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National recognition

Mon Health receives prestigious distinction from U.S. News & World Report Page A-3

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Sports Danelle Arigbabu was ready to deliver Page B-1



\$2.00

Opinion

The rematch many voters don't want

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Monday



Sponsored by **WVU**Medicine **EDUCATION**

\$972K goes to two WVU research projects

DPNews@DominionPost.com

U.S. Sen. Joe Manchin (D-WV), member of the Senate Appropriations Committee, announced \$972,973 from the National Science Foundation (NSF) for two research projects at West Virginia University.

The funding will support creating a web portal for artificial intelligence-based development of cancer drugs as well as research on magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) design.

"The National Science Foun- academic research and support dation continues to be an important partner for the Mountain State through its investments in groundbreaking research opportunities. I'm pleased these two projects are receiving awards to help advance our understanding of cancer drugs and improve the accuracy of MRI designs," said Manchin. "As a member of the Senate Appropriations Committee, I will continue advocat-

our universities across West Virginia."

The awards includ \$697,973 for CAREER: Impact of MRI contrast agent design on nanoscale interactions with neutrophils and platelets.

This project will generate new knowledge on how the physical characteristics of metal oxide nanoparticles (their metal content, surface coating and size) impact interactions with neuing for resources that bolster trophils and platelets.

Another \$275,000 will go to SBIR Phase I: A web portal for AI-based comprehensive discoverv of repositioning drugs.

This project accelerates the development of potential new drug options for improved survival outcomes of cancer patients with greatly reduced time and costs. It uses AI technology to discover repositioning drugs for treating refractory non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC) patients after exhausting all therapeutic options.

THIS WEEK IN W.VA. HISTORY



On Jan. 28, 1937, a flood that drove a million Ohio Valley residents from their homes, the Ohio River crested at Huntington at 69.45 feet, more than 19 feet above flood stage. On Feb. 3, 1923, broadcast announcer Jack Fleming was born in Morgantown. He was the long-time "Voice of the Mountaineers."

Significant events in the Mountain State

BY THE WEST VIRGINIA ENCYCLOPEDIA www.wvencyclopedia.org

CHARLESTON — The following events happened on these dates in West Virginia history. To read more, go to e-WV: The West Virginia Encyclopedia at www.wvencyclo-

pedia.org.

Jan. 28, 1902: Miners Hospital No. One opened at Welch, with a young Dr. Henry Hatfield as president. The legislature had passed a law requiring state hospitals for those engaged in dangerous occupations, and eventually three hospitals for miners were built in different sections of the state.

Jan. 28, 1937: In a flood that drove a million Ohio Valley residents from their homes, the Ohio River crested at Huntington at 69.45 feet, more than 19 feet above flood stage. By the time the water receded, five people were dead, and the city was in ruins. Parkersburg, Ravenswood and Point Pleas-

INSIDE



ant also were badly damaged.

Jan. 29, 1903: The great rhododendron was designated the official state flower of West Virginia, after being recommended by the governor and voted on by public school schools.

Jan. 30, 1818: Nicholas County was created by the Virginia legislature from parts of Greenbrier, Kanawha and Randolph counties. The county was named for Wilson Cary Nicholas, a Virginia governor and U.S. senator who lived from 1761 to 1820.

Jan. 30, 1895: Mingo County was created from the southern part of Logan County. Mingo is the youngest county in West Vir-

Jan. 31, 1878: Educator William Woodson Trent was born in rural Nicholas County. He served as state superintendent of schools from 1933 until 1957.

Jan. 31, 1922: Movie and television actress Joanne Dru was born Joan Letitia Lacock in Logan. Her movie career included more than 40 films. Her brother, singer and TV host Peter Marshall, is also a West Virginia native.

SEE WEEK, A-2

CAPITOL

Alzheimer's **Association** pushes for state plan, biomarker testing

DPNews@DominionPost.com

Advocates from across West Virginia will be speaking to legislators on behalf of the 39,000 West Virginians living with Alzheimer's disease at the 2024 Alzheimer's Association State Advocacy Day at 9:30 a.m. Feb. 6 at the State Capitol in Charleston.

Advocates, impacted families and Alzheimer's Association leaders from across the state will meet with senators and representatives to help them understand the devastating toll that Alzheimer's and other dementia takes on West Virginia families and to discuss the need for updated legislation.

Legislation supported by the Alzheimer's Association calls for an update to the 2011 State Plan for Alzheimer's and other dementia.

Through passage of HB 4756, a task force will be created to update this plan by:

■ Conducting an assessment to identify current gaps in state poli-

■ Gathering input from stakeholders around the state, including families and government agencies.

■ Developing plans for more and improved dementia training to better equip healthcare and support workers to care for people with dementia, and to attract more people to the field.

■ Establishing measurable goals on how to better support West Virginia, including the 39,000 people living with the disease and their 65,000 unpaid caregivers.

Additionally, through passage of HB 4753, the association is working to ensure that West Virginians can access biomarker testing, reducing the time it takes to receive a diagnosis and enabling access to new disease-modifying treatments and care planning. Biomarkers (short for "biological markers") offer one

SEE PUSH, A-2

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SPORTS B1

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WEST VIRGINIA UNIVERSITY

Department of History moves to Chitwood Hall

Operated out of Woodburn Hall since 1950

DPNews@DominionPost.com

West Virginia University's Department of History has moved into its new home at Chitwood Hall, marking a new chapter in the building's long life as part of Woodburn Circle.

After undergoing renovations since 2021, Chitwood Hall reopened for business Jan. 8.

The building houses four general purpose classrooms and will serve as a centralized space for members of the history department to learn, work and

"Chitwood Hall was named in 1972 in honor of history professor Oliver Chitwood, who taught at WVU between 1907 and 1946. Therefore, I think this is a perfect new home for the history department," said Kate Kelsey Staples, an associate professor and chair of the Department of History. "The renovations accommodate some new studentcentered spaces in the building, and we are excited to welcome stu-



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dents, faculty and staff to our new home in the spring semester."

Chitwood features a student resource room on the ground level that will serve as a gathering place for history student clubs and organizations, as well as several common areas dedicated to student work and research, graduate student offices and the Department of History's

faculty offices.

The central administrative office for the history department is located on the second floor, along with a conference room for faculty meetings and dissertation defense presentations.

Updated technology was installed in all classroom and meeting spaces.

Other significant upgrades include a mod-

ernized elevator, ADA restrooms, accessible energy-efficient lighting, enhanced security, a lactation room and a gender-inclusive restroom with a baby changing

"I am delighted to see Chitwood Hall's renovation complete and excited for the Department of History to move into its new space. It is fitting for the

department to occupy a building with such historical significance," said Gregory Dunaway, dean of Eberly College of Arts and Sciences.

Built in 1893, Chitwood originally was named Science Hall and served as a home base for scientific education and research at West Virginia University. During its early years, Science Hall

held space for physics and chemistry, and it housed the West Virginia Standards

Ron Rittenhouse/The Dominion Post

Weights and Measures. It also served as the workplace of notable zoology professor Albert M. Reese, a renowned scientist and crocodile expert who significantly contributed to the field of zoology during his tenure at WVU.

PUSH

FROM PAGE A-1

of the most promising paths to improve dementia detection, diagnosis and treatment. Yet these critical tests remain out of reach for many as insurance coverage is failing to keep pace with innovations and advancements in treatments.

Virginians "West affected by Alzheimer's including families and caregivers — deserve to have a robust response to Alzheimer's and other dementia," said Sharon Covert, executive director of the Alzheimer's Association West Virginia chapter. "Alzheimer's is a growing public health crisis, and as our population continues to age, the number of those impacted by the disease will continue to increase. That's why it's crucial that we develop a plan for the future immediately."

