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St. Cloud Times

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Walz on tour

Gov. Tim Walz talks with St. Cloud Mayor Dave Kleis, Police Chief Blair Anderson and Fire Chief Matt Love during a public safety roundtable meeting Thursday at St. Cloud City Hall.

PHOTOS BY DAVE SCHWARZ/ST CLOUD TIMES

Governor stops in St. Cloud as part of public safety plan

Imani Cruzen St. Cloud Times | USA TODAY NETWORK

Gov. Tim Walz made a stop Thursday in St. Cloud on his statewide public safety tour and held a roundtable discussion focused on his \$300 million public safety plan. • Under the Walz-Flanagan budget, St. Cloud would receive around \$1.2 million per year for the next three years for public safety. • Walz and Minnesota Department of Public Safety Commissioner John Harrington met with St. Cloud Mayor Dave Kleis, St. Cloud Police Chief Blair Anderson and St. Cloud Fire Department Chief Matthew Love to discuss attracting and retaining law enforcement officers, community engagement and supporting youth programs and co-responder programs. • Recruitment and retention of law enforcement officers is essential right now, Anderson said. • “We opened last month and we left our process open for two weeks as is required. We had 10 spots, we got 30 applications. In my tenure as an administrator, I’ve had to screen typically 100 people to get one that will make it all the way through the process,” Anderson said.

See SAFETY, Page 2A



St. Cloud Mayor Dave Kleis talks with Governor Tim Walz during a public safety roundtable meeting Thursday.



Gov. Tim Walz talks with St. Cloud Mayor Dave Kleis, Police Chief Blair Anderson, Fire Chief Matt Love and state Public Safety Commissioner John Harrington during a meeting Thursday.

3M joins others in suspending Russian business operations

ASSOCIATED PRESS

MAPLEWOOD – 3M is joining the growing list of multinational companies that have suspended business operations in Russia following its invasion of Ukraine.

The Maplewood-based company has a corporate office in Moscow and two production plants in the country.

3M’s announcement comes as companies across a variety of industries have suspended some or all of their Russian operations in recent days, including Mc-

Donald’s, Exxon-Mobil, General Electric and Netflix.

3M, which manufactures consumer goods and operates in the fields of health care, worker safety and other categories, also joins its competitor, Honeywell, which said this week it had “suspended substantially all of our sales, distribution and service activities in Russia and Belarus,” which has aided Russia’s invasion.

Polaris, the Medina-based vehicle maker, is among the Minnesota companies that have halted sales or exports to Russia in response to the invasion.

Teachers say kids aren’t all okay, need more support

Amy Forliti
ASSOCIATED PRESS

MINNEAPOLIS – Teachers in Minneapolis say they’ve noticed more kids with anxiety and depression. One school counselor says she’s seen more fights and drug use. Some kids tell parents they’re frustrated – because learning stops when teachers have to deal with disruptive students in class.

Increased mental health services for students in Minneapolis, where the problems of the COVID-19 pandemic were compounded by the trauma of George Floyd’s killing, is a key issue for the more than 4,500 educators and support staff who were on strike for a second day Wednesday.

“These kids have been through hell,” said Erika Brask, who has a daughter in the district. And of the teachers, she said: “What we have expected of them is not sustainable.

“Because there’s not enough mental health support in schools the teachers have to deal with it, and the kids are the ones who suffer,” she said.

The union is seeking reduced caseloads for special education teachers, school psychologists, social workers and counselors. It’s also seeking increased reserves of special education aides and others to help teachers.

Ben Polk, a special education aide, said he deals with understaffing every day.

Polk said he is typically assigned to assist two to three students in a classroom with “very high behavioral needs.” Because there aren’t enough aides to help other students who need support, he often winds up helping six or seven in a classroom of 35.

“That’s not possible for one person to do,” he said. “It’s crowded, everyone suffers. ... It’s too intense an environment for the teacher to really do their job and the kids to get the education they’re entitled to.”

Superintendent Ed Graff has acknowledged children and teachers need more mental health support. The district said it is spending some of nearly \$90 million in federal COVID-19-relief funding on mental health.

But Graff has said the teachers’ requests – which also include higher wages – would cost roughly \$166 million annually beyond what’s currently budgeted.

See STRIKE, Page 2A

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USA TODAY

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COVID-19 policy updates

Masks, vaccine proof no longer required at some Central Minnesota arts organizations. 3A

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AMC Ent	15.32	-39	-43.7
AT&T Inc	2.08	9.0	...	23.19	-07	-5.7
AbbottLab	1.88	1.6	29	117.00	-139	-16.9
AdvAuto	6.00	2.9	21	204.92	+04	-14.6
AMD	1.60	1.5	37	106.46	-459	-26.0
AgriFrce n	...	...	...	3.42	+1.73	+64.4
Alibaba	...	...	11	92.92	-8.01	-21.8
Allete	2.60	4.0	21	65.05	+50	-2.0
Alphabet A	...	...	24	2648.59	-19.81	-8.6
Ambev	.05	1.9	17	2.67	-10	-4.6
AmAirlines	.40	2.8	...	14.20	-10	-20.9
AmExp	1.72	1.0	18	169.60	+95	+3.7
Anthem	5.12	1.1	28	473.20	+7.83	+2.1
ApogeeE	.88	1.9	51	46.00	+13	-4.5
Apple Inc s	.88	.6	43	158.52	-4.43	-10.7
ArcadBio rs	...	...	...	1.53	+37	+47.1
BP PLC	1.29	4.5	15	29.03	...	+9.0
BcoBrad	.03	...	9	4.10	-01	+19.9
BkofAm	.84	2.1	12	40.67	-37	-8.6
BarrickGld	2.82	...	19	24.49	+16	+28.9
BerkH B	...	...	44	325.30	-10	+8.8
BestBuy	3.52	3.6	12	98.66	-3.08	-2.9
Brunswick	1.46	1.6	12	91.36	-1.75	-9.3
CH Robins	2.04	2.0	16	102.31	+72	-4.9
CSX s	.40	1.1	22	34.89	+28	-7.2
Carnival	...	...	...	17.65	+38	-12.3
Chevron	5.68	3.3	33	170.82	+4.55	+45.6
CitiGroup	2.04	3.7	5	54.88	-1.07	-9.1
ClevCliffs	...	...	5	26.44	+1.73	+21.5
CocaCola	1.76	3.0	29	57.88	-1.08	-2.2
Coupang n	...	...	...	18.94	-3.76	-35.5
CrowdStr	...	...	...	191.02	+21.23	-6.7
DenisnM g	...	...	...	1.76	+03	+28.5
DraftKin	...	...	...	17.58	-20	-36.0
ExelaTc	...	...	...	.85	+08	-3.0
ExxonMbl	3.52	4.1	...	85.36	+2.57	+39.5
Fastenal	1.24	2.3	35	54.47	-29	-15.0
FordM	.40	2.4	19	16.33	-04	-21.4
FuelCell	...	...	...	6.94	+62	+33.5
Gap	.60	4.2	12	14.28	-10	-19.1
Goodyear	...	...	7	13.05	-08	-38.8
Graingr	6.48	1.3	28	484.75	-2.66	-6.5
HP Inc	.78	2.1	13	36.15	+10	-4.0
HSBC	2.00	6.4	11	31.27	-01	+3.7
HomeDp	7.60	2.4	20	317.94	+74	-23.4
HycrftMin	...	...	...	1.50	+87	+144.3
ING	.14	1.4	...	9.89	-51	-29.0
IQIYI	...	...	3	3.21	-89	-29.6
ImprlPete n	...	...	...	4.99	-07	+133.2
Intel	1.46	3.1	9	46.66	-97	-9.4
IBM	6.56	5.3	24	124.35	-1.87	-7.0
ItauUnH	...	...	8	4.97	+02	+32.5
JD.com	...	...	10	52.52	-9.88	-25.0
Kohls	1.00	1.8	12	54.46	+46	+10.3
MDU Res	.87	3.4	13	25.71	-21	-16.6
MarathnO	.28	1.2	...	23.88	+48	+45.4
MartMM	2.44	.7	32	370.97	-2.45	-15.8
Mattel	...	...	10	23.09	-74	+7.1
McDnlds	5.16	2.3	24	222.00	-47	-17.2
Medtrnic	2.52	2.4	29	104.46	+88	+1.0
Merck	2.76	3.5	35	77.89	+10	+1.6
Meta Plt	...	...	14	195.21	-3.29	-42.0
Microsoft	2.48	.9	32	285.59	-2.91	-15.1
Mondelez	1.40	2.3	23	60.16	-1.13	-9.3
MullnAuto	...	...	...	1.07	-08	-79.5
NewOrEd	...	...	1	1.14	-12	-45.7
NokiaCp	.19	3.9	...	4.85	-06	-22.0
NorwCruis	...	...	...	17.80	+49	-14.2
Nvidia s	...	...	59	226.58	-3.56	-23.0
OcciPet	.52	.9	...	58.13	+63	+100.5
OtterTail	1.65	2.6	18	63.06	+08	-11.7
Palantir	...	...	...	11.87	+22	-34.8
PatriaLat un	...	...	...	10.04	...	0.0
Pentair	.80	1.5	18	54.65	-87	-25.2
PepsiCo	4.30	2.8	26	154.51	-2.89	-11.1
Petrobras	...	...	5	14.17	+31	+29.1
Pfizer	1.60	3.3	14	49.20	+45	-16.7
PintecT lfn	...	...	...	.58	+10	+31.5
Polaris	2.56	2.3	14	110.69	-2.00	+1.7
Prudentl	4.80	4.5	6	106.15	-74	-1.9
RiviaAu A n	...	...	...	41.16	-2.79	-60.3
Roblox	...	...	...	41.47	-2.91	-59.8
SiriusXM	.09	1.4	...	6.22	...	-2.0
SoFiTech n	...	...	...	9.41	-46	-40.5
SwstnEngy	...	...	...	5.75	+10	+23.4
Starbucks	1.96	2.2	24	87.16	-44	-25.5
Sundial h	...	...	...	.50	-01	-14.0
TJX	1.04	1.7	30	62.05	+86	-18.3
Target	3.60	1.7	25	214.78	-1.22	-7.2
Tegna	.38	1.7	10	22.16	-10	+19.4
3M Co	5.96	4.1	14	143.93	-2.67	-19.0
Transocon	...	...	26	4.96	+04	+79.7
Tyson	1.84	2.0	11	89.95	-69	+3.2
Uber Tch	...	...	...	30.41	-1.09	-27.5
US Bancrp	1.84	3.5	11	52.99	-1.52	-5.7
USSteel	.20	.6	9	33.30	+2.27	+39.9
UtdhlthGp	5.80	1.2	31	491.44	+5.87	-2.1
UraniumEn	...	...	...	5.21	+13	+55.5
VEON	...	...	...	.36	-03	-79.1
Vale SA	3.08	16.0	4	19.31	+59	+37.7
VerizonCm	2.56	4.8	10	53.23	+15	+2.4
WalMart	2.24	1.6	40	142.63	+3.17	-1.4
WalGBoots	1.91	4.0	16	48.07	-05	-7.8
WsteMinc	2.30	1.5	40	151.45	+1.47	-9.3
Wells Fargo	1.00	2.0	10	49.01	-15	+2.1
Wendys Co	.50	2.4	46	21.07	-30	-11.7
Winmark	1.80	.8	22	226.55	-1.05	-8.8
XcelEngy	1.95	2.8	24	70.16	+32	+3.6

TODAY IN HISTORY

Today is Friday, March 11, the 70th day of 2022. There are 295 days left in the year. On this date in:

1862: During the Civil War, President Abraham Lincoln removed Gen. George B. McClellan as general-in-chief of the Union armies, leaving him in command of the Army of the Potomac, a post McClellan also ended up losing.

1918: What were believed to be the first confirmed U.S. cases of a deadly global flu pandemic were reported among U.S. Army soldiers stationed at Fort Riley, Kansas; 46 soldiers would die. (The worldwide outbreak of influenza claimed 20 million to 40 million lives.)

1941: President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed the Lend-Lease Bill, providing war supplies to countries fighting the Axis.

Safety

Continued from Page 1A

Public safety will not be compromised if someone calls 911, but if people are leaving law enforcement or firefighting professions or not joining them, community outreach will be lost, Kleis said.

“But here’s the real one - Minnesota’s folks seeking unemployment, who are unemployed, is the lowest since 2000 and so this is going to be a challenge,” Walz said.

Anderson also emphasized supporting co-responder programs, which pair mental health professionals with police officers while responding to calls.

The discussion followed recent public safety meetings Walz and Lt. Gov. Peggy Flanagan have had with community leaders in Stillwater, St. Louis Park, Duluth, Brooklyn Park, Eagan and North Minneapolis.

Walz also visited Jule’s Bistro and ILT Studios in St. Cloud after the roundtable discussion.



Gov. Tim Walz talks with St. Cloud Mayor Dave Kleis, Police Chief Blair Anderson and Fire Chief Matt Love during a public safety roundtable meeting Thursday, March 10, 2022, at St. Cloud City Hall. DAVE SCHWARZ/DSCHWARZ@STCLOUDTIMES.COM



Twin Cities teachers including MFT, Minneapolis Federation of Teachers Local 59, and ESP, Education Support Professionals, rallied at the Minnesota State Capitol, Wednesday in St. Paul. GLEN STUBBE, STAR TRIBUNE /AP

Strike

Continued from Page 1A

He said the district has a \$26 million budget shortfall for next year.

