THE LIVINGSTON
ENTERPRISE

Wednesday, November 30, 2022 • Livingston, Montana • Vol. 116 No. 246 $1.00



Enterprise photos by Cassi Geiser

Chelsea Harper, Ace Hardware's assistant store manager, takes stock of Christmas trees being delivered and set up with help from fellow staff members early in the week of Thanksgiving.

Tree time

Where, how to find your perfect Christmas tree

By Cassi Geiser
Enterprise staff writer

Every year as Thanksgiving weekend comes to a close, the Christmas lights and decorations start to pop up everywhere, and so does the question: "Where do I get my Christmas tree?"

Some might be undecided on whether to go with an artificial tree after years of fighting needles in the carpet.

Others might seek to cut a tree down with the family and haul it home, making their way through deep snow for that perfect fresh-cut find.

Others simply go pick one up at a sale where there are fresh, pre-cut trees ready to be loaded up for you.

This year, there are several options for retrieving that iconic holiday centerpiece for your Livingston home. Here's a look at some area places where you can get Christmas trees.

The real thing

Going into the forest to cut a fresh tree is an experience that some people really enjoy as part of their holiday tradition.

But to avoid being like Chevy Chase in "Christmas Vacation," do a little research before you axe down a tree. Like measuring the height of your ceiling in your house.

Also, pay attention to the size of the tree trunk and be sure it fits in the stand. And don't forget a sled to haul your tree out of the woods.

Across the Custer Gallatin National Forest, Christmas and holiday tree permits are available at local respective Ranger Districts or online through Recreation.gov., according to the U.S. Forest Service.

A tree permit can be purchased from the National Forest Service for $5, either online at https://www.recreation.gov/tree-permits, or at their location at 5242 US Highway 89. The Forest Service's website also has information pertaining to tree cutting, including the rules and regulations, open cutting areas, and areas that are off limits.

Be prepared

The local Boy Scouts are selling fresh cut trees at the Park County Fairgrounds this week on Thursday-Friday from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m., and Saturday-Sunday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The trees will remain on sale until they sell out, or until the day before Christmas Eve, said Brandon Hillman, the father of Boy Scout David Hillman.

The scouts cut roughly 200 trees off the Bozeman Hill this year, according to Hillman. The proceeds benefit Park County Boy Scouts Troop 516, and will help fund scouting trips and expeditions to Big Sky in January and Fillmont, New Mexico in spring 2023.



A sign at the Park County Fairgrounds is illuminated with holiday colors, displaying the days and hours that the local Boy Scouts will be selling Christmas trees.

Last year, Livingston resident Brittany Dirges, her husband and two small children went to the Fairgrounds and bought a tree from the Boy Scouts.

"We got a Charlie Brown tree last year — it was all that was left," said Dirges.

Hardware finds

Ace Hardware in Livingston also has a variety of fresh trees available such as Black Hill spruces, Douglas firs and blue spruces, ranging in price from $49.99 to $89.99. The hardware store got its shipment in late last week.

"The real trees have been selling pretty steadily since they came in two days before Black Friday," said J.R. Henriksen, a floor associate as Ace.

Ace Hardware has a large variety of artificial trees, including metallic ones without needles, according to Henriksen. The

See **Trees,** Page 3

Downtown readies for annual Christmas Stroll

By John Carroll
Enterprise Staff Writer

With tomorrow being the first of December, it's beginning to feel and look a lot like Christmas in Livingston.

Snow is on the ground. Garland is hanging from streetlight poles.

Christmas decorations are starting to go up at houses and stores around town.

That can mean only one thing.

It's time for the annual Christmas Stroll, a holiday tradition like no other in Livingston when the town people gather in the downtown district for fellowship, shopping and yuletide festivities.

"The Christmas Stroll has been going on for decades," said Leslie Feigel, CEO of the Livingston Area Chamber of Commerce. "It's a historic event and one of my favorite events of the year."

Set for Friday, Dec. 2, the Christmas Stroll will begin at 5 p.m. with street closings, fire pits, music, wagon rides, and appearances from Santa Claus, The Grinch and Frosty the Snowman.

The event typically attracts roughly 2,500 people into the downtown district, said Feigel. They come for the tradition, the communion, and the holiday spirit and energy.

"This is about our community coming together," said Feigel. "It's a great time to see friends and celebrate the season. The Christmas Stroll is about bringing in Christmas and the holiday season."

This year, portions of Main, Callender, Lewis and Second streets will be closed for the Christmas Stroll starting at 4 p.m. on Friday.

Stores, shops and art galleries will be open late. Bars and restaurants will be packed. And the line to see Santa will be long.

Santa Claus will make his grand appearance at 5:30 p.m. arriving on a sleigh and cruising down Main Street. Saint Nick, Kriss Kringle, the great bearded man in a red suit will set up shop at Mt. Roots, a thrift store at 219 S. Main St. owned by Callie Carroll.

Children will have time to sit in Santa's lap and get pictures from a professional photographer, said Carroll. And each child will receive a special gift bag from Santa.

"Santa will be in the front of the store," said Carroll, who will also serve hot chocolate and cookies to visitors. "He will be in his chair and children can sit in his lap. The Christmas Stroll is such as great event and we are blessed to be able to have this tradition. It's such a big deal for the community."

Another business participating in the Christmas Stroll is High Trash Boutique, a chic clothing store located at 113 S. Main St.

High Trash is owned by Montana sisters Sarah Lester and Bethany Carey. On Tuesday morning, Carey, who is five years older than Lester, was at the store with her black Lab mix, Ludo.

The entrepreneur said the Christmas Stroll is the "busiest that our store gets all year." High Trash will have a live bluegrass band, named "Thunk," playing in its shop for the special event and offer patrons wine, cookies and milk.

"People will come inside because it's cold," said Carey, who has co-owned the 4,400-square-foot store for six years. "They will listen to music and hang out. This is a big event."

Chamber CEO Feigel said also this year the Blue Slipper Theatre on Callender Street will open up its doors and feature a book reading of "Twas the Night Before Christmas" every 30 minutes.

"Frosty the Snowman will be walking around," said Feigel. "The Grinch is in town. Wagon rides will be offered in front of the Office Lounge. People just show up. Sometimes choirs walk around and sing in the streets. This is such a special event for Livingston."



Enterprise photo by John Carroll

Bethany Carey, co-owner of High Trash Boutique on Main Street, prepares her store Tuesday for the upcoming Christmas Stroll. By her side is Carey's lab mix dog, Ludo.

High court to hear arguments over Biden's policy on deportation

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Supreme Court is taking up a dispute over a blocked Biden administration policy that would prioritize deportation of people in the country illegally who pose the greatest public safety risk.

Republican-led states sued and won a nationwide court order that is meant to limit immigration officers' discretion in deciding whom to deport. The justices are hearing arguments in the case Tuesday.

It's the latest example of a Republican litigation strategy that has succeeded in slowing Biden administration initiatives by going to GOP-friendly courts.

In a separate ongoing legal dispute, three judges chosen by President Donald Trump are among the four Republican-appointed judges who have so far prevented the administration's student loan cancellation program from taking effect.

At the center of the immigration legal fight is a September 2021 directive from the Department of Homeland Security that paused deportations unless individuals had committed acts of terrorism, espionage or "egregious threats to public safety."

The guidance, issued after Joe Biden became president, updated a Trump-era policy that removed people in the country illegally regardless of criminal history or community ties.

The administration said in a written high-court filing that the "decision to prioritize threats to national security, public safety, and border security was both reasonable and reasonably explained," especially since Congress has not given DHS enough money to vastly increase the number of people it holds and deports.

Texas and Louisiana, which sued over the directive, responded that the administration's guidance violates federal law that requires the detention of people who are in the U.S. illegally and who have been convicted of serious crimes.

The states said they would face added costs of having to detain people the federal government might allow to remain free inside the United States, despite their criminal records.

Federal appeals courts had reached conflicting decisions over DHS guidance.

The federal appeals court in Cincinnati earlier overturned a district judge's order that put the policy on hold in a lawsuit filed by Arizona, Ohio and Montana.

But in a separate suit filed by Texas and Louisiana, a federal judge in Texas ordered a nationwide halt to the guidance and a federal appellate panel in New Orleans declined to step in.

In July, the court voted 5-4 to leave the immigration policy frozen nationwide. Conservative Justice Amy Coney Barrett joined the court's three liberals in saying they would have allowed the Biden administration to put in place the guidance.

At the same time, the court said it would hear arguments in the case in late November.

Briefs

• **The Gardiner Community Library** announces its winter hours. Hours are now will Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. It will be open until 7:30 p.m. on December 1 for the Christmas Stroll. Come get your passport stamped and fill a bag with sale books for $1 Find the library across the street from Arch Park.

• **The Livingston Community Choir** is having a fundraiser during the Christmas Stroll on Dec. 2, at 6 p.m., at the Park County Senior Center. It is offering a baked potato and chili bar, and caroling. Tickets are available for $15 from any choir member or at the Senior Center. Pre-sales are preferred for proper food planning. For more information call (406) 946-2013 and leave a message.

• **There will be an evening of music** with Electric Peak Art Council's Artist in Residence, Jonathan Savage. Jonathan will play guitar and sing all original songs composed during his residency, including the debut of Gardiner's own song. This free event will take place on Wednesday, Nov. 30 at 7 .p.m. at the Gardiner Community Center.

• **The Park County Rodeo Team** will host its second annual Cowboy Christmas Dance fundraising event on Friday, Dec. 9 at the Main Exhibit Hall at the Fairgrounds. The dance will start at 5 p.m. The entry fee for adults is $10 and for kids 12 and under $5. Sign up for the chili cook-off and cookie bake-off. There will be prizes for first through third place. The dance will also feature an ugly sweater contest, live music by the Blake Brightman band, a full bar provided by The Owl, a kid station, and a silent auction.

• **ASPEN's (Abuse Support & Prevention Education Network) annual Quilt Raffle** is underway. Quilts are on display in the lobby of Opportunity Bank on Main Street through the month of November. Tickets can be purchased at the bank, at the ASPEN office, or online at https://www.aspenmt.org/quilt-raffle. All funds raised will support services for victims and survivors of human trafficking and domestic and sexual violence. The drawing will take place Dec. 2. You do not need to be present to win. For more information. email heidi@aspenmt.org.

Calendar

WEDNESDAY, Nov. 29

• Books & Babies, Livingston-Park County Public Library, 228 W. Calendar St., 10:30-10:50 a.m.

• Communication Skills Group, Peer Solutions Drop-In Center, 104 W. Clark St., 4-5 p.m. Call 222-3332.

• Al-Anon, Vince Grant Hall, 1306 E. Park St., 5 p.m.

• AA meeting, Happy Hour Group, Vince Grant Hall, 1306 East Park St., 5 p.m.

• Overeaters Anonymous meeting, Big Book Studies, Vince Grant Hall, 5:30 p.m.

• Golden Word Toastmasters, Gardiner Ranger Station, U.S. Highway 89 South, 6:30 p.m.

• Narcotics Anonymous, Vince Grant Hall, 7 p.m.

• AA meeting, St. William's Catholic Church, Gardiner, 7 p.m.

• Gardiner AA meeting, St. William's Catholic Church, 7 p.m.

• AA meeting, Mount Republic Chapel of Peace, Cooke City, 7 p.m.

• AA 449 Group, Loaves & Fishes, 301 St. Main St. #1, 8 p.m.

THURSDAY, Dec. 1

• AA meeting, Loaves & Fishes, 301 S. Main St. #1, 8 a.m.

• Books & Babies, Livingston-Park County Public Library, 228 W. Calendar St., 10:30-10:50 a.m.

• Park County Cancer Alliance yoga classes with Alyssa Davis, second floor of Shane Center, noon-1 p.m.

• Peer-to-Peer support group, Peer Solutions Drop-In Center, 104 W. Clark St., 1 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. Call 222-3332.

• Emotions Anonymous Group, Peer Solutions Drop-In Center, 104 W. Clark St., 4-5 p.m.

• Thirsty Thursday Night Football at the Elk's Lodge, 130 S. Second St., Livingston, 6-9 p.m.

• Peace By Piece Quilt Guild, American Lutheran Church basement, 6:30 p.m.

• Q & A AA meeting, Vince Grant Hall, 1306 East Park St., 7 p.m.

• Clyde Park City Planning Board, Clyde Park Town Hall, 7 p.m.

Biden calls on Congress to head off potential railroad strike

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — President Joe Biden on Monday asked Congress to intervene and block a railroad strike before next month's deadline in the stalled contract talks, and House Speaker Nancy Pelosi said lawmakers would take up legislation this week to impose the deal that unions agreed to in September.

"Let me be clear: a rail shutdown would devastate our economy," Biden said in a statement. "Without freight rail, many U.S. industries would shut down."

In a statement, Pelosi said: "We are reluctant to bypass the standard ratification process for the Tentative Agreement — but we must act to prevent a catastrophic nationwide rail strike, which would grind our economy to a halt."

Pelosi said the House would not change the terms of the September agreement, which would challenge the Senate to approve the House bill without changes.

The September agreement that Biden and Pelosi are calling for is a slight improvement over what the board of arbitrators recommended in the summer. The September agreement added three unpaid days off a year for engineers and conductors to tend to medical appointments as long as they scheduled them at least 30 days in advance. The railroads also promised in September not to penalize workers who are hospitalized and to negotiate further with the unions after the contract is approved about improving the regular scheduling of days off.

Hundreds of business groups had been urging Congress and the president to step into the deadlocked contract talk and prevent a strike.

Both the unions and railroads have been lobbying Congress while contract talks continue. If Congress acts, it will end talks between the railroads and four rail unions that rejected their deals Biden helped broker before the original strike deadline in September. Eight other unions have approved their five-year deals with the railroads and are in the process of getting back pay for their workers for the 24% raises that are retroactive to 2020.

If Congress does what Biden suggests and imposes terms similar to what was agreed on in September, that will end the union's push to add paid sick time. The four unions that have rejected their deals have been pressing for the railroads to add that benefit to help address workers' quality of life concerns, but the railroads had refused to consider that.

Biden said that as a "proud pro-labor president" he was reluctant to override the views of people who voted against the agreement. "But in this case — where the economic impact of a shutdown would hurt millions of other working people and families — I believe Congress must use its powers to adopt this deal."

Shields Valley News

Shields Valley Christmas Stroll is set for Sunday, Dec. 4 in Wilsall

The Shields Valley Christmas Stroll is from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 4, in Wilsall. There will be vendors at the Shields Valley Senior Center and the Wilsall Rural Fire Hall along Highway 89. After expenses the extra money will be given to the Wilsall Scholarship Fund.

correspondent
Jean Skillman
578-2570

Lutefisk and ham dinner

The annual lutefisk and ham dinner is from noon until 3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 4, at Shields River Lutheran Church in Wilsall. The cost is $15 for adults, $5 for children ages six to 12. Those under six year of age are free.

Water Board

The Wilsall Water Board will meet at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 9, at the Shields Valley Senior Center at 208 Elliot Street North (Highway 89) in Wilsall.

Church news

Shields River Lutheran Ladies Bible study meets at 9 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 10, at the church.

Farewell potluck

A farewell potluck is planned for Nancy Arthun, Cole and Sara Arthun and daughters. It starts at 1 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 11, at the Clyde Park Community Hall. Ham and potatoes will be provided. Attendees are asked to bring salads and desserts.

Festival of Trees

The Festival of Trees, sponsored by the Wilsall Foundation, was Sunday afternoon at the Wilsall Dance hall. Trees were sold on-line and wreaths were sold by auction at the event. Jimbo Logan was the auctioneer.

Attendees voted on their favorite tree. The Rebel themed tree, made by the Clyde Park Tavern, won the People's Choice Award.

Cards

Wilsall Women's Pinochle Club met Monday afternoon at the Shields Valley Senior Center. Prize winners were Linda McClure, high; Jan Croisetiere, low; and Marie Smith, traveling.

School schedule

Dec. 1: The school dessert theater starts with dessert at 6:30 p.m. and the performance at 7 p.m.

Dec. 3: The junior high boys basketball teams play in the West Yellowstone Tournament. The high school boys basketball teams start playing at 5:30 p.m. in Harrison.

Dec. 5: The FFA CDE District competitions are in Big Timber.

Dec. 6: The BPA Regional contests are in Livingston. The elementary and junior high boys basketball teams start playing Gardiner at 4:30 p.m. in Clyde Park.

Dec. 8: The elementary and junior high boys basketball teams start playing at 4 p.m. in White Sulphur Springs.

Dec. 9-10: The high school basketball teams play in the Manhattan Tipoff Tournament.



Photo by Jean Skillman

Rebel tree, made by the Clyde Park Tavern, won the People's Choice award at the Festival of Trees in Wilsall Sunday afternoon.

US rule would limit methane leaks from public lands drilling

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Interior Department on Monday proposed rules to limit methane leaks from oil and gas drilling on public lands, the latest action by the Biden administration to crack down on emissions of methane, a potent greenhouse gas that contributes significantly to global warming.

The proposal by Interior's Bureau of Land Management would tighten limits on gas flaring on federal land and require energy companies to better detect methane leaks that add to planet-warming greenhouse gas pollution.

The actions follow a more comprehensive methane-reduction plan announced by President Joe Biden earlier this month. The Nov. 11 proposal, announced as Biden attended a global climate conference in Egypt, targets the oil and gas industry for its role in global warming even as the president has pressed energy producers for more oil drilling to lower prices at the gasoline pump.

Oil and gas production is the nation's largest industrial source of methane, the primary component of natural gas, and is a key target for the Biden administration as it seeks to combat climate change.

The proposal announced Monday would prevent billions of cubic feet of natural gas from being wasted through venting, flaring and leaks, boosting efficiency while at the same time reducing pollution, administration officials said.

"This proposed rule will bring our regulations in line with technological advances that industry has made in the decades since the BLM's rules were first put in place, while providing a fair return to taxpayers," Interior Secretary Deb Haaland said in a statement.

Venting and flaring activity from oil and gas production on public lands has significantly increased in recent decades. Between 2010 and 2020, total volumes of natural gas lost to venting and flaring on federal and tribal lands averaged about 44.2 billion cubic feet per year — enough to serve roughly 675,000 homes, Interior said. The figure represents a sharp increase from an annual average of 11 billion cubic feet lost to venting and flaring in the 1990s.

"No one likes to waste natural resources from our public lands," said BLM Director Tracy Stone-Manning. She called the draft rule a common-sense, environmentally responsible solution to address the damage that wasted natural gas causes. The rule "puts the American taxpayer first and ensures producers pay appropriate royalties" for natural gas flaring, she said.

Interior had previously announced a rule to restrict methane emissions under former President Barack Obama. The plan was challenged in court and later weakened under former President Donald Trump. Competing court rulings blocked enforcement of the Trump and Obama-era rules, leading the agency to revert to rules developed more than 40 years ago.

Jon Goldstein, an oil and gas expert at the Environmental Defense Fund, said new standards are needed to "end the waste of taxpayer-owned energy resources that has become far too routine on federal and tribal lands across the U.S."

He called BLM's proposal "an important first step, consistent with its long-standing authority to minimize waste."

The rule would impose monthly limits on flaring and charge fees for flaring that exceeds those limits.

Some conservation groups faulted the rule, saying it does not do enough to eliminate gas flaring. "BLM must go further to implement strong action to reduce methane waste and avoid creating what amounts to little more than a pay-to-pollute system," said Anne Hedges of the Montana Environmental Information Center.

"The climate crisis requires immediate and strong action to reduce emissions, especially when there are technologies available today to minimize methane emissions at the well," she said.









