and can help you determine what energy needs fit your lifestyle. If you're considering purchasing an electric car, definitely upgrade your electrical

- Updating/replacing an electrical box: \$520 to \$2,000 for 200 amps
- Rewiring a home: \$2 to \$4 per square foot of home size

#### **INSTALL EFFICIENT APPLIANCES**

If you need to replace appliances like refrigerators, washers/dryers, dishwashers, water heaters and HVAC, look for ones that are Energy Star certified. These appliances' motors, compressors and pumps are designed to save energy. If your appliances are already Energy Star certified, install a smart thermostat to save more on your utility bill.

 Installing a smart thermostat: \$110 to \$250

#### **SWITCH TO HEAT PUMPS**

Along with choosing energy-efficient water heaters, furnaces and air conditioners, installing heat pumps for water heaters and HVAC can protect both the equipment and your utility bill. Heat pump water heaters can be the most expensive on the market, but they can be up to three times more efficient than electric or gas water heaters, even Energy Star-certified units.

HVAC heat pump technology has improved enough in recent years to be functional in colder climates that often dip below freezing. They are pricey to install but can save up to half your heating costs.

 Heat pump water heaters: \$3,900 to \$20,000 • HVAC heat pumps:

#### \$3,900 to \$6,200 **INSTALL EFFICIENT**

**TOILETS** Toilets made before 1980 use up to 7 gallons of water per flush. Today's low-water toilets use about 1.5 gallons per flush. Dual-flow toilets use half- and full-flush options to help you use water more efficiently when flushing liquid or solid waste. Installing one of these toilets could save around \$100 on your yearly water bill, but they require more frequent cleanings.

• Toilet installation: \$400 to \$800

#### **SWITCH AWAY FROM GAS**

A significant way to reduce greenhouse gas emissions is to replace your gas appliances and HVAC with electricity. Gas stoves can leak methane (even when turned off), not to mention carbon monoxide

and nitrogen dioxide, which impacts children and adults with COPD and asthma.

Electric and induction stoves use fewer fossil fuels and are safer than gas. They also don't require a gas line, which means lower installation

Gas-powered furnaces also can risk introducing carbon monoxide into the home. They also emit flue gasses, which reduce their efficiency. While electricity is higher in price than gas right now, electric furnaces still save money through their 100 percent efficiency. • Installing an electric

- stove: \$360 to \$1.800
- Installing electric furnace: \$1,600 to \$7,000

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# How to work with a designer

**By Katie Laughridge,** Tribune News Service

Working with a designer is an exciting—and may I say gamechanging—way to design a room. Designers can help you think outside your comfort zone and consider things you might have otherwise overlooked. However, if you haven't done it before, starting out also can feel a little intimidating.

So, I sat down with Carlie, Nell Hill's design manager and longtime designer, to share what it's really like.

• What do I need to have prepared for my first appointment? • While this process A: truly is stress free, there is a little bit of background work that would be helpful to have complete going into your first meeting with a designer. Having these items finished beforehand not only allows you to make the best of your time, but helps your design partner learn more about you and your personal style.

#### ROOM MEASUREMENTS

Measure the full length and width of your room and note the location and size of all windows, doors and stationery elements (like a fireplace or window seat). Be sure to note large, existing furniture pieces as well. This helps to ensure that any new pieces being brought in are the right scale—there's nothing worse than adding a new credenza to a space only to find out that it slightly overhangs a window frame, or worse, seriously impedes a walkway.

#### A CLEAR BUDGET

This one is imperative, and probably a nobrainer. But, being upfront and honest about your design budget gives your designer a clear direction when coming up

with creative solutions for your design.

Photos of the existing space: It's important to think about how your new design will work with the existing pieces in the room to keep it from feeling disjointed.

#### A MOOD BOARD

Help set the direction of the design by coming to the appointment with a few suggestions of what you like. These can be images of rooms and things that inspire you, colors you love, a particular wallpaper or fabric — you don't necessarily have to have a grand vision yet.

• What is the first step in the design process?

• Once you make
• an appointment
with a designer, we get
to work creating floor
plans, begin pulling textiles for you to review
and talk more about
your needs for the room.
Depending on the size of
the project, this can take
place over one visit or
several.

From start to finish, our goal is to create a space that is a true reflection of you. Clients are an important part of the design process, and your feedback at every stage is welcomed and valued. This is your space, after all.

• What is one thing you want clients to know about the design process?

A • We want to fully understand our client's needs, and for our clients to truly love their spaces. We believe that what you love is always in style.

• How do I know that I've found the right fit in choosing a piece?

• Our advice is
• timeless and to
the point. Trust your
instincts! Just because
something is trendy or
"in" doesn't mean it's
the right fit for your
space. If you love it, you
will know!



A designer can help you think outside the box — like this fun fabric pairing of a block print with matching green velvet. (Handout/TNS)

# The case for talking to your houseplants

By Stacey Colino, Washington Post

Plants don't interrupt when you're speaking. They don't argue or ask difficult questions. And regardless of whether they're actually listening, research has shown them to be a calming presence. It's no wonder, then, that so many of us talk to ours.

In a 2022 survey by Trees. com, 50 percent of the 1,250 respondents reported talking to their plants and/or trees. When asked why, 65 percent said they believe it helps them grow. The research, however, isn't definitive about this point. While studies have found that vibrations caused by sound do affect plants, the jury's still out on whether the human voice offers any specific benefit.

For many plant owners, though, the science is beside the point. Marquis Matson, cofounder of the blog the Indoor Nursery, says she talks to her plants every day because "it feels nice ... I think plants get a sense of community from my talking to them and that keeps them going."

"One thing humans are really good at is anthropomorphizing — we talk to all kinds of things that aren't human, like our dogs and cats," says Cindy McPherson Frantz, a professor of psychology and environmental studies at Oberlin College in Ohio. "We're hardwired to project a sentient mind, intentionality, or feelings onto other beings or objects — and to want to



Talking to your plants helps your mental health. (Elena Elisseeva)

connect to things outside ourselves. Plants can fulfill that

#### PLANTS SEEM TO LIKE MUSIC

On the plant side of the equation, a study in a 2003 issue of the journal Ultrasonics investigated the effects of classical music and the sounds of birds, insects and water on the growth of Chinese cabbage and cucumber. The conclusion? Both forms of sound exposure increased the vegetables' growth.

In a 2015 study published in the International Journal of Integrative Sciences, Innovation and Technology, researchers exposed marigold and chickpea plants to light Indian music as well as to traffic noise: They found that

both types of plants grew and developed better — gaining increased height, a greater number of leaves and a healthier look — after being exposed to the music for four hours per day, but not to the

traffic sounds. "Plants definitely respond to vibrations in their environment — which can cause plants to grow differently and become more resistant to falling over," says Heidi Appel, a professor of environmental sciences at the University of Toledo in Ohio. "Those vibrations can come from airborne sounds or insects moving on the plants themselves. And plants will respond differently to tones and music than to silence." Still, she points out: "While sound absolutely matters to plants, we don't know if talking to them makes them grow differently.

Despite the lack of studies and evidence about the benefits of talking to your plants, there is at least one theoretical perk: "If we identify with a living organism that we're tasked with taking care of, we're going to take better care of it," Appel says.

Appel says.
For example, if talking to your plants helps you feel more connected to them, you might water, dust and prune them more regularly and take other measures to care for them and help them thrive.

#### HELPS MENTAL HEALTH

Regardless of whether talking to the plants helps them, does it help us, as human be-

ings? In that same 2022 Trees. com survey, 62 percent of the participants who reported chatting up their greenery said they did so because it helped their own mental health. They may have been onto something: Plenty of research shows that taking care of plants is beneficial to our

well-being.
One study in a 2018 issue of the journal HortScience found that transplanting plants reduced mental stress and anxiety in young adults. And regularly spending an hour gardening has been found to improve mood and reduce stress among healthy women, according to a study in a 2022 issue of PLoS One.