“We have all these priorities that we want to have happen. And we don’t have the resources. And someone’s got to be able to say, ‘I’m sorry, I can’t do it,’” Graff has said.

At least 2,000 Minneapolis teachers, staffers and supporters bundled up for a rally outside the state Capitol on Wednesday. Speakers demanded that the state tap its \$9.25 billion surplus to increase school funding.

Kelsey Clark, a school counselor at South High School and a member of the bargaining team, said her school has five counselors, each with a caseload of about 300 to 350 students – a ratio she said was lower than most. She said having a mental health support team – including social workers and psychologists – is vital for all schools.

“Over this year and the past few years there have been so many things in the world – the pandemic that is still happening, us going to distance learning,” said Clark, whose school is near the site of Floyd’s murder. “There have been so many deaths due to racial incidents, due to COVID, that have just had a traumatic impact on students.”

She said she has seen rising cases of anxiety and depression, more violence and more drug use. Two weeks ago, she was the first adult called to help after a student passed out due to drugs. Another student came to her office and broke down, saying they couldn’t concentrate due to anxiety and stress.

“In the past our mental health team



Marcia Howard, a teacher at Roosevelt High School, spoke at the rally as Twin Cities teachers including MFT, Minneapolis Federation of Teachers Local 59, and ESP, Education Support Professionals, gathered at the Minnesota State Capitol, Wednesday. GLEN STUBBE, STAR TRIBUNE /AP

would do presentations and do grade-level assemblies about different things, whether it’s consent or offering resources,” she said. “We haven’t been able to do things in that way. The last assembly we did try and have, a fight broke out.”

She said a lower counselor-to-student ratio would allow staff to head off potential problems.

Brask said her elementary-age daughter has anxiety and sensory processing disorder that can make it hard for her to concentrate if it’s noisy. Sometimes she’ll fidget, and sometimes she just becomes overwhelmed and can shut down. Her daughter often needs

extra support, she said.

She worked out a plan for her daughter to have a standing time to see the school social worker, but the meeting sometimes doesn’t happen if the social worker has to deal with a crisis, Brask said.

And when students are disruptive in class, it can affect her daughter – but the teachers take the brunt of it, she said.

“Unless they have kids in the district and know what is going on, people have no idea how hard these teachers work to compensate for the lack of support they receive from the district,” she said.

NATION & WORLD

Philippines would back US in war

ASSOCIATED PRESS

MANILA, Philippines – The Philippine president is ready to open the country’s “facilities” to American forces under a 1951 mutual defense treaty if Russia’s war against Ukraine turns for the worse and embroils the United States in the fighting, Manila’s ambassador to Washington said Thursday.

Ambassador Jose Manuel Romualdez said President Rodrigo Duterte made the remarks in a recent meeting in Manila where the president also expressed concern over the global economic impact of the unfolding crisis. The Philippines has condemned the invasion and voted yes on a U.N. General Assembly resolution that demanded an immediate halt to Moscow’s attack and the withdrawal of all Russian troops from Ukraine.

Duterte, whose stormy six-year term ends in June, has nurtured closer ties with Russian President Vladimir Putin and Chinese leader Xi Jinping while often criticizing U.S. security policies in the first years of his presidency.

But Romualdez said Duterte told him that that the Russian invasion was wrong.

“He says if they’re asking for the support of the Philippines, it’s very clear that, of course, if push comes to shove, the Philippines will be ready to be part of the effort, especially if this Ukrainian crisis spills over to the Asian region,” Romualdez said in an online briefing with Manila-based journalists. “Give them the assurance that if ever needed, the Philippines is ready to offer whatever facilities or whatever things that the United States will need being a major – our number one ally.”

Colleges ax partnerships, financial ties with Russia

But students already in US receive support

Collin Binkley
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Colleges across the U.S. are pulling students from study abroad programs in Russia, ending research partnerships and cutting financial ties as part of a global wave of condemnation over the invasion of Ukraine.

At the same time, colleges have promised to support Russian students on their campuses, opposing calls from a few in Congress to remove them from the country as a sanction against their homeland.

The moves are mostly symbolic; U.S. colleges have little power to sway Russia or squeeze its finances, and academic exchange between the nations has always been meager. But the suggestion that some or all Russian students should forfeit the opportunity to study here has drawn new attention to the role of universities in global disputes.

Last academic year, U.S. colleges hosted nearly 5,000 students from Russia, less than 1% of all international students. Advocates for international education say losing those students would forgo a chance to expose them to western ideals, and they say Russians who choose to study in America are already more likely to want change back home.

“Leaders need to make a distinction between Putin and Russian people who want a better life,” said Jill Welch, a senior adviser for the Presidents’ Alliance on Higher Education and Immigration, a coalition of university presidents. “Sending anyone back wouldn’t



Citing safety concerns, Middlebury College in Vermont suspended a study abroad program in Russia at the end of February, urging the 12 students to return home, including Xavier Ridgley. ZAVIER RIDGLEY VIA AP

shorten any war by a day.”

Some in Congress have pushed for visa restrictions against Russian students. Speaking on CNN last month, Rep. Eric Swalwell, D-Calif., said the U.S. should consider “kicking every Russian student out of the United States” as a way to stir backlash against Vladimir Putin in Russia.

The idea has gained little support in Washington, but the White House later suggested that its separate sanctions against Russian oligarchs are partly intended to block access to U.S. universities.

College leaders aren’t fighting the idea that oligarchs and their children should lose access to American education. But wider action against Russian students would carry echoes of America’s discrimination toward Japanese

and German immigrants during World War II, advocates say.

“In our country, we do not punish children for the crimes of their parents,” said Barbara Snyder, president of the Association of American Universities and a former president of Case Western Reserve University.

Middlebury College in Vermont suspended a study abroad program in Russia at the end of February citing safety concerns, urging the 12 students to return home. Among them was Xavier Ridgley, who was studying in Moscow when he was told to book a flight home quickly. The 22-year-old Tulane University senior said he respects the decision, but was disappointed.

Several states have told colleges to cut investments with Russia, including Colorado, Virginia, Ohio and Arizona.

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What’s going on at Chernobyl?

Experts: No imminent danger at closed plant

Seth Borenstein
ASSOCIATED PRESS

When fighting from Russia’s invasion of Ukraine resulted in power cuts to the critical cooling system at the closed Chernobyl nuclear power plant, some feared that spent nuclear fuel would overheat. But nuclear experts say there’s no imminent danger because time and physics are on safety’s side.

Because the fuel rods have been cooling for more than 20 years already, it is not a situation like the 2011 Fukushima nuclear disaster or even like the original Chernobyl meltdown nearly 36 years ago, several nuclear energy experts told The Associated Press.

The International Atomic Energy Agency also said it “sees no critical impact on safety” at the plant, which was the site of the world’s worst nuclear accident in April 1986.

What happened in recent days?

Ukrainian electrical grid operator Ukrenergo said power was cut to all Chernobyl facilities and the diesel generators have fuel for 48 hours. Without power, the “parameters of nuclear and radiation safety” cannot be controlled, it said.

Ukrainian Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba said the plant, which was occupied by Russian forces earlier in the invasion, “lost all electric supply,” and he called on the international community “to urgently demand Russia to cease fire and allow repair units to restore power supply.”

What was the biggest fear in the latest crisis?

The Chernobyl plant, which closed in 2000, has fuel rods containing 500 pounds of uranium, and they are submerged in water at least 49 feet deep, with an active cooling system, said Frank von Hippel, a Princeton University physicist who co-founded the Program on Science and Global Security.



The International Atomic Energy Agency said it saw no critical impact on safety at the closed Chernobyl nuclear power plant. EFREM LUKATSKY/AP FILE

The general worry was that the power outage would cause the cooling system’s backup generators to stop, the radioactive fuel rods would heat up and boil away the water that also helps cool them, raising the temperature to 1,470 degrees Fahrenheit, and causing a fire.

But that’s “pretty unlikely in the situation because the fuel is so cool,” said Edwin Lyman, nuclear power safety director at the Union of Concerned Scientists.

Even that improbable worst-case scenario would take “weeks to months” for the 2,000 fuel assembly pieces in the Chernobyl deep water pool to boil away, added von Hippel.

Such heating would be “very slow-moving, if it ever gets there,” he said, calculating that it would take “about 40 days for the pool to dry out.”

In normal circumstances, cooling fuel rods lose a massive amount of energy and radioactivity – by a factor of 10 – every seven days, said Patrick Regan, nuclear physics professor at the University of Surrey. He said the current scenario wasn’t like the 1986 Chernobyl meltdown or the disaster at the Fukushima plant with fuel rods so fresh and hot

“that you need to keep water flowing through continually.”

After the Fukushima disaster, which was caused by an earthquake and tsunami, the Ukrainian government commissioned a study to look at the meltdown potential from power loss to the cooling of rods. The study found that it wouldn’t be possible for the cooling water to reach boiling temperature and the fuel rods would not be uncovered to start a real meltdown, Lyman said.

The physics of cooling fuel rods

When fuel rods are spent after generating power, they still have lots of internal radioactivity and are still hot. Internal radioactive decay gives off heat and remains in the fuel rods for tens of thousands of years, so they can get hotter unless something is done to cool them, Regan said.

The rods are put in cooling pools or ponds where both water and an active electric-powered system cools them with a heat exchange pump.

“As soon as you stop the coolant, as soon as you stop the mechanism for taking the heat off, it (temperature) will in-

crease,” Regan said.

Eventually in most plants, the radioactivity and heat subsides enough that it could eventually switch from water cooling to air cooling.

No immediate danger seen

The Swedish Radiation Safety Authority estimates that a power outage at Chernobyl will not lead to any radiological emissions in the next couple weeks.

“The fuel storage ponds are also very deep and would likely take weeks for the water to boil down, even without cooling pumps active. This should hopefully allow enough time for the power to cooling systems to be restored,” said Mark Wenman, a nuclear energy expert at Imperial College London.

The IAEA, which is the U.N. nuclear watchdog based in Vienna, said it saw no critical impact on safety at Chernobyl because there could be “effective heat removal without need for electrical supply” from spent nuclear fuel at the site.

Lyman and others said they were more concerned about potential damage to cooling systems and other problems at Ukraine’s four other operating nuclear power plants, rather than at the defunct Chernobyl site. In 2017, Chernobyl got a new 2 billion euro containment system to go over the old sarcophagus.

Other concerns

The post-Fukushima study did raise issues about hydrogen gas being generated and pooling from the cooling process, which is removed with an electronic system, Lyman said. The concern is that the explosive gas may pool more without the venting system and lead to dangers, including sparks when electricity is turned back on if it ever stops.

Another issue is that lack of electricity means the IAEA’s monitoring system, for safety and security, will be blinded, Lyman said.

“It’s not just the cooling to the pools, but all the off-site radiation monitoring systems have been lost,” Lyman said. “The IAEA doesn’t have cameras anymore.”

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Refugees leave almost everything

As they flee, Ukrainians carry cherished items

Kim Hjelmgaard, Katelyn Ferral and Jessica Koscielniak
USA TODAY

CHELM, Poland – The things they carry: small pillows with embroidered flowers, mottled, well-loved teddy bears, pets, a water polo swimsuit, quietly controlled worry, and invisible, aching absence.

Russia’s invasion of Ukraine has caused the fastest-growing refugee crisis in Europe since World War II, according to the United Nations high commissioner for refugees.

More than 2 million people have fled Ukraine, the majority of whom, like 22-year-old Olana Newrzhycka, have been transiting through train stations in tidy, modest provincial towns such as Chelm, in southeastern Poland, that dot the border.

After arriving in Chelm on Monday night, Newrzhycka was resting her head on a pillar in a corner of the station and scrolling through her phone searching for news from home. All around, children played or cried, mothers clutched passports, and volunteer stewards passed out soup and water.

“I just had to have these with me. They remind me of my family,” Newrzhycka said as she tucked her hair behind one ear to reveal an earring – precious to her – that belonged to her grandmother.

In Newrzhycka’s small, squat suitcase beside her was a bracelet, given to her to as a present by another relative. This, too, was what she grabbed as Russian shells descended on her apartment building, blowing out the windows and making it untenable for her to stay in Zhytomyr, a few hours west of Kyiv.

Newrzhycka hopes to eventually find work in Krakow. She is trying to not think too much about that for now.

Refugees leave lives behind

The life of a refugee is about leaving everything behind: family, house, job, school. It often means fleeing with little more than the clothes on your back and



More than 2 million people have fled Ukraine since the beginning of the Russian invasion. JESSICA KOSCIELNIAK/USA TODAY

whatever you can carry. Many flee with just the most basic necessities to keep their families warm or to stave off hunger.

Yet many also refuse to part with items or tokens whose value is exceptionally important to them, more for the memories they invoke or the emotional comfort they afford than their monetary value.