There are approximately 39,000 West Virginia residents aged 65 and older who are living with Alzheimer's disease, according to Alzheimer's Association "2023 Alzheimer's Disease Facts and Figures." That number is expected to increase to 44,000 by 2025. One in three seniors dies with the disease — more than breast and prostate cancer combined.

Anyone interested in joining the Association on Advocacy Day may register at p2a.co/H40QDPG.

Those concerned about themselves or a loved one can contact the Alzheimer's Association West Virginia Chapter at 304-343-2717 to schedule a care consultation and be connected to local resources. The Alzheimer's Association's Helpline can be reached 24/7 at 800-272-3900.

CLARIFY

The Dominion Post strives to publish accurate information. If a factual error does occur, notify: Editor Pam Queen, 304-291-9425 or editor@dominionpost.com

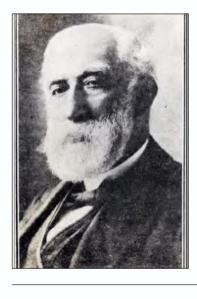
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Newsroom: 304-291-9425 Classified: 304-291-9420 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m. weekdays **Circulation: 304-292-6301** 7 a.m.-3:30 p.m. weekdays USPS 159680

VOL. 60 NO. 195

The Dominion Post is published daily and Sunday by the West Virginia Newspaper Publishing Co., Greer Building, Morgantown, W 26505. Periodicals postage paid at Morgantown, W. Single Copy \$2 daily and \$3 on Sunday. Home Delivery \$4.80 per

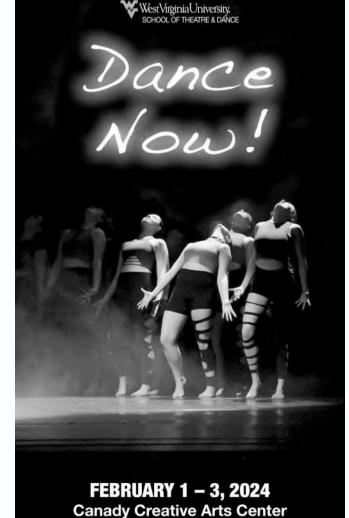






Above: Miner's Hospital in Welch. From far left: Alexander Luark Wade, Joanne Dru and the state flower, the great rhododendron.

Submitted photos



304-293-TKTS

WEEK

FROM PAGE A-1

Jan. 31, 1945: Sergeant Jonah Edward Kelley of Mineral County was killed in action while leading his squad against German positions during World War II. He was awarded the Medal of Honor for his "superb courage."

Feb. 1, 1832: Education

reformer Alexander Luark Wade was born. Wade reorganized rural Monongalia County schools to require progress through eight prescribed levels with a graduating exercise and receipt of a diploma. Wade's system worked so well it was copied in other counties and states.

Feb. 1, 1901: Frank Buckles, the last surviving American veteran of World War I, was born in Missouri. Buckles purchased a farm in Charles Town in 1954 and continued to live there until his death in Feb. 2, 1908: Justice

Marion Chambers was born in Huntington. Chambers was awarded the Medal of Honor for his actions in the World War II Iwo Jima campaign in February 1945.

Feb. 3, 1825: Confeder-General William Lowther Jackson was born in Clarksburg. He was one of at least three Southern officers to bear the nickname "Mudwall."

Feb. 3, 1845: Gilmer

County, located in the heart of West Virginia, was established from parts of Kanawha and Lewis counties. It was named for Thomas W. Gilmer, a governor of Virginia.

Feb. 3, 1923: Broadcast announcer Jack Fleming was born in Morgantown. He was the long-time "Voice of the Mountaineers."

Feb. 3, 1961: The West Virginia legislature passed a resolution adopting "The West Virginia Hills" as an official state song. Prior to "Take Me Home, Country Roads," "The West Virginia Hills" was the best-known of our four official state songs.





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HEALTH CARE

Mon Health named a Top Performing Hospital by U.S. News & World Report

Mon Health System

West Virginia is among the 11 states with the highest prevalence rates for Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD).

As COPD continues to be a rising issue for West Virginians, Mon Health Medical Center in Morgantown stands as a leader in its life-saving treatment.

In August 2023, U.S. News & World Report named Mon Health Medical Center to its 2023-24 Best Hospitals as a High Performing hospital for COPD. This is the highest distinction a hospital can earn for U.S. News' Best Hospitals Procedures & Conditions ratings.

"For 34 years, U.S. News has provided data-informed rankings to help patients and their doctors find the best hospital to treat their illness or condition," said Ben Harder, chief of Health Analysis and managing editor at U.S. News. "Fewer than half of evaluated hospitals earned any High Performing rating. Hospitals that are High Performing have excelled in providing high quality care in specific procedures and/or conditions.'

According to the American Lung Association of West Virginia, 186,185 adults have been diagnosed with COPD in the state and 1,546 people die each year from the disease. While this disease currently has no cure, Mon Health Medical Center stands as a beacon of hope with the gold standard of its treatment.

Mon Health Pulmonary Care is equipped with a comprehensive team of providers able to diagnose and treat respiratory conditions and diseases, such as COPD. The Pulmonary Rehabilitation Program at Mon Health provides a specialized program to help COPD patients achieve an improved quality of life.

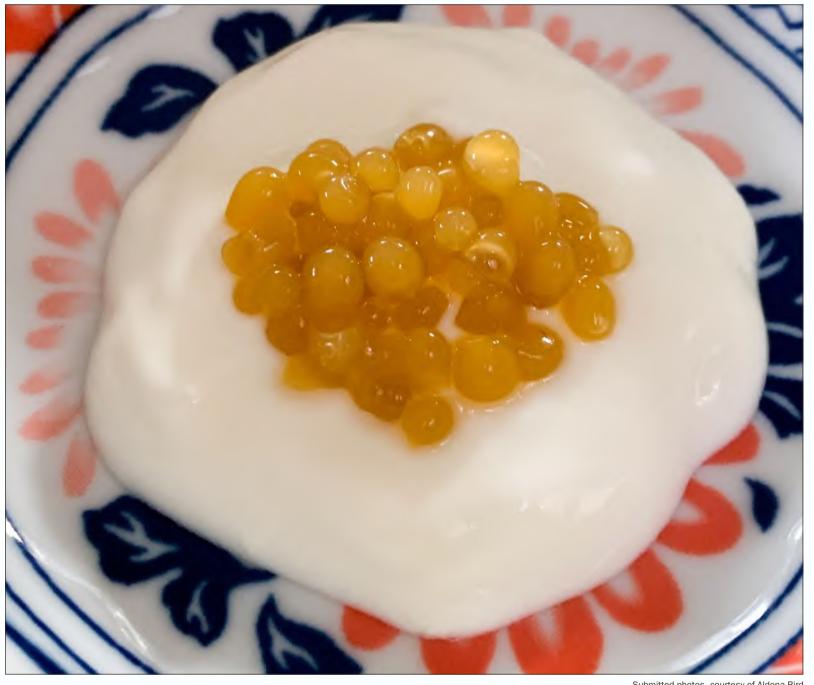
"At Mon Health Pulmonary Care, we treat each patient and their condition with intentional, data driven care," said Dr. Andrezej Jaworski, pulmonologist at Mon Health Medical Center. "We are on the cutting edge of COPD treatment and are always striving for excellence in healthcare delivery for the benefit of our

patients."

To learn more about Pulmonary Care at Mon Health Medical Center and across Mon Health System, visit Mon-Health.com/PulmonaryCare

1186,185 ADULTS HAVE BEEN DIAGNOSED WITH COPD IN THE STATE AND 1,546 PEOPLE DIE EACH YEAR FROM THE DISEASE.

