



HS Baseball

Pioneers gain season sweep of Bombers

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NASCAR Racing

Dirt-racing star Bell outruns Reddick to win on Bristol dirt

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The Baxter Bulletin

TUESDAY, APRIL 11, 2023 | BAXTERBULLETIN.COM | MOUNTAIN HOME, ARKANSAS

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It's gonna be 'trout-tacular'

This year's First Security Cotter Trout Festival billed as bigger and better than before

By Helen Mansfield

hmansfield@baxterbulletin.com

Cotter Mayor Mac Caradine, Cotter-Gassville Chamber of Commerce President Jason Nazarenko and a dedicated group of volunteers are in the final stretch leading up to this year's 21st annual trout festival coming up on Saturday, May 6, in Big Spring Park.

This year the festival has teamed up with naming sponsor First Security Bank, making this year's event the First Security Cotter Trout Festival.

Unlike other area events during the same time period, Nazarenko said that trout fest was only canceled in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, while planners



First Security Cotter Trout Festival map SUBMITTED PHOTO

and attendees practiced social distancing and other COVID protocols to keep the annual festival operational.

"With First Security on board, this year will be a lot bigger," said Nazarenko.

Tickets are on sale now for the opportunity to win a 2023 207 XP Supreme River Boat provided by Rob and Ripken Finley and Supreme Boat. They are available at all Mountain

Home locations of First Security Bank and in Cotter at Natural State Fly Shop and Cotter Trout Dock.

Tickets are \$5 each or five for \$20 and will also be sold throughout the day of the event, ending at 7:30 p.m. and the winner will be announced at 8 p.m., at the end of the performance of the Nick Reed Band.

See **TROUT**, Page A7



Cotter-Gassville Chamber of Commerce President Jason Nazarenko and Cotter Mayor Mac Caradine check out the latest work on the monument commemorating the community members who were instrumental in helping the city of Cotter to re-light the Cotter Bridge. The two men, along with a devoted group of volunteers, have been hard at work planning this year's First Security Cotter Trout Festival coming up on Saturday, May 6, at Big Spring Park. HELEN MANSFIELD/THE BAXTER BULLETIN



Gerald Gaige speaks to the high school educators in the Leading Edge Aviation Foundation (LEAF) Aviation Learning Center at the Baxter County Airport. The foundation seeks donations to provide resources to "encourage, educate and motivate persons interested in aviation who might otherwise be excluded." SUBMITTED PHOTO

Teachers attend aviation session at the Baxter County Airport

By Submitted Report

Approximately 13 teachers from Mountain Home High School (MHHS) recently attended class at the Baxter County Airport as part of their professional development.

Cathy Beckham, Work Based Learning Coordinator and ACME Academy Leader, describes this district-wide program as "an effort to help educators prepare students to be aware of practical career opportunities on graduation, either for more education or to be career-ready for entering the workforce."

At the airport, local businessmen representing aviation careers described the available entry pathways available to students in order to obtain aviation skills and the entry

salary levels to be expected.

Businesses represented included Les Ives of Ozark Airworks, Trey Haney of Bayard Air, Taylor Carmichael of the Baxter County Airport, Doug Harrison of the Marion County Airport, Jason Nazarenko of AirEvac LifeTeam, along with professional pilots and flight instructors Kevin Crawford and Roland Kane, and aircraft builder Steve Johnson.

Teachers representing subject matter from social studies to science, math, English and even cross-country track, attended the session. Additionally, German teacher Chris Francis — who is currently hosting 22 students and two adults as part of a contingency from Germany who are visiting MHHS — will take 22 MHHS

students to Germany this summer. From his experience at the airport, Francis now aims to include learning about aviation opportunities in Germany while there.

The teachers were most impressed with the wide variety of careers in the aviation industry — how accessible they actually are — and the high level of salaries. According to the Air Transport Action Group, a global association representing the air transport industry, there are around 11.3 million people working directly in the aviation industry. Jobs include engineers and designers of civil aircraft and components, maintenance staff, airport design and operations, air traffic controllers, meteorologists,

dispatchers and many more.

From rapid growth of the industry, and the retirement of older workers, a huge current and future demand has developed for all these careers — not to mention the flying jobs such as pilot, flight engineer and cabin crew — which are also in critical demand.

Then there are the pilots flying from the ground — the operators of "drones" or unmanned aerial systems (UAS). This field is growing in unprecedented proportions as the technology for drone flight and photography is being incorporated in activities from agricultural, to law enforcement to structural engineering and design.

See **AVIATION**, Page A7

Arkansas lawmakers approve \$6.2B budget, wrap up session

By ANDREW DeMILLO
Associated Press

LITTLE ROCK — Arkansas lawmakers approved a proposed \$6.2 billion budget and an overhaul of the state's sentencing laws on Friday as they wrapped up an 89-day legislative session that's been marked by approval of Republican Gov. Sarah Huckabee Sanders' school voucher program and a push for new restrictions on transgender people.

The House and Senate approved identical versions of the legislation laying out the budget plan, which calls for increasing state spending by more than \$177 million in the fiscal year that begins July 1. The biggest increases are directed toward public schools and the corrections system.

"We have prioritized the things we should prioritize: public safety, education of our children," Senate President Bart Hester, a Republican, told reporters after the vote. "And we believe we're going to continue to have significant surpluses in Arkansas."

But the only lawmaker who voted against the legislation, Republican Sen. Bryan King, said he thinks the state's budget has been growing too quickly and lawmakers should find cuts to offset the spending increases.

"Every time we talk about Washington D.C. or Joe Biden or somebody expanding the debt, we have to first look at ourselves," King said.

See **BUDGET**, Page A7

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Volume 122, No. 81

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Could you have a thyroid problem and not know it?

Dear Savvy Senior,

What are the symptoms of thyroid disease? I've been dealing with a number of health issues over the past few years, and a friend of mine recently suggested I get my thyroid checked because it might be causing my problems.

Almost 66

Dear Almost,

If your thyroid is out of whack, it can cause a number of health issues that can be tricky to detect because the symptoms often resemble other age-related health problems. In fact, as many as 30 million Americans have some form of thyroid disorder, but more than half aren't aware of it.

What to Know

The thyroid is a small butterfly-shaped gland located at the base of your



JIM MILLER

SAVVY SENIOR

neck that has a huge job. It produces hormones (called T3 and T4) that help regulate the rate of many of your body's activities, from how quickly you burn calories to how fast your heart beats. It also influences the function of the brain, liver, kidneys and skin.

If the gland is underactive and doesn't produce enough thyroid hormones, it causes body systems to slow down. If it's overactive, and churns out too much thy-

roid, it has the opposite effect, speeding up the body's processes.

The symptoms for an underactive thyroid (also known as hypothyroidism) – the most common thyroid disorder in older adults – will vary but may include fatigue and weakness, unexplained weight gain, increased sensitivity to cold, constipation, joint pain, a puffy face, hoarseness, thinning hair, muscle stiffness, dry skin and depression. Some patients may even develop an enlarged thyroid (goiter) at the base of the neck. However, in older adults, it can cause other symptoms like memory impairment, loss of appetite, weight loss, falls or even incontinence.

And the symptoms of an overactive thyroid (or hyperthyroidism) may include a rapid heart

rate, anxiety, irritability, fatigue, insomnia, increased appetite, weight loss, tremors of the hand, frequent bowel movements, sweating, as well as an enlarged thyroid gland. Too much thyroid can also cause atrial fibrillation, affect blood pressure and decrease bone density, which increases the risk of osteoporosis.

Those with the greatest risk of developing thyroid disorders are women who have a family history of the disease. Other factors that can trigger thyroid problems include: autoimmune diseases like Hashimoto's or Graves disease; thyroid surgery; radiation treatments to the neck or upper chest; and certain medications including interferon alpha and interleukin-2 cancer medications, amiodarone heart

medication and lithium for bipolar disorder.

Get Tested

If you have any of the aforementioned symptoms, or if you've had previous thyroid problems or notice a lump in the base of your neck, ask your doctor to check your thyroid levels. The TSH (thyroid-stimulating hormone) blood test is used to diagnosis thyroid disorders but depending on what they find, additional blood tests may be necessary.

If you are diagnosed with a thyroid problem, it's easily treated. Standard treatment for hypothyroidism involves daily use of the synthetic thyroid hormone levothyroxine (Levothyroid, Synthroid and others), which is an oral medication that restores adequate hormone levels.

And treatments for hyperthyroidism may include an anti-thyroid medication such as methimazole and propylthiouracil, which blocks the production of thyroid hormones. Another option is radioactive iodine, which is taken orally and destroys the overactive thyroid cells and causes the gland to shrink. But this can leave the thyroid unable to produce any hormone and it's likely that you'll eventually become hypothyroid and need to start taking thyroid medication.

For more information on thyroid disorders, visit the American Thyroid Association at Thyroid.org.

Send your senior questions to: Savvy Senior, P.O. Box 5443, Norman, OK 73070, or visit SavvySenior.org. Jim Miller is a contributor to the NBC Today show and author of "The Savvy Senior" book.

LR FBI warns of charity/disaster scams

By Submitted Report

LITTLE ROCK — The FBI Little Rock Field Office is advising Arkansans to be cautious of charity and disaster fraudsters following the recent severe storms. Unfortunately, natural disaster damage often provides opportunities for criminals to scam storm victims and those who are assisting victims with recovery. Following natural disasters, the FBI typically receives complaints of charity and disaster schemes.

Whether you are directly impacted or want to

help, scammers will take advantage of a natural disaster to steal your money, your personal information, or both. That is why the FBI is reminding the public to be vigilant when looking to donate to storm relief causes and when searching for contractors to repair damages.

The following are some reminders and tips on how to avoid falling victim to charity and disaster fraud:

- Scammers may go door to door to target residents in areas affected by severe storms. They may also call, text or email with promises to quickly

provide aid. Do not give out personal information without confirming the legitimacy of the person contacting you

- Government workers are required to carry official identification and show it if requested. Closely scrutinize any ID you see and call the agency directly to confirm a worker's identity if you are unsure

- Be wary of new organizations that claim to aid victims of recent high-profile disasters. Validate the legitimacy of the non-profit status of the organization by directly accessing the recognized

charity or aid organization's website rather than following an alleged link to the site

- Do your research when it comes to donations. Use the Federal Trade Commission's resources to examine the track record of a charity

- Give using a check or credit card. If a charity or organization asks you to donate through cash, gift card, virtual currency, or wire transfer, it's probably a scam

- After donating, be sure to review your financial accounts to ensure additional funds are not

deducted or charged

- Don't always trust your caller ID. Scammers often spoof agency phone numbers. It is always best to research the organization's telephone number and call directly to verify. Do not be pressured or rushed to donate because it may be a scam

- Contractor fraud scams are prevalent in the aftermath of a natural disaster. If your home or business was damaged, you will need a reputable contractor — remember not everyone who claims to be able to repair your property is legitimate



- The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and other federal government disaster assistance agencies do not ask for financial information, and there is no fee required to apply for assistance.

Arkansans who suspect they've been victimized are encouraged to report it to the FBI at www.ic3.gov.

Apex presentation, 'Story and Song: The Ballad and Its History' set April 25

By Submitted Report

A presentation, "Story and Song: The Ballad and Its History," by Sam Adams, Arkansas State University Mountain Home APEX student, is set for noon and 6 p.m. April 25 at ASUMH. No reservations are required.

Adams, a student at ASUMH pursuing biology, will share the lineage of the ballad from the progression of European origins to American soil, giving examples of steps in its evolution, showcasing the ballad in the modern world and discussing the cultural

importance of the ballad. He also will give a live performance of some iconic ballads of contemporary America.

Adams has worked with Michael Thomas, ASUMH composition and literature instructor and a poet himself, on this project. Adams will give insight into the ballad style, allowing those who wish to enrich their musical knowledge a chance to learn more about a part of American culture as well as introducing the ballad to those unaccustomed. He wishes to spread more awareness of the musical



Adams

arts and the importance of music in all lives.

The Apex Project encourages student scholarship beyond the classroom that is facilitated by a faculty mentor.

For more information, call Michael Thomas at (870) 508-6100 or email mthomas@asumh.edu.

STATE/REGIONAL BRIEFS

Bodies of missing musician, son recovered from Arkansas lake

BENTONVILLE — The bodies of a jam band musician and his adult son were recovered from an Arkansas lake more than three weeks after the two went missing during a kayaking trip, authorities said.

The Benton County Sheriff's Office said Sunday that the bodies were identified as those of Chuck Morris, 47, and his 20-year-old son, Charley Morris. Chuck Morris was a percussionist who for more than two decades had been a member of the instrumental jam band Lotus.

The father and son from Kansas City, Missouri, were last seen on March 16 while on a kayaking trip to Beaver Lake, The Northwest Arkansas Democrat-Gazette reported. A search crew found their bodies over the weekend while searching the lake with an underwater drone, the sheriff's office said in a news release.

Lotus posted a statement from the Morris family on its Facebook page saying relatives had spoken with Arkansas authorities and were told the men drowned.

A Facebook statement from the band said proceeds from upcoming concerts in Denver, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania; and Port Chester, New York, will go to benefit the Morris family.

"Thank you all for the outpouring of support from around the world — we feel it and love you just as much," the band posted.

Arkansas Treasurer Mark Lowery recovering from stroke

LITTLE ROCK — Arkansas Treasurer Mark Lowery is recovering in Maryland after having a stroke last month, his office said Friday.

The treasurer's office said Lowery had an ischemic stroke last month and had been receiving care at a rehabilitation facility. He was released from the facility on Thursday and will be recovering with his daughter in Maryland, a statement from his office said.