For 17-year-old Anastasia Oleksienko, from near Kyiv, it was her high school diploma. She escaped Ukraine for Poland this week with her family. Russian missile attacks and artillery shut down all the schools in her area. Oleksienko has ambitions to be a lawyer. Those dreams are on hold for now. She wore a matching pink sweater and beanie hat with a pom-pom and exuded giddy excitement despite the circumstances.

For Yusef Grinchak, 15, it was two swimsuits for playing water polo, both with Ukraine’s national colors of blue and gold. Yusef and his mother, Irina, fled from Kharkiv, in northeast Ukraine, which has suffered some of the most heavy bombardment from Russian forces. At least 21 civilians have died in Kharkiv. Before the war, Yusef diligently trained in the sport twice a day – early in

the morning and late at night.

He is too sad to talk about his swimsuits now, but his mom said he insisted on bringing them with him. He has been playing water polo since he was 7 and hopes to become a coach.

“He wants the war to end and come back to home and swim as soon as possible,” Irina Grinchak said.

Olena Zaiceva arrived in Chelm at 4 a.m. on Tuesday with one suitcase. She had nothing in it for herself. All the extra space was taken up by books for her daughters, ages 3 and 5.

As Zaiceva, 40, spoke with USA TODAY, her daughters plucked stuffed animals out of a nearby donation box, hugging them for a bit before dropping them back in. Their father, unable to leave Ukraine because of the government’s mandate that men ages 18 to 60 stay behind to join the war effort, is a firefighter.

For the older daughter, Zaiceva brought math and reading textbooks, and for the younger child an assortment of Ukrainian fairytales that she reads again and again. One of her favorites is a story about a neglected dog and an old wolf who become friends in a forest and try to persuade the dog’s owner to take him back.

‘I can’t answer that question’

On the 13th day of the war, Ukraine appears to be holding key cities and territory as Russia faces a crippling economic response from the U.S. and Europe. In Washington, President Joe Biden announced a ban on the U.S. import of Russian oil and gas on Tuesday.

But across Ukraine, humanitarian corridors for fleeing civilians are continuing to come under attack, pushing waves of refugees like Dasha Kosyanechuk into eastern Europe.

Kosyanechuk, 19, carried her favorite pillow from Odesa, in southern Ukraine, to Chelm – a journey that took four days.

“I can’t sleep on any other,” she said Tuesday at the Chelm station, where three or four trains arrive each day from Ukraine full of people hoping the worst is behind them but facing a new universe of uncertainty.

They are greeted by police, firefighters, medics and various civil society representatives who offer them a helping hand off trains, sustenance, shelter and even legal and mental health support if they need it.

For some, it is not clothes or comfort or memorabilia that matter.

“There was no way I was leaving home without my dog,” said Angalina Osipenko, 22, a nurse from Kharkiv, as she stood outside the Chelm train station waiting to be picked up by a relative who lives in Poland.

Osipenko brought one small backpack, barely enough to hold a change of clothes. Her dog, Tmatri, a tiny Maltese-type breed, shivered in the cold. When she left home, she zipped Tmatri up in her coat and hoped for the best. A day later they made it to Chelm.

Still, most are also weighed down by what they’ve left behind.

“Please, I can’t answer that question. I simply can’t,” said the mother of Anastasia Oleksienko, the 17-year-old who wants to be a lawyer. Her husband stayed behind in Ukraine to fight.

One of the unspoken tragedies of this conflict is whether husbands and fathers will ever see their wives and children again.

“He will be alive,” she said. “He will not die.”

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NATION & WORLD

Inflation soars whopping 7.9% over the past year

Consumer price increase is highest in 40 years

Christopher Rugaber
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON – Propelled by surging costs for gas, food and housing, consumer inflation jumped 7.9% over the past year, the sharpest spike since 1982 and likely only a harbinger of even higher prices to come.

The increase reported Thursday by the Labor Department reflected the 12 months ending in February and didn't include the oil and gas price surges that followed Russia's invasion of Ukraine. Since then, average gas prices nationally have jumped about 62 cents a gallon to \$4.32, according to AAA.

Even before the war further accelerated price increases, robust consumer spending, solid pay raises and persistent supply shortages had sent U.S. inflation to its highest level in four decades. Housing costs, which make up about a third of the government's consumer price index, have risen sharply, a trend that's unlikely to reverse soon.

"The numbers are eye-watering, and there is more to come," said Eric Winograd, senior economist at asset management firm AllianceBernstein. "The peak in inflation will be much higher than previously thought and will arrive later than previously expected."

The government's report Thursday showed that from January to February, inflation rose 0.8%, up from a 0.6% increase from December to January. Excluding the volatile food and energy categories, so-called core prices rose a sharp 0.5% month to month and 6.4% from a year earlier. Economists tend to monitor core prices because they more



Russia's invasion of Ukraine has caused a dramatic rise in fuel prices throughout the nation. DAVID ZALUBOWSKI/AP

closely reflect longer-running inflation trends.

For most Americans, inflation is running far ahead of the pay raises that many have received in the past year, making it harder for them to afford necessities. As a consequence, inflation has become the top political threat to President Joe Biden and congressional Democrats for the midterm elections. Small business people say in surveys that it's their primary economic concern.

Seeking to stem the inflation surge, the Federal Reserve is set to raise interest rates several times this year, beginning with a quarter-point hike next week. The Fed faces a delicate challenge, though: If it tightens credit too aggressively this year, it risks undercutting the economy and possibly triggering a recession.

From January to February, nearly every category of goods and services got

pricier. Grocery costs jumped 1.4%, the sharpest one-month increase since 1990, other than during a pandemic-induced price surge two years ago. The collective price of fruits and vegetables rose 2.3%, the largest monthly increase since 2010. Gas prices spiked 6.6%, clothing 0.7%.

For the 12 months ending in February, grocery prices leapt 8.6%, the biggest year-over-year increase since 1981, the government said. Gas prices are up 38%. And housing costs have risen 4.7%, the largest yearly jump since 1991.

Energy prices, which soared after Russia's invasion of Ukraine, jumped again this week after Biden said the U.S. would bar oil imports from Russia. Oil prices retreated Wednesday on reports that the United Arab Emirates will urge fellow OPEC members to boost production. But they rose again Thursday in morning trading.

Crisis in Ukraine hits food security

Julhas Alam
ASSOCIATED PRESS

DHAKA, Bangladesh – The crisis in Ukraine and Russia, one of the world's main sources of grain, presents new challenges in securing food supplies on top of a prolonged pandemic, a U.N. official said Thursday.

"We weren't going well even before the pandemic. The hunger was rising slowly, and then the pandemic hit," said Gabriel Ferrero de Loma-Orsorio, head of the Committee on World Food Security, a platform within the United Nations for the fight against hunger.

He said an estimated 161 million more people are suffering from hunger than before COVID, totaling 821 million. Russia's invasion of Ukraine has impacted the availability and prices of food, "so, unfortunately, we will need to be cautious, but we can see an important impact on food security globally."

He said countries need to be careful in handling their food security. Bangladesh imports almost half its wheat from Ukraine and Russia. The war could reduce food supplies just when prices are at their highest levels since 2011.

While there have not yet been global disruptions to wheat supplies, prices have surged 55% since a week before the invasion.

On Thursday, Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina highlighted her country's achievement of self-sufficiency in several essential foods and noted that agriculture remains the backbone of the nation's economy.

China apparently eases COVID policy

ASSOCIATED PRESS

BEIJING – China is tackling a COVID-19 spike with selective lockdowns and other measures that appear to slightly ease its draconian "zero tolerance" strategy.

In Hong Kong, where experts say the city's worst outbreak to date may have peaked, barbershops and hair salons reopened Thursday. Still, many are seeing that as an example of mixed messages from the government of the semi-autonomous Chinese territory that has been ordered to follow the "zero tolerance" approach used on the mainland.

Hong Kong authorities reported 31,392 local infections on Thursday, down from over 50,000 infections the previous day.

On the mainland, the 402 cases of local transmission reported Thursday were quadruple the number of cases a week ago. Of those, 165 were in the northeastern province of Jilin, mainly in the cities of Changchun and Jilin, where city authorities locked down 160 residential communities where multiple cases have been detected.

Three rounds of mass testing in Jilin city have also been completed, inter-city transport links suspended and all residents advised to stay home until numbers drop. Non-essential businesses and snow recreation areas were closed.



Non-COVID-19 patients wait to be transferred as Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Hong Kong switches to treating serious coronavirus cases. KIN CHEUNG/AP

Drivers and passengers of private cars, buses and taxis entering or exiting Changchun must present negative tests for the coronavirus taken within the past 48 hours.

Authorities attributed the Jilin provincial outbreak to the highly contagious omicron variant, with more than 1,200 cases recorded nationwide since Friday, some of the highest numbers since the pandemic began spreading from the central city of Wuhan in 2020.

Still, control measures were less strict than in the past, in a possible sign that China is beginning to relax its "zero tolerance" approach to the pandemic. As recently as January, China was lock-

ing down entire cities, affecting millions of people.

In his annual report on the work of government delivered Saturday, Premier Li Keqiang said China needs to "constantly refine epidemic containment" but gave no direct indication Beijing was abandoning "zero tolerance."

Hong Kong leader Carrie Lam said Wednesday that reducing deaths is the city's priority. Hong Kong is dedicating several hospitals to COVID-19 treatment and building an emergency hospital that will be staffed by medical workers from the mainland.

Lam also said there was no updated schedule for a mass-testing plan in Hong Kong that was initially expected to occur this month but was put on hold.

Hong Kong has seen more than 600,000 infections since the latest wave began at the end of December.

Hair salons in the city reopened Thursday after being ordered to close for a month as part of tough social-distancing restrictions.

"It's good that we are allowed to open and have business although there's still more than 20,000 to 30,000 daily cases," said Andy Cheung, the owner of an express salon.

"But still, it's good that we can serve the community," he said.

Mariupol city resorting to mass grave amid shelling

Evgeniy Maloletka
ASSOCIATED PRESS

MARIUPOL, Ukraine – With bodies piling up in Russia's nine-day siege of Mariupol, the port city of 430,000 in southeastern Ukraine, local authorities are hurrying to bury the dead in a mass grave.

City workers made quick signs of the cross as they pushed bodies wrapped in carpets or bags into a deep trench some 80 feet long on the outskirts of the city. More than 70 bodies have been interred in the common grave since it was opened Tuesday.

About half of those buried were killed in the intense shelling of the city, estimated an AP journalist who visited the burial ground. Others died at home from natural causes, but authorities were unable to arrange for the collection of the bodies or their burial.

As of Thursday, Mariupol had suffered at least eight major airstrikes in 48 hours, with a children's hospital and the central fire department hit.

City residents are staying in shelters as much as possible as temperatures dip to 15 degrees.

NATION & WORLD WATCH FROM WIRE REPORTS

Report: Pilot fought to save helicopter before deadly crash

NEWPORT BEACH, Calif. – The pilot of a police helicopter desperately tried to keep flying before crashing into the ocean off Southern California last month, killing another officer, investigators said in a preliminary report Wednesday. Two Huntington Beach officers were responding to a report of fighting in the neighboring city of Newport Beach on the night of Feb. 19 when the aircraft crashed in a narrow strip of water. The pilot was injured and 44-year-old Nicholas Vella, a 14-year Police Department veteran, died in the crash.

Rainfall eases Florida wildfire threat, officials urge caution

PANAMA CITY, Fla. – While rainfall has improved conditions across much of the Florida Panhandle, state officials said Thursday that the volume of dead trees and vegetation left by a Category 5 hurricane in 2018 remains a threat for additional wildfires. Without additional significant rainfall, the debris left on the ground by Hurricane Michael will quickly dry out and serve as fuel for wildfires, the Florida Forest Service said in a news release. In the meantime, firefighters are continuing to improve containment lines on the Chipola Complex fire.

After fleeing Ukraine, South African students arrive home

JOHANNESBURG – Ten South African students who fled Ukraine after Russia's invasion of that country have arrived home Thursday, with 25 more expected over the next few days. Welcomed by cheering family and friends at O.R. Tambo International Airport, the students are among more than 80,000 foreign nationals who have left Ukraine since the Russian invasion, according to the International Organization for Migration. The South African students were on a repatriation flight organized by the South African government.

Indonesia's Mount Merapi erupts multiple times, 250 evacuate

YOGYAKARTA, Indonesia – Indonesia's Mount Merapi volcano spewed avalanches of hot clouds in eruptions overnight Thursday that forced about 250 residents to flee to temporary shelters and left ash blanketing nearby villages and towns. No casualties were reported. The volcano on the densely populated island of Java unleashed clouds of hot ash at least seven times just before and after midnight and fast-moving pyroclastic flows, a mixture of rock, lava and gas, traveled up to 3.1 miles down its slopes.

Sheltering from bombs, Ukraine’s ‘cellar violinist’ plays on

Paolo Santalucia
ASSOCIATED PRESS

ROME, Italy – A gentle tune from a violin played by a musician who has been dubbed Ukraine’s “cellar violinist” is a lullaby for a child sheltered in the dark basement of an apartment building in the besieged Ukrainian city of Kharkiv.

Vera Lytovchenko has become an internet icon of resilience as images of the concert violinist playing in the basement bomb shelter have inspired an international audience via social media.