Stefan Bucur of Lewisville, Texas, says that he and his wife, Megan, regularly talk to their plants.

"Taking care of plants and interacting with them can be a mindful and calming practice, and talking to them enhances this experience," says Bucur, founder and owner of Rhythm of the Home, a home improvement website. "In addition, talking to plants can help us practice gratitude and appreciation."

While there isn't published research on whether talking to plants is therapeutic for people, there are plausible reasons it might be, experts say.

For one thing, it may come to us naturally.

"As humans, we often speak to what we're caring for it's built in," says Patricia Hasbach, a psychotherapist with Northwest EcoTherapy in Eugene, Ore., and author of "Grounded: A Guided Journal to Help You Reconnect with the Power of Nature — and Yourself." "It helps us be very present or mindful."

For another thing, it can be a way of expressing thoughts and feelings out loud, in an effort to make sense of them.

"I think of talking to plants as a way of talking to ourselves," says Kenneth Yeager, a social worker and director of the Stress Trauma and Resilience Program at Ohio State University. "As we're talking to our plants, we're talking to ourselves — and formalizing our thought process."

In other words, talking to the flora in your home can be a way of tuning in to the ways you talk to yourself (aka, your self-talk) and exploring how you're thinking about something. "Putting our thoughts and feelings into words is somewhat therapeutic," Frantz says.

Talking to your plants is also a low-risk proposition.

"You might not want to do it in front of someone else," says Elizabeth Diehl, director of therapeutic horticulture at the Wilmot Botanical Gardens College of Medicine at the University of Florida. However, when you talk to your plants, they are, quite literally, a captive audience. "Plants don't judge," Diehl says. "You can be who you want to be and say what you want to say — and they're happy just for you to be taking care of them."

# Building your own air filter

By Lena H. Sun, Washington Post

COVID is not going away for the foreseeable future. Vaccination, rapid tests and appropriate masking are important ways to protect against getting sick and spreading the virus.

So is better indoor air quality.

As we enter Year 4 of this pandemic, with new variants popping up, I want to be able to gather more often — and safely — with family and friends. I want to host regular dinners featuring sour cherry pie, like the one I made for fellow health reporters after we had been working remotely — pretty much round-the-clock - for more than a year.

And I want to feel safe at work, where, like most reporters, I don't have my own office. I can't just close the door to keep out colleagues' germs. Or open windows for fresh air.

So, as someone who likes to seize control of seemingly uncontrollable situations, I resolved to build my own DIY portable air cleaner.

Generating cleaner indoor air at home and at work reduces everybody's risk of being sickened by airborne viruses such those that cause COVID-19 and the flu.

While I'm pretty good at following recipes, I don't have a lot of confidence in my ability to build stuff from scratch. Not even with Lego bricks when my son was little. Forget about Ikea furniture.

But I decided to give this Corsi-Rosenthal Box a try because we would be gathering with lots of loved ones heading into the new year.

The Corsi-Rosenthal Box is named for its two inventors, who were looking for a costeffective way to build something that performs the same functions as costlier air-purification



Washington Post reporter Lena Sun makes a Corsi-Rosenthal box using MERV-13 air filters, a box fan, duct tape and cardboard. (Michael Robinson Chavez/Washington Post)

devices. They came up with the idea in August 2020, five months into the coronavirus pandemic.

Richard Corsi, the dean of the College of Engineering at the University of California at Davis, and Jim Rosenthal, the chief executive of Tex-Air Filters, teamed up to create the easy-toassemble, inexpensive air cleaner using materials found at hardware stores or online. The box uses four common household air filters for the sides — the kind you use for a home HVAC system - a 20-inch fan on top, cardboard, scissors and duct tape to hold it all together.

Lots of duct tape. (Watch a demonstration at www.washingtonpost. com/health/2023/01/13/ air-filter-diy-covid/.)

It's important to get the right kind of filters. The filters need to have a MERV-13 rating, which refers to the filter's ability to trap particles of a specific size.

When the fan is turned on, air is pulled through the four sides of the box. The filters trap contaminated particles, allowing clean air to flow into the middle of the box and be pushed back out into the environment through the air cleaner, go ahead and cer research, found that

fan. The fans just needs to be plugged into a normal electrical outlet. Not only can the boxes reduce the spread of viruses such as the coronavirus, they also can reduce other particles, such as those generated by wildfires, as well as

dust and pollen. The box removes all kinds of other pollutants, like "allergens, tiny particles created by chemical reactions to ozone or cleaning chemicals," said Don Milton, an environmental and occupational health professor at the University of Maryland's School of Public Health, who came up with the name for the box.

In a small office feet by 10 feet by 10 feet a box could reasonably achieve a clean-air delivery rate of about 300 to 400 cubic feet per minute, according to Rosenthal. In other words, with the fan on low, about a third of the air goes through the apparatus every minute, or the equivalent of all the air in that office in about three minutes. How often the filters need to be replaced will depend on

Of course, if people can afford a good HEPA buy one, Rosenthal said. 'Just make sure it is a HEPA and has no 'extra' features like ionizers," he told me.

But a good HEPA cleaner costs between \$300 and \$600.

The supplies to make one filter box cost me \$127: \$30 for the 20-inch box fan, about \$90 for a four-pack of MERV-13 filters (20 x 20 x 1), and \$7 for a big roll of duct tape. (Note to accounting person who approves expenses: I bought enough supplies for two boxes, one for practice at home so I would not look like an idiot building one for the first time.)

Scientists at the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health tested the efficacy of DIY air filtration units, including the Corsi-Rosenthal Box, in reducing exposure to respiratory aerosols, and their study found that the DIY units "reduced aerosol exposure up to 73 percent, depending on the design, filter thickness, and fan airflow.'

Another recent study, by Brown University and the Silent Spring Institute, a Massachusetts nonprofit organization that conducts breast can-

the boxes significantly decreased the concentration of indoor air pollutants. The Corsi-Rosenthal boxes were installed in 17 rooms on Brown's campus last year to combat COVID-19 and to study the boxes' efficacy at removing particulates from the air. Researchers sampled the rooms' concentration of the indoor pollutants from October to November 2021, before the boxes were in place, and from February to March 2022, when the boxes were operating.

Results showed the boxes reduced a type of synthetic chemical known as PFAS by 40 to 60 percent. The chemical is used in products including cleaners, textiles and wire insulation. Phthalates, a group of pollutants commonly found in building materials and personal-care products, were reduced by 30 to 60 percent.

The boxes are so popular that individuals have posted photos on social media showing their creations decorated with Halloween cat ears, or suspended from chandeliers in fluorescent colors, and even incorporating lighting as part of set design for a musical production.

A 10th-grade robotics enthusiast in Mississauga, Ontario, created a public step-by-step guide in English, French and Spanish and made 122 boxes for people in the Toronto area. The student, Shiven Taneja, won second place for an award Corsi created last vear to honor individuals who help protect others.

School systems in the United States, Canada and Indonesia have built them for classrooms. Several large universities have also built them, according to Corsi, who received 600 entries when he asked people to send in photos of boxes they built last year.

At the University of Maryland, sophomore Ella McCloskey is using the boxes to teach students about the importance of air quality and ways to minimize the spread of disease. The university has distributed more than 100 free boxes to barbershops, funeral homes and churches in suburban Maryland.

taken the boxes home to their families. Others have found them too big for tiny dorm rooms and have put them instead in student lounges where they study and socialize. I was nervous about

Some students have

making this box, because I am not a handy person. The hardest part was making sure the duct tape didn't get stuck to itself.

The most time-consuming aspect was cutting the cardboard — use the box the fan came in - to make the base and a shroud that goes on top of the fan to improve efficiency. It took me about two hours, because I kept checking online videos to make sure I was doing everything correctly.

Finishing it gave me a great sense of satisfaction and comfort for upcoming get-togethers. My niece, who is undergoing cancer treatment, gave a thumbs-up emoji when I texted a photo of the finished box. (She texted back to say a close friend of hers also had built one and takes it to my niece's house each time she visits.) Other family members were bemused when I put the box in the dining room area during Christmas Eve dinner.