Courtesy photo

Gardiner FFA supporter and member Coby Dawson uses a chain saw to cut down a tree a with assistance from FFA member Aubrey Weitzelcut, on the AMB West property near Dry Creek on Nov. 20, as part of the effort to retrieve trees for the annual FFA Holiday wreath and Christmas tree sale in Gardiner.

Trees, from Page 1

price range is quite broad, ranging from $29.99 for a little basic tree to $599.99 for a much larger, more elaborate tree.

True Value Hardware is also selling some artificial trees, according to store manager Cindy Gilliam.

The store sells standard 4-foot and over artificial trees and expects to get some 2-foot tabletop trees as well.

Elsewhere in Park County

Gardiner FFA has trees for sale at the Emigrant General Store and at the Conoco in Gardiner.

The trees are primarily Douglas firs and sell for $20 each. Proceeds go to Gardiner FFA to help offset travel costs.

According to Lori Hoppe, Gardiner FFA's advisor, the group has already sold a tremendous amount of trees, and plans on restocking. Hoppe said that the student organization started selling wreaths years back, then began selling Christmas trees.

"We have built up a bit of a clientele, so they are going fast," said Hoppe. "We retrieved trees from Dry Creek in Paradise Valley on the AMB West property this year."

Maine Supreme Court upholds lease for $1 billion power line project

PORTLAND, Maine (AP) — Maine's highest court on Tuesday upheld the lease for a small section of state land for a $1 billion electric transmission corridor, a victory for developers who hope to complete the project.

The Supreme Judicial Court ruled unanimously that the Maine Bureau of Parks and Lands acted within its authority in leasing a 1-mile (1.6-kilometer) stretch of the 145-mile (233-kilometer) power transmission line. All told, the state lease covered about 32 acres (13 hectares) of land in western Maine.

The New England Clean Energy Connect remains on hold pending the outcome of another legal case focusing on the constitutionality of a referendum in which Maine voters rebuked the project.

Central Maine Power's parent company, Avangrid, and Canada's Hydro Quebec teamed up on the project that would supply up to 1,200 megawatts of Canadian hydropower to the New England power grid.

Supporters say such bold projects are needed to address climate change. Critics contend the power line would destroy woodlands while failing to deliver on promised environmental benefits.

"Today's ruling by the law court is yet another step in the right direction for Maine's renewable energy future. The serious need for the NECEC project to reduce our reliance on fossil fuels, combat climate change, and lower energy prices remains unchanged," said Scott Mahoney, Avangrid's general counsel.

But opponents decried the court's conclusion that the lease didn't represent a substantial alteration or reduction of land warranting a vote of state lawmakers, as required under a 1993 amendment to the Maine Constitution.

"In our opinion, the Maine Constitution clearly places a safeguard protecting our public lands from CMP's development of a transmission line that provides little to no benefit to Maine consumers. That safeguard is a two-thirds vote of the duly elected members of the Maine Legislature," said Tom Saviello, a former state lawmaker and opponent of the project.

Most of transmission line would be built along existing utility corridors, but a new 53-mile (85-kilometer) section was needed to reach the Canadian border.

Workers had been clearing trees and setting poles for months when the governor asked for work to be suspended after the referendum last year. The referendum on the project was the costliest in Maine history, topping $90 million and underscoring deep divisions.

The project would be funded by Massachusetts ratepayers, but supporters say the introduction of so much electricity to the grid would stabilize or reduce electricity rates for all consumers.

The project would supply enough electricity for about 1 million homes.

Diplomat says prisoner swap with US remains possible

MOSCOW (AP) — Russia and the United States have repeatedly been on the verge of agreement on a prisoner exchange, a senior Russian diplomat said Tuesday, adding that a deal is still possible before the year's end.

The Biden administration has been trying for months to negotiate the release of WNBA star Brittney Griner and another American jailed in Russia, Michigan corporate security executive Paul Whelan, including through a possible prisoner swap with Moscow.

Asked by reporters whether a swap is possible before the year's end, Russia's deputy foreign minister, Sergei Ryabkov, responded: "There always is a chance."

"Regrettably, there have been a few occasions when it seemed that a decision in favor of it was about to be made, but it never happened," Ryabkov said without elaborating.

He added that the Russian Foreign Ministry was not currently engaged in any dialogue on the subject with the U.S., "so we aren't feeling full dynamics."

Ryabkov noted that a prisoner swap "would undoubtedly send a positive signal that not everything is so utterly hopeless in Russian-U.S. relations." "Such a signal would be appropriate, if we could work it out," he added.

The Russian diplomat reiterated Moscow's call for the U.S. to discuss the issue discreetly and refrain from making public statements. He lamented that "Washington has been abusing 'loudspeaker diplomacy' instead of a quiet one, which didn't help us to do business."

Earlier this month, Griner began serving a nine-year sentence for drug possession at a Russian penal colony in Mordovia, about 350 kilometers (210 miles) east of Moscow, after a Russian court had rejected her appeal of her August conviction.

The all-star center with the WNBA's Phoenix Mercury and two-time Olympic gold medal winner was detained in February when customs agents said they found vape canisters containing cannabis oil in her luggage at Moscow's Sheremetyevo Airport.

At her trial, Griner admitted to having the canisters in her luggage but testified she packed them inadvertently in her haste to make her flight and had no criminal intent. Her defense team presented written statements saying she had been prescribed cannabis to treat chronic pain.

Whelan is serving a 16-year sentence in Russia after being convicted on espionage charges that he denied.

The Associated Press and other news organizations have reported that Washington has offered to exchange Griner and Whelan for Viktor Bout, a Russian arms dealer who is serving a 25-year sentence in the U.S. and once earned the nickname the "merchant of death."

ND high court asked to lift injunction against abortion ban

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) — An attorney for North Dakota asked the state Supreme Court on Tuesday to strike down an injunction blocking the state's abortion ban, saying a lower court judge was wrong to grant it.

Matthew Sagsveen, an attorney for the state, told justices that Burleigh County District Judge Bruce Romanick "misconstrued the law" by granting the injunction.

Romanick's ruling in October means abortion is still legal in North Dakota, though the state's only clinic — the Red River Women's Clinic of Fargo — shut down as it challenged the ban and has moved across the border to neighboring Minnesota.

Romanick had said that the Red River Women's Clinic had a "substantial probability" of succeeding in its lawsuit, but also said there's no "clear and obvious answer" on whether the state constitution protects a right to abortion.

Sagsveen told the five justices that it doesn't.

"Abortion isn't a fundamental right protected by the constitution," he argued.

A 2007 state law — one of numerous abortion-restriction measures crafted by state legislatures to take effect if the U.S. Supreme Court overturned Roe v. Wade — makes it a felony to perform an abortion unless necessary to prevent the woman's death or in cases of rape or incest. Violations arve punishable by up to five years in prison and a $10,000 fine.

The Red River clinic filed its lawsuit to block the measure shortly after the high court in June overturned Roe v. Wade, the ruling that protected the right to abortion for nearly five decades.

Meetra Mehdizadeh, staff attorney at the Center for Reproductive Rights, a New York-based abortion rights advocacy group that is representing the clinic, said North Dakota's law is "one of the most extreme and dangerous laws in the nation."

She argued that vacating the injunction would be "extraordinary," and said patients, doctors and hospitals in North Dakota are still at risk even though the clinic has moved. That's because the law could charge physicians with a felony for performing an abortion, making them afraid to provide care when it may be critical for the life of a mother, she argued.

"Lives and livelihoods will be turned upside down by the law," Mehdizadeh said.

Since the U.S. Supreme Court reversed Roe v. Wade, abortion restrictions have been up to states and the landscape has shifted quickly. Thirteen states are now enforcing bans on abortion at any point in pregnancy, while one — Georgia — bans the procedure once cardiac activity can be detected, at about six weeks' gestation, or before many women know they are pregnant.

Courts have put abortion bans or deep restrictions on hold in Arizona, Indiana, Ohio, Montana, South Carolina, Utah and Wyoming. Idaho courts have forced the state to allow abortions during medical emergencies.

North Dakota Chief Justice Jon Jensen said after the near-hourlong proceeding that the court would take the case "under advisement." He did not give a timeline on a ruling.

Attorney General Drew Wrigley would not speculate if the state's abortion ban would be immediate if the court lifts the injunction. Mehdizadeh said she suspects it would.

Whether North Dakota's constitution protects a right to abortion has come before state courts before.

QUESENBERRY INSURANCE
1313 W Park #9 • Livingston
222-6931
Do you have Questions about Medicare?
WE OFFER :
• MEDICARE ADVANTAGE
• MEDICARE SUPPLEMENT
• PART D DRUG PLANS
PART D Medicare Open Enrollment Deadline is Dec. 7
Serving Southwest Montana Since 1986
aetna Blue Cross Blue Shield of Montana Humana. Mountain Health Co-op wellcare
info@quesenberryagency.com • www.quesenberryagency.com

NEWS OUTSIDE THE BUBBLE
Share your stories and events with us.
WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU.
Event?
Send us a press release or simply let us know.
news@livent.net
livingstonenterprise.com/content/submit-story-ideas
Opinion?
Write a letter to the editor.
enterprise@livent.net
livingstonenterprise.com/content/send-letter-editor
Need a copy?
Subscribe online, by phone or in person.
livingstonenterprise.com
(406) 222-2000
P.O. Box 2000
Livingston, MT 59047

THE LIVINGSTON ENTERPRISE

NEWS ANALYSIS

As Qatar World Cup unfolds, planet keeps spinning

By TAMER FAKAHANY
Associated Press



AP

Players from Germany pose for the team photo as they cover their mouths during the World Cup group E soccer match between Germany and Japan, at the Khalifa International Stadium in Doha, Qatar on Nov. 23.

LONDON (AP) — Soccer — or football, to most of the global billions watching the World Cup this month — is not human society itself, with all its thorny issues. But at times, the game is a reflection of the entire planet — of nations, their disputes, their aspirations and those of a multitude of minority communities.

In early November, just weeks before the most heavily scrutinized World Cup in the tournament's history kicked off in Qatar, top FIFA officials sent a letter urging teams to "let football take center stage."

FIFA president Gianni Infantino followed this up on the eve of the opening match with a one-hour diatribe against all who had criticized the host nation's human rights record, the conditions that led to thousands of migrant workers dying building the nation's glittering new stadiums and its stance on LGBTQ issues.

Fans from around the world have a different idea of what that "center stage" should show. Many, but not all, Iranians attending matches in Qatar have wanted to express their support for protesters at home. And they've wanted the team to do the same.

Other political issues have been erupting fast and furious on a near-daily basis. And outside the World Cup bubble, the world itself has kept turning in some of its most fractious events, both unsurprising and surprising: Russia's war in Ukraine, mass shootings in the United States and the sudden eruption of protests in China.

Of the sporting spirit, George Orwell wrote: "I am always amazed when I hear people saying that sport creates goodwill between the nations, and that if only the common peoples of the world could meet one another at football or cricket, they would have no inclination to meet on the battlefield."

His point stands. Russia was banned from this World Cup after hosting the previous one in 2018, mirroring the isolation the country and its leaders face for the Ukraine invasion. Ukraine itself fell at the last hurdle for qualification, with fans at home likely more concerned about bombardment and survival amid electricity and water shortages than watching matches in Qatar.

Decades of enmity between the United Sates and Iran have been seeping into the buildup before the two nations play a critical World Cup match Tuesday that could see one of the countries progress to the knockout stages. (Editor's note: At the time of this writing, the game had not yet been played.) The U.S. Soccer Federation briefly displayed Iran's national flag on social media without the emblem of the Islamic Republic, saying the move supported protesters inside Iran. The Tehran government reacted by accusing America of removing the name of God from its national flag.

The century-long Israeli-Palestinian conflict, including Israel's occupation of lands Palestinians want for a future state, has also featured in Qatar, though neither national team is competing. The Palestinian flag and pro-Palestinian fans have been prominent, while Israeli media and fans have been less welcome in an Arab nation that has not normalized relations with Israel.

As Morocco completed a famous victory over the highly-ranked stars of Belgium Sunday, unrest broke out in Belgian cities and also in the Netherlands, where the immigrant North African community has long been marginalized. "Those are not fans; they are rioters. Moroccan fans are there to celebrate," the mayor of Brussels said.

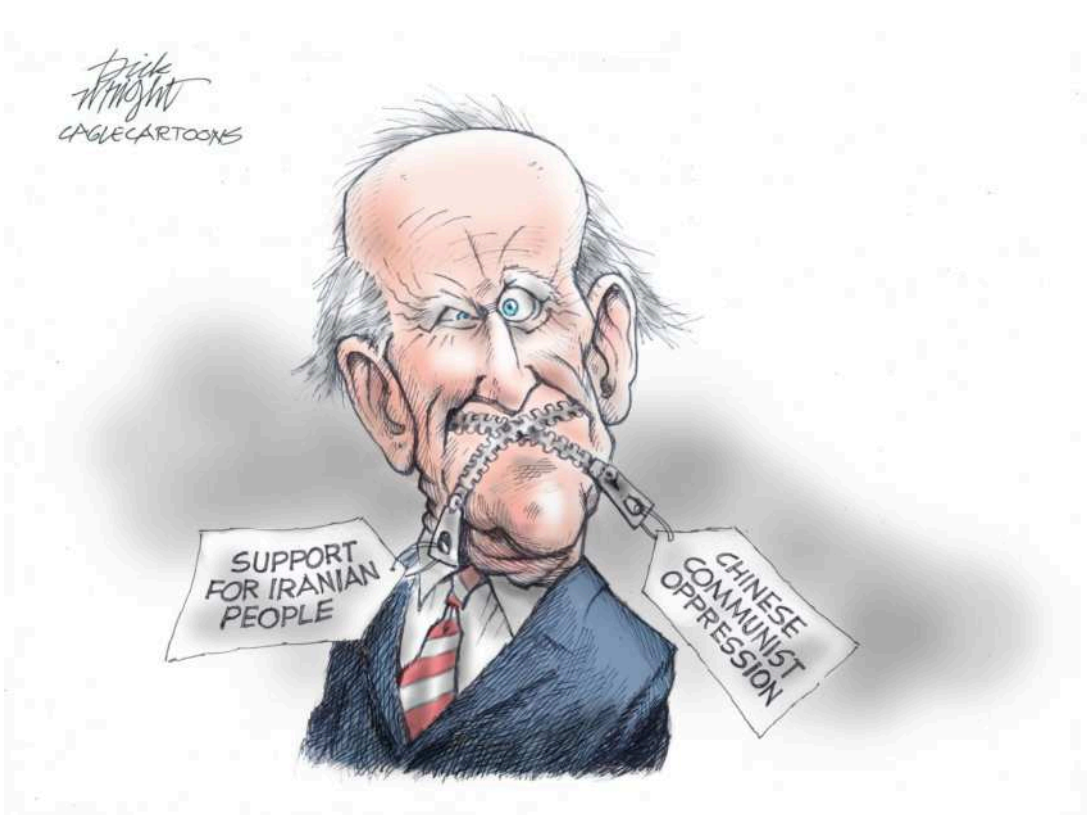
LGBTQ rights have been at the fore in Qatar as well, with the country under the microscope for its human rights record and laws criminalizing homosexuality.

Germany's players covered their mouths for the team photo before their opening match to protest against FIFA following the governing body's clampdown on the "One Love" armband. Sporting rainbow colors, a symbol of LGBTQ rights, has been a key contentious issue. Some European officials have brought those colors to the stands.

Qatari soccer fans responded to Germany's protest by holding pictures of former Germany playmaker Mesut Özil while covering their mouths. This referenced Ozil, a German-born descendant of Turkish immigrants, quitting the national team after becoming a target of racist abuse and a scapegoat for Germany's early World Cup exit in 2018. "I am German when we win, but I am an immigrant when we lose," Özil said at the time.

Keeping the world out of sport, as this tournament and many World Cups and Olympics before have shown, is well nigh impossible. This is especially true in a hyperconnected world, with each word, each gesture, each celebration or outpouring of dismay magnified for a global audience.

Football may indeed claim center stage when these matches are watched and nations' nervous systems go through the wringer. But day-to-day complex issues are never far from the surface, always ready to burst through and dominate. The rest of the world, it turns out, doesn't end where the soccer pitch begins.



Fauci proved no good deed goes unpunished



Syndicated columnist

FROMA HARROP

Good-bye, Dr. Fauci. You did your job while under attack from the worst sort of people.

You devoted more than 50 years to public health. As director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, you led us through HIV/AIDS, Ebola, COVID, respiratory syncytial virus and, every year, seasonal flu.

You say your "proudest moment" was your work with President George W. Bush on the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief. PEPFAR is credited with having saved 20 million lives. *Twenty million* lives.

That doesn't include the lives saved from your work in the late '70s and early '80s developing treatments for inflammatory and autoimmune-related diseases. Several that would have previously been death sentences are now in high remission.

And there was, of course, your guidance on dealing with COVID-19. Many who followed your advice during the initial outbreak with hand-washing, mask-wearing and social distancing are alive because of it. Many who mocked you are not.

When the COVID vaccine came along, you never tired of urging Americans to obtain it. Over a million Americans died from COVID, but an estimated 234,000 of those deaths could have been prevented if everyone had gotten their shots.

We wonder how many people died because Donald Trump and assorted lowlifes downplayed the disease, peddled phony cures and cast doubts on the vaccine. They may have had fun owning the libs, but they were also killing many of their followers. Why was never clear.

The sickest abuse came from the senator from Kentucky, Rand Paul, who perversely accused you of being responsible for millions of deaths. When you told a Senate hearing that this claim led to threats against you and your family, Paul looked back blankly.

Brooklyn tough, you never backed down. That you served seven presidents from both parties didn't impress the jerks. You let the barrage of boobery splatter all around you as you went about your mission.

But let's give a respectful hearing to the argument that your recommendations caused harm by hurting the economy. Certainly, the social isolation tied to the shutdowns created its own problems.

I, for one, thought that once a vaccine became widely available, many places stayed closed longer than necessary. Schools, especially, could have resumed in-person learning sooner than they did.

But these decisions were made mostly by state and local governments, not you. Meanwhile, fear of a disease that spread easily, clogged emergency rooms with dying patients and left many of those afflicted with long-time illness was itself enough to empty stores, theaters and libraries.

Your harshest critics clearly didn't share the value you place on life. You said your saddest period was back in the '80s when you were treating people with HIV/AIDS and there was no effective therapy.

"We were taking care of very sick, mostly young gay men who were healthy," you said in a recent interview. "You see every single one of them dying or going to die soon." All medicine could offer back then was comfort.

Approaching your 82nd birthday and about to leave public service, you still can't take your eyes off current and new threats.

"We can do things that are very important to mitigate against at least two of them," you said. That would be COVID and seasonal flu. As we know, there are vaccines for both of them.

We know your first name is Anthony, but you can't blame us for thinking it's "Doctor." And, by the way, you looked great on your farewell interviews.

When the documentaries, movies and operas are written about the COVID era, you will be portrayed as the hero and those who attacked you as creeps. Where should we put your monument?

Follow Froma Harrop on Twitter @FromaHarrop. She can be reached at fharrop@gmail.com. To find out more about Froma Harrop and read features by other Creators writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators webpage at www.creators.com.

IN THE MAIL

Disappointed with paper delivery changes

Editor:

My family was dismayed, disappointed, and let down when we heard (in the editor's note of the Nov. 26 issue) that our beloved Livingston Enterprise will be getting delivered a day late of when it was printed, and less frequently.

There was a time when some newspaper publications came at 6 in the morning, AND in the afternoon, even on Sundays. When we first started getting The Enterprise, it came Monday through Friday at 4 in the afternoon. Now, they are saying we are going to get the news from the day before, and maybe not every day, even. They say that the e-edition will be improved, but that doesn't make any difference for those of us that want to read the paper the "old-fashioned" way.