When heavy Russian bombing of Ukraine’s northeastern city of Kharkiv started two weeks ago, Lytovchenko, her professor father and neighbors sought safety in their building’s basement.

“Bombs can fall everywhere in our city, so we decided to go down in the cellar,” the 39-year-old violinist told The Associated Press via Skype Wednesday during a brief respite from the bombing during a temporary cease-fire. “We’re about 12 people now. We have little boys. We have teenagers. We have old women.”

A week into their basement huddle, Lytovchenko decided to try to lift the spirits of her cellar mates by holding small concerts.

“All these people are my brothers and sisters now,” she said. “I was trying to make them think about something and not about the war for some minutes while I’m playing.”

Later she thought to post her recitals, featuring the calming strains of Vivaldi and even Lytovchenko singing a Russian folk song, on social media. The reaction surprised her: more than 40,000 views on Facebook and thousands more on YouTube.

“I didn’t expect that because I was posting just to reach my friends, my relatives. My aunt is near Kyiv and I’m afraid for her,” she said.

“My friends are in different cities all over Ukraine and I’m trying to keep a connection with them, I text them several times a day to know if they’re alive,” Lytovchenko said. “Many people text me now saying that my videos give them such support and hope. They can see that someone stays here” in Kharkiv.

“Someone is alive and someone keeps hope and is optimistic,” she said.

On Wednesday, during the temporary cease-fire in Kharkiv, Ukraine’s second-largest city, Lytovchenko was able to return to her apartment for a few hours. She told the AP she was happy to see sunlight after spending two weeks in the dark basement, adding that she and her neighbors are lucky because they have heating in the cellar and food.

Before the war, Lytovchenko played for the Kharkiv City Opera orchestra and taught music lessons.

“It was another life ... a normal life,” she said of the time before the war. “I’m an orchestra player. I am a teacher in college. I have my students, I have friends, I play concerts, I play operas and ballets. I play Italian operas in the theater.”

Describing Ukraine before the war, Lytovchenko said: “We had a cultural life in our country, our cities, in spite of the coronavirus. We were vaccinated. It was a normal life. ... But now we can’t understand what is happening.”

Lytovchenko says she hopes that her posts can help raise funds for Kharkiv’s music community.

“I dream about my little financial fund, because I received messages from all over the world, from all countries. They texted me, they want to help,” she said.

She wants “to help musicians ... and to rebuild our city, our conservatory, our music college, our music school,” she said. “To help our musicians who lost their houses and help musicians to return to their own cities and not to be refugees.”

Obituaries

Patrick Lee Eisenreich

SARTELL - Mass of Christian Burial will be 11:00 a.m. on Monday, March 14, 2022 at St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church in Sartell for Patrick L. Eisenreich, age 80, who passed away on Thursday. Rev. Ronald Weyrens will officiate and entombment will be at Assumption Mausoleum in St. Cloud. Visitation will be one hour prior to services at the church in Sartell on Monday morning. Arrangements have been entrusted with the Williams Dingmann Family Funeral Home, Sauk Rapids.



Patrick was born on March 17, 1941 in Saint Cloud to Leo and Marie (Lardy) Eisenreich. He married Mary Milske on June 15, 1963 in St. Paul. Patrick worked in sales at Sears and at Central McGowan as a route salesman. He enjoyed carpentry and was happiest when he was working in his shop at home, creating wooden trucks, Christmas bears, and other beautifully crafted items. He was a member of St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church in Sartell and volunteered as a greeter for many years. Pat loved to be around his family, travel with Mary to Branson, MO and he always enjoyed a good meal with those he loved.

He is survived by his wife, Mary of Sartell; children, Michael (Sarah) of St. Cloud, Robert of Sartell and John of Otsego; grandchildren, Kristin, Nicolette (Marcus) Stueck, Richard (Brianna), Catie, and Rachel; step-grandchildren, Levi (Stephanie) Kleffman and Tyler (Megan) Kleffman; great-grandchildren, Wesley, Tucker, and Teagan; step great-grandchildren, Carsyn, Tate, Zeke, and Nora Kleffman; and brother, Terry (Carol) of Sauk Rapids. He was preceded in death by his parents.

The family would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to Edgewood Memory Care in Sartell and to St. Croix Hospice for the kind and compassionate care that was given to Pat, especially in his final days.

Obituary and Guest Book available online: www.williamsdingmann.com

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Joanne E. Fleck

ST. CLOUD - Joanne Elizabeth Fleck passed away on March 5, 2022. She is survived by her three children Kathryn Crispo (husband Richard Crispo), Toivo Fleck (Antonella Fleck), and Tammy McCullough (Christopher McCullough), two siblings Edwin Tuhkanen and Kathryn Tuhkanen, seven grandchildren Rebecca Kockler Easterling, Ryan Kockler, Derek Kockler, Aundrea Bakker, Taylor Smith, Marvin Fleck, Maria Fleck and five great-grandchildren Maya Kockler, Charles Fleck, Jade Kockler, Olivia Fleck, and Eleanor Easterling. She is preceded in death by her husband, Marvin Fleck, who she missed every day since his passing and now joins him. Additionally, she is preceded in death by her father, Toivo Tuhkanen, mother, Kathryn Dolliver Tuhkanen, and brother William Tuhkanen.



Joanne was born on November 19, 1939 to Toivo Tuhkanen and Kathryn Dolliver in Chisolm, MN. She married the love of her life, Marvin Fleck, March 1959. Due to her husband’s career in the Army and Air Force, Joanne lived in many countries including Puerto Rico, Spain, and Italy, and this fueled her longtime curiosity about others, the world, and love of travel. She earned her RN nursing degree at the College of St. Benedict and was a Clinic Reviewer at the Veterans’ Administration Medical Center in St. Cloud, MN for over 20 years. In retirement she continued to utilize her skills as a Parish Nurse at the Church of St. Paul’s in St. Cloud and was an integral member of her community. She volunteered at her church and for the Poor Clares’. She was creative and pursued a number of hobbies including cooking, gardening, woodworking, painting, and piano. But mostly, she was the guiding light and matriarch where she believed in the love, strength, and never ending commitment of family. She was loved by many and brought much support and strength to people in good and challenging times. She will be missed, but the love and values she brought to the world will carry on in her loved ones.

Visitation will be at the Church of St Paul’s in St. Cloud starting at 10 am with the service following at 11am. In honor of our mother, grandmother and great grandmother, we would like to invite you to a lunch following the service. Joanne held the Poor Clares’ close to her heart, so donations can be given to their community. Her family would like to leave you with these words:

I come into the presence of Stillwater. And I feel above me the day-blinds stars waiting for the light. For a time I rest in the grace of the world, and I’m free.

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Obituaries

TODAY’S OBITUARIES AND DEATH NOTICES				
Name	Age	Town, State	Death Date	Arrangements
Ainger, Shawn M.	50	Clear Lake	07-Mar	Benson Funeral Home, St. Cloud
Bechtold, Elizabeth	86	Sauk Rapids	02-Mar	Foley Funeral Home
Bierschbach, Lorraine D.	92	Melrose	09-Mar	Patton-Schad Funeral & Cremation Services- Melrose
Busche, Sandra E.	82	Sauk Rapids	01-Mar	Williams Dingmann Family Funeral Home, Sauk Rapids
Buttweiler, Renee	90	St. Cloud	04-Mar	Miller-Carlin Funeral Homes
*Eisenreich, Patrick Lee	80	Sartell	10-Mar	Williams Dingmann Family Funeral Home, Sauk Rapids
*Fleck, Joanne E.	82	St. Cloud	05-Mar	Williams Dingmann Family Funeral Home, Sauk Rapids
Hinz, Roberta E.	92	Saint Cloud	08-Mar	Miller-Carlin Funeral Home
Kelley, Jr., Ralph C.	97	Cassville, MO	08-Mar	Williams Dingmann Family Funeral Home, Sauk Rapids
Kohnen, Spencer G.	20	Paynesville	06-Mar	Daniel-Anderson Funeral Home, Paynesville
Kozak, Alma V.	91	St. Cloud	03-Mar	Williams Dingmann Family Funeral Home, Sauk Rapids
Mai, Sr. Monica	88	St. Cloud	05-Mar	Benson Funeral Home, St. Cloud
*Mehrerwerth, Jerome “Jerry” L.	85	Sauk Rapids	09-Mar	Williams Dingmann Family Funeral Home, Sauk Rapids
Sobieck, Alfred A.	89	Rice	07-Mar	Miller-Carlin Funeral Home
Wall, Ronald J.	67	Hillman	05-Mar	Benson Funeral Home, St. Cloud
Weidner, Patricia	95	St. Cloud	07-Mar	Williams Dingmann Funeral Home, St. Cloud

*** Additional information in display obituaries**
Obituaries appear in print and online at www.sctimes.com/obituaries

Jerome “Jerry” L. Mehrwerth

SAUK RAPIDS - Mass of Christian Burial will be 10:00 a.m. Monday, March 14, 2022 at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Sauk Rapids for Jerome “Jerry” Mehrwerth, age 85, who passed away Wednesday at his home. Rev. Thomas Knoblach and Rev. Eugene Doyle will officiate and burial will be at the Minnesota State Veterans Cemetery near Little Falls. Visitation will be from 4-7 p.m. Sunday at Sacred Heart Catholic Church and one hour prior to the services Monday also at the church. Arrangements have been entrusted to Williams Dingmann Family Funeral Home, Sauk Rapids.



Jerry was born July 11, 1936 in St. Cloud to George & Marie (Schmit) Mehrwerth. He graduated from Sauk Rapids High School in 1954, was awarded the most outstanding football player, and was a Homecoming escort. Jerry honorably served our country in the U.S. Marine Corps and in the National Guard for 7 years. He married Shirley Brenny on September 2, 1957 and to this marriage, Keith, Cynthia, Kevin, Michelle and Susan were born. Shirley passed away in 1994. He married Glenice Holt on July 12, 1996 and blended the family with, Luann, Wayne, Dan, Bev and Marcia. Jerry was a farmer and also worked as a salesman for Pure Plant Food for several years and at NSP for 12 years. He was a member of Sacred Heart Catholic Church where he was a member of the Knight of Columbus and Men’s Club, served as an usher and money counter, and worked at the Bazaar. Jerry was a lifetime member of Sauk Rapids American Legion Post #254 and the Marine Corps League. He loved being involved in the community. Jerry sponsored a softball team, worked at Golden Spike Speedway, was a bouncer for the local night clubs, was a constable and on the Minden Township board. He enjoyed playing cards, entertaining family and friends, traveling, dancing, and watching western movies. Jerry was mechanically inclined, an avid reader, had a gift of gab, and never met a stranger.

Survivors include his wife, Glenice “Glennie” of Sauk Rapids; sons and daughters, Keith (Linda Koll) Mehrwerth of St. Cloud, Kevin (Rebecca) Mehrwerth of Sauk Rapids, Michelle “Shelly” (Dave) LaPage of Crystal, Susan “Sue” (Greg) Wardlow of Houston, TX, LuAnn Tangen of Bloomington, Wayne Tangen of Fortuna, ND, Dan (Shelly) Tangen of Lakeville, Bev Gregory of San Diego, CA, and Marcia Beier of Belgrade; sisters, Donna Andes of Thomas, VA, Marjo Keller of Breckenridge, and Mary Lou Schwieters of Waite Park; 16 grandchildren and 8 great grandchildren with one on the way. Jerry was preceded in death by his parents; daughter, Cynthia Mehrwerth; and siblings, Isabelle Stang, Arthur Mehrwerth, Virginia Peschl, and Floyd Mehrwerth.

The family would like to thank CentraCare Hospice and Visiting Angels. In lieu of flowers, memorials are preferred to Sacred Heart Catholic Church. Obituary, Guest Book, and Video Tribute available online: www.williamsdingmann.com

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SPORTS

Ellingson named Albany head football coach

Brian Mozey
St. Cloud Times
USA TODAY NETWORK

ALBANY — The Albany activities department announced the hiring of Mike Ellingson as the new head football coach for the Albany football team Thursday, according to Albany activities director Scott Buntje.

Ellingson will become a middle school math teacher in the Albany Area Schools and the head football coach.

“This is a high profile position and a big position in many ways not only in our district, but every district,” Buntje said. “Mike [Ellingson] rose to the top of that and we feel lucky to have him coming in not only as a good football coach, but as a quality math teacher. We think we’re getting the best of both worlds.”

See ELLINGSON, Page 2C

LATE WEDNESDAY

Beasley sets T-Wolves 3-point mark in 132-102 win over OKC

Tyler Mason
ASSOCIATED PRESS

MINNEAPOLIS – Malik Beasley made 11 3-pointers to set a Timberwolves franchise-record and finished with 33 points to help lift Minnesota to its sixth win in a row with a 132-102 victory over the Oklahoma City Thunder on Wednesday night.

After Beasley hit his final 3, his Timberwolves teammates on the bench celebrated the mark by dumping water and Gatorade on Beasley. The home crowd at Target Center chanted “Beasley!” as he exited the game following the record-setting basket.

See T-WOLVES, Page 2C



Minnesota Timberwolves guard Malik Beasley (5) shoots a team record 11th 3-point basket in a single game against the Oklahoma City Thunder in the fourth quarter of Wednesday's game at Target Center in Minneapolis.