At work, the box blocks some foot traffic near my desk. But colleagues sitting next to me are grateful for the cleaner air. The hum of the fan also drowns out loud talkers.

One editor saw the box and wanted to make one for herself. Of course, I immediately offered to build it for her, if she bought the supplies.

P.S. Making pie crust is harder.

# Best way to repair bathroom tile: Start fresh

By Jeanne Huber. Washington Post

• Faucets leaked in my son-in-law's tiled bathtub enclosure, which caused the old greenboard below them to dissolve and a few rows of tiles to come loose. I know it is virtually impossible to match tiles. If it were my house, I might replace all three tiled walls, but to minimize expense and disruption, I would like to remove three rows of tile without breaking anything, cut a piece of cement board to replace the greenboard and glue the tiles back on. But how do I remove the tiles without breaking them? — Falls Church, Va.

· You can pull off A the loose tiles with your fingers or with a putty knife, but you'll probably discover that there is no good place to stop. It makes more sense to plan on doing the job right: Replace all three tiled walls.

If you try to remove several rows of tile and cut away the crumbly greenboard behind them, you'll probably find that the loose tiles aren't neatly arranged in rows. You could use a reciprocating multi-tool with a grout-removal blade to cut through the grout in a whole row. You



When it comes to fixing leaks and loose tile, it makes sense to do the job right. (Jim Slosiarek/The

might even be able to cut through those joints and through the greenboard to remove it with the row of tiles attached using a long blade, such as Milwaukee's groutremoval blade. But to seal the joint between the greenboard you'd leave and the strip of cement board that you'd add underneath, you would need an exposed strip of greenboard — with its paper covering intact at least an inch wide.

There is no easy way to do that. And although removing a strip of tile would minimize mess and cost, the job would

still stretch over several days — the same amount of time it would take to do it right.

You should be able to remove tile and greenboard from all three walls in one day, and maybe even prep for new tiles the same day if you've shopped ahead of time for materials, including backer board, fasteners, fiberglass mesh tape and thin-set mortar or another waterproofing filler for joints.

Be smart about what you choose as the backing material for the tile. Greenboard, advertised as a water-resistant type of drywall, has a gypsum core between two sheets of paper, just like regular drywall. The only key difference is that the paper is coated to resist moisture.

The coated paper makes it suitable for damp areas, such as ceilings in bathrooms. For years, builders sometimes used it behind tile in a shower, but there were so many failures — just like what you de-

scribe — that a responsible builder or remodeler would never use it there these days. Gypsum is like talc. The paper is what holds it together in

a sheet. Once moisture gets through, the gypsum powder gets gummy and moldy and cannot be dried out.

Cement board, which

comes in 3-by-5-foot sheets, is not that much more difficult to deal with, and moisture doesn't affect it, so it works well as a base for tile around a tub or shower. For it to work correctly, though, you need to pay attention to all the installation details, including leaving a 1/4-inch gap between the bottom edge of the board and the top of the tub, attaching it with the recommended screws at the proper spacing, and sealing seams by covering them with stickybacked fiberglass mesh tape, then coating that with thin-set mortar or another material recommended by the manufac-

Manufacturers also make other waterproof backer boards designed for use behind tile in showers and around tubs. Some are lighter than cement board, but compare warranties. Even if the fine print means you'd probably never collect a cent, they do offer a guide to how much manufacturers believe in the products. Durock cement board comes with a 30-year

limited warranty. But Fiberock and Durock glassmat tile backer board two other options offered by USG for use in wet environments — each have just 20-year ones.

Assume it will take another day or two to install the tile. Unless the tub is level on all three sides, determine how to establish a level line, and plan to trim tiles around the bottom edge as needed, so you end up with rows that look level. If you have time, install just the lowest row of uncut tiles in a level line one day and wait for those to dry overnight to give yourself a solid base for installing the upper rows and filling in below with trimmed tiles.

White tiles about 4 inches square go with almost anything and will give a bathroom a clean, fresh look — and they're cheap, too. Get tiles with lugs on the edges, so you don't need spacers.

Add the grout a day or two after you install the tiles, so the mastic is completely dry first. Three days later, apply sealer to the grout, and use silicone caulk to fill the corner joints and the gap between the bottom edge of the tile and the top of the tub.

Yes, it's a lot of work. But you won't need to do it again.

# How to meet your neighbors

By Jandra Sutton, Washington Post

If you don't know your neighbors, you're probably not alone. Just over half of Americans report knowing some of their neighbors, according to a survey by Pew Research Center, with rural residents nearly twice as likely to know all of their neighbors compared to city dwellers.

Back in 2019, my partner and I made the shift from suburban to city life, and, while we were excited to downsize and live a more walkable lifestyle in downtown Nashville, we were shocked by how hard it was to even see our neighbors, let alone get to know them. We live in a historic building with more than 40 units (some owned, others rented), but without any common areas or an on-site property manager organizing happy hours and meet-andgreets. We can go days without running into another resident.

For some people, this might sound like heaven. For others — including me — such a lack of engagement makes it difficult to cultivate a sense of community, and takes a toll.

Nivi Achanta, a 27-yearold apartment dweller in Seattle, says she didn't fully grasp what she was missing until 2018, when her fiance's hometown burned down in a wildfire. "I just remember his mom talking about telling the neighbors to evacuate, and it occurred to me that if there was a disaster I would be completely unprepared because I wouldn't know who to call or what to do.'

Though there's no specific blueprint for "building community" in an urban setting, Achanta eventually figured it out. (As did my partner and I.) Here are a few ways you can,

#### **START BY INTRODUCING YOURSELF**

Meeting your neighbors doesn't need to be something formal or overly complicated. Achanta started by introducing herself to another resident she saw training her dog outside their building, and the conversation grew organically. "A lot of it did come down to serendipity," Achanta says, but it helped her realize she could be proactive and start intentionally connecting with more of her neighbors

One thing her building had going for it was an online bulletin where residents could post. One day, Achanta noticed a message from a fellow resident looking to make friends. She responded, then eventually started adding her neighbors to a community Facebook group, which has



Just over half of Americans report knowing some of their neighbors, according to a survey by Pew Research Center, with rural residents nearly twice as likely to know all of their neighbors compared with city dwellers. (Dreamstime.com)

grown to almost 40 members. She and her neighbors now use it to share resources.

These methods of connecting, says Achanta, "literally changed my life. I can get food. I can give away food. I can get things in an emergency ... I just learned that it's such a fundamental fabric of belonging and of just existing in a

#### **CREATE A GROUP TEXT**

One way that my partner and I started to bond with other residents in our building was by setting up a group text with neighbors on our floor.

After the Christmas bombing in downtown Nashville forced our building to evacuate, we discovered that simply having a few neighbors' phone numbers was a huge benefit during a crisis. Not only were we able to share information as it trickled our way, but it was also significantly less isolating to know we weren't

an effort to gather more numbers and create a group text chain for residents. It quickly evolved into a place where we were genuinely getting to know each other — sharing jokes and making plans to hang out. It's also become a forum for talking about issues in the building and advocating for change — like supporting

a neighbor who was being bullied by another resident, and lobbying the homeowner association to install a bike rack.

#### **HOST A LOW-EFFORT EVENT**

Whether it's a building-wide potluck at the park or dinner with a few people on your floor, find a way to gather socially with your neighbors. Some cities have organizations dedicated to helping downtown residents get to know each other — like Nashville's Downtown Partnership, which hosts a monthly Downtown Neighbors Association meetup - but you can also take the initiative yourself with less effort than you might expect. My neighbor and I are planning a happy hour at a local bar. We cleared it with the bar and asked our building's HOA for permission to post flyers, so it's just a matter of picking a date and spreading the word.