Mabel Prasek
Livingston

False assertions about historical aboriginal use of part of Crazy Mountains

Editor:

A recent news article in The Enterprise about the Crazy Mountain land exchange process contain some false assertions about the historic aboriginal use of the "lower elevations" of the Crazy Mountain area, namely:

"The ceremonial sites stay intact because of where they are. If they were lower down on the mountainsides, they would wash away during the annual spring or summer melt. In the jagged peaks of the Crazies, the snow pack is particularly intense, as is the flooding ... Crow people have never thought of the Crazy Mountains as a destination for resource gathering and instead have considered it a place for ceremonial use ... Elk and bison and other wildlife would congregate at lower elevations, and violent floods limited access into the range for the majority of the year."

These undocumented assertions stand in complete contradiction to the historic human record.

Large human group, communal bison kills, some 2,000 years old, are located in the "lower elevations" along Big Elk, Swamp, Big Timber, Sweet Grass and Duck creeks. Construction and operation of these sites began in late summer and use continued until spring. The upper components in the Duck Creek and Sweet Grass creek kills may represent Crow use. In addition to bison kills, vision quest structures at various elevations, camps, burials, "medicine rocks," tipi rings, hunting blinds, quarries, stone tool caches and other sites reflect some 11,000 years of all-season multiple resource use of the "lower elevations" of the Crazy Mountain.

Obviously, the proposed Crazy Mountain land exchange represents complex social, political and legal processes. Adding unsubstantiated, "alternative facts" to the mix only adds to the conflict, schism and complexity of the issues.

Larry Lahren
East of Livingston

A call for the silent majority to speak out against hate

Editor,

In the Nov. 17 edition of Belgrade News, in an article entitled, "Belgrade parent upset with sex ed curriculum at high school," the writer, Karen E. Davis, makes allegations that a local nonprofit health organization is exploiting our public schools by teaching inclusive, comprehensive sex education.

There is nothing to suggest that any fact-checking was completed before publication. Throughout the article, Ms. Davis, quotes one parent who gives incorrect information regarding the sex education curriculum, saying it states that gender is assigned at birth. This is not what the curriculum states and this parent clearly does not understand the difference between biological sex and gender identity, which is one example of why comprehensive, inclusive sex education in our public schools is so important.

Biological sex is assigned at birth and gender identity is who you know yourself to be with the options for gender available to you. For societies that acknowledge non-binary identities, the concept that there are only two gender identities is just as unbelievable as it is for folks in our society to accept the perception of non-binary identities.

In response to parents who express discomfort with non-binary gender identities and make statements about how they "don't want Montana to turn into California," I would like to make it very clear that I would much rather turn Montana into "California" than an Orlando, Florida, or a Colorado Springs, Colorado.

Make no mistake; transphobic rhetoric is a form of violence. On the "Pyramid of Violence" (a tool violence prevention educators use to show violence on a scale similar to the food pyramid that is used by nutrition educators), violent behaviors are listed on an escalating scale of least to most lethal violent behaviors. Transphobic language falls into the least lethal level; however, without intervention these least lethal behaviors lead to increased dehumanization, objectification and discrimination, which fuels the most lethal acts of rape and murder.

The best prevention of violence is to intervene before the violence begins, what the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) reports as "Primary Prevention."

I am a violence prevention educator in Montana who values the impact of primary prevention of violence. The idea that we should wait until hateful rhetoric becomes a mass shooting or a suicide before we act is inconceivable to me.

Consider this letter to be a call for the silent majority to speak out against hate and be vocal with our allyship. Let's make it known that this hateful rhetoric is not welcome in Montana.

Jenny Jo Allen,
Education & Outreach Coordinator
at ASPEN in Livingston

THE LIVINGSTON ENTERPRISE

Tel. (406) 222-2000 or 1-800-345-8412 • Fax: (406) 222-8580
E-mail: enterprise@livent.net • Website: www.livingstonenterprise.com • (USPS 316-520)

Published evenings Monday through Friday. Postmaster, send address correction to The Livingston Enterprise, P.O. Box 2000, 401 S. Main St., Livingston, MT 59047. Periodicals postage paid at Livingston, Montana. We accept MasterCard, VISA and American Express for subscription payments — or use our E-Z Pay program (automatic debit from your checking or savings). The Associated Press is exclusively entitled to the use or republication of all local news printed in the newspaper.

LIVINGSTON SUBSCRIBERS: To report delivery errors, please phone 222-2000 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. When possible, please contact your route carrier before calling The Enterprise.

Home delivery rates:	*All subscriptions payable in advance*			
	1 month	4 months	6 months	1 year
Carrier route	$11.95	$47.80	$71.70	$129.00
Motor route	$12.95	$51.80	$77.70	$140.00
Mail subscription rates:				
	1 month	4 months	6 months	1 year
In Park County	$15.45	$61.80	$92.70	$175.00
Out of Park County	$19.95	$79.80	$119.70	$225.00
Digital access:				
	1 month	4 months	6 months	1 year
	$11.95	$47.80	$71.70	$129.00

Calif lake to get $250M in funding

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP) — The federal government said Monday it will spend $250 million over four years on environmental cleanup and restoration work around a drying Southern California lake that's fed by the depleted Colorado River.

The future of the Salton Sea, and who is financially responsible for it, has been a key issue in discussions over how to prevent a crisis in the Colorado River. The lake was formed in 1905 when the river overflowed, creating a resort destination that slowly morphed into an environmental disaster as water levels receded, exposing residents to harmful dust and reducing wildlife habitat.

The lake is largely fed by runoff from farms in California's Imperial Valley, who use Colorado River water to grow many of the nation's winter vegetables as well as feed crops like alfalfa. As the farmers reduce their water use, less flows into the lake. California said it would only reduce its reliance on the over-tapped river if the federal government put up money to mitigate the effects of less water flowing into the sea.

"It's kind of a linchpin for the action we need to see on the Colorado River," said Wade Crowfoot, California's natural resources secretary. "Finally we are all in agreement that we can't leave the Salton Sea on the cutting room floor, we can't take these conservation actions — these extraordinary measures — at the expense of these residents."

The deal announced Monday needs approval from the Imperial Irrigation District, the largest user of Colorado River water. The water entity's board will take it up on Tuesday.



AP

Birds take flight in the Salton Sea on the Sonny Bono Salton Sea National Wildlife Refuge on July 15, 2021, in Calipatria, Calif.

Both the district's general manager and board member JB Hamby applauded the deal Monday.

"The collaboration happening at the Salton Sea between water agencies and state, federal, and tribal governments is a blueprint for effective cooperation that the Colorado River Basin sorely needs," Hamby said in a statement.

The $250 million will come out of the recently passed Inflation Reduction Act, which set aside $4 billion to stave off the worst effects of drought across the U.S. West.

Most of the money is contingent on the Imperial Irrigation District and Coachella Valley Water District making good on their commitments to reduce their own use of river water. Both submitted proposals to cut back their usage for payment as part of a new federal program.

The quarter-billion dollars will largely go to bolster and speed up existing state projects designed to lower the negative environmental impact of the drying lake bed. The state has committed nearly $583 million to projects at the sea, including dust suppression and habitat restoration. One project underway aims to create wetlands and ponds that will limit dust from blowing into the air while creating safe spaces for fish and birds, according to the state.

The deal comes as the U.S. Interior Department and the seven states that rely on the river — California, Arizona, New Mexico, Colorado, Nevada, Utah and Wyoming — scramble to prevent the worst impacts of the ongoing drought and historic overuse of the river. Lakes Powell and Mead, the key reservoirs that store river water and provide hydropower across the West, are only about a quarter full.

After months of failed negotiations over a deal to drastically cut water use, the federal government in October said it would pay farmers and cities to cut back through activities like leaving fields unplanted or lining canals to prevent water from seeping into the ground. Proposals were due earlier this month. Meanwhile, the Interior Department has taken steps to unilaterally revise guidelines that govern when water shortages are declared, a move that could force states to further cut back.

The Salton Sea, meanwhile, became its own political flashpoint in October when Arizona Sen. Mark Kelly, then up for reelection, urged the federal government to withhold any environmental cleanup money unless California agreed to give up more water. That prompted criticism he was using communities who already suffer from poor air quality as a bargaining chip.

The agreement marks a good step forward but key details still need to be fleshed out, said Frank Ruiz, Salton Sea program director for Audubon California. He worries that $250 million is not enough to mitigate all of the damage already done at the sea.

"This is a great step but I think we need a lot more," he said. "We need to continue discussing water sustainability in the region."

Broadly, he wants to see a more equitable distribution of the region's water supplies and hopes the Salton Sea gets a guaranteed minimum amount of water even as overall use declines.

Apple Musics reveals top music in 2022 and listener charts

NEW YORK (AP) — "Stay," the smash hit by The Kid Laroi and Justin Bieber topped Apple Music's global song chart in 2022 as the giant music streamer released its end-of-year lists and provided listeners with data on their own most listened-to tunes.

"Stay," which stayed atop the Billboard Hot 100 for seven weeks this summer, was No. 1 on Apple Music's top 100 global songs chart, staying on top for 51 days straight. Elton John and Dua Lipa's "Cold Heart (PNAU Remix)" was No. 1 on the streamer's Shazam chart and "We Don't Talk About Bruno" from the movie musical "Encanto" was the song with the most-read lyrics in 2022 on the platform.

Joining "Stay" at the very top of the global songs list were "As It Was" by Harry Styles, "Wait For U" by Future featuring Drake and Tems, "Super Gremlin" by Kodak Black, "Easy on Me" by Adele, and "Heat Wave" by Glass Animals. Hip-hop continued to lead the different genres on the global top 100 with 32 songs, followed by pop with 23 songs and R&B/soul in third place with 11 songs.

The data shows the growing presence of non-English-language tunes, with African songs on the rise on the Shazam chart as well as the global daily 100, while Japanese-language songs made big gains on the most-read lyrics chart.

"It's really the rise of what was once very niche genres creeping into the mainstream, which is an exciting new development on the platform," said Rachel Newman, global head of editorial.

Twenty-one non-English songs were in the global Top 100, more than double the number of songs last year. Fifty-five Latin songs reached the Global Daily Top 100 in 2022 — up 22% from 2021. In 2022, six of the the 50 J-pop songs to reach the chart placed in the top 10; last year none were in the top 10.

The streamer began notifying users Tuesday that Apple Music Replay was ready. The feature lets users see and hear their favorite songs, albums, artists and playlists from the past year as well as total minutes on the service. One new feature is that superfans can discover whether they are in the top 100 listeners of their favorite artist or genre.

Replay — Apple's alternative to Spotify's Wrapped playlist — has been redesigned with new, sleek functionality and optimized for sharing on social media like TikTok or Instagram. The charts are dynamic all year, so listeners can check any time to see how their music is charting. Eligibility is based on a threshold of plays and time spent listening.

In November, Apple Music crowned the Puerto Rican reggaeton superstar Bad Bunny its Artist of the Year, thanks in large part to his latest album, "Un Verano Sin Ti," which became Apple Music's most streamed album of 2022 and its biggest Latin album of all time.



AP

The Kid Laroi, left, appears at the 64th Annual Grammy Awards in Las Vegas on April 3, 2022, and Justin Bieber appears at The Metropolitan Museum of Art's Costume Institute benefit gala in New York on Sept. 13, 2021.

Oxford school shooting trial delayed by appeal by parents

DETROIT (AP) — The Michigan Supreme Court on Tuesday postponed the January trial for the parents of the teenager who killed four students at his high school, a victory for defense lawyers who argue that involuntary manslaughter charges don't fit.

The court ordered the state appeals court to hear an appeal from James and Jennifer Crumbley.

The order coincidentally emerged a day before the one-year anniversary of the shooting at Oxford High School, roughly 30 miles (50 kilometers) north of Detroit. Ethan Crumbley, who was 15 at the time, killed four students and injured six more plus a teacher.

He recently pleaded guilty to murder and terrorism and said James Crumbley bought the gun with the boy's money just a few days earlier.

The 16-year-old's parents are accused of ignoring his mental health needs and making the gun accessible at home. Defense lawyers argue that the Crumbleys can't be held criminally responsible for Ethan Crumbley's independent acts.

The Supreme Court said the appeal is limited to whether there was "sufficient evidence of causation" to send the Crumbleys to trial.

Justice Richard Bernstein was the lone dissenter, saying that issue could be addressed after a trial. Jury selection in Oakland County court had been scheduled for Jan. 17.

"The Crumbleys did not counsel EC in the commission of the school shooting or act jointly with EC in any way," attorney Shannon Smith said in a court filing, using Ethan Crumbley's initials. "To the contrary, the Crumbleys had no knowledge that their son intended to commit multiple homicides."

Defense lawyers and prosecutors, noting a gag order in the case, declined to comment on the Supreme Court order.

Houston lifts boil-water order affecting more than 2 million

HOUSTON (AP) — Houston officials lifted an order Tuesday that had called for more than 2 million people in the nation's fourth-largest city to boil their tap water before drinking or using it.

The boil order had been in effect since Sunday, when a power outage at a purification plant caused pressure to drop.

The order led to the closure of businesses and schools, including the Houston Independent School District, which canceled classes Monday and Tuesday. The city rescinded the order shortly before 7 a.m. Tuesday.

The city said water quality samples sent to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality confirmed the tap water meets regulatory standards and is safe to drink.

At a news conference Monday, Mayor Sylvester Turner said the city issued the notice, which affects all of Houston and some adjacent areas, in an "abundance of caution" after two transformers — a main one and its backup — "uniquely and coincidentally" failed at a water plant. The problem affected the plant's ability to treat and pump water into the transmission system, resulting in low pressure.

Because the issue was within the plant's system, backup power generators would not have made a difference, Turner said. Since the transformers were down, they couldn't transmit power to the plant.

The power system at the water plant undergoes regular maintenance, Turner said, but he did not give a timeline for how often. The mayor said he has ordered a diagnostic review of the system to understand how the problem was possible and how it can be prevented.

Sixteen sensors marked dips under the minimum pressure levels required by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, 14 of them for only 2 minutes and two of them for nearly 30 minutes, Turner said.

Typically, there is enough pressure for water to flow out of leaky pipes. When pressure is lost, however, contamination like bacteria sitting near pipes can be sucked into the system, creating a health risk.

MARKETS

Trump to Twitter, take Two



In just a month as Twitter's owner, Elon Musk has fired over half the staff, upended critical verification systems and welcomed back long-banned characters such as former President Donald Trump and far-right Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene.

Musk's chaotic rule, along with fears he'd loosen content moderation, has led several advertisers to suspend ad spending on the platform.

Musk, who's called himself a "free speech absolutist," tweeted out a poll on whether or not the former president — who was banned following the Jan. 6 riots out of fear that his ongoing presence on the platform could lead to more violence — should return.

Musk acknowledged that the poll was likely gamed by bots, but that didn't stop him from immediately restoring Trump's account once the votes were counted.

Greene's account, which was banned for spreading COVID misinformation, was also restored. Trump hasn't tweeted and has said he would post on his own social network instead. But he also hasn't deleted his Twitter account, leaving open the possibility that he'll return.

Account	Donald Trump	Marjorie Taylor Greene	Jordan Petersen	Babylon Bee	Kathy Griffin
Banned on	Jan. 8, 2021	Jan. 2, 2022	June 30, 2022	May 22, 2022	Nov. 7, 2022
Reason	Incitement of violence	COVID misinformation	Anti-trans hate	Anti-trans hate	impersonating Elon Musk
Restored on	Nov. 19, 2022	Nov. 21, 2022	Nov. 18, 2022	Nov. 18, 2022	Nov. 18, 2022

Source: Twitter

Barbara Ortutay; Jenni Sohn • AP

Stocks of Local Interest Data as of Monday, November 28, 2022

NAME	TICKER	52-WK RANGE LO	HI	EPS	MKT CAP (000s)	WK	MO	QTR	YTD CHG	1YR RTN	P/E	DIV	YLD
AbbVie Inc	ABBV	115.10	175.91	+7.49	280,180	▼	▲	▲	+17.0%	+38.8%	21	5.92f	3.7
Amazon.com Inc	AMZN	85.87	179.80	+1.09	958,445	▲	▼	▼	-43.6%	-47.4%	86	...	...
Apple Inc	AAPL	129.04	182.94	+6.11	2,294,268	▼	▼	▲	-18.8%	-5.8%	24	0.92f	.6
Bank of America	BAC	29.31	50.11	+3.16	295,706	▼	▲	▲	-17.1%	-19.0%	12	0.88f	2.4
Berkshire Hath B	BRK/B	259.85	362.10	+7.35	407,871	▼	▲	▲	+4.8%	+9.6%	43	...	...
Chevron Corp	CVX	110.73	189.68	+17.58	344,883	▼	▼	▲	+52.0%	+63.3%	10	5.68f	3.2
Eli Lilly	LLY	231.87	369.80	+6.27	347,546	▲	▲	▲	+32.4%	+39.6%	58	3.52	1.0
Exxon Mobil Corp	XOM	57.96	114.66	+12.25	452,229	▼	▼	▲	+79.5%	+85.6%	9	3.64f	3.3
Home Depot	HD	264.51	420.61	+15.53	326,486	▼	▲	▲	-23.2%	-19.5%	21	7.60f	2.4
JPMorgan Chase	JPM	101.28	169.81	+11.85	394,076	▼	▲	▲	-15.2%	-16.5%	11	4.00f	3.0
Johnson & Johnson	JNJ	155.72	186.69	+6.87	463,626	▲	▲	▲	+3.7%	+12.9%	26	4.40f	2.5
MasterCard Inc	MA	276.87	399.92	+10.01	328,670	▼	▲	▲	-4.1%	+6.6%	34	1.76	.5
Microsoft Corp	MSFT	213.43	344.30	+9.28	1,802,193	▼	▲	▲	-28.1%	-25.9%	26	2.72f	1.1
Nvidia Corporation	NVDA	108.13	334.12	+3.85	394,092	▼	▲	▲	-46.2%	-47.9%	41	...	...
Procter & Gamble	PG	122.18	165.35	+5.81	349,714	▼	▲	▲	-10.4%	+0.4%	25	3.65f	2.5
Tesla Inc	TSLA	166.19	402.67	+2.67	577,615	▬	▼	▼	-48.1%	-50.4%	69	...	...
Unitedhealth Group	UNH	439.22	558.10	+20.41	497,325	▼	▼	▲	+6.0%	+19.9%	26	5.80	1.1
Visa Inc	V	174.60	235.85	+6.79	343,966	▼	▲	▲	-2.5%	+7.5%	31	1.80f	.9
WalMart Strs	WMT	117.27	160.77	+5.01	416,662	▲	▲	▲	+6.1%	+6.1%	31	2.24f	1.5

Company Spotlight

Yahoo for Taboola

Taboola made its biggest single-day gain ever on Monday after the internet advertising platform signed a 30-year partnership agreement with Yahoo, which is taking a 25% stake in the New York company.

As part of the deal, Taboola will exclusively power native advertising across all of Yahoo's digital properties, including its mail, news, sports and finance pages, which reach about 900 million monthly active users.

Taboola estimates that the partnership could help it generate as much as $1 billion in annual revenue by 2025.

"For publishers in the open web, we'll be able to invest even more in driving revenue, engagement and audience growth moving forward," said Taboola CEO and founder Adam Singolda.

Founded in 2007, Taboola uses artificial intelligence to drive monetization for websites, devices and mobile apps.

Taboola (TBLA) Monday's close: **$2.64, +0.80**

52-WEEK RANGE $1.52 — $8.60

Price-earnings ratio: **Lost money** (Based on past 12-month results)

Total return	YTD	1-yr	3-yr*
TBLA	-65.6%	-68.6	-46.8

Market Value: $635.4 million

AP *annualized Source: FactSet

EXPLAINER: What hazzards are posed by Hawaii's Mauna Loa?