"I can't tell you all how much I appreciate the encouraging words, cards, and prayers I have received from friends and residents from around the state," Lowery said in a statement his office released.

Lowery, a Republican, was elected state treasurer in November and took office in January. The Arkansas treasurer oversees the state's investments. Before being elected treasurer, Lowery had served 10 years in the state House.

The treasurer's office said Lowery's chief of staff will work as a direct liaison to the treasurer during his recovery, and Lowery's chief deputy will oversee the daily management of the treasury.

78-year-old bank heist suspect: 'I didn't mean to scare you'

HARRISONVILLE, Mo. — A 78-year-old woman with two past bank robbery convictions faces new charges after authorities allege she handed a teller a note that said "I didn't mean to scare you" during a recent Missouri heist.

Bonnie Gooch is jailed on \$25,000 bond after she was charged with one count of stealing or attempting to steal from a financial institution in the holdup Wednesday in Pleasant Hill, The Kansas City Star reports. No attorney is listed for her in online court records.

She also was convicted of robbing a California bank in 1977 and one in the Kansas City suburb of Lee's Summit in 2020. Her probation in the second heist ended in November 2021.

Court documents filed in Cass County in the latest case said the robbery note demanded "13,000 small bills," adding "thank you sorry I didn't mean to scare you." Surveillance video also captured her banging on the counter, asking the teller to hurry, Cass County prosecutors said.

She smelled strongly of alcohol when officers stopped her less than 2 miles (3.2 kilometers) away, with cash scattered on the car's floorboard, prosecutors added.

"It's just sad," Pleasant Hill Police Chief Tommy Wright said, adding that the suspect had no diagnosed ailments.

Family of man who died canoeing sue, blaming dangerous dam

CHESTERFIELD, Mo. — The family of a man who drowned on a canoe trip is suing two state agencies, alleging a dangerous dam was to blame.

The St. Louis Post-Dispatch reports that Caleb Gage, of Ballwin, was 32 last May when his boat capsized near the St. Louis suburb of Chesterfield. His friend survived.

The suit, filed on behalf of his parents and young daughter, faults the Missouri Department of Conservation and the Missouri Department of Natural Resources. Both state departments are tasked with maintaining the Centaur Chute, a waterway that branches off the Missouri River.

The suit said the low-head dam near where he capsized was in disrepair and the state failed to remove access to the chute or warn boaters of the unsafe conditions.

Low-head dams are known as "drowning machines" because they spawn powerful hydraulics that tend to catch objects, or people, that go over them. It can be a long time before whatever is caught works its way free.

Representatives from both state agencies declined to comment on the allegations in the pending litigation.

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Obituaries

A3

THE BAXTER BULLETIN | Tuesday, April 11, 2023

OBITUARIES

Mary Lou Fritz

Thursday, April 6, 2023

Mary Lou Fritz, nee Gleason, 87 of Mountain Home Arkansas, formerly of La Grange Park, Illinois, passed away peacefully April 6, 2023.

She was born Aug. 17, 1935, in Hinsdale, Illinois, the daughter of Richard and Evelyn Fuller Gleason.

She was the beloved wife of Tom for 65 wonderful years, loving mother of Rick (Mary Susan) Fritz and Kathy (Brad) Olson, cherished grandmother of Kelsey (Willie) Reece and Erin Olson, Robert, Thomas, and William Fritz, great-grandma of Owen and Aubrey Reece, sister of John (Rosemarie) Gleason, fond aunt and friend of many.

She was an avid Cubs fan, quilter and lover of music and family. She will be greatly missed by all who knew her.

Burial will be in the Bronwood Cemetery in Oak Brook, Illinois.

Arrangements are by Kirby and Family Funeral and Cremation Services-Mountain Home, Arkansas. Visit an online obituary and guest-book at www.kirbyandfamily.com.



Audrey 'Polly' Avey

Wednesday, March 29, 2023

YELLVILLE — Audrey "Polly" Avey, 91, formerly of Yellville, died Wednesday, March 29, 2023, in Catoosa, Oklahoma.

She was born May 7, 1931, in Cricket John A. Proctor and Sarah Mattox.

Graveside services are 1 p.m. Thursday, April 13, 2023, at De Soto Cemetery near Yellville.

Arrangements are by Roller-Burns Funeral Home.

Michael George Hulgan

Friday, April 7, 2023

YELLVILLE — Michael George Hulgan, 69, of Yellville died Friday, April 7, 2023, in Mountain Home. He was born Sunday April 26, 1953, in Morris, Illinois to George Ray and Helen Hughes Hulgan.

Visitation is 6-8 p.m. Friday, April 14, 2023, at Roller-Burns Funeral Home. Services will be 10 a.m. Saturday, April 15, 2023, at First Presbyterian Church of Yellville. Interment with U.S. Army military honors will follow at Layton Cemetery in Yellville.

Arrangements are by Roller-Burns Funeral Home.

Stocks on Wall Street mixed amid expectations for rate hike

By STAN CHOE

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Stocks on Wall Street are mixed in their first trading after a report heightened speculation the Federal Reserve may tap the brakes a little harder on financial markets and the economy.

The S&P 500 was 0.2% lower in Monday afternoon trading. It did not trade on Friday, when data showing a resilient U.S. jobs market heightened expectations the Fed would hike interest rates again at its next meeting.

Technology stocks were falling more than the rest of the market, which helped drag the Nasdaq composite to a loss of 0.4%, as of 1:15 p.m. Eastern time. The Dow Jones Industrial Average was steadier, and it was up 63 points, or 0.2%, at 33,549.

Higher rates tend to hit tech and other high-growth stocks the hardest,

and Apple and Microsoft were two of the heaviest drags on the S&P 500. Each fell at least 1.1%.

Tesla also dropped 1.3% after it cut prices on its entire U.S. model lineup for the third time this year. It's apparently trying to entice more buyers amid rising interest rates, which make auto loans more expensive.

The Fed has raised rates at a furious pace over the last year in hopes of undercutting high inflation. Higher rates can do that, but only by bluntly slowing the entire economy in one fell swoop. That raises the risk of a recession in the future and drags down prices for stocks, bonds and other investments.

Traders are betting on a roughly 70% probability the Fed will raise its key overnight interest rate in May by 0.25 percentage points to a range of 5% to 5.25%, according to data from CME Group. A day

before Friday's jobs report, they saw a roughly coin flip's chance that the Fed would stand pat at its next meeting.

The Fed has jacked up rates at every one of its meetings over the past year, forcing them up from near zero at the start of 2022.

While the jobs report raised expectations for another rate hike, it also showed a steady-enough labor market to bolster hopes among some investors that the Fed could pull off what's called a "soft landing" for the economy. That's where the Fed succeeds in raising rates just enough to stifle inflation but not so much as to create a severe recession.

Besides Friday's jobs report showing a slowdown in growth for workers' wages, which could take some pressure off inflation, a report from earlier last week showed employers are advertising

fewer job openings.

"This is encouraging because policymakers need to limit labor demand for now so that supply can catch up, and a decline in job openings is the most painless way to achieve this," David Mericle and other Goldman Sachs economists wrote in a report.

Hopes for a soft landing helped support stocks whose profits tend to be most closely tied with the strength of the economy. Stocks of energy producers in the S&P 500 rose 0.8%, for example, tied for the highest among the 11 sectors that make up the index. Industrial companies were also rising, including a 2.9% gain for Caterpillar.

The overriding bet within the bond market, though, seems to be that the economy will weaken so much that the Federal Reserve will have to cut rates as soon as this summer.

Lower rates can relax the pressure on the econo-

my and financial markets, but it also could give inflation more room to run.

The Fed has so far said it sees no rate cuts happening this year.

Another report due on Wednesday could have a bigger impact on expectations for the Fed. That's when the U.S. government will release its latest monthly update on prices across the economy at the consumer level. Economists expect it to show inflation slowed last month but remains well above the Fed's target.

Also this week, earnings reporting season will begin for the biggest U.S. companies. Delta Air Lines, JPMorgan Chase and UnitedHealth Group will be among the first S&P 500 companies to tell investors how much profit

they made during the first three months of the year.

Expectations are low, and analysts are forecasting the sharpest drop in earnings per share since the pandemic pummeled the economy in the spring of 2020.

In markets abroad, stocks were mixed across Asia.

Japan's Nikkei 225 added 0.4% after the new governor of Japan's central bank signaled he plans no drastic changes in its ultra-low interest rate policy.

In Europe, many stock markets were closed.

In the bond market, Treasury yields were relatively stable after rising Friday in an abbreviated trading session following the U.S. jobs report. The 10-year yield, which helps set rates for mortgages and other important loans, was holding steady at 3.41%.

3 tax tips for older adults

By KATE ASHFORD

of NerdWallet

More than half of older taxpayers (57%) are worried they'll have to pay more taxes this year because of the 5.9% Social Security cost-of-living adjustment in 2022, according to a January survey by The Senior Citizens League, a nonpartisan seniors group.

Taxes for the over-65 set can feel more complicated for a variety of reasons: There are often multiple streams of income, some retirees still work part time, and people may be managing required minimum distributions from retirement accounts.

"It can happen that people have more income in their later life than they did when they were working," says Barbara O'Neill, a certified financial planner in Ocala, Florida, and the author of "Flipping a Switch: Your Guide to Happiness and Financial Security in Later Life."

For older adults, here are some items to keep in mind this tax season:

1. Medicare thresholds matter

Your income can affect your Medicare Part B and Part D premiums in the future because of the income-related monthly adjustment amount, or IRMAA. Medicare premiums are based on your tax return from two years prior, and you may have to pay more if your income exceeds certain thresholds. These IRMAA surcharg-

es can be difficult to manage "because they operate as a cliff, not a phase-in," says Edward Jastrem, a certified financial planner in Westwood, Massachusetts. "For example, if you are \$1 over an income tier, you are subject to the full surcharge."

In 2023, people filing individually with a modified adjusted gross income of more than \$97,000 in 2021 — or jointly with more than \$194,000 — will pay higher monthly amounts for Medicare. "Tax bracket management becomes crucial in later life," O'Neill says.

2. Required distributions can go to charity

At age 73, you are required by the IRS to start taking required minimum distributions from tax-deferred retirement accounts. But once you hit age 70 1/2, you can have some or all of your required minimum distributions sent directly to a charity of your choice. This move will still count as a required minimum distribution, but the amount isn't added to your taxable income.

"If you take a regular RMD from your IRA, it gets added to your adjusted gross income for tax purposes," says Ian Weinberg, a certified financial planner in Woodbury, New York. "It usually throws you into a higher bracket." Sending money directly to charity is called a qualified charitable distribution, and you can do this with up to \$100,000 of your annual required minimum distributions.

3. Side businesses change the tax approach

About 1 in 4 adults 50 and older say they're doing gig work or freelancing, according to a January survey from AARP.

If you're doing gig work, that counts as business income

— which means you can deduct business expenses. This includes health insurance premiums if you're paying for your own insurance. "Self-employed older adults on Medicare can deduct Medicare premiums for themselves and their spouses against business income," O'Neill says.

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DEATH NOTICES

Barbara Schwartz, 72

Arrangements for Barbara Schwartz, 72, of Mountain Home are pending at Kirby & Family Funeral & Cremation Services-Mountain Home. Barbara Schwartz died Friday, April 7, 2023, in Gassville.

Thomas Edward Yates Sr., 72

Arrangements for Thomas Edward Yates Sr., 72, of Mountain Home are pending at Conner Family funeral Home & Cremation Center. Thomas Edward Yates Sr. died Saturday, April 8, 2023, in Mountain Home.

Janet Ruth Schroeder, 61

Arrangements for Janet Ruth Schroeder, 61, of Mountain Home are pending at Kirby & Family Funeral & Cremation Services-Mountain Home. Janet Ruth Schroeder died Saturday, April 8, 2023, at Baxter Health.

Mary Louise Haggart, 87

BULL SHOALS — Arrangements for Mary Louise Haggart, 87, of Bull Shoals are pending at Kirby & Family Funeral & Cremation Services-Bull Shoals. Mary

Louise Haggart died Saturday, April 8, 2023, at Flippo's Carefree Living.

Joyce Pumford, 94

Arrangements Joyce Pumford, 94, of Gassville are pending at Roller Funeral Home. Joyce Pumford died Sunday, April 9, 2023, in Mountain Home.

Paul Aaron Edwards, 78

Arrangements for Paul Aaron Edwards, 78, of Gamaliel are pending at Roller Funeral Home. Paul Aaron Edwards died Sunday, April 9, 2023, in Mountain Home.

Fred Pierson, 82

Arrangements for Fred Pierson, 82, of Mountain Home are pending at Roller Funeral Home. Fred Pierson died Sunday, April 9, 2023, in Gainesville, Missouri.

Manfred Staiger, 80

Arrangements for Manfred Staiger, 80, of Mountain Home are pending at Kirby & Family Funeral & Cremation Services-Mountain Home. Manfred Staiger died Friday, April 7, 2023, at Hospice of the Ozarks Hospice House.

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Sun. 1:45, 4:15 & 7:15

Mon.-Thurs. 7:15

AIR (R)

Fri.-Sat. 1:30, 4:00, 7:10 & 9:30

Sun. 4:00 & 7:10

Mon.-Thurs. 7:10

John Wick: Chapter 4 (R)

Fri.-Sat. 12:15, 3:40, 7:00 & 9:30

Sun. 12:15, 3:40 & 7:00

Mon.-Thurs. 7:00

Dungeons & Dragons: Honor Among Thieves (PG-13)

Fri.-Sat. 1:15, 4:00, 7:00 & 9:45

Sun. 1:15, 4:00 & 7:00

Mon.-Thurs. 7:00

Jesus Revolution (PG-13)

Fri.-Sun. 1:30, 4:15 & 7:00

Mon.-Thurs. 7:00

Starting Fri. April 14: Renfield



When will Republicans realize that banning abortion is political suicide?