BRUCE KLUCKHOHN/USA TODAY SPORTS



St. Cloud State huddles up before taking on Colorado College on Feb. 26 at Herb Brooks National Hockey Center in St. Cloud. PHOTOS BY ZACH DWYER/ZDWYER@STCLOUDTIMES.COM

SCSU prepares for NCHC Tournament

Zach Dwyer
St. Cloud Times
USA TODAY NETWORK

ST. CLOUD — Rivals St. Cloud State and Minnesota-Duluth will meet for a fifth and sixth (and possibly seventh) time in a five-week span this weekend, as the Huskies host their first best-of-three NCHC quarterfinals series since 2019.

Last year the NCHC tournament was held in a single-elimination format entirely in Grand Forks, and SCSU's quarterfinal series at Western Michigan was canceled in 2020 at the start of the pandemic.

SCSU has won four of their six



St. Cloud State waits on the bench during a ref review on Feb. 26 at Herb Brooks National Hockey Center in St. Cloud.

Albany girls basketball tops Kimball in section semifinals

Brian Mozey
St. Cloud Times
USA TODAY NETWORK

COLLEGEVILLE — After winning the quarterfinals game on Saturday, the No. 1 Albany girls basketball team stayed to watch No. 5 Kimball play in its quarterfinal game.

The Huskies had never played Kimball this season, so this gave them the opportunity to learn more before the matchup on Wednesday in the Section 6-2A semifinals.

Albany knew it was going to be a different style of game compared to most of the opponents the team had faced this season. Ultimately, the Huskies were able to stick to a plan on Wednesday and came out with the 52-37 win to advance to the section title game.

See ALBANY, Page 3C



Albany's Kylan Gerads goes up for a shot against Kristen Hilbert of Kimball during the Section 6-2A semifinals game on Wednesday at St. John's University in Collegeville.

DAVE SCHWARZ/
DSCHWARZ@
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SCSU

Continued from Page 1C

best-of-three series since the conference tournament began in 2014, last sweeping Miami in 2019. The Huskies have only played a game three in one of those series, winning 4-3 over Miami in overtime back in 2018.

“It’s just a little bit more of your structure during the week, allowing for a little more rest and recovery for the guys coming out of a tough schedule down the stretch,” SCSU head coach Brett Larson said about a potential three-game weekend. “We wanna make sure our guys have legs, have jump and have energy for Friday night. That’s a little bit of a balancing act as the week goes on.”

The Huskies have reached the most NCHC finals of any conference team, aided by a 5-0 record in NCHC semifinals games. SCSU is only 1-4 in NCHC finals after coming up short 5-3 at North Dakota last year.

The semifinal and final rounds for the NCHC Frozen Faceoff return to the Xcel Energy Center in St. Paul this season.

No. 9-ranked SCSU has to deal with a competitive No. 10-ranked Minnesota-Duluth side before they can get there. Three of the four regular season meetings went to overtime, and the Huskies



St. Cloud State celebrates a goal in the first period Saturday, Feb. 26, 2022, at Herb Brooks National Hockey Center in St. Cloud.
ZACH DWYER/
ZDWYER
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only earned the No. 4 seed and home ice after winning 2-0 at Duluth last Saturday.

That win ended a stretch of five consecutive games against the Bulldogs decided by one goal or less.

“Obviously you know how they play; they know how we play,” junior Jami Krannila said. “I think it’s good for both teams to get good battles in. You’re gonna start hating some of their guys, they’re gonna start hating some of our guys. I think that’s how hockey should

be; it feels like a real playoff series when we play them.”

The seven SCSU goals scored in their four meetings this year have come from seven different players. One was from graduate defenseman Seamus Donohue, who is still day-to-day after missing Saturday’s season finale against Duluth.

Friday’s game will begin at 7 p.m. at Herb Brooks National Hockey Center, with Saturday set for a 6 p.m. puck drop. If the teams split the first two games,

the deciding game three will be played on Sunday night at 6 p.m.

“It’s gonna be really tight, hard hockey where you have to continue to stick to your gameplan,” Larson said. “You can’t get frustrated. Sometimes playing against them you get that feeling where there’s no room, there’s no space. You gotta keep fighting for that space ... you gotta fight for every inch.”

All-NCHC teams announced

All-conference teams were announced on Wednesday afternoon as two SCSU players earned recognition.

Senior defenseman Nick Perbix was named to the All-NCHC First Team after totaling four goals and 24 assists. His 1.22 points per game average in NCHC play was the top defenseman total, and he’s the first SCSU player to be named to the First Team since 2018-19.

Graduate forward Kevin Fitzgerald earned All-NCHC Second Team honors a. Fitzgerald leads the Huskies with 16 goals, 34 points and seven power play goals. He’s second on the team with 18 assists, only trailing Perbix.

Zach Dwyer is a sports reporter and photographer for the St. Cloud Times. Reach him at 320-406-5660 or zdwyer@stcloudtimes.com. Follow him on Twitter @sctimeszach.

T-Wolves

Continued from Page 1C

“It was a great moment,” said Beasley, whose 17 shots from the field all came from 3-point range. “We have a great team, and teammates who care about each other. It was huge to be a part of that.”

Taurean Prince scored 17 points off the bench for Minnesota, while Karl-Anthony Towns recorded another double-double with 13 points and 11 rebounds in 29 minutes.

Aaron Wiggins led Oklahoma City with 25 points and nine rebounds. Isaiah Roby added 15 points.

Beasley hit his 10th 3-pointer with a step-back bucket midway through the fourth quarter to tie Anthony Edwards’ team record. Beasley needed three shots to set the new mark with his 11th coming with the shot clock winding down as he buried a shot over the outstretched arm of Thunder guard Vit Krejčí.

“It was crazy. In my head I was like, ‘This is lit,’” Beasley said. “And it was off the dribble, too, so that made it even better.”

He didn’t play the final 4:57, ending three made 3-pointers shy of Klay Thompson’s NBA record.

“If I had more time, I definitely would have broken that record,” Beasley said.

Beasley also set Minnesota’s single-season 3-point record Saturday against Portland. He surpassed Kevin Love’s previous mark of 190 made 3s in a sea-



Oklahoma City Thunder guard Aaron Wiggins (21) works around Minnesota Timberwolves forward Jaden McDaniels (3) in the first quarter of Wednesday’s game at Target Center in Minneapolis. BRUCE KLUCKHOHN/USA TODAY SPORTS

son.

The Timberwolves’ six-game winning streak is their longest since the 2003-04 season. Minnesota has beaten the Thunder and Portland Trail Blazers twice each during the streak.

Thunder leading scorer Shai Gilgeous-Alexander shot just 2 of 15 from the floor for eight total points.

“Everybody has off nights. He’s had a hell of a run,” Thunder coach Mark Daigneault said. “There may be a little bit of fatigue there, too. We’ve played a long stretch of games against good oppo-

nents and he’s obviously shouldered a large load.”

Oklahoma City has dropped four straight, losing by an average of 26.8 points per game during that stretch.

Edwards and D’Angelo Russell both returned to the lineup Wednesday for Minnesota. Edwards missed four games with a left knee injury, while Russell missed Monday’s game with bilateral hamstring soreness.

For the second time in as many games, the Timberwolves held a 27-point halftime lead. Minnesota out-

scored Oklahoma City 42-26 in the second quarter to head into the half with yet another big advantage.

Beasley’s hot shooting helped Minnesota build a big lead early. He was 6 of 7 from 3-point range in the first quarter – also a team record – and led all Wolves scorers with 21 points in the first half.

“With shooters, when they see the ball go in that much, that easily, that early, the rim just gets bigger and bigger for them,” Timberwolves coach Chris Finch said. “I was really proud of Malik.”

Wednesday was the second time in three games the Thunder allowed an opposing player to make 11 3-pointers. Utah’s Bojan Bogdanovic was 11 of 18 from deep Sunday against Oklahoma City.

Tip-ins

Thunder: Rookie guard Tre Mann did not play after injuring his ankle in Tuesday’s loss to Milwaukee. Mann is averaging 9.2 points per game.

Timberwolves: Jaylen Nowell returned Wednesday after missing the second half of Monday’s game with a nasal contusion. Nowell finished with six points in 27 minutes. ... Patrick Beverley was out Wednesday with right ankle soreness.

Up next

Thunder: Return to action Sunday at home against Memphis.

Timberwolves: Begin a 3-game road trip Friday at Orlando.

Ellingson

Continued from Page 1C

Ellingson spent 19 years with Triton Public Schools and became the Triton head football coach at the beginning of the 2018 season. He’s been a head coach for the Cobras for four years.

Before being head coach, Ellingson spent 15 years as an assistant coach including 14 years as defensive coordinator. During his time with the Cobras, the team won one Class 2A state champion-

ship and a Class 2A second place state finish.

Ellingson was a graduate of Hinckley-Finlayson High School and played linebacker at Concordia University in St. Paul. Along with football coaching, he was the head baseball coach for nine years.

“He’s just a pure and genuine man,” Buntje said. “We’re getting a quality person, quality coach and quality teacher.”

He built the Triton football program over the four years as head coach. In 2018, the team went 2-8 in regular season and postseason, but improved to

4-5 in 2019.

The Cobras ended up 4-3 in 2020 with the reduced season because of COVID-19 and last year, Triton finished 6-4.

Ellingson will replace Mike Kleinschmidt, who stepped down after the 2021 season and being with the Albany football program for 37 years and 19 of them as head coach.

Ellingson will be the fourth head coach in the Albany’s 74-year history of football.

“We have high quality people up and down our program and I think that’s going to continue there,” Buntje said.

“That precedent was set with [Pete] Herges and [Jim] Mader, followed by [Mike] Kleinschmidt. You’re going to see Albany football carry on, but with some new ideas and trying new things, so I’m excited about the future of this program.”

Brian Mozey is the high school sports reporter for the St. Cloud Times. Reach him at 320-255-8772 or bmozey@stcloudtimes.com. Follow him on Twitter @BrianMozey.

CENTRAL MINNESOTA AREA SCOREBOARD

Results for Wednesday, March 9
Girls basketball
Section 6AA Semifinals
No. 1 Albany 52, No. 5 Kimball 37
College baseball
St. Cloud State 8, Malone 3
St. Cloud Technical & Community College 3, Southwestern Community College 1
St. Cloud Technical & Community College 13, Southwestern Community College 2 (5 innings)
College softball
St. Cloud State vs. Clarion University in Florida, canceled
St. Cloud State vs. Palm Beach Atlantic University in Florida, canceled
Women’s tennis
Southern Indiana 4, St. Cloud State 3
Upcoming games
Friday, March 11
Girls basketball
Section 6AA Championship
Albany at St. John’s, 7 p.m.
Boys basketball
Section 8AAA Semifinals
No. 3 Sauk Rapids-Rice at No. 2 Tech, 7

p.m.
No. 5 ROCORI at No. 1 Alexandria, 7 p.m.
Men’s hockey
NCHC quarterfinals (best of 3)
No. 5 Minnesota Duluth at No. 4 St. Cloud State, 7 p.m.
Women’s basketball
NCAA tournament regional
No. 5 St. Cloud State vs. No. 4 Missouri Southern in Fort Hays, Kansas, 7:30 p.m.
College wrestling
St. Cloud State at NCAA Championships in St. Louis, Missouri
College baseball
St. John’s vs. North Central in Florida, 2 p.m.
St. Cloud State vs. Bentley in Florida, 5 p.m.
College softball
College of St. Benedict vs. UMass Dartmouth in Florida, 9 a.m.
College of St. Benedict vs. Alfred University in Florida, 11:30 a.m.
Men’s track and field
St. John’s juniors Maguire Petersen and Eli Mollet at NCAA Division III Indoor

Championships
Women’s track and field
St. Cloud State senior Hannah Arason and junior Parker Buske at NCAA Division II Indoor Championships
College of St. Benedict sophomore Fiona Smith at NCAA Division III Indoor Championships
Men’s swimming & diving
St. Cloud State at NCAA Division II Championships
Women’s swimming & diving
St. Cloud State at NCAA Division II Championships
Men’s tennis
St. John’s vs. St. Thomas (Fla.) in Florida, 10:30 a.m.
St. John’s vs. Stonehill, 5:30 p.m.
NAHL hockey
Minot Minotauros at St. Cloud Norsemen, 7 p.m.
NA3HL hockey
West Division semifinals (best of 3)
Alexandria Blizzard at Granite City Lumberjacks, 7:30 p.m.

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MLB players vote to end lockout

Ronald Blum
ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK – Major League Baseball’s acrimonious lockout ended Thursday when a divided players’ association voted to accept management’s offer to salvage a 162-game season that will start April 7.

Owners approved the five-year labor contract with a 30-0 vote, and MLB formally lifted the lockout at 7 p.m. on its 99th day.

“I am genuinely thrilled to say Major League Baseball is back and we’re going to play 162 games,” Commissioner Rob Manfred said. “I want to start by apologizing to our fans. I know the last few months have been difficult.”

MLB’s roster freeze, imposed when the work stoppage began on Dec. 2, was to dissolve immediately, allowing Freddie Freeman, Carlos Correa and more than 100 other free agents to sign contracts.