HONOLULU (AP) — Lava is shooting 100 feet to 200 feet (30 to 60 meters) into the air as Hawaii's Mauna Loa, the world's largest active volcano, erupts for the first time in nearly 40 years.

For now, lava is not threatening any homes or communities and no evacuation orders have been issued. Lava could eventually reach neighborhoods as it flows downhill though it could take a week or more for molten rock to reach populated areas.

Mauna Loa is spewing sulfur dioxide and other volcanic gases. They form volcanic smog, or vog, when they mix with vapor, oxygen and dust in sunlight. As a result, state health officials are urging people to cut back on outdoor exercise and other activities that cause heavy breathing.

Mauna Loa last erupted in 1984. Its smaller, more active neighbor, Kilauea volcano, has been erupting continuously for more than a year since September 2021.

WHERE IS MAUNA LOA?

Mauna Loa is one of five volcanoes that together make up the Big Island of Hawaii, which is the southernmost island in the Hawaiian archipelago. It's not the tallest (that title goes to Mauna Kea) but it's the largest and makes up about half of the island's land mass.

It sits immediately north of Kilauea volcano, which is well-known for a 2018 eruption that destroyed 700 homes and sent rivers of lava spreading across farms and into the ocean.

Mauna Loa last erupted 38 years ago. The current eruption is its 34th since written history began in 1843.

The Big Island is mostly rural and hosts cattle ranches and coffee farms but it is also home to a few small cities, including the county seat of Hilo, which has a population of 45,000.

It's about 200 miles (320 kilometers) south of Hawaii's most populous island, Oahu, where the state capital, Honolulu, and beach resort Waikiki are both located.

Mauna Loa's volume is estimated to be at least 18,000 square miles (75,000 square kilometers), making it the world's largest volcano when measured from the ocean floor to its summit.

WHERE IS MAUNA LOA ERUPTING FROM?

The eruption began Sunday night at its summit after a series of large earthquakes. It then spread to vents that formed in a rift zone where the mountain is splitting apart and it's easier for magma to emerge.

These vents are on the mountain's northeast side and lava emerging there could head toward Hilo, which is on the east side of the island.

Ken Hon, scientist-in-charge at the Hawaiian Volcano Observatory, said he doesn't expect additional vents to form on the volcano's southwest rift zone during this eruption. That means communities to the west would be spared lava flows this time.

Mauna Loa also erupted from the northeast in 1984. That time, lava headed toward Hilo but stopped a few miles short of the city.

Historically, each Mauna Loa eruption has lasted a few weeks. Hon expects the current eruption to follow this pattern.



AP

People watch the glow from lava erupting from Hawaii's Mauna Loa volcano, Monday, in Hilo, Hawaii.

IS MAUNA LOA EXPLODING LIKE MOUNT ST. HELENS?

Mauna Loa is not exploding like Washington state's Mount St. Helens did in 1980, killing 57 people. That eruption sent ash soaring over 80,000 feet (24,384 meters) and raining down as far as 250 miles (400 kilometers) away.

The magma in Mount St. Helens tends to be stickier and traps more gas, making it much more likely to explode when it rises. It's of a variety called composite volcanoes, which form concave cones.

Mauna Loa's magma tends to be hotter, drier and more fluid. That allows the magma's gas to escape and lava to flow down the side the volcano the way it is starting to do now. Mauna Loa is a shield volcano, named because the long, broad flanks built by repeated lava flows give it the appearance of a warrior's shield.

In 1989, Alaska's Redoubt Volcano, another composite volcano, belched an 8-mile cloud of ash that clogged all four engines of a KLM Royal Dutch Airlines jet. The plane fell 13,000 feet before all engines restarted and the plane landed without injury to the 245 people aboard.

Mauna Loa released some ash this time but on a vastly smaller scale than these examples from composite volcanoes.

WHAT HAZARDS ARE POSED BY MAUNA LOA'S ERUPTION?

-Lava: Molten rock could cover houses, farms or neighborhoods, depending on where it flows. But lava from the northeast rift zone will likely take at least a week to reach populated areas, allowing people time to evacuate if needed.

-Volcanic gas: Mauna Loa is releasing volcanic gases, mostly sulfur dioxide. The gases are present in their highest concentrations in the immediate area around the summit crater or vents. But they also combine with other particles to form vog, which can spread across the Big Island and even waft over to the state's other islands.

US bat species devastated by fungus now listed as endangered

TRAVERSE CITY, Mich. (AP) — The Biden administration declared the northern long-eared bat endangered on Tuesday in a last-ditch effort to save a species driven to the brink of extinction by white-nose syndrome, a fungal disease.

"White-nose syndrome is decimating cave-dwelling bat species like the northern long-eared bat at unprecedented rates," said Martha Williams, director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

The agency is "deeply committed to working with partners on a balanced approach that reduces the impacts of disease and protects the survivors to recover northern long-eared bat populations," she said.

First documented in the U.S. in 2006, the disease has infected 12 types of bats and killed millions. The northern long-eared bat is among the hardest hit, with estimated declines of 97% or higher in affected populations. The bat is found in 37 eastern and north-central states, plus Washington, D.C., and much of Canada.

Named for white, fuzzy spots that appear on infected bats, white-nose syndrome attacks bats' wings, muzzles and ears when they hibernate in caves and abandoned mines.

It causes them to wake early from hibernation and to sometimes fly outside. They can burn up their winter fat stores and eventually starve.

The disease has spread across nearly 80% of the geographical range where northern long-eared bats live and is expected to cover it all by 2025.

Another species ravaged by the fungus is the tricolored bat, which the government proposed to classify as endangered in September. A third, the little brown bat, is being evaluated for a potential listing.

Bats are believed to give U.S. agriculture an annual boost of $3 billion by gobbling pests and pollinating some plants.

The Fish and Wildlife Service designated the northern long-eared bat as threatened in 2015. With its situation increasingly dire, the agency proposed an endangered listing in March and considered public comments before deciding to proceed. The reclassification takes effect Jan. 30, 2023.



AP

This undated photo provided by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources shows a northern long-eared bat. On Tuesday, the Biden administration declared the northern long-eared bat endangered, a last-ditch effort to save a species driven to the brink of extinction by a deadly fungus.

GOP's new committee leaders prepare blitz of investigations

WASHINGTON (AP) — House Republicans are promising aggressive oversight of the Biden administration once they assume the majority next year, with a particular focus on the business dealings of presidential son Hunter Biden, illegal immigration at the U.S.-Mexico border and the originations of COVID-19.

Republicans won't have enough votes to advance key legislative priorities if there is no Democratic buy-in, but their oversight of government agencies could put Democrats on the defensive and dampen support for the Biden administration going into the 2024 presidential elections.

Some of the lawmakers expected to lead those investigations once House Republicans select their new committee chairs:

JUDICIARY'S BIG ROLE

Rep. Jim Jordan, R-Ohio, is expected to serve as the next chairman of the House Judiciary Committee. Jordan helped form and then lead the ultra-conservative House Freedom Caucus and voted on Jan. 6, 2021, to object to counting Pennsylvania's electoral vote. President Donald Trump thought so highly of Jordan that he presented the congressman with the nation's highest civilian honor, the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

The Judiciary Committee handles oversight of the Departments of Justice and Homeland Security and issues such as crime, immigration and protection of civil liberties. It's typically one of the most partisan committees on Capitol Hill, yet Jordan's combative style stands out even there. The committee would be the place where any effort would begin to impeach a member of the Biden administration, as some Republicans have been proposing for Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas.



AP

Rep. Jim Jordan, R-Ohio, speaks before former President Donald Trump at a rally at Dayton International Airport on Nov. 7, in Vandalia, Ohio.

Jordan's inquiries to the administration in recent months make clear the committee will investigate the FBI's execution of a search warrant at Trump's Mar-a-Lago residence. He has also advocated for a wide-ranging look at the Biden administration's immigration policies and the origins of COVID-19.

"All those things need to be investigated just so you have the truth," Jordan told conservative activists last summer at a conference. "Plus that will frame up the 2024 race when I hope and I think President Trump is going to run again and we need to make sure that he wins."

OVERSIGHT'S LONG LIST

Rep. James Comer, R-Ky., is expected to serve as the next chairman of the House Oversight and Reform Committee and has made clear that investigating President Joe Biden's son Hunter will be one of his top priorities. The Republicans say their investigation of Hunter Biden's business dealings is to "determine whether these activities compromise U.S. national security and President Biden's ability to lead with impartiality."

Comer has also been laying the groundwork for investigating the situation on the U.S-Mexico border. He sent a letter to Mayorkas seeking an array of documents and communications pertaining to the administration's border policy. "We cannot endure another year of the Biden Administration's failed border policies," the letter said.

Georgia runoff: Early voting for Warnock-Walker round 2

ATLANTA (AP) — In-person early voting for the last U.S. Senate seat is underway statewide in Georgia's runoff, with Democratic Sen. Raphael Warnock working to get the jump on Republican challenger Herschel Walker who is putting less emphasis on advance balloting.

After winning a state lawsuit to allow Saturday voting after Thanksgiving, Warnock spent the weekend urging his supporters not to wait until the Dec. 6 runoff. Trying to leverage his role as pastor of Martin Luther King Jr.'s church and Georgia's first Black U.S. senator, Warnock concentrated his efforts Sunday among Black communities in metro Atlanta.

"What we are doing right now is soul work," Warnock said at Liberty International Church southwest of downtown, where he rallied supporters before leading a march to a nearby early voting site where he cast his ballot. "We are engaged in a political exercise," Warnock continued, "but this is moral and spiritual work, and for us that has always been based on the foundation of the church."

Walker, in contrast, did not hold public events over the long Thanksgiving weekend, and in his return to the campaign Monday night in the northern Atlanta suburb of Cumming, he did not mention early voting specifically. "Tell your friends to come with you to vote," he said. "If you don't have any friends, go make some friends."

Separately, the Republican Party and its aligned PACs are trying to drive turnout after Walker underperformed other Georgia Republicans in the general election. Walker finished the first round with about 200,000 fewer votes than Gov. Brian Kemp, who easily won a second term. Walker resumes his campaign Monday with stops in small-town Toccoa and suburban Cumming.

Early in-person voting continues through Friday. Runoff Election Day is Tuesday of next week.

Warnock led Walker by about 37,000 votes out of about 4 million cast in the general election but fell short of the majority required under Georgia law, triggering a four-week runoff blitz. Warnock first won the seat as part of concurrent Senate runoffs on Jan. 5, 2021, when he and Sen. Jon Ossoff prevailed over Republican incumbents to give Democrats narrow control of the Senate for the start of President Joe Biden's tenure. Warnock won a special election and now is seeking a full six-year term.

This time, Senate control is not in play, with Democrats already having secured 50 seats to go with Vice President Kamala Harris's tie-breaking vote. That puts pressure on both Warnock and Walker to convince Georgia voters that it's worth their time to cast a second ballot, even if the national stakes aren't as high.

As of late Sunday, almost 200,000 ballots had been cast in the relative handful of counties that opted to have weekend voting. The first day of statewide early voting on Monday added at least 250,000 more, the largest in-person early voting day in Georgia history, according to Deputy Secretary of State Gabriel Sterling. That's included long lines in several heavily Democratic counties of metro Atlanta, enough to give Democrats confidence that their core supporters remain excited to vote for Warnock. But the total remains a fraction of the nearly 2.3 million early in-person voters ahead of the Nov. 8 general election.

REACH THE 406

Print

Your business can have an ad this size in print in 63 different Montana newspapers...

FOR ONLY $406.00

You'll reach 400,000 potential new customers with the Statewide Display Advertising Program.

Online



A phone call or visit to *The Livingston Enterprise* and your message is out across Montana.

We work with partner newspapers and the Montana Newspaper Association to send your message statewide from right here.

Contact your Ad Rep at the Enterprise for details.

(406) 222-2000

ads@livent.net

THE LIVINGSTON ENTERPRISE

Qatar loses on World Cup field, makes gains on global stage

DOHA, Qatar (AP) — The gilded stadiums are among the most spectacular in the world. The seafront is sparkling and the skyscrapers are draped with larger-than-life banners featuring the stars of the World Cup.

Fans crowd around big screens throughout the city to watch soccer along the waterfront in Doha, or at the upscale Pearl Marina. Streets are canopied by the national flags of the 32 teams playing in this year's World Cup, and restaurants are packed. So is the fan zone, where Colombian singer Maluma performed on the eve of the opening game.

The only thing missing is a winning team.

Qatar became the first host nation in World Cup history to lose the opening match, and then only the second host to be eliminated from the group stage. South Africa in 2010 was the first to be eliminated in group stage but still had a chance to advance in its third and final group match.

Not Qatar. This time the host was eliminated after just two games — a 2-0 loss to Ecuador in the World Cup opener, then a 3-1 loss to Senegal — to make Tuesday's match against the Netherlands — which the Netherlaneds won 2-0 — meaningless for the Qataris.

A total flop?

Qatar coach Felix Sanchez says absolutely not.

"I think these players have achieved a great deal over the last years. Now we need to be aware that to compete at this level, we are still lagging behind," Sanchez said the day before Qatar's final match. "I think if we work at this on a daily basis, gradually we will be closer to this level.

"I don't feel disappointed or embarrassed," Sanchez continued. "The World Cup is the most demanding competition, and only a few can be here. We are still slightly behind. The country will continue working so that the next time Qatar comes to a World Cup — hopefully soon — we'll be able to compete better than we did this time."

Qatar spent at least $200 billion on the infrastructure required to host the global soccer tournament. There's no known figure on what it spent to build an actual team, an endeavor in which Qatar had 12 years to scout prospects, develop talent, and assemble a squad capable of competing against the best in the world.



AP

Qatar's Mohammed Muntari, left, and Qatar's goalkeeper Meshaal Barsham look on after the World Cup group A soccer match between Qatar and Senegal, at the Al Thumama Stadium in Doha, Qatar, Nov. 25.



AP

Indianapolis Colts' Alec Pierce (14) cannot make a catch against Pittsburgh Steelers' Cameron Sutton (20) during the second half of an NFL football game, Monday night.

Colts, Saturday mismanage clock at end of loss to Steelers

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — Quarterback Matt Ryan had the Colts in position to rally.

He'd brought them back from a 16-3 deficit against Pittsburgh and was driving late in the fourth quarter for a chance to force overtime or even win the game with a 2-point conversion. Then, suddenly and strangely, Indianapolis ran out of time and downs in what proved to be an inexplicable 24-17 loss to the Steelers.

By all appearances, Indy (4-7-1) appeared to be in no rush as the minutes and seconds ticked off the clock. The Colts didn't take their first timeout until they faced a fourth down with 30 seconds left.

Afterward, interim coach Jeff Saturday explained his reasoning.

"I didn't really feel like time was of the essence and I thought we had a good play called," Saturday said. "Felt like we had time and would have timeouts afterward but never felt the pressure of needing the timeout. We were in that mode the whole second half, so it wasn't like a change for us."

Ryan didn't seem fazed by the late-game decision-making, either.

Instead, the 37-year-old veteran — who has 46 career fourth-quarter comebacks and was 26 yards away from potentially tying Pittsburgh native Dan Marino for fifth most in NFL history — credited Steelers coach Mike Tomlin and the Pittsburgh defense for taking away Indy's pass routes.

There were other reasons the Colts lost, such as the botched handoff after they had driven to the Steelers 1-yard line. Not to mention Indy's terrible start that included zero total yards in the first quarter.

Still, the final sequence raised many questions. Would a timeout have given Parks Frazier a better opportunity to call his favorite plays?

Frazier took over as Indy's play-caller three weeks ago when coach Frank Reich was fired and Saturday was hired despite having never coached at the college or pro level.

Some wondered whether that inexperience was a factor in Indy's third straight home loss. The Colts have lost three of four and their playoff chances are slim at best.

"We already had the play called," Saturday said, referring to Ryan's scramble that took 29 seconds off the clock between snaps. "As he got tackled, we knew where we were going. We had made that same play a couple times in the game and it worked, but it didn't work out there."

Indy certainly could have managed the clock better.

With 2 minutes left and three timeouts, Ryan completed a 4-yard pass on fourth-and-3, but the Colts elected to let the clock run.

On the next play, Ryan was sacked and again the clock kept ticking. Ryan then scrambled for 14 yards on second down. Again, no timeout. Indy finally stopped the clock after Jonathan Taylor's third-down run went for no gain.

By then, it was too late.

Ryan's fourth-down pass to Parris Campbell was incomplete and all Pittsburgh had to do was take a knee to close out Indy's first Monday night home game in nearly 7 1/2 years.

"I thought we had plenty of time," Saturday said. "We had plenty of timeouts, so I wasn't too concerned. This wasn't a press for time, we just didn't make enough plays."

Free agent Abreu signs $58.5M three-year deal with Astros

HOUSTON (AP) — José Abreu and the World Series champion Astros agreed to a $58.5 million, three-year contract Monday, adding another powerful bat to Houston's lineup.

Abreu, the 2020 AL MVP, gets $19.5 million in each of the next three seasons.

He spent his first nine major league seasons with the Chicago White Sox. The first baseman became a free agent after batting .304 with 15 home runs, 75 RBIs and an .824 OPS this year.

With the Astros, he replaces Yuli Gurriel at first base in a batting order that also features All-Star sluggers Yordan Alvarez, Jose Altuve, Alex Bregman and Kyle Tucker.

Gurriel became a free agent after Houston defeated the Philadelphia Phillies this month for its second World Series championship.

The 35-year-old Abreu becomes the biggest free agent to switch teams so far this offseason. Born in Cuba, the three-time All-Star and 2014 AL Rookie of the Year is a .292 career hitter in the majors with 243 homers, 863 RBIs and an .860 OPS.

The Astros announced the signing Monday night. Abreu was scheduled to be introduced in a news conference Tuesday morning at Minute Maid Park.

He would get a $200,000 for winning an MVP award, $175,000 for finishing second in the voting, $150,000 for third, $125,000 for fourth and $100,000 for fifth. Abreu also would get $100,000 for earning World Series MVP and $75,000 for League Championship Series MVP, $75,000 for making the All-Star team and $75,000 for winning a Gold Glove or a Silver Slugger.

Abreu gets a hotel suite on road trips and the right to buy a luxury suite for all Astros home games.



AP

Chicago White Sox's Jose Abreu hits an RBI-double during the eighth inning of a baseball game against the Minnesota Twins, on Sept. 29, in Minneapolis.

Brett Favre asks to be dismissed from Mississippi welfare lawsuit

JACKSON, Miss. (AP) — Retired NFL quarterback Brett Favre is asking to be removed from a lawsuit by the state of Mississippi that seeks to recover millions of dollars in misspent welfare money that was intended to help some of the poorest people in the U.S.

An attorney for Favre filed papers on Monday saying the Mississippi Department of Human Services "groundlessly and irresponsibly seeks to blame Favre for its own grossly improper and unlawful handling of welfare funds and its own failure to properly monitor and audit" how organizations used the money.

"Including Favre in this lawsuit has had the intended effect — it has attracted national media attention to this case," Favre's attorney, Eric D. Herschmann, wrote in the filing in Hinds County Circuit Court.

Herschmann wrote that the lawsuit focuses on the welfare agency's "false insinuations concerning Favre's supposed involvement" rather than on the agency, "which in fact is responsible for allowing this scandal to occur."

It was not immediately clear how soon Hinds County Circuit Judge Faye Peterson might consider the request.

Favre is not facing criminal charges. He is among more than three dozen people or companies being sued by the Mississippi Department of Human Services as it seeks to recover a portion of the money misspent in the state's largest-ever public corruption case. The department filed the lawsuit in May, saying the defendants "squandered" more than $20 million from the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families anti-poverty program.