One of these days — but maybe never — Republicans might wake up and realize that their forced-birth crusade, their determination to control women's bodies via government fiat, is backfiring badly at the ballot box.

They seem incapable of learning the basic lesson that it's nuts to alienate the millions of Americans who disagree with the theocratic banning of abortion.

The thick-headed GOP was dealt yet another humiliating blow last week, when voters in swing-state Wisconsin gave progressives a 4-3 working majority on the state Supreme Court for the first time in 15 years.

In the most expensive judicial race in American history, Janet Protasiewicz, a liberal county judge who campaigned openly for abortion rights, decimated Daniel Kelly, the anti-abortion MAGA candidate, by 11 percentage points. Wisconsin is a fiercely competitive state where elections are typically decided by a point or two; nobody wins a statewide race by 11. Something special must've happened.

Something did.

Progressive voters — especially young people, especially young female people — surged to the polls to voice their support for legal abortion. Judicial elections in Wisconsin typically draw less than 30 percent of the electorate; this one drew 40 percent. It's easy to see why, with the stakes so high.

The U.S. Supreme Court's erasure of Roe v. Wade basically gave Wisconsin permission to outlaw virtually all abortions — thanks to a state ban that has been on the books since 1849. But now, with Protasiewicz on the bench, the new abortion-rights majority is all but certain to nuke that archaic statute.

The landslide progressive vote in Wisconsin has other benefits, too. The new high court majority won't tolerate any MAGA efforts to screw with the 2024 presidential election in that crucial state. The last time around, the court came within one vote of throwing out Joe Biden's fraud-free Wisconsin win.

Charlie Sykes, a former conservative Wisconsin radio host, said recently that a progressive high court "changes the rules and dynamics of Wisconsin politics pretty fundamentally." And MAGA plotter Ali Alexander gave up the game the other night when he tweeted, "We just lost the Wisconsin Supreme Court. I do not see a path to 270 (electoral votes) in 2024."

But back to the abortion issue. Republicans don't seem to be getting the message that fealty to their evangelical forced-



DICK POLMAN

birth base is costing them big time with the American mainstream. To paraphrase Yogi Berra, the Wisconsin election is deja vu all over again.

Last November in Michigan, Democratic Gov. Gretchen Whitmer rode the abortion issue — with a pro-choice referendum on the ballot — to a decisive reelection win, and her party captured both chambers of the state legislature for the first time in 40 years. Abortion played a crucial role in the Pennsylvania Senate election, where John Fetterman reaped benefits from Mehmet Oz's brain-dead remark that "local political leaders" should have a say in women's decisions.

Indeed, the abortion issue stoked midterm Democratic turnout nationwide — it ranked high in voters' concerns, second only to inflation — thus limiting the GOP's new House majority to single digits, and enabling Democrats to hold the Senate.

Meanwhile, last summer in red Kansas, voters turned out en masse, in a statewide referendum, to protect women's right to choose — by a margin of 17 points. In November, voters in red Kentucky rejected extremist language that would've been added to the state constitution. Granted, neither of those states will go blue in the 2024 presidential election, but it's clear that if there's grassroots support for abortion rights in red America, imagine how Democrats might be able to leverage that issue in the handful of swing states.

And we now have some evidence that the GOP is waking up.

"This is not an issue that's going away for our party in a post-Dobbs world, and we can't put our head in the sand and think it's going to heading into 2024," Republican National Committee chairwoman Ronna McDaniel said on Fox News about the role of abortion in the Wisconsin race.

McDaniel said conservatives need to do a better job of messaging on abortion. Good luck with that.

I'll finish with one last observation about Wisconsin. And Michigan. And Kansas. And the midterms:

People who still think voting doesn't matter should go soak their heads.

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America loses the Democrats' dirty game

Everyone knows the felony charges against Donald Trump for paying hush-money to a porn star are ridiculous.

Everyone knows that charging Trump with 34 counts of falsifying business records was just a slimy political stunt by Manhattan District Attorney Alvin Bragg.

Everyone knows that Bragg's legally dubious indictment is just the latest desperate attempt by Democrats to prevent Trump from running for president in 2024.

And, along with a handful of honest Democrats and liberal media pundits, even diehard Trump-hater Mitt Romney admits that Bragg's "overreach sets a dangerous precedent for criminalizing political opponents and damages the public's faith in our justice system."

But Bragg and the Democrats are not only making a laughing stock out of our judicial system.

They are also making our visibly shaky and untrustworthy electoral system look like something you'd see in a corrupt banana republic or communist dictatorship.

You'd think they and their disreputable cheerleaders in the news media would have bigger things to worry about than hounding Trump in court over fake crimes from seven years ago.

For starters, how about securing the southern border they've flung wide open to illegal immigrants, human traffickers and deadly drugs?

How about fighting the inflation they've caused with their policies? Or doing something to fight the crime, violence and

squalor that they have allowed to turn the downtowns of some of our greatest cities into hellholes?

Instead Bragg and the Democrats are charging the ex-president of the United States over a non-disclosure agreement he signed in 2016 with Stormy Daniels.

NDAs are part of the American corporate and political woodwork.

CNN, MSNBC, Fox, CBS, PBS and hundreds of other business and government places have no doubt used NDAs and six-figure payouts to quietly settle sexual harassment and racial discrimination claims.

And remember the Office of Compliance?

Congress secretly created it in the 1990s to pay off and quietly shut up people who charged they had been sexually harassed or discriminated against by members of Congress.

That embarrassing office is never on the media's radar, but it's still open for business. As of 2017, when its existence was made public, it had paid more than 230 victims \$17 million — of taxpayers' money.

At least Trump paid Daniels with his own money. But that doesn't matter. Whatever he does is always declared a special crime, according to his enemies, though he's never been convicted of anything.

I'm no big fan of Trump. But for him to get a fair trial in New York City, where judges are elected and 80 percent of the people voted for Biden, won't be possible.

Convicting him will also be impossible. Bragg's case will be thrown out by the first honest appellate judge that looks at it.



MICHAEL REAGAN
MAKING SENSE

Bragg has to know that, but he and the Democrats don't care. They're not looking for justice, just political points, and they've already scored them by cheating.

Arresting the leading contender for president on trumped up charges may backfire politically for the Democrats in 2024, but what they did this week was a shot that will be heard in capitals around the world for a long time.

For almost a century we've been the country that criticizes foreign governments for doing things like throwing their political opponents in jail and not running fair and free elections.

Now countries half as free as us are telling us we no longer have the right to lecture them about democracy.

The president of El Salvador, Nayib Bukele, said from now on it's going to be very hard for the U.S. "to condemn 'political persecution' in other countries" — and he's right.

That's why this dirty Democrat game really tees me off.

What they did this week took the United States to the lowest level it's been in my lifetime.

We watched my father's "Shining City on the Hill" get blown up and hurt badly by a partisan road-side bomb — and that IED was set off by Bragg and the Democrats.

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Community

BOMB SQUAD CAPTURES FOURTH AT COMPETITION



FRC Team 16, known as the Bomb Squad, competed March 30 to April 1 at the Bayou Region in Kenner, Louisiana. The team had a strong showing during the qualification rounds, finishing in second place out of 39 teams with a record of 11-1. As a result, they were selected as the captain of alliance 2 during the playoffs, where they teamed up with Wildcat Robotics from Destrehan, Louisiana, and Team Storm from Gulfport, Mississippi. Together, they competed in the semifinals, finishing with a record of 2-2 and capturing fourth place place overall. The Bomb Squad also won an Innovation in Control Award, demonstrating its expertise and skill in designing and programming its robot. **SUBMITTED PHOTO**



Plant lovers and gardeners view plants available at a past Baxter County annual Plant Swap at the Donald W. Reynolds Library Serving Baxter County. **SUBMITTED PHOTO**

Baxter County Library News

By Baxter County Library Staff

Spring is in the air again, which means it is time for the Baxter County Ninth Annual Plant Swap at the Donald W. Reynolds Library Serving Baxter County. The public is welcome to swap plants or seeds with neighbors from 9:30 a.m. to noon April 22 at the library.

Attendees will be able to meet, talk shop and trade plants with

local gardening enthusiasts at the Plant Swap. The public may take any plants to swap and also are welcome to come without plants.

For those new to plant swapping, there will be plenty of friendly faces from the community to help you get started on acquiring green thumb. Gardeners are welcome to bring usable gardening tools, gardening magazines, and catalogs for others. Those attending also can drop off

seed donations to help start a seed library at The Donald W. Reynolds Library Serving Baxter County.

From 10 a.m. until noon, everyone is welcome to join in an Earth Day activity to mix a few seeds with damp soil and nutrients to make seed bombs or play a quick round of pollinator pizza and learn why pollinators are so important to our food supply.

Visit www.BaxLib.org, or call (870) 580-0987 for more information.

Play Scrabble, noon to 3 p.m. Monday Mountain Home Senior Center in Cooper Park. Games fee: \$2. Info: Marie, (870) 425-7729.

Yoga for Adults, 4 p.m. Monday and Wednesday, Donald W. Reynolds Library, 300 Library Hill Lane.

Schliemann Center Cardio

Kickboxing & Strength Training, 5:30 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays, 2545 AR Hwy. 5 N.

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FDA approves over-the-counter Narcan

By GEOFF MULVIGHILL

Associated Press

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration on Wednesday approved selling the leading version of naloxone without a prescription, setting the overdose-reversing drug on course to become the first opioid treatment drug to be sold over the counter.

It's a move that some advocates have long sought as a way to improve access to a life-saving drug, though the exact impact will not be clear immediately.

Here's a look at the issues involved.

What is Narcan?

The approved nasal spray from Gaithersburg, Maryland-based Emergent BioSolutions is the best-known form of naloxone.

It can reverse overdoses of opioids, including street drugs such as heroin and fentanyl and prescription versions including oxycodone.

Making naloxone available more widely is seen as a key strategy to control the nationwide overdose crisis, which has been linked to more than 100,000 U.S. deaths a year. The majority of those deaths are tied to opioids, primarily potent synthetic versions such as fentanyl that can take multiple doses of naloxone to reverse.

The drug has been distributed to police and other first responders nationwide.

Advocates believe it's important to get naloxone to the people who are most likely to be around

overdoses, including people who use drugs and their relatives.

The decision "represents a decisive, practical and humane approach to help people and flatten the curve of overdose deaths," said Chuck Ingoglia of the National Council for Mental Wellbeing, in a statement.

What does the FDA approval mean?

Narcan will become available over-the-counter by late summer, the company said.

Other brands of naloxone and injectable forms will not yet be available over the counter, but they could be soon.

Several manufacturers of generic naloxone that's made similarly to Narcan will now be required to file applications to switch their drugs over the counter as part of a requirement by the FDA.

The nonprofit Harm Reduction Therapeutics Inc., which has funding from OxyContin maker Purdue Pharma, already has an application before the FDA to distribute its version of spray naloxone without a prescription.

How is Naloxone distributed now?

Even before the FDA's action, pharmacies could sell naloxone without a prescription because officials in every state have allowed it.

But not every pharmacy carries it. And buyers have to pay for the medication — either with an insurance co-pay or for the full retail price. The cost varies, but two doses of Narcan often go for around \$50.

The drug is also distributed by community organizations that serve people who use drugs, though it's not easily accessible to everyone who needs it.

Emergent has not announced its price and it's not clear yet whether insurers will continue to cover it as a prescription drug if it's available over the counter.

FDA Commissioner Robert Califf in a statement encouraged Emergent to make the drug available "at an affordable price."

Does making Naloxone over-the-counter improve access?

It clears the way for Narcan to be made available in places without pharmacies — convenience stores, supermarkets and online retailers, for instance.

Jose Benitez, the lead executive officer at Prevention Point Philadelphia, an organization that tries to reduce risk for people who use drugs with services including handing out free naloxone, said it could help a lot for people who don't seek services — or who live in places where they're not available.

Now, he said, some people are concerned about getting naloxone at pharmacies because their insurers will know they're getting it.

"Putting it out on the shelves is going to allow people just to pick it up, not have stigma attached to it," he said.

But it remains to be seen how many stores will carry it and what the prices will be. The U.S. Centers for Medicare and Med-



The U.S. Food and Drug Administration has approved selling overdose antidote naloxone over-the-counter, marking the first time a opioid treatment drug will be available without a prescription. MATT ROURKE/AP FILE PHOTO

icaid Services, which now cover prescription naloxone for people on the government insurance programs, says that coverage of over-the-counter naloxone would depend on the insurance program. The centers have not given any official guidance.

Maya Doe-Simkins, a co-director of Remedy Alliance/For The People, which launched last year to provide low-cost — and sometimes free — naloxone to community organizations, said her group will continue to distribute injectable naloxone.

How will people learn to use Narcan?

Emergent had to conduct a study examining whether untrained people could follow directions for using Narcan.

Last month, an FDA expert panel voted to make the drug

available over the counter, despite numerous errors in using the device reported in the company study. The FDA suggested Emergent make several changes to how the directions will be displayed on the packaging and said the device can be safely used "without the supervision" of a health care worker.

Keith Humphreys, a Stanford University addiction expert, said one benefit of currently having pharmacists involved in dispensing the drug is that they can show buyers how to use it. One key thing people need to be reminded of: Call an ambulance for the person receiving naloxone after it's been administered.