Training camps in Florida and Arizona will open Friday, and the mandatory reporting date is Sunday. Exhibition games will begin March 17 or 18.

Fans can start making plans to be at Fenway Park, Dodger Stadium and Camden Yards next month. Opening day is being planned a little more than a week behind the original date on March 31.

The deal brings several major changes to the sport – a universal designated hitter, an expanded postseason and measures to disincentivize so-called “tanking.” Most of the labor fight centered on the game’s core economics.

The 184 games canceled by Manfred were instead postponed, with the regular season extended by three days to Oct. 5. Approximately three games per team will be made up as part of double-headers.

With pitchers Max Scherzer and Andrew Miller taking prominent roles as union spokesmen, players twice allowed management deadlines pass to salvage the original March 31 opening



Major League Baseball Commissioner Rob Manfred speaks during a news conference after negotiations with the players’ association toward a labor deal on March 1. WILFREDO LEE/AP

day, then let this Tuesday’s deadline for a 162-game schedule go by.

After narrowing the economic gap this week, MLB made another offer Thursday afternoon, saying this was the absolute, final, last moment to play 162 games and preserve full salary and service time.

Teams moved toward middle ground between themselves and the players. The union’s executive board approved the offer on a 26-12 vote, a person familiar with the balloting said, speaking to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because no announcement was authorized.

Players’ pictures that had been scrubbed from the league’s website were restored at 7 p.m. sharp. Teams tweeted videos and statements celebrating the lockout’s end and sharing info about buying tickets for the new

opening day.

“The deal pushes the game forward,” Yankees pitcher Gerrit Cole, a member of the union’s executive subcommittee, said in a telephone interview with The Associated Press. “It addresses a lot of the things that the players in the game should be focused on: the competitive integrity aspect of it.”

Playoffs will expand from 10 to 12 teams, with two division winners receiving first-round byes and the remaining four teams in a best-of-three wild card round in each league.

The deal allows teams to have advertising on uniforms and helmets for the first time and could lead to a pitch clock and limits on defensive shifts in 2023.

“I love our game,” Manfred said. “Having said that, since I’ve been commissioner, I’ve talked about the need to make changes in some of our rules to

enhance the entertainment value of our product for the benefit of our fans. And I think the new agreement opens up an opportunity that we can work with the players to make sure that we can make good rule changes that work for our fans.”

The agreement calls for the luxury tax threshold to rise from \$210 million last year to \$230 million this season and gradually to \$242 million in 2026, a loosening for the biggest spenders such as the Yankees, Mets, Dodgers and Red Sox.

Tax rates remain unchanged at the initial threshold, second and third thresholds. A new fourth threshold, aimed at billionaire New York Mets owner Steve Cohen, has tax rates of 80% for the first offender, 90%, for the second and 110% for the third.

Albany

Continued from Page 1C

It took some time for the Huskies to get in a groove as the two teams traded off different styles of tempo. Albany likes to run up and down the court and create scoring opportunities quickly.

Kimball is a team that likes to pass the ball a lot and take its time to put up a shot. With these very different styles, both teams had to adjust and try and win that control of pace.

In the first half, neither team could win that control and Albany held onto a 27-20 lead. The Huskies would try to make runs, but Kimball came right back with a score to keep the game close.

“We knew we’d have to use ball fakes,” said Albany head coach Aaron Boyum. “We knew we’d have to meet our passes and good floor spacing.”

The biggest factor for Albany was its passing on Wednesday night. Boyum said that the players passed well and it helped find the open player for a shot.

Kylan Gerads added that this team has become closer and closer throughout the season and it’s easier to communicate on the court. That communication leads to players making the moves on the court and allowing one player to be open for a basket.

That passing became more effective in the second half and it allowed the Huskies to take control of the game.

“I think our passing was really good,” Boyum said. “I thought our floor spacing was good. I thought we did a good job of getting the ball to the high post and our girls that were working on the baseline diving to the weak side block I think did a good job of that.”

About halfway through the second half, Albany took a double-digit lead against Kimball and that lead never faded until the Huskies won by 15 points.

The Albany defense had a big night to keep the No. 5 seeded Kimball team at only 37 points. Kimball spent most of its time on the 3-point line and passed the ball around the perimeter.

The Huskies stuck to a zone defense most of the time and it didn’t allow Kimball to have the time to put up a three without defensive pressure. With the Albany’s height advantage, the Huskies out-rebounded Kimball 37-24 to go on fast breaks.

“We knew that they were going to be good 3-point shooters,” Gerads said. “So we knew we had to talk a lot on the court and just tell our teammates where the shooters were so we could get out and stop them.”

Gerads led the Huskies with 25



Kristen Hilbert of Kimball tries to get a shot past Albany’s Alyssa Sand during the second half of the Section 6-2A semifinals game on Wednesday at St. John’s University in Collegeville. PHOTOS BY DAVE SCHWARZ/DSCHWARZ@STCLOUDTIMES.COM



Albany’s Savanna Pelzer drives past Olivia Mortenson of Kimball during the Section 6-2A semifinals game on Wednesday at St. John’s University in Collegeville.

points and completed the double-double with 11 rebounds. Joran Carlson also had eight points, while Alyssa Sand fin-

ished with six points and nine rebounds.

The Huskies will enter its fourth



Albany’s Alyssa Sand puts up a shot during the Section 6-2A semifinals game on Wednesday at St. John’s University in Collegeville.



Albany’s Madi Herkenhoff puts up a shot during the Section 6-2A semifinals game on Wednesday at St. John’s University in Collegeville.

straight section championship game. Albany won the section title game in 2019 against Pine City and 2021 against Sauk Centre. In 2021, the Huskies eventually went on and won the Class 2A state championship.

Albany wants to defend that title and the only way to have an opportunity to do so is win at 7 p.m. Friday against No. 2 Sauk Centre at St. John’s University. This will be the third straight meeting between these two teams in the section finals.

Sauk Centre won that matchup in 2020, but Albany got the win in 2021. Earlier this season, Sauk Centre won at home against the Huskies 55-53, but the Albany players feel ready for this title game on Friday.

“It helps to know the environment a little,” Gerads said on playing in multiple section title games in her career.

Brian Mozey is the high school sports reporter for the St. Cloud Times. Reach him at 320-255-8772 or bmozey@stcloudtimes.com. Follow him on Twitter @BrianMozey.

ENTERTAINMENT ADVICE HOROSCOPES

ENTERTAINMENT ADVICE HOROSCOPES

BRIDGE COLUMN: TEST YOUR PLAY

1. You are the dealer with the West hand at Six Diamonds, and North leads the queen of hearts followed by the jack. You play low twice from dummy as South contributes the six and four. How would you play the hand?

WEST EAST
♠ A K 5 ♠ 9 7 4 3
♥ 7 ♥ K 8 5 2
♦ A K 10 6 2 ♦ Q J 9
♣ A K 10 4 ♣ Q J

2. You are declarer with the West hand at Five Diamonds doubled, the bidding having gone:

North	East	South	West
1 ♠	Pass	4 ♠	5 ♦
Dble	Pass	Pass	Pass

North leads the king of spades, which you ruff. When you lead the ace of diamonds, South discards a spade. How would you play the hand?

WEST EAST
♠ ? ♠ 8 6 5 4
♥ 10 ♥ 9 8 7 3 2
♦ A K Q 10 7 4 3 ♦ 5 2
♣ A K Q 6 2 ♣ 9 3

1. The best way to avoid a spade loser is to try for a dummy reversal. Ruff the second heart with the king and cash the J-9 of trump.

If the adverse trumps are divided 3-2, ruff the eight of hearts (assume the ace does not fall). Then lead a club to dummy's jack and ruff the

heart king with your last trump. Now lead a club to the queen and cash the queen of trump, discarding your spade loser, and the rest of the tricks are yours.

All told, you score six trump tricks (dummy's Q-J-9 and the three heart ruffs in your hand), two spades and four clubs. This type of play is called "dummy reversal" because declarer reverses the usual procedure of ruffing losers in dummy and instead ruffs dummy's losers in his hand.

2. The correct lead at trick three is the ten of hearts! This seemingly aimless play offers the best chance for the contract, since North's hand probably looks something like:

♠ A K J 9 2
♥ K J

♦ J 9 8 6
♣ J 4

If you don't lead the ten of hearts and instead play the A-K of clubs, planning next to ruff a low club in dummy, North can defeat you by trumping the third club, leading the heart jack to his partner's ace and trumping a club return by South.

The purpose of the early heart play is to remove South's heart entry prematurely and thus assure the contract even if North has only a doubleton club. If you make the heart play at trick three, the only tricks you can lose — if North has a hand similar to the one shown — are a heart and a diamond.

Tomorrow: Two chances are better. (c)2022 King Features Syndicate Inc.



HOLIDAY MATHIS
CREATORS SYNDICATE

In the early days of the word "sarcasm," the term referred to a bitter mockery. In its modern usage, sarcasm is softened by a touch of irony, humor or both. Still, communicating in this way comes with risks, especially with today's climate of sensitivity. Avoid dry or ambiguous humor. Stick with warmth and authenticity.

Aries (March 21-April 19). The one you love can hurt you with so much as a look. Knowing this, you recognize the similar power you hold and will wield that power with gentle compassion.

Taurus (April 20-May 20). Talent is everywhere and what you witness will get the wheels of your mind whirling. People are doing the unimaginable, though once you experience it, imagining certainly gets easier.

Gemini (May 21-June 21). You have many interests. Even if the people around you don't share the same passions as you, they appreciate your wide range. For your sake and theirs, keep on exploring!

Cancer (June 22-July 22). Some people listen; others just wait for the chance to talk again. You're an attentive listener who deserves the same. Today it's better to just avoid the known offenders who can't or won't connect.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22). The day has a confessional quality, including admissions you'd rather not hear. As for your own information, you like to keep it on a need-to-know basis.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). The potential for tedium is too high for your liking, so whatever you can do to keep things interesting is strongly favored. Elements of humor, mischief, creativity... even chaos... can help.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Saying "sorry" doesn't put things back the way they were before, but it can give the closure necessary to start again. Do they deserve your forgiveness? Debatable. Forgive anyway.

Scorpio (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Being around different styles will make you appreciate your own. It will also inspire you to change a few things. You're the best kind of impressionable right now.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). The answer will involve putting people to work. This is more effective than any other way of starting a relationship. Through work, bonds are woven, loyalties forged.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). People say it's not about the cards you're dealt, but how you play them — not entirely true. Good cards win. Bad cards can win too, but only if you bluff.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). The secret to success is... there is no secret. It's the same thing everyone knows. Work and try. Improv. Try again. When your offer is what they need and want — success!

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20). Everyone has a self-image and a public image. These two images will align. Whatever you do, do it for you. Please yourself and don't look for validation from any other.

Today's Birthday (March 11). You'll take part in a race. Many will drop out before the finish line, but not you. You'll eventually end up among the winners. Aries and Gemini adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 2, 22, 19, 30 and 45.

This is the opinion of Holiday Mathis, Creators Syndicate, 737 3rd St., Hermosa Beach, CA 90254



DEAR ABBY
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Man only focuses on self at his home

Dear Abby: I refer to my husband as "the most single married man" I know. He turns off the lights, turns off the heat and turns off the TV while I'm still watching or still plan on being home.

His latest "single" thing is that he planned a birthday dinner out with our son and other family members. Guess what? I found out about it from the birthday boy. We have been married almost 50 years. All our children are in their 40s.

I have spoken to him numerous times about his forgetting my presence in a room, but I have never been excluded from a family birthday until now. I am thinking of writing a book titled, "The Most Single Married Man I Know." What should I be doing differently?

— *Forgotten Woman In New Hampshire*

Dear Forgotten: If this has been going on since you and your husband were married, accept that he is someone who is unusually centered on himself. If this is something relatively recent, he may need to be physically and neurologically evaluated by his physician.

If there is nothing "wrong" with him, recognize it's time to fend for yourself. Remember to monitor the thermostat, keep a flashlight handy and be prepared to explore activities you enjoy in case your husband "forgets" to include you.

Dear Abby: My best friend's father recently passed away. A memorial has been planned on the day of a wedding I had agreed to attend with my girlfriend. In this situation involving two significant one-time life events, is it more courteous to defer to the living or the dead?

— *Unsure In Southern California*

Dear Unsure: Because your best friend may need emotional support during this sad time, I am inclined to suggest that you go to the memorial — and have your girlfriend attend the wedding. If you explain the circumstances to the person who sent the wedding invitation, there should be no hurt feelings.