DIY: FRUIT CAVIAR



Submitted photos, courtesy of Aldona Bird

Liquids can be turned into little spherical solid drops and used as vegetarian caviar or other garnish. It's a fun, tasty way to add flavor and interest to a dish.

BY ALDONA BIRD

DPNews@DominionPost.com

Sometimes it is okay to play with our food. Experimenting and making food into different shapes can be educational and elevate the experience of eating.

Liquids can be turned into little spherical solid drops and used as vegetarian caviar or other garnish.

To make vegetarian caviar you will need:

- tasty liquid ■ agar agar
- oil and tall jar
- dropper or syringe
- pan and whisk

■ sieve and secondary container For a sweet garnish, you can use fruit juice — fresh squeezed or 100% juices are best. For a savory result, try vegetable juice or a culinary vinegar.

Start by pouring neutral oil (such as corn oil) into a tall jar, and chilling it in the freezer for 30-60 minutes.

Pour some of the liquid into a small sauce pan. A cup of liquid will make loads of drops — when experimenting you may want to start with just half a cup.

Add agar agar. For a cup of liquid you will likely need a 1 1/2 teaspoons or more of agar agar. The amount will depend on the liquid — if it is a thicker liquid (such as mango juice) you will need less than for a thinner base (such as lemonade).

If your mix does not solidify well you can add it back to the pan, heat it again and add a bit more agar agar.

Whisk the mix until the agar agar is incorporated. Bring to a boil. If you are using agar agar flakes rather than powder, continue to boil until the flakes are



dissolved.

Bring the oil out of the freezer, and using an eye dropper or syringe, drop the liquid and agar agar mixture into the cold oil. The cold oil helps the drops solidify quickly. A tall jar is good for this, so the drops have time to finish solidifying before sinking to the bottom.

After making some drops (don't try to complete all your mix at once), strain them into a small sieve, catching the oil in another container.

Rinse the balls in cold water to remove the oil. Warm water may begin to relax the agar agar and turn the balls into mush.



Repeat until you have finished off your mixture. You may need to re-chill the oil part way through the process, or you can keep a second jar of oil in the freezer, and alternate the two.

Sweet little droplets can be eaten on yogurt, to garnish ice cream or other desserts, or put into cold drinks. Savory droplets are fun garnishes on appetizers such as on crackers or toast with cream cheese, or on salads and other dishes.

Making juice or other edible liquids into little balls makes typical ingredients feel fancier. It can be fun to play around with various ingredient options and different uses. And presentations.

LEGAL

AG's office announces **February** stops for north-central W.Va. region

Talk one-on-one with representatives

DPNews@DominionPost.com

Attorney General Patrick Morrisey announced a representative from his office will meet with north-central West Virginia residents in February to discuss consumer-related issues and answer any potential questions.

"These public events are a great way for consumers to talk one-on-one with our consumer representatives," Morrisey said. "Residents can easily get questions answered, learn what is going on in their area and how to keep personal information safe and secure."

Pam Krushansky, a consumer outreach and compliance specialist with the office, will host the events as scheduled below:

- Thursday, 11 a.m.-noon -Senior Center, 500 West Main St., Clarksburg
- Thursday, 12:30-1:30 p.m. Shinnston Library, 40 Bridge St.,
- Feb. 5, 11 a.m. to noon Senior Center, 52 Trap Road,
- Feb. 7, 10:30-11:30 a.m. Seneca Center, 709 Beachurst Ave., Morgantown
- Feb. 7, 1-2 p.m. WVU OLLI Mountaineer Mall, 5000 Green Bag Road, Morgantown
- Feb. 8, 10:30-11:30 a.m. Senior Center, 171 West Second St., Weston
- Feb. 12, 11 a.m.-noon **County Commission Meeting** Room, 68 Armstrong St., Keyser
- Feb. 14, 11 a.m.-noon -County Commission Meeting Room, 106 West Main St., Kingwood
- Senior Center, 404 Main St., Fairview ■ Feb. 16, 11 a.m.-noon —

■ Feb. 15, 11 a.m. to noon —

- Senior Center, 105 Maple Drive, Fairmont ■ Feb. 21, 11 a.m.-noon —
- Senior Center, 28 North Kanawha St., Buckhannon
- Feb. 22, 11 a.m.-noon Senior Center, 217 Senior Lane, Parsons ■ Feb. 26, 11 a.m.-noon —
- Senior Center, 47 Church St., Philippi ■ Feb. 28, 11 a.m.-noon — County Commission Meeting
- Room, 4 Randolph Ave., Elkins For information on additional requirements specific to any location, attendees are encouraged to contact Pam Krushansky at 304-741-5834. In case of

inclement weather, call ahead.

GUEST EDITORIAL

The rematch many voters don't want

Polls reveal that a majority of American voters aren't happy about a potential rematch between Joe Biden and Donald Trump in the 2024 presidential election. Yet that's what the country seems poised to endure.

Trump easily won the New Hampshire Republican primary Tuesday, collecting 54% of the vote to beat his last GOP significant challenger, Nikki Haley, by 11 points. With South Carolina, her home state, on the Republican primary calendar for Feb. 24, Haley insists she will stay the course. But she trails Trump by 40 points on her home turf, according to ABC News, and a loss there would effectively end her

Haley's decision to hang on — not surprisingly, the subject of much vitriol and bombast from Trump — may reflect a pragmatism stemming from the former president's legal hurdles. Perhaps she's positioning herself as her party's alternative should Trump be unable to make it to November as a result of one or more dalliances with the judicial system.

Absent that unlikely end, Tuesday's results move the nation further toward another Biden-Trump campaign. A survey released this week by The Hill, in conjunction with Decision Desk HQ, found that 59% of those queried were either "not too enthusiastic" or "not at all enthusiastic" about that prospect.

Such high rates of dissatisfaction with what the two major political parties are offering opens the door for a formidable third-party hopeful. Most notably, representatives of No Labels — which describes itself as "a national movement of common-sense Americans pushing our leaders together to solve our country's biggest problems"—have suggested they will field a "unity" candidate for the White House if the only alternatives are Biden and Trump. The group currently has earned ballot access in 13 states, including Nevada.

Democrats are terrified that No Labels, which includes a handful of prominent former Democrats and Republicans, could complicate matters for the unpopular and foundering Biden. This has led to the spectacle of progressives tarring Trump as a "threat to democracy" while they work feverishly to discredit what could be a viable third alternative for many voters. One might conclude their devotion to democracy has its limitations.

It's also pure conjecture to predict at this point where No Labels might draw support. Trump has his own polling problems, as he continues to play to his ardent base rather than work to attract moderates and independents into his coalition. The race may look very different in a few months. given Trump's legal issues, the ups and downs of the economy and the evolving outlook of voters. A Trump-Biden rematch appears inevitable, but there are enough minefields ahead for both candidates to keep it interesting.

THIS EDITORIAL first appeared in the Las Vegas Review-Journal. This commentary editorial policy of The Dominion Post.

The war in Gaza is an albatross around Benjamin Netanyahu's neck

ISRAELI PRIME MINISTER BENJAMIN NETANYAHU IS A MAN WITH A SIG-**NIFICANT AMOUNT OF PRESSURE ON HIS SHOULDERS.** The 3 ½-month-long war against Hamas in Gaza has long since turned into an albatross around his neck, one that has caused his approval ratings to drop precipitously and created adversity wherever he looks.