He also said there are fears that if the drug isn't profitable as an over-the-counter option, the drugmaker could stop producing it.

SUPPORT GROUP CALENDAR

The following is a list of support groups in the Twin Lakes Area:

Tuesday

Intermediate Yoga, 8 a.m. Peitz Cancer Support House, 315 Powers St. (870) 508-2273.

Tai Chi, 9-10 a.m. Van Matre Senior Activity and Wellness Center, 1101 Spring St. Cost: \$1.

Fit & Fab for Women, 9:15 a.m. and 10:15 a.m. Baxter Heath Wellness Education Center, 2545 Hwy. 5 N. (870) 508-3880.

Seated Exercise for Seniors, 10 a.m. Mruk Center on Aging, 24 Hospital Drive. (870) 508-3880.

Weekly crafting, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. American Legion Post 52, 717 Market St. Open to the public. (870) 405-0047.

Diabetes Support meeting, 10 a.m.-noon, third Tuesday. Reppell Diabetes Learning Center, 622 Broadmoor Drive. Register: (870) 508-1765.

Knock Out Cancer Boxing, 3:30 p.m. Peitz Cancer Support House, 315 Powers St. (870) 508-2273.

Growing Through Grief Support Group, 5:30-7:30 p.m. every Tuesday, Hospice of the Ozarks Administration building lower level entrance. 811 Burnett Drive. (870) 508-1771.

Prenatal Breastfeeding class, 5:30 p.m. third Tuesday, Schliemann Center for Women, 606 Broadmoor Drive. (870) 508-2345.

Celebrate Recovery, 5:30 p.m. Impact Faith Church, 940 E 9th St. Apt. 7. (870) 405-4008.

Wednesday

Zumba, 9 a.m. Van Matre Senior Activity and Wellness Center, 1101 Spring St. Cost: \$1.

Fitness for Men, 9:15 a.m. Mruk Family Center on Aging, 24 Hospital Drive. (870) 508-3880.

Knock Out Cancer Boxing, 3:30 p.m. Peitz Cancer Support House, 315 Powers St. (870) 508-2273.

Bull Shoals Food Pantry, 9-11 a.m. 1013 Lakeshore Drive, Bull Shoals.

PEPPI exercise class, 10 a.m. Van Matre Senior Activity and Wellness Center, 1101 Spring St. Cost: \$1.

Healthy Nutrition class, noon-1 p.m., third Wednesday, Baxter Heath Wellness Education Center, 2545 Hwy. 5 N. Register: Reppell Diabetes Learning Center, (870) 508-1765

Recently Diagnosed Information and Support, 1 p.m. Peitz Cancer Support House, 315 Powers St. (870) 508-2273.

Thursday

Intermediate Yoga, 8 a.m. Peitz Cancer Support House, 315 Powers St. (870) 508-2273.

Men's Cancer Discussions, 9 a.m. Peitz Cancer Support House, 315 Powers St. (870) 508-2273.

Tai Chi, 9 a.m. Van Matre Senior Activity and Wellness Center, 1101 Spring St. Cost: \$1.

Fit & Fab for Women, 9:15 a.m. and 10:15 a.m. Baxter Heath Wellness Education Center, 2545 Hwy. 5 N. (870) 508-3880.

Seated Exercise for Seniors, 10 a.m. Mruk Center on Aging, 24 Hospital Drive. (870) 508-3880.

Life Recovery Group (12-Step group), 10 a.m. Wesley United Methodist Church, 179 Memory Lane, Cotter. Info: (870) 421-0163.

Parkinson's Carepartner Support, 10 a.m. second Thursday. Call for location: (870) 508-3880.

Dementia Family Carepartner Support Group, 1 p.m. fourth Thursday, Mruk Center on Aging, 24 Hospital Drive. (870) 508-3880.

Knock Out Cancer Boxing, 3:30 p.m. Peitz Cancer Support House, 315 Powers St. (870) 508-2273.

Infant Loss and Support Group, 5:30 p.m. first Thursday, Schliemann Center for Women's Health Education, 606 Broadmoor Drive. (870) 580-2345.

Women's Heart Healthy sessions, 1 p.m. second Thursday, Schliemann Center for Women, 606 Broadmoor Drive. (870) 508-2345.

Circle of Friends Grief Support Group, 6-8 p.m. second and fourth Thursdays, St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 511 Coley Drive. For those who have lost a child, grandchild or sibling. Refreshments provided. (870) 404-2864.

Women's Book Club, 1 p.m. third Wednesday, Schliemann Center for Women, 606 Broadmoor Drive. (870) 508-2345.

Growing Through Grief Support Group, 2-4 p.m. third Thursday, Kirby & Family Funeral Home, 717 Central Ave., Bull Shoals. (870) 508-1771.

Material Girls Quilting Group, 10 a.m. to noon, fourth Thursday, Bull Shoals Library Annex, 1218 Central Blvd. (870) 421-8180.

Dementia Caregiver Support Group, 2-3 p.m. fourth Thursday, Mruk Center on Aging, 24 Hospital Drive. (870) 508-3880 to register.

Friday

Fit Women exercise class, 8-9 a.m. Van Matre Senior Activity and Wellness Center, 1101 Spring St. Cost: \$1.

Fitness for Men, 9:15 a.m. Mruk Family Center on Aging, 24 Hospital Drive. (870) 508-3880.

Bull Shoals Food Pantry, 9-11 a.m. 1013 Lakeshore Drive, Bull Shoals.

Chair Yoga, 10 a.m. Peitz Cancer Support House, 315 Powers St. (870) 508-2273.

Zumba, 10-11 a.m. Van Matre Senior Activity and Wellness Center, 1101 Spring St. Cost: \$1.

Fitness for Men, 9:15 a.m. Mruk Family Center on Aging, 24 Hospital Drive. (870) 508-3880.

Growing Through Grief Support Group, 10 a.m. to noon every Monday, Hos-

Ostomy Information and Support, 11 a.m. first Friday, Peitz Cancer Support House, 315 Powers St. (870) 508-2273.

Better Breathers, 2 p.m. second Friday, Mruk Center on Aging, 24 Hospital Drive. (870) 508-3880

Celebrate Recovery, 6:30 p.m. Yellville United Pentecostal Church.

Labyrinth of St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 10:30 a.m. to noon, second Friday, Keller Hall, 511 Coley Drive. Includes tea and light refreshments. (870) 421-5395 or abaily49947@usa.net.

Saturday

Bull Shoals Food Pantry, 9-10 a.m. 1013 Lakeshore Drive, Bull Shoals.

Coffee social, 9:10-30 a.m. Alley-White American Legion Post 52, 717 Market St. For veterans and military families. Proof of military service needed. (870) 424-6277.

Pantry at the Post, 9-11 a.m. Alley-White American Legion Post 52, 717 Market St. For veterans and military families. Proof of military service needed. (870) 424-6277.

Childbirth class, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. second Saturday, Schliemann Center for Women, 606 Broadmoor Drive. (870) 508-2345.

Sunday

Celebrate Recovery, 1:30 p.m. Yellville United Pentecostal Church.

Monday

Fit Women exercise class, 8 a.m. Van Matre Senior Activity and Wellness Center, 1101 Spring St. Cost: \$1.

Zumba, 9 a.m. Van Matre Senior Activity and Wellness Center, 1101 Spring St. Cost: \$1.

Fitness for Men, 9:15 a.m. Mruk Family Center on Aging, 24 Hospital Drive. (870) 508-3880.

Growing Through Grief Support Group, 10 a.m. to noon every Monday, Hos-

pic of the Ozarks Administration building lower level entrance. 811 Burnett Drive. (870) 508-1771.

Chair Yoga, 10 a.m. Peitz Cancer Support House, 315 Powers St. (870) 508-2273.

PEPPI exercise class, 10 a.m. Van Matre Senior Activity and Wellness Center, 1101 Spring St. Cost: \$1.

Threads of Hope, 1 p.m. Monday, Peitz Cancer Support House, 315 Powers St. (870) 508-2273.

Walk Off Cancer, 2 p.m. For location: Call Peitz Cancer Support House, (870) 508-2273.

Senior Nutrition and Wellness Support, 2 p.m. second Monday, Mruk Center on Aging, 24 Hospital Drive. (870) 508-3880.

Infant Loss Support for Women, 5:30 p.m. first Monday, Schliemann Center for Women, 606 Broadmoor Drive. (870) 508-2345.

Other

Alcoholics Anonymous, numerous meetings, (866) 641-9190.

Police: 4 killed in shooting at downtown Louisville bank

By DYLAN LOVAN
and CLAIRE GALOFARO
Associated Press

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — A shooter at a bank in downtown Louisville killed at least four people — including two friends of the governor — and wounded at least nine others Monday, police said. The suspect also was dead.

The shooting, the 15th mass killing in the country this year, comes just two weeks after a former student killed three children and three adults at a Christian elementary school in Nashville, Tennessee, about 160 miles (260 kilometers) to the south. That state's governor and his wife also had friends killed in that shooting.

Police in Louisville arrived as gunshots were still being fired inside Old National Bank and exchanged fire with the shooter, Louisville Metro Police Department Deputy Chief Paul Humphrey said at a news conference. It wasn't clear whether the shooter killed himself or was shot by officers.

"We believe this is a lone gunman involved in this that did have a connection to the bank. We're trying to establish what that connection was to the business, but it appears he was a previous employee,"



A Louisville Metro Police technician photographs bullet holes in the front glass of the Old National Bank building Monday in Louisville, Ky. A shooting at the bank killed and wounded several people police said. The suspected shooter was also dead. TIMOTHY D. EASLEY/AP PHOTO

Humphrey said.

Nine people, including two police officers, were treated for injuries from the shooting, University of Louisville Hospital spokeswoman Heather Fountaine said in an email. One of the officers was in critical condition, she said. At least three patients had been discharged.

An emotional Kentucky

Gov. Andy Beshear said he lost friends in the shooting in the building on East Main Street not far from the Louisville Slugger Field and Waterfront Park.

"This is awful," he said. "I have a very close friend who didn't make it today. And I have another close friend who didn't, either. And one who's at the hospital that I hope is going to

make it through."

It was the second time that Beshear was personally touched by a mass tragedy since becoming governor.

In late 2021, one of the towns devastated by tornadoes that tore through Kentucky was Dawson Springs, the hometown of Beshear's father, former two-term Kentucky Gov. Steve Beshear. Andy

Beshear frequently visited Dawson Springs as a boy and has talked emotionally about his father's hometown.

Beshear spoke as the investigation in Louisville continued and police searched for a motive. Crime scene investigators could be seen marking and photographing numerous bullet holes in the windows near the bank's front door.

TROUT

Continued from Page A1

Nazarenko adds that while the winner doesn't have to be present to win, if the winner isn't located within 24 hours, they will hold an additional drawing until a winner is found. The retail value of the boat and accompanying trailer is estimated at \$15,000.

Those signing up for the Motorcycle Poker Run will receive six boat tickets for their \$25 entry fee. Kickstands go up at 9 a.m. starting in the field located behind First Security at 949 Hwy. 62 E. in Mountain Home. There will be five stops along the way, where riders will pick up their tickets, the last stop being Big Spring Park — where they will receive their final ticket.

Additional performers include The Kattie Laney Project from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and The Leslie Williams Band from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. Bob Van Haaren, better known as DJ Peace, will be serving as the festival emcee and perform from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Caradine adds the day-long festival will feature a larger variety of ven-



First Security Cotter Trout Festival Schedule

8 a.m. — Festival set-up at Big Spring Park	10:30 a.m.-4 p.m. — Duck Race tickets on sale at Gazebo
9 a.m.- 4 p.m. — Arts/crafts/ exhibitors and commercial booths open	10:30 a.m.-6:30 p.m. — Bounce House and Slide at ballfield
9 a.m.- 4 p.m. — Arkansas Game & Fish Mobile Aquarium at the pavilion	1:30-3:30 p.m. — Live entertainment: The Leslie Williams Band
9 a.m.- 5 p.m. — Peace Productions DJ	4 p.m. — Last chance to purchase tickets for the Duck Race
9:30 a.m. — Parade starts downtown: Second and Combs streets	4:30 p.m. — Duck Race near bridge over the spring
10 a.m. — Charity Car Show opens	4:30 p.m. — Drawing for vendor door prize
10:15-11:15 a.m. — Poker Run starts arriving in Big Spring Park	5-8:15 p.m. — Live entertainment: The Nick Reed Band
10:30 a.m. — Opening ceremony at stage: Welcome announcements and art poster winner presentation	5-9 p.m. — After Party Under the Bridge Craft Beer Garden
10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. — Live entertainment: The Kattie Laney Project	7:30 p.m. — Last chance to purchase tickets for the boat drawing
10:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. — Kid's Fishing Hole (ages 4-15) at Cotter Trout Dock	8 p.m. — Boat Raffle drawing winner announced and Light the Bridge
	9 p.m. — Beer Garden Closes. End of Festival.

dors than in year's past, including local artists and crafters, area business-

es, plus food vendors and trucks including Cotter's own Nathan Buck and his

At the Curb food truck.

Exhibitors and vendors will open for business at 9 a.m., with the First Security Cotter Trout Festival Parade stepping off at 9:30 a.m. at the corner of 2nd Street and Combs Avenue in downtown Cotter.

"It will be an opportunity to see your friends and neighbors," Caradine said of the event.

Nazarenko said also returning this year will be the Charity Car Show by Ray Frazier of the Bad Habit Car Club starting at 10 a.m. To enter a car, participants are asked to donate a \$5 toy for the annual Christmas in Cotter event, or \$5 worth of non-perishable food items — such as Vienna Sausages, fruit or applesauce cups — for the Backpack Program.