This is the opinion of Dear Abby, written by Jeanne Phillips. Send questions to Dear Abby, P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

FRIDAY EVENING

	C	M	6:30	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30
KTCA	2	2	2	News (N)	Almanac (TV G) (N)	How To Talk Minnesotan	My Music: Red, White Rock. American pop music. (TV G)				
CBS WCCO	4	4	4	Wheel of Fortune: Wheel. (TV G) (N)	Undercover Boss: Restoration 1. Confirming company's game plan. (TVPG) (N)	Magnum P.I.: Evil Walks Soft. Alleged bomber son; guilt struggle. (TVPG) (N)	Blue Bloods: Guilt. Detective shot; complex promotion. (TV14) (N)	WCCO 4 News at Ten (N)	The Late Show with Stephen Colbert (N)		
ABC KSTP	5	5	5	5 Eyewitness News at 6:30pm (N)	Shark Tank An entrepreneur discusses her support system for women. (TVPG) (N)	(01) 20/20 Diane Sawyer investigates mysteries behind Heaven's Gate cult to learn why 39 people took their own lives, and survivors speak for first time about the tragedy. (N)	FOX 9 at 9 News Enough Said and weather. (N) News discussion. (N)	5 Eyewitness News: Nightcast (N)	Jimmy Kimmel Live Seth Rogen. (TV14)		
FOX KMSP	9	9	9	FOX 9 at 6:30 News of weather. (N)	WWE Friday Night SmackDown: Birmingham, Ala. (Live)	from Legacy Arena in		(15) FOX 9 Sports NOW	(35) TMZ (TVPG) (N)		
NBC KARE	11	11	11	Breaking the News (N)	2022 Paralympics: from Beijing, China (Live)	Dateline NBC: Siren Song. Woman vanishes from luxury yacht. (N)	The Thing About Pam: She's a Good. Man finds wife dead at home. (TV14)	KARE 11 News at 10 (N)	Tonight Show Jimmy Fallon (TV14) (N)		
WUCW	23	23	8	Family Feud	Charmed: Not That Girl. (N)	Dynasty: How Did The. (N)	National (N)	National (N)	National (N)	National (N)	
WFTC	29	10	13	Bang (TVPG)	9+ News 7	News (N)	Family	Bang (TVPG)	Schitt's	TMZ (N)	Dish Nation
KPXM	41	3	6	Five-0 (TV14)	Hawaii Five-0: Makani 'Olu.		Hawaii Five-0: O ka Pili.				
KSTC	45	17	12	(6:00) High School Hockey: from Xcel Energy Center (Live)			High School Hockey: from Xcel Energy Center (Live)				
A&E	31	39	The First 48	The First 48: Teardrops.		Cold Case Files (TV14) (N)	I Survived (N)	I Survived (N)	The First 48: Closing Time.		
AMC	57	52	Road House	The A-Team ★★ (10, Action)	Liam Neeson. Team seeks justice. 'PG-13'		Cold Pursuit	(19, Action) Liam Neeson. 'R'			
ANPL	35	41	Treehouse	Treehouse Masters: Branched Out: The Avian. (TVPG) (N)		Treehouse Masters: France.	Treehouse Masters: Utopia.				
BET	68		Hustle & Flow ★★ (05) Terrence Howard. 'R'		New York Undercover	New York Undercover	Tyler Perry's The Oval				
BRAVO	64	54	Below Deck	Below Deck: Au Revoir!.	Bad Boys ★★½ (95, Action) Martin Lawrence. Seized drugs vanish. 'R'		Bad Boys 'R'				
CARTOON	43	37	(45) Titans	Hill (TVPG)	Hill (TVPG)	Futurama	Futurama	Dad (TV14)	Dad (TV14)	Dad (TV14)	Rick Morty
CMT	88	65	Man (TVPG)	Man (TVPG)	Man (TVPG)	Mom (TV14)	Mom (TV14)	Mom (TV14)	Mom (TV14)	Mom (TV14)	Mom (TV14)
CNN	34	49	Burnett (N)	Anderson Cooper 360° (N)	Anderson Cooper 360° (N)	Anderson Cooper 360° (N)	Don Lemon Tonight (N)				
COMEDY	53	61	The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office
DISC	47	42	Gold Rush	Gold Rush: The Secret Pay. Parker gains ground in Cleary Creek. (TV14) (N)							
DISCLIFE	409	126	Body Bizarre	Mystery Diagnosis (TVPG)	Mystery Diagnosis (TVPG)	Mystery Diagnosis (TVPG)	Mystery Diagnosis (TVPG)				
DISNEY	58	35	Wreck-It 'PG'	Raven (N)	Holly Hobbie	Holly Hobbie	Jessie (TV G)	Jessie (TV G)	Raven (TV G)	Raven (TV G)	Holly Hobbie
DISN XD	22	103	Gravity Falls	Gravity Falls	Gravity Falls	Owl House	Owl House	Amphibia	Amphibia	Amphibia	Amphibia
E!	54	62	Wedding Crashers ★★ (05, Comedy) Owen Wilson. Womanizers at work. 'R'			Step Brothers (08, Comedy) Will Ferrell, Sibling rivalry. 'R'					
EWTN	80	19	Daily Mass	EWTN News In Depth (N)	EWTN News	Holy Land	Life (TV G)	Icons (TV G)	Women of Grace (TVPG)		
FNC	26	46	Watters (N)	Tucker Carlson Tonight	Hannity (N)	The Ingraham Angle (N)	Gutfeld! (N)				
FOOD	61	32	Diners (TV G)	Diners (TV G)	Diners (TV G)	Diners (TV G)	Diners (TV G)	Diners (TV G)	Diners (TV G)	Diners (TV G)	Diners (TV G)
FREEFORM	36	21	Family Guy	Family Guy	Family Guy	Family Guy	Family Guy	Family Guy	Family Guy	The 700 Club (TV G)	
FX	71	55	(6:00) Spider-Man: Far From Home ★★ (19, Action) Tom Holland. 'PG-13'			Spider-Man: Far From Home ★★ (19) Tom Holland. 'PG-13'					
GAC	177	66	Full House: The Graduates.	Full House	Full House	Full House	Full House	Fuller House: Purpose.	Fuller House		
GAME	79	124	America	America	America	America	Family Feud	Family Feud	Family Feud	Family Feud	Family Feud
HALL	78	34	Carolina (21)	An Unexpected Christmas (21, Romance)							
HGTV	55	33	My Lottery	My Lottery	My Lottery	Big Easy (N)	Big Easy (N)	My Lottery	My Lottery	My Lottery	My Lottery
HISTORY	48	45	(6:00) Aliens	Ancient Aliens (TVPG)	Ancient Aliens (TVPG) (N)	History's Greatest Mysteries	(05) Ancient Aliens (TVPG)				
IFC	162	180	The Naked Gun 2 1/2: The Smell of Fear ★★ (91) 'PG-13'			Robin Hood: Men in Tights ★★ (93, Comedy)	Cary Elwes. 'PG-13'				
LIFETIME	27	29	(6:00) Castle	Castle: Death Wish. (TVPG)	Castle: Backstabber. (TVPG)	Castle: Dead Again. (TVPG)	Castle: Much Ado About.				
MSNBC	45	47	The ReidOut	All in with Chris Hayes (N)	The Rachel Maddow Show	Lawrence O'Donnell (N)	The 11th Hour (N)				
MTV	39	63	Ridiculous	Ridiculous	Ridiculous	Ridiculous	Ridiculous	Ridiculous	Ridiculous	Ridiculous	Ridiculous
NGEO	66	68	Gordon	Brain Game	Brain Game	Brain Game	Gordon Ramsay: Uncharted	Gordon Ramsay: Uncharted			
NICK	59	36	Rugrats	Loud House	ALVINN! (N)	SpongeBob	SpongeBob	Friends	Friends	Friends	(35) Friends
NWSNAT	8	23	On Balance	Dan Abrams Live	NewsNation Prime w/Marni	Banfield	NewsNation Prime: Special				
OWN	52	125	Ready Love	Ready to Love (TV14)	Ready to Love (TV14)	Ready to Love (TV14)	Ready to Love (TV14)				
OXYGEN	50	31	Unexpected	An Unexpected Killer (N)	An Unexpected Killer (TV14)	Snapped: Carleen Charlie.	Snapped: Kim Baldwin.				
PARMT	33	60	(6:00) Django Unchained ★★ (12, Western)			Django Unchained (12) 'R'					
SYFY	49	44	(5:30) Wanted (08, Action) James McAvoy. 'R'			Zombieland (09, Horror) Woody Harrelson. Zombie killers. 'R'					
TBN	82	18	Jakes (TV G)	One Night with the King 'PG'	Friday Night Special	One Night with the King 'PG'	Friday Night Special				
TBS	18	56	Dad (TV14)	Central Intelligence ★★ (16, Comedy) Kevin Hart. 'PG-13'		(02) Rush Hour 3 ★★½ (07, Comedy) Chris Tucker. 'PG-13'					
TCM	56	53	Julia (77) 'PG'	Kramer vs. Kramer ★★½ (79, Drama) Dustin Hoffman. 'PG'		The Paper Chase ★★ (73, Drama) Timothy Bottoms. 'PG'					
TLC	42	43	(6:00) 90 Day	90 Day Fiancé: Before the 90 Days: More to Love. (N)		90 Day Fiancé: Before the 90 Days (N)	90 Day				
TNT	40	59	The Hitman's Bodyguard ★★ (17, Action) Ryan Reynolds. 'R'			All Elite Wrestling: Rampage	Rogue One ★★ (16) 'PG-13'				
TRAVEL	67	67	A Ghost	A Ghost Ruined My Life	A Ghost Ruined My Life (N)	The Ghost Town Terror (N)	A Ghost Ruined My Life				
TRUTV	37	40	Jokers	Jokers	Jokers	Jokers	Jokers	Jokers	Jokers	Jokers	Jokers
TVLAND	41	38	Andy (TV G)	Loves Ray.	Loves Ray.	Loves Ray.	Loves Ray.	Loves Ray.	(05) Queens	(40) Queens	
UNIVIS	19		La rosa	Soltero con hijas	Mi fortuna es amarte	Madre (N)	Noticiero (N)	Noticiero (N)			
USA	46	58	College Basketball (Live)	College Basketball: Team TBD at VCU Rams from Siegel Center (Live)							
VH1	38	64	The Heat 'R'	LuPaul's Drag Race: Snatch Game. Impersonations. (N)	Blended ★★½ (14, Comedy) Adam Sandler. 'PG-13'						
WE	97	30	Love After Lockup: Ever After?. (TV14)		Love After Lockup: P.O. Problems. (TV14) (N)	Love After Lockup: P.O. Problems. (TV14)					
BIGTEN	16	28	College Basketball (Live)	Game Break	College Basketball: Team vs Purdue (Live)		B1G Live	B1G Show			
BSNO	28	26	(6:00) NHL Hockey: Minnesota vs Columbus (Live)		Wild Live	Due North	3 Wide Life	World Poker Tour (Replay)			
ESPN	29	24	(6:00) College Basketball (Live)		Basketball	College Basketball: ACC Tournament: Semifinal 2. (Live)		SportsCenter			
ESPN2	30	25	(6:00) College Basketball (Live)		Basketball	College Basketball: Big 12 Tournament: Semifinal 2. (Live)		UFC Live			
ENCORE	644	480	(6:17) Uncle Buck ★★ (89, Comedy) John Candy. Babysitting uncle. 'PG'		The Broken Hearts Gallery (20, Comedy) Dacre Montgomery. A New York art gallery assistant. 'PG-13'		(52) I.Q. ★★½ (94, Comedy) Meg Ryan. Einstein's niece. 'PG'				
HBO	501	401	(5:0) Hellboy ★★ (04, Action) Ron Perlman. A demon combats a madman intent on releasing hellish creatures upon the Earth. 'PG-13'		Real Time with Bill Maher (TVMA) (N)	Painting with John (N)	Real Time with Bill Maher				
CINEMAX	549	420	(5:06) Snitch (13) 'PG-13'	Transformers ★★ (07, Action) Shia LaBeouf. Rival clans of alien robots arrive on Earth in search of a powerful artifact. 'PG-13'	(25) Disturbia (07, Thriller) Shia LaBeouf. Teenager suspects neighbor of murder. 'PG-13'						
SHO	561	435	Werewolves	Mainstream ★★ (21) Andrew Garfield. 'R'	(35) ShoBox: New Gen.: Ardreal Holmes vs. Vernon Brown. (Live)						
STARZ	621	465	Outlander: Echoes. (TVMA)	Shining Vale	Shining Vale	(28) The Equalizer 2 ★★ (18, Action) Denzel Washington. 'R'	Basterds 'R'				
TMC	598	455	Vicky 'PG-13'	Big Night (96, Drama) Tony Shalhoub. Failing restaurant. 'R'	The Humans (21) Family gathering. 'NR'						