The way the Israeli military has chosen to prosecute the military campaign against Hamas is by far the biggest source of angst for the international community. The Gaza Strip, a coastal territory the United Nations predicted would be "unlivable" years before the Israel-Hamas war erupted, is now essentially a wasteland. More than 25.000 Palestinians have been killed, tens of thousands have been wounded and entire cities, such as Gaza City, the territory's largest metropolitan area, have been leveled. More than 85% of Palestinians in Gaza are internally displaced, and acute food insecurity is the norm.

All of this is causing anger not only in the Arab world but also in the so-called Global South; South Africa filed a case against Israel at the International Court of Justice for genocide. President Joe Biden is also facing pushback from his fellow Democrats who believe the White House isn't being as forceful with Netanyahu as it should be.

Netanyahu is also the target of intense anger inside Israel itself. Leading the charge are the families of the hostages who remain in Hamas custody. More than 130 of them, civilians and soldiers alike, are in Gaza today, some of them parked in Hamas' extensive tunnel network. This makes it immensely difficult for the Israeli military to mount successful rescue operations — to date, only one hostage has been rescued. The families in Israel are concerned that the longer the war drags on, the more likely their loved ones will die. It's not an unreasonable fear — some have reportedly been killed in Israeli airstrikes, while three more were accidentally not, many in Israel believe Netanyahu isn't doing all he can to free the remaining hostages. Others suspect the hostages are a second-tier priority for his government, below winning the war.

fissures within Netanyahu's coalition government are more obvious as well. After Hamas' Oct. 7 attacks, Netanyahu reached out to his political rivals, including former generals Benny Gantz and Gadi Eisenkot, to join his war cabinet. The decision was packaged as a way to bring the nation together during one of its darkest moments. For Netanyahu, it was also a clever way to distribute some of the blame if Israel's war strategy in Gaza proved to be unworkable.

Yet there isn't much "unity" in the unity cabinet anymore. Eisenkot, a former military chief of staff, is increasingly vocal about his opposition to Netanyahu's current strategy in Gaza and said in a television interview that claims of clear, rapid progress were utter lies. "Those who talk about an absolute defeat and lack of will and ability do not tell the truth," Eisenkot said. He even suggested the Israelis should choose new leaders. "We need to go to the polls and have an election in the next few months, in order to renew the trust as currently there is no trust." The message isn't subtle: Your current leadership is deceiving you about how the war is

going. Netanyahu's political allies have largely chosen to ignore Eisenkot's public comments. But the former general isn't wrong to state that Israel's war strategy is causing more trouble than it's worth. While thousands of Hamas militants have been killed over the last three and a half months — the U.S. estimates that 20% to 30% of the group's membership has been taken off the battlefield — Hamas has a deep bench, is well ensconced in the Palestinian social fabric and remains as committed to defending its turf as it was on the first day of the war. Outside of Saleh Arouri, the killed by Israeli troops. Fair or Hamas deputy political chief who columnist for the Chicago Tribune.

was assassinated in Lebanon, Hamas' top military leadership in Gaza — Yehya Sinwar being the most infamous — is still alive and kicking. There are even reports that Hamas officials reemerged in Gaza City, weeks after the Israeli military claimed operational control over the area.

All of this has less to do with Netanyahu, per se, and more to do with the objectives the prime minister embraced early on. Those objectives include freeing every hostage Hamas kidnapped on Oct. 7 and destroying Hamas as an organization. Two fairly straightforward goals, and justifiable ones at that.

The problem is that however justifiable those goals are, they are inherently contradictory to one another. Annihilating Hamas as a military and governing force in Gaza would jeopardize the lives of the hostages; the terrorist group wouldn't have any reason to keep them alive if they themselves were at risk of death. Freeing the hostages, in turn, would require Israeli concessions to Hamas, which would undermine Israel's goal of killing the group entirely. After all, the only reason Israel was able to get more than 100 hostages back to their families in late November was because it was willing to sign on to a short-term truce and release 240 Palestinian prisoners in return. Without those sweeteners, the hostages would still be in Gaza, wondering every whether they will live or die.

As if this wasn't enough, Netanyahu is also a prisoner of his own extreme right-wing coalition, which tends to equate all Palestinians with Hamas, is opposed to any concessions whatsoever and would prefer to solve the Gaza problem with even greater military force and mass expulsions.

Netanyahu didn't start this war — Hamas did. But the prime minister is discovering how difficult it is to end it.

DANIEL DEPETRIS is a fellow at

The jinx may have finally caught up with Sports Illustrated

IT WAS MY FAVORITE MAGAZINE, AND THIS WAS BACK WHEN THE MAILMAN DROPPED OFF A STACK OF SUBSCRIP-TIONS IN OUR MAILBOX EVERY WEEK.

Growing up we had Time. Newsweek, Ebony, Jet, Black Enterprise, Reader's Digest, GQ and Psychology Today. (My brother was a psych major.)

My favorite by far was Sports Illustrated.

Little would excite me more when I got home from school or football practice than to see a glossy edition of the latest Sports Illustrated sitting on the coffee table, Dan Marino or Reggie Jackson on the cover, a spread inside about the Giants' playoff chances.

I put off doing my homework to see what Peter Gammons had to say about the Mets.

You didn't want to see your favorite player or team on the cover because of the so-called "Sports Illustrated jinx."

The Houston Astros broke the curse in 2017, winning the World Series despite a prediction on the magazine's cover they would win. But that was the year they

cheated, so maybe they didn't break the curse, after all.

The best Sports Illustrated

story of all time? That's easy. April 1, 1985. "The Curious Case of Sidd Finch."

That was the fictional April Fools story about the phenom country pitcher for the Mets who could throw a baseball 168 mph. He made Doc Gooden look like he was tossing it underhanded.

I fell for the hoax hook, line and curve ball. What do you want from me? I'm a Mets fan.

Ya gotta believe.

If this sounds like the kind of reminiscing you might hear at someone's funeral, well, it is, sort of.

On Jan. 19, the iconic magazine's owners announced that they were laying off just about the entire staff, leaving the onceproud publication on the brink of death.

crafty magazine writer might set a scene with two out in the bottom of the ninth, and the visiting team needing a 59-yard field goal to send the basketball game into overtime.

In other words, we're in miracle and fantasy land now. This is no April Fool's joke.

How dire is the situation? A

In an email sent to staff Jan. 19

morning, the Arena Group, which operates the Sports Illustrated brand and SI related properties, said that Authentic Brands Group (ABG) has revoked its marketing license.

Because of the license revocation, the email said, "we will be laying off staff that work on the SI brand."

The magazine's union tweeted Friday that it would continue to fight for the publication of the magazine but that its future is now in the hands of Sports Illustrated's owners.

"This is another difficult day in what has been a difficult four years for Sports Illustrated under Arena Group ... stewardship," the union said in a statement. "We are calling on ABG to ensure the continued publication of SI and allow it to serve our audience in the way it has for nearly 70 years."

SI, as we like to call it — the same way we'd use a ballplayer's nickname — was renowned for its dramatic photography showcasing the plays at the plate, the catches in the end zone, the wins at the finish line.

But what made the magazine top notch was its writing. It had



the best writers, and not just the best sports writers.

If you wanted a story about who won the game, Sports Illustrated probably wasn't for you. But if you cared at all about the relationship an MVP still maintained with his high school coach, or the toll of tackle football on 12year-olds, SI was all in.

And the only things better than the swimsuit issue were the letters from irate readers threatening to cancel their subscriptions over it.

My favorite letter about the swimsuit issue came from a reader who insisted the editors should be ashamed of themselves. In the next paragraph, he shifted directions, like a running back dodging a tackler.

"My wife's out of the room now," he said. "Loved the edition. Keep up the good work."

Indeed. And thanks for the wonderful ride.