Keep in mind that you can't force people to socialize if they're not interested, After the bombing, we made so don't be pushy. We've had some neighbors who are less responsive than others, and that's OK. Most are happy to connect, even if it just means sharing a phone number in case of an emergency.

#### JOIN A TENANT ASSOCIATION

As one of many living in a multifamily building, it can be difficult to have your indi-

with your neighbors affords power in numbers — and an opportunity to build community in the process.

If you own your unit, consider joining the homeowner association to connect with (and advocate for) your neighbors. If you rent, you might try joining — or starting — a tenant association in your building. Also known as a renters' union, tenant associations are formed by residents to negotiate with landlords, improve building conditions, and collectively advocate for demands that benefit the entire community.

"[These] help balance that power dynamic between the landlord and the tenants." explains Brad Hirn, a lead organizer with the Housing Rights Committee of San Francisco. "You're paying rent. And with that should come the opportunity to have your voice heard."

#### **CONNECT WITH EXISTING COMMUNITY GROUPS**

Another way to meet your neighbors — and advocate for change within your community — is to join existing grassroots organizations in your neighborhood. "Do some door knocking, put up flyers, or talk to people in your area to gauge interest and understand what the main priorities are in your community," suggests

vidual voice heard. But joining Francesca Willow, an activist and blogger in England who focuses on sustainability and social justice.

"My community has set up several initiatives ... including a renters' union, Food Not Bombs, a study group, and other forms of collective care," says Willow. "Many of these were already in the process of being set up before I was involved, so my approach was to evaluate the resources and skills I had, then to turn up at things that I saw flyers for and offer them.

#### **BE PATIENT**

It can take time to establish a sense of community within your building, but once more neighbors start to see the benefits, the entire process gets easier. Once more people in my building found out about our group text, for instance, they were eager to join.

Now, we have a more established sense of community that benefits residents in small ways — like when you need to borrow a ladder or cleaning supplies — as well as larger ones. As Hirn explains, building community can function as a source of camaraderie, political strength or friendship all of which tend to make residents want to stay longer. "That, for us," he adds, "creates a more stable building, block, neighborhood, city.

# How can I keep my fitness resolution?

Those New Year's resolutions we made are top of mind right now. And some of the most common resolutions include losing weight, working out more or living a healthy lifestyle. If that's your goal this year, you'll need a plan of attack. Are you going to create a space in your home for working out, or will you purchase a fitness center or gym membership? This decision will impact your new commitment to living with healthy habits, so carefully consider the pros and cons of both options.

#### **HOME GYM**

Ideal for: • People who prefer to

exercise alone Anyone who has the motivation to work out on their own and space

to store the equipment You can spend as much or as little as you



Your equipment selection makes a big difference when you work out at home. (Tero Vesalainen/ Dreamstime/TNS)

want setting up a home gym to your exact specifications. If you're willing to spend more, you could outfit your space with a commercial treadmill, elliptical trainer, stair stepper machine or

stationary bike. A set of dumbbells and resistance bands can complete the setup. Some benefits to this option are being able to work out at any hour of the day, no wait time to use equipment, and

having the equipment already personalized to your specifications. Drawbacks include the upfront expense to outfit your home gym and the additional room space needed to create such an

area. And because it's part of your home, you can easily be derailed by kids, pets, partner or any of the other everyday distractions that often come up.

#### **FITNESS CENTER OR GYM MEMBERSHIP**

Ideal for:

 Anyone with limited space in their homes and no place to build a gym

• People who are out of the house a lot with busy lifestyles

Fitness centers provide a lot of advantages. They offer a broader array of equipment, which allows you to more easily mix up your workouts. And if you're a social person, the energy of the shared experience can help you with motivation.

The downsides include the commitment and motivation involved. Your home gym is a few steps away, but you have to carve out time and travel back and forth to

use the fitness center. And if you're not particularly social, working out around other people can be distracting or annoy-

#### **PERSONAL TRAINERS**

Many fitness centers offer personal training, either for an additional fee or as part of their package. However, you also can hire a personal trainer to visit your home and help you figure out the best way to use your gear. Even if you only purchase their services for a few coaching sessions, a good trainer can design a workout regimen that balances your available time, personal goals and the types of equipment available.

A trainer helps you make the most of what you've got, whether it's a huge home gym or a set of weights and resistance bands. You'd be surprised at how many possible variations can be achieved.

# 'We're just trying to survive'

## Growing pains and a daunting winter at Alaska's only potbelly pig rescue

By Annie Berman, Anchorage Daily News

WASILLA, Alaska -It's a frigid late November day in this city, but inside Sheila Pontier's garage at Alaska's only potbelly pig rescue, 13 pigs slumber, warm and dry.

Some of the pigs cuddle with one another, pressed together in a snug row. Others snore softly, noses twitching,

ears drooping.
Pigs of all kinds come
to Alaska Potbelly Pig Rescue from communities around the state for different reasons, often because their families can no longer care for them or didn't know what they were getting into. Even pigs labeled "teacup" or "miniature" can grow to be 200 pounds or more.

The rescue, which Pontier founded in 2019, has since grown into two locations: a property in Big Lake where the majority of the pigs are homed while they await adoption, and Pontier's garage, where older pigs and those with special needs live.

Pontier has rescued more than 150 pigs so far. She has no plans to stop

But lately, the exhaustion of running a sanctuary — especially with a winter heating challenge that recently surfaced and a bird flu outbreak in her poultry flocks has been wearing on her. At times, it can feel like too much for one person.

No matter how much she loves what she does, Pontier's voice fills with emotion when she talks about how much work it is to run a sanctuary.



Potbellied pigs rest in Sheila Pontier's garage Nov. 30 in Wasilla, Alaska. Pontier is the founder of Alaska Potbelly Pig Rescue. (Anchorage Daily News photos)



Sheila Pontier corrals ducks at her home Nov. 30 in Wasilla, Alaska, before they are tested for bird flu. Some of Pontier's other birds have already tested positive for the highly transmissible virus.

want to get out of bed," she said. "But I think God built me a little bit

Pontier, an accountant with a business in Wasilla, has a hard time remembering the exact moment she first fell in love with pigs. She's always been drawn to them — when she was a 'There are days I don't kid visiting the Alaska

State Fair and working at a pet store, and now, as an adult.

"I think I just fell in love with their noses,' she said in a recent interview. To Pontier, the snouts look like upsidedown hearts. She thinks pigs are misunderstood creatures, and very easy to connect with. Their eyes have a surprising

"Their eyes are hu-man eyes," she said. Like humans, pigs cry

if they're getting neglected, Pontier said. She has seen actual tears stream down their faces, usually after they're dropped off by families that can no longer care for them.

She serves as owner and executive director of the rescue nonprofit she founded three years ago.

Pontier purchased the 55-acre Big Lake plot of land, along with a \$7,000 natural gas generator that she planned to run all winter long to keep the pigs warm.

The Wasilla woman has a dream for the beautiful Big Lake property for it to be become a sanctuary with picnic areas, and opportunities for families to feed and interact with the pigs and other animals.

The land has so much potential, she says. But lately, it's been a massive

amount of work, with challenge after challenge. In November, she contended with an bird flu outbreak that killed most of her chickens and threatened her ducks,

Pontier, who was raised in Cordova, grew up hunting and fishing, living off the land, and DIY problem-solving. But when a line to the generator froze in November, and oil spilled causing the generator to break, the stress pushed even her Alaskan grit to the brink.

She already wakes up every day at 4 a.m. to take care of her pigs and run two separate businesses, and isn't in bed until after 11 p.m.

Now she's relying on a gasoline generator that can only be used twice a day to keep the Big Lake pigs warm.

As the temperatures in the Valley have gotten colder, she's been worried about the pigs, and about the cost needed to realize her vision.

She's been working with Matanuska Electric Association on getting permanent electricity for summer 2023. It'll cost more than \$30,000. She's been doing a lot of fundraising, submitting a lot

"I have big ideas and big dreams for this place, and we just have to get there," she said. "Right now, we're just trying to survive.'