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS

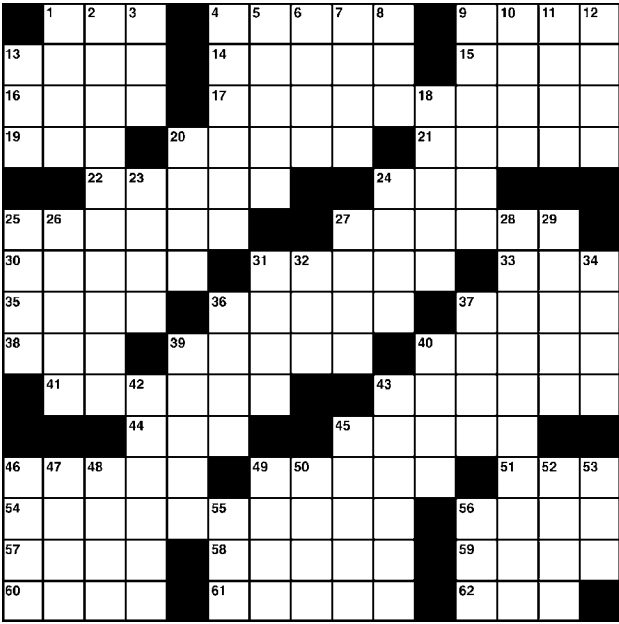
- 1 Litter member
- 4 Unwraps
- 9 Additionally
- 13 Plato, for one
- 14 Location
- 15 Drops from above
- 16 Ridiculed
- 17 Plant with purple-blue flowers
- 19 Potato variety
- 20 Hockey scores
- 21 Looks for
- 22 Squeeze
- 24 Faux __; boo-boo
- 25 TV remote button
- 27 Seashores
- 30 Actor Jeremy
- 31 Switzerland's dollar
- 33 Package delivery svc.
- 35 Utters
- 36 Living thing
- 37 Ash or locust
- 38 Devoured
- 39 Sonnets & limericks
- 40 Summer or Reed
- 41 Elizabeth II's youngest son
- 43 Wanderers
- 44 "Just the Way You __"; Billy Joel song
- 45 Actor Tyrone
- 46 Baby carrier?
- 49 Flat expanse of land

- 51 "Scent __ Woman"; Al Pacino film
- 54 Fearless
- 56 Wreck
- 57 Shaping tool
- 58 Heed the alarm clock
- 59 Merely
- 60 Earth's orbiter
- 61 Melodies
- 62 " __ on a Grecian Urn"

DOWN

- 1 Daddy
- 2 Between jobs
- 3 Writing tablet
- 4 Stand up to
- 5 Tearful requests
- 6 Pres. Carter's middle name
- 7 Mark Harmon TV series
- 8 Make clothing
- 9 Actor James
- 10 Body of water
- 11 Kimono fabric
- 12 Small digits
- 13 Sunrise to sunset
- 18 Sir __ Newton
- 20 Onyxes & opals
- 23 Baseball scores
- 24 Early video game
- 25 Cash alternative

- 26 Give a speech
- 27 Pantry stackables
- 28 Do a 180
- 29 Go on a shopping spree
- 31 " __ the Birds"; "Mary Poppins" song
- 32 Tire center
- 34 Caspian & Baltic
- 36 Long-winded one
- 37 "It's all Greek __"
- 39 Alaskan's jacket
- 40 Elevator button
- 42 Harding, for one
- 43 Sounds
- 45 Stop for a minute
- 46 Rip-off
- 47 __ list; paper full of chores
- 48 Anise-flavored drink
- 49 Home for many llamas
- 50 Pork __; Sunday entrée, perhaps
- 52 Emery board
- 53 Word attached to how or time
- 55 Handgun
- 56 One of Pooh's friends



3/11/22

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

SUDOKU

Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9 inclusively.

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

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YESTERDAY'S ANSWER

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

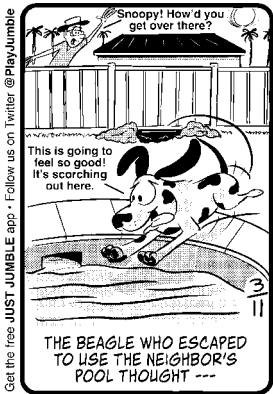
www.sudoku.com

JUMBLE

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

GIGON
MYHET
IDNOIG
DIOLED

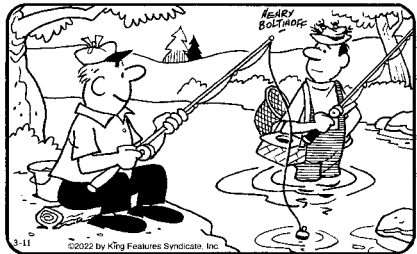
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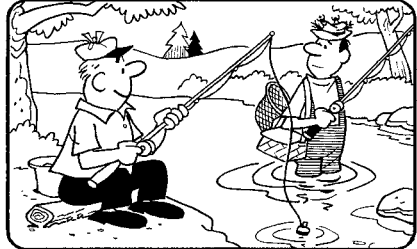
THE BEAGLE WHO ESCAPED TO USE THE NEIGHBOR'S POOL THOUGHT

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

HOCUS FOCUS



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Hole is missing from top of basket. 2. Log is moved. 3. Pail handle is missing. 4. Arm is not showing. 5. Rock is

KENKEN

3÷	5	24X	5+		15X
			5-		
3÷	5-		2	13+	
	2÷	3-	15X		5-
5				1-	
3-		1-			2

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Each row and each column must contain the numbers 1 through 6. The numbers within the heavily outlined boxes, called cages, must combine using the given operation (in any order) to produce the target numbers in the top-left corners. Fill in single-box cages with the number in the top-left corner.

YESTERDAY'S ANSWER

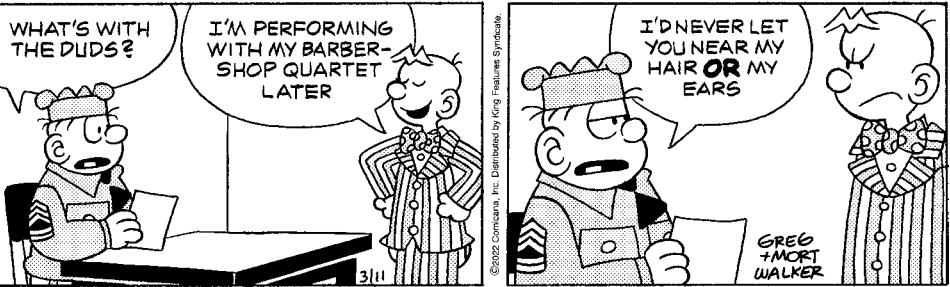
4	2	6	3	1	5
3	4	2	1	5	6
2	6	1	5	3	4
1	3	5	6	4	2
6	5	3	4	2	1
5	1	4	2	6	3

NON SEQUITUR

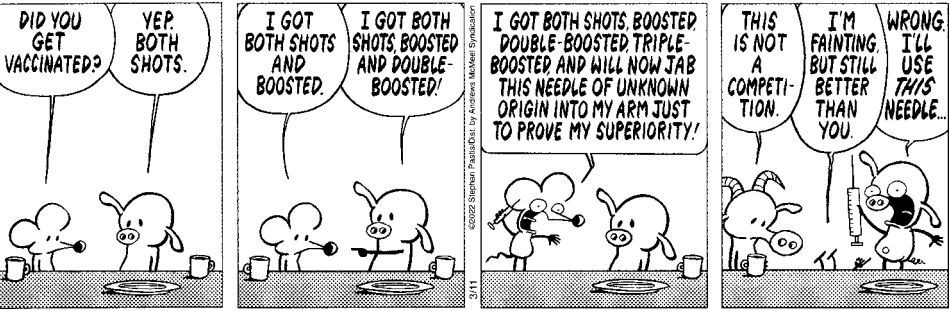


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BEETLE BAILEY



PEARLS BEFORE SWINE



FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE



CRANKSHAFT



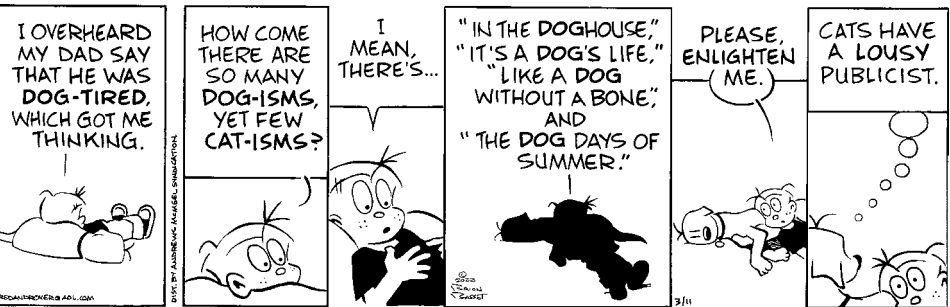
DUSTIN



PICKLES



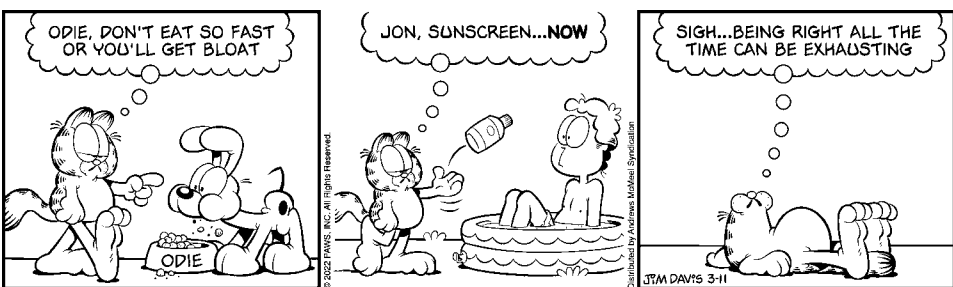
RED & ROVER



PEANUTS



GARFIELD



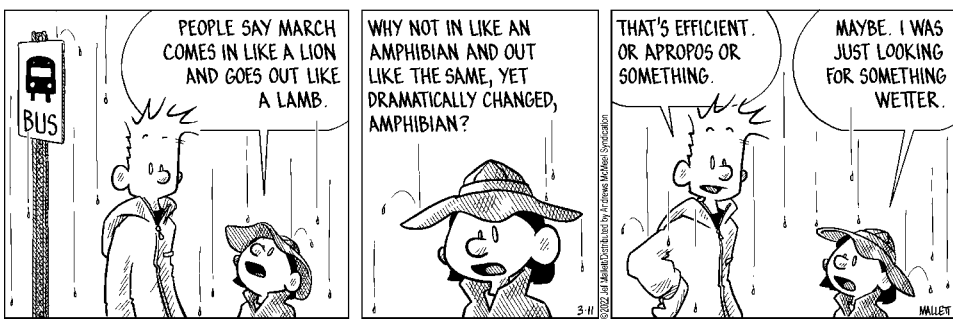
DOONESBURY



DILBERT



FRAZZ



ZITS



FAMILY CIRCUS

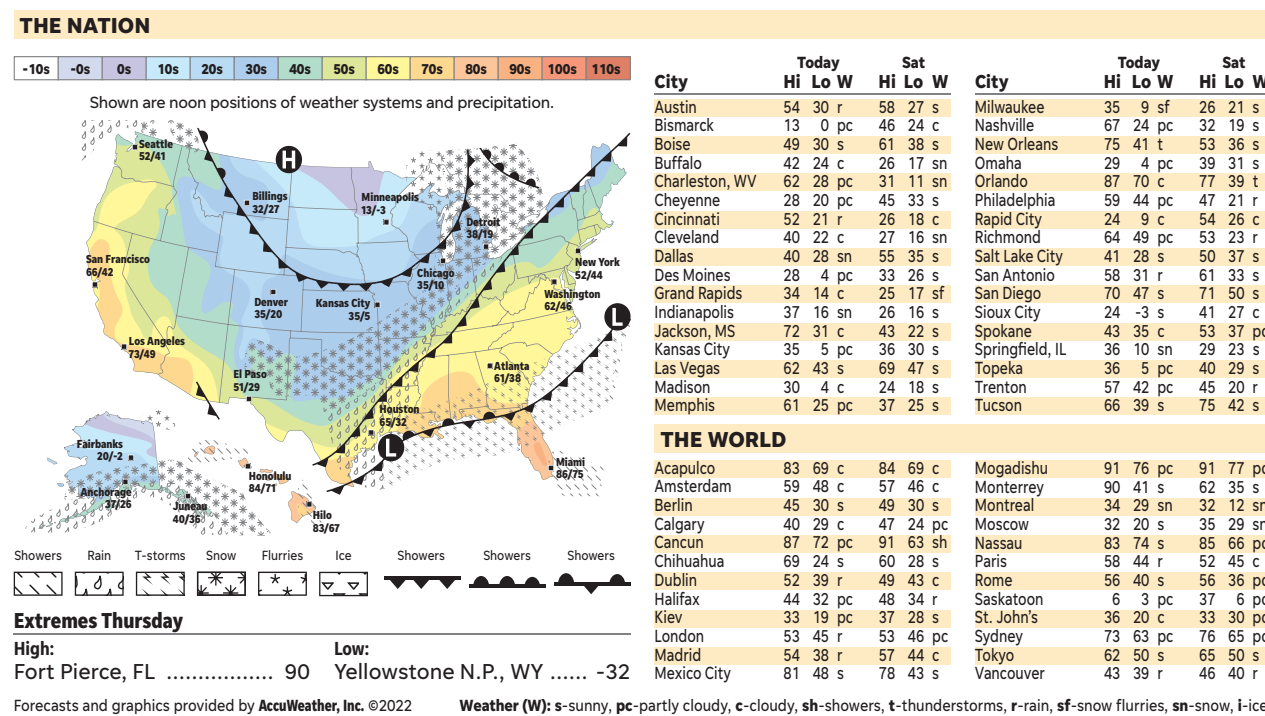


DENNIS THE MENACE



Ryan W. Miller
USA TODAY

"This is a destructive move that is dangerous for public health," said Dana Perls, food and technology program manager with Friends of the Earth.



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