For the kids, there will be a free bounce house and inflatable slide provided by Mountain Home Party Equipment Rentals will be set up at the Jere Reagan Memorial Ballpark from 10:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Ron and Debbie Gamble of Cotter Trout Dock are hosting a Kid's Fishing Hole for ages four through 15 from

10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at the dock at Cotter Spring.

Nazarenko said Cotter

Spring will be stocked with trout by members of the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission (AGFC)

the day before and a net set up to keep them in to make fishing easier for the young anglers.

Speaking of AGFC, they will return this year with their Mobile Aquarium, which will be set up by the Cotter Spring Pavilion.

Other area boat manufacturers will have some of their latest models on display during the festival, including Shawnee & Supreme Boats of Midway, along with Vexus Boats and Double XX Boats, both of Flippin.

Starting at 10:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., tickets will go on sale at the Gazebo for the Rubber Duck Race. Nazarenko said tickets are \$1 each, six for \$5 or 25 for \$20.

He said there will be four heats starting at 4:30 p.m., by the bridge over the spring. Cash and prizes will be awarded to the winners.

At 4:30 p.m. there will also be a drawing for a vendor door prize.

Evening activities for adults include the "After Party Under the Bridge Craft Beer Garden" that will take place from 5 to 9 p.m. and IDs will be

checked to gain entry.

Nazarenko said while the festival has already met its quota of food trucks, they are still seeking vendors and sponsors for the event. He adds that all proceeds from the festival will go to the Cotter-Gassville Chamber of Commerce, which will allow the all-volunteer organization to fund community organizations and events like the Cotter Youth Center, the local chapter of the Cross Trail Outfitters and the annual Christmas in Cotter.

Along with the boat winner announcement at 8 p.m., Caradine said the Cotter Bridge will be lighted up in a teal color in honor of sponsor First Security. The evening will wrap up at 9 p.m.

Nazarenko joked that Mayor Caradine has predicted that there will rain before and after the event, but that the weather will be good the day of. His previous forecasts have been pretty accurate.

For more information on the First Security Cotter Trout Festival or for vendor applications, visit the Cotter-Gassville Chamber of Commerce Facebook page @ Cotter-Gassville Chamber of Commerce.

AVIATION

Continued from Page A1

For those who pursue aviation skills, salaries start at comparatively high levels and can lead to a very substantial income. Aviation related engineering jobs start with annual salaries of \$80,000-117,000, avionics and electronics technicians around \$83,000, meteorologists in the range of \$80,000-110,000 and air traffic controllers can earn between \$75,000-125,000.

On the flying side, both drone and aircraft pilots can command \$56,000 to start, although the pathway to an FAA drone operators license is much quicker and less expensive than the aircraft pilots must invest in.

Starting in the fall of the 2023-24 school year, a four-year series of aviation courses available for students in grades nine through 12 at MHHS. Students interested should register now for the first course Aviation I, which — when followed by the remaining three years of study — includes the choice of earning an FAA drone pilot certificate or passing the FAA knowledge test for a private pilot license.

Visit leadingedgeaviationfoundation.org for information on how to donate and join in aviation opportunities.

BUDGET

Continued from Page A1

Legislative leaders say they believe the state has some cushion against changes in the economy, noting that Arkansas has more than \$1.3 billion in a catastrophic reserve fund. The budget plan also forecasts the state will build up a \$391 million surplus in the coming fiscal year.

"We've positioned ourselves that if there is a downturn, the state will be able to manage it and continue to provide the type of services the public expects," House Speaker Matthew Shepherd, a Republican, told reporters.

The Senate also gave final approval to a change in the state's sentencing laws that will end parole eligibility for certain violent offenses. Sanders and Attorney General Tim Griffin advocated

for the proposal. It would require anyone sentenced beginning in 2024 for any of 18 violent offenses — including capital murder, first-degree murder and rape — to serve 100% of their sentence.

Starting in 2025, the bill would also require prisoners to serve at least 85% of a sentence for a list of other offenses, such as second-degree murder. Offenders convicted of other crimes would be required to serve 25% or 50% of their sentences, but the table spelling out which crimes fall under those minimums will be developed later. The changes won't apply to people who had already been sentenced before the law takes effect.

The Legislature this week approved a separate bill tapping into the state's surplus for several needs, including \$330 million for new prison space and \$300 million for a

new crime lab building.

Lawmakers plan to reconvene by May 1 to formally adjourn this year's session and consider any veto overrides. Since taking office in January, Sanders hasn't yet vetoed any bills that reached her desk, her office said.

Sanders' top agenda items were approved during the legislative session. Those include a massive education law that will create a school voucher program and raise minimum teacher salaries. Lawmakers this week approved another key part of Sanders' agenda, a cut in income taxes that will cost the state \$124 million a year.

Lawmakers since January have pushed for several bills targeting the rights of transgender people, including a law Sanders signed that's aimed at reinstating Arkansas' blocked ban on gender affirming care for

minors. The law, which will take effect later this summer, will make it easier to sue providers of such care for minors. The governor has also signed a law that will prohibit transgender people at public schools from using restrooms that align with their gender identity.

The top Democrat in the Senate called the series of bills "horrifying."

"I think it also sends the message to anyone outside of Arkansas that the state is not welcoming and inclusive," Senate Minority Leader Greg Leding said.

There are several major bills awaiting action from Sanders. They include a measure she has supported that would require age verification to use social media sites and parental approval for users under 18, which would make Arkansas the second state to enact such a restriction.

BABY BLUES



BLONDIE



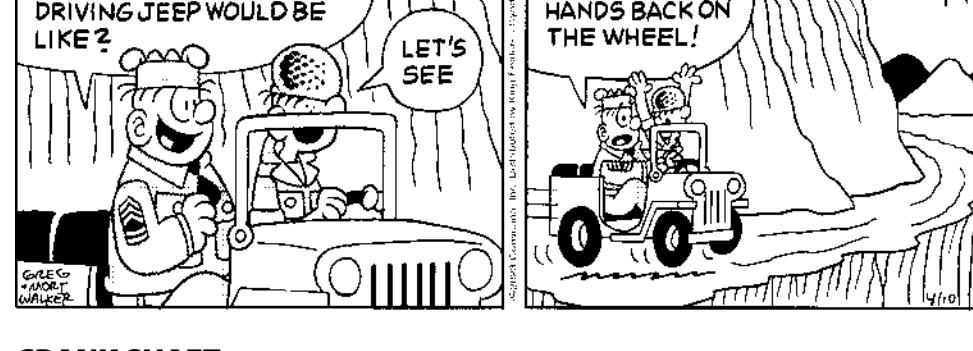
MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM



CLASSIC PEANUTS



BEETLE BAILEY



CRANK SHAFT



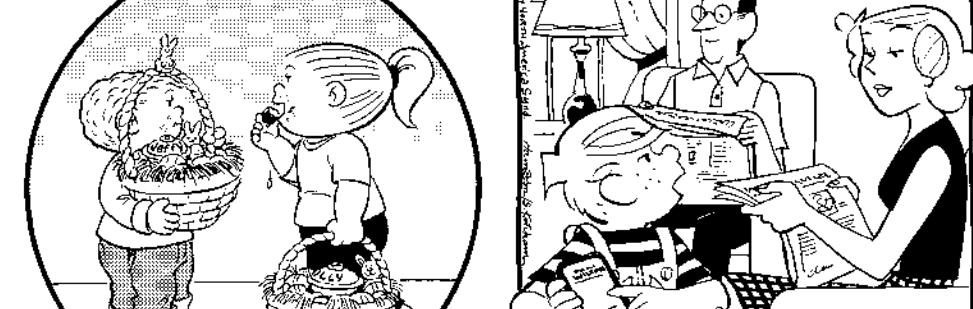
BARNEY GOOGLE and SNUFFY SMITH



GARFIELD



THE FAMILY CIRCUS



"Know who made all this candy?
The Easter Bunny's elves!"

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www.iamyourcousin.com

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4-10

BABY BLUES

HOROSCOPE
Georgia Nicols

Moon Alert: Avoid shopping or making important decisions from 6:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. EDT today (3:30 a.m. to 11 a.m. PDT). After that, the Moon moves from Sagittarius into Capricorn.

Happy Birthday for Tuesday, April 11, 2023: You care passionately about justice and causes that are important to you. You are optimistic, energetic and always helpful. This year it's time to focus on creating solid foundations for yourself. Keep things simple. It's time to be grounded and levelheaded.

The Stars Show the Kind of Day You'll Have: 5-Dynamic; 4-Positive; 3-Average; 2-So-so; 1-Difficult

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★★★ This is a marvelous day for your sign. You feel upbeat, warmed-up and ready to include everyone in your plans. Your confidence is strong, and you feel happy. Indeed, others will admire your positive attitude and want to be in your presence. Tonight: Get advice.

Taurus (April 20-May 19)

★★★★★ Today you're in touch with your spiritual feelings or your inner world in a positive, uplifting way. Something might inspire you. Because Mercury is in your sign, you will want to tell someone else how you feel, which might be hard to do. Tonight: Study.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★★ Be open to involvement with groups, clubs and organizations today. You will be happy to integrate with something that is bigger than you. You're enthusiastic about ideas and want to share them with others. Oh yes, you feel the hype! Tonight: Check your finances.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★★ You look marvelous, darling, marvelous! Today you make a fabulous impression on everyone, especially authority figures -- bosses, parents, teachers and even the police. This is because you look like a success! And success is sexy! Tonight: Show respect.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★★ Do whatever you can to expand your horizons today, because this is what will make you feel fulfilled. Ideally, you want to travel -- see new places, meet new faces. But you will also be inspired to learn something fascinating that is uplifting and edifying. Tonight: Work.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★★ You couldn't pick a better day to do financial negotiations, especially to discuss how to share something like an inheritance. It's also a great day to deal with shared property or to get money from the government or receive a loan or a mortgage or your fair share of something. Tonight: Get organized.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★★ Yesterday was a lovely day to schmooze, and today is even better! Do get out and meet people. You will have a wonderful time. Enjoy being with partners and close friends. However, you will also enjoy interacting with members of the general public. Everyone wants to see your face! Tonight: Family plans.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★★ This is a fabulous day for any kind of success that is work-related. To begin with, work-related travel will be inspiring and mind-expanding. Work with groups if you can, because you'll get better results. Even your health feels vigorous and improved today. Pets might be a source of joy. Tonight: Serious discussions.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★★ Accept all invitations to party and enjoy the company of others today. It will give you great pleasure. Sports events, fun activities with kids, the entertainment world, movies, plays, picnics, barbecues -- you name it -- you want to have fun! It's a lovely day for a date. Tonight: Financial planning.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★★ Despite your desire for privacy today, this is a wonderful day to entertain at home. Any kind of group gathering related to your family or your home will please you enormously. Not only that, it might benefit you in a practical way. Tonight: Set goals.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★★ Today you feel exuberant, upbeat and eager to schmooze with others. Enjoy time spent with siblings and relatives. Short trips, errands and appointments will be enjoyable because you have something to say to everyone. (You're full of positive ideas!) It's a strong day for sales, marketing, teaching, writing and acting. Tonight: Research.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★★ "There's gold in them thar hills!" You can boost your income today or begin to do something that will lead to increased wealth for you, either now or in the future. Trust your moneymaking ideas. Listen to the advice of others. Some kind of group effort might benefit you financially. Tonight: Listen to your elders.

BORN TODAY

Actress Tricia Helfer (1974), actress Jennifer Esposito (1973), actor Peter Riegert (1947)

*** Find more Georgia Nicols horoscopes at georgianicols.com.

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Crossword by Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS	37	Tolkien creature	22	Charlie Parker's instrument
1	Frog's relative	Chef Flay	2	Partially mine
5	Gear tooth	Bird (Pref.)	3	Bickering
8	Pager sound	Bread spread	4	Two, in Toledo
12	Car	Actor Epps	5	Words to live by
13	Eggnog ingredient	French region	6	Inning enders
14	Carry on	Anti-toxins	7	Baseball execs
15	Deli meats	Play segment	8	Dazzling
17	Currier's partner	Praiseful pieces	9	Roof edge
18	Retired jet	Mad Money" network	10	Always
19	Gridiron stats	Airport screening org.	11	Nuisance
20	Warning	Aquarium favorite	12	Have a cold
21	Buddy	Biblical sea	21	Knick-knacks
22	Part of RSVP	Super-fruit berry	22	
23	Aquarium favorite	Blend	23	
26	Biblical sea	Nick and Nora's dog	24	
30	Super-fruit berry	Burning sticks	25	
31	Blend	Lower than	26	
32	Nick and Nora's dog	Neck rub response	27	
33	Burning sticks		28	
35	Lower than		29	
36	Neck rub response		30	

Solution time: 22 mins.

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Yesterday's answer 4-11

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51						52			53			

4-11

CRYPTOQUIP

N B X P E M V V F Q P U E Q R K R B V Q X

W R H H N V H R H P E M F R W R M C

I P H C V H , I G R Q K G P E O F X P E

F P ? U V M N M Q V O O V H .

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: APPETIZING VEGGIE DISH THAT RELIEVES PEOPLE'S SEASONAL ALLERGY SYMPTOMS: SNEEZER SALAD.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: I equals W

Marriage is strained by MIL's gambling addiction



JEANNE PHILLIPS
DEAR ABBY

she doesn't seem to want to stop. I work too hard for my money to throw it away. What should we do? -- NOT A BANK IN INDIANA

DEAR NOT A BANK:

If you continue down the path your husband has put you both on, it will eventually damage your credit score and possibly your marriage. His mother may, indeed, be addicted to the rush she derives when she gambles. This is why, even when she runs out of money, she's unable to call it quits. For everyone's sake, it's imperative that you stop being her enablers. A support group for families of gambling addicts could be helpful for you and your spouse. If there isn't one nearby, find another 12-step group for family members of addicts and attend the meetings. They may help your husband understand the importance of no longer allowing his mother to make her problem yours.