LEONARD GREENE currently works at the New York Daily News, where he writes breaking news articles and

H.C. Greer (1878-1948) & Agnes Jane Greer (1880-1972)

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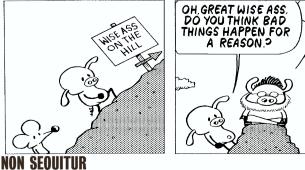
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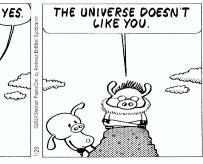
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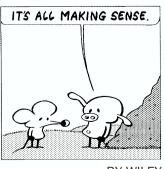
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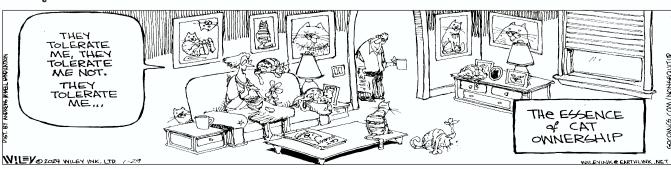






BY STEPHAN PASTIS

BY WILEY





WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Danelle Arigbabu was ready to deliver when her number was called



CUDA MECDU

Athletes often talk about the importance of being ready for their chance. "Stay ready so you don't have to get ready" has become a popular saying for athletes in recent years.

A player's moment can come at any time and in any situation. Sometimes it's hitting a big shot late in a game or making free throws to defend a lead. Sometimes it's coming in cold off the bench to defend one of the most dangerous offensive players in the Big 12.

West Virginia's Dannelle Arigbabu was called upon to do the latter on Saturday as the Mountaineers needed someone to match up in the paint with imposing Iowa State freshman Audi Crooks.

The first-year Mountaineer from Berlin, Germany did just that, holding Crooks to just one field goal in the fourth quarter as WVU defeated the Cyclones 84.78

"I thought Danelle came in and gave us great minutes," WVU coach Mark Kellogg said. "You've got to just stay ready and the kid stayed ready and battled."

Crooks might be the biggest frontcourt player in the Big 12 this season and despite being just a freshman, she's fifth in the lead in scoring (17.4 points per game), eighth in rebounding (7.4), third in field goal percentage (58.0%) and third in free throws (68-105). In essence, there's a good chance that on any Iowa State possession Crooks with either make a basket, grab a rebound or make it to the foul line.

In the third quarter alone, Crooks scored 12 points, was 3-3 from the field, 6-7 from the foul line and grabbed four rebounds.

Only leading by five entering the fourth quarter, WVU needed to figure something out or risk Crooks taking over the end of the game. That's when Kellogg called upon Arigbabu.

"This is what we brought her for," Kellogg said. "We knew we

SEE **NESPOR**, B-2



William Wotring/The Dominion

West Virginia Mountaineers forward Danelle Arigbabu (8) reacts after defeating Iowa State Cyclones on Saturday.

NFL PLAYOFFS

Mahomes, Kelce are headed back to the Super Bowl after Chiefs shut down Ravens 17-10

Associated Drass

BALTIMORE — The first quarter was vintage Patrick Mahomes, picking apart the Baltimore defense with quick passes, with Travis Kelce on the other end of several of them.

Then the Kansas City defense
— now elite after some shaky
seasons in the past — took over.

Finally, when Mahomes needed one more completion to send the Chiefs back to the Super Bowl, he went deep to Marquez Valdes-Scantling, whose struggles this season were emblematic of the team's maligned receiving group. Complete for 32 yards. Ball-

"The Chiefs are still the Chiefs," Kelce said emphati-

cally.

After all the moments this season when they looked disjointed and vulnerable, the Chiefs are

headed back to the Super Bowl

for the fourth time in five years. Mahomes and Kelce were at their magnificent best in the first half, and Kansas City's defense delivered another masterpiece against Lamar Jackson and the Ravens, leading the Chiefs to a 17-10 victory in the AFC championship game Sunday.



AP Phot

Kansas City Chiefs quarterback Patrick Mahomes (15) passes during the second half of the AFC Championship NFL football game.

Kelce caught 11 passes for 116 yards and a touchdown, and now the big question at next month's Super Bowl in Las Vegas is whether his girlfriend Taylor Swift will be able to make it there in the middle of her tour. The pop star was on hand again Sunday, and it was a milestone day for the 34-year-old Kelce, who surpassed Jerry Rice's career record for

postseason receptions.

Kansas City (14-6) will face either San Francisco or Detroit on Feb. 11, and a victory would make the Chiefs the first team to win it all in back-to-back seasons since the New England Patriots 19 years ago.

Swift's presence has turned the Chiefs into even more of a glamour team than they already were, but it's been more of a blue-collar performance on the field this season. Aside from Kelce, Mahomes' playmakers haven't been as threatening as in years past.

Only once this season has Kansas City scored more than 31 points, and a home loss on Christmas to the Las Vegas Raiders — on the same day Baltimore made a statement with a win at San Francisco — seemed to indicate that the Chiefs' days atop the AFC were numbered.

Not so fast.

Playing on the road in the playoffs for the first time with Mahomes, the Chiefs beat Buffalo and Baltimore in back-to-back weeks to win the conference.

"I've never doubted, no," coach Andy Reid said. "That's not how we roll."

The Chiefs led 17-7 at halftime, and Justin Tucker's 43-yard field goal with 2:34 to play was the only scoring of the second half. Baltimore kicked deep after that, and on third-and-9, Mahomes connected with Valdes-Scantling, who held on and knew exactly what that catch meant.

"We're going to the Super

SEE **CHIEFS**, B-2

NFL PLAYOFFS

Brock Purdy, 49ers rally from 17 points down, beat Lions 34-31 to advance to Super Bowl

Associated Press

SANTA CLARA, Calif. — Brock Purdy threw for 267 yards and a touchdown, and the San Francisco 49ers rallied from 17 points down at halftime to beat the Detroit Lions 34-31 on Sunday and reach the Super Bowl.

The 49ers (14-5) scored 17 points in an eight-minute span of the third quarter to tie the NFC championship game and then pulled away in the fourth quarter to earn a rematch against Kansas City after losing to the Chiefs in the Super Bowl four years ago.

San Francisco mounted the fourth comeback ever from 17 points down or more in a con-

ference title game thanks to some big plays by Purdy and bad mistakes from the Lions (14-6), including two failed fourth downs in field-goal range. Detroit fell short of reaching the first Super Bowl in franchise history

After being questioned about whether he could lead a comeback, Purdy has now done it twice in as many weeks. He engineered a game-winning drive in the fourth quarter to beat Green Bay last week and then had an even bigger comeback against the Lions.

Christian McCaffrey had two TD runs and little-used backup

SEE **49ERS**, B-2



AP Pho

San Francisco 49ers Brock Purdy (13) and Trent Williams (71) celebrate after a touchdown run by Elijah Mitchell.

DIGITAL DESIGN

AUS OPEN

Sinner rallies from 2 sets down to beat Medvedev

Associated Press

MELBOURNE, Australia — Jannik Sinner lined up a fore-hand, drilled it down the line and dropped to the court on his back, giving himself some moments to process how he'd managed to come back from two sets down to win his first Grand Slam title.

The 22-year-old Sinner found a way to turn defense into attack in his first major final and take the Australian Open title from Daniil Medvedev 3-6, 3-6, 6-4, 6-4, 6-3 on Sunday.

"I like to dance in the pressure storm," he said of his seemingly serene approach to the most tense moments. "I like it, because that's where most of the time I bring out my best tennis."

It was his third straight win over a top 5 player after his quarterfinal victory over Andrey Rublev and his semifinal upset that ended No. 1-ranked Novak Djokovic's long domination of the tournament. Only Djokovic and Roger Federer have done that previously in a major played on hard courts.