When Pontier is asked about her pigs, she lights

There is Bernie, who arrived on Pontier's doorstep emaciated after he was discovered curled up in a snowbank living off of a moose head. And Willie and Ernie, who

Pontier found in 2016 by a for-sale sign on the side of the road where they were being sold for meat.

There is Miss Piggie, who arrived inside a guinea pig cage she'd been kept in, on a balcony of an apartment building that didn't allow pets. And 21-year-old Wiggles, whose former owner died two years ago.

Pontier puts everything she has into caring for these animals that have become like family. She spends between \$5,000 and \$7,000 a month keeping the pigs fed and cared for — their feed is expensive. And pigs eat a lot.

Pontier dreams of a future where she has the time and resources to sit down for meals, put up Christmas decorations, and take a week off here and there — three things she's been too busy to do as of late.

She says her nonprofit is always accepting financial or in-kind donations to help keep the pigs fed and housed, and cover vet care and generator expenses — and currently, to set up electricity in Big Lake.

They are also looking for volunteers to help with feeding and caring for the pigs, in Big Lake and Wasilla.

Not everyone in Pontier's life understands how she can spend so much money, time and energy on the pigs at the expense of doing the things she loves, like hunting and camping.

"When I only had a few, they were fine," she said, when asked how her family has responded to her life with the pigs. Then she laughed. "Now I'm just a crazy pig lady."

# These dogs ride a bus just like humans do

#### 'And now the internet is in love'

By Sydney Page, Washington Post

Amaru, a 5-year-old rescue dog, waits patiently on his family's front lawn in Skagway, Alaska, watching for the bus to arrive each morning.

'He got used to sitting in that spot. He even looks in the direction he knows they're going to come," said his dad, Gary Hisman — who typically does yard work while Amaru awaits his daily transport. "He's a very smart guy."

Amaru, along with about 40 other dogs, is part of a play group organized by Mo Mountain Mutts — a local dog walking and training business, run by a husband-and-wife duo, Mo and Lee Thompson.

The Thompsons lead offleash pack walks up to three times a day, but what has captured the attention of people worldwide are hilarious videos showing how they collect their canine clients: A recent TikTok video of several dogs confidently boarding the bus on their own with big wagging tails was viewed more than 50 million times.

It documents the Thompsons' regular pickup routine. At one point, the minibus stops in front of Amaru's home, where he is seated in the front yard — clearly expecting them. From inside the bus, the Thompsons open the doors for the pup, and he happily leaps in.

Once entering the bus, the dogs typically sniff around and greet the other canine passengers, before climbing onto their assigned seat — which the Thompsons have trained them to do. Then, their har-



Mo Mountain Mutts, a dog walking business in Skagway, Alaska, has gone viral on social media for its beloved dog bus. Back row, from left: Yarrow and Otis. Front row, from left: Gumbo and Slade. (Mo Mountain Mutts photos)

ness gets secured, and the same process is repeated as the rest of the pack, about 12 dogs, is picked up.

The seats are carefully selected based on factors such as a pup's personality, age and manners. Most dogs head directly to their designated seat without being guided.

Specific areas of the bus are better suited to the dogs," Mo, 31, explained, adding that senior dogs tend to be assigned seats closer to the front, while rowdier youngsters ride in what she calls the "licky puppy corner," because they tend to lick each other for most of the journey.

When the dogs board the bus, Mo does a small obedience drill, and passes out treats to reward good behavior. Once they're settled and buckled in, Mo said, "they have to stay on their seats" — just like humans — while being transported to the trail-

Mo and Lee regularly film portions of their bus rides and walks and share videos on social media. Lately they've been going viral. Mo Mountain Mutts has around 237,000 followers on Instagram, and 1.3 million followers on TikTok, but they reach far more people than that on social media.

Toriginally started posting on social media for my clients," Mo said, adding that she often shared "class photos" for

dog parents. Somewhere along the line," she said, "the puppy bus just took off, and now the in-



Mo and Lee Thompson, with their 8-month-old son, Vern.

ternet is in love."

In the videos, Amaru has emerged as a fan favorite.

"All my friends tease me that he's going to leave home and go to Hollywood," Hisman

People often call out the dogs by name in the video comments, to the delight of the pet's owners.

"Otis is all business ... straight to his seat. Amaru wants to socialize," one person observed.

"Jake hopping on his seat is always my fav," another commented.

Fans of the dog bus say the videos are a guaranteed mood boost.

"Can we all agree that this video heals all sadness? Cause I was crying two minutes ago. I am not anymore," one person wrote.

"It's bringing me so much joy," another user commented.

Just as the Thompsons' social media stardom was unexpected, so, too, was the couple's canine-focused career path. They never set out to start a dog walking company, Mo said — or move permanently to Alaska, for that

The Thompsons both grew up in Michigan and were high school sweethearts who traveled to Alaska in 2014. They initially intended to only spend the summer there, but they ended up staying.

About six years ago, Mo was working as a bartender, server and hostess at a hotel restaurant, while her husband worked at the same restaurant as a server, as well as at a local school as a special education paraprofessional, and later, an athletic director.

At the time, Mo, whose parents were dog breeders, had some flexibility in her work schedule, and "it just started with my co-worker and I walking each other's dogs," she said. "I ended up having more time available to get them out.'

It grew from there.

"I just started picking up dogs slowly, to the point where I needed to make a second group," said Mo, who left her job at the restaurant in 2016 to make more time for dog walking. "It really just evolved out of that.'

Her husband, meanwhile, continued focusing on his own work, until he lost his job in 2021 after the school was closed due to COVID.

The timing, it turned out, could not have been better: During the height of the pandemic, "people were adopting dogs like crazy," said Mo.

Business began booming. Eventually, they swapped their van for a bus to keep up with the growing doggy demand.

The Thompsons said being with dogs all day almost seems too good to be true, and the online support they get is a welcome bonus.

"It's the dream," said Mo. "I can't believe this is what we do for a living."

# Glossary of Britishisms for 'Spare' readers

By Meredith Blake, Los Angeles Times

It's often said that England and America are two countries divided by a common language.

If you're one of the many readers on this side of the pond to pick up a copy of "Spare," you are likely engrossed by Prince Harry's poignant yet frequently salacious account of life inside the royal bubble. As vou read with fascination about the grief he struggled with after his mother, Princess Diana, died in 1997, or the racist media coverage of his wife, Meghan Markle, you may also find yourself wondering about more mundane things.

Like: What on earth is a biro?

To help American readers navigate the Duke of Sussex's tell-all which is dense with British cultural references even as its gushing, confessional quality defies the national belief in maintaining a "stiff upper lip" — we've compiled some of the more peculiarly British people, places and things and attempted to explain them in a manner accessible to Yanks (and other commoners).

#### **BALMORAL**

The royal family's estate in Scotland and the site of some of the most dramatic moments in "Spare." It is where Queen Elizabeth II died last year (shortly before Harry arrived — he wasn't invited on the family plane). It's also where Harry and his brother, Prince William, learned their mother, Princess Diana, had been killed in a car accident in 1997. Harry describes the castle in vivid detail, including the brownish tap water — "filtered and sweetened by the Scottish peat"—and the identical doors, which made it all too easy to barge in accidentally on his father doing headstands in his boxers.

#### **CLUB H**

A bomb shelter turned windowless party lair at Highgrove, Charles' country estate, where teenage Harry and Will consumed vodka and Red Bull with friends named Badger, Casper, Chimp and Skippy. Club H was located deep in the bowels of the estate, beyond a wine cellar "wherein Camilla kept her fanciest bottles," and a storage room containing "absurd gifts from foreign governments" that couldn't be regifted or donated. "When I wanted peace, Club H provided.