DEAR ABBY: I need help. For 10 years I have worked in the deli department at a grocery store and try my very best to get things done. My problem is my boss. She nitpicks and criticizes me to the point that I get so frustrated and angry I can't focus on work. Abby, I have Asperger's syndrome, so it's tough to socialize with customers. I don't know. Half the time when she starts in on me, I become so rattled I can't finish my task. She accuses me of wearing clothes that aren't clean even though I wash them every day. I don't want to do anything I'm going to regret later. Any advice you can give me will be appreciated. -- LOSING IT IN HAWAII

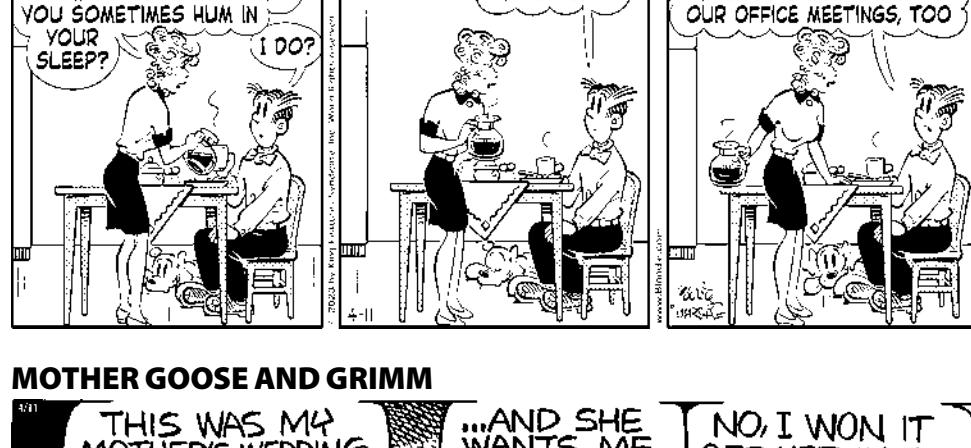
DEAR LOSING IT: Because you feel you are being discriminated against by the person who heads your department, make an appointment to talk privately with the store manager to discuss what's going on. If, after that, you continue to be picked on, contact Legal Aid at Work. (Go to bit.ly/2G2zTDu or call their helpline: 877-350-5441 and talk to someone there.) I wish you luck.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69069, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

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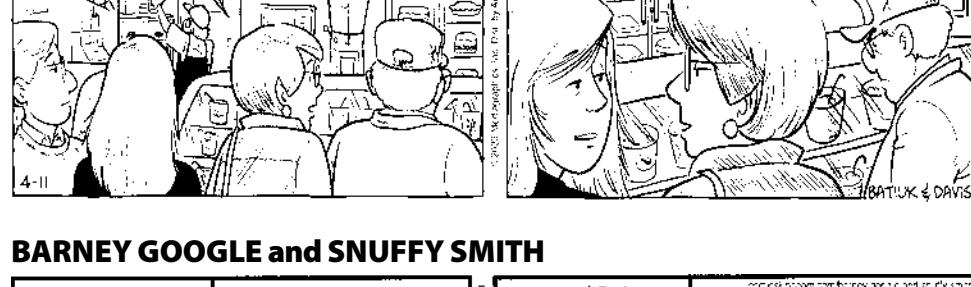
MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM



BEETLE BAILEY



CRANK SHAFT



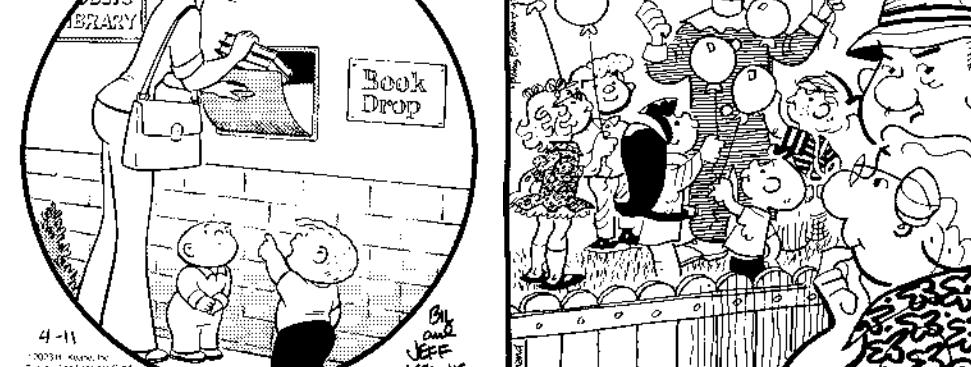
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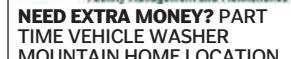
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MOUNTAIN HOME LOCATION.

We need reliable van and truck washers to work part time for extra cash! Retired military is a plus. We typically wash in the evenings depending on the weather.

\$15.00 minimum per hour and you can earn productivity bonuses. Must have a valid Driver's License and be able to pass a background check.

Please call 423-653-4226 for more info.

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Head Softball Coach, Assis-

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Country Coach. Minimum

qualifications are a bachelor's

degree and/or education and

coaching experience, excel-

lent communication and com-

puter skills, and a verifiable

clean driving record. Must be

able to work weekends, eve-

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to Graham. Neutered with

bobbed tail. If seen call

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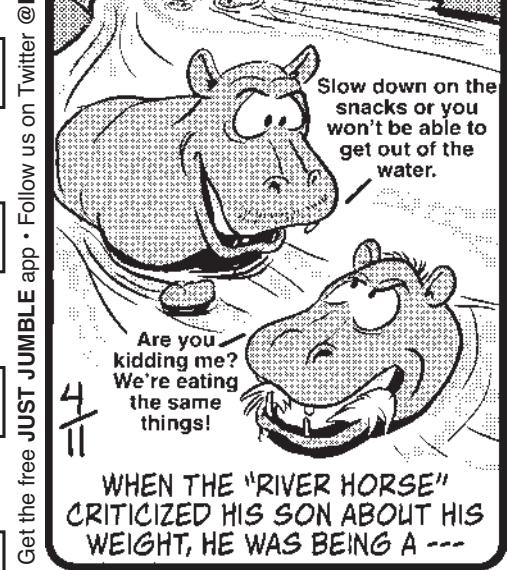
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THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek



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Yesterday's Jumbles: PHONE PRICE To generate more business, the bicycle wheel company hired a — SPOKESPERSON

Answer: - (Answers tomorrow)

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Answer: - (Answers tomorrow)

Pioneers gain season sweep of Bombers

By Neal Denton
ndenton@baxterbulletin.com

Mountain Home and Batesville smacked five hits apiece in their non-conference game, but the Pioneers took advantage of nine free passes offered by Bomber pitching and four defensive errors by the hosts in taking their second victory over the Bombers this season.

Batesville plated six runs on only three hits during the top of the fourth inning to run to a 9-4 victory over the Bombers on Friday at McClain Park.

The Bombers, who had fallen 4-3 at Batesville a week earlier, extended their lead to 4-2 with solo tallies in each of the second and third innings.

Mountain Home gained two outs in the top of the fourth, but then it began to hand out free bases to the visitors.

After one walk by reliever Nate Henderson, reliever Maddox Carney hit Batesville's Conner Cunningham with a pitch to load the bases. Batesville's

Mark Brissey then drew a walk to bring in a run.

The Pioneers then smacked their three hits of the inning, sparked by Beau Baxter's two-run double to give Batesville a 5-4 lead.

Brecken Glasgow and Dexter Chapman each followed with RBI singles for an 8-4 lead before Carney escaped the jam with a strikeout.

Mountain Home, which had four hits over the first four innings off Batesville starter Cale Glasgow, managed only one more against the sophomore over the final three innings.

Glasgow struck out six and allowed only five hits over the full seven innings, walking only one.

Carney took the loss for Mountain Home, allowing three earned runs on three hits and two walks over 1 1/3 innings. Drew Haney lasted 1 2/3 innings in the start, allowing only one hit but three walks and two earned runs.

Henderson pitched two hitless innings, allowing two runs on two walks. Jett

Hannaford pitched the final two innings of the game, allowing one earned run on one hit and one walk.

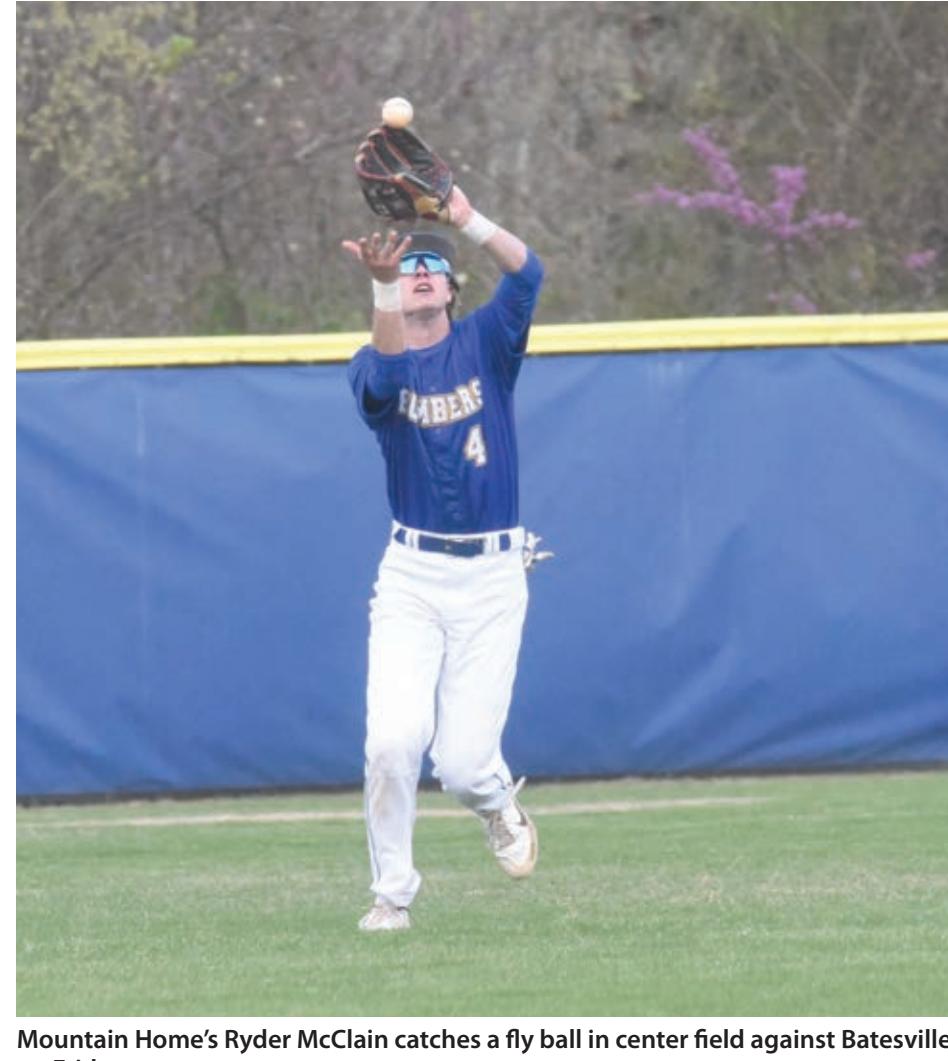
Batesville took the early 1-0 lead on a sacrifice fly, but the Bombers answered with two in the bottom of the first. Jacob Czanstkowski tripled home Lincoln Sherry, and Masen Walker brought Czanstkowski home with a groundout.

Batesville tied it in the second after three straight walks by Haney, but the Bombers went up 3-2 when courtesy runner Finley Chafin scored on a sacrifice fly by Hannaford.

Mountain Home pushed it to 4-2 in the third when Dillon Drewry singled, took second on a wild pitch and scored on a base hit by Walker.

Walker was 1-for-3 with two RBIs to lead the Bombers, while Czanstkowski, Drewry, Sherry and Hannaford each added hits. Five players also had one hit apiece for Batesville (12-5).

Mountain Home (10-3) hosts Russellville for a 5A-West Conference doubleheader on Tuesday.



Mountain Home's Ryder McClain catches a fly ball in center field against Batesville on Friday. NEAL DENTON/THE BAXTER BULLETIN

Memorable Masters ends with Rahm slipping into green jacket

By DAVE SKRETTA

Associated Press

AUGUSTA, Ga. — By the time Jon Rahm walked up the 18th fairway on Sunday, and made like his late idol Seve Ballesteros with a brilliant par save to finish off the Masters, the fact that the Spaniard would be soon slipping into the green jacket had long been decided.

The most eventful of tournaments had a most uneventful finish.

That was owed to the brilliance of Rahm, who began Sunday four shots back of Brooks Koepka as players arrived early to finish a third round that had been suspended by weather. He cut his deficit to two by the end of the round, pulled ahead on the front nine of the final round, and closed with a 69 for a four-shot victory over Koepka and Phil Mickelson.

"We all dream of things like this as players, and you try to visualize what it's going to be like and what it's going to feel like," said Rahm, who had three rounds in the 60s to finish at 12-under for the championship.

"Never thought I was going to cry by winning a golf tournament," he said, "but I got very close on that 18th hole."