So he's in great company. Sinner is the first Italian to

win the Australian Open and the youngest winner in a men's final here since Djokovic won his first Grand Slam title in 2008.

With Carlos Alcaraz winning Wimbledon last year and Sinner winning the season-opening major, a generation shift is arriving.

"I still have to process it, because ... beating Novak in the semis and then today Daniil in the final, they are tough players to beat," Sinner said. "It's a great moment for me and my team. But in the other way, we also know that we have to improve if we want to have another chance to hold a big trophy again."

Sinner's success has lit a tennis fuse in Italy, where his run to the ATP Finals championship match and leading role in the Davis Cup title win in November captured the country's attention. The night time final in Australia made for pre-lunch viewing in

SEE **SINNER**, B-3

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HS BASKETBALL

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ST. ALBANS — The Morgnatown High girls basketball team competed in the St. Albans Classic over the weekend, facing two team from kentucky Russell and Ashland.

On Friday, MHS fell to Russell 53-53. Kayli Kellogg scored 25 points and Lily Jordan had 11. Russell was led by Shaelyn Steel's 30 points and Bella Quinn's 13.

On Saturday, the Mohigans lost to Ashland 62-41. Sadaya Jones led MHS with 13 points while Jordan and Kellogg each had 10.

MHS is now 11-4 on the season and will host Parkersburg South in an OVAC semifinal Monday at 7:30

SCOREBOARD

CALENDAR

MONDAY, JANUARY 29 **GIRLS BASKETBALL**

Bridgeport at Preston, 7:30 p.m. **OVAC Semifinals** Conotton Valley (Oh.) at Trinity Christian, 7 p.m. Parkersburg South at Morgantown, 7:30 p.m.

Bridgeport (Oh.) at Clay-Battelle, 7 p.m. University at Wheeling Central, 7:30 p.m.

ON TV

COLLEGE BASKETBALL (MEN'S) 7 p.m. CBSSN — Boston U. at Holy Cross ESPN — Duke at Virginia Tech 9 p.m. ESPN — Houston at Texas ESPN2 — Alcorn St. at Bethune-Cookman COLLEGE BASKETBALL (WOMEN'S)

 $4\,\mathrm{p.m.}$ CBSSN — Boston U. at Holy Cross 7 p.m. ESPN2 — LSU at Mississippi St. SECN — Georgia at Auburn COLLEGE GYMNASTICS (WOMEN'S) 7 p.m. BTN — Illinois at Ohio St.

NBA BASKETBALL 7:30 p.m. NBATV — Phoenix at Miami 10 p.m. NBATV — Philadelphia at Portland

NHL HOCKEY 7 p.m. NHLN — Nashville at Ottawa SOCCER (MEN'S)

2:45 p.m. FS2 — CONMEBOL U-23 Olympic Qualifier 2024 Group Stage: Brazil vs. Ecuador, Group A, Caracas, Venezuela $5:45~\mathrm{p.m.}$ FS2 — CONMEBOL U-23 Olympic Qualifier 2024 Group Stage: Colombia vs. Venezuela, Group A, Caracas, Venezuela **TENNIS**

6:30 a.m. TENNIS — Hua Hin-WTA Early Rounds 11 a.m. TENNIS — Montpellier-ATP Early Rounds 2 a.m. (Tuesday) TENNIS — Hua Hin-WTA, Montpellier-ATP Early Rounds

6 a.m. (Tuesday) TENNIS — Hua Hin-WTA, Montpellier-ATP Early Rounds

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Denver 111, Philadelphia 105 **NBA** Brooklyn 106, Houston 104 EASTERN CONFERENCE ATLANTIC DIVISION 11 15 Pct Boston Philadelphia .761 .659 __ 5 New York Brooklyn .630 6 .400 16¹/₂ .348 19 SOUTHEAST DIVISION 22 22 27 W 24 24 19 .522 .522 .413 Miami Charlotte 34 37 .178 151/2 Washingto CENTRAL DIVISION Pct 14 16 GB .696 .628 .574 .457 .130 Milwaukee Cleveland Indiana 20 25 40

Chicago Detroit WESTERN CONFERENCE SOUTHWEST DIVISION Pct **L** 20 26 25 21 18 10 New Orleans Dallas Houston .543 .467 .391 .217 41/2 Memphis 28 36 8 16 NORTHWEST DIVISION GB Pct **W** 32 14 14 15 .696 — .681 ¹/₂ .511 8¹/₂ .289 18¹/₂ Minnesota 32 32 24 13 Denver 23 32 Portland PACIFIC DIVISION Pct 14 18 30 26 26 24 19 .682 — .591 4 .565 5 .511 7¹/₂ .442 10¹/₂ L.A. Clippers Sacramento Phoenix 23 24 L.A. Lakers

SATURDAY'S GAMES

ATLANTIC DIVISION

Washington 118, Detroit 104

New York 125, Miami 109

L.A. Clippers 115, Boston 96 Utah 134, Charlotte 122 Milwaukee 141, New Orleans 117 San Antonio 113, Minnesota 112 Sacramento 120, Dallas 115 L.A. Lakers 145, Golden State 144, 20T SUNDAY'S GAMES Detroit 120, Oklahoma City 104

Indiana 116, Memphis 110 Orlando 113, Phoenix 98 Chicago at Portland, 9 p.m.

L.A. Clippers at Cleveland, 7 p.m New York at Charlotte, 7 p.m. New Orleans at Boston, 7:30 p.m. Phoenix at Miami, 7:30 p.m. Utah at Brooklyn, 7:30 p.m. L.A. Lakers at Houston, 8 p.m Minnesota at Oklahoma City, 8 p.m Sacramento at Memphis, 8 p.m. Washington at San Antonio, 8 p.m. Orlando at Dallas, 8:30 p.m. Milwaukee at Denver, 9 p.m. Philadelphia at Portland, 10 p.m

TUESDAY'S GAMES Indiana at Boston, 7:30 p.m. L.A. Lakers at Atlanta, 7:30 p.m. Utah at New York, 7:30 p.m. Toronto at Chicago, 8 p.m. Philadelphia at Golden State, 10 p.m WEDNESDAY'S GAMES

Chicago at Charlotte, 7 p.m Detroit at Cleveland, 7 p.m. L.A. Clippers at Washington, 7 p.m. Sacramento at Miami, 7:30 p.m. Dallas at Minnesota, 8 p.m. Denver at Oklahoma City, 8 p.m New Orleans at Houston, 8 p.m. Orlando at San Antonio, 8 p.m. Phoenix at Brooklyn, 8:30 p.m. Milwaukee at Portland, 10 p.m

CHIEFS

FROM PAGE B-1

Bowl," he said. "That was it. I knew we needed one first down to get us to the goal, and they trusted me to go get one."

Mahomes went 30 of 39 for 241 yards and a touchdown.

Jackson could win his second MVP after leading Baltimore to the league's best record and point differential during the regular season, but the Ravens allowed touchdowns on the first two Kansas City possessions and appeared a bit panicky at times after that.

Baltimore (14-5) made undisciplined mistakes all game, while Kansas City looked the part of the team making its sixth straight appearance in the conference title game.

With the Ravens down by 10 in the third quarter, rookie Zay Flowers caught a 54-yard pass to the Kansas City 10 then was flagged for taunting after the play. Moments later, he fumbled near the goal line and the Ravens ended up with no points.

That was one of several frustrating moments for Baltimore fans, whose city was hosting an AFC championship game for the first time since January 1971, when the Colts beat the Oakland Raiders.