#### **ETON COLLEGE**

The uber-posh boarding school Harry and



Prince Harry and Meghan Markle, Duke and Duchess of Sussex, arrive for a service last June at St. Paul's Cathedral in London. (Getty Images)

William attended was founded by King Henry VI in 1440 and has a complicated lexicon of its own (teachers are known as "beaks," classes as "divs"). Students dress in reason. As in, "Harry funereal black tailcoats

and pinstriped trousers because "we were supposed to be in perpetual mourning for old Henry VI," writes Harry, who felt out of place at such an elite place of learning despite his royal lineage: "Heaven for brilliant boys, it could

thus only be purgatory for one very unbrilliant

#### **BIRO**

A term for a common ballpoint pen, similar to a Bic. Harry recalls receiving a Biro wrapped, for some reason, in a tiny rubber fish — as a present one Christmas from Princess Margaret, aka Aunt Margo, a woman he didn't know well but who, he writes, "could kill a houseplant with one scowl.'

At the time, the gift struck Harry as "coldblooded," and he doesn't offer much insight into what she may have intended with the bizarre present. But his opinion of the queen's longsuffering younger sister the spare to an earlier heir — seems to have softened over the years: "Now and then, as I grew older, it struck me that Aunt Margo and I should be friends.

#### **DARLING BOY**

Charles' preferred term of endearment for Harry, used to relay difficult news in a sensitive manner (e.g., "Darling boy, mummy's been in a car crash") but also to dismiss his younger son's concerns patronizingly (e.g., "Don't read it, darling boy," referring to erroneous tabloid coverage of the family).

#### **FANCY DRESS**

PRINCE HARRY

What British people call costumes, for some claims that William and

Kate encouraged him to wear a Nazi uniform to a fancy dress party in 2005." It should not be confused with fancy dresses, like those Harry says Kate liked to wear,  $in\ contrast$ with Meghan, a barefoot-in-

ripped-jeans kinda girl.

#### **GINGER SPICE**

Nom de guerre of Geri Halliwell, a member of the 1990s pop group the Spice Girls. As recounted in "Spare," Harry met the Spice Girls at a concert in South Africa shortly after his mother's death. Ginger was "the only Spice with whom I felt any connection," he writes, because of her red hair, obviously, but also her fondness for the Union Jack, the flag draped over Diana's coffin. Who knew the Spice Girls could be so poignant? (Harry also quotes a surprisingly profound verse from their hit single "Wannabe": "If you want my future, forget my past.")

#### **HAROLD**

What Prince William calls Harry, whose name is actually Henry.

#### **LUDGROVE MATRONS**

Ludgrove is a boarding school for boys between the ages of 8 and 13, located in Berkshire. Harry was enrolled at Ludgrove when his mother, Princess Diana, died. In one of the book's most charged Freudian moments, Harry recalls the women who worked as "matrons" at the school and, like surrogate mothers, bathed

prepubescent students in an elaborate and rather creepy ritual.

"I can still see the long row of white baths, each with a boy reclining like a pharaoh, awaiting his personalized hair-washing," he writes. "The matrons came down the row of tubs with stiff brushes, bars of floral soap. Every boy had his own towel, embossed with his school number. Mine was 116. After shampooing a boy the matron would ease back his head, give him a slow and luxurious rinse. Confusing as hell."

#### **NURSERY**

The name for the single bedroom shared by William and Harry at Balmoral, where the royal pecking order was obvious. "My half of the room was smaller, far less luxurious," Harry writes. "I never asked why. I didn't care. But I also didn't need to ask. Two years older than me, Willy was the heir, whereas I was the spare.'

#### **OPAL FRUITS**

Chewy fruit-flavored candies Harry liked to eat in vast quantities during the Ludgrove ritual known as "Grub Day," when students would line up after lunch and gorge themselves on candy piled high on a table. The brand later changed its name to Starburst — a move Harry deems "pure heresy."

#### **REHABBER KOOKS**

The derisive anagram Harry uses throughout "Spare" to refer to his nemesis, Rebekah Brooks, the notorious media executive and newspaper editor who was behind some of the most egregious tabloid stories about Harry (including a 2002 report that he was going to rehab for drug abuse). Brooks was publicly disgraced nearly a decade later for her role in the News of the World phone-hacking scandal, yet she contin-

ues to be one of Rupert Murdoch's most power-

#### **ROUNDHEADS VERSUS CAVALIERS**

Terms used by students at Ludgrove to distinguish students who were circumcised (like Harry) from those who were not. It's also a nod to the English Civil War: The royalist cavaliers, who supported King Charles I and were known for their flowing hair and elaborate garb, were pitted against the pro-Parliament roundheads, who sported closely cropped hair and simpler clothing.

#### **SANDRINGHAM**

The royal family's 20.000-acre country estate in Norfolk, where Queen Elizabeth II enjoyed spending Christmas and shooting partridges. Not to be confused with Balmoral, the royal family's 50,000acre county estate in Scotland, where Elizabeth enjoyed spending summers and shooting deer. Harry, who gets overheated easily, like his father, compares the stifling dining room at Sandringham to Dante's 'Inferno," adding that his grandmother's corgis would often betray him when he'd secretly crack open a window at dinner. Sandringham is also where Charles, William and the queen met in January 2020 to broker the terms of the Sussexes' departure from royal life — an event that was dubbed the "Sandringham Summit" and was fixed in advance by the queen's advisers, according to Harry.

A nickname Harry acquired during his gap year in Australia, after posing with an echidna (like a cross between an anteater and a hedgehog) named Spike. A family friend decided that Harry, whose hair had grown back in messily after his Eton classmates shaved it off as a prank, bore an uncanny resemblance to the egg-laying mammal. The moniker soon caught on with his friends back home, and joined an already long list of formal titles and informal nicknames (Haz, Baz, Prince Jackaroo, Scrawny).

#### **STALKING**

Though Harry frequently discusses stalking in negative terms as in the paparazzi who stalked his mother — it's also one of the favorite pastimes of the royal family when staying at Balmoral. Harry writes about a stalking initiation. When he was about 15, a guide named Sandy shoved his face inside

the still-warm carcass of a freshly killed stag and held it there until Harry went limp. "After a minute, I couldn't smell anything, because I couldn't breathe. My nose and mouth were full of blood, guts and a deep, upsetting warmth.'

It is one of several menacing, symbolically potent anecdotes in "Spare" involving dead animals and members of the royal family that Peter Morgan is no doubt filing away in a folder marked "Heavy-handed Metaphors To Use In 'The Crown.'" (See also: the moment Harry nervously asks Queen Elizabeth for permission to marry Meghan while gathering dead birds at Sandringham.)

Harry and William's beloved nanny, who was actually named Alexandra Shan Legge-Bourke but, in the curious tradition of the British upper classes, went by a goofy nickname seemingly more suitable for a Yorkshire terrier than a grown woman. Despised by Diana, who perceived her as a maternal rival. Tiggy was either fun-loving or reckless, depending on your perspective: In "Spare," the prince recalls Tiggy offering him swigs of sloe gin during hunting trips in his adolescence. He also describes a "blooding" ceremony, in which Tiggy "tenderly" smeared his cheeks, nose and forehead in rabbit blood after he made his first kill. As you do.

#### T.K. MAXX

A discount store where Harry, when he was a bachelor with little interest in fashion, preferred to shop for casual wear. (It is part of the same company as T.J. Maxx, but goes by a different name in Europe to avoid confusion with the retailer T.J. Hughes.) He was especially fond of hitting up their annual sale, grabbing a red bucket and making his way from the top floor over color or bothering to try things on properly. "With two hundred quid you could look like a fashion plate," he says.

#### **TODGER**

British slang for penis. In 2011, Harry returned from an expedition to the North Pole to attend his brother's wedding and was alarmed to discover that his todger was frostbitten — an unfortunate medical mishap that provides "Spare" with one of its most potent metaphors: "What was the universe out to prove by taking my penis at the same moment it took my brother?" Harry writes.

## Illustrator Jerry Pinkney tells his own story in his final book

By Abby McGanney Nolan, Washington Post

Jerry Pinkney, an award-winning illustrator of more than 100 children's books, worked on another project for years. It was the story of his adventures growing up in Philadelphia from ages 9 to 13.