In truth, there was plenty to laugh and cry and cringe about during an eventful week at Augusta National.

It began with questions of whether the contingent of 18 players from the Saudi-funded LIV Golf circuit would be able to compete, and how they would be treated both by those they had spurned and those behind the gallery ropes.

Turns out they still have plenty of game.

Koepka set the pace from the moment he tapped in for an opening-round 65 until the final nine on Sunday, when some poor shots and worse luck helped Rahm to overtake him. But there was Mickelson, who in some ways has become the fulcrum of the LIV Golf-PGA Tour divide, finishing with 65 on Sunday to join Koepka in second place.

Patrick Reed made it three LIV Golf players in the top six with his final-round 68, leaving him tied for fourth with Jordan Spieth and Russell Henley. In all, 12 of the 18 made the cut, and they proved that their shorter schedules — they had played just three events this season — and shorter three-round tournaments had not dulled their game one bit.

"It was exciting this tournament rose above it all to have the best players in the world here, and lost all the pettiness," said the 52-year-old Mickelson, the oldest runner-up in Masters



Jon Rahm, of Spain, celebrates holding the Masters trophy Sunday at Augusta National Golf Club in Augusta, Ga. DAVID J. PHILLIP/AP

history. "There is always going to be and should always be a place for historical events like this, but it's OK to have a little bit of different and variety in the game of golf."

The barbs traded leading up to the Masters — Fred Couples calling Mickelson a "nutbag," Sergio Garcia ripping the PGA Tour in return — seemed to be forgotten when Jack Nicklaus, Gary Player and Tom Watson hit the ceremonial first shots Thursday.

They certainly became an afterthought when the Masters turned into a test of wills.

That happened late Friday, when hot, humid weather gave way to whipping winds that brought down three pine trees near the 17th tee box, and pounding rain that kept the second round from finishing.

The rain continued Saturday, when players returned to the course and tried to get through the third, which likewise was suspended when Augusta National became waterlogged.

In between, some history was made: The 63-year-old Couples became the oldest player to make the cut, and Tiger Woods also made it on the number, matching the record of Couples and Player of 23 consecutive cuts made at the Masters.

Woods withdrew early Sunday when his plantar fasciitis returned, the first time the five-time champion had failed to finish the Masters as a professional. Now, the question is whether he will play the PGA Championship at Oak Hill in just over a month.

Rahm will be there. He suddenly has two legs of the career grand slam in the bag, and needs the PGA and British Open to finish it off. And given the way he played Sunday, Rahm figures to be the favorite just about everywhere.

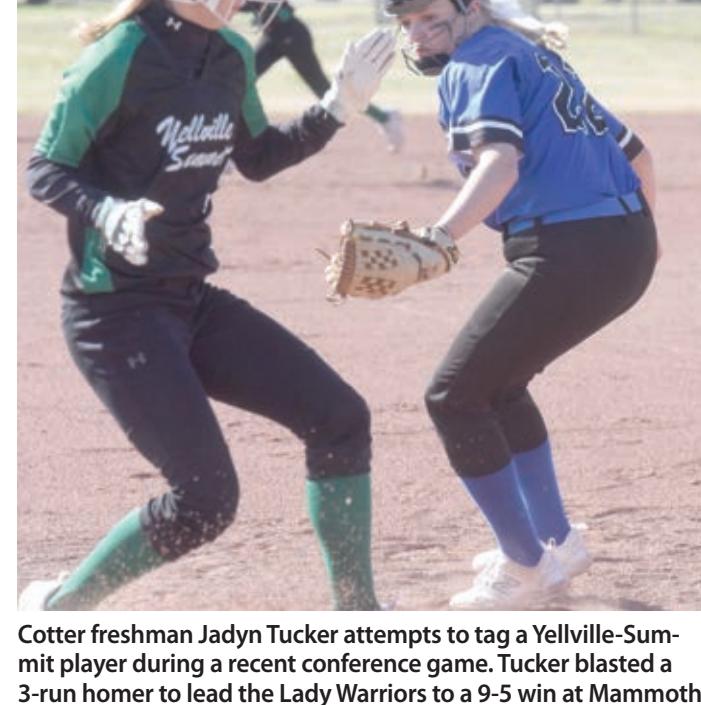
He trailed Koepka by two when they returned to Augusta National early Sunday to finish their third rounds, and cut the deficit in half almost immediately. The two went shot-for-shot the rest of the round, and the U.S. Open champion at Torrey Pines was still two shots behind Koepka when they started the final round.

Koepka began to collapse, though. The birdies dried up and the bogeys multiplied, and at one point he went 22 straight holes without a birdie. Rahm had no such trouble, seizing the opening to build a lead that nobody could touch.

The lasting image from a memorable Masters came when Rahm walked off the 18th green in the twilight.

On the birthdate of Ballesteros, and the 40th anniversary of his winning a second Masters title, Rahm had one of his own. He embraced his wife and two children, then hugged two-time Masters champion José María Olazábal, who had stuck around to see whether his fellow Spaniard could join him in the most exclusive of company.

"That might have been the hardest thing to control today, is the emotion of knowing what it could be if I were to win," Rahm said later. "That might have been the hardest thing."



Cotter freshman Jadyn Tucker attempts to tag a Yellville-Summit player during a recent conference game. Tucker blasted a 3-run homer to lead the Lady Warriors to a 9-5 win at Mammoth Spring on Friday night. NEAL DENTON/THE BAXTER BULLETIN

Local roundup:

Cotter teams extend win streaks

By Bulletin Staff

A three-run homer by freshman Jadyn Tucker highlighted a five-run fifth inning for Cotter as the Lady Warriors ran to a 9-5 victory over the Mammoth Spring Lady Bears on Friday at Mammoth Spring.

The Lady Bears (3-3) led 4-3 entering the fifth, but the Lady Warriors (9-0) plated five in the frame to take the lead for good.

Freshmen McKenna Collins and Gracyn Jackson led off the fifth with hits, and Zoe Donahue and Emma Jones each added RBI hits to give Cotter a 5-4 lead.

Tucker then hammered a

pitch over the fence for an 8-4 lead. The Lady Warriors added one more in the sixth when Collins again singled and scored a run.

Tucker went 3-for-4 with three RBIs and two runs scored to lead Cotter. Brynn Washam and Lauren Skaggs had two hits apiece to lead the Lady Bears.

Donahue went the distance to pick up the win, allowing five runs on eight hits through seven innings and striking out four. Washam took the loss, striking out seven.

Cotter hosts Jasper for Senior Night on Tuesday.

See ROUNDUP, Page A14

Clutch plays lift Razorbacks to series win at Ole Miss

By UA Sports Information

OXFORD, Miss. — Led by timely hitting and superb defense, No. 5 Arkansas (25-6, 8-4 SEC) clinched its fourth consecutive regular-season series win against Ole Miss (18-12, 2-10 SEC) in a 6-4 triumph on Saturday afternoon at Swayze Field.

With the win, Arkansas has now started 8-4 or better in SEC play for six consecutive seasons. It marks the best stretch of starting 8-4 or better in SEC play since LSU did it from 1991-98 under legendary head coach Skip Bertman.

The Razorbacks have now won four straight series against the Rebels for the first time since 2000-03 as well as consecutive series at Swayze Field for the first time since the 2008 and 2010 seasons.

Caleb Cali's solo homer in the top of the third opened the scoring in Saturday's series finale. Arkansas went up, 1-0, on Cali's blast, which was his second in as many days and extended the Hogs' home run streak to 27 consecutive games.

See ARKANSAS, Page A14

Dirt-racing star Bell outruns Reddick to win on Bristol dirt

By PETE IACOBELLI
Associated Press

It didn't take long for Christopher Bell to figure out Bristol Motor Speedway's dirt surface was ready made for drivers with dirt experience.

And it was the perfect layout for Bell to win his fifth NASCAR Cup Series race there Sunday night.

"It was a very tough surface to get a hold of and should've rewarded guys that kind of knew what to expect and how to get the car around the race track, which I think it did," Bell said.

Bell held on through a restart eight laps from the end hold off another who grew up racing on dirt in Tyler Reddick.

Bell was a whiz-kid dirt racing sensation growing up — he won three Chili Bowl Nationals driving midget cars on dirt — and that experience helped the Joe Gibbs Racing driver to his fifth victory in the NASCAR Cup Series.

The first two years of Bristol dirt racing, NASCAR champs Joey Logano and Kyle Busch both won despite have less expansive dirt experience than many of their colleagues.

That changed this year as organizers gave racers more of a dirt feel than ever before, Bell said.

"This place is so much fun, whether it's dirt or concrete," Bell said.

Reddick was second for a second straight season, followed by Austin Dillon, Ricky Stenhouse Jr. and Chase Briscoe.

Bell's last challenge came after defending race winner Kyle Busch spun with 15 laps left. Bell took off on the restart and widened his lead over Reddick.

Reddick, who won the second stage, was closing in on the last lap when the 16th and final caution came out, instantly ending the race and sending Bell's team into hysterics.

"Man, I just can't get over how long those laps feel," Bell said.

Reddick also enjoyed the intensity down the stretch. "I thought I had a little bit more," he said. "I was at the edge, but I wasn't quite there in the last couple of laps."

Justin Haley was sixth, Bell's JGR teammate Martin Truex Jr. seventh, Todd Gilliland eighth, Kevin Harvick with Ty Gibbs in 10th, giving Gibbs three cars in the top 10.

Points leader Ross Chastain, who took the top spot after Hendrick Motorsports driver Alex Bowman's car was hit with a 60-point penalty for violations at Richmond, ended a lap down in 28th.

Kyle Larson, like Bell a dirt racing supernova who started



Christopher Bell celebrates after winning the NASCAR Cup Series dirt auto race on Sunday at Bristol Motor Speedway, in Bristol, Tenn. EMILY BALL/AP

from pole, won the first stage and took only fuel — no fresh tires — heading to the final segment. But Larson spun on his own 96 laps from the end, had to pit and restarted at the back of the field.

Larson's race ended for good some 20 laps later after bumping several times with Ryan Preece between turn three all the way to turn one. Larson, the winner last week at Richmond, drove into the garage.

Preece was angered by earlier contact with Larson and gave him a hand gesture soon after to make that clear as their cars passed each other.

"I'm guessing he was paying me back for whatever I did earlier," said Larson, who was 35th. "He rode me straight into the fence."

Last year's surprise winner Busch — he swept to the checkered flag after leaders Reddick and Briscoe slid out of contention — lost his chance for a second straight win with his late-race spin. Busch finished 32nd.

Logano's up and down weekend

It wasn't the outing two-time NASCAR champ Joey Logano wanted on the Bristol dirt.

Logano, who won the truck race at the track Saturday night, struggled to find his way and was behind the wall with his hood up less than halfway through.

"It was an eventful race for the short amount of laps we got to run," Logano said. "It seemed like every wreck in front of me, I got up in the middle of it."

Logano thought he had a competitive car, but broke his steering on a hard hit then "clobbered a fence after that."

Logano had his hood up behind the wall at lap 104. He registered 37th — last place. It's the second time that's happened this season to the reigning champion, the other being Las Vegas last month. He only had two in his NASCAR career before 2023.

Up next

NASCAR stays on the short tracks and heads back to Virginia when the Cup Series runs at Martinsville on Sunday. William Byron, already a two-time winner this season, is the defending champion for Martinsville's spring race.

Play-in tournament starts Tuesday, giving 8 teams new life

By TIM REYNOLDS
AP Basketball Writer

MIAMI — Getting to the play-in tournament probably wasn't the goal of any team when training camps opened back in September.

It does, however, beat the alternative.

There are 12 teams with play-off spots right now, 10 teams whose seasons are over — and eight teams with a second chance. The play-in tournament starts Tuesday, with Atlanta going to Miami and Minnesota visiting the Los Angeles Lakers, with the winners going to the postseason.

Oklahoma City goes to New Orleans and Chicago visits Toronto on Wednesday for elimination games; loser goes home, winner moves on to face the loser of Tuesday's games in another win-or-go-home contest.

"You have to embrace this new experience," Heat coach Erik Spoelstra said. "To the old heads in our locker room, each of us have experienced long NBA careers and not have had this opportunity. I think it's been great for the league. How harrowing this has been, the last six, eight weeks for 16 teams in the West and the East. It's just been great for competition and overall, it's been great for the league."

The NBA added it to boost end-of-season excitement, give more teams playoff hope — and discourage tanking. Dallas still had a chance at the play-in until its 81st game of the season on Friday, when it held several rotation players out and lost. The NBA is investigating the Mavericks' motivations there and if Dallas lost to protect its draft odds.

The Heat were the No. 1 seed in the East last season and now need the play-in just to get back to the playoffs. But they're also playing perhaps their best basketball of the season — just like the Lakers, who went a West-best 16-7 after the All-Star break.



Los Angeles Lakers forward LeBron James gestures to teammates during the first half against the Utah Jazz on Sunday in Los Angeles. MARK J. TERRILL/AP

"We put ourselves in a position where we can move on," Lakers star LeBron James said. "That's all we could ask for, to put ourselves in a position to be able to move on. We had obviously a very, very slow start, starting 2-10 ... to know where we are today, we can be happy about that, but not satisfied."

No team that has used the play-in tournament — Portland in 2020 in the bubble under a slightly different format; Boston, Washington, the Lakers and Memphis in 2021; Brooklyn, Atlanta, Minnesota and New Orleans last year — to reach the actual playoffs has ever won a first-round series.

But it still provides hope, and perhaps a shot in the arm for those who survive and advance.