Favre grew up in Mississippi and played football at the University of Southern Mississippi before a long career with the Green Bay Packers that included a win in Super Bowl XXXI. He was traded to the New York Jets in 2008 and played there one year before playing his final two seasons for the Minnesota Vikings.

Favre has repaid $1.1 million he received for speaking fees from the Mississippi Community Education Center, a nonprofit group that spent TANF money with approval from the Department of Human Services. But state Auditor Shad White said Monday that Favre still owes $228,000 in interest.

White's office has investigated the welfare spending. In response to questions Monday about Favre seeking to be dismissed from the civil lawsuit, White told The Associated Press: "Every party in the civil case is free to make the arguments that they would like to make, and I'm not going to comment on them. The court system can see the case through, and the judge can determine who owes what back."

A former Department of Human Services director, John Davis, pleaded guilty in September to federal and state charges tied to the welfare misspending.

The director of the the Mississippi Community Education Center, Nancy New, pleaded guilty in April to charges of misspending welfare money, as did her son Zachary New, who helped run the center. Like Davis, they await sentencing and have agreed to testify against others.

In a Sept. 12 court filing in the civil lawsuit, an attorney for the Mississippi Community Education Center released several text messages about $5 million in welfare money that went toward a volleyball facility that Favre was seeking to get built at his alma mater, the University of Southern Mississippi, where his daughter was playing the sport. The messages were between Nancy New and Favre, between Favre and former Mississippi Gov. Phil Bryant and between Bryant and New. The messages were from 2017 to 2019, when the Republican Bryant was still governor.

That court filing said the nonprofit center agreed to pay Favre $1.1 million "for a few radio spots" to help fund the volleyball arena, which was also being called a campus wellness center.

Another court filing in September included text messages that showed Favre tried to get additional welfare money for an indoor practice facility for the University of Southern Mississippi's football team. Bryant told him federal money for children and low-income adults is "tightly controlled" and "improper use could result in violation of Federal Law."

Uneasy calm grips Ukraine as West prepares winter aid

KYIV, Ukraine (AP) — An uneasy calm hung over Kyiv on Tuesday as residents of the Ukrainian capital did what they could to prepare for anticipated Russian missile attacks aiming to take out more energy infrastructure as winter sets in.

To ease that burden, NATO allies made plans to boost provisions of blankets, generators and other basic necessities to ensure Ukraine's 43 million people can maintain their resolve in the 10th month of fighting against Russia's invasion.

Ukraine's first lady implored the West to show the same kind of steadfastness that Ukrainians had shown against Russian President Vladimir Putin's military campaign.

"Ukrainians are very tired of this war, but we have no choice in the matter," Olena Zelenska, the wife of President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, said in a BBC interview during a visit to Britain.

"We do hope that the approaching season of Christmas doesn't make you forget about our tragedy and get used to our suffering," she said.

A two-day meeting of NATO foreign ministers in Bucharest, Romania, was likely to see the 30-nation alliance make fresh pledges of nonlethal support to Ukraine: fuel, generators, medical supplies and winter equipment, on top of new military support.

U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken was to announce substantial U.S. aid for Ukraine's energy grid, U.S. officials said. Targeted Russian strikes have battered Ukraine's power infrastructure since early October in what Western officials have described as a Russian attempt campaign to weaponize the coming winter cold.

NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg said at the outset of the Bucharest meeting that Russia "is willing to use extreme brutality and leave Ukraine cold and dark this winter. So we must stay the course and help Ukraine prevail as a sovereign nation."

About a third of Ukraine's residents faced power supply disruptions, Ukraine's state grid operator said, both because of increased demand due to colder temperatures and the emergency shutdown of power units at several plants since Monday morning.

"The overall deficit in the energy system is a consequence of seven waves of Russian missile attacks on the country's energy infrastructure," electricity system operator Ukrenergo said.

Kyiv saw continued interruptions to its electricity, heat and water supply, Mayor Vitali Klitschko said Tuesday, leading authorities to "consider the option of partial evacuation of the capital's residents to the suburbs."

Blinken reminded everyone it was not the first time that Russia had targeted helpless civilians in this war and insisted only strong support would impact the Kremlin.

Russia's Black Sea fleet already bombarded Ukrainian cities and towns and bottled up vital grain shipments for the rest of the world in Ukrainian ports. Blinken said the U.S and NATO's resulting military buildup in the strategic waterway would only intensify.



AP

The Ukrainian flag flatters at half mast near the Ukrainian Motherland monument in Kyiv, Ukraine, Tuesday.

"We're not going to be deterred," he told reporters, in one of his more forceful statements of the day. "We're going to be reinforcing NATO's presence from the Black to the Baltic seas."

Bogdan Aurescu, foreign minister of Romania, another Black Sea nation, said that Romania would be pushing the two-day NATO meeting to up the military presence further still.

The Ukrainian government was putting up defenses too — both for troops and for civilians. The government rolled out hundreds of help stations, christened Points of Invincibility, where residents facing the loss of power, heating and water can warm up, charge their phones, enjoy snacks and hot drinks, and even be entertained.

"I had no electricity for two days. Now there's only some electricity, and no gas," said Vanda Bronyslavavina, who took a breather inside one such help center in Kyiv's Obolon neighborhood.

Students sent home, police on patrol as China curbs protests

BEIJING (AP) — Chinese universities sent students home and police fanned out in Beijing and Shanghai to prevent more protests Tuesday after crowds angered by severe anti-virus restrictions called for leader Xi Jinping to resign in the biggest show of public dissent in decades.

Authorities have eased some controls after demonstrations in at least eight mainland cities and Hong Kong — but maintained they would stick to a "zero-COVID" strategy that has confined millions of people to their homes for months at a time. Security forces have detained an unknown number of people and stepped up surveillance.

With police out in force, there was no word of protests Tuesday in Beijing, Shanghai or other major mainland cities that saw crowds rally over the weekend. Those were the most widespread protests since the army crushed the 1989 student-led Tiananmen Square pro-democracy movement.

In Hong Kong, about a dozen people, mostly from the mainland, protested at a university.

Beijing's Tsinghua University, where students rallied over the weekend, and other schools in the capital and the southern province of Guangdong sent students home. The schools said they were being protected from COVID-19, but dispersing them to far-flung hometowns also reduces the likelihood of more demonstrations. Chinese leaders are wary of universities, which have been hotbeds of activism including the Tiananmen protests.

On Sunday, Tsinghua students were told they could go home early for the semester. The school, which is Xi's alma mater, arranged buses to take them to the train station or airport.

Nine student dorms at Tsinghua were closed Monday after some students positive for COVID-19, according to one who noted the closure would make it hard for crowds to gather. The student gave only his surname, Chen, for fear of retribution from authorities.

Beijing Forestry University also said it would arrange for students to return home. It said its faculty and students all tested negative for the virus.

Universities said classes and final exams would be conducted online.

Authorities hope to "defuse the situation" by clearing out campuses, said Dali Yang, an expert on Chinese politics at the University of Chicago.

Depending on how tough a position the government takes, groups might take turns protesting, he said.

Police appeared to be trying to keep their crackdown out of sight, possibly to avoid drawing attention to the scale of the protests or encouraging others. Videos and posts on Chinese social media about protests were deleted by the ruling party's vast online censorship apparatus.

There were no announcements about detentions, though reporters saw protesters taken away by police and social media posts said people were in custody or missing.

Police warned some detained protesters against demonstrating again.



AP

Protesters hold up white paper some with writings commemorating the Nov 24 deadly Urumqi fire during a gathering at the University of Hong Kong in Hong Kong, Tuesday.

Qatar says worker deaths for World Cup 'between 400 and 500'

DOHA, Qatar (AP) — A top Qatari official involved in the country's World Cup organization has put the number of worker deaths for the tournament "between 400 and 500" for the first time, a drastically higher number than any other previously offered by Doha.

The comment by Hassan al-Thawadi, the secretary-general of Qatar's Supreme Committee for Delivery and Legacy, appeared to come off the cuff during an interview with British journalist Piers Morgan.

It also threatened to reinvigorate criticism by human rights groups over the toll of hosting the Middle East's first World Cup for the migrant labor that built over $200 billion worth of stadiums, metro lines and new infrastructure needed for the tournament.

In the interview, portions of which Morgan posted online, the British journalist asks al-Thawadi: "What is the honest, realistic total do you think of migrant workers who died from – as a result of work they're doing for the World Cup in totality?"

"The estimate is around 400, between 400 and 500," al-Thawadi responds. "I don't have the exact number. That's something that's been discussed."

But that figure hasn't been discussed publicly by Qatari officials previously. Reports from the Supreme Committee dating from 2014 through the end of 2021 only include the number of deaths of workers involved in building and refurbishing the stadiums now hosting the World Cup.

Those released figures put the total number of deaths at 40. They include 37 from what the Qataris describe as nonwork incidents such as heart attacks and three from workplace incidents. One report also separately lists a worker death from the coronavirus amid the pandemic.

Australia argues against 'endangered' Barrier Reef status

CANBERRA, Australia (AP) — Australia's environment minister said Tuesday her government will lobby against UNESCO adding the Great Barrier Reef to a list of endangered World Heritage sites, arguing that criticisms of government inaction on climate change were outdated.

Officials from the U.N. cultural agency and the International Union for Conservation of Nature released a report on Monday warning that without "ambitious, rapid and sustained" climate action, the world's largest coral reef is in peril.

The report, which recommended shifting the Great Barrier Reef to endangered status, followed a 10-day mission in March to the famed reef system off Australia's northeast coast that was added to the World Heritage list in 1981.

Environment Minister Tanya Plibersek said the report was a reflection on Australia's previous conservative government, which was voted out of office in May elections after nine years in power.

She said the new center-left Labor Party government has already addressed several of the report's concerns, including action on climate change.

"We'll very clearly make the point to UNESCO that there is no need to single the Great Barrier Reef out in this way" with an endangered listing, Plibersek told reporters.

"The reason that UNESCO in the past has singled out a place as at risk is because they wanted to see greater government investment or greater government action and, since the change of government, both of those things have happened," she added.

The new government has legislated to commit Australia to reducing its greenhouse gas emissions by 43% below the 2005 level by 2030.

The previous government only committed to a reduction of 26% to 28% by the end of the decade.

Plibersek said her government has also committed 1.2 billion Australian dollars ($798 million) to caring for the reef and has canceled the previous government's plans to build two major dams in Queensland state that would have affected the reef's water quality.

"If the Great Barrier Reef is in danger, then every coral reef in the world is in danger," Plibersek said. "If this World Heritage site is in danger, then most World Heritage sites around the world are in danger from climate change."

The report said Australia's federal government and Queensland authorities should adopt more ambitious emission reduction targets in line with international efforts to limit future warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 degrees Fahrenheit) since pre-industrial times.

The minor Greens party, which wants Australia to slash its emissions by 75% by the end of the decade, called for the government to do more to fight climate change in light of the report.

Jodie Rummer, a marine biologist at James Cook University in Townville who has worked on the reef for more than a decade, supported calls for Australia to aim for a 75% emissions reduction.

"We are taking action, but that action needs to be much more rapid and much more urgent," Rummer told Australian Broadcasting Corp.

"We cannot claim to be doing all we can for the reef at this point. We aren't. We need to be sending that message to the rest of the world that we are doing everything that we possibly can for the reef and that means we need to take urgent action on emissions immediately," she added.

Bridge

Sylvia misapplies a rule

North dealer.
North-South vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ K Q 9
♥ 7 4 3
♦ A Q 10 8 5
♣ Q 4

WEST
♠ —
♥ A Q 8 6
♦ K J 9 7 3
♣ J 10 8 3

EAST
♠ A 5 4
♥ J 10 9 2
♦ 6 4 2
♣ K 9 7

SOUTH
♠ J 10 8 7 6 3 2
♥ K 5
♦ —
♣ A 6 5 2

The bidding:

North	East	South	West
1 ♦	Pass	1 ♠	Dble
Pass	2 ♥	2 ♠	3 ♥
3 ♠	4 ♥	4 ♠	

Opening lead — jack of clubs.

It did not take Sylvia long to establish herself as the club's chief conversation piece. It wasn't just that she played badly — after all, there were other bad players at the club — but the errors she made were the kind that would send her partners and opponents home talking to themselves.

The trouble was that when Sylvia first began to play, she had accumulated a monumental mass of rules to guide her, but when it came to applying what she had learned to a particular hand, she would become confused and take off in some peculiar direction. Despite her many transgressions, however, she had occasional moments of glory.

Take this case where Sylvia was South. She had heard somewhere a rule about second hand playing low. Apparently, she did not understand that this principle applied only to the defenders and not the declarer.

So, when West led the jack of clubs, it did not occur to Sylvia to play the queen to try to avoid a club loser. The thought that West might have led from the king was superseded by what she thought was the automatic rule of second-hand low.

Sylvia then ducked the jack in her own hand also, and West played another club. Sylvia took East's king with the ace, ruffed a club, discarded a heart on the ace of diamonds, ruffed a diamond and trumped her last club. As a result, she lost only a club, a spade and a heart, and so made four spades.

Of course, if Sylvia had covered the jack of clubs with the queen at trick one, East would sooner or later have gained the lead with a club and returned a heart through her king to set the contract.

© 2021 King Features Syndicate, Inc.

SUDOKU 数独

Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green

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

©2022 Conceptis Puzzles, Dist. by King Features Syndicate, Inc.

Difficulty Level ★★★ 11/30

Answer to previous puzzle

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

©2022 Conceptis Puzzles, Dist. by King Features Syndicate, Inc.

Difficulty Level ★★ 11/29

This is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once.

The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Friday.

Full Digital Access and E-edition with Every Subscription
livingstonenterprise.com
The Livingston Enterprise
Subscribe now, 1 day for $1
or try 1 or 6 months or 1 year to save.

The news in Park County since 1883

LEGALS

Neil M. Travis
Public Administrator
411 South E Street,
Livingston, Montana 59047
406-222-6530

MONTANA
SIXTH JUDICIAL
DISTRICT COURT,
PARK COUNTY

In the Matter of the Estate of
KATHLEEN ANN PETERS,
Deceased.

Probate Case No. DP 22-58

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the undersigned has been appointed Personal Representative of the above-named estate. All persons having claims against the decedent are required to present their claims within four months after the date of the first publication of this notice or said claims will be forever barred.

Claims must either be mailed to Personal Representative, Neil M. Travis, Public Administrator, return receipt requested, at 411 South E Street, Livingston, Montana 59047, or filed with the Clerk of the above Court.

Dated this 21st day of November, 2022.

Pub. Nov. 30, Dec. 7, 14, 2022

MNAXLP

STUART R. WHITEHAIR, P.C.
Attorney at Law
2123 Durston Road, Suite 17
Bozeman, Montana 59718
Telephone: (406) 587-4200

Attorney for Personal Representative

MONTANA
SIXTH JUDICIAL
DISTRICT COURT,
PARK COUNTY

IN THE MATTER OF
THE ESTATE OF
KAREN MOE,
Deceased.

Probate No. DP 22-57

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the undersigned has been appointed Personal Representative of the above-named estate. All persons having claims against the said deceased are required to present their claims within four months after the date of the first publication of this notice or said claims will be forever barred.

Claims must either be mailed to the Personal Representative, c/o Stuart R. Whitehair, Attorney at Law, 2123 Durston Road, Suite 17, Bozeman, Montana 59718, return receipt required, or filed with the Clerk of the above Court.

DATED this 22nd day of November, 2022.

Jon Peder Douglas,
Personal Representative

Pub. Nov. 30, Dec. 7, 14, 2022

MNAXLP

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Board of County Commissioners of Park County, Montana, will receive applications for the Yellowstone Gateway Museum Board.

The mission of the Yellowstone Gateway Museum is to build community, connection and inspiration by sharing stories of Park County Montana's cultural and natural history through accessible collections and programs.

The purpose of the board is to serve as an advisory and administrative board to the Park County Commission. The YGM Board powers include:

• Assists the County Commissioners by providing governance, oversight and strategic direction in support of the professional staff of the Yellowstone Gateway Museum."

• Administer programs, establish policy, and adopt administrative and procedural rules that pertain to the museum.

• Establish procedures and policies as may be necessary for the preservation, upkeep, care, maintenance, operation and support of the Museum facility and collections.

• Help prepare and submit to the Commission a budget for the Museum for overall approval in accordance with Montana State Law.

The Board is particularly interested in receiving applications from individuals representing the geographic and demographic diversity of Park County. Preferred qualifications include skills in marketing and planning.

There is currently one position available for a term of three (3) years, but this announcement may be used to fill future positions as board vacancies occur.

Pub. Nov. 18, 25, 30, 2022

MNAXLP

STEPHEN E. WOODRUFF, ESQ.
HUPPERT, SWINDLEHURST & WOODRUFF, P.C.
420 So. 2nd St., P.O. Box 523
Livingston, MT 59047
Phone: (406) 222-2023
Fax: (406) 222-7944
Email: steve@hswlegal.com
Attorney for Personal Representative

**MONTANA
SIXTH JUDICIAL
DISTRICT COURT,
PARK COUNTY**

**IN THE MATTER OF
THE ESTATE OF
WANDA L. LEWIS,
Deceased.**

Probate No. DP 22-53

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the undersigned has been appointed Co-Personal Representatives of the above-named estate. All persons having claims against the said deceased are required to present their claims within four months after the date of the first publication of this notice or said claims will be forever barred.

Claims must be mailed to Donald D. Lewis and Debbie L. Hallam, Co-Personal Representatives, return receipt requested, c/o Huppert, Swindlehurst & Woodruff, P.C., P.O. Box 523, Livingston, MT 59047, or filed with the Clerk of the above Court.

DATED this 9th day of November, 2022.

**DONALD D. LEWIS
507 South 11th Street
Livingston, MT 59047**

**DEBBIE L. HALLAM
32627 SE Issaquah-Fall City Road
Fall City, WA 98024**

Pub. Nov. 16, 23, 30, 2022

MNAXLP

MONTANA
SIXTH JUDICIAL
DISTRICT COURT,
PARK COUNTY

INTHE MATTER OF
THE ESTATE OF
JACQULYN J. HUDECEK,
Decesed.

PROBATE NO. DP22-54

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the undersigned has ben appointed Personal Representative of the above-named Estate. All persons having claims against the said Deceased are required to present their claims within four months after the date of the first publication of this notice or said claims will be forever barred.

Claims must either be mailed to JACQULYN JILL HUDECEK KRAUS, Personal Representative, return receipt requested, c/o JOSEPHSON LAW FIRM, P.L.L.C., P.O. Box 1047, Big Timber, MT 59011, or filed with the Clerk of the above-entitled Court.

I declare under penalty of perjury and under the laws of the State of Montana that the foregoing is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

DATED this 2nd day of November, 2022.

JACQULYN JILL HUDECEK KRAUS
Personal Representative

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE'S ATTORNEY:

Caitlin Zimmerman
JOSEPHSON LAW FIRM, P.L.L.C.
205 Hooper Street
P.O. Box 1047
Big Timber, MT 59011
Telephone: (406) 932-5900

Pub. Nov. 16, 23, 30, 2022

MNAXLP

JOSEPH T. SWINDLEHURST ESQ.
HUPPERT, SWINDLEHURST & WOODRUFF, P.C.
420 So. 2nd St., P.O. Box 523
Livingston, MT 59047
Phone: (406) 222-2023
Fax: (406) 222-7944
Email: joe@hswlegal.com
Attorneys for Personal Representative

**MONTANA
SIXTH JUDICIAL
DISTRICT COURT,
PARK COUNTY**

**IN THE MATTER OF
THE ESTATE OF
INGVAR J. VIK,
Deceased.**

Probate No. DP 22-55

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the undersigned has been appointed Personal Representative of the above-named estate. All persons having claims against the said deceased are required to present their claims within four months after the date of the first publication of this notice or said claims will be forever barred.