Jackson went 20 of 37 for 272 yards and a touchdown, but Baltimore never really exploited its perceived advantage on the ground. Jackson raced under one of his own tipped passes in the first half for a 13-yard reception, but he also turned the ball over twice, including a forced pass into heavy coverage that was picked off in the end zone with 6:45 left in the game.

Once it was clear defensive coordinator Steve Spagnuolo had the upper hand against the Baltimore offense, Mahomes was happy to manage the game and avoid doing anything too risky.

"Spags, it seems like when the games get bigger, when the challenges get higher, he performs even better," Mahomes said.

Jackson fell to 2-4 as a starter in the postseason despite having been the top seed in the AFC twice. He made a few sensational individual plays, but the Ravens had trouble moving the ball otherwise.

"That guy was the main guy I was playing for, honestly," Ravens linebacker Patrick Queen said. "So much stuff he gets that he doesn't deserve. This was his opportunity to be able to write some of that stuff off and move on to the next thing. That's why it hurts, because you want to see people like that, teammates that you love and care about, get what they're supposed to get."

Mahomes, meanwhile, completed his first 11 pass attempts, and although the Ravens largely shut Kansas City down after that, the damage was done on a rainy day in Baltimore.

There was some chippy behavior before the game, which included Ravens defensive back Arthur Maulet and a group of Kansas City players having to be separated.

Then the Chiefs forced a three-and-out on the game's first drive and went 86 yards for the opening touchdown. Kelce caught a 13-yard pass from Mahomes over the middle on fourth-and-2. Then the star tight end beat All-Pro safety Kyle Hamilton for a 19-yard touchdown to make it 7-0.

Jackson answered in his own spectacular way. He broke free for a 21-yard run when Baltimore went for it on fourth-and-1 from its 34. Then the star quarterback ducked out of a near-sack by Leo Chenal, retreated a bit farther back and threw a 30-yard scoring strike to Flowers, who celebrated with teammates by doing the "swag surf" dance that Swift and Chiefs fans did at a recent game.

Kansas City was unbothered. Mahomes drove his team 75 yards in 9:02 — with the help of an acrobatic diving catch by Kelce on one third-down toss — and Isiah Pacheco capped the 16-play march with a 2-yard touchdown run.

49ERS

FROM PAGE B-1

Elijah Mitchell scored on a 3-yard run to make it 34-24 with 3:02 to play as the Niners got over the conference title game hump after losing the past two seasons.

The Niners blew a 10point lead in the fourth quarter of the NFC championship game against the Los Angeles Rams two years ago and then were forced to play much of last year's title game loss at Philadelphia without a functioning quarterback after Purdy injured his elbow on the opening drive and fourth-stringer Josh Johnson left with a concussion early in the third quar-

But San Francisco managed to make the long journey back to this stage and now is in position to deliver the franchise its record-tying sixth Super Bowl title and first since the 1994 season.

A magical season for the Lions ended in heartbreak. Detroit remains the only team to play every season of the Super Bowl era without reaching the ultimate game. This looked like it could be the year to end that drought when Detroit won back-to-back playoff games after winning just one in the previous 56 seasons.

But the Lions couldn't finish the job despite holding a 24-7 halftime lead.

San Francisco settled for a field goal on the opening drive of the second half before the game completely

flipped in a four-minute span.

coach Detroit Dan Campbell opted to go for it on fourth-and-2 from the San Francisco 28, but Josh Reynolds couldn't hold onto a pass from Jared Goff, leading to a turnover on downs.

The Lions then seemed to have a potential interception when Purdy's deep pass bit Kindle Vildor in the face mask, but the ball popped up and was caught for a spectacular 51-yard gain by Brandon Aiyuk. Purdy found Aiyuk three plays later for a 6-yard score.

Jahmyr Gibbs then fumbled on the next play from scrimmage, setting up a 1yard run by McCaffrey to tie the game at 24.

It only got worse from

there for the Lions with Reynolds dropping another pass on third down, leading to a punt that Detroit had a chance to down at the 1 but botched. Purdy then drove the

Niners to a 33-yard field goal by Jake Moody and their first lead of the game.

Campbell bypassed a chance at a game-tying field goal on fourth-and-3 from the Niners 30 midway through the fourth quarter. Goff threw an incomplete pass and the Niners drove to the insurance touchdown.

Goff added a TD pass to Jameson Williams with 56 seconds to play, but the 49ers recovered the onside kick to seal the win. Goff finished 25 for 41 for 273 yards and a touchdown.

NESPOR

FROM PAGE B-1

needed size and we needed somebody guarding some of the size in the Big 12 and she is the one girl who can do that for us.

"It makes Crooks b to work that much harder when you can put Danelle in there."

It worked like a charm. as Arigbabu held Crooks to just four points in the fourth on 1-4 shooting from the field with only two free throw attempts.

"It was huge, it was huge minutes," said WVU starting forward Kylee Blacksten, who guarded Crooks early in the game. "She did everything that she was supposed to do. She gave our team that little bit of a boost in the fourth quarter that we really needed.'

Arigbabu came out of the game briefly to catch her breath but otherwise spent the entire fourth quarter guarding Crooks.

"She got a little tired because she hasn't played those extended minutes so we tried to get her a quick break," Kellogg said, "but I thought, to her credit, sne stayed ready.

Arigbabu played 12 minutes on Saturday, her second-most in a game since Big 12 play started. It wasn't just her defense playing a factor either. Arigbabu scored five points, her most in conference play, with a field goal and four trips to the foul line. She also dished out a nifty behind-the-back pass for an assist.

"I wish you could've seen her early when she got here to see the improvement that she's made. She has come so far,' Kellogg said. "She has an (offensive) skillset, she just doesn't always look to take advantage of it. The

moves were good, I thought the passes were the right pass. She's just got to slow down.'

This is Arigbabu's first season in Morgantown, but her third playing college basketball after spending two seasons at Northeastern Oklahoma A&M. Saturday was perhaps her first taste of what Big 12 basketball is all about.

"This is a big-time level and she's coming up from a junior college," Kellogg said. "She just needed the game to slow down a little bit, but I think that's what you're seeing now." "She's grown so much

mentally, physically, all of it," said Blacksten, who goes against Arigbabu regularly in practice. "She's really taken everything that the coaches have said and put it in to play. I think that preparation is what's given her the opportunities to be so confident coming into the games."

When going over the players he thought played well on Saturday, Kellogg very rarely named off his entire rotation, including Arigbabu. For as much credit that standouts like JJ Quinerly, Jordan Harrison and Lauren Fields have received for WVU's success this season, it might come down to players like Arigbabu being able to contribute at a moment's notice that will determine how far the Mountaineers can truly

"I think the lesson is to stay ready," Kellogg said. "You never know when you're number's going to get called. This is a long season, it's a long conference season but the kid comes every day with a great attitude and works her tail off."

NHL

NHL EASTERN CONFERENCE

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SINNER

FROM PAGE B-1

Italy.

For 2021 U.S. Open champion Medvedev, the loss was his fifth in six major finals. The third-seeded Medvedev set a record with his fourth five-set match of the tournament and time on court at a major in the Open era, his 24 hours and 17 minutes surpassing Carlos Alcaraz's 23:40 at the 2022 U.S. Open.

He's also the first in the Open era to lose two Grand Slam finals in five sets after taking a 2-0 lead.

Medvedev lost back-toback Australian Open finals — to Djokovic in 2021 and to Rafael Nadal after holding a two-set lead the following year.

Sinner only dropped one set through six rounds — in third-set tiebreaker against 10-time Australian Open champion Djokovic — until he lost two straight to Medvedev.

It wasn't until a break in the sixth game of the fifth set that he really had a full grip on his first Grand Slam title.