"We're looking forward to it," Spoelstra said. "Our guys love competition. And this has high stakes to it. And that's ultimately where you find out about yourself — when there's stakes to it, when there's consequences to it."

FORMAT

Even in Year 3 of this format, it still can be confusing. Here's how it works:

— No. 7 plays No. 8. The winner is in and gets the No. 7 seed for the playoffs. The loser has a second chance.

— No. 9 plays No. 10. The loser's season is over. The winner moves on to face the loser of the 7 vs. 8 game.

— The remaining teams (the 7-8 loser and the 9-10 winner) play at the higher seed, with the winner getting the No. 8 seed. The loser's season ends.

— All six games either have a team qualifying for the playoffs, or getting eliminated, or both.

MATCHUPS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

NO. 8 ATLANTA (41-41) AT NO. 7 MIAMI (44-38)

Tuesday, 7:30 p.m., TNT

Season series: Miami, 3-1

Previous play-in appearances: Hawks went 2-0 to become No. 8 seed in 2022; Heat are in play-in for first time.

At stake: Winner plays Boston in Game 1 on Saturday; loser plays elimination game Friday.

Outlook: All four games ended up relatively close (Heat by 8, Hawks by 8, Heat by 8, Heat by 2). ... Miami's Jimmy Butler averaged 25 points and Bam Adebayo averaged 24.5 in the season series. ... Trae Young averaged 19.8 points for the Hawks against the Heat, but was held to 36 percent shooting and 21 percent from 3-point range. ... Hawks aiming to become first team in the play-in era to win three games after going 2-0 last year.

X-factor: Miami's Caleb Martin shot 64 percent against the Hawks, averaging 15.8 points and going 8-for-11 on 3-pointers.

NO. 10 CHICAGO (40-42) AT NO. 9 TORONTO (41-41)

Wednesday, 7 p.m., ESPN

Season series: Toronto, 2-1

Previous play-in appearances: Both teams are in play-in for first time.

At stake: Winner plays elimination game Friday; loser is eliminated.

Outlook: Home teams went 3-0 in the season series. ... Zach LaVine averaged 23.5 points vs. the Raptors this season, while Fred VanVleet averaged 20

points vs. the Bulls. ... Toronto never led by more than 10 points in any of the three games vs. Chicago this season.

X-factor: Chicago's DeMar DeRozan has played at Toronto seven times since leaving the Raptors, so he's dealt with the emotions before — though never in an elimination game in his former home building.

WESTERN CONFERENCE

NO. 8 MINNESOTA (42-40) AT NO. 7 L.A. LAKERS (43-39)

Tuesday, 10 p.m., TNT

Season series: Minnesota, 2-1

Previous play-in appearances: Timberwolves went 1-0 to become No. 7 seed in 2022; Lakers went 1-0 to become No. 7 seed in 2021.

At stake: Winner plays Memphis in Game 1 on Sunday; loser plays elimination game Friday.

Outlook: Anthony Davis played against Minnesota twice, scored exactly 38 points in both of those games — the Lakers winning one of them, the Wolves winning the other. ... LeBron James averaged 23 points in two games against Minnesota, shooting only 39.5 percent. ... Anthony Edwards had 29 points in Minnesota's win over the Lakers in October, then was held to a combined 30 points in two March meetings between the clubs.

X-factor: The dustup involving Rudy Gobert and Kyle Anderson on Sunday with either empower the Timberwolves — or fracture them.

NO. 10 OKLAHOMA CITY (40-42) AT NO. 9 NEW ORLEANS (42-40)

Wednesday, 9:30 p.m., ESPN

Season series: New Orleans, 3-1

Previous play-in appearances: Pelicans went 2-0 to become No. 8 seed in 2022; Thunder are in play-in for first time.

At stake: Winner plays elimination game Friday; loser is eliminated.

Outlook: New Orleans' three wins over the Thunder were by three, three and four points — but the Pelicans held leads of 21, 20 and 13 points in those games. ... New Orleans' Brandon Ingram played in just one of the four games, scoring 34 points in that outing. ... Shai Gilgeous-Alexander averaged 33.5 points against the Pelicans this season, with high games of 44 and 35.

X-factor: Thunder have nothing to lose except lottery odds. Pelicans were in this exact spot last year and know what it takes.

Big Deal?

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The Baxter Bulletin



ON TAP

Tuesday

High School Baseball

Russellville at Mountain Home (V-V) 4:30 p.m.

Jasper at Cotter 4 p.m.

Norfork at Omaha 4 p.m.

Flippin at Highland 4 p.m.

Viola at Shirley 4:30 p.m.

Yellville-Summit at

Greenland (V-V) 3:30 p.m.

High School Softball

Russellville at Mountain Home (V-V) 4:30 p.m.

Jasper at Cotter 4 p.m.

Shirley at Viola 4 p.m.

Flippin at Melbourne 4 p.m.

Yellville-Summit at

Greenland (V-V) 3:30 p.m.

Junior High

Track and Field

Mountain Home at

Harrison (9) 3:30 p.m.

Mountain Home at West Plains, Mo. (7-8) 3:30 p.m.

Thursday

High School Baseball

Mountain Home at Farmington (V-JV) 4:30 p.m.

Cotter at Norfork 4 p.m.

Alpena at Flippin 4 p.m.

Calico Rock at Shirley 4 p.m.

High School Softball

Mountain Home at Harrison (JV-JV) 4 p.m.

Green Forest at Cotter 4 p.m.

Calico Rock at Shirley 4 p.m.

High School

Track and Field

Mountain Home at West Plains, Mo. 3:30 p.m.

Ravens agree to 1-year deal with Odell Beckham Jr.

By NOAH TRISTER

Associated Press

The Baltimore Ravens gave their wide receiver group a much-needed shakeup Sunday, agreeing to a contract with Odell Beckham Jr.

Beckham agreed on a one-year deal worth up to \$18 million including \$15 million guaranteed, a person familiar with the deal told the AP. The person spoke on condition of anonymity because the contract hadn't been officially signed.

The 30-year-old Beckham did not play last season following ACL surgery. He now joins a Baltimore team with a quarterback situation that is still quite uncertain. The Ravens used the franchise tag on Lamar Jackson, who has asked to be traded.

Jackson posted a screenshot Sunday on Instagram that appeared to be him and Beckham on a video call — as well as a video of himself dancing.

Even with Jackson, the Ravens' passing game was limited by a lack of production from their



Los Angeles Rams wide receiver Odell Beckham Jr. walks on the sideline during a NFL divisional playoff game against the Tampa Bay Buccaneers on Jan. 23, 2022, in Tampa, Fla. ALEX MENENDEZ/AP

wide receivers. Rashod Bateman played only six games last season, and aside from tight end Mark Andrews, no Baltimore player managed even 500 yards receiving.

Beckham has five 1,000-yard seasons, but none since 2019 with Cleveland. In his most recent season on the field in 2021, he caught 44 passes for

537 yards and five touchdowns in 14 games for the Browns and Rams.

He scored a touchdown in Los Angeles' Super Bowl victory that season, although he also injured his knee in that game.

No matter who the quarterback is, when Beckham is at his best, he's a major threat capable of producing dazzling highlights.

Since debuting with the New York Giants in 2014, he has 531 catches for 7,367 yards and 56 TDs.

Beckham made the Pro Bowl his first three seasons. He's one of three players in NFL history — along with Justin Jefferson and Michael Thomas — to reach 80 receptions and 1,000 yards receiving in each of his first three seasons.

Adesanya knocks out Pereira in UFC title rematch

By ALANIS THAMES

Associated Press

MIAMI — Israel Adesanya wanted a quick rematch after a November loss to Alex Pereira stripped him of the 185-pound championship belt he'd held since 2019.

Five months later in UFC 287 in Miami early Sunday, Adesanya dropped the middleweight champion Pereira with two right hands, then raised his fists in triumph as he took back his middleweight championship belt and cemented his legacy as one of the greatest fighters in the sport's history.

"I hope every one of you behind the screen or in this arena can feel this level of happiness just one time in your life," Adesanya said.

"But guess what, you'll never feel this level of happiness if you don't go for something."

Pereira (7-2) landed a knee that pushed Adesanya (24-2) into the cage in the second round. Adesanya came off the cage with two right hooks and a right hammer fist, followed by ground and pound to end

the fight at 4:21.

The 35-year-old Pereira had never lost to Adesanya. Before he scored a TKO win for the welterweight belt in UFC 281 in November, Pereira defeated Adesanya twice in kick boxing.

Adesanya, born in Nigeria but raised in New Zealand, entered the UFC in 2018 and won the middleweight belt a year later when he beat then-champion Robert Whittaker in a stunning knockout.

He successfully defended his title five times as he became one of the sport's main draws. He was in unfamiliar territory Saturday as the challenger.

"They say revenge is sweet," Adesanya said. "And if you know me, I've got a sweet tooth."

Fighting in his hometown as the UFC returned to Miami for the first time in 20 years, Jorge Masvidal (35-17) lost a unanimous decision to fifth-ranked welterweight contender Gilbert Burns (22-5).

Burns hurt Masvidal with a series of head shots, and Masvidal appeared winded as the fight went on. After

ward, Burns paid respect to the veteran Masvidal.

"We're here because of this guy, 52 pro fights," Burns said to the crowd, which chanted "Let's go Jorge" throughout. "Give it up for your guy."

Masvidal, who turns 39 in November, entered the match on a three-fight losing streak having lost back-to-back title challenges to Kamaru Usman and a unanimous decision to longtime rival Colby Covington.

Masvidal appeared to retire from the sport after the loss.

"It's been a long 20 years, 50-something fights," said Masvidal, who entered the UFC in 2013. "Sometimes your favorite basketball player doesn't have that three-pointer no more. Your favorite quarterback loses that rifle. And I don't feel the same when I get in here."

Veteran Rob Font (20-6) snapped Adrian Yanez's (16-3) nine-fight winning streak with a knockout at 2:57 in the first round. They traded shots early before Font landed a powerful right hook that dropped Yanez. Font, who returned to pay-per-

view for the first time in five years, finished the fight with ground and pound.

Kevin Holland (23-9) face planted Santiago Ponzinibbio (30-7) with a huge left hand at 3:16 of the final round of their welterweight bout, then jumped over the cage to talk to UFC president Dana White and former U.S. president Donald Trump, who were in a sold out crowd that featured Usman, Los Angeles Rams defensive tackle Aaron Donald, Odell Beckham Jr., Mike Tyson and more.

Ponzinibbio nailed a series of kicks to Holland's legs throughout the fight. Holland was visibly in pain by the third round before a powerful left hook sent Ponzinibbio face-first into the mat.

Christian Rodriguez (9-1) handed 18-year-old Raul Rosas Jr. (7-1), the UFC's youngest fighter, his first career loss with a unanimous decision win in the bantamweight main-card opener. In weigh-ins, Rodriguez was 137 pounds, one pound over the bantamweight limit, and he apologized immediately after the fight.

ROUNDUP

Continued from Page A12

Cotter baseball whips Mammoth Spring

Freshman Wesley Perkey allowed only one earned run over five innings on the mound to lead the Cotter Warriors to a 13-2, run-rule whipping of the Mammoth Spring Bears on Friday at Marty Hall Field.

Perkey struck out six and walked two over five innings, allowing only four hits.

Ty Tilton went 3-for-3 with three RBIs and three runs scored to

lead the offense. Kolby Vinson, Hudson Adams, Logan Principato, Cole Tilton and Drew Jackson all added RBIs for Cotter. Cole Tilton also smacked two hits.

The Warriors scored seven runs in the first inning, two more in the second and three in the third for a 12-1 lead. Cotter added one more in the fourth when Olin Davidson scored on a hit by Jackson.

The Warriors (10-2), winners of eight straight, host Jasper for Senior Night on Tuesday.

ARKANSAS

Continued from Page A12

Arkansas starter Will McEntire, pitching less than a week after being diagnosed with the flu, began his outing with three scoreless innings, but Ole Miss broke through for a run in the fourth to tie the game at one.

The Razorbacks retook the lead in the top half of the fifth with a pair of runs, thanks to a wild pitch and Peyton Stovall's

RBI single. The Rebels punched right back in the bottom half of the frame, however, knocking McEntire out of the ballgame before evening the game at three with a two-run home run.

McEntire allowed two runs on five hits and two walks while striking out two in his 4 2/3 innings of work. The right-hander threw 60 pitches, including 40 for strikes, before giving way to Dylan Carter (1.1 IP, 1 R), who was the first reliever to emerge

from the Razorback bullpen and earned the win to improve to 5-0 on the year.

Tied at seven in the top of the seventh, Tavian Josenberger's clutch two-out, two-strike single to right scored Cali, who led off the inning with a single, from second to put Arkansas back in front. Stovall, the very next batter, laced a single through the right side to score Josenberger, who advanced home on a fielding error by the Ole Miss right fielder.

Ole Miss cut its deficit to one in the bottom of the seventh, but the Arkansas offense had more left in its tank. Jace Bohroen began the eighth with a leadoff double to left before Kendall Diggs brought him home with an RBI single to right, extending the Razorbacks' advantage to 6-4.

Arkansas' third two-run lead of the game would hold. True freshman Gage Wood spun the final three innings, allowing just one run on three hits and a walk while fanning a career-high four.

The Batesville native, aided by Jared Wegner's spectacular diving catch and Josenberger's tremendous running catch in the bottom of the ninth, locked down his second career save to secure the Hogs' series-clinching win in Oxford.

A five-game week is on deck for Arkansas, beginning with a two-game midweek series against in-state foe Little Rock at Baum-Walker Stadium. First pitch between the Razorbacks and Trojans is 6:30 p.m. Tuesday.

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