Claims must be mailed to INGRID J. DURANT, Personal Representative, return receipt requested, c/o Huppert, Swindlehurst & Woodruff, P.C., P.O. Box 523, Livingston, MT 59047, or filed with the Clerk of the above Court.

DATED this 10th day of November, 2022.

**INGRID J. DURANT
7331 Utica Street
Westminster, CO 80030**

Pub. Nov. 16, 23, 30, 2022

MNAXLP

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Board of County Commissioners of Park County, Montana, will receive applications for the **Airport Board**.

The purpose of the board is to serve as an advisory board to the Park County Commission.

There is (1) position available for a term of three (3) years, beginning January 2023. The Airport Board meets on the fourth Monday of every month, at Mission Field Airport, 9:00 AM.

Applications can be picked up at the Commission office or found on the county website at www.parkcounty.org under departments/county-boards-committees Application review will begin October 14, 2022 at 4:30 pm. Applications will remain open until the positions are filled. Please return applications to Carly Ahern in the County Commissioners office via email cahern@parkcounty.org or mail to: 414 E. Callender Livingston, MT 59047.

Pub. Nov. 2, 9, 16, 23, 30, 2022

MNAXLP

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Board of County Commissioners of Park County, Montana, will receive applications for the **Solid Waste Board (SWB)**.

The purpose of the board is to serve as an advisory board to the Park County Commission.

There are two (2) positions available for a term of three (3) years.

Applications can be picked up at the Commission office or found on the county website at www.parkcounty.org under departments/county-boards-committees Application review will begin October 14, 2022 at 4:30 pm. Applications will remain open until the positions are filled. Please return applications to Carly Ahern in the County Commissioners office via email cahern@parkcounty.org or mail to: 414 E. Callender Livingston, MT 59047.

Pub. Nov. 2, 9, 16, 23, 30, 2022

MNAXLP

**SECTION 00100
INVITATION TO BID**

Separate sealed bids for construction of the Livingston Regional Sewer Extension Project will be received by City of Livingston at City Hall, 220 East Park Street, Livingston, Montana until 1:00 p.m. local time on December 15, 2022, and then publicly opened and read aloud.

The City of Livingston Regional Sewer Extension:

Base Bid 300 consecutive calendar days

The Project, of which the Work under the Contract Documents is a part, is generally described as follows: contract includes the construction of sewer mains (new), sewer service to each property extended off the main to the property line, bedding material, backfill, dewatering (if necessary), compaction, sewer testing, asphalt and gravel road trench removal and replacement, and all other work related to construction of a complete and operable sewer system. All work shall be done in strict accordance with the requirements of the contract documents.

The contract documents consisting of Drawings and Project Manual may be examined or obtained at the office of TD&H Engineering 234 East Babcock Street, Suite 3, Bozeman Montana in accordance with Article 2.01 of Instructions To Bidders. Required deposit is $200.00 per set, which is not refundable. Contractors are not required to obtain Drawings and Project Manual from Engineer.

In addition, the Drawings and Project Manual may also be examined at the following locations:

Builders Exchange - online
City of Livingston Public Works, 330 Bennett Street, Livingston, MT 59771

There will be a **Mandatory Pre-Bid Conference** at the office of Public Works, 330 Bennett Street, Livingston, Montana at 10:00 a.m. on December 6, 2022. Interested CONTRACTORS are required to attend in-person or engineer can provide virtual meeting information upon request.

CONTRACTORS and any of the CONTRACTORS' subcontractors bidding or doing work on this project will be required to be registered with the Montana Department of Labor and Industry (DLI). Forms for registration are available from the Department of Labor and Industry, P.O. Box 8011, 1805 Prospect, Helena, Montana 59604-8011. Information on registration can be obtained by calling 1-406-444-7734. CONTRACTOR is not required to have registered with the DLI prior to bidding on this project but must have registered prior to execution of the Construction Agreement. The CONTRACTOR must ensure that employees and applicants for employment are not discriminated against because of their race, color, religion, sex or national origin.

Each bid or proposal must be accompanied by a Certified Check, Cashier's Check, or Bid Bond payable to City of Livingston, in an amount not less than ten percent (10%) of the total amount of the bid. Successful BIDDERS shall furnish an approved Performance Bond and a Labor and Materials Payment Bond, each in the amount of one hundred percent (100%) of the contract amount. Insurance as required shall be provided by the successful BIDDER(s) and a certificate(s) of that insurance shall be provided.

The right is reserved to reject any or all proposals received, to waive informalities, to postpone the award of the contract for a period of not to exceed sixty (60) days, and to accept the lowest responsive and responsible bid which is in the best interest of the OWNER.

The Contractor is required to be an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Pub. Nov. 21, 30, Dec. 5, 2022

MNAXLP

**NOTICE OF PASSAGE OF RESOLUTION OF INTENTION
TO CREATE SPECIAL IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT NO. 181
AND TO ISSUE THE CITY'S SPECIAL IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT NO. 181 BONDS IN THE AGGREGATE PRINCIPAL AMOUNT, AND IN SALABLE INCREMENTS, NOT TO EXCEED $1,995,000 SECURED BY THE CITY'S SPECIAL IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT REVOLVING FUND
CITY OF LIVINGSTON, MONT ANA**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on November 15, 2022, the City Commission of the City of Livingston, Montana (the "City"), adopted a Resolution of Intention to Create Special Improvement District No. 181 (the "District") for the purpose of financing the costs of certain local improvements (the "Improvements") and paying costs incidental thereto, including costs associated with the sale and the security of special improvement district bonds of the City drawn on the District (the "Bonds"), the creation and administration of the District, the funding of a deposit to the City's Special Improvement District Revolving Fund (the "Revolving Fund") and the establishment of a reserve account securing the Bonds in the District fund (the "Reserve Account"). The Improvements shall be constructed and installed pursuant to plans and specifications prepared by TD&H Engineering, and approved by the City Public Works Director.

A complete copy of the Resolution ofIntention (the "Resolution") is on file with the City Recording Secretary, and available at City Hall, [and attached hereto as Exhibit A] which more specifically describes the nature of the Improvements, the boundaries and the area included in the District, the location of the Improvements and other matters pertaining thereto and further particulars.

The general character of the Improvements are (i) the design, construction and equipping of improvements to the City's Sewer and Water Utilities that are more fully described as extending new sewer main from City property near the transfer station to provide City sewer service to the entire District, and City water service to a portion of the District, which includes all capital improvements necessary and related to an operating water and sewer systems, and (ii) related repairs and improvements to the streets in the Green Acres and Montague subdivisions. The total estimated costs of the Improvements, including all incidental costs, but not the costs associated with securing the Bonds and the issuance of the Bonds, is currently estimated to be $3,672,982.

The City would issue the Bonds in an aggregate principal amount, and in salable increments, not to exceed $1,995,000 in order to finance the costs of the Improvements. Principal of and interest on the Bonds will be paid from special assessments levied against the property in the District in the aggregate principal amount of $1,995,000 and such payment will be secured by the Reserve Account and the Revolving Fund. Subject to the limitations of Montana Code Annotated, Section 7-12-4222, the general fund of the City may be used to provide loans to the Revolving Fund or a general tax levy may be imposed on all taxable property in the City to meet the financial requirements of the Revolving Fund.

Through a competitive process, the City applied for and obtained an ARPA Grant (the "ARPA Grant") from the State of Montana in the amount of $2,000,000 which will be applied to the cost of the Improvements. The ARPA Grant will off-set a substantial portion of the costs of the Improvements.

All properties within the District are to be assessed for a portion of the costs of the Improvements.
The costs of the Improvements will be assessed against applicable portions of the property in the District benefiting from the Improvements, based on, as appropriate and as set forth more particularly in Section 7 of the Resolution, the actual area method of assessment described in Sections 7-12-4 I 62 and 7-12-4163, M.C.A. All of the properties in the District will be assessed for their proportionate share of the costs of the grading, utility, and surfacing Improvements. The total estimated cost of the Improvements, including all incidental expenses and costs associated with securing the Bonds and the issuance of the Bonds, is currently estimated to be $3,672,982 and shall be assessed against each property located in the District, for that part of the costs of the Improvements that the area of each of such tract or parcel bears to the total area of both of such tracts or parcels exclusive of streets, avenues, alleys, storm water detention ponds and like features. The total area of the District to be assessed by way of the actual area method is estimated to be 2,607,414 which does not include right of way. The costs of the Improvements per square foot of area are currently estimated to be $1.41 without Bond costs before application of the ARPA Grant funds and after the application of the ARPA Grants are currently estimated to be $0.64 per square foot not including Bond costs. The total assessment (not including interest expense) for each affected lot, tract or parcel of land subjected to the actual area method of assessment for the Improvements is shown on EXHIBIT C of the Resolution of Intention, on file with the Recording Secretary.

On December 6, 2022, the City Commission will meet at 5:30 p.m. M.T. via Zoom, the City Commission will conduct a public hearing and pass upon all written protests against the creation of the District, or the making of Improvements that may be filed in the period described below.

Written protests against the creation or extension of the District and the making of the Improvements may be filed by an agent, person, firm or corporation owning real property within the proposed District whose property is liable to be assessed for the Improvements. Such protests must be delivered to the Recording Secretary at 220 E Park Street, Livingston, Montana, 59047 not later than 5 :00 p.m., M.T., on December 5, 2022

Further information regarding the proposed District or the Bonds or other matters in respect thereof may be obtained from the City's Recording Secretary at the City Offices at 220 E Park Street, Livingston, Montana, 59047 or by telephone at (406) 823-6000.

Dated: November 16, 2022

BY ORDER OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF LIVING ON, MONTANA

Chair of the City Commission

Pub. Nov. 17, 30, 2022

MNAXLP

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Board of County Commissioners of Park County, Montana, will receive applications for the Planning Board.

The purpose of the board is to serve as an advisory board to the Park County Commission.

There are three (3) positions available for a term of two (2) years.

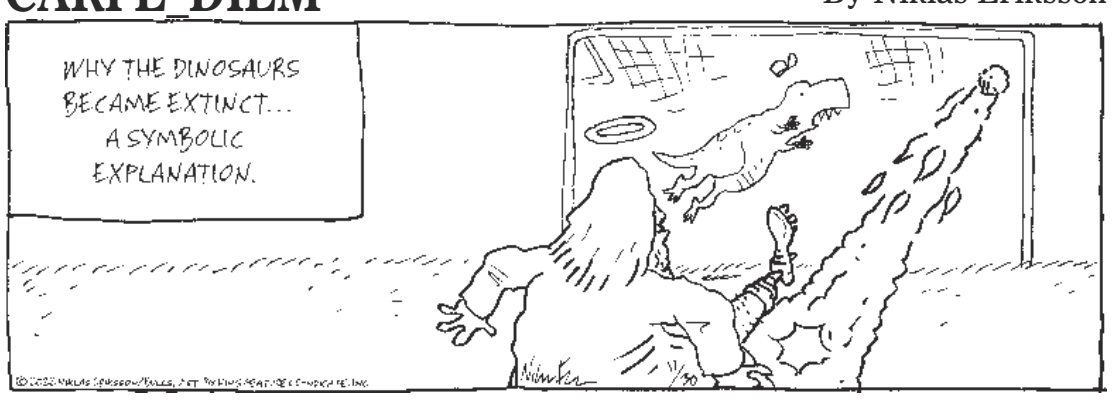
Applications can be picked up at the Commission office or on the county website at www.parkcounty.org under departments/county-boards-committees. Applications will be accepted through December 2nd, 2022. Please return applications to Carly Ahern in the County Commissioners office via email, cahern@parkcounty.org, or mail to: 414 E. Callender Livingston, MT 59047.

Pub. Nov. 14, 21, 30, 2022

MNAXLP

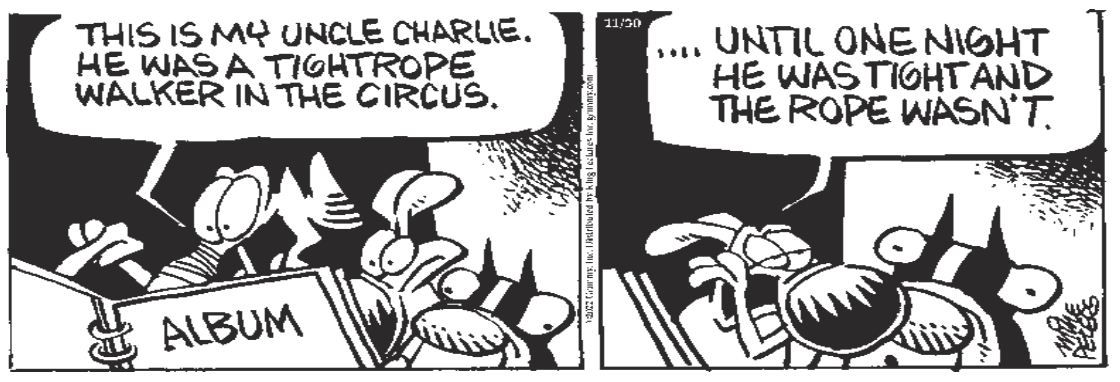
CARPE_DIEM®

By Niklas Eriksson



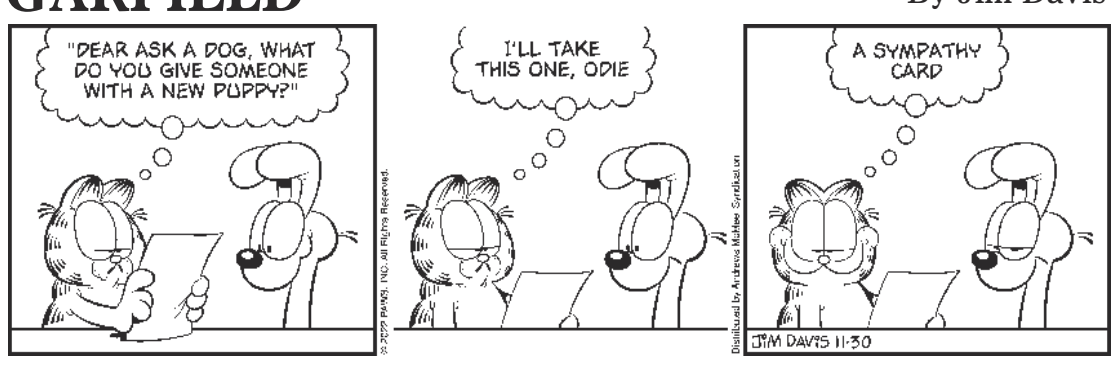
MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

By Mike Peters



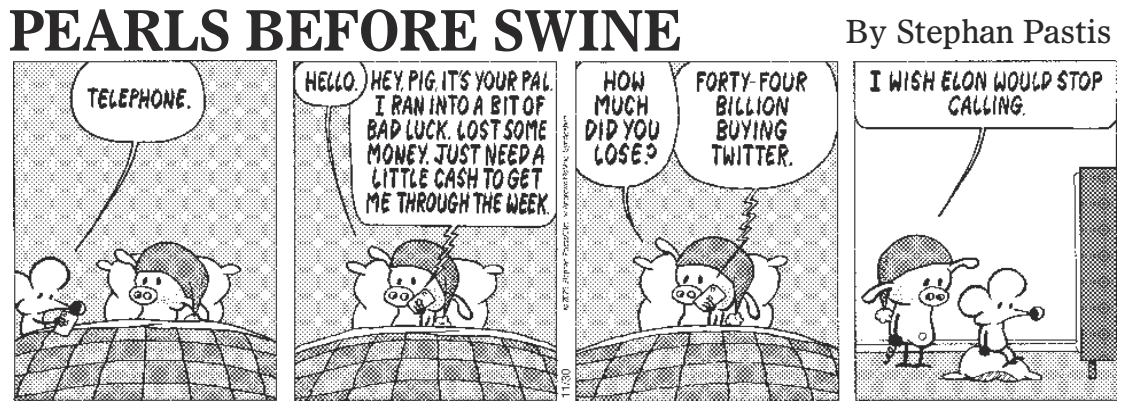
GARFIELD®

By Jim Davis



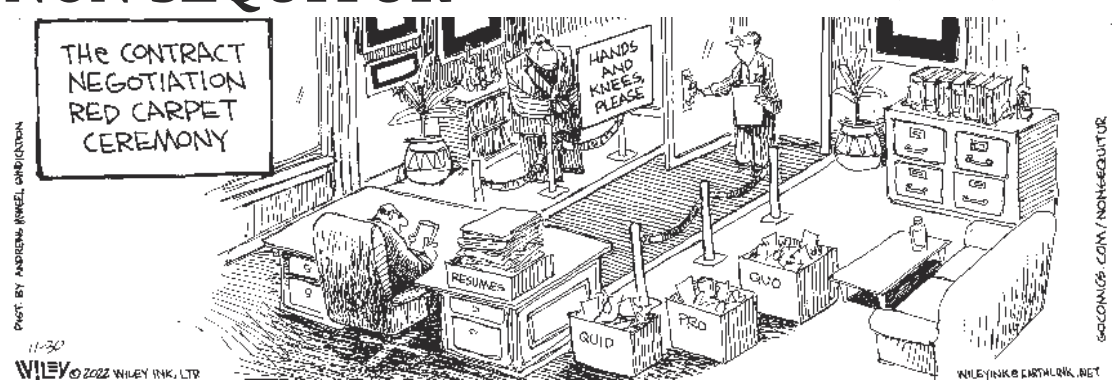
PEARLS BEFORE SWINE

By Stephan Pastis



NON SEQUITUR

By Wiley Miller



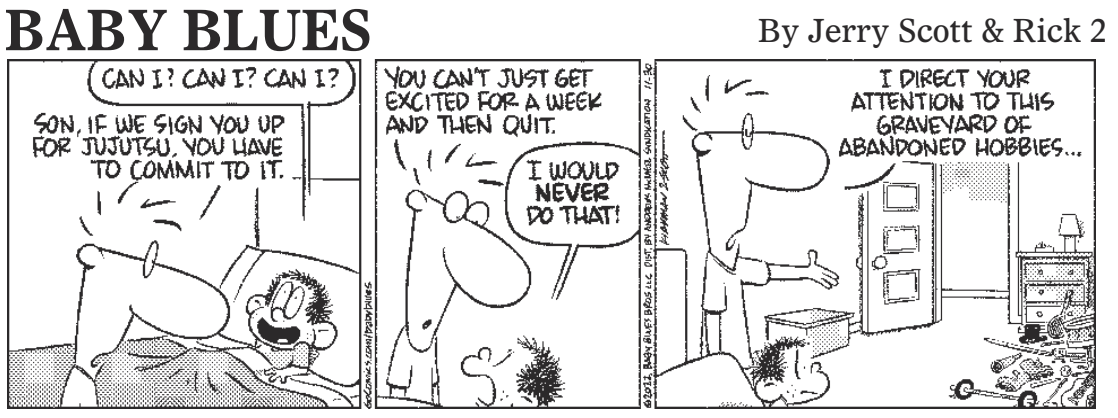
LOLA

By Steve Dickenson & Todd Clark



BABY BLUES

By Jerry Scott & Rick 2



ZITS

By Jerry Scott & Jim Borgman



MISCELLANEOUS

FOR RENT: Horse Pens with shelters. Available now near Livingston. (406) 223-1553

YOUR CLASSIFIED ad could appear in 67 Montana newspapers. Place a "SCAN" ad with the Enterprise for only $149.00 for up to 25 words. Call us at 222-2000.