In two of Medvedev's



AP Photo

In person:

Jannik Sinner of Italy holds the Norman Brookes Challenge Cup aloft after defeating Daniil Medvedev of Russia in the men's singles final at the Australian Open tennis championships at Melbourne Park, in Melbourne, Australia, Sunday, Jan. 28, 2024.

five-set matches — a second-round win over Emil Ruusuvuori that finished at almost 4 in the morning, and a 4-hour, 18-minute semifinal win over No. 6 Alexander Zverev — he had

to come back from two sets down. Nobody had done that on the way to an Australian Open final since Pete Sampras in 1995.

Against Sinner, he started like man who wanted to win points quickly.

Standing closer to the baseline to receive serve and going to the net more regularly than usual, he broke in the third game and

took the first set in 36 minutes.

He had two more service breaks in the fourth and sixth games of the second set but was broken himself at 5-1 trying to serve it out. He was successful next try.

The third set went with serve until the 10th game, when Medvedev was a point from leveling at 5-5 until three forehand errors gave Sinner the set, and the momentum.

He won the fourth set, again with a service break in the 10th game, recovering immediately to win three points after mis-hitting a forehand so far out that it shocked the Rod Laver Arena crowd.

And so the tournament equaled a Grand Slam Open era record set at the 1983 U.S. Open with a 35th match going to five sets.

In the sixth game of the fifth set, Sinner had triple breakpoint against a fatiguing Medvedev. He missed with his first chance but converted with his next, a forehand winner, for a 4-2 lead. From there, he didn't give Medvedev another chance.

Medvedev had faced

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either Djokovic or Rafael Nadal in all five of his previous major finals. He beat Diokovic to win the 2021 U.S. Open title but lost all the others.

The 27-year-old Russian has been saying through the tournament that he has more stamina than he used to, and is mentally stronger in the tough five-setters. He certainly showed incredible endurance but came up just short — again.

Medvedev won his first six career meetings with Sinner, but has now lost four in a row — including three finals.

"I want to congratulate Jannik ... you showed it again why you deserve it," Medvedev said. "Probably that's not your last Grand Slam, but I hope I can try to get the next one if you play in the final."

Medvedev also sent a message to his family and supporters.

"Unfortunately couldn't make it today, but I'm going to try to make it work next time for you," he said. "It always hurts to lose in the final, but probably being in the final is better than losing before."

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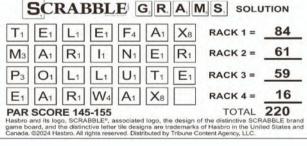
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more important.





Vaccination is still the best way to fight tripledemic

HELLO, DEAR READERS, and welcome to a bonus letters column. We'll begin with the latest data that show this winter is shaping up to be another "tripledemic." Influenza and respiratory syncytial virus, or RSV, are surging throughout the United States, and new cases of COVID-19 are not far behind. Please protect yourselves and the people around you by getting this year's flu vaccine and the updated COVID shot. It's not too late for either of these, and there is evidence that getting both at once boosts immune response. For people who are most at risk of RSV, a monoclonal antibody injection is available. And now, onward to your let-

— We have, over the years, fielded several questions about bug bites and discussed the immune response that often accompanies them. This includes pain, swelling, itching and a sensation of warmth at the site of the bite.

You don't want to break open the blisters that may form after an insect bite. That creates an open wound and puts you at risk of infection.



DRS. ELIZABETH KO & EVE GLAZIER

As the immune system does its work, the blisters will gradually lessen and fade on their own. If the blisters bother you, cover the area with a bandage that allows air circulation, but protects it from inadvertent damage.

— Another topic that gets a lot of mail is macular degeneration. This is a condition in which certain age-related structural changes in the retina affect central vision. We heard from a reader diagnosed with drusen, which are deposits of debris within the layers of the retina. "Are there any new treatments for drusen, and also to prevent me from developing macular degeneration?" she asked. Unfortunately, there is no treatment for drusen at this time.

Monday, Jan. 29, 2024

Take the path that leads to peace of mind. Revisit contracts, update documents, search for ways to lower overhead and adjust your lifestyle to fit your budget. Consider what's important to you and discard anything you no longer need or use.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-

Feb. 19) — Refuse to let someone cost you emotionally or financially. Don't follow the crowd: be smart and take the cost-efficient route.

PISCES (Feb. 19-

March 20) — If you rely on intuition, you will figure out how to get what you want. The opportunity to advance looks good.

ARIES (March 21-

April 19) — Surround yourself with supportive people. Donate your time and skills to a cause that matters to you.

TAURUS (April 20-

May 20) — A job change may tempt you, but get what you want in writing before making the switch.

GEMINI (May 21-

June 20) - Don't believe anything or anyone without verification. An offer will cost you if you don't read the fine print.

CANCER (June 21-

July 22) — Follow your instincts and make changes that can offer a broader use



EUGENIA LAST

of your skills, experience and knowledge.

LEO (July 23-

Aug. 22) — Taking a realistic approach to things will help you avoid veering off course. Consider what you need.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-

Sept. 22) — You are in a better position than you realize. Change is doable if you are open to implementing something new.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-

Oct. 23) — Observe what's happening around you. Don't trust others to offer an honest opinion or take care of matters that concern you.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-

Nov. 22) — Focus on how you make and use money. Discuss your plans with experts and people you trust.

Dec. 21) - Make wise decisions. Not everything will be as it appears. Information is

only as good as its source.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) — Forge ahead with confidence and don't look back. Take charge, follow your heart and be the master of your destiny.

CROSSWORD ACROSS

37 Pack 38 Chic quality Serpentine

profound 4 Emporium 43 king of the

12 One time forest around a track 46 Crispy 13 Insignificant

45 Bird of myth 50 Coral island 14 Sported 15 "Peggy -

53 Molten rock 54 Annoys 16 Bovines 56 Spring month 17 Altar's place Welsh name 18 Texas 58 Toward landmark

shelter

1 "Frozen"

queen 2 Writer —

Bellow

3 Old-time

nightclub

20 Porridge 59 Stray ingredient 60 Say it isn't so 22 Set of parts 61 Expensive 23 Back talk 62 "Norma -24 Restraint DOWN

27 Synthetic fabric 31 Ardor

32 Dead lang. 34 Commotion - and outs

36 Old cry of disgust



Answer to Previous Puzzle

5 Evil spell Rome 10 - Major 6 Sandwich 11 Spool cookie 19 Glove 7 Of 21 Pewter punishment

8 Like a

marsh

component 24 Pavilion 25 Sprite 26 Police action

28 Tardy

attendee 29 Smell 30 "At once!" 31 That man's 33 Summer shirt

37 See 39 Long recital 40 Newt 42 Pencil's end 44 Greek epic

46 Hemorrhaged 47 Rant and 48 — the Terrible 49 Perry's creator

51 "Dr. Zhivago" character 52 Old instrument

CURTIS



















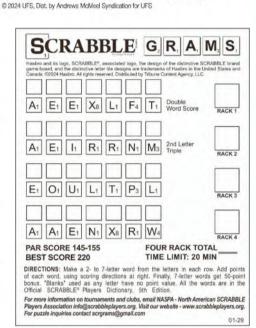




MARMADUKE BY BRAD & PAUL ANDERSON



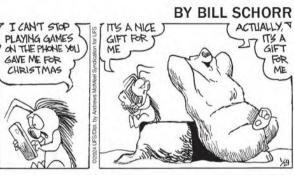
"Marmaduke is always the first round draft pick for their snowball fights."

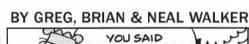


Solutions — B-3











FRANK & ERNEST BY BOB THAVES HE DIDN'T MAKE THE OBEDIENCE