Pinkney died in October 2021, at age 81, before he could finish that book's artwork. But he had done a lot of sketchbook drawings for it, and they fill "Just Jerry: How Drawing Shaped My Life," which publishes this month.

The book's title comes from his childhood. Other kids, including

his siblings, teased him because "Jerry" seemed like a nickname, not a "real" first name like Gerald or Jerome. His

mother always responded with 'Just Jerry is enough. He'll make something of his name someday."

Jerry Pinkney's son Brian, who is also an admired illustrator, says that the book's

title has extra meaning for him.

"My father was just. He was a very fair man. I took it for granted when I was growing up, but

I have heard from so many people that he was one of the nicest men they knew." He adds with a laugh, "My father

gave very just punishments whenever we took the car out without asking.'

Jerry Pinkney grew up on a street in Philadelphia that was next to a cemetery. As he explains

in "Just Jerry," it was a location that was not considered desirable by White homebuyers. Black homebuyers saw an affordable place to

JERRY PINKNI

live and created a friend- smelled, I'd think of as a ly community on East Earlham Street. Kids ran and played under the caring eyes of older neighbors.

Brian Pinkney remembers going back with his three siblings to see their grandparents, aunts, uncles and cousins.

"We would visit every summer and do all the same things that he did,' he said.

Even as a child, Jerry was a talented artist. He would sketch scenes from the movies he saw with his friends. He drew his family members and neighborhood. As he wrote in "Just Jerry," "Everything I saw, heard, felt, tasted, and

picture.

In the book, Jerry also mentions his reading and writing problems: "When I looked down at the page, the words seemed to be swimming in murky water." Only much later did he realize he had dyslexia (pronounced diss-LEX-eeuh). Brian says that for his father, and for himself, drawing and painting provided "another way of seeing.

Brian remembers going up to see his father at work in his home studio. "I would come home from school, and we would discuss my day and what he was drawing." Sometimes he and

his siblings helped in his father's studio. "My mother had a costume closet for us, and we would act out the scenes of the story he was illustrating." His favorite story in

"Just Jerry" concerns a time when 9-year-old Jerry drew on the wall by his bunk bed; blank paper was hard to find and too small for all his ideas. Young Jerry came home one day to find that his father had painted over the wall.

"At first my father thought his father was sore at him, but he had just wanted to give my father a blank slate to make more art," Brian said.

**8M** 

#### **LOCAL BESTSELLERS**

FICTION/NON-FICTION

- 1. "Spare" Duke of Sussex 2. "The House of
- Wolves" Patterson/ Lupica
- 3. "It Ends with Us" Hoover
- 4. "Bluebird" Cameron
- 5. "Lessons in
- **Chemistry**" Garmus
- 6. "The Boys from Biloxi" Grisham 7. "Babel" Kuang
- 8. "The January 6 Report" The January 6 Select Committee/New

York Times

9. "The Body Keeps the Score" van der Kolk 10. "A Court of Thorns and Roses" Maas

Barnes & Noble, Cedar Rapids

#### **NATIONAL BESTSELLERS**

**FICTION** 

- 1. "Lessons in **Chemistry**" Garmus 2. "Without a Trace" Steel
- 3. "The House in the Pines" Reyes
- 4. "The Boys from Biloxi" Grisham
- 5. "Fairy Tale" King 6. "Demon Copperhead"
- Kingsolver 7. "Mad Honey" Picoult/ Boylan
- 8. "Tomorrow, and Tomorrow, and Tomorrow" Zevin 9. "Dreamland" Sparks 10. "Verity" Hoover

**NON-FICTION** 

- 1. "The Light We Carry" Obama
- 2. "I'm Glad My Mom
- **Died"** McCurdy 3. "Faith Still Moves
- Mountains" Faulkner 4. "Good Boundaries and
- Goodbyes" TerKeurst 5. "Go-To Dinners" Garten
- 6. "Friends, Lovers, and the Big Terrible Thing" Perry
- 7. "PlantYou: 140+ Ridiculously Easy, **Amazingly Delicious Plant-Based Oil-Free** Recipes" Bodrug
- 8. "The Noom Mindset" 9. "Fast Like a Girl" Pelz
- 10. "Finding the Way"

Publishers Weekley

# 3 new audiobooks include a true crime with a thriller's momentum

The Blue

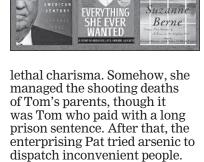
Window

By Katherine A. Powers, Washington Post

Looking for a way to fill your winter days? New audiobooks include a true-crime classic that gets new life and a biography that justifies its some 36-hour

#### **EVERYTHING SHE EVER WANTED**

This account of the life and crimes of Pat Allanson by Ann Rule was published 30 years ago but only now appears as an unabridged audiobook and it's a doozy. Born in 1937 and brought up as the center of the universe by her mother and stepfather, Pat dreamed of becoming a reincarnation of Gone with the Wind's" Scarlett O'Hara, mistress of plantation estate and mansion and wife to Rhett Butler. After one failed marriage, she seduced Tom Allanson, six years her junior, and the two, tricked out as Scarlett and Rhett, married in 1974, setting themselves up on a hugely mortgaged horse farm. Narrator Cassandra Campbell's sweet, intoxicating voice conveys Pat's seductive powers, her indignant feelings when thwarted and her



**BOOKS** 

rated in chilling detail, the book has a thriller's momentum and a novel's depth of character. Except it's true. (Simon & Schuster Audio, Unabridged, 20 1/3

THE BLUE WINDOW

Fast-paced and beautifully nar-

Suzanne Berne's fifth novel is an ever-deepening story of past deeds blighting the present, and it's a penetrating study of family relationships crippled by secrets. The story emerges from the perspectives of three main characters. There is Lorna, a divorced, middle-aged therapist

abandoned when she was 7 by her mother. That is Marika, a difficult, cagey woman who served in the Dutch resistance and bears her own hidden trauma. Finally we have Adam, a 19-year-old recently returned from college harboring a shameful secret. He has fallen into a deadening depression, his nerdy, despondent voice captured by Graham Halstead, who brightens it up as the boy begins to emerge from his torment. Devon Sorvari gives us Lorna, characterized by Adam as pathetic but whose strong I-can-fix-this voice says otherwise. Jackie Sanders portrays the perfect manipulator and grouch that is Marika. Flecked with occasional and welcome sparks of humor, this would be a completely satisfying audio production of a fine novel, except that a (presumably) revelatory passage toward the end of the book is in Dutch with, most distressingly, no translation given. (Simon & Schuster Audio, Unabridged, 8 hours.)

Beverly Gage's reassess-

ment of J. Edgar Hoover, overlord of the FBI and one of the most powerful civil servants in American history, draws on material not accessible to earlier biographers. It merits its great length by seating the man firmly in historical circumstances, many of which he played some part in creating. She depicts the private Hoover as a gay frequenter of nightclubs and fast society, who nonetheless "sought to enforce (a) vision of white Christian masculinity" in what became the FBI. By the end of World War II, Hoover was a lauded part of the New Deal and was revered for protecting civil rights. At the same time, he (and Franklin D. Roosevelt) hugely expanded the powers and scope of the FBI, especially in surveillance and intelligence operations.

Gabra Zackman narrates the book in an unhurried, strong, straightforward manner — lawabiding, too, as she clearly distinguishes between quoted passages and the general narrative. (Penguin Audio, Unabridged, 36 2/3 hours.)

REVIEW | 'HOW TO SELL A HAUNTED HOUSE'

GRADY

HAUNTED

## A little horror, a little humor in twisted story

By Carol Memmott, Washington Post

Tales of terror, by their very nature, take the things we cherish and turn them against us:

A beloved pet wants to kill us ("Cujo"), our home is cursed "The Haunting of Hill House"), the baby we're expecting turns demonic ("Rosemary's Baby"). Yet, of all the horror tropes, is there any that's scarier than dolls and puppets that come to life?