AUCTION



GET IT SOLD!
WITH A CLASSIFIED AD
222-2000

SERVICES & REPAIRS

A BRIGHTER DAY BY ALL WASHED UP! LOCALLY OWNED AND OPERATED. COMMERCIAL AND RESIDENTIAL WINDOW CLEANING. CALL JEFF 222-1125.

CHUCK'S BACKHOE SERVICE, septic systems, driveways, water lines, landscaping. Chuck Hillman 223-7174.

COMMERCIAL SNOW REMOVAL, junk removal, tree trimming and removal. **Licensed and insured**. Call Jesse with questions. (406)598-5991

GARY'S BACKHOE & PUMP SERVICE. Any kind of backhoe work, 24 hour water well service. 224-7070 or 222-7070.

HANDYMAN SERVICES, Painting, Drywall, Small Home Repairs, Property Maintenance. Licensed and insured. Call Eric at 223-5402

YOUR CLASSIFIED ad could appear in 67 Montana newspapers. Place a "SCAN" ad with the Enterprise for only $149.00 for up to 25 words. Call us at 222-2000.

MOUNTAIN MEADOW MOWING: FALL CLEAN-UP, SPRINKLER BLOW-OUTS, weekly mowing, fertilization, snow removal. Specializes in large acreage properties. Taking new clients. **Call today for a free estimate! (406) 223-0686**

GRAPHIC ARTIST/ PRE-PRESS TECHNICIAN WANTED
News-Argus Printing is seeking a graphic artist to join the production team in our full service commercial printing business in Lewistown, Montana.
We are looking for someone with experience using Adobe design programs and print production experience.
This is a full-time position offering a competitive wage, health insurance, sick leave, holiday pay and 401K.
To apply, send a resume with cover letter to Tim Hartford at printmgr@lewistownnews.com or mail to P.O. Box 900, Lewistown, MT 59457, or call 406.535.3401.

SELL IT!
WITH A CLASSIFIED AD 222-2000

EMPLOYMENT

COUNTERPOINT IS LOOKING to fill a 40 hours a week night shift; Thursday 8p-12a, Friday 12a-6a and 8p-12a, Saturday 12a-6a and 8p-12a, Sunday 12a-6a and 8p-12a, Monday 12a-6a. Wage range: $15.72 - $17.15 per hour with a $1500 retention bonus. Stop in at 116 E. Lewis for an application or apply online at www.counterpointinc.org.

INDUSTRIAL TOWEL OF LIVINGSTON, with over 70 years of premium industrial laundry service to Montana, is looking to hire full-time drivers at $25.50 per hour. Must have a clean driving record. Upon completion of 60 days employment as a route driver, employee will receive a one time $5,000.00 bonus on the first paycheck following their 60-day anniversary. Please call (406) 222-1131 or apply in person at 218 South 2nd, Livingston, Montana.

LIVINGSTON SCHOOL DISTRICT B.A. Winans Elementary VACANCIES Part Time High Needs Paraeducator 4 Hours/ day $17.51/Hour Contact: Patti Durgan 1015 West Clark Street Livingston, MT. 59047 Phone: (406) 222-0192 patti.durgan@livingston.k12.mt.us Effective: Immediately Applications can be obtained from the Livingston School District website www.livingston.k12.mt.us or requested via email to jenny.stringer@livingston.k12.mt.us Closing Date: Until Filled

YOUR CLASSIFIED ad could appear in 67 Montana newspapers. Place a "SCAN" ad with the Enterprise for only $149.00 for up to 25 words. Call us at 222-2000.

The Laurel Outlook
Love Sports?
You'll get plenty of sports action as the Laurel Outlook's part-time sports writer/photographer!
You will cover Laurel, Joliet and Park City girls and boys high school sports. Must be willing to work flexible hours. We will provide reporter training.
Apply at the Laurel Outlook office, 415 East Main Street., Laurel or mail a letter of interest with resume and references to Laurel Outlook, PO Box 278, Laurel, MT. You can also email: publisher@laureloutlook.com

LIVINGSTON SCHOOL DISTRICT East Side Elementary VACANCIES High Needs Paraeducator $17.51/Hour. Contact: Leah Shannon 401 VIew Vista Drive Livingston, MT 59047 (406) 222-1773 leah.shannon@livingston.k12.mt.us Effective: 2022-2023 School Year. Applications can be obtained from the Livingston School District website www.livingston.k12.mt.us or requested via email to jenny.stringer@livingston.k12.mt.us Closing Date: Until Filled

chp Community Health Partners Medical–Livingston

REAL PEOPLE- REMARKABLE HEALTHCARE Community Health Partners-Livingston (CHP), where compassion meets healthcare. We're seeking a full-time Accounting Manager committed to providing patient-centered care, without judgment, and who is looking to improve the health of our community one individual at a time. Collaboration, respect and flexibility highly-valued. CHP has provided 20 years of high-quality, affordable, whole-person care to all. If you join our team, we trust you will find CHP a meaningful and fun place to work. To apply, please send resume, references and letter of interest to Jessica Wilson, wilsonjes@chphealth.org, or 112 W Lewis Street, Livingston, MT 59047. CHP is an Equal Opportunity provider and employer. Background screen required upon offer. www.chphealthmt.org

GET IT SOLD!
WITH A CLASSIFIED AD
222-2000

RENTALS

$1450 MONTH 2BR/1BA. Beautiful view remodeled Condo. W/D hookups, Large Garage, N/S, No pets, 587-1710.

ELEGANT OFFICE SPACE IN LIVINGSTON HOUSE: 1150 sq ft classic house located on side street just off Park. Commercial zoning. Perfect for an accountant, insurance, consulting or other use. One large room and two smaller offices with kitchen, bath, enclosed front porch and some storage space. (213)604-7997

Looking for a rental?

rentalsinlivingston.managebuilding.com

LivingstonLandlady.com
FOR RENT
Preview your next home online
or call 406-333-2323

COMMERCIAL RENTALS

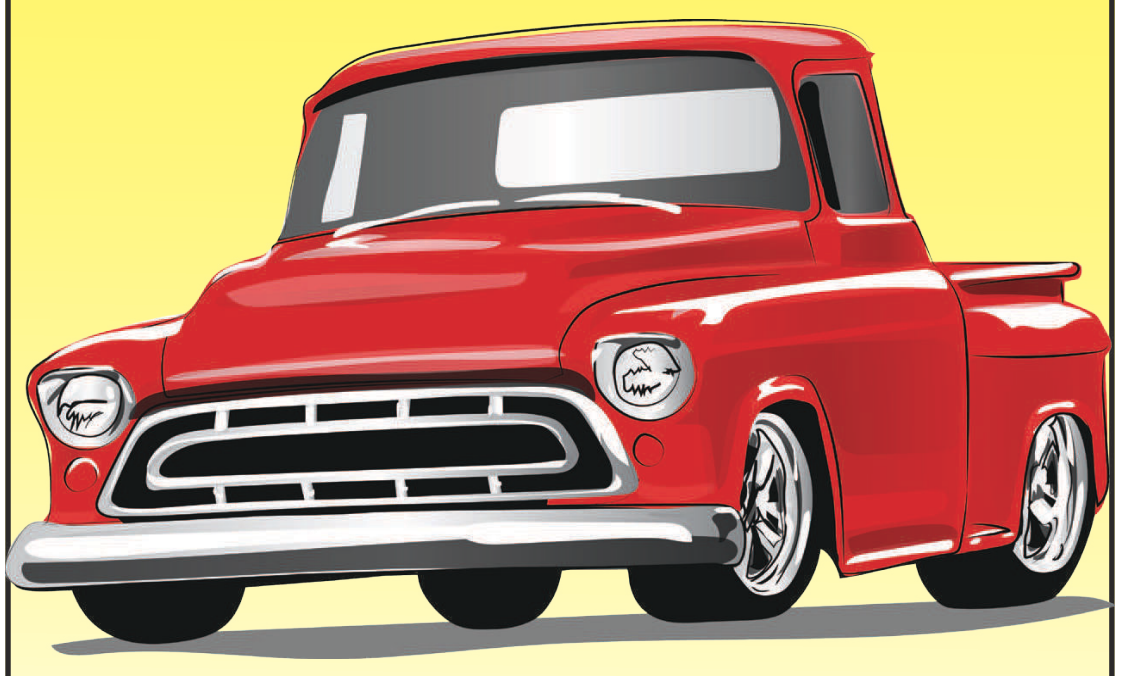
LIVINGSTON LOCATION! Commercial space, just minutes from town, Sleeping Giant Trade Center. 576 SQ. FT., Ground level, Off Street Parking. $576.00 Per Month + Utilities. Available November 1, 2022. Call: 406-220-2382

PEACOCK STORAGE
Hwy 89 No. at Aspen Lane
Owners on premises
686-4487

LIVINGSTON SELF STORAGE
Located 1 mile south of Exit 333 behind Sleeping Giant Trade Center Office Suite #21
222-7394

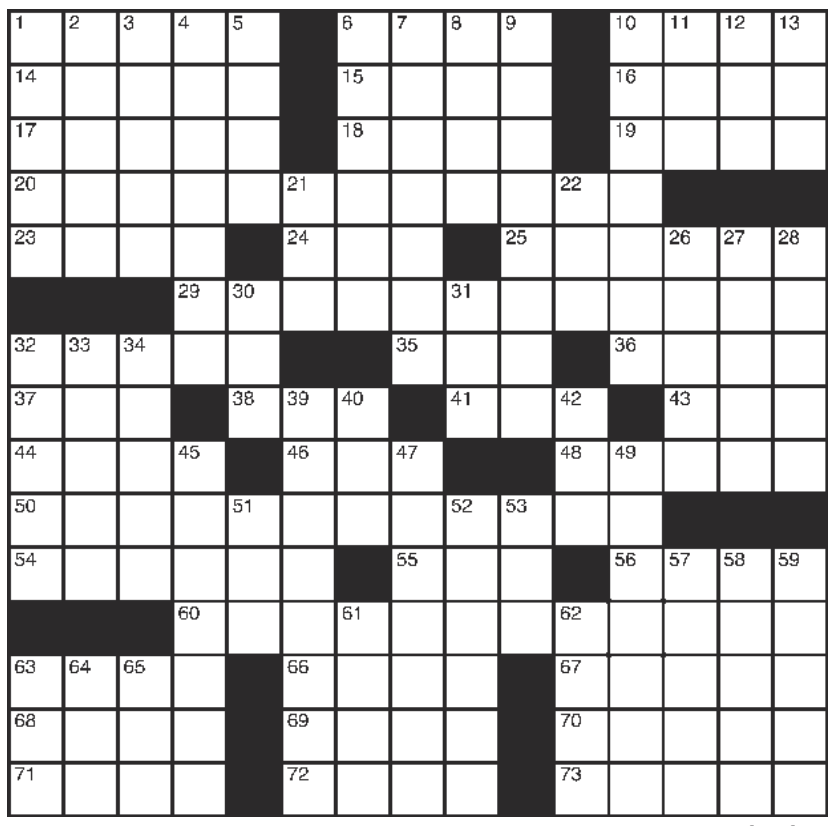
DARIGOLD SINCE 1918
CDL Class A Driver
$15,000 Sign On Bonus!
Drive with Darigold! Ready to build a career and help us Lead Dairy Forward?
Darigold is seeking motivated, dependable, and professional CDL A Drivers to join our team in Bozeman.
Sign On Bonus of $10,000 for eligible new hires!
• $1,000 paid after 30 days
• $1,500 paid after 90 days
• $2,500 paid after 180 days
• $5,000 paid after 365 days
Why Darigold?
• Safety First Culture
• Quality Equipment
• Consistent Routes
• Home Every Day
• Exceptional Benefits & Retirement Plan
• Paid Holidays & Vacation
• Annual Safety Bonus
Essential Duties and Responsibilities (other duties as assigned)
• Safely and efficiently operate a tractor trailer to deliver Darigold products to our customers.
• Operate vehicles in a variety of traffic and weather conditions
• Excellent Customer Service
Education, Experience and Certifications
• Class A Commercial Driver's License
• Possess and be able to present a valid non-expired interstate Medical Examiner's Certificate Card (MEC)
• 1+ years of commercial driving experience
Our vision at Darigold is to Lead Dairy Forward – achieving that vision requires cultivating and supporting a team with varying backgrounds, experiences, and perspectives. We are committed to providing a workplace based on mutual respect where all employees feel included and can bring their best and authentic selves to work every day.
We are proud to be an Equal Opportunity Employer and Affirmative Action Employer. We welcome all qualified applicants without regard to race, color, national origin, sex, gender identity and expression, age, sexual orientation, veteran status, disability, marital status, creed, religion, genetic information or any other characteristic protected by federal, state, or local law.
As a condition of employment applicants offered a role will be required to successfully pass our pre-employment background screen, receive a negative drug screen result & confirm eligibility to work in the U.S. We participate in E-Verify - please follow the links for details, English / Spanish & view our Right to Work Statement, English / Spanish.
Contact Justin Cox at 406-580-8609

SELL IT!
WITH A CLASSIFIED AD
222-2000

SELL YOUR CLASSIC PICKUP TRUCK!
Your ad will cost as little as $10.00. That's the price of a 15 word ad that appears three times.

Call 222-2000 and talk to our Classified AdVisor for more information.
THE LIVINGSTON ENTERPRISE

Daily Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Patti Varol



By Hoang-Kim Vu & Christine Simpson 11/30/22

ACROSS

1 French "Thank you"
6 Political alliance
10 Strongbox
14 Starters
15 New York school named after a Scottish isle
16 "Grand slam" awards acronym
17 African herbivore
18 "Double Indemnity" genre
19 Filmmaker Ephron
20 Shoplifting?
23 Huffy mood
24 Pacific Northwest st.
25 "Lady Bird" Oscar nominee Metcalf
29 Insider trading?
32 Male with horns
35 Road goo
36 Cushioned seat
37 La madre de su prima
38 Family docs
41 Food with altered DNA
43 Martin's "The West Wing" role
44 Lobby group for seniors
46 Big primate
48 Erodes
50 Money laundering?
54 Depress
55 Group of whales
56 Greeting Down Under
60 "I did nothing wrong!," or an apt title for this puzzle?
63 Essential nutrient for the immune system
66 Pulled strings?
67 Bushy-tailed canines
68 Field
69 Aware of
70 Singer Patsy
71 Dollop
72 Blast from the __
73 Snow vehicles

DOWN

1 Gas station shops
2 "__ Frome": Edith Wharton novel
3 Hands-on healing practice
4 "Do my eyes deceive me?"
5 "My time to shine!"
6 Using only ones and zeros
7 Least strict
8 "Put a lid __!"
9 Deterrent in a parking garage
10 Parodies
11 Before now
12 Pro
13 "Wheels down" stat, for short
21 Jupiter or Mars
22 Suede property
26 Spanish wine region
27 Deduce
28 "Zounds!"
30 __ chart: corporate diagram
31 Move one's tail
32 Males with antlers
33 Jeweled accessory
34 Like cornstalks?
39 Spot for fast cash
40 Mud wrap venue
42 Possess
45 Human-powered taxi
47 Competitive video gaming
49 Appetizer served with duck sauce
51 Brooklyn NBA player
52 Family-style Asian dish
53 Journalist Tarbell
57 Carter of "Designing Women"
58 Modify
59 Agreements
61 Mama's mama
62 Ozone-destroying chemicals: Abbr.
63 Zig counterpart
64 Not online, online
65 Prefix for classical and gothic

Tuesday's Puzzle Solved

H	O	P	E	■	C	H	O	M	P	■	A	M	E	X
O	V	E	R	■	A	U	D	I	O	■	E	A	V	E
P	E	N	N	Y	P	R	E	S	S	■	R	U	I	N
I	N	N	I	E	S	■	■	E	T	V	O	I	L	A
■	■	E	E	L	■	C	A	R	O	L	S	■	■	■
A	S	P	■	P	A	R	T	Y	P	O	O	P	E	R
D	N	A	■	S	H	U	T	■	■	G	L	A	R	E
D	I	S	C	■	A	D	E	L	E	■	S	P	I	N
U	P	T	O	N	■	■	M	A	M	A	■	E	K	E
P	E	A	C	O	C	K	P	O	S	E	■	R	A	W
■	■	■	A	G	L	E	T	S	■	S	T	P	■	■
B	I	T	C	O	I	N	■	■	G	O	A	L	I	E
E	C	H	O	■	P	O	W	E	R	P	L	A	N	T
N	E	A	L	■	O	B	E	S	E	■	O	T	T	O
Z	E	T	A	■	N	I	E	C	Y	■	N	E	O	N

©2022 Tribune Content Agency, LLC 11/30/22



AP

Community members, including Walmart employees, gather for a candlelight vigil at Chesapeake City Park in Chesapeake, Va., Monday, for the six people killed at a Walmart in Chesapeake, Va., when a manager opened fire with a handgun before an employee meeting last week.

Survivor of Virginia Walmart mass shooting files $50M suit

NOROLK, Va. (AP) — A Walmart employee who survived last week's mass shooting at a store in Virginia has filed a $50 million lawsuit against the company for allegedly continuing to employ the shooter — a store supervisor — "who had known propensities for violence, threats and strange behavior."

The lawsuit, which appears to be the first to stem from the shooting, was filed Tuesday in Chesapeake Circuit Court by Donya Prioleau. Walmart, which is headquartered in Bentonville, Arkansas, did not immediately respond to a written request seeking comment on the litigation.

Prioleau's suit alleges that she has experienced post-traumatic distress disorder, including physical and emotional distress, from witnessing the rampage in the store's breakroom on Nov. 22.

"Bullets whizzed by Plaintiff Donya Prioleau's face and left side, barely missing her," the lawsuit states. "She witnessed several of her coworkers being brutally murdered on either side of her."

The lawsuit adds: "Ms. Prioleau looked at one of her coworkers in the eyes right after she had been shot in the neck. Ms. Prioleau saw the bullet wound in her coworker's neck, the blood rushing out of it, and the shocked look on her coworker's helpless face."

Store supervisor Andre Bing, 31, fatally shot six employees and wounded several others before he died of an apparent self-inflicted gunshot, police said.

The lawsuit alleges that Bing "had a personal vendetta against several Walmart employees and kept a 'kill list' of potential targets prior to the shooting."

The lawsuit also states that Prioleau had submitted a formal complaint on a Walmart Global Ethics Statement Form indicating that Bing had "bizarrely and inappropriately commented on Ms. Prioleau's age."

The lawsuit alleges that Bing told her: "Isn't your lady clock ticking? Shouldn't you be having kids?"

Prioleau also complained that Bing had harassed her for "being poor and being short," according to the lawsuit.

The lawsuit states that she also informed Walmart that Bing called her a "bitch" under his breath.

Biden hosts congressional leaders on lame-duck sprint

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Joe Biden hosted congressional leaders at the White House on Tuesday to discuss his agenda for the remainder of the year, as he looks to ensure government funding and lock in more legislative wins before Democrats lose control of the House on Jan. 3.

The meeting comes as the government faces a Dec. 16 shutdown if lawmakers don't agree on funding legislation to keep the lights on. Biden also wants that legislation to provide additional money for the COVID-19 response and to bolster U.S. support for Ukraine's economy and defense against Russia's invasion. Biden has also called on Congress to step in and impose a tentative agreement between railroads and workers to avert a potentially crippling freight rail strike on Dec. 9.

"We're going to work together, I hope, to fund the government," Biden told lawmakers, emphasizing the importance of Ukraine and pandemic funding as well.

Biden said the "economy's at risk" because of the looming rail strike, and he said he is "confident" that Congress could act to avert it. "There's a lot to do, including resolving the train strike," he said as he hosted Democratic House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer and Republican House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy and Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell in the Roosevelt Room.

McCarthy is working to become speaker in January, though he must first overcome dissent within the GOP conference to win a floor vote on Jan. 3.

Congress is also taking up legislation to codify same-sex marriage, raise the debt limit and reform the Electoral Count Act in a bid to prevent another attempt like in 2020 when then-President Donald Trump and allied lawmakers tried to overturn the will of voters in the presidential election he lost to Biden.

"We're going to find other areas of common ground, I hope," Biden added, "because the American people want us to work together."

Republicans are set to hold a narrow majority in the House come January, while Democrats are retaining control of the Senate. A runoff election in Georgia next week will determine whether Biden's party will hold a 51-49 majority or Vice President Kamala Harris will be needed to break a 50-50 tie.

One unlikely item is a ban on so-called assault weapons — an inexact term to describe a group of semi-automatic long rifles or long guns, like an AR-15, that can fire 30 rounds quickly without reloading. By comparison, New York Police Department officers carry a handgun that shoots about half that many.

The House passed legislation in July to revive a 1990s-era ban on the firearms with Biden's vocal support. But the 60-vote threshold in the Senate means some Republicans must be on board, and most are steadfastly opposed. One issue is the proliferation of weapons today; There are many more styles and types on the market than in the 1990s.

Michels: Trump assured him no campaign visit needed

MADISON, Wis. (AP) — Losing Wisconsin Republican gubernatorial candidate Tim Michels said Tuesday that former President Donald Trump told him five days before the election that he didn't need to visit the state because Michels was going to win.

Trump held a rally for Michels the weekend before the primary, but did not return. Michels said he was "convinced" he was going to win, but lost to Democratic Gov. Tony Evers by 3 points. Polls showed the race to be about even for weeks leading up to the election.

Michels said Tuesday on The Jay Weber Show on WISN-AM that he spoke with Trump about a week before the November election.

"He said, 'I'm not going to come in. You've got this thing. I've seen all the numbers. It looks really strong, congratulations,'" Michels said of his conversation with Trump.

Michels, in his first extensive public comments since his defeat, added: "We were convinced that we had this."

Michels touted the Trump endorsement in the primary, helping to fuel his win over former Lt. Gov. Rebecca Kleefisch.

Michels rarely brought up the Trump endorsement as he tried to win over more moderate, independent voters in the general election. Trump won Wisconsin in 2016 but lost it in 2020, and polls showed him unpopular among voters, leading many Republicans to distance themselves from him in the midterm.

Michels said in addition to Trump, other prominent Republicans who told him they were confident he was going to win included former House Speaker Paul Ryan, former Trump White House Chief of Staff Reince Priebus and former Wisconsin Gov. Tommy Thompson. Priebus, who previously served as Wisconsin state Republican Party chair before leaving to lead the Republican National Committee in 2011, did campaign with Michels in the closing days of the race. Thompson cut an ad for Michels.

Ryan, who clashed with Trump during the first two years of his term, called Trump "a drag on the ticket" following the midterm election results where Democrats performed better than many expected.

US consumer confidence falls in November for 2nd month

U.S. consumer confidence fell for the second straight month in November amid ongoing high inflation, rising interest rates, and layoffs in the tech sector.

The Conference Board reported Tuesday that its consumer confidence index fell to 100.2 this month, down from 102.2 in October. November's figure is the lowest since July, and likely reflected an uptick in gas prices earlier this fall, said Lynn Franco, senior director of economic indicators at the Conference Board.

Gas prices have since reversed and fell to $3.52 a gallon, on average, nationwide on Tuesday, according to AAA. That's down from $3.76 a month ago.

The data indicate Americans are taking a more gloomy view about the economy. Before the pandemic, the index regularly topped 120. With the cost of food, rent, clothing, and other essentials surging, inflation is near the worst in four decades, increasing 7.7% in October from a year earlier.

Despite the negative outlook, however, most Americans — particularly those with higher incomes — are still spending, fueling a generally healthy start to the winter holiday shopping season last weekend.

The business research group's present situation index — which measures consumers' assessment of current business and labor market conditions — dropped slightly to 137.4 from 138.7 in October.



NEWSPAPERS HAVE YOUR BACK.

We are grateful for those who have our back in this important time. The list is long, but we want to thank our first responders and front-line workers.

Especially in critical times, **newspapers have your back.**
COVID-19 is a national story that is impacting you at home and at work. Your local newspaper is keeping you informed with current events in your neighborhood and is bringing communities together in these challenging times.

From the actions your local government is taking, to lists of local stores that are delivering and tips on what to do while you're at home, your local newspaper is committed to bringing you the news you need, when you need it.

WE ARE IN THIS TOGETHER

Support your local newspaper.
Subscribe in print or online.

America's Newspapers
NEWSPAPERS.ORG

The Livingston Enterprise
406-222-2000

America's Newspapers is a national association supporting journalism and healthy newspapers in our local communities. Find out more at www.newspapers.org or follow us on Twitter @newspapersorg or on Facebook @americasnewspapers.

Livingston Area 5-Day Forecast

Today	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Mostly Cloudy	Snow	Scattered Snow	Partly Cloudy	Mostly Cloudy
Precip Chance: 10%	Precip Chance: 30%			
31 26	42 18	29 14	33 22	36 26
Winds: 17-23 mph S	Winds: 16-26 mph SSW	Winds: 14-16 mph SW	Winds: 16-18 mph SSW	Winds: 6-16 mph SW

Livingston Outlook

Today we will see mostly cloudy skies with a high temperature of 31. South wind 17 to 23 mph. The record high temperature for today temperature for today is 64 set in 1999.

Livingston Statistics

As recorded through Sunday.

Temperatures

High Sunday	40
Low Sunday	9
Record high	63 in 1949
Record low	-17 in 1952

Precipitation (as of 4 p.m.)

Sunday	Trace
Month to date	0.19"
Year to date	12.12"
Snowfall Sunday	n/a
Snowfall season to date	7.5"
Average Humidity	55%
Barometer (noon)	29.65" (falling)

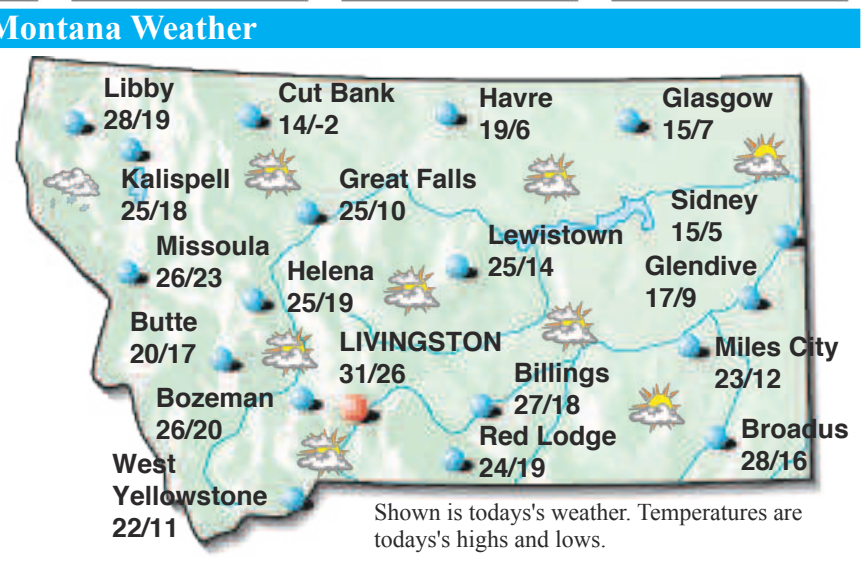
Wind Sock

Peak gust for Sunday: 60 mph (Recorded at Mission Field)

Yellowstone River

Depth (at Carter's Bridge)	0.82 ft.
Current flow	n/a
77-year average	1,520 ft3/sec.
Temperature	n/a

Montana Weather



Shown is todays's weather. Temperatures are todays's highs and lows.

City	Today Hi	Lo	Wx	Thursday Hi	Lo	Wx
Belgrade	25	15	mc	35	10	sn
Billings	27	18	mc	43	13	mc
Bozeman	26	20	mc	36	14	sn
Butte	20	17	mc	31	16	sn
Dillon	22	15	mc	31	14	sn
Glasgow	15	7	pc	28	1	cl
Glendive	17	9	s	35	8	mc
Great Falls	25	10	mc	24	-3	sn

City	Today Hi	Lo	Wx	Thursday Hi	Lo	Wx
Havre	19	6	mc	18	-4	sn
Helena	25	19	mc	34	7	sn
Kalispell	25	18	sn	29	12	sn
Lewistown	25	14	mc	33	-1	mc
Miles City	23	12	pc	37	10	mc
Missoula	26	23	sn	33	19	sn
Sidney	15	5	s	31	4	mc
W. Yellowstone	22	11	ss	30	14	ss

Sun and Moon

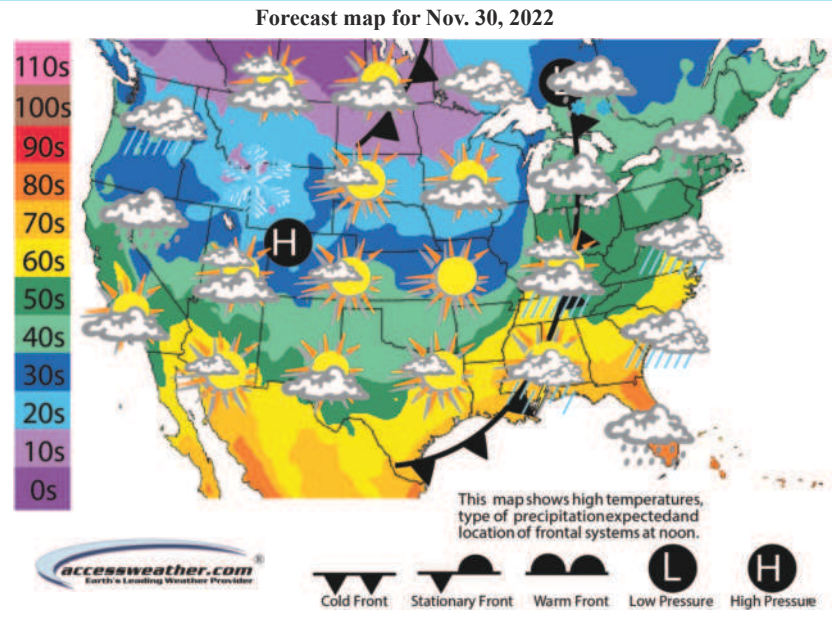
Sunrise today	7:41 a.m.
Sunset tonight	4:40 p.m.
Moonrise today	1:31 p.m.
Moonset today	Next Day

Moon Phases

First	Full	Last	New
11/30	12/7	12/16	12/23

National Weather

Forecast map for Nov. 30, 2022



For latest weather updates: **www.wxtogo.com/LE**

City	Today Hi	Lo	Wx	Thursday Hi	Lo	Wx
Anchorage	13	4	mc	15	5	pc
Atlanta	68	33	t	53	34	s
Boston	59	36	ra	44	29	s
Chicago	31	19	pc	35	29	s
Dallas	51	34	s	52	46	mc
Denver	38	20	s	51	30	pc

City	Today Hi	Lo	Wx	Thursday Hi	Lo	Wx
Los Angeles	65	48	s	61	50	mc
New York	60	36	cl	44	32	s
Phoenix	71	47	s	72	51	pc
Salt Lake City	40	28	mc	46	35	mc
Seattle	41	33	ra	39	30	rs
Washington, D.C.	62	32	sh	44	27	s

Legend: Wx-weather, s-sunny, pc-partly cloudy, cl-cloudy, sh-showers, t-thunderstorms, ra-rain, fl-flurries, rs-rain/snow, sn-snow, i-ice, w-windy, R-Record.

LOOK WHAT BLEW IN...

WOLF'S MERCANTILE SINCE 1991

HOME OF DÉCOR TO ADORE

OPEN EVERYDAY FROM 9 AM TO 7 PM

106 SOUTH MAIN STREET DOWNTOWN LIVINGSTON

406-333-2421 • WOLFSMERCANTILE.COM

NATO commits to future Ukraine membership

BUCHAREST, Romania (AP) — NATO allies reaffirmed their commitment to Ukraine on Tuesday saying that the war-torn nation will one day become a member of the world's largest security alliance, and promising more help — from winter aid to artillery — to help Ukraine's beleaguered armed forces to fight off Russia.

The pledges of support in Romania's capital, Bucharest, came as U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken met with NATO foreign ministers Tuesday to drum up urgently needed support aimed at ensuring that Moscow fails to defeat Ukraine as it bombards vital energy infrastructure.

"NATO's door is open," NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg said before chairing the meeting.

"Russia does not have a veto" on countries joining, he said in reference to the recent entry of North Macedonia and Montenegro into the security alliance. He said that Russian President Vladimir Putin "will get Finland and Sweden as NATO members" soon. The Nordic neighbors applied for membership in April, concerned that Russia might target them next.

"We stand by that, too, on membership for Ukraine," the former Norwegian prime minister said.

In essence, Stoltenberg repeated a vow made by NATO leaders in Bucharest in 2008 — in the same sprawling Palace of the Parliament where the foreign ministers are meeting this week — that Ukraine, and also Georgia, would join the alliance one day.



AP

United States Secretary of State Antony Blinken attends at the first day of the meeting of NATO Ministers of Foreign Affairs, in Bucharest, Romania, Tuesday.

Some officials and analysts believe this move — pressed on the NATO allies by former U.S. President George W. Bush — was partly responsible for the war that Russia launched on Ukraine in February. Stoltenberg disagreed.

"President Putin cannot deny sovereign nations to make their own sovereign decisions that are not a threat to Russia," he said. "I think what he's afraid of is democracy and freedom, and that's the main challenge for him."

Beyond Ukraine's immediate needs, NATO wants to see how it can help the country longer-term, by upgrading its Soviet-era equipment to the alliance's modern standards and providing more military training. This will help Ukraine to join NATO more quickly, in the years after the war has ended.

Slovak Foreign Minister Rastislav Kacer said the allies must help Ukraine so that "the transition to full membership will be very smooth and easy" once both NATO and Kyiv are ready for accession talks.

Even so, Ukraine will not join NATO anytime soon. With the Crimean Peninsula annexed, and Russian troops and pro-Moscow separatists holding parts of the south and east, it's not clear what Ukraine's borders would even look like.

Many of NATO's 30 allies believe the focus now must solely be on defeating Russia, and Stoltenberg stressed that any attempt to move ahead on membership could divide them.

"We are in the midst of a war and therefore we should do nothing that can undermine the unity of allies to provide military, humanitarian, financial support to Ukraine, because we must prevent President Putin from winning," he said.

Some ministers made pledges of military support for Ukraine, others for financial and nonlethal aid.

Slovakia said that it was providing Ukraine with 30 armored personnel carriers and more artillery.

During the two-day meeting, Blinken will announce substantial U.S. aid for Ukraine's energy grid, U.S. officials said. Ukraine's network has been battered countrywide since early October by targeted Russian strikes, in what U.S. officials call a Russian campaign to weaponize the coming winter cold.

Census: Christians are now a minority in England as non-religious numbers grow

LONDON (AP) — Fewer than half the people in England and Wales consider themselves Christian, according to the most recent census — the first time the country's official religion has been followed by a minority of the population.

Britain has become less religious — and less white — in the decade since the last census, figures from the 2021 census released Tuesday by the Office for National Statistics revealed.

Some 46.2% of the population of England and Wales described themselves as Christian on the day of the 2021 census, down from 59.3% a decade earlier. The Muslim population grew from 4.9% to 6.5% of the total, while 1.7% identified as Hindu, up from 1.5%.

More than 1 in 3 people — 37% — said they had no religion, up from 25% in 2011.

The other parts of the U.K., Scotland and Northern Ireland, report their census results separately.

Secularism campaigners said the shift should trigger a rethink of the way religion is entrenched in British society. The U.K. has state-funded Church of England schools, Anglican bishops sit in Parliament's upper chamber, and the monarch is "defender of the faith" and supreme governor of the church.

Andrew Copson, chief executive of the charity Humanists U.K., said "the dramatic growth of the non-religious" had made the U.K. "almost certainly one of the least religious countries on Earth."

"One of the most striking things about these results is how at odds the population is from the state itself," he said. "No state in Europe has such a religious set-up as we do in terms of law and public policy, while at the same time having such a non-religious population."

Archbishop of York Stephen Cottrell, one of the most senior clerics in the Church of England, said the data was "not a great surprise," but was a challenge to Christians to work harder to promote their faith.

"We have left behind the era when many people almost automatically identified as Christian, but other surveys consistently show how the same people still seek spiritual truth and wisdom and a set of values to live by," he said.

Almost 82% of people in England and Wales identified as white in the census, down from 86% in 2011. Some 9% said they were Asian, 4% Black and 3% from "mixed or multiple" ethnic backgrounds, while 2% identified with another ethnic group.

CAUTION:
High Dividends Ahead

Sky FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

ABOVE AND BEYOND™

Earn 2.50% APY* with Kasasa Cash Checking

Sky Federal Credit Union members can earn 2.50% APY* on account balances up to$10,000 when Kasasa Cash Checking monthly qualifications are met. This free account requires no minimum deposit to open, no monthly maintenance fees, and refunds on ATM withdrawal fees nationwide. Visit skyfcu.org to read all the details. Sign up for Kasasa Cash Checking today!

SKYFCU.ORG Federally Insured by NCUA



*Qualification Information: Account transactions and activities may take one or more days to post and settle to the account and all must do so during the Monthly Qualification Cycle in order to qualify for the account's rewards. The following activities do not count toward earning account rewards: ATM-processed transactions, transfers between accounts, debit card purchases processed by merchants and received by our credit union as ATM transactions, non-retail payment transactions, and purchases made with debit cards not issued by our credit union. Transactions bundled together by merchants and received by our institution as a single transaction count as a single transaction for the purpose of earning account rewards. "Monthly Qualification Cycle" means a period beginning one (1) business day prior to the first day of the current statement cycle through one (1) business day prior to the close of the current statement cycle. Reward Information: When your Kasasa Cash account qualifications are met during a Monthly Qualification Cycle, (1) balances up to $10,000 receive APY of 2.50%; and balances over $10,000 earn 0.25% interest rate on the portion of balance over $10,000, resulting in a range from 2.50% to 0.45% APY depending on the account's balance and (2) you will receive reimbursements up to an aggregate total of $25 (max. $4.99 per single transaction) for nationwide ATM withdrawal fees imposed by other financial institutions and incurred during the Monthly Qualification Cycle in which you qualified. An ATM receipt must be presented for reimbursements of individual ATM withdrawal fees of $5.00 or higher. We reimburse ATM withdrawal fees based on estimates when the withdrawal information we receive does not identify the ATM fee. If you have not received an appropriate reimbursement, we will adjust the reimbursement amount if we receive the transaction receipt within sixty (60) calendar days of the withdrawal transaction. When Kasasa Cash qualifications are not met, all balances in the account earn 0.05% APY and ATM withdrawal fees are not refunded. Dividends and ATM withdrawal fee reimbursements will be credited to your Kasasa Cash account on the last day of the current statement cycle. APY = Annual Percentage Yield. Rates and rewards are variable and may change after account is opened. Fees may reduce earnings. Additional Information: Account approval, conditions, qualifications, limits, timeframes, enrollments, log-ons and other requirements apply. No minimum deposit is required to open the account. Receipt of electronic statements is a condition of these accounts. Enrollment in electronic services (e.g. online banking, electronic statements) and log-ons may be required to meet some of the account's qualifications. Limit one (1) account per social security number. There are no recurring monthly maintenance charges or fees to open or close this account. Contact one of our credit union service representatives for additional information, details, restrictions, processing limitations and enrollment instructions. Federally insured by NCUA. Kasasa and Kasasa Cash are trademarks of Kasasa, Ltd., registered in the U.S.A.