Grady Hendrix creates a whole new kind of toy-box hell in

"How to Sell a Haunted House." This ingenious novel is a twisted story of malevolent puppets and dolls that have a problem with real estate deals. (Yes, there's comic relief.)

This time around, Hendrix

- who has written six other novels including "Horrorstor," about a big-box store that sounds a lot like Ikea, and the darkly comic "The Final Girls

Support Group" recounts the attack of puppet people that erupts when orphaned siblings Louise and Mark Joyner must work together to empty and sell the family home. If you've ever had to sort and discard a loved one's possessions, you know what a true

be. And even before the puppets take a run at Mark and Louise, they're emotionally terrorized by lingering childhood trauma and personal problems.

Like many people, Louise and Mark have financial difficulties, and if they want to cash in on their parents' 1951 brick rancher in Charleston, they must clean it out. But what if their parents' possessions don't

Louise hears voices inside the supposedly abandoned house. She discovers two dolls from her mother's extensive collection sitting in her father's brown velour chair, watching a shopping channel doll show. The 3-foot-tall dolls are named Louise and Mark. Louise's mother, who ran a Christian puppet ministry, loved the dolls more than the children she named them after, but most of all she loved her hand puppet, Pupkin, who talks and walks and makes dozens of other dolls, puppets and humans do his bidding. Creepy.

taxidermized squirrels go on the defensive. The details are too delicious to reveal, but peek through your fingers at Pupkin Hendrix blows the hinges off the safety hatch that separates from "The Twilight Zone."

relate to horror stories and consider their outrageousness a balm for what ails us. In "How to Sell a Haunted House," Hendrix, with relentless efficiency - and a bit of humor — forces us to confront our fears.

25

19

23

49

72

100

107

115

120

123

60 Part of X-X-X

37

DO YOU HEAR THAT? BY WYNA LIU / EDITED BY WILL SHORTZ

Wyna Liu is an associate puzzle editor for The Times, which she joined in 2020. She helps select and edit clues for the puzzles that appear in the paper. The thing she loves most about her job is "talking puzzles with other people who love  $them! {\it ''} (That would be the rest of us on the {\it Games team.}) When {\it Wyna isn't working, she makes jewelry and magnetic}$ 

**ACROSS** 1 Villains' antagonists

- 7 "Uh, sure"
- 13 Power project
- 16 Real mess
- 19 2007 Lil Wayne song 46 Column crossers + that opens: "Young You dig?"
- 20 Subject of clip art? 22 "What do we have
- here?! 23 Word before the year on U.S. paper
- currency 24 Small thing to keep
- on track 25 Human rights activist Xiaobo, the first Chinese citizen to be awarded the Nobel Peace Prize (2010)
- 26 Presses CTRL+P + + Easter egg coloring
- Scroungy mutt + Parent's sister, in some regions
- 30 Active Sicilian volcano
- 31 European river that's 76 Influential sorts an anagram of REED
- 34 Promise to pay 35 [I'm frustrated!]
- 36 Fragrant noodle soup made with beef
- 39 Like Captain James T. Kirk, by birth

- 41 Número de "Años de Soledad" in a Gabriel García Márquez novel
- 43 Follows + Golfer's cry + "Úgh!"
- Sentry + 49 "Encore!"
- 50 Irks 52 Crossed off
- 53 Gangster-film prop 56 "Holy" city 58 Nongendered possessive
- 59 Insult that's also a measurement device "The landlords of
- New York," once 63 One cast in a fantasy movie 65 Digging
- 66 French festival, familiarly + \_\_\_\_\_ + Actor Michael
- 70 Punching tool + Chopping tool +
- 72 Cherubic archer 73 Foil lookalikes 75 Seoul-based carrier
- 78 Rod with seven A.L. batting titles 80 Athlete's cup 85 Flattering verse
- 86 In the manner of 87 Demonstrate extreme flexibility, as an acrobat 89 Opposite of neo-
  - - 4 QB protectors,

- 90 Tandoor bread Harlem music venue +
- Punxsutawney name
- bound students 99 Rocky Mountain
- bugler
- 101 Pioneered 103 Immediately 105 Couple of Ilamas?
- 107 Rug rat + Magic stick + \_\_\_\_\_ 110 Soccer score + + Scottish
- 115 Resistor unit 116 Iconic 1984 movie vehicle that was
- 119 "Anything for you!" 120 Actress de Armas 121 Annoyances when
- change 122 Challenging, informally
- solace, say 126 Calm
- 1 Fastener used with a
- 3 "Diamonds" singer, to fans

HENDRIX

horror show it can

want to leave? Things get weird fast when

Every chapter reveals new

horrors as puppets, dolls and

dressed in "a blood-red bodysuit with a pointed hood and a yellow stomach." Then continue, as "impossibly, without anyone moving him, he bent forward and climbed unsteadily onto his little nubbin legs. The empty sleeve of his puppet hole hung behind him like a tail." When he starts running toward Louise, hissing and baring his teeth, your comfy reading experience

In uncertain times, readers

#### THE NEW YORK TIMES SUNDAY CROSSWORD

objects, teaches yoga and spoils her dog. — W.S.

- 93 Word of obligation
- 95 Some origin stories 97 Response to "Shall
- 98 H.S. science class for some college-
- 100 Move, in real estate 14 lingo
- inlets
- ambulance/hearse
- trying to make
- 123 Corleone, for one 124 Toilet-paper spec 125 Most likely to offer
- DOWN 51 More than a couple

- 5 Time to decide who's or out
- 6 Polite Spanish assent 7 ThinkPads, e.g., once 8 "Doc" in the Mets Hall
- of Fame 9 Removed, as a knot 10 Language suffix
- 11 Spanish seasoning 12 Hindu goddess in the "Ramayana" Serpentine
- constellation Ambidextrous features? 15 It may have just
- 16 Converter of natural heat energy 17 Doohickey 18 Tweens, e.g.
- 21 Making level 27 Welcomed at the 29 Broccoli follower

32 Intestinal bacterium

- 33 Choir platforms 36 Boggy stuff 37 Literary award shaped like a
- rocket 38 Milky gemstone 40 Common solvents 42 Some R.P.I. grads 43 Chances

45 Hurry

Abbr. 47 Armpit, anatomically 48 Move to a larger

pot, say

46 Waze suggestions:

- 54 Doesn't just sit there 55 Boxing stats 2 The "E" in FEMA: Abbr. 57 Influential leader of the Seminole
  - 71 Path covered with diamonds people 74 Vamooses 59 Burrito-shaped
- 116 121 124

Wild Ride ends, at Disneyland

62 [Is this thing on?] 64 Scenic stroll, from the 81 Goofus Spanish 82 Dance squat 66 Baja Peninsula resort, 83 Where 95-Down's fór short 67 In the thick of

lunch counter item 75 Pretentiously affected 91 "Hmm, gotcha"

- 68 Hardly Mr. Nice Guy 84 Key ingredient in Key 69 Hippocratic oath takers: Abbr. lime pie 87 Rock & Roll Hall of Fame city: Abbr.
- 104 118 119 122 126 77 "Frozen" villain 92 Unteachable sort, in 79 Existential emotion
  - a saying 94 Tessellations
  - 95 "The Wind in the Willows" squire 96 "Nice try, but I don't
  - 98 Islands that form
  - volcanoes 101 Making all the stops 102 Portion of a log
  - 88 Floated down a river, 104 Quick to think or act 106 [Grrr!]
- 108 "Eh, what can you do?!"

109 Black cat, classically

113 114

- 111 For fear that 112 Michael of
- "Superbad"
- 113 Wraparound garment
- 114 Eye affliction
- 117 Belt worn with a yukata
- 118 Company that owns Wite-Out

Find answers to today's New York Times Crossword puzzle, Section E Find your regular Sunday crossword in Living, **6L** 

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